

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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R. J. Hendricks, Manager
Stephen A. Stone, Managing Editor
Ralph Glover, Cashier
Frank Jasowski, Manager Job Dept.

TELEPHONES: Business Office, 23.
Circulation Department, 533.
Job Department, 533.
Society Editor, 106.

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

FORDNEY REFUSES TO BE BLUFFED

Chairman Fordney of the Ways and Means Committee of Congress doesn't believe in turning the other cheek when a free trader takes a slap at him. The doctory Congressman from Michigan, who began life as a lumber-jack, has this to say regarding the propaganda being circulated to delay, and, if possible to defeat the tariff bill:

"Opposition to the pending tariff measure is readily traced, not to the American producer, not to the man who deals chiefly in American made products, but to the man who produces abroad and the man whose chief interest is in bringing the product of cheap foreign labor to the American market.

"Those interested in importing enterprises are well organized and spending large sums of money in an effort to make you and me believe that what they seek is for the country's general welfare. The importer is working to delay or defeat tariff legislation, and to accomplish his end he is centering his criticism on the American valuation plan, without which, on account of present chaotic world conditions, it will be most difficult to write a tariff measure at this time that will afford the slightest degree of protection against countries where protection is most needed."

Declaring that he had examined the propaganda in opposition to American valuation, Mr. Fordney contended that a "valid argument against the principle involved is lacking. The whole opposition is founded on the question of rates and on alleged increases in prices to the consumers they predict will result from the new rates."

Mr. Fordney declared he had discovered that the "department store that is leading the fight against American valuation" and is "one of America's largest importing establishments" retailed at \$5 each knives that could be bought in Germany at 9 cents, retail price. Tremendous profits also are made on a variety of other articles imported from countries where production costs are low," said Mr. Fordney, who pleaded with members of the House "not to be led astray by the importers' propaganda. "It is true," the committee chairman continued, "that the importer is exerting a tremendous influence on the retailer through misrepresentations and otherwise, and the retailer is exerting a tremendous influence on the press of the country. Congress is endeavoring to write a tariff law and the declared object is to protect American industries, and our efforts are being opposed chiefly by importers whose interest is not in the furnishing of employment to labor in American manufacturing establishments but in unloading upon the American market at tremendous profits the product of poorly paid labor of foreign countries."

In 1909 a similar program was inaugurated by a huge department store whose headquarters is in Chicago. The owners of this concern spent thousands of dollars trying to defeat the Payne law, and they were especially opposed to the rates on hosiery.

An it became known that this store financed a hosiery factory in Germany and was anxious to import the product of its German employes free of duty, if possible. It engaged the support of a large number of estimable women who were shy of knowledge respecting the tariff, and they besieged Congress in their efforts to place hosiery and knit goods on

the free list. But Chairman Payne (deceased) saw through the scheme, and he wittily stated on the floor of the house that these ladies "toil not, neither do they spin," and that he was more concerned in seeing that their humble sisters who worked in the hosiery mills of Pennsylvania and elsewhere were given an opportunity to earn a decent wage rather than to be victimized by European competition. The situation is even more acute today and Chairman Fordney and his colleagues in Senate and House will not be bluffed out by the propaganda of importers.

"When you see the spread between farm and commodity prices narrowing, as it now is doing, you have a good times sign that means something," says Capper's Weekly. That is the paper of Senator Capper of Kansas, head of the farm bloc in the Senate.

Have you filed your income tax return? Time will be up tomorrow.

Times are hard in Germany, but an energetic effort to make them better is shown in the attendance of 180,000 people at the Leipzig fair, breaking all records.

Everybody wants to pay less taxes and decrease the burdens of government. The great difficulty is in deciding which arms of the public service to begin amputating.

An aeroplane will be used this spring in connection with the seal hunt on the Labrador and Newfoundland coasts. The plane will act as a scout, reporting the locations of the seal patches to the steamers engaged in the hunt. The machine will also be used to communicate with and carry provisions to ships caught in the ice blockade.

Looks as if the warring Irish factions would get together, after all, leaving De Valera on the outskirts of Donnybrook, throwing stones at everybody else.

A Chinese penologist visiting prisons in the United States finds them admirable institutions. The point of view is everything. Chinese prisons have no welfare leagues and no baseball nines.

Lady Rhonda, the first woman to win the right to sit in the house of lords, is described as being a very masterful person—so masterful, indeed, that she utterly rejects the name of her husband, a modest and gallant gentleman, and prefers to be known by the title given to her father, who distinguished himself as England's food controller during the world war. "It may be doubted whether such an aggressive personality will be able to accomplish anything in such a conservative body as the house of lords. Quite apart from this phase of the matter, Lady Rhonda's elevation is a most interesting and significant sign of the times. How long will it be before a woman sits in the United States senate?"

WHY NOT?

In a manifestly sarcastic tone,

The New York "World" speaks of the refunding bill as a measure which will require our debtors to pay the debt with a rate of interest that will more than double the sum in 25 years.

Well, why not? The people of the United States are now paying interest on their Liberty bonds at an average rate of more than 4 per cent. That will more than double our own debt in 25 years. Why, will the "World" please tell us, should we relieve our debtors of a burden which we have imposed upon ourselves?

The European war was not primarily our war. It is true that it became our war and it is also true that we took our full part in the conflict after we had gotten in. We gave men and money and resources without stint, and, in addition, loaned funds to the allies in almost any amount they requested. The money which we loaned to the allies was raised by the sale of bonds, and our own people must raise money by taxation to pay off those bonds with accumulated interest unless the borrowers from the United States shall return the money to our treasury.

One can fully appreciate the solicitude of the "World" for those European nations which must pay a rate of interest which in 25 years will equal the principal. But one wonders why it is the editor does not display a similar solicitude for the people of the United States who are placed in exactly the same situation. No doubt that there are prominent business concerns in New York that owe the "World" for advertising service and that those concerns, while thus indebted, are paying interest on bank credits at the current rate of interest, about 6 per cent. Undoubtedly the publisher sympathizes with his debtors because they are paying a rate of interest which would equal the principal in about 16 years, but one cannot believe that because of his sympathy he is canceling any of the debts.

INTERIOR DEPARTMENT GOING STRONG

The manner in which the Harding administration has put efficiency into the public service is illustrated by the record of the department of the interior in the handling of public land business and pensions. There are nine different bureaus under the department of the interior, public lands and pensions constituting the greater volume of the work to be attended to. For many years both of these bureaus have been behind in their work, homesteaders finding it difficult to get action on their claims and pension claimants being compelled to wait an exasperatingly long time to ascertain what action would be taken upon their applications.

A speeding up of the work of the bureau of the general land office was one of the first efforts of Secretary A. B. Fall, who was chosen by President Harding to take charge of the interior department. The number of claimants asking for deeds to their lands was staggering. Without increasing the number of employes, the issuance of deeds was greatly expedited, and for the first time in years the homestead division, in which the general public is most concerned, is now handling current business. This does not mean that deeds are issued to all applicants, for, in some cases, the applicant may not have complied with the law and his application must be rejected. It does mean, however, that cases have been given due consideration and have been decided and the applicant thereby either gets a deed to his homestead or is informed what it is necessary for him to do further in order that he may be entitled to ownership of the land. In many cases the homesteaders have been holding on for years, not knowing whether they would ultimately get title. During the past year lands valued at more than thirty million dollars have been transferred to settlers and have been added to the taxable property of the states in which the tracts are located.

The total area of public lands transferred during 1921 under the homestead laws, the desert land laws etc., amounted to more than fourteen million acres—an area exceeding that of the two states of Vermont and Maryland combined.

The records show both economy and efficiency in the handling of the work of the pension bureau. During the first year of the Harding administration 91,515 pension claims were disposed of as against 71,240 in 1919. The force of employes in 1921 was only 867 as compared with 962 in 1919. This shows that, comparing 1921 with 1919, there was an increase of twenty per cent in the number of employes who did the work. This increased efficiency is shown in the reduced average cost of handling pension business. In 1921, under the Harding administration, it cost a fraction over 10 cents for every one hundred dollars disbursed, while in the previous year, under the Democratic administration, it cost fifteen cents for every one hundred dollars paid out. If the administration of the pension bureau under the secretaryship of Mr. Fall had continued the same relative expense per hundred dollars that was incurred under the previous administration, the disbursement of pensions would have cost the government \$132,000 more than was expended during the year 1921.

The same record of efficiency is shown in other bureaus under the department of the interior.

up as an example of the alert, wide-awake business man. Yet this is just the position Uncle Sam occupied prior to the World war and it is a position to which he will revert unless the people and the government of the United States take effective steps to ward off such a catastrophe. While he had the goods to export and foreign customers ready to deal with him he had no merchant ships to supply the missing link between the seller and the buyer. He allowed Great Britain to carry the bulk of his foreign exports. Needless to say, this was false economy. For Uncle Sam, through his lack of delivery facilities, had to wait on the convenience of a shrewd and pushing competitor who was thus capturing the bulk of the world's foreign trade.

If it is foolish to put all our eggs into one basket it is still more foolish to have no basket at all. At the close of the war, with an abundant supply of government-built ships, America was given another chance to regain the commercial mastery of the sea which was hers in the distant days of the old wind-jammer, when the Yankee skipper was a familiar figure in every foreign port. Yet for the last two years our business interests have failed to grasp this opportunity, while Britain and Japan have pushed their sea-going commerce to the full extent of their financial possibilities.

America, the richest and most powerful nation in the world, does not have to take second place among the seafaring nations. A tariff is being framed to protect our native workers against the cheap labor of foreign countries. What a tariff is to our home interests a ship subsidy is to our merchant marine. We must protect it against the more cheaply built and more cheaply manned vessels of foreign competitors. This is not putting the government into business. It is putting back public money into the pockets of the people. It is an investment.

Indeed, the only way to afford our steamship companies a fair chance to compete on equal terms with those of England and Japan is a subsidy that will enable them to cover the cost difference between running the service on the high grade American standard in wages and equipment and the low level accepted by other countries. Never was the time more opportune for encouraging native enterprise to invest in the ocean-carrying business. An adequate ship subsidy would supply the necessary incentive. The United States has thrown

away millions in war time ship-building. It stands to lose millions more if it can find no sale for these high priced vessels. A subsidy will encourage private interests to purchase these vessels for the merchant marine and so prevent a further loss to the taxpayers from the government's lunge into the shipbuilding business. When we have an American fleet flying the Stars and Stripes and carrying American goods across the seven seas we shall realize the truth of the old adage, "Trade follows the flag." And as trade follows the flag abroad every home industry will feel the stimulus.

But the missing link must be furnished in the chain of our continued progress and prosperity. That link is a fleet of American owned and manned merchant ships. If this requires at the start extraneous financial help that help must be forthcoming. Commissioner Chamberlain has placed the alternatives before the American people: "An American merchant marine with aid or a surrender to foreign flags without aid."

clism when they do not correspond with an individual's sense of the proprieties, but critical comments of that sort are no indication of animosity toward the British. As a matter of fact, there is only the friendliest of feelings toward Great Britain in the United States as there is toward every other nation, and exception is taken to foreign activities only when they appear to discriminate unfairly against American rights.

THE SAILS ARE SET

Nation wide interest in the future welfare of the American merchant marine is being exemplified in Washington, where five waterways and shipping organizations recently held meetings for the discussion of future policies. It is highly significant that many of the delegates to the sessions came from states and cities in the interior of the country, where there has been in former years an evident lack of interest in maritime matters. Governor Allen of Kansas was present and spoke, while other state executives, mayors, and chambers of commerce had committees in Washington. There is apparent a country wide resolution daily growing in strength, to keep our merchant marine in the commanding position it won as a result of wartime construction.

The United States Employment Service reports that its investigations show a decided improvement in business conditions all over the country. In 291 principal industrial centers the employment situation is rapidly changing for the better. The month of March will witness the beginning of a period of great industrial activity, according to the federal authorities.

MARCH IDES FAVORABLE

Strength comes from well digested and thoroughly assimilated food. Hood's Sarsaparilla tones the digestive organs, and thus builds up the strength. If you are getting "run down," begin taking Hood's at once. It gives nerve, mental and digestive strength.—Adv.

KINDLY FEELING FOR GREAT BRITAIN

One of the British newspaper correspondents accompanying the Prince of Wales in his tour of India attributes the unrest in that country to the activities of Indians who have returned from visits to America. It is not disclosed whether he means the visitors had a taste of freedom in America, or whether they detected there an anti-British sentiment, that they sought to extend to India. In either case it is hardly fair to create the impression that the movement in India had its origin in America. American social and political institutions are an open book that people from any land may read and follow if they choose to do so. Citizens of other countries who seek to apply them to their own laws and customs certainly can reflect no censure upon the United States. As for any anti-British thought that may exist in this country, it is confined to radicals who give little heed to the welfare of America. The international policies of Great Britain are proper subjects for criticism

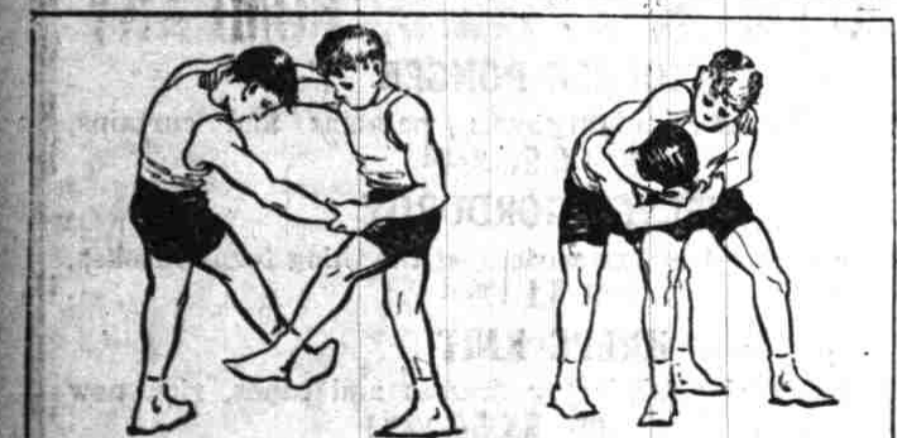
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The Junior Statesman

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REAL WRESTLING LESSON 7



By FRED MEYER
175 and Heavyweight Champion Amateur Wrestler of the United States

The leg trip pictured on the left side of the illustration above must be worked quickly to be effective. Try it on one of your pals, following the directions given here, and you will understand why speed is needed. You and your opponent are on your feet in the referee's hold which was described in the first article of the series. Slip your hand down to the wrist of your opponent's right arm. Hold his head firmly with the other hand. Draw his right arm toward you. With your left leg strike his right leg at the ankle. Force that leg as far over to his left side as you possibly can.

ONE REEL YARNS

THE LITTLE SMILE
"I can't have that kid working around in the store," complained Mr. Schmidt. "He talks too much already. He always stops to talk to the customers and grins at them. He gets in the way."
"But he likes to work in the store," said Mrs. Schmidt. "He's a bright boy and you know he makes no mistakes. What if he does talk a little? People like it better, also, than growling."

"I guess I run my business all right," roared Mr. Schmidt. "That boy will have to go at the end of the week. I get somebody else."
Mrs. Schmidt sighed, as she went behind the counter of their little delicatessen. She liked young Otto, who had been working in the store the last three weeks. Mr. Schmidt was so hard to satisfy, and when he was trying to find a new boy the work was always harder on her.

That afternoon she came down from the little flat into the store. "You won't need to fire Otto now," she said. "His mother phoned he's pretty sick, something catching, so he won't be around."
"We'll be finding a new boy," said Mr. Schmidt.
"Where's that little kid with a smile?" inquired a customer that day.
"What became of the smiling boy you had in here?" asked another.

"Anything the matter with Otto?" asked some one else.
Mr. Schmidt looked puzzled. He didn't know any one had ever noticed the boy. As the days went by and more people inquired he thought more about it, though he said nothing to his wife. "What's become of the Clausens? Why don't they come in?" he would remark.
"They were friends of Otto's," she replied. "They go somewhere else."

A few weeks later Mr. Schmidt came into the store after lunch looking very sheepish. "I been to see Otto," he said. "He's getting a lot better. He'll be back to work next week." He put his hand with unusual gentleness on her shoulder. "I kinda miss his funny little smile; too like everybody," he said. "I wonder—maybe I could learn a smile like that, too. Eh?"

A BOY'S IDEAS
Boys and girls who like to think that some time they will be writers, often say they will wait until they are older before they try to express themselves. Lincoln, who was noted for the clearness with which he could put his ideas into words, says in one of his letters:
"I can remember going to my little bedroom after hearing neighbors talk of an evening with my father, and spending no small part of the night walking up and down and trying to make out what was the exact meaning of their, to me, dark sayings. I could not sleep, though I often tried, when I got on such a hunt for an idea, until I had got it; and when I thought I had got it I was not satisfied until I had repeated it over and over, until I had put it down in plain language enough, as I thought, for any boy I knew to comprehend."



"Will You Excuse It, Please— There Is No One on the Line Now"

Mistakes are bound to happen. We all make them. When your telephone bell rings and the operator says, "Will you excuse it please, there is no one on the line now," she is not responsible for your annoyance and inconvenience.

The occasion for the use of the phrase most frequently arises when the called party is slow to answer—the calling subscriber does not wait and hangs up his telephone.

Many times daily telephone users call wrong numbers—use incorrect prefixes, such as "Main" for "Market"—transpose figures, such as 5342 for 5432. Suddenly realizing their mistakes, they hang up their telephone.

Without fault or negligence on her part the telephone operator is left to explain, and the sentence first quoted is that adopted as most briefly and concisely covering the situation.

The Pacific Telephone And Telegraph Company