

The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IN A GOOD TOWN

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OREGON VOTEER HITS NAIL ON THE HEAD

Here is the truthful comment made in last week's Oregon Voter about Coos county's representative in the legislature:

"Ralph T. Moore, Bandon lumber manufacturer and newspaper columnist, has one of the best minds of anyone who has served in the legislature; his one session's experience will help next time; he is also unopposed on either ticket."

Timely Topics

By R. T. Moore

The referendum measure proposed by the organized teachers is causing some concern among legislators because it does not stipulate the sources of the funds requested. The amount asked for is five million dollars.

The sales tax measure, if passed, would yield this much or more from the 20 per cent share of the schools in such proceeds. But there has been no determined campaign to sell the sales tax idea to the voters and the teachers are afraid it will fail. So this additional measure has been drafted to serve as a sort of insurance policy, making certain the payment by the State of the five million dollars in addition to the funds provided for in the Walker income tax plan. There is also the fear that with fading of the huge war industries in Portland the total income tax receipts for the state will drop and the schools will not get their present five million dollars from that source. (You are to understand that the Walker plan now yields about five million dollars which has been currently distributed to the school districts. The teachers organization now asks an additional five million dollars through their new referendum measure.)

It is interesting to speculate on what would happen if both sales tax and the added five million measure were approved by the voters. The schools would then get from the State the five million under the Walker plan, the five million or more from the sales tax, and the five million from the present referendum, fifteen million dollars or more in total.

There is much sentiment in favor of greater State participation in the school expense. It is felt that too much of the burden now falls on real property and that real property taxes are therefore too high for economic safety. A source of revenue for school purposes to which all people contribute is called for and the State alone is able to provide that. But the State cannot provide the funds at present unless it raises income tax levies. The latter is the only general source remaining that does not attack real property.

So legislators fear that the passage of the referendum school measure without stipulation of the source of funds will simply mean that they must raise the income tax levies amid the howls of the taxpayers. Legislators will be blamed for an evil which they had no part in perpetrating on the public. Their lot will be a most unhappy one.

The entry of the State into a major role as provider of school funds will mean loss of autonomy, in part at least, to the individual school districts. If the State puts up the money it will be entitled to say how it will be spent. The teachers' measure does not say this in so many words. But it is hard to escape the logic of it.

Many small districts will be pressured to merge with larger ones. Local sentiment on such matters will not be heeded and the patrons can not very well object when they are relieved by the State from most of the direct school burden. It is a part of the price to be paid for State aid.

On the credit side is the fact that the schools will be undeniably better equipped and staffed. Though fewer in number and farther apart they will give the youngsters a better and more rounded education. The added competition feature found in the larger schools is good for the average student. It stimulates conditions experienced in real life and gives the student a better mental orientation, the latter very important economically and politically.

No one can find fault with the teaching fraternity for trying to pro-

TWENTY YEARS AGO

(Taken from The Sentinel of Friday, April 11, 1924)

The city council Monday evening appropriated \$800 for the sidewalk to the high school, they accepted the Set-a-Spell from the Woman's Club, they authorized the leasing of the Myrtle Grove to Fred Belloni to conduct as an auto park, and they apparently gave up the idea of planking Second and Third streets and are now planning to hard surface three blocks on each street.

Those who have noticed the change in the time of blowing the whistle at the E. E. Johnson mill here may have thought the shorter hours indicated a decreased output of the mill, but such is not the case. While the employees had been starting at 7 a. m. and working until 5:20 p. m., the time is now from eight until five, and the daily cut remains the same—75,000 to 80,000 a day. The reason for this increased efficiency is the installation of \$3500 worth of new machinery.

Noel & Huntington's Ideal Bakery, on First street, are installing a new oven, which will permit them to more than double their present output of bread. The capacity of the new equipment is 330 pound loaves.

Daily receipts of cream at the Coquille Valley Creamery here are very decidedly on the upgrade now and will continue to increase until the last of May. Just now the plant is making a ton of butter a day.

Four of the boys who played with the Coquille baseball team last year are in much faster company this year. "Cutie" Slade and "Kid" Carson are

lect the efficiency and integrity of the profession through assurance of decent salaries. This column has repeatedly advocated the payment of such salaries to our long-suffering teachers and will continue to press for this reform in our school policies. It would be the height of folly not to thus preserve this important service.

But the people should understand that the failure to stipulate the source of revenue for this new measure will simply mean either an added real property tax or an increased income tax reaching into the pockets of the wage earner. While the sum asked for is not excessive, the impact on real property or income tax levies, whichever is chosen, will be appreciable.

If the electorate decides favorably on the measure, it must be presumed to also approve the added tax necessary to finance it. Possibly the burden will be felt most by those who do not now pay a substantial real property or income tax and the measure should be thoroughly understood by the public to avoid later unpleasantness.

The United States is not doing well in the diplomatic field at present. Our unquestioned leadership in munitions manufacture and dominance of the world's economic structure entitles us to an influence far greater than we are now able to exert.

A democracy can never move as fast, diplomatically, as a dictatorship or a centralized government. Nor should it expect to. Our constitution provides opportunity for thorough debate and research into diplomatic matters. This provision has served repeatedly as a safe-guard against costly error.

It is the duty of our president and his State Department to make plain to other Powers our vested interest in post-war settlements and our insistence on our constitutional right to thorough deliberation before giving our dissent or approval. We have been much too timid about firmly asserting ourselves and using our great influence. The vast power of our economic might is a potent weapon which no nation can afford to ignore.

The present administration has allowed its political sensitiveness to handicap, if not completely nullify, the efforts of the able Mr. Hull to set up a definite foreign policy worthy of the dignity of our nation and the respect of other Powers. Political fear of militant minorities of voters in our own country has had more effect on foreign policy than consideration of the needs of war-torn Europe, judging from the weak statement by Mr. Hull to the press. Attempt was made to quiet criticism but the net result was to create even more dissatisfaction. Important questions were left unanswered.

The by-passing of Mr. Hull by the President in approving the oil scheme of Mr. Ickes without the knowledge or consent of Mr. Hull may have convinced the latter that he dare not speak for the administration on State matters although his office clearly entitled him to that privilege.

The great weakness of the presi-

dent again becomes glaringly apparent. He lacks the ability to efficiently organize his administration. Final say on everything has to come up to him. It is an utter impossibility for any one man to even begin to handle the affairs of this great nation alone. The amazing capacity of the president for responsibility and the ease with which he bears up under the terrific war burden is nevertheless ineffective. The confusion and indirection so prevalent at Washington is mainly due to this unfortunate situation. The president's desk remains the bottle-neck despite his heroic efforts to clear it.

We sorely need a re-organization of the executive branch of the government. Men of proven worth and competence should be placed in full command of cabinet posts and all conflicting bureaus abolished and their activities taken over by the proper Department. The decision of the cabinet officer should be final, subject to over-rule by the courts or by Congress only. The president should keep closely in touch with the policy of each Department and should approve of the general plan before the cabinet officer undertakes its execution. The Congress should also be kept informed through its committees on the proposed plans so that their approval can be assured before action is commenced. The president should keep strictly aloof from petty squabbles over domestic matters. He cannot maintain a proper perspective if he so indulges. It was never intended that he have dictatorial powers nor should he need them.

It is easy to criticize the shortcomings of another and very difficult to overcome those of your own. To do the simple things listed above is a very great task that will take years in accomplishing. But the public will insist on its being done. The bureaucratic form of government has been tried and found wanting. The new president, whether it be FDR for a Fourth Term or another, will have to start a general house-cleaning.

Again Fire Chief J. E. Perrott requests the Sentinel to inform the public that no one is allowed on the fire truck except the firemen and that hereafter everyone will be put off except members of the department.

Jas. Watson, who intends to open a law office here in the near future, has rented the two rooms in the First National Bank building formerly occupied by J. L. Aasen as an office.

A committee, consisting of A. N. Gould, J. L. Holycross and F. C. Hudson, was named at Commercial Club Wednesday evening, to interview the business men to see if they desired to subscribe to a fund of \$35 a month for the night watchman, who would see that their lights were turned out at eleven o'clock and their doors locked.

Mrs. H. G. Frey hands us a clipping from the China Press, published at Shanghai, Feb. 27, as follows: "The engagement of Miss Madeline Chapin, one of the most popular young society girls of Honolulu, to Mr. Cyril M. Tyrrell of the Robert Dollar Company's Shanghai offices, was announced in Honolulu on February 8."

Fire on the river side roof of the creamery was discovered by Fred McNelly Wednesday noon, when a shingle lighted on the water in front of the dock where he was standing. Looking up he saw the smoke and it required but a few pails of water to extinguish the blaze.

In the Coast League, "Babe" Thomas is on the Portland team and Carl Tume is with the Oakland team.



FRED W. ADAMS
 of Gold Beach who seeks republican nomination as Joint Representative for Coos and Curry counties.

Inductees, get your chains for your Dog Tag before leaving home at Schroeder's Jewelry Store.

Weekly Letter From Washington, D. C.

BY CONGRESSMAN HARRIS ELLSWORTH

Washington, D. C., April 8—Congress will resume activity Wednesday (the 12th). Most of the nearby members are home during this recess. Most of the Oregon and Washington members stayed here, but a number of Californians went out there to campaign in the primaries. I had planned on taking a few days out of town some place, but a number of problems came up about the time Congress recessed which made it necessary for me to stay pretty close to the office. The "Hill" has been mighty quiet this week.

Nothing big is scheduled for consideration by the House during the first few days after recess. Wednesday and Thursday a number of minor matters will be taken up and disposed of. The following week, however, the final round of the second session of this 78th Congress will begin in earnest.

Forthcoming important measures include several appropriation bills, the renewal of the Price Control Act, consideration of proposals to make a special draft of those classified as 4-Fs, tax simplification, the veterans "GI Bill of Rights." This is not a complete list by any means, but gives a general idea of some of the work before Congress in the near future.

The Senate Military Affairs Subcommittee on Contract Termination opened hearings this week on S. 1730, a bill to create an Office of Demobilization, to terminate war contracts and dispose of surplus government property, and S. 1823, having to do with war mobilization and post-war adjustment.

The introduction of a new Tax Simplification Bill has been held up of necessity until after the Congressional Easter recess. The House Ways and Means Committee, however, has completed its work on the proposal and has turned it over to the Legislative Counsel for drafting. During the week in working out details of the simplification plan, the committee reached the following agreements: 1. To change the filing date of estimated income returns from Dec. 15, as in present law, to the following Jan. 15. 2. To require persons making more than \$500 a year to file tax returns, no matter what age. Persons with income of less than \$500 are permitted to be classed as dependents. 3. To remove present law restrictions as to age. The committee voted to include as a dependent any person relying on the taxable for his chief support. 4. To also remove present restrictions as to the capability of self-support. Present law includes only persons incapable, for mental or physical reasons of self-support.

The sudden withdrawal of Wendell Willkie as an active candidate for the Republican Presidential nomination took everyone by complete surprise here. I have been unable to trace any particular reaction to this sudden turn of events. Even those who have been openly and avowedly

opposing Willkie indicated no elation. The general run of the comment on the development is to wonder what he will do now. Undoubtedly Mr. Willkie has a large following in the nation so the politicians are anxious to learn whether he will turn his support to another candidate or will simply retire from active participation.

Before adjourning for the Easter recess, the House Committee on Public Lands, concluded hearings on my bill, H. R. 1688, which would clarify the jurisdictional dispute over some 460,000 acres of lands, mostly forest land, located in western Oregon. At present this land is claimed by both the U. S. Forest Service and the O. & C. Administration. Since the lands were actually a part of the original O. & C. grant, this bill would place the lands under O. & C. As soon as Congress reconvenes, the committee will hold an executive session on this bill and will, I hope, report it out favorably to the floor. This bill is a companion bill to one introduced in the Senate by the late Senator McNary. When the Senate passed it, however, certain amendments were added which had the effect of placing the administration of the lands under the Forest Service but providing payment to the counties on the basis of O. & C. payments. This amendment does not seem to be a proper solution of the problem and apparently was adopted by the Senate Committee for the reason that some of the controverted lands are intermingled with Forest Service lands—just as are some 450,000 other acres of O. & C. lands. It is likely the House Committee will work out a permanent solution of this difficulty by exchanging and blocking off both O. & C. lands and forest lands in solid areas distinct from each other.

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THE OLD JUDGE SAYS...



"I was just tellin' my brother Fred this morning, Judge...there's never been a time in our lives when we got to live up to that old sayin' 'United we stand, divided we fall' more than we have to today."
 "How true that is, Herb. And for the life of me, I can't figure out why, at a time like this, some folks insist on raising a question like prohibition. I can't imagine anything that would tickle our enemies more than to get us folks over here taking sides

against each other, arguing about an issue like that. We've got a he-man's job on our hands to win this war and we can't be wasting our minds, our money and our strength fighting about something we tried for nearly 14 years and found couldn't work."
 "I say there's a time and a place for everything, and this is no time or place to be doing any fightin' except the kind that's going to win the war."

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