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PORTLAND, SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 1918.

KITCHIN THE OBSTACLE

If Secretary McAdoo expects to get from Congress a workable war tax law, he will have to get through the burden of war, he will have to induce the House ways and means committee to place the preparation of the bill in the hands of some other man than its chairman, Claude Kitchin.

He continued the cry of militarism against the necessary preparation right down to the declaration of war. He voted against war, and after it was declared he said: "You newspaper men forced the war, now you have got to pay for it." He proceeded to make good his threat by forcing through the House the worst monetary bill in the history of Congress ever produced. It was so not only because it penalized publications of National-wide circulation, but because, while purporting to tax profits heavily, it allowed a large proportion of them to escape and taxed out of all proportion the earnings of men's brains and energy as distinguished from the income of accumulated wealth.

He persuaded the House to insist on these absurdities in conference, so that they are included in the law as finally passed over the opposition of the level-headed men in the Senate. He wished to have the law passed notwithstanding its defects and the necessity of more revenue, his plea being that the weather in Washington was hot and Congress wanted to go home early. When Mr. McAdoo said a new law was necessary for the session and when President Wilson made a practical demand for it, Mr. Kitchin accused the former of yielding to the influence of a publishers' lobby and made new threats against the publishers. The publisher who was exposed by Mr. McAdoo, and he is condemned as severely by Democratic as by Republican newspapers, South as well as North.

The war revenue law is the second law of this nature which has fallen into the hands of a man who was not only incompetent to handle it, but was out of sympathy with its main purpose. The first was the selective draft law, which was opposed by Chairman Dent, of the House military committee, and by the same scruples against conscription. The majority of the committee voted him down and he handed over management of the bill to Representative Kahn, of California, who was a staunch champion of preparedness. But Mr. Kitchin carried the majority of his committee with him, and thus was able to make a botch of the revenue law.

Mr. Kitchin is eminently unfit to be the chief legislator in the legislature at any time, much less at a time when financial genius is needed, for his intellectual horizon is no wider than the limits of Scotland Neck, N. C. His home life is a living demonstration of the absence of the seniority rule, by which a member, once on a committee, steps up automatically as long as he can secure reelection until he becomes chairman. It was that rule which raised Representative Dent to the head of the military committee and the late Senator Stone to the head of the foreign relations committee, although he was opposed to the war. That rule is one of the causes of the decay in the influence of Congress. It pushes little men up and keeps big men down.

MINUTE OF THE FOREST FIRE

The present season in its menace to the valuable forests of the country is distinguished from other seasons in the respect that the danger looms earlier in the year. The very first campers, who usually are the most careless, are charged with a special responsibility. Fortunately the Forest Service has started its campaign in time, and the danger is being kept in check. It is to be expected also that offenders against the forest regulations will be dealt with rather severely. It may be found necessary to make a special camp of some of the two elements which always contribute most to fire losses in the timber are drouth and wind, and these exist in unusual degree this year. To them is now added a shortage of help for fighting fires in the inclemency. Formerly the employees of the Forest Service have been able to call in emergencies upon the neighbors, and fires which might have covered great areas have been checked after burning over small tracts. This source of labor has been greatly curtailed. Most of the able-bodied men are in the Army or are employed in other regions. The Forest Service itself is depleted as to personnel and its members are working without watching the clock.

Most of the destruction caused by campers is due to their lack of knowledge of the manner in which fire will run along the ground. They often think they have exercised due precautions, when as a matter of fact they have overlooked smoldering embers which will burrow their way through the forest floor, and perhaps days afterward, be fanned into flame which will sweep the district. Campfires should be built only in open spaces, and then should be completely encircled by a clean strip, from which every trace of vegetable matter has been scraped away. This precaution alone would prevent most fires attributed to careless campers. But

every other necessary measure should also be adopted. Utmost care should be called for from now until the Fall rains begin.

LATEST FORD JOKE

Henry Ford ran for President in the Michigan Republican primary, two years ago, though he protested that he was not a candidate, and carried it and he became the Democratic delegate in the National convention. It was the greatest of Ford jokes. Now the President of the United States calls Henry Ford to the White House and gravely asks him, nominally a Republican, to submit himself to the Democratic primary in Michigan as a candidate for United States Senator. It is the greatest Presidential joke. But whether it is on the Democratic party, or on the Republican party, or on the Senate, or the Nation or Mr. Ford, or all together, we will not now seek to determine.

Mr. Ford is a mechanical genius, of highly benevolent instinct, who has no taste for the knowledge of public affairs. He fathers a toxic scheme of world pacification in his peace ship, three years ago, or less, and thus demonstrated his peculiar ineptitude for practical statesmanship. That he showed himself to be zealously desirous of doing good and his readiness to spend his fortune in that cause, is aside from the question. The project was little more than a burlesque, and the self-delegated Republicanism of the Democratic powers were not even able to keep peace among themselves.

The Michigan Democratic organization, which has no hope of electing a Democrat for Senator, solemnly proposed to the Republican organization to nominate Ford, and the Democrats will do the same. They will nominate him anyway, whatever the Republicans do. If Ford on his own motion becomes also a candidate before the Republican primary, he will likely be successful there, too. The prospect of Ford for Senator is exceedingly good.

Now Ford, who is a patriot, is engaged in exceedingly important war service in the manufacture, at his Ford Motor plants, of tanks and war machinery. When it comes to automobiles, tractors, airplanes and the like, Ford is no joke, but just now he is the most useful and indispensable private American citizen. He is not engaged for political purposes, an Administration which has "adjoined politics" proposes to take him away from his gigantic work, where he is needed, and put him in a political job, where he is not needed, and where he will be useless, or worse.

WEALTH'S VICTIM

A bereft orphan, 17 years old, the daughter of a millionaire, made her appearance before a court in Philadelphia, the other day, and complained that she was unable to make both ends meet on a miserly allowance of \$7500 a year, and asked that the allowance be cut down, and not increased so that she could maintain a suitable social appearance. The hard-hearted judge greatly alarmed the guardians and sponsors of the young woman by intimating that he might reduce her allowance, and not increase her allowance for the period of the war, whereas a budget of her necessary expenses was submitted as follows:

Clothing, manicuring, shampooing and hair dressing	3,000
Household bills	4,000
Education and church contributions	2,000
Travel and entertainment	2,000
Hotels	2,000
Upkeep of automobiles, insurance and other expenses	5,000
Bonds, etc.	850
Small debts at school and elsewhere	3,000
Total	\$20,850

Let us not hastily say that the poor orphan has extravagant ideas of living, and that the money she spent was wholly wasteful, and might better have been invested in Liberty bonds or devoted to charity or philanthropy. All that is obvious. Yet the girl had been reared in luxury, and the estate which was left her by her dead father was legally hers, and the proposed expenditure was in harmony with the established way of living of others with like wealth. Is it better to deprive her of the normal income from her principal, and let it accumulate, or to let her have it and distribute it among the clothiers, dressmakers, manicures, chauffeurs and the like? It is not easy to decide. There are arguments on both sides, but such decisions do not settle anything.

SINGLE-THOUGHTERS

In the present state of "adjoined politics" the Oregon public, which likes its politics with the regularity of the morning cup of coffee, will be refreshed to learn that the National party is attempting to organize in this state.

The National party should not be confused with the National Non-Partisan League. Both are going after much the same things in much the same way. But the officers are different, and one is a partisan political party, and the other is a non-partisan political party. The reader will doubtless pardon the paradoxical figure of speech in his gratitude at having the distinction between the two movements made clear.

merely succeeds in impressing the milk-producers with the importance of their proposals. It is not a promising purpose. The people do not flock together to attain an abstract political victory. But it has a prospective virtue in that the people cannot get along with the parties with which they have been affiliating. Let us hope that they can get along better among themselves.

GOOD OUT OF SEEMING EVIL

It looks as though the first allied counter-offensive will be made by the army of the ragged, hungry, dispirited army of Austria. With ample food and munitions and with the aid of British, French and American artillery and airmen, the Italians should be able to drive back the army of the Hapsburgs under the German command. Failure of the latter on the Oise and before Rheims suggests that they have no troops to spare and any weakening of their forces in France might be the signal for them to take the offensive in that country also.

The brighter outlook for the allies may be ascribed directly to the pooling of their forces and to the single command. They have been able to attack every weak point promptly and to time each movement for the attainment of a common end without waste of days in conference. The mingling of troops of the several nations has increased comradeship and confidence which have greatly stiffened morale.

The allies were driven to unite their armies under a single commander by the danger arising from desertion by Russia. That event also enabled them to concentrate on the German front all their munitions and material, much of which had been formerly destroyed or treacherously surrendered to the enemy by Russia. The perfidy with which Germany and Austria have treated Russia, the costly and fruitless operations of the anarchy country by their troops and the terrible consequences which would flow from their continued control of it have removed the last cause of disunion among the western allies and have hastened their determination to fight to a finish.

Thus Russia's desertion may prove to have been a blessing, rather than a misfortune, to the allies, while it may be Germany's worst defeat, since it has removed the effect of her desertion on the minds of the allies. Russia is a great objection, which closes their ears to German peace-talk.

MILK

It is unfortunate for those who desire to obtain full understanding of the milk situation that the committee of agriculture, lacks data of the completeness that could be desired. The Portland City Milk Commission has recently been asked to make calculations of costs of production and distribution and so forth, and the one fact that seems to stand out most clearly is that few producers have precise information on the subject. Commonly, they know only that they do not have a balance in the bank at the end of a certain period they are not making money.

This, of course, is obvious enough; but it does not tend toward intelligent business, how can a man mend his business ways unless he knows where the fault lies? And how can he put his case convincingly before the consuming public unless he is able to marshal the figures? For the buyer, who is willing to pay more for milk, is not so easy as that. If it be true, for example, that 50 per cent of the cost of his milk is in feed, 25 per cent in the labor and 25 per cent in "other fixed charges," which the professional accountants would call the "overhead," it is not so easy to determine how, even by a high degree of co-operation, either the cost of feed, or the wages paid to hired hands, or the investment in lands, removal of plant, etc., can be largely reduced.

The dairyman deserves a sympathetic hearing, but he ought to be prepared with statistics, not only as to present costs, but past expenditures, in their relation to the price of a quart of milk. It is no secret that milk feed has advanced enormously in price; it has quadrupled as to certain items. It is not determined whether the question of its substitution has been the scientific consideration it ought to have. The present season has been unfortunate for the pastures. These are already drying up, a good deal earlier than usual. Oats planted for the purpose of being used for the ground, the apple captured the vetch that some counted on for hay and also for early silage. The same pests threaten other succulents. It takes labor to plant root crops, and labor is scarce.

The dairies which depend upon hired help for the most of their work are paying—some of them, at least—from \$55 to \$90 and board; and board is considerably more costly than it used to be. Farm machinery is more, and so on. Undoubtedly milk production is a more expensive enterprise than formerly. The small dairy, in which the labor is performed by the owner and his family, has the same difficulties as to labor and overhead, and is relieved only in the respect that the problem of the "hired man" is not so pressing.

But the public is not in a mood to acquiesce in a price advance due to any inefficiency. It will want to know whether the dairyman is employing the most economical methods reasonably possible. Does he know the relative values of the high-priced milk feeds, and does he get the most upon them? Some dairymen know more about these things than others do. A few follow the hit-or-miss plan, and know little or nothing of underlying principles. Some are trying to improve their methods, with varying degrees of success.

It is a question embodying too many elements of fact and too many figures to be discussed at the heat of partisanship. It is clear that we must have milk, and that dairying will not be long conducted at a loss. Raisers will sell their stock to the butcher. Already they are disposing of calves and yearling heifers to an extent that menaces the future. There seems to be a mutual duty in the premises on the part of producers to reduce costs if possible, and on the part of the public to pay what shall be determined to be a fair price based on the production in existing circumstances. But if the people shall be called upon to pay more, it will greatly lessen the

accompanying friction for the milk-producers to be able to show in a way that all milk is produced that the increase is wholly justified.

GREAT IS THE DUST MULCH

It will be worth while for the amateur war gardeners in this season of drouth to make a careful study of the principles of moisture conservation. For moisture is absolutely necessary to the raising of a successful crop, and the first step in the conservation of food is the production of it.

It should be the ambition of every owner of a garden to prevent the formation of a crust on the surface of the ground. The Department of Agriculture is performing a timely service in reminding the people again of the value of the "dust mulch." A dust mulch has nothing mysterious or technical about it. It is simply a blanket of fine soil on top, which operates as a check to evaporation. When the ground becomes hard, cracks appear, and these cracks invite the evaporation that it is necessary to avoid. The dust mulch is produced with a hoe or a rake, but the implement employed is not so important as the energy which the gardener puts into it. Nature demands a compensation. She does not give us our garden harvests for nothing. We must work for them. The fact that the ground is clear of weeds is not an excuse for discontinuance of cultivation.

The Department is at pains also to inform us that every-day sprinkling of the surface of the ground is not approved irrigation, where water is available. Thorough soaking at intervals of a few days is better. Superficial watering encourages weeds and root growth, and also spoils the dust mulch. The home garden movement is contributing in unexpected ways to our enlightenment. Some millions of men and women now talk with easy familiarity of the dust mulch who even a year ago did not know whether it was a kind of silage or patent duster. But the test of this newly acquired knowledge will lie in the application thereof. More power to the hoe of the man with the hoe as he labors to make one dust mulch grow where there was none before.

The children's year campaign inaugurated by the committee of the Council of National Defense has aroused more widespread interest than its most enthusiastic supporters counted on, according to recent official reports. It was at first intended to limit the number of registrations to 5,000,000, but the number called for already has exceeded this by nearly half a million. The Federal children's bureau is now calling attention to the necessity of "following up" work in the campaign to be made a complete success. Weighing and measuring tests are of little value, it is pointed out, unless they lead to corrective measures where these are indicated. Too much stress may be laid on the number of babies, whose parents have pardonable pride in them, but which need little or no help. It is the babies below par that the movement is designed to reach. One effective way for the parents of poor children is to have some card of a certain period they are not making money.

The degree to which this is a war of specialists is indicated by the fact that this district and some of the best transferred from one unit to another in Army camps as a result of occupational qualification. These transfers have numbered 40,000 a week recently, and 200 trained interpreters are employed in some camps to ascertain men's qualifications, occupation, education and experience. Various branches of the service constantly call for men of special skill.

Colonel R. R. Greene, who died at Hood River last week, was one of the men who helped in the making of Kansas. Companion and friend of John J. Ingalls, he was an implacable party upon men's souls. Located in the valley of the Columbia in the fall of life, he brought wise counsels and practices that bore fruit. It was good to know him.

True to his habit of subservience to any person claiming to speak on behalf of labor, the House restored to the Army bill the prohibition of premiums and bonuses for efficiency of workmen, which the Senate had cut out, and men who are willing to do their best are to be paid no more than those who soldier on the job or are slow and incompetent. Yet the war cry is "Speed up."

Women station agents will be an improvement. Instead of sitting around, smoking an old pipe, they will see that everything is tidied up and that there is something to drink in the water cooler.

Members of a Methodist Sunday school up the Valley are going into the berry fields today and tomorrow. The followers of John Wesley are leaders in much of everything.

Pershing is picking his commanders for merit, and he knows best. That's the way "Old Man Grant" had, and there never will be better.

The "Y" drives for \$115,000,000, closely following the fourth loan of \$4,000,000,000, will be easy picking for their very smallness.

Listening to Tom Marshall in a Democratic convention is like knowing the clown in a circus. Everything he says is funny.

French Canadians active in opposition to the draft will change their minds before the British spirit is done with them.

The express monopoly will tilt rates 10 per cent, but the parcel post will continue the business of the common people.

Just as people are getting accustomed to saying "Mayor Bigelow" comes news of soon return of Mayor Baker.

Twenty-five pounds of sugar will put up a lot of fruit; most of the glassed stuff is too sweet, anyway.

The Illinois Staats Zeitung and its evening annex hung on a long time, but their suspension was certain.

Mustard is hot stuff for Summer corruption, and its advance in price worries few people.

Old Sol threw off a few calories when he hopped the line yesterday.

ONLY ISSUE IS WASTE OF FOOD

Rev. Mr. Bonser insists consumption by brewers is no mere trifle. GRANTS PASS, Or., June 19.—(To the Editor.)—A closing word to Mr. Churchill, with your kind permission. Why this fervent and repeated defense of the brewer by a food administration official when prohibition is not an issue at all, but food conservation only? Cannot the American brewer defend himself without the help of men in Federal positions?

Why, Mr. Churchill, persist in raising an issue that no one else has raised at any time, the matter of wheat used in brewing? Some good people are neither fools nor ignorants.

Why ask the brewers to testify today as to the sugar content of beer, when to establish its purity and food value they in 1911 testified that it did contain both cane and beet sugar? See Brewer's Yearbook for that year. Never match the user's sugar as condemned as a waste did they come with their defense that none is used. Ask the manufacturers of candy what has happened to the price of glucose since it has been made a substitute for sugar by order of the Food Administration.

But stick to the issue before us, let the user testify for himself. I thought you had caught the preacher asleep. It's food grains that are confessedly being wasted every day. You talk as if we were trifle that is so wasted. Let me introduce you to the Brewer's Yearbook for 1917, published early in the present year and on page 174 let the user testify for himself on his own defense. He uses for brewing the following percentages of the crops named amounting to the total amounts indicated:

"Corn, used in brewing, 346,574,527 pounds, 58 per cent; barley, used in brewing, 161,254,980 pounds, 22.5 per cent; malted barley, 141,249,232 pounds, 12.5 per cent."

If the Food Administration can justify this waste and its willing to let the user testify for himself, let the sanction and defense, the while scrapping the flour bins and denying all wheat products in just four states except there be the non-essential thing, closing four mills in the wheat country and telling us of the terrible food situation of the allied forces, warning us to be careful where we throw spikes, tools, etc. If these are the facts in the case haven't some of us poor mortals a right to lift our voices in good-natured and earnest protest?

Come, Mr. Churchill, there are millions of us good Americans who will not stand by and see our patriots every self-denial you can impose and more than that, we will vote it, but in the name of that patriotism won't you the cause might have resulted in the loss of the Food Administration is going to admit this waste of food and defend it, say so and quit.

I leave your verdict as to the merits in this controversy to the great number of readers who have patiently followed us during the past few weeks. Since I talk as if we were trifle that is so wasted, let me introduce you to the Brewer's Yearbook for 1917, published early in the present year and on page 174 let the user testify for himself on his own defense. He uses for brewing the following percentages of the crops named amounting to the total amounts indicated:

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IN OTHER DAYS

Twenty-five Years Ago. From The Oregonian June 22, 1893. Washington.—The shipment of gold from London to New York is looked on as having shown that the tide has turned. There has been no gold exported in three weeks.

For the second time the Northern Pacific has slashed transcontinental rates and made a reduction which for suddenness and extreme lowness is calculated to throw the Great Northern's cut into the shade.

Washington.—One of the sad sights of Washington during the past ten days and which was made more so because of the loud guffaws of John Markley and Dan Murphy was the figure of Hon. Asahel Bush, sitting without the "presence" chamber arguing with Thurber as to whether he should be admitted to see the President.

Hiram E. Mitchell and Maud Sommers were married last night at the home of the bride's mother, Rev. T. E. Clapp, officiating.

P. Chappell-Brown has changed his residence from the heart of the city to University Park.

Half a Century Ago. From The Oregonian June 22, 1868. Washington.—As the National currency is being withdrawn from circulation, the issue of \$20,000,000 of National currency to the banks which have less than \$5 in circulation to each inhabitant and provided for the withdrawal to the same amount from those states having a surplus within one year.

New York.—The wife of Manton Marble, of the World, died yesterday.

Liverpool.—George Francis Train attempted to make a speech last night, but was hissed off.

Advices from Grant County state that the mines are turning out well and business of all kinds is successful.

Among the recent marriages are Albert H. Bulmy and Martha A. Bell, of Oswego, and John T. Medcalf and Mrs. Annetta W. Woodward.

HONORING THE PASSING FLAG

Writers Think Portland People Fail to Show Respect for Colors. VANCOUVER BARRACKS, Wash., June 20.—(To the Editor.)—Friday evening my wife and I had the pleasure of watching the Flag day parade and we made it our business to see it in several places in order to see for ourselves how many real patriots there are in this city, and we were surprised and ashamed to see how many slackers (that's what they are) almost refused to remove their hats or acknowledge in any way the passing of their country's flag. Is this a good example of Portland's patriotism? I am a volunteer myself, not a drafted man. I had as much to leave behind as any man in this city, but I saw my duty, as every other man should see it, and the quicker that more of the city's young men see it the sooner the war will end.

In this time of our country's great need one man is no better than another. Let every man come forth and do his duty.

In the school that I was brought up in, which was in New York, we were taught that our flag stood for everything that was right and good and that we should acknowledge it wherever and whenever we saw it by some form of salute. Therefore it would seem that some of you real patriots here anything but the right feeling toward your flag. I would like to hear from some of these so-called patriots.

JOHN L. YOUNG.

PORTLAND, June 20.—(To the Editor.)—Why is it that at parades and reviews hundreds of real patriots there refuse to lift their hats in salute to regimental or organization colors passing in review? Can't it be put up to every citizen that he is offering slight disrespect to the flag and insult to the men marching under it when he refuses to uncover while the flag passes? OLIVER HEIRICH.

Classification of Pharmacists.

MILTON, Or., June 20.—(To the Editor.)—Will a registered druggist, now employed in a drugstore, who is offered in 40 hours a week the head of non-productive employee? A SUBSCRIBER.

If your work includes filling prescriptions it will probably be held that you are engaged in a productive employment. The classification of clerks as non-productive employees applies to clerks who are doing nothing more than minor skill or training is required.

AMERICAN MACHINE GUNS EFFICIENT—TOLD IN THE SUNDAY OREGONIAN

Frank G. Carpenter, special contributor to The Sunday Oregonian, goes poking about all over