

THE ST. HELENS MIST

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COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

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"WHIPSAWING" THE PUBLIC

Producers have reasons to know that live stock prices are sliding downward, and Attorney General Palmer tells the public that while the wholesale price of meat has been falling for three months, retail dealers have claimed that their supplies were old stock purchased at the higher prices.

But when wholesale prices were rising dealers generally marked up their retail prices promptly, asserting then, with some reason, that they should be permitted to dispose of their stock at replacement values.

This practice goes to the heart of the whole profiteering evil, for it one line of trade is allowed to "play both ends against the middle," other lines will do it.

The department of justice should hold dealers to one practice or the other. They should not be permitted to stand one day on the doctrine of selling merchandise on the basis of replacement values and another day on the doctrine of selling off present stocks—not on replacement values, but on the basis of what they paid for the goods when prices were higher.

KILL IT

The proposed measure to change the Oregon constitution and limit the legal rate of interest to 4 and 5 per cent is already having its effect in advising anybody with money to loan that Oregon will be off the map for making loans if the measure should pass.

The small merchant, business man, farmer and home builder would be the hardest hit as local banks would be put out of business and no money would be loaned within the state at such rates.

This is no overdrawn, "throw the scare into them" picture. If you had \$500 would you loan it at 5 per cent in Oregon when you could get much more by loaning it outside the state?

We cannot afford to let such a measure as this get by in this state.

SAYINGS OF WISE MEN

Felicity eats up circumspection. A good fellow lights his candle at both ends. Full vessels give the least sound.—German proverb. Whatever is fortified will be attacked, and whatever is attacked will be destroyed.—Gibbon.

THERE ARE MANY OTHERS

"While we were in Paris I felt, and have increasingly felt ever since, that you accepted my guidance and direction on questions with regard to which I had to instruct you only with increasing reluctance."—President Wilson to Secretary of State Lansing.

Whorein Secretary Lansing has been increasingly like a very large and increasing number of other Americans, it may be added.—Ex.

Have you registered? If not, why delay?

Remember March 15th. It is the last day on which you can file your income tax report.

Membership in a cabinet managed on the Wilsonian plan seems to be a sort of slavery.—Ex.

Cabinet members come and cabinet members go, but Baker and Burleson run on forever.

E. I. Ballagh of Columbia county will be a candidate for re-election as state representative. He made a good record.—Oregon Voter.

Vice President Marshall says he would rather follow a principle than a plug hat. If he doesn't the plug hat will ask him to resign, too.

A raisin crop of \$38,000,000 worth should go a long way towards supplying the domestic demand; particularly as only two or three raisins are needed to a bottle of fruit juice.

Yes, the league of nations, ratified or unratified, will be an issue in the campaign of 1920. Men who have tried to betray the rights, interests and ideals of this country will never be trusted with an opportunity to make the effort again.

Our country? It is the flag and what it stands for, its glorious history, the fireside and the home, it is the high thoughts that are in which comes of the story of the fathers, the martyrs to liberty. In these things is that thing we love, called our country.—Benjamin Harrison.

The Mist congratulates those citizens of Scappoose who voted for incorporation and who successfully carried the election. It believes the opponents of incorporation were honest and sincere in their idea of the measure and hopes that they will have just cause to be thankful that incorporation carried.

The Mist is glad to note the sentiment in favor of a County Chamber of Commerce. Sometime ago it advocated such an arrangement. A County Chamber of Commerce will accomplish much good for the entire county and the interest of the entire county will be better served.

There is plenty of room in Columbia county for development and a body of men from the different sections of the county all working together for such development will accomplish much. Here's to a Columbia County Chamber of Commerce.

PUBLIC FORUM

HAVE YOU EATEN?

We are told by travellers in the Orient that the Chinese have a mode of salutation entirely disparate from ours. It is our custom, when we meet a friend or acquaintance, to make a series of luminous remarks about the obvious state of the weather. But when Ah Sing meets On Lung, the first word with which he greets him is, "Have you eaten?"

In our own country, the high cost of foodstuffs has become a painful by-word. I wonder if I take too pessimistic a view of things if I foresee the day—unless prices decrease—when, with slow and feeble footsteps we shall approach one another on the street and, gazing out of hollow, mournful eyes each upon another's faded bloom, shall lip through drawn lips the dreaded Celestial greeting, "Have you eaten, brother? Have you eaten full up?"

Many remedies, plausible and otherwise, have been offered to palliate the high cost of living, and because it is known that most of us expect a remedy to strike at the roots of an evil, the agents of various remedies have been under the necessity of designating this or that as the basic cause of all the trouble. As a consequence it is only natural, so diversely are the minds of men made up, that the voice of special pleading may here be heard. But special pleading is not constructive or disinterested; on the contrary, by appealing with half-truths and semblances of truth to the undisciplined emotions, it contorts men into unreasoning attitudes; it clouds the fundamentals of an issue with the vapors of hot emotions; it ignites fires of suspicion from which men carry abroad the firebrands of anarchy.

As an example of the foregoing

one may cite the somewhat widespread assertion that Prohibition shifting the heavy liquor taxes to the shoulders of other commodities, is, in the main, the cause of higher prices and of social unrest. While in no sense a Prohibitionist, I do not hesitate to stigmatize a statement such as this as propaganda of the wets; it is quite apparent that they are trying to use the popular desire for economic readjustment as a fulcrum upon which they may elevate the principles of personal liberty.

It may be true, indeed, that Prohibition has served the ends of plutocrats and profiteers—that it has augmented the general unrest; but it has only been a contributing cause—a cause, if I may express a personal view, not to be rated highly perilous. Other and more radical reasons, so numerous that it is impossible even to advert to them in this brief speculation, must be studied singly and collectively in order to gain a true perspective of inflated prices and the world's industrial unrest.

Great trusts—many of them misbegotten monsters of a world at war—have conspired to keep the price of the necessities of life beyond the poor man's reach. They employ labor, it is true, and they supply consumers with their products. But to their way of thinking labor is only a factor in production, often worthy of less consideration and worry than raw material and machinery because it is easier to get.

Whether it come about by fearless application of laws that cannot be bought, or whether it be arranged by mutual understanding and consent between Capital and Labor, we must have a democratization of industry. It is all very well to glory in our political prerogatives—our right at the ballot-box to determine who shall govern us; we have this, and it is necessary; without it economic liberty is impossible. But what we have not got and what we want must have is a recognized right to the chance to earn our daily bread. The less governmental activity in the rearrangement, the better; if capital, honest thinkers, and the reliable leaders of labor work together conscientiously, industry can be stabilized rest restored to wearied nations, and the destructive designs of the radicals frustrated.

JEREMY KRAM

HOUSEHOLD HINTS

When basting velvet, use sewing silk. When the stitches are removed there will be no traces.

When it is desired to carry a candle into a drafty cellar or attic where there is a possibility of its blowing out, a short candle may be placed in a tumbler, fastened by its own wax. It will burn steadily and safely.

When the meat grinder, egg beater or other cooking utensils need oiling use glycerine around the bearings or crevices. It is the most harmless lubricant that can be used and does not later affect the food by odor or taste.

To straighten the kinks out of wool that has been used and unravelled out, wind the wool in a skein and tie the skein in four places. Dip it in lukewarm water, squeeze the water out gently and hang up to dry. The wool will look like new.

To remove sunburn on white straws use lemon juice mixed with a little sulphur. Use a teaspoonful to just enough lemon juice to make a paste. Spread all over the hat, rinse it off several times with cold water. Dry in the shade after rubbing as dry as possible with a clean white cloth.

THE EMERGENCY DRAWER

Every household should have an emergency drawer of linen and underwear to be used in the event some member of the family is hurt or suddenly taken ill. Miss Miriam M. Haynes of the Colorado Agricultural college, gives the following suggestions for stocking such a drawer:

- Two pairs plain substantial sheets. Two pairs untrimmed pillow cases. One pair clean blankets. White spread. Two men's night shirts or pajamas. Two women's night dresses. Two children's night dresses. One-half dozen towels. One-half dozen wash cloths. Bathrobe. Kimona. Above to be clean and on hand to be used in case of emergency.

WHAT HE GOT

At the conclusion of the school term prizes were distributed. When one of the pupils returned home his mother chanced to be entertaining callers.

"Well, Charlie," asked one of these, "did you get a prize?" "Not exactly," said Charlie, "but I got a horrible mention."—San Francisco Argonaut.



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Send for some TODAY!

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The capacity of the Columbia County Bank for handling the business of this community is in keeping with the necessary need for maximum upbuilding and development

Columbia County Bank

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Every Saturday we make special bargain prices on meats. Good beef, veal, mutton, pork, ham, bacon etc. Take advantage of these specials and save money on your meat bill.

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ST. HELENS, OREGON

