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ALBANY, OREGON, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21

## THE LAW OF EXPENSES

"The cost of living is just what it ought to be," declares Franklyn Hobbs, a Chicago economist, adding, "You can't any more legislate the cost of living down than you can legislate the moon out of the sky."

Perhaps this statistical gentleman is a bit extreme in his views, but on recovering from the first shock of these blunt statements an open-minded person can find a good deal of sense in his manner of reasoning. Being scientific, possibly he is too much inclined to regard economic laws as immutable laws of nature. As a matter of fact, they only represent tendencies of human nature, and are therefore changeable, subject to the will of human beings, exerted legally or otherwise. But with this reservation his philosophy may be accepted.

It is really a hopeful philosophy, too. He insists that the economic law is not evil, but fair and just, and that alarm over the cost of living is a mere "bugaboo." Disaster is impossible, because wages continue to match living costs no matter what the conditions may be. There may be temporary inconvenience while the adjustment is being made, but it is soon made, and in general the two lines of income and cost of commodities run together. Here is the principle of the thing:

"Cost of living is based on the average amount of money earned by an average man in an average hour's work."

At present, he says, wages and expenses are both going down. This will disappoint those who have hoped to keep wages up while expenses dropped, but it is a part of the natural law. Besides, expenses are going down faster than wages.

Mr. Hobbs adds the optimistic comment that from his observation "the average American is not content to remain just average," which seems to mean that American effort is continually becoming more productive, creating more wealth in a given time, and thus earning more money, having more purchasing power and commanding more of the necessities and comforts of life.

This accords with most people's practical observation. In spite of troublesome fluctuations and disturbances in the relation of earnings to expenditure, most of us are actually getting ahead, year by year and generation by generation. Radicals deny this, but facts prove it on all sides.

## THE SUGAR TAX

It has been discovered that a New York broker has 13,440,000 pounds of raw sugar stored on ships in the harbor, on which he is trying to make an illegal profit of more than 4 cents a pound.

A "sugar party" seems in order, after the fashion of the "Boston Tea Party." A sugar tax is no fairer than a tea tax.

However, it would be some job to throw overboard 13,440,000 pounds of sugar, not to mention the fact that the public needs the sugar, and is inclined to be more practical about such matters than our revolutionary forefathers were.

New Yorkers might compromise by throwing the broker into the harbor.

## BURIED TREASURE

More "Captain Kidd" nonsense! It develops that a preacher, with two helpers, dug up a whole sixty-acre farm in New Jersey in quest of pirate gold. He didn't find any gold.

And yet there was buried treasure on that farm. There is on every farm. All that is necessary to get it is to do the

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digging systematically, in proper season, accompanying the process by putting seed into the ground, and then reaping the crop when it is ready. The delving pastor, if he had practised this method assiduously for the same period he spent in futil spade-work, might have had by this time a digger chest of gold than any pirate ever buried on the Jersey coast.

As a matter of fact the gold business, legitimate and illegitimate, has been tremendously over-played. All the gold ever ferried from the New World across the Spanish Main was worth less than the fish swimming in that same Main, and worth a great deal less than the useful native products that might have been carried home to the Spanish people from Mexico and Peru. All the gold ever dug in California is trivial compared with the wealth produced there when men turned from placer-mining to plowing. Mountain streams run into irrigation ditches have made more money than they ever made when their sole use was washing yellow dust out of sand.

Every man who owns a farm owns a gold mine. Every man who owns his home has buried treasure in his backyard.

## A FEMALE SOLOMON

Mrs. Walter B. Beal of Seattle, who is a lawyer and a judge, says that she fears she disappointed extreme feminists when she ran for office, because in her campaign speeches she declared that "the greatest happiness for a woman lies in married life."

"With so many millions of girls in industries," she says, "there must be women correspondingly in higher places. But at the same time, I do not think a young woman can look forward to both a career and a home, and in most cases she will be happier if she chooses a home."

It would be well if more of the women in public life were as level-headed as this feminine jurist in their attitude toward "feminism."

But perhaps there is little need of worrying about the matter. After all the arguments pro and con regarding "careers" and "woman's place," it is likely that nature herself will take care of the matter with her usual competence.

Some Englishmen are proposing that Great Britain pay her war debts by selling her churches, auctioning them off to the highest bidders. Many an American millionaire would doubtless pay a fancy price for St. Paul's or Westminster Abby, quite regardless of what he would do with it when he got it.

The newest and most aristocratic form of robbery appears in the theft of movie films valued at \$500,000. Mere gold is so cheap it no longer tempts the highclass burglar. There's a theme for a new detective story.

Who winds the clock that points the seasons? Snow fell at Sweet Home last Friday. The cold midnight of the year approaches.

Fiume is costing Italy a couple of billion dollars, when the whole town could be bought outright for a few millions.

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## Comment of the State Press

**Rah, Rah, Rah—**

We wish to thank the Albany boys who came over last Friday to yell for Lebanon. We were proud to have you in the serpentine, and we will try and repay you, by coming to help you win.—H. S. Notes, Express.

**Joke—**

A Wyoming bandit held up a train and robbed the passengers of money and valuables day before yesterday, but was frightened off before he got to the real treasure in the express car where they carry butter and eggs.—Register.

**The Wrong Program—**

Any organization that adopts such an economic fallacy as sabotage as a standard of perfection, has outlived its usefulness and gone to seed. Is there no program in this imperfect world of sorrow to remedy and better humanity's condition other than organized laziness?

**Also Sad—**

Now that the Oregon-O. A. C. game has passed into history, the peace con-

troveray can get on the front page again, remarks the Astoria Budget. Gloomy prediction, but probably true at that.

**Finish 'Em Up Here—**

One box factory at Klamath Falls, Oregon, is doubling the capacity of its plant, and employs hundreds of men and women. That is working along the right lines. Oregon is shipping too much raw lumber outside to be manufactured into the finished product elsewhere. Eugene ought to have hundreds of men engaged in the manufacture of sash and doors and furniture.—Guard.

**Life—**

It is one of the perplexing problems of life that we only succeed in solving one problem when straightway there arises another to confront us, comments the Express. Ardent workers in the temperance cause used to think that when national prohibition had been gained that the task would be finished. Now comes world wide prohibition.



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