

Editorial Views and Discussions

WHAT'S BEHIND IT?

One of the most unusual political maneuvers to take place in the state of Oregon in recent years occurred this week when the Washington, D. C., office of Congressman Walter Pierce released the story found on page one of this issue telling of Pierce's proposing a bill to Congress to appropriate one-half million dollars to build a chlorate plant to utilize Bonneville power.

The announcement comes as the Pennsylvania Salt Manufacturing Company draws near the closing of the final papers for the construction of a plant for the same purpose in Cascade Locks. With this announcement they will no doubt hesitate, for what point would they have in building a new plant when they knew that the government might build another and go in competition with them?

In response to a telegram asking for particulars, word was received from the office of Representative Pierce yesterday afternoon by the Chronicle: "Government Chlorate plant will save farmers quarter million annually paying for itself in two years insuring weed control."

It is foolish to think that a congress that is rapidly turning Republican would consider placing the government in the chlorate business and likewise it is foolish to consider that the salt company would continue plans till the bill is either passed or defeated in Congress.

The Chronicle does not like the looks of this deal. Why of all times should Pierce release this story just the day before a meeting in the east that might have closed the deal and then take a trip to Mexico before even Administrator Ross could get in touch with him.

Oregon and the Northwest needs industry—not government-subsidized industry, either.

You haven't sold our community down the river by any chance, have you, Mr. Pierce?

WE CAN'T EAT SCENERY

Some persons show a reaction akin to horror at the idea recently expressed here favoring the halting of park development in the Columbia Gorge.

They hate to see the Columbia turned into a cog in the machinery of an industrial age. They prefer to leave it as the white elephant it has been for the past two decades—a barrier, rather than an aid to commerce.

In an age when human happiness depends on financial welfare, we see more beauty in well-stocked and well-equipped homes, filled with well-fed families than in a gorge devoid of all but scenic beauty.

True, we would bid a reluctant good-bye to the foliage and rocks near the shoreline which will be cut away when factories and water terminals are built, but we can see beauty in architectural designs of industrial buildings—more than in picnic tables and grounds littered with scraps of food and sandwich wrappers left for the forest service to clear away.

The entire gorge will certainly not be ruined by industrialization. We will still have Eagle Creek, Beacon Rock, Multnomah,

Horsetail, Wah-kee-na and other waterfalls, Oneonta, Sheppard's Dell, Crown Point and numerous other attractions. But even should they take them all away, there is Mt Hood, Lost Lake, Green Point, Wahtum Lake, Mt. Adams, Wind River and countless other attractions in the area for tourists and recreationists.

OF ALL COLORS!

We've had the "blues," been threatened by the "reds"; our future has been black, but 1939 is going to be yellow. And it seems this year that more motorists than usual have put on their new loud license plates ahead of time. The only motive we can think of for their so doing was the hope that the winter's driving might sooner splatter and corrode the offensive color of this year's tin markers above the bumpers of our automobiles.

Why, with all the colors of the spectrum, Oregon had to emulate California this year and choose yellow for the plates is beyond our comprehension. But yellow it is. And whatever else we may say about this color so often associated with lack of fortitude, the things do loom up.

The conservative colors of former years on Oregon's plates lent a certain dignity to this connection with the state, but now as we shade our eyes from the glare of the brilliant new paint, we will try to think of the more beautiful things associated with this shade. We will strive to recall a plate of butter, a patch of dandelions and highway stop signs, and try not to think of the usual yellow connections—yellow-jackets, yellow streaks in humans, yellow peril, yellow fever, yellow dogs, or yellow complexions.

THE FOREMOST HOLIDAY

Christmas. A season of cheer, of well-wishing, of unselfishness, of benevolence . . . when the motives of adults point toward the pleasure of children . . . when the thoughts of the wanderer turn toward the firesides of home . . . when people of means show more benevolence toward those whose efforts in material gain have been futile. It is a season of giving, a season of festivity, a season of bells, of song, of sparkling ornaments, of pageantry, of decoration.

While succeeding years see largely a re-enacting of displays and customs, Christmas doesn't grow old. Its traditions do not wane. Its spirit sees no decadence. Recent years in our own community have seen a growth rather than a decline in Christmas activity.

Though men may scoff at religion and be indifferent to churches, Christmas, the universal sacred day of an advanced civilization continues as the foremost holiday of the year. And though many men in a materialistic civilization, give little regard to religions, creeds, and church programs, at Christmas time they exemplify the philosophy of Him whose birth they commemorate in the regard they show for their fellow men.

PAYING—WITH WHAT?

The Morning Oregonian last week took Oregon counties to task for their general practise of underpaying school teachers. "The counties which have been the worst offenders should hasten to get into line, after which there should be a gradual rise in the entire wage structure," the Portland daily advises in an editorial entitled, "Stubborn Counties."

We are heartily in accord with bringing to light the fact that teachers are under-paid. We also believe that their salaries should be more in accord with their training, their qualifications, their personalities, and responsibilities than has been the case. We believe teachers should be remunerated on a scale similar to the income of those in other professions. However, we believe that the blame for low salaries in such Counties where teachers' pay is small should not be laid to the door of the counties in such times as these.

Great Rock of Gibraltar Is Not One Mile Across

Located pariously, as it might seem, on a spot of ground scarcely three miles long and three-quarters of a mile across at its greatest width, the rock of Gibraltar looks across the vitally important few miles of water which separate Spain from the African coast, notes Hugh Curran, writing in the Chicago Tribune. At its highest point it is 1,400 feet above the level of the surrounding sea. To the west lies the Atlantic. To the east is the Mediterranean. To the north, any hostile movement in the Spanish hinterland could be easily detected.

The elevated ground called the rock proper is just what its name indicates, solid rock—mostly limestone, varied by beds of red sandstone and shale. The city itself lies mostly on the flat ground at its base, with better-class residential buildings nestling at various points along the lower elevations.

The entire atmosphere of the place is essentially naval and military. Its history since the Eighth century of the Christian era is a continuous record of aggression and warlike activity.

In 1704 Britain's flag first was flown over Gibraltar. It was challenged several times in the succeeding years till 1713, when the fortress was definitely ceded to Britain by the peace of Utrecht. This was not the end, for in 1779 war was again declared and continued by the Spaniards until March 12, 1783, when peace was signed and the last or "great siege of Gibraltar" ended.

We Must Have Grasses

All early civilizations were based on special grasses. The whites based their lives on wheat; Orientals on rice; American Indians on maize, and Africans on sorghum. These are grasses, as are rye, barley, oats, sugarcane, bamboo and other valuable crops. Grasses contribute to the food of almost every human in the world, asserts a writer in the Washington Post. In the form of hay and pasture they are also the basis of the stock industry, from which comes most of our animal food.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE—Wood Circulating Heater, 22-in. firebox, walnut finish, excellent condition. Sale price, \$27.50. Half the original price. Delivered between Portland and Cascade Locks. E. L. Fugler, Roosevelt Inn, Bonneville. 12-19-38

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FOR SALE—Fine old Ludwig Piano upright. \$150. See Mrs. Oscar Hyde, Cascade Locks. 12-12-38

FOR SALE—One Superior, 21-enamel coal and wood range with coils. One Hotpoint electric, four heating unit range, fully automatic. Mrs. Joe Miller, Cascade Drug Co., Cascade Locks. 10-17-38

WANTED—By the staff of the Hood River County Sun, Ex. Fancy Delicious and Spitz apples. A 1-year subscription will be given for the first 10 persons to bring Ex. Fancy apples which they value at \$1.50.

FOR SALE—No. 1 old growth fir wood, 16-inch or any other length. Delivered anywhere; priced very reasonable. O. C. Kelzur, Phone 5596. 2-22-38

1000 CORDS DRY WOOD, delivered or at yard. Alf's Wood Yard, Hood River. j6tf

LOST—Black and white Lwallyn setter, weighs approx. 60 lbs., call Sun office. 12-14-38*

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THE BONNEVILLE DAM CHRONICLE

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JOHN H. TRAVIS, Editor

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