

THE SPRINGFIELD NEWS

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Editorial Program

- I. Make Springfield the Industrial Center of Western Oregon.
- II. Develop a Strong Trading Point; Build a City of Contented Homes.
- III. Improve Living Conditions on the Farm. Promote the Raising of Purebred Livestock and the Growing of Fruit; Work for Better Markets.
- IV. Tell the World About Oregon's Scenic Wonderland.

Some Springfield Mistakes

Springfield has made some mistakes in her relationship with railroads. She has been on a branch line railroad for many years when she could have been on a main line of another road. She has granted the Southern Pacific company every consideration that corporation has desired and has not even gotten good train service in return. She has lived on certain definite concrete promises of a railroad company that seemingly makes promises only to break them if it satisfied the company's own ends. She has allowed her chamber of commerce to be used as a rubber stamp on documents to whip other communities into the S. P. columns, and in turn has seen those other communities rewarded, even at her expense.

Why should Springfield not profit by her mistakes—being that she is powerless to rectify them? Why should she not about face and do things differently in the future?

Another railroad is waiting to come into this territory. Let's go out and get it—lend it our support morally and financially. It is not a privilege for a community to be on a railroad—it is a privilege for a railroad to be allowed to run through a community and enjoy the benefits of the business. What we need is a railroad that will appreciate this fact.

Springfield, from the point of tonnage, is one of the largest freight shipping centers in Western Oregon.

Springfield owes the Southern Pacific railroad nothing. On the other hand the Southern Pacific owes this community much. Let's "put out" nothing more to the S. P. until she pays a few of her community debts.

THAT DANGEROUS CROSSING

A year ago the Southern Pacific railroad company promised the Oregon Public Service Commission to install an automatic signal on the Second Street crossing. That dangerous crossing still stand unguarded. Two dozen accidents have happened on this crossing since the application was made for remedy. Thousands of cars cross these tracks daily enroute to and from Springfield and over the McKenzie state highway. This crossing is an absolute menace to life and property. The Chamber of Commerce should renew its demand on the Public Service Commission to relieve the community of this danger. In this demand she will be backed by a strong county farmers organization.

It is evident the S. P. does not intend to fix this crossing until she is compelled to.

If the S. P. shops cover all the lands the shop lifters own or have options on west of Eugene they will be some shops. Eugene ought to ask Junction City and Irving to consolidate with her.

HOPE TO CONVINCING THE FAIR MINDED

The shop lifters say they wont answer us no matter what we say about them. We don't care whether they do or not. Everything we have said about them is the truth. Our remarks have not been to convince them. We do not hope to convince anyone whose sense of reason lies solely through his pocketbook. But we do hope to reach the fair minded citizen and make him see the injustice of the deal these brigands are trying to pull off.

On Third and Main Street, a railroad, a street and a street car line cross each other on the same intersection. Last week an accident, that might have killed a score of people, was averted on this crossing by a hairs breadth. A locomotive bore down on a loaded street car and only the rare presence of mind of the street car conductor who threw the street car in reverse averted a terrific collision. Why must we tolerate such a menace? It ought to be sufficient to allow a street car and a railroad to use the same line and bridge from Second street to the Springfield Junction, without devising a death trap on a street corner.

The Southern Pacific has made informal application to reduce the grade on Second and Mill streets. A two foot reduction in grade on Mill street will render this street nearly impassable and useless. Why should we keep granting privileges to a railroad company just because she has the nerve to keep asking for them? A center pier has been maintained under this crossing for many years just because the city council did not demand its removal. The same sort of pier was built at the same time on the highway across the river but the county would not stand for this sort of a structure and it was removed.

So heavy is the traffic on the Pacific highway that Eugene needs another approach to the city from both the North and south. She will surely have a hard time getting another approach from the north if the town is bottled up by shops and terminals at Blair street. If Eugene is to be the large city her boosters say she is then she should have some room to expand in. But with natural barriers on three sides and railroad shops on the other where is this room going to be found?

Some people of Eugene and the press set up a howl every time Albany tries to get the Santiam road improved. They think it will cut down the traffic on the McKenzie Highway. Truth is there is plenty of traffic for both highways and the more improved roads we have leading through the mountains the better off the state will be. Certainly we need better connections with eastern Oregon. Its a narrow view to oppose Albany in her attempts to improve the Santiam road.

Rev. Dr. John Roach Stratton told his New York congregation that the new Rockefeller church, head ed by Dr. Fosdick, should be called Socony church. Would the immersions be in oil?

The annual loss to the American public, attributed to commercial fraud is \$250,000,000. Evidently Barnum's birthrate idea is now higher than one every minute.

An argument accomplishes one thing. It convinces both parties of the foolishness of the other fellow.

If you are so proud of your fine merchandise that you want to keep it around to look at during the next year, then don't advertise.

Just what the "trump card" was Mr. Calkins speaks about in his dealings with the railroad company we propose to tell before this controversy is over. That is one of the deep, dark secrets of this affair.

Abd-el-Krim has a new battle cry: "Treat 'Em Ruff."

FINE JOKE ON OREGON ELECTRIC

Eugene men are preparing to bond their city to buy a \$175,000 shop site for the Southern Pacific. In other words they plan to assess the Oregon Electric properties to make a present to its competitor. And the S. P. yells about the fairness of common user. Depends on whose dog is kicked.

The Eugene chamber of commerce is to be complimented in taking up the promotion of the Three Sisters country as a public play ground. Truly it is one of the most marvelous mountain areas in North America but it is little known and appreciated even among Lane county people. Thousands of people would be visiting the Three Sisters every year if it were advertised to the extent of many of the national parks of the country.

England has been sweltering in a temperature of 84 degrees, the hottest in fifty-five years. If they call that hot they ought to import a little of our June weather.

Score one for Secretary Kellogg. He isn't going to let the trouble with Mexico develop into a note writing contest.

Judging from the way France and Italy look at it, if Germany and Austria are ever united it will have to be the result of an elopement.

Quoth the shop lifters: "We must save our own skins." Meaning we don't give a d— for anybody else.

And they still "look with misgiving on the building of a town across the river."

Editorial Comment

LET THE BATTLE RAGE

The great pitched battle last week in the fastnesses of West Virginia between dry agents and moonshiners in which one agent was killed and two others seriously injured, turns out to have been a clash between two groups of prohibition enforcers, one national and one state, each of which mistook the other for rum runners, and started shooting.

There is nothing surprising about this as it is the established custom of dry agents, who are a law unto themselves, to shoot as they search, on suspicion, and investigate afterwards. Being immune from punishment, they are perfectly safe in perforating the innocent public.

Near Corvallis recently a woman driving to her sick husband was shot at, scared half to death, searched and insulted by dry sleuths because she had no booze. It is a common pastime for them to puncture tires and autos with bullets on suspicion. They have shot men dead, carrying home candy to children and have even shot down, with immunity, a United States Senator.

Now that they have taken to shooting each other, they have found a proper outlet for their lawless activities. Let the battle rage.—Salm Capital Journal.

GOOD CROP PROSPECTS

Vice-President Kenney of the Great Northern, reports crop prospects in that road's territory the best in six years. Governor Borah, speaking for North Dakota, says his state is looking forward to one of the best harvests in its history. World demand and the production outlook in the winter wheat states make it rather likely that, no matter how big the spring wheat crop, the farmer will get a better harvest-time price than he got last year. And last year was such a good year it turned Northwest depression into Northwest prosperity. It looks as though 1925 might be a tough period for the gloom pedler.—Minneapolis Journal.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Newspapers often speak of the good old days. But were they any better than they are today? In the so-called good old days the world never enjoyed the exercise of dodging automobiles; there was no static to exercise one's vocal chords; a bootlegger was just a plain bum instead of a financier and if a man ever dreamed of an airplane he took a big dose of castor oil the next day for a bilious attack. There is a mistake. These are the good old days.—Florida Times-Union.

KIDNAPPING IN HOLLYWOOD

Confessions of the men arrested in the \$200,000 ransom plot to kidnap Mary Pickford assure the film fan that it was no film-fam. Yet in view of the possibility of an epidemic of kidnapping plots in and around Hollywood it would be a wise precaution if the police would take fingerprints of all the press agents for future identification. Commercial Appeal.

May we look forward to a time, perhaps 50 years from now, when the circus will carry as added attraction a Wild East show reproducing the hold-ups and battles of the gunmen as they occurred in the lawless early years of the twentieth century, before the cities were civilized?—Boston Transcript.

There are indications that senators are getting ready for Dawes' attack when Congress convenes. Senator Harris, of Georgia has had his tonsils removed.—Memphis Commercial Appeal.

A Washington expert says the average American family consists of 5.1 persons. You have one guess as to which member of the family makes the I. You are correct. He is.—Omaha Bee.

A Lyons man named his two trucks William and Charles Bryan, figuring that at least one of them would be running at any time.—Lyons, Kans., News.

Science is doing wonders for the world, aside from discovering some things that may not be true.—Toledo Blade.

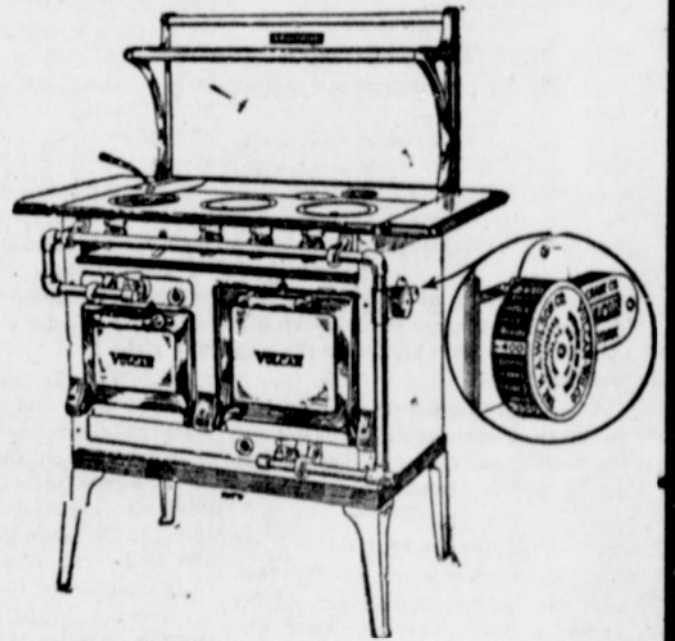
Tom Marshall was a disappointment to some in that he had no patent cure-all for the various ills of the body politic. But curealls never cure.—Chicago News.

Washington has had a letter from the school teachers of the Aleutian islands inquiring who was elected president last fall. The least the government can do is to send the teachers a good radio set.—Cleveland Plain-Dealer.

THE GLORIOUS FOURTH Yesterday and Today By A. B. CHAPIN



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