

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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A NEWSPAPER IS A CITIZEN OF ITS COMMUNITY

DOG DAYS SESSION

ABOUT the only thing to be said in favor of the special session of the legislature which Governor Meier's handpicked Tax Conservation League, at Governor Meier's request, has asked Governor Meier to call is this: it might make Dog Days a little less monotonous in Salem.

This is the time of year when there is little excitement even in being governor unless you start something. Even lobbyists and privilege seekers and job hunters take vacations. The press room is filled with lonely and awkward substitutes. The departments have settled down to routine.

It is a period during which a governor can find time to learn a great deal about the actual operations of the state's business, if he wants to go in for such studies. But few governors ever do care to give state business that kind of friendly first hand study, and while the Meier administration seems to be most determined to keep the public eye, it is no exception to the general rule.

So, in all probability we will have a special session, with the Indiana plan and bargain rates on auto licenses as the principal offerings of the big-end-of-the-season political sale. Whether the rich governor will go through with the idea of making the session a free junket for obliging legislators remains to be seen.

The governor is reported to be feeling out public sentiment on the program. Our observation is that contrary to the rather optimistic reports given out from GHQ, sentiment is increasingly unfavorable.

There is almost unanimous opposition to the idea of a session paid for out of the governor's own purse because it would establish an evil precedent and reflect seriously on the pride and dignity of the state. There is quite as much opposition to taking \$7000 to \$10,000, or more, out of the state's funds, in an economy year, to enact a program of ill-considered, unwanted and unnecessary legislation.

Even the Portland papers are not enthusiastic for the special session. The Journal, seeming to sense a change in the man who a few months back was battling the big interests and utilities, opposes both the special session and the Indiana plan. The Oregonian, though now united to the Meier program, cites "the days of old when Leagues were bold" to show that the initiative (which it has so often opposed) might be a better method of getting the "reforms" before the people.

Constitutional barriers, time limitations and public reaction stand in the way of any effective action by a special session. We are told that the Indiana plan has been modified to meet local objections, but it merely substitutes a combination of local and state boards (hand-picked by the governor) for the more rigid control which the utilities and railroads put over in Indiana. It still violates home rule. The license scheme is unscientific and questionable.

The big hope of the Meier administration was (and still is) that it would be genuinely business-like, thorough. In the early days of his administration, the governor was virtually forced to sign state appropriations more than a million in excess of possible revenues. There must still be remarkable opportunities for executive control and reform. Some showmanship, of course, is necessary. But it is not unfriendly to say plainly that the Meier administration cannot retain its popularity by sloganeering halleluao.

WHERE HEAT IS HEAT

A SINGLE very hot day in Western Oregon is sufficient to cause no end of talk about heat. The next day may be agreeably cool. The night after the "scorching" may even be chilly, but being rather climate-minded in these parts, we keep on talking about the heat.

Monday's issue of The Register-Guard suggested some contrasting ideas on the subject of heat. The front page related that Sunday temperatures in Eugene had mounted to 93, though they dropped off to 87 in the night. Even those who sought the refreshment of deep fir forests or the cooling waters of ocean beaches or mountain lakes "suffered".

The editorial page showed one of Artist George Clark's "Sideglances" with a lesson from those regions where men are manlike and heat is heat. You may have noticed the shadowy drawing of the youngster on the tenement roof shouting down to "Maw" to bring her mattress up by the chimney pots "where it ain't nearly so hot". That's what you call heat. Heat, when you have nights like that.

Yet millions of people in eastern cities are "used to it", or rather, hardened to it because they don't know any other life. Millions are buried alive in metropolitan tenements because Americans haven't given the building of cities any real scientific thought.

Modern transportation makes congestion ridiculous. American lumber mills could produce all the materials needed for new homes if people could be persuaded to use it. Industry wrestles with the problems of impaired efficiency and discontent.

But all that is getting away from the real subject, which is Heat. We don't know much about it.

JURIES AND SUCH

THREE young men are involved in a hideous moral crime. Two of them are brought to trial; the other is allowed immunity as a state witness. One of the two, undoubtedly the ringleader, is found guilty and given 15 years. (a finding with which we concur). The other lad is found "not guilty"; a tender hearted lady juror warns him "not to do it again."

Four men are involved in stealing a steer. Two are arrested; the other two are allowed immunity and appear as state witnesses. One of the two arrested pleads guilty. The other one stands trial, is found guilty. There is some testimony (not necessarily evidence) to show that all the men were poor and probably hungry. But on the facts, there was no doubt of participation in the crime. A bootlegger is brought to trial. His wife is in

court with five of the nine children. The wife collapses on the stand. The corridor rumor is that she was faint from hunger; she had hoped to collect witness fees in time to eat at noon, but her case was delayed. The jury frees her husband, though there could not be much doubt about the bootlegging.

Thus the course of justice goes. The ancient pictures Justice as blind. It is more accurate to say that it is a very human (though not always humane) institution.

There is much inequity in the jury system. Two different sets of twelve people do not always see "the same." It is very difficult to make juries understand that it is NOT their job to measure the punishment of a crime. It is their job merely to pass on the facts and determine guilt or innocence as charged. But juries being made up of humans take things into their own hands. The degree of punishment is up to the judge.

Here in Lane county, we are relatively lucky because we have a thoroughly competent and conscientious judge. He does his best to guide the course of justice, to compensate for the inequalities which occur, and he has the courage to be firm.

But the problems of justice are very complex. It is not fair to blame judges and prosecutors and juries for all of the inconsistencies which appear. The causes of crime and injustice run far back into the social and economic structure. We have only begun to think them worthy of scientific attention.

Out of the Wickarsham reports and other studies we are beginning to get a lot of suggestions about how to get better courts and courthouses, better jails and better wardens, better judges, prosecutors and juries. But back of all these ideas, if you want to get at fundamentals, lies the problem of building better citizens.

We know more about breeding reliable herds of cattle than about breeding reliable herds of humans. Getting back to the hobby of education against Sure! spend a few days in any courthouse anywhere and maybe you'll concur.

The proper method of prune culture is being shown in a government film. Makeup men will instinctively eradicate the wrinkles.

The Soviets are said to have purchased the largest stone crusher, but they won't admit they're putting business on the rocks.

As popular as smoking is among the weaker sex, women would as soon be without a cigarette case as a vanity case.

There's lots of poetry in business, says Charles Schwab. You might say now that business is going from bad to worse.

WHAT OTHER EDITORS THINK

ABOUT TAXES

TYPICAL of the inconsistencies of the tax reduction bluff is the effort following the emotional drunk at Salem to grab \$1,000,000 from the state highway commission to build a short cut to the sea from Portland. Some of the same men who attended the Meier religious revival were among those who went to Portland to get the money from the commission. This is purely and admittedly a pleasure road. There is now being built from Oregon City to Portland a "super highway" with a road right of way 100 feet wide and this in spite of the fact that there are four paved highways from Oregon City to Portland now. As emphasized by the Salem Statesman, the way we build roads is about the only real extravagance in Oregon. In his encyclical to the delegates to the tax meeting, Mr. Meier referred to the fact that he has second largest bonded indebtedness of any state in the union. That was a very unfair statement for most of it is state highway bonds to be paid for by gas tax and auto license fees. If the highway commission is not going to straighten out the heavily used arteries of travel, they better spend the money calling in highway bonds and save the interest rather than spend it on tourist roads.

WASHINGTON LETTER

By RODNEY DUTCHER

WASHINGTON.—The unprecedentedly enormous proportions of this 1932 George Washington Bicentennial celebration seem to be largely attributable to Sol Bloom and his soul.

They put Sol and his soul in a little dinky capitol office when they made him director of the commission. But Sol has expanded the commission into vast, handsome quarters in a big new office building and commands scores of workers who, among hundreds of other things and in the name of George Washington and Sol Bloom, are now pelting hundreds of thousands of leading citizens and organizations in 48,000 cities and villages with instructions and bulky programs for the observance through next year of the 200th anniversary of Washington's birth.

These Fervent Speeches. Maybe you don't think any New York congressman has a soul. But that's because you haven't listened to Sol Bloom talking about the Bicentennial and the great patriotic awakening which he believes will come out of it. There are authenticated instances where people have broken down and wept at hearing him on the radio. They thought Sol was crying, too. He wasn't, but before the microphone his voice and frame shake in grim earnestness as he pours out that soul. "Sol's lost!" his wife exclaimed to their daughter Vera as the two listened to his radio voice once recently when it seemed that no man affected so emotionally could possibly go on.

"We're bringing the real Washington back to the people," he explains tensely. "We're humanizing Washington. We're giving America a history lesson such as no country ever had before. We must have more of the spiritual and less of the material. We've forgotten history. History is like religion. . . . George Coban has written us a song for the year 1932. . . . Lindbergh flying across the ocean was guided and guarded by the prayers of hundreds of millions of people. He couldn't fail. This country can't fail to fulfill its highest destiny if we have the prayers of a hundred million or more people for their country and with thoughts of George Washington. . . . Overdoing this thing? Man, you can't overdo history! People get fed up on it all before we get through? Well, they don't get fed up on religion, do they? There's nothing more beautiful than the history of our country. . . . The spirit of George Washington will rise from his tomb in Mount Vernon and bring us together again, as the living Washington still did the storms that swept over the days when he lived in the flesh. This celebration is going to give the American people the greatest national rallying point they ever had."

Sol's Rise in World. Personally, Sol Bloom confides, he is very happy because he is doing something to repay his country for what it has done for his parents and sisters and brothers.

The amazing fervor and activity which Sol Bloom, short, chunky and brown-haired at 61, throws into the Bicentennial during a long hot summer is no more remarkable than his career. He was born in Pekin, Ill., and was working in a brush factory at San Francisco when eight years old for \$1.25 a week. He never went to school, but has read greedily since his mother taught him how. He was bookkeeper in that brush factory at 11, its superintendent at 13, treasurer of a theatre at 15, building his first theatre—in San Francisco—at 17 and starting on a tour around the world at 19. Twenty years old and he had been put in charge of construction of the famous midway at the Chicago World Fair. He supervised the midway with its dazzling attractions through 1903. He went into the music business and owned 80 stores over the country before he sold out. But real estate and construction attracted him most and he became a millionaire. He retired from business in 1920 at the age of 50 and the people up toward 125th street in New York City began to elect him in Congress. Money, Sol Bloom says, is only good for the independence it gives you.

SIDE GLANCES



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DAILY HEALTH SERVICE

GOLFING AFTER FIFTY

Heart Examination Before and After Play Urged for Men Taking Up Game in Middle Life - Overweight Dangerous

By DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN (Editor, Journal of the American Medical Association, and of Hygiene, the Health Magazine)

MANY physicians look askance at the modern tendency to over-indulge in strenuous exercise after middle age. Records are available of numerous men who have fallen dead on golf courses or at home after a strenuous afternoon at golf. Dr. David Riesman says that men who want to take up golf in middle life should not do so without a thorough physical examination, which ought to be repeated after they have played a little I have seen men between 50 and 60 years of age whose hearts stepped up tremendously in the rate and intensity of the beat after they had played 10 holes of golf on a hot day.

heart with blood. Sometimes the condition is angina pectoris, sometimes a breakdown of the heart tissues. Dr. Riesman feels that the heredity of the individual and his constitution may be important factors in determining the form of heart disease from which the individual will suffer. Many insurance companies emphasize particularly the seriousness of overweight after middle age. Dr. Riesman believes that overweight people can be divided into two classes—those who are excessively fat, but with a soft type of fat on one hand, and, on the other hand, those who are overweight and solid, whose fat is firm, and who are not far above ideal weight. The former type is likely to be quiet and lazy, and therefore

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is not likely to suffer from heart disease; the latter type is the active individual seen on the golf course and most likely to succumb to heart disease.

Arkansas Permits Acorn Crop Waste

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.—(AP)—Although one of the largest feed crops produced in Arkansas, the acorn is practically wasted. Earl Page, commissioner of mines, manufacturers and agriculture, has furnished an analysis showing the acorn ranks high in food properties, having 42 per cent in crude protein, 54.6 per cent in carbohydrates and 5.3 per cent in fat. The crop goes to waste except in mountain counties where there is no stock law and where hogs are allowed to roam at large.

Ex-Texans Gather For Annual Picnic

Between 200 and 300 former Texas residents attended the annual Texas picnic in Riverview back of the butte

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Sunday. An old-fashioned southern dinner was served and after dinner the time was spent in speech making, conversation and other diversions. The day being the hottest of the year the younger folks took advantage of the swimming facilities in the river nearby. Several prominent ex-Texans spoke during the afternoon. The attendance at this picnic was perhaps the largest ever at a Texas reunion here, it was stated by those present. HAIR CUT 15c—SHAVE 15c. CITY SHOP—111 E. Broadway.

The British army is technically the best, and the French the best trained, according to General von Seeckt, German ex-commander-in-chief.

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