

Oregon City Courier

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M. J. BROWN, Editor.

WHAT'S THE CURE?

In summing up the fight of the people against the trusts for lower prices, the Portland Telegram concludes with this:

There can be no doubt in this country as to which side will win in the long run, but how the ultimate victory will be achieved—that is the interesting query.

The Courier believes, as it recently stated, that the time is not far away when our government will have supervision of every mill or corporation that deals in necessities, and that our government will determine just what it costs to produce these necessities and will fix the price at which they shall be sold.

Today the coal dealers back east put together and fix the price of next winter's fuel. Demand, supply, or the cost of production have absolutely no part in the figures. The price steers simply state that June deliveries SHALL be so much, July so much, and so on down the calendar into the months of next winter. The price is made because the lead pencil writes it down, and the fellows agree to stand by it. Families who have means can buy cheaper during the summer months, but the poor people, the common people, who cannot buy at convenience must pay what is demanded.

This is but one of hundreds of the hold-ups—where the price is exacted from the consumers, because the cornered producer is a necessity. And the people are not going to pay this tribute much longer. They are in the majority, they know their power and they are going to use it. And the result will be that the government will fix the prices, rather than the trusts.

DOWN AND OUT.

Diaz was like the pitcher that went once too often to the wall, and his handle was broken.

Today he is in a way an exile, living in Spain, where he was forced to flee.

Diaz didn't know when he had had enough—like the pig, he didn't know when the swill was exhausted, and he stayed at the trough.

For thirty years he ruled Mexico, ruled it as the action boss does a bunch of Dagoes, and then the job got away with him. He stayed on it too long.

Now he is a down and out. True, he has millions of gold he squeezed out of the country, but what good is gold to a man too old to spend it?

Would you take his gold and his exile and change places with him?

NOW WATCH MADERO.

The expected is occurring and western Mexico is being plundered by the lawless element that was brought out. There is no safety for life or property in these states. Now can Madero hold the victory he has won, or will it get away from him?

Mexico is made up of illiterates. Its people are neither readers nor thinkers. They have never progressed or uplifted and they have no desire for these advances. They have no personal interests in peace, they are not concerned in prosperity or ruin. Humboldt described the Mexican well when he said "he is a bugger sitting on a gold mine."

And this condition of the people, following a war, is bound to bring out bands of brigandage, plunderers, mighty hard for Madero to suppress, a state of things that respects no terms of peace and knows no laws.

Now it is up to Madero to make good with his success, or it will give Uncle Sam a long wanted opportunity to cut in on the play and throw a hook into coveted Mexico.

I note that the Portland retail grocers have agreed to adopt the weight plan in selling fruits, vegetables and produce, commencing this month, and it is a system that every grocery should adopt, in justice to both themselves and their customers. Under the present plan of so much per dozen, it is a case of grab, and the first ones get the big cucumbers, the biggest eggs, the best oranges and apples, and after a day's picking over no one wants the small leavings at full price. The weight plan is the right plan, and it is but a question of time when we will buy nearly all our stuff in this way.

THE TRUST TREATMENT.

Isn't it funny that the great supreme court physicians hadn't long ago stumbled over the Sherman anti-trust anti-toxine for the cure of the Big Squeeze that has become so contagious and epidemic in this country?

For years the prescription has been plainly written in the great medical book but the doctors thought lock jaw might result, so they tried mild remedies, in homeopathic doses, and advised the patients to take plenty of exercise.

And they did. Three weeks ago the anti-toxine was given to the Standard Oil Company. There were signs of tetanus, nervous flutters and spasmodic contraction of various muscles, but no loss of consciousness, and in a few days relaxation set in, and danger of Wall Street lock jaw passed.

Now they have tried it on the tobacco trust and anxious friends are watching for the critical stage, with fingers on the pulse.

Oh, but the Sherman cure is great stuff and as soon as results are noted in the tobacco trust it will be administered to the lumber, steel, coal, meat, woolen, and other patients, and soon the whole country will be rid of the queeze, maldy and content and competition will spread over the land like one continual crimson sunset.

Do you believe it?

Neither do I. It will take something stronger than hypodermics to kill the trust germ.

The Standard Oil Company has not ordered any shiraws nor called in any undertakers, and there will be several rainy Tuesdays before they throw up their charter and quit doing business with their endless chain racket.

The only way our government will ever regulate the trusts will be by compelling them to put their wares on the market at a certain price, the government to fix the price.

And this will come.

HEAVY TROUBLE.

There isn't much more dependence to be put on the world's war stories than in the majority charges of the Portland dailies. If half of either were true, Portland's candidates should be in the jail and we are going to have enough international troubles to make Hobson happy.

Here's the way the newspaper writers shovel trouble onto this country. They get big pay and they must earn it.

Japan and England are going to double team the United States and wipe us off the map; Germany isn't going to stand for this and she will take a fall out of England, that she has long been yearning for; France isn't going to paint sunsets and sing swan songs while there is trouble doing, so she will help Great Britain put one or two over on the Dutchmen in the mixup; then Austria is going to butt into the scrap and help Germany; Russia and China will come up some old scores with Japan, and so on.

And as soon as this one cools off some other great newspaper far-seer will have the U. S. jump on Canada with both feet; the British Empire will get into the mixup for the count; fighting Ireland will become an independent little bunch of scrapping; Uncle Sam will annex Mexico; Germany will take over Belgium, Holland and Denmark, and, and, and, this covers about all of them but Italy and Sweden, and you may stick them in the mix up anywhere you think they belong—and you'll hit it as close as the war writers do.

The bible says that in the latter days there shall be wars and rumors of wars, and these days must be getting pretty close to the end of the string.

Pathetic and but half appreciated by we of this hustling age, was the line of march of the boys in blue, Tuesday. Fifty years ago these white headed men were our boys, our saviors, some young bloods, who went down to the front and mixed it with bullets, hardships and sickness, and they saved a country from dissolution. Any true American should feel like taking off his hat every time he meets one of these old veterans.

From a deficit of many millions of a year ago to a million of surplus today is the report of the postoffice department. A year ago a Chicago businessman offered to give the government a million dollars a year for the use of the United States mails, and it would seem that the department has been injecting a few common business methods into the postal end of the government.

The two tariff lowering bills before congress are products of the classer of the people to throw off high protection, which the privileged interests have loaded on them, and to open this country to low-priced necessities. The end of protecting monopolies has pretty nearly come. You can't fool all the people all the time.

And now it is President Taft's turn. He will make a swing around the Roosevelt-Wilson circle and visit the coast in September.

Oregon is the first state in the Union to express for president, and no wonder the boys all visit Portland.

THIS IS TOO GAME.

Talk about dead game sports, we Americans are 'em.

We're brokers in blood and bone when there's nothing more exciting to do but our washers on.

In Indianapolis this week, at the big auto race, men freely offered and took bets on human life, but on whether such and such a car would finish without a killing.

I like gameness, but this suits me too well. Think of a man on the risk end of a wager straining his eyes to see the car he has bet against turn out at "death curve," mangle the occupants and win him his money.

Human life is becoming mighty cheap in this speedy country.

CAT SKINNING.

"We will go right along doing business, and everything will be straightened out."

That is what one of the tobacco trust steers said of the supreme court decision that is supposed to measure the trust's length of life.

And they will go right along doing business. A law may tell a trust it shall not touch or control a community, and it may enforce it, so far as doing business on paper is concerned, but it will take something more potent than decisions to stop the combination from going "right along and doing business."

There are several ways of skinning a cat. Some cut across the back and pull the hide both ways; some skin around the nose and pull it over the head, and others rip it up the front and peel it off.

The tobacco trust will keep right on skinning in one way or another until law cuts in, determines what the product costs and tells them what they shall charge.

Such a regulation would bring results. The supreme court decisions only force them to be bigger and more cautious thieves.

And they call him Wood-run Wilson now.

Next Monday will settle the scrap over mayor in Portland, and the odds look very much like Simon as a winner.

Here's a tip that Taft and Stimson are nominated by the Republicans next year, but we haven't any sure things down for the Democratic end just yet.

The controller, on advice of the attorney general, has refused to pay Governor Wilson for a month's salary, when he was out here telling we consumers the government should be run. If this docking had been applied to ex-President Roosevelt or President Taft, their time checks would have looked like a meal ticket on the seventh day. But all the same it is not a bad precedent to start.

When a man is elected governor or president, or any other public position, let him stay on the job. We have far too many men drawing salaries from the public and doing private fence work.

Next year the voters of Multnomah county will vote on the single tax system, and Mr. U'Ren believes the proposed law will carry. In his talk to the Portland aid he pointed out how the system will curtail tax on all personal property and improvements such as buildings and so forth, and levy a tax upon the land only and that in accordance with its rental producing capacity. To tax personal property and improvements on land, he said, was imposing a penalty on enterprise. To levy a tax on land would make the land owners use it to produce revenues, would discourage holding for speculation and give impetus to building investment, improvement and use. He said that all the people make land values increase. As illustration he used H. L. Pitcock who bought a block for \$250 50 years ago which is now worth over \$1,000,000, is taxed on a valuation of more than \$500,000 and has on it Mr. Pitcock's home worth \$200,000 according to the tax rolls. Mr. U'Ren insisted that Mr. Pitcock only earned one two hundred and twenty-fifth part of the increase, and that the development by the rest of the people was responsible for the great increase.

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FIFTY YEARS AGO.

At the outbreak of hostilities there were very few military organizations in the north, while in the south the reverse was the case. What few organizations there were existed only for fancy dress balls or an occasional parade.

In 1860 Elmer E. Ellsworth, a former law student in the law office of Abraham Lincoln, organized a company of Zouaves at Chicago, and so perfect did they become in the drill exercises that they gave exhibitions in a number of eastern cities. Young Ellsworth was very highly thought of by the president, and when orders for volunteers were issued he was made a colonel of a New York Zouave regiment. The regiment was uniformed after the pattern of the French Zouaves who had served in the Crimean war. A full regiment of Zouaves was recruited in New York and when they arrived in Washington they attracted a great deal of attention.

The importance of keeping the Mississippi river open from the Gulf to Cairo was considered a very important matter by the federal authorities. If the north could possess both sides of the river they could cut the confederacy in two, and by the aid of the coast blockade overcome the eastern half by cutting off its food supply. The confederates were alive to the situation and they began erecting batteries at Vicksburg and Port Hudson.

At Vicksburg the plan was to form at Cairo for the purpose of moving down the Mississippi and clearing the river of obstructions. James B. Eads, who afterwards became famous in constructing the Eads jetties at the mouth of the Mississippi, was given authority to construct a fleet of gunboats to operate from Cairo to the Gulf.

Gen. W. T. Sherman, who was destined to become one of the greatest figures in the civil war, visited Washington and was made colonel of the thirteenth regular infantry. Gen. Sherman was a graduate of West Point and was 41 years old. He had served thirteen years as an artillery lieutenant at Fort Moultrie and in California and at the breaking out of the war had been out of the service for seven years. Gen. Sherman had been stationed in the south a good many years, and they fully appreciated the gravity of the situation. He did not approve of the president's plan of calling for 75,000 volunteers, but wanted the men interested into the service as regulars, and he declared that volunteers never would be fit for a war of invasion.

Gen. Sherman wrote his brother, John Sherman, that he deemed it most important to keep the Mississippi open, and that he knew of no man in the United States whom he thought capable of dispersing the rebel militia now concentrating at different points on the river. "But," he said, "new men, heretofore unheard of, will emerge from obscurity equal to any occasion." Little thinking that he was to be one of the real conquerors of the south.

It was estimated that nearly 50,000 of the 75,000 men called for had now arrived in Washington, and the task of organizing these men into a compact army was one of the great problems that confronted the authorities. The president, cabinet and military and naval authorities were busy day and night, and there was endless confusion before definite plans could be agreed upon. Contractors, politicians, place hunters and the drift that usually follows an army, were rapidly gathering, each looking for places to fatten themselves at the expense of the government.

A brisk engagement between two federal war vessels from Hampton Roads and a confederate battery near Norfolk, Va., marked the beginning of the war on water. The fight lasted nearly two hours, and although it was a comparatively insignificant engagement, it was the first naval engagement in the great struggle, and is therefore worth of note. As the rebels had strictly fortified the position the fire of the war ships was unable to dislodge them and the boats withdrew without loss, and without any particular damage to the confederate forces.

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