

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

(Published every evening 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.

FARMERS SHOULD TURN OUT

ON January 12, according to Secretary C. F. Hyde, there will be a stockholders meeting of the Eugene Farm Loan Association. The meeting place has not been decided. But the issue to come before the membership on that date is well known, or should be. It is whether to continue the present set-up or to accept in Lane county the program which the regional bank at Spokane has established in nearly every other county in this state—a plan designed to save a great deal of operating expense and make the whole program more efficient.

There are now three associations in Lane county—Eugene, McKenzie and Siuslaw—all separately operated. The Eugene association is by far the largest, its operations extending even into Linn county. During one 18-month period, the Eugene association is reported as paying to Mr. Hyde in various expense allowances and commissions more than \$6,000. At the end of that period the association showed an \$81.04 net operating deficit and its loan assets showed a percentage of "impairment" (delinquency) unsatisfactory to the Spokane office.

To correct this situation, the Spokane people for nearly a year have been suggesting a unified management of the three associations in Lane county under one secretary to be named by the local groups, themselves. The Spokane bank's approval of this selection is necessary since they pay the salary but agreement on this choice should not be difficult. This would not mean a merger of the three associations. They would remain separate associations with their own directors and officers—except the secretary-manager whose services they would share.

The main points about the proposition are: The Spokane bank would pay the \$2,100 a year salary for the permanent secretary. The Spokane bank would pay \$900 a year for his office help and \$480 a year for his mileage expenses. The Spokane bank would pay \$38.57 a month to strengthen reserve funds. There would be something over \$4,000 coming in to do work for which more than that sum has been going out, and it is possible to say that the financial situation of the association would be improved by \$8,000 a year by reason of the substitution of income for outgo.

At the time of the May meeting, when the Spokane people last appeared to explain this situation, it was turned down. Mr. Hyde has made statements to show that he has not profited by the arrangement (and in that case it is hard to see why he wants to keep it). There has been dispute as to whether the notices of the May meeting were adequate to explain what was up or whether the place (Guild hall) was suitable for a farm gathering. At any rate, it appears the May meeting was poorly attended.

There should be no such misunderstandings this time. The Spokane people say the proposition is still open. They want a full and complete hearing and a vote that will be decisive beyond question. The date is January 12, we are informed. It is a public matter as well as one of immediate importance to more than 600 association members and stockholders.

WHY "HOLIER THAN THOU"?

IN the American press it is the mode of the moment to offer up a good deal of self-congratulation on the glorious courage of our newspapers as compared with those of Great Britain which for so many weeks "shushed" the Edward-Wally affair. The British performance was, indeed, peculiar. The laws against libel and against offense to the crown are much more stringent than any of our laws, and yet, the British silence seems to have been voluntary rather than enforced. Till the matter became a cabinet issue, not an editor cared to be the first to inform the British public about what was going on.

This was too bad, admittedly! The British readers were cheated of their right to be informed. It is probably quite true that in a similar situation involving the president of the United States, say, the American press would not have been so tame. Nevertheless the American press has not always been conspicuous for its courage nor even as far removed from all suspicion as Caesar desired his wife, Calpurnia, to be. There have been times when whole sections of the American press have been strangely silent on such public issues as war hysteria, the outrages committed in the name of the "Red purge" in the early twenties, the maneuvers of the Ku Klux Klan, the financial excesses which led to the depression. The iniquities of the Harding administration were common gossip long before the stories broke as national news, largely due to the incessant war which McGee, a small town editor in New Mexico, was waging against Albert Fall.

Newspaper people everywhere are composed of the same human material and they face everywhere pretty much the same legal obstacles. Because of the heavy penalties for libel and slander it is sometimes months before big news can be forced into the open. It is often necessary to engineer official inquiries or court action to justify the publication of news. Some newspapers are much more aggressive in these matters than others. And all are influenced, to some degree, by the "state of opinion."

It is difficult for us to comprehend the British attitude toward the King. We come nearest to it in our attitude toward the flag (and in this we are rather fortunate because the flag is impersonal and doesn't get involved with charming women). In Great Britain, also, the King is the head of the church, and to many millions he personifies religion. We have no comparable institution. The reluctance of British editors to open up this mess without some form of official sanction may be regrettable but it is scarcely for us "to talk." We have plenty of our own "black marks."

On the whole the American press does a good job of getting the news. But the job is far from

perfect or complete. The British cousins are queer folk, but God save us from smug conceit!

WHAT OTHER EDITORS THINK

THE ROMANCE OF SPICES

LUCILE SAUNDERS McDONALD, once a member of The Bulletin staff, is the author of a book, "Dick and the Spice Cupboard," published in New York, that was written primarily for youngsters, but provides fine reading for grownups. In recounting the adventures of personified spices, such as cinnamon, cardamom, turmeric, pepper, cloves and nutmeg, Mrs. McDonald takes her young readers to far parts of the world and pictures the amplexes of ancient days. Grown folks would be hard put to tell the source of the condiments they use at every meal, and few grownups know the romantic story of the spices. Columbus discovered America while hunting India and spices, most school children know, but few adults realize that in distant days wars were fought for spices, the future of empires was shaped by the ability of rulers to supply spices, and island kingdoms were established through the cultivation of spices. Alaric the Goth in the year 408 led his wild tribe to the gates of the rich and powerful city of Rome and starved the people into submission. Alaric said he would call off his soldiers if Rome would pay. And what did the fierce Alaric demand? About 5,000 pounds of gold, 3,000 pounds of silver—and 3,000 pounds of pepper! The Bible, Mrs. McDonald reminds her little readers, has many references to spices. Christ's body was prepared for burial with spices. And the Pharisees paid their tithes in mint, anise and cummin. There are few stopping places along the corridor of time that do not hold some memorial to spices. Since leaving Bend, Mrs. McDonald has traveled far, and we presume that it was along those distant trails, probably in Turkey, that she gained much of the information she has incorporated into this entertaining little volume, "Dick and the Spice Cupboard," dedicated to her little son.

WASHINGTON LETTER

By RODNEY DUTCHER

Register-Guard Washington Correspondent
WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Harry Hopkins has decided not to resign as boss of WPA, despite various reports.

His only present plan appears to stay in Washington and fight against the campaign for liquidation of his huge work-relief organization. Part of that campaign, according to the administrator's friends, calls for liquidation of Hopkins himself, which may explain inspired reports that he had accepted a big job with a Chicago mail order house.

General confusion following large cuts in WPA rolls and subsequent retreat from the reduction program call for a resurvey of the WPA situation in Washington. Hopkins and Assistant Administrator Aubrey Williams have taken the rap for both those steps and the confusion as well, but here's what has happened:

Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau and Budget Director Daniel Bell sold Roosevelt on the idea that industrial recovery warranted a gradual decrease in relief expenses. They convinced Hopkins that they hadn't enough money for WPA to last even to Jan. 20 if the payroll wasn't cut.

Roosevelt confided he'd like to have WPA costs cut to between a billion and a billion and a half for the next fiscal year—as against a WPA estimate of two billions—and suggested WPA expenditures might gradually be brought down to \$100,000,000 a month.

Set Back; Fights On
Hopkins, who has never known for more than a month ahead how much money he would have, gave in. He knew he could hardly get a deficiency appropriation from congress before Jan. 20.

Orders went out which meant dropping 150,000 from WPA's administrative, non-relief, and relief personnel as well as 250,000 who all along had been slated for transfer to the Resettlement Administration (which will pay them less money, in doler form).

Expenses were to be cut from \$188,000,000 in November to \$152,000,000 in December. At the same time Hopkins girded himself for a bitter-end fight with Morgenthau, Bell, Chamber of Commerce and Against-Roosevelt-Before-Election elements and a reported "Liberty League Lobby" over proposals to gradually strangle WPA and toss the abandoned unemployed back to local politicians.

Money Suddenly Founds
But soon LaGuardia of New York and other members of the U. S. Conference of Mayors were radioing the president, then in southern waters, that if WPA workers were to be dismissed on the theory that private industry would absorb them, it would be much better if someone would point out the jobs they were to take.

WPA workers staged demonstrations. Pro-New Deal and anti-New Deal newspapers came soon at an administration which would keep WPA intact to help it win an election and then start firing WPA workers indiscriminately as soon as the election was over.

Radiograms crackled back from the cruiser Indianapolis to Morgenthau, Bell, and Hopkins. Suddenly, by what legerdemain is not yet known, Morgenthau and Bell found there really was enough money to take WPA through January at the November rate.

Hopkins called a special press conference to declare over and over that "No one in need will be dropped." Even though it tended to make WPA look foolish in the light of conflicting official statements based on the previous policy, Hopkins loyally covered up for Roosevelt and the Treasury-Budget-Roosevelt crowd. (Copyright, 1936, NEA Service, Inc.)

AN EDITORIAL ON HEALTH

By DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN

Editor, Journal of the American Medical Association, and of Hygiene, the Health Magazine

HARDNESS of hearing in old age may be of two kinds. The distinction depends on whether the changes that have taken place in the tissues affect the middle or the internal ear.

As I have already pointed out, the ear and the organs involved in hearing actually include three parts: The external ear, which is everything outside the eardrum; the middle ear, which includes the eardrum and certain little bones that help transmit vibrations from the inner side of the ear to the internal ear; and, finally, the very fine organs and nerve endings associated with the sense of hearing.

Hardness of hearing usually appears between 55 and 65 years of age, one of the first signs being lessened ability to hear sounds in the upper tones. Perhaps the reason that this is the first symptom is that the human being ordinarily hears little use of his sense of hearing in catching the very high tones.

That form of hardness of hearing in which the small bones involved become locked by changes which take place in the tissues is called otosclerosis. Persons thus afflicted hear better over the telephone or with a hearing device because, in this condition, the conduction of sound through bone is improved while that by air is lost.

There are many different theories as to the cause of this condition, but none of them has yet been established as the certain invariable cause. Almost all observers are convinced, however, that heredity and the constitution of the person involved are concerned in some manner. Just this type of hardness of hearing is apt to occur in families.

There also is some belief that the digestion and diet of the victim in some way may be related to development of the trouble. At the same time, it should be pointed out that difficulties with digestion and deficiencies in vitamins and mineral salts cause a general lowering of the condition of the body, and that any method of treatment that will improve nutrition of the tissues as a whole, and stimulate them to activity, is likely to improve their functioning.

The sense of hearing is one of those most susceptible to the psychology of suggestion. For that reason persons who are hard of hearing frequently try new treatments and feel that they have been benefited, only to discover later that the benefit was almost wholly imaginary.

Added attention at a time when one is endeavoring to hear will enable him to hear many things which otherwise may be missed.

SIDE GLANCES



"Now, aren't you glad I went ahead and put up these pickled peaches? I told you one of our boys would be home for Christmas."

Home Service

EVER STUCK FOR WORDS? LEARN VIVID SYNONYMS



Stuck for lack of a word? Does this ever happen to you?

You realize suddenly that you've just said:

"It was a terrible day. We had a TERRIBLE time driving through a TERRIBLE rain. The wind was..."

You can't say TERRIBLE again! These clever new acquaintances will think you're a bore. Why not say the word is violent, tempestuous or raging? Add force by saying the day was exasperating or disastrous. And you had a difficult, trying or perplexing time driving through a gushing, drenching or torrential rain.

Don't go on using stale, flat, ill-chosen words. Our 32-page booklet of synonyms for everyday words adds to your speech the living, vibrant touch that spells charm. Let these 4,725 synonyms rush to your aid in need, still off embarrassment.

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LEGION CHRISTMAS PARTY SET

Families Invited To Supper And Tree

By MARGARET REID

THE annual Christmas party of the American Legion post and auxiliary will be held Tuesday evening, at the army, starting with a six-thirty o'clock potluck dinner for the families.

Wallace Wintler, commander of the post, will lead group singing. Games are planned for the children and a Christmas tree will be held.

Members are to bring to the meeting, canned goods for the Christmas boxes.

On the potluck committee are Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Geiger, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Freeland, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Hulegaard, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Moses.

On the Christmas tree committee are Mr. and Mrs. Glen Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Bowman, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Hardie. On the entertainment committee are Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Schimberg, Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Rinde, Mr. and Mrs. Emory Lake and Mrs. E. C. Hedine. On the treats committee are Mrs. Lulu Burns, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Bond, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Halverson, Mr. and Mrs. Loyal Adkinson.

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