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THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC ON STRIKE

The car-shortage problem continues to be the most important as well as the most aggravating one confronting Oregon. Promised cars by the Southern Pacific, shippers were patiently quiet while waiting for the promised relief, but it has not materialized and from appearances is not going to materialize soon. President Sproule and Operating Vice-President Scott have been in Portland several days looking over the situation and though they promised the railroad commission that they would furnish 50 cars a day until the shortage was relieved, they are not doing it. The state is 1400 cars short now and conditions are growing steadily worse. The people of the state want no quarrel with the Southern Pacific, for they realize their interests are mutual, but the action of the road leaves them no other course. Under its franchise the Southern Pacific is bound to handle with reasonable dispatch all freight tendered it. If it refuses to do it then it must be made to do it. If the Public Service Commission has not the power to compel the railroad companies of the state to provide proper facilities for taking care of their business than as the legislature meets soon this power should be given it. A law should be enacted compelling the railroads to move all freight tendered them within a reasonable time or pay the shipper losing by their neglect punitive damages.

Only a few weeks ago the railroads were complaining that they could not grant the eight hour day and the increased wage without facing bankruptcy. They claimed they were being held up, as it were, at the muzzle of a gun and they wailed with an exceeding great plaint.

Yet what their employees did to them, or proposed doing was nothing compared to what the Southern Pacific is doing to the producers of Oregon. Mills are being closed down, fruit rotting in the orchards and business ruin staring many in the face, because the Southern Pacific not only does not perform its duty to this state, but discriminates against it. California, where the Southern Pacific has opposition has plenty of cars. Washington where there is also opposition has cars in abundance, and it is only here in Oregon where the road has no opposition that there is a car shortage.

This shows that the Southern Pacific is robbing the Oregon producer of the results of his labor in order to protect its own business.

England's arrogance has gone the limit in declaring that neutral countries shall not trade with each other unhampered. She has issued warning that Scandinavia has received all kinds of products up to her normal supply, and that therefore she can import no more. She has said to the balance of the world that it cannot trade with Scandinavia. Her excuse is that goods shipped to that country may finally reach England's enemies, which is no excuse at all. She might as well insist that because wheat grown in the United States or the Argentine might eventually reach her enemies that those countries must not grow more than a certain amount of wheat. In this case she has gone beyond all decency and the balance of the world will probably make her understand it. As an object lesson it might be well to place an embargo on all shipments to England.

One week from today and the state fair is on. This has become one of the great occasions in Oregon and this year promises to be greater than ever before. Everything but the weather has been taken care of and that is beyond even the state officials and fair board. With the weather clerk behaving himself, the 1916 fair will make a record that will stand for some years. The agricultural display owing to the favorable season will be unusually good and the average in Oregon is good enough for anyone.

Only seven weeks until the election, but long enough to keep the voters waiting to cast their ballots and turn their thoughts to other and more profitable things. Just now both sides are confident of winning and the only certain thing about it is that one of them is badly mistaken.

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SAVINGS DEPARTMENT

WAR TEACHING SOCIALISM

The Italian government gives a boost to socialism by the seizure of ten million eggs that were held in cold storage, and is selling them at half the market price in order to reduce the "high cost of living" that has struck that country as well as some others. This is following the example set by Germany, and is simply a socialistic measure that the necessities of war conditions have forced on the warring nations. After the war the question will rise up as to why conditions cannot be regulated in time of peace as well as during war, and it will be hard to find any but an affirmative answer. It might be added that business conditions in this country are tending to force public thought along the same lines. The great corporations have stated and say they have proved that no matter how large they are they can be run more cheaply by becoming still larger, and hence insists that mergers and other means of growth are in the interest of economical production, and the making of products cheaper.

This theory followed to its ultimate conclusion means government ownership and socialism. To go back: if a government can seize eggs it of course can seize any other article and fix its price just as the Italian government fixed the price of eggs at half what they were selling for in the open market. It will be admitted without dispute that if food products, the farmers stock in trade, can be seized and the prices of the different products fixed by law, it would be unjust to the farmer unless everything else was placed under the same law and made subject to seizure and price regulation. It would be unjust to fix the price of his products and not also fix the price of the things he is compelled to buy. When this condition arises it is but a step to the governments taking charge of everything.

Villa kept the promise made a few days ago that he would attack Chihuahua on Mexico's independence day. He attacked according to the Carranza reports with some six hundred men and captured part of the city but was driven out with considerable loss of men. The dispatch says rather grimly that "the captured Villa followers were immediately put to death. There is one distinguishing feature about Mexican warfare, and that is the list of prisoners is trifling. If any of the enemy is missing it is a pretty safe bet they are in the graveyard."

Only the other day railroad managers declared that the passage of the eight-hour day law would ruin their business and virtually confiscate their capital. The law was passed—on Friday and Saturday all the leading railroad stock made a new high record in Wall Street. An evidence probably that investors have more money than they care for and are throwing it away on worthless stocks. Of course, the railroad heads knew what they were talking about when they predicted bankruptcy as the natural consequence of the proposed law.

Republicans condemn Wilson policies and the things congress has done but at the same time claim credit for originating most of these things which they condemn. "Whom the gods would destroy they first make mad." This being true it looks much as though the republicans were on the way too destruction.

Captain Cousins of the illfated Congress lost his ship, but he did not lose his head or the life of a single person of all aboard her. It was good seamanship, good generalship and splendid management.

But a day or two more and the boys of Company M will be home and the "cruel war be over." Arrangements are made for giving them a warm welcome home and Salem will sure be on hand to make the affair unanimous.



OLD TIMERS

When old men meet they ask for news of friends they used to know. "Say, what's become of Hiram Hughes?" "The anthrax laid him low." "Well, what's become of William Bill, and what's become of Fred?" "They both are sleeping on the hill, and each is doubly dead." "Why, truly, friend, if these things be, we're pretty much alone; but where is Silas J. McGee?" "He sleeps beneath the stone." "I used to know a lovely maid, whose name was Julia Jones." "She's resting in the willow's shade, out in the place of bones." No wonder that the old are bent beneath their weight of gloom; they cannot gossip worth a cent and not bring in the tomb. Mirth to their discourse they would lend, and cheerfully behave, but when they ask about a friend they hear about the grave. "Oh, what's become of Jim and Joe, and Nell and Bess and Jane?" "They died the death long years ago, and dead they still remain."

Four Autoists Killed at Grade Crossing

Erie, Pa., Sept. 18.—Four persons were killed at the grade crossing of the tracks of the New York Central railroad north of Grand depot today when the fast mail train number 35, west bound struck the automobile of Mrs.

Percy Steger of Pittsburg. Those killed were: Mrs. Percy Steger, Pittsburg, wife of one of the members of the firm of Steger Brothers. Mrs. K. Shipman, Pittsburg, believed to be the daughter of Mrs. Steger. Miss Maud E. Shipman, aged 13, daughter of Mrs. K. Shipman. Negro chauffeur, name unknown.

THE TATTLER

That is cold and raw news which comes from Minnesota.

All the best conversationalists in the city are agreed that the weather here yesterday was lovely.

The man who put the hop in hope lives in Salem.

Too many lawyers in Company M? This is almost slander.

They are now using Eords for "bull-dogging" in some of the wild west shows. What do you think of that?

Good work, Miss Billie Burke! "Veda, the Vampire," with Portland home talent, isn't half bad.

Being the busiest man in town, T. G. Bligh is considering the taking on of a year's additional work in the city government. This is the mark of the live wire the world over.

Enterprising citizens are mining their potatoes.

5372 MAJORITY FOR WILSON AT SPOKANE

Spokane, Wash., Sept. 18.—The Interstate fair furnished an unexpected jolt to the Hughes leaders of this part of the state when the totals of the straw ballot taken at the turnstiles were computed, showing that out of 44,868 votes cast, Woodrow Wilson had received a majority of 5372.

The arrangements for the straw ballot were made with elaborate care. At the entrance gate were four turnstiles through which the general admission passed. Big banners were put over each turnstile, two bearing the name of Wilson and two that of Hughes.

The people, as they came to enter the gates, had their attention called to the fact that a straw vote was being taken, and each person of mature years passing through the turnstiles was asked to pass under the Hughes banner if he was a supporter of Hughes, or under the Wilson banner if he was a supporter of Wilson.

Much prominence was given to the balloting in the Spokane press and much interest was aroused over the outcome. In view of the fact that the registration of a ballot was automatic, and that it cost the price of an admission to cast one, it was generally conceded that the totals would be a fair index of the sentiment of the masses of people who passed through the gates.

At the close of the first day Mr. Hughes had a majority of six votes over Mr. Wilson, but after that for the rest of the fair Wilson took the lead with a steady climbing majority.

The last day's balloting gave Wilson 3588 and Hughes 2376, while the totals for the entire week of the fair gave Wilson 25,126 and Hughes 19,748 votes, a majority of 5372.

HOW MAIL ORDER HOUSES THRIVE

Herman Rosenthal, advertising manager for Sears, Roebuck & Co. of Chicago, recently told the members of the American Ad club one of the methods by which that company extended its trade. He said: "We have a bureau whose duty it is to read each week the country newspapers from all over the country. There is not a paper of any consequence in our territory that our bureau does not get. This bureau looks over these papers and when we find a town where the merchants are not advertising in the local paper, we immediately flood that territory with our literature. It always brings results far in excess of the same effort put forth in territory where the local merchants all the time use their local paper."

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MY HUSBAND AND I

By Jane Phelps

MILDRED HAS A VISITOR

CHAPTER XXIV.
My heart beat fast as I opened the drawing room door. I was to receive the first man caller since I had been married. What would Clifford say? "Thank you for seeing me," he said, after I had greeted him. "Thank you for coming! I was doomed to a lonely evening, as unfortunately Mr. Hammond is out." I apologized. "That is too bad; I had anticipated meeting him," but he neither looked nor acted sorry, and soon we were chatting away like old friends. About half-past nine I felt hungry, and excused myself for a moment. I gave Kate the order, and she soon served a nice little supper in the library. It was more cozy there than in the formal drawing-room.

A Delightful Luncheon.
We both ate heartily, we laughed and chatted and told stories. Once I heard a step in the hall, and saw Mandy's face back of the portieres fairly beaming her approval. She caught my eye, then shuffled off upstairs. "I was enjoying myself, consequently she was happy." Mr. Brooke remained until 11 o'clock. After the door closed on him and his promise to come again soon and meet Clifford, I decided it had been the happiest evening I had spent since I came

to Glendale. I had told Kate not to sit up, and Mandy, I knew, would be asleep. So I gathered up the supper things and took them into the kitchen, then went into nursery to kiss my darling baby good-night. As I knelt by the little bed a thought came to me unbidden, one that startled me: "Why couldn't I have married a man like Leonard Brooke—a young man who would make me and my baby happy?" Shocked that such an idea should enter my mind, I resolutely put Mr. Brooke, and all thoughts of our pleasant evening from me. I felt guilty, as if in a way I had been untrue to Clifford. I found a book I thought would interest me, and settled myself to read until Clifford came in. With a woman's capacity for self-torture I began to wonder where Clifford was, what he was doing? Perhaps Mrs. Horton had been an old sweetheart of his, and he was willing to have things as they were before he was married. Their elimination of me looked that way, at least. I found I was getting nervous. I couldn't read, and called myself "silly" and "fanciful." Clifford would be home in a little while. He had probably only told the truth when he said their parties were too gay for me. I was very little used to muck hilarity,

(Monday—A Quarrel.)

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