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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Circulation Department, 583
Job Department, 583
Society Editor, 106

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

THE WORKINGMAN'S INCOME

B. M. Jewell, head of the shop crafts unions, tells the Railroad Labor Board that in order to support his family decently a mechanic must have $2636.97 a year. It is an impressive total—

Being made all the more so by evidence of the care with which it has been worked out. It might have seemed that a total of $2637 would have been sufficiently accurate for all practical purposes, but the railroad men's budget-makers scorn the slightest deviation from absolute exactitude. They do not propose to live under the charge that they added three cents to a total reached by process of careful figuring.

But the making of budgets on paper, no matter how carefully it is done, does not provide the means of paying the incomes they call for—

Nor does the fact that the figures are carried out to minute fractions and in the total are expressed to the last cent indicate that they tell the truth as representing the actual needs of the American family. If Mr. Jewell is right, an American family cannot be supported in reasonable comfort on an income of less than $50 a week, but millions of families who manage living in comfort on much smaller incomes know that Mr. Jewell is wrong.

It is a case where the obvious facts speak louder than Mr. Jewell's figures.

It is fortunate that Mr. Jewell is wrong. Were he right, it would be necessary for a great number of Americans to live in want and misery, because the national income does not make possible any such minimum wage as Mr. Jewell asserts to be necessary. The census figures show that the American family, on the average, is composed of 4.3 persons. The nation's total income in 1919 was estimated to be $66,000,000,000. It is now probably not much more than $50,000,000,000. Obviously only a portion of it can be distributed in the form of wages. A moment's figuring will show that a universal $50-a-week income for the families of the workers cannot be brought to pass at this time, and in all probability for a long time to come. There is not income enough to go around on that basis.

There are a good many thousands of very good people right here in Oregon, and many of them in Marion county and in Salem, who would be glad if they could be assured steady work at half of $50 a week—

And there are a good many, too, including a great many farmers working and willing to work 16 hours a day, who would be glad to be sure of earning their board and clothes and enough over to pay their taxes.

Oregon prunes are the premier prunes of the world, and our loganberries are in a class of excellence all by themselves. We know it. But these industries have got to be advertised in the printed page and to the consumers of this country and of the world, if their expansion in acreage is to go on progressively and profitably. There is no other way. We must make everybody know it.

The women jurors in Marion county are giving a good account of themselves. The pioneering in this line is being done by a number of women who would reflect credit as members of any company of poised and decent and sensible men and women.

A good deal depends upon the start that is being made by the independent company that is undertaking to handle the flax industry in the Salem district. And it has every mark of a good, conservative, well managed start.

It is a pity the 1000-odd acres of flax that is to be cultivated in the Salem district this year could not have been 10,000 or more. But the 10,000 acres will come. The movement is on its way. And 10,000 acres will be only a fair start upon the big future that is bound to come in due course of time in the development of the industry in the Willamette valley.

BALFOUR AND THE PEERAGE

Sir Arthur Balfour, acclaimed in England and in most of the world outside as the greatest living British statesman, has definitely ended his political career by professing a willingness to accept a peerage and retire to the aristocratic seclusion of the house of lords.

A short month ago he delivered what has been accepted as the greatest political address of his career. The coalition government was tottering and Lloyd George had threatened to resign. British politics was a seething ferment of unrest and Britsih finance and industry were trimming their sails. The Conservative press of great Britain called upon Mr. Balfour to assume as a duty to his country the premiership of Great Britain. The honor was his for the taking. A majority in parliament was ready to follow his leadership.

Then came his memorable address, delivered at a luncheon of the City Carleton club of London. It was a notable gathering of the Unionist and Conservative clans. Sir Arthur was introduced by the toastmaster as "a trusted leader of the Conservative and Unionist party, whose advice is as disinterested as it is inspiring and sagacious, whose labor at Washington resulted, not in pious aspirations, but in practical instruments."

There was tense excitement, in London and without. A word from the successor to Gladstone's title, the great Commoner, could overthrow the existing government, could change the political complexion of Great Britain and perhaps Europe.

But that word was not spoken. His address was a eulogy of Lloyd George and a ringing defense of the coalition government that has directed the affairs of Great Britain since 1915. He warned his Conservative associates that, if they attempted to form a government now, it would very likely wreck the party and throw all Europe into confusion.

"I do not doubt the merits of the two-party system," he said, "but remember that it is a fair-weather system." And he gave a brief resume of world conditions at the present time to show that the present unity must be preserved "We are still in what may be called conditions analogous to war," he resumed, "presenting the same kind of difficulties and requiring the same kind of unity of purpose and continuity of policy."

Referring to Lloyd George, he said: "No man has had a greater burden to bear than the present prime minister, and no man has more gallantly borne it. * * * He has impressed, not merely his own personality, but the authority of this country, on all the nations of the world. His name will stand out as one of the greatest figures of one of the greatest periods of the world's history. * * * What is the use of abusing him? You are not going to pull him down from the proper niche he is destined to occupy in the historical gallery."

Within 24 hours after the delivery of that address the crisis in British politics had passed. His sacrifice of personal ambition, his elimination of self for the public good, for the security of the empire calmed the troubled waters. Balfour had spoken and acted. The other Unionist and Conservative leaders suddenly realized that to attempt to form a government or to go before the country in a general election in defiance of that inhibition would be political suicide.

But the British people would not be content. They agreed with Sir Arthur that two-party government was not desirable at this time. They were willing to spport a coalition government—all but the radical Liberals and the Labor party; but they wanted Sir Arthur at the head of it. They were going to draft him into the public service.

Now comes his willingness to accept a peerage that he refused 20 years ago. By doing so he voluntarily eliminates himself from the premiership and from the house of commons, of which he is now a member; for no peer can sit in the lower house. Why has he done so?

England will be sobered by his action. It will make men think, alike the manual worker and he who lives on his income. For him the peerage is an empty honor. As he is a bachelor, the title will die with him. It is an act of renunciation. He has accepted what Gladstone declined. The thoughtless will accuse him of toadying to royalty; but thinking men and women will understand. Formerly a man was "ennobled" when he was "elevated" to a peerage. But in this instance it is the house of lords that is ennobled.

For the moment Balfour has sacrificed his popularity with the masses. No one knows that better than he; and he takes the step with full knowledge of that sacrifice. He has given an example for other Englishmen to follow. Gladstone refused a peerage when the house of lords was strong. Now the upper house is weak—it is dominated and humiliated by the house of commons—and Balfour casts his lot with the lords.

Nations become great through personal sacrifice. Balfour has followed the example that Washington set when he refused a third term. Twenty years ago Balfour was the British premier and the head of the dominant Unionist party. At that time he was offered a peerage and declined it with the rather contemptuous rejoinder, "I am not yet ready to enter an old-folks' home." Now he has declined the premiership and agreed to enter the lords. He has made Englishmen think, and in so doing he has rendered to his country and the world a notable service.

FUTURE DATES

April 8, Saturday—County Odd Fellows meeting at Aumsville.
April 10, Monday—Willamette university chapel, Prof. Fake, "Vitamines and the balanced diet," 8 p.m.
April 12, Wednesday—County community club federation meets in Salem.
April 14, Friday—Last day on which candidates for state offices may file with secretary of state.
May 12, Friday— Concert by Mary Schultz, violinist, Grand theatre.
April 16 to 23—"Better Music" week in Salem.
April 16, Sunday—Easter.
April 18, Tuesday— Whitney Boys' Chorus to sing at Christian church.
April 27, Thursday—100th Anniversary of birth of U. S. Grant.
April 27, Thursday—100th anniversary of birth of General U. S. Grant.
May 1, Monday—W. W. Ellsworth, noted editor and literary man, to address Willamette students.
May 4, 5 and 6.—Cherrian Cherringo.
May 13, Saturday—Junior week-end entertainment at O. A. C.
May 19, Friday—Primary election.
May 19, Friday—Open house, science department of high school.
May 20, Saturday — Marion County school athletes meet.
May 26 and 27, Friday and Saturday—May Festival, Oratorio Creation Friday in armory; living pictures Saturday night.
June 3, Saturday—Automobile races at state fair grounds.
June 5, Monday—Track meet, Willamette and Pacific University at Forest Grove.
June 14, Wednesday—Flag Day.
June 16, Friday—High school graduation.
June 29-30, July 1—Convention of Oregon Fire Chiefs' association at Marshfield.
July 3 and 4—Monday and Tuesday. State convention of Artisans at Woodburn
September 13, Wednesday—Oregon Methodist conference meets in Salem.
September 21, 22 and 23—Pendleton round-up.
September 25 to 30 inclusive—Oregon State Fair.
November 7, Tuesday—General election.

SENATORIAL ALOOFNESS

Sir Phillip Gibbs, the eminent English correspondent and observer, in writing his impressions of governmental life in this country, says that a great gulf exists between the United States senate and the liberal thought of the nation. The senate is out of touch with the masses and persists in its aloofness. The Englishman is a definite authority on the subject of which he writes and his views of the situation at Washington are reflected by the officialdom of Europe. The outside world believes that the American senate in its frigid attitude toward the League of Nations and international comity is not responsive to the pulse of the people.

BEES IN THE BONNETS

Thus far there are said to be six women candidates for congress in different districts in the country, but the year is yet young and the number will surely be increased. Thus far the house has never had more than one lady member at a time. It must be a trifle lonesome occasionally, but it will be some years before the ladies achieve a congressional membership proportionate to their numbers.

NOT SPECTACULAR, BUT EFFECTIVE.

The remark of a prominent magazine editor that President Harding has no elements of spectacularity is absolutely true. When Mr. Harding was a newspaper editor, he permitted no sensationalism in his columns. Every line of his paper was fit to read in any home.

His service in the senate was without a single appeal to the galleries or to the writers of head lines. His campaign for the presidency was conducted with all the dignity that is becoming to a contest of that national importance.

In private life Mr. Harding was a careful, enterprising, dependable business man; in public life he has conducted himself in accordance with habits of thought and action formed in many years of practical experience in dealing with his fellow men.

He has not pretended that he alone can save the nation from its ills nor has he assumed that in him alone are all wisdom and virtue centered. Like the head of every great business concern in private enterprise, he called to his aid men of hign ability and entrusted to them the duties and responsibilities of the several departments. No branch of the government service has been compelled to delay its work while waiting word from him. Recognizing the limitations of time and human strength, he has been willing that others shall exercise power, and he has been generous in according them full credit for what they have accomplished.

Mr. Harding has made the White House the headquarters of a truly popular government, restoring significance to the name of democracy. Little of this could have been written concerning Mr. Harding if he had given himself up to spectacular efforts.

THE FULL JAIL

The federal prisons are so full that the government will have to provide another criminal retreat at once. There is suggestion that the site of Camp Grant be used for the creation of the country's greatest industrial prison. It is near Chicago and might easily be stocked up from the bootleggers and postal bandits of that bustling section.

THE BREAD LINE

Now they are persuading us to eat spinach bread. We have already tried alfalfa meal biscuits and bean muffins. Seems as if they were disguising bread in more different ways than were ever dreamed of before. They are flavoring it with almost every thing but wheat. If a man had to live by bread alone he could find varieties enough to hint at a course dinner.—Exchange.

INTERNATIONAL GAMES

Even the women in Japan are learning to play baseball. We are liable to meet Japan in the big league before we are brothers in the League of Nations. If baseball is our national game, can we permit other countries to play it without special dispensation? What does Hiram Johnson think about the Japs playing baseball? Is this another plot to make us slaves of the mikado?—Los Angeles Times.

JUST A SUGGESTION

A bunch of idealists want all discarded warships sunk in the ocean. It would be a glorious display of sentiment, so they say. We have another plan, but it won't do, because it is based on selfishness. Why not give those immense masses of metal to the machinery makers of the country? An eight-inch geared wheel for our cylinder press costs $51 at the factory. Maybe the gift of some iron to the press makers would reduce that cost somewhat. —Holden (Mo.) Progress.

BITS FOR BREAKFAST

Tempus fugit; time flies—

Time to get all the political hats into the ring.

Alec Lafollett says prospects for a peach crop were never better. The late blossoming season—a month late—will likely bring on the blooms without injury from frost. He thinks he may have enough peaches to pay his taxes this year. One season, a few years ago, he had about 18,000 boxes.

Perhaps the lateness of the spring season may have something to do with the delay in naming the Salem postmaster.

Mrs. Wilson, formerly society editor of The Statesman, is to go into the poultry industry on a scientific and extensive scale, on her farm a few miles south of Salem. Thus the poultry industry here keeps on booming. It's a great life, and there's money in it, for those who know how and mix brains with hard and painstaking labor.

Roald Amundsen flew from Washington to New York April 1 in the all-metal airplane which he is to use during his five-year drifting voyage across the North pole. It behaved very well in a heavy rain and a strong head wind which perhaps made as difficult conditions as it will encounter in the Arctic. If all goes well the machine should add greatly to the known area in the far north.

Paris hears that the first thing that Lloyd George is to propose to the Russian delegation at Genoa is a cut of 50 per cent in the Red army, with provision for further reduction. In return he is said to plan the offer of a pledge by all European nations that for 10 years they will not attack Russia.

What a language is the English! A woman who sews is not a sewer, but a seamstress.

SCHOOL STUDY SPORTS

The Junior Statesman

HUMOR PLAY WORK

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FOR GIRLS TO MAKE

Once upon a time
A girl
Was cleaning out her workbasket
And she found a lot of spools
Without any thread on them.
She was about to throw them away,
But she stopped and said:
"I wonder if I couldn't make something with them?"
So she thought
And thought.

Then she got some cardboard
And scissors
And set to work.
First, she took four spools of the same size,
And on them glued cardboard bent up at one end;
That was the bed.
Then she cut out a round piece of cardboard
And she glued it on another spool.
That was the table.
She took a little roll of white paper
And stuck it in another spool,
That was the table.
She took a little roll of white paper
And stuck it in another spool,
And crimped a circular piece of paper for a shade.
That was the floor lamp.
She took her last spool and blew through it
Great big soap bubbles.
And she said:
"If I had some more spools I'd make
A bureau and piano, and lots more things."
Could you?

ONE REEL YARNS

HOW JANET WON OUT

Papa was on Janet's side, but Mother could not give in, and Janet pleaded in vain to have her hair bobbed. It was useless, and Janet was hopeless, because she had promised that she would never have it cut without her mother's consent. "She will let me some day," boasted Janet.

"If you ever get your mother to let you cut your hair off I will give you a dollar for every curl," promised Papa, recklessly.

On May day morning, Janet, Betty and Charlotte set forth to spend the day in the woods. All morning they picked flowers, and in the afternoon they set up a May-pole and danced about it. "Let's all me May queens," suggested Charlotte, "and the one that can make the prettiest wreath can be the first queen." Away they scampered in search of flowers.

Janet was unlucky. She could not seem to find many flowers, but she did find some lovely last season's burs, and with these for a background and a few leaves and flowers, she made a wreath that even Betty and Charlotte agreed was beautiful. Janet pulled it far down over her curls so that it would not come off. "I am going to wear it home to show mother," she declared, and at sundown she came tripping in, crying, "Mother, see my lovely wreath."

"It is beautiful," agreed her mother, "but now take it off and come to supper." Janet reached up to remove it—and found it in place for good. The leaves came and the flowers came, but not the burs.

"Janet, Janet, what have you done " wailed Mother.

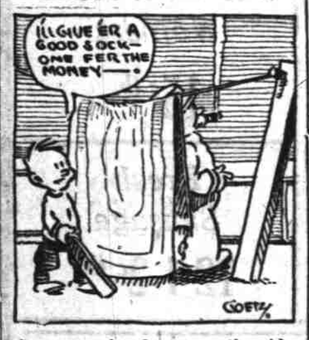
"I think," said Father, "that she has earned fifteen dollars."

"Sixteen," corrected Janet—and went meekly to get the scissors.

FOR BOYS TO MAKE

Springtime is top time—
Wooden tops and tin;
Springtime is top time—
Whiz and whir and spin.

The Boy Next Door was spinning a couple of tops on the sidewalk in front of his house, keeping them both going at the same time Laurie watched him and scowled. He had broken his last top, and his pockets were empty.



"Wish you had a top, son?" said Mother.

"Yes," said Laurie.

"Well, why don't you make some? My brother used to make them out of?"

"Come with me," said Mother. She went out into the kitchen and took out of the vegetable basket a big round beet, just the same shape as a wooden top. "Now take your knife," she directed, "and a piece of soft kindling wood and whittle a pointed peg and stick it into the pointed end of the beet. Of course you must wash the beet off first. Then wind a string around it with a button mold on one end, and throw it as you would a wooden peg top.

"Another top he used to make with a series of four circles, each a half inch smaller than the one above it. He drew them out on soft wood and cut them out with his jackknife. Then he cut a hole in the center of each circle and fitted them on a piece of wooden meat skewer he'd get from the butcher. And he'd paint the discs with water colors.

"Oh, yes, and he used to make a cunning top out of one of those big button molds tailors use for coats. He'd enlarge the hole in the center and stick a meat skewer through it. He'd make one in no time."

Later that day Laurie was gaily spinning three tops on the sidewalk before hie house. The Boy Next Door watched him and scowled.

TODAY'S PUZZLE

Of the following two words, half the letters of one should be exchanged for the same number of letters in the other. When the right letters are exchanged, two animals are found: Couaje, vogtar.

Answer to yesterday's: Stew, hod, raw. "Westward Ho."