

The Observer

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Labor Has a Right to Feel Proud

Organized labor in Eastern Oregon can very properly reflect today in the feeling of pride over its Labor Day celebration yesterday in La Grande. This city has seen few such celebrations. Eastern Oregon has witnessed few, if any, parades that have excited the one which was seen yesterday on the streets, commemorating organized labor's natal day.

To the stranger the parade, the sports, the speaking and other outward appearances made up the day's program, but to the home man—the who works in the shops, on the trains in the saw mills, in the stores—there was a far weightier meaning to yesterday's event. It told the story of harmony among employer and employee, of merchant and wage earner, of farmer and townsman. The day of bickering and difference is past. Unanimity of purpose is now apparent. All have come to realize we are one big family working to the same end, and while there will be times when opinion differs, the days of bitter hatred and of arraying class against class has passed.

We are getting acquainted with each other and everyone is finding out that the other fellow is all right when he is known. Officials of the Central Labor Council are entitled to the heartiest congratulations for the way they handled their part of the celebration yesterday, and the business men responded in a most noble manner to every suggestion and request. The city did its part, and for once La Grande—the third largest pay roll city in Oregon—held a labor meeting that was free from the harsh criticism which radicals thrive upon; it was free from a revengeful feeling; free from the rough places which frequently take all the joy out of such an occasion.

The Observer repeats with considerable emphasis that labor has a right

to feel a justifiable pride in yesterday's event.

The Cantonment Schools

There is little doubt that the plan for using the cantonments for vocational training schools for disabled service men will be carried out.

Under the plan four United States Vocational Universities will be put into action, in the east, south, middle west and on the Pacific coast. In each case a government army cantonment will be used as the site for the new school. The branches to be taught will be agriculture, elementary and advanced science and trades of infinite variety.

In speaking of the plan Director Forbes of the veterans' relief bureau said: "The system of farming out vocational patients is all wrong and the veterans bureau will correct it. It is my plan to establish four vocational universities. These universities will properly house the men, properly provide them with the right kind of sustenance, and permit men with families to have their families at the universities."

The use of cantonments for vocational training is a favorite idea with President Harding and he has asked for prompt reports on its feasibility and the best way for going about it. The present plan is to start the first university within ninety days, the initial work to begin with 2,000 men in training.

The cantonments offer space for training about the rehabilitation of the nation 94,000, or more, patients on a scale commensurate with the problem and the deserts of the men involved. The more quickly the plan goes into full operation the better.

Good News for the Coast

European markets for American goods are still anything but satisfactory. The waste of war in many lands, and the waste of industrial strife in many others, have robbed our best customers of the ability to buy from us on any conditions which the financial situation would make profitable. It is otherwise in the Far East.

The Orient has at last begun to buy and the congestion of merchandise in Chinese and Japanese ports is being dissipated rapidly. Coast shippers are notifying their eastern agents that there are plenty of cargoes for the ships regularly in the trans-Pacific trade. It will not be long before the ubiquitous tramp steamer will have a chance for profitable voyages.

Just now wheat, flour and lumber are most in demand. The Far East has always been a heavy buyer of American wood, and the orders of Chinese railways for 12 million lbs. have greatly stimulated the trade. Then, too, the demand for cereals has assumed large proportions in recent months and it is estimated that no less than 150,000 tons of wheat will go forward during the fall and early winter. The West has had its troubles along with the rest of the country in the year past, but the worst of it is over, there as well as elsewhere. The revival of Far Eastern trade cannot but have its beneficial effect in every time in the Union before long.

The Oregon Bureau of Mines has just issued a booklet on possibilities of obtaining oil and gas in Oregon. The review is quite complete on all work of this kind that has been done and the geology of the state is discussed. No particular claim is made that oil and gas can be found in Oregon and it will be left to the wildcat to try it out just as the wildcat has tried out other fields. But there is no evidence that there is not oil and gas in the state, which is some satisfaction.

What Does the Government Owe You?

The United States Treasury Department, according to estimates of the Investment Bankers' Association of America, is holding more than \$83,000,000 in unclaimed interest on various obligations of the government, mostly Liberty Bonds. Here is a great sum altogether idle, which the business of the nation could use to advantage.

Today the government has outstanding more than 7,400,000 separate pieces of Liberty Bonds of various issues, representing obligations totalling more than \$21,132,000,000, and apparently many thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands of the owners have forgotten what they own.

The number of unclaimed coupons in safe deposit boxes, in office safes, in cupboards and mattresses is enormous. The number of holders of temporary bonds who have neglected to exchange them for those bearing the full set of coupons is altogether out of proportion. It is proof positive that the American people, whatever the strength and purity of patriotic enthusiasm, does not yet constitute a nation of intelligent investors.

The Investment Bankers are suggesting that members of the organization when next they offer securities, set forth these facts to their prospective customers with a view to hastening the exchange of temporary Liberty Bonds and the collection of interest due. Savings and commercial banks might well inform their patrons likewise.

There may, of course, be many people who from a mistaken sense of patriotism have postponed the cashing of their coupons because they felt they should not "crowd" the government. They forget that the money is ready for them and that the government is anxious to pay it. There is no other legal way in which it may be used.

Of course, the sum of such unclaimed coupons is small indeed in most cases, but the total is a big one, the sooner this money, and any other, can be put into circulation and set about its business of financing the nation's industry and commerce, the better it will be for bondholders, government and everybody else.

The Deadly Straight Road

Apparently it is not upon the winding roads that the big warning signs as to careless driving should be placed, but upon the straight roads. For it is upon the latter that the wayfarer automobilist is most likely to turn a fool and run his erring race.

A Maryland engineer has been making a series of observations covering a period of more than two months. He found the highest percentage of accidents occurring on the broad, straight highways. The winding roads seemed to breed a wholesome caution. The accidents which took place on the straight roads he found were due to speeding, failing to give right of way and bad driving.

"It seems to be the weakness of motorists," said the engineer, "to 'hit her up' on a straight stretch of roadway. On roads where there are curves there is a tendency to be more careful." His observations, like those of many others, refuted the contention that most accidents on smooth hard-surfaced roads were due to skidding. Such bits of evidence are illuminating for what obtains in Maryland is true elsewhere. If the straight road with every facility for safe driving is the scene of the highest percentage of accidents it is an unpleasant commentary on the skill and good sense with which many motor cars are operated.

The Treaty With Germany

Now that the German peace treaty has been made public hysterical fears on one side of the question should be quieted. The United States, under the terms of the document, maintains all rights and privileges accruing to her under the Versailles Treaty, as one of the nations justly associated with Germany in the war. On the other hand, the nation is expressly exempt from such portions of the pact of Versailles as would involve her being dragged into a struggle of purely foreign nature. In no instance does this nation stand with Germany against the Allies.

Persons who have copies of the Versailles Treaty will find it interesting to check up the German pact with it, to see just how the articles read to which the United States subscribes and the phrasing and implication of those which are expressly rejected. In fact, it is a duty incumbent upon all thinking citizens to familiarize themselves with these matters and become thoroughly conversant with the stand of this government.

Final action upon the treaty cannot be taken until the Senate reconvenes. The intervening period may well be devoted to study so that when Congressional discussions begin the nation as a whole can follow them intelligently.

"VOTER" JOINS OBSERVER BELIEF

(Continued from Page One.)

are 1920 big cards and you will not be far from wrong—unless he makes the mistake of getting into the game before he is as well known as he will be some day when his abilities have shown themselves more and more at home.

Charles Hall of Marshfield and Kenneth Hall, resident of the State Chamber, is talked of some for 1922, but so would be any state chamber president who had been successful in politics. But no state chamber president gets elected governor, and Hall probably is wise enough to know this. Hall has a winning personality, but the head of the state's business organization is handicapped altogether too heavily by that open connection

IN THE OLD HOME TOWN



THE CROQUET TOURNAMENT BROKE UP TODAY WHEN YOUNG ROBINSON PLAYED OUT OF HIS TURN DRIVING A CRASHING BLOW AGAINST STAR PLAYER PURDY'S ANKLE.

with business. Hall would get few votes.

L. J. Simpson, who has been regarded as a brilliant possibility, has not taken advantage of the opportunity to build up public confidence on the final foundation he laid in his campaign for the nomination in 1918, so he stands no chance whatever, and would be sacrificing himself to run.

L. L. Patterson of Polk county would make a fine governor, and is an able politician who knows how to get votes, but there are not enough people who know his good qualities and too many who simply remember him as an old-time politician. He probably would not run against Olcott. Against Geo. Baker he would stand no show. If neither Olcott nor Baker run, Patterson would be one of the leading candidates—but so would each of several other Oregon statesmen.

All in all, George Baker would appear to have the best chance of any to get the nomination if he wants, especially if we have a 1925 fair. With the 1925 fair in prospect, economy in public expenditure will be forgotten, taxes and bonds will be voted in profusion and the state will go even crazier than it did just before 1905. George Baker won't shine in an atmosphere like this. While Ben Olcott would be holding the lid on and getting burned Baker would be taking it off and getting glory. Baker knows how to campaign, too, and would draw the crowds. While he has been for Portland, first last and all the time, and knows or cares little for the interest of the state outside of Portland, he is not the type of man against whom the outside will hold a grudge very long, and his manner of campaign would win favor. He was born in The Dalles and it would not require much practice from him to talk alfalfa from oats, so as to be able to talk to the farmer in his own language.

If the fair is going to be held, it looks like Baker for governor—if he wants it. And the general awakening of taxpayers would be postponed until after the fair is over. But if Baker doesn't want the job, Olcott probably will be nominated—for the voters have an abiding faith in his simple sincerity and his freedom from sinister political connections—a faith that will express itself in a huge vote.

There are other hats that might be cast in the ring—even Gus Moser's stock has gone up, and is better than it ever was before (which isn't saying much). Candidates may be numerous over the six months roll around. But if the 1925 fair is to be held, and George wants the job, Governor Baker will deliver the address of welcome to each of the 1161 odd delegates which visit the fair.

Getting down to good old-fashioned living, did you say? It can't be done. Automobiles and high taxes in Union county and elsewhere insure higher prices for everything.

And still the tourists curse the hill between La Grande and Pendleton, and very properly.

THE OFFICE CAT



POME.
"His talk I cannot understand,
He's hoarse, is Oswald Rusky
He drank a lot of corn juice and
That's what made him so husky."

I know a man, says a La Grande man, who was so generous and yet so poor that when he died he called his children to his bedside and gave them all he had—smallpox.

A. T. Hill says he cannot see why parrots swear. They never play golf.

IN THESE DAYS.
"That woman is overdressed."
"Let me see her. She's a rarity."
The Kaiser's income has dwindled to a paltry \$200,000 a year, and just



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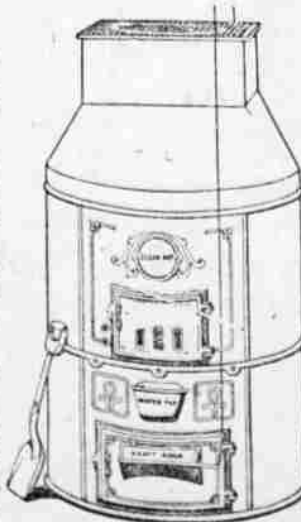
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