

The Oregon Statesman

Issued Daily Except Monday by THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY 215 S. Commercial St., Salem, Oregon (Portland Office, 627 Board of Trade Building. Phone Automatic 527-59)

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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, 50 cents a month, in Marion and Polk counties; outside of these counties, \$7 a year, \$3.50 for six months, \$1.75 for three months, 60 cents a month. 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 anyone 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; 25 cents for 2 months; 15 cents for one month.

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, 583. Society Editor, 106.

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

THE OREGON PROGRAM OF THE NON-PARTISAN LEAGUE

In The Statesman of September 2, 1921, there is an article by G. X. that I would like very much to analyze in detail; it is as that would take too much space, I must content myself with calling attention to the fact that your correspondent not only has not discussed the issues presented in the program of the Non-Partisan League of Oregon, but has created a man of straw upon whom he is wasting energy.

Amidst the chaff of words, there is one statement that should not be overlooked; "and we can set our own prices on the farm products we sell." This is an assertion that some million farmers would like to see come to pass. The farmer, except in rare instances, has never set the prices on the products he has had to sell, and G. X. will have an attentive audience if he will tell the American farmer how to do so in a practical way.

I shall be pleased if G. X. will elucidate how "the avenues of private enterprise" constitute the balance between officialdom and private business.

If "we would go and vote intelligently, we would not need a scrap of propaganda, not a scintilla of organization." This is indeed an extraordinary statement. It is true that our ancestors might have acted upon this principle and left us to inhabit caves or dwell in trees. The state of Oregon should know of the possibilities in this direction and save the cost of getting out the pre-election pamphlet.

G. X. tells us that "I fear we are being organized by a bunch of malcontents who have imported themselves into Oregon, first for the fat fees that go to the organizers, and then for the follow-up profits of political dictation after we have voted them into power." How remarkable is this statement! I have been laboring under the impression that it is necessary to be a citizen of the state before one could be voted into power. I may be wrong, and, if I am, I shall be glad that G. X. has set us straight.

G. X. tells us, "we are asked to subscribe to the imported, thievish, lying creed brought in by these immigrants." A most remarkable statement, but is it true? The best way is to compare the program with this statement of your correspondent. I quote the Oregon program in full as follows:

1. "State or municipal owned terminal elevators, warehouses, cold storage plants and other sufficient state-owned public utilities to prevent profiteering."
2. "State owned bank to finance agriculture, cooperative associations and the building of homes."
3. "State development and distribution of water power."
4. "Enforcement of the grain grading and dockage laws of this state."
5. "Exemption of farm improvements from taxation and city homes to \$1000 valuation."
6. "We demand that surplus wealth be compelled to pay the money costs of the war through the income and excess profit tax."

I shall be pleased to have G. X. tell us in what part of the above program we will find thievishness set forth. Also, what part of it is to be classed as a "lying creed."

I wonder why it has not come to G. X. that he "as an honest man" who needs "to examine the League foundations before I endorse them," should have made the examination before he condemned the League. It can not be that he was fortifying himself by condemning the League before examining so as to be able to resist endorsing when the examination should be made.

Why not discuss the issues set forth in the program quoted above?

Very sincerely yours,
A. SLAUGHTER.

Salem, Or., Sept. 5, 1921.

There is nothing elucidating in the dust-throwing in the above.

But there is something worth thinking about in the quoted words of the numbered paragraphs. It is evidently the present platform of the Non-Partisan League as it is being organized in Oregon.

And it is actually being organized; at least the organizers are at work.

The Non-Partisan League bunch of Socialists who are in the background pulling the strings evidently have decided to "slip up on" the farmers of Oregon.

Have evidently decided to give them small doses of Socialism at first.

Like a "state owned bank to finance agriculture, cooperative associations and the building of homes, and state or municipal owned terminal elevators, warehouses, and other sufficient state owned public utilities to prevent profiteering," etc.

The program is catching some farmers, and it will catch more, and it would no doubt catch a great many more, were it not for the fact that the same program, partially carried out in North Dakota, has busted that state, and placed a burden upon the people of that state from which they will not be free for a hundred years.

The farmers of Oregon will surely be almost a unit against the insinuations of the Nonpartisan League; they should be absolutely solid against it.

Dallying with the thing means nothing but grief and ruin and trouble piled on trouble. There is nothing good in it, as directed by the camorra of Socialists behind it pulling the strings.

Even Republicans will admit that Wilson is making an excellent ex-president.

The specter of disunion stalks in India, adding another crisis to the long list facing David Lloyd George.

Bobbed hair is all the rage among a certain class of young women. Saw one the other day who said she intended to wear it that way until Bryan was elected president.—Exchange.

Thieves entered the Masonic Temple, Chicago, and made away with several hundred thousand dollars in coin of the realm. They are stealing about everything in Chicago but Mayor Thompson.

If President Oregon could be recognized by the United States and at the same time save his face in his own country he would no doubt be more in favor of the proposition.

Everybody but the Democrats appears to be satisfied with the management of the postoffice department by Will H. Hays. Their only objection so far is that it continues to deliver dunning bills at the beginning of every month.

MONKEY BUSINESS.

The contention that our forebears roosted in the tops of the cocconut palms finds fresh support every now and then. The theory is not always wholesome and many people object to it. When a man has a pedigree going back to William the Conqueror it may embarrass him to show that if he would go still farther back his most potent ancestor was seven-eighths gorilla. It would be very impolite to attempt to prove to the dainty little girl from New Orleans that her great-grandmother was a blue-necked mandril. It is not safe to assume that the Gibbon who wrote so magnificently of ancient Rome should be the offspring of the gibbon that roamed so blithely through the tops of the tamarinds of Sumatra. Can you imagine a Daniel Webster or a Lydia Pinkham in a shimmering line of descent from the chimpanzee? Are the Smiths and the orangutans from the same stock?

The professor says they are. This particular scientist has disturbed the co-eds of his college by showing that, aside from men and women, the apes and baboons are the champion hand-holders of all time. It is perfectly natural for monkeys to hold hands and even the male and female gorilla will sit for hours on the limb of a baobab tree holding each other's hand. So it seems that when Little Lucille and Leander steal hand in hand through the gloaming they are merely responding to the primal urge. Their great-grand ancestors were a couple of confirmed hand-holders in the forest primeval. There is really nothing to worry about. They can't help it. It is in the simian way and we are inheritors of the simian blood. That is what the professor says. Whereat the co-eds resumed their hand-holding with fresh confidence.

THE SOLDIER BONUS ACT.

That every farmer should own his own farm, and that as far as possible the hoarding of vast areas of land in single ownership should be discouraged, are rudimentary principles of most political economies. Land to live on is an absolute monopoly, that can logically be held only in trust for the benefit of the whole race. A fair development of all natural resources, however, under the private ownership plan, may give to every man, in every line of human activity, the chance to be his own master, and in normal times competition will regulate prices so that no extortion can be practiced in any line of production. It may be as safe to trust a limited land monopoly, as other trades, professions, resources, to private ownership. Private land ownership has been the goal of humanity from arboreal days; though equal to it is every other claim for ownership of every other resource or opportunity.

There is too large a proportion of Oregon farm lands in the hands of non-resident owners. It militates against production, against orderly development, against law. Maybe the state is not yet ready to turn banker to buy these non-resident farms and sell them to the now migratory tenants. But the soldiers' bonus act is a great experiment in state financing of farms and homes. It

ought to work; so well, indeed, that the state may want to go deeply into the home-financing business. This first experiment will show the possibilities.

Meanwhile, the rented farm is a serious state problem. The rented farm seldom prospers at it should. Maybe the terms are too rigorous, so that the renter derives most of his profit from his personal freedom or even irresponsibility, and not from what money he makes either for himself or the owner. But certainly Oregon rented farms are not generally well or prosperously farmed, according to high farm standards.

Would the state be ready to consider a progressive land-holding tax, that like the progressive income tax aims to eliminate the menace of excessive land holdings especially by non-residents on the farms? Many Oregon lands are now held at prices far beyond profitable purchase. Where it happens that these lands are in large tracts, in settled communities, this is a real state menace. Especially in well settled sections, farm lands ought to be available for purchase in reasonably sized units, so that as many families as possible can own their own homes and become definitely fixed parts of the social fabric.

A large proportion of tenant farmers, footloose and scowlingly dissatisfied with the conditions that apportion all the land to the first comer and bar the unfortunate later man from either low prices or settlement by discovery, and allow exorbitant, unearned-increment valuations on the land that they would like to purchase for homes, constitute a social menace. It is time to consider a radical change.

The extension of the farm loan idea, together with some form of land limitation so that every farm worker may become a farm owner, would be a century-in-advance step for Oregon. But there is no progress without at least heading in the right direction—and the soldier bonus act that is already buying thousands of homes, looks like the clue to the great forward movement.

HARDING'S BASHFUL NEIGHBOR.

The other day a Marion citizen, a semi-official during the famous "front porch campaign," stood in a long line at the White House to shake hands with the President. When he reached the President the Marion man was pulled out of line and scolded for not seeking an appointment and was then taken to the White House for luncheon. Old friends and neighbors are still old friends and neighbors to the Hardings.

HIDDEN WEALTH.

According to the testimony of returned travelers, notably of Washington Vanderlip, Russia still has immense wealth in the form of diamonds, jewels, gold and precious stones that were once the property of the nobility and ruling classes. Much of this is in the possession of the Lenin government and is hidden away in secret vaults. This wealth is variously estimated at from one to three billions in American money. When the final crash comes Lenin and Trotsky will still have a treasury worth looting. At present some people are unable to swap diamonds for ham and eggs. According to the word of Mr. Vanderlip the Russian government seriously contemplated placing the currency of the government on a diamond basis. They had more diamonds than anything else and needed something as a background for their paper rubles.

WON'T GIVE UP THE SHIP.

It is going to be difficult to convince the great steel and shipping companies and armor plate makers that flying machines are a menace to the battleship. Building navies is more than a great side line of the steel companies. Nor will navy men wish to "give up the ship." What would a navy man do without a ship?

A REGULAR CUT-UP.

A Massachusetts man celebrated his 100th birthday by chopping wood for nine hours. But it was more of a program than a celebration because he had been doing much the same thing every day.

TAMMANY IN THE SADDLE

The street-car companies in New York have gone broke on a 5-cent fare and receiverships are demanded. Now Tammany wants to get hold of the systems. The politicians are promising a continuance of the 5-cent fare under municipal ownership and Tammany operation. That would be

n't operate a corkscrew for less than a thousand dollars a day if the government cannot operate a handcar without losing six-bits a second, what sort of a figure would Tammany cut in running the street railway systems of Gotham? It is another example of seeking to strengthen the Tammany machine at public expense.—Los Angeles Times.

ORIENTAL COURTESY.

The Japanese government gives the use of one of its ships to an American college professor to study and investigate the coral formation in connection with some of the islands of the Pacific. This would not indicate a very quarrelsome disposition. As a matter of fact, the Japs are disposed to be very kindly and considerate so far as Americans are concerned.

A COINER OF WORDS.

The midwestern vernacular rolls smoothly off the tongue of President Harding. He spoke of Secretary Weeks as a "commonsensical" man. Immediately there was a flutter among the word wizards, and thoughts of "normalcy," and no doubt, the critics and "precisians" will burst forth into lamentations, for one may search the dictionaries in vain for any such word as "sensical."

Mr. Harding, adept in homely phrases with a punch, has not yet uttered a word whose intent and meaning did not instantly flash to the consciousness of his hearers. And what is spoken language but the audible transmission of thought from one person to another?—Chicago Journal of Commerce.

THE BRIGHT SIDE.

With apple pie a la mode back at the old figure of a dime in some of our catatoriums the folks who assert that the country is going to the how-wows must be crazy.—Exchange.

BITS FOR BREAKFAST

Almost, but not quite— There will be two unpaved blocks for fair visitors.

Let us all hope that all the mud holes on the Pacific highway in Marion county, and to the state fair grounds, may be eliminated by next year, any way.

"Sam" Richardson passed out without warning, giving a painful shock to all who knew him in life. He had one of the best

trained teacher legal minds in Oregon. He knew the law and Low to teach it to others.

The star reporters in Washington say President Harding is going to leave the matter of getting the United States back to work to his engineer, Herbert Hoover. If that program is followed to the letter, and he is given all the backing he should have, Herbert will get by with the job. He has never failed yet, and he has tackled some of the biggest jobs the world has ever seen.

Salem's city marshal is a go-getter, and the city duds showed

their appreciation last night of his efficient activities.

Two Iowa women fought over one man, showing that the cause of war may be insignificant and unimportant.

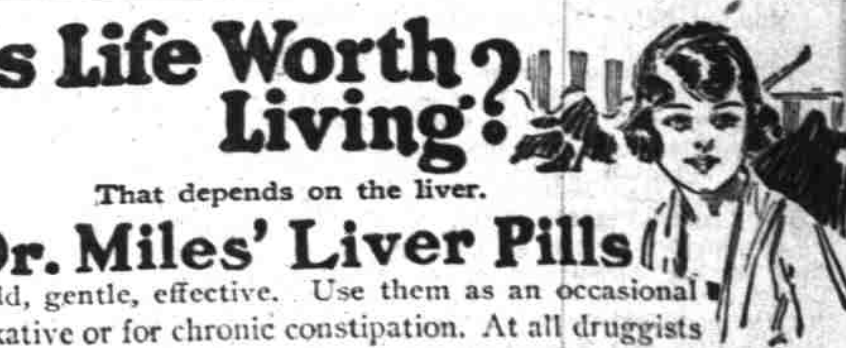
Some Salem bores talk of giving one a piece of their minds—and they become profligate and give it all.

Of course, when we get right down to it most cows are pastured.

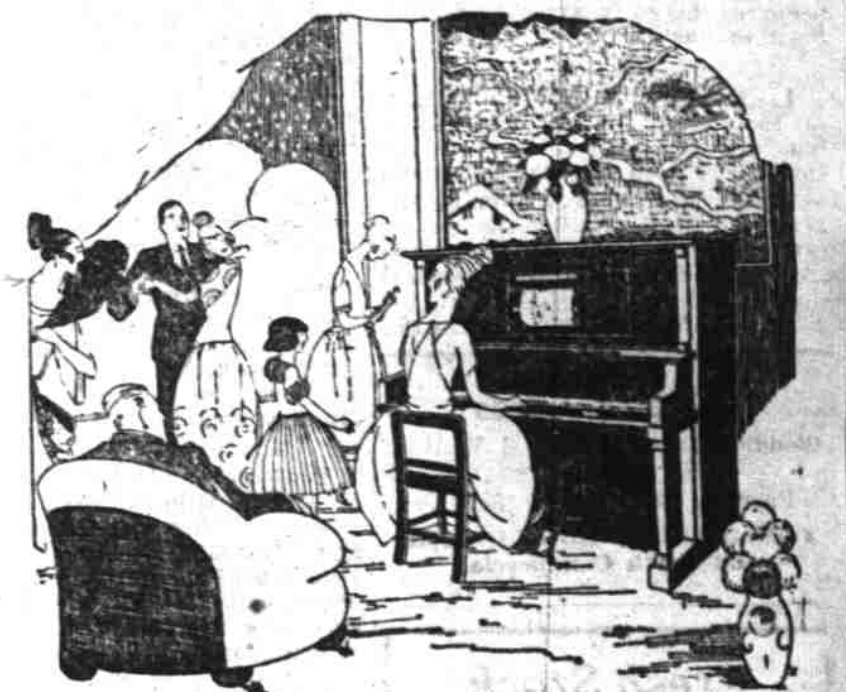
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FUTURE DATES

September 17, Saturday—Constitution Day. September 26 to October 1—Oregon State Fair. September 28, Wednesday—State seal design and constitution to open bids for \$5,000,000 bonds. September 27, 28 and 29—Marion county