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EASY TO CRITICISE, HARD TO MEND

Criticism is the easiest thing in the world. It is easy. Why weren't machine guns ordered? Why weren't shoes and rifles ordered for the army? What about this? What about that? The fact is that a democracy cannot do things as speedily as an autocracy. There are too many bosses. Congress makes appropriations and hedges them about with red tape. It is jealous of executive authority. Money must be spent for the items appropriated. Civilians are put over experienced army officers. Government bureaus are notoriously slow and inefficient. It would take a hundred axes to cut the knots in Washington. But it is being done and will be done. All that Congress needs to do is to keep its shirt on and avoid making a spectacle of itself. But this seems to be impossible.

RELIEF FOR POLAND

The American Red Cross has appropriated \$200,000 for the immediate relief of conditions bordering on starvation in Poland. Infants and small children in particular are suffering for want of food in that part of Poland back of the German lines. The money will be paid in installments to the Warsaw Polish committee. Requests have been made to the Red Cross to put relief measures in operation in Poland of the same kind that were applied in Belgium, through the sending of food to the people. The appropriation to meet immediate needs, however, is conditioned on guarantees that its expenditure shall not result in releasing funds or food supplies for Germany.

HENRY CLAY BARNABEE

No one who ever saw Henry Clay Barnabee as the Sheriff of Nottingham in Robin Hood can read of his death, at the age of 84, near Boston, without regret. What a fine singer and actor he was, what "humorous" legs he had, how mirthful was his scene with Robin Hood. Gone are the days of Frothingham, Eugene Cowles, Tom Karl, Jessie Bartlett Davis and Alice Neilsen. Such a company as the Bostonians was never before gathered together and never will be again.

PROHIBITION

The House of Representatives and the Senate of the United States have voted to submit a prohibition amendment for ratification by the states. Thirty-six states will have to ratify the amendment before it becomes effective. This will transfer the wet and dry battle to the various states. It will be a long fight. The drys have seven years in which to finish it. More than half of the states are now dry.

A SMALL MATTER

Now comes the story that Dr. W. J. Kerr, president of the State Agricultural College, was never offered the presidency of the Kansas Agricultural College. Whether this is true or not does not matter. Oregon wanted to keep Dr. Kerr and raised his salary to \$8,400. This is still \$600 lower than Kansas pays for the same work.

General Goethals has been assigned to active duty as acting quartermaster general of the army. This is work with which he is familiar and in which he will make good.

The Woman That Pays



by check instead of in currency escapes a lot of worry about money matters. She has an accurate record of where her money goes and a receipt for every penny she has paid out. Besides it's so much safer to have the cash in the bank than in the home. Our special department for women will be glad to give information.

La Grande National Bank



Olive Thomas in Triangle Plaza, Broadway, Arizona.

STAR, TODAY AND TOMORROW

COMING EVENTS

- Dec. 17-25.—Red Cross Membership Campaign.
- Dec. 23.—Turkey shoot at Conrodale.
- Dec. 25.—Christmas.
- Dec. 27.—Miller-Gesek, world's championship wrestling match.
- Jan. 5.—Third officers' training camps open at various cantonments.

AMUSEMENTS

Arcade Theatre—Motion pictures.
 Star Theatre—Motion Pictures and Vaudeville.

McARTHUR'S VOTE

Congressman McArthur voted against the prohibition amendment. This was a pre-election pledge. He said a would vote against national prohibition if his constituents voted against prohibition. They did. Congressman McArthur is following out the Oregon system to its logical conclusions.

Two of the Oregonian boys have undertaken new work. Mad O. Krantz has joined the staff of the University of Oregon Commerce Department. Dean Collins has joined the staff of a motion picture company in Portland and has revived his character Nessius Nitts for the Spectator. Both are able, industrious and talented young men. They will make good.

Poor Russia. She jumped from autocracy to liberty, from liberty to anarchy. She has a long road to travel to get law and order, and constitutional government under which the people will be happy. It took almost a quarter of a century for France to recover from the French revolution. So we cannot expect Russia to become settled very soon.

The Swiss announce they will attack any invading army. So will Holland, so will Denmark. That they were not attacked already is due to their military preparedness. That is one of the lessons of this war.

The President says Secretary Bryan was not fired from the cabinet. He ought to know and his word should be sufficient.

Watch The Observer classified advertisements for real estate bargains. Right now is a good time to buy a home.

It's hardly fair to send negro troops to France where there are no chickens in the backyards.

The people will soon love Mr. Hoover for the enemies he is making. No. 1 is the sugar trust.

Germany will propose peace, but it will bear the label "Made in Germany."

General Kiddle and his forces are going over the top in fine style.

Santa Claus has started on his Christmas drive.

RIPPLING RHYMES

By Walt Mason

Some Fine Day

Some fine day a man can travel over Germany and France, and no shotgun, charged with gravel, will go off and wound his pance. Once again the tourist legions will go snooping down the Rhine, or in lofty Alpine regions, pay good coin for rotten wine. We shall tread the pavements Roman, leaf along the Appian Way, and behold no charging foeman, some fine day, some fine day. When they've stopped this beastly quarrel we can sail the ocean green, nor be sent down to the coral by a cheap tin submarine. We can sit in quiet nebors drinking coffee Viennese, or be shaved by British barbers with their rusty snookersness. We can watch the Danube river when the dawn is glowing pink, and eat sausage made of liver in a gashaus on its brink. Unrestricted we can wander when the war is done away; we can travel here and yonder, some fine day, some fine day. Here at home we are remaining, while we lust to go abroad; there where kings and dukes are reigning, we would like to blow or wad. We must stay, for death is tearing, seeking victims on the foam; what a heavy cross we're bearing, that we have to stay at home! Blood is flowing still in torrents, and the torrents bar our way; but we'll go to Cork and Florence, some fine day, some fine day.



Where You Can Find Useful Gifts For Everyone

One of the big leaks to be plugged is Christmas-giving. You cherish its spirit—and yet you do not care to indulge in useless gifts. Like necessities, gifts should be chosen with an eye to economy and solid worth.

At this store you'll find useful gifts for every one; the things they need and wear. Our mark in any merchandise is a credit to your judgment and a gratification anyone.



For a More Beautiful Bedroom

ZION Satin Bed Spreads appeal to every woman who thoughtfully plans the furnishing of her bedroom. Their snowy whiteness and simple floral designs lend cheer and brightness to the whole room. They are made in good widths, are firmly woven and very durable. The scalloped edges made with mercerized thread can scarcely be distinguished from hand work. We now have a complete stock. Call in and see them.

Prices \$2.75 Up

An Ideal Christmas Gift

EMBROIDERED HANDKERCHIEFS

The designs are individual and different. Some are hand embroidered, others in most beautiful colorings.

The most ideal Christmas gifts at 35c, 40c, 50c, 60c, 75c and \$1.00 a box.

Others, 8c to 20c each.

PILLOW TOPS

Beautifully colored, floral patterns. A gold net finish. Price, \$1.00 each.

NECKWEAR

A beautiful line of ladies' neckwear for Christmas gifts. Newest ideas. A pretty collar makes a most acceptable Christmas gift. Prices, 25c to \$1.25.



Household Linens



BEAUTY and charm in the diningroom and home depend, in a large measure, upon attractive linens.

Our large assortments include bleached pattern table cloths, table damask, lunch cloths, napkins, tablescarfs, decorations and pretty towels. The prices are reasonable.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

MERRY CHRISTMAS—AND WHY

"Let the Yuletide log burn as bravely and as brightly as ever. Let there be no dimming of the Christmas spirit, no muffling of the Christmas bells. Our souls must see and our minds must realize what our feeble eyes cannot behold," says a writer in the Southern Pacific Bulletin in an editorial of unusual interest. Continuing he asks what trash at many a Christmas dinner they will "burn down an empty chair?" What there will be a vacant chair? Is Christmas to be considered but a mockery of vain hopes? Is the star of Bethlehem a mere will-o'-the-wisp? Shall we lock our lips to "Merry Christmas" as inconsistent with the times? Never let such a thing be said.

"The first Christmas commemorated the birth of a Child. Since then the greatest of all feasts has been of special significance to children. We have sought on that day, frequently through self-sacrifice, to bring happiness to our children. Out of the fullness of our hearts we have bestowed presents of more or less intrinsic value which served a temporary purpose and then were permitted to find their way to the garbage pile.

"Who among us realize what priceless birthrights the present generation is now hanging upon Time's Christmas tree? Who can fully estimate the untold blessings which the children of today have in store for them on each Christmas of the future as the result of the sacrifice which their parents are making?

"Peace on Earth—Good Will to Man? Is not this Christmas slogan the very battle cry of America today? Does it not epitomize the reasons which have led us into the great conflict? Does it not represent one sole reward sought by America? And who shall say that such a reward is not worth all the world has suffered and may still have to suffer before the reward is realized?

"From the wreckage of the war we are building a Christmas tree around which in the ages to come children will gather to pick the priceless gifts of liberty, security and contentment. On the top of the tree we will fasten the Star of Universal Peace and to each branch we will append such gifts as Thrift, Sobriety, Recognition and the Rights of Small Nations, Industry, Self-Sacrifice, Courage and Patriotism.

What suffering will be spared to

the coming generation by the advancement of surgery and medical science under the merciless lash of War! What amazing conveniences to the human race will be enjoyed by the poorer people of tomorrow and because of the inventions now being born of grim necessity? What blessings of health and sane living will be the property of those to come because the men of today have been plucked from the demoralizing coils of the big cities and revitalized on battlefields where man learns to look unafraid to his God.

"It is discernible now that our children will not possess the same habits which have made America a nation of spenders. We can see the principles of thrift, steadiness of purpose, and lofty idealism being laid down as the foundation stones of the Temple of Humanity that is to house posterity. The Star of Bethlehem leads on and on, and a struggling, weary world follows the Star as centuries ago the Wise Men of the East followed it across the desert.

"Peace on Earth—Good Will to Man." This is the Christmas present which we are buying with our blood. To win it we will go on fighting until the priceless gift is assured to our children's children. In the midst of all our suffering we can be happy in the prospective happiness of the little ones we have brought into the world.

Paraphrasing some well-known lines, "It is a far, far better thing that we do now than we have ever done. It is a far, far better world that we are making than we have ever known." "Out of the mouths of babes" come the wisdom of the ages and who shall say that we should not believe when they smile into our faces and bid us "Merry Christmas."

POLITICAL NOTES

NEW CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR ANNOUNCED

Hayes G. Starkweather, of Milwaukie, Oregon, is the latest to announce himself as a candidate for governor. Mr. Starkweather announces that he will be a candidate for the democratic nomination for governor at the primaries next May.

Political Bees Are Buzzing.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—According to the intimate friends of State Senator E. D. Cusick, of Albany, he has decided to become a candidate for state treasurer, and will make his announcement within the next two weeks.

Assistant State Treasurer T. P.

Ryan will make his announcement shortly after the first of the year, and it is expected that William Adams, of Portland, will then also formally announce his candidacy for the office.

O. M. Plummer, now an assistant to the state food administrator, said yesterday that he was seriously considering becoming a candidate, but had not definitely decided. State Senator W. D. Wood, of Hillsboro, and Assessor B. F. West, of this county, are also said to be discussing the advisability of becoming candidates.

L. J. Simpson May Run.

Henry Korn, of North Bend, chairman of the "Simpson for Governor League" received the following answer to a telegram he sent to L. J. Simpson at Portland, last night, in behalf of the organization, urging him to become a candidate for governor:

"Your two messages of the 14th were received by me upon my return from Seattle last night. I am indeed highly honored by your actions and fully appreciate the confidence in me which you have expressed. While I have not seriously considered becoming a candidate for governor on the next Republican ticket at the primaries in May, I will, however, if my friends at home and in the rest of the state so desire, be glad to consider your request. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the confidence reposed in me and the loyal promises of support contained in your message.—L. J. Simpson."

University of Oregon girls have decided to go to dances without male escorts.

The Oregon News Weekly that has been shown at the Arcade each Thursday has been depicting what this wonderful state of ours has in the way of industries as well as showing some mighty interesting events. Have you been following it? A new one will be shown each Thursday.

Good to Have in the House.

Coughs, colds, croup and scarlet fever are prevalent. Colds promptly checked mean saving of time, money and health. Pneumonia and other serious illness may follow a neglected cold. T. P. Lynch, 109 Spring Ave., DuBois, Pa., writes: "For many years we have kept Foley's Honey and Tar in the house and it has saved many dollars in doctors' bills. It is fine for colds." A child's health is too precious to risk giving imitations or substitutes; insist on Foley's. Sold everywhere.—Adv.

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