

Herald and News

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Separate Issues

A FACT about city issues on the November 3 ballot that may not be fully understood is that the charter proposal and the park board change are unrelated proposals. They do fit into a general move toward centralization of authority and responsibility, but they did not spring from the same sources and either one may be passed and the other defeated without causing inconvenience or confusion.

Long before there was talk of a new city charter, some local citizens became interested in the peculiar set-up of the park board, wherein the board members are appointed for life by the circuit judge. Inasmuch as this provision is made in state law, the matter was called to the attention of Klamath legislators at the time of the 1941 session. It was before the legislative committee of the Klamath chamber of commerce two or three years ago.

Hence the suggestion of a change in the park board set-up did not begin with the more recent movement for the adoption of a new charter. This writer, for one, has long regarded the park board appointive set-up as peculiar and deserving of change, but the idea of a new charter when it started in the city council was entirely new to him.

The park board proposal is to abolish the park board as now constituted and transfer its responsibilities to the mayor and council. The presumption is that the mayor and council will adopt an ordinance setting up a park board appointive by the mayor and with limited terms. No doubt the interested members of the old board will be considered for appointment on the new one. If this is done, we believe that an amendment to the charter—either the new one or the old one—should be offered at the next election, setting up the park board in the charter.

Two Minor Measures

ONE measure on the November ballot which has received little attention is a proposed amendment which would give the legislature authority to regulate the forfeiture of voting privileges of persons who have been convicted of felonies.

At present, there is a constitutional provision which denies the voting privilege to any person convicted in Oregon of a crime punishable by imprisonment in the penitentiary. It is now proposed to adopt an amendment which will make it possible for the legislature (or the people) to determine what provisions shall be made regarding this voting forfeiture.

The legislature has passed this question on to the people, the favorable argument in the voters pamphlet being written by Dorothy McCullough Lee, Multnomah state senator. The main favorable argument is that once a convicted person has paid his debt to society, there is no just reason why he should not exercise the normal rights of citizenship, and his rehabilitation will be encouraged if that is possible. Those against the measure argue it is just another instance of the coddling of criminals.

Another measure on the ballot that has been little discussed is an amendment which would repeal the constitutional provision for a rural credits loan fund. The main purpose here is to clear the constitution and the state records of an outmoded set-up which was established about 1916 to provide state loans to farmers. Since then, various federal agencies have been established to provide rural credit of this nature, and the state fund is not needed. This amendment would make it possible to eliminate the fund by paying the outstanding bonds and transferring what is left to the irreducible school fund. It is a sensible proposal and should be voted.

Suspend Vandalism

THE danger of property damage on Halloween night which cannot be replaced because of wartime restrictions on materials, labor, etc., has aroused real concern here, and it is suggested that parents see to it their youngsters avoid such operations this Halloween.

A favorite act of vandalism of past years has been the deflation of automobile tires, and in some cases here tires have been seriously damaged on Halloween eve. Destruction of anything made of rubber or metal should be strictly taboo this year.

It would be a good thing if vandalism and rowdiness, tolerated in the past on Halloween, were not only suspended for the duration but for all time.

Save Those Feathers

WILD ducks and geese of the Klamath country can and should provide feathers for many cold weather garments, aviation suits and sleeping bags for our armed forces.

Local hunters and hunters' wives will, we know, be glad to save feathers for this purpose if they know they will be collected and used. The Izaak Walton league's local chapter is making plans for collecting feathers, or having them deposited in some central storage place.

Local people are asked to dry-pick the birds and put the feathers away for safe keeping.

Claude Ferguson Really Celebrated An Anniversary

It was an anniversary for Claude M. Ferguson, Klamath Falls man, and he made the most of it.

Ferguson, who has been associated with the Great Northern railroad for 11 years, was to leave late Friday for Portland to

enter officers' training for the U. S. army. Twenty-five years ago to the day, Ferguson enlisted for service in the World war.

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NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

WASHINGTON, Oct. 30—Economic Stabilizer Jimmy Byrnes stabilized an important un-noticed wrinkle out of Mr. Roosevelt's executive order on the \$25,000 salary limitation.

Mr. Roosevelt's order directed that salaries be limited to \$25,000 "after payment of taxes allocable to the sum in excess of \$25,000." This would really have cut the maximum allowable national salary to \$15,000, as the taxpayer would have been required to pay on the average around \$10,035 (married with no dependents) in taxes on his \$25,000.

But the Byrnes regulations came forth with some legalistic mumbo jumbo which seems to mean different. It says:

"No amount of salary . . . shall be paid . . . after reduction by federal income taxes on the amount of such salary, would exceed \$25,000."

This means, according to official interpreters, that the taxpayer will get \$25,000 net.

In truth, instead of limiting his actual salary to that figure, it means that on an average about \$67,000 can be paid to the individual—a horse of a different color than has been painted in the announcements and headlines.

OLD-LINE PROCEDURE

The navy has followed old line procedure on the transfer of Admiral Ghormley and his fleet command from the Pacific. No explanation has been offered beyond the bare announcement of orders.

Stories are being told among congressmen that the three cruisers lost there were not wide awake, and that this circumstance caused the decision to transfer Ghormley shortly thereafter, although the decision was not announced until now. The cruisers, however, were lost the night of August 8-9 in the opening of offensive operations, the first landing of the marines, and it is hard to believe they could have been asleep.

The date of Ghormley's orders has not been given, but it is understood to be much more recent than the cruiser sinkings. Apparently, it came a few weeks ago, following the far more costly sinking of the aircraft carrier Wasp, which was caught by a submarine in a manner not fully explained.

Ordinarily, dispositions of destroyers and air scouts from an aircraft carrier are supposed to protect her, and generally do, but this one got in three torpedoes.

Another of our aircraft carriers was also hit, and no claim has been made that either of the Jap submarines was sunk.

The change in Pacific commands may be more fully explained when the details of these losses are made public.

TIGHTEN THE SPOT

AFL is supposed to be working up a report against buffeted Maritime Commission Chairman Emory Land, which will tighten the spot into which he is being pushed by union labor groups.

Ostensibly, this new drive against Land is being predicated on the suggestion, made in a New York speech, that union labor organizers during this war should be shot at sunrise, or something approximating that. The suggestion was obvious hyperbole, as Land did not draw a pistol, and no serious movement to shoot anyone has yet been started.

The roots of AFL resentment against Land, however, run back into the closing of the Higgins yards in New Orleans and the

SIDE GLANCES



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"With Tony gone, the war's wrecked me—there are no young fellows left who would flock here for the other chair, and the wives of my older customers now make them shave themselves."

"Defensive Idea" Must Be Dropped From American Production, Says Kaiser

BOSTON, Oct. 30 (AP)—Henry J. Kaiser, the west coast mass production shipbuilder, told hundreds of industrialists last night that people cannot sit on the lid of progress and that "if they do they will be blown to pieces."

Declaring that "the defensive idea" must be dropped from production, he told a conference of the Associated Industries of Massachusetts that he had found from his own experiences that:

"The old shipyards have not exactly agreed with the new shipyards; the old cement industry did its utmost to keep out the new; the old steel industry has resisted innovation and expansion; the airplane industry has not exactly welcomed the suggestion that things might be bigger and better—all of this is understandable."

"But no man can sing 'America' with a clear conscience who lets these factors influence his enterprise."

Telling of his own ventures

into the construction or operation of air cargo ships, shipyards, chemical, magnesium, steel and sand plants, among others, Kaiser declared:

"In each instance I went into industries which I felt to be at least partially outmoded, where I felt that the introduction of modern methods would serve the war purposes of the nation."

"In very few instances did the owners and managers of the outmoded plants either offer to do the job themselves or cooperate with us in doing it; and, I repeat that American business and industry, caught by the war at the end of a period of political misfortune, have had difficulty in realizing that the days of caution and self-defense are over."

Joseph C. Grew, former ambassador to Japan, describing Japan's intensive mobilization for war and power, told the meeting that any belief that "her successive adventures have weakened Japan's actual or potential strength" were wishful thinking.

Willkie Convinced That Allied Lands Will Hold

NEW YORK, Oct. 30 (AP)—Wendell L. Willkie says that after his world tour he is convinced that Germany can never take Russia and that the Japanese can never take the United States.

The 1940 republican candidate for the presidency addressed a "March of Time" audience last night over the National Broadcasting company's nationwide network, supplementing his recent report to the nation.

"Before I visited Russia," said Willkie, "it was almost unbelievable to me that any people could stand up under the constant punishment that has been inflicted upon the Russian people by the armies of Germany."

Willkie told how he spent the most of one day on the Russian

front and had fired incessant questions at a young lieutenant general, finally inquiring how big a front he was defending.

"I'm not defending anything," Willkie said the general replied. "I am attacking!"

"That is symbolic of the spirit of Russia," Willkie said, "and that is why I am just as sure the Germans will never take Russia as I am that the Japanese will never take the United States, even if they penetrate to a point where Denver becomes our Stalingrad."

Guernsey Herd To Be Auctioned

SILVERTON, Oct. 30 (AP)—The herd of 73 Guernsey cattle, started 25 years ago by the late E. A. Rhoten, once editor of the Pacific Homestead, like many other Willamette valley herds, will be sold at auction. Mrs. E. A. Rhoten, Salem, owner, said the sale was set for November 5.

"I tried to keep the herd together," she said, "and it doesn't seem right to split it up now, but I can't help conditions." She said she was unable to get help.

Telling The Editor

Letters printed here must not be more than 100 words in length, must be written legibly on ONE SIDE of the paper only, and must be signed. Contributions following these rules, are warmly welcome.

CARNAHAN ON CHARTER

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. (To the Editor)—The city of Klamath Falls has placed upon the ballot for the approval or rejection of the people, first, a measure to abolish the park board as created under the Act of 1899, and vest jurisdiction over the same in the mayor and city council, and, second, to repeal the charter enacted March 10, 1913, and enact a new one in its place.

Judge Kuykendall, in a letter published in the Herald and News of October 27, has leveled some bitter and, as the writer thinks, unfair criticism against the city for having the hard-ship to give the people a chance to vote upon these measures. He does not think that the people should be given this opportunity.

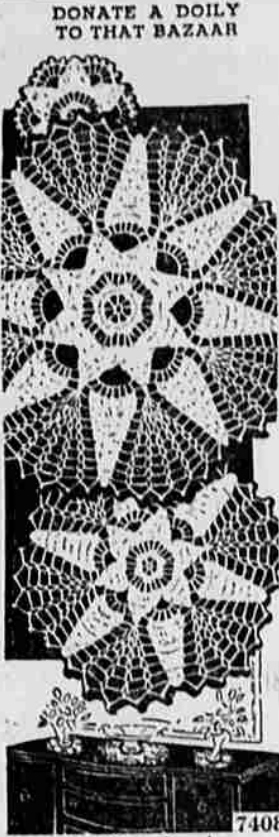
The city is not particularly fathering either of these measures but so many citizens had requested that the park board, as now constituted, be abolished and that it come under the jurisdiction and control of the city, and that the old charter, with its archaic provisions, should be repealed and a modern, up-to-date charter adopted, and this demand was so persistent and great, that the mayor and council did not feel that they could longer refuse to place these measures on the ballot for the people to do with as they see fit.

The learned lawyer likens the action of the city administration in placing these measures before the voters, to the actions of the yellow, stealthy Japs in their surprise attack on Pearl Harbor.

The members of the park board, as now constituted, are appointed by the circuit judge FOR LIFE. No new blood can be put on the park board until one of the five appointed members dies, although one or more of them may seldom attend a park board meeting or take any interest in park board matters. Furthermore, some of our circuit judges have not even owned real property in Klamath Falls, so why should the circuit judge, rather than the mayor and city council have the right to appoint the park board members? It is not in accordance with the principles or spirit of American democracy for which we are fighting a huge, bloody war. The city levies taxes for and raises every cent of money that is devoted to the upkeep of the city parks, so why should the spending of the money and the running of the parks be vested in a board appointed by the circuit judge who does not even have to be a resident of Klamath Falls?

Anything that is here said is not intended as criticism of any of the members of our present efficient park board. The attorney in his article also says that any property could be purchased from any city official at any price, and any city fund, including the bond sinking fund, could be used to pay for it. Evidently he has omitted to read the malfeasance in office law and other laws of this state which make it a criminal offense for the council or any city official to do just what Judge Kuykendall says the council or the city officials could do under the new charter.

Judge Kuykendall seems to assume that the mayor and common council would run the parks, and he says they have so many other duties they could not efficiently do this, but this is no true as they would themselves appoint a park board the same as they have appointed the airport board and the like, who would, in turn, run the parks. None of the dire consequences predicted by Judge Kuykendall has resulted from the appointment of the airport board by the mayor and council. It, too, has operated rather efficiently, if we



7408

by Alice Brooks

"Round and round you go—crocheting in string or finer cotton. Soon you'll have these attractive star design doilies ready to beautify your buffet or luncheon table or to serve as Christmas gifts. Pattern 7408 contains instructions for making doilies; materials needed; illustrations of doilies and stitches.

To obtain this pattern send 11 cents in coin to The Herald and News, Household Arts Dept., Klamath Falls. Do not send this picture, but keep it and the number for reference. Be sure to wrap coin securely, as a loose coin often slips out of the envelope. Requests for patterns should read, "Send pattern No. followed by your name and address."

know what we here talk about.

United States Attorney General Biddle has advised the American people, including the state, city and county governments, to carry on our local government the same, in all respects, as they did before the war started. There is no reason, therefore, for the city and park board failing to function the same as if there was no war insofar as the internal system of government of the city and park board is concerned.

Judge Kuykendall does not think the jurisdiction over the park board should be vested in the city council because it changes every so often, but all of the councilmen are not elected at the same time, thus leaving at all times some old heads on the council who can prevent it from running away in unwise actions.

The city has no ulterior or corrupt motives in the submission of the new charter and the park board measure, which the honorable judge ascribes to it, but the city, in presenting the new charter, which has been approved by a charter committee of very able and honorable persons in this city, and the park board measure, is merely responding to the wishes of the people.

If the people do not want to change the charter or park board, I am sure every city official will be entirely satisfied, but the people should have the right to make the choice.

Yours sincerely,
J. H. CARNAHAN
City Attorney

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EXPERTS DIG INTO SALARY REGULATIONS

By KENNETH L. DIXON
WASHINGTON, Oct. 30 (AP)

A hand-picked crew of treasury experts today dug into the job of drafting detailed salary stabilization regulations, the broad outline of which now indicates that the only unorganized white collar workers definitely doomed to go raiseless for the duration are those earning more than \$25,000 a year net income.

Except for deductions of federal income taxes, customary charitable contributions, life insurance premiums and fixed obligations, the annual take of the boys in the upper brackets was firmly pegged at the \$25,000 figure.

Raise Not Precluded
But the treasury's interpretation of economic Director James F. Byrnes's salary regulations made it a vastly different story for the big majority of folk who earn less than that each year.

In the long list of unorganized executive, administrative and professional people who receive less than \$5000, plus those of all classes between \$5000 and \$25,000, treasury spokesmen said there was scarcely a situation which absolutely precluded the possibility of a raise.

Catch
While the treasury version of the Byrnes regulations had no bearing on the war labor board's responsibility, which includes all wages and many salaries up to \$5000, some observers felt this interpretation might also be true in those brackets.

However, the catch in the overall picture was the obvious fact that while these raises still will be possible they will be a lot less probable under the stabilization program.

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