

# The Santiam News

POLITICALLY INDEPENDENT

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T. L. DUGGER

EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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## THE FACTS EXAMINED

IN LAST WEEKS ISSUE of the NEWS, appeared an editorial captioned, "Predatory Fortunes." Probably many subscribers neglected to read it and many of those who did, may have failed to realize its power and merit. It contained much food for thought—truths which, though carelessly scanned by the self satisfied and aggravating to those who seek to gain by the misfortunes of others, were received gratefully by the progressive thinker and patriot as evidence that "eternal vigilance" so frequently alluded to in these columns, is not dead.

It will be well to consider some of the truths presented in that editorial with a view to realizing the manner in which illegitimate fortunes are acquired, the deplorable consequences arising from infractions of justice and to point out results obtaining in our midst.

Let us first consider the average days labor product as related to the \$800,000,000 fortune. The product of the average days labor is from \$8 to \$11. Divide \$800,000,000 by 8 and we have 100,000,000 as quotient. In other words if a man worked for 100,000,000 days at \$8 per day, ate nothing, wore nothing, purchased nothing, then at the end of 270,000 years, he will have accumulated the fortune of \$800,000,000. But according to the statistics the average wages paid to labor is \$1.50 or less than 1-5 of \$8. Then at the rate that labor is paid it would take a laborer, consuming nothing, spending nothing, five times 270,000 years or, 1,350,000 years to acquire the quoted fortune. Is this not a startling reply to those who believe that labor receives just compensation and that the end of justice is obtained? Let us view comparisons further. Assuming the average life to be 50 years, then in order to accumulate a fortune of \$800,000,000 it is necessary that one earn \$16,000,000 a year, or over \$43,000 a day or, over \$700 per hour. If the accumulator endeavored to keep track of the growing income he would have to stop work and sleep, and count at the rate of \$700 each hour, night and day. How many have considered the facts and what they mean?

Taking the average daily labor product, \$8, and the average life at 50 years then one man, receiving the full product of his labor might earn \$146,000 in a life time. But \$146,000 is only one 5,479th part of \$800,000,000. In other words, unjust laws have enabled one man to confiscate the entire labor product of 50 years of 5,479 producers, or, the annual labor product of 273,950 producers.

Is not something radically wrong? May we justly criticize those who condemn the acts of legislatures, the decisions of courts, the laws that bind and compel as tyrannic or can we reasonably feel shocked at those who openly express a lost faith in the equality of our government? Is it not time to inquire how such iniquitous conditions may be abolished? It is very good to repose faith in ones country, it is commendable to cherish the sentiment expressed by Webster, "My country, one and inseparable, now and forever." But it is also essential for one to remember that the people constitutes the nation, that the fall of the people means the fall of the nation, and that if these deplorable possibilities are to continue we shall go the way of every other nation—shall go the way of Rome, once glorious, the careening emblem of civilization, now buried in the dust of vanished centuries—a people, a nation which enervated through neglect of justice, was murdered by monopoly and now lies half forgotten in the tomb of oblivion. Experience, said Patrick Henry, is the only lamp by which we may guide our progress. And what do we find? As a result of special privilege—the power to legally confiscate—our nation is reeking with poverty, crime and licentiousness. Well informed men are horrified at the rapid increase of these evils. Only lately the government appointed a commission to inquire into the condition of the poor and the report was so appalling that it was at once excluded from the mails and hidden from the people.

But how are these enormous confiscations of personal wealth made possible? How is it possible for one man to appropriate the product of 5,479 peoples efforts? In last week's editorial the question was partially answered. It might be briefly answered, because of special privileges. But many people have neglected to attend to the important matter of liberty and the general welfare. Politics have come to be regarded by the many as a thing exterior to their legitimate business. They are consequently unconscious of the true meaning of special privilege. It is an evidence of that senility which is invariably a consequence of governmental injustice. Men honestly assume to be patriotic, but when the outrage occurs they resent it not. They tread the field of life like sheep, content with the immediate morsel, regardless of the ways enthroned, oblivious to the misery to follow, and blind to the crime against their country. Contentment is a virtue but supine submission is a curse. Macaulay, writing of England, declared "Our enemies are not without our border but in our midst" and it was this which Washington had in mind when in his farewell speech he cautioned the Nation that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.

What is special privilege? It is the extending of extraordinary power or benefit to a few. In other words, it is giving to one the power to overstep the rights of his fellows. It is the insidious way to abject tyranny.

Taxation has ever been its favorite weapon. It appears as indirect taxation as internal revenue, as protective tariff, as land grants under the guise of common benefit and in its most monstrous form in the institution of land monopoly which, legally, is only an altered form of the old Roman system known as farming the revenues—a system which, according to all authorities was the main cause of the corruption, decay and downfall of great Rome. In that system the wealth created by all was collected by a few, a portion turned over to the government and the rest retained by the collectors. Consider the matter of rent. We may realize how the power to control coal mines, rights of way, warping locations, oil and mineral deposits, enabling exorbitant charges, aided by patents, tariffs, and specially designed and partial laws, will give that very power of land monopoly to the benefit of a few? This is the important question and now is the time to answer.

Here, in the great State of Oregon, the sinuous form of monopoly has glided almost unobserved. Its coils are wrapped about every natural opportunity. All the great water powers are its prey and the most valuable lands of the state are in its scaly grip. Soon its fangs will sink into the flesh of creative labor. If immediate action is not taken to repress its poisonous powers, the people will one day awaken to tremble under the gaze of the serpents cold and deadly eye, for it will have ruined legislatures, intimidated men and arrayed the militant forces of the state against the powers of the appealing patriot. The Initiative and Referendum is the way—the only way, out; but it can not effect a remedy unless the people will carefully search, without prejudice, and with the common good in mind, for a way to crush the monster and push him from their midst.

## THE FARMERS PROBLEM

The farmer as a rule, is not conscious of the fundamental requisite to success. Not because he is unable to understand, but because he has been blinded by taking for granted certain oft repeated statements and opinions. Remote from social centers, he easily comes to regard himself as having but little interest with the outer world and neglects to inquire into matters seemingly foreign to his occupation; forgetting that the welfare of others means the welfare of self.

The farmer has three faiths,—land, climate, and industry. The land acquired, climate satisfactory, and body strong, he looks forward with pride to a large harvest, as though that is the end at which he aims. The object of farming is the object of every other occupation—to acquire wealth with which to gratify desires. The problem then is not how much he can produce but how he can obtain a proper compensation for the product of his labor. The solution of this question is the solution of success.

What is necessary to insure the compensation sought? Some light may be gathered by analyzing the periodic social conditions known as good times and bad times. The use of the terms "good times" and "bad times" is common yet few people understand the causes to which they are due. If one will consider a moment the nature of the cause will be evident. The essential character of good times is great demand while the distinctive fault of bad times is no demand. May we say that lack of demand for food, clothing, and the usual labor products is due to lack of desire for these products? No, it is evidently the result of an inability to purchase. But why are the people unable to purchase? Is it because they have sudden-

ly become averse to work? Evidently not. What then is the cause of this inability to purchase which is the cause of hard times? Simply this: Rent in the denser centers of civilization continually and rapidly increases, taking more and more of what labor produces. The ability to purchase clothing is consequently constantly reduced. A reduction in demand for labor products results in lessening of demand for labor, which in turn reduces demand for products and the see-saw continues until poverty is universal and the speculative prices of lands fall because people can no longer pay the rent. Loans are made on speculative land values and when the property no longer pays interest the loans are without backing and the crash of hard times follows. This fall of rents again makes it possible for people to live and the nation again climbs towards good times and bad times.

Now the fact that lack of demand is inability to purchase which is due to lack of opportunity to produce, is a fact available to the farmer for the solution of success in farming. The most essential thing for him to do is to follow the policy of the railroads and fight for such conditions as will insure demand for his products. The way of the railroads is not open to the tiller of the soil. The railroads accomplish their purpose by excluding competition through monopoly of land. All the farmer can do is to destroy the power to appropriate through rent, the product of the consumers labor. The destruction of land monopoly is the only way this can be done. This will evidently enable those now idle in the cities to gain access to land, wages will rise in accordance with the law of demand and supply, and we will have what is known as good times or, universal employment and great demand for labor-products, and therefore the proper compensation sought.

Few people know how far reaching the appropriating power of rent is and to what extent it interferes with the equitable distribution of wealth. It has been estimated that in the U. S. alone over \$2,000,000,000 is annually appropriated directly, in the form of rent and almost as much again in the cost of monopoly products. It is evident that the abolition of monopoly is the solution of the farmers problem. His chief concern is the establishment of demand. Since land monopoly is opposing his hard effort to acquire a fair share of prosperity, his interests are clearly similar to, and linked with, his fellow producers in the great social centers, who are unable to patronize the farmer because of this same tribute-levying landlordism.

## IRONICAL CIVILIZATION

WHAT IS CIVILIZATION? Authorities tacitly agree that the term is not definable. The lexicographers, without exception, so far as we are aware, follow the definition laid down by Webster, namely: "the art of being civilized", which is merely a reiteration. Yet the term, vague as it may seem, must stand for some definite relation—civilization being evidently, only relative. Let us seek the constituent ideas.

All will readily agree that kindness, justice, mercy, and truthfulness, are elements of civilization and that brutality, injustice, hypocrisy, and selfishness, are opposed to it. This admitted, let us briefly consider conditions existing in our much vaunted and far heralded civilization. Our nation is concededly in the power of a few multi-millionaires. Laws are made and passed at their dictation, in their interests and intentionally inimical to the welfare of the people. As a consequence, thievery is legalized, poverty stalks abroad, the swill barrels of the great cities are frequently the only defence against starvation, garbage is collected, sorted and sold in the "slums" for food. A few wealthy ones monopolize natural opportunities, and backed by political tools reduce wages on the one hand, rob on the other. Churches are reared to keep pace with the building of jails and asylums. With so-called education goes along an ever increasing selfishness, and disregard of common welfare.

Little children hardly beyond babyhood are forced into factories to labor and to die—sacrificed on the altar of mammon; or, to grow into wretched deformities and die unweary when misery becomes unbearable. Forty-one per cent of the federal revenues were lately assigned for maintenance and extension of the navy. While children cry for bread, women faint, and men search hopelessly for work, while charity organizations appeal, while crime is legalized in our midst, a nation devotes its revenues to the prosecution of that very thing conceded by all to constitute the very essence of barbarism. War is viewed by the people as the most interesting of all governmental art. Equal right is rarely understood, the advocate for the common good is regarded with aversion, mercy is contracted to the immediate presence, and the love of gold usurps the place of justice.

It remains for us to set forth the true definition of civilization. Civilization is a condition of human society, consisting of and proportional to, the beneficial use of actual and deduced discoveries. How much civilization may we justly lay claim to?

## Are Making Military Maps

Last Friday the NEWS man noticed a camp of the U. S. engineer corps along side of the C. & E. track at Blodgett station. Two or three of the corps boarded the west bound train and from one of them, a most pleasant and affable gentleman, we learned the following facts:

The United States government is having careful and minute surveys made of all portions of the coast regions of the United States, Cuba and Porto Rico, the Sandwich and Philippine islands. The result of these surveys will be the creation of a series of military maps, which will show the topography of each particular section, resources, etc. Especially are the streams, roads, mountain passes, etc., accurately located.

Presumably, this information is being gathered for guidance of any future military operations, points and passes to be guarded in case of a foreign invasion, and routes over which troops could be moved if necessary. Of course should a foreign foe attempt to invade and get a foothold in the United States he would naturally attempt to effect landings at unprotected harbors or coast points. Yaquina, Tillamook, Coos and other unprotected harbors, would furnish ideal points at which to land troops, and for this reason the war department wishes accurate knowledge about these matters, and that the surveys are being made. The coast survey looks after the survey of the harbors, coast lines, etc., but all information concerning the inland portion of our country must be supplied by the army engineers.

## The Place to Get Cheap Clothes

Last Monday, by courtesy of the Blain Clothing Co., of Albany, the NEWS man was permitted to view the havoc made with a \$45,000 stock of goods, by fire and water. It is estimated that goods which can be sold for \$5000 were saved. Splendid suits which are valued, ordinarily at \$15 to \$25 each, are so injured by smoke and water, that half price will scarcely be realized for them. The same can be said of the boots and shoes. Gents furnishing goods were so shocked by dirt and water that half price would be good money. We noticed one pile of splendid coats which were scorched and burned on one corner of the pile that the whole is, worthless. The goods were all being marked down to half price or less, and men and boys who wish working clothes can get them there at almost their own prices. The entire stock will be closed out at once, regardless of price.

## Fair Season Tickets

As there seems to be a persistent desire to misunderstand the privileges a season ticket to the Fair will give the holder, the NEWS will again explain the matter.

The price of the season ticket is \$2. The ticket, or rather book of tickets, entitles the holder to three entrances to the Fair each day. Each days tickets are printed on different colored paper. When the ticket holder passes through the gate, a ticket is torn from the slip for that day. If the holder desires, he can take in two members of his family or two friends with him; but this will use all of his entrances for that day. Entrances are only good for the day printed on the face of the entrance slip and are not good if detached. The gate keeper must detach the entrance from the ticket. Members tickets are the same as season tickets, except that they can only be used by the members. Day tickets are the same as last year, 50 cents. No pass checks given. This arrangement of tickets is made necessary to protect the Fair.

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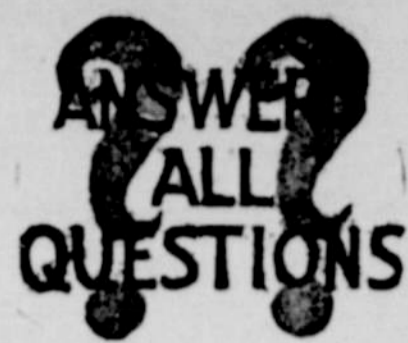
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## Teachers' Examination

Notice is hereby given that the regular teachers' examination for Linn county will begin at the court house in Albany, Oregon, August 11, 1909, at the hour of 9 o'clock a. m., and to continue three days for county and four days for state papers.

W. L. JACKSON,  
County Supt.

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