

DUCKING A SCOLD

A Custom Quite Popular at One Time in This Country.

WOMEN ALWAYS THE VICTIMS.

In Colonial Days Ducking Stools Were Common in Maryland, in Virginia the Penalty Was Often Inflicted, and Georgia Sinned as Late as 1819.

Nowadays if a woman forms the habit of talking too loud and too long or insists upon saying unpleasant things in wrong places and at wrong seasons there are several things which may happen to her. If she is a person of some social standing her husband may get a divorce, or if she belongs in one of the lower strata he may leave her without that little formality. If she makes life too unbearable for the neighbors she may possibly be arrested and fined. If she lives in England and interrupts the proceedings of parliament, calls names, chases dignitaries to cover whenever they show themselves in public and knocks off policemen's helmets she is called a suffragette and sometimes imprisoned. But even the most "obstinately opprobrious and virulent woman," to quote the stately Addison, may be confident that she will escape the punishment meted out to her sister of old. Whatever happens, she won't be sentenced to the ducking stool. In many ways modern life is tame and lacking in dramatic incident for a self assertive lady, and even the English suffragettes complain that they are not taken seriously enough.

No such claim could have been made in the past, say between the fifteenth and eighteenth centuries, when far more rigid views prevailed on the subject of feminine self repression. In those days magistrates were unanimous in the conviction that "meekness is ye choicest ornament for a woman," and it was held a crime to speak "discourteously" of those in authority, civil or ecclesiastical. A woman must not even indulge in too great freedom of speech in the privacy of her own home and neighborhood. Sometimes she did, and then she was attended to in a simple yet spectacular manner.

She was bound securely to a stout chair firmly fixed to the end of a long beam, arranged to work up and down on the principle of the seesaw, on the edge of a river or pond. On the bank at the other end a man worked the contrivance by means of a strong chain, and she was given a ducking, which lasted until justice was satisfied or reform was promised, the populace of course gathering in large num-

bers to assist at the function. In England the practice was so general that each town had its ducking pond conveniently located where petty offenders of various kinds were disciplined. The pond for the western part of London was what is now a portion of Trafalgar square, Charing Cross. Many of the old ducking stools are still in existence as curiosities. In the days of their activity they were kept in the church porches, where they doubtless pointed a moral as to the haughty spirit which goeth before a fall.

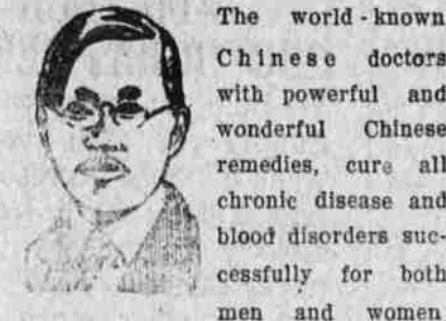
The first colonists brought the institution to this country, although it never flourished in New England. In fact, there are no authentic records of the actual use of the ducking stool in these colonies, although a number of women were sentenced to be so punished. They had, however, other methods of treatment for ladies of a shrewish disposition, one of these being the wearing of a cleft stick upon the tongue.

In the central and southern colonies the custom was quite popular. In the seventeenth century ducking stools were in every county in Maryland, and in 1775 one was placed at the confluence of the Ohio and Monongahela rivers. In Virginia the penalty was often employed, and in 1634 a Thomas Hartly of that colony wrote, it is said, to Governor Endicott of Massachusetts, giving a detailed account of a ducking administered to "one Betsey, wife of John Tucker, who by violence of her tongue had made his home and ye neighborhood uncomfortable." After describing the machine he adds: "Ye rope was slackened by ye officer, and ye woman was allowed to go down under ye water for ye space of half a minute. Betsey had a stout stomach and would not yield until she had allowed herself to be ducked five several times." After she promised to "sin no more" Betsey was untied and allowed to "walk home in her wetted clothes, a hopefully penitent woman."

The ducking stool prevailed longer in America than in England. In the old country it does not seem to have been used later than 1809, but in Georgia women were ducked for scolding as late as 1819. It is interesting to note that in 1824 a woman in Philadelphia was sentenced to be ducked, but the decree was not carried out, as it was "deemed obsolete and contrary to the spirit of the times." A writer on colonial customs states that one of the last indictments for ducking in this country was that of Mrs. Anne Royal in Washington, a lobbyist, who "became so abusive to congressmen that she was indicted as a common scold before Judge William Cranch and was sentenced by him to be ducked in the Potomac. She was, however, not subjected to the ducking indignity, but was released with a fine."—Bellman.

When our hatred is too bitter it places us below those whom we hate.—La Rochefoucauld.

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Jokai's Joke.
At a banquet held in his honor in Torda, Maurus Jokai was called upon to propose the toast of "The Ladies." He made an excellent speech, during which he continually toyed with the brown curls upon his forehead. Finally he said: "I raise my glass in honor of the gracious ladies of Torda. May they all live until my hair grows gray." His audience drank to the toast, but it was easy to see by the faces of the ladies present that they did not think much of the compliment. Jokai rose again from his seat and took from his head a magnificent brown wig, showing an entirely bald head beneath it. "My hair," he added, "will never grow gray." And the ladies, who had not known of his baldness, were more than pacified.

The beautiful seems right by force of beauty and the feeble wrong because of weakness.—Browning.

SPECIAL SESSION ACTIVE ONE

BONDING ORDINANCE IS PASSED AND OTHER ACTS FINISHED.

Trees on Cement Lines Must Go—Gravel Seventh Street Soon.

Passage of the Fourth street bonding ordinance was realized at a special meeting of the council last evening and within a few days the notices will be sent out which will bring in the first annual installments for the paving of that thoroughfare. The entire council was present when Mayor Richardson rapped his gavel and until nearly midnight the problems of the city—rapidly growing more and more numerous and difficult because of the extreme amount of improvement going on—were wrestled with by the councilmen and executive. Much of the wrestling was done to the tune of many a flareup of oratory led principally by Councilman Logsdon and Finley.

Seventh street will be graveled soon, following adoption of a favorable report last night at the council meeting on the petition of taxpayers on that street, south from Fir street, and the annual mud hole is doomed to disappear. It will be graded first and then graveled to remove the disagreeable features during rainy weather.

City to Help Decorate.
With the exception of Councilman Logsdon and Finley of the Fourth ward, the council was heartily in favor of donating \$75 for the purpose of decorating the streets on July Fourth. The matter came up when Mac Wood appeared for the Commercial club, asking for assistance in this respect. The business men are to decorate windows and the city will spend the \$75 on the streets proper. Councilman Logsdon and Finley voted against it on the roll call.

The Spring avenue board walk petition was adopted. This runs from Fourth to Alder, or will, when constructed.

An ordinance was passed, establishing the route for the La Grande irrigation ditch in Riverside addition.

Connerdale Improvement Started.
The first steps looking toward improvement of Connerdale with cement walks and curbing and street grades, were taken last night at the instigation of the sole owner, Dr. O'Conner. The commissioners were denied the right to report last night which would facilitate and expedite the commencement of work, because Councilman Logsdon would not sign the report at this time. The report is purely mechanical, being made out by the city engineer and deals with matters which the non-engineer knows little. It will require at least a month's time before the work can be commenced, and this in view of the fact that the owner is anxious to commence at once.

Trees where cement walks are ordered in, are doomed. Following the precedent set when this problem first came up at the J. F. Richardson residence, the mayor voted for removal of a tree on Washington avenue in front of the J. H. Peare residence when the councilmen tied on the vote. In this particular instance the tree was only six inches on the line and would be moved shortly but in keeping with the precedent already established the mayor voted for removal and the tree must go. This also applies to the trees in front of the Gangloff property and on Seventh street in front of Mrs. Zuber's property. Dr. Richardson points out that it would not be consistent to leave one property owner violate the law in this respect, and enforce others.

Notice to La Grande Subscribers.
La Grande, Ore., June 29, 1911.—On the evening of July first we will close up our telephone office in the Masonic building and service to all the subscribers will be rendered from our office in the Foley building. A copy of our new directory, for the combined systems, will be mailed

you on that date, and we believe the same will be as complete and as nearly perfect as any directory ever published. It will be a directory for our entire system, containing approximately 2,400 names with the rules, toll rates, etc.

As before stated, through the medium of this paper, a slight adjustment of rates for the La Grande exchange will be made, as heretofore several different rates had been charged for the same class of service. The number of stations connected to the La Grande exchange will be approximately 1,200 which makes it the largest exchange in Eastern Oregon.

Commencing July first the following rates will be in effect:

- 4 party residence ... \$1.50 per month
- 2 party residence ... 2.00 per month
- 1 party residence ... 2.50 per month
- 1 party business ... 4.00 per month
- 2 party business ... 3.00 per month

The rate for desk telephones, extension telephones, and extension bells remain the same as before. Above rates are effective within the city limits and a mileage rate will be charged to suburban subscribers, the same as heretofore.

A table showing the long distance rates will be found in the directory opposite the La Grande exchange. In most cases a considerable reduction has been made under those formerly charged by the Pacific company.

A majority of the resident subscribers will not be affected by the change in rate as the above rates have been in effect for all new contracts for the past two years.

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Per S. D. CROWE, Secretary and General Manager. 6-29-30; 7-1

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A. L. RICHARDSON, M. D.
J. W. LOUGHLIN, M. D.
Drs. Richardson & Loughlin, Physicians and Surgeons, Phones—Office Black 1362; Ind. 353. Office Hours—9 to 11; 2 to 5; 7 to 8. Dr. Richardson's Res.—Main 55; Ind. 312. Dr. Loughlin's res.—Main 757; Ind. 1297.

C. H. UPTON, Ph. G. M. E.—Physician and surgeon. Special attention to Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat. Office in La Grande National Bank Building. Phones: Office Main 2, residence Main 32.

DR. H. L. UNDERWOOD—Physician and Surgeon. Special attention to diseases and surgery of the eye. Phones: Office—Main 22; Residence—Main 728. Ind. 631.

E. O. W. ZIMMERMAN—Osteopath Physician. Sommer Bldg., Rooms 7, 8, 9 and 10. Phones: Home 1332, Pacific, Main 63, Residence phone, Black 951. Successor to Dr. C. E. Moore.

J. C. PRICE, D. M. D.—Dentist. Room 23, La Grande National Bank Building. Phone Black 399.

DR. P. A. CHARLTON, Veterinary Surgeon. Office at Hill's Drug Store La Grande. Residence phone, Res. 701; Office phone, Black 1361; Independent phone 53; both phones at residence.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW.

COCHRAN & COCHRAN—Attorneys; Chas. E. Cochran and Geo. T. Cochran. La Grande National Bank Bldg., La Grande, Oregon.

T. H. CRAWFORD—Attorney at Law. Practices in all the courts of the State and United States. Office in La Grande National Bank Bldg., La Grande, Oregon.

LAW OFFICES OF GREEN & SMALL. Attorneys, over Silverthorne's drug store, La Grande, Ore. R. Jos. Green and Chas. A. Small, Rooms 15 and 16.

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