

GRANTS PASS DAILY COURIER

Published Daily Except Sunday
E. VOORHIES, Pub. and Propr.

Registered at postoffice, Grants Pass, Ore., as second class mail matter.

ADVERTISING RATES
Display space, per inch.....15c
Local-personal column, per line..10c
Readers, per line.....5c

DAILY COURIER
By mail or carrier, per year.....\$6.00
By mail or carrier, per month.....50

WEEKLY COURIER
By mail, per year.....\$2.00

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 1919.

OREGON WEATHER

Fair, except thunderstorms tonight in southwest portion; warmer Friday in east; cooler Friday in interior southwest portion; gentle, northerly winds.

TIME TO CALL THE BLUFF

With the railroad employes striking, and threatening further strikes at will tie up the country in several hard knots, the president should postpone that little lecturing tour and remain at his post in Washington until the all-important matter settled. Plenty of time for talking over the United States is saved from threatened paralysis of its industries. The government is supposed to be mending the railroads—but is it? It appears that the railway employes are handling that job and dictating the administration. Is it through fear of losing votes in the next election that the president hesitates to call the "bluff" being put up by the railway workmen? Now is the time to settle the question, once and for all, whether the government is strong enough to run itself, or whether certain class of workmen can dictate national affairs. Let Woodrow call the bluff.

NEXT YEAR'S ISSUE

It seems possible, and even probable, that the big national issue in next year's presidential campaign will be national ownership, or federalization of industries. The railroad brotherhoods, in demanding the public purchase and operation of the transportation lines, have launched a movement of which no one can foretell the end. By their own admission, they have meant their efforts less for the purpose of forcing a decision this year than of paving the way for next year's campaign. They want to persuade one of the big political parties to adopt their program. Falling in with that, they plan to launch a party of their own. In this they expect the support of the Federation of Labor. The United Mine Workers of America, the biggest body of organized labor in any single industry, are now starting a similar drive for the nationalization of the coal mines. They have no such definite scheme as the Plum railroad plan, but their leaders are clear enough as to their general purpose. There is talk, too, on the part of employes of the telegraph and telephone lines, of nationalizing those utilities. How will this movement go? Time alone will tell. It may seem inopportune to inaugurate it just now, when government operation is regarded as under a cloud. This few, however, seems to be that of business rather than of labor. The labor organizations seem to be pretty well convinced that government ownership will at least be good for them and may also be good for the country.

This being the case, it is just as well to have the issue fought out, as the program of one of the old parties or of a third party. As between conservative business and radical

A Long Wait

But

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labor, the "general public", whose judgment is more trustworthy than that of either of the factions interested, will decide.

PERMANENT ROADS

A returned doughboy, describing war emergency road-building in the fighting area, remarked that the American engineers got their roads built in far shorter time than did their French allies. Speed was the essential thing in those days, not lasting quality. Quite often the roads were shot full of holes soon after their purpose had been accomplished—if not before. But still the French could not forego their habit of careful construction for lasting quality. Returning six months later over a road, some sections of which were built by Americans and some by French, a striking fact was observed. If the road had been undisturbed by enemy shells, the parts built by French engineers were still in excellent condition. The American roads were wrecks.

Here is a little lesson for home road-building. Speed is not the main feature in improving roads and highways all through the country or in constructing new ones. In the past our methods have all too often been for speed and cheapness, and the results have been the same as those in France where a road was needed only to get supplies through for a short period.

ITALY OUR FRIEND AGAIN

Gen. Pershing has been visiting Italy, and has met with an extremely cordial reception. Most Americans may be surprised at this, remembering the ill feeling recently existing in Italy against America and all things American. Gen. Pershing is regarded as the representative of the United States, and the Italians have sought, by honoring him, to honor his nation.

So quickly, then, has passed the cloud of misunderstanding and dislike which arose from the attitude taken by the United States government, and by most of the American press against the Italian claims in Fiume and Dalmatia. The Italian government which put forth those claims and for a while won national support for them has been overthrown. Orlando and Sonnino are out, Nitti, the new premier,

is sensible and moderate in his demands, and is supporting the spirit of democracy in which the war was fought and won and in which the most enlightened statesmen have sought to make peace.

It is a happy omen for the future welfare of Europe.

The deer hunting season opens next Monday, September 1. Who will be the first to shoot into the bushes and then go see what he killed?

PEACE COMMISSION NEEDS MORE FUNDS

Washington, D. C., August 28.—President Wilson has asked congress to appropriate \$25,000 additional for the expenses of the American peace commission at Paris. The president said that in view of the 200 per cent increase he considered the commission's expenses "very modest." The total expense will be a million and a half by the end of this year.

COMING EVENTS

- Sept. 2, Monday—Grand jury meets.
- Sept. 3, Monday—September term of circuit court opens.
- Sept. 8, Monday—Board of equalization meets.
- Sept. 8, Monday—Grants Pass public schools open.
- Sept. 18, Thursday—Courier Bargain Day.

"Agents Authority to Sell"—book of 50 blanks, 50c, Courier office.

TOO LATE

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CHINK'S LIFE SAVED BY LODGE PIN AND GRIP

Juarez, Mex., Aug. 28.—A lodge pin and grip saved the life of a Chinese merchant of Parral when Parral some months ago according to a stern statement made by the merchant to the American consul here upon his arrival from the interior recently.

The Chinese merchant refused to permit his name to be attached to the statement for fear he would be killed if he fell into Villa's hands. He swore that he saw three of his cousins dragged through the streets of Parral by rebels and burned at the stake.

A demand of \$5000 was made upon him upon threat of death, the merchant said. He told the Villa colonel he did not have this amount and was about to be ordered shot, he said, when he noticed a lodge pin on the lapel of the colonel's coat. The merchant said he belonged to the Chinese organization which was similar to the one which the officer belonged to and they exchanged handshakes. The ransom was reduced to \$2,000 and he was finally permitted to go.

THIS WILL ASTONISH GRANTS PASS PEOPLE

The quick action of simple witch-hazel, hydrastis, camphor, etc., as mixed in Lavoptik eye wash, will surprise Grants Pass people. One girl with weak, strained eyes was helped by a single application. Her mother could hardly sew or read because of eye pains. In one week she too was benefitted. We guarantee a small bottle of Lavoptik to help ANY CASE weak, strained or inflamed eyes. Aluminum eye cap FREE. National Drug Store.

EXPLOSION KILLS MANY FISH IN DIAMOND LAKE

Klamath Falls, Aug. 28.—Thousands of fish, rainbow trout mostly, have been killed by what is believed to be an underwater explosion in Diamond lake, according to Henry Stout, local game warden, and R. E. Clanton, state master fish warden, who have returned from the lake. The cause of the phenomenon probably never will be known but Stout believes that some disturbance in the lake bed, general throughout the lake took place a few days ago.

This theory is based on the fact that the water in every part of the lake is slightly muddy, although it was clear heretofore, and on the fact that fish were discovered dead in all parts of the lake. The number of trout killed runs up into the thousands, ranging from eight inches to a foot and a half in length.

The theory that any person used dynamite in Diamond lake is scouted.

"It would have taken tons of dynamite to kill the number of fish we saw floating about the lake," said Stout. "It is certain that the explosion occurred prior to last Monday, but how long before that is unknown."

The members of Stout's party besides Clanton were: John Ramabell, R. E. Hunsaker, Charles Simonds and George Chambers.

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September 18

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