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THE CAPITAL JOURNAL'S PRESS SERVICE.

Some weeks ago Karl H. VonWiegand, the United Press correspondent, scored one of the greatest "scoops" in newspaper annals by interviewing the crown prince of Germany, at his army headquarters, and securing a very readable story. Yesterday he followed it up by an interview with Admiral Von Tirpitz, of the German navy, which was printed in all the United Press papers having the full leased wire service, like the Daily Capital Journal. It was an excellent piece of newspaper enterprise.

The United Press is causing the world to sit up and take notice by the way it is covering the great war through the efforts of a staff of the most brilliant newspaper writers ever employed by a single organization. Not only has Von Wiegand distinguished himself by his work in Germany, but William Philip Sims enjoys the special favor of being the only news writer allowed with the French army at the front, Wm. G. Shepherd has enjoyed special opportunities of observing the operations of the Austrian troops on the Russian front, while Ed L. Keen is sending news reports from London. Henry Wood is stationed at Rome and was responsible for the great scoop when the United Press announced the death of the pope twelve hours ahead of its closest rival. These news-gatherers, along with many able assistants, are making the war news service of their association the most reliable, barring the work of the cable censors, of any that comes from the field of the great conflict, and are gathering laurels for themselves that will not fade in many years in those circles where good newspaper work is known and appreciated.

Only one other paper in Oregon, and that a Portland daily, has the full leased wire service of the association which enables it to print daily the reports of these great war correspondents. The Capital Journal, like all other enterprising newspapers, is spending a large amount of money in order to keep its readers informed of the progress of the great events of a history-making epoch, but the appreciation of its readers fully repays the outlay. Our circulation has forged so rapidly ahead that it can only be taken as evidence that the public knows and commends newspaper enterprise of the right sort.

FIRE-PROOF DWELLINGS.

Natural curiosity as to the cost of building a house in such a way that a dinner party in one of its rooms need not be disturbed by a brisk fire burning in another is met with definite information by Henry Herts, the architect of Ex-Fire Chief Croker's new house in New York.

Croker's up-to-date dwelling, according to Herts, besides being absolutely fire-proof, has other superiorities. It is also proof against rats and bugs; no dampness affects it except that which comes through the windows; it is warmer in winter and cooler in summer than any other kind of house; and it is kept clean with much less work.

Its cost was 40 cents a cubic foot, which is declared to be not materially greater than that of ordinary brick stucco houses ranking with it in decorations, equipment and conveniences.

As compared with houses otherwise similar, but built of wood in the common way, this one cost about 40 per cent more. The advance over the usual brick-and-frame house was about 20 per cent, while the house of stucco or tile as built in general practice costs within 15 per cent as much.

Considering that Mr. Croker's house needs no insurance and that its owner, besides incurring no danger to life in it, will never suffer the loss and trouble which fire causes, this increase of cost does not seem a bad investment.

General adoption of like or similar construction would work a wonderful decrease in this country's annual losses by fire, the total of which is now colossal and disgraceful.

The term "convict" is to be abandoned in the Connecticut prison and "prisoner" or "inmate" used instead. While this may seem like a trivial affair it is really commendable. Dispensing with the striped suits undoubtedly was for the best and the term convict is of the same piece as the stripes.

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SAVINGS DEPARTMENT

Charles Becker, the New York police captain twice convicted of the murder of Herman Rosenthal, is making an effort to secure another trial, although the four gunmen convicted with him were electrocuted so long ago they have been forgotten. The attorneys preparing the evidence and application for a new trial have just completed their work. It makes a book of 2,400 closely printed pages. With a few documents like that for the supreme court to peruse it is quite possible Becker may die of old age before the question is decided.

The University of Wisconsin professors were so annoyed by the students at lectures sneezing, coughing and blowing their noses, that the order was issued that they must "muffle their exhausts." Just how this was to be done the faculty did not say, but passed that part of it up to the students. How to sneeze in a whisper, cough with the soft pedal on and blow their noses as flowers blow instead of trumpets is the problem facing the plebs.

Thaw is to be returned again to his old home in the insane asylum of New York. He has made many a lawyer happy and reasonably well off since he killed White, and it is probable he will keep up the good work as long as his money or that of his family lasts. Lawyer Jerome says he will put him in the asylum, but he does not intimate that he will keep him there.

It is no use trying to mollify the Oregonian editors. They are "set in their ways" and will never be satisfied until they are allowed to go down and lick Mexico. Notwithstanding our kindly feeling toward and friendly interest in all of them, we sometimes feel that it is useless longer to hold them back, though it seems cruel to give Mexico over to utter devastation.

According to Admiral Sturdee, the British sailors and marines on his fleet when the German vessels were sighted, were ordered down to eat a good breakfast before beginning the fight. This shows which job they considered the more important.

Portland, in spite of wheat at the \$1.29 mark, is again suffering from hunger and poverty, is overrun with unemployed and its mills are idle. Too bad, but it is probable most of the trouble exists in the mind of the great Portland pessimist.

There were several presidential booms started in this month and perhaps Hobson is trying to warm one into life with prohibition as the incubator. The weather generally throughout the country is not just now favorable to booms, presidential or other.

Jupiter seems to have designs on our little one moon, though he has four of his own, not counting four other little ones. As the moon is, according to the poets, "a fickle jade," it is not probable anything serious will come of the flirtation.

Now comes the gladsome tidings that radium is to be reduced to one-third of its present price. As it now costs \$120,000 a gram, and it will take \$40,000 to purchase that quantity when prices are cut, most of us will have to worry along as short of radium as before.

For genuine modesty and ability to size himself up, Villa is far ahead of all Mexican competitors—if he has any. He says he is not qualified for the position of president of his country. Wonder if there are any like him in Mexico—or this country?

The record of burglars and robbers who have been caught or killed recently indicates either that criminals are getting abundant or that they are playing in extra hard luck just now.

Winter began, according to the almanac makers, at about 10:30 yesterday morning, but as a matter of fact the real thing beat the almanac fellows to it by a fortnight.

THE ROUND-UP

ETAOINIO
When 12-year-old Eddie Perkins broke through the ice while playing hockey at Baker City Monday, his young companions formed a human chain and dragged him to safety.

One Carlson, a homesteader, has been missing from his cabin on the headwaters of Hamilton creek 19 miles northwest of Lebanon for two weeks. His gun is gone, and it is believed he is dead, the victim of a hunting accident.

By the will of John Gobies, who died at Marshfield recently, Portland and nearby Catholic institutions gain about \$20,000.

Jackson county reports 184 marriages in 1914 up to December 1. During the same time there were 34 divorces.

La Grande is having a water famine owing to the cold, which shuts off the supply.

The government thermometer at Eugene Sunday night registered 7 above zero—the coldest in 10 years.

At Los Angeles—because of a technical disagreement among the school board members, the salaries of 2800 teachers were held up until after the holidays.

What's the Use

Man toils at his appointed task till hair is gray and teeth are loose, and pauses now and then to ask, in tones despondent, "What's the use?" We have distempers of the mind when we are tired and sorely tried; we'd like to quit the beastly grind, and let the tail go with the hide. The money goes for shoes and pie, for hats and pork and dairy juice; to get ahead we strive and try, and still are broke, so what's the use? Then, gazing round us, we behold the down-and-outers in the street; they shiver in the biting cold, they trudge along on weary feet. They have no home, they have no bed, no shelter south the wintry sky; they'll have no peace till they are dead, and planted where the paupers lie. No comfort theirs till in the cell that has a clammy carbon lid; yet some of them deserves as well as Fortune as we ever did. And, having seen the hungry throng, if we're good sports we cease to sigh; we go to work with cheery song, and make the fur and feathers fly.




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LITTLE BOBBIE'S PA

By William F. Kirk.

I have just that of a grand idea for a new song, and I'll be Ma last night. If you and little Bobbie will pardon me for a minute or so, I will dash off the chorus of it before dinner.

I think you better give me the idea of it first, and Ma. Then I can tell you whether or not it is worth while to keep our dinner waiting.

The idea is good, and Pa, it is about Twilite Babies. I think that the song, when it is completed, will have the whole world setting up & taking notice. That is how hopeful I feel, and Pa, & you can have half of the ten thousand which I am going to make out of the ballad.

Well, and Ma, go ahead & rite yure song. We will wait dinner for you, because I have always understood, and Ma, that geenyuns and work better on a empty stomach, I suppose because most geenyuns had to work that way or not at all.

So Pa went into the library & he was gone quite a while.

I wait my dinner, I said to Ma.

Be pushout, Bobbie, and Ma, it is barely possible that this time our dear father may have a idea that is worth some munny. Let him finish it, & just then Pa came out of the library.

I that I herd ma glasses clink-ing in the library, and Ma.

You did, dearest, and Pa, I was clink-ing two empty glasses together to get the rhythm for my song. I hernd that trick in a quiet old bar out in Milwaukee, Pa. Now listen to this lullaby. I don't say it to brag, and Pa, but I think it is a pippin. Listen:

& this is what Pa sang to Ma & me:

In a orchard sad & lonely
Sat one couple & one only,
Beck was lying to the other wen they spoke.

"I adore you," said the fellow
"For I have yure hair so yellow
& the minute you refuse me I shall
"crack!"

For a moment all was silent
Though three hearts was beating silent
Then a robin sang to pass the time away,
And the maiden said: "Yes, maybe,
But I want a twilite baby."

& the man got mad & loudly he did say:

Chorus:
"There will be no twilite babies in our flat,
You can bet yure last simoleon on that,
Twilite twins and be a curse,
Twilite triplets wud be worse—
There will be no twilite babies in our flat!"

"I think the music is very inferior," said Ma. "You can't expect a song to sell without catchy music."
Oh, and Pa, as far as that is concerned, I can easy change the music.
But I think the words are very inferior, too, and Ma. You know, dear, the words amount to as much as the music.
Then Pa took his Twilite Baby song & thar it up & threw it in the grate fire.

MORPHINE REFUSED TO KILL THE THIEF

Portland, Ore., Dec. 23—Joseph Wagner, arrested here charged with robbing the safe of the Vienna factory at Sacramento, and who, following a confession, took morphine with suicidal intent, will recover, the city physician announced today.

The \$1,343.00 in cash and jewelry valued at \$200 found on Wagner when he was arrested is being held by the police.

A Sacramento officer is expected soon to return Wagner to California.

EVERYBODY INTERESTED

Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 23.—The decision of the United States circuit court in the case involving the constitutionality of Arizona's new prohibition law eagerly awaited here today. The arguments were closed and the case taken over late yesterday by Federal Judges Ross, Wellborn and Sawtelle. Judge Ross intimated that a decision might be read today or tomorrow, but he refused to fix a definite date.

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SENTIMENT AGAINST GERMANY IN TURKEY

London, Dec. 23.—Talat Bey, one of the leading men among the sultan's advisers, was reported here today as being at the head of a revolutionary movement against the pro-German element at Constantinople. It was said the conspiracy was so formidable that the pro-Germans, who control the machinery of government, were so much alarmed that they had hastily recalled troops from the Bulgarian frontier to resist the threatened outbreak.

The anti-German plotters were understood to have come practically out into the open since the departure, presumably to direct the Russian campaign, of War Minister Enver Pasha, the head of the pro-German faction and undoubtedly the strongest man in Turkey.

It might help some to levy a war tax on the aspirants for office.



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