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EDITORIAL SECTION

L. K. HARLAN
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TUESDAYS and FRIDAYS

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Let Us Be Thankful For These Things

The Thanksgiving idea is as old at the world itself. At most man has always acknowledged that he is merely a custodian of things which have been placed here for his use and advantage. You can carry nothing away, you can only enjoy a respectable amount of the world's gifts and they are here in profusion and within easy grasp.

We have much to be thankful for. Business is good, better than in most election years. The talk of politicians is mostly in the line of caloric. They live in a make-believe world of their own, and their antics are a sort of stage-play. We are advancing and are to be thankful because politicians and demagogues play smaller parts in the world's cast today than ever before in history.

The Steel business is running at nearly full capacity. Building materials, wire and nails are in great demand and the price of these is lower than they have been for years. Of course some steel products have advanced due to the war but there is a steady demand for all steel products and when steel is in demand it means that people are building homes, farmers are fencing their fields and businessmen are erecting skyscrapers.

The railroads, in spite of low rates, are putting down heavier steel, some right here in this county. There is less antagonism to the roads than in years gone by. We can't afford to harass big business. Big business means payrolls and the hot-air artists have given us a sort of calamity stuff due to monopolies.

Agricultural experts state that a greater acreage will be planted this Fall and next Spring than ever before. Our late crop was above all predictions. We are feeding the warring nations today. The high prices of meat in the past few years have encouraged breeders and they have a big lot of young stock coming along. Horses are in great demand in spite of automobiles but it appears to us that all surplus horseflesh should be sold. Horses are too speculative, we need more hogs and cattle.

We have a few great calamities in the way of fires, ships going down and explosions in mines, but after each disaster there has been an active intent to see that the thing does not occur again. Every ship which sails from New York or any European port carries enough lifeboats, dories and collapsible boats to take care of all on board in case the ship goes to the bottom. In all theatres there are abundant places for exits in the case of fire and these are opened before every performance begins. Fire losses have been atrocious and seemingly unpardonable. With the rapid extension in the use of concrete and steel we are eliminating the risk of fire. It is almost impossible for fire to start in some buildings, so thoroughly protected are they. The Utah Hotel in Salt Lake City is the last word in hotel construction and we are told that it carries no insurance.

Potatoes bring a good price, wheat is higher than ever before, Iowa corn has been in great demand for various kinds of food products, we have all bought a "bale of cotton" and the cry of the cotton men is no longer heard, even the apple growers of Oregon are disposing of their crop and at a good price. Of course we are a great people and we admit it, but we still import eggs from China, beef from Argentine and wool from Australia. There is no reason for this. We get our living out of the soil and we are going to get more food and better food in the next year than ever before, simply because we are bringing science to bear in the matter. And we are also teaching the young that farming is an eminently respectable business. Of all men the farmer should be respected. He is in partnership with Nature, if any man is, with the Creator of the world. He is brother to the winds, the sunshine, the showers, and the stars that watch over his work. All of us pay a tribute to the farmer three times each day. There was a time when if you called on the farmer and listened closely you could hear the mortgage gnaw. Now the music you hear in the farmer's house is that of the piano, the phonograph and the gentle buzz of the self-starter on the automobile.

Look at it from any side, the health of the people, the matter of education, the question of work for the many, the opportunities for progress and advancement for the man who renders a useful service, the absence of labor troubles, strife and bloodshed, all these suggest the many things for which we can be thankful for.

"SOCIAL CENTERS"

Thomas Jefferson was the world's first and only Democrat. As a means of self-exaltation we have had at odd times so-called Jeffersonian Democrats. Among other things he was the

man who devised our public school system. He argued for it, pleaded for it, fought for it, and brought it about yet so far, we have not caught up with Jefferson's ideals as to what it should be. But we are getting there. This is accounted for by the fact that in those days we were so busy cutting down the forests, killing the wild beasts, eliminating the Indians that for the time his ideas were pigeonholed.

Now in several states the cities have declared that the school buildings are not for the exclusive use of the children. The first city to inaugurate this idea was the city of Rochester. Chicago followed and when these cities made the plan work, lo and behold, the State of Wisconsin declares that every schoolhouse in the state shall be cleaned, heated if necessary and arranged for any purpose if a small number of the residents of the community shall so petition the directors. Debating clubs, literary clubs, dramatic clubs—anything that tends to amuse, instruct and benefit the neighborhood—is allowed. In Rochester some of the rooms were equipped with portable seats which were removed after the literary part of the program and the floor cleared for dancing and gymnastic exercises. Parents would come with their children in swarms and make use of the buildings as social centers.

It has always been claimed that the saloon has been a poor man's club, in fact he has no other place to go. If we were asked what this community needs most, we would say a place where the young people and the grownups could meet and improve their spare time. Carnegie has the right idea but in connection with every library there should be a gymnasium, a bowling alley, a swimming pool and a baseball lot. Not long ago a man told me of a town somewhere in the middle states where a public spirited citizen presented the town with a half of a city block, all fenced in, marked off for football and baseball, provided with a grandstand capable of seating the whole town, should it happen to turn out en masse, and instead of the boys spending their leisure hours along the creek, smoking cigarettes reading dime novels and jumping freight trains to the next station, they are found at the Athletic Park, where tobacco, rough talk and dime novels are tabooed and the "Bad" boy problem of that town has been solved.

It has been observed that people who meet together, who talk over common interests, who plan for ways of bettering community life, do not go away and defame each other. Friendship is hygienic. Animosity, fear and grudge are eliminated. Wherever the discussions are full, frank and free, people find that they have less to fear from their neighbors and harmony, co-operation and mutual assistance are rendered possible. To this end the public-schools should be used. The public-school system cements: it does not divide. I does not divide the town up into little religious cliques and social sets: it eradicates feud, jealousy, caste and makes for true democracy. Lord bless you, we built the schools, now let's use them.

In the Pittsburgh district there are 100,000 men out of work. In other manufacturing centers the number is correspondingly great. There are already many hundred workmen idle in Portland and other coast cities. There is no doubt but that general conditions will be more stringent this winter than for many years. Just where to place the blame for these conditions is a difficult matter. The Republicans say the Democratic tariff is responsible and the administration lays the blame on the European war. But coming right down to conditions in Morrow County, we may feel mighty lucky compared with our idle brothers and sisters in the industrial centers. With dollar wheat, high wool and meats, this county is bound to feel the hard times far less than our less fortunate friends in the cities.

The Annual Poultry Show, usually held about January 1, will be a thing of the past before the people are really aware of the fact that it is due to be held at that time, unless some enthusiasm and good hard work is done by the members of the Association. The poultry industry is one of the greatest in the United States and the hen has done her part to keep the farmers of Morrow County above water during financial stringencies of the past. It is unreasonable to think, that, with the splendid outlay of material on hand, the members of the Association are going to let this show become a dead letter.

The Herald's Annual Edition will be a thing of beauty and education. Beautiful from a typographical and pressman's standpoint, and educational because it will contain more information regarding Morrow County than was ever before compiled between two covers.

HOUSE AND LOT FOR SALE
Located in South Heppner and in order to dispose of same in the next two weeks I am offering same at a remarkably low price. House has six rooms with bath, sleeping porch, surrounded by fruit trees and berry bushes. Fenced in chicken yard. Inquire of the owner, C. T. Humphries, or Herald office.

FOR RENT

Nice place at Olex, Gilliam County. 668 acres bottom land, nice orchard. 80 acres hill and bench land has been farmed, about 200 acres in all. Will rent or sell cheap on time payments. L. O. RALSTON, Owner, 608 Market St., Portland.

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There is a good restaurant in Heppner for sale. Located on Main Street and doing a first class business. It is well equipped with everything necessary to do the business...Clean and neat in every particular...There are some household effects which will go in the sale, all new and useable articles...The right man can take this place and make money, as it is a money maker now and you know what it is to buy a business paying well. Just drop a line to the owner or better yet, stop in and talk it over with him...He is desirous of making a change.

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Heppner, Oregon

S. E. NOTSON

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW

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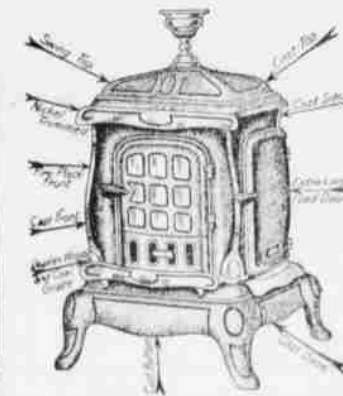
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