

Great Future For Linen Mill Exists Says Julius Meier

Too high expectations must not be held for the new linen mills in the first instance, and development must proceed along careful, thoughtful business lines, according to Julius L. Meier of Portland in an interview given out before leaving for Portland, supplementing his talk before the chamber of commerce here.

He declared that work should be started with confidence, yet with the caution that introduces into operation every possible safeguard during the pioneering stages. He declared if procedure is along this line, placing so much responsibility as possible in the hands of such men as Tom Kay, and others from the outside who have had sound experience in linen, we will succeed.

"It will be our purpose, in the co-operation offered from Portland, to have every step taken with caution. No desire has been expressed anywhere to make this conservatism so slow that it is ineffective, but rather, to keep the young industry on the most solid foundation possible for the pioneering operation. There are enough difficulties in any pioneering work, without courting unnecessary hazards.

Importance To State

"We of Oregon who have lived here, and whose ancestors have reclaimed the wilderness and the desert, feel a very deep sense of loyalty and patriotism for our state. We want Oregon to progress faster and become the outstanding state on the Pacific coast as her resources indicate she should be. We want to bring out those industries that do not totally and wholly exhaust the raw material supply. We are hopeful that as the primary forests are cut away, reforestation shall be kept as nearly as possible abreast, in order that our children and children's children may have a rapidly growing, expanding commonwealth in which they will find opportunities for success.

"More important to my mind than merely conserving natural resources that are of slow growth and development, is the duty of getting a great industry established here where the supply of raw materials may be produced quickly from local sources. In both the woolen and flax industries this is assured. Our climate, our water and the hydro-electric energy available in all of our hills, gives the most remarkable combination for a great textile industry west of the mountains, that may be found in any like area of the nation.

Fine Opportunity

"I am interested in the production of flax and the manufacture of the fibre into linen, because it is one of the best balanced opportunities ever presented to this state.

"The raw material may be produced from Oregon's lands and becomes a perennial crop. It is a type of production, unlike the forest, which may be sown annually and harvested annually, and if the crops are properly rotated, without impoverishing or injuring the lands.

"According to the best information furnished me, the farmer will be able to get an average of \$30 a ton for his straw when he has learned to produce the right quality of flax. The average may even run higher than this, according to the estimates of some good agriculturalists. As you are aware, the production may easily be made to yield to a standard of about a ton and a half an acre, perhaps two tons, when agricultural practices are fully developed and flax is better known in this region.

Good Farmer Crop

"This is a good crop for the farmer. It is something that may be made perpetual. Europe has proven to us for centuries that a proper rotation improves the soil, rather than deteriorates, and flax for the favored districts where climate and soil combine in the proper equations, becomes one of the most profitable and satisfactory crops.

The production of flax in Oregon as a high grade commercial fibre, has been known for more than twenty years. Realization was always kept beyond reach by the cost of harvesting and the reluctance of labor to do the hard, tedious work involved in pulling the flax by hand. When, through a combination of the efforts of public spirited men, including farmers, it was proven that the mechanical pulling operation could be employed here, and the cost of pulling an acre dropped from \$20 to \$10 which were the prevailing rates under hand pulling methods to anywhere from \$5.50 to \$8, which seems to be possible now, all of us feel confident that the last economic hurdle had been taken in the race for a large commercial industry based on flax. I believe that industry is within our reach.

Conservation Advised

"Like all other vital business problems, the development must proceed along careful, thoughtful business lines. Those most experienced must be enlisted and careful management must be employed. Too high expectations should be discarded. The work should be started with confidence, but yet with the caution that introduces into the operation, every possible safeguard that we can put

there during the pioneering or early stages of the industry within our state's bounds. If we will proceed in this manner, placing as much responsibility as possible in the hands of such men as Tom Kay and others from the outside who have had sound experience in linen, we will succeed.

Protested By Duty

"On the other hand, the United States has a duty on linen products, ranging from 40 to 50 per cent ad valorem, the higher tax being made applicable whenever production of a given textile in linen is starting in this country. In other words, the higher duty is put on as soon as the import becomes competitive with the manufacture of a given line in the states.

"American imports, roughly, something under \$60,000,000 of linen and flax products a year, not including in this list linseed for the manufacture of oils. This is a tremendous possibility and because of the magnitude of imports, the essential character of linen for certain requirements in the household, and the high duty offered, would seem to give Oregon an opportunity for a great industry, with the least possible competitive elements involved therein. If we can so organize our work that the production of flax and the manufacture of linen may be prosecuted on reasonably economical lines, there seems to be no question what ever in the minds of those who have given it such careful study but what we may attain a very large, permanent payroll within our state, based upon flax and linen.

Great Industry Comes

"The manufacture of flax into linen, which is the second feature of this great industry that seems

to be beckoning Oregon, is conceded to be more nearly within the reach of American genius than the problems formerly involved in the production of straw. In the mechanical operations of spinning and weaving, there is no more reason why America should not succeed, than there is why she should not be able to spin and weave cotton, wools and silks. In those three great textile lines America has become, despite our high costs and labor, one of the greatest producers of the world and is destined to lead all the world in the volume and quality of fabrics. I am satisfied that we can spin and weave flax on a commercial basis, and especially will this be true when we can establish the production of the straw on a sufficient low cost level that our raw materials are reasonably competitive with those of the other nations of the world.

"A remarkable advantage we have in the development of a linen industry in our territory is found in the protective duty provided by the federal government. When Canada first started the manufacture of linens, they had a duty of approximately 27 per cent ad valorem. This has been dropped to an average of about 12 per cent for the Canadian manufacturer, and we are informed by those engaged in the business there that it is impossible to meet European competition with this measure of protection.

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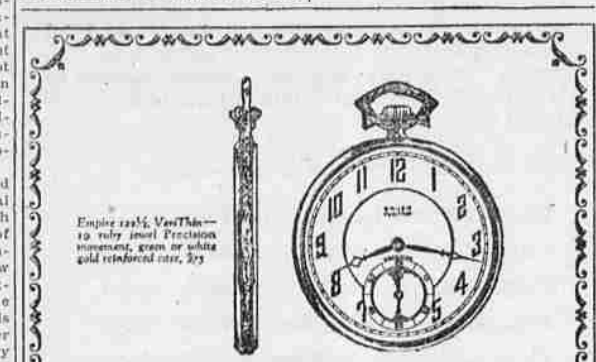
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Mr. C. E. Bond, Feder, Wash.: "I don't know how to express my gratitude for what your booklet has done for me and three more of my family, namely my wife and two sons, who were cured by your wonderful treatment."

Mr. J. Muckle, Portland, Ore.: "I retired from business 10 years ago. I had suffered with piles over 10 years and found relief even after a surgical operation in 1914. In 1918 Dr. Dean told me of your wonderful cure, and am thankful to say that I am now my former healthy self."

Mr. L. H. Bergand, Houshore, Ore.: "Your painless, non-surgical method of treating piles is the one logical and the only safe and rational method of relief. I know from experience and others who are cured, that your method is superior to any other. I am a sufferer and desire a cure, the cost of your treatment should be no consideration."

Mrs. J. Stevenson, Seattle, Wa.: "As a result of the treatment required at your Seattle office for Hemorrhoids, Piles and Protrusion I am well and have retired."

Miss D. Litcher, Portland, Ore.: "Having suffered several years previous to your treatment and then to be so easily and quickly cured seems miraculous. My only regret is that I should have taken your treatment sooner and saved myself so much pain."

Mr. J. H. Parke, Everett, Idaho: "I am feeling fine after taking your treatment for Piles three years ago. I had been troubled with them for years and was operated on twice without result."

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