

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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THE PHELAN OIL GRAB

AN ultimatum has been served upon President Wilson by Senators Pittman, Phelan, Meyers and Walsh, who declare that unless the navy department consents to compromise on the legislation for relief of claimants on oil lands now held in the western naval fuel reserve, the entire administration construction program would be held up in congress.

These gentlemen show a fine brand of patriotism when they place special interests above the national welfare and try to browbeat the president of the United States to benefit oil land speculators who seek to grab the oil supply reserved for the United States navy and essential for warships constructed along accepted lines as oil-burners.

In 1909 President Taft withdrew from entry large areas of public land classified as oil land with a view to the future reservation of certain fuel land deposits for the use of the navy. In 1912, certain naval petroleum reserves were created in California and Wyoming from a portion of the original withdrawal.

After the withdrawal, many individuals and corporations went upon the reserve lands, in violation of the president's order, and exploited them, covering areas valuable for oil with "paper" locations, in support of which no work was done in good faith, and the usual frauds of "dummy" entries practiced, for the purpose of establishing a claim upon the lands.

This trespassing brought numerous legal actions to protect the government's interest, with the result that the claimants sought "relief" from congress with the enactment of a bill validating their attempted grabs. This bill is being fought by Secretary Daniels and the navy department, and its advocates, headed by Senator Phelan, are now attempting to coerce the president by threatening to hold up the administration's program.

In California, 40,810 acres of the withdrawn land are fraudulently claimed. Their estimated value is \$50,000,000. The claim has been advanced that the measure is for the relief of small operators who face ruin, but the navy department gives the following list of companies illegally operating upon the withdrawn area as follows, with their capitalization:

- Associated Oil Co., \$40,000,000; Boston Pacific Oil Co., \$1,000,000; California Amalgamated Oil Co., \$5,000,000; Caribou Oil Co., \$1,000,000; General Petroleum Co., \$50,000,000; Honolulu Consolidated Oil Co., \$5,000,000; North American Consolidated Oil Co., \$5,000,000; Northern Exploration Co., \$1,000,000; Record Oil Co., \$1,000,000; St. Helens Oil Co. (British) \$27,192 pounds; Standard Oil Co., \$100,000,000; Union Oil Co., \$50,000,000; United Oil Co., \$2,500,000.

The quantity of oil stored in the naval reserves is estimated at 200,000,000 barrels, which would supply the fleet twenty years in time of peace, and the geological survey estimates that the petroleum supply of this country will be exhausted in thirty years. If Mr. Phelan forces through his bill, the navy must abandon the policy of building oil-burners and revert to coal, although such a step involves loss of efficiency. The gainers will be the millionaire oil producers, who will be still further enriched by their looting of the public domain.

OLD AGE PENSIONS

THE bill introduced in the legislature to penalize employers for discharging men over 45 years of age, and the various organizations formed over the country to create a square deal in employment for men past middle life, are signs of the economic and industrial pressure of the times, which wear men out early in life and leave them in their old age penniless and dependent.

The average man does not earn enough to sustain his family and himself during his more active years. What is going to become of him in his declining years? He has been a good citizen and a willing toiler. Shall he be knocked on the head because he has grown old?

How other nations have solved the problem is told elsewhere in this issue by Charles Edward Russell, and the time has come when the United States must take another lesson from abroad regarding the conservation of humanity. Governor McCall of Massachusetts has taken the lead by advocating non-contributory old-age pensions to deserving citizens in old age. Other states must follow or face an enormous growth of state institutions.

Arthur Henderson, a member of the British cabinet, writes as follows concerning the operation of the old-age pension law in England:

"In my opinion, the introduction of non-contributory old-age pensions has been of the greatest benefit to the working people of the country. By relieving large numbers of the fear of destitution in their old age it has increased the happiness of the people at large. For this reason alone, apart from the subsidiary advantages, such as the strengthening of the family ties and the removal of the much dreaded stigma of pauperism, in my opinion, it has been thoroughly worth the trial. I see no reason to suppose that it has discouraged thrift, and I am quite sure that of various social reforms which have been introduced in the last ten years, this one is the last which our people would allow to be repealed."

Chancellor A. Bonar Law of Great Britain says: "The old-age pensions scheme (non-contributory) has, in my opinion, been very successful and beneficial. I am sure it would not be abandoned, and I personally strongly approve of it."

The lord mayor of Dublin, Ireland, says: "The Dublin old-age pensions committee has dealt with upward of 16,000 cases, and of all the acts passed by the house of commons, this act is the most beneficial to the people especially the poor."

The old age pension relieves the fear and dread of pauperism and the poor house and makes for a happier and more contented people.

Delinquent Tax Publication

(From the Portland Oregonian.) A repeated charge that the newspapers of Oregon are the patrons and beneficiaries of graft in the publication of delinquent tax lists has been made by a Portland paper, the Journal, which has not only republished the present law authorizing publication and the substitution of

CONVICT ROADS MAKE JITNEY BUSES; RAILROADS' COMPETITORS; FARMERS AND MERCHANTS WORK WITH PICK



Western business men work with pick and shovel to put country roads in better condition for passing automobiles.

CHICAGO, Jan. 25.—Use of convicts in road building, customary in several states, may become widespread as a result of the present good roads agitation, and investigation of highways on which labor of penal offenders has been utilized.

Six thousand prisoners are working on highways in Georgia every day. Colorado's prison camps have long been noted as model corrective measures, and their road results are also remarkable.

Convicts built roads in southern Arizona are so excellent jitney buses are competing successfully with the Southern Pacific railroad in town to town traffic between Douglas, Bisbee and Tombstone.

Results almost unbelievable have been reached in constructing highways across swamps, deserts and sand, and through mountainous regions.

Atlantic coast tourists now cross the formerly impassable Choppawamunc swamp, in Virginia, over a macadam road where formerly wagons sank beyond the hubs in mire.

Other stretches of marshy road on

the Atlantic highway will be completed in the spring, making that route the first to be hardsurfaced over its entire length, from the Canadian border to Miami, Fla.

Volunteer road workers in western states have increased greatly the hard road mileage, working in some cases without even county appropriations.

A road across Iowa was built by farmers using the split-log drag. Other farmers promptly adopted rival routes and improved their roads, too, and there was sharp competition among partisans of different roads to get auto tourists over their favorite highways.

Business men in cities competing for tourist travel are working often with pick and shovel, bossed sometimes by the mayor or president of the commercial club.

Toll roads built by private individuals or corporations in many cases are to be turned over to the state as part of the hard road system.

City dwellers, even auto owners, have little idea of the immense strides in road building during the past few years.

print the list in four newspapers. But it is sound policy and true economy to give public notice that taxes on certain properties are delinquent and not to follow a plan of mere private notice to the owner.

It cannot reasonably be contended that the only duty the county has when the delinquent property is to be offered for sale is to drop a note in the mails to the man or woman who has failed in his payments. Publication of the delinquent list is a most important step in the process leading to sale of the property. It would appear to be desirable, for obvious reasons, to have that fact well known. Moreover, knowledge that one's property will be advertised for non-payment of taxes is a direct incentive to prompt payment. We believe any experienced tax collector will give his testimony to that effect.

Assertion by a newspaper that advertisement, or publication, in a public journal is without value is a strange thing, and may be set down to sheer aberration or perversity of mind, or a jealous and spiteful purpose to withhold such publications from other newspapers, at any cost to itself.

For the public and for newspapers in general, the Oregonian insists that publication on their pages is far more effective and profitable than any uncertain process of private notification through the mails or otherwise. No newspaper is justified in charging the state or county more than its customary commercial rates for public business; and insofar as such charges have been made by any paper, they are excessive and dishonest, and may appropriately be denounced as graft.

But we do not think that it is dishonorable or unworthy of journals as a class to seek the public business on the same terms as private business; and we do not think that publishers or editors who regard their pages as sound media for publication of public notices or any kind are grafters. We think rather more of such a newspaper than of the other kind which discredits its own profession and discounts its own service to its readers and to the public by preferring postal card publicity to newspaper publicity.

The legislature ought not to be dragged into hasty or costly action in this business. Let there be due consideration of the question on its broad merits. There ought to be publicity of delinquent tax lists, on fair terms, and it ought to be uniform in method and reasonableness in cost. If it is worth while to a county to take the best means of avoiding general delinquencies, and of making the most satisfactory and expeditious disposition of such properties after delinquency, it will not abandon the present scheme of public notice.

BELL-ANS Absolutely Removes Indigestion. One package proves it. 25c at all druggists.

MOVING PICTURE BUSINESS CRUEL AND PROFITLESS

NEW YORK, Jan. 25.—The moving picture business today is "almost cruel" and there is no money in it. William A. Brady, theatrical manager testified today before the legislative committee which is investigating the industry to determine if it should be subject to a state tax.

Producer and distributor of pictures as president of the World Film corporation, said his company had put \$1,000,000 into the business within the past six months. Asked if much of that money was his own, he replied:

"No, I have been too wise to buy moving picture stock. The business has been expanding, but in a disastrous way."

Asserting there was a great overproduction of pictures, he continued:

"The business looked so easy that four times the number of theaters needed were built. I think there is a great future in store for it, but there is no money in it now. It will be there only when there is a total re-organization. The business today is almost cruel."

"Some day there will be real motion pictures, when the ear, the eye, the stomach, noted surgical operations and everything educational, will be pictorially preserved. Then the pictures will be in every school room. There is more talk going into pictures than money and the industry must pass through the same ordeal as the oil fields, automobile business and other industries."

Estray Notice. Taken up—Red 2-year-old steer, branded double figure six, one inverted. Ear mark is crop and under half crop, left ear. D. E. Cottrell, Beagle, Oregon. 261

Advertisement for Black Silk Stove Polish. The ad features a can of the product and text stating it is a liquid or paste that does not rub off, lasts 4 times as long as other polishes, and saves work. It says to get a can today.

JOHN A. PERL UNDERTAKER. Lady Assistant. 208 S. BARTLETT. Phone M. 474 and 47-J-2. Automobile Hearse Service. Ambulance Service. Coroner.

SEINES, SET NETS BARRED BY NEW ROGUE FISH BILL

SALEM, Or., Jan. 25.—The substitute Rogue river fish bill, introduced by a majority of the house fisheries committee, known as House Bill 248, replaces the Tichenor and Thomas bills. It prohibits seining and set-nets, makes it unlawful to fish except with hook and line below the dead line established by the fish and game commission and repeals all laws in conflict therewith. Nothing is said about length of seasons. It reads as follows:

"A bill for an act relating to fishing in Rogue river; prohibiting the use of seines in the waters of Rogue river and its tributaries; prohibiting the use of set nets in the waters of Rogue river and its tributaries; repealing all acts in conflict herewith, and fixing penalties for violations of this act.

"Be it enacted by the people of the state of Oregon:

"Section 1. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to fish for or take or attempt to take any salmon or other fish from any of the waters of Rogue river or its tributaries, with or by means of a seine or set-net of any kind or description.

"Section 2. That from and after the taking effect of this act, it shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation, to fish for or take from the waters of Rogue river or its tributaries, except with hook and line, any salmon or other species of fish, below or west of a line extending due south from the highest point of Doyle's Rock, near the mouth of Rogue river, Curry county, Oregon. This prohibition shall be deemed to also apply to the waters of the Pacific ocean within a radius of three miles from the mouth of said Rogue river, over which the state of Oregon has jurisdiction.

"Section 3. Any violation of any of the provisions of this act shall be punished by a fine of not less than fifty dollars and not more than two hundred and fifty dollars, or by imprisonment in the county jail for a period not less than thirty days nor more than six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court. All fines collected under this act shall be disposed of as now provided by the laws of the state of Oregon for violations of the fishing laws.

"Section 4. Justices of the peace shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit court of any violations of this act.

"Section 5. All acts and parts of acts of this state in conflict with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

Advertisement for 'Mother's Friend' baby medicine. It features a picture of a baby and text asking 'Are You Prepared for Baby's Arrival?'. The ad claims it is a valuable and interesting book on motherhood sent free to all expectant mothers. It is available at drug stores everywhere.

Table listing prices for various types of hides. Green hides per lb. 17c, Dry hides per lb. 25c, Green calf hides per lb. 25c, Dry calf hides per lb. 30c. It also mentions buying sheep pelts and goat skins for 25c per lb.

Advertisement for Medford Commercial College. It offers standard courses by individual instruction and class method in bookkeeping, penmanship, shorthand, typewriting, arithmetic, practical English, spelling, etc. Graduates are assisted to positions. Make early reservations for places. See the manager. Phone 15-L. 31 N. Grape Street.

Suffered Great Pain

Letter Tells of Long Looked-for Relief. Dear Mr. Editor—I am making a personal appeal to your readers who are bothered with kidney and bladder troubles, to give up the use of harsh salts, or alcoholic kidney medicines and in their place take a small treatment of "Anurie" and be convinced of its wonderful virtues as I was. I suffered great pain, had a great deal of irritation, water became foul. I tried everything advised but with no result. I sent for a box of "Anurie" Tablets soon discovered that they brought relief. I have used them since, and now water is natural, my health good, appetite splendid. Some of the doctors pronounced my trouble enlarged prostate. Now I have no more trouble and I am assuredly feel that this latest discovery of Dr. Pierce is the best remedy for bladder and kidney troubles that I know of. If I can induce anyone to give a trial, I feel that he will thank me, calling attention to this great relief that relieves this seemingly worst of all troubles that human flesh can bear to.

(Signed) H. H. FLEISHER

Note: Up to this time, "Anurie" has not been on sale to the public, but by persuasion of many patients and increased demand for this wonderful healing tablet, Doctor Pierce has finally decided to put it into the drug stores of this country within immediate reach. Send 10 cents for large trial package. Simply ask for Doctor Pierce's Anurie Tablets. There can be no initials. Every package of "Anurie" is sure to be Dr. Pierce's. You will find the signature on the package just as you do on Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, the famous friend to ailing women, and Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, proven by years to be the greatest tonic and restorer for any one. At any rate don't give up hope. Be cured of your misery until it is a few doses of "Anurie" have proven that it will make you feel like a different person. Editor—Please insert this letter in your conspicuous place in your paper.

Summertime CALIFORNIA

Warm, sunny days, ideal for bathing in the Pacific Ocean.

Flowers in bloom everywhere. Trees green and birds singing remind you of May days.

The golden oranges are ripening now. An orchard of oranges with snow-capped mountain peaks near by. Imagine the picture.

The roads are excellent for motoring. Make Los Angeles your pivotal point and see all Southern California this winter. Go via the Shasta Route.

I will send you information and free illustrated booklets if you send a postal.

John M. Scott, General Passenger Agent, Portland, Ore.

Southern Pacific

EM-TEES

UNSOLVED MYSTERIES. Where do they get that "young Thaw" stuff? Forty-six years young.

DID YOU KNOW Raising an umbrella indoors is considered very bad luck, especially if the owner is looking.

Faint heart ne'er won fair lady, unless it was in an old millionaire.

Kick and you kick alone, unless you're aiming 'em at a mule.

WOW! Tris Speaker undergoes an operation to have a small piece of soft bone removed from his nose. This is the first ball player we've ever heard of that possessed such an article above his shoulders.

"Here you are, sir! Buy some flowers for your sweetheart!" "Nothing doing; I haven't got a sweetheart!" "Well, buy some for your wife!" "Wrong again! Not married." "Well, then, buy some for yourself to celebrate your luck!" Let's go boys!

CUMMINS PASSES UP PEACE DEBATE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—Senator Cummins did not press his right today to set aside time in the senate for special discussion of President Wilson's peace address, and the senate got to work early on appropriation legislation.

President Wilson in his conference with Senator Stone and other demagogic senators at the white house last night discussed his address in a general way. There was discussion also of plans to prevent any concerted effort to sidetrack important legislation with a long peace debate at this time, but the main purpose of the conference, it was said today, was to clear the way for harmonious legislative action between now and March 4. The improbability of getting through his railway labor program as originally proposed was pointed out to the president as well as a poor prospect of waterpower legislation. Tonight senate democrats will consider all these subjects in caucus.

GERMANS FORCED SERBS INTO SLAVERY

PARIS, Jan. 25.—The following statement from the Serbian press bureau is forwarded from Corfu by the Havas correspondent:

"Todor Jovanovitch, escaped from Bulgarian slavery, has reached our lines. He recounts that he, with other prisoners, was deported by force before the Bulgarian retreat and compelled to labor in trenches under the artillery fire of the Serbians and their allies. Every male above boyhood was taken from all the villages into slavery. Fifteen hundred were so taken from Sopotid, under control of German officers."

Jovanitch complained of poor food and hard labor and said numerous deaths resulted.

PUBLIC FUNERAL FOR FRIENDLESS TRAMP

AVON, Ill., Jan. 25.—Rather than see a friendless tramp, who died of exposure, buried in a pauper's grave, the residents of this place gave him a public funeral today. Villagers closed their shops for half a day, purchased floral offerings and followed the hearse to the cemetery.