

East Oregonian

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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THE PROSPERITY TRAIN

(By Frank L. Stanton)

Where the bright blessings come down like the rain,
We're flagging the New Year Prosperity Train!
There's never no aghin'—we ain't lookin' back;
For the gleam o' the headlights shines far down the track!
Ho! all you people from mountain and plain,
A trip on the New Year Prosperity Train!

The shadowless sunshine still beckons us on
From the depths o' the dark to the dawn o' the dawn!
The fields shout for joy and a melody swell
From the steeples that rock with the ring o' the bells!
Ho! all you people from hillside and plain,
A trip on the New Year Prosperity Train!

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WHY NEGLECT SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY?

TAKING note of the fact considerable interest has been awakened in the proposition of developing power at Umatilla rapids on the Columbia the Oregon Journal in its Sunday edition said:

"Pendleton and other Umatilla county communities are talking about harnessing Umatilla rapids in the Columbia river. The result would be about 320,000 horse power in hydro-electric energy and the irrigation of several hundred thousand acres of Washington's and Oregon's contiguous lands. By electrification the river might then be made to operate trains as well as supply current for industrial, domestic and agricultural uses."

"When so many acres thirstily await productivity, when so many people eagerly hope for home making opportunities and when so many peoples are hungry for the products of soil and industry, every day that passes without definite move to combine the reclamation, power and transportation features embodied in the large use of the Columbia is a day wasted."

That these things are true there can be no denial. Vast bodies of land that may be wonderfully productive are going to waste. That land should be reclaimed and added to the tax roll of the state. That is one way to reduce taxation.

Our railroads complain of low dividends and seek increased rates from the public so as to make a reasonable profit. Yet these roads consume valuable coal which they haul long distances while the natural motive power of the northwest is going unused.

We would like more industries in Eastern Oregon. We would like to reduce fuel costs. It would be good business to safeguard against the depletion of the oil supply and the increasing cost of oil. It would be agreeable to heat homes by electricity and cook with electricity. Such advantages are manifest.

Now the answer to each of these problems is largely bound up in the question of cheap hydro-electric power. Through abundant electric power sold on a low cost basis a vast acreage may be irrigated by pumping water from the inexhaustible Columbia; railroad costs may be reduced and freight rates in proportion, industries may be fostered and the cost of living reduced. The possibilities of benefit from a real big electrical project are so great as to stagger the imagination. It is a certainty that the blessings would be more far reaching than can be appraised at this time. These benefits would reach all people in a very large section.

Fortunately, the opportunity to obtain this power is at hand if we can but find the way to development. The Umatilla rapids power site is the third largest on the Columbia and in many respects is the most feasible project for early utilization. 1) will cost less than any of the other projects and arid land needing water lies close to the power site on both sides of the river. There is basis for asking federal aid in order to reclaim this land and for the further reason that power development would aid navigation by eliminating two troublesome rapids on the upper river.

It must be admitted the project is a big one and the cost would be high. The preliminary survey estimated the cost of developing 320,000 horse power at Umatilla rapids at \$20,500,000. There may be some who think the project so big that it is not practical for present day discussion, but if you will note what California, Idaho and Washington are doing you will think differently. The state of Washington is vigorously agitating the Columbia basin project which, it is said, will cost \$300,000,000 and for which water will be brought from as far away as Idaho and Montana. Compared with the Columbia basin project the Umatilla rapids project seems like a very practical, workaday scheme. Washington is taking the Columbia basin project seriously and in some manner has secured \$100,000 for financing the move. They asked the president-elect to defer naming a secretary of the interior until they could consult him and he agreed to their request.

Can Oregon afford to sit by like a sluggard and let our sister states obtain all the benefits of federal aid in development work while we have projects which we regard as superior from a standpoint of feasibility?

Elihu Root is right about the disarmament subject and Senator Borah is wrong. We want a let up on war preparations and want it badly. But to be workable the disarmament plan must be on a fair basis and apply to all nations, not merely to England, Japan and America. The logical thing now is to wait for the Harding administration to take control and determine upon its League of Nations attitude. There will be more confidence in Harding leadership on this subject than in Borah leadership. Senator Borah is too much of a demagogue to be trusted.

The Anti Saloon league reports that the consumption of whiskey in the United States dropped off some 84 million gallons during the first year of prohibition. But has the league taken note of the amount of Canadian whiskey and moonshine that has been upon the market?

This is normal Eastern Oregon winter weather.

UPPER SILESIAANS HOPE FOR EARLY PLEBISCITE

BETHLEHEM, Upper Silesia, Jan. 24.—(A. P.)—German industrialists, Polish propagandists and men and women who work in the mines of Upper Silesia express hope that the council of ambassadors will fix the earliest possible date for the plebiscite which, they believe, will be the first step toward stabilization of the unsettled conditions terrorizing and pauperizing much of the population.

campaign to swing the region east of the Oder to their side, declare a further postponement of the elections to decide whether Poland or Germany will control, will only add to the excitement and to the hatred between the Poles and the Germans.

The Poles, apparently more confident of victory, assert they have always stood for an early plebiscite. Both sides say that the population is equipped with arms and that the fighting can hardly be avoided.

W. Korfanty, Polish leader, whom the Germans charge with instigating the "organized terror" last year, has declared Poland is so confident of winning that he has arranged to assume control of every administrative post the moment the decision is announced.

GO TO THEATRE

ARCADE SUNDAY AND MONDAY

More than the usual interest attaches to the announcement of the forthcoming engagement of James Oliver Crouce's "Nomads of the North" at the Arcade Theatre beginning Sunday. All those who saw "Back to God's Country" and "The River's End," masterpieces from the workshop of this author, realize they are justified in expecting something extraordinary in the latest picturization of his brand of outdoors, Far North fiction. This film is an Associated First National attraction and it is said to be one of the very best features ever offered by this organization. The three high-lights in the production, according to advance information, are: the remarkable performance of animals including many wild ones in general and a pet bear and dog in particular; a forest fire which is accredited with setting a new high mark in realism and thrills; and, a romance of all-absorbing qualities quite different than the ordinary run of love affairs so universal in the movies. The cast which has been selected to play the various picturesque roles in this intense drama of the wildest of God's country includes such stars as Betty Blythe, Lon Chaney, Lewis Stone, Melbourne McDowell and Spottiswood, Alken.

ALTA SUNDAY AND MONDAY

MAURICE TOURNEUR FEATURE IS RILLED

One of the biggest screen productions of the year will be seen at the Alta Theatre when Maurice Tourneur's super special, "The Great Redeemer," will be the feature of the bill for two days, beginning Sunday. "The Great Redeemer," it is announced, is a tremendous drama of absorbing human interest. According to the expectations of its producers, it is destined to be hailed as one of the really impressive photodramas of the year.

Advance reports on "The Great Redeemer" dwell with special force upon the unusual beauty of the production from a pictorial standpoint, as well as upon its intensely dramatic theme and the tremendous moral message it carries to all who view it.

Dan Mallory, as the story goes, has eluded a posse that pursues him after he has held up a train, and takes refuge in the home of a girl of the mountains. The girl, startled by his sudden and unannounced entrance into her cabin, shoots the bandit, wounding him slightly. Later, after hearing his story and falling under the spell of his dominating personality, she begins to love him. With Dan it has been a case of love at first sight, and he is soon contemplating the abandonment of his career as a bandit for a life of peace and respectability.

Temptation soon appears in the person of a former pal, who tips Dan off to the fact that the limited can be held up with ease if Dan will essay one more firing at his old game. Dan succumbs and attempts the hold-up, but is surrounded and captured after his pal has fled fighting the forces of the law.

U. S. IS NO UTOPIA SAYS PORTUGUESE NEWSPAPER

LISBON, Jan. 24.—(A. P.)—The Portuguese newspapers have undertaken a campaign to prevent continued emigration of Portuguese citizens to the United States and Brazil by pointing out that more than 2,000,000 workers are idle and hundreds of factories closed in the United States and that the Portuguese are not welcome in Brazil.

"Innumerable emigrants continue to arrive in Lisbon from all parts of the country on their way to Brazil and the United States," says the Seculo. "It is necessary to stop this avalanche and avoid this calamity, not only because the hundreds that are leaving this country are needed in the fields and workshops but also because they are going to suffer in a strange country all manner of sorrow and misery."

The same newspaper prints a letter from a Portuguese workman in a New Bedford, Mass., textile factory, who sent a warning to his fellow countrymen not to go to that city. He said that soon after he found employment he sent for his wife and children and they sold their farm in Portugal to pay for their transportation across the Atlantic. Then illness and the closing of the factory reduced the family to extreme misery and the Portuguese now desires only to return to die in Portugal. He declares that the Portuguese who remain in New Bedford, many are in abject misery.

GRANDMOTHER KNEW

There Was Nothing So Good for Congestion and Colds as Mustard

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*See and 65c jars, hospital size \$3.00

CONSIDER DEPORTING OF PASSPORTLESS ALIENS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—Deportation of "troublesome" aliens who are in this country without passports is under consideration by the state department it is learned.

Particular consideration is being given to the case of Harry Boland, secretary to Emmon De Valera. Boland entered this country without a passport and recently made a sharp advocating campaign against every action will be taken, however, until a definite policy is worked out and a definition of what is a troublesome one, is decided.

CORSICA NOW CLAIMS COLUMBUS AS ITS SON

LONDON, Jan. 24.—(U. P.)—Not satisfied with Genoa, Corsica has entered the lists of claimants to the birthplace of Christopher Columbus. Calvi, in Corsica, claims that the discoverer completed his first successful voyage in a house still standing in its streets.

Italy, Spain, Portugal and now France, via Corsica, claim Columbus as their own, which moved a correspondent to remark that "although the present generation will not see the fifth centenary of the discovery of America, it should be a splendid celebration, since so many European countries now take a personal interest in the discoverer."

Columbus himself is said to have stated that he was a Genoese, which, however, adds point to Corsica's contention since the island at that time belonged to Genoa.

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