

## AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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The Register-Guard's policy is the complete and impartial publication in its news pages of all news and statements on news. On this page, the editors of the Register-Guard offer their opinions on events of the day and matters of importance to the community, endeavoring to be candid but fair, and helpful in the development of constructive community policy.

## A NEWSPAPER IS A CITIZEN OF ITS COMMUNITY

### NEW YEAR PREDICTIONS

NEW YEAR predictions by leading business men in the United States as they roll in over the teleprinters are marked by confidence tempered with caution. There is the persistent feeling that the worst of the economic storm is over. There is a note of certainty in the many predictions that 1932 will show definite trends toward improvement.

At first glance, the reader might say that the predictions as a whole are not very encouraging, but having read these annual statements rather carefully for a good many years, we are inclined to feel that they are the most hopeful in a long, long time.

Prior to the big smash of 1929, the annual quote of the industrial magnate was usually blunt and simple. Of course, things were moving steadily to a bigger and better future. Nothing could stop the good old United States. If any of the Big Boys had any reasoned doubts they kept them to themselves.

In January, 1929, there was still a terrific optimistic hangover. Very few of the magnates who were interviewed at that time could see more than a tiny squall ahead. In 1930 and 1931, there were many brave expressions, but they were brave like the small boy whistling in the dark. After a long spree of success, it took a long sobering up to face facts that were bad.

It is a chastened business which is speaking now, business which has been through a long and harrowing experience of writing off over-priced inventories, reducing capital, going without dividends or with dividends much reduced, adjusting their ideas of what business "ought to do" to what it can do with buying power curtailed at home and abroad.

Many a concern which could not earn a dime on its old setup will be showing nominal earnings in 1932. Many a concern that has adjusted to new conditions will have work for the unemployed. The most encouraging symptom in years is the descent of business to solid earth from its false paradise.

### HIGHWAY PROGRAM IMPERATIVE

UNLESS there is a definite and orderly program for highway construction in the state of Oregon for 1932, there will be a financial situation which will lead either to leaving in an incomplete and unusable state many projects on which millions already have been spent or to the issuance of additional bonds which would jeopardize the future program of the state.

Here are the facts of the situation as nearly as they can be calculated in advance. The state highway department has \$12,733,000 in sight from all sources for 1932, but after setting up all the necessary allowances for work already under contract, for pressing betterments in existing highways, for maintenance of existing highways, for bond interest and retirement, there will be only \$1,461,000 which the commission can use to match federal and county funds for new construction.

One item which makes a big cut into the funds available for new construction is the \$1,300,000 which the state highway commission must put into market roads in lieu of the one mill market road levy which was repealed by the last legislature. Bonds and interest will require \$3,307,000; general maintenance will require \$2,300,000; betterments, \$1,400,000; unemployment relief, \$700,000; contracts already let, \$700,000; and there are many other smaller obligations which cannot be neglected.

Due to the fact that the federal government advanced nearly \$5,000,000 in 1930 to promote unemployment relief, it was possible for the state to put through more than \$9,000,000 worth of new highways and make it a banner year in construction. In 1932, there will be no such advances from the federal government. Federal aid will be limited to \$2,200,000, and it will require careful distribution of the state's \$1,461,000 of new construction money to match even this amount in the usual 65-35 proportion.

Meanwhile there is clamor, fostered largely by Commissioner Spaulding, for the state to embark at once on the rebuilding of the Pacific highway from New Era into Salem at a cost of at least \$1,500,000 with only about \$250,000 federal help available. There is clamor for one and possibly two shortcuts from Portland to the coast at a cost of possibly \$5,000,000 with very little federal help available. In this end of the state there is urgent demand for rebuilding of the Siskiyou bottleneck, for action to complete the Willamette, the Santiam and other important arteries.

If the commission is stampeded into vast new enterprises, where will it get funds to complete such important projects as the coast highway, the Elsie road, the Wailua cutoff in eastern Oregon, the McKenzie and Willamette improvements and many other jobs in which millions have been invested?

The situation will NOT be serious if there is a careful budgeting of what MUST be done now and what CAN be done now and what must be put off to another year, however desirable, so that maximum use can be had from the limited funds available. Such a program does not mean the indefinite delay of such projects as the short cuts to the sea or the superroad out of Salem. It should be possible to get first units of those projects started, but it is important to avoid a stampede which will tie up state-wide development or throw the commission into an orgy of bonding.

So far as Pacific highway development is concerned, those interested in that road ought to get together from one end of the state to the other and decide in what order rebuilding should move forward. The commission has finished grading the new superroad from Portland to Oregon City. Shall it go ahead and pave that section or shall it gallop off to new endeavors? Shall the Siskiyou bottleneck come first or shall the job between

New Era and Salem, or how much of the two jobs can be handled simultaneously? When in the next four or five years may we expect action on the Junction City-Judds Point section which the federal checkup shows to be more congested than the Salem district?

Unless there is a program laid down in orderly fashion as business men would budget any undertaking the whole system of which we are so proud may be thrown into the confusion of a political auction. The situation deserves Governor Meier's best leadership on his return to Oregon.

A 21-year-old girl agreed to marry anyone for \$10,000, but when she tried to cash a check, it bounced back. Henceforth probably she will not bank on men.

Ford may put out an eight. But it's just as well to point out here that probably that will not help the depression, for you can't chew a spark plug.

Scientists say that certain stars are not as distant as formerly believed. Sort of taking off the high hat.

While financial ills are besetting the world, Mussolini has taken to motorcycling. But even in that he's got to keep his balance.

Eleven hours after staging a bank robbery, three Indiana youths were on the way to prison. At that rate the warden probably handed them their discharge certificates when they arrived.

New Metropolitan Opera will be broadcast. Judging from the size of most opera singers, it's never been anything else.

### WHAT OTHER EDITORS THINK

#### RADIOCASTING IN BRITAIN

(Christian Science Monitor)  
 ONCE again the British Broadcasting Corporation, in issuing the annual review of its activities, announces a vast extension of its audience. The owners of receiving sets in Great Britain and Northern Ireland who have paid the licensing fees required by law number now about 4,000,000, and it is calculated that the maximum audience amounts to at least 13,000,000 listeners. On special occasions, then, such as that on which the Prime Minister made his famous appeal to the nation, when messages are relayed to all stations throughout the country, it is possible that nearly one-third of the whole population may be listening to the words spoken by one man.

The sole power of using the ether over Great Britain for the transmission of sounds to this vast audience is vested in a small semi-official body made up of advisory committees. Its resources for the instruction and entertainment of the public are large; its income derived from its share of the licensing fees amounted last year to £1,224,000. It is entirely free from advertising interests. Political pressure is not brought to bear on it.

It has no other duty and no other interest than to provide programs day by day which will meet with approval of the listening public. It endeavors by alternative programs to present on different wavelengths to provide for a wide range of tastes, but it has no temptation to pander to the tastes of the vulgar. It sends out national and local news, opera and lighter music, lectures, recitations, literary and dramatic criticism, and statements by well-known public men. To provide these programs week by week is to take a responsible part in molding the tastes and directing the judgment of the British nation.

Naturally, there is much criticism of its policy. How could there not be? Is it fair, it is asked, to intrust so often to the same men the task of criticizing plays or books? Are the mentors of the public on matters economic wisely chosen? An example of the formidable influence which a single broadcaster may exercise is given in the new book, "When J. M. Keynes had pointed out from the B. B. C. studio the possible dangers of economy, the sale of National Savings Certificates fell from 250,000 to 170,000 a day. Harried Sir Joseph Stump was introduced to show the importance of buying these certificates, and the sales within three days leaped up to 450,000 and on the fourth day to 500,000.

Such examples indicate the responsibility which rests on every broadcaster, and on the Broadcasting Corporation all the time. A life-time of solemn initiation would not be too much to prepare members of the staff for the exercise of influence on such a scale. The British people are quite properly critical. But they have every reason to be thankful that they have escaped the commercial exploiter. If anyone compares the activities of the B. B. C. with those, say, of the cinema, or the music halls, or some of the popular newspapers, he will observe from how much possible inferiority the radio has been saved in Britain. It offers an abundance of light entertainment, but it always is wholesome, often informative, and sometimes stimulating of thought.

#### WASHINGTON LETTER

By RODNEY DUTCHER  
 NEA Service Writer

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—The powerful administration pressure brought to encompass the political extermination of Congressman Louis P. McFadden of Pennsylvania since his sensational attack on President Herbert Hoover's moratorium motives provides an excellent exhibition of how the patronage system, one of the most important wheels in politics, actually operates. Republican members of congress possess patronage when they are permitted to guide presidential appointments of federal judges and district attorneys, marshals, internal revenue collectors and deputies, customs and immigration officials, prohibition agents, ministers and postmasters, rural mail carriers and other classes of federal employees.

Even when civil service examinations are required, as they are for most federal jobs, politicians and appointing officers may choose from the three high ranking candidates for postmaster in a republican district knows that no matter how high he may rank in the examination he cannot expect appointment unless he stands in with the congressman assuming that the congressman is on good terms with the administration.

The patronage arrangement in Pennsylvania is typical of states which have "regular" republican congressional delegations. There the congressman's patronage includes postmasters and rural letter carriers, while the two senators name most other federal offices. So terms of postmasters expire every four years. The postmaster generally notifies the congressman for the district as well as the senators. The congressman and the party's county chairman agree as to the right man, and their choice soon receives the presidential appointment.

McFadden has more than 200 postmasters in his district and at least as many rural letter carriers. After this because of an agreement among Senators Dave Reed and Jim Davis, the White House and Postmaster General Brown, sole political enemies of McFadden will be appointed to these jobs which are now occupied by his friends. If he is re-elected they will all be filled by his active political foes within four years. This fact, according to Reed, forces his political death. The state organization will also oppose him at the polls.

Postmasters are political key men, outstanding figures in communities, especially in rural districts. Like McFadden, they are influential in political life despite certain restrictions on their activities. Through the democratic south patronage is usually handled by the party's national committeemen. An active trade has long been existence under which postmaster-ships and other federal jobs have been bought and sold. In other states patronage is democratic districts is handled by republican senators. If any, along with national committeemen and county chairmen.

While numbers used not be 100 per cent regular to retain their patronage, persistent re-election usually results in its loss.

Senators Norris of Nebraska, Malone and La Follette of Wisconsin and Johnson of California are among aggressive republicans who have no patronage. Norris boldly gave his re when he unseated Speaker Joe Cannon more than 20 years ago. Malone and La Follette inherited their lack of it from the allies La Follette. In Wisconsin it goes to "tag-along" politicians. "The attempt to take McFadden's patronage away is an explicit denial that the social service is non-partisan," Norris says. "McFadden needs to make it an issue he ought to be able to beat Reed for the senate next year. The American people will never stand for a system that demands the trading of political influence for jobs." "Happy and free, indeed," says Malone, "is the member of congress who has no patronage."

## SIDE GLANCES



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"Here's lots of wood, mama. I chopped up my old auto that I didn't want, anyway."

### SCARLET FEVER IS OFTEN FATAL

PATIENT SHOULD BE CONFINED TO BED AND GIVEN NURSING AND ANTITOXIN

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

IN some scarlet fever epidemics the condition is so serious that a considerable number of those who are infected die. In the United States on an average of about two per cent of those who have the disease during epidemics die of either the disease or the complications. During 1920 and 1921, approximately 2.5 people out of every 100,000 population died of scarlet fever. The person who has scarlet fever should be confined to home or in the hospital and should be kept from contact with others, except those who are responsible for the care of the sick. Those who have been in contact with the disease should be quarantined for at least seven days after their contact with the case in order to determine whether or not they have been infected.

Formerly scarlet fever was treated merely by putting the patient to bed and giving him the best type of nursing care. Nowadays a specific remedy has been developed in the form of antitoxin, which is used in cases of severe or that tend to develop complications. In very severe cases it is customary to administer by injection the serum from the blood of the person who has recently recovered from the disease.

Old Man, 72, Back At Hillsboro For Bell Ringing Rite

HILLSBORO, Ore., (AP)—His 72 years resting lightly upon him, Albert Tozier came home yesterday to see the new year in and to ring with his own hands for the 60th consecutive year, the bell in the steeple of the old Methodist church.

In 1872 the first church building was erected in this Washington county town. Albert Tozier rang out the old year and the bell welcomed the new. Each year thereafter to the present day he has commemorated the event.

One year he came from Central America to perform the ceremony; once he came from Mexico, twice from New York, once from South Carolina, and several times from western states to greet New Year's eve in this community and to visit the cemetery where his father, his mother and a sister are buried. Watch night services are held each year and the bell ringing has become a village rite.

Tozier is now custodian of Champeez park on the Willamette river. He was one of the organizers of the National Editorial Association in 1885 and is the only survivor of its 37 charter members. He served one term as president of the association.

### Priests Imprisoned Under Religious Act

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 1.—(AP)—Three Catholic priests were arrested yesterday on charges of violating the new religious laws which require the registration of clerics and limits them to one for every 50,000 inhabitants of the federal district.

Enrique Romero Gortázar, secretary general of the department of the federal district, announced the priests had been sent to the penitentiary.

"Effective immediately, no priest, unless he satisfies the mandate of the law, will be permitted to exercise any function in connection with his ministry," the secretary general said.

### Dempsey Mortgages Property to Estelle

FRESNO, Jan. 1.—(AP)—Guaranteeing the payment of \$20,000 in accordance with a recent property settlement, William Harrison ("Jack") Dempsey recorded in the Fresno county recorder's office a mortgage covering his property in Madera, Fresno and Kings counties in favor of his estranged wife, Estelle Taylor.

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professor's physical health—sleep and breakfast and lunch and dinner and things like that—while his mind is traveling the farther distances, mentioned in reply a nice little cottage, not too far out, with a garden and a good kitchen.  
 They are now looking for a nice little cottage, not too far out, with a garden and a good kitchen.  
 Varsity Brand Potato Chips  
 Mayonnaise, horseradish, mustard.

### Reno Divorce Mill Sets New Record

RENO, Nev., Jan. 1.—(AP)—With the six weeks divorce law creating an unprecedented rush of the unhappy wed, Reno's divorce mill ground out 4,248 divorces during 1931 to establish a new record.  
 The previous record was set in 1930 when 2,149 divorces were granted.  
 Women plaintiffs numbered 2,011 while 1,816 complaints were filed by men.  
 Cruelty was still the principal ground for divorce, 2,856 complaints being based on this allegation.  
 DR. WINNARD is in General Practice at 302 Tiffany Bldg.—Special attention to diseases of women.  
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