

The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IN A GOOD TOWN
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NOT A REPUBLICAN-DEMOCRATIC FIGHT THIS YEAR

Under the heading "The Great Game of Politics," Frank R. Kent, in a copyrighted article in the Baltimore Sun, very clearly sets forth what this fall's election really means to the people of the United States. It is not a party fight between democrats and republicans; it is a battle between forces going in opposite directions. To the thinking man, one not blinded by partisan fealty, the words of Mr. Kent are worth pondering deeply and with an eye single to the future of these United States:

Whether Mr. Roosevelt is re-elected or whether he is defeated, the issues in this campaign will not be over with the election. Forces which in the last four years have arisen in the country will continue to clash for a long time to come, and the most accomplished political soothsayers admit it is not easy to see the final outcome.

Certainly this is no democratic and republican fight. It is wholly different from the normal political struggles to which we have been accustomed. Partly it is a class warfare and partly it is a contest between two great schools of thought—the conservatives on one side and on the other the radicals or liberals or progressives. They sometimes call themselves by one name and sometimes by another. The question of whether Governor Landon, if elected, would or would not continue certain new deal policies is not basic.

Nor is the point that he could not immediately balance the budget, reduce taxes, restore our financial equilibrium or fulfill all the promises of the republican party the real point.

The vital thing is the character of the support which is amassed behind the candidates rather than the candidates themselves. They are representative and symbolic of the forces behind them, and a clear understanding of that should be useful to the voters.

Setting aside the purely partisan backing, which in this campaign is both diminished and diluted, it may pay to take a look at these forces.

For example, behind Mr. Roosevelt are the more aggressive and extreme of the union labor leaders, men who see in him an opportunity to create a real labor party in 1940 and who formed an alliance with him more than a year ago, pledging their support regardless of who ran against him or on what platform.

The effort is to ally with the labor group the farmers and the negroes. The Roosevelt appeal is not to democrats and not to republicans—it is primarily to these three groups. Upon them his strategy is centered and his managers are entirely open in the drive for their amalgamation.

In addition he has the support of the La Follette type of progressive, advocates of still larger appropriations for public works, and the national ownership of public utility people whose hero is Senator Norris.

While the socialists have a ticket of their own, this time Mr. Roosevelt undoubtedly will poll many socialist votes, and Miss Dorothy Thompson, in one of her recent articles, asserts that the bulk of the communists of the country will vote for him rather than for Mr. Earl Browder.

There is not much doubt about that. Some of the more influential communist leaders openly say so. This is not because Mr. Roosevelt has either communistic leanings or sympathies. He has neither. None-the-less from the communist viewpoint his re-election plays their game and his defeat would be regarded as unfortunate—a setback for them.

It is true that those who are dissatisfied with the American system, impatient with the constitution and irritated with the supreme court are on the Roosevelt side. They certainly are against Landon. That is not a partisan statement. It is a simple presentation of a fact.

On the other hand, behind Mr. Landon are massed with singular solidity the so-called business interests of the county—big and little. Behind him, too, are an overwhelming proportion of the professional classes—the doctors, the lawyer, architects, engineers, clergymen and

that great group of self-supporting, thrifty men and women who are able to keep their heads above water without help either from the government or from anyone else and constitute the real conservatives.

These distrust governmental experiments, dislike the Roosevelt advisers and allies, look with distaste upon the great growth of the federal power and are alarmed at the idea of changing the rules under which we have functioned for 150 years.

It is unreasonable to doubt that the candidate elected president will proceed in the direction indicated and desired by the forces which elect him and with which he is in sympathetic accord. It is really a question of direction.

If Mr. Roosevelt should win he would be carried forward along the path he has been going. In another four years it is reasonable to assume that long steps would be taken toward the regimentation and national planning goals which, though blocked for the time by the supreme court, he has in no way given up. Even if he wanted to give them up, which he does not, the forces behind him would sweep him toward them.

Should Mr. Landon win, the move toward changing the system would be halted. The fight of the new deal party toward returning conservatism probably would intensify and the class warfare continue.

The new president might find himself helpless to do a lot of things, frustrated in various ways. He might turn out to be a poor president and bungle the job. But the direction would be changed.

That is the important thing. The control of governmental affairs and dominance in administration councils would be transferred from the radicals, who want to rush forward into new fields, to conservatives, who don't want to rush anywhere and would rather stand still than make mistakes. That is the big thing this time.

Far more important than the man elected is the character of the forces supporting him. The question the intelligent voter has to decide is not what party he wants to belong to, but what kind of people he wants on top in this country.

IMPORTS AT RECORD HIGH

America, the Washington Post reports, is about to break a 43-year record by buying more goods from foreign countries than it sells to them.

Not since 1893, the Post says, has the United States had an "unfavorable trade balance." In the first six months of this year, however, American purchases exceeded American sales. That was the first time that had happened since 1926.

A Commerce Department compilation showed that already this year the United States has imported 63 per cent more wheat than it did in the comparable period in 1933.

Attention was called to this trend, the Post says, by George N. Peek, former federal trade adviser and first chief of the AAA. The Post quotes Peek as saying in his new book, "Why Quit Our Own?"

"For the year 1935 our country became dependent upon foreign food imports to an extent unparalleled in our history. Since we curtailed production, our imports of agricultural products increased by \$248,000,000, while our imports of non-agricultural products increased \$155,000,000. We are no longer feeding and clothing ourselves."

Advertising Brings the Tourists

In addition to the wide publicity which Oregon has received this year through the Evergreen Playground Association campaign, the state has likewise been publicized pictorially and in story by the Travel and Information department of the Oregon State Highway Commission, under the direction of Harold B. Say. California newspapers including the Hollywood Citizens News, San Francisco Examiner, Fresno Bee, Long Beach Sun, Oakland Tribune, San Diego Tribune and Sacramento Bee, have reproduced stories and pictures supplied by the department. Other newspapers and magazines using material of a like nature include the Denver Post, Cincinnati Enquirer, Chicago Tribune, New York American, Indiana Teacher, Sunset, Standard Oil Bulletin, Sierra Educational News, Motorland, and Hunting and Fishing.

Much of the 33 per cent increase in motor travel to Oregon this year may be attributed to the state's advertising campaign and to that of the Evergreen Playground Association.

A recent survey shows that as of December 31, 1935, there were 11,120,025 persons in the United States who were securing either their total income or part of their income from the federal government. In other words approximately one person out of 11 in the United States was receiving income from the public treasury which the taxpayers support. Should the people support the government or should the government support the people? If one out of eleven is so supported why not the other ten!



Public Utilities Commissioner Frank C. McColloch, who announced when he took office last year that he would not harass utilities, has gotten results—to the tune of \$200,000 in rate reductions.

By negotiating with power and telephone companies instead of going to court, McColloch brought about savings to the public. Soon he expects to be able to announce still more rate reductions that will save Oregonians another \$200,000 a year.

The Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Co. came through last week with the biggest rate cuts, which will save its customers \$90,000 annually. Night longdistance discounts were made effective at 7:00 p. m. instead of 8:30 p. m., and made to apply throughout Sundays. Long distance rates were cut for some calls as much as five to 70 cents. Some person-to-person daytime calls were raised ten cents, though.

The 25 cents per month charge for hand-set or French type phones was eliminated if the instruments have been used 18 months and cut to 15 cents if the devices have not been installed that long.

"I find most utilities readily responsive to negotiation as a substitute for expensive litigation, long-drawn hearings and court appeals, and they seem quite willing when the facts justify it to devote the money which would be spent in engineering, attorney fees and court cost to reasonable rate reductions for the benefit of their customers," McColloch said.

The Portland General Electric Co., California-Ore. Power Co., West Coast Power Co., Oregon-Washington Telephone Co. and Idaho Power Co. are other utilities which have made rate cuts during McColloch's administration.

Oregon has levied a gasoline tax since 1919, but never until July was more than \$1,000,000 ever collected in one month. Secretary of State Snell counted \$1,091,418.92 in the till last month. The previous record month was August, 1935, at \$958,118.24. Since the first of the year, \$5,769,755.36 has been collected—\$757,879.46 more than came in during the first seven months last year. In 17 years, Oregon has received \$75,998,308.93 in gas taxes.

Governor Martin has adopted a new policy of personally interviewing every youthful first offender he transfers from the state penitentiary to the boys' training school at Woodburn. By calling the boys into his private office one at a time and having heart-to-heart talks with them, the governor hopes to get them started on the right track and a useful return to society.

When the population of the penitentiary zoomed to 1001, a condition unprecedented in Oregon history, the state parole board began to loosen somewhat. On the board's recommendation, the governor in two days' time signed conditional paroles for 28 men and one woman, but didn't let them all out in one day. Some of the payrolls will not be effective for several months. Many are given on the condition that the convicts leave the state immediately. The governor often adds this provision himself. Pencilled on a number of documents when they come from the executive's desk is this notation: "And leave state, CHM." Other convicts are turned over to federal officials for deportation or released to other states where they will immediately enter other penitentiaries to serve time for previous crimes.

The governor is determined to have the fame of Oregon's state penitentiary spread far and wide as a tough, hard-boiled place, not easy to get out of. "Then the lawbreakers will think twice and pass Oregon by," the governor said.

The first court attack on Oregon's jobless insurance law failed to worry the state unemployment compensation commission. Southern Oregon fruit packing plants filed the suit in Jackson county circuit court. Exemption of packing house employees as agricultural workers was sought in the suit. D. A. Bulmore, administrator of the law, said he did not believe constitutionality of the entire act would be questioned.

The voter's pamphlet which Secretary of State Snell will issue prior to the November general election will contain 16 arguments on initiative measures, seven affirmative statements and nine negative.

The state grange power bill attracted the most attention. The grange filed two affirmative arguments and a group of citizens and Oregon Business & Investors, Inc., of Portland, filed three opposing statements. The grange's state bank bill got double

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attention, with the opposition coming from the Taxpayers Protective Assn., headed by Harold J. Warner, Portland attorney.

Directors of School District No. 1, Portland, supported and the East Side Taxpayers opposed a tax limitation amendment for the district. F. N. Derby, of Salem, and other tax conservation league members advocated a property tax limitation which labor, the grange and the Oregon Advisory council on Public Schools attacked. Dr. S. T. Donohue, Eugene dentist, supported his constitutional amendment to repeal the so-called "advertising dentists" law and permit truthful advertising of a business or professional, but the Portland Better Business Bureau filed against the measure.

The anti-Columbia river fish trap and seine bill, advanced by gillnet fishermen, was opposed by seiners' union, although the bill may not get on the ballot. Optional military training in institutions of higher education was opposed by five persons, including men high in the ranks of the American Legion. Sponsors of the bill were too late to get their affirmative argument in the pamphlet.

The state liquor control commission made \$111,177.26 last month by selling \$589,437.85 worth of bottled goods. So far this year, the profit has been \$770,914.99 on sales of \$3,857,947.25.

Emergency freight rates on hay and other feed from Oregon to drought regions of Montana and the Dakotas have been put into effect by three railroads. Rates were cut from \$13.50 to \$8.50 per ton. Oregon farmers were said to have 50,000 tons of surplus feed on hand.

Engineers of the state highway department have begun to chart road routes through the air. Aerial reconnaissance is speedy and covers a lot of territory. R. H. Baldock, chief highway engineer, admits, but can never replace actual surveying on the ground the road is to cover. A panorama from the air, and pictures taken from a plane can be helpful, but engineers still need to cover the road's location on foot and study scores of maps in their offices before starting work, Baldock said.

Charles A. Howard, state superintendent of public instruction, believes Oregon may have more students enrolled in its grammar and high schools this year than ever before. Record year to date has been 1932-33

CRACK CAVALRY AT STATE FAIR



Formation in the mucial drill to be given at the Diamond Jubilee Oregon State Fair in Salem, September 7 to 13 by the 11th Cavalry Exhibition Platoon, Presidio of Monterey, Calif. Drills and stunts by the cavalrymen will be a feature of the night horse show.

with 205,433 pupils in school. County school superintendents in all parts of the state have reported to Howard that several thousand children have come into Oregon in recent months come into Oregon in recent months areas of the middle west.

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