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NEW YEAR'S DAY.

There is no particular reason why New Year's day comes when it does, except the desire of Julius Caesar and Pope Gregory XIII. to adjust accumulated errors with the least inconvenience to the public.

To only a minor fraction of the population of the world is today New Year's day. In only Catholic and Protestant countries does the new year begin today.

In Russia New Year's day will not come for almost a fortnight, and the Chinese, the Mahometans and the Hebrews everywhere, like the Greek church, have a New Year's day of their own.

There are two ways of keeping time, one by the sun and the other by the moon. It is a question which of these was the earlier. The ancient Greeks kept time by the moon, and the early Egyptians by the planets. The early Roman year was lunar. The Hebrew year, which is one of the oldest, is also lunar.

The great variation in methods of keeping time comes from the failure of the earth to revolve on its own axis, the moon to revolve around the earth, and the earth to revolve around the sun, so that each revolution shall be an exact multiple of every other revolution. If these revolutions annually coincided, the earth, moon and sun would be in exactly the same relative position to each other at some fixed time, which is not the fact.

The exact length of the solar year is 365 days, five hours, 48 minutes and 46 seconds, which is the interval of time between the vernal equinoxes. The lunar year is the length of time required to complete 12 or 13 lunar months, which, as worked out in the Hebrew calendar, varies from 353 to 385 days.

It would seem that the vernal equinox is the natural time to start the new year. The awakening of the earth comes in the spring; the crops start then; the blossoming and the thrill of new life then begin, not only in the fields and woods but in man himself.

But it matters little when the new year comes in, if only it finds us individually ready to try for a new and cleaner record. We inventory our business at this time; and might it not be more to the real purposes of life to inventory our habits and qualities of character as well?

Our most precious assets are within ourselves, and a lot of our heaviest liabilities are within, too.

The Russian press is "appalled at the enormous loss of life among the Germans." The German press is "appalled at the terrible loss of life among the allies." The French press is also "appalled at the useless sacrifices made by the Germans and Austrians." The Austrian press is "appalled at the useless sacrifice of human life in Serbia." And so it goes through the whole list and yet with all this job lot of appalling, the continuing of the assassinations does not seem to "pull" on any of them. They one and all continue to add to the appalling death list.

On top of the protest sent Great Britain, comes stories of the Japanese holding up our ships just as England has done. If these stories are true, it is probable she has taken this course at the request of England, which makes it that much more necessary that Uncle Sam stand pat and settle the question of American ships' right to sail the seas unmolested by Japanese, English or any other war vessels.

Since the United States has sent her protest to England against unwarranted interference with her commerce, England has taken every opportunity to assert she is "mistress of the seas." This is cheerfully admitted, but the old girl wants to remember that that is all she is, as she was never married to them. She has no dower rights and can make no claim to the estate.

Name it and take it, "does not apply to the Russian and other towns in the eastern war zone. To an average American it seems it would be easier to take one of these towns than to name it.

An Illinois convict is said to have developed unusual talent as a short-story writer. This is remarkable, as naturally one in prison would, if he had talent, develop it along the musical lines from his close association with the bars.

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An exchange sarcastically remarks that "the most astonishing thing to a man is a woman's facility for forgetting what he told her before breakfast, and at the same time remembering all the fool things he told her before marriage." Probably the man seems equally astonishing to the woman as she realizes that he forgot a week after marriage all the nice things he promised before the event. Honors are about equal in this case.

France having got the fighting down to a yardage basis, refuses to count any day's gains of less than two feet twelve inches. Considering their brilliant bayonet charges are made with the pick and spade, and underground at that, a yard a day is really good work under the existing conditions. The army is working steadily, which accounts for the steady gains, and the work is being rushed with three shifts a day.

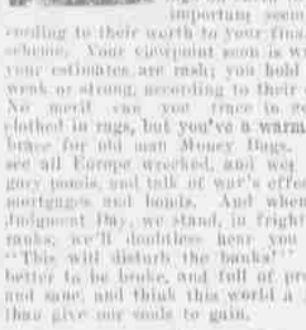
Now someone claims the changing of styles in feminine wear is one of the causes of unemployment. How can this be when it keeps so many busy making new, or making over garments? However, there is no chance for making over the present style of skirts unless they are made into umbrella covers or given to Johnny to keep his fishing rod in.

Among other New Year's resolution it might be well for some overly anxious ones to stop worrying about the origin of the name Oregon. It does not matter much whence it came for it now has a meaning that is unmistakable, and that is, it at once suggests the best and richest state in the union in natural resources.

If England can muzzle her poet laureate, there may be no trouble in arriving at some satisfactory solution of the matter of holding up American ships, but Dr. Bridges' verses constitute a separate and distinct but sufficient cause for war.

Burden of Wealth

I never yet have seen a Croesus who was gay; too much of old long green dimes happiness away. The coin is goodly stuff if it is not vulgar dress, and when you've not enough you feel a total loss. But when you have a pile as big as Johnson's barn, you find you cannot smile or chuckle worth a darn. By day it fills your mind, you dream about your yard, and you are not designed to make long green his god. All happinesses on earth to your important seem according to their worth to your financial scheme. Your equipment soon is wrong, your estimates are rash; you hold more weak or strong, according to their cash. No more can you trace to genius clothed in rags, but you've a warm embrace for old man Money Bags. You see all Europe wrecked, and we with gory ponds, and talk of war's effect on mortgages and loans. And when on Judgment Day, we stand, in frightful ranks, we'll doubtless hear you say, "This will disturb the banks!" Ah, better to be broke, and full of prunes, not sane, and think this world a joke, than give our souls to gain.



A GOOD INDIAN.

Thomas Wash, Jan. 1.—Said to have been 115 years old. "Blind Bill" Marshall, Spanish Indian who had a large part in shaping the history of the Pacific northwest is dead here today. He was known far and wide as the red skin who loved the white people and was credited with saving many lives in the Indian war of the '50's when Indians from all parts of the Pugetallap valley will attend the funeral which will be held here tomorrow.

Many of the warring nations are to participate in the San Francisco exposition, but it is not reported whether their various exhibits will be fortified.

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THE ROUND-UP

W. A. Grandahl, who for 23 years was chief engineer for the Southern Pacific lines in Oregon, died Monday night at the Emanuel hospital in Portland.

Coal and foodstuffs contributed for the Belgians, and now in the hands of the Oregon committee, is of the value of \$20,000. It is hoped to make the grand total \$150,000 by the middle of January.

Maximilian Daley, aged 77, died in Portland Sunday morning. He crossed the plains to Oregon in 1853, and for 51 years resided near Monmouth. He is survived by five children.

Corvallis had six cases of scarlet fever, but by prompt action prevented an epidemic. Schools were closed and no more Sunday schools to all children under 15.

The dog ordinance in Portland having been repealed, the doggies will not have to wear muzzles after Saturday, January 2, 1915.

Madford and the Rogue River valley are making a whirlwind campaign to get a sugar factory located at some point in the valley. To secure it requires among other things a guaranty that 5,000 acres of sugar beets will be grown. Salt Lake capitalists are behind the scheme.

Naval Recruiting Officer K. W. Wheeler, with headquarters at Eugene, has dubbed Silverton the "Naval City." Twelve young Silvertonians have recently enlisted in the navy.

On the 34th ballot, Colver was declared the county seat of the new county of Jefferson, until the voters select one for themselves at the election in 1916.

Mrs. Gouley Wills, who lives three miles southwest of Albany, lost a gold stickpin 26 years ago. While passing through a gate a few days ago, she stumbled and fell and her hand struck the pin, which was buried in the loose dirt a quarter of a century ago.

Portland merchants are sending stuff to be shipped to Lake county to Oregon City, where it is shipped by parcel post, which is cheaper than freight or express. Oregon City is one "zone" nearer, making the haul from Portland profitable.

Baker reports the second snowfall of the winter as beginning Tuesday night. There were five inches of "the beautiful by night with the fall continuing. This makes the winter wheat safe.

At Hillsboro Monday William Haskell was found guilty of assault on Miss Annie Freeman. His offense was cutting off one of her curls as he sat behind her in a Forest Grove moving picture show.

The Baptist church of Enterprise, which was burned recently, is to be rebuilt at once. Carpenters and many others will donate their services.

The city well at Burns has been drilled to artesian water, which rises within six feet of the surface and yields a supply the fire engine pump cannot lower. It is the hope that further drilling will produce a flowing well.

The La Grande Observer hastens to correct the impression that Hot Lake has been frozen over. Ice formed on an overflow pond. The water in the lake proper, the Observer says, never varies as much as a degree, and is the hottest in the world, besides.

THE MANICURE LADY

By William F. Kirk.

"Ain't it funny George?" asked the Manicure Lady. "that I don't fall desperate in love with somebody? Maxine has been engaged three times. Wilfred, the poor boob, is always falling head over heels into love, and here I go along, calm and peaceful, like one of them little brooklets the poets tell about, and don't pay no particular attention to any guy I meet."

"You forget about that playwright you was engaged to," the Head Barber reminded her.

"Oh, but I wasn't desperate in love with him," declared the Manicure Lady. "I had that kind of a attachment for him that any good, loving girl has for a gent with a bright future and a good balance in the bank. You know, George, it ain't always a sign of being in love desperate, this being engaged to a gent. I have know quite a lot of girls in my time that got engaged to men and married them and was good wives without being what you would call madly in love. I suppose they figured that the world was dull and dreary without no dough, and that a good provider was better than a ragged Romeo."

"I think that's the way most of these figures nowadays," said the Head Barber. "Now when I got married I didn't have anything ahead except enough to get the ring and pay the preacher, so we didn't have no honeymoon, but we had a home picked out and fixed up, and I had my job, so my wife didn't expect no honeymoon. She said she would a lot rather have the money for dresses later on. But times has changed, kid, times has changed."

"I know they have, George," said the Manicure Lady. "and maybe that is why I am so shy about falling desperate in love. My poor brother Wilfred has on a awful case of love at first sight. This time it ain't no widow old enough to be his mother, it is a girl of twenty years and no brain that none of us can see. She is kind of pretty and small, like one of them dainty little southerners that is walking the principal stages of our land when they can get a job, but as far as her having any sense, I can't see it with a spyglass."

"Wilfred says such ridiculous things about her talent and beauty that I ain't got the heart to cross him, but I ain't ever loved kind of illud, George. He says she is so deep that most people can't understand her, but I can't see it with a spyglass. I talked to her for two hours the other night, and she didn't say hardly a word the whole time."

"Probably she didn't get a chance," suggested the Head Barber.

"She got chance enough," replied

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the Manicure Lady tartly. "But she George?"

answered to me a good deal like an owl, which has been called the wisest bird in the world. Now what I have always figured about an owl was that it didn't talk because it couldn't, and that if it could it wouldn't know what to talk about. Now with you and me now. Talk to him for a change."

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A Happy New Year

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