

The Evening Herald

HERALD PUBLISHING COMPANY, Publishers
 PRANK JENKINS, Editor
 MALCOLM EPLEY, Managing Editor
 Published every afternoon except Sunday by The Herald Publishing Company at 104-122 South Fifth Street, Klamath Falls, Oregon.
 Entered as second class matter at the postoffice of Klamath Falls, Ore. on August 10, 1916, under act of Congress, March 3, 1879.
 MAIL RATES PAYABLE IN ADVANCE
 By Mail: In County \$1.75, Outside County \$1.75
 Three Months \$5.25, Six Months \$9.75, One Year \$18.00
 Delivered by Carrier in City: One Month \$1.00, Three Months \$2.75, Six Months \$5.00, One Year \$9.00
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A Bad Start

HARDLY had Mayor Mahoney's senatorial candidacy been announced before it received a sharp setback by the Hogan letter episode at Portland. It was the sort of thing that is bound to undermine the confidence of substantial people, whether they be Townsends or not, and the probable effect of the incident on Townsends is what is going to go hardest with the mayor's hopes.

It can be said to Mayor Mahoney's credit that he admitted the authenticity of the letter, and by inference, the note that went with it to Hogan. The evidence, however, would have been hard to refute.

What Mayor Mahoney says about his early espousal of the Townsend movement is true. It checks with our recollection that he was talking it back in late 1934. Always quick in politics, the mayor sensed at that early time that Townsendism would be a factor in the 1936 elections, and it might give him a chance to recoup the unhappy losses of early 1934. Hogan denies the mayor's explanation of the circumstances in which the letter was written, but our inclination is to believe Mahoney on that.

It does not, however, make much difference. The letter, the postmarked envelope, and particularly the note that went with them, advising Hogan to finger-mark the missive and carry it around in his pocket, obviously for reasons of DECEIT, are embarrassing and damaging evidence. They bear out the widely heard charge that Mayor Willis is an insincere politician and an opportunist. The most of this will be made by his opponents in the Townsend ranks, where he must have support in his campaign against a man of Senator McNary's superior calibre and fine record.

Was There Good Reason?

GOVERNOR Hoffman said, "I am granting a reprieve for divers reasons which I do not care to disclose at this time."

It certainly is to be hoped that his reasons are good ones. Otherwise Governor Hoffman's decision can be regarded as an act of cruelty by prolonging Bruno Hauptmann's death-house agony, and an outstanding example of useless delay at a time when delay is widely discrediting America's system of criminal justice.

Governor Hoffman has been acting as if he had something up his sleeve. Possibly he has. Possibly it is something that justifies staying execution to facilitate developments that would not be possible after Hauptmann's death.

If that is not the case, the reprieve was an indefensible error on his part.

Relief Facts Jolt

IT would be well for Klamath county people—taxpayers and relief clients, particularly—to get the full significance of the statements made here this week by Elmer Goudy, state relief chief.

Klamath county is expected, henceforth, to provide half of whatever funds are made available for direct relief. Taxpayers may as well realize that, definitely, half of that burden is directly on their shoulders. The state will match whatever is provided locally, but NO MORE.

Another thing that should be fully understood is that the Klamath county relief agency is no longer handing work relief. Persons that apply for direct relief are applying as county poor. They are asking for county poor aid.

These are views of the present relief set-up that should be fixed firmly and clearly fixed.

Ten Years Ago

In Klamath

ADVANCE guard of the troop of film folk who will act in the picture "Crashing Timbers" arrived last night from Los Angeles to prepare scenes and settings for the actors who are scheduled to arrive next Saturday night.

City schools in Klamath Falls reopened this morning after an extended Christmas vacation, made necessary by a sporadic epidemic of spinal meningitis. In the city school, approximately 12 per cent of the total enrollment was absent, and at Klamath county high school eight per cent of the student body failed to answer to roll call.

Adolph's Observations

WHEN I lived in St. Louis I used to have my laundry done by an old Chinaman who kept a place close to our home. This was a most friendly fellow but he was awful independent. I used to complain once in a while just to hear him rave and he always ended with, "You no like my style, so long."

There was always a slip on top of the laundry bundle with a lot of goofy marks on it and I asked him one day, "Is this my name on here?" He advised me that it wasn't my name, just a description. I finally persuaded him to read

Some People Say

It is only the money-changer and his industrialist servants who are crying out against effective, beneficial regulation of business by a central and authoritative government.—Rev. Charles E. Coughlin, Detroit.

It is not the economist's job to re-elect or defeat President Roosevelt. Neither is it his job to defend outworn practices which operate to the general welfare.—Henry A. Wallace, secretary of agriculture.

New Year's resolutions? I am going to try to resolve to have more time to think.—Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.

There wouldn't be anybody in the world who would have anything but the man over 60. Well, I guess I'd be O. K. at that.—Alfred E. Smith, commenting on Townsend plan.

We've got to see that our flag is not prostituted—used by bootleggers of munitions and arms runners to cover up their dealings.—Maj.-Gen. Smedley D. Butler.

The relief which we expected from the repeal of prohibition has not materialized.—Sanford Bates, federal prison director.

WASHINGTON

NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

The Inside Story From The Capital

By PAUL MALLON
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WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.—Murmurs from government are some times more interesting than announcements. Consider these:

The new deal may offset Al Smith's speech at the Liberty league dinner by having the independent republican, Senator Johnson of California, announced for President Roosevelt about that time. The idea is that California is a big state, too. The top man also has a plan to surround Senator Glass on the new deal federal reserve board appointment. Other democratic senators now are holding secret meetings to agree on a state of boardmen. Mr. Roosevelt will choose from their recommendation. They will not, therefore, care to oppose their own men, and Senator Glass will be left alone in his opposition to Governor Eccles. It is a good plan whether or not it works.

Mr. Roosevelt's stop in Newark this Saturday is only secondarily for the announced purpose of conferring with the national security council. The primary purpose is to give a little boost to Mayor (boss of New Jersey) Hague. . . . Political woodwinds are screaming that Al Smith will run for the senate and Senator Copeland will resign and run for mayor. That is an old one. A lot of people would like to see the switch, but no one has taken the matter up with the principals. Prof. Douglas of Yale is a good bet for the vacancy on the securities and exchange commission. His report on the bankruptcy protective bond racket has created a lot of attention in that field. There is some talk of the Pacific coast candidate, Shaugnessy, but it is hoarse.

Two doctors from Johns Hopkins hospital in Baltimore are supposed to have visited an eminent statesman here recently for medical treatment about a month ago. But no one can prove that.

Speaking of NRA, nine government charwomen get 50 cents an hour and 295 get 59 cents. The average salary is \$765 a year. . . . Mr. Roosevelt will go south for his usual winter fishing trip about the middle of March, but probably not on the Nourmahal this year. The time depends on congress, but the yacht may depend on the campaign. Advisers are telling him to make it the new coast guard cutter this year. It has been put at his disposal and is being refitted. The advisers believe this is as good a time as any to get away from the annual Astor yacht fishing soiree. He may have Astor as his guest on the coast guard cutter. . . . Incidentally, the name of the coast guard cutter has been changed from Electra (a goddess of vengeance) and now is known as the Potomac. That is more placid.

Comptroller of Currency O'Connor would not refuse the postmaster generalship, if offered. In fact, his friends are beating the outlying bushes for support, which will be insufficient. . . . Religion is a personal rather than a public matter, but even agnostics cannot help tittering about the ambitious Catholic sub-net dealer who made a speech before a foremost Methodist institution in Texas not long ago and sent around printed copies of his speech only to all Methodist and Baptist clergymen throughout the country. . . . A certain well known republican presidential candidate is astonishing his big financial guests by serving at luncheon a soup four inches deep. The financiers do not know what to do with it, but they eat it and like it.

The veterans' bureau is still paying out about \$140,000 a year in pensions for the Mexican war, in which both Lee and Grant served as boys. The pension bill for the Indian wars of the same era now runs about \$3,500,000 a year. . . . The new farm plan was not exactly a spontaneous decision of the farm leaders who assembled here to connive it. The plan was drawn by two of Agriculture Secretary Wallace's assistants, who framed the original bill, which is now unconstitutional. . . . Oh, for the life of a senator. They were in session exactly five hours and 26 minutes in the first two weeks of the new session of congress. The extent of their daily meetings: January 3, 20 minutes; January 6, 50 minutes; January 9, 140 minutes; January 12, 86 minutes. All other days were off-days. . . . The wife of a non-partisan Washington newsman appears on the payroll of a partisan national committee for \$100 a month.

An erroneous story is being circulated about the supreme

court appointing a press agent. The duties of the court press contact man are purely non-political and non-interpretative. He handles no publicity and merely finds standing room in the court for newsmen. He was appointed reluctantly by the court after repeated requests from newsmen.

The 1937 budget for the secret service is being increased to provide three times as many employees at headquarters (221), and twice as many in the field (254). The cost of the secret service is being increased from \$208,826 to \$726,575. Its duties are to detect counterfeiting and protect the president. . . . An ace Washington legal contact man, Adolph Baria, has been sent out as assistant to Republican Western Campaign Director Spangler. . . . The treasury is going to throw away more than twice as many things next year. Its allowance waste baskets is being increased from \$1,300 a year to \$4,000.

There is nothing surprising about this, for Mahoney has been running for office of some kind or other, ever since his recent arrival in Oregon, and is always for anything that seemed popular, from free power for nothing to the return of the saloon. If the chain letter craze had retained its force, he would have made the race on it.

The Townsend clubs and their pressure politics offer too inviting a field for the cheap politicians to overlook, and so there is a stampede of pie-seekers hoping to ride into office by utilizing their organizations, for both the dimes and the plums.

"Mahoney's whole wind-bag record is devoid of achievement, will seek to defeat Senator McNary, who for 18 years has faithfully represented Oregon in the senate and ranks not only as one of the most influential members of the upper house, but among the best representatives the state ever had, with a long record of accomplishments." McNary is fortunate to have such an irresponsible opponent.

Says the Eugene Register Guard, independent:

"Typical of the political freebooters who have chosen for the moment to fly the popular Townsend flag is Klamath's Willis Mahoney, who hopes by that device to change his inconspicuous and (presumably) non-profitable job as Klamath's mayor for the senatorial toga and \$10,000 a year salary of Oregon's senior senator, Charles L. McNary. Typical also of the unprincipled shysters who infect all political parties were those so-called democrats who applauded the scheming Mahoney at the Jackson day dinner in Portland while hoping Portland's mayor, Joe Carson, for venturing a few sensible criticisms of Rooseveltian extravagance.

"Any old handwagon is now and always has been the motto of the political scavengers who make their living out of political activities, but not for long do they fool many people. The prohibition handwagon carried an overload of 'em while the going was good. They jumped like rats when the going got rocky. It is not likely that a great many of the sincere and earnest people in the Townsend movement in Oregon will accept the glib Mahoney without some very pointed questions as to his sincerity. Neither his performance as mayor of Klamath nor as a candidate for the democratic nomination for governor have done much to establish confidence in the gentleman.

"The Townsend people are interested primarily in the success of their pension movement and not in the political fortunes of opportunists. While more votes in congress is a necessary objective, they are not likely to be indiscriminate in their selections. For the state to lose the able and honest representation of McNary for the quackery of a Mahoney would be a disaster. Is Mahoney still a democrat? Or is he a member of the new Townsend party? Or is he trying to do a 'Roman ride' on two parties?"

Telling the Editor

Klamath Falls, Ore.—(To the Editor): It is not our wish to engage in a personal quarrel with Mr. Mortensen. However, his attack in a recent article leaves us no choice except a reply in self defense. He charges us with unfairness, but it seems to us that we have been more than fair with the Townsends. Again and again we tried to get a date set for a debate, and always received evasive answers until after our article was published. This article was already in the paper when Mortensen finally agreed to a debate on the 29th, because I bought a paper containing the article just after I left his meat market on the day the date was set. We published the article hoping that another authorized Townsend speaker would come to Mortensen's aid and debate with him against us, because we thought two debaters to a team would give both sides a chance to present the issue in its entirety.

Mr. Mortensen wants to know why we haven't been putting the facts to explode the Townsend theory before the public. We have been doing all in our power to do this very thing, as article after article in the papers last summer prove, and as our continual efforts to secure debates surely prove. Our efforts have necessarily been limited because of a lack of funds. However, it seems that Mr. Mortensen is going to make it the new coast guard cutter this year. It has been put at his disposal and is being refitted. The advisers believe this is as good a time as any to get away from the annual Astor yacht fishing soiree. He may have Astor as his guest on the coast guard cutter. . . . Incidentally, the name of the coast guard cutter has been changed from Electra (a goddess of vengeance) and now is known as the Potomac. That is more placid.

As for our presenting a plan to take the place of the Townsend theory, we consider that unnecessary. If we show that a course of action is going to do more harm than good, is going to place a great burden on the people, need we present another theory to take its place? If we saw a man about to commit suicide, need we solve his troubles for him before preventing him from committing suicide? To pass the Townsend plan is to commit economic suicide, and the result will be suffering for all, from the least to the greatest, and the least will suffer most.

As for Mortensen's statements that anyone opposing the plan is heartless and that only a few "low-down men and women" are against it, we positively state that some of the people who are known the country over as champions of the common people are against the plan. Among them are William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, Senator Norris, Edwin A. R. Seligman, professor of economics at Columbia university, and scores of other notables. We suggest that if Townsends could read anything besides the Townsend Weekly they would find plenty of sound arguments against the plan.

GEORGE LEWIS,
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What State Dailies Have to Say on Mahoney

For the benefit of readers who do not have opportunity to see all the daily papers of Oregon, here-with is a synopsis of editorial comment on the senatorial candidacy of Mayor Willis Mahoney, and some remarks touching on the recent Mahoney-Hogan letter affair.

This from the Salem Capital-Journal, democratic—

"Willis E. Mahoney, mayor of Klamath Falls, at the 'Jackson club' banquet at Portland Saturday evening, announced his candidacy for democratic nomination as United States senator on a Townsend old age pension and a spoils system platform.

"There is nothing surprising about this, for Mahoney has been running for office of some kind or other, ever since his recent arrival in Oregon, and is always for anything that seemed popular, from free power for nothing to the return of the saloon. If the chain letter craze had retained its force, he would have made the race on it.

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Says Kelly Lee, Portland labor leader, in his magazine of opinion, "Everybody's Business":

"Mahoney's leap into the political pool may prove somewhat embarrassing to both the Townsend group and the democratic party. Rev. S. C. Williams' attack on Mahoney, and Young Metaphysical Russell was sensation in Townsend circles a month ago. Enough was disclosed in that incident to cause many Townsends to view Mahoney with suspicion. The bold demand by the Klamath mayor that the Townsend scheme be a democratic plank is interpreted as an attempt to bludgeon the Townsend forces into getting behind Mahoney for senator.

"A large bloc of Townsends,

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"The Righteous Government

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SIDE GLANCES—by George Clark



"This is the only entrance?"

convention in session in New York Saturday adopted a motion to the effect that "Father Divine" is God. Father Divine is a shriveled little negro who has been stirring up the religious fanatics in Harlem for the past year. They now declare he is in fact God. Now if this idea could be inculcated into any large number of Oregon voters, we have no doubt that Mayor Mahoney of Klamath Falls would endorse the idea and put it into his platform.

The Morning Oregonian of Portland enlarges the situation in which it discovers the democratic Oregon Journal:

"Our local democrats, as represented by the Jackson club, plunge in with a whoop for Mayor Mahoney of Klamath Falls for United States senator from Oregon, on a platform whose cardinal plank is support of the Townsend plan. And some among those same Jacksonians hoo the name of our own Mayor Carson because, forsooth, he called a spade a spade in a speech denouncing government extravagance. Plainly, our local democrats are going places—and what places!

"The endorsement of Mayor Mahoney, in the circumstances under which it was given, can hardly be regarded otherwise than as a party endorsement of the Townsend plan. One supposes that our chief journalistic prophet of democracy here in Portland must have been consulted before so momentous an action was taken. The public will look with confidence now for the Journal's endorsement both of Mr. Mahoney and the Townsend plan.

"Mayor Mahoney is a very personable, magnetic young man with plenty of political 'it' and the ways of political opportunism are not unknown to him. He has already announced with finality that Senator McNary is foredoomed to defeat by himself. Already, in the young mayor's view, all is over except the formalities of the campaign and the shouting. Well, anyway, some of us will wait to wait and see before we shout."

Says the Register Guard of Eugene on the Hogan letter:

"Not entirely surprising to those who have watched the political evolution of the gentlemen is the published correspondence between the eminent Willis Mahoney of Klamath Falls and Russell Hogan of Multnomah county, 'in re' Townsend plan. It appears that the Klamath mayor who announced his candidacy for the United States senate together with a ringing challenge to democracy to

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