

Cottage Grove Sentinel
A Weekly Newspaper With Plenty of Backbone

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GUARANTEED RAILROAD PROFITS.

Halvor C. Wheeler, representative from Lane county, is not a radical in any sense of the word, although one who owns over 500 acres of land in these trying times for the producer might be excused for showing some of the symptoms. We find it quite easy to agree with Mr. Wheeler upon almost any subject, but nevertheless we wish to refer in a way that may seem adversely critical to a statement which he made before the recent session of the farmers' union.

During the course of what was otherwise a hard-headed, sensible, practical talk he made the statement that railroad, telephone and telegraph profits are guaranteed by the government. We doubt if he meant exactly that, but that is what he said, which reminds us that there are many who actually believe that the railroads are guaranteed a certain percentage of profit and that any deficiency in the amount of profit guaranteed is made up by the government.

While public service utilities are at the present time in a much better condition than the farmer, we have some doubt whether the farmer would care to come under the so-called guarantee law under which public utilities operate. The utilities have no option in the matter.

Let us remind readers that the regulation of railroads and of other public utilities came about because of a demand by the people for such regulation—and the so-called guarantee of profits came about through demand on the part of the people for regulation that would do away with the excessive profits which it was thought that the utilities were earning, and which they probably were earning.

In the case of the railways, their rates are so fixed that they ought to earn a certain percentage of profit. We believe that that percentage has been fixed at 5% per cent. If they fail to earn that percentage of profit, they have no recourse. They are simply out that amount. The government makes up nothing. But if they earn more than the percentage set out, the government tells them what they shall do with the money.

Rates which public utilities may earn are so fixed that they should earn approximately 8 per cent. Efficient and economical conduct of the business is required. No premium is allowed for extravagance and inefficiency. If they fail to earn the amount allowed, they may apply for a readjustment of rates, but no one makes up the deficiency.

That much for the guarantee.

To get this so-called guarantee, the public utilities must keep sets of books setting out in detail every item of expense, every item of income. The books are subject to inspection at any time.

We are willing to admit that it might be a good thing if farmers were compelled to keep accurate records. There would be a great turning over in the method now in vogue. But how many are willing to keep such a set for government inspection?

How many are willing to have the limit of profit set at 8 per cent?

When that profit is figured, the increase in value of property owned is considered. Whatever the farmer takes for the support of himself

and family is a receipt to go on the credit side.

We'd be willing to make a reasonable wager that farmers want no limit put on their profits until they have had a chance to recuperate for losses which they claim for the past few years.

All things are not what they seem. The so-called guaranteed profit for public utilities is one of those things.

We do not believe that we have told Mr. Wheeler anything that he did not know, or would not have said, had he had the time, but he left a wrong impression with some.

We trust that this corrects those who got a wrong impression and we trust that it corrects the error of many who did not hear Mr. Wheeler but who have imagined that they were being wronged because public utilities were guaranteed a profit from government funds. Such is not the case and has not been the case since the railways went back to private ownership and operation, since which time, it may be said, they have had a much better opportunity to earn profits than they ever did under government mismanagement.

MILT ON FINANCES.

Milt Miller, democratic candidate for United States senator, made the astonishing statement in his address before the session of the county farmers' union that the debt contracted during the Civil war should have been paid with fiat money. He said that the amount required would have had no effect upon the value of Uncle Sam's money and that by this simple process the government would have saved in interest an amount equal to the original debt.

(Fiat money is such money as the German government is now issuing. It becomes money merely by government fiat—by the government saying it is worth the printed figures. It is backed by nothing except government credit.)

It takes a democrat of the Milt Miller proportions to figure out a way to get something for nothing. Milt has been fairly successful at the game and, we might say, would prove an adept at the business should he land the senatorial togs. The statement sounded plausible and no doubt many of those who heard Mr. Miller's words made a mental notation to vote to send to the United States senate a man who could so simply and with so little mental or physical effort wipe out 50 millions or more of government expense. Milt aims at doing things that can be done with little effort.

It might be well to bear in mind that a democratic candidate for governor promised a 50 per cent reduction in taxes. We have yet to hear Pierce's most ardent admirer tell of any reduction in our tax bill. We have not noted that the wall of the taxpayer has taken on a softer tone.

If there is any danger of men of Milt's financial ability being sent to congress, we are happy that the time has passed for financing the Civil war or the world war with fiat money.

Fiat money in millions and billions would raise more commotion than Milt ever will as a candidate for United States senator.

Milt was tearing jagged holes in the atmosphere in his effort to describe himself as the only savior of the people.

He made the further statement that the entire war debt should be raised forthwith by taxation, with particular stress upon taxation of the rich—always a popular thing to say before those not likely to have to pay excess profits taxes. He characterized as a crime the payment of huge sums of interest by a government with power to tax its debts off the books.

He described the awful burden we are carrying.

The Sentinel is as anxious as any to see the government out of debt. To that end we wish to see the government economically administered and a modest tax collected.

But we always have misgivings when democrats who have been in office or who are seeking office, which Milt was and is, begin explaining methods of financing. The

most recent example of a democratic national government which we have was the most extravagant administration the country has ever known. Billions were thrown away like so many scraps of paper in its blundering way of financing the war, particularly in the production of airplanes, none of which ever reached the battle front. While we groaned in our efforts to raise our quotas, the powers at Washington squandered our billions with reckless abandon—an abandon equal to that of Milt when he taps on his chest the kind of man he describes as the ideal for United States senators.

But is there any argument against paying off the war debt immediately by direct taxation?

We have heard already that many have to borrow money to pay their present taxes. To take up the war debts we would have to borrow more money, or those fortunate enough to have money available would have to use money that is earning 8 or 10 per cent to pay obligations that are drawing from 4 to 5 per cent. That's what we call the same of democratic financing.

No business man, not even a democrat, would borrow money at 8 or 10 per cent to pay a 4 or 5 per cent obligation which was not due, nor would he use for that purpose money that was earning 8 or 10 per cent.

That's the trouble, Milt. When folks go to congress they want to run the government by a method that would bankrupt a business concern.

The government is the people. Whatever the government owes the people owe to themselves.

We haven't heard anyone worrying about the billions the government owes. The interest the government pays, if stopped, would hardly be noticed in the amount of taxes we pay. If Milt wants to do something really worth while, let him give up his senatorial aspirations and dedicate his life to helping the farmer put over some method of getting a profitable price for his products. The little we pay in government interest won't bother a prosperous people or cause them a ripple of worry.

THE FARMER, RICH OR POOR.

The hue and cry of a century has been to devise a way to keep the boy on the farm. Up to within the past year or two we were told a thousand times that unless something was done to keep the farm boy from going to the city we would soon be starving to death.

The Sentinel has been one of those which has raised its voice, or its pen, or whatever it is that it raises, for better living conditions for the rural communities. For the same opportunities for the boy on the farm as for the boy in town.

It does not now retract anything that has been said, but the complaint that has been raised during the past two or three years to the effect that, unless farm prices advance, the farmer must go broke would indicate that the effort to keep the boy on the farm has proved too successful.

At any rate it is certain that conditions on the farm have undergone a radical change. The boy on the farm is now almost a town boy. He farms with a gasoline steed and in only a few minutes from the city limits in his gasoline buggy. He has practically everything that the city boy has and, like the city boy, finds that the jazz life keeps him so busy that he hardly has time to fully enjoy them.

To stop here, however, would leave a wrong impression. While there is no question about a large number of the boys being kept on the farm, that alone does not account for the over-production which has resulted in a lowering of prices of farm products.

Government statistics show that production increased 40 per cent during the 20 years between 1900 and 1920, while the number of those on the farms increased only 4 per cent. It is safe to say that if statistics for the past three years were available they would show a yet greater percentage of increase in production.

Further along the statistics give figures that to the candid and thinking mind indicate why this startling increase in production. During the 20 years referred to farmers bought more than a billion dollars' worth of labor-saving farm implements to take the place of the boy who went to the city. In 1920 there were three million motor vehicles on the farms of the country. That number undoubtedly has nearly doubled since that time.

These same statistics show another interesting fact. During that period of 20 years, the value of farms increased from 20 billions to 78 billions. That 58 billions was velvet for the owners of the farms, a neat little sum that would have to be taken into consideration if the price of farm products were fixed by government fiat.

If the discontented fellow didn't try to pass it around, it wouldn't be quite so bad.

When money gets so tight that no one will buy gold bricks, then hard times will surely be upon us.

A love affair is not so serious until after you are married.

The Lord does not always provide, but he will get behind and push the fellow who goes after what he wants.

Some people preserve their faith in things by not investigating when they know they'd find something wrong.

There are said to be some 100,000 words in the English language—and the vaudeville artists add a few new ones in their graduating essays.

A well known doctor says phrenology is a humbug. Bump it good, doc, bumps are what the phrenologists thrive on.

THINGS WE THINK

Things Others Think and What We Think of the Things Others Think

You never notice anyone leave the room when money is talking.

A debt of love draws compound interest, computed twice every fifteen seconds.

THAT INEXPLICABLE FEELING.

Sitting up after all the rest have gone to bed, after childish lips have lapsed. "Now I lay me" and the sandman has closed his eyes, after childish prattle is stilled and nothing but the monotonous tick-tock of the timepiece on the shelf or hurried footsteps of late revelers passing the house break the stillness of the night, a peculiar something wells up inside the father as he sits in the big arm chair with his Lady Nicotine, blowing rings of tobacco smoke and contemplating the baby shoes scattered about the floor, baby garments hanging on chairs and empty baby dresses and other baby clothing scattered about the room.

A few puffs help a woman's appearance, but not the kind that come from a lighted cigarette.

Some people are so slow that they don't catch cold until the middle of the summer.

The hen is like a human. She is worthless if she persists in staying on the roost too late in the mornings.

After heirs hire a few lawyers to settle an estate, the question of equitable division is removed so far as the heirs are concerned.

When men can be made good by law there will be no need of law.

The man with a wife and five or six daughters doesn't want for affection along about time to buy Easter hats.

THE HUSTLING AMERICANS.

Probably the reason Americans like to ride camels when touring the old world is because that is the only thing that seems to have a hump on.

BETTER THAN COMMANDMENT

Very few do wrong thinking that it is right, so that if people could be made to see or believe that there is more pleasure, profit and happiness in being good there would be but little wrong-doing left.

It beats all where some men get the face to wear the whiskers they do.

PLEASANT MEDICINE, TOO.

A man can cure himself of sleeping in church by spending the hours of 10 to 12 Sunday forenoons in practicing the philosophy of Isaac Walton and the hours of 7 to 9 p. m. in helping his wife prepare the fish for Monday's dinner.

It cost a New York girl \$20,000 to find out what kind of a man she had married. If she really found out, the money was well spent.

Whoever knew a brother to flatter his grownup sister.

Some women won't be happy even in heaven if hubby isn't there to be jawed.

A person never made much of a reputation on what he threatened to do.

There is now beauty in life every day for the person who keeps his eyes open.

A man never accuses a woman of fibbing when she is flattering him.

Some folks talk just to keep from being entirely inactive.

ANTICIPATED REVENGE.

A young man who has never dreamed of the time he will be a great orator or a great singer and make the girls who turned him down feel sorry, has something radically wrong with him and should see a doctor at once.

The first time a young man acts as an escort to a young lady he imagines he is showing newly-arrived angels around heaven.

A woman may brag that she bosses her husband but down in her heart she is not really proud of such a husband.

Most of us shoot off the most when the person we aim to hit is not in range.

Sometimes a girl doesn't think anything about getting married until her friends begin dropping hints that maybe she can't.

REMAIN SEATED, PLEASE.

A large eastern city has passed an ordinance to the effect that there shall be no more standing in the theaters of that city—which means that the newspaper critics must not say that some particularly thrilling act or happy joke brought the audience to its feet.

REAL TOUCHY.

A blind girl says she can't see why she should love the man she is suing for \$100,000 as a breach of promise claim, but she can feel that she does. That is getting the sense of touch developed to a fine point.

There's usually a way of getting a man to do what you want him to.

It seems as if there are three times as many good excuses for owning an automobile as for doing without one.

PAGE MR. VOLSTEAD.

An eastern town has passed an ordinance making the taking of a bath once a week compulsory. Who said the country was dry?

KEM DISPUTES ADVENTISTS.

Cottage Grove, Ore., Oct. 1.—(To the Editor.)—The letter of Rev. Iverson, just appearing in the Sentinel, creates within me a desire to know just why that excellent organization, the Adventist church, lays so much stress on the prophecies of the bible, especially with reference to the end of the world.

The events he speaks of as foretelling the second coming of Christ are, in my judgment, nothing more or less than the phenomena of nature in its work of forming the earth, which is still in the making, and has been going on since long before Christ was on earth, simply nature doing her perfect work without presaging anything, and it seems to me that it requires a mighty twist of the imagination to make them fit into a prophecy of the coming of the end of the world.

I have given this matter of the prophecies some research and consideration and can find no evidence that would be accepted in any court of the land in the establishment of the alleged fact that these prophecies, as interpreted by the Adventist church, are true. On the other hand I have found much evidence which convinced me that they are not true.

The darkening of the sun and moon by eclipse and the falling of meteors, formerly thought to be stars, has been occurring at intervals since there was sun, moon and meteors. Earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tidal waves have occurred ever since there was earth and sea and, while I am neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, I predict they will continue to occur long after Brother Iverson and I are dead, rotten and forgotten.

He quotes Christ in evidence of his second coming, but only in part. His disciples were very anxious to know just when this great event was to occur and at different times asked him privately just when it would be. He would never fix the exact day but he did fix the time so definitely that we now know that the prophecy was a failure.

On one occasion he said to them, without quoting the exact words, "There are those of you present who shall not taste death until all of these things be fulfilled." On another occasion he told them that in their itinerary they would not be able to visit all of the cities of Judea till his second coming. Nearly 2000 years have come and gone and all things are moving along in the even tenor of their way just as if no predictions had been made. Can anyone say that in these predictions he was not mistaken? And if he was mistaken in these two things? In fact, is there a particle of evi-

dence that all the prophets were not mistaken in this matter?

The Adventist church has been prophesying the second coming of Christ ever since it was organized by Miller and in the early days they would fix the day, if not the hour, in which he should come, but after repeated failures they learned wisdom and have ceased to fix the day definitely but place it somewhere in the near future.

But suppose it is all true, just as they say, what of it? If Omnipotence has fixed it just that way and it is to be, it will be; and nothing you or I can do will stop it. Mankind should live the right sort of life, not in fear of an earthquake or the second coming of Christ, but because it is right for right's sake. Any other sort of motive back of

right living is not worth a whoop to the liver. The man who does not steal your property because he fears the penitentiary, is a thief just the same. "He who looks upon a woman to lust after her hath already committed adultery with her in his heart," and he who looks upon your property to covet it has already committed theft.

O. M. KEM.

A physician has discovered a healing extract that is reported to be able to grow tissue in 24 hours and heal wounds in an incredibly short time. It should have a great sale immediately following an election.

Just so long as a woman's age does not tell on her she will never admit that she is over 25.

It Made a New Man of Him, Says Dupuis

"Tanlac has built me up to where I look and feel like a different man," recently asserted L. Dupuis, a contractor carpenter, living at 152 1/2 Grand avenue, Portland, Ore.

"For two years past my health had been gradually failing, and about two weeks ago it just seemed like I had hit the bottom. My stomach got all out of whack, my nerves undone, and I felt so sluggish and lifeless that I seemed to be right on the verge of a complete breakdown.

"Even before I finished my first bottle of Tanlac I was picking right up. I have just finished my third bottle now and am eating like a wolf. My stomach and nerves are O. K., my strength and energy have returned and I am working every day and feeling fine. I have never come across the equal of Tanlac."

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O. J. Kem Prop. The Rexall Store Cottage Grove 6th and Main

Banker's Wife Advises Cottage Grove People

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A universal custom that benefits everybody. Aids digestion, cleanses the teeth, soothes the throat.

THE FLAVOR LASTS

Sealed in its Purify Package

WRIGLEYS

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Sealed in its Purify Package

THE FLAVOR LASTS