

**Eastern Clackamas News**

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**Disintegration of Government**

As a river rises no higher than its source, so also a government rises no higher than its source; and since the source of our government springs from the people, our intelligence must be judged by the kind of government we individually and collectively exercise over ourselves. When we transgress the laws of God and Man, we admit that we lack the intelligence necessary for self-government. No trespass upon our fellow citizen's rights, whether it be by taking the right of way at a street intersection, ignoring the warning signs posted to protect school children, or violating the prohibition law—and he who thinks unto himself that he hath shown superiority of intelligence by so doing, likens himself unto the many poor unfortunates confined in the state hospitals in the several states gifted with that same hallucination. Unfortunately those who are at large (and their name is legion) may cause intense suffering, loss of life, and sorrow by their so-called (when taken to task by the government or agency assigned to that duty) inadvertent violation of the law. To the school child who lies, crushed, maimed and bleeding, it matters not whether the violations of the law be by an inadvertently intoxicated

driver, or the inadvertent violation of the law by an officer of our government who has taken the required oath of office. Nor does it matter what the grade of such officer, nor how prominent a citizen may be, the suffering of the child and the anguish of its parents is the same.

The officer who makes an arrest for these inadvertent violations of the law (and they are all inadvertent when committed by the self-exempt) should be backed up by his superiors, by the courts, and by the public, no matter what the position, status or standing of the arrested may be. The treatment accorded one citizen should be that accorded every other citizen, be he wealthy or poor—prominent or inconspicuous. When this simple rule of justice and equality is ignored for any reason (and particularly because one may be a vice-president of a bank, a wealthy physician, county officer or president of a large industry) by the arresting officer's superior, or by a judge upon the bench, the fabric of government receives that vibration which in time will render it insecure and unable to withstand the test to which it will be subjected by the injured classes.

Is one class to be exempt from and other classes held strictly to the observance of the law by officers who held their positions by virtue of the consent of all classes? Is the liberty of one class so precious and that of the other of so little moment that the superior officer will condemn the detention of one class by his subordinates and commend the detention of the other? Is the wealth or status of the law violator to be the criterion upon which a subordinate officer is to ponder, and try and determine, before detaining or turning loose such violator? If this be the criterion, then indeed may the fabric of government be swayed violently, and the law enforcing branch rapidly disintegrate in its own rottenness. Our laws are passed, not so much to inflict pun-

ishment upon those guilty of their violations as to deter others and protect the public from the consequences of such violation, whether premeditated or inadvertent. How is an officer to determine the wealth of a law violator, who, through inadvertency has insufficient funds upon his person wherewith to procure his release? Cash bail is required to insure the appearance of the accused to answer the charge, but, does it insure the appearance of that class which habitually tears up the traffic tags received for law violations; or is such cash bail forfeited by non-appearance in court and credited upon the fine assessed against such law violator? If these premises be true, then why should that class be turned loose without depositing cash bail, while that rule remains upon the books? It is safe to say that it is this unjust, inequitable, enforcement of the law that is creating the disrespect for law, and its enforcing agencies, that is riding rampant throughout the length and breadth of these United States today. As illustrations, let us ask why a government employee, using the agencies of the government to aid him in his nefarious bootlegging operations should be turned loose and given seven months in which to pay a fine of \$350 assessed against him by the court? Why not give all bootleggers the same chance to get out and earn their fees through a continued violation of the same law? Why assess a single lot for cutting weeds—and exempt the acres across the street from such assessment? Why prohibit the inter-state transportation of films of pugilistic exhibitions and have the highest officers of the land witness their exhibition nearly three thousand miles from the arena? Why should these officers who have taken the constitutional oath and sworn to administer the laws witness the results of this violation and by so doing condone such violation? Why should any officer of any branch of our government who does not keep his oath of office inviolate remain in office? It is time, if we would preserve our government, and prevent its gradual disintegration, that those whom we place in office to conduct its affairs and administer its laws, shall be held to a strict accountability. That they should enforce the laws without fear or favor, against rich and poor alike—that they themselves shall be held to a literal conformance to their constitutional oath, by an amendment to the Federal Constitution, defining the violation of one's constitutional oath to be second degree treason with the penalty sufficiently severe and unpardonable by the president to deter the strongest hearted of them, and in addition thereto, pass laws making the penalty for violation of any law by an officer of the law double that of a civilian, except of course those crimes carrying a penalty of death or life imprisonment.

It is the duty of every citizen to conform to the laws and assist in their enforcement. If matters are permitted to continue in the rut in which they now are, lynching will be as prevalent in the North as it is in the South, and the color line will not be drawn.

The non-enforcement, the parole, the reprieve, the pardons, the meting out of a lighter sentence by an appellate court than given in the trial court, as was done in the case of a millionaire lumberman, when done through favoritism, political, church, fraternal, or any other influence that will pervert justice, is an abuse of power, and rocks the very foundation of our government, and eliminates from our Declaration of Independence that clause that all men are created free and equal, with certain inalienable rights. "No nation can exist and be half slave and half free." No nation can exist whose laws are not impartially administered—the impending conflict is bound to burst into a conflagration such as the world has never before witnessed, unless those who are responsible for the present conditions take stock of themselves and live up to that truth, that all men are created free and equal, in the observance of the laws on the one hand and in the administration and enforcement on the other.

Let he who takes the constitutional oath of office don the spectacles of justice and equity toward all mankind, spectacles that show no line of demarcation between two citizens who may be charged with the same offense, no line of demarcation between the lowly home of the poor and the palatial dwelling of the wealthy, when he has reasonable ground to believe that the law is being violated within. Then, and then only is this a government of and by the people; then and then only can we hope to save this nation from that anarchy which must result from that disrespect for law, which the present method of administering (or rather lack of administering the law) is teaching the people. (Habitual law violators have no respect for, or fear of, their own class who occupy official positions.

Some parents expect the officials to enforce the curfew law, except against their children; delinquency is as degenerating in one class as in another; and degeneracy of the source of power of government, means degeneracy in government. This has recently been exemplified by a deputy sheriff in Multnomah county, violating the prohibition laws with two companions, himself degenerating into the beast (or the unconfined individual gifted with superior intelligence) shoots one of his companions for that violation of the law to which he was particeps criminis. Could there be any clearer proof that degeneracy of the people means degeneracy and disintegration of government, any clearer proof of the need of introspection by one governmental agencies, any clearer proof of the need of clean-cut officers who have respect for their oath of office, and the laws they have sworn to enforce, and who will function? Until this government becomes a nation of self-respecting citizens who look with respect upon their officers, and the law, it must degenerate and disintegrate, for that institution which does not progress, must retrogress. At the present time, crime is progressing, not retrogressing. Enforcement of the law is not progressing, hence retrogressing, and so our body politic, honey combed with the vibrations of officer's steps in rhythmic unison with law violators, must crumble and decay, carrying those upon its super-structure into that black pool from whence will rise a conflagration beyond the con-

trol of any known ingredients of sanity and common sense. "Chaos" will thus be ruler, and "despair" his subjects. Law enforcement or anarchy. "By their marks ye shall know them." You have the power to choose, and there can be no sidestepping this issue, no procrastination, but you wreck the ship of state in the impending storm upon the rocks of lawlessness.

**FEWER PAPERS NOW IN STATE**

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene Feb. 8.—A slight drop in the total number of Oregon newspapers is shown by statistics compiled for the 1925 Oregon newspaper directory under the direction of George S. Turnbull, professor of Journalism and editor of Oregon Exchanges.

Seven new newspapers were started in 1925, and 11 discontinued, the directory which will be off the press shortly shows. This year 248 publications were listed; last

year there were 251 and in the 1923 directory there were 253. Consolidations have played a part in the decrease. One daily and four weeklies were involved in the consolidations.

One or more publications are situated in 140 Oregon towns. In the whole state there are 145 weekly newspapers and 32 dailies. Only seven publications changed names during the year.

Owing to greatly increased volume the DuPont "Duco" plant at Flint, Michigan, has been enlarged and the number of employees in active service will be still further increased early in the present year.

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SUNDAY SPECIAL  
CHICKEN DINNER  
Open from 6:30 a. m. to 8:00 p. m.

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Beef, Mutton, Veal and Hogs Bought



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Guaranteed  
Have the soles sewed on  
your dress shoes with a  
HOT WAX MACHINE  
A. R. DAHLKE, Estacada

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Local Distributors for the  
**HOLLOWAT GUARANTEED RADIO**  
Complete with all Equipment  
Let us give you a Demonstration of this Instrument. There is  
No Better Machine on the Market for the Money.

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All Kinds of  
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WALL PAPER, PAINTS and  
WINDOW GLASS  
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A Type of Performance Never Before Obtained In Any Low Priced Car

If you are one who has not yet been behind the wheel of the improved Chevrolet you have more than a treat in store. You have yet to experience a type of performance never before offered in any low-priced car.

A performance so effortless, so smooth, so powerful, so spirited that you will call it nothing short of a revelation! Chevrolet's leadership has been based on giving quality at low cost. Now the

Improved Chevrolet gives another reason for an even wider margin of leadership—performance the equal of which has heretofore been unattainable in the low-price field.

Drive where you will—and as long as you like, through traffic, through sand, through mud, over hills—and over mountains, if you please. Expect something really new, really worthwhile, something really unique—and you will not be disappointed.

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