

The Observer

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Bible Thought. For Today

GLADNESS IN SERVICE.—Serve the Lord with gladness. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good.—Psalm 112:4.

From Screen to Real Life.

Luxurious wealth and idleness are claiming their toll in the movie world. For several years the money of the country went to the stars and producers by the millions only to be lavished upon an idle class of high living people. Money did what it almost always does—turned their heads; depleted their morals; checked the stifled manhood and womanhood.

The result was the Arbuckle tragedy in real life. Transferred from the screen where such plots were frequently portrayed the comedian staged his party and the hilarity of the event brought death to a young woman, an arrest, a trial, a packed courtroom, sensational utterances and a jury disagreed.

Now comes the second tragedy transferred from the screen to real life. W. D. Taylor, one of the best known film producers and connected with one of the biggest companies in that business was found dead in his room recently with a bullet hole in his neck. A cancelled check lay on his desk. How natural that looks and sounds; how true to the movie plot which has been screened by these producers for the world to see so many years.

Verily, the chickens come home to roost. As we sow so shall we reap. Filmdom, or the portion of it which has been staging the outlaw, the crook, the lewd performance, and selling it to the country forcing the theatre owner to run it, is now reaping its whirlwind.

Mellon's Tax Plan.

The soldier bonus cannot be paid unless the government gets the money to pay it; the only place the government has to get the money is from taxation of some form. These are patent facts and should be understood. The idea prevailing among some that the government can do anything and pay anything without making taxes to conform is the purest kind of ignorance.

Treasurer Mellon of the United States is not opposed to the soldiers' bonus, but he is opposed to passing a bonus law without making proper preparations to pay the claims. In this he is not only right, but he shows clear business sense. Therefore, he says pass the bonus law but put on the tax to raise the money. And he recommends a further tax on tobacco, especially cigarettes, a tax on every bank check issued, an increased postage rate for both letters and newspapers, an increased documentary tax and a tax of four bits on every horse power in an automobile.

Now don't yell. If you want to pay the soldier, back up and pay him by digging deeper into your pocket. The soldier cannot be paid unless we furnish the money. The government has no power to make money and put a value on it.

The Observer agrees with Treasurer Mellon on general principles. We agreed with Governor Hart of Washington when that state passed the soldier bonus law, for he said pass a law now to raise the money to pay the boys, no Washington did it. It was right and proper. Pay the boys, but close up the debt and don't have any more war debts.

IN THE OLD HOME TOWN



PROF. HIGGIN BOTTOMS' FAMOUS ANIMAL SHOW DEPARTED LAST NIGHT, LEAVING BEHIND TWO LEAKY WATER PAILS, A DECK OF CARDS, AND THREE UNPAID BOARD BILLS.

next hundred years. Go through the wartimes and the aftermath as fast as possible, working a little harder and denying yourself a little more until the slate is cleaned.

What about that groundhog? Shadows were looked for but none were seen. The groundhog was not out, according to the nature man, and therefore the snow storm grew in its intensity, breaking a time-honored rule. But the exception to the rule is what proves its accuracy, once said a college professor.

The old battleship Oregon is to be saved from the junk pile because Oregon people have shown such profound interest in the old ship. Again Secretary Hughes has made good with the people, and again his praise comes forth in a genuine manner.

Somewhat it is a little hard to understand why Senator Kenyon would give up his place at the head of the agricultural bloc in the senate to accept a federal judgeship. It would have been more credit to the senator to fight the fight to the end if he thought he was right than to sit on the bench.

The Agricultural Crash

The federal Bureau of Markets and Crop Estimates reports that the average value per acre of the 10 principal crops of the United States fell from \$21.23 in 1919 to \$14.52 in 1921. Thus they lost 32 per cent of their value. This is the most drastic drop in values recorded in any American industry during the deflation period.

It is to be remembered, too, that the farmer's low-price crop of last year cost him almost as much to produce as his high-price crop of 1919. And what is more to the point, while he has got less than half as much for what he had to sell, he has had to pay almost as much as ever for most of the things he has had to buy.

The inflation of land values, of which so much was made during the boom, has done the real farmer more harm than good. Only owners who were lucky enough to sell at the crest of the wave and get their money have profited. Buyers, working the costly land at a loss, have gone broke. Those who kept their land and continued farming it themselves have had their taxes raised. The larger investment makes a heavier overhead and less profit.

And yet many people seem to wonder why the farmers are discontented, and are demanding more consideration for themselves as an economic class, in respect to easier bank credit and other economic support.

The Narcotic Menace.

An appeal has been made by a federal narcotic inspector for more co-operation from the local police officials in his district, particularly in the larger cities. If the drug traffic is to be stamped out or even moderately controlled there must be concerted effort and eternal vigilance on the part of both local and federal officials everywhere.

It is said on good authority that the number of drug users in the United States today passes the 1,000,000 mark, and the number is on the increase. Because of the deadly results of drug-taking, and the subtle methods of distribution, the drug menace presents graver difficulties than the liquor menace, troublesome as that is.

No community and no circle within any community can claim exemption from danger. Rich and poor, educated and uneducated, old and young are numbered among the victims of narcotic drugs. There are laws to control the situation. The need is not for more law but for more comprehensive methods for detecting evasion and punishing punishment for those who break the law. Recent frosts in California have ruined the fruit crop seriously. It is to be hoped that the nation will have a similar crop of victims.

CELEBRATION BEING PLANNED

(By Associated Press) ANCHORAGE, Alaska, Feb. 3.—So rapidly has the work of bringing together the ends of steel on Alaska's 467-mile government railroad from Seward, on the coast, to Fairbanks, in the heart of the Yukon country, progressed, that definite plans are being made for a great celebration throughout the territory to mark the driving of the "golden spike" some time in mid-February.

The ceremony, which will be attended by Governor Scott C. Boon, of Alaska, and other high territorial and federal officials, will take place at the Riley Creek bridge, 129 miles south of Fairbanks. Thousands are expected to attend the ceremony.

The Riley Creek bridge is in itself tons of steel for the engineering. Late in November, 1921, 500 tons of steel for the bridge were shipped from Seattle to Seward. Today the bridge, a 500-foot structure, is practically completed. With the exception of the 1,240-foot steel bridge across the Tanana river at Nenana, which will not be placed in service until late this year or early in 1922, it is the last unit of the road to be completed. Pending completion of work on the bridge at Nenana trains will be sent over the Tanana on ferries in the summer and cover tracks laid on the ice during winter months.

The government railroad cost approximately \$6,000,000 and has been under construction since 1924. The main line between Seward and Fairbanks is 467 miles in length, but, with branches, the completed system will have a total trackage of 523 miles. For some months past luxurious trains, with Pullman coaches and buffet dining cars have been operated over the main line on a once-a-week schedule. Freight was carried between the ends of steel by dog sled.

Alaskans hail the coming of the railroad as the key that will unlock one of the richest territories in the world. Mail from Seattle will reach Fairbanks in nine days. Heretofore from one to three months was the usual time of transit. The road will be open the year round and no longer will the freezing of the Yukon in winter mean that the great interior country must hibernate until resumption of navigation in the spring.

Alaska's richest areas are tapped by the road. The fertile valleys of the Tanana and Yukon will be in direct connection with Seward, a seaport with a harbor free of ice for twelve months in the year. The road passes through important coal fields, one of which is expected to furnish supplies of steaming fuel for naval vessels. It traverses what government geologists describe as a rich potential oil district in the Cook inlet region contiguous to Anchorage.

Before the advent of the railroad, according to federal reports, it cost \$79 to ship one ton of hay, corn potatoes or other necessities to Fairbanks. The freight went by boat to St. Michael, at the mouth of the Yukon, and then reshipped up the Yukon and Tanana rivers to Fairbanks, a long distance of 2800 miles. Sometimes it was shipped through Skagway, over the White Pass and Yukon Railroad to White Horse, thence down the Yukon and Tanana rivers at a cost of \$66.

Today the same bulk freight can be shipped by the railroads to Fairbanks in three weeks less time than by either of the older routes, traversing a total distance of 1382 miles at a cost of about \$29. Since the road began handling traffic a few months ago, the cost of oats in Fairbanks dropped from \$140 to \$70 a ton, the price of beef dropped 25 cents a pound. Wood costing \$150 a cord was replaced

For Sale

- Modern 5-room house, 10 acres, 1 1/2 mile from La Grande. Price \$2300.
 - Modern 5-room house, 2 acres, just outside city limits. Price \$2500.
 - 7-room modern house, 2 lots, house in excellent condition. \$2000.
 - 5-room house in good condition, big lot 6x115, price \$1400, \$200 cash will handle this.
 - 7-room house, 1 acre of ground, on the Memorial Highway. Price \$2200.
 - 11-room house, 3 big lots 6x110, paved street. Price \$3500.
- Geo. H. Currey
Real Estate Insurance

"PHOENIX" PURE SILK HOSE

69c pair

These are all that remain of a special hosiery event that brought many women here to secure their supply for the coming months. There are still all sizes in both brown and black. They are "seconds" or hose that are slightly defective. The first quality sells for \$1.20 regularly. The defects are so slight that they are hardly noticeable and in no way impair the wear of the hose. By careful examination you may get almost perfect hose from this lot. Please consider that these are just half their actual value, but we must sell them as "seconds" and therefore can make no exchanges or refunds. Choice now 69c pair.

Bargains in Ladies' House Dresses 98c

These neat, dressy styles for indoor wear are of good quality percales in a variety of patterns—are on sale here at this unusually low price. The making of these dresses at home cannot nearly equal this price, for we bought them at a great saving and are selling them in the same way. When you see the dresses you will wonder how they can be made for this.

YARD WIDE Stripped Outing 25c yd.

Several new pieces arrived this morning in striped patterns suitable for gowns, pajamas, etc. Yard wide outings are in big demand at present so buy early from this limited selection at this special price. Choice of a dozen patterns at 25c yard.

"LINNO" CLOTH A Substitute for Linen

For all purposes for which you would use linen—lunch cloths, napkins, scarfs, tea cloths, table runners and dozens of other uses "LINNO" is a genuine substitute for linen. It is fine in quality, firm and durable, washes easily and is easily embroidered. It is far superior in our estimation, to other linen substitutes, and is in 26, 44 and 54 inch widths. We invite you to familiarize yourself with Linno now. It is sold exclusively at this store. Priced at 30c, 40c and 50c yard.

by lignite coal delivered at \$6 a ton. An increase in tourist traffic is expected. Mount McKinley, 20,300 feet in altitude and the loftiest peak on the North American continent is but a short distance from the line and Mount McKinley National park will become accessible.

ALBANIA STILL IS TURBULENT

(By Associated Press) TRIANA, Albania, Feb. 3.—Turbulent Albania has a summary day of changing governments. The other day, when the regents got tired of the administration of Penedis Evangeli, Prime Minister, they told him to resign or there would be bloodshed. He refused.

He was given 12 hours in which to choose between the loss of his position or the loss of his head. At midnight he went to his hotel to deliberate on the stern ultimatum. An hour later a group of representative Albanians, among them several members of the government, called upon the Premier and told him those in authority would brook no delay in his resignation. The emissaries accompanied by soldiers with rifles and machineguns. They explained if he didn't get out blood would be spilled, innocent people killed, and a revolution might ensue. So he quit.

thing but the snow. It used to be, before the war, a sort of country, family town, as compared to the gayer skylarkings of St. Petersburg. During the revolutions, it lost this friendly aspect of quiet and, as the soviet settled down here, it became strictly normal and severe, with only the grand opera to lighten the load of propaganda and thousands of orders on how to live and prosper and be happy, notwithstanding closed shops, lack of bread and medicine and clothes. A Russian Rip Van Winkle, who had slept during the past three years, wouldn't know the town these nights. Church bells ring out for prayers. Communists and bourgeois, peasants princesses are all scrambling for more money than they may not fall into the abyss of famine. Cabmen are fighting for higher rates, grain dealers for more rubles per bushel, bakers for more per pound, candy and confectionery shops are blooming out on every corner, wine and vodka are sold in millinery shops and the 89 policemen of the town have long since quit booting with footpads.

MOSCOW NOW WIDE OPEN

(By Associated Press) MOSCOW, Feb. 3.—This city has become a wide open town for the first time in its modern history. It is open for business, for thefts, for holdups, for fun, for disease and disaster, for speculation, for drinking, for sex and all things man, or woman, may devise. The old timers of the staid pre-war regime can't recognize any-

Religious Wave Is Sweeping Scotland

(By Associated Press) GLASGOW, Feb. 3.—A religious wave is now sweeping over the fishing villages on the East coast of Scotland. Believing that the failure of the herring fishing season is a visitation for unrighteous living, the fishermen are parading the highways singing hymns and testifying in other ways to their religious fervor. There is scarcely a fishing village which is not affected.

ALL STAR 2-Bouts-2 WRESTLING

Star Theatre, Fri., Feb. 3 8 p. m.

BERNAN HACKENSHMIDT
—VS—
AD. GUSTAVO
Best Two Out of Three Falls
Two Hour Time Limit

Hacken-smidt is the physical perfection of manhood—a second Ad. Santol.

SNAPPY PRELAUS
The Longest Athletic Event Ever Staged in La Grande

BONT FAIL US.

BUD WALKER
—VS—
O. D. SCOTT
Best Two Out of Three Falls
60 Minute Time Limit

—Bud Walker wrestled with the A. E. F. in France, and is a COMER.

A Clean Exhibition for Ladies, Gentlemen and Children

ADMISSION
Ladies and Children 50c
Gen. Ad. \$1.10, Standee \$1.05
Including War Tax
CASH ONLY