

The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IS A GOOD THING

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Fragments of Fact and Fancy

A number of years ago the decision by the supreme court this week that Harry Bridges should not be deported would have been news of the first magnitude. Now there is no jubilation over the verdict nor condemnation of it, either.

The sequence of events since it was first started have so tangled the threads of the case that it is difficult to care greatly one way or another. Of course, as an ally of Russia, it might be unpleasant for the U. S. at this time to get too rough with those who are friendly to communism. On the other hand, Francis Biddle, the prosecutor, has many enemies who are not sorry to see him lose his suit, regardless of its merits.

The distressing feature of the court's ruling, however, has nothing to do with communism, politics nor justice. It is the division of opinion among the members; three justices dissenting to the majority finding of five others. Our law should be more stable and our court of supreme appeal surely should be more united in its views of right and justice. The present condition is dangerous. It is almost as if each man on the bench desired to be a little supreme justice, gloriously individual; instead of a co-operating member of the highest tribunal of the land, reading the law wisely and with the interests of all his fellow citizens at heart.

The Middle West has come into its own. Missouri is the mother of a president and Kansas the home of (may we say) the greatest soldier of all time.

History tells of the Missouri Compromise when appeasement was used to solve the problem of slavery and "poor bleeding Kansas" became the battleground where "vested wealth" clashed with the Puritan crusade of the abolitionists.

Kansas has been famed for its grasshoppers and its droughts, for John Brown and "Sackless" Jerry, for Martin Johnson and Harry Sinclair, for Carrie Nation and Alfred Landon but the brightest star in its crown is Dwight D. Eisenhower—General Ike—now home from the wars.

In the current exhortation to leave fawns alone, one point has not been stressed. Possibly it has been proved a fallacy but the belief formerly held was that once a baby fawn had been touched by human hands, the mother doe would have nothing more to do with it.

Recently we ran across the statement that Queen Victoria was the first English sovereign whose funeral was not conducted at night and by torchlight.

How eerie those royal burial rites must have been! And why did such a custom arise? Was the rule of former monarchs so tenuous that the dead king had to be secretly hidden so that the continuity of royal power appear unbroken?

Possibly the fashion was set in medieval times. For instance, Edward II was murdered by orders of his queen's paramour and, in that case, the darker the time of burial the better it fitted the crime.

A few generations later Richard II suffered a similar fate at the hands of his cousin who dethroned and imprisoned him. Again no cause for a parade in daylight.

Poor imbecile King Henry VI was another who suffered much before he was found slain in his bed in the Tower.

Speaking of the Tower brings to mind the two princes smothered there on orders of the uncle, the wicked King Richard III. The elder boy was Edward V, whose reign was the shortest in English history. Two centuries later their bones were found in the Tower, buried in a chest at the foot of a staircase. Surely this entombing was done by stealth and with the torchlights burning low.

Fifty years after Shakespeare wrote regarding the feudal kings, "Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown," King Charles I lost his completely. As plain "Charles Stuart," he was beheaded and his body buried at Windsor without any service whatsoever.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

(Taken from The Sentinel of Friday, June 19, 1923)

The Chauvinism starts in the Community Building next Friday and continues for five days. The admission is free.

At the annual school meeting for District No. 8 Monday evening, D. F. Thompson was chosen for director and O. C. Sanford was re-elected to the position which he has so efficiently held for the past four years—that of clerk.

With the adoption of the budget by the voters of this school district Monday evening the last possible hindrance to the erection of a new grade building this summer and fall was removed and assurance made that the \$34,000 or \$25,000 necessary for its construction and equipment would be available.

C. L. Willey and Paul Walker last Saturday completed a deal for seven lots in Coquille Heights Addition. The land was purchased from Mrs. Hattie I. Bledsoe. The new owners expect to petition the city for a gravelled street from the end of the present plank and after that is in will begin the development of that section.

Robert M. LaFollette, for half a lifetime the stormy petrel of American politics, died at Washington, D. C., yesterday.

Four Coquille young men left yesterday for Camp Lewis where they will attend the month's Citizens' Training Camp. They were Harold Gould, James Galbraith, Hal Howell and John Seeley.

Three stunt artists from Hollywood were added yesterday to the troupe here, which is making pictures of logging camps, log drives and other logging scenes.

Hail to the old men! They gave the kids a licking Tuesday evening at the ball park. Not much of a licking at that, the final score being 24 to 23. Jim Stevens, captain of the has-beens, was limping around Wednesday, while Levi Wilson, captain of the kids, was growling about how ineffective they were.

Ray McNair of McNair Hardware Company, Bandon, was in town Tuesday, on business.

Mrs. Melvin Giles is vacationing this week from her work at Sufeway.

Mrs. Jas. Brady is back in the OPA office this week after having spent some time in Portland while her daughter, Phyllis, underwent medical treatment there. They returned Saturday, and are most happy to be back where there is food to be bought in the stores and meat in the markets. War-conditioned Portland has little appeal.

Timely Topics

By HON. R. T. MOORE

As this appears in print the people of Oregon will be going to the polls to pass verdict upon the building program for state institutions and the cigarette tax for school support. The former is meeting with general approval and will probably carry. The cigarette tax will probably fall through lack of an active campaign to overcome the traditional opposition to any form of sales tax. This verdict will perhaps be in keeping with the circumstances since the building program is absolutely imperative while the cigarette tax is an insurance policy against failure of income tax revenues to meet school needs in the future. Income taxes may fall and then again they may not.

In the opinion of this writer the state building program should have included a governor's mansion of a design in keeping with the dignity of the state. That the state's chief executive should have to go house-hunting at the whim of Salem landlords somehow goes against the grain. It implies an unpleasant stinginess entirely contrary to the nature of true Oregonians. It indicates a lack of intelligent appreciation of the heavy burdens appertaining to this high office and of the necessity for having only men of the very finest type elected to it. We Webfoot can not point with pride to the present situation.

During the last legislature this column pointed out the fact that the compensation to members of the Board of Control, namely the governor, the secretary of state, and the state treasurer, was in each instance far less than enough to cover expenses. In effect, the outstanding gentlemen who now hold these offices are being compelled to pay substantial sums from their own means each year for the privilege of serving their state. Fortunately for the state, they have been able to do so. But the principle is entirely wrong. Their compensation should, in fairness, be sufficient to enable them to meet the demands of the public upon them without forcing withdrawals from their personal estates. No worthy citizen should be barred from aspiring to these offices because he can not afford the cost. Such a circumstance invites dictatorship by the puppets of powerful pressure groups and the complete destruction of democracy.

A measure to increase the compensation of members of the Board of Control and the Supreme Court of the State (the latter being so superior in judicial ability that they are not to be mentioned in the same breath) passed the house but was tabled in the senate because of executive objection. It provided for a very moderate increase in salaries and was clearly justified. But political timidity probably was responsible for its failure. Such things are always extremely embarrassing to the office holders and therefore the initiative should come from the people themselves who should insist upon their representatives doing the needful in the interest of good government and fair play.

No more constructive move toward

good government could be made than to provide our governor with suitable living quarters and to demand that salaries for the splendid public-spirited gentlemen who comprise the personnel of our elective state government. It is to be hoped that the public will insist that this be done in 1947. It is penny-wise and pound foolish to continue the present situation.

Disposition of the thousands of merchant ships constructed during the war will constitute a major portion of the surplus property disposal problem. Many of them will be sold on very easy terms to foreigners in replacement of destroyed merchant fleets. Others will be absorbed by our own shipping firms. The Army and Navy will keep a large number to service our armed forces abroad. But there will remain a large number, mostly Liberties, that will probably be scrapped because of their inability to compete with other and more efficient types.

Senator Chandler of Kentucky made a stirring appeal on the floor of the senate for the maintenance of a large merchant fleet and the on American vessels. He pointed out the deplorable conditions goods on American vessels. He pointed out the deplorable conditions before the war when almost all trans-ocean freight was monopolized by foreign vessels. This forced us to build up a huge merchant fleet and train the crews almost over-night at enormous expense and probably unnecessary loss of life due to inexperience. The Senator suggested that it be a national policy to use our own merchant vessels for the bulk of our export trade.

But the Senator overlooked the fact that ocean traffic in a world of free trade is a highly competitive proposition. The fellow that can haul the freight the cheapest gets the business. This is the explanation for our failure to have a large off-shore merchant fleet in pre-war. The costs on American vessels were so prohibitively high that foreign vessels ran off with the bacon. Our maritime wage scales are the highest in the world. To maintain them we will either have to cut handling costs by mechanical means or subsidize shipping with taxpayers' money. The aggregate cost can not exceed that of foreign vessels.

The coast-wise water-borne lumber situation illustrates the point. Rail freight rates have held constant during the past four years while water rates have advanced about 66 per cent to cover higher labor costs. The result has been virtual loss of the San Francisco Bay lumber business to the railroads. Large lumber distributors in the Bay district have now equipped themselves for the rail trade and can not be won over to water transportation again unless there is very substantial saving in view. A further deterrent is the past bad experience with maritime labor. The latter still stand in ill repute with transportation customers in spite of a good war record of no work stoppages. Press of war business conceals the true situation from the rank and file maritime union men. But it will emerge with the war's ending. There will be much lost ground to be regained before water-borne shipping volume can be restored to that large lumber market. It is not likely that subsidizing of

shipping will take place in volume enough to solve the problem. Other labor groups will not relish paying high withholding taxes in order to maintain maritime workers' high wage schedules. The only possible solution will be lowered costs through freight handling with machinery. This would enable freight rates to be competitive in spite of high wages. It is the doctrine of high production at low unit cost preached in this column ad nauseam.

It will require a reversal of thinking from less production for more dollars to more production for less dollars. As our president has so well said, we must have work, work, and still more work, to win the peace. Let us throw into the ash-can all notions that we can get something for nothing through mysterious political abracadabra or that some other guy is grabbing off more than he should. It's our job to roll up our sleeves, pull up our socks, and fly at it. The Lord will take care of the chiselers with propriety and thoroughness.

The Law of Human Progress, Association On Equal Terms

The decline and fall of ancient civilizations (and there have been a lot of them) has been attributed to nearly every cause or combination of causes known to man. None of the causes usually given seem to meet the conditions necessary for such a result. If the law of human progress is as stated above (no other stand can be taken), it necessarily follows that the decline of civilizations must be due to violation of said law.

The first thing for us to determine is whether the decline is due to the individual or is due to some maladjustment of the social structure. If we study the individual we will find that the man, preceding during and following the Roman civilization, was just the same as the man of today. He would have the same or similar emotions, affections and desires. If it were possible to pick out a man that lived six thousand years ago and put him down in Coquille, anyone would pick him out as a man. The person who attempts to analyze man usually ends by listing the social elements in his makeup.

Mind is the element by which and through which man advances and this advance is not registered in man but in the social structure. Mental

power is fixed in some ways. The only part of mental power that can be used for human progress is what is left after taking care of sustenance and combat. The more we isolate ourselves by tariffs, race distinctions and hatreds, the sooner will progress be halted. We must look for the cause of the dead past civilizations in the type of government.

There are two general types of government, that in which the individual is the main feature, or to put it in another form; one where the government, (if any), exists for the individual and the other, where the individual exists for the government. The one type, communism, (all government), where the man is lost in the state, is well illustrated by our friend Russia. To get rid of the small farmers and business men, he just killed 10,000,000 men and shipped another 10,000,000 to Siberia. This is that God-like creature we are supposed to worship.

The opposite form of government is anarchism or in simple language, the absence of all central government as we know it. I will try to make this plain. The farmers form an association, the dentists form one, the doctors form one; that is, all the different groups form associations and they counterbalance each other. It is claimed for this type that it is perfect. I have not yet got to the place where I think it is possible to get along without some form of cen-

tral government but we should have the least possible government. The only object of government is to prevent the involuntary exploiting of one person by another. The least governed people are always the best. To be continued.

—Jas. Richmond, M. D.



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