

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
(Published every morning and Sunday)
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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.

AN INTERESTING ADMISSION

ALTHOUGH much tamed down since Sunday night when he made his first appearance on the radio as the evangel for the Zorn-Macpherson school wrecking bill, Mr. H. Ashley Ely, Portland, continued the process of distortions and misrepresentations which have characterized the movement from the start.

Wednesday night's appeal turned away from the difficult subject of moving a \$4,500,000 University without expense to the taxpayers and took up the interesting subject of improving common school education by moving \$700,000 worth of normals to Eugene for the formation of a great "teacher college."

Mr. Ely read from the federal survey the criticisms of Oregon's failure to bring its normal schools up to all standard requirements. He omitted to read those sections of the report which stated that, on the whole, these schools have been well located with reference to the public they serve and that they, like the University, should be developed where they are right now.

Mr. Ely neglected to go into the high costs of teacher college operation, but he did make an admission which is extremely important. He stated (for the first time from that side) the fact that the Zorn-Macpherson bill is powerless to create the four-year teacher college which it proposes to mop up the wreckage on the Eugene campus. Oregon law provides now for two-year normal work only. The proposed teacher college could not be more than a two-year normal till such time as the legislature should see fit to change the basic teacher law. In view of the legislature's past stubbornness about taking on this expense, it is not likely a teacher college would be realized for years, if ever.

This admission brings us back to the stark realization of what the Zorn-Macpherson bill really means:

Almost total abandonment of the \$4,500,000 investment in Eugene.

Almost certain abandonment of the \$500,000 properties at Ashland and La Grande because of prohibitive junior college cost.

Certain abandonment of the \$400,000 plant at Monmouth.

Probable eventual abandonment of all the schools except the one at Corvallis.

No state has ever been confronted by such a barefaced reality promotion scheme in the name of education.

NO PYRAMIDED TAKE-OFFS

THE hearings which are now being conducted at Portland as to the control of utility companies there by national "holding corporations" offer considerable proof that "Big Business" is not always more efficient or better for the public merely because it is bigger. The Portland rate payer is learning that the rates he pays to his local company must provide profit not only for the investors in the concern which serves him but for the investors of a long list of pyramided corporations which link his company with others in other parts of the country.

The Portland General Electric must pay tribute to the Pacific Northwest which in turn looks up to Central Public Utility which in turn serves Central Public Service which in turn looks up to various super-corporations which are really the representatives of the banking interests in New York.

Combinations of utility companies are useful and economical so long as they serve actual operating needs. The highly efficient electric service in all parts of the United States today is made possible by far-reaching power hookups which distribute peak loads, offer protection against service breaks and make possible the most efficient use of all lines and equipment.

Combinations have another use, however, which is decidedly hostile to public interest. This is the pyramiding of control to the point where it is almost impossible to determine or to control actual service costs on which rates should be based. This type of pyramiding is designed for the stock jobber and the profit seeking banker and not in the interests of the public.

Municipal ownership offers certain risks in the form of corrupt and inefficient management. Private ownership may show a better average of efficiency but the risk of profiteering manipulation is very great. In Eugene where we have enjoyed for many years a municipal operation far better than the average, we may count ourselves lucky to be well out of this mess from which other cities are trying to unscramble themselves.

JOAQUIN MILLER'S HENSCRATCHES

RESEARCHERS over around Canyon City have discovered an interesting manuscript in the original handwriting of Joaquin Miller, famed "Poet of the Sierras," and once a resident of Eugene and one of the original editors of The Guard. It is a letter of complaint which Joaquin dashed off after a rough journey by stage from Canyon City to Burns (if he could only travel the fine highway which joins these two cities today!)

Question! Were the hieroglyphics which resulted just part of the ordinary Miller poetic temperament or were they "the pose of the moment." The post's brother, our own George Melvin Miller (champion of the New York to Florence road idea) says the scratchy writing was no pose.

"Joaquin," says George Melvin Miller, "learned to write with a quill and didn't care which end he dipped in the ink."

One does not have to be a rotten penman to be a poet, nor does rotten penmanship make one a poet, and in these days of almost universal typing penmanship does not count for as much as it did once upon a time although it is still useful in such matters as checks, but poor penmanship seems to be at least a fashion and one which is not at all limited to temperamental poets.

Most business men and professional men allow their handwriting to degenerate into a scrawl and

are even faintly proud of it. Careful handwriting seems to have been for an age when men had leisure to be careful and patient about such things. Perhaps the reason why Joaquin Miller's handwriting was so very bad was the fact that he was surging with vitality and could not be bothered with the petty drudgeries of life.

Bad handwriting is not a pose but it is a bad habit, and one which is annoyingly prevalent. Editors who receive a vast amount of correspondence from careless writers are among the chief sufferers from the nuisance. Perhaps the only reason why editors tolerate such carelessness at all is because very few editors are able to read their own handwriting now. It may have been this choice of evils which caused Joaquin Miller to turn from being an editor to being a poet.

This is a possibility which the historians and the psychologists and the chirographers, aroused by this case, ought to try to figure out.

Mr. Samuel Insull claims his bankruptcy was genuine and complete, but Ajax McGurk says that a lot of us might be inclined to pardon Mr. Insull if he would just tell us the secret of how to go bankrupt and have enough left for airplane trips around Europe.

Those UCLA Bears will meet Callison's boys in Portland Saturday and from all reports they will be plenty tough. If Oregon can get through to the crucial part of the schedule without disaster, it will require a little luck.

You will know that prosperity has returned when city governments again begin paying librarians and school teachers.

Alabama has a law which prohibits the sale of near beer. Now, there's a just law!

WASHINGTON LETTER By RODNEY DUTCHER (NEA Service Writer)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 13.—Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt has barnstormed the west and returned much after the fashion of a conquering hero.

The more he traveled the higher rose a surge of opinion everywhere that he would be elected to succeed President Hoover on November 8.

There are several reasons why it is too early to abandon hope for a republican victory, but in no two-party contest since before the Civil War has there been a more complete tendency on the part of politicians and political analysts to predict a democratic year.

Seldom have more states been described as doubtful. Never did straw votes indicate such startling switches of sentiment in rock-ribbed republican states. For the first time a democratic campaign manager, Jim Farley, is able to refuse to concede a single state without becoming an object of ridicule. Betting odds, recently on Hoover, are now against him.

G. O. P. CHIEFS WORRY

Revelation of a great anti-Hoover sentiment in the west is one of the most important factors in the rapid growth of pro-Roosevelt prophecy. Seasoned political correspondents were astonished at the stories they heard and the signs they saw, along with the apparent success of Roosevelt's appeals to the west's progressive and independent voters.

Now most of them believe that Roosevelt probably will win with the solid south, most of the west, most of the middle west and a highly uncertain number of electoral votes from the east.

Republican managers, many of them privately pessimistic, and all of them worried, have begun a counter-offensive which they hope will start the tide the other way.

President Hoover himself has led the attack by penetrating the disaffected west for a speech at Des Moines, Ia., and hundreds of republican orators, led by Secretary of the Treasury Ogden Mills, are being turned loose all along the line. The Hoover address at Des Moines has sounded the keynote for the lesser campaigners. Many republican leaders found cause for renewed optimism in the generally favorable and enthusiastic reception which Iowans accorded to the president.

COOLIDGE ENLISTED

Former President Calvin Coolidge, one of the party's greatest drawing cards, has at last been billed for a campaign speech at New York's Madison Square Garden, and Mr. Hoover at a White House reception has made an unprecedented bid for the Negro vote which for the first time has seemed to be hostile.

The Hoover ticket continues to be handicapped by the continued absence of any substantial improvement in business and by previous failure of its managers to plan and execute an intelligent, vigorous program of attack.

Roosevelt, meanwhile, turns his attention to the East. Thanks to the conservatism of that section and the enmity of many of Al Smith's admirers—even though that enmity may have been lessened by the recent public reunion of the two leaders at Albany—he faces a situation which may yet defeat him through the loss of such states as New York, Massachusetts and New Jersey. He is now expected to stress the issues of prohibition and unemployment relief.

It is no longer argued that a democratic candidate can't be elected without carrying New York's 48 electoral votes, but Roosevelt's failure to carry his home state would make his task a lot harder. New York is now regarded as doubtful. If they can't win New York, the democrats expect to offset that loss by taking Ohio, Illinois and Indiana, with a total of 60 electoral votes. They talk, not unreasonably judging from other reports, of carrying Illinois by 500,000 votes, Ohio by 200,000 and Indiana by 100,000.

47 VOTES MIGHT WIN

Most prognosticators give Roosevelt a minimum of 150 certain electoral votes to start with—those of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri would have 219, needing only 47 more to win.

If there is anything to the almost unanimous reports of great Roosevelt strength in the west, he would have no trouble picking up those 47. Among the states reported leaning toward him at this time and, according to some impartial predictions, almost certain to go for him, are Nebraska with 7 electoral votes, Washington, Montana 4, Maryland 8, Oregon 5, Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico with 3 each, Kentucky 11 and Minnesota 11.

Ho is said to have a real chance at such normally republican states as Kansas, Iowa, California, Idaho, North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming, with a combined electoral vote of 78. And as things stand now, he ought to be able to break into one or more of them. Straw votes in Iowa and California, for instance, show him running well ahead.

HOOPER NEEDS BREAKS

Just a glance at that electoral vote picture shows why there is now such a widespread belief that Roosevelt will win. It seems to most of those who have been studying the states and comparing their own counts that Hoover will have to get just about all the breaks from now on if he is to upset the dope.

SIDE GLANCES



"Now, please wait until everyone is up from the table, before you start selling them insurance."

FITTING WORKER TO JOB CALLS FOR STUDY OF MIND AND BODY

By DR. MORRIS FISHBEN, Editor, Journal of American Medical Association, and of Hygeia, the Health Magazine

FIFTY per cent of our working population are in jobs that are not particularly suited to them, some experts have estimated. This is only an estimate, but it is taken for granted that many persons are in positions to which they are not fit, and both physicians and psychologists are giving attention to the problem and doing what they can to help workers get into the work best adapted to their qualities.

There are, of course, two possibilities—adapting defective to a job and eliminating those who cannot possibly undertake certain jobs. Investigations show that practically everyone has certain correctable defects.

Not all of these defects, however, will interfere with working, up to a certain point. Decaying teeth may permit workers to go on for a long time, but constitute a potential hazard.

In a consideration of this subject before the British Medical Association, Dr. Angus Macrae points out that suitable adjustment is concerned not only with keeping out workers who are not fit, but with aiding workers who are particularly fit.

MAIL BAG

ON FIRE HAZARDS WALTON, Ore.—(To the Editor)—Commenting on the editorial appearing in the Register-Guard of Oct. 7, relative to the efficiency of forest organizations and unfavorable comparisons made between federal and other forest protective associations.

The closing statement in the editorial, "Most big and expensive fires everywhere can be traced to some form of neglect or carelessness," is absolutely true but taking all conditions into consideration and basing your findings on a ten year period it will be found that other protective organizations will compare very favorably with national forest organizations in efficiency and vigilance. A careful study of conditions will reveal the fact that there are greater hazards outside of the national forests than within them and that in very recent years the national forests have had some very disastrous fires covering hundreds of thousands of acres.

In the area west of the Cascade mountains there are 100 sawmills outside of the national forests to one within, each with a large cutover area making an extreme fire hazard; there are 50 per cent more settlers outside of the national forests, many having small slashings to burn each constituting a fire hazard as they must be burned before the rains come; many more hunters and campers go into the forests outside of the national forests on account of the easy accessibility and close proximity to their homes.

The above comprise all of the fire hazards that exist in western Oregon with the exception of lightning. This season more hunters' fires have occurred in the western Lane forest area than for many years, practically all late fires being attributed to hunters. The Mary's peak area and the area from the Siuslaw to the Umpqua including the Smith river basin have been closed to all travel.

RAPS COUNTY OFFICERS

SPRINGFIELD, Ore.—(To the Editor)—In a recent issue of your paper the writer noticed where Judge Barnard was to take a swing around the state, taking his first vacation in 11 years, it is to be regretted that Commissioner Hurd could not be accompanied him on this trip so they could both of taken a nice little vacation while on county pay.

For unless all signs fail, especially in the rural districts, the voters of Lane county are going to the polls on Nov. 8 and arrange for them to take a permanent vacation without pay.

Through a number of unfortunate events during the past two years there is passing from the political field this fall our veteran sheriff, Harry L. Bown, who the writer believes has been one of the most honest and faithful public officials that has

valley of poverty, and get delirium tremens. I will cling to evil; for thou art with me; thy bite and thy sting they torment me.

5.—Thou preparest an empty table before me in the presence of my family; thou appointest my head with foolishness; my cup is empty. 6.—Surely destruction and misery shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of death forever. O. A. PRIEGER. 1374 High street.

MY ALMA MATER

Dear College Mother I love her ivy clad walls, Her shady paths and sacred halls, Her grand old men of a time long past, Many gone to their reward at last.

I love her traditions of all things fine Which fasten to my heart like her clinging vines. I love the memories of the brave pioneers Who worked for her during the passing years.

When they came to the new land homes to build Their hearts with love of learning thrilled; So near the banks of the Willamette river. A college they built whose spirit cannot wither.

The University of Oregon is her name, Whose men and women have to her brought fame, Scattered over all the world are they now, And to their Alma Mater will keep their vow.

Never can my College Mother's spirit fall For her sons and daughters love will avail To keep her memory like her sturdy oaks For her children's children and their hopes.

PAULINE WALTON.

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