

The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IN A GOOD TOWN

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The Sentinel does not agree with the Oregon Voter which says "We prefer Roosevelt to Borah." If it came to a question of deciding between those two next November the easiest thing would be to vote for both, which would nullify that portion of our ballot, or to vote for neither, which would break a lifetime of voting for president, starting back at the turn of the century when the silver-tongued orator from Nebraska was a perennial candidate.

THE COST OF GOVERNMENT

This year, the Connecticut Economic Council estimates, the people have spent \$16,875,000,000 to run their federal, state and municipal governments.

Taxes amount to about \$100 for every man, woman and child in the country while the actual expenditures, with many divisions of the government piling up deficits, run to \$130 per person.

The Council's breakdown of expenditures:
Federal, ordinary - \$3,721,000,000
Federal, recovery and relief - 3,654,000,000
States - 2,400,000,000
Local communities - 6,900,000,000

From 1789 to 1913, the Council points out, the federal government spent \$24,521,000,000. For the years 1933-1936 the total appropriated for expenditures was around \$30,000,000,000.

ABOUT LEASING FOR OIL

Coos county people every once in a while get some idea of how speculators and racketeers are exploiting the drilling of an oil or gas well in the Coquille valley by reporting that oil gushers have been brought in here.

Several times recently the Coquille Chamber of Commerce has received inquiries as to an oil well being brought in here, some times by letter and once by wire. The Chamber officials have in each instance replied as to the exact facts, that no oil nor gas well has been brought in, but that one is still drilling which shows traces of both gas and oil.

But the widespread publicity, principally in southern California, has turned the attention of thousands to the possibilities here, and it is being used by the unscrupulous to try and separate the gullible from their cash.

No newspaper warning will do much to protect the public, but it might be suggested to home folks that they consider very carefully any lease proposal submitted to them. A bona fide operator, who has the resources to carry out his part of a lease contract is one thing, but the speculator who hopes to peddle his lease at a profit can do more to injure southern Oregon, in the minds of those living outside the state, than almost anything else.

To those from whom leases on their land is sought there is just one word of advice: Ascertain whether those seeking to secure the lease have the means to carry out their promises.

"PLANNING" PROGRAM

Complete information on the proposed legislation that, if passed at the next session of the legislature, will enable this county to have an official planning commission, has been received by Dr. E. Mingus, chairman of the Coos County planning commission, from the Oregon state planning board office. The state planning board requests that members of the local body study this information, take it up at a meeting in the near future, and inform the board whether or not it approves it.

At the present time every county but two in the state has an organized planning commission. Although practically all groups are active in planning work, they do not as yet have official status. The new bill would make it possible for county courts that approved the planning program to appoint official boards.

Such acts have already been passed in Washington and Idaho, and under this legislation, county boards have been named and are rendering valuable service to the states, the state board points out. "Planning looks toward the future," writes V. B. Stanbery, planning consultant and executive secretary of the state

board. "It implies a comprehensive plan for future development to be evolved over a period of years. To accomplish this, county boards should be recognized as a continuing function."

The bill enables the county courts by resolution to create at their discretion a planning commission which becomes a legal entity, to act in an advisory capacity to the court and other bodies. It will encourage planned development and conservation of all resources of the county for the social and economic welfare of the people.



Governor Martin's threat to move certain state departments to Portland because of lack of suitable office space in the capital city was doubtless inspired more by a desire to prod Salem building owners out of their smug self-complacency than with any intent to actually carry out his proposals.

If so, it was not long in bringing results. Publication of the governor's statement to the press was followed by numerous offers of office space by owners ready and anxious to remodel to suit the demands of the tenant.

The governor's proposal to move the motor transport division and other state activities to Portland was based on the difficulty experienced by the transport division in finding suitable office space to accommodate its proposed expansion. The fact of the matter is that even before the governor sounded off, at least two building owners in downtown Salem had offered to remodel vacant office rooms to suit the needs of this department. While these offices are not the most modern in the city they were regarded as entirely adequate in the emergency by state officials who had investigated them.

Demands for office space in downtown Salem following the capital fire of last April has filled every first class office building in the capital city and most of the second class buildings but there are still a number of buildings with space to rent and with owners ready to remodel to accommodate the needs of the state.

At the present time 13 state activities are occupying rented quarters, occupying more than 21,000 square feet of floor space for which the state is paying a rental of \$1172 a month or more than \$14,000 a year.

More than 28,000 stockholders of the defunct Prudential Savings & Loan association received Christmas gifts from the state corporation department in the form of a ten per cent dividend, amounting in the aggregate to approximately \$18,000.

Governor Martin this week announced the reappointment of Lew Wallace of Portland as a member of the state game commission. Somewhat surprising after Wallace's recent insistence that he did not want the job back again and repeated denials by the executive department of rumors that the Portland democrat was slated for reinstatement on the commission from which he resigned in order to contest for his old seat in the House of Representatives.

Approximately 300 needy teachers will be given employment in the instruction of adult classes under a state-wide educational project sponsored by the Works Project administration, according to C. A. Howard, state superintendent of public instruction. Selection of the teachers will be made by city and county school superintendents. In addition to the organization of adult classes in such courses as public speaking, parent education, commercial law, English, sewing, cooking, literature and social problems, it is proposed to conduct 20 nursery schools for children from two to four years of age, each nursery giving employment to two teachers and a part time cook, Howard said.

"Have you spent your million today?" That, according to Brigadier General Thos. A. Rilea is the customary salutation when friends meet on the street of the national capital these days. General Rilea returned this week from Washington where he appeared before the congressional committee on appropriations in support of the national guard budget in his new capacity as president of the national guard association.

Registered voters throughout Oregon will receive their copies of the official voters' pamphlet within the next two weeks, according to Secretary of State Snell. The pamphlet will contain the ballot votes on the four measures to be voted on at the special election together with arguments, pro and con, on the several measures. Approximately 400,000 of the pamphlets will be distributed. The first consignment went into the

mails Friday and the work of mailing will proceed as fast as the pamphlets are delivered by the state printer.

Reports received here indicate that a suit may be brought to nullify the \$10 license fee for "pick-up" trucks and panel delivery cars. The double license fee for this type of car was passed by the recent special session and has met with much complaint, especially from farmers who use this type of car for hauling supplies out from town.

Motorists appearing in public with the old 1935 license plates displayed will be required to show evidence of having applied for the plates or explain to some convenient judge, according to Chas. P. Pray, superintendent of state police. Pray calls attention to the attitude of his force last year in enforcing the automobile registration act and warns that he is not fooling.

The state forestry department closed its twenty-fifth year of service with the expiration of 1935. Organized in 1911 for the single purpose of protecting the timbered areas of the state from fire the department long ago entered upon a much broader program of activities, including that of reforesting denuded areas. Prior to the creation of the forestry department it had been the duty of the state game and forestry warden "to enforce the laws of the state, for the protection of the forests." The legislature of 1907 created a forestry board with an appropriation of \$250 with which to carry on a publicity campaign but it was not until 1911 that the legislature recognized the importance of the lumber industry to the state and created a separate department to take care of the interests of this industry.

The state liquor control commission which found its shelves loaded with a lot of unpaid-for stock when it took over the job a year ago reported its business to be on a strictly cash basis at the beginning of the new year. Estimating December sales at \$750,000 sales of hard liquors through state stores and authorized agencies during 1935 aggregated nearly \$6,000,000 or approximately six dollars for every resident of the state. Net profits of the commission for the year are estimated at approximately \$1,980,000.

Dr. W. H. Lytle, state veterinarian, is out with his perennial announcement anent the come-back of the farm horse. Evidence of this fact, Lytle declares, it to be seen in every farming community. The come-back of the horse, Lytle insists, started with the depression when farmers found that it was cheaper to raise horse feed than to buy fuel oil for high-priced tractors.

Contributions to the Workmen's compensation fund during the last six months of 1935 exceeded \$2,000,000, a figure in excess of a full year's collections during the height of the depression, according to Albert R. Hunter, chairman of the state industrial accident commission.

The Best Gift

(Oregon State Board of Health)
Almost everyone has received gifts at one time or another, particularly during the Christmas season when the spirit of good will is abroad in the land. Among all of the gifts which one has ever received, it should be relatively easy to pick out those that were most appreciated and cherished. The best gifts are those that come from the heart of the giver, offered without thought or expectation of material return; given as an expression of good will and dedicated to happier human relations.

These gifts are given to society no less than to individuals. Among them are the men and women who have made possible the construction and maintenance of modern hospitals. In these institutions is epitomized the spirit of good will and human devotion to the welfare of fellow creatures in need of help. Their very existence is made possible by gifts that come from the heart—contributions given freely with no expectation of business returns, investments in human resources for the benefit of the community and of the race. No men and no women pour out from their hearts a fuller measure of devotion than those who, by these gifts and these services, make possible the development and maintenance of modern hospitals.

That hospitals are, indeed, a gift to society is shown by the records. Only an insignificant proportion of hospital facilities has been developed from the profit motive. In Oregon, for example, the aggregate bed capacity of proprietary hospitals is 94 against 2,234 beds in hospitals operated on a non-profit basis and 5,426 in governmental institutions. The non-profit hospitals are maintained by churches, fraternities and groups of public spirited citizens who bind themselves together for that purpose. The non-profit class of institutions constitutes the backbone of hospital service for the mass of the people. The modern

hospital is much more than a place maintained for the relief and cure of the sick. It is a center from which radiates to the community the benefits that accrue from all of the marvelous gifts of science to the cause of health. The practice of preventive medicine is no less its function than the practice of curative medicine.

The hospital facilities in this state for the care and treatment of communicable diseases are conspicuous by their almost entire absence. Sanitarium provisions are made for 550 beds for the tuberculosis. No up-to-date provisions, however, have been made in this state for the private care of persons suffering with communicable diseases. It is a relic of the days of ignorance and superstition to confine persons suffering with contagious diseases in a pest house situated in some remote section of the community. One of the most trying problems that confronts the hospitals today is how to care for persons suffering with communicable diseases. Science has clearly demonstrated that these cases can be cared for safely and without danger of cross infection in a properly constructed hospital conducted by a properly trained personnel.

The best gift that could be made in Oregon today is toward a fund to establish modern facilities for persons suffering with communicable diseases. Prevent infection by modern hospital care.

4-H Club Conference

A conference for all 4-H Club leaders in Oregon will be held on the Oregon State College campus from January 9 to 11, according to information received at the County Agent's office from H. C. Seymour, State 4-H Club leader.

This report states that roundtable discussions will be conducted on various phases of 4-H work and the program will be of special interest to new leaders.

Arrangements have been made to house men leaders in the men's dormitory and women leaders in the women's dormitory at very reasonable rate. All 4-H club leaders in Coos county as well as those from other counties in the state are being urged to attend this conference, according to George H. Jenkins, county agent.

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Resettlement Administration on Uses of Land

[Editor's note—The old frontiers are gone. There are no longer vast areas of new land on which a growing nation can settle and expand. It is now up to us to conserve and develop wisely the land which we have. How this can be done is described by L. C. Gray, an authority on land use, in a series of three articles, of which this is the first.]

Land—the raw material of farms, forests and range—is one of our major sources of wealth. Hundreds of thousands of rural families are now enduring a poverty utterly inconsistent with American standards of living largely because of a failure to use the land to its best advantage.

In areas such as denuded timber regions of Washington, Idaho and Oregon, where conditions of living are particularly severe, one reason for the present poverty is to be found in the history of land use. The forest, which formerly provided the chief income for the people of these areas, was cut off without any care for the future reproduction of trees. The land is on the whole too steep for farming, and cultivation merely aggravates the problem by encouraging the erosion of the fertile soil. The narrow creek bottoms and meagre bench lands fail to supply enough tillable land for successful farms.

With both the forest and the topsoil destroyed, the people have become economically "stranded," and their standard of living has steadily declined. Housing is very poor, consisting often of dilapidated, leaky cabins which give insufficient shelter, and enforce unhealthy crowding. The food supply is so limited that children suffer from malnutrition, and easily fall prey to disease. Education is necessarily limited.

Society must decide whether these conditions can be tolerated. It is especially important when we realize that the poverty of the rural slums means the dependence of large numbers of families upon public charity and relief. Our objective must be not only to restore to these people a chance to attain an American standard of living, but to make them once more consumers and producers of economic goods.

The Resettlement Administration is buying up tracts of land in various problem areas in Washington, Idaho and Oregon to help restore the natural forest or grass resources which, if properly cared for, can again provide employment for local people. At the

same time, this work will put a stop to the needless destruction of soil fertility, which, if permitted to continue, would make the rehabilitation of the people even more difficult and costly.

Families who cannot be employed in forest work will be helped to move out of the hills to fertile valley lands where they can become self-supporting.

A similar conversion of the land to better uses is being undertaken in other areas such as the old forest regions of the Great Lakes, Pacific Northwest, western plains, and deep south. Land that is not fertile enough for farming can be almost always utilized for some other purpose, like forestry or recreation, or grazing.

The extent of this work, and the long time necessary to restore the land, place it beyond the sphere of private enterprise. Governmental action is essential unless thousands of families are to be abandoned to permanent poverty, and great areas of land relegated to ruin.

State Land Board farms and ranches for sale, low prices and easy terms. Apply at the office of James Watson, Attorney for the State Land Board. The First National Bank Building, Coquille, Oregon. 11

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