

The Oregonian

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Portland, Saturday, Jan. 27, 1917.

THE MELON OREGON CUTS

Among the business decisions suggested to the Legislature none is more proper than a re-consideration of the bill introduced by Senator La Follette. It proposes elimination of the subsidy now given by the state to certain not-all-industries to aid them in insuring themselves against losses due to personal injury or death. The budget committee for payment of this subsidy is \$225,000. The estimate is probably far too low.

The state contributes one-seventh of an insurance fund which provides for a system of workmen's compensation. In the last six months this one-seventh has amounted to about \$70,000. For a two-year period that would be \$280,000. It is admitted that throughout the two years the state's subsidy has not been so great as the expense of the principal industry was languishing. It has only begun to revive.

In addition a new hazardous industry is getting on its feet. Concerning the rebuilding of the steamboiler in the vicinity of the Columbia River, the state has entered into. That means, according to estimates, a payroll of \$18,000,000. In the industry it is estimated that in the last six months this one-seventh has amounted to about \$70,000. For a two-year period that would be \$280,000. It is admitted that throughout the two years the state's subsidy has not been so great as the expense of the principal industry was languishing. It has only begun to revive.

The amount that will be demanded from the state if this industry meets expectations and if other hazardous industries really cannot get on for two years, which in turn means a payroll contribution to the state insurance fund of about \$800,000 and a state contribution of nearly \$115,000. It would mean that much additional non-normal subsidy of the last two years.

Probably, as heretofore, the argument will be offered that elimination of the state's subsidy is a blow at the principle of workmen's compensation. If that is the contention, the only state in the Union which has adopted the principle, whereas Government publications list thirty-two states and three territories in that category. If that is the contention, the only state in the Union which has adopted the principle, whereas Government publications list thirty-two states and three territories in that category.

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Record, post and publish in the Record bulletins and notices of all meetings and for what purpose, and advise all public hearings. Electrical voting is also proposed in order to save the hour wasted on each roll-call and to toll those whose political purposes are served by congestion of business. The chief object of having few roll-calls would then be defeated, but it would save the hour wasted on each roll-call and to toll those whose political purposes are served by congestion of business.

These changes would be in the direction of a "pious publicity" of which President Wilson said so much four years ago, but of which so little has been seen. Secrecy is favored by the leaders of both parties for their own ends. If the close election of law should substitute publicity, it will not have been devoid of compensations.

UPLIFT OF OFFICE BOYS.

The West Side Y. M. C. A. in Chicago has courageously undertaken a gigantic task—the training of office boys—and an interesting phase of the experiment. It is calling upon the boys to come downtown an hour earlier than usual three days of each week, and to give the time to their special studies before their usual day's work.

The good wishes of a great army of employers who long have wrestled with the office-boy problem will attend the efforts of these would-be instructors of young and lively Americans, but they will also have their misgivings from the start. The office boy in a class quite by himself. In the Rollo books he attends strictly to business, anticipates the wishes of his superiors and eventually rises to a partnership in the firm—but outside these books he does other things, mostly aggravating ones.

The first demand made upon him is to be punctual in his attendance on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, offers an interesting selective test. If he responds, he is of the sort that would not remain an office boy long. The office boy does not want to be in a class quite by himself. In the Rollo books he attends strictly to business, anticipates the wishes of his superiors and eventually rises to a partnership in the firm—but outside these books he does other things, mostly aggravating ones.

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It is proper that all necessary steps should be taken to remove the temporary character of the plan. Social justice ought to be done. But nothing will quite take the place of moral fiber, and it is well known that a vast number of our people do possess that essential element of character, do live upright lives without demanding a minimum wage of \$20 a week, or any other amount, as the price of their virtue. The high cost of living has enough to bear as it is, but it is not responsible for all the vice there is in the world—not yet.

WHY ALL SHOULD BE TRAINED.

While President Wilson was telling the Maryland League for National Defense that "physical training can be had without compulsory military service," on the assumption that physical training is the only incidental benefit to be derived from the path of military training, Henry L. Stimson on the same evening was furnishing a complete refutation of that theory in an address to the National Security League Convention.

Military training teaches democracy in practice, a teaching which is much needed in a Nation which is fast becoming a world of frenzied passions and poor, of capitalist and workman, of pretended aristocrats and common people, among which animosities are growing that impair the unity of the Nation. Mr. Stimson spoke the truth when he said that universal military training is "the only basis on which the only democracy can rest; it is one of the surest levers of undemocratic government."

Mr. Stimson has now shown that millions of dollars for war relief of various kinds. A quarter of a billion dollars for the immense profits of our abounding prosperity would not be out of proportion for the American people to give. What convincing evidence it would be of the sincerity of those noble sentiments with which they are so profuse, if the American people were to take upon themselves the task of keeping the Belgian Revolution alive until peace removes the necessity.

The moving-picture business is settling down from its boom stage, as it has done in the past. It is not a crowd, but the promoters were tempted to wild extravagance by the great profits and by the rapid development of possibilities for gorgeous spectacles. The stage where it will have as many classes of theaters as there are in the so-called legitimate theatrical business. Already there are picture palaces which rank with the best plays by the best actors, both in artistic merit and in price.

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LAW MENACES STOCK INDUSTRY

Land Fit Only for Grazing Taken by Homesteaders Under 640-Acre Act. PEINNEVILLE, Or., Jan. 26.—(To the Editor.)—The 640-acre homestead law has ruined one of the greatest industries in the West—the wool industry. Let me give the truth regarding this arid desert region which many Eastern promoters are pushing about as yet are eager to possess some of it.

What is left of this public domain is practically worthless except for sheep, and little of it is fit for that on account of lack of water. It is hilly and steep land, rocky and cannot be cultivated as much of it is too uneven for good sheep grazing. The best of this land was taken under the 320-acre homestead law, and what was left is considered worthless except for grazing purposes.

Many who have settled on these 320-acre tracts are not even making a living and many of these will be abandoned. Few of them have water and are compelled to haul water for miles. Some store water in cisterns and use it very sparingly. This is a bad system as the water becomes more or less brackish when kept so long.

Stock is watered in stubs and stubs and sage rats are pests of the home-steaders' stock. They must contend with them. They must contend with them. They must contend with them. They must contend with them. They must contend with them.

All Eastern Oregon is being so fenced under these dry homestead laws. Many tracts have been taken and are now half-way fit for agricultural purposes. This letter would not be written. But the things are being fenced and improvements put on it.

Many of the ignorant locators have homesteaded land that 20 years ago would not have made a good sheep camp, because too hilly, rocky and steep. A plow cannot be used on any part of the tracts taken under the 320-acre law. It is needless to say such locators are well aware that they are stung, but you will find them very ready to quarrel with you on "give out" at the earliest opportunity.

The writer has no ax to grind, owns no stock or land, nor has any to sell or wishes to buy any. It is simply written to keep poor people from making a mistake in wasting their money on worthless land. He whom the 640-acre law will benefit is the stockman who can grab a section adjoining his holding, which will give him an outlet for grazing. No homesteader will derive a benefit from it.

Twenty-five years ago much of the wealth of Oregon was obtained from the stockman by the stockman who used it as the divine creator wills that it should be—grazing. Every section of it then was yielding big golden results to the stockman who used it as the divine creator wills that it should be—grazing.

Then the stockman came to Prineville and bought supplies by the wholesale and hauled them to the headquarters with about eight horse teams. The merchants prospered and grew wealthy. The alfalfa fields were raised high for the stockman and others who were teaming. Today the scene is quite different. The homesteader cannot raise his alfalfa much less have any horses or teams.

ELBERT RAMBLE. TYPE OF DANGEROUS BUILDING Yet Burned Lodging-house May Be Rehabilitated Under Present Laws.

PORTLAND, Jan. 26.—(To the Editor.)—This building on Third street, burned a few days ago with loss of property and lives, was a very old and dilapidated building. It was a very old and dilapidated building. It was a very old and dilapidated building.

Woman suffrage looms up as a cause of domestic jars in the charge of Mrs. Charles Lyse that her husband was a party to her being counted out in the election of Constable. But who can blame the poor man for wishing his wife to stay at home instead of roaming the country making arrests?

If a man is to be sent to state prison for punishment it is the duty of the state to keep him in good health to the end of his term. With that end in view, a sanitary institution is necessary. The controversy of Cat vs. Bird has been revived and will again be revived in the case of a private citizen who can find a better target at the cat than in the bird.

Somebody is getting easy money from former slaves and their heirs by advancing a claim for \$68,000,000. The man is willing to pick down the years of slavery.

Nemesis does better work in Seattle than all the peace officers. She overturned two thieves in a stolen car and threw them under it in a thirty-foot ravine.

The war has been a godsend to the Hill lines. It has enabled them to sell their white elephant, the steamship Minnesota, at a price near its cost.

Farmers around Gooding, Idaho, are safe in commanding (up-to-date polite word for "stealing") a carload of coal. No jury will convict them.

A recent session of the Japanese House is said to have been "tumultuous." Those little chaps will be real Democrats if they progress.

CALIFORNIA CITIES CONTRASTED

Los Angeles Lead Over San Francisco Ascribed to Open Shop. PORTLAND, Jan. 26.—(To the Editor.)—Los Angeles is not only an open shop city but it is clean. "Unfair" banners, picketing and many other laboristic which San Francisco has nursed until recently, and Portland continues to nurse.

The Los Angeles Times, quoting only official assessed valuations, says "there is no parallel in the Western Hemisphere for these wonderful increases." Here is a contrast of between the labor assessed valuation of California's two leading counties:

Los Angeles. \$236,150,339 \$991,378,862 San Francisco. \$24,230,536 756,235,232

The industrial advance in 1916 in Los Angeles county demanded an investment of \$18,753,000. I have no figures for San Francisco. Los Angeles has more than 2000 manufacturing plants employing 35,000 workmen and producing \$130,000,000 annually. The savings deposits are \$100,621,380.

These are a few of the startling facts where real estate is about as quiet as a mouse in Portland. The metropolitan area of Oregon has one-third of the water power in the United States within one hundred miles, with two million acres of timber and vast water power. Why not use it? Los Angeles spent \$30,000,000 for her water supply, ten times that of Portland, still we pay as much for water as is charged in interior cities of the country.

There is no climate in all creation superior to that of Oregon for the production of all kinds. The largest cotton production in the world is in a climate just like ours. It is true of other crops. The produce of the state is pure, soft water in endless quantities, and that is the chief need of all textiles.

But you can't succeed with a system of laws that sane, common sense is against. You can't succeed when the strike maker controls, for the sake of the member of many of the unions in even having an opinion. You vote no and you are a scab. State laws work against the labor of the United States is in open shops. Portland and Oregon never so needed brave men with courage, conviction and courage to go to the front.

"PRIDE GOETH BEFORE A FALL." Our boasting crowds the limit when our climate is the theme, with joyous voice and gifts of gold and silver supreme. Our Winters scarce deserve the term applied to them, our air scarce cold enough to chill a germ or pierce the heart of a miserly dweller in the East, where sharp frosts needles sting as bees and worry man and beast.

England in Safe Hands. PORTLAND, Jan. 26.—(To the Editor.)—When David Lloyd George introduced his Socialistic state insurance measure and other matters in the House of Commons, some of the Tories were opposed to it, but afterward most ably supported the measure. Today we find some of the applicants for the old-age pensions. True, it is not a very large amount. Still it is a recompense after services rendered to the country.

Alcohol and Beverages. PORTLAND, Jan. 26.—(To the Editor.)—I have been sending every month in my name for history, household band, as he has no time to get it. I do not use any of it myself, but I am in a hurry to get it. I have it in my back. I use it only externally. If I get this at the drugstore, will this stop getting the liquor for my husband?"

Alaska's Agricultural Resources. JACKSONVILLE, Or., Jan. 25.—(To the Editor.)—Please advise me where I can get information regarding the agricultural resources of Alaska through which the new railroad is being built. CHAUNCEY FLOREY.

The only change in the Cabinet in the last year was the appointment of Newton D. Baker, Secretary of War, to succeed Lindley M. Garrison, resigned.

Change in Cabinet. LEBANON, Or., Jan. 25.—(To the Editor.)—Has President Wilson made any recent changes in his Cabinet? Please give me their names. SUBSCRIBER.

Wonderful are