

The Salem Sampler

My colleague, Stella Cutlip, was the victim of a practical joke when she introduced the Coos county salary bill in the House Saturday.

Because such bills are passed usually as a matter of course and are considered strictly a family affair to be handled solely by the county delegation, Mrs. Cutlip, all unsuspecting, made her introduction speech and sat down confident that the bill would meet with no opposition.

To her astonishment as well as that of others who were not in on the gag, a series of fiery speeches were made denouncing the bill and deploring the tendency of county officials all over the state to demand higher salaries. It was stoutly maintained by the breast-beating orators that this sort of chiseling must stop and that the Coos county bill was a good place in which to stop it.

A flood of "no" votes overwhelmed the bill at first but all of the members leaped to their feet before the gavel fell and asked that their votes be changed to "aye."

Be it said for my colleague, that she smelt a mice when the oratory took place and did not fall for the trick.

It did have an effect on two residents of Coos county who watched the proceedings from the gallery. Their mouths opened a foot until the members changed their votes. This gag has been pulled twice now and is getting rather old.

Details of the bill have been printed in the daily papers. The salary raises were a trifle less than those recommended by the budget committee but the bracket provisions were maintained.

The tendency to strengthen the corporate economy in the state was shown by the heavy favorable vote on House Bill No. 163 relating to excise tax on corporations.

This legislature realizes how essential it is to protect private business so that the boys in the armed service will have jobs to come back to when the war is over.

The bill will affect mostly smaller corporations and will not give very much relief to the large ones. However, it does give the help in the support where it is needed.

A measure to give the cities of the state a 5 per cent portion of the excess highway funds over \$11,000,000 collected in any one year, was passed last Monday.

Least our Coos county cities become overly enthused on this matter, it must be pointed out that revenues have dropped to a point where there will be little left after the \$11,000,000 is taken out. However, when highway traffic is resumed, this will be a substantial aid to the cities in the maintenance of their streets.

Senate Joint Resolution, No. 9, which refers to the forfeiture of electoral privileges to the mentally diseased and those in the penitentiary, is intended to replace the measure recently defeated by the people at the polls by less than a thousand votes.

It is based on the theory that the mentally diseased should not have the voting privileges nor should convicts while serving their sentences. Yet, after a convict has paid his debt to society and has proved that he is entitled to a place as a citizen, he should be restored to the position of elector. It is a theory with which very few find fault.

Representative Donald Heister, of The Dalles, seeing me working at the bills on Sunday afternoon at my desk in the House, took me by the arm and escorted me to the top of the Capitol tower just below the gilded figure. The ascent is made by a small stairway and I advise those of more than 45 years to pause at each landing to catch their breath. I had no idea that the present sedentary life I am leading had so undermined my physical endurance. But I must confess that I am carrying around a considerably greater poundage than heretofore and am forced to admit that the double-chinned profile that Murry Wade made of me in his cartoon is unfortunately the truth.

The view from the top of the tower on a bright sunny day well rewards those who make the effort to climb there. The entire panorama of the Salem vicinity from the perimeter of the hills on the east, south, and west to the dim distance on the north was spread in sharp relief. At designated times during the day a tour of the buildings takes place for the benefit of visitors. Many soldiers from Camp Adair have been taking advantage of this feature. I strongly urge every able-bodied resident of Coos county to stop and make this trip as they go through Salem. It gives one a knowledge of the town and its environments which only extensive travel could furnish.

Representative Joe Wilson of Lincoln county has been the target of many gags lately because of his chronic absence during a call of the house on controversial bills.

The picture of Joe being lead into the House by the Sergeant-at-Arms is a familiar one. For he has been occupied lately in trying to lobby his pet oyster measure through the Senate.

He is also one of those poor individuals who find the hard floors of the Capital hallways very tiring to their feet. To get relief, he is often found in the coffee-shop or in the cloak room with his shoes off in a Scattergood Baines. He has been caught that way several times and has had to report in his stocking feet.

Tuesday the House passed a resolution presenting "Shoeless Joe" with a pair of slippers big enough to cover the web feet he is alleged to have grown in the damp climate of his native Lincoln county. The resolution further provided for the placing in his private hotel room of one bucket each of sand and salt water.

To assist the Senator in locating Joe, he was also presented with a large bell attached to a red ribbon around his neck.

Representative Joe is a splendid chap and a good sport. He promptly put the bell on and appeared at the rostrum without his shoes so that he could wear the new slippers, much to the hilarity of the crowd.

House Bill, No. 177, the civil service bill, was defeated in the House on Monday. However, a substitute bill, No. 380, has not yet been disposed of.

Both bills are modeled after the Minnesota act. They established a so-called merit system of employment for state employees and for all the machinery for the setting up of a collective bargaining agency for such employees through the medium of a directorate selected by the Governor under the Civil Service act.

Opposition to the bill centered upon three main facts that:

1. It would freeze those on the rolls as of December 31, 1942, thus discriminating against men in the armed services; no returning soldier or sailor could get a job unless a new one was available or unless a vacancy happened to exist in one of the old positions. The veteran would be given preference in examinations for new jobs, however.

2. It would set up powerful collective bargaining agencies uncontrollable by the voters and strong enough to compel almost any concessions in the way of wages and hours that the employees choose to demand.

3. The bill gives the director autocratic powers not in keeping with the policies of a Democracy, and, incidentally, a prolific source of lawsuits against the state.

Despite very heavy lobby pressure, and a particularly fine speech of introduction by Representative Leo Smith, the bill was defeated by rather a narrow margin.

It is probable, also, that a feeling that such measures had best wait until after war had much to do with its defeat. The belief was that state employees are very secure on their jobs for the next biennium and that no great harm could come from postponing the measure.

The Burke wine bill, placing sales of fortified wines exclusively in the states' liquor stores, passed the House by a narrow margin and is now before the Governor for his signature.

Proponents of the bill based their arguments chiefly on the premise that commercial fortified wines were a serious menace to the health and morals of the public and that their sale should be under the more rigid control of the State Liquor Commission.

Opponents of the bill based their arguments mainly on the premise that small dealers, about 1200 in number, would be dealt a devastating blow by the passage of the bill and that the excessive wine drinking would not be greatly curbed by the act.

After a spirited debate, culminated by the man-hunt by the Sergeant-at-Arms for Representative Perry, the bill passed by a small margin.

An event of Wednesday afternoon was the visit to the House by three fliers of the Royal Air Force who are on tour of the United States.

Two of them were from England and the other from Scotland.

I had read of the extreme youth of these RAF fliers but was not prepared for the shock of seeing how very young and boyish they actually were.

The veteran of the group, a Corporal, appeared to be a lad of about 16 years. I was told that he had made numerous trips over Germany in his bomber and probably participated in the raid on Cologne.

They are fine, clean-cut lads and evidently in very good spirits. After being introduced they assured us that they were going to deliver a few more packages to Hitler when they returned to duty.

It should shame us Americans when we think of how courageous and determined the English are. They give their all to the cause of Democracy, even their teen-age sons. Can we do anything else than work with all of our energy and power and by giving

every penny we can spare to insure that these boys get the support they richly deserve. It was a lesson to me and I only wish that every worker in Coos county could have seen them.

Two companion bills designed to foster a county unit system backed by substantial state aid were defeated in the House on Wednesday.

The bills were intended to lay before the people two main questions, that of substantial state aid to the schools in the way of a flat sum based on the number of school-census children in each district, and the question of a super-school board in each county to standardize the school system in the county and to administer expenditures of all funds for school purposes, including the state funds above mentioned.

Opponents defeated the measure largely because a majority of the House felt that the matter of local school districts relinquishing control of their school affairs should be a matter of individual election rather than to have it forced upon unwilling districts by state-wide action.

The issue of the state's responsibility for the education of our children was not brought out in debate, though the proponents intended these bills to equalize the school burden.

It is my belief that argument for the coming sales tax referendum bill will include the proposal that a substantial portion of sales tax proceeds be used for school purposes only. A majority of the House seem to favor this method of state school money distribution rather than the methods proposed in the above bills.

Representative Ramago took me to another Lions' Club meeting Thursday and it was my pleasure to listen to the Field Director of the Red Cross stationed at Camp Adair.

This officer gave some very striking illustrations of the work now being done among our boys in the armed services. It would be not only interesting but educational if his address could be publicized throughout our state.

Judge George Rossman made a statement in his introduction which was printed indelibly on my memory: "We are rewarded not for the things we do for ourselves, nor for the things that others do for us, but for the things we do for others."

It would be well if we would all think this over a bit.

Representative Eugene Marsh, of McMinnville, is in law business with his twin brother, who looks exactly like him. Thursday his twin brother was sitting in his chair and a member of the House placed a bill on his desk and asked the brother to sign it. The brother protested that he couldn't sign it; whereupon the member got wrothy about it since Gene had assured him he would sign it as co-sponsor. It was not until neighboring members gave him the horse laugh that he realized he was talking to the wrong man.

The resemblance between the Marsh brothers is so striking that one wonders how their respective wives can tell them apart.

House Bill No. 308, the community property act, passed the House with little opposition Friday morning.

It is patterned after the Oklahoma and Texas acts and is similar to those now used in eight states including California.

The bill is optional and permits any couple to take advantage of the act if they desire. The fee is \$50.00 for such election and the act goes into effect the first of the month following formal notification by a man and wife of their intention to come under the act.

It is a benefit only to those paying income taxes under the higher brackets. It is intended to help in keeping people of means in our state. It is conceded, by those who know that Oregon has lost a great many such people during the past quarter century to the great detriment of the state.

Advocates of the measure considered that the advantage will be temporary since all states will have to adopt similar measures in self-defense or the Federal Government will have to provide income tax off-sets to equalize states without such community property acts with those who have them.

It should be understood by the public that there are two main sources of capital. First is the political or quasi-public sources such as the government or the banking institutions. Second is the private source from individual capitalists. The latter group includes everyone having a life insurance policy, cash in the hands, or saving accounts of any kind.

Out-of-Doors Stuff

by LANS LENEVE

"Hoot" Watson has taken sides with the writer regarding his statement published several weeks ago regarding a gradual decrease in the ranks of our ducks and points out the fact that twenty years ago more ducks were seen in one day than are seen now during an entire season. "Hoot" advocates the closing of the smaller trout streams at a point on the stream where they become narrow and shallow and where the larger trout go to spawn. He states that this sort of water should be kept closed at all times in order to allow trout to spawn there and that far up such a stream that it is seldom that large trout are taken and in order to take the limit of fifteen in such a stream, an angler catches twice or three times as many small fry as the limit, that have to be returned to the water and most of which dies—thus making it mighty wasteful fishing.

We agree with "Hoot" perfectly and I am sure a lot of the rest of you anglers will also. This ardent sportsman also agrees with the writer that a closed season on ducks for three years would help to build up their numbers and give them a fighting chance to survive during the coming years and he goes farther by pointing out that a closed season of three or four years on mink, coon, otter—in fact all fur-bearers, would be a mighty good move. And we also second that motion.

The otter, that most beautiful animal of our furbearer that frequents the streams, are fast disappearing. Fifteen years ago there was scarcely a stream in southwestern Oregon that they didn't frequent. Their slides could be seen on every principal stream, on practically all branch streams, on the different coastal lakes and the animals themselves were often glimpsed by anglers. Even the drainage ditches of the Coquille valley were a habitat of the otter.

But today they have decreased to the extent that their sign or slides are seldom seen. We believe we are safe in stating that they have decreased to such an extent that if they are not afforded drastic protection that they will be entirely extinct in the coastal sections within a few more years.

Mr. Church, trapper of Bear Creek, recalls that 24 years ago that he trapped 98 mink along the Coquille river during one season. It is doubtful that 50 trappers could catch that many mink at the present time, within a season on that same stretch of territory that Mr. Church trapped.

The racoon is going the same way. High prices in past years lowered their numbers. The Game Commission closed the season during 1940-41, I believe, it was with the result that there was a noticeable increase, but not enough in my opinion to again open the season on them. They should have been given another couple of years in which to stage a comeback. And we know for a fact that there isn't one coon today where there were fifty fifteen years ago.

The remainder of the needed operating capital must therefore come either from stockholders in the business or from those who have sufficient confidence in its management to risk their personal funds. And so it is that any state having a large number of such moneyed individuals has a great advantage over one that does not have them when it comes to building up business enterprises.

Oregon has a serious lack of moneyed people because tendency has been to drive men of wealth away. I am glad to say that this tendency seems now to be reversed and such people are being encouraged to remain here, to build homes, and invest their capital with us. It will be in the public interest to see that such measures are enacted and to encourage this capital to remain with us.

In my opinion, it is a very vital matter and should have the careful thought of every good citizen of the state.

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V. N. Freeman, field supervisor for southwestern Oregon, announces that the 1943 program is under way and applications are being received at his office in Eugene. Loans are available to farmers for the production both of war crops and of regular cash, feed and soil conserving crops, and for livestock feeding to increase production of foods and livestock vital to the nation's health.

Loan funds may be used for buying seed, fertilizer, supplies, and to pay other production costs, including incidentals and repairs to farm machinery and equipment.

Securely for these loans is a first lien on the crops to be financed or the livestock to be fed. The maximum amount of any individual loan is \$400, and the rate of interest is

four per cent per annum. Loan checks are usually delivered within ten days after the application is completed. "The fact that an applicant owes balances on old seed loans will not in itself prevent approval of a new loan, provided the reason for non-payment was beyond his control," Mr. Freeman said.

"Farmers who are unable to obtain credit through production credit associations or on reasonable terms from other sources may obtain these loans," Mr. Freeman explained. Application forms and full information are available at the office of the county agent, production credit association, or at the office of V. N. Freeman, field supervisor, Room 7, Post Office Building, Eugene, Oregon.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE is hereby given that the undersigned was on February 23rd, 1943, duly appointed Administratrix of the Estate of Roy L. Thomas, Deceased, by the County Court of Coos County, Oregon, and all persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present them to me with proper vouchers attached and duly verified at the Office of F. E. McCracken, Attorney, in Coquille, Oregon, within six months from the date of this notice.
Dated and published first time February 25, 1943.
Alta V. Rogers,
815 Administratrix of said Estate.

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