

The Sentinel

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Timely Topics

By R. T. Moore

Efforts to arrange a "bob-tailed" ballot system, by which service men could vote for the President and members of the Congress without voting for the other officers and issues printed on the regulation ballots, seem to be destined to fail.

The issue has raised more of a disturbance than its importance warrant. There have been strong words used by both sides and a good deal of heat generated. But the real facts are that most of the states now have adequate absentee balloting systems that will cover the case as far as is practicable in time of war. The real issue is the transportation of ballots to and from the soldiers, no mean problem right now.

Reflecting on this matter, consider the fact that in Oregon about 80 per cent of those entitled to register as voters actually do so. Of these, only 30 per cent to 35 per cent actually go to the polls. The lesser figure obtains in off-year elections, the higher in presidential election years. This means that from 24 per cent to 52 per cent of our voters make use of their voting privilege to pass on the laws for the other 48 per cent to 76 per cent. So, to do as well as our voters usually do, the Oregon service men must cast about a 40 per cent vote.

Our Secretary of State has been energetic in trying to get ballot applications in the hands of service men who will be able to use them. Late reports say that hundreds of applications have already been received and more are arriving daily. There is cause for hope that the service men will be able to do as well as the other voters in percentage of votes cast. It is fortunate that Oregon had a good workable absentee-ballot law.

The "bob-tailed" ballot proposal assumes that voting for the high national offices is more important than voting for local issues that directly affect the lives of the service men. This is open to question. In my opinion the local issues are of the greater interest and import to the men. Most people vote according to what affects their daily life. They vote to show approval or resentment of things that help or injure them in the pursuit of daily bread.

The matter of ballots for service men is therefore only of passing interest to Oregonians. Our boys will get their chance to vote if it is at all practicable to furnish them with a ballot of any sort. It would not be surprising if they scored as high an average as the folks at home when the ballots are counted.

One of the grossly discriminatory features of present tax laws is the double taxation of corporate earnings. These are taxed once as corporate earnings and again when they are distributed to stockholders as dividends.

The principle is the same as if a man's wages were taxed when he was handed his check at the pay window and again when his wife deposited the check at the bank.

The political impotence of corporate stockholders has so far prevented the correction of this grave injustice to a particular group of citizens. But hope looms upon the horizon. Mr. Marriner S. Eccles, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, has vigorously attacked this inequality and seems to have gained substantial support in the Congress for his views. He suggests some sort of credit either to the corporation for monies paid in dividends or to the individual who receives them. This credit would be applied against income tax liability and would eliminate the double tax evil.

Anything seeming to benefit a corporation or its stockholders is immediately seized upon by demagogues for table-pounding or breast-beating purposes. But justice is justice and it matters not who or what the recipient is. The public will support this move, once it has been explained to them.

The extreme danger to small corporations in the granting of wage raises to deserving employees without consent of the War Labor Board

TWENTY YEARS AGO

(Taken from The Sentinel of Friday, February 22, 1924)

The annual meeting of the Coos County Bar Association was held in Coquille Tuesday and was followed by a banquet at the Coquille Hotel that evening. J. J. Stanley was elected as president; T. T. Bennett, vice president; W. U. Duglas, treasurer; G. Russell Morgan, secretary.

To pave or not to pave is the question to which the city council is giving serious thought. And should the decision be for paving be carried out, it would be the largest street improvement program ever started in the city. When the city fathers requested the citizens to assemble and inform the council of their wishes regarding the improvement of First, Second, Third, Coulter, Heath, Beach, Collier and Division streets, it is probable that they were only considering a 18-foot concrete pavement. But when an overwhelming majority of those present asked that the pavement be full width, 24 feet, and that the plank curbing be replaced with concrete, it became evident that what those present wanted was to finish the job this time.

is shown in the harsh penalties inflicted on a little eastern corporation last week.

This corporation was fined and then forced to deduct the entire amount of the wages paid to these particular employees from its operating expense account when calculating its income tax. The result was a heavy penalty which seriously injured the current operating condition of the firm. The lesson gained from this incident is that extreme care should be taken in granting wage increases of any type. Contact with the Salary Stabilization Board should be made if one is to keep out of trouble.

The lumber situation continues very tight with heavy pressure for deliveries and orders in excess of production.

The grave blunder by Washington in opening the door to big housing projects for lumber supply has finally been corrected but not before considerable damage was done to commitments for Army and Navy.

Political pressure was used to induce official Washington to place these housing projects on a par as to priority with Army and Navy supplies. The immediate result was a horde of California buyers invading Oregon with gobs of attractive cutting bearing high priority. They took the industry by storm in spite of the vigorous protests by George B. Carpenter, the very able and efficient administrator of War Production Board's CPA. Mr. Carpenter strongly supported by the larger mills and wholesalers, went to Washington at once and has finally succeeded in getting the grab-bag directive rescinded. The service rendered by Mr. Carpenter in this matter probably will get little or no notice before the public. But history will show that it was a large factor in keeping the flow of lumber supplies going to the armed forces as and when needed.

How this mistake came to be made is hard to understand. With the mills and wholesale lumber trade straining every nerve to keep up with the Army and Navy demand the opening of those flood-gates of pent-up demand for civilian use was simply devastating. It was no compliment to the intelligence of those at the head of lumber supply in Washington.

Now that lumber has been put back on the track for war production, it is well to take stock of its chances for full production this summer. The Selective Service System has taken note of the fact that lumber is a critical product. Deferment of key men, who are next to impossible to replace, can be expected within reasonable limits. The responsibility for determination of who are actually the key men will rest largely with employers. It is a heavy burden that must be borne with strict impartiality and justice.

The employers should make it a practice to discuss these matters with local Selective Service Board members frequently. There should be complete understanding of each deferment case, why it was necessary and what results it has had in the production line.

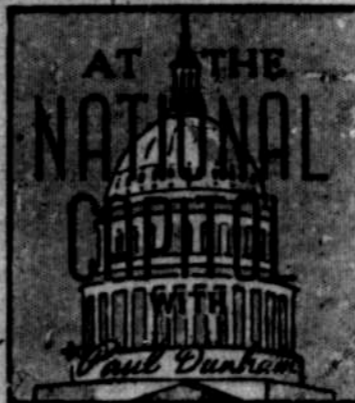
Those employees who are deferred have a solemn duty to perform for the sake of fellow-workmen who are now facing death, or worse, and for the sake of our country. They have no right to indulge in habits or practices that detract from their ability to exert full effort on the jobs to which they are assigned. The eyes of all will be upon them as they perform the tasks expected of them. They must use extraordinary care and diligence in their work. Anything less would be a betrayal of the trust and confidence of their fellow-citizens.

The Coquille Commercial Club, which for years has held its regular meetings at the city hall on Wednesday evening, decided this week to abandon the evening session and substitute for it the luncheon or dinner plan. That is, the sessions will be held in the dining room of the Coquille Hotel every Wednesday evening at 6:30.

The meeting of Boy Scout councils from the several cities in the county, was held at the Bay last Friday evening, there being present from Coquille, A. T. Morrison, J. L. Smith, Ned C. Kelley, Rev. C. S. Bergner and F. G. Leslie.

The vote in Myrtle Point and the eight neighboring districts last Monday favored establishing a Union High School at that city.

Just before ten o'clock last Sunday morning the steamship Columbia was wrecked on the north jetty at the entrance to Coos Bay, where the C. A. Smith met a similar fate just nine weeks previous. Fortunately all the passengers and crew of the Columbia were safely rescued.



Washington, D. C., Feb. 24—Not all sections of the country are as prosperous and busy as the Pacific northwest, where the highest wages ever recorded in that region are being paid in the war industries. Despite the complaint that there is a shortage of manpower and that jobs are going begging at good wages, an attempt has been made to revive the old food stamp program for a large segment of the national population.

The way to hold down the cost of living (food) is to issue food stamps as a subsidy, it was argued in the senate. Cost of food has soared to the point where the men and women on a stationary, fixed, income are unable to buy foods with sufficient nutrient values. The committee on banking and currency listed the number of people on fixed income by type as follows: Old-age assistance 2,170,000, aid to dependent children 310,000, aid to blind, 80,000, receiving general relief 380,000. Other fixed incomes are 1,340,000 in the federal service, excluding the military; in state and local governments 1,920,000; in the public educational group 1,320,000. There are 800,000 receiving veteran pensions and 4,750,000 receiving military allotments; another 10,000 receiving lump-sum old-age and survivors pensions and 680,000 in that category receiving monthly payments. Under the railroad retirement act there are 160,000 on fixed income, with 70,000 drawing civil service pensions. All these aggregate 14,000,000 receiving fixed income. It is this group which suffers most with the increased cost of living, for they cannot stretch their income, and it is this group for which it was proposed to issue food stamps.

According to the bureau of human nutrition and home economics, the basic low cost for an adequate diet for a family of four is \$646 a year. Senator LaFollette says there are 18,000,000 families in the United States whose incomes will not permit that expenditure without robbing other needs. There are 3,488,000 families and single consumers whose income is less than \$500 a year, and 6,652,000 families and single consumers whose cash income is between \$1,000 and \$5,000. In all these categories—various types of pensions, old-age assistance, low incomes, etc.—the states of Washington, Idaho and Oregon are represented.

While it is true that everyone has a ration book, the cash income of millions of people is too low to permit them to make purchases at current prices, and many of their coupons are given away.

Mortgage loan companies are still fighting to liquidate Home Owners Loan Corp., and they have a high paid lobbyist camping in Washington, D. C. Now, however, HOLC is receiving support as the plan to liquidate becomes clearer. HOLC was created in the early days of the new deal to take over distressed mortgages and make new loans on the property in peril. Hundreds of thousands of citizens would have lost their homes had HOLC not come to their rescue. HOLC also bailed out many private

mortgage companies by enabling these concerns to shove the sour loans off on Uncle Sam's agency. Since 1936 no loans have been made and HOLC has been a servicing agency, seeing that interest was collected, taxes paid and property kept up. The record for the northwest in repayment of loans has been unsurpassed.

Private lending companies are determined to wipe out HOLC and force it to dispose of the good loans and be "stuck" with the unprofitable ones. They say that HOLC is no longer needed and that government should not compete with private business. These companies sang another song in the early 1930s when they did everything they could to have HOLC take their bad loans. If HOLC is not liquidated it will show a profit in June, 1952, when it expires by law, but if the private companies have their way, taxpayers will have to pocket a loss on this agency which may run to a billion dollars. Before 1952, HOLC may be needed as much to save the home owner as it was in 1933.

Wool growers of the Pacific northwest are beginning to worry over the 1,200,000,000-pound stockpile of wool accumulated by the state department and the defense supplies corporation during the past year. This is equivalent to a two years' supply for domestic needs, and there is already a considerable tapering off of military requirements. The state department purchase was from Uruguay as part of the good neighbor policy and there is

reason to believe it may be repeated this year. It is feared that with return to anything like normal conditions the wool market will be flooded and prices will be driven down to the low level they reached after world war No. 1 and which forced many woolgrowers into bankruptcy. So far prices have been sustained by commodity credit corporation purchases, but these cannot be continued if subsidies are definitely outlawed by congress.

If it is insurance, see me.—F. R. Bull.

Seeking Revival Of Junior C. of C. in Coos County

Paul A. Lee, who is president of the Oregon Junior Chamber of Commerce and an insurance man in Klamath Falls, was a Coquille visitor last Saturday. He had been at North Bend and Marshfield and was hopeful of having a Coos Bay Junior Chamber of Commerce organized, with members from each city. He also hoped to get the Coquille Junior Chamber revived and reorganized but left town without informing the Sentinel whether he found any encouragement for the idea here or not.

STEVE'S Grocery

SPECIALS FOR FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

Alpine, Borden's, Pet
MILK 1 point can Tall Cans 3 for 25c

Morrells
BACON JOWLS 1 point lb. 21c

Swift's Premium Sandwich Meat in Glass Jars
Prem 12 oz. cans 5 points jar 33c

Skippy Brand
PEANUT BUTTER lb. jars 34c

Trupack Orange — No Points
MARMALADE 2-lb. jar 39c

PRINCE ALBERT or **VELVET** 1 lb. cans 69c

Matches Red Diamond 6-box carton 23c

Jello All Flavors 2 pkgs. 15c

Tuna White Star 1/2's 5 points can 35c

Palace Brand
HOT SAUCE 5 points can 5c

Sunkist
LEMONS dozen 34c

Large Solid Heads
LETTUCE 10c

Fancy Sunkist
ORANGES dozen 25c

Eggs Large Grade A Local dozen 35c