

THE LANE COUNTY NEWS

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And Remember to Get a Stop-Over for Springfield.

SPRINGFIELD, OREGON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER, 30, 1915.

BIPARTISAN INVESTIGATING

After a number of years the United States Commission on Industrial Relations has reported. On a broad view the report leaves the problems which the commission investigated pretty much where it found them. The main problem, of course, concerns the relations between capital and labor. What the country especially wished from the commission was light on that broad subject. It was familiar enough with the conflicting claims of both sides. It wanted, so far as that was humanity possible, an unprejudiced, authoritative statement. That alone would have really justified a Federal investigation on this scale.

The commission was formed on the familiar and foolish bipartisan plan, however. There were so many representatives of capital, or of employers, and so many representatives of labor, or of employees. Anybody should have been able to tell Congress or President Taft that persons selected specifically because they represented capital or labor would most likely carry the prejudices of their respective sides of the controversy into the investigation. As a result of the bipartisan plan, we have two main and quite sharply divergent reports, which largely tend to cancel each other—and then some further divergencies of individual opinion.

For an investigation of this sort a man who represented capital or one who represented labor should have been ineligible, as a matter of course. In a general way the bipartisan plan, by its very nature, tends simply to produce a nullity. Instead of one impartial authoritative statement, to which a candid seeker after truth can turn with confidence, we have at least three more or less conflicting statements.

The commission has, of course, adduced valuable testimony. In spite of any partisan bias, it throws an enduring light on the rotten conditions in the Colorado coal strike; but partisanship mostly nullifies its own conclusions.—Saturday Evening Post.

PEACHES, GRAPES, APPLES AND LUMBER

In Chicago and other cities in the Middle West peaches became a drug on the market. Report has it that carloads of the fruit were thrown out to rot. From California we hear that there is to be no market for grapes; and as a result tons upon tons, and maybe hundreds and thousands of tons of this luscious fruit will go to waste. We even hear of an over-plentitude of apples in this Pacific Northwest which compels the orchardists to feed fine marketable fruit to the hogs. Broadly speaking there can be but one determinate opinion regarding all this—it is an economic crime.

To cure market deficiency or maladjustment by the destruction of created wealth, which is practically that which is done in this waste of food material, is of course impossible. The real fact of the matter is we have not too many peaches, too many apples or too many grapes; and we cannot have such so long as there are people who are hungry for that food and able to pay for it more than it actually costs. The

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OUR PUBLIC FORUM



William Sproule On the Employment of the Employer

The employment of the employer is a phase of the labor problem not so well exploited as the employment of the employee but is equally as important to the prosperity of the country. The employer was never known to go on a strike nor to ask for a reduction in hours yet the trend of our legislatures has been to discourage his activities. Mr. Wm. Sproule, President of the Southern Pacific Company, when asked to discuss employment from the standpoint of the employer, said in part: "It is the habit of the time to speak of unemployment as if it related only to those who work for a specific hourly or daily, weekly or monthly, wage. It is thought of chiefly as relating to those engaged in the humbler duties of life. The facts run quite to the contrary. It is the employer who is first out of employment. As a natural sequence he is followed by the employee who next finds himself out of work. Unemployment begins only when the employer himself begins to be unemployed. When the employer is prosperous and his energies are profitably employed, employees have abundant employment and they also prosper. But why is this period of unemployment? It is because all business is bewildered and uncertain. It does not know whether it may proceed in safety. It does not know with what snares its path may be laid. This condition began with transportation and now extends to all business. The greatest trouble with this country today is that every business which has been developed by the genius of the American people has become the object of unforeseen attack from some quarter or feels the threat or danger of attack. Our laws, which formerly were precise and definite, have blanketed business with loose generalities called crimes which the men who drew the laws and the men who interpret those laws cannot themselves define with any precision. Even when they endeavor to expound those laws they make them more obscure and mystifying than before.

"There is nothing more distressing to an employer of labor than to turn away good men who desire to do good work; but until all wake up to the fact that unless the employer is prosperous the employee is failing in prosperity, we will have little improvement. When we have learned the lesson that in this nation we are simply a big industrial family in which we all prosper together or we do not prosper at all, we will then have promise of relief from the misunderstandings and cajolements which increase unemployment and destroy the comfort and the prosperity of the average man.

"I urge relief from the fads, fancies and isms which have filled our streets with unemployment and put away the dinner pail of the working man empty upon the shelf in the impoverished home. I urge the restoration of confidence in the fact that American men of business are the peers of any in the world. I urge that the American workman cannot be prosperous unless the American men of business prosper. I urge that prosperity can come to us only with the full dinner pail. Finally I urge that the public interest in transportation is that it shall be prosperous in order that it may be a successful and energetic aid to all the business it is designed to serve."

trouble is not with production; it is altogether with the machinery of distribution.

The allegation of overproduction has been made with regard to the lumber industry. That industry is sick. All agree upon it; none denies it. But incidentally some of the doctors, in diagnosing the disease or explaining the sickness, declare that one of the prime faults is too many in the business; or, in other words, the manufacture of too much lumber. That is a mistake. The yards are not piled with idle stocks beyond the normal. And lumbermen cannot burn the surplus because there is no market for it, as fruitmen, commissionmen and others dump fruit out to rot. If lumbermen should do that their offense would be a legal as well as an economic crime. The fault in the lumber trade as in these other respects is in the machinery of trade. The remedy lies in the development of a get-together wisdom that shall give strenuous and practical thought to this entire subject matter.—Portland Telegram.

OFFERING AN OPEN FORUM

Action of the town council Monday evening in naming election judges for the forthcoming town election reminds us that another campaign is upon us. It is not at all unlikely that there will be several candidates for the various offices. There will also be the "jitney" ordinance up for a vote.

Upon persons and measures, there is room for an honest difference of opinion as to what is best for the town. The News, accordingly, opens its columns for an orderly discussion of the issues of the election, and will publish any communication of reasonable length and couched in gentlemanly terms. There is no need of indulging in personalities, for personalities will not lead to a proper solution of the problems before the town. A faith in one's own honesty of motive, and a belief that opponents are likewise honest in their differing beliefs will make for an election that will express the will of the majority and leave no disagreeable after-effects.

Communications should be written plainly, typewritten if possible, and should be short, not over 300 words.

Additional Local

Dr. and Mrs. W. H. Pollard go to Oregon City this afternoon on a business trip.

Jack Littell, formerly a resident of Springfield, but now an officer of the internal revenue department, was in Springfield on business Wednesday.

D. S. Jordan of the Springfield Planing mill, went to Woodburn Tuesday morning, called thither by word that his sister, Mrs. C. W. Holcomb, was seriously ill. Mrs. Holcomb is over 70 years of age, and has been sick for several months.

Repairs to furnace No. 3 at the plant of the Oregon Power Co. will be completed tonight, and then the plant will be in shape to handle the heavy loads of the winter season. Furnaces Nos. 1 and 2 were recently re-bicked and Nos. 4, 5, and 6 were rebuilt last year.

George Sherrick and M. D. Adams and family came up from West Stayton yesterday to look over the country about Springfield. Mr. Sherrick was very much pleased to learn that Henry Korf, a former West Stayton resident, is in Springfield, and at once hunted him up for a visit.

Funeral services were held this morning at Walker's chapel for Adison N. McMartin, who died Sunday morning at the home of A. B. Richardson. The services were conducted by U. G. Clark of the Church of God, and interment was made in the Laurel Grove cemetery. Mr. McMartin formerly worked as a

blacksmith for Thompson & Richardson, and returned a few weeks ago, very sick, and was taken care of at the Richardson home. Very little is known as to his relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Haight, who have been spending the summer with a son at Alpha, in the western part of the county, returned the first of the week and will leave Monday for Woodburn and other points in the northern part of the state. They expect to be gone for a couple of months.

J. F. Smith, president of the First National Bank, and Mrs. Emilia Smith, left yesterday for Farmington, Washington, where they will be located while Mr. Smith is administering the estate of the late James A. Ebbert. A year or more will be required to dispose of all the property.

John Rose of Crawfordsville, who has been in Springfield for the past few days, left Wednesday morning for home. Mr. Rose has been trying to trade his ranch for city property, but he has not yet succeeded. He has rented a house at Sixth and E streets and will reside here with his family until a deal is closed.

The little son of Mr. and Mrs. B. A. Ragan, who live on Willamette Heights, suffered a severe injury Tuesday when he fell from the rafters of the wood shed at the Arnold place, where he was playing. He struck on his head, causing a fracture of the skull from over the left eye around to a point over the

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ear. He was taken to the local hospital, and for a time it was feared an operation would have to be performed, but the lad was able to be taken home today.

Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Gano will open their Home restaurant and lunch room with a public reception from 7 until 10 Saturday evening, serving coffee and cake to their guests. They wish to have the people of Springfield call and get acquainted. They open the restaurant for business with the noon meal Sunday.

The Springfield Garage

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J. H. BOWER Lawyer.

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