

THE EUGENE GUARD

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MONDAY, APRIL 13.

The Issue.

THIS is the issue which voters of Eugene will decide at the special bond election to be held next Wednesday.

We are drinking Willamette river water, containing a high percentage of sewage from Springfield. Filtration and chemicalization, and these alone, make it usable. By voting a bond issue of \$375,000, as proposed on the ballot, we shall assure the bringing to Eugene of water from the McKenzie river in quantity sufficient for the city's needs for years to come.

The McKenzie water project will not put an added burden upon the taxpayer, although a city bond issue is proposed to finance it. Interest and sinking fund to meet these bonds will be met by a rise in water rates to the consumer, estimated as not to exceed 25 cents a month for each city water service.

Those who believe it worth while to let the city's credit be used to the extent of \$375,000 for the sake of being rid of the necessity of drinking filtered sewage will vote for the bonds. Those water consumers—and all of us are water consumers—who believe it is worth 25 cents a month to be rid of the necessity of drinking filtered sewage will vote for the bonds.

These are the facts on which the issue should and will be decided. It is useless to talk of wells at the present source of water supply. The wells have failed. It is futile to split hairs over methods of designing the new project or pick flaws in the plans adopted by the water board after painstaking investigation and expert advice. The question is not so much, Can we afford the bonds? as it is, Can we afford to go on drinking sewage?

That is the issue.

The Case of Thompson.

IT APPEARS that some courts, like some newspapers sometimes change their minds and reverse previous actions to conform to new views. Clarence W. Thompson, ex-cashier of the state treasurer's office in Salem, has been sentenced to the penitentiary on his plea of guilty to various defalcations, and already serving time. His parole, extended following his original plea of guilty, is revoked. Judge Percy R. Kelly had extended the parole. He also revoked it and imposed the prison sentence.

The final outcome of this case will do something towards restoring a somewhat shaken public confidence in the administration of justice in Oregon. Judge Kelly explained from the bench that he had come to a different understanding of the circumstances of the case prior to his final action from that which he had held previously. He had believed at first that Thompson's guilt was free from venal promptings and that the money he had stolen had been expended for the benefit of a sick wife. His later information convinced him that Thompson's defalcations were much heavier than the court had supposed and that he was unworthy of consideration. The judge is entitled to acceptance of his explanation and to commendation for his courage in reversing his previous action.

Direction of Southern Pacific affairs will be brought much nearer home than formerly to the Pacific coast by the changes whereby Julius Kruttschnitt retires from chairmanship of the board of directors, and administrative supremacy falls upon William Sproule, president, and Paul Shoup, as executive vice-president. The practical result of the changes is to make San Francisco the chief directing point for the Southern Pacific system. There will likely be less of referring various questions of administrative policy and action to New York than formerly, and this will make for expedition. It is interesting to recall in this connection that Vice-President Shoup was formerly located in Oregon. He knows this state and its people and is sympathetically inclined towards them. Altogether the changes are of more than passing interest here.

The personnel of sponsors and officers of Independence Hall, the new Portland political organization, is not so impressive as to cause anybody to get excited. But now it appears, according to an informed political writer, that the urge for the movement is to take religious issues out of politics. Klan and anti-Klan forces, we are told, are uniting in the organization and will bury the hatchet. That purpose will go far to justify the movement. It is high time for it.

Theodore and Kermit Roosevelt have departed for the Tian Chin mountains, in East Turkestan, to spend a period of months in an effort to kill the ovis poli and various other kinds of rare animals. If they succeed and bring back a shipload of specimens, to just what extent will human welfare or the sum of useful human knowledge be advanced thereby?

It is indeed a far cry from the days of the policy of "the public be damned" in railroading and the present. The railroads have become humanized. Instance, the distribution among children on all its trains by the Southern Pacific company yesterday of Easter eggs and candy rabbits.

COMMENT OF THE PRESS

Mr. Swan's Income Tax Plan (Albany Herald and Democrat)

We have had an income tax in Oregon; but it was repudiated by the voters.

There were several reasons for this action. One was the belief of many sincere well wishers of the state that the income tax was hurting the development of Oregon. Another was the

inequality in the tax burden between the taxpayers who owned real estate which yielded a sufficient return to require them to pay an income tax additional.

This second objection to the income tax plan will be removed, if the idea advanced by Representative J. L. Swan of this county meets with favor. The Swan plan would avoid the in-

equality resulting in double taxation by allowing the property tax to be credited on the income tax. If the income tax exceeded the property tax, the taxpayer would pay, to the state the difference between the two. Thus the duplication of taxes would be eliminated. The chief virtue of the income tax is its ability to reach that class of citizens who enjoy large incomes but who own no tangible property. Under the Swan plan, the income of citizens would be reached without working the hardship of double taxation on those other citizens who own the property which is assessed on the tax rolls. We can find no fault with this plan of Linn county's representative.

Child Workers.

(Roseburg News-Review) A study of the health of a group of working children 14 to 15 years of age, just made by the industrial commissioner of New York state, indicates that nearly 10 per cent of these children have physical defects that are aggravated by the work they are doing. Of these children under investigation, about half have taken industrial positions because money was needed at home, while the other half did not like their school work. It was found, for instance, that one quarter of the children with defective eyesight were working under eye strain, while half of the children with heart affections were working under nervous strain. There is a sharp difference of opinion as to whether the working conditions of children should be controlled by the federal government or not. But however one may feel on that much debated question, sympathetic and progressive people must regret to learn that so many children are doing work that tends to impair their physical equipment for the tasks they have to take up in later years.

Where the Road is Bad.

(Springfield News) There are few people who have been away from home and never heard his expression, "the worst piece of road in the county is between the Pacific highway and Springfield." The question is, is Springfield going to remain the town noted for "the worst piece of road in the country" or are we going to have a paved entrance to the city? We have been talking about paving and we know how much it will cost, since the engineer's estimates have been given. Are we going to continue to talk and go through another summer with this bad condition or are we going to act and pave these few blocks?

Two Views of College Athletes

(New York World) Two opposing views on college athletics appeared recently, yet possibly taken together they would help solve the problem. One is in the report of Dr. Henry S. Pritchett, president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, who declares the domination of athletics over college life. The other is in an interview with Dr. Charles W. Kennedy, chairman of the Faculty Committee on Athletics at Princeton university, who points with pride to the fact that 90 per cent of Princeton students take part in sport. At first, these would seem to be hopelessly divergent points of view. Yet Dr. Kennedy's goal, which is 100 per cent participation, may really hold the solution for the evil complained of by Dr. Pritchett. The trouble with the athletic situation at present is that most students do not get sufficient exercise, but at the same time they have a feverish interest in what the varsity team is doing. That is, there is a loss of a sense of proportion. Wouldn't Dr. Kennedy's plan help that? With all students participating in sport, first of all, they would get enough exercise. Secondly, they would tend to forget about the varsity team, and the weeks of hectic rooting and excitement before the big game would go into the discard. By a diffusion of interest, the unnatural distortion of values that obtains at present would give way to a better balance. In the domain of athletics it is often forgotten that exercise is essential and desirable. Dr. Kennedy's plan is for building up the many, not glorifying the few, and this, after all, is the main point.

In Lighter Vein

A Candid Expression (Washington Star) "Why don't you say exactly what you think?"

"I have been doing just that of late," answered Senator Sorghum. "But you have been saying nothing."

"That's what I've been thinking."

A Discouraged Mascot (Louisville Courier-Journal) "What's the matter?" "Our mascot quit us."

"Why?" "We never win."

A Few Conservatives Left. (Chicago News) Among the quaint survivors one may mention the old-fashioned suicide who turns on the gas instead of stepping on it.

Somebody Stung (Vale Record) "Would you like to go with me to the spiky this afternoon?" "Yes, you adorable boy. I've always adored monkeys."

Shrinkage (Washington Star) "Flats is getting so very small," said Uncle Eben, "dat purty soon dar won't be much left of home, sweet home 'ceptin' de tune."

O. A. C. Debaters

Miss Appointment With President

WASHINGTON, April 13.—Nearly 1000 Easter visitors in Washington—used to be exact—overran the White House executive offices Saturday to shake hands with President Coolidge. It took just 17 minutes for the crowd to pass through the president's office. Mr. Coolidge shaking hands with them at the rate of almost one a second. Members of the debating team of the Oregon Agricultural college found this President Coolidge waits for no late for an appointment. Senators Stanford and McNary of Oregon had arranged for the president to receive the debaters in advance of the crowd. Arriving late, the college men found that the handshaking period was over.

A TREACHEROUS HOLE



MELLON COMES OUT OF HIS SHELL

Secretary of Treasury Undergoes Metamorphosis as Result of Official Life in Washington

By HARRY B. HUNT (NEA Service Writer) WASHINGTON, April 13.—"The Metamorphosis of Mellon" might well be the title of a character study of the slender, soft-spoken secretary of the treasury, dealing with him as he was when he came to Washington four years ago and as he is today. Official life has brought Mellon "out of his shell." As a private capitalist and financier, Mellon led a life of seclusion. His detachment was well-nigh impenetrable. Even in his home town of Pittsburgh, he was more of a tradition than a flesh-and-blood human being. He frequented no clubs. He attended few functions. Secretaries and functionaries hedged him about with a wall of exclusiveness that made him well-nigh inaccessible. As a member of the cabinet, Mellon's human contacts have broadened. Not only have his official duties brought him in direct touch with a greater number and a more varied range of individuals, but the social necessities of his position have assisted in the thawing out process. Dinners, receptions, public and semi-public functions of many kinds have claimed his attendance. And while these are understood at first to have been the bane of his life they are no longer. Where he first endured them, he now actually enjoys them.

Friends who have watched this metamorphosis in Mellon declare that he is today a younger and happier man than he has been for years. The icy reserve of the private capitalist has melted. The hard exterior of the chilled steel financier has mellowed. He is shedding his exclusiveness. He is mixing more with men. He is getting to like folk and affairs. And what in Mellon's case is regarded as final and conclusive proof of the change that has taken place in him—he is even making public speeches!

In New York

By JAMES W. DEAN NEW YORK, April 13.—Last night I saw four of Broadway's well-known bootleggers drinking plain ginger ale in a night club where all sorts of hard drinks were flowing. You write the rest of the story.

Manhattan's only Indian esbares closed. It was The Reservation, conducted by Chief Little Cloud in a Greenwich Village cellar. It was a weird place, dances and settings giving it the atmosphere of an Indian campment, but apparently it was too weird for the villagers who are always demanding the unusual for entertainment.

The bane of night club managers are college undergraduates. Taken as a group, they are small spenders. And their shabby conduct disturbs portly regulars. A waiter tells me that on several occasions he has seen college boys meet their fathers, quite by accident and without their wives. Thereafter those particular boys seem to have plenty of spending money. Even so, the varsity boys find that all

tables are "reserved" when they sweep down on a place in groups of more than four.

Seen at four a. m. on a Brooklyn subway platform where passengers transfer between local and express trains. A man with a bottle and four glasses selling hooch at 50 a drink to weedy night owls.

Superintendents of apartment houses here do not receive very high pay, but many of them are better off financially than the tenants. They collect from the ice man to whom they give exclusive entrance to the house. They collect from other tradesmen. I know one superintendent who has introduced a bootlegger to every tenant who drinks. (He knows who drink by watching the dumbwaiter for empty bottles). From the bootlegger he collects a commission of 50 cents on each bottle sold in the house. And he regards the empty bottles to the bootlegger.

Many casual and accidental meetings of persons from the same town occur at the out-of-town newspaper stands at either end of Times Square and at Sixth Avenue and Forty-second street. Also many acquaintances between people from different towns are made there. Lonely and far from home they are sympathetic. Plainclothes men watch these news stands, for having casual visits tend to keep in touch with the fortunes of former partners who have been arrested and are waiting trial.

Oregon Briefs

Edward Ostrander, member of the public service commission, has returned from Washington, D. C. where he attended a hearing in connection with the proposed Central Oregon railroad development.

F. W. Gillette, who has been superintendent of the Mount Angel canyery for several years, has accepted the management of the Silverton

BIBLE THOUGHT FOR TODAY

TAKE NO THOUGHT, saying, "What shall we eat? or what shall we drink? or wherewithal shall we be clothed?" But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.—Matthew 6:31, 33.

Bible Question

(Look up the answer) What should fathers do?—Eph. 6:4.

Canary Will Have Service at Church

Special church services will be held at Canary in western Linn county on Sunday, April 19, according to announcement today of Mrs. C. E. Bester who is arranging for the meeting. Rev. W. L. Large of this city will preach at the 11 o'clock services in the forenoon. An Easter program and Sunday school service is planned for the afternoon to start at 2 o'clock, it is announced. There will also be a sermon in the afternoon by Rev. Large.

Food Products company, a cooperative cannery.

Governor Hartley of Washington, in a letter to Governor Pierce, declines to allow his state to have anything to do with the Unatilla rapids project, stating that Washington has enough reclamation projects of its own to attend to.

25 Years Ago

From The Guard of April 13, 1900 The old warehouse at the rear of the Titus block that has done service for so many years was torn down today. Thus the march of improvement goes on.

Tom Sims Says

RUSSIA wants to trade with us, but the whiskers raised in America more than supply our demand.

The Prince of Wales has started out on a 25,000 mile trip, this being a sure sign of spring.

They think the Prince of Wales is engaged to a Swedish princess, but we don't.

Doheny has sold some oil wells. Got \$38,000,000 for 'em. That's a enough money to last a month at a summer resort.

Since federal prohibition officers are going under army regulations we would like to have charge of the canteen.

Two damn bottles of liquor were found in a famous singer's car, so no wonder she has been singing.

April is the month in which a wise bride sets about improving her beauty by selecting ugly bridesmaids.

Most things are a matter of custom. So, we don't know, but it must be proper to snore in a Pullman.

A boy tells us he hates school in spring. He says the exclamation points look like baseball bats to him.

Rowell's Comment

By CRESTER H. ROWELL MOST of the knowledge and progress of the world have been due to a very few generations of its history. What was the matter with the rest? One generation is as intelli-

gent as another. Why does one learn much, and the others nothing? A pygmy has just been deciphered in Egypt which shows a knowledge of medicine such as the world did not possess again for three thousand years. Priests orthodox stagnated the promulgation of that knowledge. Aristotle, a few centuries later, laid the foundations of both science and philosophy. His successors were interested in the philosophy, and carried it on usefully for over two thousand years. They were not interested in the science, and it stopped where Aristotle left it until almost yesterday.

For a thousand years after Roman freedom ceased, thought was not free, and the world leaped nothing. Then, in one or two generations, it woke up, and the miracle of the Renaissance illuminated the darkness. Our own grandfathers discovered that physical things were worth knowing, and the physical conditions of life were revolutionized more in two generations than they had been in twenty thousand years. When thought is free and knowledge is regarded as worth while, the world leaps forward. At other times, it stands still, or worse. The Tennessee legislature would, if it could, return us to the stagnant ages.

Lane Publishers Meet at Grove

COTTAGE GROVE, Ore., April 13.—(Special)—A dinner meeting of the Lane county publishers' association was held here Saturday evening, at the Hotel Bartell. Informal discussion of subjects germane to the newspaper publishing business, and a number of story-telling occupied the proceedings.

Late in the evening the meeting adjourned to the office of the Cottage Grove Sentinel, where Elbert Bredt and Elbert Smith, its publishers showed the visitors its workings. Besides there, the publishers who attended the meeting were H. E. Maxey, of the Springfield News; Frank Jenkins, Eugene Register; Thomas Nelson, Junction City Times; Paul R. Kelty, Eugene Guard, and J. R. Griffith.

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