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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22, 1923

A NUT TO CRACK

Secretary of Agriculture Wallace,

in his statement issued in Wash-
ington day before yesterday, comes
about as near to justifying a guar-
anteed high price for wheat as

anyone we have yet heard. Secre-
tary Wallace was not arguing in
favor of a guaranteed wheat price

—as a matter of fact, he stated
distinctly that he can foresee no
good results from such a plan—

but he did point out by indirection
that the government is doing for
others substantially what the wheat
farmer is demanding that it do
for him.

Take the case of the railroads as
a sample. The government, con-
trary to the general belief, does
not guarantee a certain rate of re-
turn upon railroad securities, but
it does fix rates that are calculated
to yield such a return and it does
positively forbid destructive com-
petition. No railroad can cut
rates without the permission of the
interstate commerce commission.

Neither, as we have reason to
know, can anybody spend his own
money to build new railroads
without first receiving the permis-
sion of the government, as repre-
sented by the interstate commerce
commission. All of this amounts,
in effect, to guaranteeing high
railroad rates.

Take also the case of wages in
industry, which is mentioned by
Secretary Wallace. Wages are
governed by the labor supply, and
by means of a restrictive immigra-
tion policy the government cuts
down sharply the available supply
of labor. Thus again, in effect, it
guarantees to the laboring man a
high rate of return for his services.

At the same time a fairly high
tariff helps to keep up commodity
prices by limiting European com-
petition. Thus, in a sense, the
government is helping to guaran-
tee high prices for nearly every-
thing the farmer has to buy. It is
not altogether strange, therefore,
that he should begin to insist that
it do something in the way of guar-
anteeing his selling price.

To be sure, the government has
cheerfully extended tariff protec-
tion to the farmer, but in the
case of wheat and other crops of
which there is a surplus for ex-
port it is protection that does not
protect—for the price is set by
world markets and is not affected
by the tariff. The farmer who is
practicing diversification is really
benefitted by the tariff, for we im-
port butter and eggs, wool, nuts,
fruits and vegetables, instead of ex-
porting them, and so the producers
of these commodities feel the
beneficial effects of tariff pro-
tection. But the poor wheat
grower is at the mercy of the world
market for what he has to sell,
while when he comes to buy he has
to pay prices that are government-
guaranteed in one way or another.
It is really no great wonder that
he should regard himself as ill-
treated.

But when we come to consider a
guaranteed high price as a remedy
for the wheat grower's plight, we
face certain manifest drawbacks.

There is, first of all, the fact that a
guaranteed high price would
greatly stimulate overproduction.

Nearly every farmer in the country
would rather grow wheat than any
other crop, if he could make money
at it, and so the result of a guar-
anteed high price would be to ex-
tend heavily the already over-ex-
tended wheat acreage. Thus the
government would have to go on
indefinitely buying wheat at a high
price and dumping it at a low price
on an over-supplied market—
either that or destroy it, which
would be an economic crime. It
would be far cheaper and simpler,
in the long run, merely to pension

the wheat farmer and save him the
labor of growing a crop for which
the market was already glutted.

For years and years we have been
moving steadily in the direction of
jacking up prices. The govern-
ment, through the interstate com-
merce commission, guarantees
railroad rates that are supposed to
yield a fair return upon the money
invested. State governments gen-
erally have eliminated competition
in public utilities, such as electric
lights, gas, telephones, etc., and
have fixed rates that will yield a
fair rate of return upon the in-
vestment. The labor organizations,
coupled with restrictive immigra-
tion, have succeeded in guaran-
teeing a fairly high scale of wages,
and high wages are reflected in
high manufacturing costs. Trade
organizations, in one way or an-
other, have contributed to the
maintenance of prices that will
show a moderately steady rate of
profit. All of these things have
helped to push up the price of
what the farmer has to buy.

Meanwhile there has been no
corresponding process of jacking
up the price of what the farmer
has to sell. He has no organiza-
tion, such as the labor unions, that
is working constantly and success-
fully to limit the supply. In the
case of the farmer who is growing
crops for export, the tariff does not
benefit him. Neither state nor
federal government limits com-
petition in his behalf. While every-
body else, with the aid of the law
and otherwise, has been jacking up
prices, the farmer's price has slid
back to about what it used to be
before the general jacking up pro-
cess began.

The result is a badly unbalanced
economic condition that menaces
prosperity for the country cannot
be generally prosperous with agri-
culture prostrate. There are plenty
of sound reasons why the price of
what the farmer has to sell should
not be hoisted by legislation, but
if we are not going to guarantee a
high price for what the farmer has
to sell we have got to quit guaran-
teeing, or helping to guarantee,
high prices for what the farmer
has to buy. That is a nut for the
legislators to crack, and it has
some meat inside of it.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Gov. Neff, of Texas, compares

disregard of the prohibition law to
mob violence, and disposes of the
chief argument for prohibition re-
peal by replying that "no law
should be repealed because it is
violated." Addressing a North-
ern audience the other day, he
said:

"The prohibition amendment was
adopted by the people after full
and free discussion. It was adopted by
precincts, by counties, by states and finally
by the nation. The national prohibition
act, written into the constitution by the
people, is there to stay. The movement
for repeal of prohibition is not a trial
of the prohibition amendment, but a trial
of the American republic and all law."

It is the solemn duty of each state
to help enforce the national constitution,
including the prohibition amendment.

This is a fairly accurate state-
ment of the situation, notwith-
standing all the efforts made to
obscure it by arguing that the
American people never really voted
for prohibition. Most of the terri-
tory and most of the population
was "dry" before the eighteenth
amendment was adopted, and when
the Volstead act was passed, there
was little popular objection to its
draconic provisions.

That enforcement act, interpret-
ing the constitutional amendment,
can be changed whenever a ma-
jority of the people want it
changed. But while it stands,
there is nothing to do but obey it,
and every part of the Union is
under the obligation to do so.

Scientists are puzzling over the
strange case of a side-show freak
who when he died was found to be
blue all the way through. Maybe
he had just got his monthly state-
ment of overdraft at the bank.

The governor of Nevada has de-
nied a pardon to a Chinese tong
murderer named Gee Gon. That
changes him to "clear gone."

That water-soaked mass of
bonds found in a California bog the
other day, represents a new method
of "soaking it away."

A little is all right, Mr. Pluvius,
but enough is enough.

Early Days in Eugene

(From the Morning Register, Aug-
ust 22, 1904.)

The Junction City Development
league has organized with the fol-
lowing officers: President, H. L.
Rann; vice-president, S. L. More-
head; board of directors, W. C.
Washburne, S. O. Starr, I. T. Nick-
lin, N. L. Lee, C. W. Washburne,
G. C. Millett, C. P. Houston, A. C.
Nielsen and J. A. Bushnell.

The McKenzie river road im-
provement fund has grown to
\$2643.60.

Miss Jewel Elmaker, of Eugene,
is a guest of her cousin, Miss
Maple Hill, at Junction City.

Professor E. E. Orton and fam-
ily are expected to arrive from
Prineville about September 1.

Yesterday C. E. Frank let the
contract to erect another residence

MOTHERS AND THEIR CHILDREN



A Sleeping Bag for Baby

One Mother Says:

For summertime, after a baby is
five or six months old, a sleeping
bag keeps him well wrapped up at
night. This should be made of
muslin or outing flannel. Use a
single piece of material, blanket
size, folding it in the middle, cross-
wise. Sew it together on one end
and the other side and fasten the
top in two places, a few inches
apart, with hooks and eyes. But
the baby inside and fasten the bot-
tom over each shoulder. In the hottest
weather a thin sheet will do for
covering and little or no clothing
need be worn under such a bag.
This is especially handy for vaca-
tion time.
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on Ninth street. Contractor Car-
son was awarded the work.

About 40 members of the Ep-
worth league of the Methodist
church went out back of Skinner's
butte Friday night with well filled
baskets and spent a delightful
evening around a bonfire. The af-
fair was given as a farewell for
Miss Maude Kerns, Miss Newell,
C. M. Denmore and J. H. Gilbert,
members of the league, who are
soon to leave Eugene to take up
scholarships in Eastern colleges.

B. F. Goodpasture has returned
from a visit to Foley springs.

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Campbell
are home from an outing on the
upper McKenzie.

Miss Leone Kays expects to leave
in a few days for San Francisco
where she will enter the Hopkins
art school.

Professor Mott H. Arnold, the
new superintendent of the Eugene
schools, has arrived from Malta,
Ohio.

SAILORS HELD FOR THEFT

ALLEGED TO HAVE WOUNDED
OFFICER IN TACOMA EPISODE

TACOMA, Wash., Aug. 21.—

Three sailors from battleships visit-
ing here, three young girls and a
civilian are held for investigation
following a wild ride through Tac-
oma streets early this morning in
a taxicab stolen from in front of
a downtown hotel and the wound-
ing of Motorcycle Officer Luke
Bonds in the arm by a bullet said
to have been fired by R. J. Oldford
20, the sailor driving the car.

After a chase of ten blocks,
Bonds fired a shot through the top
of the taxi which slowed up. The
driver jumped out, fired at the of-
ficer as he was alighting from his
motorcycle, jumped over a 12-foot
concrete retaining wall and ran.
Bonds, wounded, followed and
captured him.

G. A. Guido, 31, and H. H. Dor-
ceter, 21, two other sailors, were
arrested also, as was Frank Johnson,
a friend of one of the girls who
helped her make a temporary es-
cape from the police while they
were engaged in capturing the men.

FLAGSHIP GOES ASHORE

FOG CAUSES TWO MARINE MIS-
HAPS IN PUGET SOUND

SEATTLE, Aug. 21.—Fog today

caused two marine mishaps in
channels leading from the eastern
end of the Strait of Juan de Fuca.
The cruiser Seattle, flagship of the
United States fleet, which proceeded
to the Puget Sound naval sta-

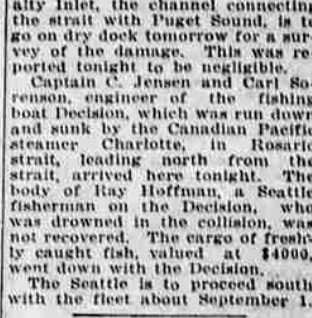
tion, Bremerton, Wash., after hav-
ing gone ashore at Marrowstone
Point, on the west side of Admir-
alty Inlet, the channel connecting
the strait with Puget Sound, is to
go on dry dock tomorrow for a sur-
vey of the damage. This was re-
ported tonight to be negligible.

Captain C. Jensen and Carl So-
rensen, engineer of the fishing
boat Decision, which was run down
and sunk by the Canadian Pacific
steamer Charlotte, in Rosario
strait, leading north from the
strait, arrived here tonight. The
body of Ray Hoffman, a Seattle
fisherman on the Decision, who
was drowned in the collision, was
not recovered. The cargo of fresh-
ly caught fish, valued at \$4000,
went down with the Decision.

The Seattle is to proceed south
with the fleet about September 1.

THE OFFICE CAT

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MEREDITH'S LIBEL SUIT TO BE STARTED SHORTLY

DAMAGES OF 30 CENTS ASKED
OF SENATOR BROOKHART

Former Secretary of Agriculture
Says He Is Not After Money but
Wants Solon on Witness Stand

(By The Associated Press)

DES MOINES, Iowa, Aug. 21.—

Former Secretary of Agriculture
E. T. Meredith's suit for libel and
damages for 30 cents against Sena-
tor Smith W. Brookhart of Iowa
will be filed soon after Mr. Mere-
dith's return at the end of this
week from Honolulu, Minn., where
he is vacationing. It was an-
nounced tonight.

Attorneys for Mr. Meredith al-
ready have been instructed to file
the suit and now are engaged in
preparing the petition. Just where
the suit will be filed has not been
definitely determined. Friends of
Mr. Meredith, it is said, have urged
him to bring suit for a less unusual
amount but the former cabinet of-
ficer argues that he is not after
money. Brookhart's money. In his
statement of yesterday Mr. Mere-
dith said his "real compensation
will be in getting Mr. Brookhart
on record under oath." Mr. Mere-
dith is to sue the Iowa senator be-
cause of the latter's alleged
charges in a speech last week that
Mr. Meredith while secretary of
agriculture, "sat in the Wall street
game and helped to produce the
greatest panic in farm prices in
the history of agriculture."

Public controversy animated
They have been engaged in a
public controversy for several
weeks over the financial condition
of the American farmer. Mr. Mere-
dith in his statements declared
that the farmers would receive
\$500,000,000 more for their grain
this year than they did last year
and the senator, in his speeches,
argues that the farmers are near
bankruptcy because of the eco-
nomic conditions.

Senator Brookhart is expected
to reply at length to Mr. Mere-
dith's threatened suit in his Jewell
town speech Thursday. He was
engaged in his home in Wash-
ington, Iowa today in preparing his
speech. The senator has said that
he is not worried about the suit.

Monopoly Charges Heard

BOSTON, Aug. 21.—The federal

trade commission completed here
today hearings into charges that
the Famous Players-Lasky corpo-
ration has conspired to monopolize
production, distribution and ex-
hibition of motion pictures. Testi-
mony was taken with regard to the
commission's charge that the cor-
poration entered a number of small
cities in New England and forced
local producers either to sell their
theatres or face competition from
new houses. J. W. Conn, of Con-
cord, N. H., testified that he was
forced to sell his holding in a thea-
tre in that city to the Famous play-
ers for \$105,000. Walter G. Hard-
ford, owner of a theatre in Paw-
tucket, R. I., said that his rela-
tions with the corporation always
had been friendly.

Gangrene Takes Illicit Arm

SALEM, Ore., Aug. 21.—E. C.

Downing, factory operator of Stat-
ton, whose left arm was jerked
from its socket a week ago when
his clothing caught on a shaft, has
undergone an operation for the
amputation of his right arm above
the elbow, physicians announced
today. It was necessary to ampu-
tate the arm when gangrene de-
veloped.

GERMANY PLANS TO BUY HER GRAIN FROM RUSSIA

SOVIET EXPECTS TO EXPORT
THREE MILLION TONS

Contracts Already Made by Ger-
man Bankers 40 Million Gold
Marks Worth of Grain

(Correspondence of the Associated Press)

BERLIN, Aug. 21.—Russia's

grain exportation this year is a
burning question for Germany,
which must buy a large portion
of its bread-stuffs abroad. Con-
tracts are already reported to have
been made by German organiza-
tions for 40,000,000 gold marks
worth of Russian grain, chiefly
rye. This transaction is said to
have been financed jointly by the
German government, the German
industrialists and the German
bankers.

Kraesen and other representa-
tives of soviet Russia maintain that
the soviet government will be able
to export 3,000,000 tons of grain
this season. They contend that
the season there has been more
favorable than in central Europe.
There has been more sunshine and
no difficulty is anticipated in har-
vesting the grain because of rain.
In all the soviet government ex-
pects to collect about 11,000,000
tons of grain this year in grain
taxes, and is planning to export
almost one-third of the amount.
Grain crops in Germany are in
excellent condition as a result of
the abundant rain which has fallen
gradually throughout the spring
and early summer. But the lack
of sunshine before July 1 has
caused apprehension lest there be
insufficient heat and sunshine to
ripen the grain and make harvest
possible.

Unique Coin Sold for \$1100

(Correspondence of the Associated Press)

LONDON, Aug. 21.—One of the
most valuable of English coins was
sold at auction recently for \$1100.
The specimen was one of the 13
"Petition" crown, or five-shilling
pieces, issued in the reign of
Charles II. At that time a Dutch-
man was appointed engraver for
new coins much to the dismay
of Thomas Simon, coin designer of
the day. He therefore made an
effort to regain his appointment
by producing his "Petition" crown,
around which he engraved an ap-
peal to the king asking him to
compare his work with that of the
Dutchman.

Wagers Encourage Telegrams

LONDON, Aug. 21.—Two mil-
lion telegrams in connection with
horse racing annually pass through
the telegraph offices in England.
The telegrams for the most part
relate to betting, and it is esti-
mated they represent a revenue of
about £2,000,000 sterling. This is
7 per cent of the total number of
telegrams dispatched in England.

Insure with Henry Tromp, 83 W. 1

The Office Cat

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