

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

(Published every morning and Sunday)
 EDITOR AND PUBLISHER: Alton F. Baker
 MANAGING EDITOR: William M. Tugman
 NEWS SERVICE: Associated Press, United Press
 MEMBER: Audit Bureau of Circulations

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.

SCHOOL COSTS TOO HIGH?

In a letter to the Mail Bag yesterday, Mr. F. G. Reese quoted some of the recent figures on high school costs in Oregon which show Eugene costs relatively high and asked us for an opinion saying:

"Those who have been trying for greater economy of the Eugene schools have thought you were not very sympathetic toward our efforts."

Mr. Reese's letter would indicate that he has mistaken figures on high school costs for the figures on average school costs including both grades and high schools. It should be made clear that the figures cited refer to high school costs only.

Whether Eugene would make a better relative showing in the general average, we do not know. Presumably the high school costs indicate the trend the average would follow.

In high school costs, Eugene appears fourth from the top with \$141.89 per year per student. North Bend is highest with \$160.25; Bend next with \$155.75; Pendleton next with \$153.27. Portland follows Eugene with \$138.84. Comparable cities range downward from Klamath with \$137.47; Medford, \$132.80; Marshfield, \$118.58; Salem, \$104.11; Albany, \$101.84 down to Corvallis with \$92.48.

There are two ways of approaching the situation (assuming the figures to be correct):

Are Eugene high school costs TOO HIGH?

Are some of the lower cities HIGH ENOUGH?

We note that both Albany and Corvallis papers while expressing satisfaction with low costs voice a hope for deferred improvements.

One reason why our costs are relatively high in Eugene is that we are now paying for many improvements and extravaganzas made when times were much better than they are now. We doubt very much if a separation of actual tuition costs and operating costs of the Eugene schools at the present time would show them any higher if as high as those in some of the towns with lowest per capita costs. Our pay scales are almost notoriously low. Our operating costs have been cut to the bone.

The two most burdensome items in school costs in Eugene today are BONDED DEBT and WARRANT DEBT. Between now and 1945 we are obligated to pay off some \$400,000 of bonds dating back to 1925 on which payments were DEFERRED the first ten years by administrations which sought to kidnap the taxpayers. Despite reduced operating income, we have been making some headway in cutting down an inherited warrant debt of \$140,000.

We are paying now for many misguided practices of the past. This paper is not hostile to BUSINESS ECONOMY. It does oppose REFUNDING TO POSTPONE PAYMENT OF DEBTS. It opposes further reductions of pay or staff because some thought must be given to maintaining standards for the children in our schools.

It has taken courage for the school board and Superintendent Gould to follow the present course, but it is constructive and it deserves support.

OH, CLAUDIUS, PU-LEEZ!

If Elbert Bede of the Cottage Grove Sentinel were a postmaster too, as is Claude Ingalls of the Corvallis Gazette-Times, he'd be looking through his collection of rubber stamps for that one entitled "Returned To Writer Unclaimed." Then he'd dip it in red ink and stamp all over Claude's recent editorial, "College Catalogs," and send it right back to the Corvallis postmaster.

Mr. Ingalls slipped in that editorial. Quoting the Sentinel as stating that everything is in a frightful state regarding higher education down in Cottage Grove and pushing the cause of the Kerr-Ford-Chancellor movement, the Corvallis editor makes this broad statement:

"There is only one man in the country who could take the mess as it is now and straighten it out. That man is Dr. Kerr. The Sentinel urges that he be appointed immediately to the position of chancellor."

Claudio, pu-leez! Elbert Bede couldn't have said that even if he had just returned from the golf course with a nine-hole score of 65. And Elbert could do a lot of things if he got a score like that. Mr. Bede did make a statement on the chancellor question recently. In an editorial he stated: "The Sentinel has expressed no preference for a chancellor." And that's the way he still feels about it. Says he (Bede).

The statement Mr. Ingalls attributed to Elbert Bede is "unclaimed." Claudio, how can you?—T. P.

LUMBER ON THE AGGRESSIVE.

THOSE who attended the big public lumber rally in Eugene Friday night heard many things which were encouraging and suggestive. They heard Dr. Wilson Compton, executive secretary of the National Association, and Col. W. B. Greeley, of the West Coast Association declare emphatically that lumber not only can come back but that the "comeback" is starting. They heard Dr. Compton refer in the most assured way to Eugene as the future center of the nation's lumber industry.

From Senator Stelwer, Dr. Compton and Col. Greeley, they heard of the three big problems the lumber industry is facing:

1. TAXATION—taxation under antiquated and uneconomic systems is absorbing \$60,000,000 a year more than the lumber industry is making.

2. TARIFF—the tariff obtained by Senator Stelwer at the last session of congress is adequate but only temporary because attached to a temporary revenue measure.

3. COMPETITION.—In the great home building revival which is expected, lumber must be prepared to meet the competitive "substitutes" at every turn with a product processed and developed for quick and economical handling.

Senator Stelwer sounded a keynote when he said that cooperation only can save the lumber industry. The lumber men of this district anticipated the senator's advice by announcing the affiliation of the Willamette Valley Association with the

big West Coast which in turn affiliates with the national.

Good times lie ahead but also difficult problems. As the lumber industry centers more and more in the Northwest, its position politically will be more and more one of isolation. It will not be able to hold tariffs, maintain quality, control production without absolute cooperation.

The future is likely to see a drift toward larger government control of all natural resources such as lumber, oil and coal, nor is this undesirable, if the program is intelligent and directed by those who have a practical knowledge of the industry.

Industrially, the meeting in Eugene is one of the most stimulating events in a long time in Oregon. What about the follow up? Is legislation being prepared for the next legislature which will relieve the strain of ruinous taxing? Are the communities which have a vital interest in lumber prepared to give united support to the industry?

In the Northwest, the prosperity of agriculture, railroading, shipping, merchandising and every other activity cannot be divorced from the prosperity of the chief payroll industry and its 70,000 workers.

AL SMITH AS EDITOR.

AL SMITH will be the new editor of The Outlook, famous old journal of American opinion which has known the genius of such men as Henry Ward Beecher, Lyman Abbott, and Theodore Roosevelt (the original). In some quarters there is a disposition to sneer at the thought of such a person as Al in the sanctum which was once the most dignified in America.

There is much speculation as to what Al will do with his opportunity. There is no doubt that Al has ability of sorts, but he has never quite freed himself from some of the uncouth mannerisms of expression which are the natural heritage of one who is the product of the "Sidewalks of New York." Will Al devote his new magazine to party politics? Will he use it to give Tammany a new and somewhat more respectable voice? Will the personality of Al Smith reduced to type have the appeal to the public which has been characteristic of his speech.

We await the appearance of The New Outlook with much interest—and hope. We do NOT share the sneering doubts which are suggested by the intellectual elite. The presence of such a man as Al at the editor's desk may provide a treat. After all the most important thing in writing is not "style" but "something to write about." There are plenty of subjects on which Al might discourse with more effectiveness than those who have the classical editorial viewpoint. Al understands the practical game of politics, for instance, as few editors understand it.

Al will be a success as an editor if he continues to "be himself." He will be lost if he tries to copy the style and mannerisms of the traditional critic. He will be lost if he ceases to be perfectly frank and human. There is no reason why The Outlook with Al Smith as editor will not be The Outlook. Why should it be? It has not been The Outlook for many a year. The New Outlook should be refreshing.

ROOSEVELT & GARNER.

AS public entertainers, we offer the team of Roosevelt & Garner, as one of the snappiest "gag" acts that has ever come down the political pike.

Mr. Garner with a sweeping gesture of "economy" declined the time-honored ceremony of "nification." He said it with a letter, but in saying it he could not resist the temptation to deliver a long and windy speech.

"What's wrong with the country?" is the common line for the whole scenario. The Garner answer to everything is: "It's the Republican climate!"

The Roosevelt appeal to the big New Jersey vote is a masterpiece of wisecracks, almost worthy of Jimmy Walker himself. We grant Bro. Roosevelt one thing. The Hoover-wet Curtis-dry performance is a deserving laugh.

On the other hand, we have a recent picture of the great Roosevelt sitting in the Judgment Seat at the Walker trial at Albany, with the meek Garner catering and cavilling on Al Smith's 70 story doorstep down in New York.

Almost any way you look at it the political vaudeville is a good laugh.

Perhaps after all the troubles of recent months, the public is entitled to a few laughs for a change, but there are a good many millions who will not be impressed by "snappy talk." Most serious omission of Roosevelt & Garner to date is any sober and logical statement on the main issues to show where they really are "at."

Coolidge has announced that he'll have little part in the presidential campaign. Cal lost practically all interest in presidential campaigns shortly after November, 1924.

Lumber is due for a comeback, the experts assure us. Some of the boys who own a section or two of forest say the real problem is that it has been much too much present for some time past.

Ajax McGurk says he wonders how much of Roosevelt's ringing wet speech for the boys in New Jersey will be used when the great reformer reaches the more "backward" sections of the west.

President Hoover has told the Big Boys that the depression is over, but apparently a good many of the Little Boys out around Iowa and Nebraska are not convinced.

Blue River Bill commenting on this educational row says he has a new definition of Old Timer—a fellow who remembers when there was an Agricultural College at Corvallis.

Next to the Einstein theory the greatest mathematical wonder of the age is the new Macpherson theory which promises to reduce higher education expenses a million a year without reducing the millage tax.

Contrary to rumors up around Corvallis, the folks in Lane county don't give a hang if Hector Macpherson runs for that vacant seat of Mr. Marks in the senate or keeps his present chair in the House. You know, a rose by any other name—

Happy thought for the week end: Count up the number of days till Christmas and if that makes you dizzy count the number you have left to fish.

"This 'Shirt' Business!"



WHAT SOME THINKERS THINK

—Compiled by CLAY E. PALMER—
 Pastor of First Congregational Church

COLONEL EDWARD HOUSE, astute political thinker: "Most of our presidents have been average men. They were not the men with the greatest intellects, but the men who made the fewest enemies and who happened to achieve political distinction in pivotal states. . . . Democracies are, perhaps justly, suspicious of genius in their candidates. And just as the average man creates his God in his own image, so the average voter sees in the president his own self magnified. He votes for the man who is most like himself."

Emil Ludwig, biographer, called the greatest student of men in the world, recently interviewed Stalin, the Communist Dictator: "Judging by his picture and by his name, which does not suit him at all, I had expected to see a grand Duke, sharp, abrupt, unfriendly. Instead I found for the first time a dictator to whom I should be willing to intrust my children. . . . He lacks that inner cheerfulness of soul which keeps patient people, like the typical Russian, humane; in him patience is fed by mistrust and vice versa; and he makes both qualities productive, since he can wait without illusion, and from his long waiting is forced to lose any vestige of illusion that he may have had."

Stalin: "In the perfected stage (of socialism) everyone will do what he is capable of doing and will be paid according to his needs. It is surely perfectly clear that different people have different needs, great and small. Socialism has never denied the differences in taste and needs and in their extent. . . . In the West (Europe and America), they have such primitive ideas, as if we wanted to divide everything evenly."

Fred Eastman, professor of Chicago Theological Seminary: "I've lived with myself for 48 years, and the more intimately I've become acquainted with myself, the more I know I need a Master. Sometimes I am just a poor sheep driven before the winds of circumstance. Other times I'm a mule. Whether sheep or mule I need a Master. And as I look about upon my fellow men it seems that they are not much further removed from the animal stage of development. Some are lambs; others wolves; some are eagles; others—such as those who kidnap little children—seem very much like skunks. But we all need some sort of Master."

Sir Ian Hamilton, great English soldier, severely criticizes the Dis-

armament Conference, and adds: "If over we are to have peace in this world there is only one sane way in which at least to make a beginning—abolish conscription and you break the teeth of war. It is enough to turn the white angels of heaven as black as crows to see the great nations solemnly pretending to disarm and all the time forcing millions of young people to learn how to fight and how to go to war."

Senator William E. Borah says that he would go far in the direction of cancelling war debts and that he is ready to trade "a depression which costs a billion and a half a year for a loss of 250 million a year in war debt payments, if accompanied by disarmament."

F. R. Barry, of Oxford, England: "While millions are on the point of starvation, foodstuffs are being destroyed wholesale in the hope of thereby keeping up the prices for which an impoverished world cannot pay. But this is brigandage rather than industry. . . . Now these are not technical matters of economics; they are elemental issues of right and wrong."

John Maynard Keynes, one of England's greatest economists: "The present signs suggest that the bank-ers of the world are bent on suicide. At every stage they have been unwilling to adopt a sufficiently drastic remedy. And by now matters have been allowed to drift so far that it has become extraordinarily difficult to find a way out."

Dr. C. C. McCown, author of "The Genesis of the Social Gospel": "When Jesus called down woes upon the rich, the happy, and the well fed, he was not attacking individuals, but a system. He means that any social, political or economic organization of society which inevitably perpetuates proud, heartless wealth and dull, grinding poverty is wrong and must be changed if God's will is to be done on earth."

John Burroughs, great naturalist: "God is the fact of the fact, the life of the life, the soul of the soul, the incomprehensible, the sum of all divinity; he who knows him, knows him not; he who is without him is full of him; turn your back upon him, then turn your back upon gravity; upon air, upon light. He cannot be seen, but by him all seeing comes. He cannot be heard, yet by him all hearing comes. He is not a being, yet apart from him there is no being—there is no apart from him."

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL BAG

ON TAXES!

EUGENE, Ore.—(To the Editor)—I would like to know if we have a tax equalization board. If so, what is it? I'd like to make it so that each pay according to his ability? If what we have is the best they can do, then kick them out.

This is what we have: "A" bargains for a little home to cost \$3000, but only has \$2000, so he borrows of "B" \$1000. "A" takes the deed, and gives "B" a mortgage for the \$1000 at 7 per cent per year, but when the taxes become due "A" finds he is taxed as though he owned it all. "B" pays no tax, yet has the best title. "B" should pay one-third of the taxes to be equal. Such inequality in a depression like the present puts many a poor family out of a home.

If taxes were paid according to ability to pay and tax money used with economy our taxes would not exceed 2 per cent. If this was the rule and mortgage indebtedness deducted would take part of the sting out of the little family home, then their wealth to a reasonable sum would take the most of the bog out of the ultra rich. When all of this has been accomplished I see no reason why those who have a home can't keep it. With a limit to wealth there would be a larger amount of money in circulation that may stimulate others to get a home. I am human enough to want to see every family have a home which would be better and safer for everyone.

An income and inheritance tax should pay a large part of the balance

and finish with a sales tax.

What is the cause of this depression? If you should ask me I would say the ultra rich—by it, the rich grow richer and the poor poorer; reverse it and there would be no depression.

Before I vote this fall I want to know the kind of a platform each candidate to the legislature is standing on. I vote for the man going the farthest my way, regardless of party. I vote dry! Alcohol is a poison! Always has been and always will be a cause for physical and nervous deterioration. There is nothing in the 18th amendment to abridge anyone's rights that is not for their good. "Life and Health" states: "Seven years after Canada changed from prohibition to government control, whiskey sales trebled and with only a slight increase in the number of arrests. The convictions for driving while drunk were increased 200 per cent."

AGAINST DUMPING CODE

EUGENE, Ore.—(To the Editor)—For nearly a century during which time the aboriginal American tribes were robbed and buried almost out of existence, the favorite object of sentimental regard was "Lo, the poor Indian!" The farmer takes the place of the poor Indian today in the regard of those folks who find his general gullibility profitable and his plight a source of sentimentalism. At general elections for many years a host of dubious schemes have hidden behind the spacious robes of "farm

relief" and prohibition. Prohibition has passed out of favor with the politicians but "Lo, the poor farmer!" still brings the flow of sympathetic stars. Yet everybody except the hope-lessly simpletons knew that all the farm relief plans were humbug. The farmers are the victims of a situation which is crushing out their very existence as an independent class, but nobody in power has ever done anything of a serious nature to change the situation.

I have been moved to write this communication by the agitation for the so-called anti-dumping ordinance which is before the city council, and which as avowedly intended to shut out the sale of inferior grades of fruit and vegetables. Who wants them shut out? Certainly not the vast majority of the farmers. I own a farm myself. I know something of the difficulty, which confronts the farmer. If he is barely able to make ends meet at present he is not likely to improve things by cutting off his market for all but his first class products.

We are all aware that there is a great over-production of farm produce all over the world except in Asia. That is another feature of our machine age. It will be objected that it is an under-consumption and not an over-production; but I would beg my republican friends to remember that their party has officially declared against that view since the same high and indisputable authority has assured us that "Nobody has had to starve in the United States." Even though we may suspect that there are few cases that may have been overlooked, we should all remember that in our most prosperous recent years there have been hard times for the farmers, and bank failures by the score in the most fertile farming sections of the nation. One of the best authorities in the country on farming has told us that, with modern machinery and scientific methods, the entire nation can be fed by one-half of the present farm workers, and that they would not have to work very hard. Yet we find that this relatively small group of professional saviors of the farmer are the very people who are urging a back-to-the-farm movement as a remedy for the depression. Most wonderful! Cure our over-production by a much greater production! At its best this back-to-the-farm is but a temporary shelter for the individual in certain sections until the storm passes. To take it seriously would aggravate the troubles we are in. We have a similar case in the lumber industry. The sooner we recognize that the lumber industry is never coming back in the old way and the best thing to do is bravely to face the fact and adjust ourselves to the situation the better for us all.

But the ordinance under consideration strikes at a class twice as numerous as all the farm population—the millions of the destitute unemployed and their children, to say nothing of the other millions who are getting along only by the exercise of the most rigid economy. All those are vitally interested in the kind of goods which this ordinance aims to shut out and would cause to be destroyed. Is there a much greater social crime than the destruction of food while people are starving? There is a dark age here, as much about it. There is not half as much practical atheism in Russia as there is dominating this problem of food distribution and which goes along with a pious self-delusion that all this heartlessness is atoned for by confession with no intention to amend. Yes, people are indulging themselves in sentimental confessions about the general muddled thinking in the matter of crime, unemployment and politics and then turn with cynical contempt upon any who are so "impractical" as to insist upon justice, kindness, and truth, instead of putting confidence in competitive lying.

It is said that this plan does not destroy food. No, but it would mean a vast destruction of food were every other community to do the same. It is the great sin of the times. We are having a swarm of roving philosophers just now invading our city are growing rich by elevating this sort of thing into a religion. What right have we to complain because other nations have learned the art of building tariff walls and are shutting out American goods? Why should Eugene complain of the spirit which animates the business interests of Corvallis? They

are not sinners above all men. But will somebody tell us where this sort of thing is leading us?

ERNEST M. WHITESMITH.

HOT SHOT FOR MUIR

EUGENE, Ore.—(To the Editor)—May I address Joseph Muir?

Some folks who presume upon your kindness in giving us free space in which to blow off steam take advantage of you to get free advertising for their church, themselves, and their political parties, all very good, perhaps, but wide of the mark in a column of discussion. Reading that boost for the socialist party, that free advertising, entitled "The Spare Tire," surely has increased by internal pressure to the point of escapement. That line of bunk ought to arouse the patriotism of every American who has any confidence left in Old Glory and that grand old vehicle of government, the constitution, in this shameful parable alluded to as a hopeless heap of junk of the one lung variety. Old Glory looks better to me than the red rag of Bolshevism, socialism, or what not. The constitution, which is the ultimate vehicle of American government, is not a heap of worn-out political junk. Neither is the government ready for the scrap pile. Both are functioning better for everybody concerned than any similar vehicle on this globe. Russia not excepted. And listen bo, nobody aint payin' me to shoot off this charge, not at all. I think President Hoover should establish a bureau which would make it possible for some of these Americans who think that because we are in a jam of unemployment here, that the government needs replacing with a new model of Russian vintage to go to Russia and be Russian soviet a while, say help them put over their five year plan. When the five years would be up most of them would have enough employment and would be willing enough to get back to the box cars and handout stations of America. Sure we want employment for everyone, but we want it in an American way, America, not Russia, is the pioneer of civilization, and a nation which has led in every development since its inception some 150 years ago, will not have to take a back seat for Russia, Italy, or Japan. So far from being ready for the junk pile the old boat is merely being adjusted and fuelled for a run in which she will set new records for durability and speed, and pioneer new roads to greater freedom and social success! Put on that spare and let's get going! It's a poor time to take out a new model and serve as a proving ground for it! DAVID A. MINICK.

WELL, AND THEN—

SILTCOOS, Ore.—(To the Editor)—What to do about the "Joneses." It seems to me, the right way would be to sterilize the whole tribe; stop such ornerly good for nothing creatures from multiplying and punishing the earth. That is a good law, one wonders why it is not used oftener. Much is being said about people going back to the farm. There will be some real disappointments, for many who undertake this. A man sent his wife and grown daughter to Oregon to buy a small farm, get things to going good then,

he would quit his job and come. To bought the farm, hired my business prime and spray the orchard. I went along to drive the team, noticed the second day bees were around the trees that had been pruned, and frames of one-poussed boxes on the ground. I asked about it she said she had put honey on the "sawed off" limbs make the apples sweet, she spritzed lime on the mole hills to kill the moles and put ashes in the barn on Ash Wednesday to kill the lice. The husband came, disposed of the farm went back to his job a while but "madder" man. Took the apples of ashes along with him, the needed a "mantilla" each of cloth.

FRANCES GOUDE.

HITS MASTER POLITICIAN COTTAGE GROVE.—(To the Editor)—It is very true that a man in a cellar is needed, but don't be staked in getting anyone. Too many at stake. Only a big man, broad views, with sympathy and great understanding could fill the situation. Why not be just? Why not schools? One is fighting for its existence, while the other is wrecked. It is possible to vote university to Corvallis, but to me there, if jury couldn't be done in years. Big schools are not made the way. This moving bill wasn't born a year or last year either. But a man politician has taken a most open time to spring it on over burdened taxpayers as a great economic measure. Beware! There is a job very thinly veiled, that will not be the dear people.

(MRS.) E. HARRISON

WANTS MORE PORTABLES

SILETZ, Ore.—(To the Editor)—In reading about the portable cannery for the needs in your paper think it a splendid idea. Why couldn't that kind of good work be carried further? Say a small cannery and a factory. Most of us farmers have hide or two hanging in the shed that we can't sell for anything worth while and if they feel as I do about we would send these hides in and the needy ones go there and make themselves some shoes. I would mind working out a pair for myself.

A. B. HAMILTON.

Natron Events

NATRON, Aug. 27.—(Special)—O. C. Parr left Saturday a. m. for San Francisco, Cal., where he will enter the Southern Pacific hospital for treatment.

Lon Moorehouse has returned from the hospital in Eugene.

Tony Tonole has been transferred from the Fall creek section to the Natron section.

Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Fuson and family and Mrs. May Maxwell, Lowell, Ill., visited their cousin, O. C. Parr, and family this week. The haven't seen each other for 22 years.

Frank Root spent Friday in Eugene and Springfield on business.

Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Stewart attended the banquet at the 100th temple Saturday evening.

It's your money, now.

It may belong to someone else if you risk it in hazardous stocks.

United States National Bank

EUGENE, OREGON

A FAIR WARNING

The little showers that we have been having are just gentle warnings that it is time to have your roof reshingled before the winter rains set in.

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