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MR. WOOD AND THE SHEEPMEN

Are the interests of William M. Wood, president of the American Woolen mills, and the interests of the Oregon sheep and wool growers identical?

Mr. Wood is the gentleman who, several months ago, closed his mills and absolutely killed the wool market and that at a time when prices of all woolen goods were climbing so fast that Heppner merchants declared every time they sold a suit of clothes with a legitimate profit added they lost money because the wholesale price of a similar suit was greater than the price at which they were selling.

At about the same time Mr. Wood was indicted for profiteering but he was not prosecuted because a federal judge ruled that only retailers—the little fellows—could be fined and sent to jail for grabbing an unholy profit under the Lever act.

Mr. Wood closed his mills and told the Oregon wool men to go hang, that he didn't want their crop because there was then an oversupply of manufactured woolens. At the same time the retail merchants were told that there was an undersupply which accounted for the soaring prices. Mr. Wood's action might near busted the wool industry in Oregon which would seem to indicate that the interests of Mr. Wood and the sheepmen of Oregon are not, exactly, identical.

Mr. Wood has been named as one of the heavy contributors to the Republican campaign fund.

In whose interest did Mr. Wood make this princely contribution? Did he make it in the interest of the sheepmen of Oregon or in the interest of the American Woolen mills and William M. Wood?

THE PROHIBITION QUESTION

Governor Cox was correct at Portland, the other day when he stated that the liquor question is as dead as the slavery question; that the entire question of prohibition has resolved itself into a matter of law enforcement. It's now up to the officials of nation, state, county and municipality to enforce the prohibition laws as they now stand and that such a course, consistently followed, will result in ultimate actual prohibition, practically nobody doubts.

As governor of Ohio Mr. Cox has behind him a record of law enforcement that will compare favorably with the record of any other state executive in the country. When Cox was elected governor Ohio was about as wet as beer and booze could make it and in most of the cities and towns the Sunday closing laws were notoriously disregarded. During the campaign Cox had told the people that if elected he would close both the front and back doors of the saloons on Sunday and he made his promise good.

From a prohibition standpoint that record compares pretty favorably with Mr. Harding's record in the senate on the same question. Out of 32 votes taken directly on the liquor question Mr. Harding cast 30 votes with the wets and two with the dries. One of the occasions on which he voted wet was when a vote was taken on the question of introducing the American saloon into the Philippines. The vote was lost but Mr. Harding voted with the minority.

The statement has also been many times published within the past few weeks that up to the time prohibition went into effect and the breweries were closed, Mr. Harding was a heavy stockholder in several big breweries in Ohio, and so far the statement has not been denied.

Perhaps it would be just as well for Mr. Harding's friends to drop the prohibition question and center their efforts on reviving the Hague tribunal under the operation of which several "scraps of paper" were torn up and cast aside and the war god flourished as never before in the world's history.

MUTT AND JEFF

"Why", asked little Jeff of his tall partner, Mut, "is a separate peace with Germany better for this country than a partnership in the league of nations?"

Mutt made no answer but the glare he gave the little fellow was rather deadly.

"Why", continued the little man with the side whiskers and the tall hat, "would a revival of the Hague tribunal peace congress, which has already proven a dismal failure, be better than the plan proposed by the league of nations that hasn't proven a failure? Answer me that."

And Mr. Mutt, having no answer ready and being twice as big as Jeff, just beamed the little man on the beizer and beat it for the Dutchman's.

TIRED OF JAZZ

Is the passion for freak dance music going the way of other popular fads? The statement of a music-publisher that "the public has had too much jazz" is in part corroborated by the testimony of one of the largest dealers in dance records that "The Blue Danube" has recently been the best seller. Mid-Victorian or old Hapsburg waltz music back in vogue? Broadway is always seeking a new sensation, but for it to exhibit such reactionary tendencies in the matter of dance music is a surprising symptom.

It is a symptom which sober-minded persons, deafened by the blare and din of jazz, will observe with satisfaction. If the converse of the publisher's theory that "better music makes for better dancing" is true, it furnishes an explanation of the orgy of gymnastic gyrations to cacophonous strains which has for some years obsessed the young people of the land and a good many of their youthful elders. Perhaps the pendulum is now about to swing the other way. Public evils cure themselves in time, and it may be that even the evil of bolshevist dance music has had its day.

Certainly a return to normality in dance music will be hailed by most people with a delight they have not known under the infliction of jazz. Strauss and Waldteufel in ball-rooms that have latterly resounded to barnyard medleys will involve a drastic change, and it may all be too good at last. But the mere suggestion of a revival of graceful dancing to tuneful music is inspiring.

—New York World.

THE BUSINESS OUTLOOK

Announcement that woolen mills will reopen about the middle of September and that conditions are growing more favorable in the cotton trade have combined during the past week with good news concerning the business situation to afford an encouraging view of the autumn outlook. The Federal Reserve Board's review of conditions, as of September 1, shows steady progress toward the restoration of a normal basis of business and while such progress is possibly less marked in finance and banking than elsewhere, it is clear that these branches of activity must eventually feel the influence of better conditions in other directions. A striking indication of the improvement in some branches of the investment market is afforded by the Federal Reserve Board of New York, which found by an investigation among representative member banks that Liberty Bonds and Victory Notes bought by the customers of these banks over a recent three months' period exceeded those sold by about one-half. The bank also reports that a large portion of the recurring issues of treasury certificates is now taken by private investors who hold the certificates in most cases up to maturity. The continued reports of good agricultural conditions have also united with the better industrial prospects to strengthen the conviction that there will be a maintenance of buying power and improvement in the distribution of wealth during the coming months.—Clews' Financial Review.

DECLINE SAFELY STARTED

During recent months, interest rates have advanced until a national condition, unprecedented in recent times, has been reached, where the rate on commercial paper of some of the very best names has risen to 8 per cent, and many loans to firms of unquestionable standing have been made in large volumes at a cost to them, with brokerage, of 8½ to 9 per cent. The reason for this continued rise lies in the fact that while other prices were soaring, money was laggard in attaining the logical level and was relatively lower in price than other commodities, influenced in a measure, no doubt, by the artificially low rates of government financing. Present indications are that high rates may be expected to continue for some time.

The entire financial situation in the United States seems to be re-adjusting itself gradually along safer lines, and while some hardships are naturally being experienced in individual cases during the process, it is generally being accomplished with surprisingly little disturbance. The process of credit inflation, with continually increasing prices for commodities, accompanied by corresponding increases in wages, has for several years been following what has been called a "vicious spiral", each succeeding cycle boosting the cost of living and reducing still further the purchasing value of dollar.

Now, the peak having apparently been reached in most lines, this process is being reversed. A wholesome restriction of credit has been inaugurated; speculation and unnecessary expansion of industrial or business operations is now being discouraged. While heavy price declines in some commodities have already occurred, failures have been relatively few and the nation seems to be rounding the first curve of the descent with comparative safety.

—Seattle Current Commerce.

HOW TO DRY CORN

One way for Herald readers, who are fortunate enough to have a patch of corn, to cut down the H. C. L. next winter is to dry plenty of corn while in the roasting stage and put it away for winter use.

The United States Department sends out the following directions for properly preparing and drying corn:

A vegetable which, when dried, is above criticism even by the most critical, is corn. Other kinds of garden products may or may not be liked by many people, but dried corn is the equal if not the superior of canned corn and can be used for practically as wide a variety of purposes. The following directions for drying it are those advised by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Any of the varieties of sweet corn

having qualities desirable for table use will make a good dried product. Corn intended for drying should be gathered when in the milk stage, before glazing and hardening have begun and when the corn is in an ideal condition for immediate table use. It should be gathered only as it can be prepared for drying, as corn deteriorates rapidly.

Husk the ears and trim with a knife to remove any injuries. The silk need not be removed, as it can be readily separated from the corn after drying. Place the ears in wire baskets or wirebottom boxes and plunge into boiling water for 8 to 12 minutes, or until the milk is set. A little salt may be added to the water if desired. Divide the corn into older and younger lots before blanching, as the younger ears require somewhat longer cooking than the older ones.

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