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AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Colfax, Bend, Marshfield and Dallas have sent the Northwest loss for July up to \$704,000. More widespread use of fire prevention meth-ods would no doubt have avoided several of the costly conflagrations. Why not clean out the refuse and debris, protect inflammables from contact with stoves and pipes, and eliminate the other hazard? It was done in Portland and the fire loss fell to one-seventh the previous cost in 22 months.

WHAT ARE THE FACTS

WHAT are the facts in the milk controversy?

The people of Portland have a right to know and they shall know. The issues of the controversy are primarily their concern.

The price of milk is involved. The quality of milk is involved. The whole question of the city's milk supply is involved.

The air is full of contradictions. A deputy city attorney implies in a report that the dairymen are profiteering. City officials are quoted as absolving the distributors from all blame.

The president of the Dairymen's league retorts that the dairymen are receiving exactly the same amount for milk that they did before the retail price was increased. Consumers are, indeed, paying 14 cents a quart for milk where they paid 13 cents, but the extra cent a quart is being pocketed by the distributors.

At 14 cents a quart the consumer pays the distributor approximately \$7 a hundred pounds for milk for which the distributor paid the dairymen \$3.20.

Is it profiteering for the producer to receive slightly less than 7 cents a quart for the service of building dairy barns, buying or renting farms, maintaining disease-free herds, installing modern and sanitary facilities, working from daylight to dark, and bringing the milk to Portland, all for a little less than 7 cents a quart?

Or is the distributor receiving less than he should in being paid slightly more than 7 cents a quart for receiving the milk within the city, pasteurizing it in specially constructed plants, bottling it and delivering it by an interlaced and duplicative system which sometimes admits half a dozen dairy wagons to a single block?

Out of the controversy the statement appears that condenseries are paying but \$2.80 a hundred pounds for milk, and, why, it is asked, should the dealers be required to pay more? Why, indeed? The dairymen answer that the price of \$2.80 at the condenseries is an eventuation of recent date, that it has not been long since at least one of the condenseries was paying \$4.25 a hundred pounds at the same time dairymen serving Portland were receiving \$3.85. The condenser price, they add, is influenced by export conditions, by the price in other districts and by the general demand for "canned" milk. They also explain that the milk which goes to condenseries is not to be compared in quality with the milk which satisfies the inspection laws of Portland.

There were 30 delegates in the San Francisco convention who carried union cards. They were in various delegations, but they voted together under the leadership of Vice President Green of the American Federation of Labor who went to San Francisco with Samuel Gompers. From first to last in the balloting their united strength went to Governor Cox. McAdoo was their second choice.

TO BE A NEW YORKER

THE impression persists that life in New York is ideal. To attain a residence in the nation's bloated metropolis is to realize the goal of highest ambition if one would believe current fiction on the subject. A young man and his wife who had "arrived" in New York recently came west for a long planned visit to old home scenes. That they might have a place for their trunks when they returned they retained the lease of their apartment.

One of the first communications from New York was a notice from their landlord that they must pay a 16-2-3 per cent increase in rent or move October 1, and that the moving van would cost \$30 an hour.

Another brief business note came from a gentleman named Campagna, who came from Italy and began work in New York a few years ago at \$3 a day. What he desired to say was that his new apartment house which had developed to a point where it could be referred to by its site and by the plans drawn by an architect would have some 3 room apartments for 3 year leases, the rear apartments at \$1800 to \$1900 a year, the front apartments with an outlook on the street at \$2400 to \$2500 a year. The difference in price was affected by altitude, the higher apartments with better air calling for the highest rental.

Somewhat staggered, the young people sought information about Gardch City on Long Island and found that only purchasers of half acre lots could live there and that a friend had just succeeded in building a modest home for only \$40,000. They turned their inquiries to Brooklyn, to discover that while rentals were perhaps 10 per cent less, it would require an hour and a half each way in going to and from work.

With a friend, the young wife compared Portland's and New York's prices for food. Milk in New York, 21 cents a quart, in Portland 14. Eggs in New York, \$1.45 a dozen, in Port-

land, 50 cents. Four chops in New York, 70 cents; in Portland, 35 cents. Chickens to fry in New York, 75 cents a pound; in Portland, 55 cents. And, explained the housewife from New York, the butcher expects his Saturday tip of \$1 or more as confidently as the Pullman porter anticipates his "fob" and serves only tough ends unless he gets it.

A comparison of recreational resources brought the conversation to a climax. The New Yorkers spoke of their theatres and roof gardens and their four hours for sleep each night. The Portlanders spoke of their highways and mountains, their evening and Sunday journeyings through the land of the wide outdoors in a machine bought with money that in New York would go to some ex-immigrant landlord.

Then the unanimous conclusion was that to be a New Yorker involves entirely too much of a sacrifice for anyone who has the privilege of residence in Portland.

Many complaints are received at the sheriff's office against speeding by drivers of auto busses. There appears to be some question as to how to handle them. Why not apply the licensing drivers' law?

A STREETCORNER BOY

RUSSELL BRAKE is a young man held in jail in Portland charged with the murder of a chauffeur. Another young man and friend of Brake's, also held, is charged with the same crime.

Brake has issued a statement in an attempt to locate witnesses who, he hopes, will prove him guiltless of the crime. He talked to them and they saw him, he claims, although he doesn't know who they are. Their testimony, he says, if they can be found, would prove that he was not at the scene of the murder. He gives a list of places where he insists he was the night of the crime, and the approximate time.

Brake declares he was standing at the corner of Broadway and Washington at 9:30 p. m., talking to Moore, the co-defendant. At 11:30, Brake says he was peering in the window of a dance hall. At 2 in the morning he was standing in front of a hotel at Broadway and Washington, according to his statement, and at 2:30 was in the lobby of a downtown hotel where "everybody loafs." Then, he insists, he ate and went home.

If the Brake statement is true, it brands its author as a streetcorner boy. What business has a young man loafing on the corner, even at 9:30? And what business has a young man peering through the window of a dancehall at 11:30? What is his errand at Broadway and Washington at 2, standing near the corner? And what business has a young man loafing in a lobby where "everybody loafs" at 2:30?

Possibly Brake is innocent of the crime charged against him. If there are witnesses who can prove him innocent, they should appear. But after all, Brake's statement, if true, discloses habits that naturally explain why he is suspected of wrongdoing.

To get rid of it, rubbish in a furnace was set on fire at Eugene. The resultant loss to the stock of goods was \$50,000 and to building \$20,000. The habit of dumping heaps of refuse into a furnace and touching a match to it is full of perils.

NOT A DEFEAT

THE Non-partisan leaguers got as much victory as defeat out of the Minnesota primaries.

Their effort, as everybody knows, was to capture the nominations in the Republican primaries. They lost the governorship by about 7000. But on the legislative ticket, they carried 78 out of 86 counties. They carried every county bordering on the state line between Minnesota and North Dakota. They nominated four out of seven congressmen. They have 54 out of 70 nominees for the lower house of the legislature.

No senators were nominated. That body is elected every four years and all members are hold-overs this year. The league has a strong minority among the hold-over senators.

The league candidate for supreme judge led the ticket and was nominated with a big majority. The league candidates for the legislature swept all parts of the state except Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth. It is said to be the purpose of the leaguers to run their defeated candidate for governor and other candidates on the state ticket in the elections in the fall.

In North Dakota, the leaguers captured the Republican nomination for lieutenant governor, attorney general, state auditor, state treasurer, commissioner of agriculture and several minor officials. They nominated Dr. Ladd, president of the North Dakota Agricultural college, for senator, defeating Senator Gronna, the present incumbent. Ladd's majority was approximately 6000.

They lost the secretary of state. They nominated one congressman and the opposition nominated two. The next attack of the league will be in Idaho, where the organization will hold a state convention on July 17, at Boise, for the purpose of placing a full state ticket in the field.

The enlargement of the Oregon Chair factory and a heavy increase in the variety and volume of its output are announced. There never was a sound reason for Portland to buy furniture made in the East. We shall more and more learn to buy and use things made in Oregon. It is an

evolution that is inevitable and that is now getting into full swing. Industrial Portland is speeding forward.

INTERESTING "IFS" OF 1920

By Carl Smith, Washington Staff Correspondent of The Journal

Washington, July 14.—The two big national conventions this year have given rise to an unusual number of reflections as to what might have been, or apparently was, or might be, if it were not for something else.

Returning pilgrims from Chicago have said with great assurance that if: Money had not been used so freely among the delegates in Missouri, Governor Lowden would have been the Republican nominee. This is generally conceded.

And if, on a warm Friday afternoon, Hiram Johnson had consented to accept the nomination for vice-president, the ticket would have been Knox and Johnson. This is likewise generally conceded.

Out of San Francisco's turmoil comes the story that if: McAdoo's friends had felt free to wage an active campaign for him while dele-

gates were being elected, if he had withdrawn at another stage of the fight, McAdoo would have been the nominee.

And if Hoover had refrained from declaring himself a Republican, if he "stayed on the pedestal," as some have phrased it, he would have been in position to take the prize as the solution of the deadlock.

History now in the making might be considerably changed if: But what's the use? "We will get ratification and peace if the Democratic ticket wins in the coming election, and if the Republicans win we will not, regardless of any refinements of the platform or the expressions of candidates," says Senator Gilbert M. Hitchcock of Nebraska, leader of the ratification forces during the treaty fight in the senate. The Nebraska senator is a Republican, but he looks in the battle for the League of Nations with The Journal correspondent.

Just after the arrival of the news of the nomination of Governor Cox, the Democratic Cox is regarded as a highly satisfactory choice, the best choice in his view, and he alluded especially to the candidate's position on the league as being in harmony with the friends of world peace.

He was asked how he interpreted the Republican platform on the league. "I think I had better wait until I hear what Senator Harding says about it," he replied. "There is an interesting debate among the Republicans just now about what their platform means. Certainly it is not in favor of the present league, but it is in favor of a new one. Senator Hitchcock's view is that the people will not split hairs over the language of the platform, but that they will look at the situation and decide for themselves. The Republican, casting stones at the league, and the other party, the Democratic, standing strong for it, will be the ones to decide. I believe the Republicans are not yet out of the woods on the league, and that Harding will find it difficult to dodge a direct answer before the campaign is over."

Hitchcock believes the Democrats stand a good chance to control the next senate, and if they do, the prospect of ratification will take an upward turn. He thinks the Democrats are likely to elect the successors to Harding in Ohio and Watson in Indiana, with a good chance to elect Senator Spencer in Kentucky. He expects a change of one vote, with the vice-president, would turn the trick, or two votes without the vice-president.

High Cost of Living

From the Democratic Platform