

The Observer

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DEFLATION OF STEEL PRICES

Reductions in the price of steel products are inevitable. One industry alone, even so powerful and fundamental an industry as steel, could not hold out against the swing of the time. No business interest of group of interests is greater than the economic system. That system is deflating itself, slowly and surely. Profits have felt the deflation first. Prices and wages must yield, in their turn—particularly prices, which have been high beyond all reason.

The "independent" steel companies seem to have been caught by surprise. Judged by the price increases some of them had just announced on certain products, they were not expecting any such action from the steel trust. Chairman Gary's announcement should have a wholesome effect on them. Their prices lately have averaged lower than the Trust's, but steel prices have been too high, all along the line. For several months they have resulted in loss for nearly everybody concerned, which means nearly everybody in the United States.

The steel people have not been making any profit from plants operating at fractional capacity or closed altogether. The building industry, the railroads and various other industries have been forced to restrict their purchases. The entire public has paid unnecessarily high prices on every product in which the cost of steel is a factor. It would have been a blessing if a drastic cut in steel had been made months ago.

With steel, just as with transportation and many other things, lower prices should mean increased profits rather than loss, because of the volume of business they are expected to create. Even if it were not so, there is expert testimony to the effect that the steel interests, if operating normally, could stand a good deal of price reduction without losing anything. They are to be congratulated, at any rate, on yielding at last, instead of trying to hold out to the bitter end for extortionate war profits already surrendered by nearly every other business group.

THE BARBARIC STAIN

One part of the President's message which should not be overlooked is his suggestion that Congress should seek some method to "wipe out the stain of barbaric lynching from the banners of a free and orderly representative democracy." His recommendations for investigation and reform meet with general approval.

This is in no sense a stone flung at the South. Lynching has not been confined to southern borders. It has shown its ugly head in northern communities and on occasions of less provocation than has inspired some of the hasty deeds of the South.

Nobody, in his heart, believes in lynching. Nobody who has given the slightest thought to the matter can believe that it is a cure for any evil. It has accomplished no cures thus far, and there is no telling how much evil in other forms it has aroused.

It will be a delicate matter for Congress to approach, but the best element of American citizenry, white and black, will lend its respectful attention and its earnest support to every constructive suggestion.

THE BANDIT BLESSING

Even highwaymen and burglars are not an unmixt evil. Indeed, they might be regarded as a blessing, except for the loss of life often inflicted in their course of operations. Not a blessing to their victims, perhaps, but a blessing to the community in general. It might possibly be proved, if complete figures were available, that robbers have put more money into the pockets of honest citizens in general than they have taken out.

How? By scaring people into putting their money in the bank. The "crime wave" from which almost every section of the country has suffered, has gone far to cure people of two careless and thriftless habits—carrying large sums of money on their persons and keeping savings or business receipts unproductively in the home or the office.

Everywhere there has been new appreciation of the value of banks for the safe-keeping of funds. And with the safety, there has come profit from the interest paid on deposits and the additional stimulus to thrift. It is a pleasing discovery that money in the bank works day and night for the owner, whereas money in the pocket or the bureau drawer not only does not on the job but may turn up missing when it is wanted.

THE SAD SCRUBBERS

A writer who has recently visited Russia and Poland is very much impressed emotionally by the fact that he saw members of the old aristocracy forced to do menial work. "How tragic it was," he laments, "to see famous old gentlemen answering calls and mending boots (striving while they work), eminent scientists and philosophers compounding heavy and poisonous and poisonous

scrubbing, washing and sewing." It is always, of course, sad to see elderly persons forced to hard labor at unaccustomed tasks, but somehow to an American, the emphasis has been placed by the writer on the wrong end of the story.

It isn't exactly tragic, from the American, democratic point of view, to see people mending boots, cooking, scrubbing or sewing. The tragedy lies in the fact that these helpless aristocrats were not trained in youth so they could do such tasks easily and well. Our pioneer grandfathers and grandmothers were, many of them, of quite as gentle breeding and high ideals as these Russian noblemen and women, and they performed all these tasks when necessary, did them well, and held their heads none the less high because of the necessity.

It is true that the Bolshevik regime is bad. Also it is undemocratic. Also, the proletarians, now in power are taking malicious joy in making the people who were once their oppressors do the hardest and most unpleasant work. That is revenge, not democracy.

The characteristic of a real democracy is opportunity for all, and for all alike. And to an American, the characteristic of an aristocrat is not that he is a person sacred from the necessity of cleaning the streets, but that, if set to clean streets he cleans his swan better than the other swans. He uses his head, while doing it, to think up better and swifter ways of cleaning streets, so that all his fellow-workers may profit by his having been on the job.

The Red rule is bad. It must, eventually, be eliminated. But sentimentality about necessary work doesn't help any. Let us keep our emphasis straight.

STOCKMEN INSPECT HERDS

EXPERIMENTS AT UNION ARE INVESTIGATING
 Use of Bald Barley Silage as an Economical Feed Show Up Very Well.

A number of Union County stockmen attending the two-day meeting at the Eugene Oregon Experiment Station Union Thursday and Friday of last week were much interested in the results obtained there. Two lots of stock, one composed of 70 head of steers and the other of 90 head of calves, were inspected and the results of various feeding rations compared. The animals were divided into lots of 10 each for feeding purposes.

Sunflowers and Hay Good.
 The best results were obtained from feeding alfalfa and sunflower silage. The steers fed on this gained more than any others. The ration was composed of 22.3 pounds of alfalfa hay and 26.8 pounds of sunflower silage per day. Steers fed on alfalfa hay and pea and bald barley silage also made good gains demonstrating the superior feed value of this ration but the cost data on this silage is not available so it could not be definitely determined whether this ration would be preferable to the other. The ration of alfalfa hay and this silage was 19.3 pounds of hay and 25.9 pounds of silage per day.

Only one lot of steers lost in weight. This lot was fed entirely on sunflower silage. After 30 days on this ration the feed was changed to pea and bald barley silage and immediately the steers began to gain in weight.

Straw Good for Calves
 The calves were fed with the idea of demonstrating the best winter ration. Straw and cottonseed cake, alfalfa hay, pea and bald barley silage, sunflower silage and corn silage were all fed economically and all of the calves came through in good condition.

The straw and cottonseed cake are cheap and the lot fed on this ration came through in remarkably good shape. Alfalfa and silage showed more gains than any others. The heaviest calves were those fed on alfalfa hay and corn silage. This summer the calves will be turned on the range and fed again during the coming winter. The steers will be finished in 30 to 60 days probably.

W. J. Townley, discussing feeding of calves during the meeting, stated that he has found that it is hard to put gains on stock that has been kept fat since birth.

Cheap Feeding Object
 Walter Pierce stated that he believed these experiments should be conducted so as to show how to feed cheapest during the winter months, the cost of feeding during summer being the least. Mr. Pierce, who has just bought 8 pure-bred Hereford bulls, said "This is the time to buy good bulls at a reasonable price. A pure-bred bull is the most important part in any attempt to improve a herd." The bulls just bought by Mr. Pierce were declared by him to be the best he had ever bought, averaging 1500 pounds each.

Professor Potter, of O. A. C., who attended the meeting, stated that in his opinion pea and bald barley silage should be closely watched as it is easier to handle. It is cut with a binder and running through the cutter does not require the same attention that stalks of corn and sunflower require. There is no doubt that the labor cost is much less than for the other silage materials and if the yield is great enough Professor Potter believes that it is very probable that this form of silage will become one of the popular feeds in the future.

The feeding is to be continued another month when a detailed report will be issued on the results.

PRACTICE SALE IS PLANNED

PULLMAN, Wash., April 19.—The fifth annual livestock show and mock sale for the benefit of the agricultural and animal husbandry students of Washington State college will be held here April 23.

In preparation for the show and mock sale, the livestock of the college farm—principally beef and dairy cattle of different breeds, horses and different brands of sheep and swine—has been taken in charge of by competing students who will "fit" the animals assigned to them for the show and sale. A sales catalogue is to be printed, the services of professional auctioneers will be engaged, and in other ways the sale and show will be conducted just as the sales are managed by professional livestock men. The students bidding on the animals will be marked on the correctness of their appraisals and valuations.

Most in City.
 In the city the sun's rays hit the sidewalk and bound back in your face. There are no trees or grass around to absorb some of the heat, the temperature is several degrees higher than in the country.

THE OFFICE CAT



—By JUNIUS—

He Rolls His Own.
 When the Eskimo's igloo caves in on his dome,
 And knocks all the bark from his scalp,
 We pity the poor chap, without any horse,
 So all of us pitch in and help.

We subscribe to campaigns when the Heathen Chinee
 Needs sugar to put on his rice,
 Or some cannibal tribe wishes ice for its tea,
 Which is all, be it said, very nice.

We donate to this and contribute to that,
 But there is no truth in the rumor
 You hear that they're going to pass around the hat
 For the poor, old, downtrodden consumer.

In this country of ours, we pick a shoveler because he knows how to shovel, but we choose a congressman because he can shake hands well.

C. B. Miller says that he cannot understand why we're all so equal that we charge the 100-pounder no more than the 200-pounder when we carry him in the passenger car. Via freight it's different.

From observations the average person had much rather witness a divorce proceedings than a wedding ceremony.

Curiosity.
 In other people's business I am not inclined to meddle,
 Horning in, I'm proud to say, has never been a fault of mine—
 But frequently I wonder
 What in the bloomin' thunder
 The operator's doing while I'm waiting on the line.

One reason why poets sing so much of summer is because park benches are so chilly in the winter.

The white paper shortage doesn't seem to worry the editor of a Hartford City, Ind., paper, who tells of somebody being "burned by a hot stove."

A pessimist's idea of a good time is to glance over his pile of rent receipts.

A Washington (where we were kept out of war) paragrapher predicts that if sugar keeps on declining in price, taking candy from a baby will not be considered as grand larceny.

All Wrong.
 "We are lost!" the captain shouted,
 As he staggered down the stair;
 "I thought it was a beverage,
 But 'twas tonic for the hair!"

Father,—"And what is your reason for aspiring to my daughter?"
 Young man,—"I have no reason. I'm in love."

Needs Repairs, As Usual.
 (Sharon, Pa., Telegraph.)
 Dr. R. W. Maim, evangelistic preacher, will speak this evening in

Pictorial Review For May

West & Co.
 THE QUALITY STORE

New Fabrics For Summer Clothes!

The season is fast approaching when garments of the sheerest, coolest fabrics will be in vogue. That's why we announce today that our stocks of the choicest materials are ready, together with interesting assortments of the newest trimmings.

You can soon have your summer sewing completed if selections are made now. Not in regard to have we offered a variety of materials such as we have now, and the values are as interesting as the fabrics themselves.

Organdies
 Dainty colored Organdies with brown bar and striped effects, for the making of collar and cuff sets, vests, fronts, etc. Also flowered Organdies to be made up alone or with white, or plain colored Organdies into crisp summer frocks. These are all priced at \$1.50.

Voiles
 After seeing so many different patterns and colorings of fine woven, figured and plain Voiles in designs of French, English and Swiss originations, you will appreciate what a really aristocratic material Voile is.

Our stocks are most complete with both light and dark patterns, plain colors and white, and so many different grades.

Prices range from 50c up to \$2.00.

Fancy Clocked Silk Hose

So popular with the new footwear this season. New stocks have just arrived and much of this new fancy hose is featured among them.

Black lace clocked, all pure silk hose, \$1.50.
 Brown and black Chiffon Silk Lace hose, \$1.00.

United Presbyterian church on "The Worst Thing in Sharon."

One way to keep out of a scrape is to raise whiskers.

Some of our soldier boys are still in Germany. They're being kept there to receive the mail sent them during the War.

We understand we also have some soldiers in Siberia now and they can't be sent home because nobody in the War Department knows where Siberia is.

"Music and singing" are promised the patrons of a La Grande vaudeville theatre this week.

Smells Like Onion.
 The kulin of the Philippines and Malay Peninsula gives forth a strong aroma of onions, says the American Forestry Magazine, while the pao d'alto of Brazil is properly known as garlic wood.

Do You Know Kapor?
 The Borneo camphorwood or kapor has a pronounced camphor odor when fresh, says the American Forestry Magazine. It belongs to the dipterocarp family, nearly all of the trees of which are resinous.

Pockets in Garters.
 Recently patented garters for men include pockets for carrying money.

Glycerin for Stains.
 Pure glycerin will help to dissolve fruit stains from linen.

Tribute to Good Heart.
 A good heart is the sun and moon, or, rather, the sun and not the moon; for it shines bright and never changes, but keeps its course truly.—Shakespeare.

Character Tags.
 A professor says that a man's character is shown in little things, such as by the way he carries his umbrella. Also, we may add, by the way he carries off your umbrella.—Boston Transcript.

Jud Tunkins.
 Jud Tunkins says that in calling on a sick friend you have to be a little tactful to avoid looking surprised because he is still alive.

When Milk is About to "Turn."
 If you think milk is nearing the "turn" a pinch of baking soda often overcomes the difficulty and saves the milk as well as the "day." In the season of many and unexpected guests.

So Fast We Age.
 Another thing that startles a man as he gets on in life is how young boys and girls can be and still call one another Mr. and Miss.—Ohio State Journal.

GRAPEFRUIT

THE IDEAL FRUIT WITH WHICH TO BEGIN BREAKFAST AND END DINNER

Nature's own aids to the digestion of other foods. Appetizing, delicious, refreshing and strengthening.

Florida Grapefruit are better because heavier in juice, the food and health element of grapefruit.

Try one and see how much more juice they give you than grapefruit from sections less favored by nature.

Large Size 2 for 45c

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