

# BEAVERTON ENTERPRISE

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## 1931 Is Fleeting

This is just a few lines to let you know that the year 1931 is passing rapidly and to tell you, if you have anything to do, you might as well get it underway. The advent of May emphasizes the passage of four months of the year. It is time that the workers and the doers took stock of their plans to see where they stand.

## A Young Hero Dies

It's a rather pathetic story from New Jersey, which tells of the death of John P. Schley, aged 12. He refused to accept a proffered rescue from his burning home in order to remain with his mother, who, he thought, was in the burning building.

The father, his wife, and two children, aroused by servants in the early hours of the morning, fled to safety as the fire threatened to get them. In the darkness the youngster was missed and a volunteer fireman rushed a ladder against the boy's bedroom window shouting to him to come out.

From the smoke-filled room came the reply. "Never mind me, I'm going with mother."

Now, there may have been finer heroism somewhere, sometime, but we doubt if you will be able to call it to our attention. Here was a lad, too young as the world would say to understand, but he believed that his mother was in the burning house, and without thought of self, took his chance with death to be "with mother."

That the little fellow was mistaken, that his mother was safe, does not detract from his brave devotion or his courageous heroism. Awakened in the dead of night, alone in his smoke-filled room, he faced his duty, solved his problem, and met his fate.

He died like men are supposed to die in epics. He was a man.

## Another Accomplishment

Citizens of small cities who take delight in denouncing the corruption of larger cities, like Chicago, New York and other places, are strangely blind when it comes to seeing what is going on in front of their own eyes.

In other words, it is always easy for a man to denounce some one who is not interested in hitting back, and quite another accomplishment to speak out when somebody is close at hand to speak back.

What has become of that movement to outlaw war?

It is too bad that hot air is often mistaken for something else.

What the people want today is the man who put the "axe" in taxes.

Even farmers are beginning to understand "sucrose" and "dextrose."

There is no telling what men will do for the chance of getting money.

## WAGE RATE AND RETURN OF PROSPERITY

We recall when the 1893 panic hit we were employed at a salary of \$100 a month. The firm failed a year or so later, and we had a long hunt for a job, finally finding one at \$50 a month, not very much for a family of two. That job lasted until sometime in 1895, when the owners of the business finally had to lay us off and do our work ourselves. We had another long hunt for a job, and finally found one at \$6 a week—again, not so much for the entire income of a family. But, finally, we were readjusted. And thenceforth we prospered, for within some months we were earning an income of \$10 and from time to time these welcome increases kept coming. We had learned to live within our income, a substantial improvement in living standards. We never will forget the thrill of being able to buy the ordinary necessities of life for the ordinary price.

Should we begin to study at this point to see what the present standards show these people? It is not to be a new one and not a temporary panic. We began to watch the signs of readjustment. We confess we

were somewhat surprised when national leaders—Moover, Farrell, of U. S. Steel—opposed downward readjustment of wages to meet changing conditions.

To us, in the light of our own experience, it seemed that prosperity would not begin to return until the great mass of workers finally had employment at rates of wages at which their employers could make a profit, expand their operations and increase wages as prosperity warranted and the demand for labor was restored. The ability of employees at a given time to make profits has always seemed to us the real key to general prosperity among all the people.

When wages were low and unemployment high, they tend to make more money to which the employer cannot make a profit than the volume of business. Business decreases, employment is cut down, and through the loss of jobs the workers suffer through the loss of their income.

When in Portland, many employers are doing as they should. They are not so busy as to have employees who are not doing their best. They are not so busy as to have employees who are not doing their best. They are not so busy as to have employees who are not doing their best.

these standards. The situation here is the same in that respect as it is elsewhere.

## MUST FACE REALITIES?

Are these intensely loyal employers doing the right thing to help bring about a start on the return to prosperity? Would it not be better for their employees and all concerned if they were to face realities and try to get on a money-making basis by offering salaries and wages at which a small profit can be made at the low prices at which their products can be marketed? In later years, will not employees be more grateful to firms which made earlier readjustments in salaries and wages, and got on a sound basis of earning profits as the one and only sure method of attaining prosperity for employee and employer alike, and less grateful to firms which through a mistaken sense of loyalty postponed the dire necessity until too late and then had to thrust their employees as well as themselves into the ranks of the unadjusted unemployed.

That we are not alone in these reflections we judge from an address just delivered by President Magnus W. Alexander of National Industrial Conference Board on "Unsound Economic Thinking on the subject of Wages."

## WAGES AND LIVING STANDARDS

"It is fallacious to assume," declared he, "that, by building a Chinese Wall around wage rates, it will approximate any degree of general economic readjustment in time of depression. It is even more fallacious to argue that wage rates must be maintained despite reductions in the cost of living, in order to protect the standard of living of American wage earners. It is after all not the money wage but rather the real wage represented by the purchasing power of money earnings, that determines whether living standards can be maintained. When, therefore, the cost of living falls, a proportionate reduction in wages need not affect adversely the economic status of the worker. This fact is generally ignored in the current discussion of the wage problem."

"The other vital consideration, which is also generally overlooked in this discussion, is the paramount part that hours of work each week play in the proposition. The facts show that at present not only are millions of usually employed persons altogether deprived of work, but that several more millions are working on short time. In consequence even though the high wage rates of 1928 and 1929 have been maintained in most of the large, and in many small establishments throughout the country, the partially employed workers in these establishments have suffered a considerable reduction in their weekly wage incomes and, therefore, in their purchasing power and economic status."

"The question naturally arises whether moderate wage reductions, not larger than the decline in the cost of living, might not permit longer weekly working schedules with larger payments in weekly pay envelopes. The reasoning implied in the question is that reduced production costs, on account of the lower wage factor would, result in lower sales prices and thereby, stimulate increased buying, greater industrial activity and consequent larger employment. Besides, lower prices would give this country a better chance in world trade."

"The question here raised cannot be answered categorically. The size and the financial strength of individual establishments and similar factors must be taken into account. Large enterprises with substantial reserves and flexibility in their work arrangements may be in a position in which they can afford to maintain wage rates and at the same time provide normal or nearly normal employment. The average smaller enterprise, however, may of necessity have to make adjustments in wages, as well as in other expenses in order to be able to continue to operate at all. When such adjustments cannot be avoided, it is obviously in the interest both of the employing concern and its employees that they be made but they should then be made in a way that will least disturb the economic mechanism and the industrial relationship."—Oregon Voter.

## COMMENT ON SPORTS

### BASEBALL'S UPGRADE

#### CHUCK KLEIN'S CHANCE

Young Chuck Klein, of the Phillies, who opened the season this year with two homers in the first game, readily admits that lack of spring training this season is making it difficult for him. You remember, Klein had a long argument about salary before coming into the fold. His record in two and one-half years shows a batting average of .369 which is better than the similar record of Cobb, Ruth, Wagener or Hornsby. Last year he set a run-scoring record with 158 and broke the record with 107 long hits. He also made a record for outfield assists. This year, regardless of his condition, he got off to a good start and there is no telling what he will do if he is able to avoid injuries and stay in the game for fifteen years or more. By the end of that time he may have most of the records.

his debut in the big league, needs just a score of circus clouts to reach the six hundred mark. It will be a long time before anybody takes this record from the Big Bambino.

## GROWERS WARNED AGAINST FRAUDULENT POTATO TAGS

Oregon potato growers who pay for certified seed potatoes this year are advised to read the tags carefully and be sure it is certified seed they are getting. Word that a company in Oregon is buying ordinary seed potatoes and selling them with a tag closely resembling the official certification tags issued by Oregon State college to growers of certified seed has just been received by E. R. Jackman, farm crops specialist of the Oregon Extension Service. The imitation tags are the same size and color as the genuine ones.

and are labeled "Seed Certificate" instead of "Certified Seed." The official tags are always attached with a lead seal. This is the first time imitation tags of this sort have appeared in Oregon, according to Jackman, though they are common in some other states. Q—After attending the theatre with a man, is it necessary for the woman to thank him for a pleasant evening? A—No; unless he has in some way inconvenienced himself to be with her; but she should tell him that she has enjoyed the evening.

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**Chevrolet**

has struck a popular new note

In motor-car styling

Many factors have contributed to the remarkably widespread popularity of the new Chevrolet Six. Among these are smooth performance, low price, matchless economy, exceptional riding ease and driving comfort. But no feature has been more strikingly evident in the enthusiastic public reception of the car than its smart new style.

Fisher Body craftsmen, with their background of fine-car designing, have made this new Chevrolet an exceptionally attractive automobile. Study it from any angle and you find it extremely pleasing. Look at it from the front and you are impressed by the modish ensemble of deep radiator, large headlamps and arched tie bar—all gleaming in rich chromium plate. Viewed from the side, the long hood, low-slung body

lines, sweeping fenders and massive wire wheels strikingly suggest the car's fleetness and power. And the appeal of Chevrolet's beauty is made more pronounced by the fact that all models are available in a variety of colors.

Interiors, too, are unusual in every way. The upholstery is carefully tailored. Seats are roomy, deeply cushioned and invitingly soft. And the interiors are tastefully appointed.

In fact, the new Chevrolet Six is such a thoroughly fine-looking automobile that it has become a very popular choice with every type of buyer. You find it not only the smart family car, but the smart personal car as well—a worthy companion to the expensive automobiles of the two- and three-car household.

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