

# Medford Daily Tribune

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### WHEN ALL SIGNS FAIL.

And so it is related that the groundhog has a big laugh coming to him because of the rains and disagreeable weather of February. On Candlemas day, February 2, he came from his hole, searched in vain for his shadow, and came to stay from his winter's nest. Thus he prophesied that for the remainder of the winter there would be no more falling weather and rough winds. Everyone looked to see the sun burst warm and cheery, to welcome the south wind with the perfume of spring, and awaited the arrival of the spirit of awakening creation over the earth. The wisecrackers laughed at the groundhog.

But in spite of the old prophecy, the apple tree failed to put forth its first tender green buds, the poplar failed to shoot its sap into velvety twigs along its curving boughs. The rain and occasional snow came flinging down. The tender green things remained in their winter gray; the soft mubs of nature remained hard nobbins, shell-inclosed and waiting for the call of spring, and the peach blooms shivered close to their mother bough, lest the frost king catch them and crisp them forever. Nature and all the wanton world had made no mistake laughing at the boldness of the foolish groundhog—who heeds no warning but his own shadow.

But this is a year wherein all signs have failed. Last year when the winter frost fell early, the squirrels in our forests made October tumultuous with their chattering. They crept into their little holes among the forest trees early, expostulating greatly at their enforced retirement. The honk of the gray goose high overhead promised the chill, bitter reign of the storm king early in November. But November went out, December followed, and the winter lay smiling and gray over an open land. Rain came, to be sure, but it was Christmas before the snow came without bluster or rage and in spite of all signs of warning.

So with the coming of spring. All signs fail. Here in February one looks for the opening of nature's revival. Now it begins to look as if there will not be a green opening for March, with the fragrance of the wild flower, but instead the chilly night winds and the blanket of clouds. When February is open and smiling one looks for a brooding March, with harsh winds and occasional swirling clouds of snow. Then is heard the snarl of the bitter winds that send the peeping flowers back into their winter beds and freeze the buds upon the fruit trees. And when April breaks into flower and the melodic promise of spring, there is but little fruit, and the tiny flowers fulfill a sorry destiny. Joyful winter has loosed his spell too early and all romantic nature is deceived.

But it is rarely that this condition prevails in our fair valley. Let February teem with his abundant rains. Let March moil and bluster with his loudest winds. Let the spring lie dreaming amidst the boughs till April come—then break forth into beauty unscarred by an early rising, while the frost flits yet upon the wing.

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### PITTSBURG AMAZED BY CUTTING OF PRICES

PITTSBURG, Feb. 22.—The action taken by E. H. Gary of the United States Steel corporation and the associated businesses working with the corporation to maintain prices was so sudden that steel manufacturers here are confused. It is understood that price cutting will continue until the small producers, who are charged with starting the cutting, have been brought into line.

E. E. Jones, president of Jones & Laughlin, said: "I do not care to discuss the matter any further than I did in my statement. It is too early to tell just what prices will be asked and the manufacturers will be unable to quote prices until they meet conditions as they come along."

The Carnegie Steel company has an agreement with its teenage men on wages, which went into effect January 1, and cannot be changed until next January. Then the company must give the men a 10 per cent increase. Jones & Laughlin Steel company also has an agreement with its teenage men. The Republic Iron & Steel company is largely guided by the scale of the Amalgamated association, which does not expire until June 1.

The file plate and steel scale are based on the selling price of high-grade steel and continue until June 30.

### ARGUMENTS START IN HASKELL CASE

GUTHRIE, Okla., Feb. 22.—Today is set for arguments on the demurrer filed in answer to Governor Haskell in Cornelius S. Lader's suit to collect from Haskell \$40,000 on a New York judgment involving Haskell's son in 1896 of that son from the Illinois-Steel company to promote a railroad. Haskell pleads the statute of limitations.

The preliminary hearing in the Indian land fraud cases, in which Governor Haskell is involved, has been set for next Monday at Tulsa.

### INDIAN GIRL SLAYS FATHER AS HE HAD REQUESTED

WINNIPEG, Feb. 23.—A weird tale of a young Indian girl slaying her father to save his soul from perdition has been brought in from the Lake Nipigon country. Returning home after a long hunting trip, an old Indian, Sa-ah-by name, explained to his family that he had killed his best friend. The murder so proved upon the Indian's mind that he was unable to rest or sleep. Believing that if he gave up his life his soul would be saved, Sa-ah asked several acquaintances to kill him, but they refused. Going to his home he placed an ax in the hands of his daughter and commanded her to kill him. She at first declined, but when told by her father that if she did not do so he would commit more murders she consented. She told her parent to stand with his back to her, close to the fire.

After her father had said goodbye the girl raised the ax high and swung it with all her strength, completely severing the head.

It was held by the police who investigated that the killing was in self-defense as the father threatened to take the lives of his two young sons if the daughter did not kill him.

### SAME AUDIENCE TO HEAR TAFT AND WASHINGTON

NEW YORK, Feb. 22.—President Woodrow Wilson and Dr. Baileys P. Washington, from the negro-sterilizer, will speak from the same platform tonight at a meeting to be held at Carnegie hall to discuss negro industrial industries.

The program is a meeting arranged by the Amalgamated association in the interest of Hampton institute, at which Dr. Baileys P. Washington, a graduate of Hampton, a trustee of Hampton, will preside, and a number of songs will be sung by a chorus of students. One feature will be an industrial exhibit in which about 45 negro students will be seen at work at the trades, which they are learning. Part of the house will be open to the public.

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