

# Independence Enterprise

Published Every Friday by  
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Subscription Rates  
One Year ..... \$1.50  
Six Months ..... .75

## AND THE PUBLIC PAYS

As to whether there is justification for the labor upheaval in the mining industry is largely a matter of viewpoint. If you were a miner you would no doubt sanction it as heartily as the miners are doing. While on the other hand if you were an owner, you would be able to see nothing but wrong in the attitude of the miners. Being neither, you are supposed to pay the expense, for which perhaps you should be privileged to do a little harmless spouting.

The great mass of coal miners is uneducated, trained to do but one thing in an environment which does not lead to better citizenship. The undertaking is hazardous and working conditions at the best are far from inviting. The only incentive is the pay received.

The mine owners are not interested in the welfare of their employes other than what they can get out of them. There is no use of camouflaging—there is no bond of sympathy between employer and employe in the coal industry. We are referring to the general rather than the individual case. The purpose of the coal owner is to get his product on the market as cheaply as possible, and it is the mission of the miner to get as much for his services as possible. It is a cold-blooded business proposition.

The mine owner in a general sense has the whip hand. While operations are at a standstill he has a certain amount of overhead expense, but this can be met by a slight increase in price when operations are resumed. The miner, during the strike period, exists by contributions from his mine organization and other labor organizations. The average miner accumulates no money to tide him over the strikes or other contingencies.

Organized labor contends that only by striking can it improve its condition. It claims that it is the principle which is at stake and that the cost in money is a matter of minor consideration. Labor goes on the theory that the greatest heritage it can hand down to posterity is improvement in working conditions, and that to attain this is willing to endure much hardship and suffering.

If it were a fight in which only the direct contestants were interested it would attract but passing notice. Unfortunately, coal is so universally used that a curtailment in the supply affects the entire country, and a complete cessation of coal mining for any great length of time would paralyze the industries of the nation.

And the strife has been going on for years. If the heart and hand and head of the youngsters in the coal mining regions could be simultaneously trained, there would be fewer strikes and better conditions, but to accomplish the full measure of success it would likewise be necessary to administer the same serum to the kiddies of the mine owners.

## AND WHERE WAS THE EXECUTIVE MOSES—

The Salem Capital Journal is contending that the responsibility for doubling the recompense of the adjutant general by the 1921 session of the legislature rests solely upon the shoulders of George A. White. That is, White caused the old law to be repealed, and another law enacted which increased the salary of adjutant general from \$1800 to \$3600 a year and likewise made the adjutant general custodian with a remuneration of \$1200 per annum.

The Enterprise is holding no brief for White. In justice, however, why should the Journal attempt to make him the goat? The responsibility for the increase is chargeable to the legislature—and the governor. One of the important purposes of the governor is to keep the legislature in check in unwise legislation. What was Olcott doing along about this time? If we remember correctly, Olcott's salary was only increased 50 per cent.

Mrs. Margot Asquith, after lecturing for three months in this country, has "discovered" that we are not such a bad lot after all. When she came here in February she believed that she had nothing in sympathy with us. She has profited wonderfully by her visit here and has come to the conclusion that were we to join with Great Britain the control of the world would be a simple matter. The things which seemed to impress her the most were the generosity of the people and their vitality. Upon her arrival here she poked considerable fun at prohibition, but before her departure was willing to admit it had some meritorious provisions.

It seems to be quite generally conceded that Senator Patterson is going to be a very material factor in the gubernatorial argument. Some of the Portland political dopsters have it figured out that Olcott is holding the pole at the present, but they are apparently basing their opinions largely on Portland conditions. Senator Patterson, however, will receive a fairly representative vote in Portland and in other parts of the state there is sufficient Patterson sentiment to make him a very formidable candidate.

Ralph Williams of Portland, a former Polk county man, is seeking re-election as republican national committeeman from Oregon. Mr. Williams has been so efficient in his duties that it is not probable that he will have any opposition.

## "JIM" STEWART WANTS TO BE POLK-BENTON SENATOR

"Jim" Stewart of Corvallis is a candidate for the republican nomination for senator from the Benton-Polk district. Stewart is a familiar figure in legislative circles, serving three terms as representative from the Gilliam-Sherman-Wheeler district, 1915-1917-1919.

In 1919 he moved to Corvallis for the educational advantages for his children.

He came to be recognized as one of the leaders of the house, fighting his battles with the canniness of the Scot, and because of his square shooting habits it got to be that when he arose in his place with the advice, "It's a rotten bill, boys; let's kill it," that particular measure usually had hard sledding on final passage.

Stewart was a farmer, stock raiser and latterly a newspaper editor in Eastern Oregon. He supported those measures which were for the benefit of the farmers of the state during his service in the house. He took a leading part in the enactment of the workmen's compensation act; was a strong supporter of the bone dry legislation; rendered efficient aid to the soldier's educational bill when it was in trouble in the house; was one of the original good roads advocates; was the author of the 4 percent road bonding amendment, and an insistent contender that the highway work should be financed from automobile license and gasoline tax receipts.

Stewart insists that part of the state tax should be borne by money, incomes and all those forms of wealth which now escape. He has been a consistent supporter of the educational institutions and the schools of the state, was a member of the school board at Fossil for nearly 20 years. He also served on the Wheeler county fair board until he moved to Corvallis.

He will have as an opponent in the primaries E. P. Belknap of Monroe, a member of the house during the 1921 session.

## M'NARY STARTS PROBE OF MANCHURIAN WALNUT

Senator Charles L. McNary has informed the Oregon Growers' Cooperative association that the senate sub-committee has adopted his resolution providing for an appropriation with which to investigate the Manchurian walnut industry. This will allow an expert to be detailed to Manchuria to obtain data on the whole industry of that country.

The problem of the importation of the Manchurian walnut is becoming critical. Nearly 7,000,000 pounds of Manchurian walnuts were imported to San Francisco during December and January with an average valuation of 8½ cents per pound.

Senator McNary has been cooperating with the Oregon Growers' to reduce the walnut importation which is a serious menace to our home industry.

## MONEY VALUE OF ART

London, morosely commenting on the fact that its famous Gainsborough painting, "The Blue Boy," drew great crowds to view it only after the fact of its sale at an enormous price had been made known, wonders at the mental slant of those who now appreciate this work of art and bemoan its departure to America but who would never have had the curiosity to go and look at it until, as it were, a price ticket had been attached to it. But as a matter of fact there is in all probability no particular cause for pessimism in the turn which events have thus taken. Certain kinds of art, like certain kinds of music, remain caviare to the general public except that we believe the field of culture is widening, that more people than formerly appraise the finer things at their true value, that increased opportunity to experience the advantages of culture has on the whole resulted in a more understanding and appreciative public in this regard.

That widespread interest should be aroused in new quarters in a painting by the announcement that it had fetched a momentous price is not, however, a reason for wonder, at least by anyone who understands that to the man preoccupied with the problem of making a living the money measuring-stick is practically inescapable, though it does not always symbolize a mind closed to all aspirations for the beautiful. Then too, it is a question whether the announced value of the painting was not a mere incident of the widespread publicity that it received. Thousands would never have heard of "The Blue Boy" if the incident in question had not occurred, but there are other thousands who ought not to plume themselves on that account. If truth were known not a few who now talk like wiseacres about Gainsborough would have been stumped a month ago if they had been asked to give the merest outline of his work.

Behind the discussion which the sale of "The Blue Boy" has precipitated in England runs a current of philosophy which assures us that the entente is still intact. It transpires only now that there is ill-feeling in certain quarters because the buyers of English treasures have recently been Americans. But Britishers are also reminded that they, too, once had their day, when they filled their galleries with the works of old masters of other lands. Nor, for that matter, were Americans first to make the advances which British galleries accepted. The London Telegraph recalls that the exodus of pictures from England began some thirty years ago, when Germany and not America was the aggressor, and no protest was made then.

It is in fact doubtful whether barriers to the sale of art works are greatly desired by the people of European countries. It is significant that the attitude of Europe toward the formerly detested "commercialism" of Americans is changing. To those who would raise the cry that the latter are affected by the arrogance of wealth, the Telegraph makes a final and convincing reply which in substance is that those who make their own possessions the subject of commerce have forfeited the right to accuse the buyer of commercialism, especially when the former "go out more than half way to meet the invader in their eagerness to spread their treasures at his feet."—Oregonian.

One of the medical journals says indigestion causes people to lie. Here's a chance for somebody. Pink pills for prevaricators.

"What has become of the girl you were making love to in the hammock last summer?"

"We fell out."

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