

The Alliance Herald

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FAVORABLE SIGNS

John O. Bayne, who is covering the county for the Herald and writing what he discovers, is performing a real service for the county, as well as for this newspaper. Those who have followed him in his travels have learned a number of things about Box Butte county that had heretofore escaped their attention.

A surprisingly large number of farmers in this county have gone into the purebred game in one form or another. There are a number of thoroughbred cattle herds, several herds of hogs and a large number of pure bred chickens. Again, Box Butte county farmers believe strongly in mixed farming, something that was comparatively unknown a few years ago. The potato acreage is increasing, and this can be said of the acreage of other crops.

The most favorable indication that has been discovered is the large number of recent arrivals. A large proportion of the farmers in Box Butte county interviewed so far have come within the last two or three years. All of them like the country here better than the place from which they came—and many of them came from counties which rank pretty high in an agricultural way. All of them say they have no intention of going back.

And, last, but by no means least, the farmers are all putting in big crops. Times may be hard, and prospects may be such as to frighten those in business, but the farmers are going right ahead, not at all worried by conditions, and are getting ready to harvest a big crop. All records for production should be broken in Box Butte county this year.

A REAL MESSAGE

With so many mediocre speakers from which it might have chosen, the senior class of the high school has shown rare judgment in selecting Congressman Reavis to make its commencement address. Mr. Reavis is not only an orator, in the popular sense of the word, but he has a happy faculty for saying something, and when he makes a speech, usually manages to touch upon an important topic. As a rule, commencement addresses are somewhat like the old style commencement orations.

As a rule, the high school graduate is a trifle tired of learning by precept. For four or five years he has heard little or nothing else. The average commencement address contains a number of splendid rules for attaining huge success in life, which the graduate rarely if ever follows. Congressman Reavis may be expected to follow another track. He has come to be rather a looming figure in congress, and may confidently be expected to bring a real message.

REVISING RAILROAD PAY SCHEDULES.

(Omaha Bee.)

The announced determination of the Railroad Labor board to revise downward the pay of unskilled labor, and to inquire more closely into all wage schedules is what might have been expected. It might well have been preceded, we trust that it will be very shortly followed, by another announcement to the effect that the freight tariffs also will be subjected to a sharp downward revision.

Unskilled labor naturally feels the retrograde as it did last the upward movement in wages. This is because of its position. The man with nothing to sell but the toil of his hands is at a perpetual disadvantage in the struggle of life. He must dispose of his only possession in a market almost always gutted. Only in time of great emergency, such as that of the war, does he find opportunity to bargain to advantage. Just now, with general depression aboard, necessity compels the unskilled laborer to accept a reduced wage, and what is considered fairness makes the general stand the one to be applied to the railroad. How much of a reduction is to be made, will finally decide if justice is being done, or if the workers are to be victimized, as they have been in the past.

Classification of the railroad workers into various groups, in which each will find himself listed under the heading which includes his service to the lines, may be looked upon as preliminary to the general scaling of pay. Inequalities that warrant such complaints as those made by Julius Kruttschnitt may thus be removed. Daniel Willard, dean of the magnates, says that while hours of labor have increased 7½ per cent on the railroads since 1915, wages have increased 151 per cent. Nothing in this statement should be looked upon as astonishing. It would be surprising if it were not so, because at the 1916 scale

RANDOM SHOTS

The president of the united peanut association has denounced the profiteers in most harsh terms. He says that every time a small boy buys a bag of them, he pays at the rate of 25 cents a pound, while the growers get only 5 cents. Along with this crusade to bring down the price of peanuts, someone should start a campaign to eliminate profiteering in pop and pink circus lemonade. These are among the crying evils that remain with us.

The Omaha World-Herald last week achieved the record for wild-eyed reporting, heretofore held by Jimmy Chamberlain, once of the State Journal, who wrote a three-column story about a fire in a livery barn and devoted half a column to the description of an aged Thomas cat leaping for life from the haymow door. The article in question was first discovered by the columnist on the Lincoln Star, who saw therein a few rules of etiquette, and a test for showing when a young lady may safely conclude that a young man is getting "fresh" with her. It follows:

The girl's story to the World-Herald was of sensational character. "I went to the De Luxe dance hall with Mrs. Claude Nelson," she said. "Her husband met her there, and I started home alone. I walked north on Eighteenth and was starting to cross the street at Dodge when a big

black car drew up along side of me.

"I looked at the machine, and was starting ahead when the driver jumped out and lifted me off my feet. He dragged me into the car and started north on Eighteenth street.

"As we shot ahead he stuffed some old gloves into my mouth and pulled a revolver out from the side door. 'I'll kill you if you make a noise,' he told me.

"We turned a lot of corners and soon were on a country road. I felt kind of dizzy and weak and was starting to come to, when he stopped the car. There he choked me and beat me. He had a bottle of whisky and tried to force it down my mouth.

"He then started to get fresh."

One golfer, by a lucky stroke, made a hole in one, and noted there were five people to bear witness to the feat. The next player who approached was told of the marvelous stroke. "Huh," he said, "no wonder you can make a record like that. All five of your witnesses are employes of yours." A man can't get away with anything in this town.

Montana had some freak legislators, too. Out there they passed a law requiring bachelors to pay an annual tax of \$3.00. As Uncle Bill used to say, "It's cheap at half the price."

A Denver woman is asking for a divorce on the ground that when she serves soup for dinner, her husband inhales it and makes so much noise

men could not live, while the average is increased by reason of the fact that some of the poorly paid men received unreasonable advances through freakish classifications under the emergency rating. All this will be straightened out in time. Some groups of railroad workers are grossly underpaid, and some proportionately overpaid. A balance between these must be established.

The greater problem still is open, that of lowering freight rates to a point where products may again be sent to market. While New York can get supplies from Argentine and Chile at a lower cost than from Illinois or Texas, Americans will not look upon existing conditions as warranted or justifiable. Relief on the wage schedule touches the public because the buying power of a considerable group is lessened to that extent; relief on the freight rates must come to offset the result of the loss thus enforced on the purchasers.

GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES

(Lincoln Star.)

The United States congress, which is having considerable trouble finding a way to raise funds to meet the government's expenses, might do well to study British methods and expenditures. The British budget for the coming year is one billion pounds, which on a dollar basis, is but little, if any larger than our own. Great Britain was in the war four years; we were in for nineteen months. The British army was double our own in numbers, and since the armistice she has been obliged to maintain large forces in different parts of the world.

But more than this, British has a surplus of 230,500,000 pounds from last year's budget. The United States surplus is a deficit. Britain's budget report shows that the British foreign debt has been reduced 117,000,000 pounds, of which 75,000,000 pounds were paid on the debt of this country. This extraordinary demonstration of government economy may well serve as a lesson to the United States government, and especially the fact that the British government has a budget system while the United States continues to plod along by the unbusiness-like method of voting appropriations.

It is not surprising that the taxpayers of the nation are protesting against high taxes. The deflation of prices of farm products puts the farmer in a position not infrequently of not being able to pay his high taxes out of his profits, whereas the business man has faced the plight of turning over to the government as taxes such profits as would be expected in normal times to go into his business for further expansion.

THE WOMEN SNORT

(Nebraska City Press)

Women throughout Nebraska have evidently indicated a residence in Missouri after reading the fervent account in the Omaha Bee of recent date to the effect that the wife of our governor, although living in a twenty-one room house and keeping it going without help, is still able to devote a generous share of her time to the woman's club and a few other activities in which she is interested. Women of our acquaintance who have read the story in the Bee have snorted indignantly, if we may use that term to denote their hints of disapproval and disbelief. We are not sufficiently acquainted with the governor's wife to know just how she manages it, but from our own personal observation of housewifery as it is conducted in our immediate vicinity, we would say that to go through a twenty-one room house for purposes of cleaning and arranging constitutes SOME job. Mrs. McKelvie is to be congratulated for having accomplished a task that frequently makes plenty of conversation wherever women are congregated together.

William J. Bryan says it is an unfriendly act for England to allow liquor in the Bahamas so close to the American shore. It's bone-head policy, too, for in case of war we feel sure that the Bahamas would soon be captured.—Houston Post.

"The bread-basket of the world," is North Dakota, according to a North Dakota State-bond ad. Perhaps that is why that state has the political colic.—Chicago Evening Post.

"Big Bill" Haywood prefers Russia to the penitentiary at Leavenworth. There is no accounting for tastes.—Boston Transcript.

It is a sweetly solemn thought that no matter how or when Germany pays you and I will continue to pay the same for gasoline.

The high cost of living continues to decline. Radium has now gone down to \$100,000 per gram.—Nashville Southern Lumberman.

With \$25,000,000 of real money in the treasury, Colombia will be likely to have a revolution.—Greenville (S. C.) Piedmont.

Steps should be taken to present the army engaged in the war on rum from fraternizing with the enemy.—New York World.

Swords may be beaten into plowshares, but a silk shirt can't be converted into a pair of overalls.—Detroit Journal.

It's getting harder and harder to think up some excuse for viewing Japan with alarm.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The bandits that robbed an umpire were probably trying to show him how it felt.—New York World.

Let's hope the wave of price-cutting is one of those "permanent waves."—Brooklyn Eagle.

A damp cellar used to be considered unhealthy.—Greenville (S. C.) Piedmont.

The tighter the money, the soberer the business world.—Asheville (N. C.) Times.

America's foreign relations seem to be all poor relations.—Columbia Record.

that she can hear nothing else. Those who value their domestic happiness should remember that the green onion season is with us now, and watch their step.

Nebraska City Press: A couple of Nebraska City men were walking along Central avenue the other day some distance behind a woman. She dropped something on the walk and as the two men approached one said to the other: "I think that woman dropped her lace handkerchief, but I hesitate about picking it up, for it may be her petticoat." "Never mind about that," said the other man, who is married, "go ahead and pick it up; women do not wear petticoats."

Today's Best Story
"Julia," her father called from the top of the stairs, "did I hear a smack down there just now?" "If you did, father," the young woman replied, "you're a wonder, for I've been hoping to hear one all evening."

Today's Second Best.
Two neighbors were chatting over the fence when Mrs. Bailey passed, smiling, down the street. "Pretty woman, Mrs. Bailey," remarked one. "Who was she?" "I really have forgotten. Here's her little boy, I'll ask him. Frank, who was your mother before she was married?"

Frank regarded his questioner gravely. "She wasn't my mother before she was married," he severely replied.

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