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WALKING IN THE LIGHT.
Those who walk in the light of the world, the light that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.—John 8:12.

Retrospective

Article VII.

The Ways and Means Committee of the session was a great committee. We say this advisedly. The saving made in state expenses can largely be traced to that committee, or, better probably, to the majority of the members, for there were men on that committee whose hearts do not beat for the farmer and business man.

Senator Henry Taylor from Union and Umatilla counties, and Representative Albert Hunter of Union county, were among the ones who kept the expenses down. No committee ever worked harder, no committee ever weighed things more carefully. Beginning the first night of the session, this committee met every evening of the forty-six, holding usually until midnight.

Senator W. H. Strayer of Baker was another valuable man. His long legislative experience enabled him to see the hole in the doughnut on first glance and many appropriations went down before the sharp questions of the Baker man. So sincere was Bill Strayer to cut the state's expenses, and so sincere was he to assist the governor in making good that he sacrificed the appropriation for the Bureau of Mines, which has been credited to Baker county for a decade, and returned home to tell his people that in his desire to do good for the entire state he sent the appropriation for his own pet over the precipice. This is not an easy thing to do, and Senator Strayer by his action showed that he is a man of state size and that his desire was to make good the pledges made this year by so many public men that taxes would be reduced.

Astoria was heard often and from many mouths in legislative matters. The disastrous fire did put the town out of business. It did turn it from the thriving second size city in the state to a pile of ashes. Citizens of Astoria knew how to present their case. Representative Mott of Clatsop made one of the most impressive talks before the ways and means committee that we have ever heard. Mrs. Kinney, senator from Astoria, never lost an opportunity to plead the case of her home city.

The bill to give direct state aid to the amount of a quarter million dollars was vetoed by the governor. Then a bill passed to rebuild the highway through Astoria at a cost of about \$200,000 and this met the same fate. But Astoria was not through. A bill went through remitting state taxes on the stricken city for a period of seven years. This amounts to about \$70,000 per year, so you can see that the boys and girls from Astoria still know the legislative game very well. It was the best thing to do, for now there will be earnest effort to rebuild the city and the property will come back on the tax rolls. But the precedent is admittedly bad, for henceforth when any disaster occurs, either large or small, the treatment of Astoria will be pointed to and like treatment demanded.

In concluding this series of articles, let us give a short recapitulation! The legislative session will go down in history, no doubt, as an ordinary session. That it passed an income tax law which a certain portion of the population now seek to hamstring and make inoperative, will cause recollection of the 1923 session by many. That it passed an abundance of prohibitory laws makes it stand out as a very dry legislature and it is now receiving comment from all parts of the United States on that feature. That it dared to scratch the educational trust in the state with the Eddy campaign for his measure will mark it as an enemy to education in the eyes of many.

It passed an anti-alien law and other laws aiding and assisting the ex-service man. It refused to take up the religious fight that existed in the state last fall.

Roads and highways legislation was very meager this session. A cent more was added to gasoline for road maintenance. This will be the last, for gasoline can carry no bigger load than this. The license on machines was not molested to any extent, and aside from a few minor laws road legislation remains the same.

Desert Will Dwindle

The Assouan dam in the Nile involved a stupendous engineering feat. It is designed to impound upwards of 3,000,000,000 cubic yards of water. The largest of the dams in the Colorado project will store 36 times as much water. Yet the latter may involve comparably less engineering difficulties than the former because of the contrast in topography of the sites. The recent agreement entered into by the states of Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada and California together with the United States government has removed the obstacles to the prosecution of the enterprise. The deep gorge of the Colorado offers spots peculiarly favorable for dams. The high rock walls will buttress firmly the

masonry. The dams while high will not be of great length and each of the largest two will be capable of impounding the drainage of a large portion of a continent.

It may be of interest that the project will in no way interfere with the main part of the Grand Canyon, the portion which tourists visit. While there have been designs, and they may persist, against the Yellowstone Park for irrigation purposes which would affect its charm, the Grand Canyon is immune in that the scenic part would not be available for the purpose, its gorge being too stupendous to be dained even by the most daring engineer.

When the project is carried to fruition the "Great American Desert" will dwindle greatly. Millions of acres of now waterless land will become garden spots and in addition millions of horsepower of electrical energy will be generated where hitherto a gigantic force has run unworking to the sea. With the completion of this project most of the possible arid area of the country will have been reclaimed. The bits of desert which remain will serve by contrast to show what water can achieve when distributed in a scientific manner.

Running It Into the Ground

Certain devotional periods of the year, regular as in the case of Lent, or designated as on some patriotic occasion or for charitable purposes have usually made on many minds the profound impression desired. The point has been reached, however, where the special week idea has become so abused as not only to make it a nuisance in itself, but also possibly to weaken the effect of worthy observances.

The argument against this is on the same principle as the objection to inclusion of "The Star Spangled Banner" in a jazz medley. Regardless of whether one is deeply religious or not, it is painful to good taste to see interspersed with great weeks or days of the calendar a lot of special weeks under the most trivial appellations. There is, of course, worthy meaning in Safety Week, Red Cross Week—in anything that can justify itself to common sense and sound policy.

When any practice is run into the ground, it cures itself through the disgust of a bored public. Some time ago an impressive pictorial comment on the nuisance was made. The face of the same man on each of several special days was shown. There were Laugh Day, Cry Day, Sing Day, Dance Day, etc. But the facial expression of the man never changed from a sober look of intelligence throughout all. It showed neither laughter on Laugh Day nor crying on Cry Day—Sing Day and Dance Day were similarly ignored. That is the attitude of the average individual toward most of the lightly designated special days. But, as pointed out, there is the danger that the disgust over the abuse may cheapen the regard due the worthy occasions.

All this appropos to the announcement that next week in Washington, D. C., is to be observed as Anti-Flirt week.

THE OFFICE CAT

THE RURAL CONCERT.
He was just a staid old farmer,
And you never would have guessed
He was so fond of music
And had heard the very best.
He could whistle, bounce, march,
Know Cannon's air by heart
And of every standard opera
He knew the choicest part.

He had listened to the "artistes"
And to him 'twas great delight
Who thought of Mollie's singing
He had heard right after night.
English, German, French, Italian
One to one he would recall
Each bright star, would this old farmer
Who had listened to them all.

So I marvelled at his knowledge
As I thought how far and long
This old farmer must have traveled
To have heard so much of song.
Till at length I had to ask him,
And he said—now don't you laugh
"Oh, my wife took in some boarders
And they owned a phonograph."

A fellow columnist has discovered
That the only thing a jazz orchestra
Lacks is a gasoline engine.

Storage plants and pipe plants are
Not the same, although inevitably
Associated in the public mind.

Our language has its contradictions,
Cruelty, after all, does not always
Mean oysters, too.

Charlotte: Mother, I think I will
Skip on my catfish and run over to
the postoffice for the mail.
Mother: Why, it isn't for a dog
to be out, my dear. Let your father
go.

Hitching your wagon to a star is
a fine practice, but don't let your
hitch hitch his sled to a street car.

Any FA person can reduce by
weighting on a road dealer's scales.

Charlotte: I, walking in the moon-
light with one arm full.
Charlotte: I, walking the floor
with both arms full.

There's a new book, entitled
"Thirty Ways to Hold a Husband."
We presume it is the first instal-
ment of a new encyclopedia.

Wood should be a drink in in-

coming very popular with under-
takers and tombstone men.

Women have vision. They always
see themselves in beautiful clothes.

Money is the root of all evil, but
it is much less evil when one has
it to root for it.

The time has come for me to ex-
claim,
"I can't bring some groceries home
Till I've forgotten what."

A speech by John J. Pershing from
Schuylkill, N. Y., was heard by
radio one night recently. Some of
the men who listened in never imag-
ined they would be situated so that
"Black Jack" could speak to them
without their snapping to attention.

HIGHWAY WORK HALTED

BEND, Or., Mar. 5.—Obstacles are
being thrown in the way of carrying
out contracts for construction of the
Dallas-California highway from the
Allen ranch to the Klamath county
line. This developed today when a
telegram from the state highway
commission was received by the De-
schutes county court giving the com-
mission's opinion that because of re-
fusal of co-operation by the depart-
ment of agriculture the contract, let
to A. E. Doty of Redmond, should be
held in abeyance. The county court
immediately telegraphed the commis-

WORLD WAR VETS TO GET PREFERENCES

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, Mar. 5.—One of
President Harding's last acts before
leaving for Florida was to direct the
civil service commission to give cer-
tain preference to World War vet-
erans in examinations.

in its reply charges Percy A. Cup-
per, state engineer, with endeavoring
to defeat construction of the road
through the reservoir site.

RAGS Wanted at The Observer.

U. B. Thrifty says

Your dollars are safe in
our bank.

We offer you the advan-
tages of a stronger, safer
place for your deposits.

As a member of the

**FEDERAL RESERVE
SYSTEM**

we are backed by the strong-
est financial institution in
the world.

Let us handle your banking
business. It will be of mutual
benefit.

4% on Time Deposits

"One dollar
in
our bank
is worth two
in your pocket"

**La Grande
NATIONAL BANK**
SOUND-RELIABLE-PROGRESSIVE.

**Willow Glenn
NURSERY**
All kinds of shade and ornamental
trees, fruit trees, shrubs,
lawns, lawn seed and small
plants.
Buy at home and save money.
Proprietor,
Alfred Milne
908 Baker Ave.
Phone 517 W.

McWest & Co
THE COUNTY STORE



A Visit to Our Shoe Department

Will convince you ladies of La Grande where those stylish high grade slippers you admire so much on others are being purchased.

Our utmost attention being given to a perfect fit, regardless of how narrow or wide you require a slipper, you'll find a good-looking style, moderately priced, to fit your foot.

Something New and Trim for Easter Wear
\$5.00 to \$12.00

Prospects of financing the north-
west irrigation project, involving use
of the Benham Falls reservoir site,
which would flood the highway lo-
cation, is the reason given for delay
by the commission. The county court
could be expected from Siskiyou
county.

STAR THEATRE
THURSDAY and FRIDAY

WARNING!
Because of the delicate subject
and scenes, men and women
will not be admitted together.

**SOME
WILD
OATS**

Men Only Women Only
Children Under 16 Not Admitted
The Most Daring and Sensa-
tional Picture Ever Screened

Ladies only will be admitted to the Matinee
Thursday, and Men only Thursday night.
Admission, 35c