

The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IN A GOOD TOWN
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OREGON, THE BLEST

It's human nature to growl and complain about conditions that do not suit us, but Oregonians should give thanks that they live in a country where cyclones and tornadoes are not a spring habit. It rains, true, but the face of the landscape takes care of the overflow, it has been doing it for ages and is prepared to do it.

What matters that our rivers get out of their banks, block highways and stop the mails and travel for a few days occasionally? It doesn't cost lives by the score and property loss by the million as did those in Kansas, Missouri and Illinois yesterday. Nor are our floods comparable in destructive effect with those in southern California.

Thank God that the discomfort of rain is the worst thing the people of western Oregon have to complain about.

FIVE PER CENT PAY FEDERAL INCOME TAXES

(From the Washington Daily News)
 Secretary Morgenthau announces that last year 2,888,890 American citizens paid Federal taxes on their 1936 incomes.

That is \$21,254 more than the number who in 1936 paid taxes on their 1935 incomes.

It is, in fact the largest number of Federal income-tax payers the country has boasted since 4,489,698 taxable returns were filed on 1924 incomes.

Shortly after taxes were paid on the 1924 incomes, congress increased exemptions to \$1,500 for single persons and \$3,500 for married couples. The number of taxpayers dropped to about 2,500,000—and remained almost stationary through the prosperous late 20's. Then came the depression, and with those liberal exemptions the number of Federal income-taxpayers fell to about 1,500,000 in 1931. Whereupon congress reinstated the old 1924 exemptions—\$1,000 for single persons and \$2,500 for married couples—and since then the number of taxpayers has increased.

Assuming that last year's high total of returns included the usual ratio of joint returns for husband and wife, the 2,888,990 returns represented the income-tax payments of approximately 3,600,000 adults—in a country where more than 75,000,000 adults live. Thus Federal income taxes are paid by less than five per cent of Americans of voting age.

With 95 per cent of American voters exempt from the only type of Federal tax which is direct and visible and proportioned to ability to pay it, it is small wonder that demands to spend more and more government money meet with such little popular resistance.

More and more does the Oregon Coast Highway find its place in the sun as the year round route through Oregon. In January out-of-state registrations of cars travelling the Coast Highway were 78 per cent higher than they were in January, 1937.



Governor Martin's long expected announcement of intention to try for a second term, was made at a meeting of Young Democrats in Portland Friday night where the governor was given a rousing ovation by the more than 500 partisans attending. Commenting on the political outlook to newspaper men in Salem the governor said that he anticipated no difficulty in winning the nomination. Three other democrats will compete with Martin for the nomination, including Dr. J. F. Hosch, of Bend, O. Henry Oleen of St. Helens and Dr. Ralph H. Erwin of Portland.

Friends of State Treasurer Rufus Holman in Salem, Portland and other sections of Oregon this week launched a "Holman for United States Senator" boom in an effort to persuade

Holman to enter the republican primaries. Holman who up to this time has figured largely in speculations as a possible republican candidate for governor admits that the prospect of a seat in the United States senate intrigues him but declares that he will await further developments before making up his mind as to whether he will run at all or not and if so, for what.

J. M. Devers, attorney for the state highway commission, is also receiving considerable encouragement to enter the senatorial race. Peter Zimmerman, of Yamhill, this week denied reports that he had given up any notion of trying for the senatorship. He was not yet ready, however, to definitely announce his candidacy. Others mentioned in connection with this post-include Homer Angell, of Portland; Walter Norblad of Astoria and Walter Tooze of Portland.

Sam Brown, the Gervais farmer, who announced his intention to seek the republican gubernatorial nomination several weeks ago, filed his formal declaration this week. In his platform Brown promises to devote his efforts to the restoration of harmony between rival factions in Oregon and expresses the belief that his years of experience in the state legislature adequately qualify him for the high office of chief executive. Four years ago Brown was runner-up in the republican gubernatorial race, running second only to Joe Dunne who later lost out to Charles H. Martin, the democratic choice.

Resignation of E. A. Landis as superintendent of the motor transport division of the public utilities department this week immediately started a rumor that this was the forerunner of a wholesale housecleaning. The rumor was just as promptly squelched by Utilities Commissioner N. G. Wallace who denied that there was any political significance to Landis' resignation or that any departmental house cleaning was in prospect. Supporting Wallace's claim that Landis was not being released because of political reasons came the announcement that A. F. Harvey, another republican who has been with the department for the past 12 years, would succeed to the post of superintendent of transportation.

Here's one that ranks alongside the old cat and rat farm story. The state school for the deaf has a small tract of low, wet land. "Is the land good for anything," Treasurer Holman wanted to know. "Oh, yes, we raise hay on it," Superintendent Steed assured him. "And what do you do with the hay?" Holman persisted. "We feed it to our team of horses," Steed replied. "Oh, so you have some horses, too; what do you use them for," queried Holman. "We need the horses to cut the hay," Steed explained.

Condemnation proceedings will be resorted to in order to secure possession of the Patton property in Salem occupying a portion of the block on which the new state library is being built. The Capitol Reconstruction commission reports that owners of the property have been offered \$32,000 but that they are asking \$57,000.

When the state highway commission retires a block of \$1,753,000 in road bonds maturing April 1, its load of bonded debt will be reduced to below the \$20,000,000 mark for the first time since 1920. Unless new bond issues are floated the commission's bonded debt will be almost wiped out during the next ten years, according to R. H. Baldock, state highway engineer.

N. G. Wallace, Oregon utilities commissioner, this week warned J. D. Ross, Bonneville administrator, against any tampering with the present rate policy in Oregon, which gives to farmers the same rate as enjoyed by adjacent cities.

"In the state of Oregon, with only one exception, we have no differential between urban and rural rates, the schedules of all of our largest utilities being the same on the farm as they are in the city, and the same in the smaller cities as in the larger," Commissioner Wallace pointed out in his letter to Ross.

"We realize, of course, that the ordinary rural territory, in order to be served at rates as low as those in the city, must, in effect be subsidized, and, appropriately so, by the cities which the country supports, and those cities feel that they should at least be called upon to bear a substantial part of such subsidy.

"Our people on the farms are going to expect this and our people in the city have subscribed to it. It is my judgment that any change in this situation would arouse a bitter protest in the very extensive rural areas served by the utilities which you mention in your letter."

Governor Martin, in a letter to Ross also warned that any benefits accruing to private utilities by way of savings in power costs by reason of the operation of Bonneville dam

must be passed on to the consumers and not retained by the utility to be paid out to stockholders as dividends.

Dedication of the new capitol has been tentatively set for October 1. The new building will be ready for occupancy by the latter part of June but the Capitol Commission does not want to throw it open to public inspection until the new furnishings for the executive suite and the house and senate chambers arrive. The rugs, drapes and furniture for these rooms, it is estimated, will cost approximately \$30,000. Designs for these furnishings are to be prepared by the architects who designed the building and can not be ready for delivery for several months. While the building will be ready for occupancy in June it is not expected that all of the work, such as painting of the murals and the sculpturing of the statues will be completed for another year.

The Oregon association of Trade Executives has attacked the validity of referendum petitions filed against the anti-price discrimination act of the last legislature. Among other things it is charged that paid circulators were employed in securing signatures to the petitions. Suit has been filed in the Marion county circuit court asking that the referendum be set aside.

This is a story of 11 pianos that have been going "round and round" for the past three months without coming out anywhere yet. Three months ago the Oregon State College asked for 11 new pianos. The board of control, upon the recommendation of the head of the college music department, placed the order with Sherman, Clay & Company of Portland. Thereupon Collins & Erwin, another Portland piano house protested the award on the ground that their own bid had been lower on pianos of equal quality. The board of control thereupon passed the buck to the board of higher education who this week returned the compliment and passed it back to the Board of Control. Now the 11 pianos are right back where they were three months ago—in the lap of the board of control which is again inviting bids on the deal.

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Victoria Courtesy Commended

Following the visit of J. E. Norton, Lafe Compton and Ed Miller in Victoria last month, the Coast Highway Association manager, issued the following open letter to the coast country as to their reactions to the hospitality conduct of those living in Victoria. It contains a fine thought as to what this coast can do along courtesy and hospitality lines:

The president, treasurer and manager of the Oregon Coast Highway Association with twenty-three other coasters have just returned from a good-will trip through western Washington to Victoria. The trip was very successful. There is a material increase of visitors to and from Victoria because of the fine relationship built up.

There were many memorable experiences on this trip and effective contacts. The Press, Victoria city and the provincial officials with Geo. I. Warren, publicity commission, the hotels and resorts, all the people of Victoria, the Black Ball ferry lines with Publicity Director Bill Thorniley—all were most gracious, they deserve our hearty appreciation. We will send them many cheering messages through visitors to charming Victoria this year.

We observed one thing so distinctive that we desire to pass it on for emphasis and imitation to all our coast people. It is the genuine, sincere, friendliness of their hospitality. It was not the effusive demonstration of propaganda or the mask of gain securing, it was genuine, sincere and effective. It is like the welcome of friends returning to the old home town. It warms the heart. One compared it with the warmth of tropical islands in the substantial reserved manner of England. We who experienced it loved those people. We will remember it, we all want to go to Victoria again, we will send our friends.

There, everybody does it, not merely the official host or greeter. We meet it on the street, in the stores, everywhere. One or our number was arrested for speeding while hurrying, late for a meeting, but when the

officer learned he had taken a visitor, he apologized and conducted the guest to his destination, leading the way in his own car.

This friendly hospitality is a merit record. With the thousands of fine people visiting the coast, we, too, want them to know that we sincerely welcome them. We want to share our joy and happiness with them, be known truly as the friendly coast. If we but think of it, we will be that way. The press, chambers of commerce, service clubs, sales persons, churches, social clubs as well as hospitality places, let everybody emphasize it. With one accord, let us all be sincerely friendly to our visitors.

Trek to Oregon Growing

The trek to Oregon from other states, beginning back in the covered wagon days, continues every year, but today citizens of this state are faced with a real and immediate problem of what to do with these "pioneers," it is graphically pointed out in the latest report issued by the Oregon State Planning Board, "A Study of Migration into Oregon, 1930-37." The report has been submitted to Governor Martin who has approved it for release to the public.

The report shows that Oregon had a net gain of approximately 96,600 in population in the seven-year period ending January 1, 1937, and of these but 15,100 were the result of natural growth, or excess of births over deaths.

The wave of recent immigration reached a new peak in 1935 and 1936, the report shows. In five years from 1930 to 1935 the yearly increase was 8,063, but this rose to an average of 28,166 per year during 1935 and 1936.

These newcomers have great difficulty in finding employment or land on which they can make a living. Social problems must be faced when migrants fail to make satisfactory personal adjustments. Manufacturing activities in Oregon are notably deficient and inadequate industrial development precludes absorption of any considerable number of migrant workers.

Establishment of basic industries, especially those requiring large blocks of power, greater development

Coquille High School

Public Speaking Contests

A meeting was called last week for the purpose of gathering together those who wish to contend for honors in public speaking. Girls will compete in the field of interpretive readings. Boys will be given topics for extemporaneous speeches. The contests will take place at the Myrtle Point High School gym on April 1st, at seven-thirty. The same evening at six-thirty the boys will draw two topics from which they will choose one. Topics will be taken from the January, February and March issues of "Current History." Their speeches will be limited to six minutes. W. A. Dahlberg, of the University of Oregon, will judge both contests.

Address by Rex Putnam

An excellent address was given before a special assembly last Tuesday morning by Rex Putnam, state superintendent of public instruction. His subject was "Personality."

Girls Volley Ball Games

In the interclass rivalry games the sophomore second team beat the junior team, the sophomore first team beat the freshman team, 21 to 18, and the sophomore second team beat the sophomore first team 21 to 18. This puts the sophomore second team in first place with three wins and no losses, while the freshman first and sophomore first teams tie for second place with two wins and one loss.

Sound Picture Shown

An assembly on Monday of last week enjoyed the interesting picture on sound, showing waves in motion, and picturing the movements of wave-lengths. This was part two of a series of sound pictures.

You will find such new and charming roses as Norman Lambert, Etalle de Hollande, Golden Dawn and others in the new group received by Josephine Brockmann and you may get these fine bushes at 35c or \$4.00 a dozen. Phone 600.