

The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IN A GOOD TOWN
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BANKS DESERVE SUPPORT

Below is reprinted an item from the Christian Science Monitor, telling how the banks of Logansport, Ind., were kept functioning when the outlook for all three was the darkest.

Of course, a bank is a private institution and conducted to make money for its stockholders as is any other business, but it is in a class apart from other enterprises, too, for the distress caused by a bank's failure is not confined to a few, but is a blow to the entire district where it may be operating. It is a crime, punishable by imprisonment, to whisper or otherwise spread conjecture that a bank is in an unsound condition, but leaving the legal end of the matter out, it would seem that no one would seek to injure so many citizens of a community as always suffer when a bank does suspend payment.

As a rule a bank is one of the foremost influences in aiding the building up of a community; to it fall in large measure the matter of providing the sinews of war, and a bank has a more important function in the daily life of a community than has any other agency.

The attitude of the people in the territory served at Logansport shows the responsibility felt by the people to keep their house in order, and shows a most commendable spirit:

This typical American home city has shown what can be accomplished in a community confronted with financial perplexities when its entire citizenship rallies to the common weal and works out a constructive program.

A short time ago one of the three local banking houses was closed for inspection of its condition. Mr. James I. Barnes, a contractor, who knew little about banking but who knew the value of co-operation, took the lead at once in a public move to refinance and reorganize this bank so it could reopen without loss to the depositors. Before this was done and within a month, the second bank closed its doors to protect the depositors, leaving only one bank for about 20,000 people. Public co-operation again stepped to the front. Local newspapers on their front pages displayed statements from prominent citizens recommending the completion of the plans to reopen the first bank.

Influential persons said the second bank, too, must be saved, and plans were started to salvage it so depositors would not lose a penny. On the evening when the second bank closed, the third bank publicly promised their depositors whatever amounts they might want from their accounts. The money was waiting for them. The run on the only bank in the community soon vanished and new accounts were opened.

The local newspapers displayed articles that told of the business opportunities and the good business condition of the community. The keynote expression was: "Be patient and everything will work itself out. Logansport cannot lose!" One business firm offered to give credit to anybody bringing proof of having money tied up in the closed banks, until they reopened.

Both of the closed banks have reopened and are enjoying an increasing amount of business. A community catastrophe, that might have taken a generation or more to overcome, was avoided by public spirit. Nearly \$500,000 in cash has been brought back into circulation.

It was rather startling Monday evening to hear Congressman Beck, of Pennsylvania, in a radio speech on the proposal to submit the eighteenth amendment to a referendum, declare that if a small percentage of the voters, or states, held up the proposal and refused to let the prohibition question come to a vote, that the wets in congress would retaliate by refusing to appropriate funds for enforcing dry laws. That is nullification with a vengeance, but is exactly the kind of a threat to be expected from a populous state like Pennsylvania or

New York. However, there is not much to fear along that line, at least as long as a large majority of congressmen are elected as dry representatives. If the majority of voters in the country send wet representatives to congress it will be time enough then to talk resubmission or referendum.

WE WERE NOT "ENTHUSED"

Even the extract from the Sentinel issue of October 30, which the Myrtle Point Herald republished in an editorial comment last week, does not prove the truth of Bro. Hamilton's charge that "one or two newspapers because enthusiastic" over Doc Fitzgerald's purpose to extract gold from black sand.

The Sentinel replied to what the Herald said a couple of weeks ago, not because the "shoe pinched," but because the Herald's remarks were false.

Never, at any time, have the people of Coquille, nor the Sentinel, "been enthusiastic" on the proposition. We hoped that all that Doc prophesied would be fulfilled, but almost to a man we were more or less skeptical, and in conversation that was the attitude taken.

Naturally, neither the Sentinel nor anyone in Coquille threw any rocks at the proposal to develop the mineral resources of Coos county, any more than we did at the outset of the oil well wave which swept the county a year or so ago, and which the Herald was the first paper in the county to give publicity to. Nor when it failed did we belittle the men behind that development program. It received the support of all Coos county, and will when an oil development is again attempted.

But when a newspaper attempts to insidiously razz a community because it was willing to co-operate (and that does not mean financially because Doc did not try to sell anything here) in developing resources, it can only be regarded as unneighborly act and unworthy of the esteem in which it had previously been held.

R. A. Easton's Weekly Letter

The fraternity houses off the borders of the University of Oregon campus at Eugene are prominent landmarks. The most of them, if not all, are more stately mansions than the homes from which the big, big majority of students come. I inquired into this fraternity business and find there are in the neighborhood of 40 of them at the university, about 30 owning their own houses. It would be more truthful to say that a number of fraternities are paying for their houses. The present value of these (about thirty) buildings and grounds is estimated to be about \$1,000,000; present debt on same, \$600,000, interest at seven per cent. That is an interest drag of \$42,000 a year. The taxes on same average \$800, totaling for 30, \$24,000 a year.

The state owns two dormitories for men, two for women. Friendly Hall is the old dormitory for men, a room there for 12 weeks is \$24. In the new men's dormitory, which has more conveniences, a single room is \$45 for 12 weeks, double room \$36 apiece. In the girls' dormitories the price is a flat rate of \$30 for 12 weeks, four girls to the room. The "room" includes a sitting room, a dressing room and a sleeping porch with two lower berths and two upper berths. The board in the dormitories is priced the same for girl or boy, \$75.00 for 12 weeks.

The cost of room and board in the fraternity houses is \$5.00 more a term, 12 weeks, than in the dormitories. I asked the man who gave me this information if those in the fraternity houses got any more out of university school life than those in the dormitories. By the shrug of his shoulders and his verbal reply, I took it to be that it is about a standoff. He said the dormitories were well cared for and the students get worth while personal attention from those who are in charge. The same is true of the fraternity houses. They are well kept and the housekeeper, homemaker or matron, or whatever you choose to call her who is in charge, gives the students in her charge individual attention and by what he did not say I judge that perhaps they get a little more watchful care. And yet I am sure that he considers the values as between dormitories and fraternities a tossup, heads you win, tails you lose, tails you win, heads you lose.

In answer to my question as to whether the students in the fraternities were more inclined to be snobbish, he said, no, and enlarged on his answer by saying he had lived in dormitories and in fraternities and he could see no difference in that particular, and added as much as to say that if a student were inclined to be snobbish that trait would come out whether he or she were in fraternity house or dormitory.

There are many ordinarily beautiful college buildings on the campus. But there is one that to me stands out head and shoulders above all the others; and yet as compared to the most of the buildings it is insignificant in size and squatly in appearance. The Oriental Arts building as a whole is a

thing of beauty. There is not a window in the building but the front wall of that building is beauty in bricks. The front entrance is in that wall and on either side of front entrance, toward each end of the wall, is a facing which looks like a false door. Those are the only breaks in that front wall and yet that wall is one of the most beautiful things I ever saw. And it is the most beautiful thing in bricks. I cannot describe it in the terms of an architect; but I tell you it is beauty in bricks interpreted by the architectural mind of man.

You do not take it all in at a glance, nor the second time nor the third time you see it. But when you stand before that wall and grasp in mind something of its unblemished beauty then you realize that the dream of the architect in bricks has become permanent beauty in bricks for those who have eyes to see.

As I understand it, the Oriental Arts building on the University of Oregon campus was built and given to the university by a woman who is an admirer of oriental art. While it is unoccupied at present because of the lack of funds to secure pictures for its walls and other articles of oriental handwork, I am of the opinion the day will come when that building will be known near and far as a treasure house of skill of the brain and hand of the oriental mind in things of real exalted beauty.

R. A. Easton.



Local tax levying bodies have not come up to expectations in their efforts to reduce the burden borne by the property owner, Governor Meier declares in a letter to Leslie Scott of Portland, president of the Oregon Taxpayers' Equalization and Conservation League.

While many units have reached the goal of a 20 percent reduction in tax levies set by the League at its meeting last July and a few have even exceeded this goal, many others have fallen far short of the mark and the average for the 2800 local taxing units of the state has been only about six percent.

Credit for this showing, disappointing though it is, is given by the governor to the Taxpayers' League.

The experience of the past year in attempting to bring about tax reductions has convinced the governor that "more effective methods must be provided by law to limit and control tax levies and expenditures, not only of the state itself but also of the counties and all municipalities and local districts to which the taxing power, inherent in the state, has been or may be delegated."

The governor also calls attention to the failure of local budget laws in checking public expenditures and declares that before any material relief can be expected from the excessive property taxes a better method of supervision and control over tax levies and the incurrence of public indebtedness must be provided either by statutory enactment or a constitutional amendment.

Now that the board of control has accepted the steel work—locks, bars and door—in the new cell block at the state prison it is expected that work on this new addition to the penitentiary will be rushed through to completion shortly after the first of February. The new wing will provide 180 additional cells with accommodations for 360 prisoners and will greatly relieve the serious congestion which has existed at that institution for several years.

Officials and employees of the state contributed approximately \$23,000 toward the relief of unemployed from their December salary checks under the "day a month" contribution plan. Of this amount approximately \$7,000 was given direct to local charities leaving \$16,000 to be disbursed among the several counties on the basis of the "real need" in the various communities.

Members of the state's official family who insist on dining on filet mignon steaks and other delicacies of the banquet table will do so at their own expense hereafter if a ruling made by the board of control this week is enforced. The board refused to place its official "okey" on an expense claim which included an item of \$1.50 for dinner as being unreasonable. Discussion of the subject revealed that the board members regarded "60 or 70 cents" as about the right price to pay for a square meal in these days of depressed commodity prices. Expense claims hereafter must also be accompanied by receipts bills to show that the money claimed was actually spent in behalf of the state, the board ruled.

Disappointed with the progress of collections under the new "ward" bills to date, the board of control has issued orders to press these claims with greater diligence in the future.

Oregon has spent a total of \$168,844,859.23 on its state highway sys-

tem since the creation of the highway department in 1913, a statement compiled by Secretary of State Hose shows. Of this amount \$136,271,651.94 has been spent in the construction and maintenance of roads and in administrative expenses of the department; \$17,864,957.29 has been paid out as interest on highway bonds and \$14,708,250 has been devoted to the maturing of bond issues.

Of this huge expenditure only \$10,000 has been derived from legislative appropriations, this amount being placed at the disposal of the department at the time of its organization in 1913. Motor vehicle license fees have provided \$45,399,916.38 for the use of the department during the past 18 years; \$43,387,882.44 has been raised through the sale of bonds; \$37,630,944 was received from the state tax on motor fuel oils and \$12,854,982.12 from the one-mill market road tax which was repealed by the last legislature. Federal aid on Oregon roads during the 18 years has amounted to \$18,489,580 and co-operative aid from the counties, \$7,414,718.16.

Automobile tourists registering in Oregon during 1931 numbered 93,142, a gain of only one over the figure for 1930. Every state in the union as well as Canada, Hawaii, the Canal Zone, Philippines, Mexico, Porto Rico, China and Haiti were represented by these visitors within the state during the year.

Governor Meier has gone back to Washington, D. C., in an effort to persuade Uncle Sam to undertake the development of the Columbia river in order to provide additional power without cost to the taxpayers. During his absence Willard Marks, of Albany, president of the state senate, is pinch hitting as governor, a job in which he has already demonstrated his ability.

Seven persons lost their lives as a direct result of the careless handling of gasoline and kerosene in Oregon during 1931, according to A. H. Averill, state fire marshal. Forty-four persons were severely burned and otherwise injured in gasoline and kerosene explosions during the year.

Patronage of the state library has increased 49 per cent in the past five years. A total of 193,100 books were loaned during 1931, Miss Harriett Long, state librarian, reports.

No official act of recent months has created as much comment as the board of control order anent the use of state-owned automobiles. Reaction of many department heads immediately following issuance of the order was antagonistic and many indicated their intention to ignore the order as impractical of observance and seriously handicapping the work of the department. Later interpretations by the board of control, however, has so softened the tone of the order that no difficulty is now anticipated in its enforcement. Departments which find it necessary to operate state-owned cars before 8:00 a. m. and after 5:00 p. m. and on Saturday afternoons are filing with the board of control statements covering this situation together with the names of employees whose duties require the use of cars outside of regular office hours.

The order, members of the board admit, was aimed at abuses which have grown out of the use of state-owned automobiles, such as the use of these cars in travelling to and from work, for week-end trips with the family, etc. While only a few state employees and officials are suspected of these abuses it was regarded as necessary to subject the entire official family to the new restrictions in order to reach these few.

Savings effected by Oregon's 12 custodial institutions during 1931 aggregated \$301,258.82, according to reports filed with the state board of control. While most of this saving has resulted from reduced commodity prices, large savings have also been realized through reductions in wages, reduced staffs and in other economies.

Approximately 55 percent of Oregon's insane commitments originate in Multnomah county, according to records in the state's two insane hospitals. Oregon, it is reported, culls her population more closely than other states. Here one person out of every 250 of population is a ward of one of the insane hospitals. The average for the nation is one for every 270 of population.

A slump in insane commitments has been noted during the past few months. This is attributed to the new "ward" bills which require relatives, when financially able, and the counties to reimburse the state for the care of these wards. A similar slump in new arrivals is reported at the state institution for feeble-minded and for a similar reason.

Dissatisfied with the progress of collections under the new "ward" bills to date, the board of control has issued orders to press these claims with greater diligence in the future.

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Used Private Funds to Refurbish White House

When lace curtains in the White House became torn or unrepresentative during the occupancy of President James Monroe, he, despite his rather impetuous state at the time, dug down in his pocket and purchased new ones.

This piece of news as well as the fact that President Monroe was forced to use his own private funds to replace furniture, carpets and other household articles, necessary to the comfort and dignity of the Presidential home, were revealed in a recently discovered manuscript penned by Mr. Monroe when he was President.

This manuscript, of 48 closely written pages, rolled and neatly tied with a faded blue silk ribbon, deals with an assortment of White House matters. At the top of the first page, President Monroe wrote the title "Observations on Matters of Public Interest."

Among the interesting subjects and incidents related were the complaints about having to spend his own money for properly furnishing the White House. Mr. Monroe's complaining tone was made all the more woeeful by his mentioning the fact that at the time he was very short of funds himself and that he needed the money for other necessary purposes.

Life of Swedish Queen Full of Contradictions

The life of Queen Christina of Sweden (1626-89) is full of pictorial splendor. Queen from the age of six, taking eagerly to her boyish upbringing, a lover of learning, and fearless, as became the daughter of Gustavus Adolphus, she had many of the qualities of the ideal ruler. Yet, once she had been magnificently crowned, she chose to reign only for a few years, during which she provided her country with a succession, not of heirs, but of galvanic shocks.

From the first, we see her staid ministers bewildered by the contradictions in her nature—her brilliant statecraft, alternating with violent enthusiasms for philosophers, for a French quack doctor or a handsome Spanish envoy. She loved display, fine horsemanship and physical beauty; yet herself she dressed carelessly, often in male attire, with not too nice a regard for personal cleanliness, and with a disconcerting indifference to food and sleep. She could be truly royal, yet she could make a gony and important servant dance in public for her amusement. What wonder that most of her counselors breathed a sigh of relief at her abdication.—London New Statesman and Nation.

Danish Flag Oldest

The Stars and Stripes is the second oldest established flag, the Danish flag being the only one which dates farther back in an unchanged form. The cross of the Danish flag was adopted as the national emblem in the year 1219. The

changes in our flag are not figured, as the law establishing the flag provided for them. At the time the United States flag was officially adopted, on June 14, 1777, there were a good many national flags which had been in use for a considerable period of time, but through changes in government these flags have all since been changed in one way or another. The present British national flag, or "Union Jack," was not adopted until 1801, the date of the union of Great Britain with Ireland.

Popular Inauguration

President Van Buren's was the first inauguration without a party for the populace. And the populace was pretty peeved about it. But a few terms later, the Buchanan Inauguration party, held in tents in Judiciary square, made up for everything. The cake was four feet high, with the arms of every state on it. The wine bill was \$3,000. Here are a few of the items: 400 gallons of oysters, 500 quarts of chicken salad, 1,200 quarts of ice cream, 500 quarts of jellies, 60 saddles mutton, four saddles venison, eight rounds of beef, 75 hams, and 125 tongues.

Ivanhoe and Ignace

One day David, whose mind tends more to mechanics than it does to literature, said to his mother: "Who is this Ivanhoe I hear them talking about?" James, a few years old, overhearing him, began to laugh and said: "A great big boy like you and don't know who Ivanhoe is." "Huh," said David, "you think you are so smart. I'll bet you don't know who Ignace Boniface is." "Why, why," stammered James, "I think he is a writer." "No," said his brother, "he isn't. He is a colored boy in my class at school."

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How One Man Lost 22 Pounds

Mr. Herman Runkis of Detroit writes: "A few lines of thanks from a rheumatism sufferer—my first bottle of Kruschen Salts took all the aches and swellings out of my joints—with my first bottle I went on a diet and lost 22 pounds and now I feel like a new man."

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