

# THE GAZETTE-TIMES

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**MORROW COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER**

**WHY NOT DEEPER?**

Now that the administration at Washington, through the attorney general's office is so determined to go after the profiteers, why wouldn't it be a good thing to get at the bottom of the whole business a good deal quicker by going back to the wholesaler? As usual the retailer is coming in for his round of knocks and some of the boys who are getting the cream are standing back laughing up their sleeves. We would not attempt to say that there is not an instance of profiteering to the discredit of the retailer, probably there have been a number of instances. But the prices of the retailer are based upon what he has to pay to the wholesale man, and it seems to us that right there is where prices are apt to be boosted, if anywhere.

However, the retail merchant has stood close inspection before and we imagine that he can do it again, and that is more than some of the big boys have been able to do. Some of the big boys who have made millions the last two years. Come to think about it, when glancing around near at home, we can't see where the retail man is getting rich very fast and what holds true in a town of this size is pretty well duplicated the entire country over.

Is it possible that *Shantung* has been "Shanghai'd" by Japan?

**A GREAT DEAL OF PURE BUNK.**

"Armour can't afford shoes." What do you think of that? But it must be a fact, because Mr. Armour says so, and he is one of those big meat packers in Chicago we hear so much about. So, of course, it must be true. And he says only the workers can afford to buy shoes now, since shoes are so high. Can you beat it?

Of all the bunk that has appeared in the press lately regarding the high cost of living this latest dope from the lips of Armour and some of those other highbrow millionaires is the greatest bit of humor yet.

Yes, it was only last week that Mr. Armour bought his first pair of shoes in three or four years. He says, "I never like to buy when prices are high," so it is quite evident that the packer has not been eating very much of that silver-lined beef in the blue label. But why shouldn't his shoes last him two or even three years? He saves the sole leather by wearing out rubber tires. Probably he has spent enough on tires during those three years to have bought foot wear for his entire family the rest of their lives, and auto tires have been going up along with everything else.

Here is a bank who says the Corn Exchange president who says he has not bought a pair of shoes since 1916. Having had his hand on the pulse of business trend, he probably saw what was coming and laid in enough shoes at the before-the-war price to last him till prices come down again.

But the final wind-up of the whole laughable business, laughable if it wasn't so serious, is the statement of H. H. Merrick, president of the Association of Commerce and the Great Lakes Trust Company, "that it is the working man who is buying shoes at the top of the market and keeping prices high."

We wonder what kind of low down propaganda this is anyway? Do the old boys smell a rat since Uncle Sam has decided to go after the profiteers rough shod, and are they now trying to tie something on to the working classes? Who in the deuce wears out shoes, anyway? It isn't the old boy that rides to and from his office in a big limousine, of that we are sure.

**A BLOW AT THE WOOL BUSINESS.**

The proposal of the railroad administration to raise the rate on wool from the interior to Portland is a beautiful example of the effect of government management of industries which are normally in the hands of private enterprise, also of the effect of conduct of government in watertight compartments. The present rate was made to compete with water lines. It has stimulated handling of wool at Portland to the point where this city has become the second wool market in the United States. It has also stimulated woolen manufacture in Oregon. Because water competition with the railroads is potential, not actual, and because the railroad administration needs more money to make good its huge deficit, it is proposed to raise the rate so much that wool would go east-

ward to Boston and all the business which has been built up in Oregon would be destroyed.

Yet absence of water competition in carrying wool results from the action of the same government which uses it as the ground for raising the rate. Wool is here ready to ship by water. Ships are here, able to carry it. Men are here ready to buy or charter the ships. But the shipping board does not allow them to be used for that traffic. Dozens of ships lie idle in the Willamette river, but none of them is allowed to carry wool to the Atlantic coast. Water competition is thus decidedly potential. The only reason why it does not become actual is that the shipping board prevents. Then the railroad administration—a department of the government—uses this action of the shipping board—another department of the government—as a reason for action which would destroy the Portland wool business.

There may be valid reasons why no ships are available to carry wool, but they arise from the abnormal conditions created by the war. Water competition first ceased to be actual and became potential when at the outbreak of the war ships were withdrawn from the Pacific coast. The situation thus created was aggravated when the United States went to war and withdrew American ships from the Pacific. It is now continued by employment of ships built on this coast to carry food to Europe and ties to the Atlantic coast, to the exclusion of wool and other commodities. From the beginning it was abnormal, and never warranted withdrawal of rates based on water competition. Within a few months it will end when all American troops will have returned from France and when the extraordinary demand for tonnage on the Atlantic will have abated, also when tonnage now under construction will have been completed. Mr. Rossetter of the shipping board predicts that within a year the government's merchant fleet will have passed into private hands. At that time assuredly, probably before, vessels will carry wool from Portland to the Atlantic coast and make water competition actual.

The purely temporary, abnormal nature of present conditions does not justify a present in rates. The great injury to the wool business and woolen manufactures of Oregon forbids it. Before another wool clip can be marketed those conditions will probably have passed and the time will have arrived to undo what is now proposed. Then why do it?—Oregonian.

By letting the crews off on week days (some one day in the week other than Sunday) the farmers are giving their men a chance to do what 'shopping they may want to do while 'he stores are open. It works to an advantage all the way around.

**DID YOU KNOW—**

That the proprietor of the Hotel Grillon, Paris, occupied by the American Peace Commissioners, is expected to present a bill to this government of \$1,000,000, and that at a Peace Commission dance given last month the waiters opened hundreds of bottles of champagne.

That the common pleas court at Pottsville, Pa., refused to grant a charter to the No-Tobacco Corporation, which plans a nation-wide anti-tobacco campaign.

That in India only 12 women out of every 1,000 can read and write.

That Heppner is the only town of its size in Eastern Oregon which has an exclusive shoe store.

That the war increased taxes in the United States by 2000%, in Great Britain about 1100%, and in France and Italy about 6%.

**KEEP COOL.**

The agitator is cool in the land, agitating. He is not trying to settle things down but to stir them up. He is engaged principally in finding fault and in telling how bad things are. He talks a great deal about "abuses" and "rights"; about "privileged classes" and the "down-trodden"; and he hints darkly about "doing something." He talks mostly in generalities, but his illustrations are concrete and there is just enough truth in what he says—or seems to say—to make the whole thing dangerous, particularly now when nothing is as well established as most things ought to be.

The agitator himself has seldom succeeded, but he asks and usually gets a following because he is his own demonstration of the seeming truth of what he says. Besides, there is a queer psychological kink in us that leads us to react sympathetically to the one who tells us that we have been abused; and so it is that the agitator, if he be ready of tongue and a good mixer, usually succeeds in rounding up a respectable number of admirers who follow him, and generally to disaster, for his "true things are not new and his new things are not true."

The agitator's stock in trade is dishonest, and there are always enough illustrations that may be used in such a way as to excite if not to make desperate a certain and not inconsiderable proportion of our fellow men.

But this is no time for agitators. There are enough troubles necessarily on hand without hunting up more. There are enough puzzling questions to be decided without needlessly in-

creasing their number or adding to their difficulty; and besides, people are agitated already as much as is good for them or safe for the country.

Whatever the facts may be and whatever adjustment should be made in matters affecting the farmer, the appeal to prejudice and to class antipathies is not the way to get things done, nor is now the time to secure relief except by the slow process of better methods of doing business, which ought of engaging our undisturbed labor attention.

Organized labor has succeeded in purifying itself from the irresponsible extremist, and hopefully agriculture can do as well. Farmers do not possess the same strong national organization as does labor with which to resist spurious and dangerous propaganda, but what they lack in organization they should supply in common sense.

There is coming out of the Northwest a powerful and aggressive movement, amounting almost to an agrarian revolution. Hopefully it will spend itself before reaching the rank and file of American farmers.

We do not want an agrarian revolution, particularly just now. The interests of all classes of people are involved alike in the settlement of great world questions in which we all have a common interest and it behooves us to fall to fighting among ourselves.

Besides, as we settle down and resolve our differences by peaceful methods and succeed in ironing out our difficulties, we shall find, quite to our surprise in some respects no doubt, that after all we are pretty much in the same boat, and that in general the farmers' interest is not much different from that of others.

Anyhow, we have had quite enough of quarreling and excitement in the world. What we need now is to settle down a while, work hard daytimes and sleep well nights. "Get acquainted with your neighbor; you might like him." In any event, let us keep cool and leave something to be settled next year, and perhaps even something for the next generation to work out, for they will be wiser than we and hopefully not so agitated as we may be and probably are at this particular moment.

Yes, let us keep cool, lest we get the political jimjams before we know it.—Country Gentleman.

So long as we are without a hotel, we might at least put our attention to providing a more comfortable and convenient camping ground for the hundreds of auto tourists who are passing this way. Tourists say that there is only one town in the Northwest (Pendleton) which has a worse camping ground than Heppner. Its bad odium and could very easily be eliminated.

**THE NEW ORDER.**

The world suffers from incompetent leadership, and the public pays the price. Without the men of iron, the world would lapse into anarchy, and perhaps into barbarism. It was so at the beginning, and it will be so at the end.

No army wins without a general; no ship sails without a captain; no revolution succeeds without a strong man at its front, no political party wins a lasting success without a permanent policy and aggressive leaders to plead for it on the rostrum and

light for it on the floor.

Incompetent leadership has caused every great war, and competent leadership has won every peace, and because we have in the United States such virile leaders, we have less reason to fear the prevailing world-wide unrest than any other nation. We have passed through similar experiences and know what they mean. Experience is the best teacher, and the turned child alone dreads the fire.

The United States twenty centuries ago that "He who taketh up his sword shall perish by the sword," but that warning will go unheeded as long as human nature is what it is, as the League and Leagues of Nations to the contrary notwithstanding. There is deep significance in the cabled statement of Secretary Lansing, printed in his review of the League of Nations, that the world is still in danger.

And we shall continue to have experiments in government at the demand of an insistent and clamorous minority, led by conscientious objectors to the prevailing order of things, and we shall try for these experiments, just as a good citizen pays for the custody and care of the criminal, the pauper and the insane. The weak are always the burden of the strong, the sick of the healthy, and the improvident of the thrifty.

We are trying Socialism in North Dakota under the guise of a farmers' movement. We tried the same experiment in 1892 under the name of the "Populist Party." That party elected a substantial representation in Congress, but where are Senator Sockless Simpson and the Populist Party now? We are having the rule of the anarchist in Russia, and the appeal of the I. W. W. here, and a demand for the recognition of a political labor party.

We had the threat of a political labor party magnified many fold in 1870 to 1880, when the Knights of Labor appeared to be so formidable that it was the bugbear of both the great political parties. Where are "Sand Lots" Denis Kearney and the Knights of Labor now? The Prohibition Party carried New York in 1854, and elected its governor by a fair majority. Last year in New York it polled 37,000 votes out of the 2,200,000 cast, and Governor Clark, the Prohibition leader, is a forgotten figure in this dry land.

The clamor for a new order of things has been heard since the world began. The tribes of Judah were persecuted by war. Moses, rebuffed by the mob, in despair, broke down the tables of stone and broke them to pieces. The Greatest Teacher of the World, when tempted to express an opinion with reference to the then existing order, did not hesitate emphatically to respond: "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's."

The old order has stood the test of time, while new orders have come and gone—a mournful and not imposing procession of false prophets and quack doctors. Liberty of the 1776 brand still survives, and the noble statue in its honor still lights up our splendid harbor.—Leslies.

The Seventh Annual Morrow County Fair is just a month away. Its the one time of the year when the people of the county come together in a genuine sociable way. The Farmers' Picnic annually is a good

thing in this respect, but its scope is not as large, and the attendance is much smaller. But both are two growing institutions which everyone of us should foster and encourage at every opportunity.

Remember now that your opportunity is here to help make the 7th Morrow County Fair the best yet. Boost for it and prepare your exhibits, as they are the biggest boost that you can give. Then after the Fair has passed on into history you will feel gratified in the thought that you also had your part in making it that big success. When everybody is bosting there is less time for kicking.

The successful passage of the fleet of dreadnaughts through the Panama Canal is a striking illustration of the utility of that waterway and of its incalculable value to this country, says Harvey's Weekly. Amid the natural exultation over the achievement here should be an appreciation of the need of retaining absolute possession and control of that Canal, as one of the territorial waters of the United States, instead of surrendering it to an international and alien control, as we should of course be obliged to do under the Covenant of the League of Nations.

**LOSE FAITHFUL OFFICER.**

Oregon's National Guard loses a faithful officer in the withdrawal of Col. John L. May after thirty years of loyal service. It is unfortunate that his resignation was sought about by intemperate criticism such as some of our dailies lent themselves to before and after his return from service abroad. Undoubtedly Col. May made mistakes, even as every other colonel made mistakes, but no man was ever more patriotic, more unselfishly loyal or more devoted to his duty to his country, his state and his regiment. While his thoughtless critics have wounded him deeply, they cannot take from him the consciousness of duty well done nor deprive him of the affection in which he is held by thousands of Oregonians who know how faithful he has been.—Oregon Voter.

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