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WHY WILL YE DIE?—Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed: make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God; wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye. Ezekiel 18:31, 32.

THE STATE MARKET AGENT IS A CRAPE HANGER, GIVING OUT UNTRUE PROPAGANDA AT PUBLIC EXPENSE

"If all the taxes that are now collected in the United States were apportioned equally among all the people—men, women and children—each individual would have to pay \$70.97 a year. Last year we paid almost five times as much in taxes per person as we did in 1890. The tax bill per person thirty-five years ago was \$13.88. In 1913 it had jumped to \$22.73; in 1919 it had gone to \$76.51 and in 1921 it reached the high mark of \$76.55. Yet with this great increase, if the burden was distributed justly—if each paid wealth, income and ability to pay—and none escaped, it would not be much of a burden. Agriculture today pays far more than its just proportion—this statement is undisputed. The farmer cannot hide his property. Thousands and thousands are leaving the farms and thousands more will leave unless conditions change. FARMERS BUY UNDER HIGH TARIFF PRICES AND SELL IN ALMOST FREE TRADE MARKETS. High railroad rates, high taxes and high prices for purchases on one hand and low prices for products on the other, leaves the farmer where he cannot pull out, if he is in debt—as the most of them are."

The above quoted words make up the leading editorial propaganda of the current circular of C. E. Spence, the Oregon state market agent—

And the words in capitals are printed in that form for the purpose of calling attention to a part of the crape-hanging propaganda that is particularly objectionable, because the statement is not true.

The farmers of the United States do not buy under high tariff prices—

Or at least not more than one and a third per cent of the expenditures of farmers in this country are increased on account of the tariff rates—

And 80 per cent of all the imports into the United States either come in free or pay duty to protect the farmer—

And 88 per cent of our imports either come in free or are luxuries or are protected to help the farmer.

All the agricultural products of the Salem district are protected, and most of them are well protected, with the exception of cherries. They are protected two cents a pound, where imports of cherries should carry a duty of at least six cents a pound to give the grower adequate protection.

Crape hanging is not justified in favor of the farmers of the Salem district, to the extent that it is done by the Spence propaganda; even outside of the false statement about the tariff—

For there is not a single major item in all the long list of our diversified products in which cases cannot be shown of large profits by our growers; in some cases immense profits; some paying good interest on land that might be valued at ten to twenty times the selling prices of equally good land in this section.

The state market agent ought to be a booster for constructive efforts to secure higher prices. That is the intent of the law creating this office. He is not paid to be a crape hanger—

Much less a propagandist of false and misleading and injurious doctrine.

If any reader of this article did not see the speech of President Coolidge before the convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation in Chicago on December 7th, he should read the following excerpts from that speech, discussing our present tariff as applied to farm products:

"Others have thought that the tariff rates were unfavorable to the farmer. IF THIS SHOULD BE A FACT IT OUGHT TO BE CORRECTED. Let us examine our imports. Last year their gross value was \$3,610,000,000, but \$2,080,000,000, or 57.6-10 per cent, came in wholly free of duty. This free list was constructed especially to favor the farmer, and contains more than fifty articles which he purchases, like fertilizer, leather, harnesses, farm machinery, coffee, binder twine, barbed wire and gasoline.

"Of the \$1,530,000,000 of goods-paying imports, \$780,000,000 was upon agricultural products, levied solely to protect the farmer, including animal and dairy products, grain, flax, wool, sugar, nuts, citrus fruits and many others. If any farmer wants to get an accurate and full list of his products which are protected and his purchases which come in free, let him go to his public library and consult Official Document No. 33, comparing the last three tariff acts. Thus 80 per cent of our imports either come in free or pay a duty to protect the farmer. This must be further increased by \$250,000,000 more of imported luxuries like diamonds, fine rugs, silks, cut glass, jewelry and mahogany. These items cannot affect the prosperity of the farmer. This brings the total of imports up to 88 per cent which are free, and leaves only 12 per cent of our imports upon which the agricultural industry pays any part of the tariff.

"But, on the other hand, our industrial and city population pays the tariff on the \$780,000,000 worth of agricultural imports and also participates in the \$500,000,000 worth of imports outside of luxuries. While the farmer pays part of the duties on 12 per cent of our imports which do not benefit him, industry and commerce pay part of the duty on 36 per cent of the imports which do not benefit them.

ditions would only be increased by one-third of three per cent or four per cent, or not over one and one-third per cent. "On the other side, protection is a great benefit to agriculture as a whole. The \$780,000,000 of agricultural products imported last year had to pay \$260,000,000 for the privilege of coming in to compete with our own farm production. If these were admitted free of duty, THEY WOULD NO DOUBT GREATLY INCREASE IN VOLUME, REDUCE PRESENT FARM PRICES AND RESULT IN MUCH LOWER STANDARDS OF LIVING ON OUR FARMS. We are also exporters as well as importers. Protection greatly aids diversification, and so eliminates an unprofitable surplus. Under our tariff our flax acreage has increased from 1,641,000 in 1921 to 3,093,000 in 1925. Much of this would otherwise have been devoted to wheat, increasing the surplus and further demoralizing that market. The same principle holds in relation to sugar, wool and other agricultural products.

"It has been thought that protection does not help agricultural products. Any study of dairy products, flax, wool, and the many other commodities will demonstrate that it does. Even wheat, where we are exporters, shows its effect. If we take Buffalo, to secure a point of common contact, American No. 1 Dark Northern is 25 cents to 25 cents higher than Canadian No. 2 Dark Hard Winter is 37 cents to 42 cents higher, and No. 2 Red would be 45 cents to 46 cents higher. Contract wheat for future delivery in Chicago has been usually as high as future deliveries in Liverpool, although the difference in freight is about 20 cents a bushel, which means that our wheat is now about that much above world price levels. The question is complicated with different grades and qualities, some of which do not show the same differences.

"BUT THE LARGEST BENEFITS ACCRUING TO THE FARMER COME FROM SUPPLYING HIM WITH HOME MARKETS. What the farmer raises must either be sold at home or sent abroad. Our per capita consumption of butter, sugar, meats, eggs, milk and tobacco is far above those of foreign countries. When the depression of 1920 came and 5,000,000 of our wage earners were unemployed, their consumption of the more expensive agricultural supplies, such as animal products, fell 18 per cent below what it had been before and what it became again when employment increased. THIS WAS MORE THAN THE AMOUNT OF OUR EXPORTS. Prosperity in our industries is of more value to the farmer than the whole export market for foodstuffs. Protection has contributed in our country to making employment plentiful with the highest wages and highest standards of living in the world, which is of inestimable benefits to both our agricultural and industrial population. General economic stability is of utmost importance to the farmer, and a depression in industry, with the attendant unemployment, would do the farmer an incalculable injury."

GRAIN GAMBLING

A short time ago it was reported that the United States secretary of agriculture had received the assurance of the Chicago board of trade that it would accept restrictions on its wheat manipulations. The agreement is to the effect that the board's directors may place a limit on the prices, high and low, and that no one will be permitted to buy or sell either above or below these prices so fixed.

It is difficult for the average layman, used to thinking of gambling as an outlaw to tolerate the action of the secretary in this attitude toward the gamblers in the chief foodstuff of the nation.

If limits were placed upon the stake in the gambling rendezvous in our cities, the officers would, in the discharge of their duties, pay no attention to the arrangement.

Dealing in the futures of grain, fixing arbitrary prices for speculative purposes and then turning the matter over to shrewd manipulators to barter in a so great necessity of the people is inconsistent with government for the protection of the people. To force down or up the price of wheat at the will of men who never earned an honest dollar nor invested in a labor employing enterprise, for the sole purpose enriching the gamblers themselves, is wrong.

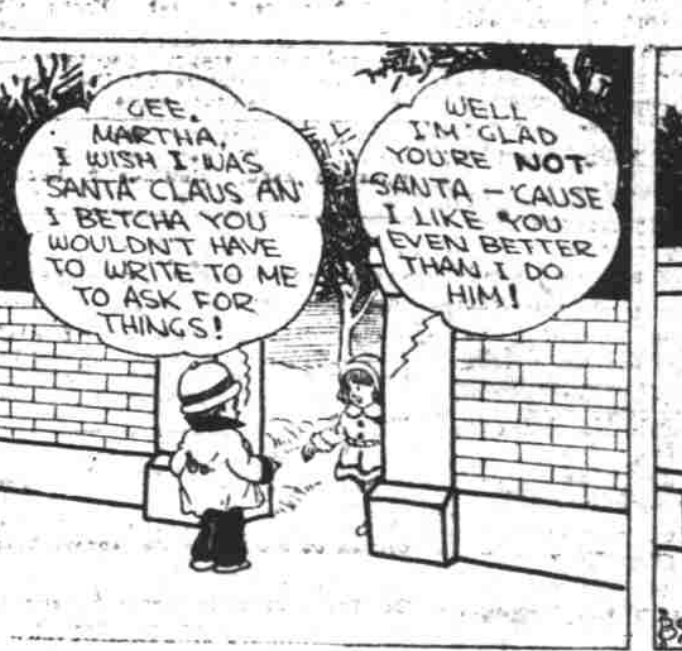
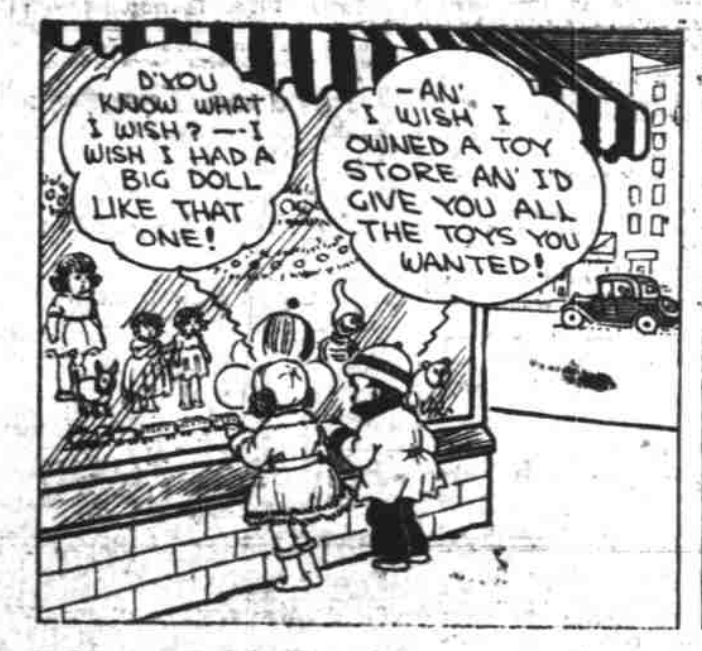
Gambling on grain is a gigantic privilege which evidently makes terms with the government and prospers at the expense of the producer and consumer alike.

Through suppression or by absolute control only will the government perform its plain duty toward the wheat gamblers and in favor of the producers and consumers of wheat products.

The delays in administering justice, which come one after another in the courts add more and more disgust and discontent which the people now possess for our methods of procedure with the law-defying and criminal element.

And with the passing of this holiday season with its benevolences and good cheer Christmas has gained still greater momentum for influence and good to humanity in the future years.

UNCLE BILLY



DOROTHY DARNIT



EDITORIALS OF THE PEOPLE

Make the State Training School for Boys a Vocational School

It seems to require a calamity of some kind to get certain subjects before the public attention. Many very important subjects are continually awaiting a jar of some kind, such as a break at the penitentiary with loss of life; a change of administration at the boys training school with a rise of salary, or an epidemic of typhoid fever from contaminated water, etc., to get the public interested in certain subjects and bring about improved conditions.

Recently we have had a jar that has brought a much needed improvement at the penitentiary, and promises to bring about other important changes. Much of this is greatly due to public sentiment. It is a confession of that "Oh, let me sleep" make-up, when we wait for a catastrophe to arouse us to a realization of an outstanding need.

Regarding the needs of the boys' training school, I got my shake-up during a two years' service there under the administrations of both Kooser and Gilbert. If you want a genuine shake-up, just go out there and take charge of a bunch of those boys for about two years, and a new vision will appear upon your mental horizon.

During the general jar of a few years ago much good has come to the school. The new school which was hanging by a thread, for a time, has become a reality. Due very largely to a strong public sentiment. A few years before such an undertaking could not have been put over. The people would not have stood for it. They were awakened—saw the need, and indorsed the plan. This interest is still reasonably keen, and partially due to the stimulated interest in the penitentiary, a kindred institution. We should not allow our interest to wane.

As every institution grows or deteriorates with age, so must the new boys' training school. It is but an infant so far as its service to the boys entrusted to its keeping is concerned. To what extent it will serve the boys depends very largely upon the interest the individual taxpayer takes in the welfare of these boys. The school can be made a place of retention, which it was never intended to be, or it can become a school such as its name implies—a training school. Which one it is to be depends upon the public interest in the place.

The old school for years and years was nearly forgotten by the public. If it was thought of at all it was as a pest house that was to be shunned, so far as responsibility was concerned. As you treat a person, so does he become. The school was treated much as a pest house, and it became near becoming just that.

If vocational training is important for our high school students it is much more important for the boys at our state training school. Even though the boy never follows the trade learned, or partially learned, at the school it acts as a stabilizer to character as nothing else will do. The Sunday school and chapel services are all very good, but add vocational training to the boy's education and the Sunday school and chapel services become many times effective.

The old school had some vocational opportunities, but not near what the people owe those unfortunate boys. It takes money to pay instructors, but competent instructors can be secured at figures within the reach of reason.

Instead of a pest house, let's make of the new boys' training school a vocational school just so

far as age and other unavoidable conditions will allow. E. T. PRESCOTT, Salem, Or., Dec. 24, 1925.

Bits For Breakfast

Hope you enjoyed it all— And are not much the worse for it in the cold gray dawn of the morning after.

"Small cheer and great welcome makes a merry feast," said Shakespeare. Hope you felt the great welcome, however large or small was the repast.

At one Christmas dinner in Salem, a special dish was of red raspberries, picked yesterday morning in the back yard of the home. How is that for summer lingering in the lap of winter, if we had any winter and winter therefore had a lap in which to linger?

In the editorial article of this morning, quoting President Coolidge, the reader will note that the president spoke of the 3,093,000 acres of flax this year in the United States. Nearly all this acreage was of flax grown for the seed only, mostly in the Dakotas and Minnesota. That many acres of fiber flax, as grown in

The year 1925 has been very good to Salem, in the way of growth, but 1926 should be a better one, both in rapidity and solidity of growth. It will be, if every Salemite will take stock and act on the vision that stock taking of our advantages and opportunities and resources will give him. If all Oregon could do the same thing, we would make the Florida boom look like 30 cents, and there would be no mushroom growth here, either.

ALL OREGON PARENTS Should Link the Future of Their Children with a Lincoln National Life Insurance Company

New Year's Edition The Oregon Statesman Friday, January 1, 1926 A chronicle of progress of the Salem district which you will be proud to send to your friends elsewhere.

By Charles McManus