

Capital Journal

Salem, Oregon

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"Without or with offense to friends or foes
I sketch your world exactly as it goes."
—BYRON.

Taking Up The Slack

The canning industry in Salem pays out hundreds of thousands of dollars in wages; hundreds of thousands of dollars for fruit; indirectly causes the payment of thousands of dollars more to fruit pickers and other classes of labor. In the main this money flows back directly into the pockets of Salem merchants and business men. Yet this is not an altogether unimpaired blessing.

Because this class of employment is of a seasonal nature, it means at certain seasons the influx of hundreds of transient laborers from various parts of the state and nation. Of a necessity this labor includes a good percentage of the incompetent and unfit; of men and women unable to secure steady employment elsewhere because of some mental or physical disqualification. Some of these laborers work during the march of the picking or canning seasons, save some of their wages and go on their way. Others find themselves as fall approaches penniless and jobless. As a result they are thrown onto the community. A community which is as barren of employment for such type of men and women in the winter as it is pregnant with it during the summer months. The merchants, and indirectly every one in Salem, has profited by the expenditure of these workers. And to the community they turn for their winter's sustenance, fuel and clothing. The city and county is full of them this winter and their demands are far in excess of any ever made in the past. They are demands which must be met because a humanitarian civilization finds it unthinkable that men, women and children should starve and freeze in its midst.

Yet, the community has provided two methods of meeting the problem, both of helpful service, yet both far short of a solution. One is a free employment agency, mainly supported by the federal government. The other is the dole of charity. For this taxpayers of the county assess themselves \$30,000 a year or more; voluntary contributions of many more thousands are made.

The employment agency is but a partial solution, because there are more idle men than there are jobs. The dole of charity is a make shift always fallen back upon when a community admits its inability to keep a man self respecting by furnishing respectable labor for him to do. The charity is well enough for the maimed, the afflicted, or the aged. It is far from solving the problem of the able bodied and the willing. For the able-bodied and unwilling there is always the open road and the boot to start them there after the community offers the employment and it is rejected.

Why isn't it the logical thing for the county court, the men who handle the county's dole of charity; the city's business men, who profit from the summer's wage of the winter's idle; the commercial club, the service clubs, all to meet by representatives, and formulate and put into action, some sort of a plan for furnishing helpful employment to those who have come in response to the seasonal calls?

It doesn't seem possible that out of such a representation of the best brains of the city and county no satisfactory solution of this problem could be reached. There should be some form of employment devised which does not too strongly compete with labor already employed and give the self-respecting worker a chance to winter through for himself and family.

The state provides work for its felons and gives them a modest remuneration. Yet hundreds of honest, unfortunate men, who have violated no law but some law of economics, must extend the reluctant hand of the beggar for a pittance.

If some plan could be devised and placed in successful operation, not only would it be of vast economical importance to this community, but it would bring more favorable publicity to the community than any other move ever made here.

It would reduce the county tax roll; bring light into many darkened lives, and be the first step toward the solution of one of the most vexing problems of the ages.

And the main interest in making such a move a success lies in Salem itself, as it is to Salem that these unfortunates of the county turn when the hour of need overtakes them, and on Salem falls the heavier share of the burden.

That it may be possible to do something toward the alleviation of the unemployed is indicated by a small step the county court has taken in that direction. The county owns a woodlot near Hopmore and any person in need of work is given employment there during the winter cutting wood at so much per cord. The wood cut is measured every Saturday and the woodcutter paid off at that time. This woodlot is many miles from Salem. A number of workmen walk the distance to get the employment and what little remuneration comes from it. However, the demand for wood is limited, and the number of workmen who can be employed there is limited. The distance is too far from the scene of the greatest amount of unemployment, that is in Salem. But the fact that the county has taken a step in this direction points the moral—that it can be done.

Perhaps, by a careful survey of the situation something bigger and more far reaching could be evolved.

It wouldn't do any hurt to try, at least. From such a meeting as suggested might come something really constructive. If it did not, no one would be hurt, and the consolation of having tried would be some return.

—D. H. UPJOHN.

SUPER MONOPLANE HAS ROOM FOR 50

Washington (AP)—A super-monoplane driven by motors capable of developing 2,000-horsepower, having a wing-spread of 130 feet, and designed to carry 50 persons, is now under construction by the Junkers Airplane company in Germany, the Department of Commerce announced here.

Transatlantic service at a height of between 20,000 and 30,000 feet is envisaged by the German company, should present plans for preserving normal atmospheric pressure at such altitudes prove practical.

DIRTY MONEY ERA SEEN FOR CHANGE

Washington (AP)—There will be a "dirty money" period for Americans when the process of exchanging the new small sized currency for the present issue begins about July 1.

Issue of the present sizes will be suspended April 30, a house committee was told by Herck Bond, assistant treasury secretary in charge. Between that date and July 1, bills usually regarded as unfit for circulation, and turned in by banks for treatment at the treasury money laundry or to be destroyed, will be kept at work.

"In that way this old size currency will be pretty thoroughly exhausted," Bond said. "It won't be wasted. It won't be called in and cancelled."

Some of the smaller bills of the old sizes will not serve their usual nine months, the treasury official said, but there will be little loss in making the exchange so far as United States currency is concerned. He estimated the manufacturing loss would be greater on the old big denomination bills and federal reserve notes as these would be still in good condition when finally retired completely.

It will take several months to complete the exchange after issue of the small currency begins. For that period money of both sizes will be in circulation.

Weird Spooks Visit House On Carolina Isle

Elizabeth City, N. C. (AP)—Two hundred years ago, the children would have whispered "pirates" when doors slammed mysteriously at night on Church's Island. Today the grownups about "spooks." George Brice, who with his family lives in a frame house on the island, has brought word to the mainland that strange noises, as of heavy weights dropping, or of a woman shrieking, come at intervals from the walls of his home.

Brice is a fisherman, staid in appearance. Mrs. Brice and the children corroborate his story.

The noises are said to occur in broad daylight or in the wee hours before dawn. The entire family has been aroused by moans and gurgles, emanating sometimes from the attic, again from the cellar. Search after search has failed to show a natural cause, Brice claims.

Recently word of the strange happenings spread to the mainland and scores each Sunday go by boat to the island, which is steeped with traditions as a pirate rendezvous, and visit the house.

The coast of North Carolina near here 150 years ago was a favorite gathering place for buccaners. They hove their swift ships to in the inlets and sailed out at night to raid shipping along the coast.

ODD GIFTS TO LINDY INCLUDE WARDROBE

St. Louis (AP)—Many of the odd gifts received at the office of the Missouri Historical Society here for Col. Charles A. Lindbergh, have not been placed on exhibition in Jefferson Memorial. They are being held for Col. Lindbergh's inspection and disposition, if he cares to make use of them.

Among the articles of wearing apparel sent the aviator by an admiring public are a gray business suit with two pairs of trousers, a pair of white flannel trousers, a pair of golf knickerbockers made of patchwork pieces in tones of dark gray and red, two pairs of white embroidered overalls, two pairs of pajamas, one yellow and the other blue; a shetland wool sweater, six suits of underwear, a hat, six pairs of silk socks, five ties, two pairs of fur-lined gloves, a pair of embroidered suspenders and six sets of crocheted wash cloths with matching towels.

In addition, the trans-Atlantic flyer has received a shaving outfit, fourteen cans of mechanics' soap, a bottle of cordial, a rubber boat and a portable typewriter.

SEEKS PERFECT FUEL TO PREVENT 'MISSING'

Washington (AP)—Why does the engine of your automobile sometimes miss when you step on the accelerator?

That's what the Bureau of Standards, in cooperation with the automotive and petroleum industry, is trying to find out, the Department of Commerce announces.

The Bureau of Standards has already made a few discoveries along this line. For instance, of two fuels, one may give better results in winter, another in summer. Another discovery is that while the temperature of an engine's water-jacket has little effect on acceleration, a motor will "pick up" quicker when the intake manifold is hot.

A perfect motor fuel is what the Bureau of Standards hopes to find. It will investigate also the value of auxiliary devices designed to make low grade gasoline function as well as high test fuels.

CLEAR LAKE

Quite a number from here attended the free dance at Chemawa hall last Wednesday night. A big supper is planned for the near future.

Mrs. C. W. Pugh went to Salem last Thursday to spend several days visiting her daughter, Mrs. Evans, who lives on Center street.

School opened up in the primary room last Wednesday morning but owing to the illness of the grade room teacher, Mrs. Myers, school will not open until January 7.

Mr. and Mrs. George Beckner and their daughter Mildred and her husband and daughter from Toledo.

Attorney and Mrs. W. E. Van Pelt and son Charles from Portland spent the week-end with the R. S. Van Pelt family.

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Smith and family returned from a visit at Chehalis, Wash., last Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Boyd and family left for their home in southern Oregon last week. They have been visiting Mrs. Boyd's parents, the V. Boyds of Quincy. Two of their children became quite sick while here and delayed their return home several days.

Wayne Smith left for southern Oregon last Friday where he will remain for some time. He has been staying with his grandparents, the Amos Smiths, for the past several months.

POLITICAL BOWLERS

Stockholm (AP)—Ex-admiral Arvid Lindman, head of the new Conservative cabinet in Sweden, is an ardent bowler despite his 65 years. In politics Lindman is the leader of the Right faction, but when he bowls he uses his left hand. Conversely, Per Albin Hansson, leader of the Left, who is also a follower of this sport, bowls with his right hand.



NEWS of the DAY in PICTURES



PRESIDENT DISPLAYS TROPHIES OF THE HUNT



President Coolidge and his host, Howard E. Coffin, display their bag after a day's hunting at Sapelo Island off the coast of Georgia.

NEW YORK'S GOVERNOR AT HIS DESK



Gov. Franklin D. Roosevelt at his desk in the state capitol in Albany, following his inauguration as governor of New York.

NORTHCOTT DRAWS LARGE CROWDS



Big crowds surround the Riverside, Cal., courthouse when young Gordon Stewart Northcott, charged with several murders of boys, is taken into court. Arrow indicates the "zpa boy" leaving the courthouse.

COUPLE LOST ON COLORADO RIVER



Seeking a thrill, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Hyde of Hanson, Idaho, left Green River, Utah, on a home made raft October 20 to ride down the river. They were last seen December 6. Mrs. Hyde was the first white woman to make the trip. Center is a picture of Hyde.

ARGENTINE PRESIDENT GREETING HERBERT HOOVER



President-elect Herbert Hoover greeted upon his arrival in Argentina by President Irigoyen.

FLORIDIAN VISITS KIN OPEN PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE



Gov. John S. Fisher of Pennsylvania (left) and W. L. Mellon, brother of the secretary of the treasury, leaving the capitol building at Harrisburg following the opening session of the one hundred twenty-eighth general assembly.



Placing of the Cunard liner Caronia on the New York-Cuba route has brought increased competition between British and American shipping interests for Cuban trade.

CONFESSES BUFFALO SLAYING



John Newland, 35, is said by Newark police to have confessed that he killed his brother-in-law, Edward Wilson, in Buffalo, last April. With him is Elizabeth Seaman, store detective, who arrested Newland on a charge of shoplifting.



Mrs. Ruth Bryan Owen, Florida congresswoman and daughter of the late William Jennings Bryan, is taking a short vacation at the home of her brother in Los Angeles.