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What the Editors Say

Come to think about it, from glancing around near home, we can't see where the retail man is getting rich very fast, and what holds true in a town of this size is pretty well duplicated the entire country over.—Heppner Gazette Times.

And now the ladies are said to be meeting the high cost of silk stockings by having stockings stenciled on their bare limbs, and we can only hope that paint will not appear as a substitute for other articles of clothing which are equally high priced.—Independent.

It's no one's business what the other fellow does with his money, but one can't help but get a weary feeling when he hears a man of family indignation about the high cost of living if the fellow is making installment payments on an auto instead of a home.—Itemizer.

Packers insist that they are not making a big per cent on their sales, but it will be noticed that in their advertisements they do not claim that they are making big money on the money invested. There's the milk in this coconut. The packers are making their big money from side issues that are hidden behind subsidiary companies and even individual accounts. This is the feature of the business that should be reached by the government.—Observer.

According to law, if an editor gets pay for an article he must have "paid advertisement" above the article. But the same law doesn't divulge the names of those sending free literature and free plates or reading matter already set up, like the League of Nations articles being sent to papers from coast to coast. We can't inform you whether the President himself, his supporters or his uncle Samuel pays the bill. Only amounts to a few thousand, anyway.—Banks Herald.

While peaches are comparatively cheap this year, due likely to the enormous crop, yet they may be taken as a fair illustration of the waste of food to keep the price up. If one but takes a little time and goes through the large orchards at Wheatland the enormous waste can be seen in the tons of peaches rotting on the ground. It is not the fault of the growers. They are selling in the yard at from 50c to 75c per bushel, while the retailer not 30 miles away, is charging the consumer, who is unable to get to the orchard \$2 a bushel. Better that a reasonable profit be made and all people have plenty of food than that beaucoux money be made by a few while the poor starve.—Sheridan Sun.

Farmers are being called upon to exert themselves in raising larger crops, to the end that the cost of living may be reduced to the city dweller. The laboring man in the city is asking shorter and shorter hours and thereby increases the cost of the things which the farmer must buy. Working shorter hours the laboring man has more time for pleasure and, as pleasure costs money, he must have larger wages so that he can fully enjoy his leisure time, that the things the farmer buys are again advanced. We hesitate to think of what heights prices might have reached had the small farmer, the small business man, clerks, physicians, country newspapermen, etc., insisted upon a six, seven or eight hour day.—The Sentinel.

Church folk in Australia have suffered a deep disappointment. It was through their influence that the country adopted the Saturday half-holiday. Their idea was that if the working man had Saturday afternoon off he would wake up Sunday morning rested and refreshed and would go to church. Exactly the opposite has happened. Having Saturday afternoon off has enabled the worker to go somewhere to spend the weekend and the church people complain that the result has decreased rather than increased church attendance. On the other hand, road houses and rural "clubs" have sprung up adjacent to every large city and are doing a thriving Sunday business. Church attendance has always been a vital problem with the church authorities. Time was when the law compelled man to go to church. If he didn't go he was fined. We outgrew that and other means were adopted such as shutting every other public place so that he would have no where else to go. That succeeded in keeping him from the movies, for instance, but had no effect in forcing him to go to church. We can see on solution for the problem except the solution adopted by secular institutions in their competitive efforts and that is to make the church service so attractive that people will want to go.—Corvallis Gazette Times.

In defense of the policy of shortening the work day the public has long listened to the stock argument that reduction of hours will not reduce the output. Within the bounds of good judgment there is a kernel of truth there. It is perfectly apparent that men and women should not be asked to work through an unreasonable or health impairing work day, and it is just as apparent that there must be a point where, if the work day is further shortened, we will encounter the "law of diminishing re-

turns." Lloyd George, the British premier, in a speech the other day in parliament, said that British industry has run afoul of the law. One of the arguments in favor of reducing the number of working hours, he said, was that the reduction in time would not involve a reduction in output. There has, the premier said, been a substantial reduction in the hours of labor and it has been found that the output has been reduced almost in the same mathematical proportion. Lloyd George said he thought there was evidence of international slowing down in production and that it is necessary for not only the workmen but the managers and the foremen to put their shoulders to the task of increasing production. It was a dangerous and fatal fallacy, he said, that the less men worked the more work there would be for others; and it is highly important for those having influence with the workers to do their utmost to explode that fallacy.—Spokesman Review.

The High Cost of Official Extravagance.

The biggest single cause of the high cost of living at this time is the excessively high cost of government. The chief of sinners in this respect has been the national government under Wilsonian direction. The national administration has set the pace in extravagance and wasteful expenditures. This has resulted not only in higher taxes, in heavier burdens upon trade and industry, which have been passed on to the consumer to a considerable extent, but the government, as a buyer of supplies, has been the biggest booster of prices. Purchases have been made without regard to cost and the result has been that every consumer has felt the effect. Other prices have risen sympathetically. Moreover, vast stores of food and clothing and other materials have been drawn from the usual channels, and until recently have been stored, thus depleting the market to that extent. The people generally have caught the "drunken sailor" attitude toward expenditures adopted by the government functionaires. The result has been a riot of wasteful spending. More spending has called for more income, more income has imposed more burdens upon production and distribution, this has increased costs to the consumer. So the endless cycle of increased costs has been started and kept going.

Why does not the administration make some start in curtailing governmental expenditures? There are more federal office holders in Washington today than there was at the time of the signing of the armistice. When a demand is made for some remedy for the high cost of living, the response is a demand from every department, for more money to hire more employees. This of course, means no relief from high governmental costs, but an increase in those costs.

An effort is being made by the administration to make the manufacturer and the merchant the "goat" of the existing situation. The people are being taught that the producers are the robbers of the country. This is all a part of the socialistic agitation intended to impress upon people the thought that the way to eliminate all of the economic ills is to let the government be the universal employer, provider and proprietor. But everything the government has touched under this administration has been disorganized and demoralized. Every service it has performed has been at increased cost to the people, and on a lowered standard of efficiency. Take the railroads for instance. For years these same state socialists have been telling us that if only the government could take over the railroads, the employees would be given more pay and the people would get lower transportation rates. The scheme has been tried. The employees of the roads are thoroughly dissatisfied with their compensation and rates have been increased one-half.

The average business man is just about as honest and as efficient and about as anxious to treat the people right as the average politician. It is therefore true that the people will get about a square deal, to say the least, under private as under public ownership. The administration now has a chance to show good faith in the outcry against high living costs by reducing those costs in so far as they are increased by the extravagance of the administration itself. There is not the slightest evidence that anything of this kind is contemplated, however.—National Republic.

A Definition of Bolshevism.

The editor of a New York magazine says people generally do not know what bolshevism means. I find the magazine editor doesn't know. Bolshevism means the plug winning the race instead of the thoroughbred, the ignorant man being given control instead of the educated expert, the loafer living in the palace instead of the industrious man; it means the drunkard, boozier and liar making a success; it means the triumph of poverty and disease; it means putting into effect mistakes the revolutionists have been teaching but not believing for hundreds of years. It means, in short, anarchy.—E. W. Howe's Monthly.

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