

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

STRONG-ARM IN INDIA

FOR the time being Britain will try the strong-arm method in India. Gandhi and other leaders of the non-resistant resistance are in jail. The nationalist movement is being suppressed wherever it shows its head. The Moslem antipathy to Hindoo thinking is being encouraged as an antidote for major troubles. It will be interesting to see if the new policy produces any more profitable results than the recent policies of conciliation.

There are two ways for Britain to hold profitable trade with India. One is by creating a solid foundation of Indian good will. The other is by keeping the Indian people in complete subjection.

Britain's real trouble in India is due not to Gandhiism, but to modernism. In many ways, India seems to bear out Oswald Spengler's gloomy theory that the white man's civilization promotes its own doom when it carries education (and technical knowledge) into subject lands. An India educated and industrially organized would not need much cloth from Lancashire mills. Spengler seems to argue that if the white man doesn't want to see the cheap labor of subject lands exploiting his own inventions and machines, he must "keep 'em down."

On the other hand, it seems to be the history of the world that subject peoples inevitably absorb the culture and skill of the conquerors. No nation ever ruled its subjects with a firmer hand than did Rome, but Rome not only absorbed, but was absorbed by the conquered. It may be the white race in its zeal to uplift the heathen has speeded up the process of heathen unrest. Keeping 'em down may delay things, may prolong the advantageous status quo, but no nation or race has yet been able to monopolize civilization.

India has learned from the British conquerors to aspire. The meek posturings of Gandhiism are only a mask for the fact that India aspires. Young Indians, Hindoo or Moslem or Buddhist, have acquired new ideas. It will be a long time before India is capable of self-government or before the ignorant and superstitious millions understand this aspiration which comes to them through various leaders.

There is just enough understanding to make plenty of trouble. Britain cannot afford to let go in India. Neither can she afford the siege tactics of endless haggling. The strong-arm technique is a step back to the methods which worked in India in other centuries. It is a question whether it will serve to avert or to provoke the explosion.

TO CURB BORROWING HABIT

IT COSTS the people of Oregon more than 12 millions a year for service on their various public debts. Of the 12 millions, 7 millions are for interest charges only—dead horse. Debt is a tremendous factor in all tax rates. If the burden of debt could be removed all taxes could be reduced and kept reduced.

In Governor Meier's program to reduce taxation in Oregon much can be accomplished by one very simple step. Prohibit the use of the borrowing power by the state, by the cities, counties and school districts except for those public investments which have practically permanent life.

Some provision for emergency borrowing in times of disaster of unpreventable distress might be allowed, but there is no good reason why all the ordinary operations of any branch of government, including most construction work can't be brought to a cash basis.

Local governments can be allowed considerable freedom in tax levies. Too much long distance tinkering with purely local budgets is bound to lead to local revolt. There is very little danger in giving public officials adequate cash for all operations. The real danger lies in unrestricted opportunity to get into debt.

A program can be devised for retirement of all debt over a period of years and the establishment of cash reserves which will earn interest instead of eating it. By getting rid of debt Oregon cannot only achieve lower tax rates, but provide more money for public betterments than the state has ever had.

Oregon's schools of higher education have their faults but they also have one distinction. They have no debt. They have never had the power to issue bonds or warrants or run into debt. For this one reason they give the people a bigger dollar's worth for every dollar spent than almost any other activity deriving public support.

If we had the 7 millions being consumed annually for interest charges, think of the things we could accomplish even after putting half of it back where it belongs in the taxpayers' pockets.

THE HORRORS OF PEACE

A GREAT deal is being said these days about the horrors of war. This is as it should be. It might be a good thing, however, to make occasional mention of the horrors of peace. In fact, if the torments and casualties of recurrent business cycles and depressions were taken into account, one might be able to compile a very interesting and shocking book on the subject.

It is well, however, to stick to simpler and more understandable things. How many people do you suppose are being killed by automobiles these days right here in Oregon, for instance?

Well, according to Ray Conway, the able public relations man of the Oregon State Motor association driving a car is a little bit worse than war which Gen. Sherman damned in lasting figures of speech.

In 18 months of the World War, Oregon suffered 367 killed, 1,100 wounded; a total of 1,467 casualties among men in active service. In Oregon, an 18-month record of motor casualties shows 271 killed, 4,839 injured; a total of 5,110 for the casualty list.

Of course most of the motor casualties were having a good time when it happened. On the other hand, it might be pointed out that the World War casualties were doing or thought they were

doing the world an heroic service which in a way is a compensation for injury or death.

Most of the motor casualties were merely trying to gain a perfectly useless second. The records are full of the queer antics of people who drive into the path or into the side of moving trains, who forget the curves ahead and skid over steep embankments; then there are the sapheads who get drunk and the congenital idiots who never dodge a risk.

Far too many of the casualties are just victims of other people's carelessness.

Anyhow, it's quite a peacetime casualty list, isn't it?

WOMEN AS ARTISTS

C. R. CHATTERTON, the artist whose paintings of Maine's coast scenes recently drew favorable attention in New York, asserts that the trends of American art hereafter will be in the hands of women.

Women, he says, respond to art and concentrate on it better than men do; and, he added, "woman is bringing art into the home and taking care to see that it is good."

In all of this he is probably right; and the encouraging thing about it is that feminine appreciation of art is on a much higher plane than it was a few decades ago. Even since the Civil War women have been more or less the arbiters of things artistic in this country—not as critics, but as the great, inarticulate public whose likes and dislikes subtly determine what style is to be uppermost. In the past their influence has not been entirely good; too often it has led to pretty-pretty things of no artistic significance.

Now the American woman is apt to have a sounder taste than the man. If her influence is to predominate, it may be a good thing for art.

Twenty-three tons of fresh air can be forced into Chicago stadium, scene of the 1932 Republican National convention, every minute. How many tons of hot air can be forced out?

An electric device has been invented to open locks. Now if someone will only invent something to open Scotch purses.

WHAT OTHER EDITORS THINK

CAN EVERYBODY LIVE IN CITIES?

(Christian Science Monitor)
 MORE human beings are gathered within commuting distance of the New York city hall than have lived in any area since the world began.
 This arresting assertion is made by Louis I. Dublin, statistician of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. It somewhat confirms the observation of a recent foreign visitor that "New York is not a city—it's a phenomenon." Persons who have an aversion to crowds and all big cities would perhaps agree with the critical view who referred to New York as "the eighth blinder of the world." Almost everyone accepts the familiar boast that "there is only one New York," but many therein find grounds for fervent gratitude.

Anyhow, there she towers above restricted Manhattan Island and runs over into four other boroughs, Bronx, Kings, Queens, and Richmond—a massing of money and misery, beauty and squalor, greatness and sordidness. The population of Greater New York alone, leaving the commuting zones of Westchester, Long Island and New Jersey out of the reckoning is 6,930,440.

The remarkable American trend toward living in large cities has inexorably swept people away from the rural regions in the last two decades. Can it continue indefinitely? Can even complex modern civilization assure a livelihood, to say nothing of transportation, light and air, to such a gargantuan aggregation of human beings as New York represents? The volume and seriousness of New York's relief problem last winter raises the question of whether there are limits even to urbanization.

Looking broadly at the question of support for the herded millions in times of critical industrial dislocation, can everybody live in the city, even if he wishes to? Or does the current economic emergency hold promises of a back-to-the-land movement which eventually will carry even some New Yorkers with it? Wouldn't thousands of dwellers in its teeming tenements be better off in the country or at least in small villages depending on their own gardens and orchards or small farms to supply part of their living? Will abandoned farms be abandoned permanently?

Organized industry, as well as the city dweller in moderate or poor circumstances is thinking about the question. Perhaps Henry Ford's idea that industry should be coordinated with farming so that industrial workers will not be wholly dependent on the mill and factory has in it seed of a measurable social reformation. Certain it is the urban living conditions are an important factor in the profound readjustment of social and economic forces which confronts a world thrown far out of its accustomed equilibrium.

WASHINGTON LETTER

By RODNEY DUTCHER
 NEA Service Writer

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—The constant increase in school enrollment has been considerably accelerated by the depression and children of school age have been receiving an unprecedented amount of attention because of the recognized harmful effects of such depression on child welfare.

Some of the other recent news about children let the number of pre-school children is decreasing, having been off 128,840 for those five years old or less in 1930 as compared with 1929, according to the office of education. What makes this figure slightly startling is that there was a gain in number of such children of nearly 1,500,000 between 1900 and 1910 and a 1910-20 gain of nearly 1,000,000.

More than 2,000,000 children from 7 to 17 years of age are normally out of school and working, according to an estimate by W. G. Carr of the National Education association—a fact often cited new in discussions about child labor and its relation to the general unemployment problem. To what extent this number has been reduced by layoffs and increased enrollment no one knows. The 1930 census found 811,000 children under 14 not enrolled in any school, many of whom were at work. Many have been forced to leave school, but many have stayed only because jobs were scarce.

"All available evidence," says the National Education association, "points clearly to a significant increase in enrollment. This increase is undoubtedly heaviest in the high schools and in vocational classes. The increase is part of a long continued trend which has been greatly accelerated in the past two years by unemployment among children and adults."

Relief fundations have frequently been allotted to schools, the association says, most importantly the supplying of clothing and one or more meals daily to destitute children. New York school employees themselves contributed a million dollars to a school relief fund this year. Philadelphia schools found that hundreds of children were coming to school without having had any breakfast and breakfasts were served to children in 128 school buildings. Hundreds of children, it appears, have been feeding or clothing school children.

Such surveys as have been made show that half the families stricken by unemployment spend only half as much or less for maintenance as when the father is working. That nearly a third of the mothers in families of unemployed men were gainfully employed—and many others seeking work—with a resultant lack of care for many children, that children were at work from one-fifth of such families, that malnutrition has increased enormously, that of 150 cases of unemployment intensively studied there were 45 instances in which the welfare of children was seriously imperiled, "because it means lowered family standards, anxiety and dread, the loss of savings and the mortgaging of the future, has a direct and disastrous effect upon the welfare of children."

Ten sample cases of the 45 mentioned showed three children seriously underweight from malnutrition, three unable to go to school for lack of shoes and proper clothing, one girl compelled to leave school and abandon music lessons, another leaving school to look after younger children, a boy leaving to work in a clothing store at \$12 a week after parents' savings for his college education had been eaten up and another who, having lost respect for unemployment, stole an automobile to "see the world" and landed in a reform school.

SIDE GLANCES



"I'm so glad he's decided to be a dentist. They always look so neat in their white jackets."

TULAREMIA SPREAD BY RABBITS AND INSECTS

WILD RABBITS SHOULD BE REFRIGERATED SEVERAL MONTHS

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

NOT long ago medical magazines began recording cases of infection of human beings who had come in con-

tact with wild rabbits. Usually the person was a market worker or a cook who had skinned a wild rabbit preparatory to cooking and serving it, and who had developed a sore on the finger quite soon thereafter. Investigations since that time have

revealed that an organism called the bacterium tularemia is conveyed to the human being by the bites of infected flies and ticks, and by inoculation through handling infected animals, as in skinning, dressing or doing post-mortem examinations on them. A few rare cases have occurred in which human beings have been infected from the bites of coyotes, skunks and hogs which had become infected presumably from eating the infected flesh of rabbits or squirrels.

Not only however, have squirrels and rabbits been found as conveyors of this condition, but also muskrats, opossums and water rats. From one to 10 days after having come in contact with the infected meat or having been bitten, an ulcer develops at the infected spot; the lymph glands swell and break down.

It has been shown that refrigerated rabbits may remain infective for three months but not for four months. Obviously the way to avoid this type of infection is to avoid being bitten by flies or ticks when working in regions where tularemia is frequent, and second to use rubber gloves when engaged in dressing wild rabbits or doing post-mortem examinations on infected animals.

The meat of the wild rabbit should be most thoroughly cooked before serving, and preferably should be refrigerated for three months previous to dressing.

There is no special method of taking care of the infection by the bacterium tularemia, except to disinfect the discharges from the ulcers and the lymph glands and to avoid contact between such infection and open lesions in other people.

School Semester Ends January 22

The first semester of the 1931-32 term of the Eugene schools will end on Jan. 22 and report cards will be issued on that date instead of the Tuesday following as is the custom at the end of the six weeks' period, H. R. Gould, city superintendent, announces.

No beginners will be accepted for the second semester and no shift of classes will take place from the elementary to the junior high schools, or from junior to senior high schools, it was announced.

Cricket, the national game of Britain, could not be played in that country less than two centuries ago.

Living bacteria can be found in bituminous coal at a depth of more than three thousand feet, scientists say.

Steel Has "Pauper" Year But Better Than 1932 Is Predicted

By B. E. V. LUTY Associate Editor American Metal Market

For a half dozen years steel consumers have carried almost no stocks and the course of production has been a close measure of demand. The course of steel production has been uniformly downward since June, 1929, except for special year-end recessions and brief seasonal recoveries. That is, March, 1930, was under October, 1929, and April, 1931, was under the preceding September. In May and June, 1929, production of steel ingots was at an annual rate of 62,500,000 gross tons, while in December, 1931, the average rate was 18,000,000 to 19,000,000 tons.

With so protracted and marked a decrease in rate, annual totals lose much of their usual significance, but comparisons cannot be omitted. The seven years through 1929 constituted a period of remarkable activity, interrupted only briefly by the slump in the middle portion of 1924, by 1927 having a relatively poor second half throughout, and by the declines during the second half of 1928. Average annual ingot production in the seven years was 45,750,000 tons, 1929 showing 54,850,433 tons and 1930 39,595,288 tons, while the final figure for 1931, due a few months hence, may be forecast at about 25,000,000 tons, with a probable error of less than a quarter million tons.

Prince or Pauper

Many years ago Andrew Carnegie said "Iron is either prince or pauper" and the saying was often quoted approvingly, but before that James M. Swank, the statistician and historian of the iron and steel trade for 40 years had written in an annual report that iron seemed either to be in a fever or experiencing a severe chill. In recent years such sayings have not been appropriate, for the idea was to distinguish iron and steel from the general run of business activities.

The trade had a poor year in 1930, and a much poorer year still in 1931, but so did other manufacturers as well as trading concerns. What made the great ups and downs in the past was the fact that steel was a construction material more than a material of common everyday consumption. In contrast, one has it that from 1920 to 1930 total steel production decreased 28 per cent, but shipments of the structural steel fabricated only 10 per cent, while from 1930 to 1931 total steel decreased about 37 per cent and structural steel about the same amount. Leaving its proportion higher than in 1929. Heavy shipments of structural steel in the first ten months of 1930 indicated that invest-

ors or builders had not foreseen depression as previous great downturns had been foreseen and even grasp the situation when it came. In 1931 there was very little production of an investment character, but much public work, bridges, viaducts and buildings.

Cars Are Factor

There were no automobiles, the "prince or pauper" phrase coined, but one might perhaps even grasp the situation when it came. In 1931 there was very little production of an investment character, but much public work, bridges, viaducts and buildings.

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