

The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IN A GOOD TOWN
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While most of the northern portion of the United States has been suffering blizzards, snow and down to zero temperature, this favored southwest Oregon section is getting ready to blossom its early spring flowers. Along the highway a mile or two this side of Bandon on Wednesday we noted rhododendrons budded and many of them showing the delicate pink petals of beautiful bloom. Azaleas, too, are occasionally seen, and the grass in the bottoms is as green as though the season was four months farther along.

LET'S BE REASONABLE

Elsewhere in this issue is printed a letter from Lana Leneve addressed to the editor of the Sentinel, in which he goes further into details on the subject of game wardens who may have assisted prohibition officers in their work. The instances he mentions, other than the Ray Sutherland case, may be correct; we do not know whether they are or not, but we do know that any argument between one who is strongly prejudiced against the prohibition law and one who believes in law enforcement is futile. And while he may not have jumped at conclusions his knowledge of facts in the Ray Sutherland case was incorrect.

Nor will the Sentinel further permit the appearance of attacks on law enforcement officers in its columns, when those attacks are not justified. We have given Lana space for his reply and no good can be accomplished by prolonging the discussion.

As long as the prohibition law is a law of the United States, the Sentinel believes it should be enforced.

R. A. Easton's Weekly Letter

We had a beautiful Thanksgiving. The union services at the church were well attended. The hymns sung were in tune with the spirit of the day and the sermon by Mr. Irwin, pastor of the Nazarene Church, caused the congregation to know that real thanksgiving is one of the feeders of a growing and fruitful life.

The opportunities that come at this time of year to support the Y. M. C. A., the Red Cross, the Tuberculosis Association and other kindred causes give people a chance to prove whether their support is only with their lungs as they sing thanks or with the where with that puts strength into the arms of the car pullers.

County Judge Sparrow, of Jackson county, had an experience which gave him a new kind of a jolt. The clipping from the Ashland Tidings tells the story:

"Even if I were suffering with acute appendicitis and the best doctor in the world stood at my bedside and advised an operation I would refuse because God would care for me," said the sister of a 10-year-old boy, when she appeared with other members of the boy's family before Judge Alex Sparrow this morning to explain why the boy had not received medical treatment when suffering from infection in both hands.

"And if my arm were cut off at the elbow and the blood spurting, I would not call a doctor because God would care for me," the father of the boy told the judge.

Judge Sparrow reminded the family that a famous general once started his men to battle advising them to "keep trust in God but keep your powder dry."

Judge Sparrow took no action in the case today, but warned the parents that if future complaints came before him he would be required to take drastic action in the matter. Judge Sparrow heard the case after it had been taken up by the county humane society.

I have heard and read some fool opinions about "God" but that experience of County Judge Sparrow is the prize laker.

If a grownup wants to practice fool "faith" that is an independent privilege, unless the fool faith jeopardizes the health of a helpless child or the health of neighbors and community.

I am of the opinion there are many hymns of the "God would care for me"

kind that have a demoralizing effect on the brains of the singers. For that kind of singers do not seem to be able to understand that it is man's business to help himself when he can help himself and God's business to help man when he—man—can not help himself. There are more "miracles" performed in the world today than ever before. It is no less a miracle for the reason we may stand by and see and know how the job is done.

When the devil quoted scripture to Christ in asking him to jump from the pinnacle of the temple, Christ told him, "It is written thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."

R. A. Easton.

News From State Capital

Four major problems will confront the Oregon state legislature when that body meets at Salem in its thirty-sixth biennial session next month. These are taxation, rate regulation, power and roads.

The action of the supreme court invalidating the intangibles tax has revived the tax problem which was believed to have been permanently and satisfactorily disposed of with the adoption of the three-fold tax program by the last session which included the intangibles, excise and income tax. With the failure of the intangibles tax, following one year of operation it is generally agreed that something must be done by the forthcoming session. Just what that something should be, however, is not so generally agreed upon. Members of the tax commission themselves favor a re-enactment of the intangibles tax to correct the defects uncovered by the supreme court. Others, among them State Treasurer T. B. Kay, advocate the re-enactment of the entire tax problem into a single income tax measure, similar to that in operation in this state in 1923, a program which meets with the objection that it would not produce as much revenue as would be realized under the three-way plan.

Next in importance to the tax problem, and by many regarded as of even greater importance, is the matter of rate regulation. Governor-elect Meier who made his bid for election squarely upon the platform of the late George W. Joseph, the major plank in which proposed the abolishment of the public service commission, is expected to have something definite to propose to the legislators along this line. Just what this something will be, is, of course, as purely speculative so far as the general public is concerned. One suggestion goes only so far as to change the name of the present commission in order to get away from the prejudice which has grown up around that organization. Another plan involves a consolidation of the duties of the present three-man commission in the hands of a single commissioner. Still another program calls for the complete abolishment of the commission and a return to the old "home rule" idea, leaving regulation of public utilities in the hands of each separate municipality without any interference by a state body.

Much interest centers in the forthcoming "power" problem. Governor Norblad, basing his views upon a voluminous opinion from the attorney general, has already called attention to the need for legislation which will protect the water resources of the state and preserve this resource to the people of the state rather than allow it to be gobbled up by private utilities. Governor-elect Meier is also committed to a program which calls for state development of water power, as also are a number of the members of both the House and Senate, so that it is reasonable to suppose that some very constructive water power legislation will come out of the next session.

Roads, always one of the big problems before the Oregon lawmakers, can be expected to take its place in the spotlight of public interest as usual this session. James Mott, representative-elect from Marion county and former member of the House from Clatsop county, has already announced his intention of attempting to "force" through a bill placing the North Santiam highway on the state road map. Mott has a reputation as a scrapper and whether he succeeds in putting over his program or not he is going to give the stand-patters on the highway program no little worry.

In addition to these four major issues, there will be, of course, numerous lesser problems, not the least of which, by any means, will be the ever-present fish squabble. State Senator Miller, of Grants Pass, who was in Salem this past week, is known to have been busy since the recent election sounding out sentiment among his colleagues with respect to the Rogue River fish bill with a view to reviving the measure at the coming session, in spite of the action of the people in defeating the measure.

Taken by and large the thirty-sixth biennial gathering of the lawmakers which opens for its forty-day session on January 12 can be expected to produce some epoch-making develop-

ments.

County commissioners are forbidden by law to engage in the business of supplying the county with materials or labor, according to an opinion by I. H. Van Winkle, attorney general. The county commissioner, the opinion points out, is a member of the court that approves or rejects claims against the county and is, by the very nature of his position, disqualified from dealing with his own department.

State Senator J. E. Bennett, of Multnomah county, was in Salem this past week with a pocket full of bills ready to shoot into the legislative hopper when the session convenes next month. Among other reforms which Bennett hopes to accomplish is a change in the time for holding primary elections. Bennett believes that the primary date should be set up nearer the date of the general election in order to eliminate the prolonged campaign of "ballyhoo" which fills the interim between the two elections.

The total taxable values of Coos county based upon the 1930 assessment is \$28,319,735.70, according to figures released by the state tax commission. This includes local assessments, as made by the county assessor, amounting to \$25,851,721 and the apportioned valuations on public utility property within the county as determined by the tax commission, totalling \$2,968,014.70. The total taxable value for the county represents an increase of \$79,072 in the assessment over 1929 due entirely to increases in public utility valuations in the county which have jumped from \$2,620,387.70 in 1929 to \$2,968,014.70 in 1930.

The total assessed valuation of the state as a whole amounts to \$1,125,160,592.37, an increase of only \$171,900.55 over the valuation of \$1,124,888,691.82 for 1929.

While local assessments throughout

the state show a reduction of approximately \$4,000,000 since 1929, the apportioned valuations of public utility properties as fixed by the tax commission have been increased by slightly more than that amount.

Local or county assessments for 1930 total \$940,818,520.99 compared with \$944,789,311.47 for 1929 while public utility valuations show a total of \$184,342,071.38 compared with \$180,199,380.35 in 1929.

Heavy losses in land values—tillable and non-tillable—account in large measure for the lower county valuations. Tillable lands which were assessed at \$249,032,968.47 in 1929 are assessed at only \$243,612,388.20 on this year's roll, a loss of approximately \$5,500,000. Non-tillable lands show a reduction in valuation from \$79,142,172 in 1929 to \$67,089,465 this year, a loss of more than \$12,000,000.

This reduction is partially offset by an increase in the assessment against timber lands from \$58,456,169 in 1929 to \$68,631,996 this year. The assessed valuation on city improvements has also been increased by nearly \$5,000,000 and some increases are shown in other lines but on the other hand live stock valuations show substantial reductions.

The brunt of the increase in utility assessments is borne by telephone companies and by joint utilities—electric, water and gas. Both of these items have been increased by approximately \$1,800,000 over last year's figures. Electric and water and gas utilities have also been increased but steam railroad companies, electric and street railroads and express and telephone companies have all been given decreases.

Chatwick Lodge, A. F. & A. M. Stated Communication and election of officers of Chatwick Lodge No. 68, A. F. & A. M., Tuesday, December 9, at 7:30 p. m. All members requested to be present. R. H. Mast, Sec.

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Lans Leneve Writes Concerning Game Wardens

Editor Sentinel:—In your editorial column last week you stated that I had jumped at conclusions concerning game wardens taking part in a certain liquor raid and stating that my reflection upon the game department was unwarranted. However, I have different ideas than yourself upon the subject and many more sportsmen are of the same opinion as myself.

If I erred in citing just one case, I know of enough other cases where game wardens were present during liquor raids, to justify any statements I have made, without being accused by you, or any one else, of jumping at conclusions.

Press dispatches stated that two deputy game wardens were in the Sutherland mixup and that the law enforcement department of the game commission had sent more wardens to the scene of the shooting.

I have a press dispatch of recent date stating that a game warden assisted in raiding a still near Ashland in which a man was killed.

One warden in this county was "kidded" for weeks concerning a part he took in a liquor raid, when he was handcuffed to a husky woman and just about met his "waterloo." Whether he was present at the raid with the idea of finding illegal game I do not know, but do know he took part in the raid with officers paid to enforce the prohibition laws. There are other cases I could cite.

So with this knowledge, I again assure you that I have not jumped at any conclusions and as for the unwarranted criticism of which you speak, it is very evident that our ideas differ greatly on the subject. There are law enforcement departments in every line of outlawry and officers are paid to enforce their special lines of work. And even though game wardens may be and no doubt are, real American citizens, they are not being paid to enforce the dry law. It is out of their

line of duty entirely. The sportsmen of this state pay in their good money for hunting and fishing licenses with the clear cut understanding that it be used for the protection and propagation of our game and fish. Wardens' salaries are paid out of this money to protect our game and fish and not to go chasing moonshiners about the country. There are officers and plenty of them paid to enforce the prohibition law; in fact there are twenty such officers to one game warden in this state.

And so, just because the prohibition law is a failure, I see no need to seek to enlist the services of the state game department to try and enforce it.

It would be just about as silly a thing to do as seeking the aid of the traffic department to help the fire-wardens run down firebugs. Just because a law happens to be a law is no excuse for an officer to leave his own particular line of duty when he is needed badly on his own job, be he dogcatcher, game warden, traffic officer or policeman.

Yours truly, Lans Leneve.

NOSLER & WALKER.

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