

The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IS A GOOD TOWN
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SEVEN DEVILS ROUTE VERY LITTLE SHORTER

If those people who are making claims of how much the distance between Curry county and Coos Bay will be saved by a road up the coast will get a map and measure the distance they are due for an awakening.

According to highway surveys the distance by way of Coquille now is less than ten miles greater from Bandon to North Bend by way of the Seven Devils. And when the highway crosses from Green Point near the mouth of the Coquille to the higher place on the south side of the river the difference will be cut to a mile and a quarter. That that cut-off will be built in time no one questions but it will be an expensive piece of road building across the valley lowlands, with a bridge across the river half way between Coquille and Riverton and it will not be built for several years yet.

Speaking of the dike raising proposed for this summer, the figure of \$150,000 is more of a guess than an estimate and with a temporary road through the Russ place as a detour, while the trucks are hauling earth for elevating the dike, it would not be surprising if the cost of adding six feet in height to the dike was kept very much below last week's \$150,000 guess.



Entrance of Henry Hess, LaGrande attorney, into the political arena at the eleventh hour as a candidate for the democratic nomination for governor, was the outstanding development in a hectic day in which 145 candidates thronged the state department in a last minute rush to get their names on the primary ballot.

Opinion as to the political strength of Hess in the forthcoming election differ widely, depending upon the personal sympathies of the particular prognosticator. Some there are who insist that he will prove a formidable opponent to Governor Martin with definite prospects of success in his desire to carry the party's banner in the fall campaign. Others just as emphatically discount any suggestion that Hess presents any menace to the candidacy of Governor Martin. Be that as it may, one fact remains indisputable: Hess will be able to consolidate the anti-Martin forces throughout the state as neither Dr. J. F. Hoesch nor Dr. Ralph M. Erwin could hope to do.

The entry of Hess into the democratic gubernatorial contest came as the climax of a series of conferences between anti-Martin leaders, beginning in Portland on Sunday morning and ending in Salem just in time to permit Hess to get in under the five o'clock deadline with his filing. Information percolating from these conferences has it that most of the efforts of the conferees was devoted to persuading Hoesch and Erwin to withdraw in favor of Howard Latourette, of Portland, democratic national committeeman, whose plans to enter the contest were interrupted when Hoesch filed, allegedly in violation of an agreement to the contrary which he is said to have entered into. It was only when these negotiations failed through the refusal of either Erwin or Hoesch to give way to Latourette that the conference turned to Hess as the one man on whom the contending factions could center in their determination to "beat Martin."

The last minute entry of R. J. Hendricks, of Salem, and Henry Hanzen, of Portland, into the republican gubernatorial campaign are not expected to have any considerable bearing on the outcome of that contest with Sam Brown, the Gervais farmer, and Charles A. Sprague, Salem newspaper man, remaining heavy favorites in the guessing so far.

A total of 363 men and women are offering their services to the state in one or another of the 108 different public offices to which candidates are to be elected in Oregon this year. Of

this number 169 are republicans, 163 are democrats and 31 are non-partisan candidates for judicial positions on the circuit or supreme bench. One hundred and forty-five candidates, 40 per cent of the total number, filed their declarations on the last day.

Twenty-one women are candidates for state offices this year. Four of these are republicans and 17 are democratic candidates. Four women—two republicans and two democrats—aspire to seats in the state senate. Sixteen women—two republicans and 14 democrats—have filed for house seats. Mrs. Emily F. Edson, of Portland, democratic national committeewoman, is a candidate for secretary of state.

On the legislative ticket, the republicans have vacancies in the 23rd senatorial district and in the 2nd, 16th, 27th and 32nd representative districts. The democrats failed to fill out their ticket in the 15th senatorial district, and the 8th, 11th, 15th, 19th, 21st, 23rd, 25th and 31st representative districts.

A report by the State Relief committee to Governor Martin shows that a total of \$44,322,113 was spent in Oregon for relief purposes between August 1, 1932, and December 31, 1932. Of this amount the federal government contributed \$22,700,289 or more than 50 per cent, through its various relief administrations. The state's share of this relief burden amounted to \$7,776,397 and the several counties put up a total of \$7,514,101. Multnomah county with one-third the state's total population received \$24,465,987 or more than one-half the total relief funds.

Income tax receipts this year have exceeded the most optimistic expectations of the State Tax commission whose members anticipated a slump in collections because of the business recession during the latter months of 1932. Returns reported to the commission to date total \$4,562,379. This is \$285,140 in excess of collections for the same period last year and \$262,000 more than the total collections estimated by the commission in making up the tax levy for this year. The figure is expected to be increased by at least another \$1,000,000 before the end of the year. While corporation returns reflect the business recession in decreased incomes, individual incomes account for the increase in collections. A total of 69,631 individuals have filed returns to date, an increase of more than 17,000 over 1932.

A new transactions tax proposal sponsored by the recently organized Oregon State Recovery Plan, Inc., is contained in an initiative measure filed with the state department this week. The measure involves a constitutional amendment which if approved by the voters at the general election next November would make it mandatory upon the legislature to set up the machinery for the collection of a two per cent tax on all transactions. Sixty per cent of the revenue from the proposed tax would go into an old age pension fund and 40 per cent of the revenue would be prorated among the counties for the purpose of reducing property taxes. Under the terms of the proposed constitutional amendment all persons over the age of 60 years who have been residents of the state for three years or more would be eligible to old age pensions regardless of need, the only condition imposed being that they cease gainful occupation. Sponsors of the measure estimate that it would

produce an annual revenue of from \$20,000,000 to \$40,000,000, depending upon business conditions.

The Oregon system of higher education will need an additional \$200,000 next biennium if the state schools are to continue functioning on the present basis and another \$595,000 for the biennium if the system is to be operated efficiently. Chancellor Frederick M. Hunter told the interim commission on state and local revenues at a meeting in Salem Friday. Of the additional \$595,000 which it is proposed to ask at the hands of the legislature \$195,000 will go toward maintaining the present payroll at its pre-depression level; \$200,000 will be necessary for replacement of obsolete equipment and repair of buildings, and another \$200,000 for the employment of additional instructors to take care of the increased enrollment which has hit all of the institutions. The chancellor told the commission that while appropriations for all other state activities has increased 25 per cent in the past eight years the system of higher education is now operating on a budget only 85 per cent as large as that of 1929-30.

County officials will go before the next legislature with a demand for restoration of liquor revenues to the

counties and a more generous slice of the gasoline tax revenues. F. L. Phipps of The Dalles, secretary of the county judges' association, told the interim commission on state and local revenues. Liquor revenues were allocated to the counties under the terms of the Knox act, Phipps pointed out. The state impounded all of the revenue at first to meet the unemployment emergency and later to finance old age pensions, leaving the counties holding the sack with no where to turn for additional revenues to meet the increased burden imposed by social security legislation. Either the state should restore the liquor revenues to the counties or relieve the counties entirely of the old age pension burden, Phipps declared. Pointing out that county roads have been sadly neglected during the past few years in order that old age pensions and relief funds could be financed, Phipps said that the county judges felt that the state highway department could now well afford to give the counties a more generous share of the gasoline taxes.

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Increase Reported In Gas Consumption

Oregon's gasoline consumption increased more than 17 per cent in the first two months of 1933, indicating a definite growth in the use of motor vehicles, according to a report by the Oregon State Motor association.

The report, based on figures released by Earl Snell, secretary of state, shows that in the first two months of this year, 27,120,080 gallons of motor fuel were consumed in the state. This, transposed into tax money, amounted to \$1,256,004.03.

If the same increase is maintained throughout the year, Oregon's tax receipts will be approximately \$13,000,000, it was pointed out.

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