

# OREGON CITY COURIER

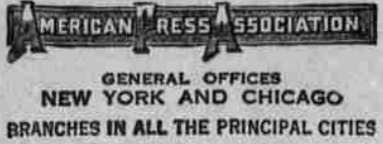
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## THE STRIKE

The threatened railroad strike, which would involve before its settlement, practically every railroad employe in the nation, is causing heaps of consternation in the official circles of the various transportation companies, and in more than one home a loving wife and the little folks are worrying themselves into sleeplessness lest their wage earners be talked into striking by the agitators who are responsible chiefly for the higher wage demand. It is not our mission to discover the worth of the claims of the many thousands of railroad employes who are threatening their employers; it is not our mission to show the motive of the labor unions in pushing the strike and in depriving thousands of homes of the morsel of bread that comes in. It is a fact, however, that there is no necessity for a strike among the railroad employes and either hanging or banishment to Siberia is far too fair a fate for those who agitate the crippling of the railroad business.

In its place the labor union is a great and worthy institution. Too freely were the demands of petty agitators granted in the past; too freely did employes sacrifice their places in the labor world in answer to the unionists' demand and too frequently did the result take the form of awful starvation in the homes of strikers, not to mention the riots and the pestilence that were incidental. Worked properly the plans of unionism would produce a wonderful fruit in the United States, otherwise unionism is a crime and a corruption. If the unions are controlled by the common sense of present-day civilization in the present labor crisis there will be no strike and the demands of the employes will be given their just result.

Near home we have the case of the Pacific system of the Southern Pacific company. Thirteen and one-half per cent of the total number of employes of this system, the engineers, conductors, firemen, trainmen and switchmen, are being polled for the proposed strike. The Southern Pacific company, in common with other roads, will suffer and the suffering will turn to public torture if the strike is finally brought about. The workmen and the railroad company will be secondary sufferers. The public will bear the greater burden.

President William Sproule of the Southern Pacific and other officials have taken a very fair attitude in the matter and their stand should appeal to the employes concerned. The plan outlined by Mr. Sproule will preserve the unbroken earning power of every man, will guarantee to the public uninterrupted service and to the railroad company the continuance of the earning power by means of which only it can expect to deal at all with its employes.

Mr. Sproule and his colleagues favor the settlement by arbitration of all the questions in dispute. This is the only practical way today in the settlement of labor troubles. This is the only way in which suffering and privation can be avoided.

The representative agitators in connection with the strike have refused to consider arbitration. They continue to poll the employes of the railroads throughout the nation, gathering sentiment meanwhile for the greatest strike in the history of the railroad industry and one of the greatest of all crimes ever committed by labor unionism. A crime, which in comparison with the crime of capital stands as a towering monument to the insanity of some few labor leaders, who have the heavy hand of control upon the shoulder of the laboring man and a heavier hand in his coin pocket. There should be some way to control the actions of labor union agitators—this applies equally to capital and those who guide it into criminal channels. There should be some way to curb the present activity and to FORCE labor to submit this question to arbitration.

ly worked out in a community that had never seen a motor car. Each member of the club, like all good residents of any rural or farming community, is provided with a shovel, a pick or a spade; perhaps sometimes even taking a plow along. The motor car is sent here and there about the countryside and the gang aboard carefully observes the road conditions. Where a chuck-hole, a bad bridge approach, muddy places or such other road defects as do not warrant the attention of a regular road crew, is found the members of the "chuck-hole" club repair the damage, and proceed about their business of improving the roads of South Dakota, and other places where such clubs exist.

## KAISER AND GREASER

Wilson has tamed the kaiser and the greaser. When the Lusitania went down the nation was shocked and outraged. Like a mighty wave the impulse for prompt and drastic action swept over this country. The enemies of President Wilson were loud in their demands, not for diplomacy, but for instant action—but, listen: If the advice of the jingo G. O. P. had been heeded, Germany, flushed with slaughter on land and sea, and boasting of strength, would have risked an open rupture with us, and we would have been drawn into the maelstrom of war.

But President Wilson chose the course of wisdom. A year later, when Germany's strength had waned, Wilson's ultimatum tamed the kaiser. Submarining ceased. An open rupture was averted. We were saved from war—and all more was gained for us and other neutrals than war could have gained. Wilson's wisdom and diplomacy saved us from national disaster, while they also secured to us the kaiser's compliance with our demands. This is the statesmanship that will re-elect Wilson.

Then came the overt act of war by Carranza, when our soldiers were massacred by treachery. True to his oath of office, President Wilson arose in defense of the country. He ordered the mobilization of military forces on the Mexican border, and of the naval forces on the southern seas. This prompt naval and military demonstration has had a very salutary effect on the fiery Mexicans. Now they are ready to listen to reason. A better feeling is growing, and Carranza bids fair to cooperate with our forces in putting an end to banditry in Mexico. Wilson's administration is proposing moral and financial, as well as military aid to Carranza in pacifying Mexico and opening to that afflicted people the doors of peace and progress. This is not intervention and it is not war. It is far better than either, for it will result in the pacification of that distracted nation with the minimum cost to us in treasure and blood. This is a measure devised by Woodrow Wilson, our democratic president, and the G. O. P. leaders are throwing fits and tearing their hair because they never thought of it.

Why didn't Taft, the jurist, and Roosevelt, the military statesman, propose such a plan for settling the Mexican problem? It is a plan that is bound to succeed—here is another achievement of the statesmanship of Wilson—and it will re-elect him next November.—Geo. H. Bennett.

## A NEW CLUB

As far as a name is concerned the "chuck-hole" club might not prove as attractive to the possible candidates for membership as he might wish, but it is altogether probable that such a club is of vastly greater service than most others. It is not the social attraction, either, that some clubs are, but its members find a rare pleasure in being of service to their communities and sometimes, we are told, they are overburdened with hostage in the way of edibles, with their feet firmly planted beneath the table of a different farm house for every meal.

The "chuck-hole" club is the conception of a certain community in South Dakota. Its membership is usually limited to six or ten men among whom one is the owner of an automobile. The latter advantage is incidental, and it seems that the "chuck-hole" idea could be successful-

## SINGLE TAX PLANK

Although there is no direct reference to the matter, advocates of a national single tax amendment see in the new democratic party platform, a platform built rigidly of the strongest planks ever conceived by a political party and in line with that great timber that has resulted in such a successful career for the party since the candidacy of President Wilson four years ago, a statement that brings strong hopes to their hearts and gives them courage for the fight with the party that would bring about better conditions.

All people are not willing to see single tax nationally or locally established. Some are avowed enemies to the single tax plan, for good reasons or otherwise. Still, in considering the plan that gives hope to many who do favor single tax, it is interesting to note the source of their delight. That the party had in mind a single tax statement when it adopted its platform is the interpretation by single taxers of the following declaration for legislation regarding natural resources.

"Which shall not withhold such resources from development, but which, while permitting their use, shall prevent both waste and monopoly in their exploitation, and we earnestly favor the passage of acts which will accomplish these objects."

According to one ardent single tax advocate and worker, the only legislation which can do this is the legislation to make it possible to derive any profit from ownership of land without putting it to its most productive use. To accomplish this an end must be made of private appropriation of land values.

"If that is what the democratic party intends to do," says this ardent single taxer, "then it deserves the support of all who are striving for better economic conditions and a more just social system."

## A GOOD MOVE

A step in the right direction has been taken by the board of regents of the state university and as a result military drill will be made compulsory after next September for all undergraduates at that institution.

Universal military training is probably a dream for accomplishment in the distant future if economic conditions are not so changed in the meantime as to put Mars on a back seat where preparedness will be a lost theme. However, the preparation under proper conditions of the young men of the nation is the move next best to universal preparation. The men who will benefit by the training at the university, like those at the state agricultural college, where military training has been maintained for a score of years or more, are the men who will be most likely to answer a call to the colors. They are of the generation whose life blood flows through patriotic veins and whose hearts know more of the ideal manhood than those of older men who are soured by political and other strife.

The university and agricultural college youths, prepared in a military way, will be of double value to the nation and the state which is giving them educational advantages. There should be no complaint from within because of the establishment of a compulsory drill system, for the men who benefit thereby are paying an obligation to their state and nation. This step is the first of a march toward the establishment of military drill in every institution of higher learning in the United States. It is a step for which the board of regents and the students themselves are to be praised.

With all due respect to Mrs. Eddy and her loyal host of followers, is it not timely to ask if Christian Science cannot do something to curb the terrible onslaught of infantile paralysis? Will the faith cure aid an innocent babe?

And we continue to enjoy the privilege, unknown in other communities, of being forced to submit to having our main streets sprinkled after night when good citizens are soundly dreaming of the sweltering heat of four o'clock in the afternoon.

George H. Bennett has written an editorial for the Courier setting forth only one of the many reasons for the re-election of Woodrow Wilson. Read it. Such statesmanship as that of President Wilson is worthy of your support and your vote next November.

Legislators take up too much of their time with petty lawmaking. They should attend more closely to the construction of labor laws; statutes to forbid firearms and a thousand little things that they overlook in their haste toward the goal of money.

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