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GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor

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WHO REAPS THE PROFITS?

It is estimated that through illegal combination in restraint of trade the paper manufacturers of the United States since the war began have mulcted the newspaper publishers out of over ten millions of dollars, in addition to forcing the suspension of over a thousand papers and bringing ruin to their publishers.

Evidence exposing the conspiracy was gathered by the federal trade relations commission, which established the fact that the increased charges for news stock was purely artificial and arbitrary, and not justified by conditions; that no real shortage existed and that paper could be manufactured and sold profitably at the same prices prevailing before the war or at a slight advance.

With this evidence, the commission summoned the manufacturers, who defied the commission and insolently refused to appear. The evidence was put before a federal grand jury. At the threat of criminal prosecutions, the manufacturers' resistance collapsed, and they meekly agreed to permit the commission to fix paper prices during the ensuing year.

To drop criminal proceedings is to compound a felony. The paper trust stole millions from the publishers, and should pay the penalty. It should be made an example of, for what has been going on in paper has gone on in nearly every other commodity. Advantage has been taken of the lack of foreign competition to boost prices all along the line.

The president has asked for a thorough investigation by the commission into the high cost of living. It should be made, for it would be then clearly demonstrated who the guilty parties are that are robbing the people. It should ascertain the exact cost of production and of marketing, should tell why a Rogue River valley orchardist receives only a dollar for a box of apples that the ultimate consumer pays \$6 for. It should ascertain what it costs to raise a bushel of wheat and why the farmer sells at less than cost of production and the public pay double its cost. And criminal prosecution should follow for those guilty under the law.

Who gets the money taken by extortion from the public? Not the grocer nor the butcher nor the jobber. Grocers and butchers and jobbers are not rolling in wealth. They merely get a legitimate fee for their necessary service as distributors. The producers are not getting it—most of them are struggling to make both ends meet.

Where the money goes is shown by the colossal profits piled up and cut as "melons" by the railroads, the packers and industrial concerns, who increase capitalization with their profits, who pay dividends on a capitalization of \$100,000 one year and \$1,000,000 the next, without any real money being added. These things cannot be done without gouging the public.

The investigation will aid in eliminating the "melon" and the stock-waterer—much worse evils than the middleman. It will aid in eliminating the speculator and his inflated profits.

The government, which relentlessly pursues the theft of a two-cent postage stamp, should show proportionate energy and vigilance in the pursuit of the millionaire thieves whose operations are conducted under the veil of respectability.

NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY

THE preamble of the constitution of the United States contains the following explaining why there is a United States:

"We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this constitution for the United States of America."

Our pacifist friends would amend it by striking out the words "provide for the common defense," without which the whole preamble would be meaningless.

The other phrases are merely an enumeration of the blessings which it is designed to secure by first providing for the common defense.

This accords with the historical facts as to the formation of the Union. Theoretically, the separate states could have provided all the blessings of liberty, tranquility, justice, etc. The reason they could not, was because they were not strong enough to provide for defense.

To provide for the common defense is the primal reason for the existence of all governments.

"Providing for the common defense" is really the explanation of the mysterious word "sovereignty" which the lawyers love to use when they want to name that thing which is the essence of a national government.

The "sovereignty" of a nation means its ability and determination to defend its citizens or subjects in the exercise of their rights.

If it fails to do so, it is no longer a "sovereign state" and its people no longer constitute a nation.

There is no longer any valid reason for keeping up such a government—it is really a useless expense and an annoyance—a limitation on the rights of the individual for which he does not receive a just return.

Failure to maintain "sovereignty" is the end of the principle of nationality—and it should not be forgotten that democracy is the fruit of nationality.

Democracy—the rule of the people—never existed except among people who constituted an independent sovereign nation to the fullest extent—and it will never survive the death of the national principle.

Democracy died in Belgium when nationality was crushed under the invader's heel. Democracy in the United States will perish the moment the United States fails to discharge its duties as an independent sovereign state and submits to any sort of vassalage or dictation on her part.

STATE RURAL CREDIT FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR FARM LOANS

SALEM, Ore., March 3.—Instructions relative to receiving applications for farm loans under the state rural credits law were sent today by G. G. Brown, clerk of the state land board, to the board's attorney in each county in the state. O. C. Bozge of Medford is the board's attorney for Jackson county.

These attorneys are authorized to transmit to the board application for loans as soon as they receive the necessary blank forms, which will be within the next few days. It is expected that funds will be available and loans will be made before the end of this month. Attorney General Brown is now preparing the form of rural credits bonds to be issued. The board's instructions to its attorneys are as follows:

Same Attorneys to Act. "The board has decided that the attorneys for the irreducible school fund shall also act in that capacity for the rural credits fund, and you are therefore authorized to accept applications under the provisions of the inclosed act.

Inasmuch as the board is allowed to approve loans for one-half of the cash value, exclusive of improvements, instead of one-third, as in the school fund loans, it is desirable that you use caution in recommending loans.

As the law requires that a certain portion of the principal be paid annually, you should inform the borrower that payments of principal and interest must be so paid, and promptly on the date specified.

Even Loans Suggested. "The board has decided that principal payments must be the same amount each year, and for that reason I would suggest that loans be made for 10, 15, 20, 25 or 30 year periods, so as to make the principal payments in even dollars, if possible, and for even hundred or thousand dollar amounts, e. g., a \$100 loan for 10 years would require annual payments of \$100, while for 25 years the annual payment would be \$40.

You might suggest to the borrower that the longer the term of the mortgage the smaller will be the annual principal payment, and that any part of the principal, not less than \$50 or a multiple thereof, can be paid on any amortization date."

Lester McKee of Yreka, Cal., is spending a few days in the city visiting friends and attending to business matters.

JAPANESE LAUGH AT GERMAN PLOT ATTACK AMERICA

TOKIO, March 3.—The declaration of the Japanese government through Foreign Minister Viscount Motono, that Japan has received no proposition from Mexico or Germany to join in a possible war against the United States was supplemented today in a statement made to the Associated Press on behalf of the government by Kijuro Shidehara, vice-foreign minister.

"We were greatly surprised to hear of the German proposal," he said. "We cannot imagine what Germany is thinking about to conceive that she could possibly involve us in war with the United States merely by asking Mexico. That is too ridiculous for words. Needless to say, Japan remains faithful to her allies."

In response to a question regarding Japan's attitude toward the anti-Japanese measures, which were brought forward in Idaho and Oregon, M. Shidehara said he had especially requested newspapers to refrain from inflammatory comment, advising that the matter be left for treatment through diplomatic channels.

It was noticeable that the agitation did not approach that of the time the matter was brought up in California in 1913 and it is doubtful whether the masses of the people were even cognizant of the Oregon and Idaho bills.

"Of course we registered objections to the bills on the ground that they were discriminatory," M. Shidehara continued. "Japan is convinced Secretary Lansing has done everything possible to prevent the passage of the measures, but regrets the apparent repeal of an anti-alien measure in one state. We realize the embarrassment of the central government growing out of the system of state rights, but it is duty bound to support the dignity, honor and interests of the Japanese subjects."

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SCHOOL CHILDREN OFFERED PRIZES FOR GOOD ROAD ESSAYS

Medford and Jackson county schools are asked to compete in the state-wide contest for prizes offered by Dr. W. A. Wood of Hillsboro, state senator for Washington county, for essays on good roads.

Rules Are Set Forth. Following are the rules governing the contest:

Contest A—Subject: The benefit accruing to the county in which the writer is a resident from the improvement of the roads described in the \$6,000,000 bonding act. For the best argument, a first prize of \$5. For the second best argument, a prize of \$2. There are thirty-six first prizes and thirty-six second prizes in this contest.

Contest B—Subject: The benefit which will accrue to the state at large from the improvement of the roads described in the bonding act. For the best argument, a first prize of \$25. For the second best argument, a prize of \$15.

Contest C—Subject: The same as contest B. This contest is open only to bona fide students of Oregon high schools. For the best argument written by a high school student a prize of \$10.

Rules. One person may enter but one contest.

In contest A the author must be a resident of the county whose benefits from the proposed roads are discussed.

Contest B is open to any resident of Oregon who does not participate in either of the other contests.

In contests C and D the argument must discuss the road proposal from the state-wide standpoint.

No argument in any contest may exceed 200 words.

Writing must appear on but one side of the paper used.

Manuscripts must be written preferably with typewriter or pen and ink.

The name and address of the author must appear in the upper right hand corner of the first page.

Arguments must be submitted without accompanying letters, explanations or other enclosures.

The envelope enclosing the manuscript must be addressed to Senator W. D. Wood, Hillsboro, Or., and on the envelope must also be written the contest entered, thus: "Contest A," "Contest B," "Contest C," or "Contest D," as the case may be.

Manuscripts must be received by Senator Wood on or before 6 p. m. March 15.

Manuscripts that do not comply with the foregoing rules will not be considered.

Manuscripts will not be returned to the authors.

Neither Senator Wood nor the contest judges can undertake to answer letters or inquiries concerning the contest or awards.

Awards will be announced on or before March 25, 1917, by three judges to be named later.

The right to publish any manuscripts are reserved to the committee.

ORDER WILL SOON BE ESTABLISHED IN CUBA

HAVANA, Mar. 3.—The independence of Cuba is not in peril and order soon will be re-established, according to the reply sent tonight by Wilfredo O. Fernandez, member of the house of representatives and a prominent conservative leader, to Dr. Orestes Ferrera, representative in the United States of the liberal party, which is carrying on the revolutionary movement. Dr. Ferrera, in a cablegram sent last night to Fernandez offered the retirement of all military chiefs of the Cuban revolutionaries from public life if President Menocal would "preserve independence and liberty" in Cuba and prevent American intervention in Cuban affairs.

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