

COOS BAY TIMES

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The policy of the Coos Bay Times will be Republican in politics, with the independence of which President Roosevelt is the leading exponent.

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DESIRE FOR DISTINCTION.

In "Doc Gordon," by Mary E. Wilkins-Freeman, is a quaint illustration of a peculiar phase of human nature. It develops with the visits of the two doctors to their poorer patients:

James drove all the morning with Dr. Gordon about the New Jersey country. The country people were either saturnine with an odd shyness, which had something almost hostile in it, or they were effusively hospitable, forcing apple jack upon the two doctors. James was much struck by the curious unconcern shown by the relatives of the patients and even by the patients themselves. In only one case, that of a child suffering from a bad case of measles, was much interest evinced. The majority of the patients were the very old and middle aged, and they discussed and heard discussed their symptoms with much the same attitude as they might have discussed the mechanism of a wooden door. If any emotion was shown, it was that of a singular inverted pride. "I had a terrible night, doctor," said one old woman, and a smirk of self conceit was over her ancient face. "Yes, mother did have an awful night," said her married daughter, with a triumphant expression. Even the children clustering about the doctor looked unaccountably proud because their old grandmother had had an awful night. The call of the two doctors at the house was positively hilarious. Quantities of old apple jack were forced upon them. The old woman in the adjoining bedroom, although she was evidently suffering, kept calling out a feeble joke in her cackling old voice. "Those people seem positively elated because that old soul is sick," said James when he and the doctor were again in the buggy.

"They are," said Dr. Gordon; "even the old woman herself, who knows well enough that she has not long to live. Did you ever think that the desire of distinction was one of the most, perhaps the most, intense purely spiritual emotion of the human soul? Look at the way these people live here, grubbing away at the soil like ants. The most of them have in their lives just three ways of attracting notice, the momentary consideration of their kind—birth, marriage, sickness and death. With the first they are hardly actively concerned; even with the second may have nothing to do. There are more women than men, as usual, and, although the women want to marry, all the men do not. There remain only sickness and death for a standby, so to speak. If one of them is really sick and dies, the people are aroused to take notice. The sick person and the corpse have a certain state and dignity which they have never attained before. Why, bless you, man, I have one patient, a middle aged woman, who has been laid up for years with rheumatism, and she is fairly vainglorious, and so is her mother. She brags of her invalid daughter. If she had been merely an old maid on her hands, she would have been ashamed of her, and the woman herself would have been sour and discontented. But she has fairly marred rheumatism. It has been to her as a husband and children. I tell you, young man, one has to have his little outstool of elevation among his fellows, even if it is a mighty queer one, or he loses his self respect, and self respect is the best jewel we have."

EUGENE TO BUY WATER PLANT.

otes at Special Election to Acquire Its Own Water System.

EUGENE, Ore., April 21.—In the special city election held here the amendment for the purchase of the Blumette Valley Company's water plant carried, 625 for and 125 against.

The vote for the issuance of \$300,000 bonds for the city water system carried, 567 for and 171 against.

The amendment intending to prevent the extension of the Oddfellows metery was lost by 128 votes.

The voting of these bonds and the city will lose no time in securing an effect a water system as it is possible to get.

CHARMS FOR LUCK.

Let all the dear readers, feminine gender, take cognizance of what follows, for surely the fairer sex is, after all, the stronger sex. Women know no such abject obedience to superstitious fears and signs as do the men. With a view to eliciting something of interest, the writer had a chance to put a certain question to a captain of industry. "Tut, tut," he replied suspiciously, "you'd be getting me into trouble, would you?" With a promise that no names would be mentioned, he finally agreed to tell a thing or two.

The question was, "Aren't men in Wall street carrying all sorts of queer things to try to change their luck?" In answer to this the writer heard some curious stories. One man of world-wide fame, for example, carries a cane in the center of which there is a slender steel rod. Circling the rod there are rings made of leather and of hard rubber, like the washers that plumbers use. Each seventh ring is made of leather from the soles of the shoes worn by the billionaire during what he considered his luckiest year. Elephants and pigs as lucky charms there are of course in plenty, but the proper caper is to wear the animal pined inside on the watch fob pocket. Then there is another great financier who carries with him a gold ink well and would never sign a document with fluid from another receptacle. Once upon a time, when he had, say, only a pecayune million or two, he signed a paper in a deal that doubled, then trebled, his wealth. The ink used that day was emptied into a long gold tube or well that he now carries. The ink was used up, but to the well, so he thinks, the good luck power has been translated. Lucky coins pass from father to son in several of the multimillionaire families, and the man who inherits them would never be without them. We have few secret drawers in desks or doors in houses, as they had in olden times, but there are many secret pockets in the suits made by smart tailors.—Brooklyn Life.

A Lost Apology.

"What a beautiful woman Mrs. Raymond is!" he exclaimed as he entered the sitting room. "I have just had such a pleasant talk with her in the bookstore."

His wife looked up from her sewing. "John," she exclaimed, "where is your collar?"

He put his hand to his throat. "I must have left it at the barber shop. Yes, that's it. I went to the barber shop, then to the bookstore. Why," he ended lamely, "Mrs. Raymond would think it very careless of me to appear in public without my collar, wouldn't she?"

"Rather," said his wife. "Perhaps you'd better call her up and tell her just how it happened."

He went to the telephone. "Hello, central; hello! Hello! Is this Mrs. Raymond? Yes? Well, really, it was very stupid of me, Mrs. Raymond; but, you know, I had been thinking of something very important, and I quite forgot to put on my collar. I—oh—ah—goodbye!"

He suddenly hung up the receiver and gave utterance to a mild exclamation. "John!" exclaimed his wife. "She says she hasn't been out of the house today," he groaned.—Harper's Magazine.

Woman's Wit.

A man found that his wife had bought a few puffs of false hair. This displeased him. So one day he hid in the hall outside of her room, and just as the lady was adjusting the false puffs he darted in upon her.

"Mary," he said reproachfully, "why do you put the hair of another woman upon your head?"

"John," retorted Mary, with a glance at her husband's shoes, "why do you put the skin of another calf upon your feet?"—Everybody's.

Nerve.

A lady sent her cook to buy the Christmas turkey, but when the cook returned she had two chickens.

"Martha," the lady said, "I told you to get turkey, not chicken."

"I know, mum, but I don't like turkey."

A Competent Witness.

A friend of the family had been summoned to testify, much against his will, as to certain domestic disturbances in a Chicago household.

"You saw these blows administered?" asked counsel.

"Yes, sir."

"Did you see the beginning of the quarrel between this man and his wife?"

"I did."

"When was it?"

"Six years ago."

"Six years ago! How is that possible?"

"I was a guest at their wedding," said the witness.—Ladies' Home Journal.

Lincoln's Way.

Lincoln at the commencement of the war was much abused by one of his generals. He was even openly insulted by this man. In his splendid way he put up with that mistreatment unperturbably. But when the thing kept growing more and more flagrant his friends told him he was suffering more than was reasonable or right. But Lincoln only smiled his odd, sad, humorous smile.

"I'll hold his horse for him," he said, "if he will only bring us success."

ROBERT MARSDEN returned today from a business trip to Coquille.

Fruit and Flowers

APPLE CULTURE.

Keeping Quality of Fruit Grown in Sod or Under Tillage.

Here is a question, often asked at fruit growers' meetings, as answered in part by H. W. C. in Rural New Yorker: "Is it true that apples grown in sod have better keeping quality than those grown under tillage?"

No one seems to say yes or no without qualification. My own experience indicates that the cultivated apples are larger, lighter in color and less firm than those grown in sod. My sod fruit will certainly average smaller and considerably higher in color. Our old keeping test is that of putting all together in an ordinary cellar, as we sell most of our fruit early. From this test I feel sure that the sod apples are better keepers. In commercial apple culture this does not make so much difference, as most apples are put at once into cold storage and kept there until sold.

Scientific Experiments.

A large number of scientific experiments have been conducted with varying results. There is a certain definite time beyond which apples should not be in storage. After this period the sod fruit keeps best. The sod fruit matures earlier than the cultivated and if picked at the same time is a little higher colored. This high colored matured fruit of course keeps better than immature fruit, especially with the earlier varieties, like Wealthy, Alexander and Fameuse. These varieties undoubtedly keep better when grown on sod land than fruit from tilled land picked at the same time. Where the latter was allowed to grow longer there is not much difference. In commercial orcharding I think more depends on other things, such as picking and handling. No matter how the apple is grown, bruising and rough handling will hurt the fruit.

OLD PEACH TREES.

Conditions Under Which the Complete Renewal Becomes Advisable.

The peach tree is a rapid grower under ordinary favorable conditions. It bears fruit only on wood of the previous season's growth. But even with careful annual pruning the peach tree will eventually get out of proportion and out of reasonable bounds. It is at this time that a complete renewal becomes advisable. This can be accomplished without the loss of a crop, providing the work be done early in the spring of a season in which the fruit buds have been destroyed by the rig-



TREE AFTER CUTTING BACK.

ors of winter, as is often the case in all sections of Ohio other than those bordering on Lake Erie. Where annual crops are the rule the fortunate orchardist may cut back a few of the branches of each tree each season, thereby keeping an adequate supply of new fruiting wood coming on, low down where pruning and spraying may be easily done and where the crop may be safely supported by the superior strength of the short, sturdy, well knit branches. Thus gradually the trees will become renewed, there will be no material loss in fruit production and the fruit will be of larger size because of the decreased number of specimens to be developed.—F. H. Ballou.

Fruit Wrapping Machine.

A fruit wrapping machine has been put in operation in California. It requires practically no attention and entirely automatically wraps the fruit, says Country Gentleman. The fruit rolls down a slight incline to the operator, turning slowly over as it approaches him and giving him an opportunity to remove defective specimens. The fruit is lifted and placed stem up in rubber cups, which carry it to a mechanism operating much as the human hands. It is carried to the paper being cut and printed from the roll. The twist of the paper is made over the stem end, thus cushioning the stem and preventing puncture injury. If the machine becomes clogged, it is stopped by a clutch operated by electricity. A counting attachment registers the number wrapped. The capacity of the machine is said to equal six good wrappers.

Respraying Ferns.

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