

GRESHAM OUTLOOK

TWICE A WEEK

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"The Linotype Way is the Way that Wins."

Official paper of the Town of Gresham
Official paper of the Town of Fairview.

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ANENT THE ARMY STORE.

It is announced in the local news that the council at a meeting last night decided to open the city hall for an army store to serve such persons in this locality as may desire to buy army goods at army prices.

The council it may be has this right and privilege and has taken the step in good faith. The people have the opportunity to take advantage of the lower prices and doubtless many will.

But—we wish to call attention to a few facts in this connection and urge that all residents of the locality give the matter fair consideration.

The primary reason for opening an army store here is to take advantage of the lower prices for army goods.

The army goods are generally acknowledged to be inferior to the goods handled by our local stores.

The army store is only temporary. It is handled at very little if any expense for rent, clerk hire, insurance, taxes—and at no margin of profit to the government.

Everyone who invests in a business has to pay certain necessary expenses,—rent, insurance, taxes, labor, hauling, and numerous other items, and would not be in business long if he could not after all expenses are paid make a reasonable interest on his investment.

Why can the government sell cheaper? Because of the immense scale on which articles are bought; because poorly-paid clerks, or soldiers, handle the goods and keep the records; because the hauling is done by army trucks; because the goods are stored in government warehouses and distributed in temporary and perhaps rent free buildings; because the government has lower expenses than the individual who owns or rents a store and operates a business; and because the element of profit is eliminated altogether, the government often disposing of its surplus, as is probably true in this case, at an actual loss.

The people think they are making a great saving, and they also often think they are compelling the merchant to lower his prices. They may succeed in the latter but the former is something of a delusion.

The people by taxes and laws have furnished the money to the government to do its buying. The people will foot the bill when the government loses. There is an equitable and vital relation between costs of production and selling prices. No one can complain if legitimate competition forces prices down, but the army store is not legitimate competition.

If an outside party rents a store in Gresham, brings in a bankrupt stock, sells it off at auction, that is not legitimate competition. Some persons may by chance gain an advantage by a purchase but the community at large pays for the unfair competition. This principle is recognized and in most cases such a store is required to pay a license. A peddler may undersell the regular merchant but no one is permanently benefited unless it be the peddler.

If everybody patronized the government store, how long would the grocery stores or the meat markets last in Gresham? What chance would there be for the building up of the various lines of business of

which we have reason to be proud? If the merchants do not improve and enlarge and provide for the needs of the locality there is ground of complaint.

We are not decrying the army stores or criticizing those who find it an advantage to buy at them, but we are asking the people to be fair-minded, and support those who are justly entitled to support and remember that a dollar apparently saved is not always a dollar saved in the long run.

THE FARMER WILL TURN.

Kansas farmers are wondering why they should work 12 to 16 hours a day to keep up production and keep down prices for those who seek a six-hour day and penalize the man who produces more than a minimum? Why should one class be worked to death to make up for organized slackers who use the political club to get shorter and shorter hours and more inefficiency in the service rendered?

With the coal strike, the long-shoreman strike, the railroad strike, and police strike, the idea of a farmer strike is growing. Why should the farmer alone hustle and slave for long hours?

The farmer can live without the city dominated labor conditions, the constant strife and clubbing of industries, and the demand that he unite his fortunes with organized labor. He may not live as well but he will live better than the multitudes of city dwellers.

The revolutions of the past have proceeded from the down-trodden peasants and tenants—never from the land owning class. The revolutionary tendency in our country comes from the agitator and social, ist politician class who fight to reduce production and paralyze industry.

The indications are that the farmer will reject advances to unite his political and industrial fortunes with theirs and when it comes to the general strike to force a division of property as advocated by radical agitators, the farmer will fight socialism. He will not toil 18 hours to feed the 6-hour slackers.

WHAT IS THE LESSON?

According to reports by the United States Labor Bureau the hourly wage in the steel industry during 1919 was 221 per cent higher than the same wage in 1913. The figures throw some light on the failure of the steel strike.

With so many burglaries and holdups being perpetrated in the nearby city it is a wonder such communities as this are spared. Might be a wise thing to take a little extra precaution.

Radicalism and revolutionary methods in Seattle have broken down and the public has turned against the professional agitators. The tragedy at Centralia will strengthen the determination of all citizens to run this disturbing element out of the country.

The country newspaper is read with nearly as much interest as a personal letter. The American Magazine, in a recent issue, refers to the country papers having the most intimate contact with its readers of any medium published today. These papers are read from cover to cover, and all, because of the personal news they contain.

Of course De Valera is naturally more interested in the Irish flag than that of the United States, but it happens we are so taken up with our own flag it's hard for us to see any other just now. At the De Valera meeting at the auditorium there was only one Irish flag. Many who came carrying flags were persuaded by the policemen to leave them outside. It has not always been thus but there is a reason.

"I tell you no one can fool my wife."
"Then how did you manage to get her."

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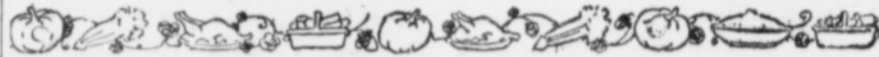
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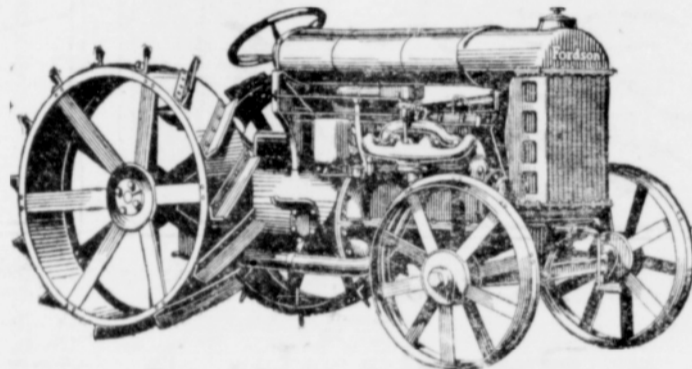
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RAKER & SON

GRESHAM

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