



"THE PAPER THAT HAS NO ENEMIES HAS NO FRIENDS."
—George Putnam.

'Moss-Backs' Scratch

Mark Twain is credited with having said, "Everyone talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it!" This great gentleman might have gone a little deeper on this subject of weather. He could have said that weather is so important that people just cannot help talking about it. People don't talk about the weather the way they're supposed to gossip about their neighbors. Fear isn't the reason we talk about weather. It isn't communistic, socialistic, Republican, or Democrat. It does produce changes in our hides, however. Oregon's weather is getting under the skins of the "Moss-backs". This long drouth has them scratching in puzzlement.

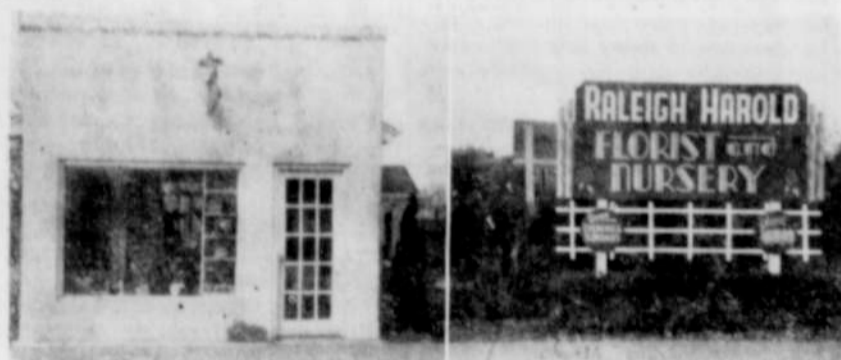
Twain was poking fun at our lack of means of reaching up into the sky and plucking out rain, wind and sunshine. This wit would be amazed at the progress man has made in doing something about the weather, specifically his mechanical means for creating "good" weather in homes and places of work. The weatherman's patient charting of storms and weather "fronts" has largely taken the surprise away from weather changes. Oregon's great outdoors has the tang of autumn now. All who enjoy this dry, sunshiny weather these days will long remember it. Fortunately Oregon has so many streams that bathtubs and green lawns are still in vogue. Moss-backs need not get too incrustated with scale.

The Key To November

Forest fires and politics have kicked our favorite subject, flying saucers, from the front pages. Don't let that fool you, however, they're still nosing around. New Zealand is all lathered up about them now. Since the atomic tests by England in that area "saucers" have been sighted. This tie-in of "atomic tests" and saucers has occurred time and again. Even the Soviets are losing sleep over these "things".

Flying saucers have been called by us, "conscience saucers". We have credited these unexplained doings as dealings with our so-called subconscious. It is possible that beings farther advanced than we are guiding us carefully towards peace. These beings may be in our midst; "saucer" sightings being merely their means of directing our natural curiosity. The motive for bringing peace on earth is obvious. Atomic power recklessly loosed upon the world reasonably could "poison" a goodly segment of the Universe and make it uninhabitable for life in forms as yet undiscovered by us. It gives pause for thought that our conduct is being molded intelligently by wise and good beings hovering about us.

Following this line of thought, we predict the election of the candidate for president who most intelligently will handle the problem of the atomic power of the United States and of the atom in the councils of the free nations of the world. Further, those Congressmen up for election, whose records reflect ignorance in atomic matters, will be defeated, of such are Senators Cain and Jenner.



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Editorial Comments

THOSE WILD PROMISES OF TAX CUTS

One of the great political myths of the current campaign is to the effect that the Republicans can make drastic cuts in federal expenditures, both civilian and military.

First General Eisenhower talked about a cut of \$40 billion. This proposal was too much even for Senator Taft, who promptly challenged it. Later, after the great reconciliation between Eisenhower and Taft, they agreed that a \$20 billion cut, in two \$10 billion bites, would be more like it.

This was promptly challenged by Governor Stevenson who, while boasting that he is tight-fisted with a tax dollar, is realistic enough to know that the United States will have to adjust its budgets to the world situation, no matter how attractive tax cuts may be. He therefore makes no wild promises.

The U. S. News and World Report (with its pro-Eisenhower editor, David Lawrence) takes some of the guff out of the Eisenhower-Taft promises.

"Taft-Eisenhower promise (note it puts Taft first) to cut spending from \$79 billion to \$70 billion, then to \$60 billion sound good, but may be difficult to fulfill. Cuts of that size, if made, will have to center in defense."

The magazine then estimates that \$3.4 billion might be cut out of the \$58 billion defense and foreign aid budget by drastic action. It then points out that drastic cuts in the \$21 billion non-defense budget appear very unlikely in light of Eisenhower's acceptance of the social security and farm aid programs and fixed costs such as veterans' aid and interest on national debt.

"Big spending by government seems here to stay, if defense is kept up," the U. S. News concludes.

There's quite a difference between the possibility of cutting \$3.4 billion from our national budget which the U. S. News thinks possible and the \$20 billion cuts Eisenhower and Taft are holding out.

One can only conclude that promises of tremendous cuts in federal expenses are for political purposes only. —From Oregon Journal.

WHEN TO VOTE 'YES' AND 'NO'

An attorney was once asked the secret of his success with juries.

"Well," he replied, "I tell the jurors what I'm going to tell them. Then I tell them. Then I tell them what I've told them. Then they come in with a verdict for my client."

But it is a tougher problem for those who are explaining the two truck bills on the November 4 ballot in Oregon.

More than a simple "yes" or "no" is called for.

One measure calls for a "yes" mark; the other demands a "no."

That is, unless Oregon voters want to wreck the state highway system and pay the share of taxes which should be paid by the long-haul truck lines. It's that serious!

In support of house bill 465, passed by the legislature but held up by the truckers' referendum, the voter should vote "yes." The ballot number is 318 X YES.

To defeat the so-called "equitable" tax measure which would handcuff the legislature from taxing the longhaul trucks fairly and "equitably," the voter must vote a resounding "no." The pencil must hit the line, 331 X NO.

The ballot marking will require intelligent action. Otherwise the voter

may confuse his "yes" and "no" penciling.

There is nothing for friends of Oregon's highway system to do but to tell the voter, then tell him again—and perhaps again:
Vote 318 X YES.
Vote 331 X NO.

And hope on November 4 the voter comes up with the proper marking on the ballot. We are confident he will.—From Oregon Journal.

THE NEWSPAPER SWING TO STEVENSON

Some of the nation's most distinguished and thoughtful newspapers are swinging to Gov. Stevenson. They are joining what Stevenson calls "the discriminating 10 per cent" of the press which is supporting the Democratic presidential ticket.

The Los Angeles Daily News announced for Stevenson recently. So did the Santa Barbara News and the three McClatchy newspapers, at Sacramento, Fresno and Modesto.

The Louisville Courier-Journal and Times went for Stevenson September 25. The New Orleans Item also hit the Stevenson trail. The Atlanta Journal, largest newspaper in the South, went for Stevenson the other day. The Atlanta Constitution had previously made the plunge.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch which has won more Pulitzer prizes than any other American newspaper made up its mind to go for Stevenson two weeks ago.

And in Oregon the nominally Republican but independent Medford Mail Tribune swung into the Stevenson column October 5 after being "deserted" by Eisenhower, its first choice against Senator Taft in pre-convention and convention days.

Robert W. Ruhl, Pulitzer prize-winning editor of the Mail Tribune, put it this way in a signed editorial:

"We believe those voters who don't want Taft reaction and isolationism, who don't believe in the McCarthy-Jenner doctrine of the 'big lie,' who don't want a change just for the sake of change regardless of the confusion and moral retrogression such a change would involve—we believe the people who feel this way should not vote for Eisenhower and Nixon, but for Stevenson and Sparkman.

"Above all we can see no reason why there should be talk about 'desertion' when the Mail Tribune never deserted Eisenhower, but Eisenhower deserted the Mail Tribune and all other independent and liberal voters of his party."

Again we say we are glad to have such distinguished company as the Medford Mail Tribune, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and the other great newspapers named above. We believe their swing to Stevenson is symptomatic of a trend to Stevenson and of general disillusionment with the Eisenhower campaign.—From Oregon Journal.

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The new location is 130 South Liberty Street, and the phone number is 4-3336. However, if you dial the Court Street number, 3-9123, and that store is closed, the call will be relayed.

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THE REPUBLICAN MESS

1921 -- 1933

And How The Democratic Party Cleaned Things Up

(This is the second of a series of articles contrasting the mess created in Washington by the Republican Party from 1921 to 1933 with the Democratic Party's achievements of the past 20 years.)

THE G.O.P. CRASH

Millions of present-day Americans were yet unborn in the black Republican year of 1929, and millions of others were too young in '29 to have any first-hand recollection today of the Great Crash. Those of us who were grown-up in those days remember plenty.

Under the Republicans we had had as Presidents, successively, the unfortunate fumbler Warren Gamaliel Harding with his "back to normalcy" and his Ohio Gang, the do-nothing "Silent Cal" Coolidge, and finally the "Great Engineer," Herbert Hoover, who was at the throttle when America tumbled into the greatest panic of all time.

We had been riding high for a few years. Especially those who played the market. It was the easiest thing in the world. All you had to do was scrape up a little money, buy stocks on margin, and watch them climb. Anybody who mentioned that the stocks weren't worth anything resembling their prices was marked down as a killjoy who was selling America short. Certainly Coolidge showed no worry. Professor Irving Fisher of Yale pontificated that the market had climbed to "what looks like a permanently high plateau."

A Resounding Crash

Just how wrong a professor can be was demonstrated on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange in October and November of 1929, when the "plateau" slid into an abyss with a resounding crash that was to reverberate for years in the farthest reaches of the world.

The bigwigs of Wall Street and of Republican Washington did all they could think of to check the disaster. New York bank presidents pooled millions to support the market. Hoover announced in October that "the fundamental business of the country" was "on a sound and prosperous basis." A few months later he said we had "turned the corner." And that shows how wrong a Republican President can be.

What Happened To Business

Here is what happened to business between 1929 and 1932:

Factory output was cut in half.

The total value of finished goods and services produced by American business fell 46 per cent from \$94 billion in 1929 to \$51 billion in 1932. Profits disappeared and corporations went into the red by \$3.4 billion in 1932.

Securities fell to one-fifth their 1929 values.

While business floundered, human beings suffered. One farm in four was sold for taxes. By 1933 there were 15 million unemployed. Breadlines, apple vendors, shantytowns called Hoovervilles, were the order of the day. Banks folded by the thousands, leaving depositors ruined. Building ceased. Andy Mellon, the "greatest Secretary of the Treasury since Alexander Hamilton," basked among his millions and his old masters, serene in the belief that the storm would eventually be ridden out and nobody would be hurt much but the people.

Herbert Hoover created the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to bail out, with loans, some of the hard-pressed banks, insurance companies, railroads and other enterprises. Three weeks after General Charles "Hell 'n' Maria" Dawes resigned as head of the RFC, his bank in Chicago pocketed a neat \$90 million loan from that agency. But Hoover resolutely opposed relief for the hungry and ill-clad.

Under the Sheriff's Hammer

In 1932 alone, 273,000 home owners lost their property through foreclosure. By early 1933 nearly a thousand homes a day were going under the sheriff's hammer.

Hoover pondered, and conferred, and declaimed, but aside from a few utterly inadequate steps such as creating the RFC and the Federal Home Loan Banks (which helped out financiers but did little for the people), there was scant action.

Small wonder that in November of 1932 the people voted to turn out of office the party that had presided over the worst mess in the history of the United States, and elevate to power a party and a President capable of decisive action to break the back of the Great Depression.

THE DEMOCRATIC RECOVERY

In the famous first Hundred Days of Franklin D. Roosevelt's administration—from March 4 to mid-June of 1933—American business got a series of shots in the arm that turned a fearful economic retreat into the beginning of an era of unexampled prosperity.

On that March 4, with every bank in the country closed, Roosevelt in his First Inaugural Address assured the nation that "plenty is at our doorstep" and pledged "action now." Five days later Congress, in special session, needed only four hours to pass the Administration's Emergency Banking Act, and in a few days those banks that had been found to be in safe condition began to reopen.

The Road Back

Roosevelt proposed, one after another, the Agricultural Adjustment Act, a vast program of direct relief, the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Public Works Administration, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Tennessee Valley Authority. He told the Home Owners Loan Corp. to slow down foreclosures. He took the United States off the gold standard, in a move to increase foreign trade and raise prices. He signed the act that provided for insuring all bank deposits up to \$5,000. And he called for creation of the National Recovery Administration, the famous "Blue Eagle" organization through which the late Gen. Hugh Johnson exhorted and cajoled the stagnating business community of America into some semblance of the vigor and enterprise that business had almost forgotten were its traditional hallmarks.

All these things were done in a hundred days.

The Great Depression was not, naturally, wiped out between March and June. But the tide was turned. Business, and people generally, got new help and new hope. And as the years passed, the tide of improvement became a tidal wave. There was, to be sure, a slight recession in late 1937 and early '38. But thereafter recovery carried American business, and the American people, to levels of well-being that had hardly been dreamed of.

Black Ink of Prosperity

Statistically may be dull, but the few that follow, written in the rich black ink of prosperity, have a peculiar eloquence:

By the end of 1951 the index of factory production was four times as high as in 1932—and more than double the previous peak reached in 1929.

The value of the goods and services produced by business, which was \$51 billion in 1932 (the equivalent of \$106 billion in average 1951 prices), is today in excess of \$290 billion—nearly three times as great in physical quantity as 20 years ago, and nearly double the peak business output of 1929.

In 1932 America produced 13.7 million tons of ingot steel. The rate nowadays is about 107 million tons a year.

In 1932 America produced less than 100 billion kilowatt hours of electric power. Today the output exceeds 450 billion.

Prophets of doom who foresaw a severe decline in business and industry after the war were confounded, and continue to be confounded, by the great changes today. People who wailed that the last frontiers of business had been exploited have seen brand-new industries, like television, become giants.

Businessmen's Complaint

Businessmen have complained, of course, about federal legislation designed to protect the public. They have not always been happy about the Public Utility Holding Company Act, or the anti-monopoly campaigns of the Department of Justice.

And they are not happy about taxes. Who is? But most sensible people recognize that as long as America must maintain its defenses against Russian imperialism, taxes cannot be light.

While businessmen may properly claim a lot of the credit for their own prosperity, all but the most diehard of Republicans must concede, when they think back to the dismal, defeatist days of the early 1930s, that a government run by Democrats lifted them out of profound trouble, started them on the way up, and continues to help them climb.