

**THE GAZETTE-TIMES**

The Heppner Gazette, Established March 26, 1892.  
 The Heppner Times, Established November 13, 1897.  
 Consolidated February 11, 1912.  
 Published every Thursday morning by Walter and Spencer Crawford and entered at the postoffice at Heppner, Oregon, as second-class matter.  
**ADVERTISING RATES GIVEN ON APPLICATION**  
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**MORROW COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER**  
 Foreign Advertising Representatives: THE AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

**"Railroading" the Public.**

Considerable progress has been made toward the restoration of pre-war conditions.

The price of nearly every article of commerce has fallen perceptibly and in not a few instances the present price is at or below the pre-war price.

Foodstuffs sell at a low figure and the price of farm commodities is lower than for many years.

There is one big stumbling block in the way of price reduction and that is the high wage of labor.

This is particularly true of railroad labor. The wages of factory and mill employees, of farm and ranch labor, which rose to a high point during the war have been reduced, but the wages of railroad employees which rose higher than any other class, with working conditions which enabled them to either work short hours or obtain greatly increased pay for over-time after eight hours, have not been reduced.

The level of pay of railroad labor which, though working less hours than other labor is the highest in the world, must come down, and working conditions must be so revised that railroad labor like other labor will receive an honest day's pay for a full day's work, no less and no more.

The national agreements should be abolished. Transportation economies are impossible while they last. This is as true of working conditions as of wages.

For example if anything should go wrong with a locomotive out on the road and a machinist was sent out to fix it he would demand and receive the rate of 85 cents an hour for the first eight hours, \$1.28 an hour for the next eight hours and \$1.70 an hour for the next consecutive 8 hours, or a total of \$30.64 for the 24 hours he was away from the shop where regularly employed even though actually working but a few hours. In other words this machinist though sleeping snugly and soundly in a Pullman on his return trip gets \$1.70 an hour for doing it. This is only one of many.

Is it any wonder that railroad expenses are consuming nearly all the earnings, that in spite of increased rates railroad credit is tottering and that there is an insistent demand among the well-informed public for a general revision of wages and working conditions and the cancellation of all national agreements in this respect?

It has been said, and from the foregoing appears much reason for believing it, that in making the national agreements both sides of the table set out to create a situation that would be embarrassing to the railroads on their return to private control. Whether or not this was done purposely the fact is outstanding that it was done most effectively, and must be just as effectively undone before we can hope for further progress on our way back to normal.—The Manufacturer.

**Under the Yoke.**

In fact under two yokes. The big daily newspapers admit it. They all declare that rents were never so high, and that taxes were never so high.

Rents are doubled on dwellings, apartments and business rooms. But in spite of that taxes and wages eat it all up and good buildings pay on an average less than six per cent.

Taxes are not only eating up the profits of the owners but of the tenants, and as a result of this double tendency property values are declining.

They say it costs too much to build a house or business building and there is no building, no sale of materials, no employment of workers, and a decline in community prosperity.

The only remedy is to reduce overhead cost of government by at least one-fourth to one-half, instead of imposing new taxes, and reduce the war scale of wages in building trades and public employees.

**Setting A New Pace.**

In these days when municipalities and states are raising taxes, running in debt, and doing "job" politics, it is refreshing to read of a town setting a different pace.

The little city of Salem, capitol of Oregon, has only about 20,000 population, but it has a model city government and lives within its regularly adopted budget.

The city is running this year on about \$5000 less than last year, has reduced its tax levies for the past two years, has paid off debt and low-

ered salaries in some cases.

With a voluntary council of mediation strikes are averted and labor organizations and employers work in harmony, differences being adjusted on hearing of both sides.

It is a public duty to hold up as an example communities that are run on same business lines and to uphold public officials who are not abusing their privileges to increase taxation.—Manufacturers.

**Slats' Diary.**

By ROSS FARQUHAR.

Friday—I lost pa what was the strangest thing he ever seen & he answered & replied that he 1 time seen a printer change a five \$ bill on a Monday a. m.

Saturday—It is kinda cule tonite & pa was standing by the grate & holding his ft. up & ma ast him & sed What was he doing & he sed he was a warming his ft. so he cud go & rite a letter. ma sed she all ways that his riteing looked like it had been done thataway.

Sunday—they was a man visited our house today which beleaves in the desert of man or sum thing. I was lissenng to pa & he argueng & pa got excited & sed Do you mean to tell me I sprung from a munky. The man was smilleing & sed Not very fur you diddent. He was only just joking but pa hassent much sense of yumor.

Monday—ma wassent feeling so well this Evening & pa & me volunteered to wash the dishes that is pa volunteered for us. So I was game. & then I am trying to get a new ketchers mitt. pa went to carry in a consinment of plaits & stepped on a marbel which sum I had left lying on the flore & spilt them. Ma hollered What are you a doing & pa sed—Nothing it is dun aready.

Tuesday—got a new reseat for fixing bate to make the fish bite. I thot it would be hard to understand but it wassent even pa cud understand it pritty well. so I spect to ketch a few yellor bellys pritty soon & make Pug and Jake & Blisters all jellus.

Wednesday—pa went down to a cheep sale today he sed they was a selling shirts 1 forth off. I told him to wate till it got good & hot & they mite sell them clear off & he sed for me shut my mouth and not to get smart. I was silent in reply.

Thursday—I rote a pome & give it to Pug Stevens in skool today which sed—I know a guy with a ugly mug. His las name is Stevens his 1st l is Pug. He sent 1 back which red—You skinny freckel face onery pup. The nex time I ketch you I'll beet you up. I ast him cudden he take a joke sum times.

**Cardinal Gibbons.**

Only the other day attention was fixed upon the creation of another American Cardinal. Today there is widespread mourning at the death of the venerable senior prelate of that rank. Nor is it by any means confined to the communion to which he belonged. He commanded during his long career the respect and confidence of men of all creeds and faiths, and they all regret his loss.

Churchman, Christian American: Those were the prime characteristics of James Cardinal Gibbons; inseparably united in a threefold cord of strength. His orthodox and his ecclesiastical authority were never questioned; nor was there anybody more accurately representative of his church than he. His exemplification of the chief virtues of Christianity was noteworthy and convincing. His devotion to America and American institutions was fervent and unceasing, in time of war and in time of peace, and it was often tremendously effective.

We have said that these three characteristics of the man were closely and inseparably intertwined. Yet they were at the same time in a noteworthy degree separate or separable from each other. Stalwart as was his Churchmanship, his Christianity commanded the confidence of millions outside of his denomination. Intense as was his patriotism, it was not coupled up in any way with ecclesiasticism.

During the war his fervent spirit made him of much value to the American government and to civilization's cause throughout the world. At that time and since he was no less serviceable to various civic and domestic causes of the highest importance. The parlor Bolshevik and the public "Red" were alike objects of his scathing condemnation. Nor was there ever any occasion for doubt and uncertainty as to his attitude and course. He was always on the side of his church and of his country; and of the right.

Peace to his ashes, and honor to his name!—Harvey's Weekly.

**The Heroes of the Mail.**

Will Hays' remark that he intends to humanize the post-office under his administration as postmaster general is worth watching for results.

There are nearly 400,000 men and women in the nation's postal department. Taking care of the mails is a job that requires system, and after a while, the more system, the more deadly will become the routine. When a man makes the same trip every day in the year, such as the letter carrier does, the routine must pall on him. When a man is shut up in a mail car day after day and year after year, seeing nothing but bags of mail and gaping pigeon-holes in front of him, it is to be expected that he will presently rebel against the routine of it all.

These men—the letter carriers and railway mail clerks—are real heroes. They go out into all sorts of weather to deliver your letter to you, and they are at their posts on the train regularly and promptly to see that your letter travels properly over the country. If Will Hays' humanizing means that life is to be made better and more pleasant for them, we are for it.

In fact we are always for the humanizing thing, whether it is in the post-office department or out in general business and industry.

**Now Let's Work.**

It begins to look as if the world is going to settle down and have a little peace. Germany adopts a law providing for disarmament and against any armed associations in the land. Russia makes formal peace with Poland and Ukraine and decides that it is best policy to quit the world revolution talk and pick up friendly relation with other nations. Turkey begins to look as if she is satisfied with the new arrangements recently agreed to by the Allies. Mexico is at peace at last and the Panama spark has died out.

The only country that seems to have a chip on its shoulder is Greece. This little country is threatening a scrap with the Turkish nations, and the king has ordered out the reserves. The chances are, however, that it is all a bluff. Greece is poor as a rook and very heavily in 't besides. A three-months' war would cost her a great many millions and with little gain even if she should win. It is very probable that


France and England will prevail on the Greeks to keep the peace.

It is nearly two and a half years since the armistice. It was not to be expected that after such a tremendous upheaval the world could fly instantly to peace. But time has slowly brought about the desired conditions, and it is now up to the peoples of the earth to work—and save themselves.

Kenneth Mahoney is now getting about on the streets by the use of crutches, though not yet able to assume his duties in the First National bank.

**LUCKY STRIKE**  
 cigarette  


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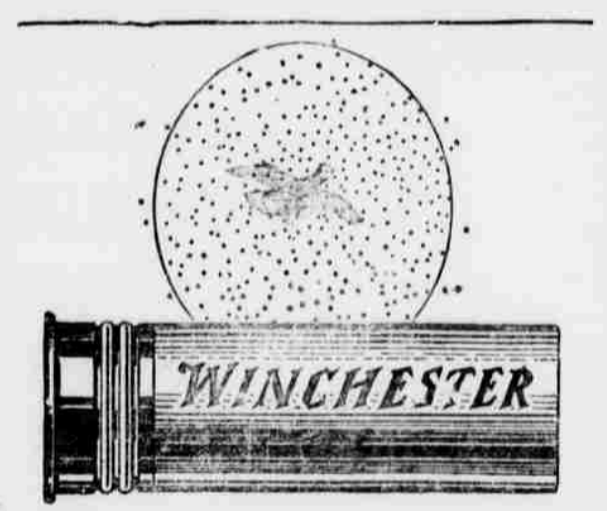
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**New Location**

I have moved my office from the Slocum block to the new hotel building where I will be pleased to greet my old and new friends.

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**S A F E T Y &**



**S E R V I C E**

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In these uncertain times of readjustment in business, it is wise to have safe plans and know all you can of what the future holds. Get the viewpoint and opinion of others, whom you consider are a position to advise.

We are always glad to discuss business plans with you. And it may be that our experience and study of conditions will aid you to form sound judgment. Keep in mind that your larger success deeply concerns us.

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