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JAP AND YAP

The real significance of the Yap controversy is not so much the actual importance of the island itself as the stubbornness with which Japan insists on holding onto it.

The United States has gone along without Yap heretofore, and could presumably get along without it forever if some such warring action as raised the island from the sea should sink it again. It is, to be sure, an admirable place for cable stations, connecting easily as it does with Asia, Australia and the Philippines. Still, the United States has Guam not far away, as a link in the trans-Pacific chain, and improving wireless service makes cables less imperative. If Germany had kept Yap, there might never have been any question raised about it.

But Germany lost Yap, and with the island floating free, so to speak, Uncle Sam was naturally attracted to it as means of providing more direct cable communication with the Philippines. Inasmuch as this country expressly declined any desire for German territory, it would seem that the least the Allies, including Japan, could do would be to grant America cable rights in one little island. Japan seems determined to prevent even that.

The curious thing about it all, from an American standpoint, is that the mandatory system under which Japan holds Yap is not supposed to grant any ownership rights. A mandatory power is supposed to be merely a guardian appointed to administer the country or territory concerned, whether in Africa or the Pacific, for the benefit of the natives. That principle is expressly laid down in the Versailles treaty. Americans cannot see how the internationalizing of Yap soil for cable purposes, so as to give our government a cable station there along with others, would interfere with any humanitarian service which Japan can render the native Polynesians under her mandate.

OUR DUTY TO THE SOIL

"A man cannot own a farm in the same sense he owns a hog or a suit of clothes," says the Portland Telegram. "He will outlive both hog and coat, but he cannot outlive the farm. In a very definite sense he has only a life lease on the farm."
"What he does to that farm while he lives, materially affects a large group of people after he dies. Indeed it affects many people while he lives. A farm is a social factor in a community, and will be so forever, therefore a man owes a social duty to the soil he owns or rents."
"Twenty years ago an Iowa farmer bought a farm that had long been in the hands of short time renters. So recklessly had the once rich soil been exploited that it would not raise corn. It was foul with weeds, the fences were gone and the buildings dilapidated. Five years were spent in restoring the soil, fighting the weeds and making improvements, before the farm became a self-sustaining property."
"After fifteen years of good care the farm was sold to a speculator. During the next five seasons the farm had five different tenants, and has again fallen into poverty, weeds and decay. Even under restoring hands its productive power for the next five years will be 25 to 50 per cent less than it was. Yet, impoverished as it was, it was sold by the speculator at 50 per cent more than he paid for it."
"The former owner says a real farmer will pass by such a place as this and put his money into land that will not need nursing back into fertility. So this farm is doomed for a term of years at least, to be shifted about from hand to hand, a loss to every honest tenant and an eyesore and a burden to the community."
"The man who owns land assumes the peculiar responsibility of keeping it fit and fertile while he lives, and when he dies or sells it, of leaving it at least as good as he found it. The man who does otherwise is not only a failure as a farmer; he is very much of a failure as a citizen."

THE FITTEST REPARATION

Germany's latest offer to undertake the reconstruction of devastated France seems to be made in good faith, whatever its motive may be.
On the face of it, the proposal is inspired by a desire to hasten the restoration of economic peace throughout the world, and eliminate the French hatred, which is bound to be permanently stimulated and renewed as long as the devastated regions remain a component of the German invasion. This is probably sincere as far as it goes. It is the obvious benefit of Germany to placate French hatred and ease the world's bitterness by any means in her power. It would help in the difficult work of regaining her foreign trade. In the absence of any real profit contribution, this is an obvious interpretation. No less implying, perhaps, is the

desire of Germany to make whatever reparation she has to make in the easiest way possible. She has little gold but much labor and materials. If she can pay a considerable part of her debt to France in applying her productive power to the reconstruction of the war belt, she will be so much ahead.
And France will gain, too. It is difficult to see how France can refuse such an offer, or how Great Britain can disapprove, if Germany furnishes proof of her intention to carry out the plan as proposed, and will estimate that item of reparation at no more than a fair money valuation. She promises expressly to start immediately building houses, repairing and replacing factories and other buildings, clearing away debris, restoring pavements, bridges, etc., and replanting the forests and orchards, doing it all with German labor, German machinery and German materials, and seeking in every case to carry out the wishes of the French government and the private owners.
There would be a striking moral lesson, too, in such a mode of reparation. It would constitute a rare case of poetic justice in the eyes of the world, and a powerful deterrent against aggressive warfare hereafter. And surely the Germans themselves could not carry out such a work of retribution without coming to realize its significance.

Our experience is that if "bone dry" means anything, it means that the man who has the bones needn't go dry.
What with all the worry about hard times and the droll about "menaces" at home and abroad, isn't it about time to renew that old soldier slogan—"Are we downhearted? NO!"
Here is hoping the proposed development of strong air forces will not be confined to the floors of Congress.
Good advice for Germany from Kipling—"Pass the hat for your credit's sake and pay! Pay! Pay!"
What the employer wants now is somebody to tell him how to destroy the wage scale without injuring the plant.
There is a good deal of talk about optimism, but it must be confessed that America's spirits are very low.
If the Allies really want to bring Germany to terms, they'll seize the breweries and hold them for ransom.
This modern method of proving things by experts is simple enough. All you have to do is to be careful in picking your expert.
After all, Europe is not greatly exposed to American isolation. Even France can see the advantages of having us to play a loan hand.
If you're for some good money to compare with the things that are

Evidently Lady Astor, who says the world is "too loose" hasn't been at the bank lately trying to borrow money.
Runs Either Way
"Are you a bull or a bear in Wall Street?"
"Neither," replied Mr. Dustin Stax. "When I'm on the trail of a sure profit, I'm a bloodhound, and when I'm scared, I'm a rabbit."
Rather than turn out another one of those h. e. l. wheezes, which, by the way, we were about to do, we should prefer to leave the space blank like this.....
That scientist who professes to understand talk might next understand what the wild waves are saying.
The Frenchman
"I now understand why the women's styles in dress are so abbreviated."
"Explain."
"They are designed by a man."
One Divorce, Please
You made me what I am today.
As through the years we've ram-bled;
Now rectify the mess you've wrought.
I want to be unscrambled.

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THE OFFICE CAT



—By JUNIUS—

Light-Headed.
The lights were low, and stillness reigned in the back parlor. Presently a female voice was heard:
"Freddie, dear!"
"Yes, angel!"
"Does my head seem heavy on your shoulder?"
"No, darling. It is very light, indeed!"—Yonkers Statesman.

The Optimist
When rainy days come, dark and grim.
To sadden pessimistic fellows,
They bring no care to Sunny Him
Who goes around flunk up umbrellas.

Thought death to some is filled with woe,
It doesn't bother Wesley Saker.
For Wesley is, you ought to know,
An enterprising undertaker.

What did he Mean?
"I caught a snap-shot of the automobile thief."
"Fine! Now take a time exposure of the police chasing him."

They Doubtless Will
"I'm in doubt about the wisdom of arresting the food profiteers," said C. B. Miller.
"Why? I should think you'd want them punished," said Ed Reynolds.

"It may be all right to punish them, but as a consumer, I'm afraid they'll raise prices again to get money to pay their fines."

Ask the Editor
A Rochester, N. Y. firm is "going to try to get along without money" according to the news dispatches. Any country newspaper man can give them pointers.

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UNION LOSES TRACK MEET

LA GRANDE WINS BY 71 TO 32 SCORE

Dual Meet Comes Off In Spite of Heavy Rain-Weather Interferes with Showings Made Yesterday

Although it rained nearly all afternoon yesterday, the dual meet between Union and La Grande high schools, which was postponed from last Saturday on account of the rain, came off on schedule, three events, however, being cancelled because of the weather. La Grande was an easy winner with a score of 71 to 32 in her favor.

The relay race was won by the Union team. In this event, as in the other events, the time was poor because of the bad condition of the track.

The hundred-yard dash was won by Heugan of La Grande, Smith of La Grande being second; Dallen and Cook of Union were third and fourth in this event. Block of La Grande took first in the pole vault, while Hibbert and Horstman, both of La Grande, tied for second, with Busic of Union and R. Lynch of La Grande tied for third.

Other results were: Mile-run—Kingwell, La Grande, first; B. Lynch, La Grande, second; Kanberg, Union, third; Koehler, Union, fourth. Broad jump—Theison, La Grande, first; Hetrick, Union, second; Larsen, La Grande, third; Hibbard, Union, fourth; 440-yard dash, T. Larson, La Grande, first; Christian, La Grande, second; Smutz, La Grande, third; Hibbard, Union, fourth. 220-yard dash—Dallin, Union, first; Cook, Union, second; Smith, La Grande, third; Heugan, La Grande, fourth. Shotput—Bean, La Grande, first; Johnson, Union, second; Kuhn, Union, third; E. Larson, La Grande, fourth. 880-yard run—Blockland, La Grande, first; Kingwell, La Grande, second; Theison, La Grande, third; Busic, Union, fourth. Discus throw—Bean, La Grande, first; E. Larson, La Grande, second; Johnston, Union, third; Horstman, La Grande, fourth. Javelin throw—Black, La Grande, first; Chandler, La Grande, second; Horstman, La Grande, third; Hetrick, Union, fourth.

A large crowd of high school students and other attended the meet, in spite of the rain. The events that were cancelled were the high jump and the two hurdles races.

ARMY WILL HOLD DRIVE

The Salvation Army drive for \$2700 in Union county is scheduled for May first to May tenth. Captain Spencer is in the county this week and is preparing for the coming drive. Of the total, \$2,000 will be used in Union county and \$700 will be used for the home for girls in Portland. This will be the only drive of the organization during the year. The only other means of soliciting money will be the usual Christmas kettles.

CLUB TOLD OF FIVE MEASURES

Senator Colon R. Eberhard proved an interesting speaker at the regular meeting of the University Club held at the Library club rooms on Tuesday evening. Senator Eberhard spoke on the special measures which are to be voted on by the people of the state of Oregon on June 7, explaining in detail the majority of the five measures which are up for special election.
In his address Senator Eberhard especially commented on the organization of a university club in the

White Fabrics for Summer Clothes!

TO BE MADE UP IN PLENTY OF TIME

With summer rapidly approaching, the demands for white dress cottons are insatiable. Anticipating a large demand, we have ready now the most interesting collection of these fabrics that has ever been seen in this store.

Included are Dimities, Voiles, Batistes, Oranidis, Dotted Swiss, Lawn, White Skirtings, Poplin, Linen and sheer Nainsooks and Crepes for undergarments—all fabrics of exceptional fine quality which are now being offered at the seasons lowest prices.

LONG White Kid GLOVES \$7.50

Just in this morning. A beautiful French Kid—full arm length, three buttons at wrist. In White Kid priced at \$7.50.
Same style in Grey Kid, priced at \$6.50.
Same in Mole, price \$5.00.

NEW SILK KIMONAS

Just a limited number of very fine Silk Kimonos arrived this morning. Of plain colored Taffetas and Satins, with ruffling on cuff and collar, long sash and pocket at side. Some are scalloped at bottom. Inspection invited.

Prices \$13.50 and \$15.00

Dainty House Frocks For Summer

Dainty, yet practical in every way are these new frocks of Gingham and Jap Crepe. To be worn either for house dresses or on the street. They are attractive enough to do service all day. They are shown in a great variety of colors and styles. Many include the known

Sassy Jane and Perky Peggy models. They answer your requirements for something practical. Prices range from \$2.25 to \$6.50

NEW CREPE FROCKS FOR GIRLS

Made in pattern, coloring and styles like those for women. Of bright colored Jap Crepes and Ginghams in contrasting shades. Some have appliqued designs and all are bound in black tape. Made with sash and pockets.
Prices \$1.50 to \$4.75

city to which all graduates and former students, who have attended at least one year of a standard college, are eligible to membership, and said that he had long thought such an organization was needed in La Grande and could fill a large need very ably.

Dick Lindsay, well known local violinist, also delighted the members present with a very beautiful selection. He was accompanied at the piano by Mrs. Harley H. Richardson.

During the business meeting it was decided to have a picnic or weiner roast for the club members.

the be given the evening of Friday, May 13, this date being chosen because of its superstitious value. Miss Sarah Smith is in charge of the arrangements.

With a Preview
"Dodging automobiles is a healthful exercise," says a physician. If you are successful in the dodging—Boston Transcript.

What a pity it is that our neighbors don't know as well as we do what's good for them!

The Yodeling of the Swiss.

Yodeling is a peculiar manner of singing by using the falsetto voice in harmonic progressions, with sudden and unexpected changes to notes of the chest register. It exists chiefly among the Tyrolese and Swiss mountaineers.

A TRIAL WILL CONVINCE YOU.

NOTHING that we could say would so thoroughly convince you of the value of Chamberlain's Tablets as a personal trial. We can tell you of thousands who have been permanently cured of chronic constipation, indigestion, biliousness, sick headache and disorders of the stomach and liver, but this will have little weight with you as compared to a personal trial. That always convinces.

Chamberlain's Tablets

Epitaphs of Today

"No lights at all
Had Oswald Sharp.
He's gone to play
A golden Harp."
—Moral—
Be sure and insure
SECURITY INSURANCE
AGENCY
J. F. Phy C. H. Reynolds

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NEXT MONDAY AND TUESDAY

Principal Stars of the

SONORA GRAND OPERA COMPANY

In a Program of Operatic and Popular Selections presented in costume

These Singers Appeared in Baker Last Year at \$2.50

Regular Picture Program

Katherine Mac Donald

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