

RAIL UTILITIES "BACKBONE" FOR STATE-MCCULLOCH

Oregon's economic history would have been entirely different from what it is today had not the railroads come in the eighties; and were the railroads for some reason or another suddenly taken from the state now, Oregon would find itself in a sad predicament, it was declared by Frank McCulloch, state public utilities commissioner, in a talk for the chamber of commerce forum luncheon Friday noon at McCrady cafe. The day's program was "Railroad Week" observance for the chamber.

In looking over the west's great railroad development, a thing too likely to be taken as matter of fact by most people, there are two things to remember: (1) That markets for our produce here are far away; (2) that other forms of transport are not advanced enough to provide nearly the adequate service of the railroads, the speaker said.

Anything affecting the railroads adversely not only hits our comfort and pocketbook but endangers our very economic existence, Mr. McCulloch stated.

Tax Support Discussed
"Oregon's tax structure has so entwined itself with the welfare of the railroad that to dislodge the railroads would bring serious repercussions," Mr. McCulloch declared. He quoted figures at length, showing for one thing that approximately 52 per cent of the railroad tax dollar goes to the schools, while, ironically enough, 15 per cent more of it goes to roads and highways.

The speaker pointed out how property taxes have gone about as high and extensively as they possibly can; that it is impossible to bank on income inheritance taxes, mainly because Oregon does not have large enough incomes to make any impression, also, that rates would have to be exorbitantly high to make any return from such a source; and that Oregon has learned that it is impossible to have any kind of a useable sales tax. Therefore, about the only plan to turn to were the railroads, for some reason or other eliminated, would be to increase enormously the gasoline tax and provide that a portion of it be turned into the general fund, Mr. McCulloch said in amplifying his statement that the state would be in serious condition were it not for the railroad tax support.

From 1930-34, inclusively, one major railroad system in the state paid ad valorem tax of more than \$4,000,000, paying taxes in 14 counties. In three of these counties the tax ran as high as 20 per cent of the entire tax roll. In one county, the railroad's taxes amounted to 41 per cent of all taxes paid, he said. The speaker emphasized the fact that frequently in those dark years, the railroads were the only people paying their taxes.

Railroads Up to Times
After we hear the railroads are lagging not keeping up with the times. That charge is entirely false, Mr. McCulloch stated. He quoted figures for 1933 showing 100,000 persons throughout the United States met death by accident. Of this total, 36,000 were highway accidents, 31,000 accidents in the home; while there was but one death on a passenger train. "This record did not just happen," he said. It was the result of faithful and scientific effort to make railroad

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traffic safe," the speaker commented.

Nor has the freight service been lagging; effort being made continually to improve service, as well as to increase the speed and safety in this type of service.

Mr. McCulloch spent some time listing the many modern services, conveniences, and comforts provided by the railroads for their patrons; and again pictured a dark picture of the state were it left without these utilities.

A feature of the day's program was the music by an orchestra led by Leonard (Mike) Gross, veteran S. P. baggage man and well known Eugene musician; and by his son, Prentice Gross.

Miniature trains and literature about the railroads decorated the tables, while large posters picturing railroads and their development were hung on the walls. An unusually large crowd attended, including several local officials of both the Oregon Electric and the Southern Pacific railway offices.

BREVITIES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

ing made into the wounding by a rifle bullet, fired from the brush, of Bradford T. Bowles, farmer residing at Fall Creek, about 24 miles east of Roseburg, Bowles' attorneys, H. A. Canaday and B. L. Eddy announced today.

PORTLAND, July 17.—(AP)—Engineers attending the 60th convention of the American Society of Civil Engineers took time out from technical discussions today to view an outstanding example of engineering in the giant Bonneville dam.

SALEM, Ore., July 17.—(AP)—Gilbert E. Gable, head of Port Orford development projects, came here today to interest state officials in attending hearings by federal engineers in Bandon and Port Orford next Tuesday.

MEDFORD, July 17.—(AP)—John J. Angland, Klamath Falls taxicab driver, was sentenced to serve not less than 15 years in state prison, and his companion in the assault and robbery of John L. Little, Williams creek district miner, Ruth Talbot Merrill, was sentenced to serve not less than

SPLIT THREATENS TOWNSEND RANKS; FIRE AT COUGHLIN

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

tional convention in which he attacked Father Charles E. Coughlin, who earlier had called President Roosevelt a "betrayer and a liar." The Oklahoman also attacked the Rev. Gerald L. K. Smith, leader of the Share-the-Wealth movement, and a Townsend director. Gomer Smith said he was for Roosevelt.

Last night Dr. Townsend said he wanted Gomer Smith to resign. Dr. Townsend was asked whether his statement meant Gomer Smith is "out."

"It does," answered Dr. Townsend.

Submits Ultimatum
It was learned that Dr. Townsend submitted an ultimatum to the board of directors that either Smith must go or he (Dr. Townsend) would resign.

Previously some board members had indicated that no action would be taken during the convention on Dr. Townsend's proposal that Gomer Smith be ousted. Gomer Smith has many friends among the delegates, but Townsend leaders were determined that the matter should not reach the convention floor.

Earl Anderson, head of the Texas delegation, said that his state's delegation had adopted a resolution protesting any convention speeches attacking the president of the United States. Another resolution, he said, asked that Gerald L. K. Smith be restrained from speaking in Texas.

Clements Sees Danger
In an interview today Robert E. Clements, who recently resigned as Townsend secretary and treasurer, said the Townsend plan was being "taken over by political opportunists."

N. S. Roberts of Florida, southern regional director, told the convention that "those of us who are democrats in the ranks of the Townsend movement do not subscribe to any attacks branding President Roosevelt

as a double-crosser, a liar or a betrayer." He referred to the criticism voiced against the president and the New Deal yesterday by Father Coughlin.

TOWNSEND OUSTER FILED
CLEVELAND, July 17.—(AP)—Ouster of Dr. Francis E. Townsend and the board of directors of the Old Age Revolving Pensions, Ltd., was asked today in a suit filed in common pleas court by the Rev. Alfred J. Wright, a deposed regional Townsend leader, and three other persons.

Caufield Predicts Selection As Head Of State Bourbons

SALEM, Ore., July 17.—(AP)—J. R. Caufield, Tillamook, is confident of election as chairman of the democratic state central committee on the first ballot in Portland tomorrow, the legislator said here last night.

Caufield would not estimate how many votes he expected to receive or say how many pledges he had. Fred Fisk, Lane county judge, and Claude McCulloch, Klamath Falls attorney, are both expected to be well up in the race.

Conference Slated By Locarno Powers

LONDON, July 17.—(AP)—The French, Belgian and British governments agreed tentatively today to hold a preliminary conference of the Locarno powers in London next Wednesday to deal with the European situation.

Later, a full five-power conference may be arranged, with Germany invited to assure Italy's attendance.

Elks Close Conclave After Huge Pageant

LOS ANGELES, July 17.—(AP)—Delegate Elks scattered from Los Angeles today, their annual national convention brought to a spectacular close literally in a blaze of glory. Los Angeles' Memorial coliseum.

Forest Fires Rage Over Ontario Hills

TORONTO, Ont., July 17.—(AP)—While 3,000 exhausted men battled forest fires burning over the north-

ern Ontario forests, rangers ed a manhunt for an escaped story convict, apparently heat and smoke, whom they setting new fires in the brush.

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