

## LOCAL POSTOFFICE TO HAVE NEW HEAD

Telegraphic dispatches from Washington yesterday bring the information that the nomination of Miss Elisabeth E. Johnson for postmaster at Gresham was favorably reported to the senate by the committee on postoffices and postroads. This brings to a close the contest which friends of Miss Johnson and of D. M. Roberts, the present incumbent, have been quietly waging for several weeks, each for their favorite candidate. In the recent competitive examination Miss Johnson received the highest and Mr. Roberts the next highest marks.

Miss Johnson has been employed in the federal building in Portland for several years, and now that her nomination has been confirmed she will sever her connections with that work. Her commission will be received by mail within a few weeks, after which she will take charge of the Gresham office. Both in education and business experience Miss Johnson is considered fully capable for the new work which she will take up.

Mr. Roberts, who has been postmaster for the past five years and three months, has seen the service increase and improve in many ways. The receipts for the past year were \$7863, an increase of 25 per cent since he took office. The work of the office has increased 60 per cent in the same time, asserts Mr. Roberts. When Mr. Roberts took over the office there were 132 lock boxes in use, with many more available. There are now 230 boxes in use and a long waiting list of persons desiring them.

Back in 1916 when Mr. Roberts became postmaster, the Gresham office paid \$1800, with \$400 a year allowed as clerk hire. During the war the work was greatly increased in the handling of all kinds of mail and the word went out from Washington that no salaries of postmasters would be increased during the war. The allowance for clerk hire, however, was increased to \$700 a year, but that was inadequate to secure and hold the help that was needed. Last July the salary of this office was increased to \$2200.

Mr. Roberts has been highly commended by postoffice inspectors who have recently checked over his work, and report the office in splendid shape, with no irregularity in the conduct of the office, no shortages and no reports back.

With one exception, Mr. Roberts has held the Gresham postoffice longer than any other person in recent years. The exception was that of Mrs. I. McCall, who was in charge here for 17 years.

The Outlook is, without doubt the heaviest patron of the Gresham office, mailing during a year more than seven tons of second-class publications, besides a large amount of parcel post and first-class matter. It has found Mr. Roberts always courteous and accommodating, an official earnestly striving to give the best service possible under existing circumstances.

## FRUITMEN FAILED TO OBTAIN A QUORUM

Not enough stockholders of the Gresham Fruit Growers association responded to the call for the annual meeting yesterday to form a quorum. In consequence it was decided to not issue a call for another meeting but to continue the present directors and officers for another year.

The association owns the local cannery, which was leased for a period of ten years to the A. Rupert company, now insolvent, and was released by the receiver to the Berry Growers Packing company which operated the plant for the first time last summer. Theodore Brugger is president of the association, H. A. Lewis vice president and James Elkington secretary. The other directors are H. E. Davis, W. C. Lawrence and P. A. Johnson.

### A Real Bargain.

Two lots on South Roberts avenue. Lays nicely. An ideal building spot, 2 1/2 blocks south of Metzger's store, 92-foot front, 150 feet deep. Only \$675. B. W. Thorne, at Bank of Gresham.

Sale on all used machinery and implements at Hessels, Gresham.

### A Bargain

58-acre farm, 25 acres clear, 6-room house, large barn, family orchard. Owner will sell half or 26 1/2 acres if desired. Located on the main Sandy road 2 miles east of Boring, 1/4 mile to the Mt. Hood loop road. For particulars call at my place of business at Powell Valley. Phone 1675 or write Karl J. Hagerberg, Gresham, Oregon.

The Bank of Gresham pays 5 per cent interest on time deposits.—Ad.

## BERNARD BARUCH TREATS SOME ASPECTS OF FARMERS' PROBLEMS

The following article was written at the request of the editor of the Atlantic Monthly, who had been importuned by a great many of his readers to give an unbiased and unprejudiced viewpoint of the so-called agricultural movement. It came as a result of a great many protests to the editor from agricultural interests against an article entitled "The Menace of Special Privilege," which also appeared in the Atlantic Monthly. The editor selected Mr. Baruch because of his independent viewpoint and because of the previous studies he had made on this question at the request of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture and the American Farm Bureau Federation. Mr. Baruch was among the first men of his background and previous relationships to take a position so favorable to agriculture. It would seem that the article is more opportune now than when it was first published.

(The Outlook's space is too limited to give the whole article in full in one issue. It will be continued in two or three issues. If interested in the farmer's problems you will want to carefully read it all.)

The whole rural world is in a ferment of unrest, and there is an unparalleled volume and intensity of determined, if not angry, protest, and an ominous swarming of occupational conferences, interest groupings, political movements and propaganda. Such a turmoil cannot but arrest our careful study and examination. It is not likely that six million aloof and ruggedly independent men have come together and banded themselves into active unions, societies, farm bureaus, and so forth, for no sufficient cause.

Investigation of the subject conclusively proves that, while there is much overstatement of grievances and misconception of remedies, the farmers are right in complainings of wrongs long endured, and right in holding that it is feasible to relieve their ills with benefit to the rest of the community. This being the case of an industry that contributes, in the raw material form alone, about one-third of the national annual wealth production and is the means of livelihood of about 49 per cent of the population, it is obvious that the subject is one of grave concern. Not only do the farmers make up one-half of the nation, but the well-being of the other half depends upon them.

So long as we have nations, a wise political economy will aim at a large degree of national self-sufficiency and self-contentment. Rome fell when the food supply was too far removed from the belly. Like her, we shall destroy our own agriculture and extend our sources of food distantly and precariously, if we do not see to it that our farmers are well and fairly paid for their services. The farm gives the nation men as well as food. Cities derive their vitality and are forever renewed from the country, but an impoverished countryside exports intelligence and retains unintelligence. Only the lower grades of mentality and character will remain on, or seek, the farm, unless agriculture is capable of being pursued with contentment and adequate compensation. Hence, to embitter and impoverish the farmer is to dry up and contaminate the vital sources of the nation.

The war showed convincingly how dependent the nation is on the full productivity of the farms. Despite herculean efforts, agricultural production kept only a few weeks or months ahead of consumption, and that only by increasing the acreage of certain staple crops at the cost of reducing that of others. We ought not to forget that lesson when we ponder on the farmer's problems. They are truly common problems, and there should be no attempt to deal with them as if they were purely selfish demands of a clear-cut group, antagonistic to the rest of the community. Rather should we consider agriculture in the light of broad national policy, just as we consider oil, coal, steel, dystuffs, and so forth, as sinews of national strength. Our growing population and a higher standard of living demand increasing food supplies, and more wool, cotton, hides, and the rest. With the disappearance of free or cheap fertile land, additional acreage and increased yields can come only from costly effort. This we need not expect from an impoverished or unhappy rural population.

It will not do to take a narrow view of the rural discontent, or to appraise it from the standpoint of yesterday. This is peculiarly an age of flux and change and new ideals. Because a thing always has been so, no longer means that it is righteous, or always shall be so. More, perhaps, than ever before, there is a widespread feeling that all human relations can be improved by taking

### WHAT THE FARMER NEEDS.

First—Storage warehouses for cotton, wool, and elevators for grain, of sufficient capacity to meet the maximum demand on them at the peak of the marketing period.

Second—Weighing and grading of agricultural products, and certification thereof, to be done by impartial and disinterested public inspectors, to eliminate underpaying, overcharging, and unfair grading, and to facilitate the utilization of the stored products as the basis of credit.

Third—A certainty of credit sufficient to enable the marketing of products in an orderly manner.

Fourth—The department of agriculture should collect, tabulate, summarize and regularly and frequently publish and distribute to the farmer's full information from all the markets of the world, so that they shall be as well informed of their selling position as buyers now are of their buying position.

Fifth—Freedom to integrate the business of agriculture by means of consolidated selling agencies, co-ordinating and co-operating in such a way as to put the farmer on an equal footing with the large buyers of his products, and with commercial relations in other industries.

thought, and that it is not becoming for the reasoning animal to leave his destiny largely to chance and natural incidence.

Prudent and orderly adjustment of production and distribution in accordance with consumption is recognized as wise management in every business but that of farming. Yet, I venture to say, there is no other industry in which it is so important to the public—to the city-dweller—that protection should be sure, steady, and increasing, and that distribution should be in proportion to the need. The unorganized farmers naturally act blindly and impulsively and, in consequence, surfeit and dearth, accompanied by disconcerting price variations, harass the consumer. One year potatoes rot in the fields because of excess production, and there is a scarcity of the things that have been displaced to make way for the expansion of the potato acreage; next year the punished farmers mass their fields on some other crop, and potatoes enter the class of luxuries; and so on.

Agriculture is the greatest and fundamentally the most important of our American industries. The cities are but the branches of the tree of national life, the roots of which go deeply into the land. We all flourish or decline with the farmer. So, when we of the cities read of the present universal distress of the farmers, of a slump of six billion dollars in the farm value of their crops in a single year, of their inability to meet mortgages or to pay current bills, and how, seeking relief from their ills, they are planning to form pools, in-

augurate farmers' strikes, and demand legislation abolishing grain exchanges, private cattle markets, and the like, we ought not hastily to brand them as economic heretics and highwaymen, and hurl at them the charge of being seekers of special privilege. Rather, we should ask if their trouble is not ours, and see what can be done to improve the situation. Purely from self-interest, if for no higher motive, we should help them. All of us want to get back permanently to "normalcy;" but it is reasonable to hope for that condition unless our greatest and most basic industry can be put on a sound and solid permanent foundation? The farmers are not entitled to special privileges; but are they not right in demanding that they be placed on an equal footing with the buyers of their products and with other industries?

Let us, then, consider some of the farmer's grievances, and see how far they are real. In doing so, we should remember that, while there have been, and still are, instances of purposeful abuse, the subject should not be approached with any general imputation to existing distributive agencies of deliberately intentional oppression, but rather with the conception that the marketing of farm products has not been modernized.

An ancient evil, and a persistent one, is the undergrading of farm products, with the result that what the farmers sell as of one quality is resold as of a higher. That this sort of chicanery should persist on an important scale in these days of business integrity would seem almost incredible, but there is much evidence that it does so persist. Even as I write, the newspapers announce the suspension of several firms from the New York Produce Exchange for exporting to Germany as No. 2 wheat a whole shipload of grossly inferior wheat mixed with oats, chaff and the like.

Another evil is that of inaccurate weighing of farm products, which, it is charged, is sometimes a matter of dishonest intention and sometimes of protective policy on the part of the local buyer, who fears that he may "weigh out" more than he "weighs in."

A greater grievance is that at present the field farmer has little or no control over the time and conditions of marketing his products, with the result that he is often underpaid for his products and usually overcharged for marketing service. The difference between what the farmer receives and what the consumer pays often exceeds all possibility of justification. To cite a single illustration. Last year, according to figures attested by the railroads and the growers, Georgia watermelon-raisers received on the average 7.5 cents for a melon, the railroads got 12.7 cents for carrying it to Baltimore, and the consumer paid one dollar, leaving 79.8 cents for

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MISS ELISABETH E. JOHNSON. Who expects soon to receive her commission as Gresham postmaster.

## BUSINESS MEN TO HAVE SOCIAL MEETING

W. A. Hessel, president of the Gresham Business Men's association, has invited the members of the association to meet at his home Wednesday evening, January 11, for a business and social gathering. Light refreshments will be served and a social time enjoyed.

Committees on arrangements for the business men's banquet, which is an annual feature of Farmer's Week for next week, have been appointed by the president. They are as follows:

General committee—S. B. Hall, Leslie Walrad, W. A. Hessel.

Food committee—A. W. Metzger, Cecil Metzger, A. J. W. Brown, Miss Minnie Schrepel.

Entertainment committee—A. Dowsett, K. A. Miller, Walter Adrian.

General arrangement committee—E. W. Aylsworth, Albert Ekstrom, A. Meyers, B. L. Walrad.

It is expected the attendance will be larger than last year and plans will be made to accommodate about 1500 persons. This banquet is especially for farmers and their wives who attend the sessions of Farmer's Week. It will be held in Masonic hall on Saturday, January 21, at noon.

## C. H. JOHANSON IS HONORED BY SCHOOL

Charles H. Johanson, well known lumberman and farmer of Pleasant Home and leader in progressive movements in his community, passed away at Good Samaritan hospital in Portland last Saturday afternoon after a lingering illness from diabetes. He was 54 years of age. He is survived by his widow and the following children, all living near Pleasant Home: Ralph and Mabel of the family home and Walter and Willard. He leaves also four sisters, Mrs. Hannah Nelson of the Kelso neighborhood; Mrs. Lena Hall of Vancouver, Washington; Mrs. Amanda Gustofson of Crawford, Washington; and Mrs. Charlotte Engstrom of New York City.

The funeral was held this afternoon from the Pleasant Home Baptist church, where a host of friends gathered to pay their respects to the memory of the deceased.

Union high school of Gresham, of whose board Mr. Johanson was a member, closed this afternoon in his honor and teachers and many pupils attended the services. This morning at assembly Principal Roy E. Cannon and W. C. Lawrence, chairman of the board of directors, gave short talks setting forth the sterling qualities of Mr. Johanson as a friend and leader of young people.

## FREE METHODISTS WILL HOLD QUARTERLY MEET

Quarterly meeting services will be held in the Free Methodist church this week, conducted by District Elder W. T. Klotzbach of Portland, who will preach on Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 o'clock and on Sunday morning. The Sunday school will meet at 10 o'clock and be followed by the love feast and preaching service. In the evening the Rev. H. C. Williams of Nebraska will preach. It is expected that these meetings will continue every night next week. All are invited to participate.

The Allied Supreme Council will be asked at its next meeting in Cannes to invite the interested nations to appoint a commission to make plans for the rehabilitation of central Europe and Russia. This decision was arrived at during the last session of the conferences of the French and British premiers in London.

A pessimist is one who looks for a cure before he gets the disease.

## P. R. L. & P. CO. WILL IMPROVE SERVICE

The Portland Railway, Light & Power company has begun the construction work necessary to give Gresham an uninterrupted light and power service so that the occasional lapses of the past will not occur in the future, according to officials of the company.

Yesterday members of the city council and a committee of the business men met with O. B. Coldwell, vice president of the light and power company, and E. L. Meyers, of the traffic department, and heard an outline of the company's new plans. The company's representatives also interviewed many of the business concerns and assured them of the company's desire to give an adequate service in this territory.

The announcement was gladly received by all concerned and assurances of co-operation with the company were general and hearty.

H. O. Heston, the company's electrical engineer, is in charge of the work of putting in the necessary connections.

As outlined to the Outlook reporter the new installation will connect the city lines with the high voltage lines from the Cazadero and River Mill hydro-electric plants, which lines follow the O. W. P. electric between Portland and Estacada. Heretofore the service for most of the Gresham patrons has come from the Bull Run power plant, with the main transformers located at Ruby Junction. This system will still be maintained and used as a relay, or reserve, in case of necessity. Thus no matter what happen, unless both systems should be incapacitated at the same time, it is claimed the company will be able to avert any interruption in light and power service to this locality.

The changes necessary are now being made and are expected to be completed within a short time. In view of the large increase in the use of electricity in this section, and the dependence of many enterprises on regularity of power, the news of this improvement is particularly welcome and it will remove any occasion for complaint against the company.

Among those who met Mr. Coldwell yesterday were Mayor Miller, and Councilman Raker, and Messrs. Stratton, Walrad and Meyers of the business men.

The company's representatives also met Messrs. Mickelson and Nelson, who represented the sawmill men of the Sandy and Bull Run sections, who discussed the matter of handling lumber and ties through the company's flume and tunnel. The electric company has granted this privilege to the sawmill men.

The traffic department of the P. R. L. & P. announces drastic freight reductions on all suburban lines, amounting to from 15 per cent to 30 per cent on class and commodity rates, to become effective on January 21 on state business, and on February 15 on out-of-state business.

Officials of the company say they are looking for a considerable increase in lumber and tie business out of this territory, as the general demand for these commodities is increasing. This will be of particular advantage to the local mills as the trans-continental rate on lumber and ties is no higher from local points than from Portland.

The Portland Railway, Light & Power company has already begun preliminary work on the development of a new, large hydro-electric power unit located on the upper Clackamas above Cazadero. The particular site is known as the Three Links creek. It will require several years to construct the necessary dam, tunnels and buildings. It is expected to have the first unit ready in 1924. This will produce the equivalent of 30,000 h. p. The ultimate capacity of the Three Links electric generating plant will be 80,000 h. p.

When completed this will be one of the great developments of the west and will be larger than all three of the company's hydro-electric plants now located within about twenty-five miles of Gresham. The plant at Bull Run is rated at 20,000 h. p., the one at River Mill at 16,000 h. p., and the one at Cazadero at 24,000 h. p.

An American superintendent for the Reichsbank was one of the propositions discussed by Premiers Brand and Lloyd George at their conference in London last week, according to the Paris Temps. With the idea of giving the institution an autonomous regime, the paper adds, Germany would be given at the same time a fixed date to put necessary fiscal reforms into effect.

Anyway we've lived long enough to see calves clad in silk.

## UNCLE SAM'S WOMEN CHIEFS



Many women are now holding offices in the government at Washington from chiefs of bureaus down to typists. Above are some of the leaders: (1) Miss Grace Abbott, Chief of Children's Bureau; (2) Miss Mary Anderson, Chief of Women's Bureau; (3) Mrs. Mabel Willebrandt, Assistant Attorney General; (4) Mrs. Helen Gardner, Bureau Chief, Civil Service Commission; (5) Dr. Valencia Parker, Secretary Social Hygiene Board.