

THE OBSERVER

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1916.

JUSTICE WITH A HEART.

President Wilson speaking to a delegation from the American Federation of Labor, calling upon him to congratulate him, said:

"I have tried to get rid of any class division in this country. The worst thing that could happen to America would be a division into groups and camps in which there would be men and women who thought they were at odds with one another; that the spirit of America was not expressed in them. Achievement is a small matter, but the spirit in which things are done is the essence of the whole thing. We are all men and women of the same sort. If we cannot serve each others' welfare we have not yet qualified as representatives of the American spirit. Nothing alarms America so much as the drifting apart of the elements among her people. We should close up every rift. The only way is to establish not merely justice, but justice with a heart and pulse in it. I believe this spirit is growing. I pray God it may continue to grow. I exhort every one to come into this movement of humanity."

With these patriotic utterances every American citizen can agree.

WE FEED THE WORLD.

The war has laid upon the United States the duty and the burden of feeding the world.

With an increase of 150 per cent in exports of meats since the outbreak of the war and with a constantly greater proportion of her grain crops leaving the country, America is assuming an even greater share of the burden of feeding stricken Europe.

This, in the wake of short crops, is given by government officials as one of the foremost reasons for high prices on foodstuffs.

During the first eight months of this year—ending with September 1—the United States has shipped abroad more than \$200,000,000 worth of meats and dairy products. This represents a total exportation of these products for the year of nearly a third of a billion dollars. During the same eight months period of 1914, just preceding the outbreak of the war these exports totalled but \$80,000,000.

Even with a season of unusually poor crops in practically every grain, the United States has contributed a greater share this year, proportionately, than at any time during the period of the war and ever before in its history. Exportation of the six major grains—wheat, corn, barley, rye, oats and buckwheat, thus far this year has approximately doubled since 1914.

Shipments of vegetables abroad also have jumped by leaps and bounds. During the eight months period of this year \$11,758,287 worth of vegetables has left American ports, against \$7,750,000 last year, and \$5,413,271 in 1914—a rise of more than one hundred per cent during the war.

The American hen also has been

called upon to do her bit. Against an exportation of \$2,117,000 in the first eight months of 1914, the United States has shipped \$3,450,000 worth of eggs during the like period this year. In conjunction with the increased exportation of eggs, it is reported from many farming districts throughout the country that laying this year has been below normal. Storages also are far below average for this time of year, the agricultural department reporting a falling off of 24.2 per cent in the number of eggs stored, indicating thousands of eggs previously stored are now being shipped abroad. In this as in other things the United States will be found equal to the task.

NATIONAL DEFENSE COMES HIGH.

The naval bill will include expenditures for \$375,000,000.

Think of it, almost as much as it cost to build the Panama canal.

National defense comes high but we must have it.

CONFIDENCE IN LA GRANDE

The sale of the Loftus corner at a good price to local people indicates the confidence La Grande investors have in this city and their ability to finance their own deals.

Henry Ford says he is in business for two things: "For fun and to do some good." That ought to be the object of all business. Of course it's nice to have a little money roll in. But have fun and do good too.

Oregon on an election map looks like an oasis in the desert.

Henry Ford's partners are getting after him for spending millions without consulting his board of directors. But Ford is a genius and that's the way they get things done.

Chicago shocked the world by making a \$5,000,000 loan to the Republic of China without the consent or cooperation of New York. We can see the international bankers gravely looking over the map of the world to learn where Chicago is.

ELECTORAL COLLEGE DEcriED

Contributor Believes People Want to Elect President By Direct Vote

La Grande, Nov. 18.—(To the Editor)—From my observations it is becoming more and more evident that the thinking voter considers the Electoral College as an undemocratic institution and should be abolished. It appears to be a menace to the political stability of the United States threatening its peace and safety.

In our recent election several hundreds of thousands of votes were cast for President Wilson over and above those cast for Mr. Hughes and yet on account of the existence of the Electoral College a situation is produced in which the man that a majority of the qualified voters at the polls elected may be defeated by a handful of men in a handful of states.

What are the Presidential Electors? Usually not even names to those that elect them. They act merely as clerks to record the will of the majority in the several states, but recording it under a system which makes it possible for a minority of the American people to choose the President. Because the legal power is vested not in the people but in the Presidential Electors.

The President of the United States ought to be elected like a Governor or a Senator by the voters themselves. The majority should determine regardless of states lines and regardless of artificial devices. The Electoral College should be eliminated from the political system of this country as a public evil and a public danger. All temptation to pervert the will of the people at the polls should be removed.

I believe most voters of this country would hail with delight any steps that Congress may take tending toward an amendment to the Constitution to substitute a direct vote of the

Santa Phones:



"He who shops in time helps three—Himself, his overworked neighbor and me."

Therefore

Do Your Shopping Early!

people for the Electoral College in the election of the President of the United States.

Let those interested in this reform write their Congressional representatives to urge this matter before the proper committees at Washington.

JACOB H. TRAYNER.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Will Benefit Railroad Employees.

The agitation over the Adamson law will ultimately bring more pay and better hours to all railroad employees. Wage raising has already begun, as evidence in a 5 per cent voluntary increase, announced yesterday to a large class of employes of the Northern Pacific. The stand of the brotherhood is a beneficial influence for every railroad worker.—The Portland Journal.

Is It Better This Way?

What if the Adamson law does have to be tested in the courts; what if it may be necessary to pass some additional legislation? While the law is being passed upon by the judges we will have no transportation tie up, no rioting and bloodshed such as threatened in November. Surely it is preferable to solve the problem by a test lawsuit than to solve it by a nationwide strike that would settle nothing with reference to the merits of the issue. Those Tories who are gloating over the railroad situation are not to be taken seriously. If there had been a strike and their interests had been jeopardized thereby they would have been the loudest squealers in the land.—Pendleton East Oregonian.

The Voice of the West.

(BY WM. ALLEN WHITE.)

So the gloomily gallant fight for Americanism failed to make the West forget its ideals and aspirations for a better country.

Just as we elected a Democratic President in 1912, because of Republican chicanery, it is evident now that the spirit of the West remains unchanged today, in spite of the futile efforts of the leaders of progressive movement.

The opportunity to vote as they wished to vote was taken from a great body of men when the Progressive party quit business. But they would not vote with those who disturbed the aspirations of the people. Not even the issue of national honor swayed these Western political crusaders. Disheartened and ashamed, but with unbroken spirits and unshaken convictions, these people voted for Wilson. Their leaders went to Hughes. But the folks in the West refused to follow. They would vote for a man and a party that they despised before voting for a party that they distrusted. And they are now conscious of their strength. They realize that with the direct election of United States Senators and the power to levy income taxes they have efficient weapons in their hands. They have no desire to use their power unjustly. But they do not shrink from using it to the full for the realization of their ideals.

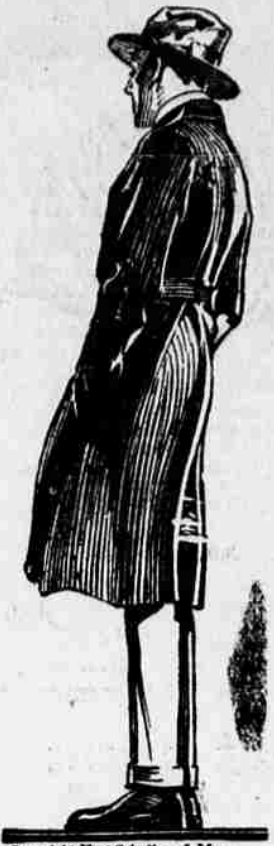
The New Congress.

The political complexion of the newly elected Congress is in doubt with the probabilities that the Republican party will have a plurality over the Democratic party and that the balance of power will be in the hands of a small group of Progressives, including one Socialist. Such a situation is unfortunate. Divided responsibility is never to be desired. If a majority of the people desire that Mr. Wilson shall be at the head of the government for another four years, he is entitled

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N. W. West & Co. THE QUALITY STORE

to a Congress of his political faith in order that he may carry out his policies if he has such. He is a Democrat, a very partisan Democrat. It will be difficult for him to co-operate with a Congress entertaining a different political faith.—Pendleton Tribune.

A Chain Broken.

The repeal of the Sunday closing law is probably a good thing for the public but it cannot be regarded wholly without misgivings. The obvious consequence of the repeal will be an impetus to open all business on Sunday. Nothing will remain closed unless these is a strong organization among dealers and laborers and closing agreements are lived up to strictly.

It would not be for the welfare of labor to have no settled and regular day of rest. We are not Sabbatarians. Like the prophet Isaiah we think one day is as good as another. But we do believe in rational rest for the weary and that ideal cannot be satisfactorily attained without a customary and inviolable day set apart for it.

The public can easily do its Sunday trading on Saturday. There is no valid reason for keeping groceries open seven days in the week. But no doubt it is better to achieve this end by cooperation than by law. Likewise labor must now see to its organization more thoroughly than ever and by united effort make sure of its day of rest.—The Portland Journal.

Weight Of Dressed Animals.

Farmers wishing to know about how much dressed carcasses of food animals should weigh may easily ascertain by bearing in mind that hogs will dress approximately 75 per cent of their live weight. In the case of beef cattle, the dressed carcass will weigh about 53 per cent of the live weight, while sheep dress approximately 48 per cent of their live weight. The percentage is much higher in the case of hogs because the head, hide and feet are counted in the dressed weight, these not being included in the dressed weight of cattle which also have a much larger body cavity that do hogs. Sheep dress at lightest because of their wool and the light tending of...

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Through all life's seven ages there is the need of a Bank Account, but not through life's seven ages will there be the chance to save, there is today. You can start a bank account today—and keep it alive, and feel that those dependent on you are provided for.

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