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A Sucker Era

WHEN the history of these troubled times comes to be written—if a historian can be found who has the strength for the job—one of its verdicts probably will be that this was the blossoming time and the mid-summer heyday of the great American sucker.

Evidence to support that verdict is swathing all over the landscape. It makes the newspapers bulky and crowds the ads out of the magazines. But the keystone of the arch and the cap on the monument of it all is undoubtedly the Drake case.

This famous swindle has been aired in the courts and the newspapers over and over again. A city slicker ventured into the midwest some years ago announcing that the estate of Sir Francis Drake, Queen Elizabeth's famous old freebooter, had passed down through his male descendants and had grown prodigiously with the years.

Today, he said, it comprised practically all London and was worth untold billions; and he, the slicker, had the heirs under his thumb and was about to arrange a settlement of the estate; and all who contributed a dollar or so to defray the expenses would get their money back a thousandfold.

THAT anyone outside of an asylum would even listen to such a yarn is hardly credible. But the suckers came forward in droves and platoons to hand over their money to the slicker. No one knows how much he collected and had grown prodigiously with the years.

Uncle Sam's men finally caught up with the slicker and sent him to prison for 10 years. But did that stop the racket? Verily, it went on in a bigger way than ever.

People in poorhouses kicked in with their dimes and quarters; public meetings were held in small towns all up and down the Mississippi valley; the tale grew, until the suckers were told that not only was London included in the Drake estate, but all of America as well.

It was the pending settlement of the estate, it was said, that forced England and America off the gold standard.

It would be hard to think of a dizzier swindle than this. If ever a yarn had "pipe dream" written on its face, this is it.

Yet with the promoter of the affair actually doing time in a federal prison, and with every statement of fact blown sky-high, the thing is still alive; more, the suckers are still kicking in, and dreaming of cruel international plots whenever they are reminded that the law is trying to step on the scheme.

If hundreds of thousands of people can be found to believe such a yarn as this, and to sink good money into it, need we wonder that some odd political panaceas occasionally are taken, hook, line and sinker, by the electorate?

Fellowship of Prayer

For the Lenten Season, 1936
(These morning devotional thoughts by Raymond C. Brooks, D. D., on the theme "Building a Christian World" are furnished by the Federal Council of Churches of Jesus Christ in America, and locally presented by the Ministerial Association. They will appear each day through Lent.)

FRIDAY, February 28: "Trans- formed by the renewing of your minds."

What, then, hinders the building of a better world? To locate the enemy, to get the measure of his strength, to know the nature of his tactics is half the battle. We can locate the enemy. He has several names but they all belong to the same family. His names are Ignorance, Greed, Hate and Fear. We know his tactics; we dare not underestimate his strength. We know,

FT. KLAMATH

PORT KLAMATH, Ore.—Mrs. H. B. Loosley returned by stage to Fort Klamath Tuesday from Montague, Calif., where she has been with her mother, Mrs. Hes- sis, who has been ill for some time. On the same evening as her arrival home, Mrs. Loosley received word that her mother was not expected to live, and she immediately left again for Montague, making the return trip by car with E. K. Loosley of Klamath Falls.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wimer and children were Tuesday evening dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wilber McFar- ling at Modoc Point, the party going on to Klamath Falls later in the evening to attend the wrestling matches in the armory. Word has been received here by Guss Page that his father, E. Adrian Page, local barber, has had to have two toes amputated. Page is a patient at a Stockton hospital. His son and wife, Mr. and Mrs. William Page, are at present visiting Mrs. Page's relatives in the California city.

WASHINGTON

NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

The Inside Story From The Capital

By PAUL MALLON
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WASHINGTON, Feb. 28. — If there is anything you do not understand about Washington developments of the day, just consider that this is a campaign year. Nine times out of ten that will give you the right answer. Every four years the primary problem of government is the election, but this year the problem is developing more priority and primitivity than usual.

It is the motivating power which animates all.

OPPORTUNITY?
You will never find a more evenly balanced example than the inside events leading up to President Roosevelt's yes-and-no veto of the seed loan bill.

The White House spread the word among congressional leaders several days before that Mr. Roosevelt was going to crack down on such expenditures. Not only would he veto the \$350,000,000 idea, but he would use the bill to promote the economizing line upon which he has been quietly working. It was a good opportunity because even the congressional leaders last year thought the seed loan policy was so bad that they promised it would never happen again. It puts the government in the very uneconomical position of handing seeds to the farmers with one hand while also paying him to curtail his production with the other.

COMPROMISE

Soon there came to the White House on a trot no less a respected political authority than Senate Leader Robinson. He worked out a compromise whereby he would get his seeds and Mr. Roosevelt his budget. The president could veto the \$50,000,000 bill, and then spend whatever money was necessary for seed loans out of left-overs from the 1935 appropriations. That was done. Even a president cannot do what he would like to in a campaign year.

Shrewd and capable Mr. Robinson figured that one out fast. He worked out a compromise whereby he would get his seeds and Mr. Roosevelt his budget. The president could veto the \$50,000,000 bill, and then spend whatever money was necessary for seed loans out of left-overs from the 1935 appropriations. That was done. Even a president cannot do what he would like to in a campaign year.

BACK-FIRE

The technical inner aspects of General Hagoood's removal have the same political background, but developed an entirely different twist.

A certain well known anti-New Deal promotion agency was itching to use Hagoood's reference to WPA "stage money" at the time it was made. The agency decided not to on the ground that it would not have been effective. It was filed away for future reference.

It did not rest long in the file before Hagoood was removed from command. That made it entirely different material from a publicity standpoint. The free speech angle alone lifted it out of the realm of minor misde- means. Everyone able to read has now heard about it.

Thus, whatever the merits of the disciplinary action, it became a major publicity blunder. Even New Deal publicity men are now bemoaning it as such a private. They are wondering who was responsible. They probably never will find out.

CONSULTATIONS

Mr. Roosevelt has been having unadvertised political conferences during the past few weeks. Many a legislator and prominent citizen who comes in to the executive mansion on other business is asked to tarry for political consultation. When visitors emerge, they announce the prime object of their business, but not the political aftermath.

A recent example was Senator Wheeler. He had a long talk with the chief executive, and published reports said that railroad legislation was discussed. It was, but that was only one-tenth of it.

Most of the legislators who have been called in for these sub-rosa political consultations have been westerners.

PREPAREDNESS

Britain has a way of keeping her military secrets secret, but one has slipped across the seas via diplomatic channels. If you happened to be on the quay at Alexandria, Egypt, these days, you would see proof of it in the harbor. Extensive dredg- ing operations are under way.

It was not revealed at the time, but when Britain sent its warships into Alexandria at the height of the Italian tension, it was found the harbor would not hold them. The overflow had to be dispatched to Haifa.

Also there was no reserve ammunition available at Alexan- dria then for the sixteen-inch guns of Britain's mightiest dreadnaughts, the Rodney and Nelson. If those two ships had used the ammunition they car- ried, they would have been at the mercy of the Italian fleet. That situation also has been remedied.

SIDE GLANCES—by George Clark



"You'll get used to it, honey. It's years since I've been conscious of your father's music."

Telling the Editor

MORE ON TOWNSEND

ALGOMA, Ore.—(To the Editor)—In defending a principle closely related to the Townsend movement a great American patriot said, "I tell you frankly it is a new and untrod path, but I tell you with equal frankness, than an unprecedented condition calls for the trial of new means, etc., etc."

The same controlled press that jeers sarcastically at the lovable map who made the above state- ment, jeers with equal sarcasm at the millions of Americans who are in this forward rush down untrod paths to lead their government. The amazing increase in mem- bership in Townsend clubs indi- cates that there are millions of young people enlisting in this patriotic uprising destined to drive the proverbial wolf back into the wilderness and to wrench control of their government from income-tax dodging buccaners.

First, the west flocked to the movement by the millions, then the middle west doubled that achievement, and now the east is out-distancing the middle west in membership drives.

Yet we meet people with sheets of incorrectly compiled data and figures, valued more because of the source from which they came, than their correctness, arguing against the Townsend plan. If such figures disproved this plan it would have faded into mere memory long ago.

Vision to see the necessity and opportunity for relief from tyrann- y gave us our original thirteen colonies—though figuring it mathematically it could not be done because of the tyrant's over- whelming advantage in great ships and armies.

Vision to see the necessity and opportunity for recovery from poverty and unemployment via the Townsend plan will give us the speedy relief we must have. Figuring it mathematically, it can be done, and figuring the mem- bership mathematically it will be done.

In relation to the Townsend movement some people are going to be like Farmer Brown's mule, and others are going to be like the Missourian that joined an over- powering band of gorilla rebels during the civil war. Farmer Brown's mule braced his feet and balked at being led across the highway into a field of better grass. Finally, by pulling and cutting he was forced across; and then was heard to say: "Ain't I glad we crossed that road!"

When the Missourian was asked why he joined the band of gorilla rebels, he replied: "When you can't lick 'em, join 'em."

The Townsend club organized in Algoma in December with a membership of 22, has recently in- creased its membership to 80. There were 83 votes cast during the recent election in Algoma. Thanks for the space, Mr. Editor.

B. Z. SMITH,
President Algoma Townsend Club No. 1.

QUICK STRENGTH

Merrill, Ore.—(To the Editor): I have noticed two letters in your paper recently in regard to the rural sanitation program of the government. A row of humble structures in front of the exhibit building at the fair grounds shows that the plan is at least taking concrete form—WPA project 10901. I believe it is called.

solution. The seven-year educa- tional scoring work of the college was commended.

Officers elected included: Pres- ident, E. H. Christensen of Eugene; vice president, Paul Jones of Sheridan; secretary, E. G. Wil- ster of Corvallis; treasurer, E. L. Conley of Portland. Included on the board of directors were Frank Hettwer of Mt. Angel, Frank Moser of Corvallis, J. C. Poole and H. C. Hutton of Portland, and Percy Murray of Klamath Falls, retiring president.

First place winners in judging included: Butter, Ed Hesser of Albany; cream, Roy T. Thomsen of Eugene; ice cream, Richard Trout of Portland; women's butter judging, Mrs. E. D. Conley of Portland; women's ice cream judging Mrs. H. P. C. Nelson of Corvallis.

Sessions closed Thursday.

ST. HELENS, Feb. 28. (AP)—The time "when a farmer was just a farmer" is over, George A. Nelson told the Columbia county agricultural conference.

"The farmer is a business man, and if he is to succeed he must adopt business methods," Nelson said. He is county agent and chairman of the parley in session today.

ASTORIA, Feb. 28. (AP)—M. R. Chessman notified officials here that the proposed quarantine sta- tion at Hammond is included in the list of 16 projects approved by the United States public health service. Chessman is representing the Columbia River Defense league at Washington, D. C.

PORTLAND, Feb. 28. (AP)—Debt-distressed farmers should lay their cases before county debt adjustment committees, Walter A. Duffy, regional director of the re- settlement administration, said today. He promised "a confiden- tial hearing and all possible help toward a satisfactory solution."

PORTLAND, Feb. 28. (AP)—The navy department turned down a bill providing for the develop- ment of a naval base at Tongue Point at the mouth of the Colum- bia river, the Oregonian's Wash- ington correspondent said.

LA GRANDE, Feb. 28. (AP)—The La Grande school board re- elected teachers for 1936 with the provision they must present sat- isfactory health certificates. The health program was made a per- manent part of the board's policy for all teachers.

EUGENE, Feb. 28. (AP)—Prob- ability that Eugene will vote on the question to include the police department under civil service loomed today. The city attorney was instructed to draw up a resolu- tion for vote at the city pri- mary. The fire department was voted under civil service at the January ballot.

It is unlawful for anyone to wear white shoes in Tibet, be- cause to do so is deemed bad luck.

If a watch is wound faithfully, the balance wheel travels approx- imately 4,000 miles every year.

Sues Financier for \$100,000



Charging that Frederick H. Price, Boston financier, didn't keep alleged promise to pay her \$100,000 for world rights to her autobiography and to make good losses she says she sus- tained on investments which, she declares, he recommended, Florence Walton, above, war- time Broadway star, is suing him for \$100,000. She is a former wife and partner of Maurice, noted dancer, who died in 1927.

Editorials on News

(Continued From Page One)

the bay) there are about 800,000 people. Their beautiful opera house holds about 8,000, and if they can fill it for a good musical event they do fairly well.

"In San Francisco, you see, only one in 100 is interested in good music, as against one in TEN in Klamath Falls."

Not so bad, is it?

ONE more word here about this Kiwanis chorus concert. It's going to be GOOD.

Jim Stephens is directing it, and Jim is not only a great mus- ical himself (he is a former grand opera singer) but he has that in- tangible something that makes men leaders, enabling him to pull out of those fellows he is working with (who, as Dr. Johnson says, would probably blush to the roots of their hair if accused of being musicians) more than they really knew they had in them.

They've been working like beavers at practice for months, and they're getting so good that listening to them does something to you inside. (Again quoting Dr. Johnson, who has been a per- sistent listener at practice periods and who admits that as a mus-

can he be just one of those who "know what they like.")

IF YOU MISS this concert, you're going to miss something that will add materially to the "plea- sure of living, and by staying away you'll FAIL by just that much to encourage these fellows (hard-working business men, all of them) who are doing their part to show the world that Klamath Falls has everything that any other good town has.

Ten Years Ago
In Klamath

WASHINGTON, D. C., (AP)—The people of Oregon and Cali- fornia should decide on the ques- tion of the restoration of Lower Klamath lake on the border of those states for use as a bird re- serve, said officials of the biologi- cal survey yesterday. Any ac- tion of reclamation is said by survey authorities to be dependent upon the alteration of contracts now existing between the drainage district and the reclamation serv- ice. This can best be done through the intervention of inter- ested parties not in the govern- ment service.

With local news scarce as hen's teeth and not even a moonshiner being arrested, it developed upon the Herald this afternoon to take matters into its own hands and provide the thrill.

Hence at 1:10 the local fire department was called with the information that the Herald press room was ablaze. In something less than one minute flat, a stream of chemicals had complete- ly extinguished the blaze.

Cause of the conflagration was found to be a short circuit in an electric heater left constantly go- ing beneath the press.

Damage was confined to the composition ink rollers on the press and will amount to about \$100, covered by insurance.

Hero of Blizzard Dies of Pneumonia

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Feb. 28. (AP)—George De Land, 43-year-old bus driver, died today of pneu- monia—the indirect result, phys- icians said, of his successful fight to save seven snowbound children from the blizzard which swept New York state ten days ago.

His bus mired in huge drifts near Turkey Hollow a week ago Tuesday, with all the children three or four miles from their homes.

After hours of toil, De Land got the bus clear and drove the children home.

The next day his arms and legs were paralyzed. Dr. Herbert Sperry of Williamson said neuritis was the cause.

PINE TREE
Gone Forever
AFTER SATURDAY
Like Betty
"PETRIFIED FOREST"
DICK FORAN
LARRY GRADY

PINE TREE
Coming Sunday
THE MAN WHO WROTE THIS STORY WENT TO JAIL—rather than betray the source of his secret information on the "policy" racket!

PINE TREE
From the story by MARTIN MOONEY who defied the underworld to get the TRUE Facts!

PINE TREE
Now Playing
HE CRAVED Adventure AND LOVE ROMANCE!
CHARLES STARRETT
GAILLANT Defender
NEWS ACT COMEDY
JOAN PERRY
A Comedy Picture

PINE TREE
WITH Franchot TONE Madge EVANS
Meta Goldwyn Mayer PICTURE

LAST TIMES TODAY!
DOLORES DEL RIO - WARREN WILLIAM
"THE WIDOW FROM MONTE CARLO"

Start TOMORROW
★★★★★
EVERYTHING A GOOD SHOW SHOULD HAVE INCLUDING CHARLIE RUGGLES!

ANYTHING GOES
with BING CROSBY Ethel MERMAN Charlie Ruggles
A Paramount Picture

ANYTHING GOES
with BING CROSBY Ethel MERMAN Charlie Ruggles
A Paramount Picture
COLOR CARTOON — NEWS — SPORT
DAILY 2-7-9 — CONTINUOUS SUNDAY
PELICAN