

OREGON CITY COURIER

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AS USUAL

Last week the Courier made a few remarks about the price of wool as sold by a prominent Clackamas county farmer, and asked the gentle and dignified Enterprise if it found in the 26-cent-wool further proof of the "democratic business depression" that it has been yawning about.

The Enterprise replies by dodging the question, as usual. It says that the paper business is punk here, that the local paper mills are only running six days a week, and that pretty soon the paper mill bosses are going to ask Heaven to help them. Then the pay-as-you-enter leaflet tells us that in 1912 there were 14,000 business failures, and that there were 3,000 more in 1914, and that water was pretty generally squeezed out of stocks after the Wilson administration came in.

Continuing on its variegated way, the Enterprise says that if business is good now, it is because of the European war. We had rather fancied that the war had pretty nearly put business on the blink; but it seems not, according to the Enterprise. As the Enterprise appears to get its information regarding business conditions from the Bourne Tainted News Service, maybe it would be just as well to give it some real news. Senator Chamberlain, returning to his home state this week, mentions the following facts:

"Times are better everywhere. California is prosperous. I found business conditions there better than they have been for a long time and constantly picking up. Here in Oregon we have every reason to be optimistic. In New York and the East it is the same. Business is on the rise. The big industries are all busy. The steel business is the index of prosperity and the steel foundries have more business than they can attend to.

"And it isn't all 'destructive business' like the manufacture of war material, by any means," he added, emphatically. "The railroads are buying steel products again and many of the largest orders are from the railroads. The railroads are building more cars, and thus opening a market for Oregon lumber."

MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day, the national holiday devoted to honoring the men who have fought for the principles of American liberty, comes to us this year with more than usual meaning. The United States, it is true, has not changed very much since the celebration of Memorial Day in 1914, but world conditions have undergone a terrible upsetting, and it is because of these changes without the borders of our land that the tributes paid this year to the soldier dead will have a deeper meaning for us. No man, woman or child can take part in Memorial Day observances this year without thinking of what is going on in the Old World. No person can lay a flower upon the grave of a soldier without thinking of the thousands of other soldiers that are buried under a few scant feet of earth in abandoned trenches in Europe; and of the thousands of other soldiers who will lie in similar rough graves before the European tragedy is completed.

We celebrate Memorial Day in these United States for two reasons. First, we bow in respectful homage to the brave men in blue and grey who fought for what they believed to be right, and whose battling cemented the nation into the perfected cradle of liberty that its founders meant it to be. In honoring the men who fought and lived through the Civil War, we are also honoring the men who fought in the War of Independence, and who took up arms at subsequent dates and times to preserve the union founded by the brave leaders of the original colonies. Second, when we celebrate Memorial Day, we also pay tribute to the spirit of American liberty, and look ahead as well as behind us. In honoring the noble dead we also find in their lives an inspiration for the future.

The brave men who now lie in carefully tended graves in our cemeteries, whether they wore blue

she has fought, has always fought on the side of the right—and it should be the Memorial Day prayer of every American that she will never fight on any other side.

AS TO RELIGION

We know a man wise beyond his day and generation who has said: "I don't believe in arguing about religion. I can probably convince any man, in cold logic, that the religion he professes has flaws in it. But I doubt very much if I can offer him a religion that will seem better to him after I have destroyed his faith in his original belief."

It is really a matter of considerable ease to make any man or woman dissatisfied with his or her faith. It is easy to tear down. But after a religious doctrine or dogma has been shattered, it is the most difficult thing in the world to put in its place something that will bear the strains and demands of trial and hardship. And no good is accomplished by destroying any faith that satisfies the soul that holds it. Religion is a good thing to let alone. Every thinking man and woman has his or her own conception of the Deity, of the Scheme of Things and of the Hereafter. They accept in whole or in part the teachings they have received in their youth, and by adding ideals of their own, or modifying the ideals of others they get a religion that is satisfactory to them to a greater or less degree.

It is indeed a serious matter, therefore, to attempt to destroy one's religion once one has found it. The intentions of the person trying to make conversions may be good; but in the end their efforts may bring much anguish to the hearts of those they are trying to help. So, quoting the man mentioned at the head of these remarks, we say we do not believe in arguing about religion itself.

The Courier has recently printed in its columns some letters from the Rev. W. T. Milliken, in which the local pastor has criticized not the religion of another group of worshippers, but their methods of making conversions to their particular creed. To criticize these methods is the privilege of Dr. Milliken; even as it has been the privilege of others to criticize his methods. The columns of this paper are open to any person who has views of current interest to express. But they are not open to pure religious argument.

The Courier is forced to make this clear because of a number of letters it has received recently criticizing the RELIGION of certain people and sects in this community. Dr. Milliken's remarks have been misunderstood in some quarters, and people who differed with him have not noted that he has confined himself to a criticism of the psychology or method of those with whom he differs, and has not criticized the beliefs of others. Any letter in reply to the questions which Dr. Milliken has raised will be printed by the Courier, as will any letters dealing with other questions where method or cause or effect is discussed. But this paper cannot undertake to give space to profitless discussions regarding the intrinsic worth of any belief, or the creed of any sect, or as to the relative merits of any religions.

The Courier holds no brief for Dr. Milliken or for those with whom he differs. This paper is a forum for public discussions to a certain degree; but it is in no sense a place for the setting forth of the creeds of any group or sect or church. If those of our correspondents who resent Dr. Milliken's criticism of their methods desire to defend their methods, their letters will be welcome. But the Courier cannot print an argument for any creed or religion—such is not either the duty or the right of any public newspaper.

Religious arguments are profitable, and are good things not to start.

MAYBE IT'S FOOLISH

The law is an odd thing, but it ought to be obeyed. People who don't like to obey the law ought to move. It may be cheaper at times to fight the law and dodge it on a technicality; but nobody ever did that for very long and got away with it.

There doesn't seem to be any particular reason why the people of Oregon City or Yonkers or any other place cannot say how they want other folks and themselves to behave on Sunday. Nevertheless the law says that the people of a city in any state have to be guided by state laws in regard to Sunday matters and cannot legislate for themselves. That is one of the disadvantages in living in a state—people who live in a commonwealth are not so bound. But it happens that Oregon isn't a commonwealth—nor is New York.

When the pool hall men sprang their little petition for a general Sunday closing in the council meeting last week, they stacked up against the law. If everybody in the city had signed that petition, the council couldn't have legally done anything for them. The council can't close anything in Oregon City on Sunday that the legislature has permitted to remain open. That is law. Councilman Templeton brought this out when he read a decision from the court of appeals in New York, in a case originating in Yonkers.

Yonkers, which is a town famous for many things and which is next-door neighbor to the end of Broadway, New York, tried to close the movies on Sunday. The state Sabbath law in New York exempts movies from Sunday closing. Ruling on the case of a man arrested for running a movie show on Sunday in Yonkers, the New York court of appeals said:

"The legislature alone may command how Sunday shall be kept; hence the city of Yonkers cannot independently compel and enforce Sunday closing by means of fines and imprisonment unless such power is part of the law and policy granted by the Legislature."

The same law applies in Oregon, and in Oregon City. The council cannot say what shall be permitted and what shall not on Sundays. The legislature has already done that. All the city can do is to prosecute violations of the Sunday law; AND RUNNING POOL HALLS ON SUNDAY IS A VIOLATION OF THE STATE LAW. The city is going to pass an ordinance to conform to this state law. The indications are that the ordinance will be enforced.

All of which appears to be the closing word in the pool hall question. Maybe it is foolish, but it is the law.

IT APPEARS TO BE

Something is wrong with the present system of county management in the handling of its finances, when a warrant for over \$600, payable to the road fund of the City of Estacada, issued in July, 1914, is not discovered by the party to whom due, until May 1915.

Similar warrants for amounts ranging from a few dollars up into the hundreds were also lying around the office of the county clerk, payable to many other county towns.

At present there is no system whereby a notice is sent to the proper town or city officials, advising them of the fact that money is awaiting their order.

In the handling of any other kind of business, it is customary to send out credit memoranda to all parties, to whom money is due. But Clackamas county does not do this.

The extra amount of clerical work and the small item of postage that would be necessary to effect this convenience, would be a minute item of expense.

The same notification should be

Wolf Howls

As may be judged from perusal of this column, we never tire of reading and enjoying Uncle Sam's "Daily Consular Reports." They contain a great deal of information, some of which can be understood, in a recent number we note that the following materials that are necessary in the manufacture of dye-stuffs are now made in the United States, to-wit: "dinitrobenzol, dinitrotoluol, phenylenediamine and toluenylenediamine." There are also a few other things that were formerly made only in Germany. If this war keeps on, maybe the United States will not only be able to make these things, but will learn how to pronounce them as well.

The Estacada Progress tells us about Tom Morton, the trapper of Estacada. According to our neighbor, one night last week Tom landed a skunk in the middle of the night, in a trap set for wood rat. Inasmuch as it all happened inside of his tent, he is now offering for sale cheap: one mattress, one pillow, one pair pajamas, and other supplies. Skunk, trap and tarpaulin were last seen floating down stream, with Tom sleeping under the trees." Truly life in the Oregon country still has its perils.

The same number of the Estacada paper also contains the following sage remarks: "With Oregon City raising a h6wl about the condition of their fish ladder, eastern Clackamas anglers should register a kick

to us, shoved a Canadian half-dollar under our editorial nose and said "I don't suppose you know what that's worth, do you?" We told him we were not interested in coinage freaks. Quite likely if we'd been in a talkative frame of mind we would have discussed the ethics of the European war, the high cost of living, and other things. The moral is, if 1472 slips you Canadian money, shut up and be thankful that you got any kind of change.

Strange things come into a newspaper office. If the average paper printed one-half of the material supplied it by kind friends and others there wouldn't be enough trees left to make wood-pulp. Ye editor is not only told all the little scraps and petty jealousies of the town, but busy informers of one kind or another keep him posted on the "inside" of doings in the world at large. And in addition to this we always have the professional press-agent with us, looking for something for nothing. And the meanest of these is the press agent of the third-rate "fraternal insurance" society, who notifies the paper to exact publication charges from the beneficiary. Some folks are too "small" even to notice.

Sometimes folk are unkind enough to criticize the council of Oregon City. Once in awhile we try to have fun with them ourselves. But the county seat's solons never did anything like the old New York board of aldermen, who one day passed a resolution that read as follows: "Whenever the first Monday in July shall fall on a Sunday or other legal holiday, taxes shall be payable the following Tuesday."

We greatly admired a cartoon in

MRS. BURR ON LAW

Correspondent Believes Too Many Statutes Are As Bad as Too Few

Editor Courier:— Law is a certain code or rule that is given out to keep order or to keep man from injuring or harming his fellow beings. Now in making law one should be ever on his guard that he is not setting a trap to catch innocent and unsuspecting people. If law is made to keep one human being from injuring some other human being. Would not man be breaking the law when he created a law to catch innocent and unsuspecting people when they had no thought whatever of wronging or harming their fellow beings.

A tyrant is an unreasonable being or creature who has no respect whatever for the rights of his fellowman. The evil in mankind often leads him to prosecute just for the sake of prosecuting, and such a human being is a creature who needs to be guarded, else he breaks more laws than the man whom he prosecutes.

All things should be governed by reason, and to make one law to conflict with some other law is a point to be taken into consideration, else man lose his reason and instead of creating law to keep man from impairing or hurting his fellow men his law would be but the law of tyrants, who had no respect for the right of fellowmen.

I have often heard it said that someone had no respect for the law. If a law is something which does no one any particular good and by not obeying such law one does not harm or do injury to his fellow beings why should such a law prosecute a fellow being, where a man or woman does no harm in not paying any attention to such a law.

If a man was away out in the woods by himself he would not need any laws but the law of nature. But as soon as his fellowmen begin to inhabit the same territory, then the law of fellowship would begin. Every law that man makes should be a law to keep order and to keep every man from doing that which would injure his fellowmen. Every law would have to be created with reason, sound thought and good judgement, else some laws would conflict with others and the result would be confusion and would probably terminate in war. When human beings reach the point where they are hounded or are governed by a small mind they seldom or ever harm their fellow men, but we would have to have laws to guard innocent and harmless people or man would lose his reason and nothing but brute force would remain, and we surely do not want brute force, else they throw us in a lions' den and that would unquestionably be brute force. So let us all be governed by reason and be ever on guard, and if we see a fellow being injured or harming his fellow do all we can to keep and protect innocent and honest people—both great and small.

And when a human being loses his reason and seeks to injure his fellow men keep a look out that he does not do it, and that will be a law of protection rather than a law of prosecution. We need laws of protection and only prosecution when it becomes necessary to keep man from harming his fellow beings.

MRS. VIOLA BURR.

R. L. Holman and T. P. Randall, Leading Undertakers, Fifth and Main St.; Telephones: Pacific 415-J; Home B-18.

SHRINERS TO BE HONORED

Seattle To Give Lodging Men Royal Welcome at Huge Convention

When the hundred thousand or more nobles of the Shrine and their wives arrive in Seattle in July for their annual Imperial Council—the biggest convention the Northwest has ever seen—the eastern visitors will find a separate day designated for each section of the Northwest in special tribute to its importance.

British Columbia, Tacoma, Portland, Spokane, Idaho, Montana, Everett, Bellingham, Grays Harbor, Bremerton and the Inland Empire will be honored in this fashion.

The cities which will have days named for them will include Tacoma, Portland, Spokane, Everett, Bellingham. For the other sections special events and days will be marked in order that each may be drawn particularly to the attention of the tourists.

Details of the tentative program as announced by Nile Temple include an entire week's events beginning Sunday, July 11. On that day, when the special trains are arriving, religious services will be held with Bishop Frederick W. Keator, Potentate of Affili Temple, Tacoma, and Rev. M. A. Matthews, Imperial Council Delegate from Nile Temple, respectively, in charge. Both clergymen are prominent members of the Shrine order.

Alleged Burglar Caught Sheriff Wilson arrested a man giving the name of Reuben Blue at the Clackamas tavern Saturday night. The prisoner was carrying a sack in which were what Sheriff Wilson says was a complete set of burglar tools.

How are you fixed for letter heads and envelopes?—Courier.

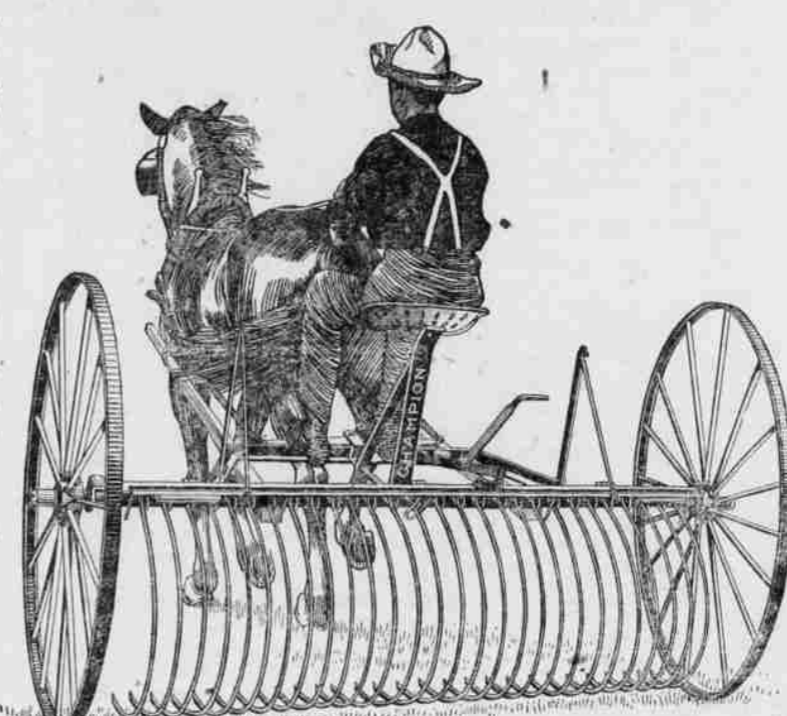
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