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RAY D. FISHER, Editor and Publisher

A SAD CONFESSION

Beer of moderate alcoholic content may have its advantages as a revenue measure, and as a substitute for vile bootleg and high-powered home brew, but all will not be suds, pretzels and innocent joy if necessary regulatory measures resolved upon are to evaporate into the spring sunshine.

Already there are indications in some places of the danger of the same break down of respect for law and order that was charged against prohibition. In Astoria, for example, the beer ordinance specifies that licenses should not be granted persons who are not citizens, persons who have previous records of liquor violation convictions, and only to persons of good moral character. The Astorian-Budget, in reporting the council meeting for Monday, stated, "To make the matter right the council has granted four or five licenses to persons with previous convictions for liquor law violations; to at least one non-citizen;" and also to proprietors of several rooming houses of ill repute. Concerning the latter places the chief of police commented that there was no law to prevent them from possessing beer, and that they would sell it anyway, with no way of proving sale on part of the police except by "hiring a flock of stool pigeons."

Thus it goes—a resolve to curb the sale of liquor is followed by a feeling that liquor will be sold anyway, and then comes permission to do that which the authorities feel themselves powerless to prevent. It is a sad confession that government makes when it decrees itself impotent to do that which it believes it ought to do. If a city government—in Astoria or anywhere else—has no respect for itself, how can it expect others to have respect for it?

Beer regulations (or any other for that matter) if wisely conceived should be enforced. If unwisely conceived they should be amended, and lived up to as revised.

The desire of technical experts to go to the land of the Soviets and show the Russians how to accomplish their five-year plans will likely not be so keen for awhile, for whether or not the accused and convicted Britons were guilty as charged, the foreign mind cannot banish the suspicion that the Russian secret police are apt to smell sabotage and spying where none exist, and so-called confessions are extorted by threat and persecution.

Now is the day for getting rid of those tin cans, old auto tires, bottles. Put them where Earl Smith and his crew can conveniently pick them up—and burn up the trash.

RECKLESS AND DRUNKEN DRIVERS TO BE CLOSELY SCRUTINIZED SAYS HOSS

Reckless and drunken automobile drivers will be under closer scrutiny of state officials after June 9, as a result of changes made by the state legislature in the operators' code, reports Hal E. Hoss, secretary of state.

Every person convicted of operating a motor vehicle because of incompetency, driving while intoxicated, recklessness and hit and run drivers, regardless of the court having jurisdiction in the matter, will be reported immediately to the secretary of state for appropriate action in the matter of license suspensions or revocations, changes in the law require. These citations of traffic violations are required from all Oregon courts, which will include courts in every city and town. Previously only justice courts, district courts and circuit courts

were required to forward the information.

"The fact that each municipal judge, or city recorder, is forced to make a report of all serious traffic violations upon which convictions have been recorded, will practically double the effectiveness of the curb on outlaw operators," explained Secretary Hoss. "Many serious traffic violations have come under the jurisdiction of these courts and the convicted drivers have continued to operate their automobiles because the state was unaware of the fact and could not suspend or revoke the operator's license. The new law will eliminate that condition," Hoss said.

An additional help to the enforcement of the suspension or revocation of drivers licenses is the new provision in the law requiring each convicting magistrate to immediately take up the license of those found guilty of serious offenses and forward the cards to the state department.

The Forest Grove National Bank

"The Roll of Honor Bank"

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Coordination of Relief Is Plan

(St. Helens Sentinel-Mist) Representatives of all organizations are to meet Monday afternoon at 2:30 in the city council chamber of the city hall for the purpose of formulating plans for relief work in St. Helens.

This course of action was decided after a meeting held Tuesday afternoon which was addressed by Judd Greenman, of Vernonia, chairman of the county relief committee appointed by Governor Meier. In the course of his talk, Mr. Greenman stated that St. Helens is the only major community in Columbia county which does not have any organized bureau to care for those in need. The care of the poor in St. Helens has been handled through the city and county and there has resulted some duplication of relief given, it was pointed out.

Organization Necessary
Under the present method of caring for relief, according to Greenman, unless St. Helens has an organization it will not be possible to secure any portion of the funds provided through the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. The method now being used is for each locality, through the local organization, to investigate applicants for relief, then when they are found to be worthy, to provide work for which pay in groceries will be made.

The relief applicant is paid at the rate of \$2.00 per day, but payment is made through some store where no cash is handled between the applicant and the merchant. The applicant has a requisition for an amount of groceries and the grocer is paid by

What Other Editors . . . Think . . .

What's all this hooey about getting off the gold standard? Most of us have never succeeded in getting on yet.—Dufur Dispatch.

Begins to look as though the new deal is making business shuffle along a little faster. —Rainier Review.

One good thing brought out through the act to reduce veterans' benefits has been the announced determination on the part of veterans to carefully watch governmental expenditures to eliminate every possible waste. With such an objective millions of veterans may accomplish much in the way of economy.—Hillsboro Argus.

Items gleaned here and there in the news columns indicate a slight pick-up in the lumber business. Olympic peninsula camps and mills closed for a long period are opening one by one. The Benson Timber company up the Columbia has the largest crew in the woods that has been operated by the concern for years. It will take much more progress to bring the industry to anything resembling normal conditions, but every little bit helps.—Astorian-Budget.

The hardest part of making good is doing it all over again every day.

We Need Such Industries . . .

There are two facts concerning the electric utilities, entirely aside from any question of service or rates, that should receive wide public attention.

These facts are: The gas and electric utilities of the country give direct employment, with a payroll totaling \$600,000,000 a year, to about 500,000 workers, and provide indirect employment for thousands more.

For every customer receiving electric service, the industry pays in taxes \$8.60 a year, and for customers receiving manufactured and natural gas service it pays \$4.23 and \$4.66, respectively.

Perhaps no other major industries are so dependable in the matters of employment and taxation. We have passed through three

years of unprecedented economic disorder and business disorganization—but the utility payrolls have been maintained far above the average. This is due, of course, to their nature. A certain standard of service must be provided whether business is good or bad. Too, we have become so accustomed to freely using electricity and gas that these are among the last things we conserve on. As a result, the utilities have been able to maintain remarkable stability.

This means a great deal to the nation. If there were more such industries, our depression would have been a great deal less severe. Those who would destroy the industry, or cripple it with excessively stringent laws, should think the problem over again carefully. Stable employers and taxpayers are easier to eliminate than to create.

Oregon Gas and Electric Co.

622 Bridge Street Telephone 691

Lumber to Have Long Way to Go

(Oregon Voter)

When lumber starts up, it will have a long way to go. Production in 1932, some 9,000,000,000 feet, was about the same as it was in pre-civil-war days after the panic of 1857; half of what was after the panic of 1873, one-third of what it was after the panic of 1893, one-fifth of what it was in 1929 and a little over half of what it was in 1931.

Oregon lumber production is now where it was 20 years ago, but during that 20 years mill capacity has been increased stupendously, chiefly by construction of fine new mills by southern lumbermen, partly by adaptations of mosquito equipment to numerous jitney operations. In 1929, Oregon lumber production established a new peak by exceeding the 1926 peak production of 4,454,735 thousand feet.

In Washington and California, it is necessary to go back to 30 years ago to find production figures comparable with those of the present time. In the southern field, production has dropped back to what it was 40 years ago. Minnesota and Wisconsin are producing less lumber than they did before the civil war.

All these figures portend tremendous future increases in Oregon lumber production as the market recovers.

Ten Years Ago . . .

Vernonia Eagle, April 20, 1923.

Clarence Reed's restaurant was damaged by fire of mysterious origin Saturday night. The walls were burnt and much stock was injured by fire, smoke and water.

The 200 acres of the O.-A. mill site have been cleared, and the trees, logs, stumps and trash have been piled into many huge piles. Sunday evening some of these were set ablaze.

John Bryan was sick for several days this week and unable to attend to business.

Weaver Clark assures us that he has received the machinery for his laundry and will have it in running order by the middle of next week.

J. W. Rose's new residence is receiving a coat of paint.

A new marshal was appointed by the council Monday night in the person of Mr. Abbott. A peti-

Among Our Neighbors . .

(Oregon Voter)

A fight over retention of Supt. H. B. Ferrin of the St. Helens schools developed at the session of the directors April 10. About 100 persons, most of them Ferrin supporters, were in the audience, and there is reported to have been some disorder until a member of the board suddenly moved adjournment.

At a second meeting of the board the following Thursday decision was made to combine the offices of city superintendent and high school principal and to reduce salaries. Grade school teachers will be offered a minimum of \$90 a month and high school teachers \$110, with contracts for eight months.

State Policeman Paul Parsons who has been stationed at St. Helens, has been transferred to Bend.

Clatskanie grange now meets in the hall recently vacated by the Masons.

Forest Grove held its eighth annual daffodil show Friday and Saturday of last week.

Beginning April 22 approximately 750 pieces of land in Washington county will be sold by the sheriff for taxes, penalty and interest for 1920 to 1924, inclusive.

The Hazlewood has installed a draught beer fountain.

Fir Passes Pine
For the first year in the history of lumber of America, production

tion signed by 175 voters asked that cows be kept from running at large, and the council voted to pass such an ordinance.

The 56 room bunk house on the O.-A. mill site is finished, and will be used as temporary quarters for the workers constructing the mill.

P. Hill states that his strain of white leghorns are too well known to need any boosting. They do their own crowing and cackling.

Bergerson Bros. store reports business improving and more cash in circulation.

The Hazlewood has installed a draught beer fountain.

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