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—Byron

## Necessity Knows No Law

When that alleged perfect piece of legal craftsmanship, the governor's hydro-electric commission bill, was presented to the legislature many who had given study to the subject of "conflict of laws" pointed out that, in the main, it would prove a nullity, because of a direct conflict with the federal power commission act.

Those who drafted the measure must have been convinced that such was a fact but they were unwilling to acknowledge it—at least before the committee. When, however, they returned with a number of amendments which, it was claimed, would strengthen the measure, and all were adopted, there was found among them the following:

"In issuing licenses for projects in excess of 100 horsepower for which the applicants shall be required to secure permits and for licenses from the United States as a condition precedent to the construction of such projects, the commission may, in its discretion, waive and/or modify such of the terms, conditions and requirements of this act, except the period for which a license may be issued, and the annual charge as determined by the commission under subsection (d) of this section, as the commission, by order, after a full investigation and public hearing, shall find to make impracticable the construction of such projects."

In other words the gubernatorial draftsmen, fearing that, due to a direct conflict with the federal law, the proposed state law would prove invalid where federal permits were required, but not willing to admit it, proposed to save their faces, and the day, by tacking on an amendment which, in effect, nullifies practically the entire act. Under this amendment the commission will stand free to ignore and waive practically all of the boasted safeguards, which the governor and the Oregon Journal claim are essential to a constructive and protective hydro power policy. First they boast, then they fear and then they run to cover.

We must admit, however, that we can see much good in this amendment. It is about the only part of the governor's proposed hydro power program that can be performed "without cost to the taxpayers."

## A Neglected Duty

In his biennial report submitted to the board of control and legislature Superintendent Henry Meyers of the state penitentiary incorporated the following:

"It is my earnest request that recommendations be made to the legislature that a joint committee from both houses in this session be secured to make a thorough investigation of our prison problem; that they can be empowered to report their findings to make recommendations and suggestions," etc.

This request has been lying before the eyes of the legislators throughout the session. Yet, as near as can be learned not a committee, not a legislator, not an agent of a legislator has visited the prison since the session started to look into conditions there, though criticism has been profuse.

The legislators entrusted by the people of the state to look after their peace, health and the public safety have ignored the pleas of the man in charge of one of the most important of all state institutions.

This is especially true with conditions existing in the prison which should not be tolerated. Every available inch of room in the prison is crowded with convicts, men sleeping two and three in a cell; with cell block accommodations crowded to the utmost, and the inmates housed in a fire trap built 70 years ago to house 250 men instead of 1,000.

The legislature has seen fit to listen to much criticism of the prison, the flax plant, the flax plant head. It has heard rumors, reports, innuendoes. But it has failed in its primary duty to investigate for itself.

## A Remarkable Verdict

Fred W. German, county commissioner of Multnomah county, who drove his auto at high speed, newspaper accounts state 45 miles an hour or more, against the red signal lights, Sandy Boulevard and East 52nd St., Portland, the night of February 16, and killed Louis Lampert, a pedestrian, has been cleared by a coroner's jury of blame. The jury found the death due to "an unavoidable accident" and did not mention Mr. German. Instead it found the guilty party was the traffic signal light, presumably, for not flashing green instead of red, and not having longer stop periods. In its news story the Oregonian says:

During the longest ten witnesses, including Mr. German, described how the accident happened. All agreed that Mr. German, though nervous after the accident, gave no indication of being drunk. Those who saw the accident agreed that Mr. German drove through the intersection against red traffic signals. Estimates of his speed ranged from 25 to 45 miles an hour with the legal limit prescribed by city ordinance 15 miles. Other drivers had stopped awaiting the green signal and were watching Mr. Lampert walking across the street, when Mr. German, speeding through from the west, hit him and carried him 75 feet beyond the pedestrian lane.

This is quite the most remarkable verdict on record. The accident was plainly "unavoidable" only because Mr. German ignored the red signals which halted other drivers and exceeded the speed limit.

## An Evil Precedent

If Governor Meier complies with the legislative request to call a special session to complete the work of the legislature, he will set an evil precedent that will encourage future legislatures to dawdle and fritter away time in trivialities as this session has. If the legislature has not completed its work, it is its own fault, for it has attempted to tinker with everything under the sun instead of doing the work it was called upon to accomplish. It is paying the penalty for its own delinquencies.

There has been no organization or system in legislative work this session, no attempt to speed up the program or limit legislation. The legislators have run hog wild. A total of 766 measures have been introduced. Time has been wasted in interminable public hearings. The oratory has been as profuse as that of the United States senate blowing off steam without a time limit. Committees have held up bills interminably before reported, and no effort at limitation of consideration made.

If a special session is summoned, there will have to be one called for every future session for the same tactics will be followed to insure it. And the longer the session, the more the racketeering and the more costly to the taxpayers.

## EVERYBODY'S FOOTBALL!



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## Amos and Andy Visit the Session

By W. A. DELZELL

Andy sitting at the desk figuring: "Two-bits, foh-bits, foh thousand. Dat's a problem in multi-tudin. Ah nevah kin member dem tables. Where is my slidin' rule?"

Amos: "Hello, heah, what's goin' on Andy? What is you fingerin' all o'vat dat paper foh?"

Andy: "Fie bornin a big idee. Dis one is high financin. Ah done got exposed up to de session of de legislature. De dat no nuffin else up dere 'cept bread big ideas in financin."

Amos: "Is you goin to run foh de legislature, Andy?"

Andy: "Ah is plannin on dat next time but right now Ah is workin on dis idee. It's big and it's got money in it."

Amos: "What is it Andy, tell me 'bout it."

Andy: "How much is foh thousand times two-bits? Ought is ought and figgers a figger—"

Amos: "Ah don't know nuffin 'bout book figgers but Ah knows dere is foh two-bit pieces in a dollah an effen you had four thousand two-bit pieces on stack 'em up in piles of four dere 'would be a thousand piles—ain't dat it?"

Andy: "Amos, you don't know nuffin 'bout complications of figgers. Why it 'ud be more'n a million."

Amos: "Well, Ah dunno nuffin 'bout it 'ceptin dat Ah knows dere is foh two-bits in a dollah. What is it all 'bout Andy? Is you plum crazy in de head?"

Andy: "Heah is my idee. Most all dem legislators is busted—a gittin only three dollahs a day and a slayin heah foh forty days. De money bad. Now dere is most two hundred stenographers up dere at de session. All of 'em thinks dey is good lookers and most of 'em is been. Dat's hucomme dey gits de places. Dem legislators is so doggone humbly dey needs background and so dat's what de gyrls is foh mostly, to sorter act de picture off handsome."

Amos: "Now what Ah is fingerin out is dat we might hold a beauty show de last week of de session an charge foh-bits admission. We could split it fifty-fifty wid de legislators and dey could all git enough out of it to buy a railroad ticket home on de dollah day rates."

Amos: "How you goin to git all dem purty gals to consent?"

Andy: "Dat is a big question dat has unfrofront makin' since de time of Solomon. De Bible say even Solomon konfess he don't know de way of a mail wid a maid."

Amos: "Does you think you knows may'n Solomon?"

Andy: "A freenologist done feel o' my hand onct and when he put his hand on dat big bump on de back of my hand he say 'Boy, you is down to be a sexologist. All de wimmen folks gwintet take a power o' interest in you.' Dat's hucomme Ise been so successful in all my courtin affairs."

Amos: "But how you goin to get dem gals to take a part in yuah beauty show—dey all has to wear bathin suits don't dey?"

Andy: "Fust place, Ah goin to git de senators to repeal de law of gravitation. Den de gals kaint help deyself. Dey is suah to fall foh it. All wimmen is alike when kums to beauty shows and fall in love. I done heered a speaker say onct—'Julia O'Grady and de captain's lady is sisters under de skin—' 'Every woman knows her beauty points and she lak to show 'em off. Effen it's her hands she's always get 'em up what you kin see 'em. Effen it's her hair she know how to let the breezes blow it agin yuah cheek to tickle you. Dey all knows how to show off dere eyes and some of 'em dere laies. Now effen we puts on dis beauty show Ah figgers dere is foh thousand wimmenfols in Salem what would want to kum effen dere wives would let 'em. De members of de House could corpu-late wid de Senate and mebbe have two shows a goin to onct. Like as not de odder state officers would like to enter some beautifols from dere own offices. Dey all has 'em."

Amos: "Dat wouldn't work 'em. Ah noticed when we was up dere

at de capitol most all dem legislators was old baldheaded men. Dey don't keer nuffin 'bout pretty gals now. Dere minds is all taken up wid taxations and prohibitions. Yuah show might go wid de Legion boys, but not wid dem old coons."

Andy: "Dere you goes wid your wet blanket agin. Jes as I gits de cold ashes a blazin you throws on de water. Yuah ignorance of temperamentals is most amazin. Dem Legion boys is young. Dis love of beauty is only in dere blood. When old men done got it it's in dere halds. When it's only in de heart de young man got 'his hald left, but de old man ain't got nuffin left. It's lak a young man gittin drunk. He goin to get sober nex day. But wid de old man it's lak lumber—be liable to git laid up wid it any time."

GUEST OF SISTER  
Zena—Mrs. Clarence Merrick has had as her guest for the past week, Mrs. A. W. Mauer and daughter, LaVelle Marie, of Portland. Mrs. Merrick and Mrs. Mauer are sisters.

Lincoln—Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Nelger had as their guests recently Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Mauer and daughter, who motored up for the day. Mrs. Senn is a sister of Nelger.

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## RABBI ASSERTS SCIENCE HURTS CIVILIZATION

Buffalo, N. Y., (AP)—Modern science is producing an economic emergency detrimental to the progress of civilization, according to Rabbi Abraham Novak, of Cleveland, national chaplain of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States.

Rabbi Novak was here recently to address the Buffalo Post and made that assertion at the installation of officers.

The Rabbi commenced the work of scientists, but said civilization and culture were not keeping step as a result, an unsafe and unstable economic status was evolved.

"We have new means of communication and transportation," the rabbi asserted. "The age of airplanes is just around the corner. Scientists are busy finding new sources of supply to replace exhausted ones. The age of tomorrow will be an age of synthetic food. The miracles of today are greater than the miracles of the Bible."

"But are we better, happier, wiser than our fathers? What is it all worth?"

The Jewish chaplain pointed out what were, he said, some defects in the present system. He said millions of people were underpaid, despite great progress in the application of science to industry; and that because of this application thousands of independent store owners "were being crushed to the wall by large chain stores."

"The disparity between the rich and the poor is becoming greater. Of what good is education if it but shows us how to get more wealth and be greedy?"

"If demagogues continue, our democracy will fall. It is even being said that communism holds the answer to our industrial problems."

"I sometimes wonder if we shouldn't call a holiday in science and wait awhile."

MANY JAPS ARE SUICIDES  
Tokyo, Japan, (AP)—Over 150 Japanese committed suicide during January 1931, according to police figures. Despondency because of hard times was blamed for a majority of the tragedies.

Suicides in 1930 numbered 1,700.

POST OFFICER ROW IN ULSTER  
Claims that practically all good post office appointments are going to Belfast men has caused heated feeling in Ulster. At a recent meeting of the Northern Ireland District Council of the Union of Post Office workers, held in Derry, it was pointed out that since the establishment of the Northern Government only one Class 3 pro-



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vincial overster had received promotion to head postmaster. The head postmasterhips of Armagh, Ballymena, Coleraine, Cookstown, Derry, Omagh, Portrush, Bangor, Holywood, Newcastle and Strabane are all held by men from Belfast. In addition other Belfast men were promoted to be assistant postmasters. Delegates to the meeting said that all claims of local men were ignored. Resolutions of protest were sent to the Executive Council of Northern Ireland.

## MUSSOLINI HAS PLAN FOR GIANT MILITARY SHOW

Rome (AP)—Benito Mussolini is preparing to reveal to the world in Rome next year the greatest display of military power ever witnessed in the 26 centuries of history of the Eternal City.

This visual demonstration of Italy's military strength is planned for the tenth anniversary of the Fascist "March on Rome" in October, 1922.

Under Mussolini's rule Italy is rapidly becoming one of the most powerful military nations on the Continent. Nowhere in the world is so much consideration given to semi-military training of youth.

Since the war Webb Miller, United Press correspondent has visited 30 countries but in none were seen so many outward evidences of military preparedness as in the cities of Italy near the French frontiers, he said.

Besides the regular army of 240,000 officers and men, the Fascist militia of 398,000 officers and men (of which only about 15,000 are in active service) nearly 400,000 youths of between 14 and 18 years in the Avanguardisti organization are given regular military training. Nearly 1,000,000 boys under 14 in the Balilla organization undergo a mild form of semi-military discipline, drilling and physical training.

By a new law effective recently "pre-military training" on Sundays is obligatory upon all boys, with certain exemptions, between the ages of 18 and 29 before they reach the age of conscription. It is estimated the new law will affect about 350,000 boys, in the present year and an average of 200,000 annually afterward. This measure does not exempt from conscript service which begins at 20, but permits a reduction of the usual 18 months of conscription to the day.

One authority estimated to me

that three out of four boys in future will receive some kind of military training spread over about 14 years.

The 1930-31 budget as revised following reduction of salaries of army and navy officers reveals that 27 per cent of the government income is spent on regular armed forces. Of a total of 19 1-3 billions lire more than 8 1/2 billions is devoted to the army, navy and air forces as follows: Army 2,965,515,564; Navy 1,537,622,800; Air 752,890,000.

In a speech in the Senate in December Mussolini said: "It is true military expenditures have increased from the pre-war figure of 650,000,000 to 5,000,000,000 but others arm extensively while babbling of peace and we must look to our elementary defense and not run mortal risk." Mussolini added that military expenditure had increased 2 billions since 1922 the commencement of the Fascist regime.

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