

VERNONIA EAGLE



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RAY D. FISHER, Editor and Publisher

The chamber of commerce showed an admirable spirit of compromise in its recommendations regarding the allotment of federal funds for secondary highway work in the vicinity. A few more compromises might settle some big difficulties.

If the waterfront conflict succeeds in smoking the reds out of their hiding places as well as securing better working conditions for the longshoremen there will at least be some results worth achieving.

Somebody blundered when the Wagner party was fired upon Wednesday night. It isn't safe to put guns in some people's hands.

If the gas famine lasts dealers may half to sell it by the pint—enough to get to the next station.

What Other Editors Say

NEW DEAL SUCCEEDING

Apprehension for the future is felt in some quarters because of past government borrowings of billions of dollars and newly authorized borrowing of other billions, which altogether will increase the national debt to an unprecedented amount, with the certainty that every dollar must eventually be paid through taxation. But there is to be considered the basic economic strength of the country as demonstrated by the fact that the public debt was reduced at the rate of \$1,000,000,000 a year for nine years following the world war, furnishing abundant grounds for confidence that with the return of prosperity toward which the nation has begun to advance is apparently quite well on the way, there will ensue an equally rapid reduction in our national obligations, the causes which led to the depression no longer operating.

As to these causes: During the world war, agriculture, manufacturing, mining and other industries produced to their utmost capacity in response to an unprecedented world demand. Then the closing of the war reduced that demand, resulting in an unmarketable surplus and an inevitable fall in prices, and congress refused to permit tariff agreements with other countries whereby there might possibly have been an ameliorization of conditions. The result was unemployment and distress to relieve which something must be done, and measures possible to be taken must include borrowing large sums of money, increased monetary circulation and entering into reciprocal trade agreements with foreign nations. This required elimination of partisan spirit and President Roosevelt received and is receiving sincere co-operation from republicans equally with democrats in the new deal he instituted to meet the unprecedented situation, and which on the whole is showing evidence of the hoped for success.—Tillamook Headlight-Herald.

PATRONAGE CAN CONTROL FILMS

Met with the request for decent films, producers have laughed at the request and state that box office receipts spoke much louder than the criticisms and complaints of what they chose to characterize as cranks and fanatics. Because film producers have generally taken this attitude is the one reason which we see as justification for signing the pledge to the League of Decency whereby the signer agrees not to give support to an off-color film by attendance. Because producers have indicated that the one thing they will listen to is the voice of the box office, it is time that the people let Hollywood know that the public does not approve of a continual procession of releases of anti-social films.

We do not believe that what amounts to a practical boycott of some films can be continued for a long time or do we believe that any art such as the motion picture drama can fulfill its real function when it is subject to ratings as good, indifferent or bad from groups which set up their own arbitrary standards of judgment.

The widespread interest in cleaning up the films in itself amounts to the admission from all groups that the films are an important potential influence for either good or evil in our national life. Having in effect denied that this influence carried with it a corresponding degree of responsibility for the type of pictures produced a discriminating public is now making producers aware of their responsibility by the threat of an organized withdrawal of patronage.

Producers have practically challenged the "reform" element to see if it was powerful enough to influence patronage. The organized movement for decency is the result. The ultimate accomplishment of the move remains to be seen.

We hope that the demand of the various groups will result in producers recognizing the fact that the public is interested in attending pictures which are more a reflection of the normal culture of the American people. Also we hope that there will develop an increasing discrimination on the part of the film audience in the selection of films. This latter development can be the only permanent reform which will on exercising its influence long after pledges and various forms of mass appeal have exerted their temporary results.—Forest Grove News-Times.

Portland citizens who can't buy gasoline at home and now find themselves barred from Vancouver service stations across the river will soon have to take as their theme song, "Horses, Horses, Crazy Over Horses."—Astorian-Budget.

One of our exchanges editorially declares that a man cannot continually go on giving without getting something back. If so, delinquent newspaper subscribers probably believe that editors are supermen, not hampered with common limitations. —Newberg Scribe.

"Nothing disappoints some persons quite so much as to peddle a juicy bit of scandal and afterward learn that there wasn't a word of truth in it."—Cottage Grove Sentinel.

Creation of a wholesome respect for law and order is very much needed at this time.—Hillsboro Argus.

It is said to have cost \$25,000 to kill a soldier during the World war. Just an example of Uncle Sam's usual extravagance.—Exchange.

Among Our Neighbors . .

Charlie Johnson, long-time resident of Warren, died July 7.

H. B. Ferrin, former city superintendent of schools in St. Helens, has been recently appointed to a similar position in Cottage Grove.

John L. Foote of St. Helens, recently elected grand vice chancellor of the grand lodge of Oregon, K. P., was honored at a meeting of Avon lodge in that city July 10.

Ralph Twitchell, who recently resigned as coach at Rainier union high school, asked that his resignation be reconsidered, and he has again been employed.

The Washington County Pomona grange's annual picnic will be held at Balm Grove August 5.

Myrtle Guthrie was installed as noble grand of the Rebekah lodge in Clatskanie Tuesday.

Forest Grove faces the prospect of being without lights or power if the diesel oil famine continues. The present supply is estimated to last until July 25.

The Hillsboro city council has begun legal action to enforce the occupation tax ordinance.

\$1800 worth of 6-inch pipe for a St. Helens water main project has arrived, and SERA work in laying it is expected to start this week. About 14 men are employed on the project.

PRODUCING COAL MINE DEVELOPED NEAR ST. HELENS

(St. Helens Sentinel-Mist)
That Columbia county is a mineral as well as an industrial and family county is being proved by the opening of a fine body of coal in both quantity and quality. Within four miles of St. Helens and one-half miles from the highway back of the fairgrounds, is being developed a producing coal mine.

Nearly 50 years ago a tunnel was driven under the range of hills for a distance of 165 feet with several offshoots to prove the body of coal. The coal measure was opened up by Dr. Caples, now of Waukesha, Wis. Few of those who worked there are now here. Among the ones who were familiar with development in the early days are C. H. English of Deer Island, Ed Graham and Fred Caples, of Columbia City.

In early development the product was shipped to Portland by boat as no railroad or highway was here. The coal was tested

there and was used for steam making, being the first coal produced in Oregon for that purpose.

A new working tunnel 12 feet wide and 7½ feet high is being driven parallel with the old workings to allow air circulation and make a double car track for production. All is being heavily timbered. Coal is being produced and shipped in small quantities only as taken from the development. No rooms have yet been cut for producing large quantities of coal.

The product is a different form of coal than is found on the west coast of North America. It is known as "Brazilian Block" by experienced coal miners and in Brazil, Alsace-Lorraine and a small deposit in Indiana.

It is not a lignite variety as generally occurs on the coast range, but a much harder quality. In burning it leaves no clinkers, as so far tested, no soot accumulates, burns with a semi-blue flame and is clean to the hands.

The St. Helens Coal company has been offered a market for all their product, by two different Portland firms, even to 100 tons per day production. Coal is being furnished now and will be produced in sufficient quantities to furnish local needs. With the heavy production of coal and the immense iron deposits existing in Columbia county, why should not a prosperous future exist for manufacturing.

Officers and members of the company are all local men. Jacob Johnston is president; A. L. Morris, vice-president and manager; J. W. McDonald, secretary and treasurer, and P. E. Stroud, superintendent of mining.

HAZARD INCREASING

In spite of the fact that the June precipitation was only about half normal, nevertheless from the fire standpoint it was not a serious month. This was due to the fact that there were numerous cloudy days and the rain that fell was scattered throughout the month. However, the forest floor is not soaked to any extent and the few hot days during the end of the month contributed to a serious fire hazard.

Reports from the field men throughout the month show that there have been a number of fires but none of them had resulted in a great amount of damage. Thunder storms throughout widely scattered areas of the state have been more prevalent this year than for some time. Reports have been sent in from several of the coast units. Southern Oregon has had more than usual and six hits were reported from one storm in the Clackamas area.

—Forest Log.

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