

The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IN A GOOD TOWN
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They are using automobile wrecking cars at Cottage Grove to lift cows out of wells. One animal which fell into a thirteen feet well was pulled out by a wrecker after a bunch of farmers had labored all night trying to get her back on earth.

Communist threat against private property in America is getting editorial attention from leading newspapers in United States, following reports from congressional investigating commission. The Fish committee conclusions prompt "rigorous defensive measures" against the real and direct attack being made under order from third international headquarters at Moscow.

The state police system has apparently worked very successfully in Pennsylvania and New York, where it has been in vogue for many years, but back there they do not have the bone dry law on the statute books which Oregon has. It is not probable that a state police force would function very wholeheartedly in looking for moonshining outfits, especially with a man at the head of the department who did not favor enforcement of all laws.

Nor will the idea of turning over \$100,000 from the state game funds very likely be approved by the sportsman who contribute to the fund.

And it is very doubtful if any saving can be effected by the consolidation of game, traffic and prohibition departments under one head, as is proposed by Gov. Meier, unless there is to be a letting down of enforcement and fewer men named in the proposed state police than are necessary to properly police the state.

If the governor had his way such a consolidation and adjustment will become effective but it is doubtful that Oregon will benefit from the change.

R. A. Easton's Weekly Letter

It will be well for the people of the state of Oregon to remember that old warning, "Let the buyer beware," which assured to the buyer not only a saving to his purse but peace to his mind, when the "Oregon State Teachers' Association" dangle their bait of a "centralized state system" before their eyes. The scheme is to have a real pretty "state board" appoint a state superintendent rather than "permitting" the present way of electing a state superintendent. How come that this proposed hand-picked state board is so much wiser than the people of state? How come when and where that these "educators" have acquired such an over-burden of intelligence advising the "dear people" of their, the "dear people's", non compos mentis condition. If the educators have put the people of the state of Oregon into such an imbecile condition that they are not competent to choose a state superintendent of schools, why is there any reason to expect that these same blind guides would lead them out of the slough of their incompetence? These educators want "a centralized state system, headed by a state department that is adequately staffed, carefully organized and liberally financed." All this they want in the interest of the "educator." Another thing they want is to knock out the country school.

They also want to change the school tax law to cover more territory, when the law now allows the county court and budget committee to raise a tax which would give every district in the county a fair share of sufficient school funds raised on all the property in the county. And these educators want a lot of near educators as county supervisors running around through the counties looking wise. There are other things these educators want but in a large way their wants are like a child's string of buttons, sometimes worn around the neck as a charm and at other times held in the hand and rattled. "Let the buyer beware."

A clipping in the Endeavor World, taken from the Wall Street Journal, says, "Calvin Coolidge, writing six short editorials a week, receives two dollars a word for what he writes.

This contract with the syndicate calls for not less than 150 words nor more than 200 words daily. Washington newspaper men have checked up on the ex-president and find he has written an average of 195 words daily."

Three hundred and ninety dollars a day of 300 days is \$107,000. That is more money than he got as president and with it a more peaceable time. But if he had not been president he would not get it. Those of us who take the Oregonian at bargain rates—\$5.00 a year—get a lot for we are only paying for two and one half words of Coolidge once and all the rest of the paper free for a year. The longer I live the more I realize that I get a great deal in many, many ways for a small amount of money. It does not take much money to possess the wealth of the world.

A clipping from Marjón Miller's column in the Oregonian which we want to pass along. Ben Selling's body is dead, but his life goes marching on.

Once upon a time I was interested in a boy who was to graduate, but had no suit. He was the son of a poor widow, and he worked milking cows to earn his board. His only suit included a gingham blouse and overalls. I tried to tell him that to be graduated in overalls would be a thing to be proud of, but in the meantime I sold the late, beloved, kind Ben Selling. And the boy graduated in a nice suit. I hope he paid afterward, something as I told him to do. We appreciate what we earn and pay for.

R. A. Easton.



By A. L. Lindbeck

Senator Hall, of Coos and Curry counties, has joined with a number of other legislators from dairy districts of the state in sponsoring a bill which would impose a tax of ten cents a pound on all oleomargarine sold in Oregon. The measure is one of several bills introduced at this session in an effort to protect the dairy interests from the competition of this butter substitute. Another measure which passed the senate this week, would withdraw state aid from any institution which makes use of butter substitutes.

In spite of their best efforts, oratorical and other wise, Representatives Norton and Knapp, were unable to stem the tide which the Josephine-Jackson county delegations had mustered in support of their measure closing the Rogue River to commercial fishing and the bill passed the House by a vote of 44 to 16. It had previously passed the senate by a vote of 17 to 13. Both Norton and Knapp took the floor in opposition to the measure, pointing out the damage which would be done to commercial fishing interests at the mouth of the Rogue if the river should be closed and also calling attention to the action of the voters in the recent election in voting down a measure identical to that under consideration.

The county court rather than the sheriff would be made the tax collector for the county under the provision of a bill introduced this week by Representative Norton and several other members of the house.

"This is no reflection on the sheriffs but is only an attempt to put tax collections on a business basis," Representative Norton explains. "A sheriff is usually elected for his qualifications as a peace officer while the county court is naturally the business head of the county government. I feel that the county court would give a more aggressive attention to the business of collecting taxes than can be expected from the sheriffs. There is no attempt to get up any new jobs under this bill, merely a transfer of jurisdiction from one office to another. If the county courts want to use the sheriffs in the collection of delinquent taxes that is permitted under this bill."

Revision of the present system of county government is proposed by Representative Taylor of Clackamas county who has a bill providing that the office of county judge be abolished and his judicial functions transferred to the circuit court, the judge to become a third commissioner. The measure would divide each county into three commissioners' districts.

The proposed new highway traffic code now before the lawmakers would remove speed limits as such and substitute severe penalties for reckless driving. No arrests would be made for speeding except in case of accident when the speed factor would be taken into consideration as a contributing factor to the charge of recklessness.

Senator Jay Upton from the wide open spaces of central Oregon, wants to substitute the federal Volstead act for Oregon's "bone dry" law. He

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has a resolution now in the hopper providing for a constitutional amendment to that effect. The principal difference, Upton explains, is that the Volstead act does not make possession of intoxicating liquor a violation of the law.

Governor Meier is asking the legislature to create a new department of state police under which would be consolidated the functions now performed by the state traffic division, the prohibition department, the state fire marshal's office and the patrol of the fish and game departments. The bill introduced this week by Senator Eddy carries with it appropriations for the first two year period, aggregating \$1,063,000.

Public hearings conducted by legislative committees on the questions of free text books and transportation of high school students during the past week brought out the largest delegations of the session so far, indicating the widespread interest which is being taken in these problems.

With five weeks of the allotted 40 days of the present legislative session already passed into history and with but little accomplished in the way of major legislation, prospects now are that the session will hold over for an extra week at least with some guesses placing the additional time at two weeks. However, one guess is as good as another on this matter as the length of the session will depend entirely upon the legislators themselves. As far as that is concerned they could dispose of the business now before them within the allotted 40 days if they set their minds to the task and eliminated much of the oratory which for the most part is wasted effort any way. While the pay of the legislators themselves will stop after Friday of next week, that of the clerks and stenographers ranging from \$5 to \$10 a day, will continue so long as the session lasts and the legislative attaches are hoping that the session will continue indefinitely.

The McPhillips bill which sought to eliminate the transportation provision from the high school tuition act, was killed by indefinite postponement this week. This means, that unless new legislation is introduced on the subject, transportation of high school students from non-high school districts at the expense of the taxpayers will continue.

Senator Woodward's attempt to wipe out the property qualification provisions for voters at school elections involving bond issue or tax levies failed when his measure was killed through indefinite postponement.

The attendance of lobbyists about the legislative chambers seems to increase with the approach of the session's end. Men and women interested in the passage or defeat of pending bills literally swarm about the capitol these days waylaying members of the legislature at every opportunity that

is offered to plead their cause.

The business depression has hit the Oregon motorist. Gasoline sales in this state dropped off by 1,195,209 gallons in December as compared with the sale for the same month in 1929, according to reports filed with Secretary of State Hoss by distributors of this commodity. November also showed a slump of 543,250 gallons in gasoline sales, the figures reveal. In spite of this decline in motoring activity at the tag end of the year, however, there were 6,803,374 more gallons of gasoline sold in Oregon during 1930 than there were during 1929. State taxes paid on motor fuel oils during the year totalled \$6,787,294.68 a gain of \$1,898,409.27 over revenues from the same source for 1929.

The state is advised to get out of the flax industry as an unprofitable venture, in a report submitted to Governor Meier by George Black & Company, a Portland auditing firm, this week. The report recommends that all flax contracts entered into for this year be cancelled and that the state merely handle the flax for the growers, processing the raw material and returning the finished product to the producer for disposal as he can. A large delegation of flax farmers from all sections of the Willamette valley called on the board of control to protest against any change in the present flax policy. The suggestions made by the auditing firm, they declared, were impractical. All of the farmers declared that they would quit raising flax if the state withdrew from the market.

The state of Oregon is getting into the real estate business in a big way. More than 500 farms on which loans had been made from the irreducible school fund, have been taken over through foreclosure proceedings the past two years, it is revealed in a report by G. G. Brown, clerk of the state land board. These farms represent loans and delinquent interest aggregating more than \$600,000. Approximately 170 of these farms have since been resold, some of them at losses of as much as 25 percent to the state.

Don't Buy Them for Children

Fat little glass tubes, carried in the hand, may transmit electric energy around the world at the equator, scientists tell, with loss of less than 10 per cent of power. Transforming current from alternating to direct, each little bulb will carry 10,000 horsepower. Forty years ago, transmission from Niagara to Buffalo, fifty miles, was the limit. Less than 300 in these days. Over that, heavy loss in power. The new little bulbous robot is called thyatron, and will be described February 11th at Chicago by C. W. Stone, consulting engineer, before the mid-west power engineering conference. The tube was born several years ago, says the Tribune writer, Tom Petley, in the research laboratory of the General Electric company at Schenectady.

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