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My Country 'Tis of Thee, Sweet Land of Liberty.

THE HONOR SYSTEM.

There is little doubt that Governor Withycombe is entirely correct regarding his preference to the parole for prisoners rather than what has been termed the honor system. For many years we have been going wild on a lot of limber-backed reform. Women have taken it up and effeminate men have been interested in the work. Such people could not go through a prison and hear the tales of woe which prisoners always have without having their hearts bleed and immediately to formulate plans where the "poor prisoners" would be treated better and given a place in the sun.

In some cases their work had good effect, but in the majority of cases where criminals are sufficiently hard boiled to serve a sentence in the state's prison, it was love's labor lost. Governor Withycombe has doubtless found this to be true and he is to be commended for coming out frankly and telling the people his views of this prison matter.

Strict discipline and unflinching regulations are about the only things that will help the man who is serving a term in the state penitentiary. Extremely young men perhaps can be handled differently and there is always a way to do such things.

NOT THE CASE HERE.

Director General of Railroads McAdoo has issued General Order No. 40 stating that it has come to him that railroad employees do not treat the public with as much courtesy under federal control as when railroads were in private hands.

This may be true in some sections of the country but charges of this nature against the railroad boys of the northwest could not be sustained. In fact the reverse obtains, for every railroad man in La Grande, and so far as we know, on the entire O-W system, feels a patriotic duty in discharging his duties in the careful and painstaking manner. It has often been remarked how faithful and earnest railroad people have taken up the cause of the government and how willing every man seems to be to do anything that he is asked to do by the heads of departments.

For the benefit of everyone the order of Director McAdoo is herewith reproduced:

To all employees of the railroads of the United States: Complaints have reached me from time to time that employees are not treating the public with as much consideration and courtesy under government control of the railroad as under private control. I do not know how much courtesy was accorded the public under private control, and I have no basis, therefore, for accurate comparison. I hope, however, that the reports of discourtesy under government administration of the railroads are incorrect, or that they are at least confined to a relatively few cases. Whatever may be the merits of these complaints, they draw attention to a question which is of the utmost importance in the management of the railroads.

For many years it was popularly believed that "the public be damned"

policy was the policy of the railroads under private control. Such a policy is indefensible either under private control or government control. It would be particularly indefensible under public control when railroad employees are the direct servants of the public. "The public be damned" policy will in no circumstances be tolerated on the railroads under government control. Every employe of the railroad should take pride in serving the public courteously and efficiently. Courtesy costs nothing and when it is dispensed, it makes friends of the public and adds to the self-respect of the employe.

My attention has also been called to the fact that employes have sometimes offered as an excuse for their own short-comings, or as a justification for delayed trains or other difficulties the statement that "Uncle Sam is running the railroads now" or that "These are McAdoo's orders," etc. Nothing could be more reprehensible than statements of this character, and nothing could be more hurtful to the success of the railroad administration or to the welfare of railroad employes themselves. No doubt, those who have made them have done so thoughtlessly in most instances, but the harm is just as great if a thing of this sort is done thoughtlessly as if it is done deliberately.

There are many people who for partisan or selfish purposes wish government operation of the railroads to be a failure. Every employe who is discourteous to the public or makes excuses or statements of the kind I have described, is helping these partisan or selfish interests to discredit government control of railroads.

Recently the wages of railroad employes were largely increased, involving an addition to railroad operating expenses of more than \$475,000,000 per annum. In order to meet this increase, the public has been called upon to pay largely increased passenger and freight rates. The people have accepted this new burden cheerfully and patriotically. The least that every employe can do in return is to serve the public courteously, faithfully and efficiently.

A great responsibility and duty rest upon the railroad employes of the United States. Upon their loyalty, efficiency and patriotism depends in a large part America's success and the overthrow of the kaiser and all that he represents. Let us not fail to measure up to our duty, and to the just demand of the public that railroad service shall not only be efficient, but that it shall always be courteously administered. W. G. McADOO, Director General of Railroads.

OVER THE NORTHWEST

In a recent dispatch from New York, it told of the wonderful effect the Aurora borealis had on all the electric wires of the east—how they all lit up, for one thing. But when you are at home, if you jump out at that unearthly hour—midnight, you might have noticed that all electric lights in the city suddenly went out, and did not come again until two o'clock the next morning. The explanation seems to be the air being so fully charged with electric currents they absorb, so to speak, the ordinary electric light currents, until after the upper atmosphere is cleared of its surplusage of electricity.

At the same time it is not so wonderful, after all, it is simply that all equinoctial storms are a few days ahead of schedule.

An army order for 875,000 25-ounce cans of blackberry and plum jam to A. Rupert & Co., a cannery with offices in the Worcester building shows the huge demand being made upon Oregon for canned fruit products. The filling of this immense contract will require 750,000 pounds of sugar. This is the largest order of its kind that has been made by the government for sweets for the soldiers—Exchange.

THE BALANCE OF POWER



OVER THE TOP



A. L. BARKMAN, chief of the division of farm service of the department of labor, mobilized both the men and women in every section of the country who were available for farm service. He stationed a special farm service man in each of the 94 federal employment agencies and used pest offices in small farming communities as receiving stations.

The authorities in Albany and everywhere else are trying to decipher this message:

"P n 7 3 a r h w"

It was written on a piece of note paper brought here by a strange carrier pigeon, which died very soon after it was found on the street. The bird was identified as a species of California's desert quail not found in any part of Oregon save possibly in the southeastern portion. The bird refused food and water and was exhausted. A piece of string which bound the message to the bird's leg was olive drab in color and might have been unravelled from an army uniform.

Farmers may exchange wheat for wheat flour at the mills provided they do not secure an amount greater than will be enough to make eight pounds per person per month until October 1, 1918. This is the substance of a new ruling by the food administration grain corporation, a copy of which has just reached the local administration in Albany.

Treat raising to increase the food supply of Oregon is being tried by State Biologist William L. Finley who says that the propagation of this game fish is easier than raising chickens, and if put on a commercial basis, more profitable. He believes that as a result of the war one of the great natural resources of the state may be developed and instead of waste land swamps and swamps may become trout ponds, retaining abundant revenue in little cost and furnishing an inconsiderable food supply.

Many Oregon realty men from points outside of Portland are planning to attend to annual convention of the Interstate Realty association at Seattle August 29, 30 and 31. Following the meeting of the Portland Realty board at the committee room of the association in the Henry building Wednesday evening, it was announced that more than 100 realty dealers in that city have agreed to attend the convention. Paul Cowgill, secretary of the Portland Realty board, leaves today for Seattle where he will remain until after the convention. Mr. Cowgill is also an official of the Interstate association.

Further credence to the report that the Bushner Lumber Company's holdings in the North Bend section are under option and are soon to be taken over by the Slattery interests is given by the information that a large force of men employed by Mr. Slattery has been engaged examining the timber holdings of the Bushner Lumber Company and that an extension of 60 days has been given on the option.

New Fall Shoes!

arriving every day by express. We have the strongest line to offer our trade this fall that we have ever had. Every pair has a full leather insole, every pair Goodyear Welts. The following styles are some of the new ones: Cherry Red, Calf, Cuban Heel, Lace, Coco Brown, Calf, Cuban Heel, Lace; Khaki, Grey and Brown, Kid, Cloth Top, Lace.

We will be glad to show you. No trouble to fit our shoes. They are moderately priced \$6.00 to \$9.50.

A
UNION
STORE

N.K. West & Co.

THE QUALITY STORE

A
UNION
STORE



MRS. S. J. SYMONS, the English woman who founded the Symons hospital at the French front, is in Washington in the interest of the hospital, which has been moved from Soissons to Clermont. She is adding 200 beds in tents for the Americans now fighting with the French.

Germany's Oldest Railroad.

The oldest railroad in Germany is one of the shortest in the world. The Ludwig railway, connecting the cities of Pfort and Nuremberg, is just three and three-quarters miles long, and has never been extended. It was conceived by Johannes Scharrer, a wealthy hop merchant, the Philadelphian traveler tells us. The plan was first published in 1822, and as King Ludwig favored its construction it was named after him. There are about 90 employes. The railroad carries about 4,000,000 passengers a year.

"Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp" at Sherry's, tomorrow and Friday. Bring the kiddies and refresh fond memories of your youth. 8-21-18

Cash paid for second hand school books in good condition. Silverthorn's Family Drug Store. 8-20-18.

Silverthorn's
 FAMILY DRUG STORE
 LA GRANDE, OREGON.

ARCADE

—Today and Tomorrow—

Ethel Clayton in
'Souls Adrift'
 Also
Love Loops the Loop
 Two Reels of Laughter.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY.



J. STUART BLACKTOR
 "MISSING"
 A Pleasant Picture

Practically
Everything Has Raised
But Telephone
Service

**GO TO THE BEE, THOU SLUGGARD,
 CONSIDER HIS WAYS AND BE WISE.**

The most important thing about a bee is not his stinger—but, that he is a "Saver," while the fact that he is also a stinger is the next most important thing about him, as you have probably had reasons to experience.

If you adopt his plan on saving, and make our bank your hive, you are less liable to "get stung" by some "get-rich-quick" scheme.

You can't lose if your money is deposited in our bank. We take every precaution to protect your money; we carry burglar insurance, have fire-proof vaults, and bonded employes.

Member Federal Reserve System

La Grande National Bank
 LA GRANDE, OREGON

"ECONOMY"

We save our patrons many dollars annually, at an expense of about one-tenth the original cost of goods. A discarded \$10 Suit is often made wearable again—for a small sum.

Zwiefel Tailoring, A. B. Rogers
 Foley Hotel Building, Adams Avenue.

Mason Jar Rubbers

We have but a few dozen left, and while they last you may have them at the low price of

3 dozen for 25¢

Furniture Exchange
 Black 1241 E. J. DONOHUE Fir and Jefferson
 Best Prices Paid for Used Furniture, or will Exchange for New.

**ADVERTISING
 IS INSURANCE**

An advertiser's advertisement is his voluntary agreement to do certain things. Good business policy, law and public opinion require that an advertisement-agreement be fulfilled. This serves as a protection to the buyer of advertised goods.

If, by chance, you have an experience with the deceptive selling practices or misleading advertising, please report it to us.