

THE ST. HELENS MIST

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COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

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AMERICA WANTS PEACE.

In the last issue of The Mist was published the opinions of thirty-two representative men of the community relative to the proposition of Secretary of State Hughes as to a limitation of armament, were in line with the proposition of Mr. Hughes, who spoke for the American government.

In calling the conference America took a step ahead of any other nation and in the short but to the point proposition that Mr. Hughes submitted he laid down a principle and advocated a policy, the justness of which could not be doubted nor the sincerity of this government questioned.

It may be weeks or months before the conference is ended but when it is ended we are optimistic enough to believe that American diplomacy and America's policy of a fair deal and to make such a deal without waste of time, will ultimately lead the conference to a just disposition of the problems before them.

THE 1925 FAIR.

That Portland people want the 1925 fair and are willing to tax themselves for it is indicated by the large majority given the proposition at a special election in Portland, Saturday. The vote was about four to one in favor of taxing themselves \$2,000,000 to assist in financing the fair.

The endorsement given the proposition by those who will bear the heaviest part of the tax burden will have a far-reaching influence throughout the state and The Mist predicts that the state will follow Portland's example and endorse the fair.

GERMANY SAYS SHE CANNOT PAY.

Coincident with the decline in the value of the German mark to the edge of the vanishing point comes the announcement from Berlin to the Allies that Germany cannot pay the installment of reparations due January 15, 1922, and amounting to 500,000,000 gold marks.

WAR DECLARED ON MAIL TRAIN BANDITS.

Postmaster General Hays declares a purpose to protect the United States mails "to the last postal card, regardless of cost and sacrifice."

In the 12 months ended last April, according to Mr. Hays, a total of \$6,300,000 was stolen from the mails. But in the six months following the announcement that postal employees would be armed, the total fell to \$318,000.

Mr. Hays is right. The criminal element respects only a vigorous enforcement of the law. If there were lax enforcement all along the line, groups of bandits like the dozen men who held up an Illinois train the other day and fought a pitched battle with the courageous employees would spring up in all parts of the United States.

So accustomed have we grown to taking our law and order as we take our water supply—as an unfailing matter of course—that we may overlook the fact that potential crime, unless curbed by a vigorous enforcement of the law, would soon wreck civilization.

Every month we read of some child responsible for shooting a playmate or being killed or injured with weapons.

How often we see children playing with toy guns and pointing them at other children saying, "I'll shoot you," in play.

What else can be expected than accidents if we give children toy guns, pistols, or swords to play with as soon as they can walk?

Are not parents who do this carelessly guilty of an offense against their own child and making it a menace to others?

Persons of either sex can learn to use a gun when they arrive at an age at which they will use mature judgment with it.

They can be taught to use a gun in its proper place and in that place only, and we should stop the manufacture of toy weapons.

For this holiday season, in the Christian spirit that is demanding world disarmament, let us begin to disarm our children.

The destruction of bird life is going on fast enough without teaching little ones to pull a trigger with our Christmas trees.—Exchange.

VEHICLES NEED LIGHTS

A great deal has been said, and a great deal has been done, about the regulation of motor vehicles upon the public highways.

A great deal has been said, and little has been done, about the regulation of other vehicles when traveling upon the public highways.

The law requires all vehicles to carry lights after dark. The number of vehicles outside of motor vehicles which do is infinitesimal, but the law should be enforced—not so much for the convenience of rapidly moving motor vehicles as for the safety of the slower moving vehicles.

That more horse drawn vehicles are not demolished by collisions with motor vehicles is a miracle. Did drivers of other vehicles know the many narrow escapes they have from being struck and being sued for damages to the vehicles which strike them, it is likely that more of them would carry lights without waiting for police officials to act.

Only those who have driven motor vehicles upon the highways know the chances the unlighted vehicle takes.—Cottage Grove Sentinel.

The statements of the Sentinel are irrefutable. Without going into details, it can be truthfully said that the conditions said to exist in Cottage Grove, exist in St. Helens.

A HIRSUTE ARGUMENT.

President Harding is said to be a sponsor for this story: An Irishman and a Jew were discussing the relative merits of the great men their respective races had produced and, naturally, got into a heated argument.

"I tell ye, Isaac—for ivery great Jew ye can name ye can pull out wan av me whiskers, and fer ivery great son of Erin I'll pull out wan av yours. Are you on?"

Isaac agreed. Pat reached over, got hold of a whisker, and said "Robert Emmett," and pulled "Moses," said Isaac, and pulled one of Pat's. "Dan O'Connell," said Pat, and took another. "Abraham," Isaac retaliated, with a vicious yank. "Patrick Henry; rest his soul!" cried Pat. "The twelve apostles!" yelled Isaac, pulling a whole handful of whiskers from Pat's chin.

Pat let out a yell of rage and pain. He seized the Jew's full beard with both hands and roared, "The Ancient Order of Hibernians!"

Even though there was no foundation for the rumor that the Episcopal Guild wanted to oust the library from their present quarters (the property of the Episcopal church) it did some good, for the people began to realize the importance of the library and expressed their desire for its continuance. It was an isolated case where a false rumor did some good.

It is a good idea that the St. Helens Chamber of Commerce has relative to getting out a booklet giving authentic information as to Columbia county. Such a booklet, conveying as it will, reliable information is bound to help in the further development of the county.

TOO MUCH IDLE TIMBER LAND

"The United States produces more than half of the entire lumber cut of the world and uses 95 per cent of that amount right here at home," said Col. W. B. Greeley, Chief of the Forest Service, who passed through Portland recently from the forest fire conference at Mather Field, California.

"The exhaustion of our timber supply is coming about, not because we have used our forest freely, but because we have failed to use our timber-growing land. The problem in a nutshell is the enormous area of forest land which has been so logged and burned that it is producing little or nothing. We have more than 80,000,000 acres, an area greater than all the forests of France, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, Spain and Portugal, which have been denuded to the point of absolute idleness so far as the production of any timber of commercial value is concerned.

"We have other enormous areas of cut-over land now growing but a fraction of the amount of timber which they might produce. And we are adding to these areas of idle or largely idle land from 10,000,000 to 15,000,000 acres every year, as destructive logging and still more destructive burning progress. In western Oregon and Washington alone it is estimated that there are 1,500,000 acres of denuded land which but for fire would be producing timber.

"This situation," the Forester points out, "can not long continue without grave consequences. If we are to remain a nation of wood users we must become a nation of wood growers. By some means or other we must see to it that forest lands not

needed for agriculture are not allowed to lie idle, but are kept at work growing timber.

"In 1920 Washington led all other states in lumber cut with Oregon second, these two states producing over eight and a half billion feet board measure. If the Pacific Northwest is to maintain its lead in lumber production it must keep out fire and put its idle forest lands to work growing timber.

"Where Americans need more forests, states Col. Greeley, "is very largely on these 80,000,000 denuded acres which could be made productive with proper attention and protection against fire."

"Our manufacturing centers are drawing at an enormous rate upon our timber supply—from two to four times as fast per capita as the country at large.

"Our railroads require 125,000,000 wooden cross-ties annually to maintain their roadbeds in fit condition and take care of new construction.

"Our average American uses 125 pounds of paper a year—made largely from wood—and the growing circulation of our newspapers and magazines is increasing that very generous per capita allowance.

"Our average well-kept farm, using the Upper Mississippi Valley as an instance, require 2,000 board feet of lumber annually for repairs and improvements.

"The fruit shipments from the Wenatchee, Yakima and Hood River Valley alone, for marketing, take 25,000,000 boxes of 2 board feet each, every year."

A man is rich in proportion to the number of things which he can afford to let alone.—Thoreau

NOTICE OF FINAL ACCOUNT.

In the County Court of the State of Oregon, for Columbia County.

In the Matter of the Estate of John Anderson, Deceased.

NOTICE is hereby given that the undersigned as administrator of the estate of John Anderson, deceased, has filed his final account in the County Court of the State of Oregon, for Columbia County, and that Saturday, the 24th day of December, A. D. 1921, at the hour of 11 o'clock in the forenoon of said day and the

court room of said court have been appointed by said court as the time and place for the hearing of objections thereto and the settlement thereof.

Dated and first published, November 25, 1921.

T. S. WHITE, Administrator J. W. DAY, Attorney

A Necessary Luxury.

The town newspaper is both a luxury and one of the family necessities.

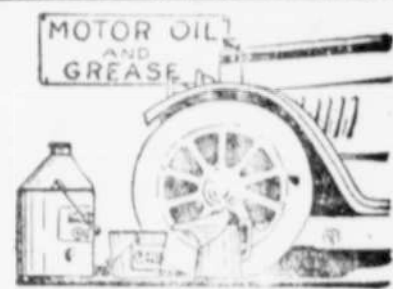
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