the capital journal
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## $\mathrm{O}_{\text {Biserations }}^{\text {Cren }}$

 The state conference of editors at Eugene appointed a com-mittee to ascertain why the paper mills discriminate against
the country ppapers in favor of the Portland papers, by charging
the country newspapers as high as 10 cents a pound for news-
print as against $21-4$ cents for the city papers, and to seek a rem-
edy,
The reasons for the difference in cost is because the Portland
papers have long time contracts with the paper mills, made before papers have long time contracts with the paper mills, made before the war, and not expiring for two years hence, while the small
papers have to buy from jobbers and in the open market in mall
quantities papers have to buy from jobbers and in the open market in small
quantities. TTe great volume of business since the armistice,
has caused an increase in the size of city papers. The cessation of paper imports on account of the war, together with the
increased consumption, has caused the paper demand to exceed ncreased consumption, has caused the paper demand to exceed
the production, and paner mills have taken advantage of the
situation to profiteer. The small papers, and some of the large situation to profiteer. The small papers, and some of the large
ones, unprotected by contracts, must pay excessive prices and in some instances, have been forced to suspend, thru inability to
secure paper or to pay the price. secure paper or to pay the price.
To remedy the situation, all of conserve paper, to re-establish war regulations, reduce size
of paper, and increase rates to diminish volume of advertising that forced larger issues. Necessity compelled increase in circu-
lation rates, that also aided in curtailing consumption. lation rates, that also aided in curtailing consumption.
Most of the newspapers of the United States and Canada
 every been limiting the size of their issues and cooperating in
every way to protect other newspapers and permit their continevery way to protect orther newspapers and permit their contin-
uance. The Portland newspapers have been a notable exception
They have not only increased the size of their issues, but have
taken advantage of the situation to make an organized effort to taken advantage of the situation to make an organized effort to
drive the country press into bankruptcy by selling country sub-
scriptions at half price. The Portland Oregonian economized Sunday by issuing a 146
pgge edition. The paper wasted in this one issue would supply
all the country papers in Oregon for a month. What can the country press do except dance to the tune of
the profiteer's fiddle? Various legislative remedies have been second class mail privileges, Others suggest restoration of gov-
erment reguations on ppaper price and distribution. Nothing has been done, however, except a vain appeal to the decency of pub-
lishers for co-peration, because it was hoped that with the re-
sumntion of imports, normal paner conditions would be restored. no justice in permitting a few city papers to needlessly issue large
editions of huge blanket sheets whose only benefit is to emrich the profiteering publisher, when such issuance deprives the many
country newspapers of paper necessary for existence and forces tends to benefit the city at the expense of the country, for it is
not only the newspaper that suffers, but the community in which the paper is published and whose life the paper portrays. THE RAILROAD BILL
As finally amended and passed by congress, the rainroad bill
goes to the executive for approval, containing the labor progoes to the executive for approval, containing the labor pro-
vision urged upon congress by President Wilson in August, 1916,
when he recommended as follows:
 tion to the president's recommendation at the time, instead of
swinging around a wide circle, which included forbidding strikes
as crimes, on one side and federal ownership on the other side. Under the bill, as anassed, railroad labor do the other side.
settlement by the parties concerned, will go before a federal board of arbitration, consisting of nine members, three from
the roads, three from the employes and three from the public.
Pending a public hearing and decision by the board, strikes are Pending a public hearing and decision by the board, strikes are
made unlawful. Strikes are not outlawed, except in advance of
full public investigation-which is what the president suggested long ago.
Railroad brotherhoods oppose the bill on the ground that the
wage question concerns only employers and employes and that the public has no business with representation on the arbitration
board. But the facts of the matter are that it is the public that eventually pays the railroad wages through rates, and it is the
pubbic which is the chief sufferer from railroad strikes and the
consequent demoralization of traffic and buines, consequent demoralization of traffic and business, The employes
cannot afford to adopt the old public-be-damned policy discarded
by the railroads, for public support wins or loses strikes and the

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