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GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor

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SHELDON FATHERS BILL REFORMING SCHOOL ELECTIONS

SALEM, Jan. 23.—Representative Sheldon of Jackson county has introduced the following bill, removing the property qualification from values at school elections:

Section 1. That section 4098 of Lord's Oregon Laws be and the same hereby is amended so as to read as follows:

Sec. 4082. Any citizen of this state, male or female, who is twenty-one years of age and has resided in the district thirty days immediately preceding the meeting or election and has property in the district, as shown by the last county assessment, and not assessed by the sheriff, on which he or she is liable or subject to pay a tax, shall be entitled to vote at any school meeting or election in said district; provided, that the property qualifications imposed by this section shall not apply in the election of school directors; provided, that for the purposes of this section, any man who has declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States, and has resided in the state for six months immediately preceding the meeting or election where he proposes to vote, shall be considered a citizen of this state; provided further, that any person shall be deemed to have complied with the property qualification imposed by this section who presents to the directors or judges of election satisfactory evidence that he or she has stock, shares, or ownership in any corporation or firm, or partnership which has property in the district, as shown by the last county assessment, and not assessed by the sheriff, on which such corporation, firm, or partnership pays a tax, even though his or her individual name does not appear upon the tax roll; provided further, that in districts of the third class, any head of a family who is otherwise a qualified elector, and having children of school age, may vote at such election without property qualifications. The chairman of any school meeting, or any qualified elector, is hereby authorized to challenge any person who may offer to vote at such meeting. In case an elector has been challenged or disqualified, it shall be the duty of the chairman of such meeting to administer to each person so challenged an oath that he or she will truly answer all questions propounded to him touching his place of residence and qualifications as elector at such meeting, and upon taking which, if the meeting be in a district of the first or second class, he shall interrogate him respecting his citizenship in this state, his age, residence in the district immediately preceding the meeting or election, and whether he has property or shares in a corporation in the district, as shown by the last county assessment, and not assessed by the sheriff, on which he or she is liable or subject to pay a tax; and if the meeting be in a district of the third class, he shall interrogate him as to whether he is the head of a family and otherwise an elector, and has children of school age in the district.

CRITICISM OF PRESIDENT

(Continued From page One.)

It being able to attach a definite meaning to words and phrases that are now quite vague and to discover whether the suggested peace without victory is a peace which would leave our necessary objects unaccomplished or merely a peace which stops short of crushing the enemy in the sense of inflicting on him political extinction which we desire.

The terms which President Wilson sets forth are so remote from Prussian militarism that they cannot be connected with a world war. The idea of a world peace without a reign of law established by all nations great and small living in freedom and security is such that he can only get what he wants if we, at the same time, get what we want.

WILSON POINTS THE WAY

PRESIDENT WILSON'S address to the senate upon a league to enforce permanent peace ranks among the most important of state papers and will have a vital effect in shaping the destinies of the nation.

Eloquent, lofty and idealistic in character, it presents a practical program for the prevention of war in the future by providing adequate force to prevent international strife.

A league of all nations to enforce peace is the beginning of an internationalism that will supplant a too aggressive nationalism, while insuring the autonomy and independence of the nation.

The United States is at the parting of the ways. It is no longer possible to retain the national isolation of our fathers. The civilized world has become a community of interests, in which all nations are vitally interested—none more than America. Neutrals must suffer only in less proportion than belligerents themselves.

Human nature has not reached the idealistic Utopia where force can be abolished and brotherly love substituted, either among people or among nations. While we have passed the stage where every man totes a gun to protect his rights, it is still necessary to maintain armed police to force people to live within the law.

We have apparently neared the stage in the process of our evolution when nations can cease toting guns against brother nations, as individuals ceased long ago. As the police and other courts with officers of the law to enforce their decrees replaced armed force among individuals, so must international courts with an international army to enforce their decrees replace belligerency among nations.

A civilization that permits a holocaust like the charnel house of Europe is not a civilization at all, merely a relapse of barbarism—and a relapse that threatens to destroy civilization itself. But if the needless sacrifice of millions of human beings convinces the world of the futility of such strife the sacrifice will not have been in vain.

President Wilson has pointed the way for enduring peace when the blood lust of Europe shall have been satiated. In forcing the world to think of peace while still at war, and to discuss plans for permanent peace, he has performed an inestimable service for humanity.

A PAYING INVESTMENT

THE second annual report of the United States bureau of war risk insurance shows that it has paid all losses to date and has accumulated a surplus of about two and a third million dollars.

The bureau of war risk insurance was created by act of congress at the beginning of the war to carry on as a public service the insurance of merchant vessels when the private insurance companies had either ceased to write policies or were demanding exorbitant premiums.

The only investment that Uncle Sam made was the appropriation of \$100,000 to pay the expenses of organizing, printing, stationery and salaries, but up to date only \$39,114 has been expended.

During its two years' existence the bureau has written 1684 policies, covering \$163,595,987 of insurance. The total losses to date have amounted to only \$833,924, or less than three-quarters of one per cent.

The total amount now at risk is only about \$14,000,000, on which past experience indicates the probable loss will not exceed \$100,000.

The \$2,367,657 of surplus premiums which the bureau now holds is therefore practically all clear profit.

When Uncle Sam went into the marine insurance business he cut existing commercial rates all along the line. Wouldn't this have been a nice piece of pie for some private insurance company if it had only had the nerve to stay in the game?

Why shouldn't Uncle Sam go into the life and fire insurance business also? We would all get better security and pay smaller premiums, and there would be no huge surplus piled up for Wall street gamblers to speculate upon.

DEMOCRATS OF HOUSE TO CAUCUS THURSDAY

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—Democrats of the house ways and means committee late today approved a sub-committee's draft of the administration revenue bill and a caucus of the house majority was called for Thursday night to consider the measure.

NOTED MONTANA JOCKEY IS DEAD

HELENA, Mont., Jan. 23.—Quiller Morse, noted two decades ago as "Long Shot Morse," crack rider for Murens Daily when the horses of that name were piling up turf victories, died here today. He was 65 years old and leaves a family. He rode for the last time at the Montana state fair last fall and was taken ill a few days later.

DOG DRIVES AUTOMOBILE



Waiting a chauffeur's cap and driving an automobile three miles along Fifth avenue, New York. J. M. Wood of Brookhaven, the dog's owner, brought home Rex, Scotch collie, with Medford trade in Medford made

BOY'S TEARS BRING KIDDIE KAR INTO EXISTENCE AND MAKE HIS FATHER A MILLIONAIRE



The first and original Kiddie Kar being ridden by the youngster whose crying spell brought it into existence.

NORTH BENNINGTON, Vt., Jan. 23.—Clarence White of this city is a millionaire today and the Kiddie Kar is one of the most popular children's toys ever produced in this country because White's little son, Freddie, had a crying spell one day.

White is head of the H. C. White Co. and wasn't very cheerful about his share of America's prosperity about a year ago. He was one of the makers of the old stereoscopes our great aunts used to have on their parlor tables and the movies had about put the stereoscopes out of business.

One day about a year ago little Freddie was playing with his tin fire engine, and trying to ride on it. His mother made him stop trying to ride it because, she told him, he would break it. Freddie cried. The father came along and asked the cause of the tears.

"Well," he said, "I'll fix that." He went into the wood department of the stereoscope factory and made a three wheeled contrivance for Freddie to ride on. That was the original Kiddie Kar.

Neighbor children saw it, and cried for cars like it. Every time a kiddie shed a tear, Clarence White made another Kiddie Kar.

The entire village demanded them, so he went into the business for money. Now he's turning out close to 2000 Kiddie Kars a day, has sold over a million and a half worth of them and there is hardly a sidewalk in the country without its Kiddie Kar.

WASHINGTON BONE DRY BILL REPORTED

OLYMPIA, Wash., Jan. 23.—The bone-dry bill was reported from the public morals committee to the house today with a recommendation that it pass. The bill was placed on second reading for adoption.

In the senate bills were introduced placing the state industrial insurance remission under \$25,000 bonds each, providing for teachers' pensions; barring contract doctors; providing a poll tax, and placing street motor buses under jurisdiction of the state public service commission.

JAPANESE CUT OFF MISSIONS TO TEUTONS

TOKIO, Jan. 23.—The Japanese government has promulgated an ordinance designed to prevent communication with the enemy. By the term "enemy" is meant Germany, Austria, Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria.

By the new regulations telegrams and mail to and from the above-mentioned countries will not be forwarded by the telegraph and postoffice. A punishment is provided for violations. Prisoners of war are exempted from the application of the ordinance.

MR. AND MRS. WALTER MUNDY GOING TO KANSAS OIL FIELDS

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Mundy will leave Wednesday for El Dorado, Kansas, to visit Mrs. Mundy's father and sister, C. M. Richards and Miss Laura, who formerly lived in Medford, and may decide to locate there. The El Dorado oil and gas field, discovered a little over a year ago, is among the most productive and promising in the United States. There are nearly 700 wells in Butler county, and all lines of business are increasing rapidly as a result. El Dorado has nearly doubled in population in a year and 200 new residences as well as several new business houses, two refineries have been built or are now in course of construction. In 1904 Col. Mundy, father of Walter, visited El Dorado in company with a party of geologists who said the territory around that city was rich in oil and gas and the colonel tried to secure enough leases to prospect but failed.

SAVE YOUR WHEAT FOR SEED, SAYS DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—Wheat-growing farmers throughout the country are cautioned by the department of agriculture not to be tempted by the prevailing high prices offered for wheat to part with their good seed wheat and rely upon shrunken and diseased seed for sowing this year. Disaster to the year's crop is predicted by experts if poor seed is depended upon.

FREE TRADE AGAIN AN ISSUE IN ITALY

ROME, Jan. 23.—Free trade is again to be a political issue in Italy. A free trade paper, the L'Unita, has just made its appearance, as the organ of the new propaganda. The chief item of the program for the present will be the lowering of tariff duties between the allied powers as a step toward a future and wider application of the principle.

IRELAND ENJOYING GREAT PROSPERITY

BELFAST, Ireland, Jan. 23.—The combined balance sheets of the big Irish banks having their head offices at Belfast indicate that Ireland is in an exceedingly prosperous position. There has been an unprecedented expansion in deposits, investments and cash on hand, while the decrease in advances to customers and bills discounted seems to indicate that business men are to a larger extent than ever financing their business operations from their own pockets.

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STOCK EXCHANGE REFUSES RECORDS TO LEAK PROBERS

(Continued From Page One.)

for the committee, had made his opening statement. It was featured by an outline of the immediate plans of the committee contemplating inquiring into nothing save the "leak" said to have occurred in connection with the president's peace note. Noble was questioned particularly as to the operations of "short" pools and the propriety of speculators accumulating unfavorable news by selling stocks in order to depress the price and "cover" at a profit.

Operation Explained. He said he saw no impropriety in such operations. He was told that if the board of governors did not obtain the records desired the committee would be compelled to make its own search. Noble agreed to place the matter before the governors this afternoon.

Samuel F. Streit, chairman of the stock exchange clearing house, the second witness, explained its operations.

Mr. Noble was called, as explained by Sherman L. Whipple, counsel for the committee, to detail the workings of the stock exchange and to aid in determining the "possibility under its rules of engineering deals for large profits."

In a brief opening statement of the purpose of the "leak" inquiry, Whipple made it plain that extraneous matters, such as a general investigation of the stock exchange, will have no place in the inquiry at present.

Objects of Inquiry. The investigation, according to the plan Whipple outlined, will be to seek to determine first of all three things: What were the activities on the exchange during the week of December 18 when the "leak" on President Wilson's peace note is said to have occurred and the possibilities for causing losses?

Who are the brokers responsible for the transactions during this period?

Who made the profits? The second inquiry, Whipple said, should extend both to profits and losses.

Mr. Whipple described in detail "the activities of the market on the floor of the exchange on a sample day."

The stock exchange clearing house, he said, received at the end of each day from each brokerage house a statement of its purchases and sales, explained the witness, and declared this material was accessible to the committee.

Mode of Operation. The board of governors of the exchange, said the witness, can enforce penalties for the violation by any of its members of the standards of "commercial morality and personal honor."

Mr. Noble then furnished the committee with a list of what he regarded as speculative stocks—United States Steel, Anaconda, Mariner, "the industrial stocks which had croaked by the war"; Willys-Overland, Reading and Union Pacific.

Mr. Whipple inquired what there was about United States Steel that the public did not know which would make it speculative.

Noble explained that the doubt was

about the profits the stock would make, opinion differing as to this.

Whipple asked if the governing body of the exchange ever had made an investigation to determine if there had been "short" sale plots. Noble replied that there had been investigations to determine if its members had done illegal acts or made "wash" sales.

Sees No Impropriety. "Would you and the men who stand for the best that there is on the exchange approve the notion of men subscribing large sums of money to be used in making 'short' sales, using unfavorable news and accounting that news to drive the market down and then buying in stock at a low figure in order to increase their profits?" Whipple asked.

"Your question seems to imply," Noble answered, "that there is some impropriety in men getting together and selling on some news they think unfavorable."

Whipple worded his question a little differently. Noble again failed to give a direct answer, saying operators had the right to sell if they thought the situation warranted it and the exchange could do nothing about it.

The witness added that he could see no impropriety in such transactions.

Tomorrow Night

The music lovers of Medford tomorrow night will have the opportunity of hearing Ashland's Choral Society at the First Methodist church. They gave a splendid rendition of Gault's Holy City last Friday evening at the Presbyterian church, in Ashland. The small price of admission will enable all to attend which is given for the benefit of the Methodist choir, Medford. A thoroughly enjoyable evening is in store for all who attend.

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