

The Oregon Statesman

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WHY WOOL IS HIGH

"The free trader will say that wool is high on account of the tariff of 1922, although the rate of duty on scoured wool is now 31 cents per pound as against 45 cents per pound under the emergency tariff of 1921, which was in force for sixteen months prior to the enactment of the present tariff. The profiteering clothiers will also claim that the tariff is responsible for the high price of wool and hence for the high price of clothing, while the importing department stores will tell a similar tale.

"But none of them tells the truth. It would be curious if the wool tariff in the United States should raise the price of wool all over the world, but the truth is that such increase is world-wide. The primary reason for the increase in the price of wool and woolsens is the lessened production of wool. The report of the bureau of commerce for March 5th shows that the average annual production of wool throughout the world for the years 1909 to 1913, inclusive, was 2,545,565,000 pounds, for the year 1921, 2,354,735,000 pounds for the year 1922, 2,270,737,000 pounds. That is to say, the total world production of wool for the year 1922 was, in round numbers, 84,000,000 pounds less than in the year 1921 and 275,000,000 pounds less than the yearly average during the entire life of the tariff act of 1909. No free trade arguments, no claims of profiteers can explain away the force of those figures. They plainly show that the increased prices of wool and woolsens are due to a world shortage. Not the tariff, but the law of supply and demand is responsible for the price increases.

"But there are other important reasons for increased wool prices. One most important reason is the increased consumption of wool in continental Europe, in Great Britain, in Japan and in the United States. Still another reason is the tendency in this country of the growers of wool to pool their wools for sale, as is done with Australian wool.

"One great reason for the increase in the price of clothing, especially of suits made up by fashionable tailors, is the incredible folly of the buying public, as illustrated by the craze for imported fabrics.

"The folly of the buyers is the more remarkable when it is understood that thousands of yards of cloth are sold every year in New York City alone as 'imported' which were made in the United States. The tailor himself is often fooled, for he buys of the wholesaler or jobber who has given his orders to domestic manufacturers for a certain number of yards of woollen goods into the selvage of which are woven the words, 'Made in England' or some other foreign country. People buy domestic fabrics and pay more for them because they are fooled into believing them imported. It serves them right, for there are no better woollen fabrics than are made in this country.

"The tariff has often been made the excuse for higher prices, but it cannot be truthfully given as the reason in the majority of cases. Certain it is, that if the tariff on wool and woolsens is left intact for a term of years, increased domestic production and increased competition will result in

lower prices all around, and we shall not be obliged to depend upon foreigners to clothe our people or to feed them either in peace or in war. We shall not be forced to do as we did in the late war, get down on our knees and beg of England the privilege of importing enough wool to supply our domestic needs and to clothe our soldiers."

The above are the outstanding paragraphs of a leading article in the American Economist, official organ of the American Protective Tariff League, in its issue of last week. The United States now produces only about half the wool consumed in this country. With living prices guaranteed to wool growers, this country will soon produce all the wool used here.

Besides the great benefits that will come from keeping such a vast sum of money at home, there will be many other advantages; the greatest of all of them being the enormously increased supply of mutton for the use of our people.

There are vast undeveloped resources in the Salem district. In nearly every particular, the surface has so far been only scratched. But the most virgin part of all is the Santiam region, with its vast timber resources, mountains of rich copper, gold, silver and lead ores; its fine and cheaply developed water powers, and its thousands of acres of rich land that may be easily irrigated. All these potential producers of wealth, these city builders, have been too long neglected. It will pay Salem to get behind the Santiam country, and to stay behind it "till the cows come home."

In some ways or other, perhaps in several ways, the water powers of Marion lake and the Santiam and its tributaries will be developed. The sooner the better for Salem as a growing city.

It is no idle dream, that there will be two more paper mills built in Salem, if the Marion lake and Santiam water powers are developed under the proper auspices.

There is going to be more irrigation, and preparation for irrigation, in the Salem district this year than ever before—far more. But there will not be enough, till the growers are prepared to put water onto every acre of berries in the event of a dry season. Preparation for irrigation is a form of insurance.

There will be a lot of spinach, flax and other money crops raised the coming season in the Santiam district which are under the irrigation ditches there. The growers there will be sure of good crops, no matter how dry the summer months may be.

FUTURE DATES

- March 23, Friday—Salem Symphony orchestra
March 24, Saturday—Veterans' bureau begins American Legion representatives come to confer with disabled.
March 27, Tuesday—State convention of Benevolent Association of Marabees, Senate Chamber, State House.
March 27, Tuesday—Lions Club Luncheon at Turner.
March 27, Tuesday—Company F, smoker; Bayes vs. Archer, male event.
March 28, Wednesday—Presentation of 'The Bat' at Grand theater.
March 28, Wednesday—Frank Ober to lecture on Asia Minor at Chamber of Commerce, State House.
March 29, Monday—Clarence C. Hamilton, field secretary United Society of Christian Endeavor, to speak in Salem.
April 2, Monday—Made-in-Salem week
April 3, Tuesday—Septic tank and water bond election at Dallas.
April 4, Wednesday—Willamette Tent, 'Macabees' district initiation Degree work by St. Hood Tent, Portland.
April 13, Friday—Willamette Men's Glee club concert at armory.
April 19, 20 and 21—Cherrin Cherringo, April 20, Saturday—Whitney Boys chorus at armory.
May 5, Saturday—Al Kader temple Shrine ceremonial in Salem.
May 6, Sunday—Bliss Day.
May 11, Friday—May Festival, Hayden's oratorio, 'The Four Seasons.'
May 28, 29, 30 and 31—Oregon Jersey Jubilee.

TRAIL OF THE COMMUNE

Maxim Gorky, one-time Russian arch-Socialist, is now in a sanatorium near Berlin. He confesses that he is the broken victim of the Commune and declares that if Socialism gains full control of Germany he will go to Prague and start a paper to conflict the wave. It only needs a liberal dose of his own medicine to cure the most rabid Socialist, but the trouble is that healthy people may be called upon to suffer while the potion is being administered.

THE SUBSTITUTE

At Nice they have an orchestra supposed to have been recruited from the asylums and madhouses. The performers have strange instruments and each plays to suit himself. This is for the benefit of American tourists who might miss their jazz.

THE MISSING HOBO

The Illinois Industrial League in the course of its social survey reports that the old-style hobo or barrel-house bum is rapidly disappearing. This is another of the tragedies that can be blamed on prohibition. The son-of-a-gun has gone to work and bought him a safety razor.—Exchange.

NATIONAL WEALTH

The per capita wealth of England is greater than that of America. The average Britisher is worth \$3955, while the per capita wealth in this country is computed at \$2289. At that there are a lot of Americans who claim to be \$9 shy. In making the English totals there is a feeling that a stiff valuation was placed on Westminster Abbey.

THE FINNISH

Finland has arranged to pay its debt to America upon practically the same terms as the British obligations are to be met. This will give the Finns something like 60 years to pay off a little matter of \$10,000,000. Almost anybody would be glad to give a 60-year note for that amount. But there is quite a difference between having the money in our hands and having it in the Finns.

SAFETY FIRST

The intimation that a French scientist has discovered the possibility of a human being developing a sensitized skin to take the place of eyesight is interesting and important. It is found that through the skin the blind have been able to sense color, form and motion. It is fine to think that one may see with his skin. But it would be a finer thing for the world if some tool or process were devised by which a man could see just before he gets skinned.

THE BIG THING

The United States Steel corporation has some 300,000 employees and its annual pay roll is a matter of \$500,000,000. Even Henry Ford would admit that this was quite an industry. Nearly all other business combinations in America are puny by comparison and this is a country of vast projects.

WISE FAREWELL WORDS OF "UNCLE JOE"

No single event in connection with the passing of the 67th congress equalled, in news value, the retirement of Representative Joseph G. Cannon, of Illinois, "Uncle Joe," who has been a leader in congressional activities for over a quarter of a century and a member of congress for 46 years. The last few months had been characterized by a series of farewell dinners and gatherings in honor of "Uncle Joe" Cannon. These had been given not only by his colleagues in both branches of congress but by distinguished men in other walks of life. The last few hours of the 67th congress witnessed an ovation given Representative Cannon such as few men have ever been offered by the house of representatives. The occasion was when he asked unanimous consent to extend his remarks in the Record in connection with a speech on the farm credits bill. What he arose to make this request the house to a man, irrespective of party, arose and cheered, in which the galleries joined, making a demonstration that lasted several minutes.

In a copyrighted article in the Washington Post, Frank I. Whitehead reviewed the nearly half century of Uncle Joe Cannon's public career and in connection therewith obtained from him an interview in which the passing leader of the Republican party expressed his idea as to the need of the party, congress and the country in a political way. In the course of this interview Uncle Joe Cannon said:

"We talk about the leaders in congress and what they will do to restore normalcy, but leaders in congress are somewhat like leaders in the old four-horse team. When I drove such a team many years ago I relied more on the wheel horses that wore the heavy breeching and held back on the down grade, as well as pulled for all they were worth on the up grade. They were not so gay as the leaders, with their lighter harness, sometimes wearing plumes and bells as they pranced along at the head of the team, giving the impression they were the whole guiding power instead of being directed by a single line from the driver astride the near wheel horse.

"I have seen some leaders in congress who reminded me of the leaders in that old four-horse team. I have seen leaders in my old four-horse team attempt to run away when my only source of

salvation was the wheel horses, which sat back in the breeching and held the wagon in the road.

"It is not always, or often, pleasant to be a wheel horse, either drawing the heavy load along the road, or in congress, for the galleries—sometimes the press gallery, too—pay more attention to the leaders, especially when they show their mettle and start to run away. They are dramatic and the horses guarding the wheels are not. The wheel horses get kicked and abused for keeping the wagon in the road and sometimes getting enough momentum to run over the leaders, as well as the wheel horses themselves.

"I should like to see more of these steady wheel horses in congress and fewer brilliant and magnetic leaders, who too often are inspired to start something that will be immediately popular but in the end embarrassing and sometimes dangerous. I have seen leaders work passion to tatters, forgetting the breeching, pushed into the collar, until there was a real smash of the whole program.

"This is a time for heavy breeching, not too many bells and plumes of eloquence and not too many new trails. We have difficulties enough ahead without trying to blaze new legislative and government roads for increased expenditures. Better keep the treasury truck on the best-known taxation. That's the only way I know to get out of the woods now, as in the past."

Referring to himself, Mr. Cannon said if he had attained anything in the years of his manhood and his public service, it

had been "by keeping step with the boys who stood for correct policies for the great republic; not falling out with them, but keeping step with them if they were right and thinking twice before parting with them if I thought they were wrong."

Latham Will Captain State University Quint

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, Eugene, March 22.—(Special.)—Hugh "Hunk" Latham, all-north-west and all-coast center this year, was elected honorary captain of the Oregon varsity team for the past season and acting captain for next season at a recent meeting of all basketball lettermen. Latham, a junior from Silverton, is also a letterman in football and baseball.

Of the nine men on the Oregon varsity quint this year only three will be lost by graduation.

these being Arvin Burnett, Don Zimmerman of Eugene, and Ralf Couch of Walowa. Lettermen who will be back next year besides Captain Latham are, Earl Shafer of Salem, Harold Chapman of Eugene, and Russell Gowans, Haddon Rockley and Francis Aistock of Portland.

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The Junior Statesman

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For Boys and Girls. THE FUN BOX. First Artist: "I painted a lump of pig-iron once to look like cork, and when I threw it into the water it floated." Second Artist: "That's nothing. I painted a lump of pig-iron to look like a roast of beef and my dog ate three-quarters of it before he discovered his mistake." Presumptive: A young man who had lots of gumption. Among cannibals had the presumption. To go—but alas, He never came back. They stay 'twas a case of consumption. Bravery: "What are you running away for, sonny?" "I'm trying to keep two fellows from fighting." "Who are the fellows?" "Tony Brown and me." Caught: She: "I'll bet I know where you got your tie." He: "I'll bet my last cent you don't." She: "Around your neck, you dumbbell." The Limit: Dad: "Son, there's nothing worse than to be old and broken." Young Hopeless: "Yes, father: to be young and broke." Confusing: Student: "Dog pardon, sir, but what is this that you have written on my theme?" Professor: "I told you to write more legibly." Caught Again: Paul: "Oh, say, I pulled off something big last night." Clarence: "What was it?" Paul: "My Shoes." (Jokes for "The Fun Box" are collected from high school newspapers all over North America.) THE SHORT STORY, JR. "Old Frisky" To London in fancy let's go,

Where fog o'er the city hung low, In those days a school was under iron rule And learning meant hardship and woe. The old "Frick" School for Boys was a dim, dingy building huddled in the smokes of a narrow side street in London. Today there is, luckily, not even a memory left of it. It died shortly after this incident took place. No one was sorry to see it go. Colonel Frick, the headmaster, was a blustery, quarrelsome old tyrant who ran the school with an iron hand. He believed in sparing neither the rod nor the child. His hands were knotted and gnarled like the roots of a very old tree. They were continually opening and closing as if they were impatient to grab some lad by the collar, which they always did when one came within their reach. All the younger boys of the school trembled and quaked at the very sight of him. Those who had been there longer had learned by bitter experience to keep out of his sight. Tales were told around the school of how "Old Frisky" had once nearly killed a boy by beating him because he lost his place in class. Into this horrible atmosphere of school life at its worst came Grafton Gregory. He heard the tales, but seemed not the least impressed. "Why he won't punish you if you don't do anything to deserve punishment, will he?" he asked. The other fellows only laughed bitterly. "You don't know 'Old Frisky.' Better stay out of his way," they warned. There was something about Grafton Gregory that made the fellows like him right away. They did not want to see him flogged by the headmaster. But young Gregory didn't take their advice. He seemed to invite the headmaster's anger, rather than to avoid it. The very first day he was summoned to Colonel Frick's office. "Well, are you prepared to take your flogging?" snarled the old tyrant. "You know you deserved it, don't you?" "No, sir, I do not. What have

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