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MARCH 19, 1937

PAROLE BOARD RESIGNATIONS

This week the news has told of the resignation of two of Oregon's parole board of three. The other member is the secretary of the governor who cannot resign without parting from his major employment. It is probable that the resignations were caused by the action of the legislature in refusing to pass the new parole bills which were an outgrowth of some studies made by the planning board during the past biennium.

The state senate, which killed the bills, is to be complimented by the people of the state for its action. The proposed set-up would have given the parole board sole authority to determine sentences and the judges who tried the prisoners would have had no authority to give sentences for many offenses.

While it is true that considerable variation in the length of sentences exists, it is also true that there is variation in crimes even when a similar charge is made. It is probably better to allow the judges to retain their constitution given power than to delegate it to an appointive board who are responsible to the governor alone and not to the general voting public.

The resignations, although they remove from state office men who have had some experience in paroling prisoners, will give the governor a chance to appoint men who will be better fitted to handle the job. It will be possible now to man the parole board with men who have made a study of prisoners and who know the effect that prison life has on the average man who is convicted and it will be possible to name some one who has made a study of psychiatry in order that the mental status of the men who come up for parole can be determined.

The primary purpose of the parole board is to protect the general public from those who are not safe in society and secondarily to give to those who are convicted a chance to prove their fitness for society. The semi-sob hysteria that affects so many who come in contact with prisoners has no place in an official system.

TUT TUT, WESTBROOK

Westbrook Pegler, who is always worth reading if not always worth believing, has a unique comment on the supreme court situation. Usually, says this commentator, if a person or a corporation loses a few cases before the court he changes his lawyer instead of trying to change the make-up of the court.

There is something so reasonable about the suggestion that it is almost old-fashioned. Mr. Pegler used to restrain his comments to the sporting part of the news where he learned, no doubt, that there was something unethical about squaking over referee's decision. In fact a number of managers of fisticuffs have been practically read out of the lodge for persisting in referee baiting the morning after the fight. But Mr. Pegler has left the field of sports where certain restrictions are in vogue and has branched out into the larger field of politics where no holds are barred and ethics are judged by success instead of by sportsmanship.

REALIGNMENT

Whether or not it will be possible, as has been suggested, that there be a realignment among the voters of the nation, it would be of inestimable value to the country.

The idea is in disfavor with those who have more loyalty to the name of their favorite party than to the principles their party espouses or did espouse. There are conservatives in both parties and radicals in both parties. Neither can be effective in putting in to effect their principles as long as this condition continues.

One of the peculiar things of recent years is the division in political fealty between men who agree on all matters political except the name of their party. It is to the advantage of the nation that conservatives vote as conservatives and radicals vote as radicals for this means a true expression of national opinion can

be obtained. A realignment may mean the death of one or both of the traditional parties of the United States but it would insure the continuance of the principles by which those parties achieved distinction. Party loyalty should be loyalty primarily to a principle—the name is secondary.

VERY FINE, MARCH. KEEP IT UP

Something should be said to indicate the pleasure everyone in the mid-Columbia wheat belt feels about the spring weather. Perhaps the complimentary remarks should be whispered for fear that if the weather man was to know that the days were satisfactory he might cause them to be less so. One fears to mention the remarkable absence of wind this month because it is possible that by the time this sheet reaches its readers the spring chinook will be lifting hats and denuding poultry. Nevertheless it must be mentioned in mere justice to Mother Nature.

Old timers have noticed the winnowing days of mid-March and have whispered their observations to others who might be trusted to keep the matter a secret. No one has been heard to call attention to the quietness of the air in a loud voice. There seems to be a fear of such statements much. We imagine, as Chicagoans feared to mention the name of Scarface Al Capone without surreptitiously glancing behind them.

For the spring wind, while a usual visitor, is seldom a friendly visitor. He comes galloping across the country with a terrible dust that is only appeased by urinating the moisture from the earth and thus depriving the wheat of its sustenance. Great cracks are left in the fields and a crust is formed that prevents the tender plants from reaching the sunlight. Altogether the spring wind is an unpleasant and unprofitable visitor and we hope—she does not come at all this year.

Instead of this bold blusterer we have had gentle and quiet rains that soften the top of the ground and give the struggling wheat a chance to break through. Clouds have obscured the feeble spring sun to prevent evaporation from that source. In fact, the weather man seems to be trying to make up for the bad treatment of January and February and this bit of praise is therefore offered very sincerely and from the heart. We have had most unusual March weather and are thankful.

Perhaps Hitler would be easier mollified if the American system of politics were explained to him. Then he would know that the honorable mayor of New York was not giving him a gratuitous insult but was merely trying to gain all the Jewish votes in New York City.

From Dublin we learn that the Irish had to celebrate St. Patrick's day with the shamrocks buried in snow and the hard liquor locked in the stores. What kind of a St. Patrick's day was that?

Washington State's basketball team removed the necessity of Oregon's basketball meeting the Huskies. So now all it has to do is to beat the boys that beat the Huskies.

Is it possible that the Duke of Windsor is going to have to go to work?

The St. Patrick day story that Jim Farley had brought a piece of the Blarney stone back from Ireland is apparently incorrect. Heck. Another theory gone wrong.

Unlicensed dogs in Walla Walla are to be "liquidated." Thus do the words of one country become common in another. In some parts of Europe political opponents are also "liquidated."

We would think that supreme court justices would be as coy about having a birthday as a woman under thirty.

Ho-hum. No wonder they have sit-down strikes at this time of year.

STATEHOUSE GOSSIP

(Continued from page one)

er and Walter E. Pearson of Portland, that is if Pearson does not desert the senate for a go at the job in Washington. All four of these men were called to the chair repeatedly by President Francisovich during the past session, and all demonstrated their ability as gavel wielders. As to the Speakership, should the Democrats again dominate the House that job should fall to either Representative C. F. Hyde of Lane county or Representative Chas. H. Leach of Portland if these two members are again numbered among those present at the next session. If, however, the Republicans should regain control of the House then either Ernest R. Fatland of Condon or Walter Fuhrer of Salem should get the call. All four of these possibilities are veterans of two regular and one special session and all have demonstrated their ability as floor leaders and gavel wielders on numerous occasions during the past four years.

When Governor Martin completed the task of scrutinizing and passing on the huge grist of bills passed on to him by the legislature a total of 491 measures had been permitted to continue their way to a place in the Oregon statutes. Four of these were allowed to become law without the governor's signature and one was passed over his veto. Six other bills vetoed by the governor must await action by the next legislature—special or regular—before their fate is definitely determined. Of the 491 new acts, 124 were the emergency clause and became operative immediately upon signature by the governor. The others will become law on June 7, after the expiration of the required 90-day waiting period.

When Governor Martin signed the bill providing for purchase of additional land and construction of a state library building he did even better than friends of the measure had hoped for. In view of the fact that the measure involves a general fund deficit of more than \$433,000, against which the governor had repeatedly warned, it had been hoped that he would at least permit the bill to become law without his signature. First obstacle to be overcome in the new state building program is that of acquiring the additional land. The act specifies that the \$300,000 appropriated for this purpose must be used in the purchase of all or a portion of four blocks of residential property lying directly north of the capitol site. While some of the owners of this property are ready and anxious to sell, many of the others who own beautiful homes in this choice section of the capitol city are strenuously opposed to surrendering their property. Condemnation proceedings will undoubtedly have to be resorted to in some cases while other property owners may be willing to sell if they are permitted to retain a life interest in their homes. At any rate it is not expected that more than two of the four blocks can be acquired with the available appropriation but for the present program which contemplates the construction of not more than two buildings. The first building to be constructed out of the general fund appropriation will have to take care of the needs of the state library. This requirement was written into the bill. If a second building is constructed it will, more than likely be done under the provisions of another measure which authorizes the state highway commission to construct a building as a part of the capitol group and at a cost of not to exceed \$500,000.

Two proposed constitutional amendments will be before the voters at the general election in 1938 as a result of the action of the recent legislative session. One of these will be another bid for an increase in the pay of the lawmakers. It proposes to fix the per diem of the legislators at \$8 for the session of 60 days. The other proposed amendment to the constitution would extend the time in which the governor has to pass on bills following the adjournment of the session to 20 days. He now has only five days in which to wade through the hundreds of bills which are dumped into his lap during the closing days of the session.

Although the "good time" bill does not become effective until June 7, release of prisoners from the state penitentiary was begun this week and will continue steadily until all of the nearly 200 men who are entitled to their liberty under the terms of this act have been released. An average of 15 prisoners a week will be released under this program in order to clean the slate by the time the act becomes operative. While property owners in Oregon will not be called on to pay as much taxes this year by nearly \$1,000,000 as they were in 1936

the entire credit for this saving belongs to the state. Local taxes for the support of city, county, school districts, roads and other purposes bulk larger than nearly \$640,000 than the levies for these purposes did a year ago. Taxes for the support of county government alone are approximately \$88,000 higher while levies for support of the public schools are higher by more than \$213,000. Taxes for construction and maintenance of county roads are higher by \$273,000 while levies for the support of cities and towns are nearly \$330,000 higher than those for 1936. While the state levies against property was reduced by more than \$1,580,000 this reduction was made possible entirely by reason of the income tax. Cost of state government, like that of local governmental units, continues to mount higher and higher year by year. The state, however, has other sources of revenue to turn to while local units are limited to the field of property taxes for their revenues.

In Other Days

From the Observer Mar. 20, 1908 Mrs. J. M. Parry, accompanied by Miss Sadie White of University Park, are with J. M. Parry, jr., on the Parry farm in Gilliam county, during seed time.

The tail of a blizzard from the southwest blew over this way Monday night. It carried some snow with it, which soon went into the ground.

Mrs. Effie Calbreath of Prineville is visiting Moro friends, and vicinity. In her girlhood Mrs. C. was Miss Effie Powell. Mr. C. is a brother to our fellow townsman I. D. Calbreath and Mrs. J. J. Hecker of The Biggs.

A dressed hog weighing 419 lbs. was sold recently by a farmer for \$25.15. It was 22 months old. Such sales prove conclusively that there is money in swine raising, and as a great meat packing plant is soon to be put in operation at Portland it moves all to be getting a move on, to supply it with raw material. Charles Huck, city engineer, has added a new muffler to the gas engine equipment of the city plant.

From the Observer Mar. 22, 1918 L. H. Rose and family were last week visitors with his brother, A. Rose and family. They were en route from Kansas to visit another brother in Portland.

John Morrison unloaded a Garford three ton truck Monday, bought through the Hulery B. Co. agency.

The local Farmers Union has contracted for an 80,000 bushel capacity elevator to be built in Moro at the foot of First street. A 50,000 bushel capacity elevator is under contract to be built at Kent by the Tumalum Lumber Company.

The service flag being made for Moro by Mrs. L. Barup will be dedicated on Easter Sunday at the public meeting in the opera house at 3 p. m.

Chester Smith has been busy the past week grading roads, pulling an old style grader with his track laying tractor.

MORE WINTER WHEAT SOWN LAST FALL

A winter wheat acreage well above that of last year is indicated by early reports, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Conditions for seeding were generally favorable although early sowings were somewhat delayed by dry soil in parts of the United States, Europe and North Africa. Late October and early November rains were generally beneficial and conditions were appreciably improved. Germination on the whole was fairly favorable but late seedings in some areas prevented strong root development before plants entered the dormant winter period and increased hazards of frost damage.

The United States acreage of winter wheat sown in the fall of 1936 has been increased by 15 per cent over last year and is estimated at 57,187,000 acres compared with 49,688,000 acres seeded in the fall of 1935 and the 5-year average (1927-31) of 45,265,000 acres. The acreage seeded this fall is by far the largest of record, the previous greatest acreage having been 51,391,000 acres sown in the fall of 1918.

Notice of Final Settlement

NOTICE is hereby given that the undersigned as administrator of the estate of Mattie Isaacs Doheny, deceased, has filed at the County Court of the State of Oregon for Sherman County, his Final Account, and that Monday, March 22nd, 1937, at ten o'clock a. m. has been fixed by said Court as the time for hearing objections to said Report, if any, and the settlement thereof.

Harvey F. Stone, Administrator of the Estate of Mattie Isaacs Doheny, Deceased.

News of Kent And Vicinity

Jack Sather, who has been in Portland for the past three months, recovering from a leg operation returned to Kent Wednesday much improved.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Norton and daughter Carol Ann and son Ross, Frank and Amandus von Borstel and Elmer Helyer were among those from Kent who transacted business at Moro last week.

Rev. George Williams of Turner was visiting friends at Kent a short time Thursday.

Carl Schadewitz has a new diesel tractor delivered to his ranch from Wasco Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Dale Howell are the parents of a son born at a hospital in The Dalles Sunday, March 7.

Mrs. Max Plumek received word Saturday morning that her brother in law, Bill Kramer of Portland, was killed Friday while at work in the woods. Mrs. Plumek and son Albert left Saturday afternoon for Portland where they attended the funeral.

Choir practice was resumed Sunday evening, having had no practice since Christmas. They met at the J. M. Wilson home. Next Sunday they will meet at the J. C. Wilson home.

The dance and basket social, which was sponsored by the Home Economic Club at the Kent grange hall Saturday evening March 13th was well attended. About twenty five baskets being sold. Schillings Wranglers furnished music for the dance. The amount derived from the sale of baskets was \$38.90.

Mr. and Mrs. Matt Simon and children of Grass Valley were dinner guests at the J. L. Davis home Tuesday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Neil McGlasson were business visitors at Moro Thursday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Barnett and son Eugene were shopping at Grass Valley Friday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Norton and daughters Geraldine and Carol Ann and son Ross were dinner guests Sunday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Theo von Borstel. The occasion being the birthday anniversary of Marie von Borstel.

Wilmer Gunther returned to Kent from Antelope last week and is doing chores at the C. G. Forrester home while Mr. Forrester is looking for a location in Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. Derward Helyer and infant son of Tumalo were visiting the former's parents, W. C. Helyer Saturday night.

Earl Tweet of Bend was a visitor at the J. C. Wilson home Saturday night.

J. L. Davis motored to Antelope Tuesday bringing Sherrill Helyer home with him to drive his tractor during the spring work.

Mrs. Emma Crocker of Goldendale, Wash., Evelyn Davis and Lillian Schassen of The Dalles were over night guests at the J. L. Davis home Saturday night.

Levina Barnett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Barnett had the misfortune to cut her hand at school Wednesday. Mr. McGlasson took her immediately to Moro where Dr. Poley found it necessary to take five stitches in her hand.

W. H. Helyer of Carson, Wash., was here a few days last week on business.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Mitchell and daughter Juanita returned to Kent Monday from Portland where they had been with their daughter Clarice who is recovering from a recent operation.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Wilson and Mrs. John Wilson and son Kenneth were shopping in The Dalles Tuesday.

J. L. Davis and daughter Eve-

lyn motored to The Dalles Sunday where Evelyn has a position in the offices of Doctors Young and Payne.

Oscar Adams of Hood River was at Kent Monday looking after his farming interests here.

Mrs. J. L. Gentry, Mrs. Paul Weller, Mrs. J. U. Leonard, Mrs. Clarice Sacre and Bessie Gentry of Moro attended the dance and basket social here Saturday evening.

Lupine Rebecca Lodge No. 116 Moro, Oregon

Meets 2d and 4th Tuesdays of each month Visiting members welcome.

Hazel Truitt, N. G. Lila Bull, Secretary

Bethlehem Chapter, No. 78, O. E. S. Moro, Oregon

Meets Every Second Fourth Thursdays in each Month. Visiting members invited.

Frances King W. M. Ruth Sparling, Secretary.

Eureka Lodge No. 121 A-F & A-M Moro, Oregon

Meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday evenings of each month. Visiting members cordially invited to meet with us.

Roy Powell, W. M. C. V. Belknap, Secy.

Moro Lodge No. 113, I. O. O. F. Moro, Oregon

Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the I. O. O. F. hall. Transient and visiting brothers are cordially invited to meet with us.

Lewis McKee, N. G. Joe Truitt, Secretary

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