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MUST HELP, NOT HINDER.

The necessities created by the war are enforcing greater equality among the people in more ways than one. The cry that the war is principally for the benefit of certain classes has been well exploded and is proving groundless. If there has been mismanagement and profiteering in war supplies that fact will evidently be discovered when the present investigations are completed.

It is a lot preferable that the atmosphere be cleared and the charges proven and the guilty punished, or the other fact established that the government's war business is being conducted in good faith and for the best interests of all. A great deal of this work is new and honest errors can be condoned, but any design against the necessities of the people in this herculean undertaking is nothing less than treason of the most despicable sort.

But there are other ways in which all the people are to stand their just share of the burden. The state of New Jersey set the lead in providing that all able-bodied persons must be employed. Portland has a similar measure under way. It will be the same before long in every community either large or small. It is not a time for idleness and no one should be exempt. Patriotic people are doing all they can, are submitting to prescribed rations—for that is what the use of food substitutes and the plans for food conservation mean—and young men are being called upon for the rigorous work in the battlefields. It is, therefore, simple justice that all who are not on the firing line should contribute their full share for those who are taking the supreme risk.

Oracles and philosophers for countless ages past have expatiated on the

dignity of labor and the contentment that follows useful employment, so the unyielding rule that all of high or low degree must work, is to be accepted as a blessing. There is every reason in the whole category why the rule should be enforced.

CHANGING RATIOS.

It is certain from all the latest reports that the pay of railroad employees will be increased and there will be no distinction as to sex, race, or previous condition. Not only that, but the pay is to be retroactive, which only means that the additional pay is to cover the work that has been performed since January 1, 1918. In many cases, no doubt, this will amount to a very substantial sum itself.

At the same time, it was announced yesterday, there is going to be an increase in freight rates of seven percent or more to meet the contemplated raise in the pay of employees and to provide the fuel bill.

Rate adjustments of all kinds are working in a circle, and it is all due to the rapidly depreciating value of the dollar as the standard of value. This decline in value is in the same ratio as the increase in prices.

In the old "sixteen to one days" bushel of wheat was considered by the populists as a more correct measure of the value of a dollar than the prescribed number of grains of gold.

That ratio is not far from correct after all.

The fixed price of wheat has advanced about two hundred and fifty percent, and there is about the same advance in almost every line of commodity as compared with the prices of things twenty years ago. And this includes railroad salaries as well as anything else.

There is just one proposition in the matter of railroad rates that will place the Pacific Coast on a lower plane than heretofore. It is proposed to make a uniform passenger rate of two and three-fourths cents a mile. The rate in this section has been three cents.

FRIENDLY CHAT

(By Bruce Dennis)

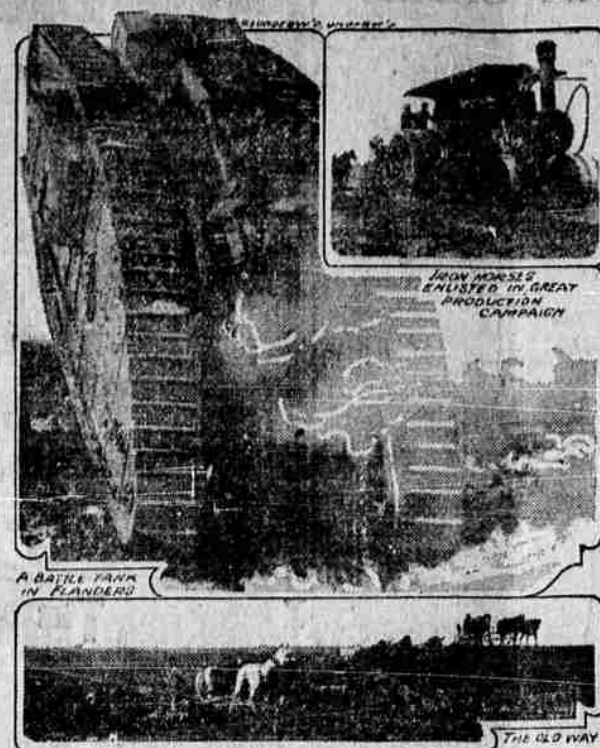
When Senator Chamberlain announced an investigation of the airplane branch of the government a lot of people on the Pacific Coast and especially in Oregon and Washington were gratified. Any one who has even occasionally seen the apparent lost motion in what is known as the "Spruce Division" cannot help but wonder how long it would last even under a rich, patient government like that of Uncle Sam's.

It appears now that instead of making airplanes this country has been raising wages, entangling the whole industry in red tape, paying dearly for the inexperience of men who, though well meaning, knew little about what their positions demanded of them.

The feeling is, "Go to it, George, and find out what is the matter." Oregon is to build three thousand freight cars, according to the latest ruling of the director general of the railroads. Just where side-tracks enough will be found to store them is not clear, for at present every siding in Eastern Oregon is filled with idle freight cars.

This summer people from the East will not see Oregon on a reduced railroad fare. It has been ordered, and quite properly so, that there shall be no cut rates on the railroads. People travel

IRON HORSES TO STAGE WORLD'S GREATEST PLOWING MATCH



All plowing contests since plows first were made will be eclipsed by a contest next month among the twenty-six units of a 50,000 acre farm, each unit being 1,920 acres, where iron horses will play, seed and harrow in ten days' time or less, two-thirds the entire acreage of each unit. Individuals and corporations, returned soldiers and retired farmers are vying with each other and the government in Canada's gigantic effort to grow a maximum quantity of wheat. Not only has the Dominion government ordered one thousand tractors delivered this spring for distribution among the wheat growers, but the government of Saskatchewan alone will not in crop an immense government tract, if it follows the lead of the Chicago capitalists headed by Frederick S. Oliver, who will operate 50,000 acres in the Snipe Lake district, Saskatchewan. The great plowing contest will be on that Snipe Lake farm of Mr. Oliver, and a purchase of tractors amounting to \$75,000 has been made for it. The match will be under the supervision of the world's champion sod-turner, J. E. Hauskins of Eaton, who boasts he is no "silk shirt farmer" but a real one bred on the soil. So determined is Canada that its wonderful wheat growing prairies shall not lie idle for lack of the population to work them as the wheat raising valleys of the United States are worked, that not only on the great Snipe Lake farm, but throughout the province, whole armies of workers with a fleet of tractors like the battle tanks of Plandiers will go into action as soon as the spring opens. According to the suggestion of the Hon. George Lane of the Saskatchewan government, who proposes a government enterprise on a bigger scale even than the Oliver farm, 3,300 tractors and 20,000 men enlisted as soldiers of the soil, could seed and harvest a million acres this year and add at least a quarter of a billion bushels of wheat to the storehouses of the allies.

entirely too much for a war period. Undoubtedly much of the travel which now congests the trains and causes freight shipments to be delayed for lack of power on many lines could be avoided. Getting the nation to realize fully we are in war would stop the California pilgrimages, lesson the pleasure-seeking tourists number, and probably thereby release a few more people to hoe potatoes, milk cows and mow grain.

We have got into trouble for saying that the Salvation Army is the most economic branch of all charity workers. But we are willing to take on the criticism once more, for it is a fact. We believe the Salvation Army can do and is doing more for a dollar expended not only in this country, but in Europe as well, than any other institution engaged in the noble work of helping behind the lines.

Doubtless our old friend Stone of the Y. M. C. A., would take issue with this statement and so also might some of the Knights of Columbus, Red Cross workers and others, but the fact remains apparent just the same. And there is a reason for it. Salvation Army folk are the people who have in most instances not tasted of the proverbial silver spoon. They can get along without so much "overhead." They do not need a retinue of secretaries and hired help, for the chief object of their minds is to accomplish results at the slightest cost. They have been trained to economy, most of them from childhood, and when once that training takes root, it is the crutch upon which the individual leans throughout life.

We know of a Salvation Army girl who can accomplish more real benefits to the poor with a ten dollar bill than most of the churches can accomplish with ten times that amount. Why? Not because she has any higher ideals, not because she is especially gifted, but because economy is the watchword. She plans and cuts her cloth according to her plans.

Another feature about the Salvation Army that always sounded good to us: They do not believe in giving except in a case of absolute emergency. They know that a straight out gift, even in the name of charity, weakens the one to whom it is given, and they therefore plan to assist the needy one to a place where he can work. By strengthening him first physically, then morally they take the human wrecks that are strewn throughout the world and rebuild them into useful citizens.

We never knew exactly where the bass drum came in, we never knew their religious scheme, but we do know from observation that the Salvation Army is one mighty good institution and you can bet every dollar you can give to their fund for work in Europe is getting more than a dollar's value when it is expended.

Observer advertising will bring results.

BAND DANCE WAS SOCIAL SUCCESS

H. L. ALEXANDER RETURNS TO IMBLER—LOCAL INVENTOR GOES TO WASHINGTON, D. C.

IMBLER, Ore., May 6. (Special)—Mrs. Olive Johnson and two younger children visited her daughter Mrs. Harry Wydel of Wallawa over Sunday.

Miss Ihlenko Henry left Sunday for La Grande where she expects to spend the summer with her sister, Mrs. Jennie Berry.

Routh McKennon of Allice has purchased 65 sacks of seed potatoes from Walter Westfall. He will put in about 20 acres of potatoes this year.

The dance given by the band boys was a social success altho the size of the crowd was small.

Lee Tuttle and his wife were in Imbler Friday evening.

W. L. May was an Imbler visitor Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. T. K. Belling are now comfortably located in their new home in the Frank Reed house.

Mrs. T. M. Bate of Elgin came up Friday evening to the dance.

Harry Sanderson spent Sunday with friends in Summerville.

Frank Reed and family have moved to Elgin where he has employment.

Lawrence Martin and Miss Stella Rollins went to Wallawa Lake Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Day visited Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clay Fox.

Miss Hanna Reeves of Union spent the week end with Mrs. Geo. Ruckman of Imbler.

Frank Miller left last week for Washington, D. C., where he has a patent pending on a game called "Over the Top." He has had offers for several thousand of the games already. He expects to be gone two or three weeks.

Mrs. Wm. Firman returned Tuesday from Dayton where she went to attend the funeral of Mrs. N. L. May.

Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Stringham were La Grande visitors Saturday.

Mrs. Belling and children went to La Grande Saturday to meet her daughter Mrs. Ross Perry. They have returned to Imbler for a short visit and will then return to Portland where Rosa is employed in the ship yards. They say all the Imbler people in Portland are doing well.

Mrs. Robert Loyd of Portland is in Imbler visiting friends. She says that two of her sons are in the service Lawrence and Marion.

H. L. Alexander who has spent the past year in Portland has returned to Imbler.

May 10th last day to receive discount on your light and power bill.

Eastern Oregon Light & Power Co. 5-9-11

IT TAKES TWENTY SHEEP TO CLOTHE A SOLDIER



Copyright Hart, Schaffner & Marx

Store
Closes
Saturday
at
9 p.m.

N. K. West & Co.
THE QUALITY STORE

QUALITY COMES FIRST

So an army of 2,500,000 men will take every scrap of American-raised wool. Fact is, we've always imported more than twice as much as we raised at home.

Have you ever stopped to think of the wool when you are buying; the quality of what you are buying?

You should—you're paying for it and you're not at all unpatriotic in wearing all-wool clothes. All wool clothes will last two or three times as long as cotton mixed or wool substitute garments.

BUY ONLY WHEN AND WHAT YOU NEED.
But be sure you buy well.

Hart, Schaffner & Marx

Guarantee their suits to be of all wool and the best wearing qualities.

We Sell them at \$27.50, \$30, \$32.50 and up to \$60.

Ladies Spring Suits

A woman not only expects her clothes to wear, but to hold their shape and to be well tailored. Such suits are not cotton mixed. Be careful of the quality.

At the same time every woman likes to feel that the lines of her suit bespeak individuality—suggestive of style and refinement in every sense.

She wants Material, Modeling and Tailoring to be the best.

We will be pleased to have you call and inspect our ready to wear department.



IN MEMORY OF MRS. MAY

Our dear old Mother has gone to sleep.
And now is laid beneath the sod so deep.
She left us one sad all to weep.
It being God's will, he took her home to keep.

Her loving heart was so kind and true,
That never a wrong did she want us to do,
But now we are left alone.
We must try to meet her in her Heavenly home.

There is a Vacant Place in our home so dear,
That never can be filled with Mother's cheer.
But our only hope is to Trust in God,
And we will never fear, O Mother dear O Mother dear.

A FRIEND.
5-8-11

WATER BREAK STOPPED

(Continued from Page One)

Park Fund 50.00
Total 2254.07
Licenses issued: Movie picture show one.

F. B. CUREY.

Commissioners' Proceedings

At the weekly meeting of the city commission held yesterday evening the commission ordered that the additional list of delinquent assessments

LADY MINTO MEMBER OF ALL WAR RELIEFS



LADY MINTO.

There are few relief organizations of war charities in Great Britain that do not claim as a member Lady Minto, wife of the former viceroy of India. She works daily for war relief and has given large sums of money.

be prepared for publication.

Toy Young presented a petition asking for a reduction of the improvement assessment charged to him on Adams avenue East. It was represented that certain charges for excavation were for work that had not been done and a rebate of the amount would be about one-third of the total charge made. This matter will be taken up at the next meeting of the commission.

The city authorities and the Riverside Park directors want to take up with the Nessly Ditch company thru the park grounds and with the further idea of having a supply of water for the park lagoon.

City Attorney Slater reported that the Fourth street matter, which has been in the courts for some time, has been presented to the supreme court and a decision is looked for the coming month.

Observer advertising will bring results.

CHICHESTER'S PILLS
THE DIAMOND BRAND
Ladies Ask Your Druggist for
Chichester's Diamond Brand
Pills in Red and Gold Tonic
Boxes, sealed with Blue Ribbon.
Take no other. Buy of your
Druggist. Ask for CHICHESTER'S
DIAMOND BRAND PILLS, for 25
years known as Best, Safest, Always Reliable.
SOLD BY DRUGGISTS EVERYWHERE

THE TENTH ANNUAL LIVE STOCK SHOW

Will be held at Union, Oregon.

June 5, 6 and 7, 1918

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY

The Association announces that the 1918 show will be the equal in the display of exhibits and thrilling arena and track events of any show yet held on these grounds, and invites the co-operation and assistance of stockgrowers and the general public.

Free Entrance, Free Feed
and Free Shelter
FOR ALL EXHIBITS.

Send to the Secretary for Classification Book and further information. Come to the Stock Show and bring your friends.

Remember the Dates
And Plan to Attend the Show

When You Write a Check



for the amount of a bill, that forever ends any dispute as to its payment. For the check is a receipt that cannot be repudiated. Checks are easier and cheaper to send than cash too. These are only two of the many benefits of having an account here.

Member Federal Reserve System

La Grande National Bank
LA GRANDE, OREGON