

MALHEUR ENTERPRISE EDITORIAL SECTION

WHICH is best for us: to earn a moderate living from labor or secure a better living through manipulation of the advantages civilization has given us by creating a medium of exchange? The theoretical answer to this we can leave to the student in philosophy and metaphysics, but the practical answer is that every civilized human being today desires pleasures and luxuries which wealth gives him. Daily labor may produce a fair living but not either wealth or luxury. Hidden by nature in the sea and on the land are many things desired by men for their use as comforts or pleasures. How shall they obtain them? Certainly not by individual effort. It is thus that they are invited to put their surplus earnings into the hands of others, who, through this concentration of the product of labor institute the search for, and production of, the hidden treasures scattered lavishly throughout the world.

Success brings wealth and luxury, failure brings some small loss and disappointment. This is speculation in its legitimate form. It is no more gambling than that entered into by every man who starts a business, the majority of whom fail. He who takes a reasonable chance in helping, with his small or large surplus, in prospecting for gold, silver, copper, lead, potash or any other useful mineral; assists in the development of an oil field; helps the promotion of manufacturing enterprises or enters into any scheme beneficial to the community at large, is doing the best that can be done for himself and for his community.

THE supreme court has passed the "buck" to congress in their decision of the suit for forfeiture of the lands granted to the Oregon California R. R. in 1864. The court decrees the land to be the property of the railroad. It decrees that the railroad must sell the land under the terms of the grant, i. e. to actual settlers at \$2.50 per acre with not more than 160 acres to the settler. It decrees that congress may take the land back by paying the road \$2.50 per acre.

THE DECISION AND POSSIBLE RESULTS It decrees that congress may then do as they please with the land should they elect to take it back. It gives the road and Congress six months to make an agreement.

The intervenors are still on the fence. Some six thousand of them are endeavoring to pose as actual settlers. Probably 1 in 10 might become actual settlers under ordinary construction of that term, but far the greater majority are mere speculators on a small scale and it remains to be seen what Congress will do.

As to what is best for Oregon: it is beyond question that the state would be far ahead should the road be compelled to sell to settlers who will actually work the ground which is susceptible to cultivation and let small investors, semi settlers such as are the majority of the intervenors, have the timber land. Should the timber land eventually drift into the hand of already large holders it will be only after they have paid a substantial price for it; which funds will be in the state, swelling the bank accounts of numerous depositors, while every acre will be subject to taxation by and for the state.

No man can tell what Congress will do. They are controlled by the southern delegation which is impractical and whose justice is measured by what they can get out of the pork barrel for their own section. Whether there will be sufficient politics in the matter to bring the powerful fighters of the eastern states to our relief remains to be seen. The Oregon delegation in the house is antagonistic to the present administration, consequently with little influence, while the senatorial contingent are known as administration supporters under any circumstances which prevents Oregon from getting proper consideration. The coming term may show some change and the Secretary of the Interior is more favorable to the actual settler than any we have had for many years.

TWO WAILS

Some say that there is no rhyme for "Jitney." Others, principally street railway men, go farther and say their is neither rhyme nor reason for it.—Kansas City Journal.

Now the "poet" germ has bit me;
And in comfort down I sit me;
Happy that this thought has hit me;
You with grammar must not twit me;
As I show the rhymes with jitney.
Of malice you'll acquit me;
But adjudge it hard to stick me;
Though true you may like to kick me;
You'll admit some rhymes with jitney.

What! For "jitney" there's no reason?
What! Though in and out of season,
Occupants their clothes get grease on?
And each strap carries disease on?
Wooden seats you boil or freeze on?
While the city's wealth they seize on?
While the cars the people squeeze on?
For the "jitney" there seems reason!

IT is not necessary to question the sincerity of Oswald West in his attack on timber and power monopolists and support of the governmental conservation policy in order to combat a number of his conclusions. His article read before the commonwealth conference is but little else than a condensed rehash of over-worked, if true, statements regarding the seizure of timber lands and power sites by those able to seize them. That the lieu land scheme was unrighteous in its inception and bold in its deliberate exchange of worthless lands for fine timber lands no one has the temerity to deny; but this entire scheme was worked through and by government and government officials, through and by the system Mr. West is supporting. The conservation of forests and power are not connected in practical use. Denuded forest lands, if not reforested are a loss, if replanted and cared for, their growth is slow and requires far different management than does power. Water power is perpetual. Flowing to the sea through canyons far above the clouds, made to turn the many turbines in its descent, or spread over the desert plains for the benefit of mankind it is returned to hills through the power of nature to be again turned into power or food or both.

POLITICS OR PHILANTHROPY? In the management of forests and forest timber, the government has reversed the old maxim "the surplus makes the price for any commodity" into one where the commercial monopolist fixes the price which the people must pay for timber. In no locality where the government deals in timber has that timber stumpage been sold at less than the market rate made by the big outside holder. We have no desire to find fault with a management that makes all the money it can, but we question the sincerity of a conservation policy which raises the price to the consumer. If the manufacturer is to make such a price as he chooses and is to be followed by the government what becomes of the benevolent theory of the conservationist which claims to be holding the timber for the people and their benefit?

If it is contended that it is better to have timber preserved and denuded lands reforested than to have it all destroyed, and that the price is only an incident, even though the common people pay it, we are interested to see how this can be applied even to water power. On the same theory of leasing and governmental control and conservation, the monopolist will control the price of that owned by the government. Overhead charges on construction and installation can be increased at will, and the same management would permit the government to make the same price that is made by the outsider. Where can the people gain by government control? In fact, if the government were party to the manipulation of both power and timber lands by the monopolists they could devise no scheme which would better please the private owners than that now in operation. Small owners cannot obtain timber and practically force the timber baron to buy it at a fair market price, but the government comes in and takes it from the market and furthermore scatters fire fighters throughout the country to protect the aforesaid timber monopolist.

It is difficult to see the difference to the consumer of power whether he pays five dollars per H. P. to a private concern or to the government. If the government reduces their price their management will be condemned by our eastern statesmen and they will be strongly censured for selling a product for less than a price which will enable the monopolist to pay huge overhead charges and a reasonable profit beside. That timber lands eventually drift into the hands of the large land owner may be and doubtless is true. If, however, the original taker realized some \$1500 or more for the claim, thereby obtaining a start in the world, is it not just as well for the consumer? The payment of this amount has not increased the price of the manufactured product for just the same price is asked for that which has cost far less and that price is backed up by the government. If the government does not permit the taking of land by the locator, but locking it up and maintaining the price for the big holder, it appears that the public is loser by just the amount the big holder might have paid the locator.

The argument that many roads hold unsurveyed lands not subject to taxation is a poor argument for the government to take them over and perpetually withhold them from taxation in reserves. Sometime the railroad will be compelled to bring them into public use. If we are to have a paternalistic government let us at least understand it and go into it with our eyes open. Single tax and public ownership are twin brothers in the conservation family. And finally: it is axiomatic that whatever the price charged by the government for timber or power, the people will lose, as the cost will exceed the income.

Villa wants to stand in with Wilson and pacify Mexico. Villa has done his share towards pacifying the country if he can get a little help he will pacify the rest of it. The A. B. C. Commuter will preach the funeral sermon.

WE presume that it is on the theory that the "hair of a dog is good for his bite" that the Malthusians and Single Taxers are warring with ponderous words in Portland just now. The Malthusians wish the government to be carried on with the proposition always in view that 2 in a geometrical progression, with infinity for the number of terms, produces infinity. That is, beginning with two people, a future date will see the earth overwhelmed with population doomed to death and destruction. The Single Taxer finds that our present tax laws permit those who own money and other personal values to avoid payment of their just proportion of society's demands and therefore proposes to throw away the little they do pay and put it all on land, for the only reason that land cannot escape, and thus force either its productive power into activity or its reversion to the state, with the latter practically certain.

SENSE AND NONSENSE Disregarding the fact that animals and lower man produce offspring in far greater numbers than do civilized man; forgetting that the 2 with which the Malthusian starts are in fact the production of an infinite number of ancestors as is so well shown by Judge Blackstone, who said: " * * * it is much more certain that every man had ancestors than that he will have posterity, and it is still more doubtful whether he will have posterity to twenty or an indefinite number of generations;" these doctrinaires demand government based on fatuous dreams.

The theory that land "wears out" is completely exploded. The fact that it has been badly cultivated and improperly cared for may be true, but nature itself will care for its productivity with intelligent management. European lands cultivated for a thousand or more years are more productive today than ever.

Sense points out that we should confine ourselves to the solution of our economical difficulties through practical endeavor leaving the day that never comes to deal with theory. Today is here and ours, tomorrow never comes.

"TOMORROW! Why tomorrow I may be Myself, with Yesterday's sev'n thousand years."

There's a decision for you. The supreme court says that the Oregon California grant is to be sold for \$2.50 per acre. Everybody howls with delight, until their attention is called to the fact that the United States can buy it at that price and then sell it for any price they choose. Watch papa conservationist get in his deadly work.

Once out of touch and the newspapers will show a man from Missouri (or Nebraska) what the American people think of him.

Now that the Russians are out of Lemberg all parties are just where they started from, except that Germany has Belgium, which she will keep.

That prophesy about the man "Napoleon" coming from the north seems late in being fulfilled. Looks now like a lot of Napoleons going towards the north.

Single taxers are meeting in Portland tonight to discuss whether it was Malthus or Methusalah who was afraid the population would overcome land production. Never mind boys. Methusalah, Malthus and single tax have whiskeys.

Oswald West proposes to reform Oregon politics if he has to elect another Chamberlain to do it; or himself.

That little job of Hercules was a mere trifle to getting rid of U'Ren, single tax and free trade.

That was a dandy statement that Lockwood put out at Portland. The Oregon Voter said: "careful examination of competent critics found nothing which could be subject to controversy." What a diplomat he would make.

Secretary Lane says: "there is no way for anyone to take potash or phosphate land." If the Hon. Sect'y will come to Malheur county we will show him.

Grain made up of so much carbon, so much hydrogen, oxygen, phosphorus, lime, magnesia and other elements: Animals made up of practically the same elements: every element in either taken from the air, water or land, and then say that the land wears out when every particle of every element must return to the air, land and water.

Borah for president would sound good to the west and to the country, if New York can be made to see it.

M. B. Gwinn would make some whirlwind campaign in Idaho if he should take hold.

No one makes a whirlwind campaign in Oregon. That's why U'Ren gets by with his.

SECRETARY Lane strongly favors the leasing system, following the tendency of the democratic party to more and more favor the socialistic trend of thought for political purposes. No scheme yet proposed can so successfully prevent exploitation and development as the system proposed by the conservationists and backed by the present administration. That system whereby personal endeavor or has before it a future; the system where individuals may hope to find a competence from hidden treasures, where rapid transition from poverty to affluence allures the venturesome prospector from comfort to privation and war with nature, is the system which will, eventually make strong and self reliant citizens and give progress and prosperity.

THE LEASING SYSTEM Seizing upon lands which have been discovered by a hardy prospector and refusing him and others, deserved beneficial results discourages development and harms the entire community. Not one mining or industrial enterprise in a thousand can be successfully handled by the poor man, and therefore he is to be shut out from obtaining the comparatively small benefits gained through sale to a corporation, or through promotion through their own efforts, and the property held back for leasing to those who have the means to go forward with development and monopolize the market through and by the aid of the government.

Governmental red tape and obstruction has held the entire northwest in its grip for years and has all but throttled Alaska. The construction of the railroad will fail in development unless the private individual may unhampered find reward through successful search in the wild hills and tundra of that country of unlimited possibilities.

Secretary Lane deprecates this red tape and governmental control from a distance as to Alaska, but what better will be the result if private efforts may not be rewarded? What inducement for searching the hills and prospecting the canyons, drilling for oil, or searching for potash, if their hard earned success in finding is to be taken from them by a system of mismanagement and withdrawal?

There is no such thing as a law of "diminishing soil returns." The law is: Intelligent management will increase soil returns to a degree far beyond the comprehension of humanity today.

Unity vegetarians object to destruction of animal life of any kind on the grounds of justice. "God made them and they should live their lives." Note that sweet little rattler basking in the sun just where the babies play, shake the scorpion gently out of your sock and place the tarantula carefully in his nest!

Quoting the Bible in support of a vegetarian diet as of, or from, God, we see no reference to Leviticus. We wonder why not?

Tremendous beating of tom-toms indicate that the 1916 campaign is on hand.

That tariff reduction on sugar recedes as 1916 approaches.

Railroads, potash and water ought to bring Malheur county to the front!

Swamp lands sold by Oregon under agreement to reclaim are now used to prevent construction of irrigation projects, setting up the fact that the irrigation project will result in taking the water off from the swamp lands. That owner wants both horns of the dilemma.

It might be safer to stay at home when there is a riot in town, but will that fact excuse the rioter if he kills someone? Pro-Germans think that over.

That fight in Galicia covered as much ground as the whole of Malheur county. Its many a mile to Moscow as well as a long road to Tipperary.

If you know where there are any potassium compounds in this section or any other better grab while the grabbing is good. Papa conservation will come along soon.

Why not nations talk it over for a year? Bryan has talked for 25 years and is still talking!

Bryan has got Teddy backed off the first page. Hurrah for peace—down with Mars.

Taft has put one over on Bryan. His peace league looks somewhat practical.

Suppose nations form a league to absolutely boycott a nation refusing to abide by the decision of the league? That would be deadly as long as trade rules the world.

Rex Lammman and Dean Collins have given up prose and gone mad over Pavlova's toes.