

The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IS A GOOD THING

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OREGON HAS SOLID REPUBLICAN DELEGATION IN CONGRESS

Oregon is the only far western state which has had a solid republican delegation in both houses of Congress since 1942. This is an outstanding distinction, and is in line with the greater conservatism of Oregon in contrast with its Pacific Coast and Mountain state neighbors, a conservatism which truly makes Oregon a more desirable state in which to locate new industries or invest money than any of its Pacific competitors, the McKennas and the Halls and other of our political tax agitators to the contrary notwithstanding. The lesser proportionate majority given by Oregon to Roosevelt at four national elections is further confirmation of Oregon's stability as compared with Washington and California.—Oregon Voter.

Timely Topics

By R. T. Moore

The writer of this column desires to express his deep appreciation for the confidence reposed in him by the voters of Coos county. The flattering vote has impressed on him the solemn responsibility of looking after the rights and better welfare of the people in Coos county at the Legislature. Please be assured that he will give the best that he has to this work and will strive hard to merit the popular support indicated in the vote. As he has said before, any mistakes made will be of the head and not of the heart. It will be a pleasure to serve again with the excellent delegation from this section of the State, and he is confident that a good showing will be made at the Legislature in 1945.

Presidential campaign post-mortems unite in the opinion that a majority of the voters considered Mr. Roosevelt better fitted to handle the delicate diplomatic adjustments of the peace than Mr. Dewey. The latter made a strong attack against the entrenched administration but was unable to dislodge it. Quite probably the conduct of the war decided the issue rather than consideration of the domestic issues on which Mr. Roosevelt is admittedly vulnerable.

As Mr. Dewey's campaign was based almost exclusively on the domestic situation, the size of his vote indicates the extent of public dissatisfaction. If the election had hinged on domestic issues alone, it is likely that Mr. Dewey would have won. No doubt Mr. Roosevelt, the astute politician, is fully aware of this.

While the Democrats made gain in both houses of Congress and defeated the expected control of the House, it should be noted that the anti-New Deal coalition is still virtually intact to prevent any attempt to organize another "rubber stamp" set-up. Congress will continue its march back towards representative government, and it is fortunate that the Democrats retain control under the circumstances. Mr. Roosevelt will thus escape the fate of Wilson and Hoover in having his way blocked by a Congress controlled in the opposition. Credit for any success and blame for failure are now solely the responsibility of the administration.

If there is proper cooperation between the legislative and administrative branches of the government, the Nation will proceed satisfactorily toward post-war goals. Good sportsmanship has been shown by the losers in graceful acceptance of defeat and pledge of loyal support. The basic opposition to New Deal domestic policies remains. But, it will be constructive and without rancor. Southern Democrats supported the fourth term but they will mostly oppose the New Deal.

Industry will likely adopt a program of watchful waiting in the making of civilian goods until the administration indicates its domestic policies. Most big business and nearly all little business, is deeply suspicious of leftist thinking in high government circles. But all will strive to maintain full war production for the campaigns ahead.

Little business has suffered severely since Pearl Harbor. Statistics re-

TWENTY YEARS AGO

(Taken from The Sentinel of Friday, November 14, 1924)

The Women's Club met at the home of Mrs. George H. Chaney Tuesday afternoon with the president, Mrs. Bert Folsom, presiding.

Playing the best game they have shown for a month, the Coquille High eleven ran all over Bandon last Saturday, on the latter's ground, and won 18 to 0.

Progress of work on the community building was reported at the Chamber of Commerce meeting Wednesday evening. The building committee states the corn show pavilion can be occupied Dec. 5-6. The committee also reported that over \$2800 had been received in donations and with other funds available the total runs up towards \$4,000.

The Annual Roll Call of the American Red Cross began with Tuesday—Armistice Day—and will continue until Thanksgiving.

The ladies of the Hiking Club this week presented the Community Building committee with a check for \$25 to aid in the construction.

veal that nearly 600,000 small enterprises have closed their doors since the Jap war began. They must be induced to resume before there is any chance of achieving full employment for returning servicemen. Overhead costs of high taxes and excessive accounting for bureaucratic benefit must be drastically lowered before any great number of small concerns can be expected to operate again. The present anti-inflation measures cannot be safely removed until after the end of the German war. But an immediate start toward safe reconversion can be made by reconstructing our tax system to create incentive for investment of venture capital. These matters are now only in the talking stage and are to be given preference by Congress when it reconvenes.

Labor expects substantial increases in wage levels which cannot be granted without a corresponding increase in price levels. Labor costs have mounted steadily in spite of wage freezing. Reasons are, overtime due to lack of manpower and necessity for double-shifting to keep production levels, inefficiency of green labor, and the advanced average age of the available workers. Thousands of loyal citizens beyond the ordinary working age have filled in places on the production line. Other thousands have double-shifted to the point of physical exhaustion for the same patriotic reason. They are the unsung civilian heroes of this war. Yes, labor costs have increased very substantially and no increase could be granted at this time without starting a spiral of advancing prices. Much of the success in curbing ruinous inflation will depend upon the ability of organized labor leadership to hold wage demands within due bounds.

All the elements of a disastrous inflation are at hand. A careless move could start a conflagration that would destroy the people's savings in an incredibly short time. A further aggravation is that increasing wages and decreasing profits levels are shifting the main tax burden from the corporations to the workers under our income tax system. The workers are resentful of this trend and seek refuge in a mistaken and futile effort to raise wage levels until the original net is returned. This gives only short-lived relief until living costs again catch up with the pay envelope to start the cycle all over again.

The only real solution is an increased production per wage-dollar that will enable the worker to meet his tax bill and still provide well for his family. Mass production at progressively lower cost will result in lower prices on goods and constantly increasing purchasing power of the dollar. Not only will the current pay envelope be worth more, although it contains fewer dollars, but the value of savings and property will increase. This seeming paradox of fewer dollars being worth more is very hard for the average worker to understand. But in it lies his greatest benefit.

Although this has been a bitterly fought campaign, both sides recognize the imperative need for unreserved and full support of the administration as it copes with the tremendous peace problems ahead. The promptness and cheerfulness with which campaign bitterness has been forgotten proves the inherent strength of our democracy. We shall go forward with united front behind our chosen leadership.

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After being forced to abandon their Bandon run for over a week on account of high water, the Coast Auto Lines resumed service over the Roosevelt Highway the first of this week. The bridge over the washout of the fill in the Bear creek bottoms was finished Monday.

Most of Coquille's merchants have signed a year's contract to advertise some one article at a special price once each month on Community Bargain Day for Coquille.

The High School student body yesterday morning voted to donate \$150 to the Community Building fund.

Norval Johnson, the 16-year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Johnson, at Riverton, was accidentally killed Sunday morning when the shot gun, from which he was extracting the shells, was fired.

Ralph H. Faulkner has leased the Machon Hotel on First street and took charge of it Sunday. H. L. White, whose three year lease expired that day, has moved into the residence in the north part of town he recently purchased.



Washington, D. C., Nov. 14—War production board has learned the hard way that one of its earlier pet theories was "unworkable." At the beginning of the war, when requirements of the armed forces imposed what seemed to be a well nigh impossible task upon industry, officials whose duty it was to meet these requirements advanced the theory that greater efficiency could be obtained through concentration of production in the largest plants. This may have been logical in theory but it didn't work out in actual practice. Even the largest plants lacked space and equipment by which the immense quantities demanded could be produced and the letting of sub-contracts became necessary—small production of special parts by a large number of small plants.

One of the earliest experiments, which has now been completely abandoned, was in the production of alarm clocks; and it probably became one of the most irritating of the inconveniences necessitated by the war. In pre-war days the annual output of alarm clocks was 12,500,000 and these timepieces were essential equipment in every workingman's home. War production board ordered that the production of alarm clocks be limited to two plants in order that all others might turn to the production of war needs. Immediately the output of alarm clocks dropped to about one million a year and a howl went up from every part of the country. War workers who had to report for duty at all hours of the day and night couldn't make the grade without an alarm clock—and the shelves of every dealer were stripped in record time.

At long last WFB realized its mistake and, beginning the first of this month, all restrictions on the manufacture of alarm clocks were removed and the field is now wide open to every concern that can find the material and the men to do the work. Bicycle makers have also been freed so far as machines for adults is concerned; the ban on wheels for juveniles remains, and this constituted 85 per cent of the pre-war demand. Lifting of the restrictions on the bicycle industry, however, is not expected to start a headlong rush, but the concentration theory has been discredited and abandoned.

Farmers were unduly elated, it has developed, by the war food administration decree freeing farm equipment distributors from control and farmers from rationing. The order was a happy gesture but it does not in the least affect the farm machinery situation. Not a single additional machine was made available by the order and there is no immediate prospect that the shortage in farm machinery will be relieved in time to be of benefit in 1945 planting and harvesting. The order did remove a mass (or mess) of red tape and in isolated instances some may be helped.

Farm machinery manufacturers are still subject to rigid priorities, both as to material and manpower, and there will be no easing of the

situation until the war in Europe has ended. This was made clear when WFB chairman J. A. Krug turned down a request from automobile manufacturers for priority ratings in current orders for machine tools. Some reconversion is being permitted but not for such plants as are still required for supplying army and navy needs. Manufacturers of farm machinery are in this category and they will not be permitted to exceed their quota of civilian production while their facilities are needed for the armed forces.

Almost no attention is being given by press services to the hearing now being conducted by the interstate commerce commission into the freight rate structure of the country, although every section is directly interested in the outcome. The hearing is for re-examination of freight rates and the decision will be on whether suspension of the 1942 freight rate increase shall be extended beyond January 1. It is expected that ICC will either cancel the rate increases permanently or restore them. Permanent cancellation has been asked by 16 state commissions and national and southeastern associations of railroad and utilities commissioners on the grounds that the roads are receiving adequate revenues and that this prosperity will continue for an indefinite period after the war.

Opposed to this view is the fact that operating costs, in July as an example, increased by \$59,000,000 while the gross revenue gain was but \$18,000,000. Also, the tax burden has become increasingly heavy with no prospect of a lessening when peace comes. It is admitted by the railroads that their revenues have greatly increased, but it is also claimed that the peak has been reached and a decrease in earnings with no possibility of reducing expenses is inevitable under peacetime conditions.

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Dr. Paul R. Needham To Be Director of Fisheries in Oregon

Appointment of Dr. Paul R. Needham, eminent trout authority, as director of fisheries is announced by the Oregon State Game Commission. Dr. Needham will have charge of the game fish hatcheries, liberations and all surveys and scientific investigations sponsored by the Game Commission. Currently, he will perfect the organization of the fisheries division and develop plans for an extensive postwar work program throughout the state.

Dr. Needham will continue the pioneer trout work begun in Oregon by the late Matt L. Ryckman, who more than anyone else, built up the Oregon hatcheries to their present high standards. The sportsmen of Oregon will be pleased to learn of Dr. Needham's appointment and will give him their whole-hearted support and co-operation.

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