

# Polk County Observer

Published Each Tuesday and Friday  
Office.....517-519 Court Street  
Telephone.....Main 19

BY H. W. BRUNE

### Subscription Rates

One Year.....\$1.50  
Six Months......75  
Three Months......40  
No subscription taken unless paid for in advance. This is imperative.

Entered as second-class matter in the Postoffice at Dallas, Oregon.

### REMEDIES FOR CAR SHORTAGE

The serious shortage of freight cars and consequent partial blockade of traffic is causing much concern to the businessmen of this country, and even has attracted the attention of congress. Various plans and suggestions have been offered for relieving this situation, and the railway companies have been roundly criticised for allowing themselves to be caught in such a corner. Yet the roads probably are not so much to blame as some believe. A vast volume of traffic and lack of ocean shipping facilities appear to be the chief causes for the car shortage, and although the transportation companies may have failed to increase their rolling stock sufficiently, they have a pretty good excuse. Up to the present year they were following policies of economy and retrenchment, and prosperity caught them before they were really prepared. Naturally they want all the business they can get, for it means money to them, and even now they are placing liberal orders for new rolling stock, which they are able to do on account of the profitable business they have done during the present year.

But the roads also are finding various ways to help relieve the car shortage situation, without waiting for the construction of new cars. Consignees are being compelled to unload cars with as little delay as possible, and efforts are being made to rush freight in transit, thus to make cars more quickly available for fresh consignments. Also, some of the roads are insisting on the heavier loading of cars, thereby making each car perform a heavier service. The management of the Southern Pacific lines estimates that company saved the use of about 4,000 cars during the month of October by adopting this plan—in other words that it would have required 4,000 additional cars to handle that month's traffic, had shippers been allowed to follow the old practice of forwarding cars only partially loaded.

It would thus seem that the car shortage has furnished the rail companies with a valuable lesson in efficiency, which is one advantage gained, even though the freight blockade has seriously inconvenienced business and the general public. It may be taken for granted, moreover, that the railroads will do everything possible to remedy the freight congestion, even without prodding by the public, or law makers. Transportation charges mean profits for the roads, and it goes without saying that the companies want all the business they can get. The car shortage is annoying, of course, but remedies will be found and the trouble solved.

### HOW OTHER WARS ENDED.

Those who have been optimistic in their hope that peace will be restored in Europe as the result of the recent proposal made by the central powers have cited as the basis for this hope that fact that, with the possible exception of the so-called Balkan wars, peace overtures have brought about an armistice in every war of recent years, and that such armistice has continued until peace terms were finally agreed to by the belligerents concerned, thereby ending the strife in each instance.

As a matter of fact, this claim is supported by the records. The Franco-German, the Russo-Japanese and the Spanish-American wars all came to a standstill with the first official overtures for peace, and in each instance a formal agreement of peace was the outcome. In the Balkans an "unofficial" war continued intermittently until Bulgaria and Turkey finally laid down their arms in 1913.

It is of some interest to note that the shortest time elapsing between the initial peace overtures and the parleys was in the second Balkan war, when the belligerents' representatives met at Bucharest eight days after King Ferdinand sought mediation. On the other hand, eighty-nine days elapsed between the time President Roosevelt proffered his services toward the re-establishment of peace between Russia and Japan. He addressed a peace note to the two governments on June 8, 1905; on June 16 Japan agreed and two days later Russia took similar action. The peace conference assembled on August 9 and the peace treaty was signed on September 5.

In the Spanish-American war, Spain made peace overtures on July 26, 1898. A peace protocol was signed seventeen days later, and a peace

treaty was concluded December 10 and formally ratified a few months later. The Franco-Prussian war was terminated by a peace treaty which was signed just seventy-three days after the first overtures were made by France.

However, the essential difference between the present situation and the wars above mentioned is that in this war neither side has been decisively beaten. In all other recent wars one side has been the victor and the other the vanquished, making peace terms comparatively easy to reach except in the second Balkan war for which there was really no excuse, save a squabble between the victors in the first Balkan war over the division of spoils.

But now we have one side posing as victor and the other side so confident of victory that it is unwilling even to enter peace negotiations under present conditions. Therefore it is plain no parallel can be drawn between this proposal and those which have terminated previous wars of recent years.

### THE GOLDEN FLOOD.

During the past year imports of gold to this country have reached the enormous sum of \$650,000,000 making the total stock of gold coin and bullion held in this country about \$2,750,000,000. This is the largest stock of gold ever held by any one nation in the history of the world, and it helps to account for the unexampled prosperity of this country, as well as for the prevailing high prices which are the subject of so much complaint. Never before, in fact, has there been such an accumulation of wealth in this or in any other land, and much speculation is being indulged in as to the ultimate effects and results of this condition.

That foreign nations will seek to recover a portion of this gold after the conclusion of the great war is a foregone conclusion, and keen financial experts declare it will be to the advantage of this country to reasonably facilitate this process. They hold, in other words, that a moderate redistribution of gold, through loans and purchases abroad, will serve to relieve an actual congestion of gold in this land, at the same time strengthening the financial condition in other nations that are our friends and customers. Our own prosperity will be made more stable, in other words, by helping to restore prosperous conditions among our world neighbors. In helping our neighbors, therefore, we will also be helping ourselves, which is a point to be remembered when the flow of gold turns in the other direction.

It is estimated the railways of this country during the past year have made net earnings of over a billion dollars. Which sounds much different from the railway complaints of hard times a year or two back.

A comet which is approaching the earth at the rate of a million miles a day is expected to become very brilliant during the early part of 1917. And some people may interpret this as a sign of approaching peace.

If peace could be wished on the fighting nations of Europe, the war would be over forthwith.

### OTHERS' OPINIONS

#### How the National Government Helps the Housewife.

For the last six years experts in the national department of agriculture have calculated and experimented in the service of the American woman. The bureau of domestic economies is the particular division engaged in this work, and lessening the cost of expenditures for food is its object.

These experts begin from the fact that the body is a living engine and that food is the fuel which generates energy. One sort of food, called the proteins, keeps the engine in shape, building up tissue and strengthening muscle. Another, called the carbohydrates, supplies the greater amount of the power, butter, cereals, fish, meats, nuts, olives containing fat and starchy foods and sugars providing heat. Foods are burned in the body as fuel through being digested or assimilated, and any surplus supply is stored as fat for use in emergencies.

Food's value is measured by the number of units of possible warmth which it holds, this unit being named a calorie. The sedentary business man on an average needs 2500 units of calories or heat-making food daily; bakers or conductors, 3000; farmers, 3500; laborers and the like from 4500 to 5000. What the housewife has to do when she purchases and cooks food is to deal with it so that the family obtains the most of nourishment for the least outlay.

The experts of diet inform her that pork has greater value than any other meat as fuel, a pound of ham holding 1329 calories, whereas the best beef has only 1165. Soups, even when based on meat, have only slight value for heating the body and therefore

are an extravagance in these days of expensive meat. Fish, with the exception of salmon, are quite wanting in nutritiousness. Goose has more than four times the fuel capacity of chicken. A pound of eggs has twice the fuel of a pound of mackerel. The calorie of a single pound of butter is much more than an average man requires for the day. All flours and meals have a high power of warming the body, oatmeal standing at the top. A breakfast of coffee, cream, honey, sugar and toast supplies energy enough and heat enough for average workers until lunch.

It is evident that the work of Uncle Sam for the women is highly useful. Study and use of the information would serve materially to lower the cost of living. It is worth while to know that we can live and thrive on a pound of nuts a day, that candy is highly nutritious and that chocolates head the list.—Ex.

### A Good Change.

When the people of Oregon decided that no liquor of any kind should be manufactured within the state it looked as though the old breweries would be a total loss. It is the genius of the American people, however, to be able to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat, to meet loss at such an angle that it becomes gain.

One of the brewery plants at Salem has been changed into a successful fruit juice bottling plant; another in Portland has invented a new beverage which as a soft drink appears popular and now word comes from Astoria that the plant of the North Pacific Brewing company will be reopened as a condensed milk plant in April, and that the output will amount to 200 cases a day.

What a change! And what a change for the better! As a consumer of local products the brewery did not stand very high. As the producer of things of use and benefit its standing was still lower. The condenser, on the other hand, uses home products altogether, and its establishment means the building up of a milk industry, prosperous farms, more fertile soils, with more money going to the farmers, and at the same time its output is a food, one of the best foods there is—a food which blesses and benefits and builds.—Oregon Farmer.

### Federal Land Banks Can Loan Billions.

An erroneous impression is extant that a stock limit of \$750,000 and a mortgage loaning capacity of \$15,000,000 is put upon each of the 12 federal farm loan banks. As matter of fact there is practically no limitation of law upon the amount of stock and the volume of loans that may be issued and made by one of these banks. The volume of business they may conduct will be restricted only by the demand of farmers for loans and the market for the bonds they will issue to obtain more money to put out on mortgage security.

The \$750,000 stock issue of the Spokane bank, which covers the states of Washington, Idaho and Oregon, is only the starting minimum. First it will be offered to the public, and such portion as may not be bought by individual subscribers will be taken up by the government.

Then the stock issue will automatically increase under the requirement of the law that each farmer taking out a loan shall also purchase stock to the extent of 5 per cent of his mortgage. An endless chain is thus set in motion—more mortgages, more stock; increased authority to lend more money and sell more bonds. The system, in fact, has capacity to absorb the entire farm mortgage business of the United States, provided all the farm borrowers should choose to do business with it in lieu of dealing with the private mortgage companies.

When the farm loan board was in Spokane this feature of the law was broached by an inquirer, and Herbert Quick, one of the commissioners, promptly said: "If the law had put a limitation of \$750,000 stock and \$15,000,000 mortgage loans on each of the 12 banks I should have declined appointment to the board, for I should have felt that the plan offered too slight an opportunity for me to be of real service to the farmers of the United States." Other members of the board concurred in Mr. Quick's opinion.

The system is comprehensive enough to take care of every farmer who may want a long-time loan at a low interest rate, provided he has the land security to warrant the making of a loan. There is excellent reason to believe that in a few years its business will be measured in billion phrases rather than in terms of millions.—Spokane Review.

### Americans Are Wasters.

There is just one way to reduce the cost of living and that is to be more economical. This is not only in the way of foodstuffs but in wearables. Americans are noted for their thrift, and as wasters they have never been approached at any time. In every home there is waste of food, because it has never been necessary,

in America, to conserve the food supply. Bread, potatoes, meats and vegetables, all have been abundant and cheap, and all have been generously wasted by practically every family. Some waste is difficult to prevent but much can be avoided. For instance take the hotels and restaurants of Salem and note what is disposed of as waste. Hundreds of pounds of meats, some the choicest, that have been served but only half of which were consumed. These are accompanied by other remnants of bread, butter, vegetables and whatever has been served on the tables. This is the waste of the individual, for it is he who minces over and leaves perhaps as much food from his serving as he eats. This waste is beyond the power of the hotel men to avoid, for it cannot be served again in some other shape. In the families it is different for there each member of the family can be served just what he or she will eat, and what is left can be utilized in many ways known to the thrifty housewife. It can be saved, often is, but this is the exception rather than the rule. It is safe to say the waste from American tables during the European war would have fed the starving Poles, Serbians, Armenians and all the balance of the war-made paupers, and had some left over.

The same waste is shown in our wearables. We are complaining just now about the high prices of shoes which we are told will be still higher. This suggests economy in this line. How many will get out their old shoes, still good, but perhaps needing a half sole, and help better the shoe situation by lessening the consumption and demand?

Suppose all Americans should try this, and it should result in saving to each person one pair of shoes by providing in this way shoe wear, equaling that of one new pair. This would mean, cutting out all below five years of age, about 90,000,000 pairs of shoes, that would not have to be bought during the year. With the war demand removed this would cause the market to be glutted and prices to fall. It is the same with clothing; a suit otherwise good, becomes "shiny" and no matter how much wear there is in it it goes to the scrap heap.

It may be that sometime Americans will learn thrift, but it will be when they are forced to do so by circumstances such as have prevailed in Europe for the past two years, and as those conditions are not likely to afflict us, the practice of thrift is something for the future to teach us.—Salem Capital Journal.

### A MAN IN DALLAS

He has grown old with grace, is the most apparent and most likeable characteristic of T. J. Hayter. He'll be 87 soon and yet his mind is clear and his memory keen. There is no grouching in him. He loves a good yarn as well as ever. He is tolerant. He asks no favors because he is old. He enjoys young men and women and likes to talk to them. But the contribution of T. J. Hayter to Polk county has not only been in his own person. He has four sturdy sons who have been taught by him, first, to be good citizens. Yesterday was New Year's day and Mr. Hayter was greeted on the street with wishes for a long and happy life. He should enjoy it, if exterior appearances count.

### SOME THINGS

#### Lauds Third Oregon Infantry.

In a letter received Tuesday by Governor Withycombe from Colonel Clenard McLoughlin, for three years colonel of the Third Infantry, O. N. G., the organization and work of the infantry is praised. Colonel McLoughlin has been returned to his regular army command and is now with the troops in Mexico. His letter says: "As I am about to leave Oregon I wish to state to you my appreciation for the support you gave the Third Oregon Infantry during the period that I was its colonel.

"The officers and men were always glad to have you visit our camp and the armory drills and we were all very sorry that you were unable to visit us in our camp at San Diego, Cal.

"Should the country again need the services of its national guard it is my desire that I may have an opportunity to command an organization composed of men of the character and physique of the men that were in the Third Oregon infantry during its recent service on the Mexican border.

"I have been on duty in Oregon for three years and I leave Oregon an Oregonian."

#### Few In Polk Jail in 1916

Just five people were incarcerated in the Polk county jail in 1916 as compared with 31 in 1915. "Prohibition" is the word explanation given by Deputy Sheriff T. B. Hooker.

# Specialism W

In this age of complex business store, as well as the "handy" capped. The specialist in trade business or other professions, v We are in business to serve you we specialize. We are plumber nothing else.

# Rich & Ellis

## ANNOUNCEMENT

IT IS WITH PLEASURE THAT WE ARE ANNOUNCE THE NEW SCHEDULE OF MEAL HOTEL GAIL:

### MEALS 25c AND

WHEN FOOD PRICES WENT SOARING A IT WAS NECESSARY TO RAISE OUR ME THAT THE H. C. OF L. HAS BEEN SOME WE ARE ABLE TO GO BACK TO THE OLD

### HOTEL GAIL - DALLAS

BY CHARLES BILYEU, MANA

# OUR PIE

Our Pies are just as good as the mother used to make," and so better. We rather like to bring our Pies, and Cakes, too, for the ter. And lots of folks say we are satisfied. We want you to try

## YOUR WINTER BAKER

# At Black's Gro

This Week

# The Famous E. O. Cured Hams, B and Pure La

## Black Is White

# Star Transfe

WE MOVE ANYTHING THAT IS MOVEABLE

PROMPT SERVICE

G. A. & L. C. MUSCOTT & A. P. S

Phone Stands:—Webster's Confectionery 511 Ellis Barn 1974

# JOSEPH A. FL

VOCAL TEACHER

CONDUCTOR PORTLAND ORATORIO

CONDUCTOR DALLAS ORATORIO

SUPERVISOR OF MUSIC IN DALLAS

In Portland Studio 600 Royal B

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Teaching in Dallas Thursdays, Fridays and Sat

10 Dallas pupils already stud Write The Observer if interest