

EDITORIAL PAGE

The Observer

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FAILURE TO PROVIDE.

Every state in the union has a law providing a penalty for failure to provide. The duty of every man to provide for those dependent on him has been recognized since the days when John J. Stenchatchet took his war club, slammed Siglie Bear Claw into insensibility and dragged her home to his cave as his wife.

So universal has become this requirement of life that there is no stigma which so thoroughly brands a man as a worthless and undesirable citizen as failure to provide food, shelter, clothing and care for his wife and children.

You cannot escape that duty simply because you are dead. When you die you do not escape the obligations of the law although you may escape the penalties. While you are alive, if you fail to provide for your family, some public-spirited citizen, impatient of the law's delays, may hang a haymaker on your jaw as a reminder of your duty. But when you are dead your wife and children have only charity and the county authorities to fall back upon.

If you want to feel that you can look any man in the eye without fear or favor, you must fulfill the obligations not only to provide for those dependent upon you while you are alive but you must leave provision for them after you are dead.

There is only one safe way to accomplish that end. You must pile up a reserve while you are alive and exercise your earning power sufficient to look after them when you are no longer with them or have lost your earning power. If you fail to provide while you are alive, your wife has a recourse at law. She can get a divorce and probably collect alimony which the court will see is paid. After you are dead she has no recourse and if you fail to make provision before you die you are cheating those who should be dearest to you. You are taking an underhand and sneaking advantage of the fact that you are dead.

But for the man who provides for his family in a material way, there still remains one duty. Make a will.

There are strong reasons which should impel every man, and especially the young man of family, to make a will. The Oregon statutes provide that if one dies without having made a will, all of his real estate, subject to payment of debts, shall descend to the child or children of the deceased, reserving only to the widow her dower (1920 laws, section 10125), and her right in the family home, (1920 laws, section 995; in re Pizzell's estate, 18 Pac. 707). As to personal property, one-half of it, after the payment of debts, goes to the widow, and the other half to the child or children. (Sec. 10126).

To those who may be interested in the descent of real property in this state where there is no will, it may be said briefly that the Oregon laws now in effect (1920 laws, section 101,256) provide that after the payment of debts and the expenses of administration, one-half of the personal property shall go to the widow or widower, as the case may be, while all of the real property (reserving to the widow her dower, or to the widower his curtesy) together with the second half of the personal property, shall go in equal shares to the children of the deceased.

From the foregoing explanation it is probable that each reader may be able intelligently to consider his or her own individual case. If any property owner desires his property to descend to others not included in the above list, or desires it to descend in different proportions than those indicated, there is but one way, short of an outright gift during his life time, to accomplish the desired end, viz: by making a will.

"Every person possesses absolute dominion over his property and may bestow it upon whomsoever he pleases, without regard to natural or legal claims upon his bounty, if he possesses testamentary capacity and exercises his own individual will and judgment in the matter."

A CONVENTION WORTH WHILE.

The State Christian Endeavor Society is holding a most successful three-day convention in La Grande this week-end. Delegates have been arriving on each incoming train since Friday morning, and the interest shown in the sessions which are being held at the Presbyterian Church, is proof of the far reaching influence of this state, national and international organization.

To the delegates, La Grande gives a hearty welcome, and may the sessions of the convention be full of inspirations and the many good things of life. As you leave the city, it is our wish that you long treasure the many delightful friendships which have been formed during this convention, and that you may go forth in life better prepared for the trials of the coming years, because of the inspirations gained and the ideals formed through the work of the convention.

THE OFFICE CAT.



—By JUNIUS—

TOO MANY BREAKDOWNS.

The breakdown of the shipping board has surely smirched our country's name. Now dry enforcement's breaking down—The chief got blue and quit the game.

We used to dance a breakdown dance, When hearts were light and men could close, But in these shimmie days—no chance, The breakdown dance has broken down.

Chicago has discovered a polite theatre box office attendant. The Lady Next Door thinks he ought to get 52 weeks in vaudeville.

A GOOD OFFER.

"Yes," said the eminent specialist to the poor man who had called upon him, "I will examine you carefully for five dollars."

"All right, doctor," said the man, resignedly. "If you find it I'll give you half."

THOSE ELECTRIC BULBS.

The Mazda bulbs sometimes do a man injustice. For instance: OWEN MOORE, The Poor Simp.

The film title "Man's Plaything" might also mean the mechanical toy daddy bought for the kiddie Christmas present.

If all the hot air written about those balloonists could have been crammed into their balloon they would easily have floated home without accident.

Over in Japan the plot of photoplays comes to the audience so thick that the theatre manager hires a man to stand beside the screen and explain the story as the plot unfolds.

Here in America we do things differently. The audience read the subtitles aloud.

Incidentally, Conway Tearle has dedicated a film to the movie muffers.

"Whispering Devils" is the title.

"Dickens is greatly admired in Russia." Well, they raise it there, don't they?

Even an "irreconcilable" may have excellent uses. Here is Senator Borah, for example, announcing his irreconcilable opposition to the waste of public money on inauguration flun-dub.

Highwaymen are said to be so numerous in New York that they are now wearing union buttons to avoid hooking each other up.

If the world war couldn't get Dempsey to fight, how can any other prizefighter hope to?

We are told by scientists that America is washing away and it will be gone in a million years. Another argument against the national water wagon.

LAST DAYS OF JOSEPHUS.

When the public first heard of Josephus He posed as the pious exponent of a doctrine that threatened to leave us Exposed to each jealous opponent. He was urging most strenuous limitations On the building of battleships gray, Quite regardless of what other nations Might have done to prepare for the fray.

With the league of the nations defeated By the ballots of women and men, He reversed his opinion and treated The old world to a shock with his pen.

Poor Josephus, through close contemplation, Convinced that a navy was needed To protect the U. S. isolation, Urged one that no others exceeded.

But he's now had another conversation, Quite distinct from the first two, we're told; Our Josephus displays an aversion To the building of types that are old.

He is asking an expert committee To design him the kind of a boat That can bring only feelings of pity For all foreigners' navies afloat.

Let us not interfere with his ravings; Let him flap once again if he must; When the Fourth brings us satisfied cravings, Other hands will take charge of the steering.

We won't see old Josephus for dust. Of the ships both of war and of state, While the people will keep up their cheering For a good old Republican slate.

The Rythm of the Old Fashioned Dancer.

In a curious and cynical mood, Wilbur Shaw recently dropped into one of the old-fashioned dances at Rex Hall, and, as a result, penned the following on the enjoyment of the evening:

Since auld lang syne has come to life From regions dull and shady, Tune up the fiddle for the strife And swing the right-hand lady.

Let's kick the jazz imp out of town, We're feeling rather frisky, You can't keep our good nature down, By dumping out the whisky.

Sweep down the cobwebs from the hall, The floor must not get dusty; For here's a three-step music-sheet, So old it's almost rusty.

But still the music's full of charm— The steps are rather stately; It beats the best new-fangled dance That I've seen pulled off lately.

Let others chase the bluebird far, For pleasure most entrancing, I'll just step in and find mine at The good old-fashioned dancing.

TO MOUNT EMILY.

Towering above the sleeping town, Like a mother o'er her brood; Shadows softly creeping down, O'er your distant moon-lit wood; And your white snow-crested head Nods to us, to close our eyes, 'Til the shades of night have fled, Far beyond the western skies.

Like a mirror you reflect, Dawn-tide's first rose-tinted ray; Like a sentinel you detect Morning's legions on the way; Soon across the sky they'll break In a gold and crimson blend, Then upon your snow-clad peak Crowns of glory will descend.

Down below there comes a stir, Lo, the sleeping town awakes!

and each spruce, pine and fir Give their trembling limbs a shake, Stretch them up in eager give, For the sun's good morning kiss. How their heads bow low, For her silent watchfulness.

(Mr. Bangert was a visitor in La Grande last spring, and the above poem is the result of his sight-seeing here.)

FORUM

Editor of the Observer:

Since reading an article in your paper a few days ago that Representative Hunter and Senator Eberhard were trying to put a bill through the legislature raising the salaries of county officials, I have interviewed a number of taxpayers on this subject and fail to find a single one who honestly believes that it should be done. Some of them say that had wages and prices continued high in other lines there would have been some justification in asking for an increase.

Do these representatives of the people presume for one minute that the railroad men, now more than half of whom are out of work with more being laid off every day, favor an increase to these county officials?

Do they think the farmer and the are entirely out of work, will approve of such a move?

Do they think the farmer and the stock man, who is unable to sell any of his products at a price that will bring him back the cost of production, let alone a profit, will rejoice at an

additional tax burden? Not one of them! Let this matter go to the people at the next election and the county officials, and also the representatives, will see if this is a popular move. These officials all knew what the salaries were before they ran for office and, if they didn't want the job, why didn't they look for another one? When a man becomes a candidate for an office, knowing the salary it pays, and the people elect him, he has practically entered into a contract to conduct the office for that compensation. Why didn't he say before election that he couldn't take the office for the

salary and that he would have to have more money. Let all of these officials resign if they don't want their jobs. There are plenty of men just as competent and ready to take them for the salaries now paid. Salaries and wages in every line are not more than half what they were a year ago. Why do these men ask for more money when everything else is rapidly dropping to pre-war prices or lower. Better try and reduce salaries and expenses in their own lines and show to the people that they are not trying to grasp at every dollar they imagine their services are worth. A FARMER.

Cleaning and Pressing advertisement for The Wardrobe, Wood W. Berry, 1309 Adams Ave. Includes text: 'YOU CAN'T BEAT OUR', 'WE CALL FOR AND MAKE DELIVERIES', 'SEE OUR NEW SUIT SAMPLES', 'Satisfaction Guaranteed', 'THE BIG SALE IS ON', 'My entire stock going at a great sacrifice. Get your bargains now! Every Man's Store M. A. Chinlund 1309 Adams Ave.'

Ford ANNOUNCEMENT advertisement. Includes Ford logo, text: 'Mr. Edsel B. Ford, President of the Ford Motor Company, gives out the following statement: "The price of the FORDSON Tractor has been reduced from \$790.00 to \$625.00, effective immediately. The price change has been made possible through lower costs of materials and the fact that we are now located in our new Tractor Plant with greatly increased economic manufacturing facilities in immediate connection with our foundry and machine shops and large blast furnaces where iron is poured directly from the ore, giving us maximum efficiency with the power to reduce cost of production, and down comes the price in line with our policy to market our products at the lowest possible figure without in any way affecting our high standard of quality. We are particularly pleased in being able to bring about this big reduction in price at this time because the farmer needs all the help we can give him and this big cut in price will be the means of placing a valuable power unit within the reach of practically every one of them, not to mention industrial and commercial concerns which likewise have benefited through its use and are already realizing, to a much greater extent, its value as a power and hauling unit. But particularly has the FORDSON Tractor proved a most valuable factor in the saving of farm labor, at the same time increasing the per acre crop yield as well as making possible a utilization of previously uncultivated land, to say nothing of removing no end of drudgery. There is no question that the use of machine power on the farm is the greatest advancement made in the development of agriculture, not only in money saving and money making results, as well as raising the standards of living on the farm to a much higher level, but because of its proved value in making every type of land more productive, and consequently our desire to place the FORDSON within the reach of all. THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE PRESENT FORD CAR AND TRUCK PRICES, which are already at the lowest possible figure and now with rock bottom reached on the tractor price a further reduction in price on either the Car, Truck or Tractor is out of the question; in fact, the big price cuts have been made in anticipation of continuous maximum production and increases may be necessary before long if a large volume of new business is not obtained. Therefore, present prices of Ford products cannot be guaranteed against possible increases." Ask for the book "The Fordson at Work," which will be supplied free of cost. Let us demonstrate the value of the Fordson on your farm, in your factory, lumber yard, coal yard, or in any general hauling or power work you have to do and let us have your order for a Fordson.'

Service--- Our undivided attention given to Laundry Work--- That's why we are able to give you the very best service. The Modern Laundry