

THE ST. HELENS MIST

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COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

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FIRE PREVENTION.

The forest service of the government did a timely thing by conducting at this early stage of the game its yearly campaign to educate the public about fire prevention in the woods.

Should a fire break out in a Columbia county forest, the loss does not fall only on an individual or a corporation, but upon all of our people, because the forests of this county are a considerable portion of its taxable wealth.

WAR ON ILLITERACY.

At a conference of educators in Chicago last week it was decided that every effort should be put forth to wipe out illiteracy in the United States by 1930.

"It is easy to be deluded about the comparative ease of stamping out illiteracy because of the deceptive nature of census figures on the question," says the Kansas City Star.

It will not do to rely upon the showing from that source that there are fewer than 5,000,000 persons more than 10 years of age in the United States who cannot read and write.

This is proven by the fact that the actual test of men drafted for service in the world war disclosed that approximately 25 per cent were unable to read a newspaper nor write a letter home.

The Kansas City paper says that "the probabilities are that the number of real illiterates in the United States is nearer 20,000,000 than 5,000,000."

Near illiteracy is a problem almost as serious as illiteracy. Both must be solved before the country can advance in democracy.

SAYS BRITAIN MUST PAY THE UNITED STATES.

Great Britain's war borrowings from the United States totaled the stupendous sum of \$4,277,000,000, and unpaid interest increases the debt to approximately \$5,000,000,000.

It is amazing that so quixotic a proposition has been seriously proposed and supported by a number of American citizens. The frank, manly, high national spirit voiced by the London Spectator should put an end to this agitation.

It is not alone the \$5,000,000,000 which Great Britain owes us that is involved in this question. If we canceled the British debt we should have to cancel all the allied war debts—a stupendous total of about \$11,000,000,000, including unpaid interest.

PERSISTENT ECONOMIC FOLLY.

There is no more persistent economic falacy than this: The issue of paper money, backed only by the credit of the government is in time of depression a stimulant to industry, an expansion of prosperity, and a safe and proper exercise of governmental power in behalf of the paper.

France tried it in its revolution and paid the penalty. Bryan tried it in 1896 and he had the west with him.

Germany, Austria and Russia are trying it now and see what has happened to them!

America and England clung to the recognized principles of sound finance throughout the war and thereafter, and their financial stability today is in large part due to the sensible restraint.

When Henry Ford talks as Peter Cooper talked years ago about a currency based upon nothing at all which will make us all happier because it will put more money in our pockets, as the printing presses of Europe have put millions of rubles in the pockets of Russian peasants, and the printing presses of Germany have made the paper mark worth less than a cigarette coupon, Mr. Ford simply doesn't know.

Mr. Ford says that history is bunk. There are thousands more who, while not so candid as he, are equally ignorant of the teachings of history. We learn as nations, as we learn personally, from experience and experience with unlimited issues of paper has been too disastrous to be disregarded.

WHAT'S A FLAPPER?

Since the "flapper" has become of general interest, let us consider flappers. And since, as Socrates taught, the first requisite of philosophical discussion is to define terms, let us consider definitions. What, then, is a flapper? A newspaper questionnaire has brought forth these suggestions:

"Flapper is the modern term for a pretty young girl."

"A flapper is a cute, frivolous girl in the latest clothes."

"A flapper is a frivolous young person whose galoshes flap as she walks."

"I should think the term would be applied not to our attractive young girls, but to the old ones who are trying to look young."

"A flapper is a cute young thing with short skirts, bobbed hair and sport oxfords."

"A flapper is a girl making herself as attractive and cute-looking as possible so she can catch a beau."

And so on and on, without really getting anywhere.

Socrates may have been justified in his frenzied quest for definitions, because in his day there were no dictionaries. A lexicon is always a short-cut to knowledge. Looking for the word up in the Century, we find this explicit and succinct statement: "Flapper—a young bird when first trying its wings; especially a wild duck when it cannot fly."

What more could anyone ask? And don't despair of the poor little flapper. Her feathers grow and her wings strengthen, and the poor little duck does learn to fly after all, you know; and eventually we find her a staid mother, worrying about a new generation of flappers.—Astoria Budget.

ON GETTING MARRIED.

A pastor in one of the cities of the country who is being sued by his wife for divorce is quoted as making the statement to his congregation that "it takes a man of nerve and a woman who is brave to face the marriage ceremony today."

If this is true, why the "today?" What difference is there in the marriage ceremony of today from that of yesterday?

It takes more than "nerve" and "bravery" to enter into the marriage ceremony. It takes judgment and it takes honesty and sincerity. It requires the square deal between the

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two parties to the marriage contract. It means consideration for the other party.

No man or woman should enter into the marriage ceremony who does not know how to compromise on the non-essentials. Any man or woman who marries with the expectation of having it all his or her own way is headed straight for the divorce court.

And this great fact might be taken under consideration by the minister in question as well as by all others. When a marriage ends in failure it is not wedlock that is at fault but the parties who enter into it.

FORESTS OF THE FUTURE

Fifty years ago New York produced more lumber from its forests than any other state. Now it produces less than one-tenth of the supply of the country.

This is partly due, of course, to the nation's increased use of lumber, but the great reason is the wanton destruction of the forests without replacing them.

States that are planting trees on a big scale are preparing much wealth for their future residents.

The more any state conserves its natural resources, and develops its power, the more attractive it will be in the next generation, and the greater the prosperity of its inhabitants.

OUR RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA.

The number of famine deaths in Russia to date is estimated at more than 250,000 by Semashko, the soviet commissioner of health. Food, rushed by the American relief expeditions, has saved the lives probably of millions.

The Russians who have been saved from death's clutches by American food are bound to have a kindly feeling toward us that will be perpetuated through their descendants.

And in the long run that feeling will be more important for international brotherhood than the official relations between the Russian and American governments.

Elbert Bede, editor of the Cottage Grove Sentinel, is candidate for representative from the 3rd district, Lane county. Bede's platform is short and to the point: "Says what he thinks, does what he says," and those who know Bede will accept his statement without argument. The excellent chance of being elected. He will be a fearless and sensible legislator.

An exchange says that Senator Borah probably wouldn't vote for a treaty that he wrote himself.

Let us labor for the security of free thought, free speech, free press, pure morals, unfettered religious sentiments, and equal rights and privileges for all men, irrespective of nationality, color, or religion; encourage free schools, resolve that not a dollar appropriated to them shall go to the support of any sectarian school; resolve that neither state nor nation shall support any institution save those where every child may get a common school education, unmixt with any atheistic, pagan, or sectarian teaching; leave the matter of religious teaching to the family altar, the church, and the private school, supported entirely by private contribution. Keep church and state forever apart.—U. S. Grant.

The brief statement of Mrs. Excel Welch of Rainier, "I have three children and my household duties to attend to and cannot spare the time to serve on the jury," makes all of us realize that the home is the place where real jury duty begins and refreshes us with the thought that the responsibilities of motherhood and the part mother and home play in the making of good citizens is not altogether forgotten.

If a woman is drawn for jury duty she has the privilege of serving or declining to serve, just as is most convenient to her. But in the man's case it is different, he has to serve whether it is convenient or not, unless excused from jury duty by the circuit judge. About time for the men to begin a campaign for equal rights.

Jack Dempsey finally got to France, but several years after the armistice was signed.

MRS. CROUSE THANKS THE MIST AND JUDGES

Mrs. E. A. Crouse, who won first prize in the "P" puzzle contest, writes the Mist as follows:

To the Editor of The Mist and to the Judges of the Puzzle Contest: I wish to express my thanks for the prize awarded me. It was quite a surprise and pleasure to receive it. I think the dictionary and I became quite well acquainted as far as the letter "P" is concerned. Sincerely, MRS. E. A. CROUSE.

Miss Velma Felton called at the Mist office and received her \$5 prize as did Mrs. Mude Griffith of Trenchholm. Both of them expressed the same sentiment as did Mrs. Crouse.

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