

# "Off With the Silks; and Put on Overalls"

Judge William Smith of Baker Analyzes National and State Conditions.

BAKER, Ore., May 13.—To the Editor: A discussion of the present condition of Oregon, its agricultural, commercial and financial interests, involves, in my opinion, general comment upon national conditions and speculation upon the causes thereof. We find that "passing the buck" seems to be the order of the day, and it behooves those of us who do not personally participate in the administration of public affairs to inquire into the causes of our present financial distress. We were assured that the creation and operation of our federal reserve banking system would prevent financial distress, guarantee sufficient money at all times to meet the requirements of all classes of business, and make us a happy and contented people, a consummation devoutly to be wished. But there has been a subversion of that assurance in the practical operation of our new financial system. Paul Warburg, a member of the board of directors of that system, is reported to have said "We are willing to explain to the people how the federal reserve system works, but are not willing to explain to them how to work it." There may be something in his remark.

**Burden is a Heavy One.**  
With the initiative in force in Oregon the people have the right to enact laws relating to assessment, taxation and appropriations, and partly through their own acts have brought about the present predicament. They have created a heavy bonded indebtedness which, coupled with the enormous indebtedness of our nation, has resulted in a burden almost too heavy for them to bear. Our present taxes amount almost to confiscation. But Oregon is not wholly responsible for her financial stringency. This is manifest for the reason that our sister states, without exception, are in the same condition. Hence there must be other causes auxiliary to our distress, and they are not far to seek.

There is probably nothing to which the American people give less heed or thought than the laws of finance, and there is nothing that concerns them more or that so vitally affects their material welfare. It is a matter to which they give no consideration whatever. The average man takes it for granted that a dollar is a dollar today as it was a year ago and as it will be a year hence. That, like the lunar months or the mercy of God, it never changes. It is mainly owing to this indifference or ignorance, and appreciation of this indifference or want of knowledge by those who take advantage of it, that our people are financially stranded today. There is nothing more susceptible of fluctuation than the value of a dollar, and it is exceedingly unfortunate for them that our people do not concern themselves about it. I attribute our present national and state financial conditions principally to the recent extraordinary increase in the value of our dollars. This is not a political question. It is one that concerns the welfare of every citizen at all times and must, therefore, be treated as an economic question.

**Deflation Came as Ordered.**  
What has caused this extraordinary increase in the value of dollars? It is caused partly by the mandate of the American people. In his speech of acceptance our good president used these words: "I favor a courageous and intelligent deflation of over-extended credit and currency," and upon that point he was supported by an overwhelming majority of our votes, as he was on his entire declaration of principles. During his administration thus far the volume of currency has been deflated nearly one-fourth, not less than \$1,500,000,000. This enormous deflation of the volume of money makes money relatively harder to get than formerly. We must give more of our labor, products and property to get it, hence the values of our labor, products and property have gone down. The demand for money is always unlimited and the less there is of it the harder it is to get. That is axiomatic and admits of no argument. If money were more easily to be had it would result in higher prices of labor products and property. That was the condition two and three years ago. Money is easy to get only when its volume is commensurate with commercial needs.

**The "Invisible" Government.**  
The control of the volume of money in our land is in the hands of a few people commonly referred to as "the invisible government," and that element operates independent of any political party. It has no counter, no patriotism, and no politics. It is international and is controlled by but one impulse, namely, greed insatiable. It takes advantage of national needs as it did in the last war, and as it has in all wars. It feeds and thrives upon bond issues and contrives schemes and creates conditions that compel their consequent debts. Wars compel an increase in the volume of money, thus making money cheap. The international bankers then buy the bond issues with the cheapened money, thereafter contract the volume of money making money dearer, and thus force the value of the bond buildings higher to their inevitable ruin in billions. This was done after the civil war and we have had a most flagrant example of their chicanery.

try school districts will in many cases have shortened terms, and some none at all. It's brass tacks for us now and jax and frills must follow home. Business is business and necessity knows no law.  
Henry Ford's paper says "The only good thing in the world is good will, and where there is a good will there is a right way." The masses of the American people have the good will—may they find the right way.  
WILLIAM SMITH.

**To Remove Lead in a Gunbarrel.**  
Chemically pure and strong nitric acid will dissolve the lead and not attack the metal of a gunbarrel unless the acid becomes diluted with a little water. To remove the acid, pour all of it out and wipe the gun dry with a rag soaked in olive or cotton seed oil. Do not get the acid on the hands or clothing. If, by chance, this happens, wash it off immediately with water and then with some weak alkali.

**To Remove Paint From Cloth.**  
To remove paint from cloth, lay a pad of blotting paper on the side of the material on which the paint fell, and rub the other side gently with a soft piece of fannel dipped in chloroform or benzol, both of which are paint solvents, as the paint dissolves it naturally passes into the most absorbent material in contact with it—which is the blotting paper—not into the adjacent cloth. Deep stains can be completely removed by this method.

**Chinese Superstition.**  
In some parts of China two coins are put into the sleeve of the dead, and are then shaken out, to test his satisfaction, or the reverse, at the arrangements made for his funeral and interment. If the coin falls with the side upward, it is taken as a sign of approval; if not, as a sign that something has been omitted.

**MOTHER'S DAY.**  
Make mother happy with a box of Mexican Chew on Mother's Day, May 14th. It's a candy for both the young and the old. Get them at the Palace Confectionery. 5-10-11

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