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Have you broken your good resolutions yet?

This issue of the Mail is the first of the twentieth year of its existence and the fifteenth under its present management. January 3, 1893, the present publisher of this paper took the management thereof and for these fifteen years he has labored faithfully to up-build the paper, the city of Medford and the surrounding country.

The report of young Theodore Roosevelt's presence at the ringside at a prize fight in New York, and of casting a roll of bills to an old broken down bruiser may be true but it is not particularly to his credit.

Christmas Greetings
Well, it's up to me to wish you all a Merry Christmas. You certainly did the fair thing by us. We did a corking business. I guess people like to trade here for a regular thing.

1st NATIONAL BANK OF MEDFORD
CAPITAL \$50,000.00
RESOURCES OVER ONE-THIRD OF A MILLION
TWO YEARS' GROWTH, \$800,000
Our Savings Department has over 300 Depositors
We pay three per cent interest on TIME and SAVINGS DEPOSITS. We cannot match any other bank in the city.

Congressman Hawley has appointed Walter S. Josephson, of Roseburg, cadet at the West Point Military Academy, with William E. Smith, of Jefferson, and Irving L. Ragsdale, of Roseburg, as alternates.

Senator Fulton and Representative Ellis have returned home in order to register for the primary elections. Representatives Ellis and Hawley and Senator Fulton are favoring George Blingham of Salem, as the successor of C. Bristol as U. S. district attorney.

Mothers in New York are indignant because a young girl was driven into hysterics by torture in an initiation to a Greek letter fraternity. They ought to be. Every reputable fraternal organization has long ago discarded through work of initiatory ceremonies.

W. C. Conner, formerly of the Roseburg Plasterer, has again engaged in the newspaper business after "swearing off" for several years, having lately in partnership with D. J. DeBrielle purchased the Cottage Grove Nuggett and Lane County Leader.

In another column will be found the announcement by H. M. Collins of his candidacy for the office of city recorder, and the Mail is free to say that it believes Mr. Collins should be re-elected. He has served in that capacity for the past year with satisfaction to the majority of the people.

There is small comfort to "the interests" in Secretary Taft's Boston speech in which he declares that the late pastie was due mainly to dishonest finance. The secretary also predicts the triumph of socialism if monopoly cannot be restrained.

That "the way of the transgressor is hard" is no more forcibly shown than in the experience of J. N. Cook, the preacher who eloped from Hempstead, Long Island, with Floretta Whalley, a seventeen-year-old girl eight months ago.

State Treasurer Biehl last Saturday filed the new bond required of him by the governor. There are ninety-two signatures and the aggregate amount is \$635,000, or \$35,000 more than required. The heaviest bondsmen is J. P. Rodgers, of the Salem State Bank, \$60,000.

The Tribune-Southern Oregonian worked itself all up the other day because the water in the city pipes was muddy. Well, it was muddy, but what are you going to do about it. It's impossible to keep Bear creek from getting on a rampage occasionally, and when it is riled up it's muddy.

each a little more vague and indeterminate. That the last over \$2500 of the people's money has been expended in this way and all we have to show for it are some handsomely gotten up typewritten manuscripts and some blue prints. We haven't developed a source for a water supply nor do we know any more about it than we did before.

Dislocation. A superintendent in the elementary schools of New York city was making his rounds among the teachers of a girls' school. He suddenly opened the door of one class room and asked the teacher in charge: "What are you doing in nature study?"

COOLNESS IN DANGER. Experiences of an English Military Official in India.

When Lieutenant Henderson was captured by the natives of the Gold Coast hinterland they got into a woody discussion as to how they would kill him. The victim listened awhile till he was weary of it. "Oh, well," he said, "I can't be bothered with your arguments! I'm very sleepy. Let me know when you have made up your mind." And off to sleep he went.

A Tale of Two Parrots. An old maid had a parrot whose favorite expression was, "I wish the old woman was dead."

Rotation of Crops. It seems that every force in nature is trying to compel the farmer to practice a rotation of crops. If corn is grown for several years on the same plot, the land will be infected with all kinds of insects, from the root worm and locust to the insect that eats the tassels.

The Shape of the Sky. What is the apparent form of the vault of the sky? There is probably no one to whose eyes it seems a true hemisphere, with the zenith appearing as distant as the horizon. At sea or in a flat country the seeming greater distance of the horizon is best shown.

A Financial Episode. A Milwaukee business man stepped up to the teller's window in one of the city banks during a financial flurry, presented a check and asked for the money it represented.

THE MEDFORD NATIONAL BANK
SAFE DEPOSIT BOXES FOR RENT
J. J. HENRY, J. A. PERKINS, J. J. HENRY, J. A. PERKINS, J. J. HENRY, J. A. PERKINS

WE PAY 31 PER CENT PER ANNUM ON SAVINGS ACCOUNTS
A GENERAL BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED
WE SOLICIT YOUR PATRONAGE

Get into the Pulpit. A Madison avenue pastor who likes to be first in the eyes, ears and hearts of his congregation had occasion to discuss seriously with his curate one of that young man's "habits."

There have been complaints, said the pastor severely, "that you talk too much. Not gospel, understand—oh, no, nothing of that sort—but certain plainness have found you loquacious—long winded, one might say. At a christening, at a wedding, at a funeral or at any little meeting over which you may be called to preside you talk much more than is necessary."

Words You Write, but Never Say. There are words you never say, but often write, says the London Chronicle. And the contrast between French and English struck this writer when listening to a French "laboring man" who made a speech in literary French, for the public speaker in France has no difficulties in the matter of words, even though he evince his southern origin in slight differences of pronunciation.

Not Greedy, But— A well known cricket club in England in the neighborhood of Bury was playing its last match of the season on its own ground. The visitors batted first, and the home team's one and only professional, who was a good all round man, captured seven wickets for a few runs, thereby assuring himself of the bowling prize for the season.

Walters Tipping Waiters. "Did you ever see one set of waiters serve a meal to another set?" asked the gray headed man. "I did, I happened to be eating in the rear end of a restaurant the other day when these came a shift of men. A dozen of them sat down at nearby tables, and the others waited on them. When they had finished eating every last waiter tipped the fellow who had served him. I thought at the time it was a hint for us these or four old duffers who happened to be munching away there to follow suit, but I learned later that it is customary among waiters. Of course each gets his money back in time, because they all tip one another, but the practice shows how severely waiters as a class regard the institution of tipping."—London Express.

A Model. A witty professional man was chatting with some women about a friend of theirs who was notoriously henpecked. His better half makes him walk a chalked line, and was to unto him if he deviates from it.

Dogberry's Poetry. Giving evidence at Marlborough, a young constable said he found a dagger on a man he had arrested. "A constable said the weapon up to view. "Why all in a dagger? It has not the slightest resemblance to one." "Well," faltered the constable, "a sheath knife." Mr. Plowden returned: "Yes. Now, try in future to be less picturesque in your descriptions. You cannot be too matter of fact in the witness box. I dare say you have leanings toward poetry in your nature, but you must stifle them in the witness box."—London Standard.

Ingenious. "Now," said Mrs. Goodart, "if you do a little work for me, I'll give you a good meal after awhile."

Not His Fault. The Vicar—I was surprised to see your husband walk out in the middle of my sermon last Sunday, Mrs. Jones—You must really forgive him. He's a son-of-a-bitch and walks in his sleep, you know.—London Opinion.

Machinery for Sale. We have for sale a three stamp Rialton mill, one rock crusher, one 15 horse power boiler, one 12 horse power engine, one four horse power boiler, one three horse power engine, and one eight horse power gasoline engine. Duplex six boiler engine, also one-fourth drill air compressor. Two list models orates used sixty days.

Friend—How did you come to write that "best seller" The Modern Literary Gent—First I was struck by a thought. I epigrammatized the thought, sketched the epigram, playacted the sketch, verbalized the play and advertised the novel.—Pack.

The Best Part. "Tenny, did you give your brother the best part of the apple, as I told you to?" "Tenny, I gave him the seeds. He can plant them and have a whole orchard."

Wifely Cheer. "I haven't a pull with any one," said the unsuccessful man. "Oh, yes, you have, dear," said his wife encouragingly, "with the fool killer."—Lala.

Reduced Rates for the Holidays. Rates of a fare and a third will be granted by the Southern Pacific Company for the coming Christmas and New Years holidays. Round trip to Oregon points "Lines in Oregon." Tickets will be on sale December 23d, 24th and 25th for Christmas and December 26th, 31st and January 1st for New Years. Return limit January 2, 1908. These are unusual liberal conditions. These rates are for Oregon points only. Further information at the depot.

Gravitation. The law of gravitation is thus given in Newton's words: "Every particle of matter in the universe attracts every other particle with a force whose direction is that of the straight line joining the two and whose magnitude is proportional directly as the product of their masses and inversely as the square of their mutual distance."

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Just as Henry Labouchere had been appointed secretary to the British embassy at Constantinople his chief, Lord Hammond, requested him to proceed to Constantinople without delay. But this arrangement did not suit Mr. Labouchere, and a week later his chief saw him strolling leisurely along the Strand. The latter glared menacingly upon him and hurried on to his club.

A very peremptory letter was the result, but Mr. Labouchere guessed the nature of the message and recognized the writing, so he did not open the envelope, but placed it in the tail pocket of his coat. Then he set off for a little holiday at Baden-Baden, and when he had been there for a week or so he opened the letter.

Now," he remarked to a friend, "you can appreciate my foresight in placing Hammond's letter in my tail pocket, for I shall write him as follows: "My lord, I have just read your letter, which followed me to Baden-Baden."

This explanation of the delay was regarded as wholly satisfactory by Lord Hammond, who until he received it had been disposed to be very wrath with his dilatory assistant.

Long Lived Islanders. It would be interesting to know if any part of the world beats Iceland in the average length of life of its inhabitants. It is shown by statistics that on an average the people of that island live to the age of 62.5 years, which is very nearly double the mean duration of human life as it was computed a generation ago. Sweden and Norway are regarded as very healthful countries, but Iceland takes the palm in longevity, the mean duration of life in Sweden being 60.62 years and in Norway 49.94 years.

Some of Iceland's earthquakes are nerve racking; but, on the whole, the lives of most of its simple and industrious inhabitants slip along with few incidents that unduly stimulate or depress the pulse. Summer and winter the same old small boat from Lelidestains into the harbor of Reykjavik every three weeks, but very rarely brings news that touches Iceland so closely as to make excitement. In fact the little island enjoys many of the advantages of civilization and avoids most of its drawbacks.—Christian Advocate.

When We Were All Tenors. The primitive inhabitants of Europe were all tenors. Their descendants of the present time are baritones, and future generations will have basses voices. The voice has a tendency to deepen with age. The tenor of twenty becomes the baritone of twenty-eight and the bass of thirty-six. The inferior races have higher pitched voices than the more cultured. The negro has a higher voice than the white man. Among white races the fair complexion usually indicates a tenor, the latter a contralto or bass. It is asserted that tenors are usually of slender build, whereas basses are stout, but there are too many exceptions to such a rule for it to be reliable. The same remark applies to the statement that thoughtful men have deep toned voices, and vice versa. The tones of a voice are perceptibly higher before than after a meal, for which reason tenors are generally careful not to sing too soon after dinner.—Pearson's Weekly.

Ways of Hunting. Deerstalking among the Dogrib Indians is managed by a skillful counterfeiter of the animal. Two hunters walk together—the man behind with bent body, the one in front carrying a stag's head. The legs of the men serve very well for the fore and hind legs of the animal. In this way the hunters get almost in the midst of a herd of deer before the creatures are aware of danger.

The ostrich is hunted in a similar way by the bushmen of South Africa, and the Eskimos sometimes come to close quarters with seals by dressing themselves in sealskins and detourously mimicking the style of swimming of the animal.

In Australia the natives bring the walaby or young kangaroo within the range of the spear by suspending a small bird's skin and feathers from the end of a long rod and imitating the bird's cry.—London Strand.

Farsighted Economy. Mrs. Wipedenks—Jenkinson, we ought to take one of the first class magazines. It's only \$4 a year, and the children are getting old enough now to have something good to read.

Mr. Wipedenks—Only \$4 a year? That's all, is it? If you begin on magazines you'll think you have to keep it up. At the end of every year you'll want to have 'em bound. There's two volumes in a year. Costs \$4 a volume for binding. That makes \$8 a year. In ten years it's \$80. Then you'll want a bookcase to hold the twenty volumes. That'll cost about \$25 because you'll think it ought to be big enough to hold the twenty more volumes. There's \$35 thrown away. Do you think I'm made of money? If you want to read the magazines, what's the matter with borrowing 'em?—Chicago Tribune.

A Great Telescope. A number of persons were talking about telescopes, and each professed to have looked through the "largest in the world." One after another told of the powerful effect of the respective telescopes. At last a quiet man said mildly: "I don't know that it was the largest in the world, I hope it wasn't. But it brought the moon so near that we could see the man in it gestulating wildly and crying out: 'Don't shoot! Don't shoot!' The old duffer thought it was 'big' cannon that we were pointing at him." The quiet man subsided and so did all the rest.

Optim From Lettuce. A sort of optimism is obtained from the common lettuce. The scientists give it a long name, which no doubt means something very learned and profound, and declare that they find important differences between the optimism of the lettuce and the optimism of the poppy, but for all practical purposes the one is identical with the other. Many a man who has eaten lettuce knows how sleepy it causes him to become an hour or so after dinner, and the older the lettuce the greater the sleepiness, for in mature lettuce the milk juice is well developed and all the properties of the optimism are present.—London News.

Johnson is in town with a full line of sewing machines from \$5 to \$75. All makes sold and repaired, rents \$2 per month. Try before you buy. M. Elwood's Jeweler store.

Because He Paid By Check
Not long ago, a business man in this community was presented with a bill that he had already paid. He produced the paid check as a voucher in evidence, and it was thus at once proven that he had paid the bill.
Don't you see the importance of paying by check? This Bank cordially invites your account subject to check, and will be pleased to render you the most efficient service.
Jackson County Bank, Established 1888. Medford, Oregon
Capital, Surplus and Deposits over \$625,000

DRIVER ANTS.
The Way These Ferocious Little Insects Defy the Freshets.
There are certain ants that "show wonderful intelligence, and the "driver ants" too, only these ants are formed of their own bodies.
They are called "drivers" because of their ferocity. Nothing can stand before the attacks of these little creatures. Large pythons have been killed by them in a single night, while children, lizards and other animals in western Africa flee from them in terror.
To protect themselves from the heat they erect arched, under which numerous snakes of them pass in safety.
Sometimes the arch is made of grass and earth and is gummed together by some secretion, and again it is formed by the bodies of the larger ants, which hold themselves together by their strong sinews while the workers pass under them.
At certain times of the year freshets overflow the country inhabited by the "drivers," and it is then that these ants go to sea. The rain comes suddenly, and the walls of their houses are broken in by the flood; but, instead of coming to the surface in scattered hundreds and being swept off to destruction, out of the ruins rises a black ball that rides safely on the water and drifts away.
At the first warning of danger the little creatures run together and form a solid body of ants, the weaker in the center. Often this ball is larger than a common cricket ball, and in this way they float about until they lodge against some tree, upon the branches of which they are soon safe and sound.—Pearson's Weekly.

GOVERNMENT ANIMALS.
Branding Them is Provided For by Army Regulations.
Whenever you see the letters "U. S." branded on the left fore shoulder of an animal, make up your mind at once that that best is or was at one time the property of our rich old Uncle Sam.

Then again if you know the key to the system of branding utilized by the quartermaster's department, United States army, you would in a moment be able to tell the organization of the army to which that animal was assigned immediately after purchase by the government.

Branding public animals is not a matter of choice, but is provided for by the army regulations, which direct that—
"Public animals shall upon the day received be branded with the letters 'U. S.' on the left fore shoulder. Horses assigned to organizations will also be branded on the hoof of one fore foot one and one-half inches below the coronet with the designation of the company. Branding iron of uniform size and design will be supplied by the quartermaster's department, letters 'U. S.' to be two inches in height, letters and numbers of hoof brands on the same line to be three-fourths of an inch high, the letter to precede the number and blocked so as to penetrate the hoof one-sixteenth of an inch. For example, the hoof brand on horses assigned to band, Ninth cavalry, would be CB9; to Troop A, Fifth cavalry, would be A5; to Company A, battalion of engineers, would be BEA."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Advanced Arithmetic.
Kenneth is the name of a good natured Washingtonian who is as studious as any of his companions, but he is young yet and has not advanced very far in the grades of the public schools. The other evening he was visiting a boy friend who has laid his plans for serving in Uncle Sam's army in the future and contemporaries graduating from West Point some day. The two were talking about mathematics when Kenneth's lady sought to test Kenneth's knowledge of "rithmetic."

"If lemons are 23 cents a dozen," she asked him, "how much are cast iron lamp posts apiece?"
With a perfectly serious expression on his face Kenneth replied: "I don't know, miss. I haven't got that far in 'rithmetic yet.'"—Washington Star.

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