

The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IS A GOOD THING

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The Salem Sampler

By HON. R. T. MOORE

The perennial Firemen's Pension Bill passed the House and is now lodged in senate committee. Powered by a strong lobby, it withered the storm of opposition in the lower legislative body just as in the 1943 session. And it may be tabled in senate committee in similar fashion to the 1943 bill.

The firemen had a very good case and had made their bill over to include state-wide volunteer firemen as well as the Portland group. This maneuver recruited much down-state support. Many members of the House were also sympathetic because of the conviction that the Portland firemen had been kicked around for years. The current bankrupt condition of their benefit fund was not the fault of the firemen who had contributed from their earnings in good faith and were entitled to the services listed under the act. The fund's distress is due solely to the poor actuarial set-up which can be cured only by the peremptory addition of sums aggregating in the neighborhood of \$300,000.00.

Opposition to the bill was based on the points that volunteer firemen in small towns and rural areas were discriminated against in favor of the Portland firemen, that the state could not afford the large sum involved, and that down-state communities, in which insurance rates are higher than Portland's would be contributing an unfair proportion for the benefit of the city's firemen and to the detriment of local fire departments.

Difference of opinion seemed confined to the manner in which relief to the firemen could be administered. There was almost unanimous agreement that something should be done. If the bill is finally enacted it will need further amendment next session.

The familiar Army and Navy store that was so prevalent after World War I as a dispensary of surplus war goods will have tougher going in Oregon after this war if H. B. No. 361 is enacted. It prohibits the allegation, for merchandising purposes, that surplus war material offered for sale has official relationship with any department of the U. S. government.

This will cramp the style of the sharp gentry who palmed off inferior stuff on the gullible public by alleging that the goods had been government-inspected. But whether it will entirely stop such practice is very questionable.

The bill is an honest and timely attempt to prepare the way for the inevitable disposal of huge accumulations of war goods through private trade channels. It had no opposition.

The legislature took a healthy swing at the OPA and other federal bureaus in passing a resolution asking that all war bureaus be dissolved as soon as possible after the end of the war.

In a debate much more heated and intense than the trivial measure warranted, proponents voiced fears that continuance of the present severe regimentation would destroy our democracy and impose a form of government similar to European dictatorships. Opponents insisted that some control over present inflationary forces was imperative and that OPA was a necessary evil.

Oddly enough most of the support for OPA came from the ranks of the Republicans. But the measure passed and the OPA was duly kicked in the shins.

Last week's legislative show centered about two bills affecting only Multnomah county. The first had to do with allowing each elective county officer the privilege of selecting his own private secretary subject to the approval of the board of county commissioners. It took the control, of such appointments away from the civil service and gave it to the commissioners. The issue was whether an elective public shall have the right to choose his own private secretary, to handle the private matters

TWENTY YEARS AGO

(Taken from The Sentinel of Friday, February 27, 1925)

It was said around the court house Tuesday that the only reason that the grand jury indicted but forty persons in their session last week was that the supply of blanks had become exhausted. . . . Many indictments were for gambling or the permitting of gambling.

"The Prince of Pilsen," musical comedy extraordinary, is to be staged in the Community Building, Coquille, on Wednesday, March 11. There are sixty-five in the cast, with G. Russell Morgan, of this city, taking the leading part, that of the prince.

Peter Klaudes shoots his fiancée, Mrs. Freda Page, of Bunker Hill, Tuesday afternoon in the Richmond building.

Muri F. Pettit, a former Coquille resident but now office manager of the Standard Oil Company's business in Eugene, was in Coquille last Sunday, visiting old friends. He left Monday, accompanied by Lowell Simpson, who returned by train Tuesday.

Geo. R. Johnson was called on to attend a double funeral at Marshfield last Saturday. One of the deceased with his father, 63 years of age; the other his grandmother, 85 years of age.

incident to the office.

There was much oratorical reverberation about the House and hard words among the Multnomah delegation, to the great delight of the rest of the assembly. The Multnomah democrats protested hysterically that it was an attempt to circumvent the will of the electorate majority and that the Republican county government was seeking to monopolize county administration. The Multnomah Republicans insisted that it was the conceded right of every public officer to pick his own private secretary and pointed to the president's cabinet selections as a good example.

The wording of the bill certainly gave no hint of political chicanery and, since most members of the House agreed with its principle, it passed with small opposing vote.

The second bill, and the one causing the greatest furor, was the Registrar of Elections measure establishing this office in Multnomah county only and taking away the county clerk's control over elections in that county.

The history behind the bill is that there are in Multnomah county three men who have to do with elections. They are the supervisor of elections, the sheriff, and the county clerk. As a result of this divided authority, much confusion and inconvenience to the public has occurred both during registration of voters and at regular elections. The madhouse in some districts during last November's general election capped the climax.

To remedy this situation, the establishment of a new office to be called registrar of elections, was decided upon. It was thought that the improvement in service accruing would well justify the small added expense. There was no thought of condemning any of the three officers now jointly charged with election administration. They had done the best they could under the circumstances.

But again the Multnomah delegation democrats saw things under the bed. To them, the bill was a deliberate attempt to attack the able and efficient county clerk, who happens to be a democrat, and to enable an alleged Republican county machine to dominate elections. When the bill passed with heavy majority, two angry Multnomah members adopted the well-worn tactics of demanding the full reading of all bills to delay the proceedings of the House and to attempt intimidation of Republican members through threat of prolonging the session beyond all reason.

Whatever the merits of the bill, the timing was very bad. It should have been introduced in 1943 when the county clerk was a republican. Its introduction at this time played into the hands of the alert professional politicians of the Multnomah democratic delegation and they made the most of their opportunity.

Gas Station Robbery

Word has just arrived that a gas station out on a nearby highway has just been held up and robbed by a pair of society bandits wearing evening clothes. The station attendant has not as yet recovered consciousness but it is suspected that his assailants were a couple of local high school students. Hear all about it in the Junior Play, "Cross My Heart" at the High School Gym this Thursday, March 1, at 8:00 o'clock.

Insurance Specialist, F. R. Bull. s

Clarabel Mintonye, of this city, has just been nominated for track manager of the Women's Athletic association at O. A. C. for next year.

Mrs. Amos L. Nosler died at her home in the north part of the city last Monday shortly after noon. She had been ill for a year.

Geo. R. Johnson has received and installed practically all of the machinery for his enlarged ice and ice cream plant and within a short time expects to be turning out butter, cottage cheese and buttermilk, as well as ice and ice cream.

The W. A. Matthews two-story ranch home at Fairview was totally destroyed by fire Tuesday morning with all its contents.

One of the prettiest affairs of the social season was the Martha Washington tea given by the members of St. James' Episcopal guild at the home of Rev. and Mrs. A. W. Bell Monday afternoon. The guests were met at the door by Jesse Barton, dressed as a negro page. In the receiving line were Charlotte Bell as Martha Washington, Pauline Chase as Geo. Washington, and Mrs. A. W. Bell, Mrs. J. A. Lamb and Mrs. L. H. Hazard, dressed as colonial ladies. Others assisting and also in costume were Mrs. E. W. Lorenz, Mrs. J. W. Miller, and Miss Martha Seabam.

R. A. Easton Convinced All Cruelty Stories Are True

When I read the news item several months ago that the Germans had mass-murdered 1,500,000 persons in Poland, the first thought that came to me was, "It must be an exaggeration." The Pathfinder and the Readers' Digest told me later that the news item was not an exaggeration. Since then, other mass murder by the Germans have come into the light of public information and we know the unspeakable cowardice, cruelty and crime of the Germans cannot be exaggerated.

During the first World War my prayer for Billy 2 was two words, morning, noon, night and between times. In World War Two, my prayer has been and is that the Allies may capture or destroy the German and Japanese armies, their airforces, and navies and that the Allies may be faithful and true to the best that is in them and that they have intelligence enough to be big enough for their job.

Germany and Japan exchanged promises. What were the bargains?

Thoughts In the Night

The easy way to get rid of a bad habit is not to get the habit. There are no "ifs" with the Almighty. James emphasizes the fact that if a man wants to get to a definite place he has to row with two oars. —R. A. Easton.

Counterfeit Bill Passed

It was learned that a certain high school boy passed a counterfeit ten dollar bill at a local filling station. His parents have no idea where he could have obtained it but you can hear all about it at the Junior Play, March 1, at the High School Gym.

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The Labor Problem

In discussing the problem of the general raising of wage with members of the union the surprising thing is the number that believe that it is not possible to raise wages permanently, especially general wages. I don't remember anyone claiming the contrary.

It seems clear that the union is a result of pre-existing conditions which were not good or natural and it also is clear that using a remedy for unjust economic or social conditions that is not a true remedy has had the effect of a very destructive force, which removing a few of the evils the effects that follow are on a par with the results that follow all false remedies. The primary and most essential quality is gone. Liberty of action of all labor that does anything useful is just non-existent. All that you have to do is to look at the remedies used by labor, all remedies of violence, doing away with all of the noble impulses of men. The strike, boycott, picket and at times murder, every crime in the calendar are used at times.

The unions violate every law of liberty. The union tells the laborer whom he shall work for, what wages he shall get, the number of hours he shall work, the amount of work he shall do, or whether he shall work at all or not.

Unions and so-called employers of labor are little better than armed camps, each watching the other for some slip or mistake so that they can take advantage of it. Labor and capital are practically the same thing, governed by the same laws. Labor has got to work or starve, capital has to work or disappear; neither one can exist without the other. There is no real conflict between these two forces. They are both being robbed by a third force and neither sees the force that is causing all of the trouble.

In the following illustration see if you can figure out a way to raise

wages. Rent, (site value of land), 22; taxes, 22, (what the government takes of what you produce); interest, 10, (what is paid for use of your car or 1, keep it in existence); wages, 46, (what is paid to keep labor in existence). See if you can pick out a way to raise wages and not rob anyone?

There was a very interesting talk over the radio Feb. 23. A strike took place on the coast and they were asking for two things: first, higher wages; second, not to allow an increase in price of the goods they bought. Don't laugh. A true remedy for such conditions ought to be less expensive. Do away with crime, especially that caused by unnatural conditions. Men, both employers and employees should become more independent and involuntary conditions

in labor should entirely disappear. Look around and you find intelligence everywhere; it does not seem possible that an all-wise Creator could bring into existence the crowning product of His creation (man) and not have provided for his very existence without the violation of every intelligent or moral impulse. Such a provision has been made; this provision does away with most of your crime and everything that is not desirable in your economic and social structure.

We must provide an answer, not an excuse, for the labor problem. —Jas. Richmond, M. D.

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