

# THE HEPPNER HERALD

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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## THE CONVICT'S ULTIMATUM

Solonon was a wise man, no doubt, but he must have been mistaken when he told us "There is nothing new under the sun."

The recent action of convicts in the Oregon penitentiary in sending an ultimatum to Governor Pierce in which they advised him how to run that institution, how the attorney-general should interpret the law and that the warden should be the final arbiter in all matters of pardons and paroles and in which they strongly intimated that if their demands are not complied with they will all leave the institution, is surely something new in the annals of criminology.

The ultimatum was evidently given out in an endeavor to support Warden Johnson under whose humane (?) management escapes from the institution have been of almost daily occurrence and the inmates are, perhaps, afraid their model warden may be replaced by some man who will keep the doors locked, at least at night.

We have heard much of late years about humane treatment of prisoners and most of us believe in it—with limitations. Nobody wants to see prisoners mistreated just because they are prisoners but the time seems to have arrived when not many of us want to see them turned loose either by pardon, parole, or the simple expedient of walking through an unlocked door and "beating it," simply because they are criminals.

Several years ago a lot of us voted to abolish capital punishment in Oregon and a little later we were glad enough to reverse our former vote and re-establish the old system.

Convicted criminals are a good bit like many people who have not been convicted. If you give them an inch they will take an ell, or a yard if they can get away with it.

Judging from the crime reports printed every day in the newspapers it is evident that there are plenty of criminally inclined individuals yet outside the prisons to keep the courts busy and it is no longer necessary to leave the prison gates ajar to let those on the inside out just to keep the judges and jurors and lawyers busy.

Governor Pierce may not have made any definite pre-election promise regarding criminals but he has a chance right now to make good with a lot of law-abiding citizens by giving these convicts to understand that he is governor, that the attorney-general is the attorney-general and that convicts are convicts with terms of imprisonment to serve because of crimes committed, and that they are expected to govern themselves accordingly.

If a new warden is necessary the governor should get himself a new warden at once. If Mr. Johnson is to be retained he should be instructed to lock the prison gates for a spell and throw the key in the river.

Law-abiding citizens still have a few rights and the convicts should be made to realize that fact even if it takes locked doors and a touch of old fashioned prison discipline to bring them to their senses.

## CULLINGS FROM COOLIDGE'S COGITATIONS

Calvin Coolidge, who once remarked that "silence and discretion" comprised the duties of a vice president, has followed his own precept to the letter. Sparing of speech, he is noted for the pithiness of his expressions. Some of his best known epigrams are:

Don't hesitate to be as revolutionary as science, nor as reactionary as the multiplication table.

Government does rest on the opinions of men. Its results rest on their actions. Men do not make laws. They do but discover them.

We must eternally smite the rock of public conscience if the waters of patriotism are to pour forth.

There is no right to strike against the public safety by anybody, anywhere, anytime.

Sovereignty, it is our belief, is vested in the individual, and we are going to protect the rights of the individual.

Industry cannot flourish if labor languish.

Self-government means self-support.

## MUCH TO THINK ABOUT

Perhaps it has always been so; but was there ever a world with so many problems, so many "issues," so many "questions" into which to push the fledgling citizen to try his wings? If you're an economist, there's the problem of the relation between prices paid the farmer and prices exacted of the consumer—to say nothing of the problem of the development of adequate transportation at reasonable rates, or the problem of how to keep capital and labor both satisfied at the same time.

Political science may be in your line. What, then, do you think—not feel, think—America should do about joining the League of Nations? Should we recognize Russia? Should we recognize Mexico? What's the big argument for and against "bloes"?

If you're inclined toward sociology, tackle some one of these: What if anything are we going to do about the growth of divorce—and why? How are we going to make the home something more than a place to sleep and start out from? How are we going to teach people not to base their civic pride on population statistics? How are we going to enforce prohibition on the thirsty easterners?

Or, let us say, you are interested primarily in industrial

development. Well, what's the ultimate answer to the question of fuel and power? How are we going to build up industries on diminishing natural resources? Just what should be done about conserving our vanishing timber?

Or, you're an orthodox theologist: What are you going to do about evolution? A scientist: What do you want done about Genesis?

The Sun is setting with this issue. We hope that when it comes up again next year at least some of these questions shall have gone the way of "free silver" to make room on the forum for "others that we know not of."

Finally, in a world like this, where will we get without education, and enlightened leadership? Surey there are some hard nuts for the coming generation of citizens to crack.—U. of O. Summer Sun.

## McNARY AND THE FARMER

It was, perhaps, fortunate for Senator McNary that the illness of the late President, Harding prevented the senator from asking the president to call an extra session of congress to fix the price of wheat at \$1.75 a bushel. There was hardly one chance in a million that the president would have agreed with the senator and as the matter stands Mr. McNary has to his credit a published interview in which he declared his intention of taking such a step in the interest of the wheat farmers of Oregon. The farmer vote in Oregon is worth figuring on. The only trouble is that the farmers are getting wise to pre-election talk and as one Morrow county wheatgrower remarked after reading the McNary interview: "Why in heck didn't he think of doing something for the farmer before congress adjourned?"

### A FARMER'S VIEWS ON DIVERSIFIED FARMING

An eastern Oregon farmer near Ontario, who evidently got "fed up" on city critics of his business methods and especially of their advice that the farmer should produce everything on the farm that he needs to eat, writes the following letter to the Oregonian which we reproduce because it answers these self-appointed critics rather neatly:

There is a disposition on the part of many critics, including some of the editorial writers on our daily press to ascribe most of the farmer's woes to his own shortcomings and to hark back to the old cry about farmers buying canned milk, canned and fresh vegetables and other foods which they should produce upon their own farms. I know of no line of criticism which gets under a farmer's skin more quickly, for generally the opinion of the town critic ignores factors which have a good deal to do with the farmer's course of action.

A business man in the city confines his efforts to the production of the article or line he specializes in, going into the market and purchasing those things which he does not find it profitable to produce for himself. But the farmer, according to the town notion, should produce everything he needs to eat, irrespective of whether its production is economically profitable or not.

It is true there is with most of us room for improvement in our methods, but, so far as eastern Oregon and Washington conditions in the grain-growing sections are concerned, there is a decided limit to the extent to which diversified farming can be practised. It takes an abundance of nutritious feed to make a dairy cow profitable. Likewise it requires something more than soil and sun to make vegetables worth eating. Most grain farms in the plateau country are devoid of land adapted to being seeded down to meadow, and if some of our critics had to dine for awhile on vegetables grown without irrigation on a hot upland, we would hear less about our "one-crop" farmers.

The question of the practise of minor economies on the part of the farmer has little to do with his right to receive a living price for his products. The latter is the crux of the whole question, and the welfare of the nation, to a large extent, depends upon whether the staple crops of the country are to be produced at a loss or a profit. While I do not personally believe in the practise, if the individual living on a farm adapted to and equipped for grain-growing believes he can buy his milk and vegetables or any other food product cheaper than he can produce them, why is it not his privilege to spend a portion of his income that way, rather than, after he has done a long day's work, that he should spend another couple of hours milking a bunch of cows, or in hoeing the garden by moonlight?

The first book points out the fallacy of individual instruction for pupils.

"Various societies," said the speaker, "have begun interesting experiments in trying a new method of laying out for children certain definite material for each grade, that the children have to cover." Dr. Johnson went on to explain that by this method the child learns step by step, takes an examination when he has completed what was laid out for him to do, and thus failures and re-arrangement are avoided. "The difficulty in modern education is that we try to teach all children alike," said Dr. Johnson.

Landmarks in this gradual trend toward individual instruction and the consideration of each child on an individual basis, are the new books being written on scientific methods in instruction. Among these books Dr. Johnson mentioned Thorndyke's Psychology of Arithmetic and the Teachers' Word Book.

### SCHOOL GRADE SYSTEM SAID TO BE BREAKING

EUGENE, ORE. — "Our school grade system is breaking down just as fast as it can without falling in a heap," said Dr. O. J. Johnson, of the bureau of educational research, St. Paul, Minn., speaking before the summer session assembly on Tuesday. The present tendency in education, said Dr. Johnson, is away from class room instruction and more to-



in the average text book in arithmetic which presents problems for the pupil that have no relation to life or the facts of life. The second book divides all the most commonly used words into divisions of hundreds, with the most common in the first hundred and the least common in the last hundred. The book also attempts to prove that there are certain words that are easily learned and others that are difficult. By the use of the book the teacher can know what words a child will be able to learn in a certain grade.

### HAY GROWERS OPEN CAMPAIGN IN WALLA WALLA VALLEY

Following meetings held in Touchet and Lowden a committee of growers went into the field soliciting contracts from hay growers, assisted by representatives of the organization.

In this valley more local support is being given the association than in almost any other district so far canvassed. Every bank in the valley is favorable to the movement and realizes that something must be done to put the farmer on a better business basis.

The plan of district operation as proposed by the Northwest Hay Association is particularly appreciated in this section.

Hay is now being marketed at \$11 per ton loading point, which is generally recognized as considerably below the cost of production.

At a recent meeting of the Ellens-

burg chamber of commerce a splendid endorsement of the program of the Northwest Hay Growers was given, and a signed report issued which will be very helpful to the further progress of the organization campaign. All over the hay district business men are beginning to realize the value and importance of this movement.

During the next few weeks the campaign will be continued in Walla Walla and Kittitas valleys, but particularly intensified in the Yakima valley proper, where it is expected to be pressed vigorously until the sign-up is complete.

### THE FARMER GETS ADVICE

Why should the farmer protest? True, wheat is below a dollar. True, there is a great and unexplainable margin of price between the amount the farmer gets for his product on the farm, and the amount the consumer pays for that product when he buys it. It is also true that the farmer asked for markets, and they gave him a lot of laws.

But there is something else the farmer forgets when he complains that his lot is not a happy one, and something for which he is not truly grateful when he takes a long swing of his cowhide boots and kicks out a government which does not accomplish what he desires.

Everyone has been generous to the farmer. From the president down and from Wall Street westward, the whole country has reached right to the bottom of its capricious heart and withdrawn something which it has given free to the farmer. It is advice.

There has never been a question of the country's generosity in this regard. We have always been 100-percenters in giving. We have told the farmer how to market, when to market, why to market and to whom to market. We have told him what to sow and where to sow. We have told him everything in the world he might want to know. We have given everything we had in the way of advice.

And he isn't grateful. It's a shame.—Exchange.

Ray Taylor went to Walla Walla Thursday to bring over a Ford truck for a customer. Mr. Latour, says he's kept busy getting trucks and cars fast enough to meet the demand.

## Economy the Spirit of the Times

DID YOU EVER STOP TO THINK WHAT YOU PAY FOR FANCY CONTAINERS?

# COFFEE

IS A GOOD ILLUSTRATION OF THE FACT. YOU PAY FROM 7c to 8c PER POUND FOR THE LITHOGRAPHED CANS

WE CARRY A LINE OF BULK COFFEES AT

## 33½c - 35c - 40c

PER POUND

# Phelps Grocery Company