

The Oregon Statesman

Issued Daily Except Monday by THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY 215 S. Commercial St., Salem, Oregon (Portland Office, 704 Spaulding Building. Phone Main 1116)

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DAILY STATESMAN, served by carrier in Salem and suburbs, 15 cents a week, 65 cents a month.

DAILY STATESMAN, by mail, in advance, \$6 a year, \$3 for six months, \$1.50 for three months, in Marion and Polk counties; \$7 a year, \$3.50 for six months, \$1.75 for three months, outside of these counties. When not paid in advance, 50 cents a year additional.

THE PACIFIC HOMESTEAD, the great western weekly farm paper, will be sent a year to any one paying a year in advance to the Daily Statesman.

SUNDAY STATESMAN, \$1.50 a year; 75 cents for six months; 40 cents for three months.

WEEKLY STATESMAN, issued in two six-page sections, Tuesdays and Fridays, \$1 a year (if not paid in advance, \$1.25); 50 cents for six months; 25 cents for three months.

TELEPHONES: Business Office, 23. Circulation Department, 583. Job Department, 639. Society Editor 106.

Entered at the Postoffice in Salem, Oregon, as second class matter.

BUT IT OUGHT NOT TO BE

"Nick Longworth says the revision of the tariff is a huge task. We'll say it is."—Los Angeles Times. And so it is; but it ought not to be. The great trouble is that the tariff question is a political question, which it ought not to be. By its nature, it is a business question.

The framing of a tariff law ought to be left to experts; among them men experienced in the administration of tariff laws.

No tariff law can cover all the matters that must come up in the administration of any tariff law.

So a large part of a tariff law consists of promulgations of the United States Treasury Department, with or without the advice of the Appraisers of Customs and others engaged in the collection of the tariff revenues, and in the examination, classification and valuation of products of other countries offered for import at our ports.

Take a case in point: Under the McKinley tariff law, hides were dutiable, at an ad valorem charge, and skins were on the free list.

But the law did not say what was a hide and what was a skin; or when a calf became a cow. That was a matter of promulgation. Lyman Gage was Secretary of the Treasury. The Appraisers of the United States met in New York and recommended a new promulgation—taking as a basis a fraction below the average of the classifications of the tanners of the whole country. Gage was absent from Washington at the time, and the Assistant Treasurer made the promulgation that was recommended. But this lasted only about a month; until Gage got back to his desk after a summer vacation.

The new promulgation was costing the New England shoe trust at the rate of \$7,000,000 a year, and adding that much to the revenues of the United States, besides protecting the farmers of the United States against the importation of the hides of the ranted cattle of South and Central America and other countries, as skins; for the promulgation was on weight, taking the trade classifications of wet, wet salted, dry and flint dry.

Gage raised the weight, the same as it had been before, so as to let in the hides of the ranted cattle free, as skins.

Also, the enactment of a tariff law by Congress is a log-rolling proposition; full of trades.

And full of jokers.

Take the same McKinley tariff law. It made anthracite coal free. But there was a member of Congress representing the anthracite coal district of Pennsylvania, and he was a slick pussyfoot. He wormed into the tariff schedule on bituminous coal woods like these: "And any other coal bearing less than 95 per cent of fixed carbon."

So all coal was dutiable, through that trick.

Congress wrote plainly that anthracite coal should be free of duty; all the members thought they were making anthracite coal free.

But the Pennsylvania Congressman knew better.

The list might be extended; drawn out through a whole shelf of books on decisions made by the General Appraisers and the courts, clear up to the Supreme Court of the United States.

For instance, tomatoes were decided to be a vegetable, then a fruit, then a vegetable, then a fruit, and finally a vegetable, by the highest court in the land.

There is no good reason why Congress should be burdened with this log-rolling subject.

For, the best they can do, some things are bound to be bungled.

There should be a tariff commission that is a real commission, whose recommendations will be regarded as final, or next to final.

And the tariff law ought to be amended whenever the best interests of the United States demand it, a schedule at a time, and an item at a time; and always with a view to protecting the producers and manufacturers and capitalists and laborers of the United States in competitive imports, and at the same time protecting the consumers of the United States in non-competitive imports from foreign countries.

The Christmas spirit is in the air.

President Wilson has accepted that Nobel peace prize of \$40,000. Woodrow is thrifty. There are many hard winters ahead.

It looks very much as if the League of Nations has saved a seat for Uncle Sam at the international council table. He is fully expected to drop in later.

You cannot prove to the employees of the Salem postoffice that there is any lull in the Christmas trade. They are buried.

A man is only as old as he thinks he is. It is a wise plan to forget the years and continue hustling. Then a man will not think of knocking off work until he has reached 100.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, Democratic candidate for vice president, conferred with Governor Cox in the executive mansion at Columbus and then left hurriedly for the east. He should not have been in such a rush, he will be in plenty of time to see the Harding

parade swing into Pennsylvania avenue on inauguration day.

The growers of red and black currants, gooseberries, black raspberries, sour cherries and rhubarb in the Salem district are offered remunerative prices, and they may have contracts for five years or less. No doubt the growers of sweet cherries, loganberries and all the other small fruits will also be able to cash in at good prices next year.

It may be possible for the people of Salem to assemble in some hall on March 4 and hear President-elect Harding deliver his inaugural address just as plainly and clearly as if they were among the multitudes that will pack the plaza front of the Capitol. Telephone experts, it is known, have been making an intensive study of a plan to have the Harding inaugural address picked up by amplifiers and sent over the long-distance telephone wires to every corner of the country.

At an official dinner in Paris on Wednesday, Hugh Wallace, American ambassador to France, refused to meet Wilhelm Mayer

von Kaufmeuren, ambassador of Germany to France, because the United States is still technically at war with Germany. Mr. Wallace was both right and wrong; right technically, but he made an ass of himself in order to be technically right. The United States is no more at war with Germany than is France or England, excepting technically.

THE MINCING GAIT.

The osteopaths are pressing the passage of a bill before the Massachusetts general assembly which would prevent the manufacture of high-heeled shoes. There seems to be no way of keeping the women from wearing the things. Any argument about health or comfort cuts no ice. If high-heeled shoes throw the spine out of plumb, deform the walk and send the wearer to the madhouse it makes no difference. If they are still fashionable the women will have them, even if they must divide their time between the hospital and the bughouse.

Writing on this subject, a neighboring editor, who is evidently of the male persuasion, says:

"A tender hearted man is often compelled to burst into tears on beholding one of these jazz babies limping down the street like a sandhill crane, her body tilted forward and her heels knocking against one another like castanets. It is small wonder that the women are forgetting how to walk. Look at the things they have to walk in! And yet some dames chloroform themselves into the belief that their shoes are perfectly comfortable. The poor devils have been miserable so long that they have come to look upon deformity as nature. The osteopaths will have a hard time in halting this long and tortured procession, but are trying to get at the source. A very large proportion of America's shoes are manufactured in Massachusetts and if the factories can be prevented from making these pipestem heels it might help some. But it is an up-hill fight as long as fashion countenances and encourages freak footwear."

ON THE OUTSIDE.

It is a bit sad that the United States cannot even be represented on a world conference to work out a program for the gradual disarmament of the nations of the earth. America was formerly gazed upon as the foremost apostle and champion of peace, but seems to be now looked upon with suspicion. Her statesmen have been killing time in fighting off any international agreements, while her navy has been striving for the world's greatest battle fleet. Her preachers have been proclaiming the blessings of peace, while her politicians have been acting in a manner to foment and encourage embroilment with two of the world's greatest powers. While the temper and purpose of the American people cannot be doubted or misunderstood at home, there is no assurance that the rest of the world is so well informed or confident. To the mind of the alien and stranger the attitude of Uncle Sam is not as bland and amiable as we at home understand it to be.

JAILS AND HOSPITALITY.

Los Angeles wants only the good and law-abiding people to enter her gates. For the clean and respectable folk we will try and find room somewhere, but for the bad actors we cannot promise much. The city and county jails are jammed to the limit. The county bastille can entertain 500 boarders in fairly comfortable fashion, but some 368 persons were claiming the hospital-

FUTURE DATES.

December 17, Friday—Frederick Warde lectures at the armory, 8:15 p.m. December 23, Saturday, Christmas. December 27, Thursday—Salem club, O. A. C. to give dance at Dreamland rink. January 10, Monday—State legislature meets. January 14, Friday—Basketball, Willamette vs. U. of O. at Salem. January 20 and 21, Thursday and Friday—Basketball, Willamette vs. U. of O. at Salem. February 12, Saturday—Lincoln's birthday. February 14, Monday—Basketball, Willamette vs. University of Idaho, at Moscow. February 15 and 16, Tuesday and Wednesday—Basketball, Willamette vs. Whitman, at Walla Walla. February 17, Thursday—Basketball, Willamette vs. Walla Walla Y. M. C. A., at Walla Walla. February 18 and 19, Friday and Saturday—Basketball, Willamette vs. Gonzaga, at Spokane. February 22, Tuesday—Basketball, Willamette vs. Idaho, at Salem. February 22, Tuesday—Washington's birthday. February 24 and 25, Thursday and Friday—Basketball, Willamette vs. Whitman at Salem. March 4 and 5, Friday and Saturday—Basketball, Willamette vs. U. of O., at Eugene. April 15, Friday—Baseball, Willamette vs. U. of O., at Salem. April 16, Saturday—Baseball, Willamette vs. U. of O., at Eugene. May 26, 27 and 28—Baseball, Willamette vs. Whitman, at Walla Walla. October 1, Saturday (tentative)—Football, Willamette vs. O. A. C., at Corvallis. November 11, Friday (tentative)—Football, Willamette vs. Whitman, at Walla Walla. November 24, Thursday (tentative)—Thanksgiving day football, Willamette vs. Multnomah, at Salem.

ity of the institution the other day and the sheriff talks of hanging up a blackboard to accommodate his waiting list. Possibly it would be better to hang up some of his prisoners, but that doesn't seem to be very easy, either. Los Angeles has a delicious climate and some of the swellest scenery that was ever grouped out of doors, but her jails are positively rotten. The congestion is distressing, and it looks as if guests would have to be turned away every night. It is a poor recommendation to Franko artists and confidence men to let it be known that our jail isn't half big enough to meet the demands upon its hospitality. Every now and then people have to stop at the Angelus who ought to be in jail. We must have bigger jails if we are to keep step with progress.—Los Angeles Times

THE DEBS DISCIPLES.

Although nearly a million Socialist votes were polled in the November election, the vote of that party showed a falling off in the important states of Illinois, Missouri, California, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Kansas and others where they have heretofore indicated considerable strength. Fully 20 per cent of the Socialists of America are in the city of New York and there they are not strong enough to be an impressive factor. They have one congressman, but he is not a radical, and is fairly representative of his district. It can hardly be said that the Socialists are a menace to the country so long as they use only peaceful and persuasive methods in extending their propaganda. It is the alien agitator, brought up in the bombing trade, who is the disciple of danger. America will be able to restrain her home-brewed Socialists with no other weapon but the ballot box. Voting for Debs, which was once a fever and then a habit, is becoming a jest.

MISSING.

A man who started out with a subpoena for Henry Ford as witness in a government case reports Henry as missing. So is one of his engines.

LOOKING BACKWARD.

If it took fifty barrels of booze to refresh the Democratic national convention under prohibition, what would have happened in a wide-open San Francisco of other days?

REAL NEIGHBORS.

The secretary of agriculture says that "the road between the producer and the consumer should be kept open and made shorter." It would seem that this road—like the highway to

Gehenna—is paved with good intentions. But that doesn't make it good traveling. But the middlemen have left the road full of bumps and every now and then there is a detour that seems to wander through the brush and bottoms without any visible purpose. The road between the producer and consumer need not be so wide, but it should be direct as possible, even if it is not paved with concrete. The producer and consumer have been neighbors, yet because of no thoroughfare they have lived as though miles apart.

BORDERLAND.

Rifles and shotguns may now be borne across the border into Mexico. If Mexico can keep peace while America is furnishing guns to anybody wanting them we'll say that President Obregon is the real thing.

BITS FOR BREAKFAST

Christmas is in the air. All the little boys and girls are good.

Going to be many new people in the Salem district next year.

A real estate firm in Salem is in correspondence with a man who is coming here to buy a farm and go into the raising of fruits and nuts. And he is to be followed by eight families from his neighborhood.

There are many other signs

that the fact that this is the best fruit district in the world with low priced farm lands is "taking."

If all the Salem issues of The Statesman could be gotten into the right hands, or if enough copies of the forthcoming Welcome edition of The Statesman could be sent to the people looking for new locations, there would not be land in all this district to give room and scope to the new people who would come.

We cannot make too much of the things we can do better here than they can be done elsewhere, and of the things we can do here that cannot be done at all in any other country or state or district.

A lot of the vanity in a man oozes out when he tries to use a safety razor for the first time.

Counterfeit \$100 federal reserve bank notes are in circulation. Count your change when you receive it at the cafeteria.

Frederick Warde Will Lecture Here Tonight

Frederick Warde, the grand old man of the footlights, will lecture at the armory tonight at 8:15. He appears as the third number of the Yquem course. His subject is "Fifty Years of Make-Believe." He relates the experiences of his life in the drama for over 50 years, by one who was in the midst of the best of it.

Mr. Warde presented "Hamlet" in Salem about five years ago, and those who heard him then are looking forward to his lecture tonight, as well as those who have never had the opportunity to hear him.

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 - M-09 Win. 22 cal., regular \$31.15, now... \$26.00
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- All models of our Savage, Remington and Winchester Guns carries big reductions.
- 20 per cent discount on all gun implements.
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- Xmas Candies**
- We have already sold 2,000 pounds of our 10,000 lbs. Xmas Candy. This Candy will all be sold before Xmas. we ask that you do not wait until the last days to buy this Candy—
- 5 lb. Lot... 23c per lb.
 - 3 lb. Lots... 24c per lb.
 - 1 lb. Lots... 25c per lb.
- We guarantee this Candy to be strictly fresh and pure. We have a large lot of Navel Oranges at a special Price.
- Coffee**
- M. J. B., 5 lb. can... 42c Per lb.
 - Three pound can... 43c Per lb.
 - One Pound Can... 46c Per lb.
 - American Club, 5 lbs. Per lb... 32c
 - Three pounds... 33c Per lb.
 - One pound... 34c Per lb.
 - Bulk Fancy coffee... 30c Per lb.
 - Three pounds... 80c For
- Flour and Cereals**
- VIM... \$2.65
 - Valley Flour, sometimes called Best Hard... \$2.20
 - Wheat... \$2.65
 - Chero Patent, Sack... 50c
 - 10 lb Sack... 50c
 - Graham... 60c
 - 10 lb sack... 60c
 - Pancake... 60c
 - 10 lbs. Wheat Cereal... 60c
 - Two Post... 23c
 - Toasties... 23c
 - Two Kellogg's... 23c
 - Three E. C. Corn... 25c
 - Flakes... 22c
 - Ralston's Bran... 33c
 - Roman Meal... 28c
 - Uncle Sam's Food... 29c
 - Two Packages Grape Nuts... 29c

- Lard and Compound**
- Number five Valley pkg. Co. Lard... \$1.10
 - Number ten Lard... \$2.20
 - Number five Compound... 90c
 - Number ten Compound... \$1.75
 - Four Pounds Snow Drift... 99c
 - Eight pounds Snow Drift... \$1.98
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 - Six pounds Crisco... \$1.60
 - Nine pounds Crisco... \$2.20
- Salad Oil**
- Mazola Oil, Pint... 38c
 - Mazola Oil, Quart... 75c
 - Mazola Oil, Half gallon... \$1.40
 - Mazola Oil, Gallon... \$2.70
- New Crop Nuts**
- Fancy Filberts
 - Almonds
 - Brazils
 - and Walnuts
- We buy all these nuts in large quantities and we are selling them at a price that can not be equalled by any one.

We will have a demonstrator Friday and Saturday. We will show you something new in the way of Salad making.

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