

The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IN A GOOD TOWN
H. A. YOUNG and M. D. GRIMES
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One thing the newspapers have to be thankful for in this gradual elimination of alphabetic bureaus by supreme court decisions is that the one and a half cent and franked mail is growing less. Propaganda mailed out by the ton from the various alphabet headquarters has filled the mails with useless matter and kept hundreds or thousands on the public payroll.

A subscriber to an eastern publication hits the nail so squarely on the head, in a few words, that it would bear repeating in every newspaper in the country:

"I am squandering a stamp to tell you that the administration has fostered so many crazy and revolutionary laws that the people have lost faith in it. Here is what Henry Cabot Lodge says about the fall of ancient Rome, in his History of Nations: 'It was probably due to economic causes—heavy taxes, oppressively levied; a debased currency, with varying standard of value; the demoralizing practice of providing free grain for the city mobs. Such were some of the prime factors in the fall of Rome.'"

"What do you think of history repeating itself in this luckless U. S. A.?"

THE PIPER WILL BE PAID

Who's going to pay most of the federal debt which stands today at thirty billion dollars and may pass thirty-four billion by the end of June? The man who makes less than \$5,000 a year. He's got to; he's the only one who has the money.

Recently, the United States News, a non-partisan weekly newspaper published in Washington, D. C. emphasized these facts:

In 1934, individuals with incomes under \$5,000 a year made \$7,500,000,000; those with incomes between \$5,000 and \$25,000 made \$3,500,000,000; those with incomes over \$25,000 made \$1,500,000,000.

In that same year, Uncle Sam took in direct income taxes nearly a third of the money made by those in the \$25,000 group, one-third of what the \$5,000-\$25,000 group made, and one-two-hundred-and-thirtieth of the income of those in the less than \$5,000 classification.

The late Henry T. Rainey, once speaker of the national house of representatives, expressed this as the ideal tax philosophy: "To get the most feathers with the least squawking of the goose." In recent years, legislators have been spending freely and boosting taxes only on big incomes, because there are fewer big incomes and therefore less squawking. But here's something to think about:

A federal debt of \$34,000,000,000 means a debt of \$272 for each man, woman and child in the United States. Some day taxes will have to be assessed to pay that debt. Taxes are levied only against things that promise returns. When the time of reckoning comes, where are the legislators going to turn? To the group that made \$1,500,000,000? Or to the group that made five times that much, namely the less-than-\$5,000-a-year-man?

"WE SHALL NOT SLEEP"

As the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, was an outgrowth of the Magna Charta of June 15, 1215, and each of those days stand out as the historical landmark of history for their respective year; so do the days in December, 1935, when right-thinking public opinion of Great Britain, France and the delegates of fifty nations of the League of Nations at Geneva, refused to honor the infamous agreement made by Sir Samuel Hoare as foreign secretary of Great Britain and Premier Laval of France, whereby they agreed to give Italy large portions of Ethiopia as a bribe to Mussolini if he, Mussolini, would call off his wolves of war in Ethiopia.

That righteous public opinion, not only of the nations concerned, but of all the honorable and right-thinking public opinion of the world in condemning that high-handed and treacherous act of Hoare and Laval toward Ethiopia is the enduring and abiding historical landmark of 1935 that will endure and increase in stature as the centuries of governments come and go and nations remember "Righteousness exalteth a nation but sin is a reproach to any people."

The voice of honorable public opinion speaks with greater force and authority than the roar of cannon and the bursting bomb and interprets with renewed emphasis Col. Dr. John McCrae's thought when he speaks in his poem, "We Shall Not Sleep":

"Take up our quarrel with the foe.
To you from falling hands we throw
the Torch,
Be yours to hold it high;
If ye break faith with us who die,
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
in Flanders fields."

Thank God for the high water mark of public opinion of Great Britain, France, the League of Nations and all the honorable and right-thinking of the nations of the world in the December days of 1935 when the "Torch" was caught from "falling hands" and 1936 will keep faith with those "who die."

A "peace mistake" is more destructive to world peace than war.

R. A. Easton.



First of the predicted changes in the state's official personnel materialized Monday when Otto Hartwig stepped out as a member of the Industrial Accident commission to be succeeded by J. C. Joy, Portland democrat and labor leader. Speculation to the effect that Hartwig was to be taken care of with a good job in the new unemployment insurance organization does not seem to have been founded on anything substantial.

Appointment of Joy to the accident commission gives the democrats control of this important organization. Albert R. Hunter, chairman of the commission, is also a democrat, and T. Morris Dunne, the third member is a republican. Joy has been a personal friend of Governor Martin's for several years and was active in his behalf during the recent gubernatorial campaign as a member of his campaign committee.

The predicted retirement of A. J. Derby, of Hood River, as a member of the hydro-electric commission is understood to have been postponed for the time being. Derby tendered his resignation to Governor Martin several months ago because of his ill health but it was not accepted and he is said to have been persuaded to retain his place on this highly important board, at least until the present extraordinary demand for organization of people's utility districts has been disposed of. Political prognosticators had Vernon Williams, publisher of the Oregon Democrat, lined up for appointment to the commission in the event of Derby's retirement.

Re-appointment of Stanley Jewett, of Portland, as a member of the liquor control commission has dispelled any notion of a shake-up in the personnel of that commission. Governor Martin is said by administration spokesmen to be entirely satisfied with the services of A. K. McMahon, of Albany, and James Burns, of Condon. Retirement of Jack Allen, of Pendleton, as liquor control administrator, however, is still expected as a development of the not far distant future.

Registration of automobiles for 1936 is ahead of that of last year, according to Secretary of State Snell, although to date only a little more than 50 per cent of the passenger cars in the state have been equipped with the new plates.

The Oregon legislature which, in its recent special session, authorized the construction of a new \$2,500,000 state house, will in all probability be preparing for its regular session of 1937 if not actually in session before construction work on the new building gets under way.

This was indicated in an interview here this week with Carl F. Gould, Seattle architect, whom the capitol commission has retained as its technical adviser.

"Few people appreciate the tremendous amount of work involved in preparing plans for a building of this type," Gould declared, explaining that the architect would probably require six months in which to complete his plans after his selection.

Selection of the capitol architect will be made through a nation-wide competition which will require another three months time, Gould said. The preparation of the contest rules and regulations and study of the designs and selection of the winner will consume another month so that, all told, it will be at least ten months and possibly twelve before dirt can be expected to begin flying on the capitol site.

Gould, who was supervising architect on the Washington capitol group at Olympia, was in Salem getting the

"feel" of the situation here. Questioned as to his opinion with respect to the type of building which should replace the old state house he replied that "the Pacific coast state and particularly Oregon seems to be pretty well imbued with the old New England traditions" which "was interpreted as a leaning toward the more conventional type of building rather than one of modernistic lines as has been the trend in capitol buildings erected in recent years."

Collections of the state bonus commission for 1935 totalled \$1,818,568.99, according to a report by Jerrold Owen, secretary. This figure is almost equal that of the commission's banner year, 1929, when collections of interest and principal payments totalled \$1,869,966.15.

Only three Oregon counties were delinquent in their payment of state taxes at the first of the new year—Polk, Deschutes and Jefferson. Receipt of Polk's final instalment on the 1935 state levy Saturday left only two counties in the delinquent list.

Governor Martin appears to have scored at least a technical knock-out in his verbal battle with Robert Sawyer, Bend newspaper man, over the status of PWA funds available for the new capitol program. Replying to the governor's criticism of the legislature for "throwing away \$450,000 in federal funds" when the special session limited the cost of the new state house to \$2,500,000, Sawyer has repeatedly insisted that the money was not yet lost to the state but could still be retrieved. Word from C. C. Hockley, state PWA administrator, is that a revised offer just received from Washington limits PWA funds for the capitol to 45 per cent of the \$2,500,000. The other \$450,000, Hockley explains, has been absorbed in grants to the proposed central heating and power plant and a state-owned telephone and radio system.

The short term which Rufus C. Holman served as state treasurer under appointment prior to his election to the office is no bar to a second term in the office—if the people elect him. That is the ruling of Attorney General Van Winkle. The opinion contradicts political speculation to the effect that Holman was not eligible to succeed himself for another term under the constitutional provision which limits certain state officials to not more than eight years out of 12 in the same office. In addition to the attorney general's ruling Holman has plenty of precedent for seeking re-election. Ben W. Olcott and Sam A. Zoser both were appointed to the post of secretary of state prior to their election and both were re-elected to second terms.

As was expected Oregon's recently enacted unemployment insurance law has been formally approved by the National Security board, making Oregon the first state to conform to this section of the new national security act. Prospect of a suit to test the validity of the federal act, however, will cause the industrial accident commission to move slowly in setting up the new organization lest invalidation of the federal act leave the state out on a limb with a big organization and no money with which to meet the payroll. Defects discovered in the state act are not believed to be serious. Inclusion of a provision for employee contribution to the insurance fund, it is pointed out, was due to a clerical error both the House and Senate journals showing that this section had been deleted from the measure before final passage.

It may require a friendly suit to correct this error but little fear is felt here as to the ultimate result since the Oregon supreme court has always in the past followed what is known as the journal entry rule rather than the enrolled bill rule in arriving at the intent of the lawmakers.

Sand and gravel companies attempting to evade royalty payments in the future will be hailed into court for an accounting, the state land board warned this week. Sand and gravel royalties of ten cents a cubic yard go into the state's common school fund. Lax enforcement of collections in the past has cost the school fund many thousands of dollars in the opinion of State Treasurer Holman who has been instrumental in securing the services of two special investigators to probe into the books of companies taking sand and gravel from Oregon streams. These investigations have already resulted in the recovery of several thousand dollars to the school fund.

Senator W. E. Burke, of Yamhill county, confirmed municipal ownership advocate, and Cassius R. Peck, attorney for the Portland General Electric company, both appeared before the board of control this week to protest against construction of the proposed heating and power plant. Burke saw in the program a menace to the Marion county People's Utility district. Peck was trying to save a

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Meat prices are 15 per cent higher than they were six months ago the state purchasing department discovered when it opened bids this week for supplies for state institutions. Contracts covering state needs for the next three months, aggregating \$25,818 were awarded.

Better Business Bureau Warns of "Free" Beauty Racket

Oregon housewives who have not been summoned to the front door and offered a "free permanent wave certificate" for fifty cents are almost certain to have this experience soon, according to a warning issued by the Portland Better Business Bureau.

The Bureau states this permanent wave certificate plan, which started in New York in 1932 and quickly spread throughout the east and middle west, has recently started to operate in Oregon. The certificate plan is sold on a high pressure basis by a national syndicate to a local beauty shop. A crew of sales representatives then covers the community selling the certificate for a few cents. Ordinarily these sales agents represent that as a "special advertising offer" they are authorized to issue these certificates to a selected few who are to receive a free permanent wave upon presentation of the certificate at the beauty shop.

Of course, anyone willing to spend fifty cents can receive such a certificate and the catch is that upon presenting it for redemption the purchasers learn that they are required to pay from \$2.00 to \$5.00 for such incidentals as hair trim, shampoo and wave set before they can secure the so-called "free permanent wave."

The Portland Better Business Bureau states that experience in other vicinities has clearly shown that the only one profiting from these deals is the promoter. Thousands of complaints have been registered in eastern states against this scheme.

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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 second.]

Less than a century ago there were hundreds of thousands of acres of good land in the far west available to citizens who wanted to stake out a homestead and start life anew. Today there is practically no good free land left for American families to settle.

It is probable, however, that in the future we shall as a nation require more land under cultivation than we now have. This will be necessary to take care of a growing population. Moreover, whenever there is a shortage of industrial employment, people naturally go back to the land for their living. This happened during the early years of the depression. Hundreds of thousands of people moved from the cities out to the farms.

Under existing conditions people could not longer be fairly sure of obtaining tracts of good land. The cheap land which they were able to get was in many cases too poor to support them. Often these families, which had sought an opportunity to take care of themselves, in the end became burdens upon the relief rolls of small rural communities. We see this situation in many regions of Washington, Idaho and Oregon.

Wise forethought and action by the government can prevent this wastage of human effort by lending a guiding hand to the settlement of new lands. Unless some such guidance is offered, we run the danger of having a large increase in the number of poor families, living on land that cannot be successfully cultivated, and becoming burdens upon the rest of the community.

Today we possess a far more adequate knowledge of what land is good for than did people of a generation ago. Scientists have made new discoveries about soil classification. Experience with most of the type of land in the United States has reduced the need for guesswork.

In the present program of land use and resettlement under way in the Pacific Northwest, the Federal Government is helping families move from poor land to better farms where they

may become self-supporting. Unproductive farmland is being converted to other uses, such as forestry, grazing or recreation, for which it is suited.

As our need for increased agricultural land expands in the future, it will be more and more necessary for the government of both states and nation to determine where good land is available, and to help prevent settlement in areas where families will become public charges because of the poverty of the land.

New Highway Survey in Curry

The surveying crew of the Oregon state highway department has completed relocation of the highway between Port Orford and Gregg creek to eliminate curves and shorten distance, says the Western World. In the opinion of Landscape Engineer Otter, of the state highway department, the new route will be the most beautiful stretch of highway in the state as it will run close to the sea nearly all the way. The route, beginning at Sixth street, or the front of the Western Hotel in Port Orford, will swing below the hills and follow close to the sea to the mouth of Brushes creek. It will follow the creek valley to the foot of Linville hill and then follow a tributary of Brushes creek to a point where the canyon breaks off on the ocean front. Then on a uniform grade the road will run close by the ocean, crossing in turn Mussel and Euchre creeks to the end of the job at Gregg's creek from which point the highway runs straight to Gold Beach. The distance relocated is about 17 miles.

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