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And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.—Rev. 7:11, 12.

MANY OWNERS

There are certain professional critics who have tried to spread the idea that the railroads of our country are owned by a few wealthy families or individuals, and in view of that propaganda a recent report of the House Interstate Commerce Committee on railroad holding companies is very interesting.

Many years ago railroads were largely family property, but today of the 240,000 miles of railroads in the United States only 30,000 miles are controlled by families or individuals. Of these, 28,000 miles are in the hands of the Van Sweringen brothers, but back of them it is understood there are many individuals.

Eight hundred forty thousand investors own the 160 Class One railroads, and of their total voting stock only 5 per cent is held by large banks and brokerage houses. Nor did the committee uncover any suspicious relationships calling for condemnation of interlocking directorates between railroads and insurance companies and large banks.

With the present make-up of big business the ultimate consumer has little to fear in the way of monopolies. Mass ownership of large corporations has kept pace with mass production, and distribution of corporate dividends now compares favorably with distribution of the products of these corporations. Thousands of workers now share two ways in the earnings of the corporations in which they have the dual relationship of employe and stockholder.

There is plenty of room at the top but most of us seem to prefer to mingle with the crowds at the bottom.

The world would be a lot better if everybody could spare a few minutes now and then making the area surrounding them a little better.

THE OPEN COURT

CORRESPONDENTS MUST SUBMIT THEIR NAMES TO THE EDITOR IF THEY DESIRE LETTERS PRINTED.

PET DOG POISONED

To the Editor:

In the pet parade "Lady" won a prize. Lady was a little dog belonging to Doris Schultz. Last Tuesday evening someone threw poison out and Lady was the victim. It certainly is a shame that children can't have harmless pets without some of the people being inhuman enough to poison them.

There is another very important point to consider, too. Children sometimes pick up things and eat them and it might be your child or my child who would get the poison rather than the defenseless pet for which it was intended.

Just consider the fact that Doris loved her little dog as much in her mind as we love our children and I think when people endanger the lives of our children something should be done about it. There have been a large number of dogs poisoned in this part of town in the past month or six weeks, and it seems to me that it going strong.

A NEIGHBOR.

ABOUT STAMPS

Cove, Ore.
Feb. 27, 1931

Editor, The Observer,
La Grande, Oregon.
Dear Sir:

Your editorial of last evening prompts the following.

Did you, Mr. Editor, ever buy any United States postage stamps during late years that you honestly believed to be deficient in sticking ability? Honest to gosh, now, cross your heart and hope to tell the truth. Be as square with that hard-working little oblong bit of paper as it is with you, and before answering stop and think whether you actually have found many, or any, that failed of having the required adhesive quality.

The writer hereof has sold a good many thousands of postage stamps during the past several years, and of that number has personally affixed to their respective letters or parcels quite a considerable quantity, and has yet to find the first one of them which failed to "stay put" after being properly moistened and applied to a surface to which it might reasonably be expected to adhere. Yet it is to be admitted that during the same period complaints have been heard about stamps from the same general run of them. Investigation usually reveals one of two things: either the stamp complained about is a "slightly used" one, i. e., a "tea-kettled" stamp which once has done its lawful work, but which failed to receive a legible service stripe while on the line of its duty, and which its subsequent user hopes again to chain to the galley oars, thereby saving another brace of pennies, or else it is one which literally has been licked to death.

Happily, the first cause is one which is not often encountered, but the assertion may be ventured that the second one is the underlying reason for most of the complaints that are registered. Licked to death! Yes sir! Absolutely so. It may not generally be known, but a good postage stamp, like a good dog, may be utterly ruined by licking, and frequently it is just that. A postage stamp should not be licked. It should be merely moistened, and above all it should never be skidded from one position to another after having thus moistened and applied to the other surface. Just moisten the gum, press the stamp down onto the paper where it belongs, and leave it there. It will stay.

If you want to observe some interesting phases of this subject, just stand for part of a day near the stamp window of a post office and see how some of them are treated.

Here comes a stamp customer now. Let us watch how he puts on his postage stamp. See there! Out lashes his tongue! Up and down it goes, backwards and forwards, all over the glossy surface of that poor little postage stamp. Now watch him. He lays the stamp down on the corner of the envelope, and then hits it a glancing blow with his clenched fist. The stamp dodges hastily away, and goes into a clinch near the middle of the ring. Customer perceives that one corner is sticking up slightly, and lands another straight left on G. Washington's chin. Corner still sticks up and customer pokes his thumb into George's eye, crowding him over to another corner of the arena just as the bell rings at the end of the first round.

Round two begins, and customer glares at George, who now is beginning to curl up in agony. Customer picks him up bodily, licks him some more and slams him down where he first fell, delivering also a series of short jabs to the body. George again begins to curl up, but the customer grabs him with one hand and licks him firmly while in mid-air, and splashes him down again, closer to where the referee is standing. George vainly endeavors to go into another clinch, but is outmanoeuvered, and succeeds only in falling through the ropes. The customer claims the decision.

The fact of the matter is that the gum used by the government on the backs of its postage stamps is the best and most satisfactory adhesive of its kind that is known. Adhesives generally, whether they may be basically of glue, dextrin or gum arabic, adhere when they are, for the reason that the solvent adhesive, when drying, sends out actual roots, like those of a plant or of a tree, and which penetrate the fibres of the two surfaces which are to be cemented together in the same manner that the roots of the plant penetrate the earth. Just as the tree, in order to flourish in rough or rocky ground must have a multiplicity of strong, the strengthening roots, just so must the postage stamp, in order that it may adhere to rough and absorbent paper, have the maximum amount of its root-making adhesive. If these roots are licked off during the process of moistening it is the equivalent of breaking off corresponding roots from tree or plant.

Therefore, with postage stamps, moisten them; don't lick them. Place them accurately where they belong on the paper and leave them alone. Don't skid them around. A wood pitter would not think of relying upon a glued joint which had been opened up, and slipped about numerous times after the little glue roots had begun to send out their shoots. He clamps the two pieces together and leaves them until they are dry. It is no different in the case of the postage stamp.

(Signed) A READER.

CONGRESS TO END SESSION ON MARCH 4

(Continued from Page One)

senate as he sees it. Senator Gould referred to the dictionary definition of "slack" which is "loud, confused, importunate or foolish talk or chatter, prattle."

"What chance has a handful of business men got to accomplish anything in there?" he added, and pulling on an old slouch hat he went out for a walk.

Preparing to return to his oil and farm and banking interests in Oklahoma, Senator W. B. Pine, Republican, who was defeated in the last election, said:

"It will be quite a relief to get back into private business where I have control. Here, no one appears to have control, not even the president of the United States."

Senator Ben Williamson, wholesale hardware merchant from Ashland, Kentucky, who was elected last November to fill a vacancy, believes that one thing this country needs is more business men in congress.

"I recommend it to other business men," said the Kentuckian, who has said little but observed much during his short term. "There's a place in the halls of the national congress for business men. Lawyers have their place there but a good lawyer is a few capable business men. Some of the big fellows in the country ought to stop making money and try it."

Business Man Invaluable

Lawrence Cowle Phipps, of Colorado, one time treasurer of the Carnegie Steel company, says the business man may not make much noise on the senate floor, but is invaluable in the committee rooms where most of the real work is done.

William Emerson Brock, of Tennessee, like Williamson, never held public office before he came to the senate.

"There is no public office on earth I would rather hold than that of a United States senator," he said, but he had to confess he wanted to return, to his first love, the candy manufacturing business in Chattanooga.

Brock voted for making the Hawley-Smoot tariff bill a law despite the overwhelming veto by President Hoover of the Muscle Shoals bill were claimed today by Senator Watson, the Republican leader.

Grants Half Holiday

President Hoover today signed a bill which gives government workers a half holiday on Saturday the year around.

The Brand bill making the circulation of false rumors about member banks of the federal reserve system a federal criminal offense was passed today by the house and sent to the senate.

The department of justice announced today that it would immediately begin an investigation into the prices of milk throughout the country.

Approve Investigation

An investigation of economic conditions in the oil, coal, lumber, manganese, asbestos and agricultural industries was approved today by the senate finance committee. Embargoes or limitation of imports have been sought for these commodities during the session just closing.

The investigation would be conducted by the house ways and means committee. The house has approved the inquiry.

President Hoover's message on the Norris Muscle Shoals bill reached the senate in mid-afternoon, but its reading was delayed for completion of some sensational speeches.

Senator Walsh, Democrat, Massachusetts was in the midst of a long speech when the message arrived.

When he had concluded, Senator Schall, Republican, Minnesota, insisted upon having read a speech of his.

SENATE PASSES RIVER BILL

WASHINGTON, D. C., Mar. 3 (AP)—The senate today passed and sent to the house the bill to authorize a preliminary survey of the Willamette river with a view of providing a navigable channel from Portland to Springfield.

ARTISTS APPEAR IN CONCERT HERE

(Continued From Page One)

discordant after the compositions of the old school. Among the compositions showing the modernistic trend in music which Mr. Moffat included in his program were Debussy, whose composition, "Minstrels," was played. "Lento," by Cyril Scott, was also in the group, and very much like his unusual and beautiful poetry. "American Tango", by Carpenter, and "Hungarian," by McDowell.

Benefit Concert

Proceeds from the concert will be used to finance the state assembly of the Rainbow girls which will be held in La Grande during the coming summer, and which will be attended by Rainbow girls from the entire state.

Ticket sales were in charge of the advisory board which includes Mrs. O. May Noyes, G. T. Cochran, Mrs. Charles Graham, Edith Hall, Charles Graham, Katheryn Moran, Mrs. Violet Melville, Mrs. W. W. Melville, George Burnie, Mrs. Glennie Melville and Mrs. Nusbaum.

Set Hearing For Albert D. Glibert

PORTLAND, Ore., Mar. 3 (AP) — The preliminary hearing for Albert D. Gilbert, accused of shooting to death John W. Bevis, superintendent of the Inman-Poulsen Lumber company here, was yesterday set for next Friday.

Gilbert, who had recently been discharged by the company, killed Bevis Saturday in the superintendent's office.

Louisiana-grown certified cotton seed is available to farmers of this state for the first time in history.

MRS. PIERCE NOMINATED BY GOVERNOR

(Continued from Page One)

measure and the bill was indefinitely postponed.

With the solid approval of Governor Julius L. Meier, the state tax commission and the assessment and taxation committees of the house and senate back of them, the two major tax measures of the legislative session passed the senate and will go immediately to the governor. They passed the house last week.

Increase Tax Rate

The measures were the bill reenacting the intangibles tax act that was declared unconstitutional by the supreme court, and with the tax rate increased from 5 to 8 per cent, and the amendatory excise tax bill increasing the rate of the corporation tax from 5 to 86 per cent.

The only negative vote on the two measures when they went to final passage was Senator J. O. Bailey who voted against the intangibles bill. However, that bill was debated for two and a half hours, in an effort by some members to get the rate put back to 6 per cent and by others to have it amended to provide for an immediate refund of the money collected under the act of 1929, later held unconstitutional. The excise bill was not debated and passed unanimously.

Return Bill to Committee

Lacking definite information on the administration request for $50,000 to provide working funds for the new hydro-electric commission, the bill was sent back to the house utilities committee for a report. The bill was reported out of the ways and means committee without recommendations. The state banking code was approved in the house. Change in the personnel of the emergency board, passed by the senate was approved by the house. The power, formerly vested in the state emergency board would now rest with senate president, house speaker, chairman of the ways and means committee and one senate member or two house members.

An unsuccessful effort to get reconsideration in the senate of senate bill 63, providing for the assignment of circuit judges from other districts to relieve congestion in Multnomah county was followed immediately by the introduction of a bill to provide an additional judge for that county. It was introduced by Senator James W. Crawford.

Defeated by Tie Vote

Senator Charles K. Spaulding moved reconsideration of senate bill 658 which was defeated Saturday by a vote of 16 to 14, and Senator Crawford stated that he had requested Spaulding to make the motion. The motion was debated at some length after reconsideration was granted and it was then defeated by a tie vote.

At the 1929 session a bill was passed providing for two additional judges in Multnomah county. Governor Patterson vetoed it and it was passed over his veto. William F. Woodward, now senator, led a movement in Multnomah county invoking the referendum against it and it was killed by vote of the people.

The Garden

TURNING OVER THE SOIL

There are two distinct schools of gardening when it comes to digging. The old orthodox school proclaims for trenching the soil, that is, digging it out three spits deep (spit being a spade length) putting manure and top soil in the bottom of the trench and then filling in above it with the soil from the bottom of the trench mixed with fertilizer.

The modern school of gardening disards to a great extent the old idea of trenching, which, ordinarily would take the soil out for a depth of from eighteen inches to two feet. Few plant roots of garden size, particularly annuals and vegetables, send down roots to that depth and the fertilizer in the bottom of the trench might as well be in the barnyard or in its original sack so far as doing the plants any good.

If stable manure is available, trenching has the advantage of increasing the moisture retentiveness of the soil by incorporating humus, although in prolonged droughts such as last year, it will not avail much as humus can hold moisture only where there is moisture to hold and dries out ultimately with the rest of the soil, although less speedily. When humus is dry it is very dry indeed and soaks up moisture more slowly than porous, sandy soil, although it holds it longer when it gets it.

Ordinarily the depth of humus will serve the purpose of moisture retention and there is that advantage to trenching. The great mass of feeding roots of all garden plants with few exceptions find their food in the first foot or less of the soil.

Good spading in ordinarily fertile soil will suffice for all practical purposes, but good spading means good spading—thrusting the spade into the soil in as nearly vertical a position as possible to its full blade depth and turning over the soil. This is rarely done, particularly with day labor. The spade goes in at an angle and rather a wide one and if the soil is well turned for six inches the gardener is fortunate. Good spading is a slow and arduous task. A plow can do the job quickly and efficiently but unfortunately plows are not as handy as they were in more bucolic days, so the spading fork is the main implement.

Endeavor to see that the garden gets a thorough digging this year. It will give returns for the extra work.

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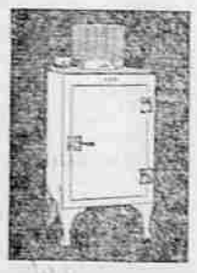

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THE CRIME IN THE DUTCH GARDEN

BY HERBERT ADAMS

SYNOPSIS: Audrey Wheford's confession to Jimmie Hewell that she and Dr. Netherton are engaged convinces him of Police Superintendent Richmond's error in blaming the physician for the murder of Annabelle Quarding. It has been the officer's theory that he had killed the spinster so as to share her fortune through marriage with Marjorie Blake, a niece. A meeting with Annabelle's Marjorie and her mother Evelyn in the event of marriage, may have been taken to invalidate this threat. Audrey, urged by Hewell confesses Netherton concerning his mysterious meetings with Marjorie and a call on Captain Stirling the night on the murder night but he refuses to tell and supports that their engagement be put off. Audrey tells Jimmie she will seek the identity of the driver of a car like Stirling's seen near the house at the time.

Chapter 20
MARJORIE HESITATES

THAT car was seldom out of Jimmie's mind. From the local registration bureau he had learned that Captain Stirling and 16 others in the locality owned Morris two-seaters of the type seen near the grounds. Major Graham owned one, but he said he had walked over on the night of the tragedy. The car might have come from a distance or, if a local one, possibly was used without its owner's knowledge.

Coming from a visit to Constable Roscoe, who had been tracking down these cars, Jimmie met Marjorie, who, rather to his surprise crossed the road to speak to him. She was looking better and happier than when he had previously seen her, and he wondered what had caused the very noticeable change. She said that if Nancy Wade would drop in again and bring Dennis and himself it would be kind. Jimmie promised to deliver the message. Then he said:

"No news, I suppose, of the runaway will?"

"No," said Marjorie, adding that she could not understand any worry over it, since Morgan had said that, even if signed, it would not be binding.

"If properly signed, it would not be inoperative."

"Only the bit about me! And of course we are suspected." Her manner was almost gay. "Whom do you suspect, Mr. Hewell?"

Jimmie countered with a smile and she continued. "The police suspect everybody, don't they? Especially Bill Netherton and me. If they only knew——" Then she snipped abruptly and spoke more seriously. "Is all the talk about it going to do Bill any harm? My brother declares that in a little place like this things are never forgotten—even when they are untrue. Vinnie is suspected too. Ought I to say that he wrote to me before he came down here? He told me he was coming and he asked me to see that Aunt Annabelle was in a good temper."

"Have you got his letter?"

"No, I didn't keep it."

Jimmie considered the question for a few moments. Such a letter would be further evidence that Vincent Blake had not made a secret visit to his aunt's abode, though it would not dispose of the possible theory of a plot between himself and one or both of his sisters. Nor would it dispose of the suggestion that he might have seen his aunt and quarreled with her.

Marjorie did not wait to tell the superintendent of Vincent's letter, but told Jimmie that he might, although Vincent had told her that Richmond would ask why it had not been told before. Jimmie suggested that Vincent tell him.

"I don't think it matters much either way," Hewell commented. "But what did you think, when you found your aunt and Vincent did not appear?"

"You mean did I suspect Vinnie? No, I did not. I had forgotten about him."

"And now? Yourself, your sister, your brother—Knowing your aunt and all the circumstances of her life better than any one else could—can you make no suggestions that will help to solve the mystery?"

"But we ourselves are suspected."

"The more reason then to tell all you know."

After a slight hesitation she said, "We told about the letters but they never discovered who wrote them."

"Suppose the letters had nothing to do with it?"

"But why suppose it? I must leave suspicions to you and to the police."

"You spoke of the danger of harm resulting to Doctor Netherton. Have you done all you can to prevent that danger?"

"What do you mean?" she asked.

"If you believe Dr. Netherton to be innocent, is there nothing you can all that will help to establish his innocence? To clear his name from any taint of suspicion?"

The warm color flushed her cheeks. Bill is innocent, absolutely innocent. No one can prove anything else."

"I know I have no real right to interfere," Jimmie paused to let his words sink in, "although one of the parties concerned asked me to help them. We want, if possible to, punish the guilty, but, most of all, we want to save the innocent."

She looked away from him, the old troubled look coming again into her eyes. "Do you not suppose," she whispered, "I would help you if I could?"

"Would you? Think it over, Miss Blake. Think over all it may mean to Bill—and others. Then, if there is anything—will you let me know?"

Once more she hesitated. When she spoke it was in a new mood—there was something of defiance in it. "You are wrong, Mr. Hewell. Altogether wrong. The whole thing is as great a mystery to me as it is to you. I hope you will discover who killed my aunt. I wish it as much as any one," and I am as thankful as any one for all you have done. But there is nothing I can do to help you."

As he walked toward the Wades' home he considered what Marjorie had told him, but, more conjecturally, the thought of what she had not told him was uppermost as he greeted Nancy and gave her Marjorie's message. It was forthwith arranged that the little party from Fairways should go over to Morrow Craig the following evening.

In the morning Jimmie played a round of golf with Nancy, meeting Evelyn and Lionel on the course. Evelyn repeated the invitation to the Wades and Jimmie for bridge that evening and passed on. In the distance was Captain Stirling and another man, the one-armed golfer making some accurate long drives.

In the afternoon he went to see Roscoe and again met Superintendent Richmond, who seemed greatly discouraged. "The safe way to commit a murder is on impulse. Every plan you make is a source of danger. If a man hates another there is murder in his heart. Suddenly the chance to kill is offered and he takes it. That sort of crime is the most difficult to detect."

"Are you talking at large or with reference to the Quarding case?" asked Jimmie.

"To this case, of course. I am coming back to my first idea that the chauffeur did it. He was furious at her, she was there under the image and he gave it a shove. No one saw him and nothing can be proved."

"I follow the argument," said Jimmie, "and to some extent agree. The visit to Ben Acres for the hammer was not the only walk that evening."

"On the way to Ben's, or coming back, he went around by the Dutch garden and saw his chance."

"What about the empty car?" asked Jimmie.

"He thought it would put us off the track, but our failure to trace it justifies our doubting its existence."

If, as Jimmie suggested, Collett and Mrs. Foster had seen it, too, Richmond said it might not have been the same one.

Richmond had seen Green again, he said, but the chauffeur stuck to his story. Certainly proof would be difficult. Others had the same opportunity as the chauffeur, with apparently stronger motives—not anger only, but very definite gain. Jimmie left him, little thinking what the night was to bring forth.

(Copyright, 1930, J. B. Lippincott Co.)

Jimmie stumbles upon a tender love scene in the dusk of the garden as tomorrow's chapter unfolds, and finds it an important link.

Wilson Is Like A New Man Now

"After seven years suffering with stomach trouble and sick headaches, Sargon has put me back on my feet a new man," declared Ray Wilson, an employee of the Pacific State Lumber Co., Bellingham, Wash. "My kidneys were also overactive, and pains in my elbows and shoulders hurt me so bad I could hardly sleep.

"Sargon was the best investment in health I ever made. Every trouble I had is gone and I feel strong and well from head to foot.

"I also used the Sargon Pills for constipation and they sure were a relief from the salts and strong purgatives I always had to take."

Sold by Red Cross Drug Store.

RAY WILSON