The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IN A GOOD TOWN

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SENATOR GOSS' OLD AGE PENSION BILL

It is not the Townsend plan of old age pensions which Senator Goss and others have introduced in the legislature, known as Senate Bill No. 68 but it is one that has a great deal more chance of becoming a law than has Dr. Townsend's plan.

Under the terms of Sen. Goss' bill the law would become effective July 1 of this year, but pensions would not be paid until the first of 1936. The pension to be paid, to all over sixty years not specifically forbidden to apply for it, is $60, but it only goes to a family. Husband and wife, if living together, cannot each receive it.

To be able to apply for the pension a person must be 60 years of age or over, born in the United States or a citizen for 15 years; must have resided in Oregon for 10 years, must not be an inmate of any asylum, jail workhouse or infirmary, or for the past ten years imprisoned for a felony; has not been an habitual tramp or beggar; has not failed to support his family; or who is totally disabled

A tax of one per cent on wages and salaries or income of any kind, of those over 18 years of age, is required to be paid in by the employer each month, and it must be held out of the employee's wages, or salary, but not more than $15 shall be taxed against any employee in one year.

The state accident and the tax commission are charged with the enforcement of the law and the collection of the tax, and if returns are not sufficient to pay the $60 per month to all over 60 years of age who are entitled to receive it, the tax commission may increase the percentage to 2½ per cent, with $30 as the maximum payment by any person.

If the U. S. government shall enact an old-age pension plan the state pension payment shall be reduced so that no one shall receive more than $60 a month, and the tax levy for the "State Old Age Trust Fund" shall be correspondingly decreased.

CANNOT BE REFERRED

Probably by this time Councilman Lefevre has learned that a resolution adopted by a council is not subject to a referendum. The state law provides for a referendum only on laws—statutes passed by the legislature, or ordinances passed by a city. If he had known the provisions of the state referendum law he would probably have not attempted to intimidate the council members who do not think as he does, at the Tuesday evening session.

Nor are Mayor Berg and Councilman Bryant subject to recall for six months, any more than Mr. Lefevre and Everett Seeley are. The only members whom he threatened who would be subject to a recall election before July are Ray Jeub, Henry Belloni and Robert Medley.

Radicalism and strike violence were further repudiated at San Francisco on Sunday when Harry Bridges, erstwhile radical Pacific coast strike leader, received a stinging rebuke in his attempt to win the presidency of the San Francisco Labor Council.

Bridges was defeated by the conservative labor leader, Edward Vandeleur, opponent of last summer's general strike, by a vote of 271 to 60; and Bridges' whole ticket went down to ignominious defeat with him.

STATE HOUSE GOSSIP

(By Ernest L. Gray)

With only three measures to see successful action in the Oregon legislature during the first third of the prescribed 40 day meet, little additional was anticipated during the current week. The big fights are still in the offing and the most optimistic observer now deems it impossible for adjournment by February 22, the scheduled last day.

The bitterest fight being waged against the administration proposal to place fees of commissions and boards in the general fund is by the sportsmen of the state, and although counter publicity was being issued by the executive's office, the feeling of sportsmen generally was that they would fight the proposal to the last ditch.

Reports now current are that unless the bill is amended to exclude the game and fish fees from the provisions, there would be no chance of the measure passing. The same was reported true of the county unit system of education which would make the plan compulsory unless referended. The change suggested is to make a vote on the plan compulsory by the various counties.

During this week it was anticipated several appointments would be announced, particularly two members of the liquor commission and subsequent business administrator to succeed George Sammis, resigned. Frank Spencer of Portland was scheduled to either take Sammis' place or be named commissioner. Sammis reported he had obtained a more lucrative position.

Several "blow-ups" in as many departments are in the atmosphere as the result of quiet investigations known to be conducted into affairs of state groups. And when the reports are released it is predicted there will be big news.

One of these, it was learned, would affect the state liquor control commission. An investigation was being conducted particularly into the purchasing methods and of the bottling plant operation. The nature of the findings has not been divulged, but the story was due to "break" soon.

Another department being closely scrutinized in closed meetings of the Board of Control, is the Land Board operations. No finding against the personnel would be involved, it was stated, but the findings were expected to uncover much that had been "covered up" during the past four years.

The position of director of agriculture was in the limelight the past week at the capitol. Max Gehlhar had announced he would resign under the new administration and much speculation had been rife as to his successor. The past week the constant presence of H. H. Chindgren, of Oregon City, former representative of Clackamas county, has given him mention for this place. It was learned he had received considerable endorsement.

The recall attempt against Representative Howard Merriam, of Lane county, because of his vote on the Townsend old age pension plan was hard to understand here by legislators who know what had taken place. Preliminary recall petitions were filed late Saturday by supporters of the Townsend plan.

Recall threats were made when Merriam, in committee, voted with the majority against the specific provisions of the Townsend plan in an attempt to bring out a compromise plan. The compromise also urged passage of the Townsend plan or suitable legislation and the compromise proposal was favored by Merriam. The new plan did not specify the $200 feature only.

But the movement may result more unfavorably to those starting it. The recall was declared a violation of the law against attempt to intimidate a public official. Merriam stated, however, that he received far more commendations on his stand than criticism, and it was believed the recall movement would die out as quickly as it started.

In the meantime the modified Townsend pension memorial to congress will go to the senate this week and must receive the endorsement there before it can be forwarded to congress. Only three votes were cast against the memorial as revamped in the house, and Merriam was not among those three.

So far Governor Charles H. Martin has failed to "crack down" on legislators on his administration program, and unless he does, his proposals will be so masculated he will hardly recognize them. It was even seen here that his budget control bill, still in committee at the present writing, may either be withdrawn or rewritten.

Speaking of the governor, Oregon is blessed with many ex-executives, mostly for terms ranging from a few days up, when the elected governor was either out of the state or had succumbed. Friday of last week there were nine ex-governors at the capitol, not including Martin nor Meier.

These men who once sat in the executive chair, only one of whom was elected—Os West—also included Jay Bowerman, A. W. Norblad (whose son is a member of the house), Willard Marks, Harry Corbett, John Carkin, Frank Lonergan, Ralph Hamilton and Roy Ritner. Other "ex's" in the state are Fred E. Kiddle and the elected Ben Olcott.

R. A. Easton Tells Where Wall Street Has Been

Where is Wall Street?

It is supposed to be in New York. It looks like any other street with big buildings and is peopled by the same kind of folks that do business in any town or cross roads of the country. It is not how much or how little a man bets that makes him a gambler, it is the uncurbed gambling spirit that makes him take the unwarranted chances. It was this condition of men's minds that fanned the tulip craze of Holland in the fore part of the seventeenth century when a single tulip bulb sold for $5,200 value in U. S. money. Of some varieties more bulbs were sold than were in existence. Wall Street was in Holland then. Later it moved to France and the quick rich scheme of the "Mississippi Bubble" rose and fell like "Humpty Dumpty on the wall."

The Yazoo Fraud was another Wall Street, this time in some of the southern states and Uncle Sam paid $5,000,000 to the schemers to quiet the title of much of Mississippi and Alabama.

Wall Street has had her "Black Fridays" and other disappointing days and the last crash was no exception. More people bit off more than they could chew, that was all. Any man who had money, after the crash, to buy reputable stock was not gambling for to buy was a sure fire investment.

I lived on Wall Street when I invested in gold mines and oil land "units." The Street reached Coos Bay and "Plat B" and beyond to other way stations.

The state of Oregon is on Wall street in its dog and horse gambling racket, booze for revenue, and the racketeering of irresponsible state and national "new deal" citizenship. The generations of men have traveled Wall street. Even Pharaoh was on Wall street when he tried to corner the Children of Israel between the devil and the deep sea. That was a rash venture for the Egyptians. The Israelites were on Wall Street on the plains before Mount Sinai where they stripped themselves of their jewelry and the result was the golden calf god which they could see, feel and handle. And they had to drink the dust of their adventure. The dust of strange gods has never been a pleasant throat gargle. And the proposed $200 a month old age pension is wild imagination of Wall Street.

How much is a mililon dollars? You say ten hundred thousand. What do these figures mean to you? Nothing. If you had a mililon dollars you could bury it in the ground or in a safety deposit box and take out of the cache each year for 100 years $10,000; or, if you were quite sure you would beat Methuselah's record for years, you could take out each year $1,000 for 1,000 years. $100,000 used to be a lot of money. Now we are so glib of speech that a million dollars is counted small change and the reckoning of spending is gauged by the billion dollar mark, running into billions. Why not save words and talk in trillions.

R. A. Easton.

The Cause of Abstinence

The cause of abstinence is getting ready for a great new growth. People are beginning to see what liquor drinking means. Just now the liquor tide is running strong. Those people who shift about with every changing fad are easy victims to this new form of commercial exploitation. But there is another group of young men and women who have too much self-respect to fall victim to such a destructive and wasteful habit. They will keep themselves clean and strong. And out of their courage and strength and independence will come the leadership of tomorrow

If there was ever a time when America needed to be sober that time is now. The men and women who refuse to drink will have clearer heads than their fellows. They will see better and act more wisely and just as surely as tomorrow's sun they will go farthest and get the best places. Self-discipline still remains the price of achievement and progress.—Joy E. Morgan, in National Education Association.

Washington Snap-Shots

Congress has everybody guessing, including the Administration's smartest observers. Senate and house leaders assure the President that they have the situation under perfect control, but they haven't been able, as yet, to prove it. First report from Capitol Hill brought the positive declarations that the Administration's first batch of major bills would be rammed through under stringent gag rule.

That didn't go. The house bosses had to loosen the gag on the $4,880,000,000 work-relief bill. Open rebellion was brewing, and the policy-makers, being smart, knew it was time to feed sugar, no time to crack the whip. Later in the seession, the bosses may do some whip-cracking, but not while the session is young. Too much is at stake to risk tactics that might jeopardize "control from the chair."

A reporter for the Washington Herald went down to the bed-rock foundation of the trouble encountered by the work-relief bill, and wrote:

"At a Democratic caucus, recalcitrant members forced leaders to accept a compromise rule which, while not affecting the President's authority to spend the money for such projects as he chooses, opened to debate and amendment those portions of the bill which confer dictatorial power upon him.

"Even then, the Democrats only agreed to vote for the bill by a vote of 190 to 35, while 39 announced they would not be bound by the caucus, most of them because they had promised their constituents to oppose any measures to put the government into further competition with industry."

There you have the key to a new and growing sentiment in congress, a determination to halt the devastation caused by government competition with private business. President Roosevelt sounded the keynote along this line in his annual message when the present congress opened, pointing out that compensation on emergency public projects should not be "so large as to encourage the rejection of opportunities for private employment or the leaving of private employment to engage in government work."

It's Income Tax Time

J. W. Maloney, collector of internal revenue, wishes to remind taxpayers that federal income tax returns for the calendar year 1934 must be filed with his office not later than March 15, 1935.

Deputies from the collector's office will be in Coos county the coming month to assist in preparing income tax statements if requested, to give information. They will be in Coquille, Feb. 25; at Marshfield, Feb. 26 to 28 inclusive, and at North Bend on March 1.

Income tax forms were mailed on January 10, 1935, to all taxpayers who filed such forms for the previous year. Failure to receive the forms will not relieve the taxpayer from the penalties provided if the return is not filed on time. Taxpayers required to file income tax returns, who have not received the forms, should apply at once to the Collector's office for such forms.

All individuals, partnerships, fiduciaries and corporations filing income tax returns, must also file Form 1094 with the return, in accordance with the publicity provisions of the Revenue Act of 1934. The law requires the Collector to prepare such form, and add $5.00 to the tax in any case where the taxpayer fails to file it. To avoid this additional expense taxpayers are urged not to fail to file Form 1094 with each income tax return.

Corporations in existence during 1934 must file corporation income tax returns, even though no business was transacted or income received. Especial care should be used in the case of such inactive corporations to see that Form 1094 accompanies the return when filed, as the law leaves no alternative for the Collector other than to prepare the form and assess the $5.00 additional charge so provided in the Act.