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BRUCE DENNIS, Editor.

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TO UNDERSTAND:—Make me to understand the way of thy precepts: so shall I talk of thy wondrous works.—Psalm 119:27.

The Crime Of Indifference

Those who enjoy the free and enlightened government of America and yet refuse to take part in its making should read carefully the following excellent editorial on the "Crime of Indifference" published by the Christian Science Monitor:

"Made, by the wisdom and foresight of the founders of the republic, the shapers and directors of their own destiny, the American people, endowed with the inalienable powers granted only to those of a democracy, are too much inclined to stand aside and permit themselves to be influenced, if not actually governed, by an assertive and unwisely controlled minority. It has been the confident assertion of the smug and complacent that no great calamity could ever overtake their established institutions because of the latent or reserve strength represented by conservative voters who heretofore have been regarded somewhat as 'minute men,' ready to respond in defense of the country in the hour of need.

"But the fact is that these reserve voters do not respond. Their absence from the polls was never more marked than in the 1922 elections, where in many of the states the issue was clearly defined and where the failure to express the wishes of the majority resulted in the election of lawmakers unacceptable to the conservative voters who failed to express their choice until the harm had been done. This indifference resulted, in Massachusetts, in the defeat of the proposed state law, enacted by the legislature and signed by the governor, committing the commonwealth to concurrent action in enforcing the terms of the eighteenth amendment to the constitution. This enactment, under the provisions of the referendum, was submitted to the electors of the state for ratification or rejection. At the time of the election in 1922 there was 1,279,108 registered voters in Massachusetts, which number probably does not represent all those who are entitled to a vote but are not registered. It is an interesting commentary upon the boasted availability of the 'minute men' in times of absolute need that the total vote cast for and against the proposed enactment was 743,598, or about 58 per cent of the total vote registered, and no doubt a much lower percentage of the total number actually entitled to register and vote.

"In many of the states of the American union at the last election there were chosen for senators and representatives in congress, as well as for legislative offices within the state, the candidates of the radical elements, ever self-assertive and active in politics. It is important to remember that the radical advocates are always active and aggressive, and that their followers go to the polls whenever the opportunity is presented. They are electing the lawmakers and dictating the legislative policies of congress and of the legislatures of many of the states. They are seeking more and more insistently to gain control of the school boards in the cities, thus making their first move to 'reform' the educational system by substituting their own theories. They are seeking, through the control of legislative bodies, to gain sufficient power to dictate the methods of state-controlled colleges and universities by displacing presidents, professors and instructors who are regarded as confirmed conservatives.

"The flood of proposed measures which awaits the opening of the forthcoming session of congress is indicative of the purpose of those senators and representatives who quite reasonably claim to have received their warrant of authority from their constituents. It is a reasonable forecast that the efforts heretofore made to enact special or class legislation will be exceeded in the next congress. And who is responsible? The industrious radical cannot be blamed. Whatever his convictions, however much one may be inclined to disagree with his viewpoint, he has shown the courage and the willingness to vote as he thinks, the sincerity to back his judgment at the polls. And he has a right to demand that those whom he has helped to positions of power fulfill their obligations to him. It is thus that the thing we call democracy is expressive.

"By no stretch of the imagination can it be presumed that a nation governed by a minority of its normal voting strength can be safely or properly governed. Interesting computations show, for instance, that in North Dakota, at the last general election, the highest percentage of the registered vote recorded in any state went to the polls. In electing a United States senator, 67 per cent of the total registered vote participated. That was a good showing as far as numbers are concerned. Former Governor Frazier, once recalled from the executive office by a vote of the people, was chosen senator. And yet he was elected by 56 per cent of the state's registered voters. In Iowa, to the consternation of conservative business men, Smith W. Brookhart defeated the "regular" Republicans in the primary and the Democratic candidate in the general election. But it appears that 55 per cent of the registered voters of Iowa did not go to the polls at all. Yet Senator Brookhart will represent that sovereign state in the United States senate, as he has a right to do, simply because of the indifference of those who, had they expressed their preference, would have defeated him overwhelmingly. Senator Brookhart's warrant of authority comes from but 29 per cent of the registered voters of Iowa.

"Parallel cases appear in almost every state in which a radical was successful, and in many in which there was no notable overturning of existing political conditions. It took only 28 per cent of Wisconsin's registered vote to re-elect La Follette. The 30 per cent of the voters in Michigan joined in the senatorial election, and the successful candidate, a Democrat, the first to be elected from that state in many years, received his commission by grace of 16 per cent of the state's registered vote. Senator Wheeler of Montana pulled only 30 per cent of his state's vote, and Howell of Nebraska, classed as a radical, had but 32 per cent. In the state of Washington, Senator Poindexter, a

THE OLD HOME TOWN

By Stanley



progressive man, with the advantage of two terms in the senate and the close friendship of the President, went down in defeat before a radical Democrat. The victorious candidate polled 17 per cent of the state's registered vote. Facts such as these raise the question as to whether a people that gives so little attention to the duties of democracy is entirely fit to enjoy the powers and privileges of democracy. And when we note that the normal election returns in the United States show a vote of about 49 per cent of the actual voting strength, while in England about 80 per cent go to the polls, and in Germany 90 per cent of the vote is ordinarily forthcoming, the necessity for reaching a solution to the question as to what is wrong with American citizenship becomes imperative."

I Am the Printing Press

I am the printing press, born of the mother earth. My heart is of steel, my limbs are of iron, and my fingers are of brass. I sing the songs of the world, the oratories of history, the symphonies of all time.

I am the voice of today, the herald of tomorrow. I weave into the warp of the past the woof of the future. I tell the stories of peace and war alike.

I make the human heart beat with passion or tenderness. I stir the pulse of nations. I make brave men do braver deeds. I inspire the midnight toiler, weary at his loom, to lift his head again and gaze, with fearlessness, into the vast beyond, seeking the consolation of a hope eternal.

When I speak, a myriad people listen to my voice. The Saxon, the Latin, the Celt, the Hun, the Slav, the Hindu, all comprehend me.

I am the tireless clarion of the news. I cry your joys and sorrows every hour. I fill the dullard's mind with thoughts uplifting. I am light, knowledge, power. I epitomize the conquests of mind over matter.

I am the record of all things mankind has achieved. My offspring comes to you in the candle's glow, amid the dim lamps of poverty, the splendor of riches; at sunrise, at high noon, and in the waning evening.

I am the laughter and tears of the world, and I shall never die until all things return to the immutable dust.

I am the printing press.

ROBERT H. DAVIS.

(On the occasion of the installation of a press for Munsey's Magazine in July, 1911, "Bob" Davis, the editor, was requested to write advertising copy for the people who installed the machine. He had written most everything but advertising. Driven into a corner, he penned the above, and ran it unsigned in the ad pages. Within 30 days, more than 2,000 papers had reprinted it, many with editorial comments.)

It does not seem so long ago that some fearful souls thought discussion of the theory of evolution would disrupt religion.

When a man is taking the advice of his wife he likes to create the impression that he reasoned the matter out.

To make the score when needed is the route to sudden fame.

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Editorials From Over the Nation

After Life Is Snuffed Out
New York Herald: Once in every million billion years the sun meets another star at a distance equal to the gap between the earth and the sun. When this happens the orbit of the earth, ordinarily a circle, becomes an ellipse. The shape of this ellipse might bring the earth 99 per cent closer to the sun than it is now. In that unhappy event all life on this globe would meet the fate of a moth flitting close to a burning paint shop.

What would happen afterward, when the earth had resumed its old place in the celestial merry-go-round? Would life return to this little planet just as life came to it aeons ago? Would it come in the procession that the biologist picture? Would there be Neanderthal men, Chaldeans, disappearing civilizations, superstition, slavery, Caesars and Napoleons? Would man's long struggle for existence and freedom and happiness be repeated and rewarded in somewhat the same way?

Men have made guesses at this risk. John Burroughs said that the worm would never aspire again. Perhaps he was right. When, if and as the sun prorogues the congress of mundane life, it may be forever. The earth will remain on a lifeless pellet of mud on a blind errand. There will be no Aristotles or Kiplings, no pyramidal builders or Edisons, no Columbus or Charley Chaplins, no love, no pumpkin pie.

Under the circumstances it behooves everybody to make the most of the next few trillion years.

Distorting the Value of Athletics
Chicago Tribune: The Des Plaines school football team was defeated overwhelmingly by the Lane Tech eleven in this year's contest. The Des Plaines coach accused three of his players of "laying down" in the game, and succeeded in having them suspended by the principal. The school board held a three hour session on the demand of the boys' fathers that they should be reinstated, and refused to act. The boys are still out.

That, we believe, is a perfect example of the way in which athletics ought not to be considered or controlled in schools. It puts them higher or in importance than scholarship or ordinary deportment. It tends to put the game into contempt when it holds the boys in contempt for not playing as successfully as the coach may desire. It is demoralizing to both education and athletics.

The purpose of football and other school athletics is to improve the physical condition of the students in general and to give them a healthy interest supplementary to their work. When boys can be suspended on such a charge as this the institution of one interested party, the whole purpose and reason of athletics is distorted as to work evil instead of good. It is important because it might form a precedent which will disturb the proper balance between athletics and study in other schools. It is essential that such proper balance be maintained.

Library Chats

Library Chats
There is no excuse for being ignorant of the things you can reasonably be expected to know. The newspapers, the magazines, the books, are the powerful educators today. The library provides these three things in



How often do you consider your fire risks?

DOES it take a disastrous fire to make you think of fire insurance?

Do you realize the fire danger that threatens your property? Why not put it squarely up to this insurance agency which makes it a business to know how to protect your investment?

To give the best service, the soundest policies are required—and that is why insurance is offered you in the Hartford Fire Insurance Company.

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LADIES!

WATCH FOR THURSDAY'S AD



different grades, suitable for every type of mind. We urge you to come in and examine our resources.

The library recently received a self-examination chart which says is "The test of a well-read person." How many of these can you answer? We will give just a few:

1. Why was Socrates condemned to drink hemlock?
2. Who wrote the "Holy Grail"?
3. What was Lamb's amusing conceit about man's discovery of "trout pie"?
4. Who wrote "Ghosts"? Is it a poem, a play, an essay, or fiction?
5. How did these wonderful love poems, "Romeo from the Portuguese," receive their name? Are they translations or adaptations?
6. You have often heard people speak of "carrying a message to Garcia." How did the phrase originate?
7. "Pollock and Melrose" is a modern drama which every well-informed person has either read or heard in opera form. Who wrote it?

There are 28 questions in this self-examination chart. How many questions can you answer of the 7 given above? Why not make a mental resolution to become better informed and read at least two good books a month. The Public Library will help you.

October has been the Library's banner month. Our circulation has been 5,297. Of course we are very proud of it but we feel that we should reach the 5,000 every month without any great effort on our part. We have also had 223 new borrowers and of this number 132 were juveniles. More juvenile borrowers than adults. We can only say what is the matter with the adults of La Grande? Are they not interested in their Public Library and must we go out into the highways and bring them in? We are not sure but that we will do just that thing for the modern library does not sit idly by waiting patiently for the public to come in—it goes out after them.

Wanted! Adult readers at the Public Library!

It is estimated that every normal child is equipped with enough spare parts to not a surgeon \$125.

Some Livestock on Every Farm

Specialized grain and hay farming without livestock to consume the surplus is like raising livestock without growing any of the feeds which will reduce the cost of producing the animals. Either way puts the scale of profits out of balance and leaves the farmer to face the possibilities of loss on maybe his one and only class of production.

Similarly, milk products are more profitable than producing cattle for slaughter, for it is said the output of dairy products in one year is greater in dollars and cents than the total slaughtered worth of all the cattle in the country.

We are particularly interested here at the La Grande National Bank in the development of permanent and continuous agricultural prosperity, and are always glad to lend assistance in providing the right kind and right quality of livestock for the farmers of this locality. The Pacific International Livestock Exposition at Portland, November 3 to 10, offers an unparalleled opportunity to study the ways and results of profitable stockraising. It is the greatest gathering together of purebred dairy and beef cattle, sheep, hogs, goats, horses and also chickens and rabbits in the entire country. Why not attend this year?

La Grande NATIONAL BANK

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