

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

"Everyone in Southern Oregon reads the Mail Tribune"

Daily Except Saturdays

Published by MEDFORD PRINTING CO.

25-27-29 N. W. 3d Phone 15

ROBERT W. RUIHL, Editor

H. L. KNAPP, Manager

An Independent Newspaper

Entered as second class matter at Medford, Oregon, under Act of March 3, 1879.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

By Mail—In Advance

Daily, year, \$5.00

Daily, month, \$1.00

By Carrier, in advance—Medford, Ashland, Jacksonville, Central Point, Phoenix, Talent, Gold Hill and all highways.

Daily, month, \$1.00

Daily, year, \$10.00

All terms, cash in advance.

Official paper of the City of Medford.

Official paper of Jackson County.

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Raising False Hopes

ANOTHER attempt to secure an export debenture plan to aid the American wheat farmer will be made at the next session of congress.

As a prominent democratic senator declares:

"A drive to secure for the farmer that protection which the manufacturer has enjoyed for generations through a protective tariff will be launched and will win. The time has ended when a farmer will be forced to sell in the open market, and buy in a protected market."

That has a familiar sound. So has the export debenture, the equalization fee, domestic allotment, etc., etc.

Calling attention to the fact that the farmer now sells as well as buys in a protective market will probably do no good. Nor will it do any good to mention that the Smoot-Hawley tariff measure raised the tariff on farm products higher, and reduced the tariff on manufactured products lower, than any tariff bill in this decade.

The farm problem has passed the point where facts and figures count. It has entered the realm of temper and emotionalism.

FURTHERMORE if any plan can be devised which will REALLY benefit the farmer and pull him, and agriculture, out of the present slough of despond, we can imagine no right thinking person objecting to it. For nothing is truer than that this depression will not end until the farmer—the man on the soil—is put on his economic feet, and is able to earn a little more than he must spend.

BUT we see no point in kidding ourselves. And we see no point in raising false hopes, by reviving the futile effort to defeat the law of supply and demand.

The basic trouble with all these plans to raise the price of wheat for example, and artificially maintain it, is that the seeds of its destruction are inherent in it.

The moment the price of wheat is pegged at a profit, wheat production will increase, in spite of all our law makers can do, to prevent it. For wheat unlike shoes and other manufactured products, can be produced by any individual with some seed and an acre of fertile land. The only way to prevent this increase in production would be a wheat prohibition law, and the American people would never submit to that.

SO while no one should oppose any program designed to pull the wheat farmer out of the mud and the red, we don't believe human ingenuity has devised, or ever will devise a plan which will do it, except some plan that will work with, instead of against the law of supply and demand.

And we don't believe any informed person will deny that these export debenture, equalization fee and domestic allotment schemes, fail to do that; just as the Hoover farm board program, failed to do it.

At least that is our honest opinion. We sincerely hope we are wrong but we fear, the future will demonstrate that we are right.

What Price Contentment?

SINCE the depression started, the suicide rate in this country has increased nearly 20 percent. But before the depression started the rate of suicide throughout the world has been steadily increasing for a generation.

So while economic conditions can be blamed for the sudden spurt in self destruction, it can't be blamed for this striking phenomenon of the Twentieth Century.

As Henry Morton Robinson in the North American Review declares, the depression occupies the same place in the suicide increase, that the assassination of the Austrian Arch Duke occupied in the start of the World war. It was the spark, but ELEMENTAL CONDITIONS caused the blaze.

The underlying cause of this strange and unnatural popularity of self destruction, undoubtedly lies in the subtle but undeniable spiritual revolution which the entire world has undergone.

This has been marked, on one hand, by the growth of individualism and materialism; and on the other by the decline of religious faith and what might be termed social dependence.

We have become as a race, highly individualized,—self sufficient,—determined realists. But ESSENTIALLY the change has been external. Internally we have remained CHILDREN,—post war outside but early Victorian inside.

This condition Dr. Robinson explains as follows:

Suicide is the result of a peculiarly modern disease, a prevailing mal-adjustment. . . . It is as though a dwarf or a paralytic were to don the armor of a knight; the burden of carrying those axe-proof plates would overtax the strength of anyone but a true knight and the pretender's collapse would be swift at the first onslaught of the foe.

In other words, we have not grown up INTERNALLY to match our growth EXTERNALLY. To quote Marcus Aurelius:

"Man" must be armed and buttressed from WITHIN else the temple wavers to the dust."

It is that "inner buttressing" that we need, and which undoubtedly must be found either in a revival of true religious faith, or the achievement of a truer and more robust maturity.

TIGERS SMOTHER ASHLAND 56 TO 0 AS SEASON ENDS

Football for the 1932 season in southern Oregon ended yesterday at Van Scoyoc field, when Medford high's squad defeated its traditional rival—the Ashland high school, 56 to 0, before a fair sized crowd. The Ashland rooting delegation was the smallest in the memory of the oldest inhabitant.

The heavier Burghermasters tore through the light Lithian line with ease and scored almost at will throughout three quarters of the one-sided game. In the fourth quarter, Coach Burgher sent in his third and fourth strings and every football squad member will get a letter, or come close to it. Medford profited by intercepting

Personal Health Service

By William Brady, M. D.

Signed letters pertaining to personal health and hygiene, not to disease diagnosis or treatment, will be answered by Dr. Brady if a stamped, self-addressed envelope is enclosed. Letters should be brief and written in ink. Owing to the large number of letters received only a few can be answered here. No reply can be made to queries not conforming to instructions. Address Dr. William Brady in care of The Mail Tribune.

ALMOST CONVINCED ABOUT EXPOSURE

I am a convert to your teaching, and when I say convert I mean that formerly I considered your notions about the harmlessness of exposure to cold and wet plumb crazy. But the more I read your interesting and enlightening articles on the subject, the more impressed was I by the scientific strength of your teachings and by your frankness and sincerity I began carrying out some of your hygienic suggestions. . . . have enjoyed mid-winter plunges when we have to chop away the ice to make a place to dive in. . . . but I am still a little inclined to fear pneumonia, because I had pneumonia four years ago. Then two of my friends capitulated in their boat in the winter, and several days later one of them succumbed to pneumonia. . . . (C. W.)

Our correspondent raises a fair question. Whenever any one is rescued from the water in very cold weather the story invariably says that the doctors anticipate recovery unless pneumonia develops. This association of pneumonia with the shock and suffering of such exposure to cold misleads the lay mind and, I fear, the mind of physicians who should know better.

It is true that persons who have suffered submersion in cold water, or even in ordinary cool water such as that of seas, lakes or streams in summer weather, are more likely to develop a special type of pneumonia by reason of the submersion. But this is so unlike the disease we all know as pneumonia (lobar pneumonia, lung fever, pleuro-pneumonia) and so unlike the condition variously called broncho-pneumonia, catarrhal pneumonia, suffocating catarrh and capillary bronchitis, that neither layman nor physician would be aware of any trouble in the lungs if the signs of congestion were not detected by repeated frequent auscultation and percussion of the chest. The only SYMPTOM the victim of this traumatic or hypostatic pneumonia shows is a more or less prostration or weakness. In short the trouble is rather failure of circulation, from exhaustion, than lung inflammation or pneumonia. And by the same token it is best prevented or guarded against by measures calculated to restore strength to the circulation.

Persons who wander away and are exposed to cold and perhaps starvation

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Soothing Skin Cream.

Please repeat the recipe you gave a while ago for the relief of itching after a bath. . . . (F. R. S.)

Answer—Two drams of lanolin, mixed with 1 dram of boroglycerid and 6 drams of cold cream made from white petrolatum. A small quantity of this is sufficient for a large surface of skin. If itching is severe you may incorporate three or four grains of menthol in the formula.

Let the Baby Lie.

Is it harmful for a baby to sleep on his stomach? My two-month-old baby will sleep soundly most of the night if laid on his stomach, but he is restless if laid on his back. (Mrs. F. V. M.)

Answer—It is all right, really the natural position for sleep. He is no more on his stomach than he is on his liver. You mean he is on his belly. Or if a baby's belly seems improper to mention you might say prone. Lying on the back is supine. Most of our Yankee intelligentsia do not know this.

Pneumonia Respiration

I have noticed where a succession of operators maintained proper pressure respiration the rhythm varied with different operators. To what extent might this harm the patient? (F. K.)

Answer—It would be better to maintain a fairly constant rhythm, say 15 compressions to the minute. (Copyright, John F. Dille Co.)

The American Idea

The picture of a solvent Europe trying to evade its just debts and to put the burden upon an honest, but naive Uncle Sam has been fixed in the minds of the American people and nothing can be done in the way of dealing with the debt question until that picture is abolished. The American people seem resolved to punish their debtors by forcing them to repudiate even if they feel themselves unable to pay. Suspicion arises that the American attempt to collect will cost the United States heavily and postpone world return to normalcy indefinitely.

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FRANK H. SIMMONDS GIVES LOW DOWN IN DEBT MUDDLE

(Continued from Page One)

the next six months will show who is right. But in discussing the question the economist reverts to the record. He points out that at the Paris Peace conference the British and French politicians, against the advice of American financiers, set out to impose on Germany huge reparations payments. And having decided on the bill they tried to collect it.

Past Experience Cited

But although the French and Belgians presently occupied the Ruhr and reduced Germany to utter helplessness, they did not get from Germany any substantial payments. In fact they only got from her what the United States loaned to the private borrowers of the Reich after 1923. After trying for ten years to collect reparations the French last summer at Lausanne abandoned the job. Meantime Germany had passed through inflation, the middle classes had been ruined, the Republican parties had been smashed and political power was now lodged in the hands of revolutionary parties, the Communists and the Nazis.

Chaos in Germany was accompanied by similar disorder all the way from Bavaria to Greece. Central Europe a today economically prostrated, financially bankrupt and politically dangerous. Trade and commerce have practically come to a standstill, foreign payments are no longer made. That, says the economist, is the result of the attempt to collect reparations.

Now the undertaking of the American politician to repeat the course of the French, to get from his Allied debtors what the French endeavored to extract from the vanquished Germany, will, in the judgment of the economist, like the financier and the business man, simply lead to a new exacerbation of the whole economic and political situation in Europe.

And of course, if the economist is right, we are in for a continuance of world depression, and American recovery, so far as it depends upon world recovery, is further postponed.

But this is a matter that cannot be argued about. Public opinion and political purpose in this country are united in the determination to make Europe pay or repudiate and, for the moment British, which is the chief factor, is unwilling to repudiate. On the other hand all Europeans agree that the American attempt to collect will cost the United States heavily and postpone world return to normalcy indefinitely.

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