

PUBLISHED EVERY EVENING EXCEPT SUNDAY, SALEM, OREGON, BY
Capital Journal Ptg. Co., Inc.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Daily by carrier, per year \$5.00 Per month .45c
Daily by mail, per year 3.00 Per month .35c

FULL LEASED WIRE TELEGRAPH REPORT

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New York, W. D. Ward, Tribune Building.
Chicago, W. H. Stockwell, People's Gas Building.

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A MOST DANGEROUS BILL

House bill 502, a substitute bill prepared by the house committee on Roads and Highways, establishing a Highway Code for the state, is a dangerous bill. It provides for raising in addition to other road funds now provided, about a quarter of a million dollars, which with the other funds will be turned over to the highway commission appointed by the governor and to be expended under its direction, assisted by a state highway engineer to be appointed by it. This commission has the power to decide what highways shall be improved, where the entire funds shall be expended, the kind of materials to be used, the letting of contracts and absolute power as to who shall have those contracts. This commission not only has the whole state fund in charge, but under the proposed arrangement would also have the management and expenditure of the funds coming from the government to aid in road construction, amounting this year to around \$400,000.

There are no safeguards thrown around the bill, but the entire road funds of the state are placed in the commission's hands to do what it pleases with.

In the section of the bill providing for the expenditure of the money, it is provided that in all improvements costing more than \$2,000 it shall select the material, or kind of pavement it will use, and advertise for bids for the work. It provides that the commissioners need not give the contract to the lowest bidder, if the bid is not satisfactory to them. In other words with this power, the advertising might as well be dispensed with. The commission is given a free hand to play favorites and to reap abundant rewards therefore, if it is so inclined. With the expenditure of millions in its control the temptations that commission will face will not be light ones. We do not mean to say the commissioners will be dishonest, but that they will be subject to many inducements to be so. Besides under this bill, the governor, and not the commission, will have the absolute dictation as to the kind of material to be used, the roads to be improved and the person or corporation that shall have the contracts. He will have this power because he is given the power of removal at his pleasure, and without cause other than his own sweet will. He will dictate as to everything if he so chooses, because if the commissioners do not perform his bidding he can remove them and name some one who will. The commission has the power of removal of the state highway engineer, and he will have to recommend the kind of paving or material they want, which will be what the governor wants, or he will have to get off the job. If commissioners like Yeon and Benson, of Portland, are appointed by the governor, the patent paving combine would own the state at the end of four years' road building under their direction.

No reputable engineer would want the job in the circumstances. No self-respecting citizen would take the job of commissioner at a salary of \$600 a year to be simply the governor's plaything.

The bill would place the entire road building of the state in the hands of the governor. What kind of a governor we will have after the present one retires two years from now, of course no one knows; but the people will not be satisfied to have all the affairs of the state placed in the hands of any governor, and to place the entire road building of the state in the hands of even a strong and capable man in whom the people have confidence, would not be a good business proposition. Senate bill 502 is by far the most dangerous one introduced at this session. It should be defeated.

THE NATION PAYS TRIBUTE

The whole country today celebrates the anniversary of the birth of the greatest president since Washington, and by many ranked even ahead of the great man who guided the destinies of the armies of the colonies through years of desperate struggle and finally won for us our independence. No grander character is recorded in history. Brave, determined, forceful, with but one purpose, the restoration of the Union, he never swerved from that

purpose and had accomplished it ere his great heart was stilled by the bullet of an assassin. In him the North lost her incomparable leader, and the south her best and most generous friend. By many it was wondered what should or would be done with the South when the end came. Lincoln knew. Though he did not live to see the end of the deadly struggle, it was practically over when he was killed and his ideas were, to a certain extent, carried out. The South was welcomed back as a brother who was lost and found again and was made to feel that it was not an enemy conquered, but was still a member of the great family of states. Had Lincoln lived the reconstruction days would have been different, and many things that tended to make the full reconciliation slow, would never have occurred. And so today the North honors its great president and national hero, and the South once his bitter enemy, pays its tribute to his memory and honoring him doubly honors itself.

BUT FOUR DAYS LEFT

After today there remains but four days of the legislative session, it ending Friday night. So far its claims for approval by the public generally is for the bills it has not passed. According to the statements on the floor it has taken many "steps in the right direction" but has not gone far. However it is too early to make a just criticism of its work, for it has not finished it. In the house about 525 bills have been introduced; and in the senate 300. It will be seen from this that in the opinion of the legislators there were some 825 matters that needed attention, some 825 things that the good people have managed to wiggle along without heretofore, and perhaps never suspected they needed. It is about 685 days since the last legislature adjourned, and it will be seen from this that the new things required by the people of Oregon average something like eight a week, that number having bobbed up in the shape of bills since the legislature of 1915 adjourned. Another thing that shows how careless the citizens are is that they have never suspected that there was need of 122 changes in Lord's Oregon laws, yet the senate introduced that number of bills amending or repealing some feature of that codification. What the house did in this line we have not taken the trouble to count, but it is, in the same proportion, about 200.

Judge Bushey thinks the members of the county court of Polk county are insincere in their negotiations in the matter of the Salem bridge. We quite agree with the judge. If the Polk county officials were contending for the cheaper type of bridge we might respect the position they take, but when they tell us that the bridge concerns Salem mainly and only benefits this city and then object to our plans because we do not want to spend enough of their money for our own benefit--well, the position of Judge Kirkpatrick and his colleagues would be ludicrous if it was not exasperating to the thousands of people who are inconvenienced by the closing of the bridge. BuBt as Marion county has \$200,000 or more available now for building the bridge and it can be built for considerably less than that sum, why not build it? Why haggle longer with the Polk county officials when it is certain that an agreement with them is impossible?

The consolidation bills seem to have hard sledding. So far they have dry or brown rot or something that makes them drop off the tree before they are ripe. It may be they do not fall from this cause, but some of them require a little gentle "pull" before they let go. This seems the more probable from the fact that the pullers are all at home in the state house, and handy to their work.

It is probable the fate of as many bills is decided outside of the legislative halls as in them. The big bull-ring under the dome is the scene of many a confab, which has more effect than the flowery speeches made in the legislative chambers.



FARM LIFE

When I was young the farmers' shacks were shy of costly tomes; and only last year's almanacs were found in many homes. I used to work for Uncle Hi, I plied the hoe with speed; and when night came how I would sigh for something fit to read! A weekly paper Uncle took, and it was always stale, but for a magazine or book he would dig up no kale. We fed the hogs their luscious stews, and gave the hens their hay, and never heard the great world's news till it was old and gray. Oh, countless farmers lived like this, in that fine olden time; they held that ignorance was bliss, and reading was a crime. My Uncle Hi is now on high--at least I hope he's there; his generation had to die, as men must, everywhere. 'Tis but some thirty years ago since Uncle cashed his string, and faded from this vale of woe to play a harp and sing. How times have changed! The farmer's lair has reading, now, to burn; the farmer, in his easy chair, today's hot news may learn. My Uncle Hi would find things strange, if he could be our guest. How times have changed--and every change seems always for the best!

THE CIGARETTE BILL

(Medford Mail-Tribune).
Representative Sweeney of Josephine county, who, from the number and character of the bills he has introduced in the legislature, seems ambitious to regulate the universe, has amongst his other measures a bill making it a crime to smoke cigarettes.

This measure is an infringement of the constitutional rights of the individual and wherever tried has proved impossible of enforcement. Sale of cigarettes to minors is already forbidden, and this is as far as either practical or desirable Cigarette smoking cannot possibly injure anyone but the individual, and is not in any sense a public nuisance--unless we class both cigar and pipe smokers as nuisances.

In Washington such a law was in existence for four years, during which the actual consumption of cigarettes increased 300 per cent. The bill was finally repealed because it was found impossible to enforce it. The only result was that the local dealers lost their commissions and the money went out of the state for their purchases.

If we bar the cigarette, the next step will be to bar tobacco. If we deprive people of indulgence in the small vices we drive them to indulging in the bigger ones. Human nature will stand just so much repression, and then comes the reaction which sweeps away barriers and goes the other extreme. Cromwell and the Puritans only prepared the way for the orgy of sin under the restoration as the pendulum swung the other way.

By the law of nature, moderation is virtue, excess is crime. The only harm in the use of cigarettes is when they are used immoderately--and the individual must regulate that himself. The person who finds smoking an injury must cut it out--but that is no reason for depriving his fellow man of a harmless consolation.

THE TRAVELING MAN

Off the train he hops at daybreak with a grip in either hand.
With a stomach mighty empty and a wish for slumberland;
But he never makes a whimper as he hops into the bus.
For he laughs at real discomfort that would bring real tears from us--
Even laughs the traveling-salesman, and his laughs ring out loud and sweet.

WOMAN COULD HARDLY STAND

Restored to Health by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

Fulton, N. Y. -- "Why will women pay out their money for treatment and receive no benefit, when so many have proved that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound will make them well? For over a year I suffered so from female weakness I could hardly stand and was afraid to go on the street alone. Doctors said medicines were useless and only an operation would help me, but Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has proved it otherwise. I am now perfectly well and can do any kind of work." Mrs. NELLIE PHELPS, care of R. A. Rider, R.F.D. No. 5, Fulton, N. Y.
We wish every woman who suffers from female troubles, nervousness, backache or the blues could see the letters written by women made well by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. If you have had symptoms and do not understand the cause, write to the Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co., Lynn, Mass., for helpful advice given free.

What Your Bank Check Records



Have you ever stopped to think of the numerous things that become a permanent record when you write a check on this bank?

You record on your check the name of the person you are paying and the exact date of payment.

You record also the amount which you pay. You can, if you desire, state on the face of the check just what the payment was for, and whether it was in full of account.

Then, when the one in whose favor the check is drawn endorses it on the back before cashing it, he formally and indisputably acknowledges receipt of the funds.

This chronicle of a financial transaction is handed back to you when paid by the bank, to be placed upon file as a complete and most satisfactory record of this transaction.

Contrast this method with that of the person who pays in currency. What record has HE of the money he pays out?

UNITED STATES NATIONAL BANK
Salem, Oregon
Member Federal Reserve Bank

To the poor old stranded actor or the beggar on the streets.

Just because the salesman helps them to their breakfast and their fare.

Even though it takes a greenback he can ill afford to spare.

On the train he hops at midnight, and when dawn has come again

You can see him swinging blithely from the cold and dreary train.

Just another round of calling, taking orders in a town--

Orders that he thinks are orders--that the credit man turns down.

Just another round of hustling, just a ten mile drive or two,

When the wind is full of winter and his hands are numb and blue;

Far from home and good home cooking, far from baby and wife--

You can bet it takes a hero to endure a salesman's life!

But with all his cares and hardships when he creeps to bed alone,

In some little country roadhouse when the cold would freeze a stone,

With the same old smile he stumbles, for inside his watch's case

Is the photo of a wife and a dimpled baby face.

---Author Unknown.

Somebody asks: "Is it intimated that when Alsace-Lorraine is given back to France, Cuba and the Philippines go back to Spain?" But why this sarcasm? Cuba has already been given to herself, and the Philippines and in the way to be given to the Filipinos.

Y. M. C. A. Membership Contest

100 Members

IN

100 Hours

Commencing, Feb. 7, 6 p m Sunday, Feb. 10, 10 p m



MORTON LEVERING DECLARES HIMSELF

CHAPTER CLXV.
The very next day Morton Levering searched me out as I wandered around the grounds. I had just received a letter from Muriel which had upset me to a certain extent and I wanted to be alone.
"Leonard is almost desperate," she had written, "sometimes I am frightened at the idea of what he may do. Don't stay too long. He'll surely show up down there if you do."
Unsettled, unhappy as I was I felt a thrill of joy that some one cared enough for me to be "desperate" as Muriel had written. I was frightened at the same time.
"At last I have found you alone," Mr. Levering greeted me, "I began to think I never should be so fortunate. Although I can't blame your family," he finished rather grimly.
"Now that you have found me, what can I do for you?" I asked gaily, hoping that he had not noticed my preoccupation, and that he was going to talk of Elsie.
"Mrs. Hammond, Mildred! I have heard that you are not happy, your own actions confirm it. Many things you have said have only too plainly told me so. Could you care for me?" he asked gently then as I made a gesture of repulse too astonished to speak, he went on: "If you are not happy, and can care for me, I will try to make up to you for all you have missed--of-

course after you get your divorce."
An Uncomfortable Situation.
Divorce! everyone seemed determined that I obtain a divorce. Had Morton Levering not looked so strange, I should have laughed. As it was I assumed my most chilling manner and expressed my surprise that he should so far forget himself and--what was due me.
"I am very disappointed in you," I finished. I now realize how childish it must have sounded, how insane.
"Forgive me?" he asked humbly, "but"--
"I certainly have given you no reason to believe you could talk to me like this, I feel insulted!" then he looked so contrite, that I added: "And when there are so many attractive young ladies about I can't imagine why you should have elected to think your self in love with me. Please forget what you have said; I shall." I declared an interrupted.
"What are you two talking about?" Elsie's voice effectually prevented further speech, "you are as solemn as owls. If you weren't married Mildred, I should guess that Mr. Levering had proposed to you and that you had refused him!" she baringly threw out.
"Well, I am married, so you would have guessed wrong," I replied fresh-up.

"Fortunately for the rest of the girls, isn't it Mr. Levering?" Elsie laughed.
"If you mean that Mrs. Hammond is a very attractive woman I shall have to agree with you," he returned, recovering himself.
"I was sent to ask you to make up doubles in tennis. If you can tear yourself away please come!" and Elsie started on ahead. I motioned and he followed without a word.
What ailed Elsie? Had she suspected Mr. Levering was in love with me? It wasn't a bit like her to speak as she had.
Then I forgot to worry about her in thinking of myself. Why men--other than my husband--cared for me I did not then, I do not now pretend to explain. I do not even to say that they all avowed they loved me; heaven forbid! but they made me feel that I meant something besides a lay figure to them. But Clifford's lack of appreciation had made me very humble, very prone to underestimate my own attractions.

(Tomorrow--A Talk With Elsie.)

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