

St. Helens Mist
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COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER



"I pledge allegiance to my Flag, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for All."

WEED THEM OUT

Indictments have been returned by the federal grand jury at Sacramento against 55 persons charged with conspiring with officers of the I. W. W. to hinder the execution of the laws of the United States in the prosecution of the war, and some of the accused have been brought to trial.

According to the statement of government officials, these persons were all concerned in a broad plot of systematic sabotage, the plan being to destroy industries and shipping, and in fact do everything possible to interfere with and hinder war preparations. It is said that the plotters had arranged to begin a systematic campaign to induce men to oppose the second draft under the conscription law.

The steps taken by the government to break up the gang of traitors who for months have been interfering with war activities of the United States government, are commendable and should have been taken some time ago, when the attitude of the I. W. W. was first disclosed, when curbstone orators, parading under the cloak of pacifism, preached disloyalty in the open. The department of justice has given too much latitude under the constitutional guarantee of free speech.

Now that the government has recognized the danger and has earnestly set about to counteract it, the public may hope to be relieved of the annoyance and baneful influence of these traitors. Their trials should be speedy, and, if convicted, they should be given the maximum penalties, not only as a punishment for their offenses but as a warning to other of their kind who may be inclined to attempt to thwart the national will. As the war progresses and America becomes more deeply involved in the actual fighting, the American people will not be inclined to view lightly the activities of marplots at home seeking to hinder and handicap the country and its purposes. It is far better to deal with these I. W. W.'s and their sympathizers legally now than to leave them to be punished by the righteous indignation of the people later, for loyal Americans will not tolerate them. The lives of too many brave sailors and soldiers of this country are at stake to permit disloyal intrigues behind the lines. Many of our Columbia county boys are in the front line trenches or at training camps awaiting the orders to entrain for France and fight for freedom, and those of us who are left behind and who these boys have gone forth to defend, must see that while their faces are to the enemy we must guard the rear. We must not have a traitor in our midst. To those mothers and fathers and to those friends who accompanied our boys to the station to wave them farewell as they responded to the call of the country, we say it is your duty both to your country and to your son or brother to do everything possible to aid the government in this war for righteousness. To put your stamp of disapproval on any utterance against the government and to assist by self sacrifice and example the noble boys who are ready to make the supreme sacrifice for you. It is a patriotic duty, more, it is the sacred privilege of American citizenship.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

but nothing is sure that is still in the future and any letting up in ship-building effort in the United States is neither more nor less than giving aid to the kaiser.—Ex.

Prices of most commodities in this country have advanced because of the war, but probably less than in any other belligerent, or any of the European neutrals. The strong hand of the government, laid on commerce and industry, has prevented excessive advances, while in other lines of business the proprietors have accepted smaller profits and thus paid a private war tax of which the general public knows little. Many standard commodities are still sold at prices prevailing before the war, and newspaper subscriptions are largely in that class.

Some figures on conditions in Sweden are given in the oWorld's Work, as follows:

"Sweden before the war used to import about 5,000,000 tons of coal and coke a year. This supply, of course, has stopped. One result is that coal in Sweden now sells at \$100 a ton, and is difficult to obtain. In Denmark, also, the coal shortage is acute. In Copenhagen's finest department store clerks wear big straw slippers and woolen blankets because there is not coal enough to keep the place properly heated.

"Automobile tires are scarce in Denmark and consequently have skyrocketed in price. A single tire sold for \$40 there last October.

"Tea in Sweden is \$8 a pound. Coffee is practically unobtainable. Woolen clothing has increased more than 200 per cent in price since the beginning of the war. Chocolate sells for \$3 a pound; ham for \$1 a pound.

"Gasoline, likewise, is difficult to obtain, and the price of it is prohibitive—last October it was \$2 a gallon.

"The length of the midwinter day in Sweden is approximately four hours. Lighting, therefore, is an essential. Kerosene is practically unobtainable, so the people have had to depend largely upon candles. In August, 1914, candles were 15 cents a pound, in January, 1917, 34 cents a pound, and last October, 58 cents a pound.

"The scarcity and consequent abnormal prices of motoring necessities—tires and gasoline, for example—have necessarily affected the use of pleasure cars. Recently there were only 17 taxicabs operating in Stockholm."

Goble, Ore., Feb. 19, 1918.

Enclosed find check covering subscription to the Mist for the ensuing year. You are putting out a fine paper and it certainly deserves our support, and don't forget we appreciate your efforts very much.

Yours respectfully,

JAMES KENNEDY.

(Thanks, Mr. Kennedy. We are trying to make of the Mist a good county newspaper, and such letters as yours encourage us to make still greater efforts.—Ed.)

The public service commission has conducted an inquiry as to the recent raise in telephone rates. Very few people knew anything about the contemplated raise until it was time to pay the phone bill. Of course the increase doesn't amount to much, only about 30 to 40 per cent. For instance, formerly you paid 25 cents for a three-minute conversation to Portland, or the minimum rate was 25 cents. Now the only difference is that the company figures on what it calls an "aerial" rate. It says the meaning of this is that the straightest air line between two given points is "aerial," but to the phone user it means sky high. The cost per minute under the new rate is 20 cents, war tax included, and for each additional minute 10 cents, so it now costs 40 cents to use the phone three minutes, as against 25 cents under the old rate. Rates to other places are proportionately increased, and to our notion this is the real meaning of "aerial."

Complaint comes to the Mist office that the telephone company refuses to make any further extension of its line or install new phones. The management, by way of excuse, states that the government requires every bit of material available and for that reason the phone company will not do any new work. This might be true, but it does not appear to us that the government would issue instructions to any concern to cease any construction work when such work is necessary. It might be a good idea to bring this to the attention of the public service commission and ascertain the real reason for the company's refusal to accommodate the would-be subscriber.

The least you can do: Keep Monday and Wednesday wheatless. One wheatless meal a day. Tuesday meatless. Tuesday and Saturday porkless. Make every day a fat-saving day. Make every day a sugar-saving day. Use fruits, vegetables and potatoes abundantly.

Use milk wisely and use it ALL.

SUGGESTS NEW TAX LAWS BE PASSED

Pioneer of Nehalem Has Ideas as to Tax Collections.

The Mist has received the letter printed below from D. W. Freeman. We do not know that Mr. Freeman intended this for publication, but the ideas advanced are so sound and full of business logic that we are taking the liberty of presenting it to our readers. Following is the letter:

"Neverstill, Ore., Feb. 13, 1918.

"Editor of the Mist:

"Dear Sir: I have the delinquent tax list before me, as published in the Mist. Is it not a gross injustice to the loyal citizens of the county and state to allow a lot of slackers to shirk their duty by such means? By summing up the various amounts, not counting anything under \$50, we have nearly \$10,000 on the list of unpaid taxes, some of which appears to have been carried from year to year until they have accumulated to the extent of over \$1,200. It seems to me the tax law is such that the penalty is no incentive to induce prompt payment of taxes. However, it seems that there is no one with money who cares to take the chance on such an investment, viz.: the buying of a tax title, hence the drug on the market. It is a notorious fact that in many instances the large timber holders are removing the only valuable product available from the land and allowing their taxes to go delinquent, and that is one of the principal reasons that tax titles can not be sold, even though a valid title could be made at once—the land, in its rough condition could or would not be considered worth the purchase money.

"What we have in mind is based on the validity of other laws touching the negotiability or salability of certain documents, deeds, tax titles, etc., unless they conform to certain requirements. Deeds and notes must be stamped. We will here enumerate a few instances. If you loan money and take a mortgage to secure the payment of the note, you can prohibit the removal of the timber from land under mortgage until such money is repaid. Why? Because you have a lien on the timber as well as the land.

"Now, if a tax title is a lien on the real property it certainly follows that said tax title is also a lien on all the proceeds of such real estate.

"If existing laws cannot be construed in the manner above described let us have laws making it a misdemeanor to attempt to remove any valuable material from off the premises without first paying all arrearages of taxes. Furthermore, if taxable property is or should be classed as strictly agricultural, let all back taxes be paid before rentals could be collected.

"I am constrained to believe that all the above propositions are entirely feasible and legitimate, and if enacted into statutory law there would be no delinquent tax list to be published each year, provided, however, that said law should be executed.

"D. W. FREEMAN."

Effect of Contrast
 Reggy—Do you think you could be comfortable on \$10,000 a year?
 Peggy—Yes, I believe I could, if the people next door hadn't more than \$9,000 a year.

AND NOW THEY ARE COOKING TOBACCO TO MAKE IT BETTER

For a good many years The American Tobacco Company has been conducting a series of experiments having as their object the improvement of smoking tobaccos.

And it is interesting to know that one of the greatest of their discoveries was one of the simplest, and that was, that cooking or toasting tobacco improved it in every way, just as cooking most foods improves them.

They took a real Burley tobacco, grown in this country; toasted it as you would toast bread; moistened it to replace the natural moisture driven off by toasting; made it into cigarettes, called them "LUCKY STRIKE, the toasted cigarette," and offered them to the public.

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The change produced by toasting is not only most wholesome, but the flavor is greatly improved, just as cooking improves meat, for example.

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 St. Helens, Oregon

J. W. DAY
 Attorney at Law
 Bank Bldg. St. Helens, Ore.

FRED W. HERMAN
 Attorney at Law
 Rainier, Oregon

LODGES

The Loyal Order of Moose, St. Helens Lodge No. 1233. Meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month. All visitors cordially invited.
 H. A. COLT, Dictator.
 W. W. BLAKESLEY, Sec.

Mizpah Chapter O. E. S. meets in Masonic Hall the second and fourth Saturdays of each month.
 MRS. LILLA M. CROUSE, W. M.
 JOHN PHILIP, Secy.

Tillicum Tribe No. 52, Improved O. R. M., of Yankton, Ore., meets at its wigwag, second and fourth Saturdays of each month.
 V. G. BRANNON, C. of R.
 EBER BROWN, Sach.

St. Helens Rebekah Lodge, No. 217, meets second and fourth Thursday of each month in I. O. O. F. hall. Visiting members always welcome.
 FLORENCE SNELLING, N. G.
 MRS. ELLA ALLEN, Sec'y.

St. Helens Lodge No. 117, I. O. O. F. meets in the I. O. O. F. building, on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month, visiting members are always given a hearty welcome.
 FRED W. CHRISTIE, Noble Grand.
 C. W. BLAKESLEY, Sec.

Avon Lodge No. 62 Knights of Pythias meets every Tuesday evening in Castle Hall, St. Helens. Visiting Knights always welcome
 EUGENE E. BLAKESLEY, C. C.
 EDISON I. DALLAGH, K. of R. & S.

St. Helens Lodge No. 32, A. F. & A. M. meets 1st and 3rd Saturday in each month. Visiting brothers cordially
 A. L. STONE, W. M.
 E. E. QUICK, Secretary.

St. Helens Camp No. 10,999, Modern Woodmen of America, meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month.
 H. E. VEAZIE, V. C.
 H. E. LA BARE, Clerk.

Nerve
 Small Boy (as farmer catches him up his cherry tree)—Oh, Mr. Jones, I've been hoping you'd come! Would you mind fetching me a ladder so that I can get down from here?

When He Found It Out
 She (tenderly)—When did you know you loved me?
 He—When I began to get mad when people said you were brainless and unattractive.

MAXWELL

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