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LET'S HAVE A REAL ONE!

The Federal Trade Commission is about to start an investigation of the rise in food prices.

Good! Let us hope at last we are going to have a real investigation.

The problem is legal and economic. The question of whether there are combinations in restraint of trade must be decided.

In some fields the trade commission will find plenty of data. The packers, for instance, can tell it exactly what it costs them to turn out their products.

Let the trade commission start literally "from the ground up." Let it start with the farmer and find what production of every thing, from eggs to wheat and cattle, means in terms of money and labor expenditure.

NO TIME TO CRIPPLE RAILROADS

Colliers' Weekly argues that national defense would be impossible in the that with our present railroad facilities, to move an army, munitions and supplies on the Pacific Coast, with limited trains, limited crews and limited hours, would not be possible.

The year 1916 gave our railroads a lift, but left them still the weak sister of our national economic household.

The entire year's increase of tonnage was less than one-half of 1 per cent of the total ton operated, a rate of growth which, when compared with our country's annual increase in population, production, wealth, and all the other elements which call for more transportation, is seen to be both ridiculous and alarming.

The investing public has given its verdict on the situation in no uncertain terms. In 1911 the stock of the twenty-five leading railroads averaged well above ninety and were worth some twenty dollars more per share than the stocks of like number of big industrial and manufacturing corporations.

During the war the factory stock got ahead, kept ahead, and are now worth on an average in the open market some ten to twenty dollars more per share than are the like securities of the railroads. Worse than that,

these railroad stocks average lower now than they did during the period 1911-13.

This means that investors think factories the safer buy, the stronger property. It means also that our economic growth is getting lopsided like that of a farm which has specialized in buying plows, threshers, etc., but neglected its draft animals.

Moreover, national defense and national development are both impossible without the needful steady increase of railroad facilities, and 1916 did nothing to meet this need. Economic statehood should make 1917 tell a better story.

CAPITAL AND RAILROADS.

Texas has an area of 265,896 square miles. Its estimated population in 1917 is 4,472,494. It is sparsely populated for its size. It is still in the infancy of its development.

"If, then, Texas needs more railroad mileage, and if the supply of idle investment capital is abundant beyond all precedent, what is the explanation of the fact that last year only nineteen miles of railroad were built in Texas?"

That is respectfully submitted to the Texas railroad commission, to all other state railroad commissions, to the Interstate Commerce commission, to Congress, and all citizens of sober mind.

And it might well be submitted to members of several western legislatures who are considering legislation discouraging to railroad development.

CLOSING WATERS TO OUR SHIPS

Passage of Senate bill 18,165, carrying provision that no vessel now being constructed or hereafter to be constructed in the United States shall enter upon navigable water of the United States unless owned by citizens of the United States.

RED CROSS.

Of the great work of the American Red Cross in connection with the European war it is not possible to write adequately as yet.

ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY.

By a thorough house cleaning the state of Kansas will try to get rid of an endless and useless array of boards and commissions.

If the economy and efficiency program goes through as planned two boards will run the affairs of state with one head for both.

There is to be a small board to handle state affairs and another to handle all the state institutions, the Governor heading the two.

All boards of three or more to be displaced by one expert with authority to hire clerks.

A great many departments are to be consolidated under one head and a great many more are to be abolished, as having no value.

A saving of \$500,000 a year is to be effected by such a program and other states are trying the same thing.

HE'S A TENDER HEARTED BURGLAR BUT HE SURELY SHOWS IT IN ODD WAY

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—(Blackjack) the maid, lay her gently on her bed, apply cold towels to her wounds and rob the house thoroughly between visits to the patient in the routine established by New York's newest character, the "Tenderhearted Burglar."

Notice of Final Settlement. In the matter of the estate of C. W. Evans, deceased.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned executor of the above entitled estate, has filed in the county court of Clackamas County, Oregon, his final account as such executor and that Monday, the 2nd day of April, A. D. 1917, at the hour of ten o'clock a. m. has been fixed by said court as the time for hearing objections to said report and the settlement thereof.

Notice to Bidders. Sealed bids will be received by the County Clerk until Friday, March 9, at 11 o'clock a. m., for 300,000 feet of road plank to be delivered along the Redland road where needed, said plank to be sawed and delivered according to specifications on file in the County Clerk's office.

Notice of Filing of Final Account. Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has filed his final account of his administration of the estate of Fred W. Hoffman, deceased, in the County Court of the State of Oregon, for the County of Clackamas.

Notice of Sheriff's Sale. In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, for the County of Clackamas.

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Are You Successful? If you are not successful—who is to blame? You notice all around you successful men—don't you? Many of them have had no better opportunities than you—some of them not as good.

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY JOSEPH E. HEDGES Lawyer MONEY TO LOAN WEINHARD BUILDING D. C. LATOURETTE, President F. J. MEYER, Cashier The First National Bank of Oregon City, Oregon CAPITAL, \$50,000.00

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