

Editorial Page of "The Capital Journal"

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A THREATENING CLOUD IN INDUSTRIAL SKY

There is a little cloud in the sky, at present no larger than a man's hand, so to speak, but which has in it the seeds of an industrial cyclone. In the midst of the prosperity brought about by the European war, nothing has so far arisen to check the business boom.

While it may be possible the impending trouble may be avoided, it does not look that way. The cloud has drifted up over the eastern skies from the demands of the brotherhoods of trainmen and railroad engineers for an eight hour day, and time and a half for overtime. It is claimed this affects about 360,000 men and 480 roads. Under existing arguments railroad men work ten hours for a day's work with another arrangement by which freight trainmen get full pay for running 100 miles, and this whether it takes ten hours or not, with extra pay for mileage over that distance.

The demands of the men have been submitted to the roads and the roads have refused to allow them. The next move will probably be arbitration.

The railroads claim that their arrangements have been made on the basis of a ten hour day, and certain distances fixed to be made in that time. Owing to this they have built their terminals and round houses, and if the new arrangement is made these will all have to be rearranged at considerable expense.

They point out too, that railroad work is necessarily widely different in regard to hours worked from any other trade or occupation. That the hours on freight runs are decided largely by circumstances over which neither the men nor the roads have control. They depend on the number of stops, the length of the stops, the amount of freight handled and other things that make it impossible to tell how many hours a given run will take. They also point out that the time and a half for overtime would add a burden to the roads that would swamp them.

Another thing is that out of the 1,680,000 railroad employees in the United States 309,000, or 18 per cent, are trainmen, and these draw in wages 28 per cent of the total wage. The earnings of the roads in 1914 were \$3,047,000,000, and the amount paid out in wages was \$1,329,000,000, or about 45 per cent.

The railroads under our laws cannot raise rates without the consent of the railroad commissions, and so are up against a proposition of paying out \$100,000,000 extra wages without having anyway of increasing their revenues to meet the demand. It follows then that if these demands are granted it will be up to the public to permit the roads to raise rates enough to meet this new charge; in other words the public will have to agree to pay the extra charge itself.

Still another proposition that comes into the dispute is that railroad men generally are paid higher wages than almost any other. This raise in wages, if it is granted, must a large part of it come from the pockets of other laborers who are earning far less than the trainmen.

Higher railroad rates means higher cost of living, and as the laborer, no matter what his calling, has to eat and wear clothing, he eventually pays all the bills; for while it looks as though large companies with immense amounts of freight would pay a large portion of the railroad freight bills they do not do so, for they pass the freight along to the consumer of their products.

So it will be seen the dispute is not entirely one between the railroads and their employees, but one between the 309,000 trainmen and the balance of the 100,000,000 citizens of this country, who will have the bill to pay.

It is sincerely hoped the matter will be adjusted in a friendly way, for a strike would simply paralyze business and bring on a condition that would be unbearable. The country cannot afford it nor can the trainmen afford it. The public has rights the trainmen are bound to respect and if they do not, but bring disaster on the country they will have struck labor a blow from which it will take it years to recover, for unless the trainmen submit their demands to arbitration, which they say in advance they will not, they will array public sentiment against them, and eventually lose out; and at the same time lose the

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sympathy and friendship of that public which has been so often their best stand by, and still is. They cannot afford to lose this. Will they?

The Agricultural department says the United States imports chicle, the gum from which chewing gum is manufactured, of the value of about \$3,500,000 a year, the weight of which is 7,000,000 pounds, or 3,500 tons. As probably nine-tenths of all this goes to the girls' gum chewing brigade, it is evident the sweet young things collectively manage a cud weighing 3.150 tons. Could the energy used in masticating this cud be conserved it would furnish power for a good sized saw mill. Where is Pinchot?

Portland is planning to establish an immense plant for building wooden ships. There will be demand for these for years to come, and with the world's shipping "shot to pieces" will command freight rates that will let them pay for themselves many times over, before they become obsolete. This is the most important move Portland has made in years. She has all the facilities, the best timber for the purpose in the world, and lots of it. The new venture should prove highly profitable.

A story is told of a couple of negroes, one of whom left a barrel of salt pork in the other's cellar for safe keeping while he was away a few months. On his return he opened his barrel of pork only to find there wasn't any. Confronting his friend with this state of facts and demanding to know what became of the pork, the "friend" exclaimed: "For de lan sakes! How you spouse dat pork ever leak'd out and leave de brine?" This little story is for Portland's wood supply officials only.

The dispatches bringing the story of Villa's mishap also brought the rather pleasing tidings that his chief lieutenant, Hernandez was "numbered with the slain." With the leaders out of it the bandits will scatter and be lost among their fellow Mexicans. It is doubtful if another leader can be found who would be willing to take charge of revolutionary affairs along the border under present conditions.

According to the attorneys' statements concerning each other, in arguing the Slaughter case at Oroville, they are a pretty tough bunch. Liars, perjurers, thieves, coyotes, hyenas and skunks are among the things each insists tearfully, the others are. First thing they know they will have as bad a reputation as the minister they are wrangling over.

If the reports from Mexico are true, and Villa has a leg broken, the trouble so far as he is concerned is over. When a Mexican cannot board the hurricane deck of a mustang, he is out of the game. He is a case of Hamlet without the ghost; hash without onions, or a presidential election without those well known initials T. R. and W. J. B.

The Shell oil company can now do business in this state, as it has filed articles of incorporation and been given Mr. Schulderman's consent. As it has been doing business here for some months it will not have to change its habits to wiggle along under the new arrangement.

With thirty of their comrades dead in a few minutes after the Americans ran across them, it is probable the remainder of the Villa gang will have a higher regard for the despised "gringo" hereafter, especially if he wears Uncle Sam's uniform and carries a gun.

What has become of the Turks? No one has heard a gobble out of them since the Russians chased them out of Trebizond.

March played the game according to Hoyle this year, coming in like a lion and going out like a lamb.



MORE MONEY

I pity the poor, sordid soul, who always is asking himself, "Oh, how can I add to my roll, and store up more plunder and pelf?" If always you think of your pile, and make of your bankbook a pet, the things that are truly worth while you're apt to ignore or forget. If always you hanker and wish, and hunger and thirst for the mon, and never go fishing for fish, or hunting wart-hogs with a gun, if all through the hurrying year, your thoughts are on profit and gain, your soul will be shriveled and sere, the rust will get into your brain. It gives me the willies to talk with men to whom Cash is a god; for Cash is their store and their stock, and all they can think of is

Wad. The master of money ne'er knows the literature of the day, the works of Nick Carter or those of "Rita" or Bertha M. Clay. His soul is engulfed in the mart, is life's aim is sordid and grim, the treasures of song and of art and music are dead ones to him. He cares not for color or tone, and nothing for mirth does he care; he sees in the distance a bone, and chases it down to its lair.

WAR ODITL'S

London—Owing to the loss of his entire staff, in consequence of the war, the editor proprietor of the "Berksire Gazette," states publicly that he is editor, reporter, proof reader, machinist, office boy and printer's devil.

Marion County Veterans Will Meet at Woodburn

(Capital Journal Special Service.) Woodburn, Or., Apr. 1.—The Marion County Veterans' association anticipate a good time at their next meeting which will be held in the armory Thursday April 6th. An interesting program will be rendered which is as follows: Song, "America," by audience. Invocation by Rev. O. C. Weller. Address of welcome by Mayor J. Steelhammer.

Reading, "Our Heroes," by Mrs. Margaret Kelly. Short talks by Colonel J. M. Poorman, Major Eugene Mosberger and others. Dinner call at 11:30 a. m. Call to order at 1 o'clock. Song by Woodburn high school chorus. Drill, Miss Simpson's pupils. Duet, by the Messes Waggoner. Sales by Mrs. H. J. McKinney. Reading, Mrs. Elmer Settlement. Cornet solo, Mr. C. W. Keat. Song, by Oletarie. Reading, Miss Grace Lindahl. Solo, Violet Olson. Duet, Norman and Rose Richards. Solo, Mrs. Homer Alliman. Reading, Pearl Blackmon.

Triole, "Star Spangled Banner," by audience. Mrs. J. L. Hunting entertained a number of her friends at her home Wednesday afternoon. The time was pleasantly spent in sewing. Luncheon was served by Margaret Hall, Gladys and Arnold Hunting.

Mrs. Homer Alliman returned to Salem after a short visit here. Mrs. Alliman is singing at the Oregon. R. F. Cooley is seriously ill at his home.

J. S. Barton, of Coquille, spent the week end with relatives in Woodburn. Mr. and Mrs. Roy Livesey spent last week at the home at Mrs. Livesey's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, at Dalles.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Bruce motored to Portland Wednesday. The Philanthra class of the Presbyterian church entertained Tuesday evening in the church, refreshments were served and a good time was enjoyed by all who attended.

St. Mary's Episcopal Guild members were entertained Tuesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. H. M. Austin. The ladies spent part of the afternoon in sewing for the Easter sale. Mrs. S. McCord, of Benton Harbor, Michigan; Mrs. C. W. Keat, and Miss Mabel Boscoe were guests.

E. G. Emmert has purchased a 5 passenger Ford from S. E. Bruce and Son. H. M. Austin transacted business in Portland Tuesday.

M. J. Lindahl, of Monitor, spent Monday in Woodburn. Mr. J. Glatt went to Portland this week and purchased a Reo car. General W. E. Finzer, of Portland, was calling on friends here Monday.

Mrs. H. M. Austin and daughter spent the week end with Mrs. Frank Proctor of West Woodburn. Mrs. Wolford, of Silverton, spent several days visiting at the home of her sister, Mrs. W. H. Broyles.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Bennam, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, are guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Austin. N. Beekey is visiting his brother at Newport, Idaho.

Mr. D. S. Livesey and T. C. Livesey left Wednesday for their logging camp near Mill City, where they will spend this summer. They will be joined later by their wives who will spend part of the summer enjoying camp life.

Mr. and Mrs. David Peery arrived in Woodburn last week from Salt Lake City and have rented the J. B. Kennedy 19 acres northwest of town. Colonel and Mrs. J. M. Poorman attended the reunion and banquet of the Spanish-American war veterans in Portland Friday.

W. L. Bentley returned last week from Seattle. Attorney Blaine McCord spent Wednesday in Salem. Mrs. Clyde Yoder, of Union, attended the De Moss entertainment Tuesday night.

Mrs. E. N. Hall returned Saturday from Dulles where she has been visiting at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Victor Balentine. Rev. L. C. Poor attended the meeting of the ministerial association in Portland Monday.

Mrs. Sadie Dimick and children spent the week end in Portland with friends. F. O. Bentou representing the Northwest Fur-trade company of Portland, was in Woodburn Tuesday. The Woodburn Retail Merchants' association held a meeting in the city hall Tuesday night. Mr. F. X. Beck was chosen as a delegate to the state Retail Merchants' convention at Astoria, April 25-27.

A contest between two sides of the five hundred club was ended Friday when the losing side entertained the winning side at a banquet in the Masonic temple. Those on the losing side were: Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Scott, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Goodale, Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Livesey, Mr. and Mrs. L. M. BITNEY, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Settlement. Those on the winning side were, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Emmert, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Dows, Dr. and Mrs. O. P. Overton, Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Drake and Mr. and Mrs. L. Lawrence.

After the banquet, five hundred was played, horse prizes fell to Mrs. O. P. Overton and Mr. P. W. Settlement and the consolation to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Whitman. Seeking to give Enterprise better fire protection, the council of that city is considering the purchase of a light and truck for the hose, chemical tank and ladder, and the establishing of a small fire department.

STATE NEWS

Coquille, Oregon: The actual loss of land on account of the flood on the Coquille river is great. It requires only the observation of the farms along the river banks on a trip from Coquille to Bandon to see how great the loss really is. The high water several times a year makes deep cuts into the bottom lands. Some of the barns which were formerly well back from the river are now almost ready to fall into the water.

STATE NEWS

Medford Sun: A cougar hide, one of the largest ever killed in southern Oregon, was presented to the county clerk Monday for bounty, \$10 from the county and \$15 from the state. The varmint measured 10 feet six inches from tip of tail to tip of nose. It was killed by Mrs. Irene Curich, nee Plotner, of Skoonum Prairie, and in life was a ferocious beast, proving upon stock in the Union creek district for months.

Portland, Oregon: Moonshiners are doing business in Oregon, and others are getting ready to establish hidden stills, according to information that has come to L. W. Elliott, special agent for the internal revenue department of the Oregon and Washington district. "Indications of moonshiners have been called to our attention," said Mr. Elliott. "It appears that they will require our attention in the near future and we certainly do not intend to let them do business very long in this state."

The North Bend school board has resolved that "midweek social functions for the pupils of the city schools should be discouraged by the parents to the end that better work may be accomplished by the pupils."

VISIT TO SUBLIMITY

Ten of Stayton's business men went to Sublimity Tuesday night to attend the regular meeting of the Sublimity Commercial club. Quite a crowd of the Sublimity members were on hand and C. H. Downing called on any of those present for speeches.

Among those who responded, and talked of the new railroad being projected from Salem to Bend were: J. T. Kearns, E. M. Olmsted and Geo. Keech. After a considerable discussion along that line, E. A. Bell gave the crowd some very interesting remarks on how to build up the fertility of the farms from experience he had gained in his trip to Germany five years ago. The Stayton delegation then extended an invitation to the Sublimity club to visit Stayton in the near future.—Stayton Mail.

STARTS SKUNK FARM

Lawrence Grossman received twenty-five skunks last week by express from Pennsylvania, and will embark in skunk farming near Gervais. The animals all stood the trip in fine shape and seem to be adapting themselves to their new home.

When the animals arrived and were placed on the express truck at the depot they attracted considerable attention, and one of the small boys took a chance on stirring them up with a stick, so he had been told they were "non-stinkable." However, they were as vile and tame as kittens.—Gervais Star.

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SCHOOL KIDS ENLIST TO-DAY IN WAR ON DEADLY JERSEY SKEETER

Elizabeth, N. J., April 1.—"How to Annihilate a Jersey Mosquito" is not, but might as well be, the title of the course of instruction in "skeeter murder" now ready for the first classes of boys and girls at school here Monday morning. The Jersey "skeeter" long has been known for its size and ferocity and so pestiferous has his "skeeterhood" become that the Mosquito Extermination Commission, unique as an organization, has determined that, with the aid of the children, the sing-ing scourge shall be stamped out.

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