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 EDITOR AND PUBLISHER: Alton F. Baker
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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.

Beware Another Tillamook
 Wednesday's warning from the U. S. Forest Service that man-caused blazes in the Willamette National Forest this season show an increase of 100 per cent over 1946 is another warning that during the fire period Lane County is continually sitting on a keg of dynamite.

Almost any one of this season's fires could have been another Tillamook Burn. Educational work, such as that conducted by Keep Oregon Green, plus improved control methods, closer cooperation and continued vigilance have enabled us in recent years to escape such a disaster as the Tillamook Burn. And maybe we have been lucky, too. But we cannot depend on luck—ever. And it is just in such periods as the present, when we are "getting by" without serious fires, that human nature is prone to relax and take it for granted that the battle is won. From now until the fire season is over, we should all exercise extreme caution.

Not long ago a writer in a lumber magazine pointed out that the Tillamook Burn was responsible in some measure for the migration of the lumber industry south from Portland to the Eugene and Roseburg regions. To the extent that this is true, the boom in these areas is based upon a disaster in another region. And this is grim testimony to the fact that a similar fire could leave Eugene's economy badly crippled. That is why we are sitting on a keg of dynamite that could be set off by one careless toss of a match or cigaret, by an uncontrolled campfire, or even by a wayward spark. It could happen here.

Survey Of Southern Oregon

Down in Jackson and Josephine counties they have just completed an analysis of their economic and industrial resources. The Chambers of Commerce hired a gentleman named Robert Hammersley, of Boise, to do the job and apparently he did a very satisfactory piece of work, judging by Herb Gray's comment in The Medford Mail Tribune. His most interesting conclusions:

Agriculture which brings in more than \$31,000,000 a year in Jackson and Josephine is and will be the mainstay of their economy. Timber industries are second in importance and an intensive study of wood chemical and other by-product processes is to be encouraged along with sustained yield practice. Mining and minerals are not as active as formerly but have possibilities with modern methods. Scenery and recreation are among the region's greatest assets. Transportation and distance to markets remain a problem.

In short, Mr. Hammersley points to LIGHT INDUSTRY and the key to balancing the economy of Southern Oregon. Dreams of a Southern Oregon Pittsburgh are futile. And one of Southern Oregon's best bets is to sell "the good life."

From time to time nearly every community indulges in these surveys. Most of them do little more than confirm what the natives already know. An outsider checks the inventory. In this case, the outsider seems to have done an extremely conservative and intelligent job.

There is a new twist on this "industrial survey" business in what is called the Raw Materials Survey (or Service) sponsored by the Portland Chamber of Commerce with many smaller towns participating. General Robbins is the chairman. This group does NOT make overall inventories or reports. It has a permanent engineering staff and it hunts the answer to specific industrial questions. For instance if Southern Oregon had an inquiry:

"Can you use your high test silica sands in our process but what is your situation on soda ash and lime, labor, water, and freight rates?" One of the most common errors in community "bootstrap-lifting" is the yearning to find everything in the way of resources

within the immediate area. This is seldom necessary, if certain basics can be brought together.

Southern Oregon is on the right track in searching for small highly specialized industries which are rather improbable, and it is particularly sound in emphasizing the development of a healthy, attractive community—a good place to live. Thank God we can't all be Pittsburghs.

One can always learn something new. The Greeks are a warlike nation preying on the subjects of a poor little country called Russia.

Wayne Morse says he chose "attack" instead of "defense" in his homecoming speech to Rotary. Some of the boys call it "the offensive."

The Order of the Buggy Ride is planning a session to define "a good Republican." McGurk says "if they ain't careful they'll all be good another 16 years."

The guys who split the atom are wonderful but the real genius these days is the housewife who can split the pork chop.

WASHINGTON LETTER

By PETER EDSON
 NEA Washington Correspondent

Playing Politics With Sugar

(This is the second of three dispatches on the Sugar Act of 1948.)

WASHINGTON, Aug. 21 — (NEA) — Biggest political enigmas of the last session of Congress was the Sugar Act of 1948. A Democratic White House administration, supposed to be opposed to cartels, allowed the U. S. mainland and off-shore sugar producers to dictate a bill which sets up a virtual sugar trust. A Republican Congress supposed to be dedicated to free enterprise passed a bill which is full of controls.

It was smart politics, all right, to get the bill passed this year. That avoids seven months of wrangling in 1948.

When the industry-written bill hit the House floor a little over a month ago, however, it immediately drew fire. Rep. John W. Flannagan of Virginia, former chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, in which the New Deal's original sugar quota control legislation had been written, called the new act, "the most vicious piece of price-fixing ever proposed in Congress. I am in the role of the lone wolf," said Flannagan. "I am the only one who will oppose this bill."

Flannagan wanted to know what the State Department's 202-e amendment to collect claims from sugar-producing countries in default to U. S. citizens really meant. Who would produce sugar that would be cut from the quotas of these defaulting countries? Hastily the bill was amended to give such quotas to U. S. producers.

Fight On Old Provisions
 One of the changes which Secretary of Agriculture Clinton Anderson had proposed was to strike out several provisions carried over from the old Sugar Act of 1937. They required U. S. sugar growers to pay their labor a fair wage and to observe child labor standards.

On Flannagan's insistence, plus pressure from CIO sugar workers' unions and the Florida and Louisiana cane growers, these provisions went back in. That was the only fight, however, made against the bill in the House.

In the Senate, the bill had a narrower squeak. With only five days of the session remaining, Sen. Dennis Chavez of New Mexico began to get excited about Section 202-e. He offered an amendment to kill it. The sugar lobby boys began to sweat blackstrap molasses. If the Chavez amendment carried, the bill would go back to the House. There wasn't time for the House to act, and, in that case, the bill would be dead.

It came up for final consideration on the next to the last day of the session. The debate was hot and the vote was close. But in the end the State Department's Section 202-e was kept in, 42 to 40. After that, passage of the bill was a mere formality.

Says Bill Insures Fair Prices

The fight since then, however, has gone on unabated. The sugar industry people and the Department of Agriculture feel that the act has been given a black eye because of the State Department amendment, which hides the other provisions of the bill. The new bill, they claim, will stabilize the industry and insure supply in line with demand at fair prices.

In working out wartime contracts for the Cuban sugar crop, the U. S. government provided that the price of sugar would advance automatically as the cost of food index went up.

There are certain price guarantees for domestic sugar producers in the new bill, carried over from the act of 1937. There are benefit payments to cane and beet growers who stay within their allotted acreages. And if growers are also producers, they are guaranteed a fair price for their cane or beets, regardless of the price of refined sugar.

Money to pay these benefits comes from a tax on the refining of raw sugar imported into the United States. Normally the refiners want a low price for raw sugar which they refine. In this bill they have gone along with the rest of the industry to support a higher stabilized price for everybody. But at the most, industry spokesmen claim all these guarantees would raise the price of sugar to the consumer from 1/4 to 3/4 cents a pound.

Oregon Guard Wants 1590 Additional Men

SALEM — (AP) — "Oregon's objective is 1590 officers and men" in the two-months recruiting campaign for the National Guard which opens Sept. 16, acting Adjutant General Raymond F. Olson said this week.

Proclaimed by President Truman as National Guard Day, Sept. 16 is the seventh anniversary of the entrance of the National Guard into federal service in 1940.

ered the element plutonium and developed the cyclotron here.

"Bear in mind," Lilienthal said, "that great things are going on here now . . . which may well be more important than the discovery of gold in California 100 years ago."

Commission members on the western trip also include Dr. Robert F. Bacher, Ithaca, N. Y.; Lewis L. Strauss, and Sumner T. Pike, New York; and William W. Saymack, editor of the Des Moines, Ia., Register.

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Paper Supply Found Better

Paper is becoming more plentiful in practically all shapes and sizes except for newsprint. Local paper dealers are happy to report. This means more paper-board for boxing, cartons for shipping, paper handkerchiefs and writing paper, envelopes and mimeograph paper.

Some items like wrapping paper, tissues, towels and standard bags are still hard to obtain in sufficient quantities to fill all demands. On the other hand, dealers say that they are able to secure whatever they need in the way of paperboard products.

This increase in supply, it was pointed out, is due in some measure to the boost that the industry received from war-time requirements. Paper has found many new applications and uses, so that it now competes with other materials.

For example, shipping sacks widely displaced cotton and burlap bags during the war, and even substituted for wood and metal boxes, one dealer explained. In the opinion of some of the dealers, they now appear to be holding their own and even gaining in popularity.

The supply of newsprint does not reflect the rise in domestic production of paper because most of the newsprint is imported from Canada and other countries, paper dealers explained. They estimated that only about 20 per cent of newsprint requirements are produced in this country.

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SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON FAIR
 August 21-24, Lewis County Fairgrounds, midway between Chehalis and Centralia, Washington.



COUNTY FAIRS
 August County, August 21-23, Deer Island, Columbia County, Oregon; Payette County, August 21-23, New Plymouth, Idaho; Crook County (including Crooked River Roundup), August 22-24, Prineville, Oregon; Clackamas County, August 27-30, Canby, Oregon; Skagit County (4-H Club), August 27-30, Mt. Vernon, Washington.

4H CLUB & FFA FAIR
 August 21-23
 McMinnville, Oregon
 The Fair is followed by the Yamhill County Sheriff's Fosse on August 24 in McMinnville.

ELGIN STAMPEDE
 August 22-24
 Moore Field, Elgin, Oregon

SALMON DERRY
 August 23-24
 Port Townsend, Washington

WESTERN IDAHO STATE FAIR
 August 26-30
 Boise, Idaho



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Lilienthal Says Atomic Power Not 'Just Around the Corner'

BERKELEY, Calif., (AP) — David E. Lilienthal chairman of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, said Thursday this country must extend its leadership in that field but will have to wait awhile for atomic power plants.

"The fact is," Lilienthal told a press conference "that this commission considers it to be its duty and is determined to accomplish the goal that this country should be preeminent in the field of atomic energy—and if at all possible to widen its present leadership."

Head for Hanford
 The commission late Wednesday left for Hanford, Wash., after a series of conferences here with directors and technicians of the nation's atomic projects.

Science Lilienthal said, is still digging into the "bare facts of life" about atomic energy. There has been some unavoidable delay in recruiting "people and equipment" for projects but fundamental research has been "not disappointing."

"The only disappointment," he added, "is due to a dashing of hopes that should not have been put forward in the first place—hopes of those who said atomic power is just around the corner."

"But then things never go as fast as we want and never quite keep up with what the needs of the world are."

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