

WHY CAN'T WE COMPETE?

A Portland Wage-Worker Tells a Plain Story. Full of Common Sense.

PORTLAND, Dec. 2.

To the Editor of the Oregonian.

To the inquiring Sunday reader there is probably nothing in your columns so instructive as the excellent letters from Japan, now being contributed by Frank G. Carpenter. His letter to-day has almost persuaded me to emigrate to that country for, according to him, wages are higher proportionally there than here. A carpenter, he says, can make in Tokio from 30 to 45 cents a day, and other skilled mechanics still more, while salesmen in the large book stores get from \$15 to \$30 a month; and this in a country where "food is about \$2.25 a month for each person, and the necessary outlay for clothing about \$3.75 a year," while a house, even if it is but one room, often can be had for a rental of "40 cents a month in American money." In other words, rent in Tokio is about one-thirtieth of wages to carpenters, etc.; food about one-fifth, and clothing, call it \$4 a year, about one-fortieth of wages. In America I am certain that a carpenter getting \$2 a day cannot get rent for one-thirtieth of his wages, or \$9 a month, and, least of all, clothing, about one-fortieth, or \$1.66 per month, and therefore I conclude that Japan pays higher wages than America, though the scale of living, owing to its great lack of machinery and the application of steam, is lower than ours. But if Mr. Carpenter's figures are facts it is established beyond controversy that the Japanese laborer is receiving a larger proportion of his product than does the American laborer of his. Another creditable thing to Japan, recorded by Mr. Carpenter, is the fact that there are very few wealthy people there, which shows that the distribution of wealth is more equitable in this semi-civilized country than we find it in the "highly civilized" countries of Europe and in our own too civilized America. Japan is to-day in a sense what America was fifty years ago—very few large fortunes and little degrading poverty.

But after all that Mr. Carpenter tells us so admirably about "Stores and Trade in Japan," it is strange that he should warn us as a nation that we cannot compete with Japan. As a newspaper correspondent Mr. Carpenter is on the surface, "Al," but as a political economist he must be down near Z 20, or he would not warn this great big American tumbler against the attacks of these Lilliputian Japanese. I don't think a nation with 100,000 miles of railroad, with steam power exceeding all the power of the human muscle of the globe, with natural waterways bisecting our continent north and south, with thousands of square miles of navigable lakes and bays, with the mineral, timber and agricultural resources, of which we boast so much, need be afraid of a nation with half the population, that is but introducing the steam engine and the railway, and employs human muscle as a motive power to pull drays in the streets and run the "reels of many a factory." There are a great many things in this world of which a man may entertain a wholesome fear, but to be afraid of a babe in swaddling clothes seems to me to be the quintessence of cowardice and the acme of folly. But we are told (after having demonstrated that wages in Japan are higher than in America) that we can only compete with Japan and the other Asiatic nations if they ever begin manufacturing, by further reductions in the wages of the American laborer, I protest against any such suggestions. When wages are high I know, and all business men know, that times are better than when wages are low, and I refuse to be reduced to the level of the pauper laborer either of Asia or Europe. I am told that land in New York City sells at the rate of \$3,000,000 an acre, and that land in all our large cities is worth from \$50,000 to \$2,000,000 an acre. I am told that the royalty in the anthracite coal fields in Pennsylvania is 20 per cent.; that is, one ton in five or, in an annual output of 35,000,000, 7,000,000 tons which, at \$4 a ton, is an annual tax of \$24,000,000 per annum to the consumers of anthracite coal; I am told that the average rent of agricultural land in the United States is "one-half of the crop," which means that my brother laborer, the American farmer, works three days in a week for no wages, or merely for the privilege of tilling God-given soil. I am told that great fortunes are piled up here in America by the grabbers and monopolizers of valuable timber tracts, mineral veins, water powers, etc., and before wages ought to be reduced (if a reduction of any kind is necessary) to meet the competition of any nation, barbarous or civilized, some of these big fat incomes in rent and royalties should be shaved down a little. These are my convictions as a laboring man. I might build a railroad for \$20,000 a mile and pour \$50,000 of water in every mile of it, thus capitalizing it at \$100,000 a mile, and then like a baby, I might ask my railroad employees to accept low wages to enable me to earn a 6 percent dividend, the same as an honestly built, unwatered road with which I "can not compete." All this hocus pocus about our not being able to compete with anybody anywhere, is mere balderdash, of which every self-respecting American should be ashamed. Archimedes said, "give me a place to stand, and I'll move the world!" And I say give us the free use (that is, eliminate royalties and rents) of this grand American continent, and we can whip the European or the Asiatic manufacturer out of every market on the globe; but if we keep on pouring water into our vacant lots, thereby raising rents, as we do now, we'll never be able to compete, even with a tribe of monkeys, and even if the American laborer will work for nothing and forage for his "grab" between times.

James B. Morford, age 93, the last member of the association of "Old Defenders of Baltimore," is dead.

The Hotel of Salem.

The Chemekete Hotel at Salem has lately come under the management of C. H. Monroe and J. R. N. Bell and has furnished and thoroughly changed from top to bottom, the kitchen having been entirely rebuilt and the lobby and rooms overhauled and put in first class order for the coming session of the legislature. The prices of accommodation will average from \$6 to \$15 per week according to room and location. The patronage of the public is solicited.

Baker City Democrat: The once prosperous little town of Halley, Idaho, seems to be steadily on the decline in every branch of business, and its population is rapidly falling off. The postmaster has resigned his position and up to this time no one can be found to accept the position. The newspaper there shows a falling off in business and recently the News-Miner was compelled to decrease in size from a six to a five column sheet.

Walla Walla Statesman: The EAST OREGONIAN is mystified to know what on earth the fifty-five recruits that passed through Pendleton this week are going to do out here and is still more bothered to discover what the other one hundred and fifty that are to follow are wanted for. Well, the government has some bacon and beans left over from the Mexican war and wants to use it up to break the raw recruits in on.

It is now thought by the sanguine timber men that large lumber interests will spring up in the upper Rogue river country in a short time, which will necessitate the building of a town at or about the falls of Mill creek.

The bonus of \$100,000 required by Nelson Bennett and others for the contemplated road from Bellingham bay to the Skagit coal field has been raised by people of Whatcom and Sebome.

It has been estimated that the loss occasioned by the recent wrecking of the of the Yaquina Bay, near Yaquina City, will equal, if not exceed, \$250,000.

The third trial of Mrs. Marion Teller, for the murder of her husband at Deep Creek, commenced to-day. On two former trials the jury disagreed.

FRAZER'S OPERA HOUSE!

Saturday, December 22

After an absence of ten years, the World-Celebrated Artists,

Mr. and Mrs. John Jack

and the distinguished Actress,

Annie Firmin,

Will appear in their refined and popular "At Home Entertainment," assisted by

Master Arthur Firmin-Jack,

The Child Vocalist.

Look at the Programme:

School for Scandal, Rivals, or a Trip to Bath, Shakespeare's "Falstaff," Romeo and Juliet, "Fun on a Ranch."

NOTE—Mr. Jack is the recognized and accepted "Falstaff" of the present day.

Reserved Seats at Fletcher's

Annie Firmin is a bright particular light in the drama. Her art.—New York World.

Her Juliet is an ideal portrayal.—Atlanta Constitution.

Her laugh is infectious; her characteristics perfect, and her "Song of All Nations" delightful.—New York Tribune.

She is the best actress America has sent us.—Melbourne Argus.

The Pendleton Roller Mills,

(Capacity 300 barrels per day)

W. S. BYERS & CO., Proprietors.

Pendleton, Oregon.

Manufacturers of Graham, granulated and self-rising Flour.

Highest Cash Price Paid for All Kinds of Grain.

Flour, meal, chop, feed etc, always on hand

THE OPERA SALOON.

M. BRENNER, Prop.

COURT STREET - PENDLETON

Next door to Frazer's Opera House.

The Best Brands of Wines, Liquors and Cigars.

Sandwiches of All Kinds.

WEINHARDT'S BEER.

THE BOWMAN HOUSE

R. J. MORTON, Proprietor.

Main and Railroad Sts., Pendleton, Orego

First-class in every respect. Near the depot and has every convenience. Terms \$1 a day.

Guilds & Couey,

Proprietors of the

CITY LIVERY FEED & SALE STABLE.

Baled Hay and Grain.

Splendid Higs, Single or Double, and Saddle Horses always on hand.

Horses boarded by the day.

Week or Month.

All Kinds of Feed For Sale, in Small or Large Lots.

CHARGES REASONABLE!

W. D. FLETCHER,

WATCHMAKER & JEWELER.

Bank building, Court street, Pendleton Oregon.

Musical Merchandise

OF ALL KINDS kept in STOCK.

Pianos, Organs, and all kinds of musical instruments sold on installment plan

Leezer & Kuebler,

DRUGGISTS

The largest and most complete stock of

Drugs, Medicines,

CHEMICALS,

Toilet & Fancy Articles

In Eastern Oregon.

GIVE US A CALL.

Despain Block - Pendleton.

IF YOU WANT THE EARTH

TAKE

THE WORLD

It is almost the same thing.

No Premiums;

No Special Offers;

No Cut Rates;

But

THE BEST AND BIGGEST

NEWSPAPER

On The North American Continent.

12 Large Pages and 84 Long Columns.

A POPULAR NOVEL

Published in and given with each issue of the weekly edition.

Beginning Aug. 1, and continuing thereafter, The World will print with each issue a complete novel by a popular author. Among the writers will be:

Walter Besant, The Duchess, Mrs. Alexander, Louisa S. Winzer, John G. Winier, Henry Wood, M. E. Braddon, Florence Warden, Mary Cecil Hay, Bertha M. Clay, Annie Edwards, Rhoda Edwards, F. C. Phillips, Jules Verne, Wm. Black.

These novels will be the latest works of the best writers as they are published—the books which every one is talking about. Nothing but the very best will be admitted into the World's Stand and Library of fiction.

This Library of Fiction will be supplied to subscribers only.

No Extra Copies Will Be Printed.

No Back Numbers Can Be Furnished and No Single Copies Will Be Sold.

If You Wish the Series Complete, SUBSCRIBE AT ONCE.

One Year (52 numbers), \$1;

6 Months (26 numbers), 50c.

3 Months (13 numbers), 25c.

Address

THE WORLD, New York.

Big G has given universal satisfaction in the cure of Gonorrhoea and Gleet. I prescribe it and feel safe in recommending it to all sufferers.

A. J. STOVER, M.D., Doctor, Ill.

PRICE, \$1.00.

Sold by Druggists.

Leezer & Kuebler, Agents, Pendleton, Or.

Advertisement for 'The West Shore Magazine' featuring a portrait of a woman and text about the magazine's content and subscription information.

FOR SALE

Four lots and a house on the flat, near the O. R. & N. depot, centrally located, good water, good fences, for \$1000. Easy terms.

Four lots, one quarter of a block, near the Sisters' School, for \$250 cash.

CLOPTON & JACKSON

Insurance Agents,

PENDLETON, OREGON

PENDLETON

East Oregonian Building,

CLOPTON & JACKSON.

INSURANCE AGENTS

OREGON.

Large vertical advertisement for Oregon Railway and Navigation Company, featuring schedules, ticket information, and company details.