Eastern Clackamas News

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Thursday, July 26, 1917

Billy Sunday, the well known evangelist, in the course of his remarks last Sunday at the Gladstone Chautauqua, handed one of his characteristic, scathing hotshots at the small town practice of gossiping, even suggesting all manners of extreme punishments for the man or woman who joins in that supposed small town diversion.

While we do not disagree with Mr. Sunday's condemnation of the gossip habit, we wonder if he has ever lived in a small town; for small towns and gossip go hand in hand.

Our city neighbors deserve no special credit for not practicing the gossip habit, for in the larger communities, that close, personal, social and business relation does not exist among the inhabitants, as in the small town or country district, where every man knows his neighbor, his neighbor's family, his neighbor's business and his neighbor's faults and virtues.

In the larger cities there are hundreds of outside diversions to occupy the mind and conversation, but in the small town the tendency towards gossip is ten fold greater and the man or woman in the latter who refrains from gossip, deserves more credit than Billy Sunday or any of our big city neighbors imagine.

While gossip is a pernicious and dangerous habit and one to be shunned, it is that ever present danger of being the victim of gossip, that often keeps all of us following a straighter path than we might pursue, if we lived in the congested districts, where no man cares or is interested in our business or our morals.

The farmer should not find undue fault with the present tendency towards the high-cost-ofliving, for he is one of a very few classes who is not solely dependant on outside markets for his food supplies, nor is he directly subject to the big increased cost of production at the same time that his products are commanding top prices.

While farm labor is from 20% to 40% higher than a year or two ago and farm machinery and livestock cost more, those vital elements of agriculture; namely the plant food in the soil, the rain and the sunshine are as free as ever.

This enviable condition is not apparent in most lines of manu-

facture or merchandizing, for in the manufacture of goods, dependant upon materials manufactured by others, every feature of the production is subject to increased cost, with the ultimate profit proportionately lowered.

The merchant today is making no greater profit on the sale of his flour, sugar, hardware or other supplies than during ordinary times, when he bought and sold at lower prices and the newspaper publisher likewise is making no bigger if as big a profit on the sale of his manufac tured product, when every article entering into that manufacture is costing him from 25% to 400% more.

If newspapers could be produced from the free use of the soil, sunshine and rain, with but an added element of increased labor hire, the publishers would still be maintaining their former subscription rates and the News would remain at \$1, per yearbut it cant be done and so after August 1st, 1917 the subscription price has to be increased to \$1.50 per year and we hope our readers will realize that this move is an honest and necessary one, before accusing us of boosting the price without good and sufficient reasons.

Had fire started in any building in Estacada within the last two weeks, or even up to date, it is very doubtful if it could have been extinguished or controlled. owing to lack of pressure in the city's water mains.

This lack of water pressure at this time of the year is due to two causes, one of which can be controlled to a large extent, providing the water users will unselfishly economize in their water consumption.

At this time last year, investigations undertaken by the city council showed that it was the custom of many water users to keep the water running 24 hours of each day. This practise being employed largely inside of the houses, where milk, butter and other foods needing refrigerating were kept under a running stream.

It is this practise, along with a disregard of the ordinances governing sprinkling and other water uses, that has brought about the present scarcity in the city's mains.

At times last week, there was not sufficient force to have thrown a stream from a fire hose, to a second story window, with some faucets refusing to even trickle.

This condition can only be rectified by each individual water consumer exercising a fair amount of unselfishness for the common good; even suffering the

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Estacada, Oregon

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Estacada, Oregon

loss of having the milk sour or using of a maximum amount of the butter melting, which incon- the water at this time results in venience is slight as compared roiling up the sediment in the with the loss that will result from stream and reservoir and good exhausting the city's water sup- drinking water is vitally essenply at this dry time of year, when tial during these summer days. danger from fire is great.

from a drinking standpoint, the the harvest fields.

Naturally the city's water sup- Ken Bartlett of Estacada, who ply, from the creek flowing from for the past few weeks has been Garfield, is low during these hot daily expecting a call to join his days and add to this a waste of ambulance corps, has temporarithe supply and it proves a dan- ly quit waiting and is leaving gerous condition. Furthermore, for Eastern Oregon to work in