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HIGH WAGES AND HIGH PRICES

(Clint C. Houston, in Labor, Washington, D. C.)

Senator Calder, of New York, called at the department of labor on official business the other day. Exercising a sentimental prerogative, he took occasion to assert that high wages are responsible for the high cost of living. "Here's an illustration," said the senator, who voted for the anti-strike clause in the Cummins railroad bill. "Yesterday I paid \$12 for the pair of shoes on my feet, and before the war they retailed for \$6. High wages are the cause." Ethelbert Stewart, one of the expert investigators and statisticians of the department, was present and heard the senator's gripe against labor. "Suppose we get the facts on the high cost of shoes," suggested Stewart. "This department has just completed statistics on wages and costs of production in six of the largest shoe manufacturing plants in the United States. Before the war the average labor cost in a pair of shoes was about 37 cts. Since 1914 the wages of shoeworkers have been increased 65 per cent, and the average labor cost in a pair of shoes today is 63 cents. It requires about three square feet of leather to make a pair of shoes for a man. This makes a pair of shoes on an average cost 87 cent - 50 cent for the leather and 37 cents for the labor. Add to this the 65 cent paid for the rubber and you have a total labor and material cost of \$1.29. The difference between this sum and the \$12 you paid was added after the shoes left the workman's hands. With this showing of facts it is hardly fair to charge high wages with being responsible for the exorbitant cost of shoes." The senator said the information was both interesting and important, and that he would in the future be more careful in holding labor to account for the high cost of living.—Typographical Journal.

WOULD WORK FOR BEAUTIFICATION OF OREGON HIGHWAYS

The following letter, which is self-explanatory, has been sent out to all commercial and civic clubs in the state by Marguerite A. Salmon, secretary of the Highway Scenic Protection committee of the Portland Chamber of Commerce:

"Sometime ago the Portland Chamber of Commerce appointed a very important committee called the 'Highway Scenic Protection Committee.' The general purpose of this committee is to see that the highways of Oregon are protected forever from unsightly buildings, unnecessary logging operations, the throwing of tin cans and other rubbish along them, in fact, anything that would make them less beautiful. If necessary, this committee is prepared to recommend proper legislation to secure this protection.

"The committee has also placed its stamp of approval on a statewide Forest Protection Week from May 23rd to 29th, inclusive, in which every possible emphasis will be laid on the necessity of protecting the forests of the Northwest from needless destruction. This fire protection week is the suggestion of the National Parks association of Seattle, and we have been asked to join with the state of Washington in promoting it. The slogan of the week will be 'Let's have a clean woods.' We invite visitors to come to meet the best season of the year and then the fullest enjoyment of the beauties of our country is marred by the presence of smoke. This is often caused through carelessness.

"The committee is also interested in a movement to plant trees and shrubs wherever necessary along the main highways as a memorial to the soldiers of Oregon who fell in the war, and the cooperation of every civic organization in the state is desired for the Shrine convention. "The committee is also interested

in having reproduced on the banks of the Columbia river a block house at the spot where General Sheridan fought, and in this connection the cooperation of the Oregon and Washington Historical Societies is requested. It is hoped this will be done before the Shrine convention.

"This committee is also very much interested in the passage of a bill introduced by Senator McNary and Congressman McArthur which will add a certain area, including Larch mountain and its environs, to the Oregon National Forest, in order that the waterflow of Multnomah and Oonoota creeks may be saved.

"It has occurred to our committee that the various civic organizations, womens clubs, etc., of the state might well appoint highway scenic protection committees of their own, which would cooperate with the committee of the Portland Chamber of Commerce. The idea in back of this is that there would then be no complication of efforts.

"If this has the approval of your organization, I would be very glad to hear from you at an early date concerning the matter so that I may outline our further plans to you."

FARMERS HELPED BY GRAIN GRADING

Grain farmers and shippers of the Pacific Northwest feel that they are better off in doing business under the federal grading system than under any previous system of grain inspection, according to opinions expressed at a meeting held in connection with the farmers' short course of the Oregon Agricultural college. The men who attended the meeting said they were in favor of keeping the grades at a high standard, thereby giving a premium to the farmers raising a high quality of wheat.—News Letter.

FIRST CAR COMES OVER BLUE MOUNTAINS

The first car to be driven over the Blue Mountains this year arrived in Pendleton this morning, with Edward H. Brown, of Salt Lake, at the wheel. The machine is a Ford roadster, and Mr. Brown left Salt Lake last Saturday.

Mr. Brown says the roads are pretty fair, with the exception of Cabbage Hill, which he declares is the worst piece of road in the trip. Mr. Brown is on his way to Portland.—East Oregonian.

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MARY'S LAMB IN SCHOOL

Times have changed. The sequel of the incident, Mary had a little lamb, which was turned out of the school, etc., is the desire of a Wyoming school-teacher to display in the schoolhouse framed pictures of well-bred livestock. In a request to the United States department of agriculture a teacher in Fremont county, Wyoming, has asked for—and will receive at the cost of the printer—approved photographs of the different breeds and types of horses, cattle, pigs, sheep and poultry.

The display of such pictures on school-room walls will do much, it is believed, to encourage the keeping and breeding of well-bred stock in the locality.—Weekly News Letter.

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