

Capital Journal

Salem, Oregon
Established March 1, 1888
An Independent Newspaper Published Every Afternoon Except Sunday
at 136 B. Commercial Street. Telephone 81. News 62.
GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor and Publisher

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
By carrier—10 cents a week; 45 cents a month; \$5.00 a year in advance.
By mail in Marion, Polk, Linn and Yamhill counties, one month 50 cents; 3 months \$1.25; 6 months \$2.25; 1 year \$4.00. Elsewhere 50c a month; 6 months \$2.75; \$5.00 a year in advance.

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"Without or with offense to friends or foes
I sketch your world exactly as it goes."
—Byron

Bug Chasing Follies

In reply to telegrams sent by the state board of horticulture, chambers of commerce and fruit growers urging his support for the huge appropriation sought to eradicate the Mediterranean fruit fly in Florida, Congressman Korell of the third Oregon district has sent the following reply:

Chairman Wood of the appropriations committee advises that committee after careful investigation he has been unable to find any evidence to fly menace at this time. Previous appropriations largely dissipated for political patronage. Will be pleased to consider any authentic information submitted contradicting statements of chairman.

The Mediterranean fly, we were assured by the bureaucrats of the Department of Agriculture was the greatest menace to the fruit industry of America ever discovered. A frenzied tocin to arms was beaten, Congress appropriated over \$4,000,000 of taxpayers' money, an army of job-holders descended upon the orchards of Florida, confiscating crops and quarantining shipments. State quarantines spread throughout the land. As far away as California every auto entering the state was searched for flies, and fruit carried ruthlessly confiscated, despite the fact no fly was ever discovered.

Florida growers were helpless. They protested that the Mediterranean fly had been there off and on for years, but no account of climatic conditions, had never caused any ravages or been able to propagate. The strange thing about it, was that its discovery suddenly followed the refusal of Florida citrus growers to form a state cooperative marketing association with former Secretary Jardine of the Department of Agriculture at its head, as scheduled. They preferred to market their fruit for cash.

It will be remembered that a couple of years ago a similar furor was created by the Department of Agriculture over the European corn borer and ten million dollars appropriated for its extermination in the corn belt of the middle west. An army of thousands of job holders descended upon the farmers, tramped over the corn fields, destroying and quarantining at will, and when the money was gone, it was officially admitted there were more corn borers than ever, and yet the corn crop not seriously curtailed.

Thus the \$4,000,000 Florida fly joins the \$10,000,000 corn borer in the costly follies of the bug chasing bureaucracy, which has for its main objective the dissipation of public funds for political patronage, the creation of jobs for pap-suckers at public expense.

For a Referendum

The proposal of Mrs. Mary T. Norton, member of Congress from New Jersey, to amend the constitution to permit a national referendum upon prohibition, to settle the issue as to whether it is to be a permanent policy, should have the support of both wets and drys, but the drys will vigorously oppose it as they have previous efforts along the same line. Claiming overwhelming popular support, they fear to put the issue to a test.

In any other democracy, even in the constitutional monarchies, this would be the procedure, but in the United States alone the people are not permitted to pass directly upon questions of national policies vitally concerning their customs and habits. The people of Canada and Australia, as well as those of Scandinavia, and other European countries, have settled this question by direct vote, but not the people of the United States as there is no provision made in the constitution for a referendum on a constitutional provision.

Mrs. Norton's resolution provides that each state would conduct a referendum within its borders at the first general election after adoption of the resolution by Congress. The fate of the 18th Amendment, however, would depend upon the total popular vote from all states rather than the number of states for or against it. It further provides that in case the 18th Amendment was repealed by the referendum, Congress would retain power to prohibit interstate transportation of liquor in violation of state laws and would prevent any state from authorizing operation of saloons.

As Mrs. Norton explained, under the present method of amending the constitution, the representatives of five percent of the people have power to defeat an amendment, which makes its repeal practically impossible, and there is no way of carrying out the will of the majority, if a majority oppose national prohibition. Of course, if a majority favor it, the 18th Amendment should remain in the constitution.

Courses in Slumber

The extent to which the work of the parents is being appropriated, or perhaps thrust on the schools, is revealed in a news item in the Capital Journal concerning the physical education of the high school girls. In addition to physical examinations, gymnasium training and posture correction, it is stated:

Of the 181 girls in the restrictive gymnasium, 57 take rest periods only, their condition being such that even corrective exercises are forbidden. The "class in sleeping" as the girls call it, is one of the most interesting rooms in the high school. Twelve cots, with woolen blankets, are provided in a large room on the fourth floor, and the girls spend one hour twice a week in sleeping.

Who would ever have thought a few years ago that we would be sending girls to school to get a nap at public expense! Yet their parents have so neglected their rearing that they are unfit physically even for corrective calisthenics. So the school provides cots and blankets where the girls spend an hour twice a week in sleeping. Could loving paternalism go further?

We presume this sleeping course is to enable the girls to catch up on the sleep lost at the movies, joy-rides and dances, that fill the hours they should be in bed. So the schools enable flaming youth to take its fling and recuperate lost sleep in study hours.

COMPOSERS PROTEST NEW COPYRIGHT BILL

LONDON (AP)—A protest against the musical copyright bill pending in the House of Commons, which they say will deprive the composer of his last remaining effective source of income, his performing rights, has been made by prominent British composers.

The statement which is signed by Frederick Austin, composer of the new version of the Beggar's Opera; Captain Harry Graham, who wrote

BUDDHIST LAMA SEEKS HELP TO REGAIN POWER

Mukden, Manchuria (AP)—Riding in a special train of sleepers and diners which accommodated his suite of seventy, the Panchen Lama, spiritual head of lama Buddhism, has come in regal state to visit Marshal Chang Hsueh-Liang, warlord of Manchuria.

This pontiff of Tibet, variously designated as "the living Buddha," "the Glorious Teacher" and "the Buddha of Boundless Light," is just now a prophet without honor at home. He was driven out of Tibet early in 1925 by the Dalai lama who is "the Glorious King," nominal temporal ruler of the country and also a "living Buddha."

The Panchen Lama's return to the settlements is believed to hold political significance, because he has been trying since his expulsion to enlist allies who will help him reign once more from his monastery at Tashi Lumpo, eight days beyond Lhasa, among the cloud-piercing peaks of western Tibet, "the Roof of the World."

He has announced an early journey south to Peiping. He may even go to Nanking, to seek the help of the regime that professes to rule all China and her outlying dependencies from that new capital.

WAR OF SKIRTS STILL ON SAYS PARIS DISPATCH

Paris (AP)—Despite the efforts of well-meaning style pacifists to effect a compromise, the war of the skirts is still on.

The hardest blow struck so far against the determined band of Paris dressmakers, entrenched in the rue de la Paix in face of the whole world, is the refusal of American women to buy long dresses. If the Paris dressmaking firm-marshals are ever hard hit, it will be through their bank accounts.

French women, however, rather meekly accepted the dictates of the rue de la Paix, and the theatre floors at the opera and elsewhere have never been swept so shiny as since trailing skirts came back into fashion this winter. Spain too listened peacefully and Spanish women cavort around in flirty ankle-length skirts.

But American and British women took up the fight and for once in history they may make the Paris creators change their minds. In fact, if the battle goes on long enough the Anglo-Saxon sisters may break Paris' dominance in style matters.

The Paris creators realize that well enough and it is possible that they may change their tactics. They may be content for one year with a partial victory, long skirts for the evening and short skirts for the rest of the day.

From all over America, the trade is sending in warning signals. San Francisco dealers admit that long skirts have their favorites there, but Chicago, Denver and Salt Lake City report that long skirts are almost impossible to sell, and that the women there still insist upon the freedom of the knees.

PARIS HAS FIT OVER ALL ENGLISH TALKIE

Paris (AP)—French resentment at American talkies in English, reached its height at the first few showings of the Moulin Rouge, just converted into a movie house.

The incidents are cited by newspapers as evidence that talkies in a foreign tongue won't go here. About all the French got was a series of chapter headings, long dialogues and fast, laughable repartee. These were frequently covered by a single sentence in French, flashed on the screen after the fun was over.

"Translation! Give us a French show! We can't understand it! Money back!" were cries that disturbed several performances and on one occasion started a small riot. Police were called and some spectators arrested. Two rows of seats were broken.

Sabotage by rivals was charged by the Moulin Rouge manager, Pierre Fouquet. Four of those arrested, he said, admitted they had been hired to start a row.

Farmers of Yugoslavia are adopting modern agricultural methods.

ADMITTED TO SENATE FLOOR



Ruth Peterson, New York (left), and Evelina Southworth, New Orleans, tariff experts, were admitted to the floor of United States senate chamber during consideration of the tariff bill, thereby attaining distinction of being the first women, other than member of congress, ever to sit in the senate during a session.

RACHMANINOFF LAUDS MUSIC OF AMERICANS

Paris (AP)—Artistic and musical America need never again bow to Europe, it was declared in an interview here by Serge Rachmaninoff, famous Russian composer and pianist. He described the orchestra in the United States as the best in the world.

"For 11 years I have lived in America and I have been much impressed by the enthusiasm of the great masses of people there for the arts and particularly music," said M. Rachmaninoff who had just completed a tour of Europe. "The artistic standard is as high today in America as in any other country in the world."

"I have found that the American, although a hard worker, is greatly interested in art and the finer things in life. He makes money but a large amount of what he makes is given over for philanthropic works and for the encouragement of art."

"The United States in my opinion has the germs of a great musical future. The American Conservatory of Music is only three years old and already American orchestras are the best in the world. This is not merely a question of money as many Europeans are apt to think. To build up a successful orchestra money is necessary but above all it must receive the support of the people. In America, music gets this popular support as in no country of Europe."

M. Rachmaninoff left for the United States December 24 but plans to return to France next April before starting out on another European tour.

L'GRANDE BUILDING OUTLOOK FINE, 1930

La Grande, Ore. (AP)—With the opening of the new year La Grande is entering upon a heavy building program which it is estimated will run between \$400,000 and \$500,000 on known projects. Total new construction during 1929 was \$340,022 including an unofficial \$150,000 for the administration building of the Eastern Oregon Normal school.

New buildings for the year include: seven story combined business and hotel structure adjoining Julius Rosch's seven story Saca-Jawee Inn, a two story home of the Evening Observer; new garage building by M. J. Goss; Union Pacific station at a cost of \$125,000 and a new business building to be erected by C. L. Mackey.

DOG FOSTERS 3 PIGS
Cashiers, Wash. (AP)—Lassie was heartbroken when her pups were taken away. She crawled into a box that contained three little pigs that were being raised on a bottle and immediately became their foster mother.

SUNDOWN STORIES

GYPSY HISTORY

By Mary Graham Bonner
The Little Black Clock and John and Peggy rode along on their camel in the days when the world was very new and followed the first gypsies.

Ahead of them was quite a procession of camels and people, with tents and other belongings.

"These people," said the Little Black Clock, "are never long in one place." They put up their tents and stay for awhile and then they think they will find more food or more pleasant surroundings further on, so they move again.

"They do not travel very far in a day, but they can stop almost anywhere as no one expects them to arrive at a certain time or by a certain train, as we expect people in our time. They have been camping like this and traveling like this for quite awhile, and before long they will land in the country we now know as Egypt.

"There they will settle down, and because the land will be called Egypt they will be called Egyptians, just as people now are called after the names of the countries in which they live. But, because they have wandered as they have, camping here and there, they will be given the name of gypsies, too.

"In fact, the word gypsy comes from the word Egyptian and these very first gypsies of all were named after the people who wandered into Egypt, camping along the road as they went, and taking a long, long time about it.

"Now when people are wanderers and camp on the outskirts of towns and do not have any special place in which to live we call them gypsies. "But this was the beginning of their name, and the beginning of their history!"

(Tomorrow: "The Great Games.")

J. N. TEAL BEQUEST AIDS STUDENT FUND

Eugene, Ore. (AP)—A bequest of \$5,000 to the University of Oregon student loan fund from the estate of the late Joseph N. Teal, Portland attorney, has been announced by Paul Ager, assistant comptroller of the university.

The money will be used for the benefit of worthy students at the university and will go into the regular revolving loan fund. The loan fund now has reached a total of about \$30,000 with interest bringing the total to \$43,000.

Diamonds mined in South Africa in a recent month were valued at more than \$21,000,000.

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Business Booms In Buncombe

Buncombe, Ill. (AP)—The Buncombe News Reporter babbles "Buncombe Business Booms" in its baptismal blast. Buncombe Babbles behold a building and business boom which they say will make the bonfires blaze and the pot bubble and bell, bringing bucks to this burg with the bizarre cognomen.

TEXAS WONDERS IF FERGUSONS WILL RUN AGAIN

Austin, Tex. (AP)—All over the 200,000 square miles of Texas, people are wondering if "Ma" Ferguson is going to enter the governor's mansion for the third time. It would be but another turn in the remarkable career of the two Governors Miriam A. and James E. Ferguson, who have alternated between the smelter and the nadir of Fortune's wheel.

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Do not attempt unsound fire prevention measures, but seek the counsel of the accredited experts of rating bureaus who are anxious to tell you the proper way to make improvements.

Insurance companies generally prefer risks eligible to a low rate to those which carry higher ones. A low rate indicates better conditions, better maintenance and less chance of fire.

While the National Board of Fire Underwriters has nothing to do with rates or rate-making, as a bureau of standards it does publish information which rate-makers use to measure the comparative strength and usefulness of materials and devices.

Fire Insurance Rates in Oregon are computed by the Oregon Insurance Rating Bureau, established by law in the interest of uniformity. The Bureau has offices in Portland.

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