

The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IN A GOOD TOWN

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Timely Topics

By R. T. Moore

A well attended gathering of Bandonians in Townsend Hall, Sunday the 26th, observed the seventh anniversary of the Bandon fire. A dinner followed by a program gave opportunity for reminiscences.

It is always interesting to look back on past experiences. Things that loomed so large at the time fade into insignificance with the passage of years. Tragic happenings during the fire are amusing now though they were grimly serious then.

A comparison was made between what was predicted by Washington bureaucrats at the time and what has actually happened. Second guessing is a favorite indoor sport for Americans. This particular prediction was so far wrong that it was entertaining to follow it through.

It was predicted that Bandon's industrial pay-roll would decrease to a very low point because of the prevailing depression in 1936, that people having lost both homes and business would move away, that the city debt would prohibit rebuilding operations within the city limits, that the destruction of so many auto-courts at the beach would ruin that industry for many years, that the existing city and school debts would prove impossible to pay and would bankrupt the community, and that the excellent highways would draw people away from the town and destroy it as a municipal corporation.

Now for a look at what actually happened: Bandon's industrial payroll instead of decreasing has steadily increased until it is about treble the amount in 1936. While numbers of people did move away, the great majority stayed to build up new homes and businesses as best they could. The city debt has been reduced until it no longer is a menace to rebuilding operations. In fact the city is in the best shape financially it has ever been in during my 30 years of residence here. The good roads have not drawn people away from town but have helped its growth by stimulating commerce.

It is true that many families have built temporary dwellings outside the city limits. But there was a trend toward rebuilding comfortable homes in town before the war stopped it. Savings accumulations will finance many moderate priced homes when priorities are no more.

Future prospects are for increased industrial activity and the greater development of agricultural industries, particularly the berry growing industry. The present cranberry industry is growing rapidly and is becoming one of the pillars of community trade. The glade lands about the town are peculiarly adapted to the growing of such fruits as strawberries and raspberries. Lack of transportation facilities to move the fruit to market quickly has held back this valuable asset. It is not too optimistic to predict that the freight airplane, using the North Bend airport, is the answer.

The discouraging outlook at the time of the fire has changed into a bright future because the people of Bandon stood staunchly together in a united effort to rebuild their community in the face of very difficult obstacles. It was this spirit of mutual help and resolute determination that carried the town through its hour of trial. Can you think of a better example of the true American spirit?

Had occasion to look at an Office of Defense Transportation report form to be used by contract haulers. It was intended to explain the complicated regulations necessary to govern independent haulers during the war.

After reading it over, I could see why so many independent operators have thrown up the sponge and quit. No ordinary person could hope to perform the tasks of accounting required in the making of these reports. Only the firms large enough to employ an accounting staff can remain in business if this sort of thing goes on indefinitely. And the need for such voluminous data is very questionable, in my opinion.

ODT officials are honestly trying to do a good job of enforcement but are hopelessly bogged down in a

maze of conflicting directives. There is some chance for relief through legislation that will simplify and eliminate to the point where an ordinary man can understand them.

We are certainly getting an eye-full of what centralized government will do to us. The picture is far from lovely. There is a general befuddlement of both officials and the public they try to serve. No one knows exactly what to do nor where to find out what to do. The law stands only from Tuesday to Tuesday. You think you have it mastered and then some one changes the rules. Frantic efforts are being made to get it straightened out before next year's elections. It is not doing the administration any good.

The wage incentive issue, once anathema to organized labor, is growing in favor as a remedy for lagging war production. Appeals to patriotism and for support of the armed forces have not sufficed to reduce absenteeism below the present dangerous level. Bulging pay envelopes are placing new and greater temptations in the way of the working man. Too many can not stand prosperity which has destroyed more souls by far than hardship. As the war production must be kept at a high level in spite of the constant drain of workers into the armed forces, steps will be taken to keep men at work. The incentive system will likely be one of them.

The acquisitive instinct is a potent influence in shaping our thoughts and deeds. The promise of profit has always lured men to work hard. But to legislate this virtue into the lives of the people is a very difficult job. The combined efforts of all concerned, the public, labor, and management, are needed to work up a plan that could be even moderately successful. Millions of workers, each with his own peculiar traits of character, have to be dealt with. Each industry will have to be treated separately. Each community will have its distinctive problems. A great deal of careful study is required.

After all, has it not been the incentive system, left free and unhindered, that has built up our enormous industrial power? Was it not the ambition of men to perform some outstanding task that has led to the astonishing progress of science and industry? Can we mortals improve on what the Lord has given us in the way of natural forces to govern our accomplishments? To place the incentive system in effect is merely to say that we will withdraw the obstacles to free private enterprise and endeavor that have been mistakenly raised in recent years. It is a confession that regimentation of industry has failed the test. Man simply does not put forth his best efforts unless there is prospect that better things for himself and his loved ones will be provided thereby.

In an effort to avert inflation the administration is advocating a food subsidy system patterned after that of the English. It has proven quite successful in England where food is imported under strict governmental control. It will be a different story in U. S. A. where there are millions of producers to be regulated. Policing will require thousands of accountants. Where they are to come from, nobody knows. To add this additional burden on already over-worked staffs of accountants appears to be asking for trouble.

A subsidy is really a deferment of a tax. By subsidizing a produce one does not keep its actual price down. One merely causes the public to pay part in cash and the remainder as taxes on the installment plan. An article is really more expensive when subsidized because of added interest on the deferred payments in the form of taxes.

Subsidizing is like the building of a dam across a stream to control floods. It is a good idea if the dam holds. It is not good if the dam breaks with all of the water behind it. The public should not get the idea that subsidizing reduces prices. On the contrary, it will raise them. But the raise will be gradual and possibly not so noticeable. Therefore it is good political medicine.

Whether a subsidy bill is actually enacted or not, something will have to be done to hold in check the enormous purchasing power of the working world. The successful bond drives will help but it will not be enough. More and heavier taxes must be paid to keep the proper ratio between receipts and expenditures in the Treasury.

It is my belief that the public has become well aware of the danger of not keeping this purchasing power under control. Their response to the bond drive indicates this. They can be depended upon to do the needful without being driven into it by suggested methods of compulsory savings and the like. Voluntary methods should be tried first. I believe the public will do a good job if given the chance. It will be far less expensive and far better for public morale.

Old papers 5c a bunch

TWENTY YEARS AGO

(Taken from The Sentinel of Friday, October 5, 1923)

Mayor Nosler and Councilmen Gregg, Fuhrman, Leach, Willey and Farr were present at the regular meeting of the city dads Monday evening for a session of an hour and a half.

An attempt is being made now to reorganize local band men into a new organization and it has been requested that all men willing to participate, call on John E. Ross, at the Farmers & Merchants Bank.

Austin Hazard, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Hazard, who is with the Standard Oil Co. at Salem, left that place last Saturday for Pasadena, Calif., where he was last evening united in marriage to Miss Marjorie Swezey.

Miss Georgianna Johnson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alf Johnson, last Thursday won the silver medal in the Underwood typewriting contest in the schools.

We note that Della Sherwood, of this city, is pledged to become a member of the Delta Delta Delta sorority at the university at Eugene.

Notices have been sent by County Clerk Bunch to the members of the grand jury to hold their first session

next Monday, Oct. 8, Matt L. May, of Marshfield, is foreman. The other members are W. B. Curtis, Jr., of Marshfield; Jos. L. Laird, of Bridge; R. A. Jeub, Coquille; Wm. Lawhorne, Marshfield; Levi J. Roberts, Bridge; Jas. T. Guerin, Myrtle Point. Among the cases to come before them are those of Dr. Fred A. Covell for the murder of his wife and Frank Bellrose, for involuntary manslaughter.

Marriage License issued Oct. 1—John C. Oerding and Evelyn Johnson, both of North Bend.

Mrs. J. A. Lamb entertained a group of the Girl Scouts at a tea Thursday afternoon. This is the third tea given for the girls, the other two having been given at the homes of Mrs. George Chaney and Mrs. H. W. Pierce. The girls present Thursday were Pauline and Grace Ellingsen, Gloria Getz, Jean Pierce, Margaret Bell, Jean Dungey, Jo Torres, Marjorie Jacobsen, Jean Young, Marguerite Agostino, and Edna Robison. Mrs. Pierce and Mrs. Chaney helped with the serving.

The Dunham chain of stores has taken over the Randle Grocery of Myrtle Point. B. H. Burns of Coquille will be in charge. He will move his family up there as soon as he can get house.

Weekly Letter From Washington, D. C.

BY CONGRESSMAN HARRIS ELLSWORTH

Washington, D. C., October 2—Oregon, Washington, California and Idaho members of Congress are uniting in protest to the War Production Board and the Manpower Commission over the recent directive from Donald Nelson's office declaring that no new contracts for war materials are to be awarded on the Pacific Coast because of the manpower shortage there. Figures we have indicate the manpower shortage is in spots and not universal. This order goes even deeper than just new contracts. I have lately talked with representatives of several small manufacturing concerns in Oregon who are back here for renewal of contracts. These men have been informed that the order applies to ALL contracts. As a result, several concerns that have been in business for many years will be liquidated. The plight of small business all over the United States is sad. The only difference between the trouble of Oregon small business concerns and such businesses in other sections is that we have Nelson's manpower directive as a sort of coup de grace. Our little business is going to be put to death quickly rather than go through the lingering death period being suffered by those in the other states.

Last Saturday members of the House from Oregon and Washington met in Homer Angell's office to develop a plan and basis for protest against the Nelson directive—and to ask exception at least for the establishment of an alumina-from-clay plant in the Northwest. A committee of three was named to confer with the War Production Board and plead our case. Yesterday I was requested to serve with a committee of California congressmen which is also going to discuss the Pacific Coast manpower directive and perhaps make a formal protest to Nelson. Pacific Coast members of Congress are pretty much wrought up over the situation as the above outline of activities indicates. Fact is, some of us suspect that the directive is actually not necessary and that it is an indirect method of putting the brakes on western industrial production. The Pacific Coast is showing definite signs of becoming industry minded, thereby threatening the former manufacturing dominance enjoyed by the East and Midwest.

Nothing much doing on the Floor this week. House: Cox resigned from special FCC investigating committee—under fire. Senate: Wheeler has been arguing for his bill to prohibit the drafting of fathers—which is due to fail. Nothing much in prospect for next week.

Meanwhile, the House Rules Committee is sitting on the Fulmer Bill (counterpart of the Jenkins Bill drafted by the Food Study Committee) which would consolidate the conflicting and confusing administration for food and place under one head in the Department of Agriculture. The bill was reported out favorably by the Committee on Agriculture. If we can get that bill out of the Rules Committee on to the Floor of the House, it will pass. The Senate would doubtless pass it also—but the President would probably veto it—though I hope not for considerable study of the whole situation by the Food Committee indicates that legislation is

payments whether in actual cash or not.

Speaking of prices, here are some prices we have to pay here in Washington: Fresh Italian prunes (from Freewater, Oregon), 27c lb; tomatoes, 8c each; fresh corn, \$1.00 per dozen ears; Italian broccoli, 42c for two stalks; melons, about \$1.00 each; fresh pears, 10c each; apples, eating variety, 5c each.

Quotable Quote—OPA house organ says our forefathers got along without sugar, coal, buttered bread, potatoes, coffee, tea, soap, pudding, gas, matches, electricity and automobiles, says Roseburg News-Review, and adds: We also did without OPA and if OPA keeps up its present pace we'll soon be back where our forefathers were.

Harbison's hand-carved myrtle-wood animals and costume jewelry at Bergen's.

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