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The plan is being studied with much interest by the Federal Electric Railways Commission at Washington, and may be made the groundwork of recommendations by that body for the straightening out of trolley troubles in other cities.

Waste—Waste On Every Hand..

We have before us a copy of the 1916-17 report of the Oregon Industrial Accidents Commission, which is a compilation of every detail of that commission. It is a volume of about 225 pages of table work set at double price for labor, printed on good paper, and the whole job would run into quite a large sum of money.

Why should such a volume clutter up the files, to say nothing of the original waste the state is guilty of in looking it? Is there any good reason for such waste? Will we ever get to a point where some chief executive will have the nerve to cut and slash a lot of this useless folderl and then put the matter up to the people for vindication or rejection?

There are too many wheels within wheels—too many backs to scratch, all of which causes thousands of reports to be printed which reports are never read except by the clerk who compiles the statistics and the printers who are forced to read them when setting up the type.

We hear that American dry forces are about to invade the sacred precincts of the right little, tight little isle where every man's home is his castle, and no one has ever questioned his right to beer. What becomes of the self-determination of nations then?

Let harassed housewives be of good cheer. Prices have been worse than they are now. And from past history, there is ground for hope. An old grocer's bill resurrected in Chicago shows these prices in 1865, at the close of the Civil War:

Sugar, 29 cents a pound.
 Starch, \$1 a pound.
 Tea, \$1.75 to \$2 a pound.
 Salt, 35 cents a bag.
 Rice, 17 cents a pound.
 Blackberries, 45 cents a quart.
 Kerosene oil, \$1 a gallon.
 Oatmeal, 4 pounds for 50 cents.

Most other groceries cost proportionately. How would anybody like to pay those prices now? Let it be remembered, too, that wages and salaries were much lower in 1865 than they are in 1919.

And that wasn't the record, either. Going back to Revolutionary War days, a time when the present generation imagines that living was absurdly low, we find such prices as these, according to a Chicago authority:

Meat, \$1 to \$2 a pound.
 Corn, \$25 a bushel.
 Potatoes, \$10 a bushel.
 Molasses, \$12 a gallon.
 Cheese, \$2 a pound.
 Butter, \$3 a pound.
 Sugar, \$3 a pound.

In the year 1779 sugar rose to \$4 a pound. In 1789, a year comparable with 1919, because it was the year after the war had ended and the year when the American Union or League of States was established, butter sold for \$12 a pound and tea for \$40. Those prices, of course, must have been reckoned in depreciation of currency. But it was the only currency in circulation, and was no doubt as hard to get as present-day money.

Prices have always been abnormally high after wars. And here is where the hope comes in—they have always gone down again—never, perhaps, quite to the previous low level, but greatly below the high level caused by the waste and disturbance of war.

Glance back at the 1865 list, and then remember the days since, when sugar could be bought for four cents a pound and bread for five cents a loaf and milk for five cents a quart and eggs for 25 cents a dozen. These current prices will not last forever.

AMERICAN Y. M. C. A. MEN HAVE SEVERE EXPERIENCE

ARCHANGEL, July 1.—Two American Y. M. C. A. men, Howard E. Merrill of Somerville, Mass., and Thomas L. Cotton, of Lindsie, Wyo., were caught amid heavy shells fired in a mutiny of Russian troops at Tulgas on the Dvina river some time ago. Their experiences have just now been told.

Merrill and Cotton, who were formerly Dartmouth college athletes, were the only Americans in the village which was garrisoned by Russian troops, with a few British officers. The Russians, fearing that they were about to be cut off and surrounded by the Bolsheviks, determined to mutiny. They escorted the two Americans to a blockhouse which was under fire from Russian artillery.

The blockhouse eventually became too hot for the Russian escorts and they fled leaving the Americans to make their escape to Archangel by rowing 250 miles down the river.

AMERICA HAS BIG TRADE WITH ITALY

ROME, July 28.—From the present indications, American trade with Italy this year may reach the billion dollar mark, says the Popolo Romano. During the first three months of 1919, American exports to Italy amounted to approximately \$222,000,000 while Italy's exports to America was \$1,050,000. The statement shows that if the present rate of trade be maintained a record of commerce between the two countries will be attained. America is by far the greatest seller to Italy. A good second is Great Britain with a total of \$790,000,000 for the first three months and Argentine next with \$65,000,000.

CALL FOR BIDS.

The City of La Grande will receive sealed bids for the construction of a concrete basin 10x20 feet and 6 feet deep and a concrete house 6x9 feet, and 7 feet high, solid tank and house to be built on the City's ground at the septic tank. All bids must be accompanied by a certified check for five per cent of the amount of the bid and be filed with the city record at or before August 27, 1919, 7:30 p. m. The City reserves the right to reject any or all bids not considered to be the best interest of the City. Plans may be seen at the office of City Recorder.

JOHN COLLIER
 Manager City of La Grande.
 8-21-19

Peach Island Peaches, see letter, see adv. 8-19-19.

Full Term Begins September 2.
 Rates—Shortland or Bookkeeping Course, 26 weeks, \$1.40 weekly if paid before September 15; \$1.50 combined course, 36 weeks, \$1.10 weekly if paid before September 15; \$1.20 weekly if paid after September 15. Write us about our 10 month course, and payment on the monthly plan. **HARPER BUSINESS COLLEGE**, Bldg. Oregon, W. P. Klumpp, Prop., Phone 121. 8-18-19

Observer advertisements will bring results. 8-21-19

ANNOUNCEMENT.

Miss Hilda Anthony announces her return from a year's study in Chicago and the re-opening of her piano studio September first at 1606 Sixth Street, Telephone R. 31461.

Beginners who enroll at once have the privilege of daily lessons from Sept. 1st to Oct. 31st. No extra charge will be made. 8-21-19

Watch the Intake

—and exhaust valves, for leaks. The Standard Auto Repair Shop, corner Adams and Fir, will make them seat properly, thereby giving you more power and mileage on gasoline. 7-22-19. E. D. CYR, Prop.

MEETING OF W. C. T. U.

The W. C. T. U. will meet at the home of Mrs. W. S. Snook, 1595 N. avenue on Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Grandmothers Vindicated.

Our grandmothers used to hang a red flannel mitt over the window of a small patient's room, asserting that it hastened the cure, and also prevented "pitting." Scientists have now discovered that the red rays do actually exert a bad effect on the bacteria of the disease, and a correspondingly good effect on the patient. 8-21-19

Butter Wrappers printed at the Observer office.

Job Printing, The Observer, Main 37.

Net Result of Experience.
 Experienced people don't tumble when they try to get into a hammock, because they know the ropes.

WANT AD WOULD DO IT

NEW SCHOOL BOOKS IN OREGON.

All people having children of school age will be interested in school books. As usual, the school books concerns are placing the distribution of these new books through the school book dealers in all Oregon towns and cities. These books are owned, and the prices controlled by the book manufacturers, and will be sold only for cash. All persons having second hand books of books they have been using in Oregon may exchange them for new books and pay the difference. We notice at Silverthorn's Drug Store a large stock of these new books, and each book now being marked with the price adopted by the state of Oregon, with price of the old book that may be returned in exchange, so that each customer wanting school book may see at a glance what they will cost. We may state that the prices for all new school books adopted will be no more than the old prices, though all material is costing the maker of books much more than before the war prices. 8-21-19

Silverthorn's
 FAMILY DRUG STORE
 LA GRANDE, OREGON.

City Restaurant & Bakery
 and Lunch Room.

—We prepare Lunches on short notice.
 —Try some of our Pantry for your Sunday Dinner.

ANTHONY & ROBBINS, Props

VULCANIZING

But decide right now to have us vulcanize all of your old tires which can be saved for future use. Don't buy a new auto tire if you can avoid it, when an old one vulcanized by us will serve the same. You can save hundreds of dollars every year by patronizing this vulcanizing establishment. We can prove this to you if you will let us do so.

A. E. KELLY & STRONG
 1306 JEFFERSON AVE. IN BOHNENKAMP BUILDING

HARRIS FURNITURE CO.
 NEW AND SECOND HAND
Furniture, Carpets, Rugs, Etc.
 "GOOD FURNITURE FOR LESS"
 406 FIR STREET PHONE RED 3174

A grade for each type of engine

(California)
FRANKARD OIL COMPANY
 Get one for your car at your dealer. There is a Zerolene Correct Lubrication Chart for each make of car. Correct Lubrication Guides to

ZEROLENE
 THE STANDARD OIL COMPANY

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MAIL ORDERS—Will be promptly filled in our shoe department, but no exchanges will be made of sale shoes.

N. W. West & Co.
 THE QUALITY STORE

A 10 Days Sale of Ladies' Shoes \$2.25

In the face of advancing prices, we are offering for 10 days, this sale of 250 pair Ladies' Button Shoes. They are patent leather with kid and cloth tops, welt and hand-turned soles—far below present cost. The shoes are odd lots, collected from our entire stock—PINGREE, UTZ & DUNN, and QUEEN QUALITY Makes. We have every size from 2-12 to 7. Remember the big sizes go first, so be on hand early. No exchanges made. While any remain, at \$2.25.

New Gingham DRESSES
 —for girls and misses. All are in plaid patterns, combined with white or plain colors. Some of the larger sizes, from 12 to 19 years, are made with Organdy collars and cuffs. Something new and different, in many different colors; all sizes. Prices \$2.25 to \$4.50.

New White MIDDIES
 Just like the illustration, these Middies are of best grade white galatea, with lace neck and collar; all are pure white; all sizes. Price \$2.25

SPATS
 —for the coming season are quite the thing, in the new shades of Fawn, Puffy, Sand, Beaver and Grey.
 Perhaps the most popular is the "Tweedie" or "Bootee Spat." We have them in all wanted colors. Prices from \$1.50 to \$4.50.

Ladies' Canvas Leggings.
 —For outing, motoring or riding, to wear with Khaki riding suits. Price \$1.50.
 Also Ladies' Leather Puttees, in dark mahogany, good weight. Price \$8.00.

Half Price Sale of Crepe Middies.
 A limited number of Japanese Crepe Middies, in plain colors and stripes, with white collars and belts; nearly all sizes in this sale; were \$1.50 to \$2.50, now 75c to \$1.25.

More New Yarn.
 A big supply of "Fleisher's" and "Sunlight," in all wanted colors, Poncelet, China Blue, Rose, Wood Brown, Navy, Yellow, Green, Sunrise, Scarlet, Khaki, Maroon, Purple, Dark Lilac, Grey and Black. Prices 40c and 65c a skein.

STILLMAN'S FRECKLE CREAM—A guaranteed remedy for freckles. Price 45c.

LOOK FOR THE U. S. Shoe Repairing Co.
 In New Foley Building
 Best Prices in Town
 COME AND SEE!

WATCH THE BIG 4
 Stomach-Kidneys-Heart-Liver
 Keep the vital organs healthy by regularly taking the world's standard remedy for kidney, liver, bladder and uric acid troubles—

GOLD MEDAL HARLEM OIL CAPSULES
 The National Remedy of Holland 4 centuries and endorsed by Queen Wilhelmina. At all druggists, three sizes. Look for the name Gold Medal on every box and accept no imitation.

The Balance To Your Credit

—in your bank account represents your progress. It increases your earning capacity and gives you a feeling of independence and security.

We offer you the Best of Service and Solicit Your Account.

La Grande National Bank
 CAPITAL AND SURPLUS, \$245,000
 Established 1887.
 SOUND, RELIABLE and PROGRESSIVE

Eastern Oregon's Big Home Paper.

GRAIN and STOCK FARM WANTED

One large combination farm, or two separate farms will be considered. Two prosperous Montana ranchers, who have two of the best producing ranches near Lewistown, Montana, are traveling with me and are ready to trade their well paying plants for going properties in Eastern Oregon. One of the ranches is similar to the best farms near Summerville, sub-irrigated; the other resembles "Sandridge" farms, "dry farming system."

I have other clients who have city and farm properties in the Willamette Valley and Walla Walla Valley to trade for properties here. Exchanges made on strictly conservative cash basis. State price and describe accurately and fully, addressing

WILBUR F. BROCK,
 Care The Observer, La Grande, Oregon.



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

Prices Have Been Worse Than at Present.

Let harassed housewives be of good cheer. Prices have been worse than they are now. And from past history, there is ground for hope. An old grocer's bill resurrected in Chicago shows these prices in 1865, at the close of the Civil War:

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Cleveland Has Miraculous Trolley System.

With street car fares rising everywhere, companies complaining that they are losing money and patrons kicking against higher fares, there is increasing interest in the Cleveland plan.

It is certainly a surprising phenomenon to find that in that city of nearly 1,000,000 people and long trolley hauls, the people are riding for less than five cents, with no prospect of an increase. The present rate of fare is 11 tickets for 50 cents, with an extra cent for transfer.

It does not seem to be wrecking the company, either. The stock, which is quoted at 102, pays a dividend of six per cent, which may soon be raised to seven per cent. Wages have been increased 25 per cent lately, and the employees are satisfied.

How has this miracle been accomplished? First, the water was squeezed out of the stock some years ago. The company was re-financed on a basis of actual value, with private ownership and public regulation. The company kept the actual management of its property and employees, but the city guaranteed interest and dividends and assumed considerable authority over service, finances and general policies. This authority is exerted chiefly through the agency of a street railway commissioner. The fare moves up or down automatically to provide the money required for fixed charges and operating expenses. So far, it has ranged from three to five cents, with sometimes, as at present, a charge of one cent for transfer.