

CENTRAL POINT HERALD

BY GLEASON & BACON.

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In Utah recently a mother's pension law was passed whereby mothers who were forced by circumstances to earn a living for a family of children would be paid a pension of \$10.00 per month for the first child and \$5.00 per month each for other children. It is stated that the object of the law is not so much to help the mother as it is to give her the opportunity of staying at home that she may give proper attention to the care and instruction of the children. In other words, that the children may have the proper kind of a home and profit from the influences of the same. The good of such a law is very apparent if it is practiced and carried out in the letter of its intention. We of the present day have little chance to see any real good resulting from the measure but should it be kept up and other states follow the lead of Utah in this respect the coming generations of children would undoubtedly reap substantial benefit from such a law.

Purporting to have come from Representative Berger, the socialist member of congress from Washington, who by the way, is the only man who ever sat in congress representing the socialist party, is the statement that the American working man is better off today than he has ever been before. This from a representative of a party which generally claims the conditions surrounding the working man are most deplorable in this country should be worthy of some attention. There is, of course, no room for question but that general conditions are much better as must be acknowledged by all who have given the matter study. Not long since an article in the Saturday Evening Post gave a very comprehensive review of the situation in the larger cities. In this paper it was shown how the workman of today arose at a much later hour in the day than was the case with salary men of fifty years ago. Instead of walking a couple of miles to the factory or shop as did the men of half a century ago the hired hand of today has only to catch a car. Likewise coming home from a hard day's work the man of today has the privilege of riding home instead of a long hike after a day of toil. So on down the line the contrast is drawn as to convenient homes and the furnishings of homes, what we wear and the entertainment offered, if all must show a vast improvement over conditions even a few years back. All these cost money and are paid for by the men who work in heavy toll, say a great many very truthfully. Nevertheless, there is the option of taking it or leaving it. If former conditions were better way patronize these new? It is not so much that conditions are considered worse than that have been before which gives rise to the discontent of today as the fact that people want an improvement on the present day problems. Convenience breeds a desire for yet more convenience and shorter work hours for yet shorter work hours.

FOREST FIRE LAW MISREPRESENTED

It has been brought to the attention of the State Foresters that some unscrupulous timber brokers are misrepresenting the provisions of the compulsory patrol law which was enacted by the recent Legislature Assembly and becomes effective June 2. Owners of timber claims have been told that under this law it

will be necessary for them to keep a patrol man on their claim all Summer at their own expense, and this has been urged as a reason for sacrifice sale. Statements of this kind are made purely for purpose of stimulating the sale of timberland, thus increasing the business and incidentally the commissions of timber brokers.

The law provides that every timberland owner in the State, not residing within one and one-half miles of his property, shall furnish a sufficient patrol therefor during the dry season, and that in case he fails to do so the State Forester shall provide the same at a cost not to exceed 5 cents per acre per annum. Any amount so paid by the State shall be a lien upon the land and shall be collected with the next taxes.

It is obvious that the maximum expense to the owner of a quarter-section of timberland can not exceed \$8.00 per year, an amount that should scare no owner into disposing of his timber claim at a sacrifice.

One of the best ways for timberland owners to comply with the law is to join County Fire Patrol Associations that have been organized in most of the timbered counties of the State. It is expected that every timbered county will have such an organization before the fire season arrives. The experience of these Associations, some of which have been in existence for four years, proves that adequate patrol can be secured at a cost of from 1 1-2 to 3 1-2 cents an acre, and if all of the timberland owners join, the acreage cost will be materially decreased. Protection from fire at a cost of \$3.00 or \$4.00 per quarter-section should be welcomed by all timberland owners, and it is hoped that no one will be induced to sell their holdings through misrepresentations made by unreliable timber brokers for the selfish purpose of increasing commissions.

TIMBER LOSS BY FIRE.

The Department of Agriculture has been figuring up the losses by fires on the National Forests for the calendar year 1912, and finds that they were the lowest of recent years. Less than one acre to every thousand of timbered lands was burned over, and the total damage is estimated at \$75,290, or less than one dollar to every 2,000 acres of area.

The good record is attributed to, first, favorable weather conditions in most localities, and second, the increased efficiency of the fire-fighting organization. As Congress makes available the means for extending the system of communications on the National Forests, the equipment of trails, roads, telephones, and lookout stations is yearly enlarged and the fires, it is said, are discovered more quickly and fought more rapidly.

An especially good showing was made by the Forest officers last year in extinguishing fires outside the National Forest before they reached the Forest boundaries. Such fires constituted more than one-sixth of all fought by the Forest rangers and guards. About nine-tenths were extinguished before they touched the Forests. Of the fires within the Forest boundaries more than 18 per cent were on lands in private ownership. Nearly one-fourth of the extra expenditures due to fighting fires—that is, expenditures outside the time of the regular Forest force—was incurred in fighting these fires.

Lightning caused more fires than any other agency, followed by railroads, campers, and incendiaries, in the order given. The greatest losses occurred in Arizona, Arkansas and California, in which States there was the largest proportion of fires caused by lightning and by incendiarism. About 27 per cent of all the fires were started by lightning, and about 38 per cent were due to carelessness. The proportion in each case was

practically the same as in the previous year.

The total number of fires was 2,472, as compared with 3,369 in 1911. They burned over, in the aggregate, 230,000 acres as against 780,000 in 1911. California led all States in total number of fires, and in the number caused by lightning. Arizona stood second in both of these classifications. Arkansas stood fourth in total number of fires, and first in those of incendiary origin, with California second. The one National Forest in Kansas had only one fire, which burned over less than ten acres and cost \$1.11 to extinguish. North Dakota had no fires on its one small Forest.

THE EXTRAVAGANT AGE.

Domestic efficiency is very prevalent. Most of us are blind to our own shortcomings. The good housekeeper may hurl denunciations at the inefficient one, but bless you! the self-satisfied dame doesn't even know that she is hit, says the Household Editor of Farm and Home. It is a fact that none of us can progress in any line of thought or action unless we are filled with what someone has cleverly called a "divine discontent" with self; unless we are willing to see our own shortcomings (and you know there are always friends to point them out to us); and unless we are determined to improve ourselves. Self-complacency spells stagnation, mentally, spiritually and materially. The whole world-trend is for progress, and lucky the man or woman who falls in line and keeps moving.

That old saying about a rolling stone gathering no moss seems to me a mighty foolish one. Who wants to be an old moss-back? A rolling stone is apt to have some of the sharp edges worn off, and acquire a nice polish. Of course, used in that way "rolling" is only a figure of speech—it does not mean anything in favor of tramps or rovers, or prodigal sons.

One of the most progressive women I was ever privileged to know was 60 years old, blind since she was 50, an invalid and sufferer, confined to her room or bed most of the time during her last years. She died when she was 75, but up to her death she was as bright mentally as many a woman half her age is not. She had had 10 special educational advantages, her life had been filled with hard work, and she had always to cope, more or less, with financial stringencies. But that woman was the greatest source of inspiration to me, as I believe she must have been to hundreds! From her invalid's chair she directed the whole household and had things running smoothly and economically.

IN THE AVALANCHE OF GOLD.

Early in life John D. Rockefeller set himself to fight against the poverty which had skimmed the bread upon his father's table, which had caused him to shiver when other children had been warm, which had put restrictions upon an education he greatly desired and for which he had an unusual gift at absorbing. He fought to such purpose that for the curse of poverty he overcame he acquired the curse of great wealth, for every adversity he mastered he became so much more the slave of vast possessions.

Behold him now deluged with money, caught in an avalanche of gold. The other day a lump sum of ten millions of dollars was placed to his account—a windfall which but merely added to the weight upon his back, which but chained him the more to his money bags, which could but cause the persons who guard him now as a prisoner is guarded to draw their lines in closer. He has untold wealth—and untold fear. He has property beyond his own power to reckon—and he is not free to go and come as

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he likes. He has fought with poverty—and all the doors of treasure vaults are opened to train their holdings upon him and around him until he seems like an insect caught in a pit of loose-running sand.
One may wonder if Mr. Rockefeller honestly thinks that the fight has been worth while. And we may wonder, too, if the persons who envy him have any conception at all of what they are envying.—Ashland Tidings.

New Parcels Post Will Require Thousands More Employees

The United States Civil Service will require the appointment of approximately 35,000 employees during the coming year. The opportunities for positions in the Civil Service were never better. Civil Service positions are desirable because the hours for work are not too long, salaries are good and certain, and promotions are frequent. The greater number of appointments will be made in the Post-Office Service, paying from \$600 to \$1,700 and more per year; the R. F. D. Service, paying \$1,100 per year to standard routes; and the Railway Mail Service, paying from \$900 to \$1,800 per year.

If you are an American over 18 years old and can read and write you will make sure of appointment to one of these positions by study of an I. C. S. Civil Service Course.

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