The Evening Herald

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OLCOTT AND THE GAME COMMISSION

The Oregonian so aptly and ably sums up the situation that has arisen over the Fish and Game Commission-Finley muddle, that The Herald reprints it with unreserved indorsement. The action of Governor Olcott has simply astounded his friends—friends who believed that he was able to handle a situation such as this without trouble and without listening to the demands of men who are a real menace to free government.

The Oregonian editorial follows:

The Oregonian confesses its complete inability to follow the many strange divagations of Governor Olcott's mind relative to the fish and game troubles. The masterly incompetence and consistent inconsistency with which he has handled the whole situation, growing out of the controversy over the Finley dismissal, are now to be enhanced by outright discharge of commissioners in whom Governor Olcott has publicly declared his confidence and whose action as to Finley was in part inspired by him and in its entirety approved by him. It is no soluation of the muddle; it aggravates it gravely and postpones the day when there may be reconciliation between the several factions among the sportsmen, and between the sportsmen and the commercial fishermen, or harmony and co-operation between all interests and the new commission or two new commissions.

The governor finds it necessary to give the public his assurance that his action has been long in contemplation and that it is not due to the Finley episode, but to the "squabblings and bickerings which in themselves have caused dissatisfaction, distrust and lack of confidence," and he proposes to "wipe the slate clean" and start anew. It is impossible to cacept this gratuitous guaranty at its face value, and not to regard his threatened action as another chapter of the continuing Finley story.

It is pertinent to ask the governor what he would have done if the commissioners as a whole had responded to his call upon them to reverse themselves, as he reversed himself, by agreeing to reinstate Mr. Finley? Would he have followed their meek compliance with an immediate announcement that a commission which was obedient to him in this matter, as it had been in all other matters, so far as the record shows, was unfit to hold office under him, and that they must get out? It would have been a strange performance—not much stranger, however, than the other performances of the governor in his distressful endeavor to extricate himself from an impossible situation at the expense of men who have been associated with him on terms of mutual confidence and trust in one of the important branches of the state's service. The Oregonian will not say less than that his newest project of weathering the strom by casting his four fellow officers overboard smacks of surrender and bad faith. It would like to say and think otherwise; but no candid survey of the case will permit it to do so.

Here is one of the remarkable paragraphs in the governor's sentence of his commission to a return to private life:

"I believe that the men on the commission are big enough and broad enough to see these things. I further believe if I called them in and submitted to them my belief that harmony cannot prevail while they the on the commission, they would resign, without hesitation, for the good of the service, and probably would be glad to do so. But to call them in now with such a proposition would be unfair to them and place them in a delicate position, which I would hesitate to do. Consequently I have decided to bear the brunt of this decision and announce openly my intentions that these men may be relieved of possible embarrassment."

The governor's idea of being fair to his commission is to fire them without giving them a chance to say anything to him in the way of protest. Thus he seeks to close the door upon an unpleasant and difficult affair by denying to the commission the right of a hearing. He has not communicated to them at any time an intimation of his solemn purpose, formed "some time ago," that "a new commission must be the eventual solution." On the contrary he has given many indications, public and private, of his satisfaction with the commission, shown in one instance by the prompt reappointment of a member whose term had expired. The present commission relieved Mr. Finley of his job without a hearing. It did not occur to the governor, until he had made the belated discovery that the procedure was creating dissatisfaction and criticism in various quarters, that it had the aspects of an unseemly proceeding and he then asked for reconsideration and reinstatement of the state biologist. In what respect does his own action differ from the commission's method as to Finley? If the one justifies a call for resignation of the commission—though we do not lose sight of the fact that the Governor says it has nothing to do with the case—what should be the penalty as to him in the other instance?

The fish and game controversy has exceeded the bounds of the Finley episode. It has given to the state a painful revelation of executive shilly-shally and retreat which will make it hard hereafter for Mr. Olcott to maintain an unimpaired position at the head of the state government. It awakens anew the question as to authority and its exercise by public officials and the duty of firm support, so long as it is exercised within proper limits, by higher constituted authority. It creates distrust as to the ability of any state commission to perform its functions faithfully, and with a sole view to the public interest, if a subordinate is likely at any time to be elevated over it. It forbodes a clash between the governor and the legislature at the coming special session, which will mar and color the entire course of legislation. It will renew and enlarge the feeling and desire that the people should have an opportunity to fill the office of governor at the next general election.

OREGON PINE IN DEMAND IN NEW ZEALAND

PORTLAND, Jan. 3.—Robert Bell, managing editor of the Lyttleton Times, New Zealand, who was in Portland several months in the interest of trade connections between the United States and his country, has published in his paper an article in which special reference is made to Oregon. No other of the Pecific Coast states received the mention accorded to Oregon. It follows:

"At Portland I found a great desire to extend trade relations with New Zealand. I was visited by the secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, who was anxious to know what class of goods would be most acceptable to our people. I told him that Oregon pine was one of the great requirements at the present time, because the dominion must inevitably launch upon a great building program to house the population properly. The building trade during the war had been suspended virtually but now that men were being repatriated and families were joining again, the makeshifts of war times must come to an end.

"Therefore, Oregon pine should be in great demand in New Zealand. I also told the secretary that paper also was needed to a large extent, and at certain seasons of the year New Zealand could take fruits and canned goods, while we could send in return dairy products, eggs and frozen meats."

Try 'em. Herald Want Ads.

OREGON BREVITIES

ASTORIA, Jan. 3.—One hundred gallons of old wine were confiscated by the Astoria police Monday afternoon when officers raided the quarters of Andrew Marincovich, 690 Commercial street.

BEND, Ore., Jan. 3.—Consummation of the deal for the transfer of nearly two sections of timber land in the Tumalo basin by the Huron Timber Company to the Shevlin-Hixon Company is announced. The consideration involved is said to be $56,527.50.

ROSEBURG, Ore., Jan. 3.—The Douglas county jail was depopulated Sunday night, about 11 o'clock, when the four inmates escaped after sawing their way out of the main cage and then dropping from a second-story window to the ground. All of the escaped prisoners but one were captured during the day.

ASTORIA, Jan. 3.——...The Clatsop county tax budget has been approved and totals $427,419.50. This is in addition to the state tax of $126,436.10 and the special taxes levied by the municipalities, road and school districts. The budget adopted empowers the county to purchase its own road-making plants. The budget appropriates $195,000 from the general county funds for roads.

PORTLAND, Jan. 3.—Union Pacific system main line trains have been detoured via Wallula anl Walla Walla between Umatilla and Pendleton, due to a washout at Stanfield, Ore., Wednesday. The trouble was caused by a flood following the chinook wind and thaw that were general over the Inland Empire section.

EUGENE, Ore., Jan. 3.—The Eugene branch of the Association of College Alumnae, an organization of nearly 100 resident college women representing colleges and universities in all parts of the United States, met here and went on record as approving and indorsing a plan which the women of the country hope ultimately will bring down the cost of living.

The plan approved is one worked out after a conference of representatives of the 12 leading national women's organizations, of which the college alumnae is one, called the savings division of the treasury department. It involves a definite plan of saving and avoiding the purchase of unnecessary or unreasonably high-priced goods.

HOOD RIVER, Ore., Jan. 3.—A number of activities are being arranged here by University of Oregon students to raise the county's quota toward completing the Women's building. Wilbur Hoyt, Selman Gassoway and Miss Jessie Lewis are in charge.

HOOD RIVER, Ore., Jan. 3.—It is announced by members of the Hood River Anti-Asiatic Association that a measure is in course of preparation for submission under the initiative at the next general election, prohibiting the holding of lands by Asiatics in Oregon.

SALEM, Ore., Jan. 3.—Attorney-General Brown today entered upon the task of preparing a legislative bill providing for the issuance and sale of state bonds in the sum of $5,0000,000 for road construction work in Oregon. The bill will come up for consideration at the special session of the legislature in January, and is said to have the support of practically all members of both houses.

SALEM, Ore., Jan. 3.—Because of the dissatisfaction expressed by consumers with regard to rates charged by the Douglas County Water & Light Company, a movement is on foot at Roseburg to vote bonds in the sum of approximately $600,000 with which to install a municipal plant, according to Claude Cannon, ice manufacturer of that city, who was in Salem conferring with members of the Oregon Public Service Commission.

BEND, Ore., Jan. 3.—Alleged liquor taken from alleged inebriates in Bend is of so villainous a quality that no officials have been found who are willing to test it in order to testify as to its alcoholic contents, and in consequence no convictions have been obtained out of the last four arrests, City Judge Peoples explained.

SALEM, Ore., Jan. 3.—Mrs. E. G. Clark, of Salem, is in a hospital here tonight suffering from a broken collar bone and other injuries as the result of being thrown from an automobile driven by her husband, which collided wth another machine manned by J. W. Neville, of Portland.

ORINDALE NOTES

The year of 1920 is here and we welcome it as we never saw finer weather for this time of year.

H. A. Talbot and family of Plevna and Grandpa and Grandma Rutherford spent New Years' with Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Hurd and family.

Geo. Agers gave a community dance New Years' Eve. A large crowd attended and all reported a very enjoyable time.

R. V. Ess has been having a very severe cold and cough, but is improving.

The Heavilin Bros. are digging the well deeper on the Grandpa Hunt place, where the boys are living.

Geo. Heavilin has been on the sick list the last few days with a severe cold.

J. Frank Adams has been moving a large band of cattle from the Upper Lake country to his ranch in the Merrill districts. He has been feeding them a day or two near Orindale.

SMALLPOX CASE HERE.

Charles E. Malone, a recent arrival from Seattle and Portland, is isolated in the local pestt-house, Dr. A. A. Scule, city physician, having diagnosed the case as small-pox. The physician entertains no fear that the disease will be spread here. Malone had an Elk's card with him. Charles Willard, who has had the disease, is in charge of the patient.

The hostess is served first at a Mexican table.

AT THE THEATERS

"Some folks get a great deal of excitement from picking up a poker hand to see what they have drawn, but for me, the real pleasure in life is in trying out new climbing and jumping stunts just to see what will happen to me." This is how Douglas Fairbanks says he feels when he was questioned about some of the reckless stunts he does in his next production, "When the Clouds Roll By," whcih will be shown at the Liberty Theater on Sunday.

While Doug was waiting in the studio for some lighting effects to be worked out in one of the sets, he climbed to the top of one of the studio buildings and jumped some thirty feet into a hedge fence that bordered the lot.

"How did you know that the hedge would break your fall," he was asked.

"I didn't know whether it would or not, that's the reason I jumped."

The biggest feature attraction next week will be "Checkers," which comes to the Liberty for a three-day run. Some idea of the popularity of this picture may be had when the Liberty arranges for a three-day run and this was not decided upon until Mr. Poole saw the picture in San Francisco, and he immediately arranged for another day's run as the limited seating capacity of the Liberty will not be sufficient to handle the audience in two days. "Checkers" comes to the Liberty on Thursday afternoon and will complete its run on Saturday night.

RELIEF CORPS TO MEET

The regular meeting of the Relief Corps will be held Monday night, Jan. 5th, for the purpose of installing officers. An entertainment will be provided and all members are requested to be present.—By the President.

REBEKAHS MEETING.

There will be practice of the Rebekah Lodge Wednesday night, Jan. 7th, and a special meeting on Jan. 8th for the purpose of installing officers. All officers are requested to be present.

By Order of the D. P.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TOWARD RE-CONSTRUCTION.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—The first move of the American government to aid financially in the reconstruction of Europe came today when the War Finance corporation announced it had practically completed four loans, aggregating $17,000, to manufacturing exporters.

A grain of strychnine will embitter 600,000 grains of water.