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"With or without offense to friends or foes
I sketch your world exactly as it goes."

Hot Legislative Potato

However meritorious the proposal may be, and there is reason behind the claim the Marion county officials are shabbily paid for the amount of business they handle in proportion to the compensation of most other Oregon counties, the county's official family and its friends have handed the Marion delegation a "hot potato" in asking its members to sponsor a bill to increase the pay of all elective county officials from \$300 to \$700 a year.

If the bill is approved responsibility for its approval will rest squarely upon the shoulders of the Marion county delegation under the theory of procedure in such matters generally accepted by both houses—that the wishes of the representatives of the county concerned in local pay increases be followed. During the last session Governor Sprague established the precedent of permitting county salary bills to become law without his signature, and it is presumed he will follow the same course this session.

So it is the Marion county senators and representatives who must bear the brunt of any criticism that may arise from objectors among the home folks. But there is no other manner of bringing the question to an issue before the legislature, which is the only body with authority to solve the problem. Critics should be charitable toward the Marion county delegation for introducing the measure by request and giving it a chance to be heard on its merits.

Our Mountain of Silver

The folly of our silver policy adopted in 1934 is again set forth in the annual review of the silver market issued by Handy & Harman. The silver purchase act provided that for the United States "one fourth of the total monetary value of the gold and silver stocks shall be in silver." But the act defeated itself. Of the 203,000,000 ounces of silver bought in 1940 by the treasury, only 67,000,000 were produced from domestic ores. The treasury's total silver holdings at the end of 1940 are 3,135,000,000 ounces—a useless and largely valueless mountain of silver.

Instead of constituting one fourth of our gold and silver stocks, as provided, the influx of foreign gold has reduced the ratio to 15 1/2 percent. Even if no more gold were added to the \$22 billion now on hand, it would be necessary to purchase 2.5 billion more ounces of silver to reach the goal required by the act.

All the silver purchase act has done is to enrich foreign exporters and speculators by selling at inflated prices, subsidize to a lesser extent our own silver producers, drive foreign countries, which in 1935 were on the silver standard, off from it by interference with the market and intensify the problem of surplus bank reserves. It has been a failure from the start and as the reserve board recommends, should be repealed. It would be far cheaper to pay a subsidy to American silver producers than to keep on subsidizing foreigners.

A Greek Hero Passes

It is to be hoped that the sudden death of Premier General John Metaxas, 70, strong man and military hero of Greece, will not seriously affect the conduct of the war waged successfully against the Italian invader. The expulsion of the Fascists from Greek soil and the campaign waged in Albania are generally attributed to the strategy and tactics of the dead leader.

Metaxas has had a turbulent career dating back to the Greco-Turkish war of 1897. He was twice exiled for plotting revolutions but died the most popular man in Greece. He ruled as dictator for nearly five years and the newly organized government, headed by Alexander Coryzios, governor of the National bank of Greece, composed of all the present ministers, is pledged to carry on the war against Italy until victory is achieved.

When the Italians came, Metaxas was ready for them, having made preparations to receive them when he learned a year ago that the Italians were building military highways through Albania. He studied conditions along the border and decided to make the mountains his battleground. When the Fascists started the drive, he let them advance through the Pindus to Janina and get a foothold on the road to Salonika, then fell on them, cut off their retreat and smashed their forces. He soon cleared Greece of "every Italian but the dead ones and prisoners" and carried the war into Albania.

Regiment the Farmers?

State Grange Master Ray Gill, addressing the Salem Chamber of Commerce Monday, is quoted in the news reports as saying that through cooperation the farmers of the country can control the market for most every farm commodity, but that the economic difficulty faced by the farmers is that of making cooperation fully effective. A stubborn minority of independent agriculturists, 10 or 15 percent of the whole, have it in their power to defeat the efforts of cooperatives to stabilize any market, he said.

Gill recommended compulsory compliance of all farmers with any market stabilization program for any farm product approved by two-thirds of the producers engaged in growing that product.

His argument simmers down to this: That no matter how many farmers may combine to corner and control the market for any farm product, their efforts to that end may and usually are defeated by a few independents who believe in free enterprise and individual economic as well as political liberty. Therefore insurgent producers should be compelled to walk the chalk-line drawn by the cooperatives.

Such a suggestion for regimentation of free-born American citizens strikes a hollow note when sounded by the spokesman for an organization recognized for its belief in and defense of the American way of life.

Sewing Club Guest

Mill City—Mrs. James A. Swan entertained the Social Sewing club at her home recently for their regular weekly meeting. Following an informal afternoon, refreshments were served by the hostess. Those present included Mrs. Ed Haynes, Mrs. H. L. Plymale, Mrs. W. J. Robinson, Mrs. C. A. Bruder, Mrs. W. B. Shuey, Mrs. George Schwab, Mrs. Roy Mundi, Mrs. Anna Holman, and the hostess, Mrs. James A. Swan.

It's Always Something

By Beck



Sips for Supper

By Don Upjohn

A salary increase bill covering Marion county officials is due to drop into the legislative hopper. One of the principal arguments advanced in its favor is that salary increases are due because of the jumble which arose in accounts of the former county treasurer with convictions following discovery of a shortage of over \$23,000 in his account. It was contended then by many and is now that the treasurer's salary was too low for the responsibilities attaching to the office. So now comes the proposed salary increase bill which increases salaries of a number of officials to \$2,500 a year, but provides a boost for the county treasurer of from only \$1,500 to \$1,800 a year. There may be hidden logic in such a move somewhere, but if there is, it's surely closely concealed. Far be it from us to remark that the other officials are not entitled to salary increases. But, if it is to be argued that a salary boost is to be given because a county treasurer was underpaid and shortages resulted, just why the other officials should get boosted to \$2,500 a year and the treasurer should have an increase of only \$300 a year to \$1,800 a year is a stickler to figure out. We presume the idea is that by putting the other salaries up to \$2,500 a year the treasurer will be so ringed about with higher paid men that he couldn't possibly go wrong on his \$1,800 a year. The county treasurer handles sometimes as high as \$2,000,000 a year which is a tidy sum of money anywhere except in a congressional appropriation bill, and some thought should be given to the realities in passing around the prunes.

We hear that nobody else but our old friend Doc Lewis is joining the PT & BA in a big fashion and by gum old Doc will be a credit to our organization no end. That big smile of Doc's deserves only the best of backgrounds and we hope the plates will be up to the standard of the smile.

Legislator Dick Neuberger complains about our favorite paper, among others, as coloring its news columns with editorial matter. We are sorry Dick didn't widen the territory a bit and include Collier's Weekly, certain articles we've read in same also seeming to have a slight tinge.

The exterior of the new annex to Ladd & Bush branch of the United States National bank came to light today for all the world to see, a symphony in glass and marble. If the marble were of a lighter hue doggone it we wouldn't have hustled to have been the first to get our initials on same, but you'd have to have a white pencil to make much of a showing.

Youth Meets Methusalem
We met Senator Bill Walsh from Coos county last evening, Bill being an old time Salem boy leaving here in 1920, and in the old days he used to fool around on the newspapers here. "I'm right smart glad to see you again," said Bill, with his Coos county smile. "I remember you back when I was just a kid around here and it seems good to see a lot of you old fellows again." Doggone if he didn't make us feel like starting a centennial celebration all our own.

It's all right, Bill, you just wait and some kid will be remembering you, too.

Sunny-side—Mrs. R. A. Gilmer and son Jerry of Canby visited at the Jake Conboy home the past week. The Misses Leila and Ila returned home with her for the weekend.

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Kelly Says:

"Fireball" Kaiser
Gobbles Up Contracts

No Bets Overlooked
In Defense Construction

Railroads, Dams, Ships
All Grist for His Mill

—By John W. Kelly

Washington, Jan. 29.—When a British shipping mission started a quiet survey of Pacific coast facilities Henry Kaiser got wind of it in Los Angeles and as the mission moved northward wherever its members slipped into a town Kaiser was waiting for them; he flew ahead of them. And Kaiser kept after the British, chased them to New York; camped there. In due time announcement was made that the Todd-Kaiser group had the contract to build 60 merchant ships for the British.

They call him a "fireball" in the contracting business, and he is now going to town in a big way. Kaiser had never built a ship, but that mattered nothing to him. He will tackle any thing. In the same fashion that brought him the British ships he has landed other contracts. Today the Kaiser group has government contracts for a sum approaching one-half billion dollars.

Runs Dam Shows

As Henry Kaiser will play a prominent role in the national defense, a little background will be interesting.

When the Six Companies organized to build Boulder dam (all six cleaned up a pot of money on it) Henry Kaiser was picked to drive the work. Six Companies were western contractors, one from Portland. Buying in such great quantities, they named their own prices—take it or leave it. They squeezed every dollar of profit out of the job—then moved to new fields.

Bonneville dam was about ready. Kaiser looked it over, decided he would take it. He did, and placed his son Edgar in charge. Then Grand Coulee. A set of contractors were working on the dam already, but Kaiser shoved them over and began running the show.

Hearing of the Grants Pass railroad, he looked into that, decided it would be swell to complete the road to Crescent City, Calif., establish small towns on the route where tonnage would be obtained. This was when the new deal was dishing out money for projects in large doses. However, the policy changed before Kaiser could talk the government into financing the railroad proposition.

Project on Puget Sound

Came Shasta dam, just south of Ashland, Ore., part of the Central valley project. Kaiser obtained a contract to furnish cement and conglomerate. He could not get the cement at his price, so he built a plant to manufacture it 12 miles from Palo Alto. Next he built a 9.5 miles conveyor to the damsite to avoid paying Southern Pacific railroad freight.

And came the war. Henry Kaiser is not a man to overlook any bet or to sit holding his hands when jobs are being distributed. His tie-up with the Todd Ship-building company is a result of the 60 British vessels. Wires and telephone were used to have him locate a British yard in Portland and his son went to Portland, optioned a couple of tracts, but these British yards were to Portland, Maine, to Richmond, Calif., and elsewhere. Meanwhile, he was "in" with the

Todd yards on Puget Sound, with a contract for destroyers, and with him was Charley Shea (one of the Six companies) of Portland. The government handed them \$1,400,000 to increase the facilities.

Got This One Easily
Came the agitation of "all aid to Britain" and the president asked congress for \$300,000,000 to construct 200 cargo carriers. Again the Todd-Kaiser organization was given the work (no competitive bidding). At first Kaiser wanted to put in a new yard in southern California, but eventually was induced to select Portland; organized the Oregon Shipbuilding company, with Charley Shea as head man, and took one of the sites on Edgar had selected on option. For this new yard the president of the United States gave \$4,787,000 and Kaiser assigned 32 boats out of the 200 to be built for the Maritime commission. Kaiser and Todd located other yards, one at Galveston, with \$2,254,342 for facilities. The Portland yard was a compliment to Shea, who is associated with Kaiser in various contracts, and who requested Kaiser to remember his home city.

All told, Kaiser and Todd have orders to build 200 ships for the Maritime commission, 60 cargo ships for Great Britain, and 25 destroyers for the United States navy. The work on Grand Coulee is not quite finished and there is still plenty to do at Shasta dam. The merchant ships alone—American and British—represent \$40,000,000. The 25 destroyers to be constructed by the Seattle-Tacoma Shipbuilding corporation make up another \$100,000, plus.

Flying Cadet Killed in Crash

Moffett Field, Calif., Jan. 29 (AP)—Robert E. Baylis, 25, a flying cadet under the U. S. army air corps, was killed today when his training plane crashed during a solo flight near Shafter, 17 miles northwest of Bakersfield, Calif.

Baylis, a resident of Wenatchee, Wash., was a member of the Moffett field basic training class scheduled to finish a 10-week course here February 2. The entire class was on practice flights near Bakersfield today. Baylis was flying a BT 13 single-motor ship.

Details of the crash were not announced here. Baylis was graduated from the Wenatchee high school, attended the University of Washington, was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity and of Scabbard and Blade—the reserve officers training corps—honorary at the university—and served with the ROTC at Fort Funston, Calif.

He came to Moffett field from the civilian training center at Glendale, Calif. Field attaches said he was survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Baylis of 136 South D St., Wenatchee.

Baylis was the first flying cadet from this field to die in an air crash.

Novelties In the News

(By the Associated Press)

Double Rescue
Cleveland—A six-man fire rescue squad needed some of its own medicine today.

The squad answered a call to an eastside home and worked four hours on five persons overcome by carbon monoxide fumes. Then the rescuers became ill.

A second squad and a doctor were summoned. Two hours later all had been revived.

Inviting Trouble
Monroe, La.—The Junior Chamber of Commerce last week conducted a safety week in which coffins, wrecked automobiles and "beware" signs were scattered on downtown streets.

Today, Monroe police announced traffic accidents had doubled during the week.

What's the Hurry?
Kansas City — Phillip Salzman, Austrian maître d'hôtel, finds American aintz extremely puzzling. University of Kansas girls planning a sorority "rushing" party, said it would be "sometime next month."

"Now I ask you," asked Salzman, spreading hands wide in dismay, "what's so rushing about that?"

Equator Squadron?
Salt Lake City—Neptune has joined the United States navy.

He is Richard L. Neptune, 19, Akron, O., an enrollee in a CCC camp at Pinedale, Wyo.

Lebanon Building Permits Are Issued

Lebanon—Building permits were issued this week for construction and repairs amounting to \$4050, figures in the city recorder's office disclosed.

Largest single permit was for the construction of a \$2500 house on Grant street near Seventh for H. A. Beyer. Two others included Roy Gardner's permit to build a machine shop on Williams between Oak and Main, costing \$850, and Albert Carlson's to construct a double garage at Main and Isabelle for \$500.

ITCHING OF PILES
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RESINOL

Salem Sketches By Will Danch



"You wouldn't have to hide your car like this if you'd only keep it nicely washed and polished all the time like Dr. Darby does theirs!"

German-Italian Plan Seems Logical

By DeWitt MacKenzie
(Associated Press Staff Writer)

There is no reason to look with undue suspicion at the fascist disclosure that Italy and Germany are extending their economic and military cooperation in preparation for an effort to drive the British from the Mediterranean by assaults in Africa and against Greece—all this being preliminary to an attempted invasion of England itself.

Such frankness about military plans does of course, rather savor of the stage musician who exhibits his sleeves to prove that he has nothing concealed. Still, that program is logical enough (if we allow for a fair amount of window dressing), and we mustn't overlook this important fact:

This information about other hand-in-glove closeness of the axis partners is intended more for the consumption of the people of Italy than for the benefit of the outside world. It is further indication that Rome is pretty feverish and that Doctor Hitler is trying to keep the temperature down.

So far as the military threat goes, Britain should welcome that. As I have indicated before, the chief weapon which Hitler can bring into operation is air power, and this will tend to weaken his aerial offensive against England. That is a dangerous experiment, for it will give the Britons a chance to get set for the projected nazl invasion. Therefore it will be strange if Hitler goes very far in drawing on the resources of his western front.

Horse Already Gone

The axis partners likely will stage offensives in the Mediterranean, but they must certainly do so with the knowledge that so far as Italy's African empire is concerned, they are trying to close the barn door after the horse has escaped. What is left of Marshal Graziani's once great Libyan army is shattered and incapable of a serious offensive even if it is rescued.

Air power alone can't do Graziani much good at this late stage. For that matter, nothing has happened thus far in the war to demonstrate that warplanes have any mysterious power over surface warships, and British naval experts claim they have little fear that the axis can smash a hole in the British blockade which has cut Italy's African colonies off from supplies and reinforcements.

The sensational drive of a frenzied French camel corps from Chad across the burning desert into south-

Seek Military Road Standards

Portland, Jan. 29 (AP)—Oregon highways must be rushed to a military standard, Dr. E. B. McDaniel, president of the State Motor association, said today.

"Modern armies must be highly mobile and hard hitting," he said. "The highway bottlenecks of mountain curves, narrow pavement and shaky bridges must go."

He added that the association was studying the entire Oregon highway system to determine what work had to be done and its cost. "One of the biggest needs right now is for access roads to new military camps, to new defense area plants and for maneuvering troops over routes they would traverse at top speed in the event of hostilities," he continued. "Through our study we want to locate these vital spots in Oregon and the road handicaps that affect them."

Up Toward The Sunlight by Bressler



CONTRIBUTED TO THE 1941 INFANTILE PARALYSIS CAMPAIGN BY HARRY BRESSLER

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