

The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IN A GOOD TOWN
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 Publishers
H. A. YOUNG, Editor

Subscription Rates
 One Year \$2.00
 Six Months 1.00
 Three Months .60
 No subscription taken unless paid for in advance. This rule is imperative.

Advertising Rates
 Display advertising 30 cents per inch. No advertisement inserted for less than 50 cents. Reading notices 10 cents per line. No reading notice, or advertisement of any kind, inserted for less than 25 cents.

Entered at the Coquille Postoffice as Second Class Mail Matter.

Office Corner W. First and Willard St.

SUPPLY AND DEMAND

LAW STILL PREVAILS

We do not like the word, "recession," which appears in an article in a recent issue of Liberty, written by its publisher, Bernarr Macfadden. It is the word used by Roosevelt to indicate that all is not rosy in the business world, but if his "recession" differs from Herbert Hoover's depression, it is only in the degree, with Roosevelt's being the more acute.

The article which Mr. Macfadden heads "Over the High-Wage Precipice—Maybe?" deals with the inexorable law of supply and demand. It is a simple statement of the fact that by artificial stimulation is foredoomed to failure. Read Mr. Macfadden's plain and clear-cut statement of the case:

During the boom period previous to 1929, wages went soaring. And due to what? Not to governmental edicts—but to the scarcity of labor.

Business was booming. Prices were high. Profits were big and the money required to pay high wages was easy to find.

Now we all want the prosperity that distributed money so freely everywhere during that period, and because high wages meant liberal spending and because of their close association with prosperity many of our officials concluded that boom times could be brought again merely by raising wages higher and higher.

But it was not high wages that brought prosperity... it was prosperity that brought high wages. We would hardly want to put the cart before the horse. We might just as well say a farmer raised a good crop in order to bring the rain.

Wages represent an investment, and investors put their money in wages because they are reasonably sure that profits can be secured; but when wages are artificially boosted until no profit can be expected, the investment is no longer attractive and there is automatically a business recession.

Furthermore, it cannot be repeated too often that high wages bring high prices, and even a moron will admit that high prices mean lessened demand, which automatically adds to unemployment.

It was former President Hoover who started the high-wage demand through official sources. In the beginning of the 1929 depression, great business leaders were called to Washington, and Mr. Hoover especially requested them not to reduce wages. The Presidential edict was highly respected everywhere, and business men throughout the country tried to maintain their wage standard.

But when orders began to fade away, something had to be done. Departments of every great organization were carefully scrutinized with a view of lowering expenses, and the consequence of this analysis brought layoffs of employees that averaged from twenty to twenty-five per cent throughout the entire country, bringing the unemployment rolls up to ten million or more.

If wages had not been interfered with artificially, they would have been lowered on that occasion to meet the conditions, and prices for everything would have tumbled far more than they did at that particular time, and the unemployment difficulties would have been much less severe. Lower wages—cheap prices—increased demand—that is automatic.

The statement that high wages bring disaster will be treated with derision by some labor leaders. Why, they will say, they give the laboring man more money to spend, and that helps business of all kinds... Which is true as far as it goes... but with the increased prices for merchandise brought on by artificially boosted high wages, demands automatically decrease, which naturally adds to the unemployment rolls.

We have a most amazing exemplification of the truth of this statement in the automobile business. The wages in this business have been constantly boosted over a period of years. The business has increased so rapidly, and the processes of mass production have improved to such an extent, that prices on automobiles have

greatly decreased, notwithstanding the gradual increase in the wage scale.

But beginning with the last wage increase, during the epidemic of sit-down strikes, automobile manufacturers were compelled to increase their prices, and the demand receded to such an extent that already there have been more than one hundred thousand layoffs in Detroit alone.

If this artificial boosting of wages continues, we can depend upon unemployment gradually increasing until perhaps half of the workers will be out of jobs. Then the other half who are working will have to support the "half" who are not working, either through taxes or union dues. So what is the gain through high wages?

Furthermore, let us repeat again that there is little difference whether wages are high or low, provided they are uniform in all businesses, because the price of what you buy goes up or down with the wage scale.

During the lowest period of the depression, twenty-five dollars per week salary would buy more than forty dollars... or in some commodities fifty dollars... can buy at the present time.

The workings of economic laws, guided by supply and demand, are as definitely fixed as the movements of the sun, moon, and stars, and artificial interference of any kind will ultimately bring disaster.



Activity in the camp of the Oregon republicans this past week has centered largely on efforts to smoke out some outstanding candidate for governor who might be expected to give Chas. H. Martin, democrat, a race in the November election—it being pretty generally conceded that the governor already has the nomination in the bag and safe in his possession. By the same token these same republican leaders do not feel that either of the four candidates who have already offered their services to the party in the capacity of standard bearers are of sufficient calibre to give Martin any considerable worry.

In this connection it is known that considerable pressure is being brought on Chas. A. Sprague, Salem newspaper publisher, to enter the gubernatorial contest. Sprague, himself, is reluctant to discuss the subject. Friends of the Salem publisher, however, declare that while Sprague would much prefer to support some other candidate he might consent to enter the race as a last resort. Hope that Homer D. Angell, Portland attorney and state senator, might be persuaded to seek the governorship were dashed this week when he filed as a candidate for the republican nomination for congress in the third district, opposing Nan Wood Honeyman, democrat, who is seeking re-election.

Reports that Dr. J. F. Hosch, of Bend, would withdraw from the democratic race for the gubernatorial nomination in favor of Elton Watkins were promptly squelched by Hosch in a statement in which he declared that he is in the race to stay.

Prospect of a lively fight for the republican nomination for congress in the first Oregon district is seen in the entry of Walter Norblad of Astoria into the race as an opponent of James W. Mott, incumbent, who is seeking re-election. Youthful, alert, aggressive and able, Norblad has already started his campaign for the congressional seat and expects to devote his entire time right up to the primary election in a tour of the district which covers the entire state west of the Cascades except for Multnomah county. Norblad is the son of former governor A. W. Norblad, a graduate of the University of Oregon and is engaged in the practice of law in Astoria.

Representatives of the co-operative flax plants at Canby and Mt. Angel appeared before the Board of Control this week to protest the invasion of their field by the state flax plant. Publication of misleading information regarding prices paid for flax to growers delivering to the state plant, it was charged, was also creating much dissatisfaction among members of the co-operative organizations. Arrangements were made for conferences between representatives of the co-operatives and state plant to determine standards upon which payments will be based in the future. The board also issued instructions that acreage is to be signed up by the state plant in co-operative territory hereafter.

A fight to the finish is promised for the next legislative session by the organization of fishing interest in the mid-Columbia river district to oppose the demands of the federal bureau of fisheries that commercial fishing be discontinued on the Bonneville pool. Governor Martin this

week announced that he would ask the state fish commission to take care of the situation but it was later discovered that the matter was not one within the jurisdiction of the commission but one requiring legislative action.

George W. Peavy, president of Oregon State College and dean of the School of Forestry, is believed to hold the record for continuity of service on a state board. Peavy has been a member of the State Board of Forestry ever since the board was created 27 years ago.

Uncle Sam has poured a total of \$28,749,041.38 into Oregon during the past seven years to finance highway projects designed to relieve unemployment, according to a report by R. H. Baldock, state highway engineer. To this amount the state added \$9,325,272 and the counties and railroads contributed another \$421,637.03 for a grand total of \$38,496,651. While Baldock claims that the relief program was only 81 per cent efficient and that the same amount of work could be had for \$31,359,838 under the contract system, he admits that it has advanced Oregon's highway program approximately four and one-half years.

Attorney General Van Winkle has ruled that the assistant parole officer recently employed by authority of Governor Martin can not be paid out of funds appropriated for the state prison. Only salaries of the prison staff are covered by the governor's special fund for special investigations.

Increased efficiency of operation as well as some degree of economy is expected by Solon T. White, director of agriculture, from the newly inaugurated plan of district representation. Under this plan the state has been divided into 18 inspection and enforcement areas with a representative of the department of agriculture located permanently in each district. Specialists from the state headquarters will be called on for help by the district representatives in cases requiring such services.

A total of \$6,236,245 was disbursed by the State Relief Committee during 1932, according to a report filed with Governor Martin. The disbursement covered the following items: Old age pensions, \$3,376,518; direct relief, \$2,527,857; aid to dependent children, \$209,543; and aid to the blind, \$122,338.

Increased unemployment and depression conditions have again turned people to books and the public libraries, according to Miss Harriett C. Long, state librarian. January and February shipments from the state library totalling 53,667 volumes, were the heaviest for those two months in the entire history of this institution.

While it will be several days before the Tax Commission is able to dig out from under the deluge of income tax returns that flooded the department this week it is not expected that collections this year will equal those of a year ago because of poor business conditions during the latter part of 1932.

Use of electricity in Oregon during 1932 increased 8.322 per cent over 1931 figures, according to a survey by Utilities Commissioner N. G. Wallace. Revenues from the sale of electricity, however, increased only 7.58 per cent, due to rate reductions and lower costs for energy used in the higher brackets.

Buzz' Equipment Attracts Attention in Portland

Mementos of the Colorado river trip of Haldane "Buzz" Holmstrom, who performed an unequalled feat when he navigated the dangerous stream alone for 1100 miles last year, are providing unusual interest for Portlanders who pass The First National Bank of Portland Sixth street windows this week.

A display of grimy pots and pans, a life preserver, hatchet, compass and waterproof matchbox used on the perilous adventure is drawing Portland crowds to the window. The exhibit centers around the article written by Robert Oimond Case, Portland author, and published in a recent issue of the Saturday Evening Post.

An especially unusual piece in the display is a home-made check which Holmstrom drew up on ordinary white paper and cashed at a service station in Marble Canyon, Arizona. Before its final presentation to the Coquille Branch of the First National Bank of Portland, the crude medium of exchange passed through the Bank of Arizona at Flagstaff, the Farmers and Merchants National Bank, Los Angeles, the Portland Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank and the First National Bank of Portland head office.

Calling cards, 50 for \$1.00.

Putnam to Seek Election

Rex Putnam, state superintendent of public instruction, has formally announced that he will be a candidate in the democratic primaries for the nomination to succeed himself. Mr. Putnam was appointed by Governor Martin to fill the unexpired term of Dr. C. A. Howard and assumed office September 1, 1932.

Mr. Putnam enunciates the following for which he stands as a public official and candidate for re-nomination:

Equalization and improvement of educational opportunities for Oregon boys and girls; state and federal support of education without federal control; greater service to rural schools through co-operation of the state office; good citizenship as the paramount aim of education; continued emphasis on fundamental subjects; the principle that the welfare of teachers is essential to an efficient school system; the idea that Oregon young people should know Oregon in order to live, work, and succeed in Oregon; extension of vocational educational program; encouragement of adult education; economy without loss of efficiency; full co-operation with all educational agencies.

County School News from Mrs. Martha Mulkey's Office

Non High Board to Meet

The Non High School Board will meet on Monday, April 11, in the office of the county superintendent at 8:00 p. m. This will be the first meeting since September. Persons having suggestions to make relative to any Non High problem are invited to send same in through one of the five members or to be present. Members are as follows: Zone 1, W. M. Hillar, Empire; Zone 2, Adam Donaldson, Jr., Catching Inlet, Marshfield; Zone 3, Neil O. Watson, Eastside; Zone 4, Ed Dellefens, Coquille; Zone 5, J. N. Gearhart, Myrtle Point.

Senior Conference
 The seniors in the ten Coos county high schools will meet in Marshfield on Tuesday, April 12th. At this time members of the several state schools of higher education will be present to instruct these young people.

Teachers Are Being Re-Hired
 Teachers in a number of school districts have been elected to succeed themselves. As a result contracts and teaching certificates are beginning to come into the office of the county school superintendent for registration.

Teachers to Meet at Coquille
 Many teachers are expecting to attend the meeting in Coquille high school on Saturday, April 2. The time of beginning has been set at 9:30 a. m. W. G. Beattie, of the University of Oregon, is the main speaker and will use the new course of studies for the social studies as his subject.

Another feature of the program is the presentation by different teachers of materials and devices which have been of help to them. Each teacher will be allowed not more than three minutes. A short business meeting will be held.

After the close of the meeting, Mr. Beattie will meet with the class in curriculum construction of which there are 16 members.

Home Economics Schedule

During the month of April, "Meat Cookery" will be the subject for discussion in nineteen home extension groups in Coos county. Mrs. Rex Ingram, home demonstration agent, announces. Part of these meetings will be held in communities by project leaders trained by Miss Lucy Case, state specialist in foods and nutrition from Oregon State College. The following leaders will hold demonstrations in their communities on "The Cookery of Beef," at 10:30 a. m.:

- April 8—Norway, Mrs. Sarah McCloskey and Edna Hoffman.
- April 12—Bridge school, Irene Doney and Wynona Farmer.
- April 19—Powers Fellowship Hall—Ruby Landle and Mrs. Ed Gamwell.
- April 26—Fairview Grange Hall, Mrs. Vern Kenison and Emma Hall.
- April 27—Green Dell Grange Hall, Faye Thompson and Wilma Sneadon.
- April 28—Dew Valley Club house, Pearl Kaping and Lela McCue.
- Mrs. Ingram will hold demonstrations on "The Cookery of Pork and Lamb" in the following communities:
- April 1—Arago, 10:00, a. m., home of Mrs. Sam Root.
- April 15—Bandon, 10:30, a. m.
- April 20—Gravel Ford, 10:30, a. m., Community Hall.
- April 27—Bullards, 10:30, a. m., home of Mrs. Alta Corey.

State V. F. W. Convention

"Hall 'Em in Salem '38!" With this slogan as a battle-cry and the prospects that the state organization will have the honor of being the first to hold a convention in the new State Capitol building, Marion Post No. 661, Veterans of Foreign Wars, of Salem, is swinging into stride and preliminary preparations are going

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forward rapidly for the 18th annual encampment of the Department of Oregon, Veterans of Foreign Wars, which will be held in the capital city, July 9 to 13, inclusive, of this year.

State Treasurer Rufus C. Holman, who last week filed for the republican nomination for United States senator, does not intend to resign his state office in order to make the race for the federal post, he has announced. Neither is Attorney General Van Winkle expected to quit that post in order to make the race for the supreme bench for which he filed this week. Election of these officials to the higher posts to which they aspire will leave two vacancies for Governor Martin to fill next winter.

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