

THE OBSERVER

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WAR AND PROSPERITY.

There is abroad in this country of ours a widespread idea that it is, from a selfish point of view, a splendid thing for this country that the nations of Europe are rapidly reducing each other to a state of national poverty and economic impotency, that, in short, their ill wind blows us no little good. This, we believe, is a mistake.

The idea is based on the false assumption that there is a limited amount of wealth in the world—that what one wins another must lose. The same idea is back of the loose talk about great fortunes in this country and the supposed tendency of wealth to accumulate in a few hands; that the money of a J. D. Rockefeller or an Andrew Carnegie was taken from the laboring man or the small dealer.

Such, of course, is not a fact. So long as the money is kept in circulation, is reinvested as fast as it is accumulated, it brings a proportionate amount of wealth to the working classes. Rockefeller's money was not taken from other men, but created by applied effort. If it had not been created there would have been proportionately less for the workingmen and the men in between.

So it is with nations. Each is dependent upon the others, in varying degrees, for its prosperity. So interrelated is the world of business that cycles of trade inflation and deflation are general, allowing for small local conditions. When the present abnormal conditions disappear this country will be dependent for its continued prosperity upon the spending power of the people of the great nations, which in the long run depends upon the prosperity of these same people. A thriving Germany, England, France and Russia means a prosperous United States and the reverse holds equally true.

So it is that every lessening of the immediate and ultimate spending power of the people of Europe is a blow at our future prosperity. Temporarily, the fact that they are engaged in war is a benefit to us but we shall pay dollar for dollar for it in the future.

St. Louis has a vacuum street

cleaning machine. But it takes a White Wing to do the corners and the lamp posts.

WHAT OTHERS SAY.

Colonel Roosevelt seems to be doing his hating more quietly than he was a while back.—Ohio State Journal.

During 40 years of Republican rule no shark ever invaded New York waters. Down with Wilson.—Brooklyn Eagle.

Maybe those smart sharks followed the German submarine over in the expectation of another Lusitania incident.—Boston Transcript.

Events have so shaped themselves as to reduce Mr. Perkins's checkbook to the status of a private institution.—Washington Star.

It is likely that Thomas Mott Osborne is the only man who has had cause to regard a second term at Sing Sing with satisfaction.—New York World.

It's difficult to believe that a person brave enough to visit Coney Island on a Sunday would be kept out of the surf for fear of a mers shark.—Boston Transcript.

The present prosperity is temporary, says Mr. Hughes. Probably he is right. We can't expect the Democrats to keep the upper hand forever.—Charleston News and Courier.

Farmers are patriotic, but sending their boys as militiamen on a wild-goose chase to Mexico right in harvesting time is not likely to make many farm votes for Mr. Wilson.—Kansas City Journal.

With two ex-presidents actively supporting him, Mr. Hughes, in the event of his election, may find the question "What shall we do with our ex-presidents?" extremely troublesome.—New Orleans Times-Picayune.

Let us hope that the German dyes brought over in the Deutschland will increase the hemoglobin content in the pale face of George Washington as it appears on the two-cent postage stamp.—Chicago Daily News.

The four leading batsmen of baseball come from Georgia, Virginia, South Carolina and Texas. The era of reconstruction is evidently over. The carpetbaggers have given way to the three-baggers for good.—New York Tribune.

THE FORUM

ARBITRATION A GAME OF CHANCE.

Can you call to mind a single instance in which workers at any trade have secured the eight-hour day through arbitration?

The mine workers were forced to inconvenience the public for many

months by a great strike before they secured the eight-hour day. Of course, now the public is glad that they were inconvenienced, for it was their sacrifice that thus helped to make this a better country to live in.

The printers, bricklayers, carpenters, and all the rest of them secured an eight-hour day through long and repeated strikes, but who of you now regrets your inconvenience? All mothers of liberty and human rights have suffered labor pains.

If the railroads may judge of the future by experiences of the past, they perhaps feel safe in submitting the present eight-hour question to an arbitration board. The railroads have already secured the co-operation of all Chambers of Commerce and other employers' associations in their proposal that railway employes be now forced to submit their eight-hour proposition to arbitration.

In the last Western arbitration locomotive hostlers, who have always been required to work 12 hours every day in the year, asked for a 10-hour day and the arbitration board decided that they should continue to work 12 hours. But, in fairness to the board, it should be said that it was not believed by anyone that hostlers could support their families in decency on 25 cents per hour unless they did work 12 hours per day.

After having refused to reduce a 12-hour day to a 10-hour day, it would be radical to expect another arbitration board to reduce these same hostlers to an eight-hour day. What courts are ever radical?

And aside from this, railway employes have lost faith in the justice of arbitration boards. They believe arbitration justice is as fickle as chance. Long before gambling with dice was prohibited by law, it was not considered profitable to go against loaded dice. Polite people would have nothing to do with such unfair methods.

Arbitration is a gambling game, even when the dice are not loaded. With the rules of the game observed in every detail, it is a fifty-fifty chance with the usual percentage to the house.

Railway employes once thought that decision depended almost entirely on the evidence that they were able to present and in blissful delusion took upon themselves credit for every arbitration victory—the railroads angrily protesting that they had been jobbed in the appointment of the neutral arbitrators; that they "did not understand the question;" that this award proved their "lack of knowledge of the subject."

And then it was discovered that most of the awards began to go against the employes, regardless of the evidence. In cases where the justice of their contention was most apparent to them and where the preponderance of evidence was believed to be on their side, they lost decision after decision.

In an engineers' arbitration they found the neutral arbitrator to be a retired railroad attorney—afflicted with old age, bad digestion and acute prejudice—to such an extent that he did not attempt to conceal his antipathy to the engineers. The railroads' representative in this arbitration was so much fairer than the neutral arbitrator that he conceded more than the so-called neutral arbitrator wanted to give.

In an arbitration of matters concerning conductors and trainmen ex-office holders, or "lame ducks," rendered a decision that made the victims say, as though they meant it, "Never again."

In the last arbitration of wages and working conditions of western engineers, firemen and hostlers the board was dominated by a man who, as director or trustee, was directly concerned in the result of the award. Aside from many millions of dollars of other railroad holdings, much of which would be affected by the award, he was director of a trust company that owned one block of approximately \$12,500,000 of first mortgage bonds of one of the railroads, parties to the arbitration. When his railway financial connections were discovered and official protest made against his continuance on the board, the employes were officially advised that while it had not been known that he was thus connected, a "knowledge of that fact would have been favorable rather than otherwise to his appointment" and that "nothing has been brought to our knowledge since his appointment as an arbitrator which in our opinion disqualifies him as an arbitrator."

But, ignoring past experiences, let us presume that there is an arbitration of this present eight-hour demand of railway employes and that in picking the jury every effort is made to appoint neutrals entirely free of prejudices. In such an event, it is but tossing pennies to decide the question. If the mental attitude of the men appointed is favorable to railway employes at the time of their appointment it is a two-to-one chance that the employes will win. If the neutrals' past environment has been such that it would require much evidence to convince them of the justice of the men's demands, no eight-hour day will be awarded. If the president of the American Federation of Labor is selected as a neutral arbitrator, he will with perfect honesty and sincerity award railroad men the eight-hour day. If a president, director or an attorney of some great employing corporation is appointed, with just as much honesty of purpose, he will deny the eight-hour day. If someone is appointed who, presumably, has no men-

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The newest styles and shapes of Pin Seal Leather—all handsomely lined and with fancy knob fasteners—fitted inside with mirror, coin purse and powder puff. Priced \$1.25 Many other handsome Hand Bags priced at \$1.00 to \$5.00

The Satisfactory Hose for Men

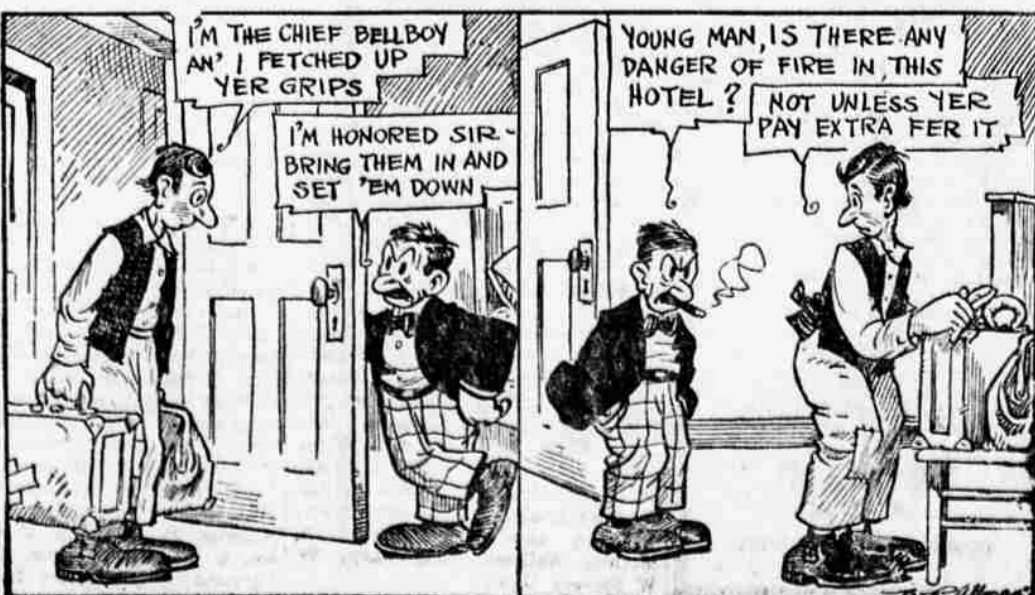


"Interwoven" Hose is guaranteed. Scores of men will have no other kind—made of the best yarns, dyed with the same good dye it has always been with no rise in price as most all things have done. "Interwoven" Hose, of light weight cotton in all styles with a fine finish that won't wash out, pair25c "Interwoven" Hose of Fibre Silk, pair 35c. 3 for . \$1.00 "Interwoven" Pure Silk Hose pair 50c

N. K. West & Co. THE QUALITY STORE

tal bias, it will be nothing more or less than betting on the red against the black. Mrs. Kitty Goss, a wee bit of a woman, faced a crew of road workers with a shot gun when they started to cutting trees and brush at her home near Hood River. The road workers decided to leave the place. Chief of Police John Catlin has a list of farmers and others who are in need of hands and this he shows to the "weary willies" who are looking for hand-outs. The result is that tramps are fighting shy of Albany.

DOINGS OF THE DUFFS



The Careful Man and his wife. put their money in the bank where it is safe from fire, burglars and their own temptation to spend it.

HUSBAND AND WIFE BOTH SHOULD SAVE MONEY. WHAT'S THE GOOD FOR ONE TO SAVE AND THE OTHER TO SPEND.

JUST ASK YOURSELF TODAY: "WHO GETS THE MONEY I EARN?" DO I GET IT OR DOES SOMEBODY ELSE GET IT? IF SOMEBODY ELSE IS GETTING IT CUT HIM OFF. YOU EARNED YOUR MONEY; IT BELONGS TO YOU. KEEP IT. BE A CAREFUL MAN AND BANK YOUR MONEY.

BANK WITH US WE PAY 4 PER CENT INTEREST 6 1/2 % Money for Improved Farm Loans La Grande National Bank LA GRANDE, OREGON Capital \$200,000.00, Surplus \$50,000.00, Resources \$1,000,000.00 Fred J. Holmes, President; C. C. Penington, Vice President; F. L. Meyers, Cashier; E. Zundel and H. E. Coolidge, Assistant Cashiers. DIRECTORS Fred J. Holmes, J. G. Snodgrass, J. P. Conley, C. C. Penington, H. E. Brownston, F. L. Meyers, A. Blokland, A. T. Hill, H. E. Coolidge.