

Capital Journal

Salem, Oregon

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GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor and Publisher

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

A Political Paradox

The amusing paradox of the campaign is George W. Joseph—the rich man's lawyer posing as the poor man's friend, the attorney of trusts masquerading as the savior of the little fellow, the slanderer and assassin of character posturing as the champion of free speech, the dictator of newspaper policies through advertising patronage proclaiming himself the champion of an untrammelled press, a lawyer whose ethics are so devious and dubious that his own profession has recommended his disbarment, vaunting his own honesty and impeccable integrity.

Mr. Joseph is attorney for the department store trust, for the chain store combine, for a bancorporation banking trust, for the Portland Telegram, owned by Herbert Fleishacker, California's multimillionaire power magnate and director of half a hundred major corporations and similar clients engaged in exploiting the people—yet for campaign purposes he advertises himself as the big brother of the common people.

Capitalizing the resentment and unrest of hard times this wealthy corporation lawyer, backed by a huge slush fund, constituted himself the knight of the disinherited and "everyone that was in distress, and everyone that was in debt and everyone that was discontented gathered themselves unto him and he became their captain"—to lead the host to the promised pie-counter.

The late Fred Boalt, editor of the Portland News, a couple of years ago devoted an entire front page to an expose of an offer of department store advertising alleged coming from Mr. Joseph, through his henchman, Rufus Holman, as a bribe for editorial support of the News for the latter's candidacy—and the story was never denied. Yet Mr. Joseph has the nerve to say that newspapers that accept display advertising from power concerns are selling out to the power trust. On the same ground the newspapers that print Mr. Joseph's campaign ads are selling out to him—though it is not a matter of record.

Just how far Mr. Joseph practices truth in advertising is revealed by the ads themselves. For instance he quotes an excerpt from a signed political article by one of the Capital Journal's staff to convey the belief that the Capital Journal endorses his candidacy—sharp practice which illustrates as much as anything could the devious twist in his character.

If feeding them hokum will get the votes, Mr. Joseph will get a lot of them,—all of which proves that Barnum was right and people like to be deceived. They are in nearly every election, and this one promises no exception.

Naval Reduction

Regarding the London naval pact, Senator Robinson, who was one of the American delegates says: "We should build (naval armament) to the limits this treaty sets, which involves an expenditure of \$100,000,000 a year for the next six years for the United States."

This is to attain the naval parity with Great Britain agreed upon. To this end, Chairman Britten of the House Naval Committee goes further and has introduced a bill for a billion dollars for naval expenditures.

Thus it seems that the London pact instead of curtailing naval expenditures is going to increase them. Some such result always seems to follow a program for disarmament. The net result seems to be the scrapping of some obsolete battleships and an acceleration of cruiser building.

Because the United States has obtained the consent to parity with Great Britain in naval fleets, it does not follow that a frenzied construction program should follow. That is the course Italy is undertaking to secure parity with France. It is merely a big navy program camouflaged under the guise of disarmament.

The United States is at peace with all the world—at least until the Hawley-Grundy tariff gets in its work. It has no aggressive intentions; it occupies a geographical situation which for the object of protection against possible foreign attack is of such great advantage that it does away with the necessity for a large navy. It has within itself all the resources for a self-contained and autonomous nation. In case of war with Great Britain, it could seize Canada as a hostage. In case of war with Japan, it could defeat the latter's navy from the air. And we have nothing to fear from either nation.

Mr. Hoover not long ago stated, "The total of our (military and naval) expenditure is in excess of those of the most highly militarized nations in the world." And it is now proposed to add \$100,000,000 a year in the name of naval reduction.

Confiscating Farms

In Illinois a sixty-six year year old revenue act has been hauled out of oblivion by the district prohibition administrator in order to have government confiscation granted in the case of homes and large farms of two well known Illinois families, as a sequel to the discovery of a still on each side of the farms.

One farm is owned by Joseph Engelhaupt, whose family has been in possession for more than a hundred years. Its extent is 520 acres, and it is situated in Putnam county. The other, slightly smaller, is owned by Elmer Flaherty, in Bureau county. The Flahertys have farmed this land for seventy years.

The owners are being prosecuted on charges of misprison of felony, an offense known as countenancing law violations without reporting them to authorities. The statute against the operation of unlicensed distilleries is exceptionally broad, and the federal district attorney says:

Four classes of persons may be made for such violations. First, all property used in connection with the operations of the still; second, all property found in the building, yard or inclosure where the still is found; third, all rights, titles or interests of the distiller in the building, lot or plot of ground where the still is located; and fourth, all rights, titles or interests in such property of any person who knowingly permits the operation of an unregistered still.

With the government seizing and confiscating automobiles, buildings, lots and now farms, with exercising padlock rights on hotels and apartment houses, with the seizure and confiscation of caps, bottles and barrels legalized and with the drastic Jones act it would seem that more stringent laws are unnecessary for enforcement. Yet no matter how many and how stringent the laws, enforcement has failed because public sentiment does not back it up—and it will continue to fail for the same reason.

First Big Job



Joseph and Free Speech

From The Dalles Chronicle

George W. Joseph professed martyr to the cause of free speech, without doubt abuses this privilege to a greater extent than any other person in Oregon.

In his public appearance at the civic auditorium Joseph took the newspapers of Oregon severely to task, including The Chronicle, and by insinuation produced the impression that this newspaper and others, including The Morning Oregonian, are controlled by the power trust.

Always careful to stay outside the reach of the libel law, Joseph inferred that money paid Oregon newspapers was designed to buy support of power trust policies, or at least procure neutrality on issues involving this utility.

Idiotic as the inference was, there undoubtedly were some who believed it, and felt that Joseph was really waging a lone fight for the rights of the people. The fact that Joseph himself is tied up with "big business," and in reality has no love for the ordinary working man except at election time, might have been forgotten under the spell of his eloquence.

Although such an absurdity does not merit the dignity of a denial, it might be well to explain the true situation, for the benefit of any possible "converts" made by Joseph in his appearance here. The Chronicle has received money from power companies, as has every other daily newspaper in Oregon, but it was in payment for advertising, and did not have the slightest influence on the editorial policies of the newspaper.

Any individual or corporation wishing to spend money for advertising can do so, and the copy will be accepted provided there are no libellous or slanderous statements embodied therein. Mere publication of an advertisement does not signify that a newspaper is "controlled" by the advertiser. If that were the case there would be no such thing as an independent newspaper.

The Chronicle accepted public

utility advertising even as it accepted Joseph's campaign advertising, as a part of its regular business. Assuredly no one thinks that Joseph obtained control of this newspaper simply because he spent some of his money for space in it. It would be just as logical to presume that the same situation applied to public utility advertising.

Also, figures cited by Joseph revealed that the amounts paid Oregon newspapers for this advertising space was small. One amount listed was \$300, paid the Salem Capital Journal. The Chronicle received far less than this amount.

When selfish interests do obtain control of a newspaper, as has happened in the past in some parts of the United States, thousands and even millions are involved. To even intimate that any newspaper in Oregon would prostitute itself for \$300, or many times this amount, is so absurd that it ranks among the season's best jokes.

As to Joseph's professed martyrdom on the altar of free speech, the voters of Oregon would do well to take into consideration the actual facts in the case.

Joseph's disbarment from the practice of law in Oregon was recommended by three Oregon circuit judges as punishment to a member of the legal profession who had violated a sacred oath, taken upon admission to the bar in this state.

For Representative
From Marion County in the
Legislature



JAMES W. MOTT

Author of the Law Abolishing Fish-wholes, the Astoria Fire Relief Law, the Insurance Revenue Law, the first Oregon Reformation Bill, and many other difficult and important measures affecting the state at large.

Mr. Mott's legislative record has attracted state-wide attention, and practically every newspaper in Oregon has commented upon it.

The Oregon Daily Journal (Portland) speaking editorially, says:

"James W. Mott is one of Oregon's brilliant legislators. He has an unusual record of accomplishment. He is the author of some of Oregon's most important legislation and has been an outstanding member of the House since 1923."

Mr. Mott is a practicing attorney of Salem and was raised in this city. He is a home owner and a taxpayer of Marion county, and an ex-service man. He was formerly Representative in the legislature from Clatsop county (sessions of 1923, 1925 and 1927) and was a candidate for Congress in 1928.

mental American right of freedom of speech. Joseph had made serious charges. If they were true the two justices involved should be immediately impeached and removed from the bench, in disgrace.

Hence the public hearing, at which Joseph was given every opportunity to offer proof of his claims. It was not forthcoming. In fact the charges were very thoroughly disproved.

If George W. Joseph is disbarred from the practice of law in Oregon the act will constitute nothing more than expulsion by the legal profession of a member regarded as unfit for further association with that body. The expulsion by a lodge of an unworthy member, or by a medical society of a doctor guilty of malpractice, would be tantamount to the same thing.

Free speech is a sacred right, but libel and slander are not. One may criticize the decisions of a judge to his heart's content, if he wishes. He may publicly declare that a decision was not based on the law or the evidence introduced at a trial, and be entirely within his rights.

That is a matter of opinion, to which all persons are entitled. To charge that justice was sold for money, or dispensed in return for gifts of liquor, is another and far more serious matter, however. Such a charge, unless it can be proved, becomes libel or slander, and the person who makes it is legally responsible, even to the extent of actions for damages—or disbarment.

It is quite possible that the chastisement already received by Joseph as a result of his reckless statements about Justice McBride and Rand is why he now employs insinuation and innuendo, instead of direct charges, in attempting to blacken the character of Oregon newspapers. He probably is fearful that he might be called upon for proof again—in heavy damage suits—and he knows from painful experience what happens when the proof is lacking.

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