

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.

WHERE THE BATTLE LIES

THE injunction proceedings at Salem which have been started to block Special Prosecutor Moody's drive on slot machines, pin and ball machines and similar devices are merely a warning that the interests which are back of this racket do not intend to yield the rich field they have found in Oregon without a real struggle. There will be plenty of money to back the defense litigation just as there was ample means for the lobby which pushed the sham "enabling act" through the last legislature, according to those who saw that lobby "go."

The battle in Oregon is not with various "operators" who are merely local agents for the Big Shots, nor with the "location owners," mostly shop keepers who furnish store space for a percentage. These are merely "fronts" in a very clever setup. The real battle is with the nationwide and alright organization of promoters of these machines who keep well out of range of regulation and taxation while collecting vast profits. No accurate figures are obtainable, but it has been estimated that this state alone is contributing approximately \$1,000,000 a year to these sleek gentlemen.

A Portlander who is in position to know the Oregon setup gives us a very graphic description of it. The first bill introduced in the Oregon legislature proposed to legalize the "slot machines," long recognized as out-and-out gambling devices. This was a bit too strong for the solons to carry home to the dear public, so in due time the bill enabling cities to license the "pin and ball" devices as "skill games" was substituted and passed. In a great many Oregon cities and counties the slot machines have followed the "skill games" into Oregon by the "consent" of sheriffs and district attorneys. Lane county has been kept fairly clean, but the "slots" are plentiful elsewhere in Oregon.

The promoters can afford to be very "generous" with the location owners and district operators. Why not? These people are on the firing line! It makes a good story to tell the public that the little merchant is getting 80 per cent and the local operator 25 per cent, in many cases enough to pay rent and keep a small business going. It makes a swell story to pay hard-up cities here and there a nominal license fee. The public forgets the huge rakeoff which goes to the Big Shots in the background. It forgets to put proper taxes on an industry which with practically no investment does a gross more than half as big as the largest utility company in Oregon which pays over a million taxes annually.

There will be a copious war chest for the court battle in Oregon. Every legal device will be used to delay action and keep the profits rolling. Risks? A good "slot" will pay for itself in 30 days, the wise boys say; the rest is "gravy." It's a big business. It can afford "troubles." The public "wants gambling" is the latest plea. We do not argue the moralities. If there must be gambling let's get it in the open on a business basis. If Moody accomplishes nothing but to smoke out the Big Shots and show the business for what it is a great deal will have been accomplished.

PREPARING FOR SCHOOL

VERY timely is the advice of the state board of health urging parents to have their school children examined now for the correction of defects which may endanger their health and efficiency in school. The schools have medical inspection. They keep pretty close track of child health during the school term, but a great many dangers and difficulties can be avoided by having the checkup made now.

If Johnny's teeth need mending, if his eyes are out of adjustment, if his vitality is low due to malnutrition (and the best fed child can be undernourished through failure to absorb his food), if tonsils or adenoids need attention, or if any one of the many things which handicap the child need correction, the best time to have the work done is now. As Dr. Stricker points out the child will have time to receive treatment without having the double strain of treatment and school.

Standing along the millrace the other day were twenty or thirty youngsters all the way from "little kids" to young men and women of college age. An elderly gentleman commented on the uniformly fine development of the young people, said he didn't believe such a group could have been gathered at random anywhere when he was a boy. He's absolutely right. There are plenty of records to show that we are "improving the breed" and the answer is to be found in the intelligent program of health guidance which begins with baby feeding and continues through all the schools.

The small boy of thirty or forty years ago got just as much exercise as his son or grandson does now, perhaps more. But there were often some pretty sorry specimens gathered at "the ole swimmin' hole." You may remember "Skinny" with his protruding ribs and flying shoulder blades, a game kid if ever there was one. But if his teeth had meshed, and if he had had a little better balance of milk and greens in his rations and if he had had his sleep at regular hours, he might not have become the gangling "hawk" of later years.

Money spent on timely health guidance and a few simple corrections is an investment in insurance against serious illnesses and heavy bills. The only difficulty will be to corral "Jovious Johnny" and do it now.

GARDEN CLUB SETS STANDARD

AN extremely important educational work is being done by the Eugene Garden club which now boasts more than 100 members. It might be more accurate to say that more than 100 families in Eugene and the vicinity are participating in the activities of the Garden club. This is still only a fraction of those who have gardens, but it indicates a very healthy increase in the number of those who appreciate gardening as a civic program.

The garden club is an exchange for ideas and experiences and plants and seeds and pest cures. No organization has more enjoyable social possibilities. The meetings are only an introduction to the delights of visiting. But the garden club is also an

instrument of defense against the many forces which are continually threatening everything beautiful in Oregon.

The gardener who has labored to make a tree grow on denuded land knows the menace and the public cost in the reckless and uncontrolled cutting of roadside timber. He knows the destructive effects of the rundown shack and the neglected weed lot on neighborhood values and investments.

The Garden club is not "for women only" as many hardened "he-men" may suppose, nor is the duty of the male member likely to be restricted to the spading. (Though the ladies deserve great credit for their untiring leadership in its activities). The Garden club is, more properly, a family organization in which every family that takes pride in the home should "belong."

CITIZEN DEFENSE, LEGION AIM

CARRYING on in the constructive spirit suggested by National Commander Ray Murphy, the Oregon convention of the American Legion at Roseburg has written a new tone into the expected resolution condemning the initiative which has been aimed at military training in Oregon's institutions of higher education. Though some of the speakers made the customary assaults on "communists and pacifists," the resolution of the convention does not follow this line. Instead it points out that the destruction of citizen training in military may drive this country to that very type of militaristic preparation which most peace lovers oppose. It says:

"Be It Resolved that the American Legion, Department of Oregon, deploras the efforts of those who, by means of the initiative, seek to force the nation into a militaristic type of national defense. Today the safeguard against aggression lies with civilians working through the Organized Reserve Corps which is made up of men who are not professional soldiers and who are following peacetime pursuits. This is possible only through military training in our colleges where the responsibility for national defense and for keeping the country out of war is placed upon the young men who are being trained for citizenship at the expense of the taxpayers of the state. Destruction of this citizen soldiery will necessitate the building up of a big standing army. The Legion believes that the country is safest with national defense in the hands of civilians."

With this tolerant approach and with this sound reasoning, we heartily agree. We have opposed the military initiative mainly because we believe it to be unsound educationally to interfere with courses of study which are properly to be determined by the board and by the educators in charge of the schools. The meddling precedent is unsound. But the Legion's argument also applies. The destruction of military training in the higher schools will interrupt the building of a trained citizen reserve and compel the development of larger professional armies with all the dangers that method entails.

Military training in the Oregon schools is not now actually compulsory because of the extremely liberal policy in exemptions, and the initiative people scarcely conceal the ultimate abolition of military training as their real aim. The real issue is not whether the "compulsory" provision shall be retained. It is whether there shall be any military.

Our criticisms of the present student training is that there is too little of it rather than too much. There is little or no provision for highly necessary field service. The work is not correlated sufficiently with backgrounds of history, economics, international relations which should enter into military preparation. We would welcome "peace courses" coordinate with military in a broad program of citizen training. If the courses were broad enough, it would not matter greatly if they were "compulsory" or "voluntary." The basis of an American system of defense for war or peace would be maintained.

SPAIN'S "POPULAR FRONT"

SPAIN'S greatest weakness as well as her greatest strength in the bloody war with fascism is her "popular front." Though the red flag of Communism flies from many cities and many parts of cities in Spain, it is quite apparent that the Spanish brand of communism is not yet the Russian type nor is it likely to be unless the Spanish liberals are driven to it. In his recent dispatches, Ralph Henzen, veteran European correspondent of the United Press, has painted a graphic picture of the "Popular Front." In general, it may be said to include all who oppose the military dictatorship which is the aim of the fascists. It includes mostly workers but also a great many people of all classes and of every degree of "liberalism," from scholarly intellectuals to out and out anarchists. It includes everybody who opposes a return in force of the age-old rule of army and church. Nobody can predict the result. The existing government in Spain has on its side numbers. It has no trained military leaders to match the professional soldiers who have gone over almost entirely to the fascists. It has little or no advantage in munitions or supplies over the rebels who apparently are receiving much outside support. It is a question whether such a motley aggregation can hold out against the fascists, even with numbers. Time works against the "Popular Front" unless time brings to the front some genius who can turn a rabble into an effective army overnight. The spirit is there, but the problem will be to "say it with bullets."

The Astor trial was bad enough, but McGurk says that the most horrible thought is that the political campaign is only getting ready to start.

This is the open season for straw votes. But what we really need is an open season on straw candidates.

Prof. Dunn sends greetings to Harvard in Latin as a reminder of the good old days in education. Maybe we should be content if the modern graduate can send 'em in English.

Mr. Roosevelt promises that taxes will not be increased because business is picking up. Sure, the business man can have what's left.

Estimates say there are 10,000,000 people on the government payroll, but the taxpayer is the guy who can really claim to be working for the government.

The New Deal, according to Blue River Bill has created at long last the ideal taxpayer—the guy who doesn't know it is taxes as well as prices going up.

"LOOK WHAT I DID!"



IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL BAG

EUGENE, Ore.—(To the Editor)—
 Again, in the interest of my sex, I should like to make a few comments in relation to a former assertion regarding the propensity of women to idealize men.

It is with apologetic self-consciousness that acknowledgment is made of the gentle rebuke included in the editorial, "No Women at the Bars," published July 26, in the statement that "mere men have haunting ideals, too. Especially as pertains to womanhood." And also in the words of a recent letter entitled, "On Fair Sex," published August 9, expressing "despair for fear that idealism was merely a masculine quality of mind."

That the "stronger sex" cherished a feminine ideal has, of course, been suspected. But to have the suspicion verified by no less than two members of the masculine gender, the one, a gallant gentleman and brilliant journalist, the other, Mr. B. L. Johnson, is sufficient evidence to refute any concerted belief that the female of the species alone is created with this innate visionary faculty.

It is, however, to the latter gentleman, Mr. Johnson, that a few remarks on the subject must be directed, as means of self defense, against what appears to be very unfair charges on his part.

"Many of us," laments Mr. Johnson, "have known where a social renegade has married a charming girl while better men looked on in amazement." My, my! Now isn't that just too perfectly terrible? I wonder how many of us witnessed the spectacle of "the nicest boy in the world" going berserk over some pretty, shallow, cheap, little wench, while "the most wonderful girl in the world" sat lonely at home.

And, continues Mr. Johnson, "We also know that when a man looks on a woman as his spiritual ideal, her first and last thought is about his income."

This is unkind—the more so because it is absolutely untrue. As a class, women are no more mercenary than men. It will require no strain on feminine memory, although it may on the masculine, to recall instances, and plenty of them, when the male made marriages of personal convenience for the purpose of acquiring both financial security and social prominence.

Surely, Mr. Johnson has known of cases where women married men and started the great matrimonial venture on so meager a financial basis as to be akin to poverty. Surely he has seen women stand shoulder to shoulder with man in his struggle for success, stretching his income to nith degree, sacrificing making their home a loveless place, sharing all his defeats along with his victories—a silent, sweet, powerful influence for good in his life.

Still at the "Wailing Wall," Mr. Johnson sobs, "But when a woman idealizes a man, does it matter if his path is strewn with broken hearted women whom he has jilted or betrayed?"

Ho-hum! (Pardon us if we yawn.) Is it possible in this modern age with free speech, a free press, and radio, that the gentleman has not heard of that fatal malady called "love," which attacks its victims in such a violent form as to render them hopelessly blind to all defects of the beloved? It doesn't matter the least tiny bit about his past! That is where a woman puts her idealizing faculty to work. To love, all things are lovely, all things are perfect.

Mr. Johnson asks, "Does a man who will stick to his job clearing the jungle, or piling rock become less of

an ideal for a woman, than the one who can knock out his rival in a prize fight or play the biggest villain on the stage?"

The answer is, No. He may be little, and ugly, and weak, and poor. He may be selfish, egotistical, peevish, faithless, and cruel. But as long as love remains, he will be, to a woman's loyal, devoted, idealistic heart, a great big, strong, handsome, masterful man. He will be unselfish, humble, generous, and trustworthy. In a word, he will possess all the virtues and none of the vices. And this will be unfailingly true unless, or until, love dies.

Love, and love alone, forms the basis of our ideals. And the quality of our love is determined by our individual characters. We draw to us, and are attracted by, those who express the mental and spiritual qualities we most admire. Unquestionably, the world would be a lovelier, happier place if each sex held fast to its own ideals, and tries, as much as possible, to live up to the ideals of the other. And, incidentally, this would bring a bit of heaven to earth.

Very sincerely,
 F. INA BURGESS.

AGIN MAHONEY

EUGENE, Ore.—(To the Editor)—
 I was a delegate to the first national convention of Townsend clubs at Chicago, an accredited speaker for O. A. R. P. Ltd., and a candidate for the position of "Citizen Maximus" from Oregon, running third among some twenty candidates.

I am not now speaking for Townsend clubs though I have had many invitations from both clubs and mass assemblies to address them. I would like to tell my friends in the Townsend clubs of Oregon why I seem to have changed, if I might use your columns.

I still believe the economics and the industrial doctrines of Townsendism. I still believe the preachment of Dr. Townsend regarding the purpose of O. A. R. P. Ltd. to "turn the reins of government back to the hands of the people" in America's first need.

I can not advocate the political success of a movement that will permit one man to dictate to 150,000,000. I can not support a candidate for the United States senate who wants the prestige or emoluments of office more than honor. I can not speak for or vote for a candidate for the United States senate who accepts the backing of a great political party, and the campaign money of its treasury who lacks the courage to open his mouth in protest when he hears that party vilified and condemned, and the president of the United States who happens to be the candidate of that party for re-election abused and called such names as "betrayor," "liar" and "double crosser."

Townsendism in Oregon was taken from the will of the members of Townsendism clubs when Senator Arbutuckle sent "Trouble shooter Weir" into Oregon to oust the state area

manager, nullify their plans of political campaign and dictate what we should do, what we could think and for whom we could vote.

I believe in popular government, and am at enmity with dictatorship both in an organization and in government.

I am thoroughly convinced that if and when the Townsend clubs of America "TAKE THE REINS OF GOVERNMENT INTO THEIR OWN HANDS" and oust its Weirs and its shadoos and its Arbutuckles and pusillifooters by a thorough democratization of the Townsend organization the Townsend plan can and will Democratize and save the United States from many ills into which we have been betrayed.

Mr. Mahoney (The Hon. Mr. Mahoney) wanted the office of United States senator more than he wanted the unity of Townsendism and the effects of its political success, hence he violated his public and private pledge to "Roll up his sleeves and fight to nominate the indorsee" last May. It was Mr. Mahoney whose importunities and presentations (or misrepresentations) caused the importation of our "Trouble shooter," dictator.

It was Mr. Mahoney who accepted the backing of the National Democratic party, accepted its campaign money, accepted the "Full" of Mr. Roosevelt's influence politically as the national head of the democratic ticket, and then sat a weakling while the democratic party was denounced and the President was ridiculed and called "Namee." It was the Hon. Mr. Mahoney who was afraid to speak when 10,000 people were told that Mr. Roosevelt was a "Betrayor," a "Liar" and a "Double crosser."

There is an old saying "Silence gives consent." I do not want a U. S. senator who lacks the courage to defend his friends or his party or his president. I couldn't trust him to defend my interests.

Townsendism is nationally allied AGAINST ROOSEVELT. Only Mahoney wants Townsend votes while he rides the Democratic Ass to Washington, Townsendism and Dr. Townsend are the open enemies of the Democratic Party. "Democracy" and Townsendism are two opposing principles. Mahoney, in claiming to be a candidate for the U. S. senate, attempts to face both ways.

The national issue is Roosevelt vs. Lemke or the Democratic Party with its policies vs. the new Townsend, Smith, Laughlin, Lemke party.

In taking the ridiculous position of claiming to be both competent to serve the Townsend cause and the cause of the Democratic Party in the United States if elected Mr. Mahoney puts himself in the position of

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a man who attempts to straddle two horses that are traveling in opposite directions "He can not serve two masters," but Mr. Mahoney thinks he can get votes from two opposing political camps. No ballot can be for Townsend and Mahoney, it must be either for Townsend OR Mahoney.

I am told by my friends that "Team work alone can win the race." Team work is good only when it is hitched to the right load and headed in the right direction. No man with sense wants slunk cabbage in the parlor! I SHAWE.

"CAMPAIGN PROMISES"

EUGENE, Ore.—(To the Editor)—
 Four years ago the new deal candidate for president promised in his campaign speeches that if he was elected the cost of government would be reduced 25 per cent. He was elected and in the less than four years of office he and his "managed" congress have spent more billions of dollars than the entire cost of Government since the United States became a nation, and the national debt has increased to many billions more than it was at the close of the world war.

This week the Register-Guard printed an Associated Press dispatch from Washington, under the head of "No Tax Increases, 'A New Deal Pledge'" which stated: "A forecast that taxes will not be increased, in fact, be slightly reduced, was made today by congressional tax leaders after a conference with President Roosevelt."

If a man deceives you once, that is his fault; if he deceives you twice, that is your fault.

Also, remember that no taxes have been levied yet to pay the rapidly mounting billions of the national debt. What is the great idea of the administration announcement of a "reduction" in taxes? Is it the repudiation of all the debts and obligations of the United States? How else can the new deal's borrowed billions be got rid of and taxes "reduced" at the same time? The government of the United States or a state does not own a cent. When it spends a dollar it can only obtain it by taxing the taxpayers a dollar and the cost of collection and interest or repudiate its obligations.

F. C. HEFFRON

WYOMING REPLIES

EUGENE, Ore.—(To the Editor)—
 In "The Editors Mail Bag" of the 2nd inst. I was much interested in Nettie Gavley's account of her trip to Wyoming, particularly that part of it which described her impressions of Wyoming. As a former resident of Oregon and now of Wyoming I would like to make a few comments on some of her statements.

Contrary to the impression one would receive from reading her letter, this state is not a heat-ridden, uninhabited desert. We do have long stretches of straight roads all right but the highways are all surfaced. From Thermopolis to Casper it is about 134 miles and with the exception of just a few miles the road connecting these two live western towns would be classed with many boulevards elsewhere. The few miles referred to are being reconstructed this year or the old familiar "detour" sign would not be in evidence on this stretch of road.

Now about the two (count them) service stations. That statement would make most residents of Wyoming laugh or cry. As you come south from Thermopolis, where, by the way, the largest hot spring in the world is located, you pass through the beautiful Wind River Canyon, at the south end of the Canyon and about 18 miles from Thermopolis you pass the first service station. Sixteen miles farther on you reach Shoshoni, a town of about 300 persons, and which has some 8 or 10 of those very necessary adjuncts to successful touring. Then following in rapid succession one or more service stations are found in each of the following places—Vila, Moneta, Vonnies, Hiland, Waltham, Hells Half Acre, Powder River, Natrona, Mountain View, Mills and then Casper. This trip is rated as rather a short one by most people here and the time consumed is in the neighborhood of 3 hours if one is just making it in the ordinary course of business or pleasure. It might be of interest to Mrs. Gavley to know that Wyoming is the third largest producer of sheep and wool in the U. S., and that this road crosses one of the important grazing areas of the state. This has been an unusually hot summer all right but after 12 of them, I have the first time yet to see the thermometer register more than 102 in the shade, and there is shade too.

I also have recollections of the Camas swale road and the Long Tom road. Some of the most vivid ones having been acquired by traveling over the latter "on the hoof" along in February about 85 years ago. Possibly the two (count them) service stations. That statement would make most residents of Wyoming laugh or cry. As you come south from Thermopolis, where, by the way, the largest hot spring in the world is located, you pass through the beautiful Wind River Canyon, at the south end of the Canyon and about 18 miles from Thermopolis you pass the first service station. Sixteen miles farther on you reach Shoshoni, a town of about 300 persons, and which has some 8 or 10 of those very necessary adjuncts to successful touring. Then following in rapid succession one or more service stations are found in each of the following places—Vila, Moneta, Vonnies, Hiland, Waltham, Hells Half Acre, Powder River, Natrona, Mountain View, Mills and then Casper. This trip is rated as rather a short one by most people here and the time consumed is in the neighborhood of 3 hours if one is just making it in the ordinary course of business or pleasure. It might be of interest to Mrs. Gavley to know that Wyoming is the third largest producer of sheep and wool in the U. S., and that this road crosses one of the important grazing areas of the state. This has been an unusually hot summer all right but after 12 of them, I have the first time yet to see the thermometer register more than 102 in the shade, and there is shade too.

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