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and
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BUSINESS MATTER

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WHERE IS OUR "PUSH"?

One of the characteristics of the Yank army abroad which, according to all magazine writers and correspondents, greatly impressed Europeans, was the speed with which things got done when the Americans set about a difficult task. Our boys found Europe rather slow-moving and somewhat bound by traditions. We at home smiled, and talked about our American "push."

Now it is said that the men recently returned to this country are very much annoyed by sloppy business methods, and by the difficulty of getting anything done as they want it and when they want it. They order something to be delivered at a definite time, and it comes around a day or so later. They try to get information on some subject or to put through some small local improvement, and find they have much sluggishness and indifference to overcome.

The public will be the chief loser if it does not reform promptly. Many of those boys have returned with a new inspiration and energy to tackle old problems. If their first enthusiasm is allowed to wear itself away against passive opposition, the community will lose a lot of needed improvements, and worse yet it will lose the interest and help of those returned soldiers.

Business men, civic organizations, churches, everybody should adopt the army motto, "Let's go," then get down to real work.

WHEN WILL PRICES FAIL?

A symposium of the opinions of a number of leading Americans by Roger W. Babson, director-general of the information and education service of the department of labor, is noteworthy for the agreement of those contributing to it, that there is little likelihood of any precipitate fall in prices in the near future beyond the elimination of war production in high-cost plants. Mr. Babson emphasizes the belief that expectation of a return to pre-war price levels is not justified. It is important that there shall be sound judgment of the situation, because of the effect upon industry which a widespread policy of delaying development in the futile hope of lower prices would have.

Comparison of the present situation with that following the civil war,

made by Theodore N. Vail, shows that during that war prices rose relatively more than during the recent war, due in part to inflation based on greenback currency. Notwithstanding this, the drop in prices of 92 commodities in the decade from 1864 to 1874 was at the rate of less than 6 per cent a year, and as to building materials it averaged less than 4 per cent a year over the same period. The chief reason ascribed for even this gradual return after the civil war do not prevail today. These were the "rapid transformation of manufacturing, agriculture, mining, transportation and business in general from hand to machine methods and from small-scale to large-scale production." With industry already on a highly efficient machine basis, the same opportunities for change do not exist. The tremendous latent demand for buildings, labor, commodities and raw materials is regarded as especially favorable to big construction. Those who wait too long before initiating needed building enterprises not only deny themselves the profits accruing therefrom, but contribute to depression which would be unfavorable to prosperity in any form.

J. Ogden Armour makes a strong point for continuation of business without waiting for falling prices on the ground that there is no warrant for believing that wages will be materially lowered for a long time, if at all, and that the market prices of commodities are reflected in the compensation of labor. Wages will not be affected for several fundamental reasons. Practical stoppage of immi-

My wife + I sat up until 3 o'clock this morning talking about The Heart of Humanity

gration since 1914 has deprived the country of several million workers who would normally have come to our shores. Nearly two million workers are being indefinitely retained in the military and naval establishments, which assures at least a gradual readjustment of the re-employment situation. A large number of new industries are being created. There is urgent demand for building construction of every class. There is a general shortage in the world's food supply. Proportionately higher levels of commodity prices extending throughout Europe do not warrant prediction of early competition from that source.

Resumption of normal industrial activity will mean a labor shortage, in the opinion of many conservative men. There can be no material recession of prices until inventive genius succeeds in correspondingly increasing labor's productive capacity. This will be a gradual accomplishment, not a sudden change. It will be impossible, as James B. Forgan, a Chicago banker, shows, to have "low-priced products with high-priced labor," and the strong realization of the value of labor which has grown out of the war makes it evident that a permanently higher scale of compensation has been established for the world's workers.

John Hays Hammond strikes a keynote when he says that "business is being retarded because we are hoping for, or fearing, lower prices." But in proportion as every thoughtful employer realizes that the wage earner is entitled to proportionately more of

the comforts and conveniences of life than fell to his lot before the War, so every thoughtful buyer will realize that the price he pays for goods must be in proportion to increased labor costs. This realization will go far toward prevention of stagnation such as would follow a persistent policy of waiting for the other fellow to reduce his prices. And since higher wages bring with them greater purchasing power and higher standards of living, it is Mr. Hammond's view that "we should neither expect any significant reduction, nor desire such a reduction."

A conclusion which cannot be escaped by the reader of the symposium in question is that wages are unlikely to decline, and that the only prospect of decreased costs of living depends on the degree in which greater efficiency of production is achieved. If we are to develop an export trade in competition with other nations, we must rely on superior productive capacity. Continued high wages with their increased purchasing power are not incompatible with lower prices of necessities, provided efficiency is relatively increased; and lower prices so obtained, without reduction of the wage rate, would be equivalent to a further wage increase, by adding to the purchasing power of the wage already paid. The era of high wages will prove to be an era of unparalleled prosperity if it shall be attended by improved efficiency—a matter that is worth serious consideration by producers and consumers, and by employers and employed.—Oregonian.

ANNUAL SCHOOL ELECTION

Notice is hereby given to the legal voters of School Dist. No. 5, Linn county, Oregon, that the regular school Election will be held at the high school building Monday, June 16th, 1919, between the hours of 2 o'clock and 7 o'clock P. M. said day. At this Election there will be two Directors elected to serve for a term of three years or until their successors are elected and qualified.

Attest:
J. K. WEATHERFORD, chairman
D. D. HACELEMAN, Clerk.
J261314



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Sunday, June 15 First Presbyterian Church

MORNING WORSHIP AT 10:30

- Dr. D. V. Poling will speak on "The Greatest of These"
- Organ Prelude "Quietude"—Shepherd
- Offertory "Oh, the Lifting Springtime"—Stebbins
- Special Music by the Choir, assisted by Mrs. W. H. Davis "Jerusalem the Golden"—Schnecker
- Reception of new members.
- Baptism of Infant Children.
- Special Children's Day exercises in connection with the Sabbath school at 12 o'clock.
- Evening Worship at 8 o'clock. Dr. D. V. Poling will speak on "A Modern Word."

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