

THE OBSERVER

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DISCONTENT AND PROFIT SHARING.

Part, at least, of the industrial discontent so prevalent among workers these days comes from the fact that their wages are all they possibly can hope to get from their labor. The profits go to other men, who either supply capital or are backed by it.

Part, at least, of the public dissatisfaction with the high prices comes from the fact that buyers feel they are paying inordinate profits into the hands of a few men, controlling this self-made power of capital. If the extra tax on the purse were going into the hands of labor there would not be half the objection. For instance, the public was willing to pay an increased price for coal when it understood that the increase went for miners' wages, but now that it realizes it is paying three times as much in extra profits to the operators as it is to the miners it is protesting.

A few far-sighted captains of industry like George W. Perkins and others have realized that the discontent of workers for wages rests on the fact that they are fixed at the minimum the individual man or the union which represents him will take. They have recognized that the wage earner is in a sense a partner in the business, contributing by his faithfulness, honesty and efficiency to its upbuilding. From this conviction has grown the profit-sharing plan in vogue today in many enterprises, and destined to play a more and more important role in industrial practice.

It is founded on the doctrine that the man who works is entitled to more than the mere price of his labor as a commodity in the market; in other words, his labor cannot be paid for as a machine or a piece of land is paid for, but demands a recognition of the human element he puts into his work. This recognition comes when the men who help build up a business receive a share in the increasing profits of that business.

The subject, constantly in the mind of economists, is brought into public notice by an endorsement of profit-sharing now given by Charles W. Elliot, president emeritus of Harvard university. He says:

I have seen a continual increase in wages and decrease in hours for the last forty-five years, and yet in all that time discontent has grown steadily. The system of profit sharing seems to supply the needed motive to keep the employees interested in their work, and consequently contented.

The suggestion made is worth thought as a possible remedy for one of the most tangled problems the world of today has to face.

The smallest child in medical history, it is said, has just been born in New York. It's weight is 20 ounces, but that is no assurance that it can't howl as lustily as a ten pounder.

Wife of a Windy City millionaire declared that during her 32 years of married life her husband gave her 100 beatings. Then she got mad and sued for divorce. What a temper.

London gaily girls must now enter into contract with the manager not to wed. Now perhaps somebody else may land a lord or duke.

A Chicago thief stole 25,000 cigarettes from a delivery wagon in broad daylight. It will take more coffin nails than that to wreck such nerve.

Paid After 48 Years.

Spokane, Wash., March 26.—(Special)—Three dollars and fifty-two cents due him for 48 years for services as a soldier in the civil war have been received by David H. Barnhart of Kellogg, Idaho, a mining town east of Spokane. Of this amount \$3.56 constituted short pay and 96 cents for shortage on clothing. The money is in no wise a pension. Mr. Barnhart was a private in company F, 36th Iowa Infantry, and participated in battles at Vicksburg, Little Rock, Elkins Ferry and Camden and was captured in the battle of Mark Mills. He was taken to Red River and exchanged. He was mustered out of the service at Du Bald, Arkansas. "It is a long time to wait for money," said Mr. Barnhart, "but the government seems never to forget us. I can say without hesitation that it is the longest time I ever waited for money. Still, if everybody got money due them for 48 years, we would have no complaint to make."

Aeroplane Gun Ready

Washington, March 26.—A new aeroplane gun, declared to be the most powerful in the world, will soon be tested out at Sandy Hook Proving Ground. It fires a six pound projectile filled with one of the highest explosives known. It can be aimed at an elevation of 70 degrees. So terrific is the force driving the shell that when leaving the muzzle of the gun it has a velocity of 2700 feet per second.

Because of a peculiar curve taken in the air by a shell it is necessary to arrange sights to automatically allow for the curve. In the complicated sights of this gun the variation caused by each degree of heat from the sun, each breath of air, the height and distance of the aeroplane is provided for.

The litter shell is filled with high explosive gelatine which scatters with terrific force, small bullets in all directions. The charge is exploded by a small pin dislodged by compact with the canvass wings of the aeroplane.

Cold Swim Sunday.

Spokane, Wash., March 26.—(Special)—In water whose temperature hovers around the freezing point, induced by chunks of ice floating down from mountain streams, four athletes of the Spokane Amateur Athletic club will endeavor to swim across the swift Spokane river next Sunday.

At the outset they will have to stem some swift riffles so treacherous that none but a powerful swimmer could pass them under the best conditions. They expect to be carried 300 yards down stream while crossing a distance of 75 yards.

The feat will be attempted just below the biggest cataract in the Spokane river. An idea of the swiftness of the stream may be had from the fact that it has a fall of 1,250 feet in less than 100 miles, and has always been considered first class for power purposes, but poor for swimming.

Lawrence Allen, Ernest Crueger, A. G. Stall and Herbert Sutherland, who will start, having gone through a vigorous course of training for several weeks. Every day they have taken a plunge in water just above the freezing point.

Each man will have two assistants to attend him. Two boats with life guards and physicians will accompany the swimmers. Almost as important a personage will be the moving picture man.

Added interest attaches to the event because all four swimmers have applied for membership in the United States volunteer life guards. They will soon start a series of tests required to qualify in the organization.

The quartet of swimmers will represent Spokane in an aquatic tournament at Portland, Ore., during the Rose Festival in June.

They also will give a series of exhibitions in the Spokane river during the Pow Wow in June, the annual playtime carnival in the Spokane country.

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 - 8 Cash Pocket in outer right pocket.
- Vest**
- 9 Side buckles to produce smooth-fitting back.
 - 10 Watch guard in lower left pocket for fob or chain.
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 - 12 Vestee. Detachable; attached with gold pins; adds dressiness.
- Trousers**
- 13 Permanent crease; keeps trousers pressed and prevents bagging at the knee. Patented June 10, 1908. No. 890792.



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Trousers—Continued

- 14 Cash pocket within right-hand side pocket. Permits carrying keys, knife, etc., on same side without confusion.
- 15 Guard in watch pocket to prevent theft or loss.
- 16 Pencil pocket in right-hand hip pocket. Very convenient, especially when no coat or vest is worn.
- 17 Tunnel belt slides; hold trousers firmly over hips and keep belt in place.
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- 25 Belt of leather, covered with fabric of same material as trousers; has patent buckle.

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