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THE OIL OF THE WORLD

WITH oil a big factor in the power of nations, and with the industrial, commercial, social and agricultural life of commonwealths destined to become dependent on the supply, England has practically blanketed the oil fields of the world. Spending millions of dollars in the quest of oil, acquiring controlling interests in huge producing companies, and through rapid-fire action in gaining control of rich deposits, the British have barred the door to other nations seeking access to many of the golden fields.

This is an age of oil. Oil was a factor in winning the war. With the rich oil fields at her disposal, Germany might have fought on for months without an armistice. Franklin K. Lane in a report to the president, pointed out that oil draws trains and drives streetcars. It pumps water, lifts loads, and has replaced millions of horses. Naval and merchant ships are abandoning coal for oil as a driving power. The airplane and tank depend on it. Medicine, dyes, and high explosives are distilled from it.

John K. Barnes, in the Worlds Work for June, tells of the great future demand for oil, and of the British dominion over the fields. It is because of its value in peace or war that nations are now striving to obtain control over the precious deposits. The British holdings will, if they do not already, insure her commercial leadership during the age of petroleum. While Britain is extending her ownership, America is already consuming more oil than we are producing and with the continued upbuilding of the automobile industry and merchant marine our consumption will unquestionably increase in the future.

Maps of the present and prospective oil fields indicate the extent to which England has established ownership in deposits. The California fields are controlled by American, British and Dutch companies; the Tampico-Tuxpan-American, British and Dutch; Alberta, British; mid-continent, American, British and Dutch; Colombia, British and American; Ecuador, British; Peru, American and British; Venezuela and Trinidad, British and Dutch; Persia and Mesopotamia, two of the richest in the world, British; Tama-Kertch, British; Burma, British; Langkat and Sarawak, British; and Palembang, Java, and Balikpapan, British and Dutch. It is only in the fields of the western hemisphere that Americans have an opportunity of gaining control. Among these are vast stores in Mexico that are believed to be untapped, the Caribbean coast of South America and other South American deposits.

The British policy has been one of almost feverish extension. The British government itself has sent out book companies, purchased controlling interests in companies and sent experts far and wide to locate, obtain and develop valuable fields. In 1901 she went into Persia. An Australian obtained from the Persian government a concession carrying exclusive rights for 60 years to drill for, produce, buy and carry away oil and petroleum products throughout the empire except five provinces. The concession covered 500,000 square miles. The Australian located a deposit, established a well, and the first gusher carried away the derrick. But there was no pipeline nor refinery. The Australian funds were low. To keep the fields under British control prominent English oil men formed the great Anglo-Persian Oil company. They established a pipeline and refinery and operated for four years. Funds again ran low. Then the British government stepped in and purchased a controlling interest in the company. The investment has been remunerative, even to date, but the immense benefits to be derived are not yet measurable. Persia will in all probability become one of the great oil producing nations of the world. Oil indications are apparent over a vast territory and the grade is unusually high. Some of the wells have flown steadily for ten years and are still giving up oil as freely as ever. And the British government controls them.

And now comes the British extension in Mesopotamia. Along with their army, the British sent geologists into that territory. They have made geological surveys and can at once take control of the promising territories when the country is thrown open to development. Under the peace treaty, Mesopotamia is within the British sphere of influence. The Mesopotamian fields are among the largest in the world.

In India only British companies are now permitted to operate. The Burma Oil company holds a blanket concession. It is a third-owner of the voting stock of the Anglo-Persian Oil company, and is, therefore, a partner with the British government. Both companies are interested in the Egyptian oil deposits, as is also the Shell Transport & Trading company, the British part of the Royal Dutch-Shell combination. The Egyptian fields, those of Trinidad, and some others in the British empire are closed to American companies. On the other hand, English concerns have interests in the California and mid-continent fields in America and in Mexico. In the latter holdings the English corporations are said to threaten the supremacy of the Standard Oil company.

The British government is understood not only to be negotiating for control of the Shell corporation but the Anglo-Persian company, controlled by the government, has a controlling interest in one of the largest distributing organizations in the world, and a huge refinery is being erected on the south coast of Wales.

As Mr. Barnes puts it, the British lion is scratching for the oil deposits of the world, and to date has been so successful that all other nations are threatened with complete oblivion as oil owners and producers.

ized, attested the respect and esteem in which this old-fashioned citizen, of whom there are too few, was held by his fellow townsmen.

There was a wealth of character in men and women of the Webb type. Stout-hearted but always full of the spirit of brotherhood, they clung to the honorable ideals of the fathers, and yielded an honest devotion to the standards of justice and the principles of the golden rule. The great oak stands its allotted time in the forest stands its allotted time of sturdiness. And George Webb, at the end of his allotted time, lay down rest, leaving as his monument a revered name.

It will be a mighty good idea for the plain Portlander who wants to eat lunch next week to bring it with him from home. By the same token there is as little room to park his car downtown as there is for him at the restaurant tables.

HALF the retail price of dress goods for women is absorbed by profits. That is the statement of W. J. Lauck, consulting economist of the railway unions, made to the railroad labor board recently.

The increase in the cost of mill labor in the production of unbleached cotton was one and one-ninth cents a yard between 1916 and 1919, according to Lauck. The increased cost due to increase of mill labor plus all mill expense and levies taxes, could apparently proceed competitively and independently each in its expenditure of public funds for port purposes. This is a contingency that probably would not occur but it would be most unfortunate if it did.

Why not solve the problem of balancing consumption and production by rationing fat men and putting them to work feeding pigs and hogging corn?

GEORGE W. WEBB

A PLEA FOR ARMENIA

Appalling Situation Reviewed, With Insistence That Acceptance of a Mandate is a Duty Not to Be Escaped.

By Herbert Powell Lee

The Republican party has declared its weak opposition to the policy of government. Can we deliberate about the future of Armenia?

In view of the fact that our own future would be menaced by an unfavorable balance of power in the old world, we can not with indifference the future occupancy of the geographical citadel of the eastern hemisphere?

I assert that President Wilson's attitude toward Armenia is toward international affairs in general is such as will in time mark him as one of the great mountain peaks of our own history.

It is not an unwarranted flight of fancy to consider an airplane service that will leave Portland at 6 o'clock a. m., arriving at Ogden at 12:30 p. m., Omaha 7:30 p. m., Chicago 11 p. m., and New York 7:15 a. m. From coast to coast in 25 hours.

After a few more people have been killed in Portland elevators and the accident report uniformly reads, "operator inexperienced," perhaps some standard of training will be required of those to whom is given the sacred custody of human life.

WHY NOT A PROFIT

If a farmer is in position to keep the selling price of his products constant at a figure that insures him a margin above the cost of production, the element of uncertainty is eliminated, farming is stabilized and production assured. Fewer farmers, under those circumstances would desert the soil and assurance of a profit would attract many of those who are now limping along in city jobs that afford a bare living.

One of the great drawbacks to farming in Oregon has been the inability of farmers to always secure a fair profit on sale of their products. They are often forced to sell at a figure below the cost of production. They have no control of the selling price. They have no word in fixing it.

The market price, however controlled or however manipulated, is the farmer's sale price. If the farmer doesn't sell, he can take his beef, potatoes, vegetables or fruit home and let them rot.

The unrest among farmers is occasioned by the unsatisfactory market conditions. Farmers don't like to gamble to see whether a year's work has resulted in a profit or a loss. They are asking for assurance that the sale price will allow a margin of profit over the cost of production. They have a right to ask it.

In California the cooperative marketing associations solved the problem. By banding together, rather than operating as individuals, producers were enabled to have a share in fixing the market price. A figure was fixed that enabled them to sell at a profit. New markets were established, the quality of products was improved, production was encouraged, waste was eliminated, and the speculator was removed.

The cooperative associations are proposed for Oregon. Some have already been established. They are successful.

A market commission bill, providing that a market commissioner be appointed to aid in establishing such associations, and to aid the farmer and the consumer, is to be on the November ballot. The bill, if it becomes law, will reach the vitals of the marketing problem and go far toward eliminating the unrest in agricultural districts.

Overheard on a Portland street car: "Dearie, you extravagant man! The 25 cents you spent for that magazine you could have saved and bought a potato for dinner tomorrow."

THE ISOM MEMORIAL

THE Mary Frances Isom memorial number of the library bulletin epitomizes admirably the life and work of a woman who rendered to the public the "best" measure of devotion. It contains articles by the associates of the late librarian of Portland, by the beneficiaries of her diversified but very useful administration, and by those who from a distance observed the influence of her service in the upbuilding of Portland.

Sub-consciously, no doubt, there runs through all that is written the constant turning from the personality of Miss Isom to the work upon which that personality was imprinted. Thus the tribute by inference is greater than that declared, for it shows that Miss Isom very nearly attained the ideal, the submergence of self in the task to which she set herself.

The fact that Miss Isom imparted her vitality so completely to her work that it lives though she has passed on, may account for the comparatively limited contributions to the fund for a permanent tablet honoring her memory which is to be erected in the Central Library. The report of Tuesday showed that the total from all sources is not quite \$300. There are many whose names would be expected on the list of contributors who are not represented there. Perhaps it will come to them too late that they missed an opportunity.

ONLY ROSES

By W. S. Gilbert

To a garden full of roses
Cometh one to gather flowers;
And he wanders through its bowers
Toying with the waning roses,
Who, uprising from their beds,
Hold on high their shameless heads
With their pretty lips a-pouting,
Never doubting—never doubting
That for Cytherean posies
He would gather aught but roses.

In a nest of weeds and nettles,
Lay a violet, half hidden;
Hoping that his glance unbidden
Yet might fall upon her petals.
Though she lived alone, apart,
And he wandered through her heart,
But alas! the cruel sword of fate
Set her little heart a-breaking,
For he gathers for his posies
Only roses—only roses.

—Bab Ballads.

MORE OR LESS PERSONAL

Random Observations About Town

The liberality with which Portlanders are bringing their roses to hotels for free distribution to visitors in the city is greatly appreciated. Strangers are voluble in their praise both of the rose and its donors, say hotel clerks. Those having roses are asked to bring a bouquet to the hotel, to be devoted to a large picture of the hostess and leave them in one of the hotel lobbies or at one of the information stands on the street corners.

A special edition of the Hotel Multnomah monthly house bulletin came out the press Friday. It is dedicated to the visiting Shriner. The first page is devoted to a large picture of the hostess and a true western welcome from the 300 employees. Facts about the hotel, its construction, management and equipment are given on the inside pages, including pictures of Eric V. Hauser, owner, and A. B. Campbell, manager. The fourth page contains an alphabetical list of the Shrine temples in the nation and the cities they represent.

Delegates and visitors to the Shrine convention arriving at the Hotel Multnomah yesterday morning include Mr. and Mrs. William Crocker, Mrs. James Brown, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Lant of Calgary, Alberta, J. W. Holtman of Mollis temple, St. Joseph, Mo., "shook" above the Shrine temple in the nation and the cities they represent.

Who will be to blame if the Armenian nation perish? Not the Turks, for they have the right to have their own nation. American people abandon them? In our country we do not allow animals to be starved or tortured. And if 100 innocent men, women and children are daily thrown to wild beasts, there would be tremendous outcry. But the suffering in Caucasus is just as real as if it occurred in Portland, and it is just as much within our power to remedy. And it is going on at this very moment!

Listen, with the ear of sympathy, and you will hear their cries, their groans, their sobs, their shrieks, growing fainter through weakness, until silenced by the silence of death.

Look with the eyes of sympathy, and behold these people. Gaze into their eyes as into bottomless pits of despair. They are pinched and shrunken features and shrunken bodies. These living skeletons covered with tattered rags! Watch the father and the mother and the child, and hear their own image, the dearest treasures of their hearts, as they are forced to refuse their own flesh and blood, even so much as a morsel of putrid food.

And yet, all this is happening, today, in the face of a civilized, democratic, Christian world amply able to care for their every need!

Is this the measure of our civilization? Is this the effectiveness of our democracy? Is this the depth of our Christianity?

The answer depends largely on each one of us!

Let us not throw onto the fiendish Turk the blame that belongs on our own shoulders. The devil, whose handiwork we have considered, is in the indifference, the inaction of America! He is in the "being too busy" and "I can't get to it" that is the way of the rescue of these people.

We have the power out of our superabundance to save these people. One dollar of the \$2,000,000 spent in America for last Christmas presents would have amply saved these forlorn ones. It is only a question as to whether we will do it.

It is God's will that these people be saved. God has entrusted us with the power to save them. And if we, instead, choose to devote our pleasure, our ambition, our wealth, at the expense of these people, will not God call us to account for their destruction?

Let us not be deceived by any plea of international law, or foreign entanglements, or the wickedness of governments engaging in philanthropy, or by any other excuses. These are all the special pleadings of the enemy of life, the god of death.

Let us help to your utmost to save these people!

Do it for your own sake, for the sake of the glory of our country, for the sake of humanity, for the sake of that God who has entrusted us with the power to save them by saying, "If these loved ones of mine die, I die with them!"

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The Oregon Country

Northwest Happenings in Brief Form for the Busy Reader.

ORIGON

The work of paving the streets of Albany commencing with the Pacific highway has been completed.

Carl Trachsel, manager of the Kelmore lake dairy farm, near Scappoose, is believed to have been drowned at Roseburg. A large part of last year's crop is still being held in the warehouses.

R. Bohn of Canby, a butcher, has been fined one month's confinement on the charge of hogging the road with his auto truck.

The Coos Bay Fish & Canning company is making extensive improvements preparatory to the opening of the fishing season.

Eddie Morgan, who pleaded guilty at Eugene to the charge of forgery, has been sentenced to serve two years in the penitentiary.

Suit has been brought in the circuit court of Clatsop county by the county of police for interfering with soft drink establishments in the city of Astoria.

Owing to uncertain market conditions, the Day Park Lumber company of North Bend will suspend operations within a few days. The company has been unable to obtain a loan from the state Chamber of Commerce.

Paving on the Columbia river highway has been completed. The Columbia river highway has been partially burned at Sonny, Work will be resumed after July 4.

The first motor truck of strawberries over the Columbia river highway has been shipped to the city of Portland. The berries arrived in excellent condition.

WASHINGTON

The supply of gasoline at Spokane and surrounding territory is reported to be only one per cent short. The city of Spokane is reported to be in a position to supply the city with gasoline for the week ending July 4.

Mayor Caldwell of Seattle announces that he will fly to Portland Sunday or Monday afternoon in an airplane. The American Legation of Berlin has elected C. M. Read chancellor commander and E. A. Lindstrom vice chancellor.

A posse is scouring the woods on the Wynoche river for John Diederich, 70 years of age, who has been missing several days.

The Centralia school board is working out a plan whereby a kindergarten and a school building in connection with the schools.

Four girls narrowly escaped death at Bay Center when an automobile in which they were riding plunged over a wharf into the bay.

As a result of increased street car fares at Seattle it is estimated that an additional revenue of \$1,478,250 will be provided.

Richard Yeatman of Vancouver has been selected to settle war grievances in Southwestern Washington.

The Standard Oil company has announced a reduction in the gasoline allowance of Seattle, owing to the necessity of substituting in the near future, naphtha for use in spraying orchards.

IDAHO

A strict quarantine has been ordered on potatoes from Texas, Florida and California, owing to the presence of tuber moth.

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