

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

Daily and Sunday Published by MEDFORD PRINTING CO. 25-27-29 N. 2d St. Phone 15

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Smudge Smoke

Recent mornings have been as raw as a Scotch story, told in the parlor.

Miss Helen, Jr. of Lake Creek was a pleasant caller in the city last week with his Paw.

C. M. Brewer of Copco went to Portland, and told the Oregonian reporter, "our hills are covered with a coat of ermine," so the reporter wrote.

The Active Club was formed last week, and from the list of the personnel it would do no harm, if they are not active, and shaved off the fungus growth on their upper lips, in many instances.

A survey of the financial situation around here shows the poor getting poorer and the rich about holding their own, showing no change from December and November.

The Persian cat population of the city was increased by Santa Claus, and they have started to shed their hair, on trouser legs.

The writer is engaged in a spirited controversy with an insurance agent, with no end in sight.

Shooters have started shooting at clay pigeons again.

Hobias Deuel will go to Salem tomorrow to attend the legislature, and has been called a statesman already. The legislature will attend the Governor's dance, and it will take them a week or ten days to get over it.

One of the Carpenter boys was seen on our streets last week, which is unusual for a Carpenter boy at this season of the year.

John Barneburg started as co. com. Wed., and for a democrat, did fine.

The streets have been cleared of all decorative obstructions, and there is nothing for motorists to hit now but careless pedestrians, fire hydrants, and lamp posts.

There is still considerable walling about the depression, but none are seen with long whiskers and patched pants.

R. Bardwell is still being complimented on getting some cash back from his Uncle Samuel.

There is still a demand for rain by the tillers, and some prayers have been filed to that end, as the valley has had very little luck, demanding and praying for rain, it is proposed they adopt a new tact, and insist that there be no rain, and threaten to get out on injunction, if it clouds up. It would do no harm, and as Nature is contrary, might result in getting more moisture than handy to handle.

The new burgmeister was installed Tues. night, along with the new aldermen.

Atty G. Roberts has a new hat, which is lined like the inside of a coffin. It is chic and becoming.

The backbone of winter has not been broken, as those in charge tried to wring its neck.

Elmer Oatman is back from California, and not wearing his Panama hat.

The Lyle Wilcox boy had his head shingled Thurs. and expressed no disgust with Santa Claus.

Paul McDonald has moved to Ashland, where he will live in the hereafter.

An apple a day may keep the doctor away, but he will probably bring around until it is made into hard cider.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Jacksonville poet is doing well. He sent a New York magazine three poems and they sent him back five.—Florida Times-Union.

A Michigan tree-sitter who perched for 10 days got \$5 for it. What the tree-sitters need is a union.—Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

Editorial Correspondence

CHICAGO, Jan. 7.—For certain personal reasons we decided to stop at the Blackstone hotel during our brief stop here. Exactly 20 years ago today the Blackstone was last honored by our presence. It was regarded as one of the best and most expensive hotels in the country then, and we believe still qualifies in the last bracket now, and probably doesn't come far from the first bracket. We believe the Blackstone was the first American hotel to extend little personal courtesies to all its guests, an example soon followed by Mr. Statler, greatly to his profit and reputation. We remember how impressed we were 20 years ago when walking through the lobby with a letter a bellboy asked if he couldn't have the pleasure of mailing it. A little thing, but one of the little things that count. The only new development we have noticed in this line to date is the alacrity with which all hotel employees get the guest's name. We had no sooner registered than the bellboy at our side said, as he picked up the bags, "Right this way, Mr. Ruhl." The service maid on our floor greeted us later in the same way. Ah, how it warms the heart and inflates one's sense of importance.

Merely vanity, of course, but then no less an authority than Mr. Thackaray said: "All is vanity." This much is certain: if human vanity were eliminated at least half the country would go bankrupt, and probably what we know as civilization would soon disappear. Get something that appeals persistently to the vanity of the human animal and you are a millionaire before you start.

Before WE started after the bellboy the clerk, with all the grace and poise of an English Duke, remarked: "Pardon, Mr. Ruhl, but I see you are from Medford, Oregon. Do you by any chance know Mr. Alan Drury?" "Oh yes," said we. "Kindly remember me to him," said his excellency. "Tell him you saw Barnes of the Blackstone." Thus in the wink of an eyelash one felt at home—placed, so to speak—not just a nameless wanderer on the face of the earth. We admit such a feeling comes high, but if one can stand the strain for a couple of days, more or less, any sacrifice may be worth it.

They charge you 45 cents for half a grapefruit at the Blackstone, and 50 cents for a pot of coffee—if you don't wish to spend more than a dollar for breakfast that leaves you 5 cents for toast and the tip! Some day when we are feeling strong that's what we are going to do—give a Blackstone waiter a 5

QUILL POINTS

The difference between a career and work is that a worker doesn't hear anybody yell: "Attaboy!"

It is still too early to tell why half of the Democrats will be mad at their candidate next year.

A good neighborhood is one where you pay \$50 for the apartment and \$50 more for being a sucker.

The ancients felt obligated to obey a law-maker who was obviously crooked, but they didn't elect him.

Alas! How unfortunate that the only people who know how to cure a cold decided not to be doctors.

Just when people were learning to keep their fingers out of other people's business, along comes the dial telephone.

The three leading heavyweight fighters are much like Dempsey in one respect. They are all heavy.

Mars is overlooking a bet if he doesn't start a war. Never again will he find so much of the world in the right humor.

And after the Farm Board buys up the surplus, it won't need a thing to keep the price up except a few good fires.

Americanism: Cussing the Smart Aleck who toots for gangway and passes you; cussing the Road Hog in front who does not move quickly when you toot for gangway.

The middle class is the one that might be either of the others if it had a little less money or a little more.

Crisis: Anything that gradually oozes away while Congress is jawing about the right way to handle it.

Fifteen Years Ago This Week

(From the files of The Mail Tribune)

Monday

No-vice crusader of Chicago, visits valley, and reports no vice in Ashland or this city.

Many local citizens braved the rigors of winter in the Siskiyou, by auto to journey to Hornbrook in search of liquid refreshments, and several went by train.

Dr. J. J. Emmens defeats F. V. Medynski for councilman in the first ward 232 to 251. Dr. J. M. Keene defeats T. G. Burrows 256 to 191. Elmer Posa is elected recorder and Gus Samuels, treasurer.

School row on the horizon. 199 tiny tots of city to present "Tom Thumb's Wedding" at the Page.

Farmers who a month ago were beseeching Providence for rain, are now asking the same source to stop it.

General Huerta, "dictator of Mexico," near death.

Film companies consider valley as model site for taking pictures.

A baby, girl, comes to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Powell, January 12, and Herman is passing the cigars.

Danish violinist to appear at Nat in recital.

"The Tom Thumb Wedding" given at the Page last night by 100 little folks was largely attended and highly enjoyed.

Attorney Gus Newberry ran up to Grants Pass yesterday. Dick, Eugene Elk hotel near Trail needs completion.

Oregon breweries will make new Prohibition drink, which will be called "Golden and Amber Nectar." The drink should not be confused with the so-called near-beer.

Medford high basketball team defeats Klamath Falls 26 to 8. The girls' team lost 12 to 8.

Editor pens a four column editorial on fish and fishing and fishermen of the Rogue.

First carload of Chevrolet's ever to arrive in valley due this week.

Rogue River Canal company ready to build Angus line, ditch 3200 acres have been pledged but many landowners declare irrigation is a fad.

Charles Strang, the druggist, who is doing development work on a mine near Leland, is snowed in, and could not come down. He was wanted by Mrs. M. J. Menzies at Charley's age play golf, instead of nine.

Former valley resident, found guilty of wife murder, and sentenced to life in Oklahoma prison. Bee men protest spraying trees while in bloom.

While Miss Venita Hamilton was being escorted home from a dance by Ed Andrews and David Rosenberg, Miss Hamilton was struck by a car driven by Dunbar Cass at Sixth and Grape streets. Dr. Pickett was called, and reported no serious injuries.

The headlights on the car were pointed so to be of no use to the pedestrians. Mr. Andrews said no one was to blame for the accident, so he said it was a wonder all were not killed. Miss Hamilton's car was parked in front of the Medford Business college and has since dented starting.

Mainfall in the valley is now short 50 per cent.

Press Comment

HUNTERS FIND A FRIEND The deer hunters win by the opinion of Justice Delt that the law giving the governor power to ban them from forests in dry weather is an unwarranted invasion of their rights. The opinion is distinguished in particular because of its reliance upon common sense rather than what the courts of Ireland said on shooting parties in the early part of the fourteenth century. Writes Judge Delt:

"It is difficult to conceive how a forest fire could be started by the use of firearms, especially those used to hunt deer. Can it be that the legislature had in mind that a rifle bullet, striking a tree, might set it on fire? If so, there should be additional legislation concerning target practice. Prohibiting the use of firearms by deer hunters on account of danger to forest life is in the opinion of the writer, absurd and unreasonable."

"We next consider the other reason specified in the statute as the building of fires. Of course, a camp fire may constitute a real menace. But is it more so by reason of being started by a hunter? What about the 'tin can' tourist or the neophyte fresh from the bright lights of Broadway? It is the opinion of the writer that the average hunter loves the great outdoors and appreciates the necessity of exercising care to preserve our magnificent forests."

A bit satirical perhaps, but quite logical. The truth is that the deer hunter is usually an experienced man in the woods. He is a lover of the great outdoors, a foe to

forest fire, and skilled in carrying property for his fire. This decision, it may be remarked, follows the lines of the conclusion of Governor Norblad last fall in refusing to postpone the opening of the deer hunting season.—Salem Statesman.

EXAMS FOR AUTO DRIVERS

Governor-elect Meier has joined with Secretary of State Hal Ross, the state automobile associations and other bodies in advocating an auto drivers' license law that requires physical and mental tests. The present license law is an absurdity as anyone having \$1.00 can secure a driver's license, regardless of qualifications.

Eleven states and the District of Columbia already have some such tests for drivers as that proposed for Oregon. A model license law forms part of the uniform vehicle code toward which the National Safety Council has been working. Its adoption by a majority, perhaps all of the states, is only a question of time.

Mr. Meier in his statement says: "The essence of this recommendation is that the candidate for a license under this law to be successful must pass an examination, both physical and mental. The statement that such a law would be valuable in reducing the number of automobile accidents cannot be questioned. Expert testimony, national and local, strongly indorses this plan. There are today hundreds of persons operating motor vehicles in this state who are mentally or physically unfit, or otherwise deficient in ability to operate a motor vehicle properly. The toll of lives taken by automobile accidents is increasing, and this problem must be vigorously dealt with and at once."

The legislature should have little difficulty, in view of the experience acquired by other states, in formulating such a law for Oregon and thereby helping reduce highway casualties.—Salem Capital-Journal.

RADIO SLANDER

Oregon now has no criminal slander law. Our next legislature is to be asked to enact one. Judge Kendall of Ridgway, Johnson & Kendall is preparing it on behalf of the Better Business Bureau. The bill elevates slander into the dignity of a crime, instead of leaving it beneath the notice of law, and provides that the utterance of slander over the radio is a crime, and that for a radio licensee knowingly to permit broadcasting slander is a crime.

Our experience with Duncan has taught a lesson. Other states will profit by that experience. The demand for radio slander laws is nationwide, as individuals with reputations worth protecting, be they personal reputations built up by a lifetime of decent citizenship, or commercial reputations built up by honest dealing, are realizing that these reputations may be virtually destroyed among the vast multitude who do not know the truth about those who are attacked over the radio.

Privilege of using radio for political purposes was abused by Duncan, who claimed protection for his slanders on the ground that he was a candidate for congress. A radio slander law would make it possible to punish this abuse. Thus even an upright public servant, or an upright candidate for public office, would be afforded protection from vicious falsehoods intended to reflect upon his personal character. If decent men are not given this protection, it will be increasingly difficult to get them to run for office.

A slander law, such as Judge Kendall is proposing, will make it unnecessary to have radio censorship—a danger to be avoided.—Oregon Voter.

NO CHANGE IN HIGHWAY WORK SEEN

(Continued From Page One)

Whereas, Lane county, and others who are acquainted with the road situation, have expressed themselves in favor of continuance of the present system.

The unanimity of views on the highway program, however, is not held on other major issues before the legislature, with senators emphasizing various tax programs, several particularly urging application of property tax offset. This issue will be fought out both in committee rooms and on the floor.

In this connection Senator Marks says he thinks a constitutional intangibles tax law should be enacted with a \$500 exemption and "offset against taxable income of any interest paid by the taxpayer." With this done, he says, the income tax, excise tax and intangible tax should be coordinated and retained to relieve the burden of taxation on real property.

Senator Woodward is also in favor of an intangibles tax, with an income tax, as voted by the electorate last November, and providing a property tax offset. Senator Mann favors both an intangible tax and income tax, hoping thus to relieve tax on real property.

Senator Marks, who will control the whip hand in the upper house, if present schedules are effected, said he did not expect to sponsor any bills. He added, however, that the "people of Oregon have spoken emphatically on the water power issue and control of utilities. Therefore, I think the legislature should develop a water power policy with the state with reasonable safeguards to protect the taxpayers of municipal power districts in order that such districts, when formed, may be operated successfully and that we may not have a repetition of the situation as irrigation districts."

Senator Mann says that if he had his way in the matter he would "ask for appropriations necessary for the operation of the state government and state institutions, and then adjourn." He declared himself opposed to any more laws, as "we are overburdened with laws now." He goes further in stating he is not in favor of issuing any new bonds, and is opposed to any new appropriations that "will make our tax burden heavier."

State pensions for the superannuated is humanity's answer to privation and the poorhouse," said Senator Woodward, but he does not concur entirely with the pension bill proposed by organized labor. He believes the age suggested in the measure, 65 minimum for pensioners, is too low, and would favor the age of 70 or more. He further believes the proposed \$10 is not sufficient if the pensioner has no place to make his home.

Senator Woodward stated he would study minutely the demands for appropriations, and oppose any that appear unwarranted. He is a staunch supporter of the public school system, and will work for the state loan of textbooks.

With but a few days remaining before the opening of the assembly, the list of proposed measures continues to grow, and policy bills are now coming to the fore. Legislators await with interest the program to be sponsored by the new administration, specializing in the meantime on reports of several bills already being drawn on the public service commission and water power issues.

Gold--In 1931

Gold may well be question of the Year in 1931. What heads of central banks all over the world are going to do about gold is just now their closest secret, the subject of earnest, secret conferences (Time, Dec. 1 and Dec. 15). Last week England's noted economist Viscount Abernethy, of Stoke d'Abernon, who was her Ambassador to Germany directly after the war, spoke up, as more active financiers cannot very well do.

Said he: "This depression is the stupidest and most gratuitous in history!"

All the existing essential circumstances "except monetary wisdom," he declared, favor a return to prosperity and well being. Gold is the thing about which 1930 was stupid, about which 1931 must be wise.

"The explanation of our anomalous situation," declared Lord d'Abernon, "is that the machinery

Governor Clement Moret of the Bank of France. Governor Bonaldo Stringher of the Bank of Italy. Governor Hisanaka Hijioka of the Bank of Japan.

Fortunately Al Capone is feeding the unemployed rather than giving them jobs.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

A mechanical robot at an exhibition suddenly "seemed to go mad and acted most crazily." Writes a correspondent. Possibly a screw loose somewhere.—London Opinion.

The president is reported to be alarmed at the movement for a special session. He wants to put off the projected cooperation of the democrats as long as possible.—Dallas News.

Geographers declare that New Guinea is really the paradise of the spoiled child. Some envious nations are always trying to take credit away from the United States.—Washington Star.

A southern professor has decided to leave his brain to his alma mater, possibly figuring that a good spare would do the undergraduate body no harm.—Boston Herald.

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