

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe."
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Chain Farming

THE Portland Journal editorializes on the subject of chain farming as a corporation enterprise, with its customary sentimental tear-shedding. Such a condition would approximate peasantry as they know it in Europe, opines the Journal. To quote again:

"If we are going to continue to trifle with agriculture until rich corporations take over the land and cultivate it as 'chain' farms, and if the independent farmers are to become hired men, and every farm home shelter a tenant, then we shall be ready to say, with Oliver Goldsmith: 'Ill fares the land to hastening ills a prey, where wealth accumulates and men decay.'"

We do not mean to advocate corporate control of farming. It would not be surprising to see such an undertaking begun; in fact a New York life insurance company is attempting something of the sort with its middle western farms taken over through foreclosure. But we think the Journal writes without reasoning when it tries to apply the familiar Goldsmith quotation to chain farming.

One thing, chain farming would give the farmer a cash income. Isn't that what the Journal has been whining for all these months? It has complained that the farmer got nothing and got nowhere. The farmer on a corporation farm would certainly not get just his keep; he would demand and receive wages, possibly even a salary. And the Journal could be depended on to help the chain-farmers' union in raising the scale and demanding shorter hours.

Then corporations would certainly improve the farms. They would take over the properties with an idea of a permanent investment, not as a place to make a killing with a few good crops and then move to town and retire. Proper farm schedules of cropping would be adopted; buildings would be painted; the whole farming scheme would be carefully planned out by the best college graduates. Complete bookkeeping systems would be adopted and the chain-farmer would make out his daily report before going to bed. We do not know whether the enterprise would pay or not; but if it didn't the corporate owners would receive no sympathy from the Journal. There would be no call of farm relief then.

Such a condition would not mean European peasantry, any more than the manager of a city chain store or of a company service station is in any way submerged. Instead if the corporation should manage to succeed, the men on the farms would be given the opportunity to buy stock and thus become partners in the enterprise. Or bonuses for unusual profits could be offered. One thing certain the many shiftless fellows who now try feebly to make a living on the farms couldn't get a toe-hold on a corporation farm unless they reformed. That is one trouble with farming now: too many worthless farmers living on little or nothing, yet whose aggregate production causes the surplus that spells low prices.

We do not think there is much danger of corporations getting into the farming game very rapidly—nor much danger of any kind if they should. They can't compete with the independent farmers who charge so little for the labor of themselves and their families. But a successful farmer with a good income on a chain-owned farm would surely be better off than a lot of men struggling along under a title to a farm which gives them only a big burden of taxes and mortgage interest each year.

Expelled for Urging Justice

SOMETIMES a university is the last place to find intelligence. Here is the University of Pittsburgh abolishing its "Liberal Club" and expelling two students who were members because the club held a meeting and protested against further imprisonment of Mooney and Billings in California. The meeting was addressed by Prof. Harry Barnes of Smith college, and when the university authorities forbade the meeting on the campus, it was held off the campus. Dr. Barnes speaking from the running board of an automobile. Evidently the university authorities at Pittsburgh do not believe in free thought, nor much of any kind of thought. There is a mounting tide of protest at the continued incarceration of Tom Mooney, who was imprisoned for alleged participation in bombing a preparedness day parade in San Francisco. Statements in his favor have been signed by Judge Griffin, who presided at the trial, 10 of the jurors, being all who survive, and by Police Captain Matheson who headed the police investigating detail. Governor Young of California has promised to take the documents with him and study them during his summer vacation.

A person doesn't have to be a bolshevik to insist on justice even for a radical like Mooney. But at Pittsburgh the students who took the stand for justice were expelled. Power and authority some way have the faculty of making supposedly intelligent men bone-headed. What good does it do to have a perfect I. Q. and lack common sense and a human heart? The university heads at Pittsburgh should un-school themselves that they might learn in the laboratory of life.

Oregon Well Protected

A GRICULTURAL products of Oregon will receive increased protection under the terms of the new tariff bill, as reported by Congressman W. C. Hawley. Distinct increases have been made on many items of vital importance to Oregon producers. The infant flax industry wins a signal victory in having the duties on flax straw and the flax fibre increased. Growers of filberts and walnuts are given increased protection. The cherry men will be made happy by the added duty imposed on foreign imports, and the poultry producers are likewise taken care of.

While the bill is not yet enacted into law, with the impetus there is for doing justice to agriculture it is not at all probable that any of the schedules of the reported bill will be disturbed. With Congressman Hawley in the house and Senator McNary in the senate Oregon growers may be sure their interests will be looked after with diligence.

Folk have scolded about the rains, but they have made town and countryside the most beautiful in history. The luxuriant grass gives a universal carpet of green. Orchards have been white like huge snowballs. Flowers have bloomed in wonderful profusion with showy colorings that capture the eye. Sometimes the May is dry, the grass shows scant life, the flowers fade and wither. While we grumble to keep up fires and grouse over "the weather", have we not an abundance to rejoice over in the beauty of lawn and garden which the rains and cool weather bring?

This is National Music Week. Yes, and it is National Safety Week. Likewise it is National Hospital Week. And it is National Egg Week as well. Leading up to Mother's Day Sunday, also.

"Let The Chips Fall Where They May"



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BITS for BREAKFAST

By R. J. HENDRICKS

Three cheers and a tiger!

And six more cheers and two tigers and 21 guns! The Salem district gets increased protective tariff rates on flax and its primary products—cherries, walnuts and filberts, and poultry products—

And on a number of other articles in the farm schedule, all of which will tend to enhance prices and speed up our industries on the land and in the cities and towns of this valley and the whole state.

On some items, we did not get as much protection in the reported bill as we asked for; but every little bit more added to every little bit we have helps a little bit more. "We are going to have a boom in our filbert industry, which we need, and another in our walnut industry, that will aid in making Salem the edible nut industry of the world, which it is destined to become."

The added rate on cherries will help a lot. It will stiffen up prices, and in the long run it will transfer a larger share of the maraschino industry to this section. We will have maraschino factories in Salem.

R. P. Boise tells the Bits man that he notes some errors in the article written by Ed C. Dunn for the Dallas Itemizer, on Ellendale history part of which we reprinted in this column.

Among other statements is one that the old boarding house was used by Nesmith and O'Neil. This should read Nesmith and Owens, who had purchased the grist mill from O'Neil; the latter having built it in 1884.

Col. Nathaniel Ford never resided at Ellendale, his home being on his donation land claim at Rickreall.

The statement that California residents took wheat to the mill for grinding is undoubtedly a mix up with the fact, often stated, that much flour was taken by pack train from the mill to California. This flour, however, was from wheat grown in Oregon.

The historian, Geo. H. Himes, has placed a placard on the first mill stones used by O'Neil, these stones now being in the room of the State Historical society in Portland. Among other statements relating to the mill in this placard is the following: "It was the nearest flouring mill to the California gold mines for a number of years, after their discovery on January 24, 1848, and pack trains took tens of thousands of pounds of flour to these mines from this mill."

There is also a historic flouring mill at Aurora. The burrs of that mill, used in the days of the colony there, have been preserved and are now the property of the city of Aurora.

Dianna Snyder, postmistress at Aurora, has donated for public use a couple of lots on a prominent corner at Aurora, and it is hoped that a building will be erected there, with room for part of the historic relics of that historic community. And there are many.

It is a great pity that the old Aurora church, one of the finest of the kind in the state when it was erected, could not have been preserved.

And more of a pity that the Aurora park could not have been kept up after the dissolution of the colony. It was the finest park in Oregon; unique in its appointments and facilities for entertaining large crowds; beautiful beyond any spot of like kind in the northwest when it was in its

Old Oregon's Yesterdays

Town Talks from The Statesman Our Fathers Read

May 8, 1904

The ladies of the Marion Square Improvement League have just installed 24 neatly designed iron benches in the park and have also thoroughly cleaned the park grounds.

Republicans are holding high carnival at Woodburn, where the opening gun for the county, district, state and national campaign for 1904 is being fired today. Thousands are in attendance.

Bids are being advertised for construction of the new 30x40 First Congregational church, corner Liberty and Center streets. Pugh and Carey are the architects.

The Sixth B class of Miss Harwood's room are the East school gave a picnic to which the seventh B was invited. The seventh grade won a baseball game in the afternoon.

Read the Classified Ads.

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Here and There:

Terse comments on Events, Local and Abroad, of the Past Week.

THE public, engrossed with its own weighty matters of making a budget pay for rent, heat and the new spring hat for mother, is little bothered by the troubles of the reparations conference. A few billions more or less for Germany to pay over a 40-year period is of little concern.

But settlement of reparations is of really great interest, indirectly, to every American citizen. First, there arises the moral question, should the loser be made to pay for the losses of a war? France contended originally that Germany should pay the cost plus interest of all the destruction done in that country during the four years of fighting. When this bill was computed the amount was so staggering that France herself says it was impossible of fulfillment. So the winner, too, must help pay for a war. That's point one.

The second question was how much should Germany pay a year and for how long a time? General Dawes and Owen D. Young got the affair rightly stated when they said, how much Germany should pay was surely no more than Germany could pay. Hence there was a careful survey of Germany's capacity to pay which ended in the famous Dawes plan wherein the credit of the country was restored in part by foreign loans, secured by long-time bond issues on the large utilities of Germany. Germany then began a systematic repayment of her war-time reparations. The matter of how long the payments would continue was not settled.

Now the committee is trying to set the final limits on Germany's payments. For weeks it has looked as though the nations could not agree. Now Owen D. Young has suggested a solution which bids fair to be accepted. It means considerable less reparations than France had hoped for, although she will share in the payment in the ratio fixed just after the war, I. e., France will get 52% of every mark paid by Germany. Germany has profited by the change of feeling towards her in the last 10 years. As war-time hatred died there has grown a belief throughout the world that all nations are partly to blame for war and that all must suffer in its consequences. The length of time consumed in settling on reparations payment has thus worked to Germany's advantage.

SINCLAIR in jail brings sorrow to his family and his employees, perchance, but the great rank and file of people are saying that it's a mighty good thing that one rich man, at least, has "to do time."

Physically Sinclair will be better for his days in prison. He will rise and go to bed more regularly; his food will be more carefully eaten; his work, his routine, will not be as strenuous as the nervous-tension work of a great executive. What will he suffer and wherein the penalty? Largely mental. Each day he suffers the

remorse of being in prison, a common offender of the law, a companion of cut-throats and thugs. Then there is that ever present punishment of what-people-will say. It shouldn't ruin a man's life to go to prison but we surmise it will always go hard within to know that he has the stigma of a "jail bird."

But Sinclair should not escape. He undoubtedly was a knowing participant in one of the greatest grafts in federal history yet he nearly avoided punishment. Only his failure to answer four questions put to him by the senate investigating committee brought about the sentence on the basis of "contempt of court."

GASOLINE is back to 23c and the dealers feel more comfortable. In one way, the public is pleased—in the fact that no one wants to see the gasoline dealers go to the wall. But people think 18c gas is high enough. It believes, first, that the margin of the wholesale oil companies is too large, and second, that it is high time that there be weeding out process in the gasoline service business. Too many dealers mean too big profits, for if every pump owner must have a living wage, the gasoline profit must be high.

Fewer dealers and lower wholesale prices will bring the 23 level down.

CHANGES in such important services as water supply must perform so slowly. The public cannot think or act quickly. Its brain is too complicated.

For months and years Salem has known that its water supply was faulty. What was to be done was a more difficult question. Buy the system? Improve the filter? Go to the mountains? The questions have been mulled over in parlor and street corner but no definite action has been taken. The city council is tailing for a show-down. It wants to know of the water company just what that corporation proposes to do.

We suggest that the cost of a mountain system be determined, that this cost be incorporated into a new set of rates so that citizens may know just what it will mean if an additional expense comes and also that there be prepared a statement of earnings of the present company to determine whether or not the city can afford to go into the water business.

There are well-informed men in Salem who say that the city can operate the water system more cheaply than it is now being run. If so, Salem should do it and whether it can do it more cheaply or not, public ownership of water supply is fundamentally sound. By all means let's have FACTS about water, not theories and guesses.

The council could well afford to expend considerable money to have a thorough going investigation made. That's the method of Hoover—get the facts, then act. It applies to Salem's water system.

RAISE OWN BEAN POLES
Did you ever try to raise your own bean poles? Why worry about them as long as you can raise sunflowers? Plant the sunflower seeds thickly as the beans will climb a small pole more readily than a thick one. Sunflower seed may be fed to your chickens, or if you have none, to your neighbor's. When the beans are picked the bean poles may be tora down and burned with the rest of the rubbish.

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