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FULL LEASED WIRE TELEGRAPH REPORT

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THE PRICE OF FOOD STUFFS

The price of all food stuffs is soaring and there seems to be no limit to its possible altitude. Prices telegraphed from New York and some other of the larger cities tell the story. It is not alone bread that is taking unto itself wings, like other riches, and flying away, but the lowly spud winks its multitudinous eyes and climbs out of sight. The succulent roasting ear puts itself to the ground and satisfied with what it hears, starts to keep company with Sandard Oil socks. The tomato, not long since known as Jerusalem apples and kept for show, has increased in price in New York more than 500 per cent going up to \$3 the crate that sold a year or two ago at fifty cents, and is getting back into the ornamental class again. It is the same with about everything else that is eatable. It seems strange in the face of these facts that such a row should be made over bread alone which shows the least increase in price of all food stuffs. The fight against the raising the price of this one commodity still goes on, and the movement to have congress lay an embargo on all breadstuffs in order to keep the price down has not been abandoned, though not so much noise is being made as a short time ago.

It is quite natural for humanity to fight the things that hurt it and are directly visible, and to pay no attention to other things just as hurtful but not so evident. No one objects to United States Steel doubling in price, or Bethlehem doing the same. They do not object because they do not see that it affects them, and it does not directly, yet it has much to do with the high cost of living. Steel stocks go up because the demand for steel products is excessive and prices consequently go up because the demand outruns the supply, and a fictitious value is created far above the cost of manufacture which permits the cutting of large juicy melons, and great dividends. The average consumer does not stop to think that this is going to touch his pocketbook, but it does. All kinds of machinery is higher, all steel or iron products are more and every factory or mill, every mine and its machinery has to increase more money in its cost and so must charge a higher price for its products. The cost of wheat, for instance, millions of tons of it, costs much more than it did two years ago and the farmer who consumes the food stuffs raised near the railroads must pay the increased freight necessarily charged. The consumer of anything pays the cost of manufacture of anything, that thing, and everything that goes into its cost must eventually be borne by him. If we place an embargo on wheat it would be only fair to do the same by steel and every other product, for higher prices for any means somewhere a lick at the consumers pocket. It does not take any profound research to discover that the great mass of Americans are paying their full share of the cost of the European war right now. While we have been shipping stuff out and bringing in gold and redeemed securities up in the billions, the increased cost of living has made the masses contribute generally for the benefit of the few. An increase of twenty dollars a year in cost of living for each person in this country means that the sum of \$2,000,000,000 has been taken from the consumer. Where does it go? Well, some of it goes back to the mine owner, some to the farmer and some to other producers; but the larger portion finds its way into the coffers of the country's money kings; the Rockefellers, Morgans, Schwabs, Carnegies and that class. Saturday it is estimated that Rockefeller set aside some \$8,000,000 as his share of it for the day's profits, and many others "earned" vast sums in the same way. Of course Rockefeller does not keep it all, for we are told he gave away seventeen brand new pennies that he had not carried over two months, and this all in one day, restoring to the public and to circulation about what he thought the balance of mankind was entitled to. It is the class that takes in millions while passing out a few cents that is largely responsible for the high cost of living when it comes down to the final analysis.

The agony is over, and the pennant winners are known. Now the country can settle down to business and give ear occasionally to the neglected spell-binders.

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SWEDEN AND ENGLAND AT OUTS

The latest phase of the European situation is the strained relations between the allies, especially England, and Sweden. England has complained to the Swedish government against what it calls a breach of neutrality. It seems the Germans are in the habit of using part of the Swedish territorial waters inside the three mile limit, to pass up and down the coast while England has used another portion of Sweden's territorial waters in the same way. Sweden has protested to both powers Germany and England, but her protests have been in vain. Sweden recently announced that she would close the Kogrund channel to all except Swedish vessels. To this England will accept whatever Sweden chooses to give her safe route that was open to them to pass into and out of the Baltic, and at the same time England intimated that Sweden was not so particular in keeping German ships from her territorial waters. To this Sweden made sharp reply intimating as plainly as diplomatic language can and much more plainly than it generally does, that England was deliberately lying about it. Apparently the two countries are near the breaking point, but it is probable England will accept whatever Sweden chooses to give her and let it go at that, for she has all the countries against her now she cares to fight at this time.

The seizing of Swedish mails is one of the original causes of the ill feeling, and this, too, will probably be stopped when England finds Sweden will not stand for it.

Up to date snow storms have not been reported along the Russian or Rumanian frontiers but the time is drawing near for them. It looks as though if any real important moves are to be made on this front they will have to be made in the very near future, or be postponed until next spring. Another six weeks or two months will also put an end to active operations on the other fronts and the armies will put in the winter building and strengthening trenches and fortifications. This means that with the opening of the Spring campaign there will be another almost impregnable line of defenses for the fellow to tackle who wants to get into the other's territory. In this case it will in all probability be the Germans who will fight on the defensive just as they have been doing along the Somme.

But a few days ago Candidate Hughes criticised the administration because its dilatory actions prevented American bankers getting a chance to share in the \$300,000,000 loan to China and so lost a chance for a good investment. There is no doubt that American bankers can have the opportunity to share in the money and lend it. In fact the dispatches yesterday mentioned that America's loan to China was the greatest ever made to \$60,000,000. The sum of the loan stated the amount to be doubled. When Mr. Hughes chose to say that an American banker was to have a share in the money he wants to go down to Arizona where waste water is needed. Other-wise the tears will be a dead loss.

Russian statistics show that in 1915 the population had increased over that of 1897 by 42 per cent and was last year 182,182,000. Truly a most wonderful showing when it is remembered that this is practically all a natural growth and is not due, as is that of the United States, to immigration. A still more remarkable statement however is that the population has increased by 3,800,000 since 1914, or during the war. This should convince Germany that it is useless to kill Russians since she cannot make the death rate equal that of the births.

Bucharest having been warned that unless Rumania made a separate peace soon the city would be laid in ruins, has taken a practical way of protecting it. Thousands of German and Austrian prisoners will be placed at the points liable to attack so that if the aeroplanes and zeppelins raid the city they will kill many of their own people.



Rippling Rhymes by Walt Mason

SIGNS OF AGE

I realize, with bitter grief, I'm in the sere and yellow leaf. The things that once excited me, and made me throw two fits or three, no longer make the old appeal, and quite indifferent I feel. When presidential fights were on, in happy times forever gone, for days together I saw red; I hardly ever went to bed. I really thought if I should win, a golden era would begin; I really thought if I should lose, we'd have to soak our shirts and shoes to buy our hungry children bread, and life would be a thing of dread. But now I hear the statesmen roar the same old thunder as of yore, and not a tremor do I feel, and not a warning makes appeal. I know that when the fuss is done, and A has lost, and B has won, we'll all plod on the same old way, and saw our wood and bale our hay, and love and laugh, and sing and sigh, and woo and wed and work and die.

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to aid nature occasionally when your liver is sluggish, your stomach disordered or your bowels inactive. Let this safe, mild, dependable remedy regulate these organs and put them in a sound and healthy condition.

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OPEN FORUM

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

Salem, Oregon, Sept. 29, 1916. Editor Capital Journal:

Wishing to become better informed relative to our state and its laws, the writer recently took up the study of the state constitution. The study proved rather interesting. Among other things discovered is the fact that Article XIII of the state constitution fixes the amount of salary that may be paid to certain state officers while the legislative assembly has fixed other amounts, seemingly, in direct conflict with said article XIII.

To illustrate, "The governor shall receive an annual salary of fifteen hundred dollars. The secretary of state shall receive an annual salary of fifteen hundred dollars. The treasurer shall receive an annual salary of eight hundred dollars. The judges of the supreme court shall each receive an annual salary of two thousand dollars. They shall receive no fees or perquisites whatever for the performance of any of the duties connected with their respective offices; and the compensation of officers, if not fixed by this constitution, shall be provided by law." Article XIII.

However, in direct conflict with the constitutional regulation of salaries, "By act of the legislative assembly, 1905 session, the salary of the governor was increased to \$7,000 per annum; the secretary of state to \$4,500 per annum; the state treasurer to \$4,500 per annum, and the attorney general to \$2,000 per annum." The legislative assembly of 1907 increased the salaries of the justices of the supreme court from \$2,000 to \$4,500 per annum.

The above quotations are from the Oregon Blue Book for 1915-1916, compiled by Ben W. Olcott, secretary of state, and certainly are interesting, but do not state all of the record of facts in connection with the increases of remuneration that have been made to the judges of the supreme court.

Let us investigate this record, but while doing so keep in mind the fact that article XIII has never been repealed or amended, and that it provides that \$2,000 shall be the annual salary of each of the supreme court judges. In 1885 and 1887, a resolution was passed by the legislative assembly to amend the constitution so as to give the judges of the supreme court more pay. When this proposed amendment was submitted to the people in 1887, it was overwhelmingly voted down. However, in the face of this adverse vote of the people, the legislative assembly, session 1889, passed an act giving each judge of the supreme court \$3,500 dollars extra for holding a term of court at Bendleton, in 1905, the amount was increased to \$2,500. The quotation from Blue Book, quoted above states "The legislative assembly of 1907 increased the salaries of the justices of the supreme court from \$2,000 to \$4,500 per annum."

This is not all, however, for in 1910, article VII of the state constitution was amended by a vote of the people.

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MY HUSBAND AND I by Jane Phelps

FATHER DISAPPROVES OF LEONARD BROOKE

CHAPTER XXXVIII

"I felt that father did not approve of Leonard Brooke, or perhaps I should say of my friendship for him. He was nice to me, of course, but as far as I could see he was just as nice to the rest of the family. However, I was having such a good time with him, and with them, all that it would have taken more than father's seeming dislike for Leonard to spoil my visit."

"I had been South only a little over two weeks when Clifford wrote me that owing to an unforeseen business matter he was going home immediately; that he would be there when I received his letter. While mother and the girls begged me not to shorten my visit, I noticed that father said nothing."

In the afternoon Leonard Brooke called, and I told him my husband was at home and that I should go in a day or two.

"Let me know when you decide to go, little lady, and I will go at the same time. Perhaps I can be of assistance to you."

The Nation's Favorite Butter Nut. There Is No Better. Advertisement for Butter Nut featuring a large image of the product and text describing its quality.

THE TATTLER

There is something chilling in the weather stories that are floating about the country.

What is common sense? asks a Californian paper. Well, common sense is—O, thunder! if you had any you wouldn't ask such a question.

"Sharp break in eggs," says a Portland headline. Certainly, it always happens when they drop.

Ordinarily when a man says some time previously that the battle is won it means that he is doubtful as to the outcome.

Looks as if we might have a right smart primary election in this town, after all.

Almost any middleaged man can recall to mind from one to a dozen men he has known who were pestered into their graves by people who were not suffering for the money.

The hop market is not hopping much.

Pauline Frederick at Ye Liberty, "Bill" Hart at the Oregon, "Civilization" at the Grand and the usual program at the High. Strenuous times for the picture show goer.

Last week was a fairly lively one at Salem police headquarters, yet it would have been considerably more lively had a number of things happened which were prevented from happening by the department.

Say "this is nice weather" to an old Oregonian on a cold morning, and he swears at you and grunts.

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"Let me know when you decide to go, little lady, and I will go at the same time. Perhaps I can be of assistance to you."

"That would be lovely—" I commented, then stopped. Something told me that father would not approve of my traveling North with Mr. Brooke, so I finished lamely, "But I'm not sure when I shall go."