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CURSE OR BLESSING?—Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord.

How About It Weatherspoon?

Having grabbed and held the market for good apples for the past twenty years because of the superior quality of the fruit, the northwest is deeply interested in the following editorial which appears in an eastern newspaper, but which we do not believe can be substantiated by fact:

"In the matter of producing and marketing apples, the farmers and orchardists of New England, at least, have learned a valuable lesson from their brethren in the Pacific coast country of the United States. This year, more clearly than heretofore, it is apparent that in the future, to a greater extent than in the past, the eastern growers of apples will be active competitors for the patronage of the consumers of that fruit. Until quite recently the products of the western orchards have had things much their own way when a choice was made between the apples raised in New England and those carefully assorted and sent from the west.

"At last, it is proudly announced, in behalf of the New England orchardists, that they have been able to produce an apple that can 'safely be eaten in the dark.' That is progress, surely. The cider-mills will suffer as a consequence. At the Eastern States Exposition, held at Springfield, Mass., were shown, in picturesque detail, the results obtained, and the processes employed to make New England and New York state apples the peers, if not the superiors, of any competitors.

"In Massachusetts, according to estimates, some 2,500,000 bushels of apples are produced annually. Also, if one is interested, he may learn that about 48,000 acres are devoted to orchards in that state, and that there remain some 50,000 acres of available orchard land awaiting development. When it is remembered that in Massachusetts alone the marketable apples sold are three times as many in bushels or pounds as those produced at home, the possible profits to be made from the enterprise are apparent.

"It is true, however, that too many New England apples have not been marketable at the prices paid for western fruit. It is true, also, that preference has been given by dealers to apples imported from the west, simply because they have been able to make as large a profit by handling small quantities of the higher-priced fruit as they could derive from turning over a larger bulk at a less price. As a result, both the eastern producer and the consumer have suffered. When, in addition to the ability to produce a better quality of fruit, there is added the means of reaching the consumer direct from the orchard, the demand for New England apples will be greatly increased."

Back To Royalty

It was no great surprise to anyone following the dispatches that a portion of Germany has gone back to royalty. It will be no surprise if much of the advancement made toward democracy in European countries crumbles and the old-time ruling plan is reinstated. In fact, to a great extent the results of the war have been already lost. Secret diplomacy, which was to become obsolete with the dethroning of kings and kaisers, is still practiced with greater secrecy than ever before. For months the trend in Europe has been back to thrones and imperial potentates, and now the first flush of climax has arrived in Germany.

Americans should cling more tightly than ever to our constitution, should with tears in their eyes look at our flag and give thanks for the freedom which must be preserved against all the silly twaddle now being engaged in about our duty across the Atlantic ocean. Let us perform our duties at home and rebuild the American spirit and American principle which vaporings about reforming Europe has to a degree undermined.

Let Everyone Do Some Thinking

The state board of health made it plain to the chamber of commerce yesterday that all water for domestic purposes must be chlorinated in order to be free from contamination; it was made very clear that chlorination does not injure the tenderest individual; sixty millions of people are using chlorinated water with not a single case of injury. All of which brings to mind La Grande's water problem.

Plainly stated, this city must expend more than a half a million dollars on a new water system if we are to reach into the mountains for our supply. Even then the water must be treated to be safe to use. But, if the people should decide on a pumping plant with large wells, the cost of the needed improvement would very likely not exceed one hundred thousand dollars.

It is time for everyone to think and think hard on this city problem which is right before us, for La Grande cannot go through another summer without an additional supply of water.

The Labor Day Annual of the Oregon Labor Press was one of the classic publications that has come to the desk of the Evening Observer in a long time. It was printed in honor of the American Federation of Labor meeting in Portland and was handsomely gotten up. Perhaps the boys who set the ads and the type for the articles, and the pressmen also, knew that Charlie Howard, an old Oregon boy now head of the International Typographical union, would be in Portland and they were more than anxious to give him a publication that would reflect credit on the printing industry of the Rose City. Whether that is true or not, the Labor Day Annual is a handsome publication.

A questionnaire reveals that most governors would have shorter sessions of the legislatures. This, possibly, in absence of ability to dispense with them entirely.

RUHR TRAFFIC IS IMPROVED

Traffic Improves on Ruhr Valley Railroads While in French Hands.

COLOGNE—Constant improvement in efficiency and economic results, in the operation of the German railway system in the occupied areas is pointed out in statistics tabulated by officials of France. Every month, according to these statistics, shows an unanticipated increase in the number of passengers carried and merchandise tonnage brought under the control of the occupation authorities.

In order, however, to obtain an accurate perspective of what this railway system, one of the most complicated in the world, was like before the occupation as compared with its present status—undoubtedly greatly improved within the past few months—it is necessary to compare it as it is today not only with what it was a few months ago but also with what it was before it was taken over by administrators of France and Belgium.

From trustworthy figures the following comparisons are made:
 "Traffic: In March of this year the occupation authorities were using 855 miles of track, and in July—the latest month on which figures are available—they were using 2,130 miles. The whole system in the Rhineland and Ruhr occupied areas, as operated by the Germans before the occupation, consisted of 7,150 miles of track. Since very few miles are still being operated under German management therefore, some 5,000 miles of track are still running.

Personnel: In March 11,980 French and Belgian train operators, six German trainmen and 2,360 German auxiliary workers were employed on the occupied system; or a total of 15,440 persons. In July, 19,353 French and Belgian trainmen, 357 German trainmen and 9,224 German auxiliary workers—a total of 24,934 persons—were employed. Before the occupation the total personnel, including officials and workmen, amounted to 267,000. Of this number, about 200,000 have left the occupied area, or have been expelled, leaving about 67,000 former employees still in the occupied zone to do whatever emergency work they can.

Passenger Traffic: In March 600,000 passengers, including German civilians and military travelers, were carried on the trains, whereas in July the passenger traffic had increased to 2,419,000 persons, of whom about two-thirds were German civilians. This, in itself, is a record for the use of French trains by German civilians. During the month of October, November and December, 1922, the passenger traffic over the German-Manned lines, judging from the number of tickets sold, amounted to 97,254,000 persons, making the monthly list of passengers about 32,418,000, as compared with 2,419,000 carried on the trains during July, 1923.

Editorials From Over the Nation

Milwaukee Journal: Ten days ago the League of Nations was ridiculed, fatally wounded, even "wink." The thing that had done it was Italy's seizure of Corfu. The thing that made it plain was the challenge of the league's authority by Signor Salandra for Italy, coupled with the threat that if the league undertook to interfere, Italy would leave.

"Today Italy is evacuating Corfu; it has not left the league, and Signor Salandra is pleading that the question of the league's jurisdiction shall not be taken up. 'Why,' he asks, 'should the question of competency be raised merely to invest the league with further authority? Why not bury the whole business, now that everything is in the garden is lovely?'"

Signor Salandra speaking for his government, plainly coars that it will be made even more clear to the world that Mussolini has backed down, that the league was the victor and his challenge of its authority was met and answered. Now Mussolini has backed down. He has backed down because he could not stand up against the opinion of the world. He has lost prestige, but it is not particularly to



WHAT, AGAIN! Once more the Prince of Wales is "reported" engaged. They just will marry him off. This time the name of Lady Mary Thynne, daughter of the Marquess of Bath, and one of the most popular peeresses in Great Britain, is mentioned. But, as usual, one can learn nothing.

Clings to Husband



to be published of Mrs. Beryl Curtis in two children, since Ward went on a life for the slaying of Clarence at Sutton Manor.

flower father, is there not substantial ground for a revival of marriages by purchase?
 Summons.
 In the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Union County.
 G. W. Nibarger, Plaintiff,
 vs.
 Martha Nibarger, Defendant.
 To Martha Nibarger, the above named defendant:

In the name of the State of Oregon, you are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint filed against you in the above entitled court and cause, on or before six weeks from the date of the first publication of this summons.

"The worm has turned." New York Times: From Los Angeles, center of the pictorial and picturesque world, comes a decision big with fate, should it prove a precedent. A married woman, earning \$150 a month, was brought into court by her husband, ill and incapable of labor, charged with desertion. The judge allowed \$5 a week as alimony till his action for separate maintenance has been determined. The judge was strong on the "better or worse" clause. "The wife will have to pull a double load for a while at least. Marriage is a case of give and take."

The National Women's party, crying for "equality of the sexes," heard this helpful answer to its cry and would be happy if it were not doing business in this sad world for nobler purposes than happiness. There are all too many men, it may be feared, mean-spirited enough to shun work if they have wives forehanded or earning good salaries or wages. Henceforth will not a little cloud of doubt hang over the raptures of even the most ardent suitors? How can his fair she be sure that his matrimonial are not matrimonial intentions? In time even the industrious, willing worker may be thrust from his economic position by the superior sex.

A Kansas farmer giving his daughter in marriage the other day, said: "I have lost my best hired man, or that girl can plow corn as good as any of them." In many other fields conquering woman "can plow as good as any of them." Isn't the dethroned sovereign entitled to a decent maintenance? And in such a case as that of the Sum-

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