

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.*

SCIO, OREGON, DEC. 23, 1920

MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Christmas-tide is again with its
good cheer, especially to the young
folks and children. It is the time
of year for good wishes and to make
others about us feel just a little
happier than at other times of the
year.

Christmas has been adopted by
Christian churches as the anniver-
sary of the birth of Christ. This is
not probably true. The exact date
of his birth is not known though the
best writers and thinkers place it
some time in the spring.

Christmas owes its real origin to
people generally known as heathens.
At least they were not believers in
Christ, for he was yet unknown to
them.

These people had observed that
the sun seemed to travel south con-
tinually until a certain date, then
start back northward about Decem-
ber 25. This date is wrong, for the
sun begins the return northward
two days earlier. Early calendars
were defective and the two days
seemingly lost were due to wrong
calculations.

These heathens were sun worship-
pers. As the sun furnished light
and heat which caused the growth
of vegetation, which was necessary
to sustain the lives of themselves
and flocks they assumed that the sun
was the father of creation; and they
had some reason to form such con-
clusion.

Hence they made December 25 a
festal day and devoted it to feasting
and rejoicing and observed it annu-
ally.

Some three centuries later Con-
stantine, the Roman emperor, tho't
to organiz. the christian church, or
a body of people who accepted Christ
as the son of God. As the exact
date of his birth was unknown the
wise men whom Constantine assem-
bled in congress at Nice, fixed the
date to occur on the great heathen
holiday, December 25.

This action had a double purpose;
to fix an exact date for the birth of
the savior of the world, and to bring
an influence to bear upon these hea-
thens or sun worshippers. No reason-
able objection could or can be
found to this action. The people
then nor do they now know the true
date. The only data they had to
work from were the legends and
writings handed down from father
to son during the three centuries
which had elapsed. Besides, the
edicts of Constantine had great in-
fluence upon the minds of the mass-
es of the people which were densely
ignorant. In fact the people of that
day were but little removed from
the animal creation.

But whatever the date may be it
is the Christmas spirit which counts
—the desire to be happy and to
make others happy around us.

Hence the spirit which prompts
us to wish happiness to our friends
and others, is a happy one. It gives
joy to the wisher and wishee. And
the Christmas tree. What man or
woman cannot hark back to child-
hood days and the joy and happiness
which revolved around the Christmas
tree. How excited we were as we
assembled at the church or school-
house on the evening of December
24. How our little hearts beat with
the joy of expectation.

Nor is the Christmas tree greatly
different from that of our childhood.
The children of today seem to enjoy
the occasion as royally as we did in
the days when we were kids.

Of course the fabled Santa Claus
is a myth, but if a myth what a
lovely one to childhood. And what
great expectations fill the minds of
the little boys and girls who hang
up their stockings Christmas eve.
And what joy it is to the parents
who are able to make their children
happy with a small money cost.

And how joyously the boy or girl
calls out "Christmas gift" to the
relative or friend. It is this Christ-
mas spirit which brings joy and hap-
piness to almost everyone for we all
like to be happy and make others
around us happy. And the simple
words "Merry Christmas" cost us
nothing and bring a warm glow to
the hearts of both ourselves and
friends. In this spirit The Tribune
editor and office force wishes each
and everyone of its readers a merry
and joyous Christmas.

THE SEQUEL.

Only a few months ago the people
voted a millage tax of two mills to
support the elementary schools. The
proposition looked so fair that the
people took hold of it readily. They
said nearly every school district lev-
ies a special tax for its school and
they can make the district levy two
mills less. Also the school tax would
be largely increased on timber lands,
etc. The teachers argued that dis-
tricts could pay them larger salaries.

This two-mill school tax is the main
cause of the increase of the state
tax. But if we make our district
special tax two mills lower the total
sum of our taxes will not be very
largely increased. But the sequel
of this millage tax is now bobbing
up.

Teachers' salaries have been mat-
erially increased during the past
year, but they are not satisfied with
the raise. We are told that teach-
ers are promoting a bill to be sub-
mitted to the legislature at its next
session making the minimum salary
not less than \$150 per month. This
means that no district, large or
small, may pay a less salary than
this sum. A daily wage of \$7.50
per day for 6 hours' work and the
numerous holidays thrown in, and
these holidays seem to come very
frequently.

The Tribune favors paying teach-
ers an adequate salary. But the size
of the salary should be based upon
merit. Some teachers are well
worth \$150 per month while others
are not worth half that sum, and
there are still others who are dear
at any price.

The law now protects teachers in
resigning their contracts for nearly
any old excuse. But if the school
board deems it for the best interest
of the school to discharge a teacher
for cause, too often the teacher can
collect the salary for the full term
of contract.

It is a poor rule which does not
work both ways. A teacher of merit
is rarely discharged, and there are
many inferior teachers who hold
their jobs by virtue of their con-
tracts only. Moreover, the really
meritorious teachers hold down the
job year after year.

With the general decline of living
costs as well as for the stuff the

farmer has to sell is a wrong time
to increase the salaries of teachers
or officials. The labor wage has
declined from 20 to 25 per cent and
is sure to slide downward still lower,
as will be the case with skilled me-
chanics, and teachers' salaries should
trend downward as well rather than
upward.

The law of supply and demand
should and does apply in this mat-
ter. In war time when teachers
were scarce they demanded and re-
ceived better wages. But to fix an
arbitrary salary based upon flush
times is not fair to taxpayers who
have to find the money with which
to pay them.

We hope our legislators will view
this matter from a practical stand-
point and not suffer a political
clique of school teachers to brow-
beat them into doing an unwise act.

HAVE HARD JOB.

The Oregon legislature to assem-
ble at Salem next month has a hard
job ahead. It will be expected to
appropriate large sums of money
usually by non taxpayers, while the
people who will have the bills to
pay expect the members to answer
"No" to all bills which call for the
spending of money.

About the hardest "No" to say
will be to the demand for the soldier
bonus. Their patriotism will be ap-
pealed to and very forcibly too. But
boys, this appeal should not be made
to the state but to the general gov-
ernment. Uncle Sam demanded
your services and to him you should
look to requite your services.

The demand to be made upon the
state is pure graft, nothing more
nor less. You are simply trying to
exploit the patriotism of the people
of Oregon. Fully half of you never
smelled the powder of a hostile gun
and were in the service but a short
time. Yet we are told that these
soldiers who never saw a hostile flag
are the loudest in their demands.

Now as a matter of fact, boys,
you were paid more than four times
the wage of the Civil war soldier,
when we consider the depreciated
greenback. You were better fed
and better housed. Yet the Civil
war veteran who came home able
bodied never was recognized until
50 years after the close of the war.

No, boys, wait a few years until
Uncle Sam gets his breath and ar-
ranges for the great cost of the war.
You are already being cared for in
a way the Civil war veteran never
dreamed of. You are being edu-
cated, taught trades or professions,
the injured being cared for, etc.
The Civil war veteran was never
coddled in this manner. You are
simply asking too much from the
class of people who stayed at home
and produced grub for you; who are
less able bodied than you, and who
are just as deserving as you are.

Wait a spell. The Tribune admits
your cause is deserving and the
country has great respect for you.
But when you assault congress or
the state legislature you lower your-
selves in the estimation of congress,
legislature and people.

The government paid you every
cent she agreed to pay in money
good as gold. Any other pay you
may get from the government will
be due to the gratitude of the peo-
ple. But don't go after it from
state or nation with a demand, for
if you do you will injure your own
cause.

The United States has never for-
gotten her soldiers of any of her
wars. She has granted pensions,
provided homes and food for those
who would accept and favored them
in many ways. In due time the sol-
diers of the European war will be
recognized and cared for. We honor
you boys for what you have done;
nor was it your fault that some of
you were not sent to France.

Greetings

To close our books at the end of
the year without expressing hearty
appreciation for the business and
kind acts you have entrusted to us
would leave a debt unpaid.

We thank you and yours and send you
our best wishes for a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely yours,

J. F. WESELY

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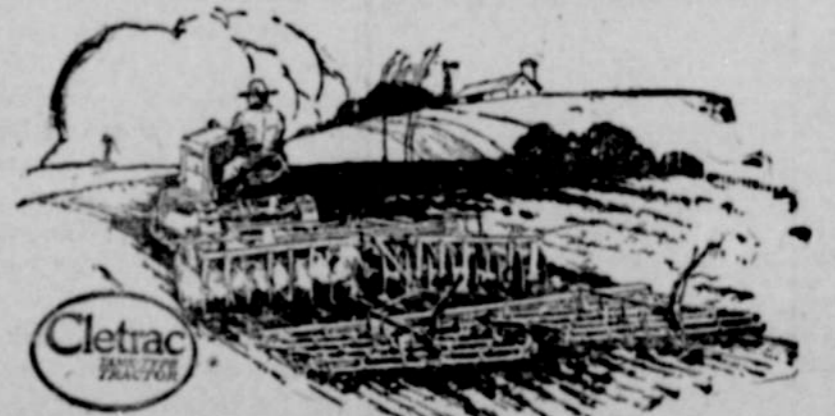
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