

FOURTH OF JULY.

PAID PATRIOTISM AS JOHN F. STARK SEES IT.

Humorous and Sarcastic Observations of the Nation's Holiday.

Maple Lane, Ore. Editor Courier:—

The big posters announce that the Fourth of July is coming around about the usual time of the year, and thus reminds me of a funny little dispute I got into when a boy with another boy.

I held that we celebrated the Fourth because Washington cut down a cherry tree on that day, and the other kid held it was because George told the Duke of Wellington "I cannot tell a lie. The Duke thought it some reflection on himself, being differently situated, that brought on the revolution, so after we had told one another what little regard we had for each others' knowledge, we agreed to leave the matter to be decided by a kid who had just come home from high school on a vacation. The referee told us the great day was put in the almanacs in honor of Julius Caesar; that Julius was a poor boy working his way through high school by doing chores for Mark Anthony, and being a very bright boy he learned rapidly. He was told he must not go across the Rubicon, a large river between where they lived and the main part of the town, but he fooled the folks one evening by swimming across, something no one had ever done before. It was getting dark already, so in order to find out if any of the high school boys were around he gave the class yell "Veni, vedi, vici." Having learned Latin in high school he knew what that meant. It meant "I've got them going." Cicero heard it and answered "E pluribus unum," which means "I am wide you." Then they found other school boys and took in the town, and for this the Fourth was put in the month of July. He also told us that it was at about this time that Helen moved from Troy to Paris, because she liked a warm climate, and this pleased an old schoolmate named Bill Shakespeare, so he wrote a poem called "Hiawatha," telling all about it. A neighbor who had a nephew going away to high school tells me that the dates are about right, but that I place the accent on the wrong syllable. As I never read any history but the common school kind I may make some mistakes. In these I read that a number of men took a shipload of tea and threw it into a swimming pool used by codfish, and all because they objected to paying a tax on the tea.

I don't know if those men believed in single tax or not, but I always thought they did not want any tax at all. The history held these men up as heroes, although they destroyed property which belonged to other people, which was against law and order. I took the idea into my childish fancy that Americans always objected to paying taxes, and I hoped the Americans would carry the country at the next election and entirely abolish that un-American idea of paying taxes.

My father being one of the original Republicans, I was led to believe that duties on imports, as at present levied, were all right, being "protection against the pauper labor of Europe," and as the foreigners paid it anyhow it was good enough, as long as he was ignorant enough to stand for it.

I remember the first time I went to attend a Fourth of July celebration at the county seat. I was prepared for something like a visit to the temple at Delphi to consult the Oracle, having read all about what was to take place. I was so intent on taking in the whole show, and having such exalted ideas of that brand of patriotism, I must have been a "Rube" show myself.

The committee, through its untiring efforts, had succeeded in securing the Hon. Mr. Black for the patriotic oration of the day. I did not lose a syllable except when the committee on applause was doing the right thing.

It took me a long time afterward to get it through the ossific process under my hair that he was getting one hundred dollars for being a patriot, the preacher a ten-spot for a long-drawn-out invocation, yet I did not think enough to class him with the Pharisees.

I did not get all the red lemonade I wanted because it cost too much, and in some way or other, while I enjoyed the fireworks, I wondered in a vague way what was the use of burning up so much stuff, why not have all the ice cream, sodas, lemonades, etc., free. I finally suggested this to some of the grown up men and was told there wouldn't be anything in it; people would soon lose all patriotism if they did not have a Fourth of July celebration, and Fourth of July would soon become obsolete.

Of course it may have been only envy on my part, as I couldn't buy any fireworks, and being barefooted I stepped on some punk and burned my foot. I remember that one boy lost an eye by a cracker and others a few fingers, but I was told that to stop that kind of racket would interfere with business. It had the approval of the best people, was endorsed by the wisest men since the beginning of history, and no telling how long before,—well all

IS THE TRAMP A NECESSITY?

Caustic Comments on the Question by a Socialist Writer.

Topeka, Kas., June 1.—Kansas needs 35,000 men from outside the state to help harvest the wheat crop. This is the preliminary estimate of Charles Harris, director of the state free employment bureau.

"In response to inquiries sent out as to the number of hands needed, I have received replies calling for almost twice the number asked for last year," said Harris today. "The harvest will begin about June 25, or possibly a little later." The railroads estimate the Kansas wheat crop at 93,000,000 bushels.

The above is an answer without comment. But let us see how we treat one of our necessities under this our glorious competition labor system. Why do we specify labor from the simple fact that competition in other lines is trustful and is under industrial co-operation (when I use the word "industrial" I mean not owned and controlled by people or government) yes the men you call tramps or hoboes are the men that are harvesting your crops, tramping from job to job, with hardly enough earned to get to the next without stealing rides. We condemn them—a part of the system you uphold—why not condemn the system?

You say there is work for everybody that will work. Not under the present system, my friend. But suppose everybody was at work, how could the Kansas farmer get his hands and the strike-breaker his scabs?

The Socialist party has the

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We are told that the successful farmers and business men are not with us, and that only those who would profit by single tax are in favor of it. If all those who would profit by the change would vote for it it would carry by at least 10 to 1, as it can be proven beyond doubt that nearly all farmers, even including the speculative ones, and all small and middle class home owners, would have their taxes reduced. In this community several heavy taxpayers have declared their intention of voting for the new system of taxation. The most ac-

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TEN TO ONE WOULD BE HELPED

INCOME SINGLE TAX WOULD REDUCE TAXES GENERALLY

STATEMENT CAN BE PROVED.

Farmer O. D. Robbins' Plain Talk to Easily Scared Farmers.

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THE OLD BOGEY STORY.

A Letter that Tells how Hard Times are Boosted Along.

The following humorous and true to life little story is told in a letter which is published in the Stayton Mail. It is a letter that every business man in Oregon should paste on his desk where he would have to remember it a dozen times a day.

The following is a copy of a personal letter from a Portland wholesaler to one of our local merchants. It hits the presidential campaign bugaboo right in the solar plexus, and is well worth consideration. Here's what he has to say:

Dear Bill:— You sure had some grouch on, and how you got up the nerve to order five rolls when the future looked so blue to you beats me. But thanks for that same order, and it goes forward to you today. From your letter I take it you feel about as follows:

If Taft's elected the trusts will run the country. If T. R. gets in, the trusts will bust the country. If the job goes to Clark, Bryan or any of that party, the country will go to hell sure.

If a "dark horse" comes along, God help us all. For the love of Mike, Bill, its your liver that's wrong! Take it from me, that three grains of calomel with a Seidlitz powder later will make the future look brighter once more.

When election day comes, vote for the man you want. If he is elected you'll know the country is saved; then you'll have a drink or two and a big cigar, will buy your wife a new dress and send me—well let's say a couple of hundred on account.

Should your man lose, you'll tighten up; no new dress, no booze and you'll smoke a pipe and hang onto your mazzama—for the worst is yet to come. "Hully Gee."

Forget it, Bill! This is a big country and no one can send it to the hot place. When the Great-er gets ready to snuff us out, he'll do it, and it won't be politics that will influence him, either.

What one fears most never happens, and no matter who is president, the country will go on just the same; we'll all eat, sleep and be happy.

Now, Bill, you've seen enough of elections and the panicky effect they have on business to not take it so to heart. This happens every four years with the same old "holler" and the same result—after the nomination the trade will pick up; after election it will be good and keep on getting better, and next year you will wonder why you were scared. In the meantime pay no attention to the bellyachers' prophecies. Tell 'em "Business is Good" and that you haven't time to talk politics, and with the big crops we will harvest this fall you'll find out later on that 1912 wasn't such a damned bad year after all, and you can bet that 1913 will be lots better.

So brace up old man and boost, boost, BOOST! Sincerely, M.

GLAD TIDINGS.

Mr. and Mrs. Iddings, who live in Salem, are visiting with their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Wooster.

Our road supervisor, E. R. Ridings, has been at work a part of last week opening up a ditch and rounding up the road on Garrett Hill. He is doing a good job, although working under many disadvantages, as there was several feet of rock to remove before the soil was reached, and the larger rocks all had to be removed from the road bed.

The rain having abated the roads are drying up again and in a few days will be in as good condition as ever.

C. A. Bengli is erecting a new barn.

Young Neilson will commence planting six acres of potatoes on Ole Pries' place the coming week.

Mrs. M. Goldsmith and daughter, Zida Goldsmith, are attending the commencement exercises at the University of Oregon, at Eugene, this week,