

Oregon Journal

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

C. S. JACKSON, Publisher
(Be calm, be confident, be cheerful and do not allow others to see you sweat.)
Published every week day and Sunday morning.
At The Journal Building, Broadway and Yamhill street, Portland, Oregon.

Entered at the Postoffice at Portland, Oregon, for transmission through the mails as second class matter.

TELEPHONES—Main 7173, Automatic 560-81.
All departments reached by these numbers.
FOREIGN ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE
Benjamin & Kenton Co., Brunswick Building,
225 Fifth Avenue, New York, 900 Malters
Building, Chicago.

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A MOURNFUL STORY

FARM help in Oregon is but 28 per cent of the normal supply. It is but 95 per cent of last year. The statement is based on actual reports received April 1 from Oregon counties by F. L. Kent, field agent of the department of agriculture.

Here are samples of reports made by agents in some of the Oregon counties: "In this county there will be some shortage of work done on the farms on account of high wages. Many are loafing around pool halls about half of their time, making a shortage of labor."

Another correspondent says: "In this district farm labor is almost impossible to secure at any price that the farmer can afford to pay, so the farmer does what he can himself and makes out without help."

From another county this is the report: "Farm labor is practically not available at prices the business will stand."

"The farm labor supply is inadequate to meet the requirements of higher production," says one county correspondent, "and wages are prohibitive, from \$5 to \$6 a day being demanded. The farmers are going it alone as best they can."

One field agent reports: "Good help is hard to get. Besides farmers are not in position to hire much at present wages. Wages are now higher than at any time during the war."

"Farm labor is demanding \$100 a month and board," says one agent. "Factories and logging camps are using many men. Farmers in some cases are unable to secure help."

Another agent reports: "Farmers are down and out so far as help is concerned. Street paving, state road building and other public activities, together with extreme wages and the reluctance of labor to go to the farm, leaves Mr. Farmer alone with his work."

"Wages are higher than ever," is the statement of another correspondent. "Farmers must do their own work, as labor is scarce, and the farmer cannot afford to hire at present wages."

These reports are from counties covering every part of Oregon, and there is a striking agreement by the agents as to the situation. Whither are we drifting?

What has entered the heads of men? At ruling wages on the farms, workers can save money and pile up a bank account faster than in any average employment in the city. At current wages, a farm hand can save enough in a few years to buy and own a farm of his own. It opens up to him a career of usefulness, independence and dignity. It would put him in a group that, numerically, is the largest in America and that has a larger invested capital than any other activity.

Yet the tendency is to crowd into the city, where the sum total of many a life is a hall bedroom, an occasional picture show, a struggle to make the wage place out to cover the month's bills, to be a part in the ever present industrial conflict, to spend the best years in the nerve-racking, ear-splitting roar and thunders of the city, and in the end to reach old age with a competence and be hauled off finally to the place of the dead, claiming a story that is written all through with failure and futility.

Many a fine lad comes to the city only in after years to pile up regret upon regret that he ever left the old homestead. Our economic and social order will be far sounder when, as some time it will, there no longer comes from rural life these reports of insufficient farm help and of farms

WHEN LEAGUERS COME—No. 12

GENERALLY speaking, farmers have little to do with making prices for their products.

Yet the farmers of America have \$51,000,000,000 invested in their industry. Their invested capital is larger than the combined capital of all the manufacturing establishments, all the railways and all the mines and quarries in America.

Along with this colossal investment, there are 30,000,000 people on the farms of the country. Twenty million more live in communities having a population of less than 2500. That is to say, more than half the population of the United States is directly concerned with farming as a means of livelihood. Yet all this population and all this 51 billions of invested capital is compelled to dump the annual output of its product into markets at prices fixed by others.

For example, the Pacific coast potato crop went out of the farmers' hands this year at a very ordinary price, but now that the crop is in the hands of a Pittsburgh millionaire and his associates, the same potatoes are being retailed in Portland at 12 to 15 cents.

This is the undoubted explanation of why 40 per cent of the farms in America are operated by tenants, and the percentage of tenant farmers is constantly increasing. This sort of thing should make business, distributive and financial interests have some concern when a farmers' movement is sweeping like a prairie fire through numerous states, gathering into its ranks almost solidly an agricultural population whose socialistic plan of operation is to have the state perform various functions which private business institutions are wont to discharge.

California is said to be well protected against invasion by the Non-partisan league, so that the problem of economic distribution has been largely solved and the speculator in farm products eliminated by opening direct communication between the farm and the legitimate wholesale house.

It has been done by cooperative organizations of farmers for the purpose of selling and distribution. The raisin growers, the prune growers, the orange growers, and a long list of similar organizations have accomplished among other things, the following:

First—Increased production.

Second—Standardized quality.

Third—Eliminated the speculator.

Fourth—Increased the price to the producer to a living profit without placing increased burden upon the consumer.

Fifth—Stabilized the market.

Sixth—Increased consumption by proper merchandising.

Seventh—Brought unexampled prosperity where there was formerly only poverty.

The economic associations have done more than merely bring prosperity to the growers. They have brought community prosperity to the districts in which they operate. Fresno, Cal., the center of the raisin and peach industry, is conceded to be the most prosperous city in the United States. Its bank clearings and wealth rank highest per capita of any community in the country. Merchants and bankers alike are in unison in giving all the credit to the successful operations of the farmers' associations.

San Jose, Cal., the center of the peach and apricot association activities, ranks second in the United States in bank clearings per capita.

In the last four years in almond, apricot, prune, peach and raisin lands, the value has increased from 60 to 200 per cent, due, it is universally admitted, to the activities of the farmers' cooperative non-political marketing associations in stabilizing and securing a permanent and profitable market for the farmer's product.

Within the last three years, or since the prune and apricot industry was organized, more mortgages have been paid off on prune and apricot lands in California than were lifted in the 10 years prior to organization of the industry.

The berry growers of California have increased the price for themselves from 400 to 600 per cent by eliminating speculation, without increasing the price to the consumer.

The list is interminable.

The farmers of California have recognized that destructive speculation in food products has been the curse of producer and consumer ever since it was necessary to transport food great distances from point of production to point of distribution.

In California, there are more than 20 state-wide cooperative organizations of farmers. They pack, process, manufacture and market over \$300,000,000 worth of farm products every year. The prosperity of the farmers is reflected in greater business activity in the cities of California. Realizing the value of the cooperative movement, and above all now convinced that the system is a complete antidote for inroads by state socialism, the business world of California is aiding, and helping to strengthen and extend the cooperative plan.

In Oregon today, the cooperative associations which The Journal long advocated and in some instances helped to organize, and which had to meet the opposition of some newspapers and many business men, are the nucleus for a movement with which to counteract the Non-Partisan league.

Organized society may make up its mind to one thing: The farmers are entitled to a larger share of the fruits of their labor; are determined to have it, and they have the votes. If they do not obtain those fruits one way, they will get them another way. What else is meant by the swiftly spreading recruitment to the North Dakota idea?

Inadequately cultivated for lack of that help.

Good for the Dutch! Learning of the profiteer prices for shoes in America, Holland salesmen are coming to the United States to teach us how to wear, and buy, wooden shoes. They confess that the wooden shoe admits of fewer style variations, but they argue persuasively that as a successor to leather it would be cheaper and more healthful.

VAIN PEACE

JEREMIAH plaintively queried why there should be announcements of "Peace, peace, when there is no peace?"

And John Milton, with like pessimism, intoned in Paradise Lost:

And rest can never dwell, hope never comes
That comes to all.

Thus these ancient savants prepared the immediate generation of Oregon anglers to accept philosophically the disheartening denouement on Rogue river.

With the enthusiasm which is symbolized by blare of trumpets and shouted applause, the tidings of a few days since conveyed the joyous information that a controversy between the commercial fishermen and the sportsmen on Rogue river, which, beginning in 1887, had stalked through legislative halls, had sundered communities and disrupted organization, at last had been amicably settled.

But scarcely a day was allowed for celebration. Grants Pass rose and swung a club of protest against Medford and Ashland as accepters of the agreement. Now it appears that instead of one bill affecting Rogue river fishing on the November ballot, there will be two. Instead of two parties to the Rogue river controversy there are now three. Instead of amity there is more intense feudism.

Why, when fish are so peaceable and speechless, should they inspire so much strife and controversial oratory?

It was predicted that the Portland firm which paid an income tax of \$4,500,000 would be made to look small sooner or later. Now appears the steel corporation with gross earnings of \$1,448,557,835, net earnings of \$198,585,053, and an income tax of merely \$52,000,000.

PLACE FOR THE HEARING

WHEN Mayor Baker orders a public hearing on the \$10,000,000 port program proposed by the committee of fifteen, The Auditorium

THE TREATY AND THE SENATE

Amendments, Discussions and Votes Concerning Article 1, Which Relates to Withdrawal.

By Carl Smith, Washington Staff Correspondent of The Journal.

Washington, April 9.—The first reservation in the manner of withdrawal from the League of Nations, the provision of the covenant relating to withdrawal reads:

"Any member of the league may, after two years' notice of its intention so to do, withdraw from the league, provided that all its international obligations and all its obligations under this covenant shall have been fulfilled at the time of its withdrawal."

Controversy arose as to whether the United States would be free to determine for itself whether or not the obligations of the league had been fulfilled. Some of the opponents of the league worked out the theory that the council of the league would have jurisdiction to say whether or not a nation desiring to withdraw had fulfilled all of its obligations.

President Wilson, at the White House conference with the foreign relations committee, gave a direct answer to this in reply to Senator Borah, which is quoted:

Senator Borah—Who passes upon the question of the fulfillment of our international obligations, upon the question whether or not we have fulfilled our international obligations?

The president—Nobody.

Senator Borah—Does the council have anything to say about it?

The president—Nothing whatever.

Senator Borah—Then, as I understand, when the notice is given, the right to withdraw is unconditional?

The president—Well, when the notice is given, the right to withdraw is unconditional, but the faith of the conscience of the withdrawing nation at the close of the two year period.

Senator Borah—Precisely; but it is unconditional so far as the legal right or the moral obligation is concerned.

The president—That is my interpretation.

It will thus be seen that a reservation declaring that the United States understands that it shall be the sole judge of its fulfillment of obligations is an interpretive reservation and does not violence to the league covenant. The dispute over the reservation turned upon another point. This was the insistence by Senator Lodge and the Republican irreconcilables upon inserting an additional reservation to the effect that congress to withdraw the country from the league without regard to the president.

This introduces a departure in the conduct of our relations, since under the constitution, the president is the representative of the nation in relations with other powers. Other presidents have been quick to resent any effort by congress to encroach upon this constitutional authority. There is question as to whether congress could really exercise such a power, excluding the president.

The president stated these objections in his letter to Senator Hitchcock January 26, 1920, as follows:

"My suggestion that with regard to the possible withdrawal of the United States it would be wise to give to the president the right to act upon a resolution of congress in the matter of withdrawal, is, in other words, it would seem to be permissible and advisable that any resolution giving notice of withdrawal should be a joint rather than a concurrent resolution. I doubt whether the president can be deprived of the conduct of foreign policy, to merely exercise a voice in saying whether or not important a step as withdrawal from the League of Nations should be accomplished by a majority vote of the congress, and the constitution itself providing that the legislative body was to be consulted in treaty making and having prescribed a two thirds vote in such cases, it seems to me that there should be no unnecessary departure from the method there indicated."

The port program involves the merging of the port and dock commissions, and the proposal is that the city transfer to the state its title to and control of public terminal properties and harbor improvements. This transfer affects the \$10,500,000 port terminal program which already has had the approval of Portland's citizens, as well as other issues vitally pertaining to port policy.

The hearing should be held in a place where the maximum number of citizens and voters can participate in it.

New York is preparing to entertain the overflow of next summer's visitors by rigging up old barrooms with beds in tiers. The suggestion would have value in helping solve Portland's problem of hospitality to national convention delegates—except for the fact that local saloons were long ago rented at profitable rates for legitimate business purposes.

HERE'S THE SOLUTION

A BRIGHT if not profound thinker has just solved the high cost of living. If labor receiving the highest wages in history is only 60 per cent efficient, let it become immediately 100 or 162.3 per cent efficient. But let it immediately turn the clock forward, not one hour but two, and clip the difference off the hours of employment.

Then let each industrialist, hieing him home and the greater part of the day still before him, proceed cheerfully to direct action, with the never failing soil as his objective.

He will have one cow to supply himself and family with milk, butter and cream.

One sheep will provide wool free of the shoddy stigma.

One apple tree and one prune tree, one peach tree and one row of berry vines will supply the family with fruit for summer and winter.

One small vegetable patch will similarly produce spuds beyond the reach of the profiteer's 10 cents a pound, as well as beans, tomatoes, carrots, parsnips and the rest of the homely but wholesome list.

And, Oregon champions are chosen, one small group of chickens will guarantee plenty of eggs, fries, steaks and roasts.

In the meantime land otherwise productive only of weeds will be employed to 100 or 162.3 per cent efficiency.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

[Communications sent to The Journal for publication in this department should be written on only one side of the paper, should not exceed 200 words, and should be accompanied by the writer whose mail address in full must accompany the contribution.]

SAYS DEATH PENALTY FUTILE

Grand Rapids, Mich., April 3.—To the Editor of The Journal—Here is a peculiar situation: East is East and West is West, but East has always been the seat of conservatism and clinging to ancient, outworn customs. Here is the West—Oregon—submitting to its citizens the proposition of reestablishing the death penalty, to hold outworn and worthless Christianity and the finer instincts of protection and reduce or deter crime—which it has never accomplished.

And here is East—New York and Massachusetts, each trying to do away with the death penalty, because, in their wisdom, it has failed to deter crime, and they would substitute something better. Old customs in the East are hard to break—they are inborn, like a sour disposition, and so capital punishment is almost impossible to get rid of. But they are trying, the judiciary committees of the legislatures of both states have abolition of death penalty bills under consideration now, and there is no doubt that they will be passed.

A New York district attorney said he could get 50 per cent more convictions if the death penalty were done away with. In Maine that has been proved, as Maine has tried both ways.

The police power of the state is for protection of the public, not for vengeance of persons. Of course, it is not the police power which can deter crime, but a craving for the life of a man who has injured us. We aren't very civilized yet. Some day we shall be, but not yet. There is too much blood on the hands of the police, and as long as the state sets the example, inasmuch as you can convict more of the criminals captured, and send them out for life or a term of years, without blood on their hands, why should we have any death penalty—unless you are out for personal vengeance? Voters should use their own minds.

No, there is no death penalty in Michigan, where I live, thank God.

Charles B. Magennis.

"ALSO THE LIGHT AND POWER"

Portland, March 29.—To the Editor of The Journal—The street car fare controversy has just been settled. The lines are part of the corporation property owned by light and power people. If the city is to buy the street railway, it will have to buy the whole corporation business? Without the city business—which is enhanced in number of patrons by presence of the railway—the city would have no power to yield profit to owners. No department store asks the city to help it out on any line of itself does not pay. Its helplessness in attracting customers is borne in mind and price of the new water system in one line is met by other gains.

Surely if the city can take over the city lines and keep them up for the benefit of all the merchants and residents, it could also take over the water and power plants and from their profits keep up the railway end. It seems a pretty good dodge to separate the accounts and, by the city taking over the water and power more income in order to secure 6 or 7 per cent on the values, irrespective of real investment.

By the way, why should investors in light and power and railway properties demand more interest than patriots get on Liberty bonds? John Williams.

Curious Bits of Information For the Curious

Gleaned From Curious Places

The threads of the garden spider are fixed by astronomers in their telescopes for the purpose of giving fine lines to the field of view, by which the relative positions of stars may be accurately measured.

Astronomers desired to make use of such lines of the greatest possible fineness and procured at first silver wire drawn to the extreme limit of fineness, but this was found to be too brittle and unobtainable without a metal.

They also tried hairs (1-500th of an inch thick) and threads of the silkworm's cocoon, which are split into two component strands, each 1-1000th of an inch thick.

But in 1820 an English instrument maker named Throughton, introduced the spider's line. This can be readily obtained free of any impurities, and the silkworm's thread and has also advantages in its strength and freedom from twist. To obtain the thread, the spider is carefully fixed on a glass plate and the cocoon is drawn at the moment of issue from the body is a viscid liquid, is made to adhere to a window, by turning which the desired length of firm but elastic thread can be procured.

Olden Oregon

In 1844 Many Important and Valuable Franchises Issued.

In 1844 Hugh Burns and Robert Moore were granted the right to operate public works on the Willamette river.

McCloughlin was given a franchise to construct a canal around the Willamette falls. W. H. Wilson and L. H. Judson were authorized to construct a mill race on the Willamette river.

James W. W. Northrup of Boise, Idaho, is registered at the Portland Hotel, stopping off here for a rest on his way to the construction company, of which his brother, A. J. Hill, is manager. The Hill from Billings is in charge of the company's works in Montana and Washington.

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