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GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor

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ALCOHOL AS A MOTOR FUEL

HENRY FORD, auto maker, advises brewers voted out of business by prohibition to cease lamentations and convert their establishments into manufactories for making alcohol, which he predicts the future fuel for automobiles. Some of the brewers have taken the tip and others will probably follow.

There are three million automobiles and trucks in use in the United States, and their number is annually increasing. More than a billion gallons of gasoline is consumed each year in their operation. It is becoming more difficult to supply the demand, and this is reflected in the increased cost. For this reason, engineers are turning to alcohol, the suitability of which is not questioned. Only the cost of raw materials now used and its limited use prevents its being a universal fuel.

Raw materials are abundant and cheap. Most anything that contains starch, cellulose or sugar can be utilized, including the waste of the lumber industry, containing cellulose, and the waste from the sugar industry.

A ton of dry sawdust yields from twenty to twenty-five gallons of alcohol, 95 per cent pure, and from this source alone half a billion gallons could be manufactured annually.

A series of tests by the United States bureau of mines proves the higher efficiency of alcohol compared to gasoline is due to the following causes:

- 1. The volume of air required for complete combustion of alcohol is only one-third that required by gasoline, and thus much less energy goes away in the exhaust. Moreover, this smaller dilution with air enables a more perfect mixture to be formed with consequent more perfect combustion.
2. The alcohol-air mixture can be safely subjected to pressures of 200 lb. per square inch without spontaneous ignition, whereas the safety limit for gasoline is 80.
3. All mixtures of alcohol and air containing from 4 to 13.6 per cent of alcohol are explosive, whereas the explosive range for gasoline is from 2 to 5 per cent, necessitating much more careful carburetor adjustment.
4. The combustion products of alcohol are smokeless, almost odorless, and do not clog up the cylinders and valves.

But would our prohibition friends permit the manufacture of cheap alcohol for fuel purposes? Since prohibition arrived, alcohol is the only drink available in many sections, and its effects are worse than those from any other liquor. Why refuse a brewer the right to make a 4 per cent alcoholic beverage and then permit him to make the 100 per cent article as fuel?

We are afraid that our dry friends will see to it that gasoline is the only legal fuel for motor vehicles in Oregon and that we must continue to pay tribute to Rockefeller lest jags accompany autos.

HEALTH INSURANCE

IN twenty states of the Union, including Oregon, a campaign will be waged before the coming legislative sessions for compulsory health insurance bills.

The bills, if made into law, will make health insurance universal for all manual workers and for others earning less than \$100 a month.

The benefits to be provided are medical, surgical and nursing attendance; a cash benefit beginning on the fourth day of illness, equal to two-thirds of wages, and given for a maximum of twenty-six weeks in one year; and a funeral benefit of not more than \$50.

The cost of these benefits and their administration, amounting to about 3 per cent of wages, is to be borne two-fifths by the employe, two-fifths by the employer, and one-fifth by the state.

The administration is to be vested in mutual associations of employers and employes organized according to localities and trades, and managed jointly by employers and workers under the general supervision of a state social insurance commission.

Health insurance is the basis for German efficiency, and is a most vital subject, for the amount of suffering and economic loss endured by working men and women on account of sickness is seven times that endured because of accidents, now relieved by compensation acts.

Careful estimates reveal that 3,000,000 persons in the United States are sick at any one time; that each of our 30,000,000 wage-earners loses on an average approximately nine days from this cause yearly; that the cost of medical treatment is \$180,000,000 annually, and that the resultant annual wage loss totals \$500,000,000.

Provision for maternity benefit is included in the bills. Infant mortality is high, about 52,000 deaths annually in early infancy, mostly preventable.

Insurance against sickness has been successfully tried out in many older countries. Germany, Great Britain, Austria, Hungary, Russia and several other European nations have been for years reaping the benefit of this method of meeting their sickness risk.

COMMUNICATION

To the Editor: Kindly permit me to make a brief reply to Mr. Reames' letter appearing in your issue of the 13th inst., which letter purports to be a reply to mine appearing in your paper of the 12th instant.

Mr. Reames says the charges contained in my former letter are untrue, but he fails to specify wherein they are untrue.

Mr. Reames says our company hasn't sufficient water for 20,000 acres. I charge that two years ago Mr. Reames, then knowing as much about our water supply as he does now, prepared and sent out with the stamp of his approval, for the signature of the land-owners affected, a petition for an irrigation district of 55,000 acres to be supplied with these same waters. I charge that either Mr. Reames is insincere now or his conduct then was reprehensible. Is this charge true or false?

I charge that Mr. Reames made the boundaries of this 55,000-acre district correspond with our canals so

that no other water supply would fit it, and I say that if to do this is dishonest now it was dishonest then. Is this charge true or false?

I charge that Mr. Reames accepted our money to prepare a water contract that would be fair to the land-owners, and one which he could advise them to enter into, and that this contract as approved by him, provided for one and one-half acre feet of water per acre. I contend that if this amount of water is ridiculously insufficient, as Mr. Reames now claims that his conduct in approving and endorsing such a contract as fair to the land owners was reprehensible. Is this charge true or false?

Willing to Eliminate Sub-Divisions Again, Mr. Reames complains because some platted sub-divisions outside the city were not eliminated from the district. In the petition for the 55,000-acre district, which Mr. Reames prepared, none of these sub-divisions were eliminated. If to leave them in now is unfair, it was unfair then. Moreover, the county court had authority to eliminate all these platted sub-divisions and would

doubtless, if asked, have done so. I believe that I would have made no objection to such an action. But Mr. Reames was before the county court asking that farms, which could be benefitted by irrigation be eliminated, but never asked that these sub-divisions be taken out.

Mr. Reames would have the public believe that I have tried to convey the fact that the fee, which was paid him by this company was paid in other than legitimate employment. Nothing is further from the truth and that thought never entered my mind. I was simply submitting evidence, when the cancelled check was mentioned, that Mr. Reames was employed by us as we would employ any other counsel, but that he did approve something which he now seems fit to decry as improper and unjust.

As to Bear Creek Water.

Mr. Reames has seen fit to bring into the discussion in a most flippant manner the matter of the waters from Bear Creek. Does the public realize that Mr. Reames was responsible for the delay of two years in the construction of the Phoenix ditch, which was operated for the first time during the past spring and summer, and which ditch alone was responsible for doubling the fruit output of this entire section of the valley? Mr. Reames insisted that we could not furnish the land owners water from Bear Creek when they would need it, and caused them to hold off for two years, during which time their crops were drying up for want of water, which at all times, was available at a very low price. We are sure that some of the land owners under this particular ditch fully realize what a lasting service Mr. Reames rendered them, and we haven't heard of any of them thanking him for the service either.

Asked to Cite Misquotations

Mr. Reames accuses me of misquoting government reports. Will the gentlemen kindly bring to the attention of the public one single instance where I have misquoted a report of any kind? I am not aware of such an instance, and if such there be I shall most willingly and graciously acknowledge such fault. I believe he will be unable to make good on his assertion that I have done this.

Mr. Reames still harps on the supposed fact that this company has sold water for 10,000 acres of land. Will any committee of men whom he or others may appoint, call at our office and go over our records to ascertain whether Mr. Reames or myself are telling the truth? We shall gladly put our records at the disposal of such a committee. Why should

Mr. Reames put himself up as having more correct information on the subject than I have, when he has no possible means of ascertaining the facts other than through our records, or by a thorough canvass of the entire valley?

Guarantee to Furnish Water.

The canal company is not at all apprehensive as to their ability to furnish the full quantity of water, for which we will contract, and to allay the groundless fears, which have arisen through the misrepresentations, which have been made to the people, this company is willing to enter into a provisional contract which will insure the public against payment for something which they do not receive. In other words, if we are unable to furnish 30,000 acre feet of water for the district of 20,000 acres, we will agree to reduce our price in accordance with the quantity we can furnish. Does this proposition give the impression that we are making an effort to defraud the people, or does it indicate, as does every other part of our proposal, that we are making the land owners a fair offer?

What Other Water Supply?

I would ask Mr. Reames and the entire public whether or not there is any likelihood of any other company having an available water supply to furnish to the land owners of this part of the valley, and why any other company would venture into the field in view of the attitude which has been encountered by this company; and, further, where would they obtain the water for such a project? Knowing the facts with reference to the available water supply, why not lay out the district along the lines of the only available water supply? Is not this the most logical and common-sense thing to do? I believe that

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the public will agree with me that such is the case. Again let me state that because the district is laid out adjacent to our system, it does not follow that the people are obligated to accept our proposition, but of they find it satisfactory they may do so. The election of December 27th does nothing more than to elect a body of directors, who will make a fair investigation of the water supply, terms of contracts submitted, etc.

E. M. BROWN,

Manager Rogue River Valley Canal Co.

Font's Grocery Co. Guaranteed fresh ranch eggs 35c dozen. We sell for cash and no delivery.

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Interwoven Lisle Hose, pair, 25c
Interwoven Silk Hose, pair, 35c, 50c, \$1
Holeproof Lisle Hose, pair, 25c
Holeproof Silk Hose, pair, 50c
Arrow Shirts, \$1.50, \$1.75 and \$2
Mocha and Cape Gloves, pair, \$1.50 to \$2
Canes and Umbrellas, \$1 and up to \$5

- Silk Reefers, \$1.50, \$2, \$2.50
Handkerchiefs, 6 in box, with or without initial, per box, \$1.50
Linen Initial Handkerchiefs, per box of six, \$1.50
Keiser's New Crepe Silk Handkerchiefs \$1
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