

EDITORIAL PAGE

IS A SPECIAL SESSION NECESSARY?

There is some agitation for a special session of the state legislature for the sole purpose of giving Oregon's official endorsement to women suffrage, and yet Oregon has been registering such endorsement at every election and in every manner that has been possible.

A question has arisen as to whether the legislative body, if it convenes in special session, should transact any other business than is prescribed in the call. This would indeed be very hard to handle, for every Oregon legislator is a man of mature years and has a perfect right to believe he has some constructive ideas which he wishes enacted into laws.

It looks very much like an extra session of the law-makers means we will have more laws and that it will not be a one day's session.

The Observer fails to see the necessity of a special session and we hope Governor Olcott will decide against it.

THE ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL.

It is highly proper that this nation shows its marked respect for the late Col. Roosevelt by erecting some kind of an appropriate memorial to the man who has done so much for the country. Oregon blazed the way in this matter by voting bonds to build the Roosevelt highway, but this is only a state matter, and Oregon holds the desire to do her full part in a national undertaking to commemorate the remarkable man who led this nation so successfully and whose personality stood forth as the greatest of all Americans during his public life.

A state committee has been named but the method of procedure has not been determined. It is to be hoped that the fund to be raised will be so apportioned that every citizen may contribute a small amount, thus permitting all true Americans to give something from their purse as well as their heart to the noble cause.

IT IS A PROBLEM OF SCARCITY.

What is the gist of the cost-of-living problem now occupying the minds of all thinking people? It is, as the Saturday Evening Post well says, "fundamentally a problem of scarcity, and there is no possible way of correcting scarcity except through greater production."

It follows, as the Post remarks, that "every interference with production, by strike or otherwise, obviously aggravates the trouble. When workmen go on strike and cease producing goods, as a protest against the scarcity of goods, they are simply intensifying the condition they protest against. Every interference with production, makes it more difficult for people of small means to get staple goods."

Other remedies may help, but production is the one, big, sure remedy for the thing that ails the world.

Bert Hancy, United States district attorney, has the chance of a lifetime to do a great good for the people and make a lasting name for himself. He is the one man who can successfully prosecute the producer; he can regulate profits, force down the living cost in Oregon to a great extent and his every act will be backed by the government. No one knows better than Bert that the commission merchant on Front street in Portland is not the place to begin his work, for the men high up in the game are the ones to grab first and then the little fellows will soon quit. We will all watch Bert's work with the greatest interest, to see just where he will strike first in the campaign of lower living cost.

The men who refused to obey their organization officials and struck have seen what it means to be a part of a large group and then refuse to abide by orders. They are losing what they thought was a strike in all parts of the country and are returning to work. Unionism is not for the purpose of strikes, but for the purpose of honest deliberation, collecting workmen in such numbers that such deliberation will be positive and of consequence. The strike is the extreme weapon and should only be used when all other efforts fail. President Wilson made this clear in his address to congress.

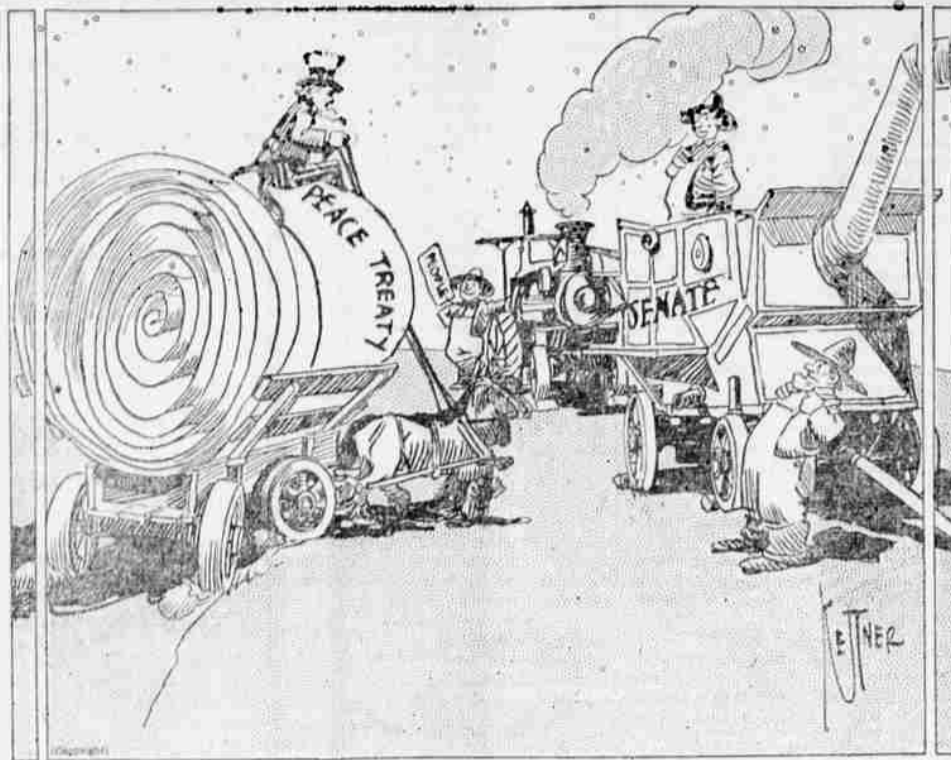
"An old man and a shotgun can start more fires than a hundred fire wardens can put out," says Joe Woods. Joe is not far wrong, and during the dry season it may become necessary to abolish hunting and trapping, which would be a hardship on a few but it would save the state vast areas of good timber.

We wonder who is compiling the crop statistics this year. Somehow, whoever that fellow may be, he has a wrong hunch on crops in Eastern Oregon. To say the least, he must be an optimist.

Anything that cuts hay this winter will be a mighty valuable animal before the days of spring arrive.

Labor Day is not far distant.

Now For the Threshers



Supplemented the School of Experience.

In an article on "The Highbrow Doughboy," published in the Red Cross Magazine, William Allen White tells some interesting facts about the "liberal university." The courses of study covered everything from A-B-C's to advanced college work. The only compulsory part, however, was the teaching of reading and writing to illiterates.

In the divisional schools, where the boys were taught in camp, the work was in elementary and high school branches. Reading and writing were supplemented by primary handwork, drawing, measuring and vocational instruction of high school grade. Other subjects were land surveying, road making, telegraphy, wireless, telephone construction and operation, horse-shoeing, cooking, nursing, baking, hygiene, motor construction and repairing and the principles of gas engines, tailoring, mathematics, history and many other things.

The A. E. F. University was an educational institution that carried the work yet higher up. This school was established at Beaune, France, last spring 6000 American students took credit college work there.

Equipment for all these schools was good. Surveying, transit, chemical supplies, medical supplies, dental equipment, very carefully selected books, engines, many pieces of apparatus necessary to instruction in chemistry, engineering, aeronautics, etc. came straight to the school from the army supplies. Some of the excellent equipment those boys were privileged to work with would have been a great boon to many a college and university in this country, suffering from wartime scarcity of materials.

Through all the schools ran a fine spirit of democracy. Officers and book-keepers both were found in the many classes. Both, too, were found in the teacher's chair, for it was a democratic army to begin with. The doughboy is not a "highbrow," but he has had sure opportunities recently for travel and study. The full value of this educational work will come back to the United States in the years to come when these soldier students have translated their studies into intelligent and public-spirited citizenship.

General Causes of Present High Prices.

If there were no single explanation of high prices, the causes are many. Some of them, as the President remarked in his message to congress, are special, and subject to correction. Others are general, the result of wide spread economic conditions, and can be removed at best but slowly and with great difficulty, by national and international action.

The one economic cause, of course, is the destruction of war. That is said to have cost \$200,000,000,000 in actual expenditures. It already destroyed an incalculable amount of wealth which other wise might have been turned to create a new world, and a few tens of millions of new units of productive industry for years. That destruction has to be made up before prices can be expected to settle down to any where near the pre-war level.

Along with this must be reckoned the multiplication of money and credit. The basic supply of gold has gone on increasing while other commodities have decreased, therefore, naturally, more gold must be paid for the same commodities. This tendency has been greatly accelerated by the issuance of vast quantities of currency, either based on gold or independent of it, and by the enormous flotation of war loans and extension of

credits. There are several times as much "money" of various sorts to buy things with as there were before the war. So of course more money has to be paid for things.

These are world-wide causes, operating everywhere and subject only to slight local variations.

An additional cause operating powerfully in America at present is the export movement to Europe. Because there is more need of food and other fundamental goods in Europe than there is here, Europe is driven to pay whatever is necessary to obtain them. The lure of profits draws our goods across the sea, thus reducing the national supply, which otherwise might be adequate. That raises American prices above their natural level.

The remedy for the destruction is, of course, hard, intelligent, productive work, the world over.

The remedy for too much money is to stop issuing big loans, pay off existing bond issues as fast as possible and contract credits as far as may safely be done—a very complex, difficult business.

The remedy for too much exports is, presumably, to limit exports, if the United States wants to do any thing so drastic as that.

Sudden Change in Wheat Situation.

Man proposes, and Nature disposes. Mother Nature has certainly played hob with government wheat plans.

With \$2.25 a bushel promised in order to stimulate production, there was the prospect, up to two months ago, of an over-production so great as to amount in some ways to misfortune. It was commonly said that wheat would be so plentiful and cheap, the government would have to pay the farmers nearly one billion dollars as a bonus for their crop. And the farmers were extremely well satisfied. They stood by the government guarantee.

The amazing reversal of the situation has only become generally known within the last few days. Unfavorable weather has lowered the year's wheat prospect to 400,000,000 less than the June estimate. It will still be a pretty fair crop, but not more than two-thirds of what was expected. There is a shortage also of 400,000,000 bushels in Europe.

Thus the natural market price of wheat, which two months ago seemed destined to fall considerably below the guarantee, is now certain to be considerably above it. European wheat is said to be selling at home for \$3.75 a bushel. Experts say that if the government fixed price were abolished, as many congressmen wanted to do, but lately, the price of American wheat in the home market would jump immediately to \$2.25 or \$3.50 a bushel.

The guarantee, which seemed destined to be a blessing for the farmer and a misfortune for the rest of the public, therefore becomes a blessing for the consumer and a sad blow to the producer. On the whole, however, the farmer will probably fare well enough. All crops considered, he is in a better economic position than any other large class of citizens. Some wheat-growers doubtless deserve sympathy, but the majority of farmers can worry along

Skill and Service Needed First.

Some one has been prophesying to the public a "flying" airplane which would sell for not much more than \$500 and so would be available to nearly everybody within the next few years. Archibald Black, a mechanical engineer in the U. S. navy department, warns against any such development of the airplane. He urges manufacturers not to

build flivvers until the commercial lines are in successful operation. He believes that the small, cheap car, in the hands of the public, is liable to prove the foot-killer par excellence and create a grossly exaggerated idea of the dangers of flying. This would, of course, have a deterrent effect upon the whole development of commercial and pleasure aviation.

It is more important first, says Mr. Black, to organize chains of flying and emergency landing fields through out the country. Next, specially designed passenger and express carrying aircraft should be put into operation as speedily as possible. This should be done with careful choice of routes in accordance with service needs. Last of all the attractive, inexpensive sporting aircraft may come, with reasonable safety to aviation and aviators alike.

Maybe the reason why people have not yet ordered next winter's coal is that they've been too busy paying for this summer's fuel.

Portland is getting away from her village ways. There is an agitation in that city for water meters.

The Prince of Wales is receiving considerable attention when it is considered that a year ago this country was very opposed to royalty in any form.

With actors on a strike there may be a chance for the untalented home talent at the entertainment game.

Who will build a few houses for the sake of humanity and the investment feature attached thereto?

WEATHER FORECAST. (By Associated Press to The Observer) For Oregon: Sunny, showers, and cooler; gentle westerly winds.

LODGE, KNOX ARE SET ON AMENDMENT

(Continued from Page 1)

rock had said after the conference that the administration would cross "the reservation bridge when it came to it."

Considerable interest was aroused by a statement of Mr. Hitchcock that the President had laughingly suggested sending Lodge and Knox to negotiate any future treaties with Germany, should the present one fail through being amended. Republican members on the foreign relations committee who are fighting for reservations welcomed this suggestion as a challenge.

The amendment proposal which the leaders on both sides expect to develop the greatest strife in the senate, contemplates striking from the treaty the provision giving Japan control in Shanghai.

Advocates of a Shanghai amendment declare Lodge will stay with them on the proposal. They also assert he will support several other textual amendments in the committee, but the reservation group are inclined to suspect he will not.

STATE POLITICS

AND OTHER THINGS

When a political party sets its face against the people, it is liable to trouble. For years Oregon's Democratic party was as devoted to the cause of Stanford's latest lapses, there was no chance to kick up a row. The different how Portland has a postmaster's struggle in full swing that would make an old-fashioned customer look like a babe of after-nooning. So bitter has it become that well known and highly respected Democrats use the old time political language, and do not hesi-

THE TWO GEORGES.

Geo. W. Stapleton, of the circuit court, and Mayor Geo. L. Baker, of Portland, Imperial representatives who will be in La Grande at the Shriners' big blowout.



Litigants may be standing in the Circuit Court knee-deep to the six foot judge, and petitioners may be crowded into the ante-room of the chief executive, but it is a safe bet the Judge George W. Stapleton and Mayor Geo. L. Baker will be seen doing their "big brother" act on the streets of La Grande on September 6, when Al Kader Temple of the Mystic Shrine comes here to send a part of candidates across the hot sands.

The two Georges are always with the Shriners when they make a pilgrimage. They drink (water) out of the same canteen, they have learned the same songs and are said to sing equally bad. Both of them are operators. One speaks in a sweet and alluring tone, the other uses a roaring bass, and they always hold an exhibition before delivering their impromptu talks, so that they will not talk about the same things.

Aside from these things these two distinguished visitors are all that could be expected of a pair of politicians.

They are fine chaps, are always keeping the Oregon banner in the air and are said to have a clear notion that Eastern Oregon is a part of the state.

Mayor Baker expects to appoint Eastern Shriners to every office in Portland next year, and to let them run the city for a week. He is having a big police attack made for the use of the Imperial Potentate, W. Froeland Kendrick, and will pin it on that distinguished visitor as soon as he sets foot in Portland.

Portland has raised \$100,000 for an entertainment fund for the Imperial Council at that city next year, and the Mayor wants the Imperial Pot to see that it is all spent for "fun."

to say, "we're going to put the rollers under that suit out of a Frank Myers who jitters like a Brazilian monkey in coconut season."

Yes, that is exactly the way they talk and mean people out of the Democratic party agree with the old time Democrats to the effect that Frank Myers is a nut and should be left to private life. It was Myers who fought the first road measure in Oregon saying hard surfaced highways should not be built for the good for it would only enable Germany to land her troops and march right through Oregon, whereas the Willamette valley would act as a great impediment to the Kaiser's movement if he ever chose to operate in this country. That's the sort of a nut who slipped by the inner guard of Oregon's Democratic party and landed the Portland post office.

It is little wonder that a man with such remarkable intellect should get "into his head" that he can lick George Chamberlain and the rest of the fellows who have been "demonstrating" around Oregon for the last half century. Did he lick them? Not so! But the moment the wily Dan Morrow, who is now National Committeeman Morrow by a big margin, heard that Myers was intruding he called in all the faithful Democrats and they remonstrated. One whoop from the Doe and things begin to move. At least, they did move when that state central committee meeting was held. Even the counties were represented by members of the party who paid their own expenses just to give Myers a wallop in the jaw, and at the same time give to George Chamberlain that they were still on duty and ready to take up the cudgel against anyone who dared trespass on the Chamberlain property.

That was the memorable meeting when Oswald West nominated McCoy to the post of "squares deal" and then voted against McCoy. All of which points up one of the curious stories, when a traveling postmaster denied the travelers needed convincing and he journeyed a long way to hold church for the brethren of the squares. If there was not one person in the crowd who would stand up for Jesus a painful silence followed and finally one lone, hunch-backed bow-trucker began to utters himself from the floor where he had crunched to keep the sermon. Who else had reached full-height? "Yes Parson, I'll stand up for Him, or any other way who don't seem to have any more brains than he seems to have in his crowd."

It is not charitable in West to say that he took the same view of McCoy, case for that proved that the old McCoy was not Jesus, his old friends to any marked degree. Where the state of Maine called

the dishes at that banquet and declined the meeting adjourned, he might have thought it was adjourned but it was not. It was only an intimation to permit the sharpening of knives preparatory to taking scalps, the first of which is believed to fall to the man who talks like the Brazilian monkey, Postmaster Myers, of Portland. And there are others. Heavy Starkweather's long and faithful career as a Democrat won't save him, for his name is written on the condemned list in large and glaring letters.

There is still another and 'tis a pity some say, while other very well balanced minds applaud and assert it will be adding the state's public life of a pest. Shall we mention who it is that is due to be relegated to private life. Huh! your breath and listen softly, for it is none other than Mrs. Alexander Thompson, the lady who rode the tram at the Corcoran mine in Baker county while campaigning and thereby got a very unkind picture in the papers. Whether her execution is justified will be left to a number of big poets, but it is slated and there must be some fast work done by McAdoo or the President to stay the execution. Certainly there will be no use for her friends to look to Chamberlain for aid and comfort, for the senator is not in the comforting business when his enemies are to be considered.

With these three scamps dangling from the Morrow belt it is a safe guess that the remainder of the party will be good and respect a leader who can so quickly show his fighting strength.

And it all dates back to "Bill" Hordbrook when he "spilled the beans" after being fairly and squarely elected national committeeman. He suddenly got his old-time wanderlust working and bought Gunderson Hyland Vancouver, Washington newspaper which took Bill out of Oregon. Even the Interstate bridge would not bridge the chasm which he left and soon there was "inside party talk" that the Democrats would have to have a new national committeeman and naturally Bill Morrow was the much talked of man for this important place. Bill heard all this and he listened. But, it is said, after he resigned he gave a proxy to McCoy to attend a meeting of the national committee. Naturally Morrow objected to this and then the fuss started.

Whom it along, boys, whom it along. Politics is without perfume and flavor unless there is a good healthy reaction, and from the looks of things that very scrap is on with all the fuss making. And it will be on until the heat of the next campaign when all those who have been named will give the camp their word from George will buy the "doubles" and "top the ticket" again.