

Weekly Rogue River Courier
COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER.

A. E. Voorhies, Proprietor

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WORK FOR THE IDLE.

That there is something wrong with the "system" is made evident when the thousands of unemployed, men willing and anxious to work, are obliged to suffer for the very necessities of life while the resources of the country remain undeveloped. This idle labor is needed to cut the forests and manufacture them into lumber and the lumber into homes and furniture and articles of commerce. It is needed to clear the land and prepare it for the plow, and to mine the ore locked up in Nature's treasure vaults and make the wealth available. Things are terribly out of joint when this great army of the unemployed must march by and be given no hand in this work of development, and the forest, the mine and the fertile acres add nothing to the prosperity of the day.

There is only one thing the matter with southern Oregon. Until systematic development of the district is made possible, there can be no real and lasting prosperity, and this development rests largely upon the question of transportation. It is impossible to market the lumber if railroads, the great arteries of trade, are not first built. A long haul to the railroad by wagon or by auto truck is a handicap that will not be accepted by the average owner of the standing timber. He will continue to let it stand for some more propitious time.

Times like these would seem to be the opportunity for railroad building to be prosecuted, and if private capital will not venture, or if private capital selfishly bottles up territory to uncork it at its pleasure, argument is seen for the government to become active, and to step into the railroad building here as well as in Alaska. Government ownership of the postal department has redounded to the benefit of all the people; it seems probable that the telephone and the telegraph will come under governmental control, and to complete the work agitation will likely follow for the government ownership of the railroads.

The problem of the unemployed would soon be settled if Uncle Sam would start a few railroads into the undeveloped districts now. When the railroads were completed the labor would still find employment in mill and factory and mine.

RAILWAYS' TOLL OF HUMAN LIFE.

The recent report of the Interstate Commerce Commission is a severe arraignment of the lack of attention which the railways of the nation pay to the value of human life, and of the continual placing of the cash register over public safety in importance.

The commission lays upon human fallibility and negligence the blame for much of the death harvest of the railways, but nevertheless takes to task the managers and underlings who are charged with train operation.

Nearly seventy-four per cent. of the total wrecks investigated by the commission were charged directly to employees' mistakes. The commission said:

"Either a great majority of these deplorable railroad disasters are unavoidable or there exists a widespread lack of intelligent and well-directed effort to minimize the mistakes of employees in the operation of trains. It is not believed that all these accidents which are caused by the mistakes of employees are unavoidable. It is quite true that man is prone to error and as long as absolute reliance is placed upon the

human element in the operation of trains accidents are bound to occur, but until it can be shown that all reasonable and proper measures have been taken for its prevention no accident can be classed as unavoidable. All the mistakes noted are violations of simple rules which should have been easily understood by men of sufficient intelligence to be entrusted with the operation of trains."

Then the commission turned to the responsibility of railroad companies. "The evidence," the report declared, "is that in many cases operating officers are cognizant of this habitual disregard of rules and no proper steps are taken to correct the evil. On very many railroads there is little or no system of inspection or supervision of the work of train-service employees so far as pertains to those matters which vitally affect safety.

"This lack of supervision and inspection is unexplainable when the careful supervision of all matters directly affecting the revenue of the roads is considered.

"The auditing and checking system used for detecting the dishonesty of employes are marvels of ingenuity and careful attention to detail, but means of determining whether trains are operated in accordance with requirements of safety and in conformity with the rules are almost entirely lacking."

The report pointed out that railroads seek to economize by careful inspection on oil, fuel, supplies and airbrakes for economy, but neglect other considerations which would actually result in greater savings not only in finances but in human life. "It would seem that adequate inspection and superb vision of the work of employes to insure safety in operation would be amply justified from the standpoint of economy alone," the report declared.

DEMOCRACY TO THE TEST.

With the passage of the currency bill the essential policies of the democratic party will have been enacted in the laws of the land. Following the success of the party at the polls, the entire nation awaited with hope or with anxiety the establishment of the principles of government for which democracy stands. First there was the tariff, and now the readjustment of the finances of the country to meet the conditions of the new currency bill, a measure that embodies the ideas of Mr. Wilson.

It was but natural that radical changes in the tariff and the adoption of an entire new program of finance would unsettle business, and that industry has not been worse shaken than it has indicates the solid foundation upon which the affairs of the nation rest. Business can now readjust itself upon the new lines, and capital will have a definite program upon which it can base its investment, and it will come out of hiding.

The temper of the nation has been to give democracy a fair trail and to place no obstacles in its way. It has had a clear sweep. All branches of the government were in its control. It must stand this test of fire and must make good on its claims or it will be retired for another long sleep after the Wilson administration ends.

NO GREAT INFUX OF EUROPEAN IMMIGRANTS.

That the Pacific coast has ample time to prepare for an ultimate influx of European immigrants is apparent from reports received by the Oregon state immigration commission. This conclusion has been reached by that office after making an extensive investigation in cooperation with the Oregon Development League of reported sales of thousands of steamship tickets on the installment plan to prospective immigrants via the Panama canal is without foundation.

Rumors that a great flood of European immigrants was to pour upon the Pacific coast as soon as the Panama canal was open has created great anxiety amongst civic orgn-

izations. The Oregon state immigration commission felt that if such a throng was actually in prospect, it was incumbent upon the commission to ascertain what provisions could be made for distribution of arriving aliens away from the congested centers.

So far as a thorough investigation could disclose, no steamship company has yet quoted passenger rates for immigrants via the canal, and no such tickets are being sold, either for cash or on the installment plan. Persistence of the old rumors caused the commission to make such investigations and the reports now in hand from the American consuls stationed at the important points of Europe utterly discredit the rumors of a direct Pacific coast immigration.

The state of Oregon is especially well equipped through its commercial organizations banded together to handle any possible inflow of agricultural immigration. The Atlantic coast states have not and never had such an organization as exists in this state for the distribution of agriculturists upon the soils of Oregon.

Ultimately positive that the favorable climate and inviting opportunities of the Pacific coast will attract a large immigration from Europe through the canal, still the immigration commission feels no alarm over any immediately overwhelming influx.

POSTAL BANK DEPOSITORS.

Eighty-seven depositors have taken advantage of the local branch of the postal savings bank, according to the recent report, with deposits aggregating \$9,117.

According to a report from Washington, D. C., Portland has 5,853 depositors, with total deposits of \$777,256. Astoria has 593 depositors, with deposits of \$166,944; Marshfield 164 depositors and deposits of \$25,694; Oregon City, 125 The Dalles 217 depositors and \$23,143 deposits; Roseburg 103 depositors and \$16,256 deposits; Salem 128 depositors and \$15,781 deposits, and Eugene 98 depositors, who have \$14,436 on deposit.

Other leading cities of the state show the following figures: Albany 46, \$6,971; Ashland 47, \$5,064; Baker 65, \$10,021; Corvallis 39, \$2,693; Dallas 37, \$3,295; Grants Pass 87, \$9,117; Klamath Falls 58, \$7,621; La Grande 61, \$3,107; McMinnville 30, \$4,610; Medford 73, \$11,172; North Bend 57, \$7,981; Pendleton 35, \$2,970.

Smaller towns which make an especially good showing for their size are as follows: Lents 166, \$12,983; Mill City 51, \$7,963; Newberg 34, \$5,871; St. Helen 58, \$10,878; Seaside 84, \$7,285.

UNCLE SAM'S CHRISTMAS GIFT.

A brief comparison of what it cost to send gift packages by express or mail last year with the rates possible under the parcel post system this year shows how the government can aid when it is permitted to. In no instance are the express rates reduced less than one-half, and in many of them the amount of reduction is far more. And the money which last year went to the express companies this year goes to the people themselves. Say, for instance, that you live in Baltimore and want to send four pounds of candy to some one in New York as a Christmas remembrance. Last year it would have cost you sixty-four cents to send four pounds by mail. By express it would have cost you for the same distance forty cents—the expressage from Baltimore to New York for anything weighing less than five pounds. By expressing it, then, you would have saved 24 cents last year. You want to send a similar gift this year. The express rate is the same as before—40 cents for packages weighing up to five pounds. You turn to the postal rates. You find a difference in rate, and it is difference that is going to save you and everyone else a lot of money this Christmas, for you don't have

to pay a 64-cent rate, as last year when you mailed it, and you don't have to pay a 40-cent rate, as you did when you expressed it last year. You pay just eight cents, just one-eighth of what it cost you before to send the four pounds, five cents for the first pound and one cent a pound for every additional pound. What is more, this year you can send five pounds or fifty pounds, whereas last year you couldn't persuade any postmaster in the country to send a package if it weighed a fraction over four pounds.

To express a four-pound box of candy from St. Paul to New York would cost 75 cents, more than to have mailed it last year. Now, by mailing the package, you save yourself just 38 cents, a little more than half of the express rate. Next year, thanks to the sweeping reductions in parcel post rates, the same package will cost only thirty-three cents, a saving of forty-two cents over the express rate. The new parcel post rates will become effective New Year's Day.

YULETIDE HOPE AND JOY.

Peace on earth, good will toward men, is the spirit that pervades the Christianized world today. More than nineteen centuries ago the Star of Bethlehem, blazing in the eastern sky, told its story of hope and brought its tidings of great joy, a hope and a joy that have been the civilizing influences since. For hope and joy have marked the progress of the human race that, since the birth in the manger and the influence of the life of the Nazarene, has been going forward with remarkable strides.

The hope that came with the gift of the Only Begotten Son gave to man a definite object in life, a goal toward which ambition could center, and with the hope came peace and joy. The life without hope is an empty life. So hope and joy have come to mark the Christmas time. The celebration of the occasion as the great Christian holiday carries the idea not only through the religious sense, but the toddler, whose awakening intelligence does not yet grasp the full import of the Star of the East, feels the hope and the joy of Christmastide. It's hope that hangs the stocking at the fireplace, confidence in the promise, faith in the spirit of good will. It is a sad Christmas morning that sees the hope of "one of the least of these" unfulfilled. The empty stocking portends more than is seen on the surface.

The measure of prosperity promised by the democratic party with the enactment of the new tariff bill has not yet been met. The only democratic prosperity yet in sight is such as Secretary Bryan and Vice-President Marshall are able to extract from lecture bureaus, and the prosperity that comes with appointment to a fat federal job. Yes, democratic success at the polls made prosperous times for some democrats.

Former President Roosevelt means well, but he should recall that regardless of the fact that his utterances have no official significance since he retired to "private" life, the South American people will accept his words as expressing the sentiment of the people of the United States. He should curb his impetuosity and allow the administration to put its own interpretation upon the Monroe doctrine.

The banks of Mexico may all go broke, but what need have the people of cash on a holiday? The bill collector can not come around at such a time, and if Santa Claus' holiday happens to clash with Huerta's holiday, Santa can wait over a year. Huerta may not be working then.

Child Loses Tip of Finger—Mrs. McKnight of Hugo was in the city Monday having her four-year-old boy's finger dressed. The little fellow had a finger severed by an ax in the hands of an older brother. Dr. Flanagan is handling the case.

S. F. CONVICTS SLIDE
80 FEET TO FREEDOM

San Francisco, Dec. 24.—James Hurley and Frank Melvin, fugitives from the penitentiary here, seemed likely to spend Christmas free, though hunted men.

From the moment when they completed their 80-foot slide down the rope dangling from the top of the prison's outermost wall, not a trace has been found of either man up to the early part of the afternoon. Warden Johnston was convinced, he said, that he had every avenue of escape from Marin county closed. Some of the searchers seemed to think it odd, however, that so minute a hunt as they have made should not have uncovered at least a scent if the men remained in the prison's vicinity.

They declared it certain, at any rate, that they were not in the vicinity of San Quentin. Every house there was ransacked from cellar to garret, and not so much as a kitten, it was asserted, could possibly have been missed. From San Quentin the quest extended into the Marin hills. Not quite consistently with his expressed confidence that the fugitives were still in the county, the warden threw detachments of guards across the bay, into Oakland, Richmond and Berkeley. The hunt began with a force of fifty men in the field, but by afternoon half as many more had been added. This did not include a strong posse under Sheriff Keating of Marin county.

Much uneasiness was felt by householders for miles around the prison at the news that the two outlaws were still at large. Both are known as absolutely desperate men, who would stop at nothing to make their escape good.

NOTICE

The stockholders of the Wilder-ville Irrigation Company are hereby notified that their annual meeting will be held at the residence of E. Loughridge Thursday, January 8, 1914, at 1 o'clock p. m. 12-12-14

SUMMONS.

In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Josephine County.
Harry L. Lewis, Plaintiff,
vs.
Mrs. J. J. McKeever, (some- times known as May Fenn) McKeever, J. J. McKeever, Jno. M. Fenn, and Texas-Oregon Power and Placer Mining Company, an Oregon Corporation, and H. W. Faust, Defendants.

Suit to foreclose Mortgage. To Mrs. J. J. McKeever, sometimes known as May Fenn McKeever, J. J. McKeever, Jno. M. Fenn, and Texas-Oregon Power and Placer Mining Company, an Oregon Corporation, and H. W. Faust, defendants:

In the name of the state of Oregon, you are hereby summoned, and required to appear in the above entitled court and cause to answer the complaint filed against you, within ten days from the service of summons upon you if served within Josephine county, Oregon; or if served within any other county within the state of Oregon, then within twenty days from the date of service, or if served by publication, then on or before the expiration of six weeks from the date of the first publication of summons, which date of first publication is Friday, December 26th, 1913, and the last publication and the last day for your appearance, is Friday, February 6th, 1914; and you are hereby notified that if you fail to answer or otherwise plead within the time aforesaid, the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief prayed for in the complaint, viz: for judgment against the said defendant, Mrs. J. J. McKeever, sometimes known as May Fenn McKeever, on the promissory note therein set forth in the sum of \$6000.00, principal, together with interest thereon at the rate of six per cent per annum from August 6th, 1912, and the further sum of \$650.00 attorney fees, and costs and disbursements; and for a decree foreclosing that certain Mortgage set forth in the complaint on the real property therein described, to-wit:

The north half of the north-east quarter, and the south-west quarter of the north-east quarter of Section 7, and the south-west quarter of the south-east quarter of Section 6, in Township 35 South of Range 7 West, of the Willamette Meridian, in Josephine county, Oregon, containing 160 acres of land.

This summons is published by order of the Honorable F. M. Calkins, judge of the above entitled court, dated December 23rd, 1913, ordering publication of said summons not less than once a week for six successive weeks, in the Rogue River Courier, a newspaper of general circulation, published weekly at Grants Pass, in Josephine county, Oregon and directing that a copy of the complaint, together with a copy of the summons be forthwith mailed to Mrs. J. J. McKeever, J. J. McKeever and Jno. M. Fenn, defendants herein, at their last known residences and post office addresses in the state of Texas.

Date of first publication is December 26th, 1913.
Date of last publication is February 6th, 1914.

COLVIG & WILLIAMS,
By Fred A. Williams,
Attorneys for the Plaintiff.

HEALTHY APPENDIX
SHOULD NOT BE REMOVED

Paris, Dec. 24.—That the appendix is a much abused organ and of the utmost importance to man, was the gist of a paper read here today before the Academy of Sciences. Submitted to the academy by Edmund Perrier, the thesis was the result of experiments conducted by Dr. R. Robinson of the Museum of Natural History.

Dr. Robinson maintained that the appendix cannot be removed without injury to the system, because it discharges, under normal conditions, a liquid called "hormone" which aids the work of the intestines. "Hormone" is a name given any substance derived from an organ and able to stimulate a function of the body. The removal of a healthy appendix, Dr. Robinson concluded, is a great mistake.

WHITE HOUSE GIFTS
FOR CAPITAL POOR

Washington, Dec. 24.—Several hundred homes of poor families in Washington will be merry tomorrow because President and Mrs. Wilson remembered them with gifts.

Two White House automobiles started on a Christmas mission at noon today. Their loads of gifts were of all sorts, from turkeys and clothing to babies' toys, selected by Mrs. Wilson and her daughters after careful investigation of several hundred cheerless Christmas appeals. For all of the genuine pleas there was an answer in the form of a Christmas gift direct from the head of the nation.

While the White House automobiles covered every part of the four districts of the city, one of the chief routes was toward the county club, where the president has been accustomed to play golf, and where each day little children ran out to his machine to wave friendly hands to him. The president came to know these little friends and remembered each one.

PRESIDENT WILSON GOES
SOUTH FOR A REST

On Board President Wilson's Special train, Charlotte, N. C., Dec. 24.—President Wilson enjoyed complete rest today. Secluded in his private car he slept late, denying himself to all visitors at the few stops his train made. To his attendants he admitted that he was completely tired out, but wihal, he was very happy. Scores of messages from every section of the country, congratulating him on the new currency law, were received.

Many telegrams suggested men for membership on the federal reserve board.

The president expects to make up the personnel of this new branch of the government before he returns to Washington on January 13. It was learned today that one of the first men who will be tendered an appointment to this board is a republican—Senator Weeks of Massachusetts.

It was a dreary pre-Christmas Day, but the president luxuriated in the utter absence of business and he said that until the first of next week, at least, he proposed to take absolute rest.

Crowds of curious people surrounded the special at all stops.

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