

Capital Journal

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GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor and Publisher

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Strange Kind of Monopoly

Declaring it is "still trying to make some sense" out of a recent decision by an Illinois federal district judge classifying the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea company as a monopoly within the meaning of the Sherman anti-trust act, the editors of Collier's magazine assert they are unable by any process of reasoning to reconcile the price slashing policy of that chain store system with the monopolistic, price boosting practices at which the act is aimed.

Declaring that the anti-trust law, passed in 1890, was intended to restrain individuals or corporations from engaging in conspiracy to corner supplies of some one commodity or other, with the idea of maintaining prices at unreasonably high levels, the editors point significantly to the fact that it is a basic practice of the A & P stores to keep prices at the lowest possible level. That, they allege, has been the root of all complaints by independent merchants competing with the chain. It is further contended that the company has even "conspired consistently to keep prices of its wares down" by improving the efficiency of its merchandizing methods. Says Collier's:

"It has competed some small town grocers out of business, but it has forced more of them to smarten up, keep their prices neatly manicured, and treat the customers politely." For all its great size, the big chain which has spread itself over most of the country, transacts only about seven per cent of the retail food business of the country, and competes with several other far-flung chain organizations.

It is recalled that back in 1904 when the law was used to break up the conspiracy to gain control of meats—the old beef trust—that the government's chief contention was that the trust had lined up around 60 per cent of the nation's meat dealers in a compact to throttle competitive buying of beef from farmers. In view of the conflicting definitions of what constitutes a violation of the Sherman act, we echo the demand for a clarification—"we would like to know not what is a monopoly under the Sherman act, but what isn't a monopoly. If this decision stands, what business can't be penalized for using efficient methods" to bring prices down and make everyday commodities more easily available to everyone.

Pound Sterling and Dollar

The pound weight of silver, a common money standard among the Romans, was introduced by them into the countries they conquered, and the term "pound" became the designation of a certain amount of coined money. Originally, in England, it denoted a pound (troy) of silver coined into 20 shillings. Says the historian Hume:

"It has been an established opinion that gold coin was not struck (in England) till the reign of Edward III (1327-1377); but there has lately (1776) been found proof that it is as ancient as Henry III (1216-1272).

"From the most early times till the reign of Edward III, the denomination of money had never altered: a pound sterling was still a pound troy. That conqueror was the first that innovated in this important article. In the twentieth year of his reign (1347), he coined 22 shillings from a pound troy and, in his twenty-seventh year (1354), 25 shillings. But Henry V (1413-1422) raised still farther the denomination, and coined 30 shillings from a pound troy."

The modern English shilling—20 to the pound—was established by Henry VII, in 1504. The term "sterling" derived from "easterling," a silver coin introduced by the Eastphalian merchants of Lubeck, in the middle ages. The superiority of English silver, its fineness being maintained by law, became generally acknowledged in Europe; hence the term "sterling" came to mean "pure" or "genuine."

The word "dollar," our unit of value, derives from the Low German "daler." Spanish dollars were in general circulation throughout the American colonies and our silver dollar, as authorized by the Coinage Act of 1792, corresponded roughly to their weight—416 grains, and having a fineness of .8924. By the Act of 1837, this weight was changed to 412½ grains—9/10 fine.

Gold dollars, weighing 25.8 grains—9/10 fine—were authorized by the Act of 1849, but their coinage was discontinued in 1905. In 1900 the gold dollar, weight and fineness as above, was declared to be the standard of value in the United States.

Through presidential proclamation, under the Act of May 12, 1933 and the gold reserve act of January, 1934, Franklin D. Roosevelt fixed the weight of our gold dollar at 15 5/21 grains—9/10 fine; gold to be bought and sold by the U. S. treasury, through the N. Y. Federal Reserve bank, at \$35.00 fine troy ounce—plus ¼ per cent handling charges.

Cause for Concern

Contemplation of the fatalities resulting from motor vehicle accidents in Oregon during the first eight months of this year reveal real cause for concern over the mounting death toll on the highways and city streets. Official figures compiled by the secretary of state up to September 1 disclose that 304 persons lost their lives in the 38,128 accidents reported up to that date. Four thousand, eight hundred and thirty-seven accidents alone account for 47 lives lost in August, as compared to 28 fatalities for the same month of 1945.

Breaking the figures down into more detail, it is disclosed that the eight-month listing of fatal clashes this year not only exceeded the toll taken in each of the three first years of the war, but also established an all-time mark for deaths recorded during any eight-month period of the past.

At the rate with which deaths are resulting from traffic accidents this year—an average of 46 per month—the total for 1946 will far exceed that of any year for which statistics are available. They will aggregate close to 450 lives, as against 399 during 1941, the blackest year on record.

Whatever the cost, be it speed, carelessness, obsolescence of cars and highways or a combination of reasons, the figures themselves point out a situation too appalling to be ignored by the coming legislature.

Novelties

(By the Associated Press)

Landlocked

New York (AP)—Tony Ferente, 40-year-old bricklayer, is a man of determination.

At 3 a. m. yesterday, police said, he tried to stow away on the liner Vulcania. He failed but tried again six hours later, and when rebuffed, went back at 1 p. m.

Tired of escorting him off the pier, police held him until 4 p. m., when the ship sailed for the Mediterranean with 925 passengers—none of them Tony.

Parents' Paradise

Corvallis, Ore. (AP)—This college town is a parents' paradise. Co-eds serve as baby sitters free.

The baby sitters are provided by Oregon State college Red Cross chapter, and the only regulation is that limiting the service to 10 p. m. on school nights and 12:30 a. m. on Saturdays.

Each family is allowed one call a week.

Unfavorable weather conditions forced racing king Ah Jenkins to abandon plans for proposed speed runs on Bonneville salt flats in his new, light, streamlined "Mobil Special."

A Dog's Life

By Beck

Sips for Supper

By Don Upjohn

Maybe the idea is now to have President Truman resign and John L. Lewis be named secretary of state to take over. Or, perhaps the formality isn't necessary.

We've just learned in a roundabout way that Guy Hickok, the genral bank manager, has a distant relationship to old Wild Bill Hickok, the intrepid town marshal of Deadwood, Abilene, et al. in the days when town marshals had to be tough. Maybe after this if we are tempted to cross a downtown street against a red light or engage in some other wild infractions of the law we'll take a peek around first to see if Guy is looking.

Ernest Denny, the deputy county assessor and sage of Sublimity, reports to us that as suspected Table Rock, House Mountain Rock and all intervening rocks are engulfed in snow and all of them expect to enjoy a white Christmas from present looks of things.

A business man was complaining to us that all of North Commercial street now has been converted into a through street with the exception of the Chemekeeta street intersection where stop signs are missing and thinks this should be taken care of in the interest of safety, uniformity and other reasons we've forgotten. We haven't learned why this street was left out with folks generally educated now into the idea that North Commercial is a through street and we notice they drive their cars by Chemekeeta street with that idea in mind. A few smashups there may juggle forth another set of stop signs.

Shortening seems to be running true to its name in local stores. At least, there is nothing shorter in the way of a shortage.

Pleasant Pursuit
The Silvics club of Burns, Ore., today filed articles of incorporation with the state corporations commission. Purpose of the organization is to "seek, pursue and acquire the cariacu macrotas, that cervoid ruminant with periodically deciduous frontal appendages, otherwise known as the mule deer . . ."

If anybody happens to see a cariacu macrotas around loose from now on they'll know what to do with it.

Americans seem to have an insatiable desire to organize something and whenever two or more of them with some sort of common interest get together it is sure to result in a society, club or corporation sooner or later. The idea may be all right but it's also certain to sooner or later result in one guy doing all the work and the rest sitting on the sidelines.

Arizona's Hopi Indians are the only tribe in North America in which weaving is a man's art. Best known of the various cotton garments now made by the Hopi are the white wedding robes woven by every groom for his bride, and the woman's ceremonial robes and the dancing kilt and sash.

HERE IS YOUR MUSICAL PROGRAM FOR TONIGHT . . .

Treasure Hour of Song

Music at its best . . . sung by the best in the musical world! Melodies you treasure . . . music of the masters, familiar light classics and the romantic song hits of today . . . a half hour of true music enjoyment.

6:30 TONIGHT

K S L M

Mutual - Don Lee 1390 on Your Dial

"THIS IS YOUR TOWN" — Tonight at 6:15

A. J. Muste, international traveler and lecturer, who will appear on a forum at the YMCA Friday night, November 22, on the subject, "Must We Prepare for Atomic War?" Mr. Muste appears with Dr. Ivan Lovell, professor of history at Willamette university, and State Senator-elect Allan Carson, with an opportunity extended for questions and discussion following the "three-way conversation." Mr. Muste is co-secretary of the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

MACKENZIE'S Column

By J. M. Roberts, Jr.
(AP Foreign Affairs Analyst)

The big four foreign ministers remain bogged down in the work they began at Paris and the tentative date when they were to have taken up the German question has come and gone.

The ministers, unable to reconcile their views on Trieste, are now reported ready to let Italy and Yugoslavia try to work it out between them. But for Germany they propose to follow the same old course—an effort to arrive at a tentative agreement among themselves, then an "advisory" conference of all directly interested nations, after which, presumably, they will again try to compose their own remaining differences plus those injected by the conference.

What this system of negotiation will produce on the intricate problems of Germany remains to be seen. In the light of experience, it could just be possible that a general conference first might make for better progress.

Czechoslovakia and Poland already are demanding that they be permitted to participate in the drafting of the German treaty.

Russia, of course, already has done pretty well by Poland in securing eastern Germany for her in return for the part of Poland which Russia took. But the Poles express continuing interest in demilitarization of Germany and the corollary economic questions.

Holland is demanding rectification of her German border, though largely on a strategic basis rather than with the idea of repayment for the war damage done her.

Luxembourg also has some border claims.

As a matter of fact, every European country has a direct interest.

Meanwhile, Germany becomes more and more of an abscess in the heart of Europe's economy. Brig. Gen. William H. Draper, Jr., chief of the economic division of the American military government, says that such economy as has been revived in Germany faces collapse.

"Until boundary questions

(including Ruhr and Saar) are settled and the area that is to be the future Germany becomes one economic unit," he said, "the individual parts can never become self-supporting . . . The fear in Germany today goes deeper than hunger and cold. It is the fear of continued economic paralysis—the fear of continued separation of Germany into four parts."

General Draper doesn't say so, but the fear goes even deeper than that. What the world chancelleries fear is that Germany will be divided into three parts—that which is in and may remain in the Russian sphere; that which may go to France and other border countries, and that which stands the only good chance of becoming future Germany, the present British and American zones.

West Point, N. Y., Nov. 21 (AP)—U. S. Military academy officials said they might have an announcement today on Army's position on bowl football games, with possible confirmation or denial of a reported invitation of Army to the Sugar Bowl.

The United Press at Atlanta was told last night by a reliable authority that Army's great team, unbeaten in three years, already has been officially asked to play in the New Orleans New Year's day game.

Hubbard Footballers Are Banquet Guests

Hubbard—A banquet honoring members of the high school football squad was given by the Girls League last Friday evening. Doris Shrock presided as toastmistress and Mrs. J. H. Beaver, former principal was guest speaker. Short talks were made by Principal J. O. Russell, Coach Claire Keltner and several team members. The squad includes Bill Rose, Donald Bower, Donald Davis, Donald Brackett, Steve Treisch, Calvin Aho, Robert Dahl, John Strawn, Dick Edwards, Harley Piper, Paul Schafer, Johnnie Myers, Edward Kelly, Keith Hyerly, Melvin Monnie and Homer Irvin.

Six-Man Gridders Play

Eugene, Nov. 21—(AP)—Western Oregon's six-man high school football championship will be at stake when St. Mary's of Eugene and Jacksonville meet here Friday night.

Ask Chas. S. McElhinny about Standard Insurance GOLDEN YEARS' PLAN

He will give you full details on the insurance plan that enables you to retire with a life income.

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A Beautiful Christmas Gift for the Home

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MANUFACTURING JEWELERS

Come to our Gift Center

for . . .

OPEN NOW!

We're all dressed up in colorful Christmas decorations that will thrill the whole family.

TOYS for TODDLERS

Rocking Horse \$2.25

All wood . . . smooth varnish finish. A grand "exercise" for tots of 3. Handle through horse's head.

The VERY Gift Idea
Shoo-fly Rocker \$6.25

Sturdy bentwood construction. Fun for baby . . . boon for busy Mothers. Built low to prevent tipping.

Oh, You Beautiful Doll!

COMPLETE DOLL ENSEMBLE

13.95

- An entire trousseau
- Windblown blonde wig
- Stands 16½" high

Here's the doll of your daughter's dreams . . . with all the clothes for street wear or bedtime. A complete ensemble of coat, bonnet, dress, petticoat, shoes and stockings . . . and flowered flannel pajamas. Body is full composition with jointed arms, legs and head . . . moving eyes.

Other dolls . . . 3.45 up

TOYS that go places

Scale Model Electric Train

Convenient Terms \$16.75

- Complete with transformer
- 27 lengths of track

A wonderfully exact replica of a modern steam locomotive. Train includes tender, gondola, tank car, box car and caboose. 8 lengths of curved track — 19 straight. Train uncouples at "Uncouple Here" sign. Length of train 46¼".

Choo! Choo! Here Comes The Christmas Special

SKOO-TY SCOOTER, JR.

\$3.95

- Speedy
- Height—28 inches

A dandy scooter with rubber tires . . . tubular steel handlebars with rubber grips. Handsome enamel finish.

Watch Him Go!

SPEED RACER

39c

Whee-e! Wind it up and away it goes. Spiral spring motor. Balloon type metal wheels. Choice of several colors.

Buddy "L" Extension Ladder
FIRE TRUCK
\$6.75

Strong enough for a child to sit on and ride. Saddle seat removable. Rubber wheels. 35" long. All steel construction.

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