

The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IN A GOOD TOWN

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Fragments

"I remember, I remember. The fir-trees dark and high; I used to think their slender tops were close against the sky; It was a childish ignorance, But now 'tis little joy To know I'm farther off from Heaven Than when I was a boy."
 —Thomas Hood

Those soothsayers of old had long range vision. Two thousand years ago they warned, "Beware the Ides of March." The fifteenth day of March in Oregon is not only the dead line for federal income tax reports but marks also the due date for payment of state and county property taxes. And it's cold comfort to have little or no income tax to pay. We predict Uncle Sam is going to have a rude awakening when he reads the income tax reports just filed and will be forced to conclude that economy is not for the future but for the immediate present.

The public debt of the United States on June 30 of last year was over 37 billion dollars, the per capita debt being \$285.70, an all-time high. It exceeds the peak of debt reached during the war.

From Berlin comes the word that the annual sale of Bibles in Germany exceeds that of "Mein Kampf." The Bible in the past has proved more enduring than the power of any tyrant and, if we can trust the uncensored stories now coming out of Germany, the masses in that country are no longer behind Hitler—they "hate war" as much as any one in the United States. Of course, this does not mean they are not pleased with peaceful occupation of new territory, as Austria a year ago and Czechoslovakia this week.

In reading the address of Chief Justice Hughes made March 4 in celebration of the first meeting of congress we were reminded of the line: "There is a destiny which shapes our ends, rough hew them as we may." (We will have to admit we are not sure of the author of this quotation; would be grateful to anyone who would so inform us).

Charles Evans Hughes stands head and shoulders over a majority of the presidents of the United States and history will give him a more enviable place than it probably would have done if he had occupied the president's chair.

How close he came to the White House is well remembered. On that November election night in 1916, he retired with the firm assurance that he had been elected the next president, only to arise the following morning to find that Montana had swung to Wilson and that California was in the doubtful column. For six weeks the result hung in the balance; if Hughes had gained California he would have had a majority of three votes in the electoral college—but, instead, by a less than 4,000 majority, in a total vote of approximately a million, California's 13 electoral votes were finally awarded to Wilson, making the electoral vote 277 to 254 in his favor. As we remember it, the election fever had so subsided by the middle of December that no one cared much which way the decision went.

But to return to the Chief Justice's speech, a careful reading of it stirs a truer patriotism than the average citizen is often conscious of; it's as if the flag had passed by. We will be content to quote just one sentence: "The firmest ground for confidence in the future is that more than ever we realize that, while democracy must have its organization and controls, its vital breath is individual liberty."

Two and a half years ago when fire threatened to wipe out Coquille, the minor, every-day matters of life ceased to have any meaning for us and it was not until we felt safe again did we find enjoyment in the little, inconsequential things. Now from a national viewpoint, we Americans may appear idiotic to the people of Europe in our devotion to Charlie McCarthy, Walt Disney comics and the funnies in the newspapers. But the fact that we are pleased with such nonsense indicates a peace of soul that is of utmost importance for happiness.



If the 40th biennial session of the Oregon legislature adjourns sine die tomorrow, after sixty-eight days of lawmaking, it will have established another state record for endurance, exceeding the 80-day record of the 1933 session by eight days. By the same token, and largely by reason of its length, the session has also set a new record for the high cost of lawmaking, the estimated expense of the session exceeding \$175,000.

Responsibility for the unusual length of the session must be shared by a number of individuals and groups. First there were the sponsors of major measures—public power advocates, educators and even the state administration—who delayed the introduction of their bills until the constitutional 40-day period was well spent. Then there were the chronic orators of the house and senate—especially the senate—who persisted in talking on every measure to no good purpose except to slow down the legislative machine. Another factor contributing to the length of the session was the insistence on the part of certain members upon reconsideration of action on bills when they found themselves on the losing side. Then finally there was the critical attitude of the legal adviser to the governor who insisted that the phraseology of every measure must satisfy his own standards of correctness regardless of the opinions of the able lawyers of the house and senate. Never before in the history of the Oregon legislature have so many bills been sent back for correction after reaching the governor's desk, to satisfy some petty technical objection, requiring re-passage of the measure through both house and senate and consuming time that might well have been used in the consideration of other measures.

Senator Harry Kenin, of Multnomah county, piqued by his failure to block action on the people's utility district bill Saturday afternoon, threatened to prolong the session indefinitely by resort to a constitutional requirement that all bills be read in full. Written into the constitution at a time when there were comparatively few bills and when printed copies were not so readily available to the members, literal observance of this provision was long ago abandoned as thoroughly impractical. Compliance with the requirement would serve no useful purpose. On the other hand it would consume many hours of time and prolong the session many days beyond the record established by this session.

All motor vehicles operating over Oregon highways will hereafter be required to undergo semi-annual tests

to the adequacy of their brakes, lights and other equipment under the terms of an act passed by the state legislature. The testing, for which the motorist will be charged 50 cents, will be under the supervision of the state highway department which will establish testing stations at convenient points over the state.

Although approved by the legislature the change in the date for the primary election from May to September will probably be up for decision by the voters at the next general election. Representatives of the Commonwealth Federation have served notice that they propose to invoke the referendum against the measure which is now in the hands of Governor Sprague for his signature before becoming law.

The 40th legislative session set another all-time record when it approved general fund appropriations totalling \$14,141,731. The figure, which represents an increase of \$898,877 over 1937 appropriations, does not include liquor revenues and unexpended balances diverted to relief needs.

The relief budget alone, as approved by the legislature, totals \$9,280,000 and represents the largest single appropriation ever to receive approval of an Oregon legislature. Only \$600,000 of this amount, however, comes out of general fund revenues for the current biennium. The balance is made up of \$2,100,000 in unexpended balances carried over from the relief appropriation for the last biennium and \$6,500,000 in anticipated revenues from the state's liquor monopoly.

Under the new relief set-up counties will match the state on a 40-60 basis in financing old age pensions and other social security demands instead of the 50-50 basis heretofore obtaining. In the financing of direct relief counties will be expected to provide not more than 50 per cent of the money. Under the relief budget as set up by the ways and means committee the counties will be expected to supply only \$4,400,000 during the biennium instead of the \$6,000,000 included in the Martin budget.

State Relief Administrator Elmer Goudy said that the relief budget would provide for continued operation on the present level with no provision for expansion of the relief program.

While the legislature made provision for a number of new state activities and made generous provision for salary increases for a number of state officials, it moved to curtail only one state function. The lawmakers voted to get along without the services of the planning board. But even there they compromised by giving Governor Sprague an additional allowance of \$10,000 with which to finance such planning and research as he may regard as necessary during the biennium.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

(Taken from the files of the Sentinel of March 21, 1919)

City Engineer Gould submitted a bid totalling \$8,152.00 for the improvements on streets in the business section of the city. The major improvement was the construction of a fill from Spurgeon hill bridge to the main road level on Taylor street.

The sale of pure bred Jersey stock was held at Roger's barn here this week. Total receipts were over \$5,000 and one Jersey alone, Barbara's Evelyn, sold to C. D. Jarman for \$500.

Much sentiment has been aroused in the interest of the Coquille river bridge which would do away with the old ferry across the river and would practically free traffic in entering and leaving Coquille on the south-bound. The county has appropriated funds and the city must furnish a site for the bridge before construction can be started. Members of the chamber of commerce foresee a great development of the Roosevelt coast highway and urge immediate action regarding the new bridge.

The Coquille Honor Guard held a grand ball last Saturday which was well attended by all in honor of the boys who went to war. The committee in charge included Perley Lund, Robert Creager, Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Gould, and Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Lamb.

We have a report that Hugh McLain, post master at Marshfield, has successfully undergone an appendicitis operation.

Oregon will continue to carry its own insurance on state-owned property. A bill providing that the board of control might contract with insurance companies for excess coverage was defeated in the senate after passing the house.

The newly constituted public welfare commission, heretofore known as the State Relief Committee, held its first meeting in Salem last week and organized by electing J. H. Luhn as

Coquille independents outplayed a Myrtle Point aggregation here last week. The locals included John Stanley, Roy Watson, Julian Leslie, Howard Pike, and Beak Schriefer.

Mr. and Mrs. D. P. Strang returned from a visit in San Diego, California this week and report that they had a most unenjoyable winter there due to excessive cold and torrential rain. Mrs. Strang says she much prefers the gentle rains of Oregon to the hard, beating rains there.

Kenneth Lawrence spoke to the children in the Academy this Tuesday, telling them about the conditions in France at the present time and relating the many privations to which children there are forced as a result of the great war.

"Lest We Forget" was featured at the Liberty theatre this week with a surviving star of the Lusitania disaster in the feature role.

John Belleu of Bridge was a caller at the Sentinel office this week. James Sullivan and family were passengers from the bay on the train this week.

T. A. Walker has moved his insurance office upstairs in the Farmer's and Merchants bank.

The sale of the J. J. Lamb ranch was made this week but the entire buyers have not been announced, it was made known that George Halter of Fishtrap had purchased about half of the ranch for \$13,000.

chairman and Mrs. Thomas Honeyman as secretary. In addition to taking over all the functions of the old relief committee, the new welfare commission will also perform all the functions heretofore vested in the child welfare commission.

Appointment of L. O. Arens, Klamath Falls democrat, and C. M. Ryerson, Portland republican, as members of the state industrial accident commission were announced by Governor

Sprague last week to become effective March 15. Arens succeeds Roy Buchanan, of Pendleton, while Ryerson, labor's representative on the commission, takes the place of J. C. Joy. Reorganization of this commission which also heads up the unemployment compensation organization is understood to presage the removal of D. A. Bulmore as unemployment compensation administrator.

Rumor about the capitol has it that J. W. Ferguson is soon to be replaced as state forester, probably by Lynn Cronemiller, who gave way to Ferguson early in the Martin administration but who remained in the organization as publicity director.

Dr. C. G. Stem, Chiropractor. 292 Moulton St., phone 86J.

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