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"With or without offense to friends or foes
I sketch your world exactly as it goes."
—Byron

A Minimum Wage

At the request of Governor Meier, the state highway commission has fixed a minimum wage scale of 50 cents an hour for a six hour day for emergency highway work to provide relief for the unemployed. As the average wage for common labor on highway department crews is \$3.20 for an eight hour day, the emergency workers will be paid a higher scale than regular employees. They will also be paid more than the counties pay for relief road work.

As most of this emergency work consists of hand work that can be done by machinery at less than half the cost—the highway commission figured that it could not pay over \$1.50 a day and get the same result to the taxpayer that it can get by machinery—the emergency scale involves a loss to the state of half the wages paid. That is the state is paying a dollar for what it otherwise would secure for 50 cents.

Fifty cents an hour for common labor is more than is being paid by most of our embarrassed industries at the present time—or by the farmers. In fact it is more than most taxpayers who have to pay the bills, are earning themselves. It is little enough, of course, but profitless industries and bankrupt communities cannot pay it.

Emergency work is provided only to keep people out of the bread lines, and it is paid for by bond issues that must be repaid by taxation, already burdensome, so that it cannot be logically considered as establishing a standard wage for industry. When this emergency wage is higher than that paid elsewhere, it will draw labor from industry and lose its relief character. The ranks of applicants will swell far beyond the funds available for emergency work.

It is not an emergency relief wage scale that is being established, but a minimum wage scale for industry. But only where the taxpayer holds the sack, will it be paid until a business revival gets underway. It is another attempt of the state to upset the economic law.

A Fitting Ending

Doubtless the jurors in the \$200,000 breach of promise suit brought against the rotund baritone David Hutton, husband of Aimee Semple McPherson, the fair evangelist, by Myrtle St. Pierre, gave her \$5,000 on general principles, not on the merits of the case. It was a case of a very pretty woman who proved herself a superb actress against a dub of a fat man, and "nobody loves a fat man"—that is no one loves David except Aimee.

Miss St. Pierre had been twice married and according to the testimony, had many other affairs, and was not at all bashful in the bestowal of her favors. She was far from an innocent maid, courted and won by a base villain. She was a perfect type of gold-digger and was seeking some of Aimee's sanctified millions. David's defense was a clumsy one for it consisted principally in trying to besmirch the character of his accuser and much of the testimony had the earmarks of being manufactured for the occasion.

The jurors probably figured that Myrtle, bad as she was, was better than the man who jilted her to marry a wealthy woman. Besides they were probably fed up on the scandals that break with monotonous regularity about the soul snatching Aimee and her publicity seeking clan of vulgarisms and so put David on the mourner's bench. No sympathy need be wasted. It was a fitting ending for the farce.

Cost of Prohibition

According to figures furnished Senator McNary by government officials, some faint idea of the cost of prohibition can be obtained.

The government collected internal revenue taxes in 1919, on distilled spirits \$354,689,643.12, on fermented liquors \$117,839,602.21, on wines \$10,521,609.14, a total of \$483,250,854.47. In the 12 years of prohibition, the government has lost approximately six billion dollars of taxation revenue, it would have had except for the dry law.

The bureau of prohibition has spent in these 12 years for enforcement \$108,000,000, from which must be deducted \$60,000,000 fines, penalties, seizures, etc., leaving a net cost of \$48,000,000, of this one bureau. This does not include appropriations made for enforcement for federal courts, coast guard, bureau of prisons, and customs bureau, which will multiply the cost many times.

These figures do not include the cost of prohibition enforcement or the loss of license taxes to the states, counties, cities and other divisions of government, which probably far exceed those of the federal government.

It is small wonder we cannot balance public budgets, when what has always been a principal source of revenue in all governments, including our own, is eliminated and an additional heavy cost of enforcement substituted. The only ones who profit are the racketeer and bootlegger and the bureaucracy of snoopers.

Alternating Church Services Scheduled

Dayton—The Dayton Methodist church and the Dayton Evangelical church will alternate each Sunday service. Rev. C. G. Morris, recently appointed Methodist minister of Coos Bay for several years, will occupy his pulpit here at 11 o'clock and at Dundee at 8 p. m. next Sunday and Rev. F. E. Fisher, pastor of the local Evangelical church will occupy his pulpit at 11 o'clock at Lafayette and here at 8 o'clock next Sunday and continue to do so until further notice.

Starr Family Has Informal Reunion

Silverton—In spite of inclement weather, which was reported as not so bad, the Starr family held an informal picnic and reunion in the Coolidge and McClaine park Sunday, with dinner at noon. No set program was followed but the group enjoyed sports and a social time. The members have formerly met at Dallas but voted to meet in their seventh annual reunion next year in Silverton.

There were present from Salem, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Starr, Mrs. Minnie Starr, Jessie Starr, Mrs. Lester Starr and daughter, Donna, Mr. and Mrs. Vernie Starr and children, Nadine and Wayne, M. L. Eskew, Jessie and Arlie Straw, Mrs. Altha Smith and Mrs. Frances Long; from Stayton, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Moss; from Silverton, Clarence Starr, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Solte and Lawrence Solte.

Jefferson—Miss Frances Looney, who is employed at Salem, is spending her vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. V. D. Looney.

PETITION FOR SCHOOL BAND BEFORE BOARD

Given the assurance of Dr. H. H. Olinger, chairman of the board, that the directors would give the matter "serious consideration," a delegation of Salem residents who had assembled to present a plea for continuance of the high school band filed out of Superintendent Hug's office Tuesday night, leaving a petition containing 206 names, the pursuit of which was a protest against the possible loss of the musical organization.

Failure to renew the contract of E. R. Derry, band director during the past two years was principally due to the board's desire to cut expenses as much as possible and because the instructor had admitted that he had received commissions from music dealers on instruments sold to students.

Told by members of the delegation that it is a universal custom for band and orchestra directors to receive fees for assisting in sales of instruments Chairman Olinger countered with the statement that the Salem board was not accustomed to doing business in that way and had no intention of changing. Mrs. R. S. Keene suggested that the board pay Derry a salary of \$1700 to take care of the band and that he should not accept commissions.

The advantage to the city from a civic standpoint was pointed out by Mrs. W. E. Anderson, who urged the board to retain the organization. She suggested that some plan might be worked out where the school board could receive financial aid from sources other than taxation.

Other speakers in favor of the band included Mrs. W. A. Barkus, Mrs. Ora McIntyre and Leonard Judson.

Upon the recommendation of the building committee, the board authorized the replacement of several flights of steps in the senior high school building, and the decorating of a music room in the Garfield building.

The board also voted to share with Fred Lampert the expense of installing a fire hydrant near the McKinley school which was placed some months ago. The building and grounds committee was asked to investigate a report of the city building inspector that tree roots were damaging concrete walks bordering the Washington school building.

Olympic Games Is Aid To Peace Says Hollander

Los Angeles, July 13 (P)—Major George Van Roosen, secretary of the Netherlands Olympic committee, says in the Olympic village where the athletes of the world are being housed, a medium for continued world peace on a par with the Geneva conference.

"It is a wonderful idea," said Major Von Roosen, who was general manager of the organizing committee which staged the 1928 games at Amsterdam. "This idea of the athletes of the world living together as neighbors will go a long way toward the promoting of world peace."

Someone suggested it might be even better than the world court, now in session. The major smiled broadly and shrugged his shoulders, but would make no such drastic comment. He predicted complete success of the Olympiad July 30 to August 14, praising the work of the Los Angeles organizing committee in its preparations.

Jefferson—C. A. Ferguson of Portland, who formerly operated a barber shop here, was renewing acquaintances in Jefferson recently.

OPEN FORUM

Contributions to this column must be plainly written on one side of paper only, limited to 300 words in length and signed with the name of the writer. Articles not meeting these specifications will be rejected. If return of unpublished articles is desired self-addressed, stamped envelope must be inclosed.

To the Editor: Recently I have learned that a few are objecting to continuing the band work in the Salem schools and retaining me as director because they claim I received commissions from the sale of band instruments last fall.

In view of this fact I am making a complete explanation of the entire situation because I think the people of Salem have a right to know the facts of the case.

Since there are many faulty musical instruments on the market and since inexperienced persons are not able to detect the imperfection in these instruments they naturally seek the advice and help of their musical instructor. It often happens that an instructor is obliged to spend several hours in putting an instrument in playing condition. Some cannot be remedied and must be returned. Instructors living in out-of-the-way places are often put to considerable expense for transportation charges on instruments returned, minor repairs, etc.

Because the instructor does not charge the student for this service, music dealers almost everywhere make a small allowance to the instructor to repay him for his time and trouble. This money in no case comes from the purchaser of the instrument; he pays the music dealer the same price for the instrument as any one else would. The dealer then makes the allowance to the instructor.

In my particular case I received the total sum of \$1634 from a local music dealer in consideration for time spent on trying out instruments, and in general helping the students to get good instruments.

When I learned that this practice was not approved, I discontinued it and returned the complete amount to the dealer. I have the reputation of the local house to back me in this statement.

E. R. DERRY,
1745 N. 17th St.

To the Editor: While listening to the two party convention I was deeply impressed by the lack of sincerity on the part of both parties. It would seem in these straggle times that the statesman who claim to be so great and human would lay aside petty problems and grasp the real problems and try to find a real solution.

Instead what do we find? We find the two great parties unable to resist the opportunity to grandstand before the suffering public. They dance before in front of the people instead of food and clothing. This is the greatest sham and falsity ever forced under the public nose and the majority eat it up.

We hear the cry "tax beer," but how can people buy beer when they cannot pay the grocer?

In congress today a great bill is under consideration. It is to give aid to the suffering and the unemployed. The newspapers carry only stories of the wets playing politics and trying to force a vote on beer. Now which is the more important.

Jefferson—C. A. Ferguson of Portland, who formerly operated a barber shop here, was renewing acquaintances in Jefferson recently.

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Fortune may lie in a sneeze; fame may rest upon a pair of crossed eyes, and steady work may be derived from clever manipulation of a toothpick.

Such strange trade-marks were revealed recently in a survey of the specialties indulged in by the screen comedians who are appearing in "Million Dollar Less," Paramount's Olympic games comedy, which comes to the Warner Bros. Elstree theater, Friday and Saturday, with a cast headed by Jack Oakie, W. C. Fields, Ben Turpin, Lyda Roberti and Andy Clyde.

Ranging from stars down to the minor players, the other comedians and their specialties are: Jack Oakie, fast wicker patter; W. C. Fields, prominent round nose and corner-mouth-mustached Scot; Hugh Herbert, movable eyebrows; Lyda Roberti, dialectician; George Barbier, expressive cigar; Hank Mann, half-comb his trade mark; Irving Bacon, "hick" character; Sid Saylor, pop-eyes; Dickie Moore, mischievous kid; Ben Taggart, cocky blundering; Vernon Dent, rotund dignity; Teddy Hart, "short comedy," less than five feet tall; Tex Madson, skinny seven-footer; John Sinclair, "bump" artist; Chick Collins, trick athletics; Sam Adams, deadpan; Helene Conklin, comedy titles; Lew Kelly, "loof" comedy; Eddie Dunn, thick-headedness; Frank Darien, "honey" comedy; Al Bridge, "dapper" comedy; and Constantine Romanoff, dumb-brute type.

Fresh from its record run upon the Broadway stage, "The Greeks Had a Word for Them," Samuel Goldwyn's film version of the Zoe Akins play, is at the Elstree Wednesday and Thursday, with Ina Claire, Joan Blondell and Madge Evans portraying the roles of "Them."

Thus the screen gets a new idea in film entertainment, Smartness

Attend Grange Picnic Liberty—Those attending the state grange picnic at Champeog Sunday from Red Hills grange were Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Taylor, F. E. Wilson and Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Dallas and children, Robert and Catherine. They report a large attendance and a splendid program.

Silverton—Mrs. J. Lais, who has been in the Silverton General hospital for several weeks and was taken to her home near Mt. Angel a few days ago, is not gaining satisfactorily, and was taken to a Portland hospital Tuesday forenoon in the Jack & Ekman ambulance. Her condition is considered critical.

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound

Had bad dizzy spells

Afraid to leave house... feared awful dizziness would make her keel over. She needs Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound in tablet form.

and sophistication are its keynote, a keynote which demonstrates anew the daring showmanship of Samuel Goldwyn. For months New York laughed at the wise-cracking adventures of these three dizzy blondes, this triumvirate which might easily have been sisters of "The Three Musketeers." And now these same adventures have been pictured for the edification of the country at large.

COUNTY NOT TO RAISE WAGE SCALE

The 50-cents an hour for a six-hour day decided on for emergency work by the state highway commission will not affect Marion county's road work unless it should cause dissatisfaction among county road employes, according to county court members.

Marion county pays \$2 a day for eight hours of work which as compared to \$3 a day for six hours of work as proposed to be paid by the state makes a material difference. That road employes were not altogether satisfied with the scale reduction here was indicated when prior to the last budget meeting and at it some farmers insisted there should be a general cut in wages in all county employes if road workers' wages were to be reduced.

Bennetts Are Surprised Silverton—Three friends of Rev. J. A. Bennett and Mrs. Bennett paid them a surprise visit Saturday and remained for dinner in the eve-

ning. They were members of the Junction City Christian church several years ago when Rev. Bennett held the pastorate there and made the trip for the special pleasure of Mrs. M. P. Corbin, now living at Summer, Wash., and was visiting Junction City friends for the first time in many years, the other guests were Mrs. D. Strom and Jake Miller, both of Junction City.

Silverton—Mr. and Mrs. Claire Helmske and two children are recent arrivals here from Beaverton. They plan to make Silverton their home.

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