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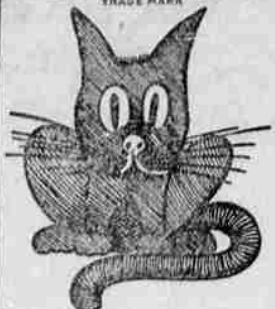
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FEAR NOT NOR BE DISMAYED:
—Fear thou not; for I am with thee; he not dismayed; for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.—Isaiah 41:10.

OFFICE CAT



BY JUNIUS

The Good Time Coming

An official of the Weather Bureau says it will soon be possible to forecast the weather for a month, and we have no doubt that the time will come when we can know for a certainty in January whether it will be warm in July or not.

Women never thought of smoking 29 or 30 years ago.

THE PARTING

They met at the crossing at twilight. "Never will they meet again—One was a speeding motorist. The other a railway train."

"Did you see Trojan's Column when you were in Rome?" "No, but I read the Office Cat column every day."

Some women have such a keen sense of humor that they take their husbands as a joke.

You may shake, you may outrun speed cops if you will, but the corollary always sticks with us still.

Said Amos Tash, "Typographical errors, like the poor, are always with us, and remind us of a newspaper writup of a recent wedding."

The statement was made that, "The roses were pink." In a later edition an apology was offered and was followed by the statement, "What we meant to say was, 'The Roses were pink.'"

The alarm clock is all right in its place, but it doesn't come in competition with the old rooster.

Babies and grievances grow larger by nursing, thinks a La Grande man.

"Probably" is Right.

The secretary of the treasury estimates that it will cost each American \$22.50 for the expenses of government for the next year. But will the secretary accept \$22.50 from each of us and promise to leave us alone for a year. Probably not.

Many a man marries a woman simply because he admires her good judgment in selecting a husband.

There must be something big behind this," murmured Ezekiah as he lifted the flap of the elephant's tent.

A Texas man who inherited a million dollars quit work and bought an automobile—so he may soon be back at work.

The man who kicks the hardest about the government usually never visits the polls.

READIO

I called my love by radio. In hopes that she would hear; I asked her if she'd marry me, And closed it, "Billy, Dear."

Oh, lad is my predicament— Indeed, a sorry mess— When I turned in my receivers, I heard forty answers, "Yes."

Correct this sentence: "The wife has a quart put away some place for medicinal use, but I've never looked for it."

Solving an Enigma

The opinion has generally been held that the ancestors of the Red Men found their way to this continent from Asia, possibly by way of Bering Strait. Aztec ruins bearing pictures of an animal resembling the elephant, which is not indigenous to the New World, have been taken, in conjunction with certain other things, to indicate that Buddhists were in America prior to the visits of Columbus.

Now, however, come discoveries which suggest that it may have been the other way about—that there was a tide of emigration from America to Asia. The National Geographic Society thinks it may have a clew in corn. It has acquired evidence that maize, which is of unquestionably American origin, was growing in China before Columbus' time, and an expedition which it has sent into a little known part of China, called Yunnan, is searching for corn, with a view to inquiring into the ancestry of the plants and tracing the route through which it entered that country.

Some human skulls recently found both in North and South America, which some archeologists believe to be many thousands of years old, also give color to the theory that this continent was inhabited at an even earlier period than the Old World.

Perhaps the inscriptions on the monuments of the Mayas, who antedated the Aztecs and had developed a civilization nearly 2,000 years ago, will throw light on the question. Investigation of their antiquities has virtually just commenced.

Germany's Next Offer

It was inevitable that Berlin would make another reparations offer—would have to—so the news that she will presently be out with a new proposition to the allies comes naturally. The growing irksomeness to her in the occupation of the Ruhr by the French and the Belgians would seem to assure that now that she has resumed making offers to get them to leave she will keep it up until results are obtained.

Obviously there is encouragement for world peace in the fact that correspondence among the principals on this question is under way. While some of the allies rejected the recent German offer, France and Belgium with considerable bluntness, all nevertheless left the way open for further discussion. While some of them indicated that they considered the amount of the proposition far too low, the stress laid by others on the need for more definiteness as to how the reparations would be paid was significant.

Although the next proposal may not greatly raise the amount, a definite basis for paying what is offered may help a lot.

Deadly Motor Driving

There are pistols and knives and hatchets and blackjacks in the list of deadly weapons, and, when careless hands are on the wheel and reckless drivers are behind them, automobiles are to be included. If you doubt this, read the ever-lengthening list of traffic fatalities.

A man does not have to be deliberate in his intent to kill to be a morally responsible slayer. He is one if he kills while acting in reckless disregard of others. The motorist who drives his car at breakneck speed through the streets and goes hurtling down the path that others cross employs a deadly weapon against his fellows as surely as one who empties his gun down a crowded thoroughfare.

Let the reckless motorist fix this in his mind and, if he is not a murderer at heart, let him prove it by exercising proper care. Good drivers are those who get not the highest, but the safest speed out of their cars.

Toward Peace

It is to be noted that those who see only blackness ahead for the world deal in generalities. But let's get down to cases. Statisticians have brought forward tabulations that show world trade to be increasing. Returns for 1922 from 33 commercial nations run into figures that show substantial increase in value and volume over the 1921 total.

Here is substantial and concrete evidence of economic betterment. In the past year the trading nations not only did a larger business than in 1921, but larger than that of the year preceding the world war. This shows that that wants of men are forcing them to work and produce, in spite of their unrest and excitement. The world is rounding toward normal peace conditions.

Dire Prophecies

What is it that gives prophecies of evil such popularity? Hope springs eternal in the human breast; but it is equally certain that man likes to be frightened and relishes the thrill of menace around him. Else, why the interest with which he reads prophecies of world destruction, why the gusto with which forecasts of world-wrecking wars are swallowed, why the weight given to prophecies of economic upheaval and cataclysm?

The most reasonable answer to this question is that man likes such prophecies because of the joy that he derives from their failure. He is secretly confident of escape from whatever besets him, and, by that token, he likes to be tricked into believing that the peril from which he will escape is of the direst.

Most of the worry about posterity lacks the stamp of sincerity.

FORUM

BACK TO "NORMALCY."

To the Editor:
President Harding said after the war that the question to engage our attention was getting back to "Normalcy." The conditions so far after four years of peace have been the worst ever known in our history. Some industries have collapsed entirely while others have been boosted to the skies.

The greed and capidity of men in attempting the suspension of the laws of nature only results in a reaction until the equalization of forces produces abnormality in the other direction.

The president had a national or international condition in mind but I prefer to apply the true economic principles on a small scale to see how they work. When we sold our home place in Fruitdale we found ourselves stranded out on the street with no place to go. Rents and prices were so high that we chose Union as a place of residence. The reason why rents and prices were so high was because of a suspension of building operations during the war. The dearth of houses caused a reaction on building activity. This in turn caused hoarding of price of material and labor which was reflected in advance prices and rents.

Throughout our whole economic system the same principles apply. A group of men get together and persuade themselves that they can suspend the laws of nature with impunity. They may do so for a time until the equalization of forces begin to get when the dams and obstructions they build across the streams of natural law will go out with a rush.

Take a concrete example as between a number of towns or counties. A certain guild, profession or trade that performs special or personal service no one town undertakes to establish a schedule of prices higher than those that prevail in other towns or localities. It is only a matter of time until the customers begin to perform this personal service themselves or they wait until they go to another town or locality and when we consider the large number of people who travel on the trains or autos on the highway the other town or locality is not so far away and the dam across the stream of natural law is not very effectual in changing the current of the trade, the consequence is the town that tries to suspend natural law is confronted with a shortage of business, with idleness and stagnation. Then they think they can't reduce prices because they can't make ends meet. Supply and demand produces the equalization of forces.

Man may think he can tamper with the machinery of the universe, but in the long run he only fools himself.

J. B. Stoddard

IMBLER ALUMNI BANQUET GRADS

IMBLER, June 2.—The alumni of the Imbler high school gave their annual banquet for the graduating class Friday evening in the K. P. hall. Immediately after the banquet a business meeting was held to elect officers for the coming year. The officers elected are as follows: Delta Stringham, president; Harley McDonald, vice president; Doris Westenskow, secretary; and Eva Briggs, treasurer. Later in the evening a very interesting program was rendered. Delta Stringham played a piano solo, Lucy Westenskow gave a recitation, Mr. Dykstra and Mr. Burrell, each gave a talk, and Ruth Lateral sang a vocal solo.

Mrs. P. H. Westenskow and Miss Delta Stringham left here Saturday evening for Provo, Utah, to attend the commencement exercises of the Brigham Young university where Miss Florence Westenskow has been attending school. They will visit other

parts of Utah before returning home. Mr. and Mrs. Freda Bawden of Salt Lake City have been in Imbler this week visiting with Mrs. Wm. Westenskow. Mr. Bawden's sister, they returned to their home in Salt Lake Thursday after having visited Portland, Vancouver and Seattle.

Mr. and Mrs. Van Loon returned Sunday from North Bend where they have been attending the grand lodge of the Odd Fellows.

Miss L. V. Agee, who has been teaching in the Imbler high school this year, left for her home in Corvallis Sunday evening.

R. G. Dykstra, who has been superintendent of the Imbler schools this year will remain in Imbler for at least six more weeks. He has accepted a position with the highway men and will do some office work for the next month.

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