

# The Oregon Statesman

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## MAKE THE RAILROAD RATES LOWER

"Last fall, when the Interstate Commerce Commission yielded to the plea of the railroads for an increase of twenty per cent. in freight rates, railroad executives held to the belief that their revenues would be increased to a considerable extent. The opposite has been the effect.

"That the increase in freight rates has had something to do with existing industrial and business conditions is almost generally admitted. The railroads find themselves in the situation of the man who killed the goose that laid the golden eggs. They have the higher freight rates, but they do not have the business from which to collect them. Shipping costs have reached a point that makes them a real factor in the transaction of business.

"The rate on lemons from California is almost equal to the price for which foreign-grown lemons are selling in New York City. It will easily be seen that lemons are not being shipped from California to the East and the railroads are getting no revenues from such shipments. The Interstate Commerce Commission is considering a lowering of freight rates, with the object of giving some aid to industry and business by lowering the operating costs, and at the same time add to the incomes of the railroads by increasing the shipping business. Just what will be done remains to be seen, but that something will have to be done is evident."

The above quoted paragraphs are an editorial in the Marion Star, the newspaper of President Harding.

The something that will have to be done is to lower the freight rates; to adjust them to the conditions and needs of the country. This is being done now; but it will have to be more general, more far reaching and more drastic.

And the same thing applies to passenger rates. Judge Bushey told the Salem Rotarians in his address last Wednesday that when he boarded the Oregon Electric train for Portland a few days before there were three other passengers besides himself from Salem.

Though the stages were all going load-down. And he told of the shipment of a piece of county machinery by rail from Portland on which the freight was more than twice what it would have cost the county to send down a truck and haul it to Salem from that city.

The paved roads are here, and coming; and their use by passenger stages and freight trucks will continue. It is a condition, and not a theory.

If the Oregon Electric expects to use its facilities for hauling passengers to the full extent justified by those facilities, the passenger fares must be reduced.

Cut in two, and then cut in two again, if necessary. Who doubts that James J. Hill would have acted long before in that way?

And the freight rates must be reduced in order to meet competition; and they must be adjusted, too, in order that the territories depending upon the railroads, and upon which the railroads must in turn depend, may be built up and developed. Unused railroad tracks cannot be made to pay. Idle cars are worse than useless.

It does not take a prophet to foretell what is going to happen to the railroads if they do not respond to the demands of competition and take heed of their responsibilities as public carriers.

Competition will not grow less. It will grow more intense, as paved highways lengthen; and there is a new form of competition that is coming. It is competition in the air, which is bound to develop rapidly in the future.

It was a beautiful day for beautiful deeds. That \$100,000,000 Germany didn't pay to Mr. Schwab will come in handy now in making up the payments for reparation. Poultry slogan Thursday. Important. Help, if you can. Not too late yet to plant brood-

colt seed; but almost too late. Get your seed today, if possible, if you want to be in the brocoli game. It promises to be a good game.

"As a diplomat Col. Harvey appears to be about as diplomatic as a two-horned rhinoceros. He belongs to the new school of diplomacy which not only tells all it knows, but a little bit more. The colonel would do his sleeping in a glass house with the blinds up."—Exchange. In other words, Col. George is a plain, blunt, man, like Mark Antony said he was when he preached his famous funeral sermon over the dead Julius Caesar's body.

Without any disparagement of the president he does well in leaving international affairs to his secretary of state. They are in charge of a man who does not become intoxicated on ideas and blind drunk on cunning phrases. He uses words to express meanings, policies, decisions, not as carriers of filmy propaganda. Thus far it has not been necessary to issue interpretations or diagrams of what might have been meant. Truth to tell, there have been times in recent years when no two men could agree upon the exact meaning of an American state paper. There is evidence that such days are happily past. If so, we shall be a better informed nation on foreign affairs. —Philadelphia Public Ledger.

A HALF TRUTH. W. Jett Lauck, the economist of the railroad brotherhoods, recently declared that \$278,000,000 could be saved the railroads by modernizing locomotives. Daniel Williard, president of the Baltimore & Ohio, reminds us that it would require a capital expenditure by all the roads of \$4,000,000,000 to effect that economy, and by his road alone of about \$165,000,000. Evidently Mr. Lauck told only a part of the truth.

IN PEACE AND WAR THE SAME. During the war Jude Johnson of Atchison was a pacifist. "War is a sin," he cried. "The swords should be beaten into plowshares." But now that the war is over Jude refuses to follow a plowshare. Three farmers offered him jobs the other day and he described his rheumatism to them in detail. —Atchison Globe.

WORTH WHILE. The members of the Oregon supreme court unanimously passed a resolution recommending the appointment of William Howard Taft to the vacancy on the United States supreme bench. Such an appointment would be heartily approved by the American people as well as by the bar. The former president is splendidly equipped for service on the bench. He has judicial temperament and training and an infinite capacity for conscientious work. It would furnish a fit finale for an honorable career. —Los Angeles Times.

LET IN THE LIGHT. After the publication of the list of men subject to the draft who were not shown on the records as having responded to the call, it developed that there was on the list the name of a young man in Chicago who had volunteered and had rendered distinguished service overseas. Upon this disclosure there was a vehement shout of protest against further publication of the list—a protest in which the man of distinguished service did not join. What did he care about the publication—he had been helped, not hurt. In the first place, he didn't know that he was listed as a deserter, and he probably never would have known if the lists had not been printed. Moreover, if the discovery had not thus been made, in all probability the record would have stood and a generation or so later there would have been great difficulty if his descendants tried to have the

FUTURE DATES. May 29, Sunday—Memorial Sunday services. May 30, Monday—Memorial day. May 31, Tuesday—Senior social of public speaking department, Willamette university. Program, Knorr Arden, Stevens main. June 3, Friday—Annual senior play by June 7, Tuesday—Auction sale of blooded horses at state fair grounds. June 8, Friday—Annual student festival of School of Music of Willamette university at First Methodist church. June 8, 9 and 10—Portland Rose festival. June 11, Tuesday—Elks annual flag day program. June 13 to 29—Oregon National guard encampments at Camp Lewis and Fort Stevens. June 15, Thursday—49th Reunion of Oregon Pioneer association. June 16, Thursday—Oregon Pioneer association meeting in Portland. June 17, Friday—High school graduation exercises. High School. June 17, Friday—Annual Iowa picnic, State fair grounds. June 20, Monday—School election. July 23, Saturday—35th anniversary Sunday school picnic, state fair grounds.

THE MODERN ATTITUDE— "LET GEORGE DO IT" THAT may apply to some things, but when it comes to saving money, nobody can do it for you. It's up to you and your own efforts. That is why self-made men are generally prosperous. They work at saving and investing as hard as at everything else. Join their ranks at the United States National Bank.

United States National Bank SALEM OREGON

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record corrected. Furthermore, the publication of his name called widespread attention to the fact that he had rendered distinguished service—a fact known previously to only a relatively few people, his personal friends and his comrades in arms. He got more good than harm out of the publicity, so why should he worry?

AN ECONOMIC PUZZLE. In the vicinity of Westfield, Mass., the production of milk has so far outstripped its consumption that producers are either feeding their milk to the hogs, or throwing it away. At the same time milk is retailing at from 13 to 15 cents a quart. "Large dealers refuse to pay more than a small price for the surplus," says the news item, "and the producers say that this price does not warrant delivery. Efforts have been made to increase consumption among school children who are under normal weight, but at present prices parents refuse to buy more than is necessary for the table." Will the economist who depends so implicitly on the law of supply and demand study that question and tell us what is wrong, how to remedy it, and why it should not be remedied at once?

MEXICAN RECOGNITION. The fact that President Obregon has indicated his unwillingness to sign a formal agreement as a condition of recognition of Mexico is by no means conclusive that a complete understanding between that country and the United States will not be reached in the near future. President Harding is exceedingly anxious to re-establish the cordial relations with Mexico that prevailed for so many years previous to the abdication of former President Diaz. It is known at Washington that informal exchanges between the two governments would not be objectionable to Obregon, and it is through them that a return of normal conditions is anticipated. Considerable progress toward a solution of the difficulties has already been made. Assurances as to safeguards for foreign investments have been forthcoming from the Mexican government, and public declarations by President Obregon in their support tend to establish the right of Mexico to recognition.

THE LIVING WAGE. There is much plausibility in the assertion made by a prominent labor leader that the industry which can not pay a living wage ought not to survive. The principal difficulty is that there is a wide difference of opinion as to what constitutes a living wage, and a wide variation in costs of living in different communities and under different conditions, making it impossible to determine definitely, either upon evidence or by arbitrary ipse dixit, what constitutes a living wage. The accredited economists of some of the labor organizations declared not long ago that \$2500 per year is a necessary income in order to permit a workman to support his family according to decent standards. This means, apparently, that in his opinion \$2500 per year income to each of its employees is the least an industry should expect to pay and if it can not pay that it ought not continue to exist.

Broad generalizations concerning economic problems are dangerous and misleading. The bare statement that the industry which can not pay a living wage ought not to exist is made for the purpose of supporting the implied assertion that every industry that does exist ought to pay what its employees consider a living wage. It would be just as sound, however, to take the other view, that when employees find that an industry does not pay them what they consider a living wage they should seek employment in some other industry that will. That is the course the stockholders of the railroads have pursued. When they found that railroad stocks would not pay a reasonable dividend on the investment, they sold the stocks and invested elsewhere. For that reason the market values of stocks have rapidly declined and investors have lost accordingly.

Statistics will show that a very large proportion of the farms of the country do not pay a living wage to the owners and their families, if the wage is to be computed according to the standard that would be demanded by city employes. Yet it would be hardly sound economics to assert that because agriculture in some years and some localities, and in many individual cases in all years, does not pay a living wage to those engaged therein, agriculture ought to be abandoned.

JOHNSONIAN LOGIC. (Los Angeles Times) Senator Johnson seems to be crowding the season in his political garden. He has written an open letter to an associate in San Francisco announcing his candidacy for re-election next year. The reason given is a choice specimen of Johnsonian logic: "There have been some flattering offers made to me from New York, \* \* \* but one who has lived in California as long as I have could not live happily any other place."

Curious, isn't it, that one so enamored of California life as that should have resigned the governorship of the state to take up his residence in Maryland and spend 10 or 11 months of the year in Washington? The senate is in session, on the average, 10 months out of every 12. None but a Johnsonian disciple can understand why one so profuse in his declaration that "I could not live happily in any other place" than in California should spend all those months on the banks of the Potomac while his native Sacramento is calling him.

Just now the California senator is living in Maryland, holding title to a senate seat in Washington and practicing law in New York; and all because "one who has lived in California as long as I have could not live happily in any other place."

Politics, politics, what a brood of sophists has been hatched under thy wings!

TO SELL CONCILIATION. Secretary of Labor Davis says that it is the business of the department of labor "to sell the country President Harding's idea of stopping labor troubles before they begin."

How the secretary would do this is outlined in a statement which he has made to a representative of the Industrial Information Service. The plan contemplates the creation of a body of picked men, each especially qualified to act as a conciliator in a designated group of industries. These experts would not spend their time in Washington, waiting for disputes to arise. Instead, they would be out in the field, studying conditions in different sections of the country, and ready to act without loss of time when need arose. They would supplement the activities of the existing bureau of conciliation, which, since Secretary Davis assumed office, has quietly settled no less than 75 industrial deadlocks.

It is proposed, for the purpose of putting the new scheme into operation, to divide the industries of the country into 15 divisions, or groups. These would include mining, steel and iron, petroleum, lumber, packing house, leather, textile, building, metals, needle, publishing and miscellaneous trades, together with public utilities, water, transportation and wholesale and retail merchandising. It is the purpose of Secretary

tary Davis to have as conciliator in a given group a man who knows the industries included "down to the ground and on all sides." Moreover, the mere possession of that knowledge is not to be the only requirement. The conciliator must be a man capable of engaging effectively in educational work with a view to bringing about a better understanding of the conditions and the purpose which should govern enlightened industrial relations.

Secretary Davis sees in his plan a weapon against radical propaganda. "These Red disturbers," he says, "are no myth. Their literature is widely distributed and it is dangerous—dangerous most of all in the clever way in which it is spread. They see to it that their stuff gets into the hands of the women first of all. They tell wild tales of the enormous sums of money being made by this or that concern. This comes to the eye of a tired wife. She talks it over at night with a husband tired after his day's work at the mill. Both are in the right frame of mind to fall for such nonsense. It's going on all the time. And for that purpose alone—to combat that vicious thing—we need men, the best we can get, out in the field talking American sense."

The new secretary believes that his is a department intended to promote the rights and interests of employers and the public in general, as well as of employes. It is not surprising, therefore, to find him devising plans "to sell the country President Harding's idea of stopping labor troubles before they begin."

MY TASK (By Gladys M. Johnson) What task is my task? What task is my task? The plan that a God's plan was made just for you. You're great and I'm small. Your work is for fame. My work is not known. No work is my name. What task is my task? Oh, why was I born? The task that's your task, Will shade mine to scorn. I'm only a pea. But God whispers low. 'Tis the task of the eagle. To make the world go round. Dundee, Oregon.

OUR PRESIDENTS, UP TO DATE

Washington first—he arranged the finances; Then came John Adams, who quarreled with France. Thomas Jefferson third—Louisiana he bought; Fourth, Madison, under whom England was fought. James Monroe gave the doctrine and let in Missouri. Then Adams, whose tariff aroused men to fury. Jackson, seventh, refused to the bank a new charter. And made poor Van Buren to panic a martyr. William Harrison died and by Tyler was followed; Under Polk all the troops in a bloody war wallowed. Taylor, eleventh, had trouble with slavery; Fillmore put through the Clay compromise, with bravery. Then Pierce struggled through the Nebraska division. And Buchanan was in for the Dred Scott decision. Great Lincoln was wise in a time of depression; When Southern states fought for the right of secession. Andrew Johnson came next, was impeached and acquitted; Ulysses S. Grant for two terms seemed fitted. Hayes followed; then Garfield, whom Arthur succeeded; Then Cleveland, who congress by veto, impeded. Harrison's term gave the tariff a send-up.

And Cleveland again held the Democrats' end up. McKinley waged war, with the poor Spanish nation, And Roosevelt came and upheld arbitration. Then Teddy named Taft, and the G. O. P. split up; Next Wilson, and the sky with the World war was lit up. The great referendum gave the league a hard whack. And, Harding was picked to bring normalcy back.

Boy—Can a person be punished for something he hasn't done? Teacher—Of course not. Boy—Well, I haven't done my geometry.—Queen's Gardens.

CUT THEM OUT—IT IS WORTH MONEY

Cut out this slip, enclose with 5c and mail it to Foley & Co., 2835 Sheffield Ave., Chicago, Ill., writing your name and address clearly. You will receive in return a trial package containing Foley's Honey and Tar Compound for coughs, colds and croup; Foley's Kidney Pills for pains in sides and back; rheumatism, backache, kidney and bladder ailments; and Foley's Cathartic Tablets, a wholesome and thoroughly cleansing cathartic for constipation, biliousness, headaches, and sluggish bowels. Sold everywhere.—Adv.

Unless You Are Among Those Present At The OREGON Sunday You Will Miss the Best LLOYD COMEDY Yet Produced



Tell Your Friends Start Today A pretty prancing pony, The greatest of chums for a boy, A real sweetheart for a girlie, To win one, oh! think of the joy. Nominate Yourself Receive 5,000 Free Votes

## Win A Real Live Pony All For Your Very Own

### Boys and Girls Attention! THE GREATEST OPPORTUNITY OF YOUR CHILDHOOD DAYS

The Oregon Statesman has decided to announce a contest that far exceeds in value of prizes offered anything yet dreamed of for boys and girls by any newspaper in this state.

Think of it! Four handsome and valuable ponies with their outfits to be awarded to four proud and happy boys and girls, just at the dawn of summer, just when the fields are turning green, when boys and girls or ponies love to roam around and enjoy one another's company. Just at a time when you can turn your pony loose on a nearby piece of land to enjoy himself when you are away to school.

Those who are fortunate enough to be boys or girls eighteen years of age or under will no doubt hail with delight the announcement of such sensational prizes as four handsome and valuable ponies and complete driving outfits, particularly when it is understood that if for any reason a pony is not won a cash commission will be paid on all subscriptions received from active candidates.

Such elaborate prizes and cash commissions are conditions heretofore unheard of and with such an opportunity available it behooves every boy and girl to take advantage of a plan to win a real live pony all for his or her very own. A glance at the prizes and the immense value of these rewards assures the Statesman of the active co-operation of every boy and girl.

It costs nothing to be a candidate and a little effort for the few weeks this contest is in vogue may win for you one of these famous Ponies of the Great West.

The best opportunity of your childhood to get one of these greatest of all childhood companions is at hand today.

Over 100 boys and girls have already been awarded ponies and outfits by the contest editor. What these contestants have already done you can do if you try. Own a pony and outfit to keep and enjoy as long as you like.—Nominations are free.

NEXT DISTRIBUTION OF PONIES JUNE 25

### NOMINATION BLANK

Pony Contest Editor, Statesman Publishing Co., Salem, Oregon

Please register my name as a contestant in The Pony Contest and credit me with 5000 votes. I have read the rules of the contest and agree to same.

Contestant's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

This blank properly filled out brings you further information and supplies by return mail.