

# Hoover, a Devotee of Policies That Work

Hoover undertook a great work and carried it through with such signal success that in the eyes of all peoples he stands out as a man bigger than the work itself. For that every American must be grateful to him and admire him. But the presidency should not be an honorary degree to be bestowed in token of gratitude and admiration. Least of all should it be bestowed as an honor now, when the responsibilities of the office have been heaped up until the most robust figure might stagger under them. The next president will have to assume the initiative in legislation as President Wilson has done, unless the house and senate succeed in organizing for work far better than they have been organized during the last seven years. And there is nothing about the structure of either of the great parties that promises effective organization.

Accordingly it is of surpassing importance that the next president should be a man who is not only capable of giving an impetus to legislation, but one whose training and habit of mind preface an impetus in the right direction. Is Hoover the man to meet these requirements? Before that question can be answered it is necessary to take account of the general issues that are fairly certain to arise during the next presidential term.

Of these issues the most important, from a domestic point of view, center in the problem of personal freedom, the labor problem, transportation, price control and the tariff. The most important, from a world point of view, center in armaments and the application of economic power either as a means of repression or as a means of promotion of friendly relations. It is fairly certain that, however narrowly the purely military power of the league may be restricted, considerable economic power will remain at its discretion. We need to consider how our next president will look upon projects of international blockade, like the late blockade of Russia, and upon projects of international subsidy, like that of building up the economic power of Poland.

On most of these points we can get little light from Hoover's utterances. Unfortunately for our purpose, Hoover is a man who has worked incredibly hard and has talked incredibly little. Does he approve or disapprove of the arbitrary control of the mails by the post office, of the extreme interpretations of the espionage law, of the wholesale deportation of aliens on the mere proof of adherence to the communist party, or the I. W. W.? We know of no utterance of Hoover that throws light on these questions. Therefore we have to fall back on inference. Now, all the world knows that Hoover is a realist. He detests projects that do not work, or work in a direction contrary to their intention. And he is too intelligent to fall under the delusion that the present regime of terrorism is working. Nobody could presume ignorance on Hoover's part of the fact that the alien deportations are making ten enemies of the government for every one they throw out of the country, or of the fact that repression of free speech provides the ideal soil in which conspiracies flourish. Whatever Hoover's philosophy of freedom may be, freedom would be safe under his presidency, because it works and because its opposite does not.

In the matter of transportation, Hoover, we judge, would place a heavy burden of proof upon those who desire to substitute public ownership in any form for private ownership. That is fair. The burden of proof ought always to rest with the advocates of change. Otherwise ill advised or premature projects would multiply until our own country became as averse to change as China. Whether public ownership or private ownership is to prevail ultimately in the United States is a question to be decided by considerations of efficiency. Can we have efficient railways without nationalization? And if the railways are unified, does a significant place remain for private enterprise, or will railway management become bureaucratic, without even ultimate responsibility to the people? And must government railways necessarily be given over to bureaucratic stagnation? Hoover

would unquestionably strive for efficiency of transportation. If efficiency was not attainable by one method, he would probably prove open minded toward another.

On price control Hoover's ideas are well known. He does not take great stock in governmental price fixing. He would curb vicious speculation, but beyond that he would leave prices to fix themselves. He has no patience with the cry against high prices, believing them to be symptoms of more fundamental evils, inadequate production and currency inflation. We infer that Hoover is not much interested in regulations against profiteering. And we might castigate him for this indifference if we were very certain that prices had really been kept down, either here or in any other country, by such regulations. Anyway, the point is hardly relevant, because no power of price control will reside in the federal government after we have accepted the peace, which we will surely do before the inauguration of another president.

The tariff will no doubt become an important issue before the next presidential term expires. Just now it is quiescent, because our European rivals are producing little for export. But in two or three years the men who are now advising Europe to go to work will be trembling about the competition of European industry. There will be a tremendous effort to raise our schedules to prevent us from forcing domestic prices down by purchases from abroad. What attitude would Hoover take toward such a movement? He is neither doctrinaire free trader nor doctrinaire protectionist. But more than any other American, Hoover is alive to the changes of restricting imports in order to give American producers the benefits of monopoly prices. As a realist Hoover is bound to assume a liberal attitude on the tariff question.

As for armaments, Hoover never misses an opportunity to urge their reduction in the interest of fiscal economy and international peace. One reason why he is out of sympathy with ambitious plans for aiding foreign countries through the extension of American credit is that those countries are now wasting precious funds on exaggerated armies and navies. Would he favor "the biggest navy afloat" for America and the institution of universal conscription for peace time? He would strive to get for America the navy she needs, according to a realistic view of the interests she has to defend. He would strive for a land army, also adequate to our needs, but he would count the cost before thrusting the new world along the road of militarism that has ruined the old world.

We are safe in inferring that Hoover would be hesitant about joining in international plans of coercion through embargoes, blockades and the like. He was one of the first among us to utter his approval of the dropping of the Russian blockade, and he has stated that he was never in favor of that blockade, much as he hated the Bolshevik regime. As for using international power to build up states that were unable otherwise to get on their feet, Hoover would proceed with extreme caution. He believes in self help, for states as for individuals; if he agreed to help a state in need, it would only be toward helping itself, and not too generously. That may seem not very magnificent policy. But would the American people approve anything more magnificent? Or if it were proposed, would they not balk at any help whatsoever?

We would not give the impression that we do not observe notes in Hoover's eye which we would like to doctor while putting off the matter of the beams in our own. Hoover hates bunk; that we approve; but he seems to hate radical bunk more than conservative. He hates disorder and murder; but he seems to hate revolutionary murders and disorders more than counter revolutionary. He is more appalled by the red terror in Russia and Hungary than by the white terror of Finland and Hungary. Those would be disqualifications if he were competing for a prize as impartial historian. How are they rele-

vant to the next presidency of the United States?

What is most relevant is that Hoover is a realist, a devotee of policies that work.

## EAGLE POINT EAGLETS

By A. C. Howlett.

Mrs. Dee Bradshaw of Brownsboro and Miss Agnes Johnson, who is teaching in the Antelope district, went up to Butte Falls Saturday to attend the teachers institute, returning in the afternoon and report they had a very interesting meeting and well attended, especially considering the difficulty in getting there.

Our Sunday school was very poorly attended last Sunday, as there was quite a number that stayed away on account of being afraid of the "flu." Although there is not a case of the dreaded disease in our town, Dr. Holt reported that there was one case, his daughter Helen, in our town and up to Thursday he reports that there are no cases in town. His daughter Helen resumed her studies in school again last Monday.

Mr. E. G. Trowbridge and daughter, Miss Florence, and Mrs. H. Borden of Medford and Mr. Lawrence Lay of Welton and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Cessy and two children and Graden Childreth of Talent, were here for dinner Sunday.

George A. Hollenbeck of Precapet, came in one the Butte Falls stage Monday morning and went on up home. Mr. Hollenbeck was just returning from a trip to Redding, where he had been to visit a brother, who he had not seen for forty-five years.

L. W. Smith, who has been spending the winter with relatives in the Lake Creek district, was here on his way to Grants Pass. He came in last fall from Idaho and has about decided to remain in southern Oregon on account of the climate and the general healthfulness of the country.

A. C. Spence, our efficient road supervisor of Brownsboro was a business caller Monday and the last that I saw of him he was on a deal for an automobile, but whether he succeeded or not I have not learned. I understand that our townsman, David Cingcade, treated his good wife to a new auto last Saturday. They are getting to be almost a necessity now-a-days.

Mike Heckenburg, who has purchased the Morrison place on Reese creek, was in town getting several pieces of very long iron pipe. He is putting in a water system on his place.

Mrs. Van der Mark and her three little girls were here for dinner Monday. They had started for her home near Butte Falls and were detained on account of something going wrong with the machine. The reader will remember that Mrs. Van der Mark is the lady who was burned out a short time ago. And at that time I reported that S. M. Hasok, her father, was burned out, but it proved to be Mrs. Van der Mark, although the house belonged to Mr. Hasok and he was living with her at the time.

W. E. Hammel was also here for dinner Monday. He seems to be very optimistic over the prospects of having the water brought in from Big Butte onto the land in his neighborhood and feels that it will add very materially to the wealth of the community.

Ed Higginbotham motored through our town Monday forenoon, headed for his old home section near Derby.

Fred Pettigreen and R. A. Petty were business callers Monday, and so was George McDonald, the foreman on the Rhodes farm and Alex Vental of Reese creek.

Ira Lingate and his mother came out from Butte Falls Monday evening and Mrs. Lingate spent the night with her sister, Mrs. Nancy Watkins, and Ira spent the night at the Sunnyside.

Jeff Brophy and son, James, accompanied by Mr. C. D. Thomas of Grants Pass, came out from the Brophy farm near Peyton, stopped at the Sunnyside for dinner and went on to Medford.

Clarence Robinett and wife, near Pay Perry, came down from near Glendale to visit their parents, Mrs. W. L. Childreth and Wm. Perry. Mrs. Robinett was suffering with a felon on her finger.

Wm. Nickel of Lake Creek was a business caller Tuesday.

Tuesday afternoon as I was making my rounds in search of items of interest to the general reader, I met a group of men, mostly farmers, discussing the actions of our legislators and the principal topic seemed to be the, as one man expressed it, "The fool dog law." They were giving the poor unfortunate members of the legislature a general round-up and in the course of the remarks which were not at all complimentary, they decided that they simply had to do something and did not know what else to do, and about this time another farmer joined the group and announced that he saw in the Weekly Oregonian that Governor Olcott had vetoed the bill, and then the question came up as to what would be done with the twelve or thirteen hundred dollars that had been paid in for dog license and where the county would be repaid the money paid out for the collars and tags that have been sold to the dog owners. And then they gave the same legislators a general round-up for passing the law forcing the farmers to brand their butter or turn it over to the creamery trust. And finally they decided that we had better leave all of the old party lead-

ers, do away with the senate entirely, as a fifth wheel to a coach, quit electing lawyers and bankers to the legislature, lower house, and elect no one except plain, old-fashioned farmers to enact our laws. I see in the Oregon Journal where the writer makes the statement that out of the bills passed by the last legislature that 50 per cent of them were either useless or in the interest of the trusts. The people are getting exasperated along these lines.

Miss Florence Pool, our county demonstrator, Mrs. Emma Sheets and D. M. Lowe of Ashland, called for supper last Tuesday night. They had been up to Lake Creek to hold a meeting in the interest of the Farm Bureau and came down here for supper and then went back to Brownsboro, where they were booked to hold a meeting that night. Mr. Lowe gave us a very interesting fire-side talk on the way he managed to raise such a variety of greens, vegetables, grass and fruits such as he has been exhibiting at the county, state and national fairs. They are to hold a meeting here tomorrow, Thursday, night and in the afternoon Miss Pool is to hold a meeting with the mothers and daughters and give them some hints on cooking, etc.

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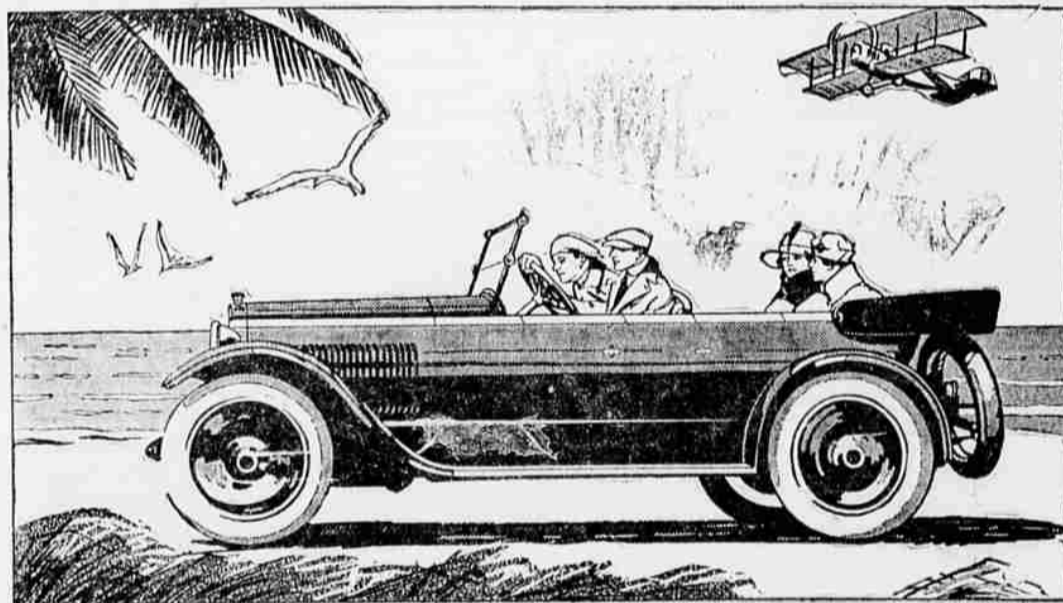
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