

# The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IN A GOOD TOWN  
**H. A. YOUNG and M. D. GRIMES**  
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February, the short month, has more rest and vacation days than any month of the year, except November. Two legal holidays and four Sundays cut the month's business days to twenty-two.

The surest way to lose a friend and receive a stab in the back is to put yourself out to accommodate him, relieve his suffering, or do him a good turn of any description. The rule holds good whether it is an individual or a community.

There is too much meddling in state affairs by those connected with the university. Take this League of Oregon cities. According to our information it was started by a research department at the university. Some of the suggestions emanating therefrom have been wise and wholesome, but this thing of sending propaganda each week in an effort to disrupt the state's highway set-up is nauseous.

No smaller city in the state will receive as its share of gas tax—should the League of cities have its way—as much as the highway commission spends in improving and maintaining highways on streets through those cities.

Instead of being a benefit, as was no doubt contemplated, that research department is actually a menace to the best interests of the state and of the cities, except Portland.

## PRESIDENTS HAVE THREATENED COURT IN THE PAST

In these social security days when workmen are kicking about a deduction of one per cent in their wages which will go to a fund which may provide them with a small pension in their old age, it is refreshing to read a statement by G. F. Swift, president of Swift Co., stating that for 20 years Swift & Co. has had a pension system in operation to which the employees were not contributors. At the present time there are 3100 on the Swift pension roll, 1817 of whom were formerly employees but are now unable to work, either because of old age or because of permanent disability. The rest are widows and minor dependents of former employees.

After four years of continuous service with the company all men are given a week's vacation annually, with pay, and after ten years the vacation period is two weeks.

Approximately nine and one-quarter million dollars has been paid in death benefits by an old line company to workingmen's survivors. The company participates in payment of premiums and the rate of the premiums is unusually low for the insured.

The Employee Representation Plan is a Swift idea that has eliminated strikes in their plants and produced harmonious conditions for both employee and employer.

"I can raise better men than I can hire." These were the words of Gustavus Franklin Swift, who, fifty years ago, founded the organization. This pioneer of the meat packing industry not only knew his business—he knew his men.

A short time ago a survey was made of the executive force of the organization of 80,000 employees. It was found that 80 per cent of the executives began at the bottom of the ladder, as messenger boys, laborers, or clerks; 15 per cent began in slightly higher positions, such as assistant foreman; and five per cent entered the organization in various managerial positions. This five per cent consisted largely of those with special knowledge and training, such as professional and technical men.

## SWIFT & CO. HAS PENSIONED ITS WORKMEN FOR YEARS

More than 130 years ago, the Supreme Court of the United States was subjected to a wave of criticism. Its chief critic was none other than the third president of the then very young nation—Thomas Jefferson. Interesting are the facts surrounding that situation.

Jefferson was an ardent "states' rights" man. He opposed extension of federal powers, and followed into the presidency George Washington and John Adams, both of whom favored a strong central government.

Toward the close of his term, Adams succeeded in putting through

legislation which strengthened the young and weak federal government. Jefferson then took office. He hoped that with his election, the Supreme Court would declare unconstitutional these acts which he did not like. Instead, the court followed the constitution and repeatedly ruled contrary to Jefferson's wishes.

Whereupon Jefferson inaugurated a campaign of criticism—because the court would not hold laws unconstitutional. Jefferson's efforts were unsuccessful.

Several other times has criticism centered on the court. Once, in the administration of General Ulysses S. Grant, an attempt was made to "pack" the court by increasing its size. But the new members voted with the previous majority and Grant's efforts failed.

Never has the nation let anyone hamstring the court for any length of time. The people obviously realize that time after time it has not only saved the nation from disintegration but preserved through thick and thin man's greatest heritage—liberty.

And now Franklin Delano Roosevelt, whom R. A. Easton refers to in a letter appearing elsewhere on this page as Public Enemy No. 1, is seeking to pack the supreme court with creatures of his own selection who will approve the constitutionality of all the communistic laws a subservient congress may pass—at his demand.

He is the president; he tells congress what laws shall be enacted; and he is attempting to complete his dictatorship by declaring those laws constitutional.

If the United States is a democracy, let's keep it so. If its government is to be communistic it is time to abolish congress and supreme court and name the United States' Hitler or Mussolini or Stalin. Your guess is correct as to who will be first U. S. dictator!



Old age pensions continue a major source of worry for the Oregon legislators as the session grinds on toward the end of the 40-day period for which the lawmakers can draw their \$3 per diem.

Governor Martin's budget makes provision for pensions only to needy persons 70 years of age or over. There is, however, much sentiment, especially among house members, favorable to reducing the age requirement to 65 years. This would increase the cost to the state and the several counties by more than \$3,400,000 for the biennium. Savings resulting through removal of the needy aged from direct relief would amount to approximately \$1,000,000 for the biennium. This would still leave a net increase of \$2,400,000 in the relief-pension burden. One-half of this increase, or approximately \$1,200,000, would fall on the state. The other half would be borne by the counties. Without additional revenue than that now available, such a program would plunge the state deeply into the "red." Several proposals for new revenues to cover pension needs are also before the sessions, including an increase in income tax rates, taxes on fuel oils, etc. But Governor Martin has warned against new tax laws as well as against any deficit in the general fund and any measure involving either of these programs would probably encounter his veto.

The house, strongly pro-Townsend in its sentiments, might pass a bill reducing the age requirement in spite of its financial aspect in fulfillment of the pre-election promises of many of its members. The senate, however, more conservative in its make-up, could be expected to block any such program or at least to uphold the governor's veto if it should reach that point.

As a compromise it is now being proposed that this session content itself with reducing the age of pension beneficiaries to 68 years with a gradual reduction to the 65 year minimum, effective January 1, 1940, when this provision will be necessary in order to conform to the federal requirements.

Bills now before the legislature provide for readjustment of the salaries of county officials in 17 counties. Most of these readjustments, according to sponsors of the bills, merely involve restoration of county salaries to their pre-depression level. In many of the bills the pay of only one or two county officials is involved. In others, notably those from Malheur, Clackamas, Clatsop and Lake counties, the entire county salary schedule is being revised upward. If all of the proposals are approved they will involve an aggregate increase of approximately \$20,000 a year in the salaries paid to officials of these 17 counties.

It now appears as though the voters of Oregon would have to pass on the milk control act regardless of what

the legislature might do about this problem. C. A. Townsend, of Portland, is understood to be heading a movement to refer to the people an amendment to the milk control act which would take from the control board the authority to fix the retail price of milk.

The State Fair, Pacific International Livestock Exposition and state association of county fairs are lined up in opposition to the proposal to increase the state's "take" from pari-mutuel betting and let in a number of additional fairs and rodeos on the "cut." The proposal was originally made by the Portland Rose Show which wants to be cut in on the spoils to the extent of \$10,000 a year. In order to make the "pot" big enough to go around it is proposed that the state take five per cent out of the bets placed on dog and horse races instead of the present two and one-half per cent. The Astoria Regatta, Lakeview Round-up and Redmond Potato Show have joined in the demand for a share of the spoils and it is understood that others are willing to participate including the Independence Hop Fiesta, Molalla Buckaroo, Siletz Rodeo and Taft Red-head Round-up. Present beneficiaries of the betting money, however, are fearful that if the state's "take" is increased it will discourage betting.

Confronted on the one hand by special appropriation bills aggregating more than \$1,250,000—not included in the regular budget—and on the other hand by Governor Martin's warning against deficits and new revenue measures the legislative ways and means committee is hard put to know which way to turn.

Finching and scraping wherever possible the committee is paring a few dollars off the governor's budget recommendations here and there but for the most part it is placing its "okch" on the budget items as contained in the governor's budget. While some additional savings will be shown when the committee completes its work on the regular budget requests it is not probable that the budget surplus, finally established at approximately \$342,000 when the experts finished their budget juggling act, will exceed \$500,000. Whatever the amount it must be stretched to cover the special requests which have piled up since the session began and are still coming in.

Largest of the special requests is one for \$250,000 to finance a vocational guidance program. Approximately a score of agricultural groups are interested in a so-called omnibus appropriation bill aggregating \$144,500 for the investigation of pests and diseases of plants, fruits, vegetables, bees, poultry, cattle, etc. Governor Martin wants \$100,000 of the surplus for his new mining board and there are several bills for new state buildings, including \$200,000 for a tuberculosis hospital in Multnomah county, \$54,500 for a new 50-bed pavilion at the eastern Oregon tuberculosis hospital at The Dalles and \$160,000 to apply toward the purchase of a building in Portland to house state departments domiciled in that city.

More than 260 bills poured in on the legislature last week—174 in the House and 87 in the senate.

The senate rule against long winded speeches became operative Wednesday. Debates on bills now, except for the author, are limited to five minutes. Speakers who crave more time, however, can usually borrow some from other members who do not care to use theirs.

Governor Martin sent a special message to the legislature this week urging passage of the administration bill creating the new department of geology and mineral industry.

Representative Grant wants to bring the "insidious" interests that back many of the legislative measures out into the open. Now when a legislator does not want to assume full responsibility for a measure which he drops into the hopper he merely adds the notation "by request" after his name. Grant wants his colleagues, both in the house and senate, to elaborate a bit on this "by request" and tell just who requested the introduction of the bill. The suggestion is said to be anything but popular, especially among the interests back of bills to legalize pin ball games, slot machines and other forms of gambling.

When will the session end? No one knows, of course. Some members think it will continue another three weeks at least, while others, more optimistic, believe that it will not continue more than a week over the 40 days for which the legislators are paid.

Purchase of the Oregon building in Portland for state business is proposed in a bill introduced by Senator Chaney. The state board of control, which now rent the building, is said to be opposed to the plan. On the other hand, the joint ways and means committee favors the idea of transferring the state property control to the purchasing department.

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## Agricultural Interests Are Asking for Union Regulation

The voice of agriculture was raised above the tumult of Ray Gill and Ben Osborne at Salem last Friday night, in protest against the disastrous effect of labor strikes.

Before the house committee on labor and industries, large groups of farmers and orchardists urged the passage of anti-strike measures, and in no uncertain language.

Oregon farmers cannot face another situation like the recent record-breaking maritime strike, he declared, nor can they see eye to eye with Gill, master of the strafe grange, who has issued a lengthy statement that the farmer and labor have common ground.

When Gill was openly opposed on the floor of the committee room, the galleries resounded with cheers from the husky throats of strike-suffering farmers.

G. B. Adams, of Moro, speaking for the Oregon shippers and producers and the Eastern Oregon Wheat League, said:

"The press tells us that the present strike settlement is only for one year. Gentlemen, the men who produce our agricultural products cannot face this devastation every year. We cannot have the menace of a strike always ahead. If we cannot pass bills to protect agriculture, if this is what democracy gives us, if a highly organized minority is to rule, we must look for some other form of government. That is something that shouldn't even be voiced, but this is a serious situation."

Tounis Wyers, former member of the legislature, speaking for the Hood River growers who sponsored bills 56 and 57, pointed out that under house bill No. 56, the only way an industrial organization can lose its license, is through the courts. The bill demands that all organizations of workers or employers register with the corporation commissioner, and make annual financial reports.

Ben T. Osborne, executive secretary of the state federation of labor, who opposes the passage of any of the measures now before the legislature, expressed the opinion that such legislation would fail; that labor had also failed in its efforts to arrive at amicable settlements with employers without inconveniencing anyone.

Gill reiterated his contention that he believed the farmer and the laborer were big enough to settle their differences around the council table. He made no mention of the situation at the Oceanic dock in Portland when

union teamsters refused to allow Hood River fruitmen to unload their perishables there for shipment.

Adams, appearing earlier before a senate committee remarked that: "If you gentlemen think Mr. Gill and Mr. Tompkins represent all of the agricultural interests of the state, you are mistaken."

B. A. Green, Portland labor attorney, spoke against the passage of the bills.

## Easton's Public Enemy No. 1

In all that which has been said and written about public enemies and of the ability of the different individuals to snarl into the stardom of public enemy No. 1, it has been learned that it was not the superior knowledge in crime that public enemy No. 1 had over his criminal associates, but that he outclassed them in the ways of massing unseen retainers, in the way of "good citizens," lawyers, doctors, to do his bidding and give him face in the community where he had sought refuge.

And thus Public Enemy No. 1 could play his "good neighbor," good citizenship act for the reason so and so had endorsed him.

To the best of my knowledge and belief it is not gangsters of gangland that threaten the stability of government in the United States of America. But, when a president of the United States tries to corrupt the courts of his country by blackguardism or by asking congress to give him power to pack the courts with his satellites that he may thereby gain his own personal ends, to enlarge the boundaries of his raw deal without let or hindrance, then does the president of the United States become Public Enemy No. 1. And the congressmen who back his lust for power are of the same breed and type as the silent partners of gangland.—R. A. Easton.

## Tax Reverted Lands in Oregon

Tax reverted lands in Oregon now compose 1,795,675 acres, valued at the time of foreclosure at \$12,475,024. It was revealed in a report just completed by the Oregon State Planning board, entitled "Statistics of Tax Reverted Lands in Oregon."

Reverted lands now total 2.95 per cent of the total rural area of Oregon, the report shows. The ratio of privately owned land to the tax-reverted area is approximately 14 to one.

In Coos county tax reverted lands total 64,400.54 acres and 22,753 city lots, the total assessed value of which is \$1,604,483.44. Charges against the property total \$1,092,878.53.

Of the total value of \$12,475,024 of tax reverted lands in Oregon, rural real estate is valued at \$8,684,134, an average assessed valuation of \$4.84 per acre. The total assessed valuation of city lots amounted to \$3,790,890, an average of \$24.65 per lot.

The total taxes, penalty, interest and other costs due the counties on the rural lands at the time of foreclosure amounted to \$3,558,705, an average of \$1.98 per acre. The total of taxes, penalty, interest, and other charges standing against the city lots at the time of foreclosure amounted to \$3,592,669, an average of \$23.36 per lot. The grand total of delinquent taxes, penalty, interest and other costs resting against all these tax-reverted lands as of time to foreclosure is approximately \$7,151,374.

## Had to Call the Strike Off

Just what did the maritime strike accomplish for labor? This is a question that will keep labor leaders busy explaining for some time. Everyone knows that it cost the Pacific coast many millions of dollars. At the end of the strike Harry Bridges, the alien leader of the longshoremen's group, announced that the strike would be over because it was impossible to keep the men from returning to work. In other words Bridges would have liked to prolong the strike but couldn't keep hungry and penniless men from working. And they returned to work—the longshoremen—at the identical wages they received before the strike.

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