

The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IN A GOOD TOWN

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A BROKEN PLEDGE

"I propose to use this position of high responsibility (the Presidency) to discuss up and down the country, in all seasons and at all times, the duty of reducing taxes, of increasing the efficiency of Government, of cutting out of the underbrush around our governmental structure, of getting the most public service for every dollar paid in taxation. That I pledge you, and nothing I have said in the campaign transcends in importance this covenant with the taxpayers of the United States."—Candidate Franklin D. Roosevelt at Sioux, City, Iowa, September 29, 1932.

Timely Topics

By K. T. Moore

The County Court is to be commended for the excellent showing in the sale of county owned tax-foreclosure properties and their restoration to the tax rolls. A substantial fund has been built up from this source for use in needed improvements of county facilities after the war. Added to this is the fact that these properties will now be shouldering their share of the tax burden instead of being given a free ride at the expense of other taxpayers.

In past years it has been possible to place much of the tax load on timber properties where such properties were close in and able to bear the burden. This situation is changing fast and soon the timbered areas will yield only a very minor part of the annual tax moneys. The rapid depletion of the timber stands, plus the spreading use of the severance tax method, are the main factors. And it is in the interest of the county to encourage the perpetual yield idea. It affords the only way to preserve a major portion of our lumber industry and we are fortunate in that our climate is favorable for the growing of timber.

The one sour note in all this is the fact that each tax foreclosure by the county means the dashing of someone's hopes and the confiscation of somebody's property. It probably means the end of the speculative period in Coos county history. Future investors will remember what has happened to others and will be very cagey in purchasing real property for investment purposes unless immediate returns are assured.

The fact that the county was able to dispose of the property shows that there is widespread faith in our future and that our underlying business structure is sound. It is a good stroke of business and those county officers responsible deserve a pat on the back.

Someone has termed the current scramble for higher wages "The Gold Rush of 1944," and so it would seem. John Lewis has pointed the way. Other organized labor units are tumbling along after him in self defense.

Added to this are reports of wanton squandering of their big pay checks by war workers, the intemperate use of liquor, widespread juvenile delinquency caused mainly by parental neglect, open defiance of government directives, the Liberty ship scandal, crippling strikes and a host of other unpleasant happenings.

Domestic issues have become so impregnated with pure politics as to be almost impossible of resolution. The president is to blame for most of it because of his maneuvering for position in the 1944 election race. He wants to run if he thinks he can win. He doesn't want to run if it looks like defeat. The picture is not clear enough as yet for him to decide which event is the most likely to happen. So he blames the Congress and every one in Washington is running around blaming somebody else. The main concern seems to be the fixing of the blame rather than the correction of the wrong.

Both friends and opponents of the president's policies were hoping that he would get his Dutch dander up over the kicking around he has been getting and would really bear down on the domestic situation. They were bitterly disappointed in his speech to Congress because it failed again to meet the issues head-on and as they should be met.

He dwelt on political generalities

TWENTY YEARS AGO

(Taken from The Sentinel of Friday, January 18, 1924)

Lafe Compton, manager of the Coquille Hotel, has tentatively set the opening date for Monday, Jan. 28. The opening will be an informal function to which the general public is invited. The music for the occasion will be furnished by G. A. Martin orchestra of Coos Bay. Yesterday the carload of furniture and furnishings was received and the work of getting it installed is proceeding rapidly. "On Wednesday the kitchen crew arrived and Mr. Compton is expecting to get them busy by opening the restaurant tomorrow.

The W. O. W. building, recently occupied by a grocery store, has been rented to A. W. Chapin, who comes here from Klamath Falls. He intends to open a new grocery there.

Saturday was the wedding day of one of Marshfield's most popular young women, Miss Florence Powers, whose marriage to J. Arthur Berg, senior member of the legal firm of Berg & Morgan of Coquille, was celebrated that morning at St. Monica's Catholic church at 11 o'clock. Rev. Father J. A. Sheridan celebrated the nuptial mass.

C. J. Fuhrman informs us that the fixtures for his new store in the corner of the Coquille Hotel building have been shipped from San Francisco and that he is figuring on moving to the new location soon after the first of the month.

Coquille is to have a new business enterprise in the near future. Yesterday W. C. and H. M. Fensler were down here from Myrtle Point and came to an agreement with the trustees of the Odd Fellows lodge for the lease of the store room now occupied by Fuhrman's Pharmacy. The business will be conducted under the

like "reasonable profits" and "fair" treatment. No one knows what is meant by either term. There are as many interpretations of the term "reasonable profits" as there are business concerns in the U. S. It can fit any degree of profit according to the way you look at it. What we need is a definite, plain statement of facts, a mathematical statement of the percentage of profit that is reasonable under war conditions. The law should plainly state in so many words exactly what the word "fair" means. Nothing should be left to the personal opinions of those charged with administration. In no other way can confusion be avoided.

Instead of calming the troubled domestic waters the speech has stirred up a formidable tempest that will react against national harmony throughout the year. The suggestion that we adopt the European method of conscripting labor as a cure for strike ills leaves both friends and foes of the president in stunned surprise. A great wave of resentment from both labor and management is sure to follow. It will probably be great enough to destroy what little harmony and loyalty remained in Congress towards the president's policies. Too bad, but there seems no way to avoid a stormy year for the Administration.

Again the president's executive weakness is painfully apparent. He lacks the ability to delegate authority. The job is impossible for any mortal man and things just slide along because the president has to take matters in order of importance, leaving the lesser to accumulate. His capacity for work is simply astounding, but it falls far short of encompassing the vast duties of our Chief Executive office. And try as he may by repeated attempts to correct administrative weakness in his staff, he only succeeds in piling bureau upon bureau with hopeless overlapping of authority and utter lack of definite responsibility. It is the magnetism of his personality that holds his Administration together. The public admires and respects him for his winsome human qualities and forgives his shortcomings. Because the details of campaign have been placed in competent hands of General Marshall and Admiral King, the president's leadership in conduct of the war has been good. What a pity he has not used the same efficient system in the conduct of domestic affairs.

The mounting volume of bureaucratic mail crossing my desk makes me wonder how small businesses can stagger along. Unless a business has sales volume enough to afford the overhead of an expert accountant, it is sure to run foul of some directive or other and be punished by the levy of crippling fines and penalties. The present set-up in government control of everything is slowly killing off all but two classes of business, the large and the small. The

same name as that in use at Powers and Myrtle Point—The Hub Clothing & Shoe Co.

The forms for the concrete foundation walls of the S. M. Nosler building to be erected at the corner of First and Hall streets are in place and as the weather permits the work will be pushed rapidly. Last Saturday the building now occupied by the J. L. Stevens meat market was moved on to the Oerding lot west of it and Mr. Stevens' new building will go up at the same time as the Nosler building.

At a recent meeting of the Junior Chamber of Commerce a petition to the city council was presented and signed by all the high school students, requesting that the city build a sidewalk along the highway, from the end of the present board walk at Fourth street to the High School.

The Coquille Rod & Gun Club announce that they will have their annual duck dinner next Tuesday evening, Jan. 22, in the Hotel Coquille.

A short meeting of the directors of School District No. 8 was held last Saturday evening at which time contracts with two teachers were signed — Mrs. Belva Flanagan - Gage and Miss Veva Chandler.

Fred Harlocker, of Coquille, a senior in commerce at O. A. C., is one of the eight men selected for the varsity debate team at the college.

The ladies of the Episcopal Guild will begin serving chicken dinner at 5:30 Saturday afternoon at the J. A. Lamb residence.

The Coquille high school basketball five showed their gameness and ability last Friday evening when they came from behind in the game with Marshfield and won out 8 to 6.

middle class, too small to afford expert legal and accounting expense, and yet large enough to be required to have it, is dropping out of existence.

All of our large businesses came from small beginnings. The Ford Motor Company came from a Detroit blacksmith shop. The Standard Oil Company from a tiny Pennsylvania oil well. The United States Steel Company came from a home-made ore reducing outfit. Under present conditions, it would be utterly impossible for such a business growth to happen again.

On one hand we applaud the theory of fair-play to all who have the energy and ambition to try to get ahead in the world. On the other hand, we approve a government set-up that makes it impossible for such folks to ever get anywhere. We are freezing the rich in their position of advantage by destroying their competition; we are closing the door of opportunity to the enterprising working man.

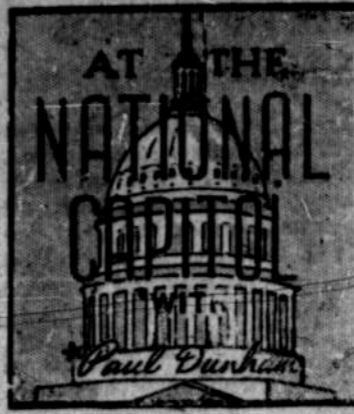
The main issue in the elections this year is free enterprise versus state socialism. It is the same issue we have had in every presidential election since 1936 after the real policies of this Administration became known. The selection of elective officers is merely incidental to the main question of what form of government we prefer.

The voter in 1944 has a great advantage over the voter in 1936. He has had a demonstration of the workings of the new theory of government and can judge its merits on actual performance instead of mere verbal statement. He can decide whether he will be happier under centralized government in Washington or localized government at home where he can watch it. He can decide whether he wants regimentation with its premium on conformance (Harvard for boot-licking) or freedom of action with its premium on ambition and enterprise. His will be the choice between sovereignty of the state and sovereignty of the citizen.

The trend away from bureaucratic government makes it likely that the people will choose free enterprise as against state socialism. The war has demonstrated that only a people accustomed to blind obedience to state decree can function under state socialism. There is little difference between the latter and an absolute monarchy. The transition from one to the other is easy. Methods of government are the same in each. Neither will be tolerated by the American public, as coming events will prove.

Pimples Disappeared Over Night

Yes, it is true, there is a safe harmless medicated liquid called Kleerex that acts up pimples over night. Many report that they had a red sore pimply face one night and surprised their friends the next day with a clear complexion. There is no risk. The first application must convince you or you get your money back. Only 50c. Join the happy Kleerex users who are no longer embarrassed with unsightly pimples. Sold and recommended by BARROW DRUG CO.



Washington, D. C., Jan. 20—For the first time in 11 years the new deal has lost its majority in the lower house of the congress. This has been brought about by death, by resignations and by appointments to federal jobs. Today there are 217 democrats in the house, and a majority is 218. Nor have the republicans a majority. The gradual extermination of democrats of the new deal variety has been progressing. For time to time, when there was a whopping democratic majority, President Roosevelt would reward some faithful house member by appointing him to a federal judgeship or some political job, usually with a lifetime tenure. These appointments did not matter, because of the tremendous majority, until the last two years when the places of the 100-percenters were captured by republicans. Oregon removed its one democratic house member by electing a republican and Washington republicans made inroads on its solid democratic delegation.

Whatever may be outcome on the presidency, it is now freely predicted that the republican party will be in control of the house following the November election. Of the 217 democrats remaining not all are new dealers and, in fact, many of them are as opposed to the political policies of the administration as are the most reactionary republicans. Take the case of Representative Smith of Virginia, an old-line democrat, who demands that the department of justice take proceedings against Philip Murray of CIO, contending that CIO is violating the law in collecting an \$800,000 campaign fund to be used for Mr. Roosevelt. Mr. Smith and Senator Tom Connally of Texas are sponsors of a bill prohibiting labor unions from contributing money to political campaigns. Members of the CIO in the northwest have been chipping in to the fund, as heretofore reported in this column.

There promises to be plenty of work for the AMG (allied military government) in the liberated countries of Europe—work which will be far from agreeable and which will test the administrative ability of members to the utmost. A number of prominent Oregon and Washington

men have been assigned to these duties, among them former Mayor Joseph K. Carson of Portland and former Multnomah county district Judge Donald E. Long. Some of the men from the Pacific northwest are already on duty in North Africa and Sicily and others will be given assignments as rapidly as territory is released from German bondage.

What in the beginning seemed to be a comparatively easy undertaking has been rendered vastly more difficult by the development of factional divisions in Poland, Italy, France, Greece, Yugoslavia and others of the smaller countries conquered by Hitler, each action claiming to represent a majority of the people and each demanding recognition by the United Nations. In Italy, Greece and Yugoslavia these domestic differences have reached the stage of open hostilities, and a similar situation is rapidly developing in France. In Poland the government in exile is being discredited by its controversy with Russia over the boundary question, and even Norway is not free from domestic turmoil.

The prospect of setting up democratic forms of government under such conditions is not encouraging and there are informed observers in Washington who foresee the possibility of armed clashes between the rescuers and the rescued after the collapse of Germany. In these circumstances the task of the military governments will be not only difficult but hazardous. Assassination is not an unusual resort of the people in Central Europe when they become dissatisfied with those in charge of their government. They are headstrong, hot and accustomed to rule by force. Just how the principles of the Atlantic charter are to be applied and democratic government established under such handicaps is by no means clear. To attain even a moderate degree of success will call for more diplomacy and firmness than was ever displayed by these American administrators in the performance of previous duties in the United States.

Bonneville power administration is wondering what it will be "with the hydroelectric capacity of that government plant and the one at Grand Coulee if the WPB decided to fold up the aluminum reduction plants at Spokane, Tacoma and Troutdale. Alcoa at Vancouver is neither government owned nor operated and the same is true of the Reynolds plant at Longview, but the other reduction plants can be closed down instantly. It is a case of one government agency in position to cripple another. Success of the Bonneville administration to date has been in its ability to sell energy to war industries and when these are discontinued the problem will be to find other outlets for its power.

Crude-Oil Supply Won't Fail, Says Petroleum Expert

Will the earth's petroleum supply stand the enormous drain of global warfare? Will it meet the needs of postwar years—which will add many new items to the list of 2,000 products now being made from crude oil?

The answer is Yes, says Gustav Eglhoff, president of the American Institute of Chemists and research director of the Universal Oil Products Co., writing in a recent issue of the Rotarian magazine.

Oil is probably being produced by Nature faster than it is being consumed by man, Dr. Eglhoff maintains. There are doubtless millions of acres of oil-producing territory in the western hemisphere not yet discovered or developed, and many other parts of the earth should prove to be not less rich.

But in addition to its 375,000 producing wells, the United States has billions of barrels available from other crude oil sources, he contends. Investigations have brought to light facts regarding earth processes which convince us that oil is constantly being formed, Dr. Eglhoff asserts, citing the diatoms found in closed basins of the North American Continental Shelf, particularly along the west coast of California. Diatoms (brown, one-celled plants, growing in jellylike masses in both fresh and salt water) are constantly depositing in the deeper waters of the Pacific Coast, and their organic content is constantly increasing.

Dr. Eglhoff estimates that the diatoms in the Monterey shale of the Santa Maria, California, oil fields would alone produce two billion barrels of oil by an ether-process extraction — and these represent only one limited area where diatoms are plentiful.

From the foregoing we may conclude that Nature is producing oil at a faster rate than gas pressure or pump strokes can bring it to the earth's surface, writes Dr. Eglhoff, so we may take heart for the future.

Harbison's myrtlewood for Christmas gifts.

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