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A WASTE PRODUCT ENTERPRISE

An interesting business corporation, the Intercontinental Development Company, is in progress of launching. It is interesting because it represents a practical effort on a large scale to utilize the lessons in conservation and cooperation which the war provided so abundantly. Herbert Hoover, Julius Barnes, Edgar Rickard and other men prominent in war and relief activities are interested. One of the officials describes the company and its objective thus:

"The officers of the company are all men who have been doing government work since the beginning of the war and before that were engaged in European relief work. We were brought together by the war and its influences. Because of our congenial associations we decided to go into business, believing that many of our economic ills can best be served by increased production on a large scale and the better utilization of waste products and unutilized areas."

Among the projects by which these men will try to attain their aims are the development of large timber holdings where reforestation will accompany cutting, and cutting will be done so as to protect new growth; the utilization of water power; the manufacture of flax straw, until lately considered a waste product, into a usable material, and the irrigation of land in the southwest for cotton-raising.

Undoubtedly these men will profit from their undertakings. They are entitled to. The country will profit far more if they succeed in turning to production these avenues of waste which the drain of war revealed with startling clarity.

WILL YOU SAVE A LIFE?

If you were starving in your home and your neighbors passed you by in total indifference to your sufferings, what would you think of them?

In China there are thirty millions of unhappy people who are starving today because their crops have failed and there is no more food for them to eat, except such as may be sent in from outside sources.

The president of the United States has appealed to all Americans—to us—to come to the relief of these starving people, many of them helpless babes in arms.

Great contributions are being made in the large cities, and supplies are being rushed to the famine-stricken land as rapidly as possible.

But the heart of America is not alone in the metropolitan centers of population. It is everywhere. IT IS IN LA GRANDE.

Nowhere in this broad land is greater compassion and generosity to be found in proportion to numbers than that possessed by our own citizens.

But what are we doing for these starving millions?

If our people would contribute only a mite each—25 or 50 cents—it would be a godsend to many in starving China. It would save human lives which otherwise must perish.

What warm-hearted lady or gentleman will undertake to lead a movement for the collection of a fund in this city?

The Chinese are not begging for bread. They are miserably dying instead.

Norman Davis, Under-Secretary of State, Washington, D. C., has been designated by the president as treasurer of the fund.

As we do in this world, so must we expect to be done by in the next.

FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE.

If Congress is not willing to accept J. P. Morgan's home in London for an American embassy, it should vote the money to buy another residence for the ambassador.

The policy of neglecting what every other self-respecting nation takes care of as a matter of course, and making American ambassadors and ministers live and work in rented buildings, often in inconvenient parts of the city and with insecure tenure, has become an international scandal.

Embassy buildings have been acquired in a few foreign capitals during the last few years, but nearly all the principal ones have been neglected. It is time to put the whole diplomatic service on a more respectable and effective basis. Not the least part of such improvement would be the acquisition of embassy buildings wherever they are needed.

Such buildings would cost money, but very little in comparison with the vast sums that Congress spends for great armaments and other dubious "means of defense." The cost of

one battleship in the big naval construction program would more than build a suitable embassy in every foreign capital in the world. The income from the cost of a second battleship would suffice to pay our foreign representatives the salaries required to obtain able, trained diplomats for the work, instead of making a private fortune the chief requirement.

It would be an excellent exchange. A nation's first line of defense is its diplomatic representation abroad. The right kind of ambassador or minister, provided with everything he needs for his work, can render incalculable service, winning his country good will and business patronage worth billions, or saving billions by preventing war.

THE KANSAS INDUSTRIAL TRIAL COURT.

The Kansas Industrial Court has now completed its first year of operation. On the whole its work has been successful, according to Governor Allen, and labor as well as capital has been satisfied that the court's decisions were fair and helpful.

During the year 20 cases were presented to the court. Labor brought in 18 of these. "In every instance," says Gov. Allen, "the adjustment reached has been satisfactory to all," save in a single exception. In the case of Alexander Howatt, president of the Miners' Federation, an appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States is still pending.

The Kansas Industrial Court was designed primarily to safeguard the public from wars between capital and labor. Its purpose is to seek impartial justice. It may not be perfect in all its workings. Whether human institution is? Judging by the support given it in the seven months, it is making real progress and is meeting the needs of public capital and labor better than anything previously tried.

"What it has done for Kansas," says the Governor, "it will do for any other state in the Union."

Baker County's record of nearly \$4000 subscribed of a quota of \$1200 in the European Relief Fund Drive is one to be proud of and shows the true spirit of our people, Baker Democrat.

Several large breweries have been turned into plants for raising mushrooms. One of them expects to turn out 200,000 pounds this year. At that rate we shall have a mushroom aristocracy.

One month of the new year has already passed. How many of those New Year's resolutions are you still keeping?

Wolfskin Banjo Parchment. Wolfskin makes the best parchment for banjos.

THE OFFICE CAT



By JUNIUS

JUST MARRIED.
Wife, winsome looking,
Helpfulness her wish,
Does her early cooking
On a chafing dish.

Baby puts her tresses,
Helps her read the book
That describes the messes
She proceeds to cook.

Turns the cook-book pages,
For his helpful love
And by easy stages
Leads her to the stove.

THE END.

"I just got fired."
"What for?"
"For good."—Yale Record.

LET IT COME; WE'RE GAME—
Eggs are becoming cheaper. Perhaps the angel food cake era is returning.

Now that Kipling is to write movie scenarios we shall see if he'll have any sag, bone and hank-of-hair heroines.

WHAT HAS BECOME OF—
Copper toed boots.
Sulphur and molasses.
The Merry Widow Hat.
The hobble skirt.
Peg top pants.
Sideburns.
Old-fashioned "hushing bees."
The "quitting party."
Tandem bicycles.
The 10-cent hour working day.
The other half of the dollar.
12-cent gasoline.
The clown prince.
Yesterday.

Al Andrews says it's called income tax, but it feels more like outgo tax when you're paying it.

I hear they are going to magnetize the rear axle of the Ford.

What's the idea?

So it will pick up the parts that drop off.

"Gosh-darn it," we hear the news editor soliloquizing, "just when it looked like a lively winter on the first page, they begin to talk about peace in Ireland."

Dempsey isn't any fonder than anybody else of real trouble in the ring. When he's a referee he calls the bout a draw.

Announcement of the Standard Oil's discovery of a new way to make alcohol from petroleum doesn't make us lick our lips, eh, what?

Harding has been elected a life member of the Typographical Union and is eligible to help set the Congressional Record when there's a dull day at the White House.

Query—Is Levy or basketball now engaging the attention of the football heroes?

Making Talking Machine Records.

The method of recording phonograph records is as follows: The record is first placed on a wax master record, by a process similar to electrotyping. This record is finally transferred to a solid metal plate. It is from this plate that the records are pressed. An unlimited number of records can be produced from a single plate. When vocal artists make records they sing into a small wooden or metal horn.

Peculiar Philippine Buffalo.

When Americans first went to the Philippines they were much interested in the odd-looking beast known there as the "water buffalo"—a smaller variety commonly used as a draft animal, but giving little milk. It is extensively utilized in the same way in China. The beast cannot endure hard work in the sun unless its skin is frequently wet, and hence its habit of wallowing in mud or water. If overexposed by the heat it may go crazy and is liable to be dangerous. But the milk buffalo, kept for dairy purposes, needs no water hole.

American Indians' Origin Unknown.

No definite solution has been found in regard to the origin of the American Indian. Anatomically, the Indian bears a striking resemblance to the Mongolian. Therefore it is reasonable to believe that his ancestors originally crossed from Asia to North America. The period of this migration cannot be calculated accurately. It is believed, however, that man has existed in America at least 25,000 years and not more than 200,000 years.

Tearless for the Spartans.

The "tearless battle" was fought on R. C. when a force of Argonauts and Argives endeavored to cut off a Spartan army, under Archidamus III, in a narrow defile in Laconia. They were repulsed with heavy loss, and not a single Spartan was killed. Hence the engagement came to be called the "tearless battle."—Literary Digest.

State News

A new system of road signs has been planned for Hood River county. The county court has appropriated \$500 for the work and the Hood River Automobile Dealers' association will cooperate in placing the signs.

The teachers of Portland sent a petition to the Oregon legislature last week urging that no change be made in the present tenure of office law. The petition was signed by 1191 teachers of the 1537 in the Portland school force.

Land tests in Lake county as to adaptability for sugar beet growing, conducted by the Nevada-California-Oregon railroad company and the Spreckels Sugar company, have been reported upon by the latter company and the results were declared satisfactory.

Wool growers of eight western Oregon counties organized the Oregon Wool and Mohair Cooperative association, at a meeting held in the community house in Albany. The plan is to enlist wool growers in a pool and sell the wool crop on a co-operative basis.

At the close of a three-day trial, George W. Howard, 23-year-old Malheur county boy, was convicted by a trial jury at Vale of murder in the first degree for his confessed killing of George R. Sweeney, Vale tailor and clothing salesman. The verdict carries the death penalty with it.

Telegrams were sent by E. H. Gale, speaker of the lower house of the Washington legislature, asking that joint road and bridge sub-committees of the Oregon and Idaho legislatures meet with a similar committee of the Washington legislature at Portland Saturday to discuss automobile license fees and other subjects pertaining to motor vehicle legislation.

During the year 1920 a total of 329,098,841 feet of lumber was loaded on vessels at the mills in the lower Columbia river district for shipment to various parts of the world. In the same period 206,251,341 feet of lumber were loaded at the up-river mills, making a total of 535,350,182 feet of lumber that left the Columbia river in cargoes during the last 12 months.

The Oregon supreme court has denied a rehearing in the case brought by the Union Fishermen's Co-operative Packing company and other similar corporations operating on the Columbia river to restrain Carl D. Shoemaker, named in the complaint as master fish warden, from enforcing the law prohibiting fishing with purse seines within the three-mile limit of the Pacific ocean.

A. H. Lea, who recently was elected as secretary of the state fair board, will accept the position, according to letters received in Salem. Mr. Lea served as secretary of the board for five terms, but resigned last September to accept a position in Portland. At the last meeting of the board, without Mr. Lea's knowledge, he was re-elected by the unanimous voice of the body.

More moisture is stored in the mountains of central Oregon now than at any time during the last eight years. The depth of the snow is about normal but the water content is unusually high, due to alternate precipitation of snow and rain. The outlet of Little Lava lake, headwaters of the Deschutes river, is running 20 feet wide and four feet deep, while last year at this time the channel was dry.

The desert land board agreed to approve a contract covering the sale of water by the central Oregon irrigation district to reclaim lands included in the Lone Pine irrigation district. The water necessary for this reclamation work will be carried through the central Oregon canal system. The Lone Pine district comprises approximately 1600 irrigable acres of land, which lies north of Crooked river in Crook county.

In October, November and December 88 permits were issued by State Engineer Copper covering appropriation of water from various streams and other sources for the irrigation of 25,398 acres of land; the development of 150 horse power, domestic, mining, fluming lumber and various other purposes at an estimated cost of approximately \$100,000. Seven reservoir permits were issued covering the storage of 3714 acre feet of water.

The purchase of 250,000,000 feet of choice yellow fir timber located on upper Rock creek in Clatsop county by the Inman-Poulsen lumber company has been announced, the deal being one of the largest recent purchases of timber in the state for several months. The timber was bought from the Oregon-American Lumber company, of which Charles T. Early is the Oregon manager, and the price was reported to be approximately \$1,200,000.

The Oregon Publishers' syndicate, with a capital stock of \$10,000, filed articles of incorporation with the state corporation commission at Salem. The incorporators are George Putnam, publisher of the Capital Journal, Salem; Carl G. Abrams, Salem Statesman; G. Lansing Gurd, Corvallis Gazette; L. M. Bannan, Albany Herald; and J. E. Shelton, Eugene Guard. The purpose of the syndicate is to purchase in wholesale quantities supplies and materials for the various newspapers of Oregon.

The Observer will pay a good price for clean rags.

RAY, VETERAN OF TWO WARS

Commander of South Dakota Department of the Legion Has Had Much Experience.



R. H. Ray, commander of the South Dakota department of the American Legion, is a veteran of both the Spanish-American and World wars. During the days of '98 and '00, Mr. Ray served in 16 battles and campaigns. After being mustered out of the service, Mr. Ray enlisted in the South Dakota National Guard and was a member of that organization when the United States entered the World War. During the latter war he served as commanding officer of the One Hundred and Thirty-fifth and later the Three Hundred and Fiftieth Infantry. He is now cashier of a bank at Yankton, S. D.

Mr. Ray is a charter member of Roy Anderson post, No. 12, of the Legion, and served as its commander. He was elected commander of the South Dakota department in 1919.

HAS RENDERED GOOD SERVICE

Commander of Oregon Department of Legion, Has Deserved Title of "Fighting Parson."



Rev. William S. Gilbert, commander of the Oregon department of the American Legion, is a fighting chaplain who has administered to the spiritual wants of Oregon troops in the Spanish-American war, the Philippine-insurrection, during their service on the Mexican border, and for 17 months in France with the A. E. F.

His military career started 26 years ago, when he became chaplain in the Oregon National Guard. During the World War he was chaplain of the One Hundred and Sixty-second Infantry, Forty-first division and First army corps. He received the Croix de Guerre.

The "fighting parson" has held a number of pastorates in the state of Oregon, and was for three years president of Philomath college. He was recently appointed regent of Oregon State university by the governor of that state.

CHOOSE AIR MAN COMMANDER

Former Balloon Pilot, Lawyer, Heads Nebraska Department of the American Legion.



Nebraska members of the American Legion have elected Robert G. Simmons, a former balloon pilot, as department commander. Mr. Simmons is now an attorney in Scottsbluff, Neb.

The former pilot entered the air service October 28, 1917, and was licensed as a spherical balloon pilot by the Aero Club of America in February, 1918, and commissioned as a second lieutenant in the air service in March, 1918.

For some time he was an instructor in courts-martial and then was in command of the Sixty-third, Eighty-third and Seventy-fourth balloon companies at Fort Omaha. He was commissioned a first lieutenant in June, 1918.

Mr. Simmons is a graduate of the law college of the University of Nebraska. He served for one term as county attorney.

GOOD SHOWING IN SERVICE

Commander of Nevada Department of the Legion Rose From Private to First Lieutenant.



T. L. Withers, commander of the Nevada department of the American Legion, rose from the rank of private in the National Guard to that of first lieutenant during his military career, which was spent in various organizations of the Coast Artillery corps.

Education at Thatcher Preparatory school, Northport, Cal.; the Universities of Nevada, California and Virginia. Mr. Withers acted as instructor in mathematics and chemistry for some time and then entered the practice of law at Reno, Nev. He served as chairman of the Red Cross Roll Call in 1917 and chairman of the home service section, American Red Cross, Reno, Nev., and was active in organizing the Nevada department of the American Legion.

To Finish the Job. Bismarck—Pretty good, don't you think? I mean it for a cover design.

Kreitz—Now, if you could only design a cover for the picture.

Nature Study in Arkansas. Nature offers some odd problems. A dog isn't married and hasn't anything to worry about. And yet a man fires four times as long as a dog. Arkansas Thomas Cat.

McWest & Co.

THE QUALITY STORE

Price?

Yes, but if we stop there the story is only half told. A comparison of prices without considering QUALITY is a waste of time.

Cost might better be defined as the price divided by the length of service. Goods that are sold on a price basis only, cost too much at any price.

The present low prices here will continue throughout inventory, which will consume the greater part of the next two weeks. Also we are undergoing a thorough refinishing—a housecleaning—to be able to display one of the finest new spring stocks of merchandise we have ever shown.

A great revision of prices is reflected here in every department. Our patrons may be assured of the very newest prices at all times and always the quality of merchandise for which this store is known.

Watch for announcements.

The Quality Store

These snowy days whet up our appetites. That is what Al Cain says. He should know. The way the people devour that hot roast beef and other good things at his 11:30 to 1:30 lunch is quite noticeable.

Palace Confectionery Co.
2-1-1f

Silverthorn's
FAMILY DRUG STORE
LA GRANDE, OREGON.
2-1-1f

Eastern Oregon Light and Power Co.