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PRAYER FOR TODAY:
Lord God, I pray thee, send me
word-speed this day.—Genesis 24:
12

For a Safe Christmas

The National Board of Fire Underwriters keeps track of fatalities by fire and is authority for the statement that about one in 10 of all Christmas fires last year proved fatal to at least one of the celebrants involved. This is surprising information. It may appear to be distressing intelligence to spread when the world looks forward expectantly to a joyous holiday, but it unquestionably is less distressing than details of fires, which advance warnings might have prevented, will prove to be.

The board warns holiday makers particularly against trees loaded with lighted candles, and suggests as considerably safer and just as sightly, a firmly erected tree with colored electric bulbs, and festooned with non-inflammable decorations, metal tinsel, flake asbestos and mica, in lieu of easily-ignited paper and cotton. Impersonators of the child's patron saint of the holidays are warned against parking their disguises in the vicinity of flame, an over-right responsible for a large proportion of Christmas fatalities and painful injuries.

When fires become dried, and they dry quickly in heated homes, they become doubly dangerous, which moves the board to suggest that the suspicion of bad luck, if the tree remains in the house after New Year's Day may be based on very practical considerations. Toys requiring oils and gas for their operation, and cheap electrical devices and machines which do not protect children from inflammable motion picture films used in them are also included in the board's warning.

Any fire is something of a calamity. Especially is it so at Christmas, when our thoughts are entirely removed from the defects and disasters of living. And certainly there is no sport in them for fire-fighters who have homes and dinners and celebrations of their own to engage their attention.

Stupendous Giving

It is estimated that this will be a \$5,000,000,000 Christmas. Only a great country and a prosperous people could expend such a sum in Christmas giving. All barometers agree that all records have been broken. The most significant phase lies in the proof it gives of the general prosperity. It shows that we have recovered from the post-war depression and that we now are in the midst of a prosperity which we have been slow to realize at present, and the general distribution of the condition is the most satisfactory phase of it.

Labor is fully employed at high wages and even the buying power of the farmer may be slightly better than last year. In some sections that is notably true. When money is scarce people may not be less generously disposed, but they cannot spend money freely for that which is not obligatory. Christmas signifies free-will giving and the carrying out of that depends on surplus savings. If \$5,000,000,000 has gone into Christmas trade it demonstrates the vast resources of the country despite the heavy taxes of which we hear so much complaint.

Malingering The Mule

A mule's disposition is "open and notorious." So holds the Oklahoma supreme court. Standing without qualification, this places undue emphasis on a bad trait of an animal that has many good ones to offset it. The mule may be short of temper, but he is long on pull and haul and service. He may be weak when it comes to resisting temptation to indulge in a fling of heels or a snap of teeth, but he is strong of leg and back when it comes to laboring for men.

Through the ages he has carried man's burdens. Sure of foot, nimble in action and gifted with uncanny instinct in sensing danger ahead, he has traveled safely on many trails too treacherous for other beasts of burden. With pioneers the mule has helped to break new paths into the unknown, and has always worked his way. Moreover, the mule has a will of his own—a steadfastness, dubbed stubbornness when opposed to man's will, that nothing short of an express train or a battering ram can budge. This gives the mule's service, the character of a free-will offering, and therefore deserving of real gratitude.

He may not be much to look at and he may not invite petting, but he invites a measure of respect, court decisions to the contrary notwithstanding.

Senator Borah asks the status of the French war debt to the United States. Surely he does not suspect that it might have been paid without his having heard about it.

According to the Oklahoma supreme court a man who approaches too near a mule has no ground for complaint because of what happens. That it is a mule is warning of danger.

A vaccine that will cure "that tired feeling" is alleged to have been discovered, but it will not appeal to those who want an excuse for indolence.

THE OLD HOME TOWN

By Stanley



STATION AGENT DAD KEYES WAS ALL OUT OF SORTS THIS MORNING WHEN HE DISCOVERED SOME LUNK HEAD HAD LEFT THE DEPOTS BEST POKER IN THE WAITING ROOM STOVE ALL NIGHT

Editorials From Over the Nation

A GLANCE AT THE SOLDIER BONUS

Christian Science Monitor: Although President Harding disapproved of the soldier bonus payment, it was vigorously when he vetoed the measure, it was fairly well accepted even then that the probability was that before very long it would again appear on the political horizon. Consequently, it is no surprise to find it once more in the forefront of today's important issues, now that President Coolidge and Secretary Mellon have shown how closely it is related to the problem near to the heart of every American—relief from the present heavy tax burdens. Before passing definite judgment of the bonus situation, however, it is fitting to review certain facts which may possibly have been forgotten by many interested in giving a perfectly square deal to the veterans.

In this connection, some figures which the United States chamber of commerce has issued may come as a distinct surprise. These show the relationship which exists between the amount of money that the United States has already contributed to the American veterans of the war and that given by other countries to their former defenders. Thus, France has paid out in this direction \$27,371,150; Great Britain \$27,516,445; Canada \$14,500,000; on the other hand, the United States has already turned over to its veterans a sum larger than the combined totals of both Great Britain and France, namely \$58,600,000.

One should not have to fear the accusation of partisanship or of not fully appreciating the work which the boys accomplished overseas, when discerning in these facts indications that the outcry raised that the American veterans have not received fair treatment should be examined closely before being accepted completely.

SHAKING THE BLUES

Fort Worth Star Telegram: According to all figures, scientific data and physicians' reports, Americans are subject to attacks of "the blues" more than the people of any other country. "The blues" may be diagnosed as a chronic state of being out of sorts, out of tune with everything and everyone, one's self included. The symptoms are melancholia, gloom, depression, a distinct lowering in mental tone and poise, physical inactivity with organic disturbances of the stomach, liver and spleen. The feeling is one apart from sorrow. The common "blues" may be said to resemble sorrow only in its resistible nature.

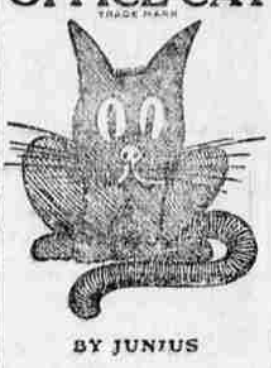
The attack may be attributed to being broke, fear of being broke, to falling late, jazz music, unrequited love, or mother-in-law. The blues may be hastened by courage, patience and determination to accomplish the task set for you, or, usually, by a long walk in the early morning.

Stop working, eat within reason, sleep one-third of your time, be on the job, don't day-dream, enjoy blue eyes, blue sky and blue sea, but keep away from the other "blues." They spoil your temperament, ruin your digestion, blight your business chances, drive off your friends, and shorten your life.

SINNOTT ON ROAD BOARD

WASHINGTON.—Western members of Congress, at a meeting recently to consider the question of adding some of the mountain states in the construction of coast to coast roads, appointed a committee composed of members from each of the public land states to confer with Thomas H. Macdonald, chief of the bureau of roads. Representative Sinnott was named as the member from Oregon. Judge William Tuley, state highway commissioner of Oregon, was in attendance at the meeting. The committee will consider the form of legislation to be proposed, sentiment favoring construction at three through highways in the states of Montana, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona by federal funds without requirement for state contribution.

OFFICE CAT



BY JUNIUS

La Grande boy (in front of her parents).—Here, son, take this quarter and go see that love drama on at the picture show.

Little Brother Willie.—If it's all the same to you, I'd just as soon stay here and watch you and sister after mamma and papa goes to bed.

A CARELESS MAN AND A GOOD JOB ARE SOON PARTED.

When a girl lets a man kiss her sooner than he expects, he doesn't begin to get suspicious—but flatters himself on his early conquest.

With all apologies, of course, Junius wishes to define a modern girl as one who bobs her hair, hinders her nose and then says to herself, "Clothes, I am going down town, if you want to come along, hang on!"

Farmer from Cove: (to caller on O.W.)—"What d'you do?"
Caller: "I call trains."
Farmer: "Well, call me one; I'm in a hurry."

THE DOORMAT BEFORE MARRIAGE SAYS "WELCOME," AFTER "WIFE YOUR FEET."

"One by one simple beliefs of our childhood are destroyed," sighed a La Grande man, aged 54, on reading the positive statement that horse hairs do not turn into snakes.

He Knew.
Central School Teacher: "While your mouth is open!"
Willie: "Gwan, I know it. I opened it myself!"

FOR SALE

Four-room modern house on Oak Street, plastered, Oak lot 35x110 feet. Price \$2,500. Fair payment down and easy terms on balance.

Four-room house, large lot 60x110 on C Street, Oak Town. Price \$3,000. Terms.

Three-room house, Two large lots, on C Street, Oak Town. Price \$2,500. \$200.00 cash balance \$25.00 per month including interest.

Three-room house, modern bath, tiled, lights and City water, located on Third Adams Ave. Wood shed, Mandarin street and cement sidewalk all paid. Lawn, shrubbery etc. Price \$2,500.00 \$750.00 cash, will handle it.

Two-acre tract, good 5-room house, all fenced, water right in the La Grande Irrigation District Co. Located in Park addition just outside of City limits. Good chicken houses, fruit and barn. Price \$2,500.00. Terms on part of it.

We need some more houses to sell. We cannot supply our customers, if you have anything to sell come and let it with us we will sell it for you.

Phy, Black & Stoop

In La Grande National Bank Bldg.
La Grande, Oregon.
PHONE MAIN 86

You can search the etiquette book in vain for advice concerning the graceful and correct way to scratch a "date."

"A little goes a long ways," says a Union man, who spit off a pre-dice recently.

WE'VE ALL HEARD OF THE GIRL WHO HAD TO WALK BACK FROM A CAR RIDE SWIM BACK FROM A BOAT RIDE—BUT WE LOOK UP TO THE GIRL WHO HAS TO PARACHUTE BACK FROM AN AIR-PLANE.

We won't tell his name, but one of the La Grande druggists almost had an apoplexy this morning when he came down to the store and found his janitor sweeping the floor with ground chocolate. "I thought it was sawdust," the janitor althid.

A writer says the best way to keep your husband is with a perfect 35 bust dimension. But from reading the news columns it appears that a loofer way would be to use a perfect 44.

CLEVELAND CHOICE FOR CONVENTION

(Continued from page 1)
When the 1924 Democratic National Convention met in Cleveland, Ohio, on Monday, Dec. 16, 1923, the selection of Cleveland, Ohio, as the site of the convention was made unanimous for Cleveland. There will be nearly 1,100 delegates compared with 954 in 1920, under a resolution adopted today virtually restoring the old representation of the southern states. The southern bloc, fighting for increased representation, won a spirited battle against reduced southern representation proposed under the reapportionment. The national committee from the south and negro delegates who protested to the reapportionment succeeded in having the committee reapportionment made in 1921 and restored practically all of the south's representation. The committee at the same time, however, decided to largely increase the power of the northern states by providing that three additional delegates at large should be given all states carried by Harding in 1920.

MEX REBELLION HELD GAINING

Tampico Garrison Joins Revolutionary Movement Against Obregon.

VERA CRUZ, CAP.—The garrison at Tampico has joined the revolutionary movement against the government of President Obregon, according to a wireless message received here from Tampico.

General headquarters of the revolutionists announced the receipt of the wireless message Tuesday afternoon. It is the news is accurate the entire gulf coast of Mexico now is in the hands of the rebels.

SAN ANTONIO, TEX. (AP)—Large bodies of armed men from all sections of the state of Vera Cruz are joining General Sanchez in the march on Mexico City, according to a telegram.

The HOOVER

It BEATS... as it Sweeps as it Cleans



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If you want to buy something that will render you service as long as you live;
If you want to end forever the drudgery of housecleaning, and to keep your rugs clean every day;
If you want to save labor and to have time for rest and recreation—
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\$2.35 to \$6.50
ONLY 10 MORE SHOPPING DAYS TILL XMAS



Men's Ties
We have a most attractive and exclusive line of men's ties to choose from this year. Great variety of colors and patterns in both silk and knit models. Make your selection early. The best patterns go first, prices ranging from 50c to \$2.50

Umatilla County Court Orders An Extra Mill Levy

PENDLETON.—The right of the county tax appraising and assessment commission to eliminate the special levy of one mill for market road purposes after the county court had elected to make the levy will be tested in court as a result of an order for a special levy made today by the county court.

In the order the county assessor is ordered to make a special levy of \$5,347.61 for the purpose of raising the county levy of the market road fund. The levy of one mill for the state has already been made. Out of this order by the county court is expected to develop.

Father insists that the family get up for church Sunday morning. It gives him quiet to sleep until noon.

As we understand Germany, doesn't petition her at last persuaded her to do what she has been doing ever since 1918.

THE USEFUL GIFT THE WORLD OVER

Waterman's Ideal Fountain Pen
Priced From \$2.75 to \$8.00
RED CROSS DRUG STORE

U.B. Thrifty says

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