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EDITOR

**EDITORIAL SECTION**

L. K. HARLAN  
MANAGER

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TUESDAYS and FRIDAYS

**HEPPNER HERALD**

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**A PATERNALISTIC MEASURE.**

There has been a great deal of discussion concerning the Eight-Hour measure which will come up for consideration of the voters in the coming election. The idea as we see it is to regulate the hours of labor by the state, something which has never been successfully done at any time.

The measure flavors of paternalism and gives the worker the idea that he is getting something for nothing. Regulating the ordinary hours of labor is not good for any state to meddle with. The history of the world shows that the working day is being shortened. This has been accomplished without the need of laws, mandates or coercion but has resulted from economic forces.

The last attempt to regulate the hours of labor and the price of commodities was made in the rule of the Roman ruler, Diocletian. This gentleman came into possession of the throne much in the same way as our friend Huerta in Mexico did. When he entered Rome the cry was the high cost of living, another slogan which has not lost its popularity even unto this day. Diocletian regulated the hours of labor and the wage and also the cost of commodities and attached a penalty of death to those who "cut prices" and to those who worked for less than the "union scale."

Just to give you an idea, manual labor received 10.8 cents a day; bricklayers, masons, wagonmakers, shipbuilders, bakers, 21 cents a day. Teachers were paid so much for each scholar and writers were paid 8.7 a hundred lines. Ten eggs sold for 1.7; oysters cost 43.5 a hundred; rye, 45 cents a bushel and oil, 18 to 30 cents a quart.

Diocletian's paternalism was not a success. He did not know how difficult it was to take entire charge of the people; that after he fixed the price he must also take charge of production, distribution and consumption. When the workers found that it did not pay to raise barley, eggs and hay, they stopped producing these things for the market. When it did not pay to be a preacher, teacher, bricklayer or a painter, the ambitions tried something else. When life became unbearable at Rome, the energetic found other places to live. All roads lead to Rome. If you want to know how all such paternalistic schemes work out, read history. From it one may learn wisdom.

One thing in this measure which looks questionable is the fact that no one can work over eight hours a day if he wants to, unless he works for himself. If a man was a little hard-up and wanted to put in ten hours and was able to do it, as most men are, he would be unable to work. This is something for you to fletcherize while you drink your morning's Postum.

There is always the class, however, that complains about not getting sufficient wages and are also clamoring for shorter hours. Machinery and education have made men more efficient workers and they render the same service now in nine and ten hours that fifty years ago required eleven or twelve.

All pay is automatic and is based on the service rendered. Any other basis for remuneration is unsound and unwise, therefore, not practicable. We are all down on Nature's timebook for five dollars a day and the only reason that we don't get it is because we give a part of it to someone else for showing us how to direct our efforts. The modern employer is ready and willing to pay for good service and he pays big sums for big service. The demands of business today require a high standard of efficiency, courtesy, good-cheer, alertness and rapidity. But it takes a deal of supervision and management to get this. People have always pictured an ideal place where everybody will be on the job. The worker will get there early and stay until things are cleaned up, and so full of zeal for the common good that no supervision will be required. Each man will do the things that he wants to do, the things that he can do best and he will do it superbly well. If you want to know whether the boss is on the job, go on a vacation or a business trip, just drop into any business house. Go into a hotel and find the clerk playing cards with the customers, or entering into loud and mouthy arguments, and you will know that the boss is away. Enter a drygoods store and see the clerks throwing paper wads and calling to one another and the fact is patent that the supervisor is not on the job.

The lower the intellectual plane the more supervision is undoubtedly required. To do away with supervision is the ultimate aim of education. Every wise parent is teaching his children to do without him. The good school-teacher is working to a point where his services are no longer needed. The aim of the law is to

make all laws unnecessary. So the intent, also, in commercial institutions is moving towards a point where the least possible supervision is required.

The entrance of the state in the matter is a backward step. It takes away the feeling of personal responsibility and gives the worker the idea that someone else will guard his interests and throw us back to the time of Diocletian and the attempt to conduct modern business on the policies of that age can have only one result, the result which all schemes and systems which flavor of paternalism have experienced.

**THE BLESSING OF WORK.**

A short time ago we heard a well known local party make slighting remarks about a prominent man of our community. The person to whom he referred has made a business success and quite naturally figures his wealth in several figures. The one making the remarks has never made a success of anything and has reached the point in life where he is air-tight to new suggestions and in thinking of him, a Thirty-third Degree Hardshell unconsciously comes to our minds. All men who have achieved any prominence or position have had to work. There are some things which you have to do for yourself. Lady Macbeth was troubled with a sickness which no doctor could cure and to the question, "Canst thou not administer to a mind diseased; pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow?" the honest doctor replied, "Therein the patient must minister to herself."

In that great essay Self Reliance, Emerson says over and over again, that the source of all that we can receive or have is within ourselves. All healthy people are glad to hear this and the wise who are sick accept the fact and bestir themselves to action.

Heaven has been pictured as a place where all labor is unknown. Heaven is a goal where everything is provided and much of it. Eternal rest, ease, luxury, angels for servants and nothing to do, are requisites for happiness and immortality, according to many interpreters of the Bible. A place where there is little work, much to spend, ease and luxury, has seemed to be the suburbs of Paradise. It has been this doctrine and the natural pull of inertia that have led people and nations to death. The few who have acquired the work habit, and the very wise few who have foreseen and have understood the sure penalty for inaction, have escaped. Not to succeed, but to forever be in the struggle, has saved and kept verile the people who have preserved the race. When Rome lost her small farms her decline began, because the people as a whole were not working. "He brought many captives to Rome whose ransom did the general coffers fill," was said of Caesar. Slaves made from unransomed captives did the work for the Romans, and became the active men of the country. Scented baths, museums, banquets, public corncribs, free soupkitchens, made ruin of the greatest nation of its time. Nourishing food, good clothing, beautiful, artistic and sanitary homes—are all wise to have. We should have them, for we are the heirs of the wisdom of all ages. In wisdom we should begin where our parents left off. But we should not decrease our activity, nor lose our virility. We should be an evolving race in strength.

We all take off our hats to the man who steps in and starts something where before "there was nothing doing." People who make fortunes or any thing else have not waited for things to turn up, but have gone out and turned them up themselves. And the climax of the whole discussion comes in the statement of a fond mother to a schoolteacher a few days ago—"We send John to school so he won't have to work when he gets out." Stand away from 348, boy.

If the Eight-Hour measure had been worded to the effect that everyone would be compelled to work eight hours, some of its promoters would move to other parts.

The war is getting closer. Representatives of foreign countries have been in nearby counties buying horses and mules.

Glass roofs are popular in Paris, in fact they are almost necessities.

Be he ever so homely, there's no husband like your own.

The real "World Series" is still going on.

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A few more of those 8 day Marathons at Haylor's.

**LOST**—A brown mare, 6 years old and weighs about 1200 pounds. Is marked with a star on the forehead and with a brand on the left shoulder C. R., with a Z directly below it. It was last seen about two weeks ago near Parker's Mill. O. E. Wright, of Heppner, is the owner and will give \$10 reward for its return.

**NOTICE.**  
My new Fall and Winter hats will be ready the first week in September. Mrs. D. B. DeLaney, Lexington, Ore.

**FOR SALE**—Ford car in running condition. 1913 model and recently overhauled. Will take a team of work horses as part payment. Inquire at Herald office.

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