

The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IN A GOOD TOWN
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Fatuous Fragments

BY FERNANDO FABRICATUS

Criticism is the easiest thing to give and praise is the hardest to receive. Fault-finding requires no special talent; the mote in thy brother's eye is always plainly visible if you're looking for it. And egoism is a much more compliant trait of character than modesty or meekness, which are usually hard won.

"A big man is humbled by honest criticism."

And tries to think of all the ways To improve his work and do it well; But a little man starts of himself to yell."
 —Joseph Morris

If the earthquake which jolted five European countries last Saturday had occurred during the world war, it would have created greater consternation. In every little hamlet, whether in England, Belgium or Germany, "the enemy" would have been to blame for the catastrophe. Our last great fire here in Coquille came on St. Patrick's morning twenty years ago. For a time all of down-town Coquille appeared to be doomed and in sheer panic more than one citizen expressed the view that somehow "the Germans" were responsible for the blaze.

Jas. A. Farley expects to leave soon for Alaska; must be to escape the heat of the summer primaries. At that we are glad to see the whipping boy desert his whipping post.

At a federal reserve board meeting recently a Swedish banker made the plea for United States to take steps to end our newest depression before it spread abroad and caused the economic collapse of the rest of the world. To quote him directly, he said: "It is clear to me that one of your greatest aspirations should be to combat the fear psychology that is rampant."

It is a far cry from international finances to business conditions here in Coquille, but knowing a man who had contemplated building we interviewed him. Finding that his real estate was clear of all indebtedness and that he was assured of sufficient capital to build several dwellings on it, we asked what hindered him in going ahead with his plans.

"Because I don't want to pay eight dollars a day for labor," was his unpremeditated reply.

"But we thought you were in favor of high wages and opposed wage-cuts," we opined.

"Yes, that's true, but I'm afraid I can't get anything out of it, if I build," he answered.

Further questioning showed it was not the current wage scale that deterred him but fear—fear that he could not realize enough on the investment to repay the money borrowed; fear of strikes and closed-down industries; fear of further money-manipulation; fear of what the government might do next.

The present federal administration has prided itself on the breaking of precedents and doing the unexpected but when the economic security of us all depends on the whim of one man, then the largest business down to the least suffers the withering blight of uncertainty and dread.

Of the 38,839 federal income tax returns filed in Oregon last year for 1936, 866 of them were from Coos county and half of those from Marshfield. Well, it's a safe bet there won't be a quarter that many filed next year.

With the crime of kidnaping again a major topic of conversation, there are many theories for its suppression expounded. One is to repeal the Lindbergh law which calls for the death penalty whether the victim is slain or returned unharmed. The argument is that the kidnaper has a better chance to escape detection if he adds murder to the first crime and that his punishment is the same in either case. As to this, we wouldn't know. It is all conjecture and no one can guess what a degenerate might do under different circumstances.

However, we were interested in reading that Luke May, the noted criminologist, favored flogging for

hardened criminals. He cites its success in Canada and says a good sound thrashing often accomplishes miracles where long imprisonment has brought no reform. At once we hear objections: that mankind has risen above corporal punishment for prisoners, that it brutalizes the offender, etc. Yet in actual practice, Mr. May says it has a salutary effect.

We have allowed high idealism to sway our emotions in dealing with the imprisoned and consequently have the highest crime record in the world. Let us have more wholesome sessions in the woodshed and there will be fewer problem children and less grown-up bullies later. As for kidnapers, they are beyond the pale; their extinction rather than their reformation is to be desired.

NEW DEAL OR DEMOCRAT

"Wanting in courage, deficient in tact, imbecile in execution, wavering in purpose, indifferent to partisan obligation, stupid in conception and docile under insult, the present leaders of the Democratic party at the national Capital owe it to decency to die."

No the above is not an indictment of the present day democratic administration but was an editorial utterance in the Port Orford Post of Nov. 3, 1881. But how applicable it is 57 years later!



There is no statutory provision under which the surviving remnants of the proposed Northwest Oregon Bonnevillie Peoples' Utility district may be organized. So Attorney General Van Winkle ruled in an opinion to the Oregon Hydroelectric Commission this week.

Promoters of the project had contended that the law permitted the commission to approve the organization of a utility district out of those parcels of territory which voted favorably on the proposed district in the recent election in which a majority of the voters returned an adverse verdict.

"There is no provision found in the statute for forming a peoples' utility district of the entire territory included within any proposed district, or of that portion thereof voting in favor of such formation after excluding those municipalities and separate parcels of territory which voted against such formation when the majority vote in the entire district is against the creation of such district," the opinion of the attorney general reads.

The proposed super-district included the major portions of Clatsop, Columbia, Clackamas, Washington, Yamhill, Polk and Tillamook counties. The only units favoring the project were the rural areas of Polk and Yamhill counties, an isolated unit in Clatsop county and a few small municipalities.

The State Emergency Board authorized deficiency appropriations totalling \$22,000 at a meeting in Salem last week. Largest item on the list was a \$15,000 appropriation to cover maintenance of the new capitol from the time it is taken over by the state, about July 1 until the next legislature meets. Secretary of State Snell had requested an additional \$1500 for capital outlays but the Board held that this was a responsibility of the Capitol Commission since it includes furniture and equipment for the building and disallowed the item. The board also approved an item of \$4000 requested by the extension service of the State College in connection with a reseeding experiment in Clatsop county, and \$3000 for the Department of Agriculture to be used in financing Oregon's participation in the World's Poultry Congress to be held in Cleveland, Ohio, next year.

The grand review of the Oregon National Guard, now in training at Camp Clatsop, will be held on Saturday afternoon, June 25, according to Major General George A. White. In addition to the review there will be a combat demonstration by the 186th infantry, supported by the 218th field artillery displaying various phases of fire power in repulsing a mythical enemy. At least 25,000 persons are expected to witness the camp on this occasion. On the preceding day, Friday, June 24, the various units will compete in a program of military athletics.

Oregon's relief funds are in good condition, according to Elmer Goudy, executive secretary of the State Relief committee. Goudy, however, expressed concern over the lack of seasonal employment at this time and the prospect of a substantial increase of the relief load because of growing unemployment. Any unusual increase in the relief burden, Goudy admitted, would necessarily be reflected in increased drains on the relief fund which has been set up to take care

of the situation as it was visioned at the time the last legislature was in session.

Vacationists are showing unusual interest in Oregon this year. Inquiries received by the travel bureau of the state highway department between January 1 and June 1 totaled 38,058, an increase of 7500 over the same period a year ago.

Oregon counties, particularly those in the western part of the state are confronted with a serious problem through the loss of valuable timber lands from the tax rolls. County Judge Guy Boyington told the State Emergency Board here this week.

Thousands of acres are being denuded of their crop of merchantable fir and pine each year, Judge Boyington pointed out. In spite of the fact that the state has tried to encourage reforestation through the enactment of a reforestation tax of only five cents an acre on these cut-over and burned-over lands, many of the owners prefer to let the counties take the land for taxes rather than to wait 75 to 125 years for a new crop.

Clatsop county last year acquired title to more than 20,000 acres of this land, Judge Boyington said. Other counties are having the same experience. Every year the timber counties are getting deeper into the real estate business. Records of the state forestry department show that 374,744 acres of deforested lands had been taken over by the counties up to 1937. Most of this land is located west of the Cascades. The coast counties of Clatsop, Tillamook and Coos have been especially hard hit.

In the present condition the lands are of little or no value. In an effort to bring the lands back into production Clatsop county is conducting a reseeding experiment which gives promise of solving the problem, Judge Boyington said. A section of deforested land seeded to grass a year ago is now providing adequate pasturage for more than 100 head of cattle and 1500 head of sheep. If another year's experience demonstrates the success of the experiment, Judge Boyington predicts that much of this now worthless land will be in demand for grazing purposes. In that event the land will be taken over by private owners and restored to the tax rolls. Other western Oregon counties are said to be keenly interested in the Clatsop county experiment.

The Capitol Reconstruction commission has announced its intention of inspecting the new capitol next Tuesday, June 21. If found satisfactory the building will be accepted by the state. Actual transfer of departments to new quarters, however, will not take place until about July 1, inasmuch as telephone service will not be available before that time. Departments to occupy space in the new capitol include the executive, state and treasury departments, budget department, board of control including the purchasing division and property control division, and the state land board. Space to be vacated in the state office building will be immediately occupied by the highway department which already occupies an entire floor in that building, the tax commission and the bureau of labor.

With no general rainfall over western Oregon since early in May and with temperatures unseasonably high, conditions make for serious fire hazards in the forests of the state, according to the state forestry department. Commenting on the Big Creek fire in Clatsop county which broke out on June 2 and burned over 2000 acres before it was stopped, forestry officials pointed out that an almost identical situation was experienced last year when the Pisgah fire in southern Columbia county burned over 500 acres during the first week of June.

With a reduction of 40 per cent in the number of highway fatalities Oregon ranks fourth among the 48 states in the improvement of motoring conditions. Secretary of State Snell has just been advised by the National Safety Council. Snell attributes the big decrease in traffic accidents in this state in large part to the campaign of safety education which has been carried on by his department over the radio, in newspaper and through lectures before schools, service clubs and other groups.

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Crow's Digest Tells What's The Matter With Market

C. C. Crow, publisher of Crow's Pacific Coast Lumber Digest, and an authority on lumber markets and conditions in the Northwest, in his weekly letter last Friday stated that "there is reason to believe, at the rate business has been declining the past few weeks, that the latter part of June and through July will probably see a condition worse than was experienced in 1932, if it is not already at that point."

"The disintegration of the lumber market continues and a careful study of the under-lying influences, unfortunately, reveals nothing upon which to base hopes for an early improvement."

"There is no question but that the fir cargo mills are in a relatively worse position now than they were in 1932 because, unfortunately, they are the only lumber producers in the entire United States who are caught in the labor racket and have up to now been denied the right to adjust wages to meet the shrunken revenue for their product as their competitors have. The situation is getting desperate and many large operations are preparing to shut down between now and July 1st to remain idle until such time as they can open with a wage scale that will at least permit them to get back the cost of production. This makes it almost certain that the output during the next four weeks will go far below where it is at present."

Next Monday The Date For Annual School Meetings

(By Co. School Superintendent)
 Monday, June 20, is Annual School meeting day all over the state of Oregon. At this time a clerk and one director are required to be elected in each second and third class district. In a few districts where vacancies have occurred out of season it necessitates the election of even more. In a majority of districts the budget is also voted on at this time.

The attendance at the annual school meeting is a responsibility which should be realized by all voters. In a few districts we find that the attendance is so poor at these meetings that it is difficult to find people to serve as board members. We wonder if the right to vote at a school meeting were denied these people who are now not attending if they would not feel that a grave injustice had been done them. The writer is hoping that a large number in each of the districts in Coos county will be in attendance.

The voting in a school election does not require exactly the same qualifications as voting in a regular election. A voter in a school election for the election of a clerk for director must be a citizen of the United States; 21 years of age and a resident of a district at least 30 days preceding the election.

On all other questions, including the voting on the budget the voter

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must have the qualifications mentioned above and in addition must have his name appear on the last assessment roll or be the holder of stocks or shares in a corporation which pays taxes in the district. The attorney general gives an opinion resting upon supreme court decisions to the effect that this law has reference to the assessment rolls as of March 1937 and not 1938. The head of family qualification for third class districts was done away with during the last legislature.

Blackboards Refinished
 The Empire school is this week having blackboards refinished. The work is being done by George Entzminger, of Portland, who for many years has refinished boards throughout Oregon and Washington.

While in the county Mr. Entzminger will estimate costs of refinishing for all districts which care to have this done. Mr. Entzminger is highly skilled and this affords a splendid opportunity for the schools to get some helpful service.

All school boards and other interested will have an opportunity this week to observe his work at Empire.

Quote of the Week: Rep. Wadley White, of Ohio: "We in Washington shed crocodile tears for everybody in the world except the fellow who has to pay the taxes."

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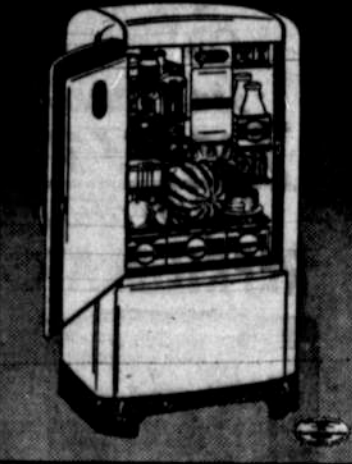
On Summer Roundtrips East

From most western Oregon cities and towns to Chicago, New York and many other eastern cities, you can include California on the going or returning journey, for not one cent more rail fare than you would pay for a straight East-and-back roundtrip. In effect, a free ticket thru California! Here are examples of our low-cost East thru California roundtrips from most main line points: CHICAGO \$65.00, NEW YORK \$97.40; in air-conditioned coaches. Fares good in tourist and standard Pullmans cost a little more. For additional information see your local S. P. agent or write J. A. ORMANDY, General Passenger Agent, 622 Pacific Building, Portland, Ore.

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