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Editor and Proprietor.

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MORROW COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

Thursday, August 20, 1914



RAILROADS AS EMPLOYERS AND BUYERS.

In discussing railroads there is always one important item overlooked by those attacking corporations for their shortcomings—that they are the greatest employers of labor and the greatest buyers of supplies and products in the state.

Oregon never has bumper prosperity times but in these periods when there is general railroad expansion. When three railroads were building and electrifying in Western Oregon that region fairly hummed with prosperity and the country developed.

The raiding of public utilities and the taxation of corporation properties over and above all other properties is about as senseless as tying a heavy drag to a farmers' wagon with which he hauls his crops to market or hauls fertilizer onto his farm. All that would be accomplished would be higher priced products and lowered production.

Allowing capital to come into the state freely for railroad expansion, not taxing it to death, and allowing it to earn profitable returns are sine qua non of industrial development, and without these policies the people are crippled in their struggle for prosperous business conditions.

The Bureau of Railway Economics is authority for these facts about the railroads as employers and buyers of material:

During the six fiscal years 1908 to 1913, inclusive, the steam railroads of the United States of Class 1, invested in their road and equipment, each to the amount of \$4,010,385,303. Railroads of Class 1, so designated by the Interstate Commerce Commission, are those with average operating revenues of over \$1,000,000 annually. They include about ninety per cent of the mileage receive more than 96 per cent of the revenues and handle more than 98 per cent of the traffic.

This cash investment of the operating railroads of Class 1 of the Eastern District during the six years was greater than the amount of capital securities issued by them during this period, and was 19.9 per cent of the aggregate of their capital securities outstanding June 30, 1913. Of the railroads of the same class of the Southern District it was 21.1 per cent, and of the Western District it was 23.2 per cent of the aggregate of their capital securities outstanding June 30, 1913. That is, the cash actually expended by these railroads during the last six years upon their properties used in transportation amounts to more than one-fifth of their total capitalization at the close of the last fiscal year. This is at the rate of \$668,397,551 per year.

PRESIDENT WILSON'S COMMENDABLE ACTIVITY IN PEOPLE'S BEHALF.

As tribune of the people President Wilson acts with admirable promptitude in seeking to protect them from speculators in starvation. The suspicious rise in the prices of foods in the United States since the opening of the European war has already led him to set the mechanism of the federal administration to ascertaining whether the new increase in the cost of American living is inexcusable or is justified.

The step is wise and righteous—wise both socially and politically, righteous because taking advantage of the people's necessities for the selfish advantage of the few, if such an advantage has actually been sought, would be unpatriotic and iniquitous. The president's humane and patriotic course meets with the hearty indorsement of all Americans.

The department of justice has needed no second suggestion to spur it to the task of guarding consumers against possible endeavors to make money from their first necessities. Hundreds of its agents all over the country got on the job on Thursday. The people will soon know the truth as to the charges.

Americans are loath to believe that any citizen of the United States could at this economic crisis be guilty of what President Wilson characterizes as "unwarranted increase in the prices of foodstuffs." Secretary Redfield declares that an attempt to use the temporary stop-

page of trade with foreign countries as a means of inflating prices would be unpatriotic, "even damnable." But the embalmed beef supplied by American contractors to American armies during the Spanish war and the shoddy blankets substituted for soldiers' woolen blankets by American manufacturers during our civil war justify the fear that the American breed of conscienceless traffickers in the people's necessities is not dead yet.

Punishment for such men should be sure, swift and exemplary.—Spokesman-Review.

WHY NOT TAG OREGON BACHELORS?

A great many State legislatures have given consideration to bills taxing bachelors and many convincing arguments have been presented why men who escape matrimony should pay a penalty, but why not tag them as a more painless and effective method of extermination? If the bachelors were tagged the widows could easily find them and Cupid would do the rest. The bachelor is naturally timid, but under the encouraging influences of a merry widow he can easily be led to the altar, for there is no more helpless craft afloat than a lovesick swain who has passed the age of discretion, and the little imp that plays ping-pong with human hearts has no more capable ally than a woman who loves at second sight, for experience makes Cupid subtle and bold.

The women have tag days to promote most every other public enterprise, and why not a tag day for bachelors? We have in Oregon approximately fifty thousand bachelors and an equal number of widows. Why not get them together and solve two vexatious problems with one marriage license?

WILL FIGHT PROHIBITION.

The Taxpayers' and Wage Earners' League of Oregon, is an organization that has just been formed whose object is to fight state-wide prohibition.

Its president is Abigail Scott Dunaway, and the organization is operated from Portland, Cora C. Talbott being the secretary, and it is proposed by these people to prosecute a vigorous campaign against prohibition in Oregon. They say this is "an organization of patriotic men and women who are opposed to 'morality by law,' destruction of industry, increased tax rates, decreased real estate valuations, decreased payrolls, abridged individual liberties and demoralization of established commercial enterprises."

In a letter to this paper, Mrs. Talbott fully sets forth their program, and we shall give it here for the benefit of the readers of the Gazette-Times, whom we feel are fully capable of digesting all there is in the statement, and who later will be able to pass judgment upon the merits of the case as set forth by this League, who claim to be conducting their own campaign, independent of the liquor traffic and liquor people, entirely from an "academic standpoint of debate."

Mrs. Talbott says: "Please understand that we have just completed our organization for the purpose of advocating true temperance as against prohibition by law, as we view this very important issue, and shall endeavor to carry out a temperance work begun in this state many years ago when all temperance workers were united under one banner. Those who are identified with this organization have come to a parting of the ways with that faction of the temperance movement which seeks to secure temperance by legislation, through a constitutional amendment. We merely do not believe that that is the true method of securing true temperance.

"We are not blind to the fact that this prohibition question has been brought to Oregon by political organizations, by misrepresentation side the state. Oregon has been selected from many western states upon which to focus every conceivable pressure as a first step toward nationwide prohibition. These outside organization by misrepresentation and distortion of real facts and conditions regarding prohibition wherever it has been adopted as a state or national policy, have enlisted worthy people and organizations of our state, who have accepted their misrepresentations as truth and have become obsessed with what cannot be termed as anything short of a passing hysteria, similar to what has spasmodically swept the country at different periods of our national history. We feel that many good, worthy people have been blinded to the real issue, viz., a healthy, healthful and helpful temperance, which shall make men and women permanently temperate from deep moral and mental conviction, and not by a radical, revolutionary 'short cut' to what they theoretically hope may prove a stolen taste of the millennium in their lifetime by trying to force universal sobriety on the human race; by a specie of legislated eugenics directed against the human will. They would say by law that the hands of life's clock be turned ahead a generation. We contend that such an act arouses so bitter an antagonism that no public opinion would permanently support it. Failure of public support means abortive administration of such a law and abortive law will be followed by what is being proved in every so-called prohibition state, viz., loss to the state of revenues needed for government, depreciation of realty values, destruction of industry, decrease of incomes from commerce and trade, increase of taxes and disorganization of a healthy public morality by substituting deceit through illicit and illegitimate liquor traffic.

"We have a fund of convincing statistics and facts along these lines covering present conditions and those of the past fifty years in every so-called prohibition state. Misrepresentation of these statistics on the part of prohibition workers is responsible, we contend, for many of our people in Oregon being on the side of prohibition. We can only educate all people to exact facts by means of that public forum allowed us through the press and the public rostrum. It is these ACTUAL FACTS and statistics that we desire to print in your columns in the shape of display and display readers. We believe the facts are sufficiently eloquent to make unnecessary and personal attacks. This should be a campaign of reason, logic, sober thought and deliberate consideration. That will be the keynote of everything we shall attempt to print or speak. Whether you favor or oppose us, therefore, we merely desire the opportunity to state our facts as we see them for the study and education of the electorate of your community. You must concede the fairness of this proposition. Fairness alone will win any public battle permanently."

As the campaign goes on there should be ample opportunity given these people to have their say. The alleged facts put forth in this letter have been proven time and time again to be unsound. We are willing, however, to have this prohibition question fully discussed in these columns, for and against, when it is done in the right spirit. Honest discussion never hurt any good cause, and it is in this manner that people finally arrive at what they want.

Personally the editor of this paper is not in accord with the position taken by these people.

Only 29 more days until the opening of the

MORROW COUNTY FAIR

HEPPNER, OREGON

SEPTEMBER 17-18-19, 1914

BIGGER AND BETTER

Are You Preparing Your Exhibit?

A little care in selection and preparation will go a long ways toward making finer general exhibit and your chances for securing a premium are much better. Don't let another day pass by without selecting something.

The Fair Board has a larger sum to offer for premiums this year. The list has been revised and several important changes made.

SPECIAL ATTENTION WILL BE PAID TO THE POULTRY DEPARTMENT. Mr. O. E. Freytag, who has been secured as Fair Manager, will conduct a special series of lectures and demonstrations for the benefit of the many poultry raisers and all interested in that industry.

NO ENTRY FEE WILL BE CHARGED ON STOCK ENTERED THIS YEAR. All animals that have been properly examined by the State Veterinary or an authorized deputy will be eligible to enter for premiums.

THREE BIG DAYS OF ENTERTAINMENT and FUN.

The management has spared neither pains nor money in securing the best talent for entertainment available. You will be thrilled by the baloon ascension and the various acrobatic stunts. You will be entertained with band music, vaudeville acts, quartette singing, dancing and many other things to numerous to mention. And last, but not least, the exhibits, which will be the surprise of your life.

Further And More Detailed Information May Be Obtained From

W. W. SMEAD, Secretary,

HEPPNER, OREGON.

ANNOUNCEMENT



The Style Book and complete line of Samples for Suits and Coats of VICTOR LADIES TAILORING COMPANY

have arrived, and are now ready for your inspection. This is a very handsome line this season, and prices are very moderate.

I am also displaying a fine line of velvets and brocades, suitable for trimmings—something you have been unable to buy in Heppner heretofore. These go at wholesale prices. A complete assortment of ribbons, extra wide, and suitable for girdles.

These are in all the popular varieties and styles.

My Full Stock of Fall Millinery is Soon to Arrive.

MRS. L. G. HERREN

THE THREE CARDINAL VIRTUES OF A WELL MADE SHOE ARE

QUALITY

In which the FLORSHEIM shoe will be found pre-eminent

STYLE

For which the FLORSHEIM make has always been noted

EASE AND COMFORT

Which is assured in a degree never before attained . .

A SHOE WITH THE NAME "THE FLORSHEIM SHOE"

Woven in the strap is a guarantee of the above qualifications.

SAM HUGHES CO.

Get away from the heat of baking during these warm summer days and buy the necessities at the Heppner Bakery.

Good, home cured bacon; extra fine homemade lard. Low prices People's Cash Market.

Did you read our new adv.? We will furnish you the goods and give you a square deal. City Meat Market.

Storage batteries charged at Heppner Light & Water Co. Prices range from \$1.50 to \$1.75 for recharging.

Ladies—Get away from the heat of the stove and do your ironing with an electric iron.

If you want extra fine meats at the right prices, see the Old Reliable Dutchman at People's Cash Market.