

The Salem Sampler

One of the regular controversies in each session of the legislature is that over fisheries.

This time it centers around Senate Bill No. 88, which gives limited authority to the fishing commission to regulate certain streams, bays, and inlets in the state. The legislature has always held rigid control over fishing privileges, and this bill is a departure from the previous policy in that it permits some discretion to the fishing commission.

A public hearing was held in the Capitol Building and well attended.

The most colorful group were a score of Indians from the Cello Falls district. They were dressed partly in native costume and partly in the white man's raiment. They attracted quite a bit of attention as they wandered about the building before the meeting.

The line-up on the bill for the pros were the C. I. O. fishing unions, the fish commission, and one lone packing company.

The line-up for the cons was the Packers Association, the A. F. of L., and the Indians.

During the argument for the pros, one of the Indians, whom we nicknamed the "Bull Frog," opened his mouth periodically and emitted a loud croaking noise, the name of which is not mentioned in polite society. Although this Indian was not supposed to understand English very well, his mouth seemed to fly open at the most auspicious times during the argument. Sometimes I wonder about these Indians. They learn the white man's ways very rapidly.

Two of the Indians spoke for their delegation using an interpreter. Their speeches were remarkably trite and to the point. They wasted no words in getting at the main point of issue. In my opinion, they made the best speeches of the evening.

The best crack I heard during the proceedings was a remark by one of the C. I. O. delegates that he noted the A. F. of L. had been given back to the Indians.

In the 1939 legislature, Representatives Hall and Bolvon were known as the "Gold Dust Twins." Today was the birthday anniversary of Representative Hall, and his ex-partner, now in the armed service and therefore unable to attend this session, although elected, sent him a birthday present consisting of a small China Skunk, with tail raised, and a corsage of fresh vegetables.

Representative Steelhammer made the presentation speech and in reply, Representative Hall said that words failed him to express appreciation of the gifts. But he observed that a skunk did not need to say anything anyway.

Speaker McAllister is making a practice of asking the different members of the House to preside for limited periods as the speaker pro tem.

This has a double value by acquainting the new members with the procedure and by giving them the experience necessary to serve as speaker later on if they prove qualified for the post. Our own Stella Cutlip has presided at one of the sessions and acquitted herself very creditably.

This morning as McAllister's bill, benefitting totally disabled workmen, came up for final passage, he asked Mr. Heister to occupy the speaker's post while McAllister explained his bill. It will probably be of some interest to Coos county people to know what its provisions were. The last legislature established a new schedule of benefits taking effect July first, 1942. This left those workmen disabled prior to that date receiving benefits on the old basis.

McAllister's bill simply equalizes payments to the totally disabled at the same rates to all regardless of when the disabling accident occurred. The cost will be about \$875,000.

The bill passed the House against some opposition which voiced the opinion that this would open the gate to a flood of "gimme" boys. But a majority believed the bill had merit and they could see to it that no raids would be made on the Industrial Accident Fund.

Keep in mind that this bill merely raises the rates for a single man \$10.00 per month, married men \$15.00 per month, and minor children \$4.00 per month, making the new totals \$40.00, \$50.00, and \$12.00, respectively. The bill will have strong opposition in the Senate. The views of the Governor are not known.

A nice gesture of good fellowship was made by the speaker when he presented Representative Homes, of Ashland, who left when Rep. Van Dyke returned from the army, with the gavel used by Mr. Homes during his time as speaker pro tem. Mr. Homes brightened perceptibly when the speaker handed him the gavel to keep. It was a nice gift to a particularly splendid fellow.

The Governor clarified his views on the many issues by sending in a mes-

sage to the House Monday morning. The highlights were cutting the income tax, limiting the maximum allocation to the schools, repealing of surtax on intangibles, and adjustment of inheritance and gift taxes.

It has been stated that the legislature is proceeding without the proper program or without direction in the matter of taxation.

I think this is unfair in view of the fact that our committees are studying the matter intensively with a view towards turning out measures that will go as far in the direction of helping the tax burden and the cutting down of expenses as possible.

It can be said that the bills that emerge from the taxation committee will be the work of the best minds that the state government affords. No favoritism to any class of people will be permitted and pressure groups will have little effect on the final draft of the bills.

The presence of an army of lobbyists in the halls of the capitol brings to mind the thought that our legislators are under great pressure to become merely a puppet show in which trained lobbyists pull the strings while the legislators dance to their tune.

We have a very strong civil service lobby, as well as lobbies for organized labor, fish, agriculture, old age pensions, healing arts, beauticians, railroad, trucks, counties and cities, business man's league, etc.

My personal inclinations are to act exactly contrary to the insistent requests of lobbyists when they become offensive.

Because of the professional nature of their services, one must discount everything they say and one is never sure whether they express the exact wishes of the people they presume to represent.

I had not realized the danger and seriousness of this lobby situation until I came out here. I feel it is very dangerous to our Democracy to permit pressure groups to influence our legislators through expenditures of lavish sums of money or through sheer force of numbers.

I may be old-fashioned but I feel a legislator should be left to use his own considered judgment on all matters and that it is in the best interest of the public to choose those who will work hard and intelligently at the job and then rely on their personal judgment in protecting the interest of their home community.

It cannot be denied that the testimony of experienced lobbyists is valuable in committee work. But I think the pressure part of the job should be removed. Our government should be strictly a Democracy and not a "Punch and Judy" show operated by competitive pressure groups.

One of the things that offsets the terrible weather we are having in Salem is the spirit of friendship and courtesy shown to visitors by residents.

Several times I have been taken down town or to my home by drivers of cars with a vacant seat. They note you trudging along in the rain, pull up to the curb, and ask if they can give you a lift. One driver went so far as to take me eight or ten blocks out of his way in spite of my protest.

It is a fine tribute to the public-spirited citizens of Salem that so many of them perform these little thoughtful courtesies. Why not try this in our Coos county cities? Would it not make our visitors feel more kindly toward us?

A noteworthy event of February 10 was the concert by the 104th Cavalry played in the lobby of the capitol building. The concert was originally scheduled to be played on the north steps of the capitol but a rain storm drove both band and audience inside.

The band was led by Lt. Marion Walker, an able and experienced musician. The band was composed of professional musicians and was above the average for military bands, in my opinion.

They featured a cornetist who was about as good as Harry James and an expert clarinetist. But the best number was singing by Sgt. Markey Swan, of Philadelphia, who possesses a lyric baritone voice that should take him far in the musical world. He is a lanky, well-built young fellow and his voice has a rich resonance that reminds one somewhat of John Charles Thomas. Bear this in mind and watch for this young man after the war.

So impressed with his singing were the members of the House that they persuaded Col. Stackpole, who was in charge of the contingent, to permit the band to play several numbers in the House itself. One of the numbers was the singing of "God Bless America" by Sgt. Swan. It was so well done it made our spine tingle. I haven't heard a young voice like that in years.

The band marched to the front of the rostrum, played their numbers, and marched out again at a nod from Col. Stackpole, who was seated at the

speaker's desk. It was all very impressive, and immensely enjoyed by the crowd present.

When anyone of note has a birthday it has become the fashion in the House to present a resolution taking note of the fact and felicitating the individual on the anniversary. C. C. Chapman, of the Oregon Voter, was mentioned in a resolution on February 10, the resolution stating that Mr. Chapman was celebrating his 92nd birthday. But since the presentation was made by Harvey Wells, whose practical joking propensities are well known, I suspect that the "9" should have been a "6." Mr. Chapman acknowledged the compliment with a gracious bow as he arose from his usual position at the press typewriter. He is known for his clear, concise, and accurate analysis of legislative measures and has a large following in the legislature, particularly on matters affecting taxation and revenue.

The raising of old age pensions in Oregon presents a problem which is occupying the thoughts of most legislators at this moment. It has been pointed out that the cost of raising monthly benefits as much as \$10.00 per month will require a sum greater than the entire income tax collected in even such a boom year as 1942. As monthly benefits increase, the number of those interested in obtaining them also increases. I am told that about 25,000 people are now receiving benefits. The number of potential recipients is approximately 100,000 for the entire state. Thus, if all should claim benefits, the cost would approach \$4,000,000 per month for each \$10.00 of benefits. Up to \$40.00 per month total this would mean that the State of Oregon would contribute \$2,000,000 of the amount and the Federal Government the balance.

The annual total would then amount to about \$24,000,000 or about two-thirds of the entire real and personal property tax income for the entire state. I mention this to illustrate the large size of the sums involved.

In my opinion, no single tax paying source could possibly stand this burden. When one deals with such large sums as these, everyone must contribute. It is a job for all and not for a few.

It would seem that a moderate sales tax would be the answer to all this and that if we are to meet the cost of increased old age benefits as they should be met, a sales tax is inevitable. Yet it is strongly opposed by many groups in the state. At best, old age benefits are but a sorry substitute for watchful care of friends and relatives when one approaches the twilight of life. The benefits can only serve as an accident insurance policy to be used if and when necessary. It is possible that in later years as the terrific war burden is eased, a system of old age benefits can be set up large enough to give our old people a decent living and yet remain within the reach of our taxpayers.

Much good should come from experiments now being conducted from the OSC school of forestry on disposal of saw mill waste.

A committee on forestry was shown samples of compressed sawdust resembling the ordinary plastics both in color and texture. To my great surprise, one sample, in the form of a small stick about one-quarter inch square, was so strong that it could not be broken in the fingers.

Another interesting product was a type of plaster made of sawdust and some binding material. It could be applied to walls either with a trowel or possibly through a gun. It had the advantage over plaster in that it took only about 25 per cent of the moisture in applying it and then did not attract moisture on the walls.

But to me the most interesting exhibit was the plan of a wood carbonization plant which makes briquettes out of sawdust in shavings that have been reduced to charcoal in retort. This charcoal could be used in furnaces or in fireplaces in the place of coal. It was said that the cost of production would be about 75 per cent of the price of coal in the Portland area.

By-products of this process would include nascent hydrogen, carbon dioxide, and other hydro-carbons which would be caught and compressed as the wood distilled in the retort.

Such a plant might be established in each of several central locations where the waste from one or more mills could be used. The possibilities are very great and the development of this process should be closely watched by Coos county folks.

To residents of Bandon this process is of especial note because it embodies practically all of the principles in a scheme set up by a Mr. Harris, mining engineer, who worked on our black sand during the first World War. This process is merely the carrying out of the principles worked out by Mr. Harris who has been in

his grave for many years. It is a pity that so many of our inventions have been the result of long and faithful labor by those who do not live to reap the benefit of their inventions.

The marble floors of the Capitol lobby are quite slippery.

I notice that most of the old timers wear either basketball shoes or slippers to make their footing more secure.

One can almost pick the experienced lobbyists by their shuffling gait, not unlike that of a Chinaman.

Justice and Mrs. J. T. Brand, Mrs. J. W. McInturf and Mrs. Stella Cutlip entertained the Coos county people now residing in Salem at a buffet dinner on Feb. 10th.

It was not difficult to find the right house as a large white placard, bearing the words, "Coos County Headquarters" was tacked on the front door.

It was a great surprise to me to find so many of our Coos county folks residing in Salem and it was a pleasure to renew acquaintanceships. To me the most interesting thing was to find myself looking up at young Tom Brand who is a very tall and good-looking young man. Only a year or two ago I was looking down on him. It is characteristic of middle age to find that time really rushes by at express train speed.

The Brands have an attractive home very near the Capitol on Summer street. They have not forgotten how to entertain since they left Marshfield.

L. M. Ramage, of Salem, representative from Marion county, invited me to a Lions Club meeting on the 11th. The feature of the meeting was a talk by a young lady who was representing the Dupont Laboratories at Wilmington, Delaware. She told of the tremendous strides that have been made in the manufacture of synthetic materials, such as the plastics, nylon, luote, etc.

The most interesting thing to me was her description of a type of screening to be used on windows. It can be rolled up in the same fashion as an ordinary window shade. It is impervious to danger by the elements and has the astonishing facility of repairing itself when a hole is accidentally punched in it. The young lady demonstrated by poking a hole in the sample with a lead pencil and then repairing it by a shake and pat.

Another thing of note is the cloth being experimented on for use in the place of denim for such garments as children's play clothes, men's overalls, and women's aprons or house dresses and coats. This cloth has the astonishing faculty of cleaning itself. If it becomes soiled, one has only to dip it in clean water, give it a shake or two, and behold! it comes forth like new. The young lady illustrated by dipping the cloth in her coffee cup.

All of this suggests to one that we should get this war business over with quickly so we can enjoy the marvelous things being prepared for us in the chemical laboratories of the nation.

Express Thanks For Garments Sent

Ed Stelle, local chairman of the Red Cross, thinks that some of the ladies who have worked under Mrs. Gladys Gano's direction on the Production committee for this branch of the Coos County Chapter, might like to know where their work is being used in the Navy. Accordingly he has given us the following letter from Arthur H. Mayo, Captain (SC) U. S. Navy, who is the supply officer in command at Naval Supply Depot at Oakland, Calif.:

Receipt of the following knitted garments for the U. S. Navy is hereby acknowledged:

- 50 Sweaters, turtle-neck pull-over type.
- 8 Watch Caps.
- 5 Helmets.
- 2 Pr. Gloves.
- 1 Scarf.

The Supply Officer in Command desires to take this opportunity to thank the Coquille Chapter of the American Red Cross for the fine work they are doing—a work that will in no small way add to the health and comfort of the Naval personnel, and contribute to the maintenance of a high state of morale.

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Out-of-Doors Stuff

LANS LENEVE

It is with a feeling of deepest sorrow that we chronicle the death of a beloved friend and a friend of the entire sportsmen's fraternity of this state as well, in the passing of R. J. Kirkwood, of Portland.

In past years "Kirk" was always present at Game Commission meetings, at sportsmen's meetings and lobbying at our State Legislature in the welfare of our game and fish.

For several years he was editor and publisher of Western Out Of Doors, a magazine devoted to game and fish and the Great Out Of Doors in general—an outstanding publication in a field of many.

"Kirk" possessed a pleasing personality, a keen mind and an uncanny command of the English language and a sense of humor that drew men to him as a magnet. His ability to feel and appear at home in any sort of gathering or environment, made him friends wherever he happened to be.

It is hard, indeed, to imagine a man of such energy, such vitality, having passed on into The Land of Shadows. Long will he remain in the memory of his brother sportsmen and will be missed from their gatherings, as will his wise counsel and advice be missed relatives to affairs dealing with game and fish.

In the passing of "Kirk," the sportsmen have indeed lost an ally and one whom it will be hard to replace, both in their hearts and in the niche of game affairs.

Bon Voyage, "Kirk," old friend, and a Happy Landing.

It is almost an impossibility to purchase any kind of high-powered ammunition now, such as is used in all modern rifles and the deer hunter

who failed to lay in a supply prior to the war is going to find himself out of luck during the coming deer season and will either have to beg, borrow or steal, or else revert to the bow and arrow; all of which leads us to believe that our friend, Grover Gauthier "has got something there" after all. Grover, you know, scorns the use of a rifle in pursuit of game animals and goes in search of them with his bow and arrow. And what's more, he "brings home the bacon."

Shotgun shells are also going to be at a premium the coming bird seasons from the looks of the situation at the present time. But as long as we know that the powder and lead that we are deprived of is being used to smash the Axis, we shouldn't kick about it and should be glad to lay aside our guns and ammunition to help win the war.

Under the rationing set-up we are wondering how many gallons of gas they are going to allow us to bag a buck the coming season, or will we be restricted entirely. Perhaps all deer hunters will be mounted on bicycles. Who knows?

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