

# THE SCIO TRIBUNE

ISSUED EVERY THURSDAY BY  
T. L. DUGGER, EDITOR AND PROP.

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*I pledge allegiance to my flag and the Republic for which it stands, one Nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.*

## WHY COST OF LIVING IS HIGH

The high cost of living is mainly due to two causes and, we might add, in a less degree to a third.

When William J. Bryan was making free silver speeches in the 90s, one of his basic statements was the prices of the commodities of a country are measured by its volume of money.

The history of the United States of more than 20 years since those speeches were made have justified his conclusions. At that time there was something over \$13 per capita of money in circulation. Wheat was then worth from 40 to 75 cents per bushel. A good suit of clothes could be purchased for \$10, and other commodities in like proportion.

By 1900 the volume of money had increased somewhat and the prices for commodities had increased accordingly and this increase in price of commodities has kept pace with the volume of money, something over \$50 per capita at the present time. The price of wheat, now \$2.20 per bushel, would have been not less than \$3 per bushel at this time had not the government restricted the same to present prices.

Beef and pork are probably better illustrations. When Bryan was making free silver speeches a fat steer could be bought for from 2 to 3 cents per pound and a fat hog from 3 to 4 cents per pound. The volume of money has been multiplied four times and beef and pork have kept a like pace. If they have outstripped the increase of the volume of money the fact is due to the extraordinary demands of the war and to profiteering.

You may take any commodity, and trace the prices and the relative value will be maintained even to the inclusion of labor. And this is true notwithstanding gold an currency are on a parity.

In Civil war days prices of commodities reached a very high level if measured in currency prices, but if measured in gold there was but a slight advance over the pre-Civil war days. It will be remembered that the relative value of currency and gold at that time was on an average of \$2.50 currency to \$1 gold, though gold had disappeared from circulation entirely.

The circulation of money at the close of the Civil war was per capita the same as it is now with the exception that our per capita circulation is in gold or its equivalent, while the Civil war per capita was

in greenbacks, worth from 35 to 50 cents in gold for the greenback dollar. This difference shows in comparison the republican and democratic financial systems.

The second cause of high prices is due to the war in Europe which decreased production in several of those countries and to greatly increased consumption; also to the greatly increased hazard of transportation due to the German submarines.

The third and probably an equal cause of the war is due to profiteering. Most if not all merchants and tradespeople base their percentage of profit upon the cost of the article. Hence the higher the cost of the article the greater the profit. Also manufacturing concerns, merchants both wholesalers and retailers, took advantage of conditions and greatly increased their percentage of profit. This is also true of farmers and work people.

When the Civil war was over Secretary of the treasury McCulloch commenced to prepare the country for return to a specie basis and in late 1866 called in or redeemed about \$600,000 of greenbacks. The method by which this was done was the continuation of war taxes for two years after the war was over.

The war being over the soldiers had been discharged, and the purchase of war supplies being discontinued money accumulated in the treasury rapidly. The above named sum was destroyed which created a near financial panic. Prices of commodities were greatly reduced and thousands of merchants and banks closed their doors never to be reopened.

Such procedure will not now be necessary for we are now and have been during the war on a specie or gold basis. The currency dollar has been equal to that of gold during the entire period, nevertheless the government has had to borrow about six times the amount borrowed during the Civil war. This shows the superiority of regional banks over national banks and the wisdom of borrowing money from the people rather than from the banks. Moreover, if you will examine your regional banknote you will find no exception clause thereon as was the case with the greenback. This is the reason why currency remained at par with gold instead of depreciating.

There is no necessity for curtailing the amount of currency in circulation as seemed necessary at the close of the Civil war hence there will be no great depreciation in the prices of commodities, especially such as the farmer produces. Of course there will be some reduction as time advances, for present prices are sure to stimulate production until competition with over-production will cause a fall. But the decrease in both manufactures and food products will be very gradual.

## THE SLACKER.

Most people seem to think that the slacker is the young man who avoided or tried to avoid service in the U. S. army or navy, only. This is not true, for slackers are abundant in all walks of life. The slacker may be defined as the man or woman who refuses or neglects to perform a public or private duty.

This article will be devoted mainly to the slacker who neglects his duty to the public. A number of years ago the people of Oregon adopted what is known as the initiative and referendum. In other words the people reserved to themselves the power to make laws through the initiative, or by virtue of the referendum they declared their purpose to veto or ratify laws enacted by the legislature. That is to say every man or woman assumed the respon-

sibility of a lawmaker or had it thrust upon him or her. Therefore it is the moral duty of every legal voter to be present at the polls on election day and vote for or against such measures and candidates for public office as may be legally proposed.

If they fail to do so they are slackers in the full sense of what the term means. They wilfully neglect the most important duty which devolves upon the citizen of a democratic government. This condition is both undesirable and dangerous, for the neglect to cast even one vote may result in the enactment of a dangerous or mischievous law or in the defeat of one which is highly meritorious. The supporters of the mischievous measure or the unfit candidate for office are apt to be 100 per cent at the polls. The slacker who thinks the day's work or the job upon which he is engaged is of more importance than his public duty is apt to vote right if he or she should take the time or trouble to go to the polls.

At the recent state election not more than one-third of the registered voters considered the nine measures placed upon the ballot of sufficient importance to cause them to go to the polls and vote for or against these measures, nevertheless the inauguration of a system of building good roads depended thereon. Think of it! Two-thirds of the voters slackers when this important matter was at stake.

At the recent school election but a small percentage of the voters were present, yet the public schools are and should be a vital question in every community. It affects not only the welfare of our children but it affects our pocket books as well.

The man or woman who is too busy for whatever reason to go to the polls and vote is not a good citizen, for no one who neglects a public duty can be a good citizen. He is a worse slacker than the young man who dodged service in the army by hiding in the woods or levanting to Mexico. The slacker at the polls knows that he will not be visited with punishment for his neglect, while the young man knows that by law he is a deserter and will be punished if apprehended.

Too many people regard the exercise of the political franchise at the polls as merely a privilege to exercise or not just as they feel disposed. The question of duty does not seem to enter their minds. They do not realize that their neglect to vote may do both themselves and neighbors an injury. They do not realize that they destroy their right to criticize either candidate or measure by such neglect. Yet they do. What just right has the man or woman voter to either commend or condemn official or law which he or she was too negligent to assist in electing or defeating?

In these late days when the whole weight of government rests upon the people it is our sacred duty to use our voices in the ways of right and justice. It is our duty not only to vote at the polls but to study before election day the fitness of candidates and the wisdom of measures. The time is at hand when our country, comprising 110,000,000, expects every one to do his or her duty; not 50 to 75 percent of the people, but full 100 per cent. Be an American citizen; all that the word implies.

## HOW ABOUT RAILROADS?

Prior to the taking over of the railroads by the government there was no organized local freight via auto truck in the country. The railroads are to be returned to private owners in the near future. What will they find?

They will find about all of the short haul service absorbed by the

truck freighters except the heavy, bulky articles. In addition they will find a large portion of the passenger service absorbed by the automobile as well.

Before the government took charge of the railroads the state and government regulation had so controlled freight and passenger rates that the roads were making but a small margin of profit above operating expenses. And now without local freight and passengers they are likely to find any margin of profit wanting, unless the regulating boards allow them to raise both freight and passenger rates.

The outlook now is the local freight and much of the local passenger service will not be recovered to the railroads, and it is well known in railroad circles that the short haul produces the profit. The long distance haul because of both land and water competition is practically handled at cost.

This condition is not likely to be productive of the building of new trackage, and this means the stoppage of development of sections of this and other states not now served by railroads.

Of course heavy and bulky freight such as grain, stock and heavy machinery will continue to be handled by the railroads. But lighter and higher priced freights on short hauls will be handled by auto trucks and with the building of good roads the auto service will be extended. All of the larger towns will have their auto truck freight companies. The conditions for the railroads are likely to grow worse instead of better.

The railroads cannot be operated at a loss. Consequently the only alternative will be to raise the rates, then the poor devil who cannot afford to own an auto will pay a higher passenger rate and a higher freight rate on his grain, stock, etc., else the railroads will have to go out of business.

The question will cause the state and interstate as well as the railroad people many anxious and vexatious thoughts. Yet the idea is unthinkable of the stoppage of the local railway service. It would be a big step backward in development and progress.

## Will Try Out Wireless Telephone

In many sections of the national forests it has been found impossible without great expense to maintain telephone wires or cables because of the havoc wrought by timber falling across the wires and by heavy snowslides. Therefore wireless telephones are soon to be given a trial in the forests and the signal corps of the army has lent four combination sets of transmitting and receiving apparatus to the forest service of the U. S. department of agriculture.

Equipment is to be installed on Mount Hood at an elevation of about 13,000 feet and another set is to be at the nearest forest ranger station, about 12 miles away. Two other sets are to be placed in the Clearwater forest region of Idaho, which is a heavy wilderness country.

Wireless telephones have never been tried in mountainous country and interest centers in the results of the experiments, particularly in the effect on messages of high ridges between telephone stations. The Mount Hood experiment will show the practicability of talking from a high point to a low point and the Clearwater forest experiment will demonstrate whether messages can be communicated from two points of about the same elevation, but separated by mountains.

All the wireless stations will be established at lookout points and will give warnings of fires developing in the forests, supplementing the regular facilities of the forest service.

Advertise in The Scio Tribune and get results.

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SCIO, OREGON

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LEBANON, OREGON

## Railroad Time Table

Arrival and Departure of Passenger Trains

Woodburn-Springfield Branch  
WEST SCIO

North 7:55 a.m.  
South 5:09 p.m.

Corvallis & Eastern

MUNKERS

To Albany 8:11 a.m.  
To Detroit 1:44 p.m.  
Motor service discontinued.

Mortgage Loans Negotiated Notary Public

H. B. CHESS

Attorney at Law

Office on Sherman St. Lebanon, Ore.

MUNKERS and WEST  
SCIO STAGE

Walter Bifyeu, Prop.  
Phone 6-515

STAGE MEETS ALL TRAINS

Leaves Scio Postoffice—  
at 7:10 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. for West Scio  
and 12:45 p.m. for Munkers

Riley Shelton

Real Estate Broker  
and Notary Public

Abstracts Obtained, Examined

SCIO - - - OREGON

Morrison & Lowe

UNDERTAKERS

Calls Attended to Promptly  
Day or Night

SCIO - - - OREGON

H. C. ROLOFF

AUCTIONEER

WATERLOO - - - OREGON  
R. F. D. No. 1 Phone 12x Sweet Home

Sale dates arranged for at The Scio  
Tribune Office, Scio, Ore.

C. J. BRYANT

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201-2 New First National Bank Bldg.  
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