

The Sentinel

A Weekly Newspaper With Plenty of Backbone.

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Elbert Bede, Editor

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1921

ENGLISH AS SHE IS WRITTEN AND SPOKEN.

The National Educational association and the national organization of the American Legion have designated this as American Education week and have asked newspapers, preachers, public speakers and vehicles of publicity to give attention to the increasing tendency to slovenliness by the American people in the use of the English language, both spoken and written.

An attempt to correct the faults and foibles of others is fraught with danger. Even newspapers, many of which have little fear of any ordinary job, are diffident about too strongly calling attention to errors of English, as spoken and written.

When eminent students of the language can not fully agree upon some expressions and the proper use of some words, when expressions that are grammatically and rhetorically incorrect have become correct usage through common use by the best speakers and writers, when such writers as Shakespeare use language proscribed by all the dictionaries and grammars, a common editor may well shrink from assuming to tell the multitude what is correct English and what is not, even when he has a pretty definite idea of correct usage, which many editors have not.

Not only are these difficulties presented, but the most highly educated often make errors in English, and the number who are so certain of the language which they use that they may feel free to criticize that used by others, is infinitesimal. Common editors are not among this infinitesimal number.

It is not very long ago that we



This muscular defect corrected and strain relieved, by properly adjusted glasses.

Sherman W. Moody
OPTOMETRIST
801 WILLAMETTE ST. EUGENE, ORE.

heard a superintendent of a high school repeatedly use a word to express a meaning which we had always thought the word did not possess. Coming from such a source we were led to believe that we had failed to fully enrich our mind as to the definitions of this word. Curiosity led us to the dictionary. We found that the superintendent had used the word incorrectly.

It is not many months ago that we heard one recognized by all as one of the most brilliant men of the state, one whose training and life work have been such as to give him knowledge of English far above that of the average individual, give to a word, not once but many times, a pronunciation we had not before heard. Again curiosity led us to the dictionary. The pronunciation used was not given there.

This not only shows that a lifetime of study of the language does not necessarily perfect one in its use, but it also shows how those whose positions are such that they are looked to as infallible, may corrupt the language by leading others astray.

Having given serious consideration to all these dangerous possibilities, and yet wishing to comply with the request of those who have asked us to give some publicity to the need of improving the language, the multitude uses, we have hit upon the happy expedient of making some quotations from "Mend Your Speech," a brochure issued recently by Funk & Wagnalls company and edited by Frank H. Vizetelly, Litt. D., I.L. D. These quotations, we admit, are fully as good as anything we could offer and contain suggestions that we might hesitate to make, yet which should be read by all those with any ambition for polish in the language they speak and write.

The quotations are as follows:

"Words that are correctly spoken or written are frequently the paving stones of the highway to social advancement and commercial success. But each stone must fit by the side of its neighbor, if one is to attain that level which forms the smooth sentence. Even as there are 'misfits' in paving stones, so also are there 'misfits' in words. English spoken and written correctly is a desideratum in every walk of life. The business man whose speech does not rise above the quality of 'I beat him to it,' 'he slipped one over on me,' 'they couldn't deliver the goods,' i. e., perform their promises; who 'chews the rag' about 'such a business' 'sounding good to him'; who believes that he 'said a mouthful' when he acquiesced with an 'I'll say so,' is calculated to 'jar you' and is one who is not likely to rise himself.

"Likewise, the woman of the 'awfully nice' class, who 'adores' lobster, wants it the 'worst' way, but is not 'stuck' on the 'place' and would 'rather go 'some place else' where the 'cats' are better, might pass for a woman of refinement if she could keep her mouth shut until she had learned to say correctly what she has to say. There is also her companion, given to extravagances of speech as well as of dress that are exasperating for their exaggeration—the woman whose least remark is an 'agony' to whom every slight mishap is 'a fearful accident,' whose latest gown is 'simply adorable' and whose favorite of the opposite sex is 'awfully jolly.' These are women who have such 'an elegant time' that one might be forgiven for wishing, in all charity, that they might 'die laughing' before they attained their ambition to rise in society.

"Such expressions as 'he done it,' 'I seen it,' 'them things,' 'you was,' are heard on every side.

"It is true that a large number of persons claim that there is no need to use care in the choice of the words we speak—those who would rather be damned with Shakespeare and Milton than saved by the rules of Doctor Snaytax. But the mere fact that one under-

stands what another means is not all that is necessary. It is a fact that the failure to interpret the meaning of words lies at the bottom of many of the cases that perplex our judiciary. For this reason alone, if for no other, it is the duty of every educated man and woman to write or to say in clear, unmistakable terms what they have in mind.

"The glory of our speech is not to be found merely in the strength of its phrase. To that glory belong as much the harmony of its sounds—the cadence of its intonation—and the intimate association of these sounds with the thought expressed. These we can attain by avoiding two forms of enervation—the first, that effusive effervescence of speech that reminds one so forcibly of a sputtering soda fountain, on the one hand, and, on the other, its antithesis, the pincheek method of delivery, so miserably in its utterance that it permits words only to ooze through pursed lips. Why is it that certain animals articulate with more feeling than do some human beings?

"Good English is learned easily and rapidly by hearing it spoken and by reading it. A casual or an intimate knowledge of the science of grammar is not indispensable to anyone who would speak the language correctly. It is desirable, of course, because through this knowledge one is able to dissect speech and to explain the relations of words to one another; but, to be good, English does not always have to conform to the rules codified by the grammarians. Much modern English that is strictly grammatical is starchy English; so stiff that it has lost its inherent quality—that plasticity which makes our language one of the easiest into which to mold thought. But stiffness is not the only fault. There is, in addition to this, a tendency to give to words values that they do not command. To what influence are we to trace the violations done to word values nowadays? Is it due to the contempt for classic learning that has manifested itself in some parts of the United States during the past twenty years? Or, is it because the world of letters has been overrun by hordes born to the shovel rather than to the pen who, in the words of Pope, forget that 'there's nobody at home'?

"No matter how sternly one may repress the misuse of English, it is impossible to correct all the errors that are sanctioned by the exceptions that prove the rule, and that are established by reputable usage, because these are now so firmly fixed that they have become accepted idioms. To acquire an accurate knowledge of these, it is necessary to maintain a continuous right-hand friendship with the dictionary, the practical value of which is immeasurable. By associating with persons who speak correctly, one learns almost imperceptibly to do the same thing. By reading the best books—the masterpieces of our tongue—one familiarizes oneself with the forms that are accepted as standards. Children, who never give a thought to grammar when they speak, often speak excellent English. That there are some children who ill-use their mother tongue goes without saying. Evil communications still corrupt good grammar in the home or on the street, and they will continue to do so, notwithstanding all the steps that may be taken to prevent them from so doing, but we can all help in stemming the tide of illiterate gibberish that seems now to be at the flood. Slovenly speech is as clearly an indication of slovenly thought as profanity is of a degraded mind. Therefore, let us heed the advice Shakespeare has given us—'Mend your speech lest it may mar your fortune.'"

The Ashland Tidings has just issued a Winter Fair and Jackson County Christmas edition of 20 pages. All the pages are crowded with advertising

and the entire edition gives a reader the impression that Ashland must be a live city located in a prosperous section.

THINGS WE THINK

Things Others Think and What We Think of the Things Others Think

They say the world is getting better. It would pretty nearly have to do that if it didn't want to stand still.

The doctrine that a rich man can't get into heaven doesn't seem to scare as many people as the probability of want on earth.

There are 25,000 magicians in America and several thousand others trying to make you believe the tariff is all right.

Some people must die in order that the undertakers may live.

A newspaper is immune to bugs and bacteria. Bring on your filthy lice.

An Iowa man has taken a mortgage on a widow woman's wooden leg. Wonder if he had the property appraised to see that the value was there.

A school is suggested for the teaching of kissing. Teachers in a school of that kind would have to get down to the level of the students.

When playing tennis with your sweetheart it is a love game, with your wife it is a dence set.

The man who wanted to take out a fire insurance policy on his life must have had a hunch as to where he was going.

Some of the greatest truths have been spoken by folks who didn't know what they were saying.

It never seems to be as easy for you to sell as it was for the fellow who sold to you.

It is sometimes wise not to know everything that you know.

Make your mind behave and you will have no trouble making your eyes keep their place.

The ship of state could defend the cup if all the professional windjammers would get behind.

It's your own fault if your wife doesn't appear as entrancing and tempting after marriage as before.

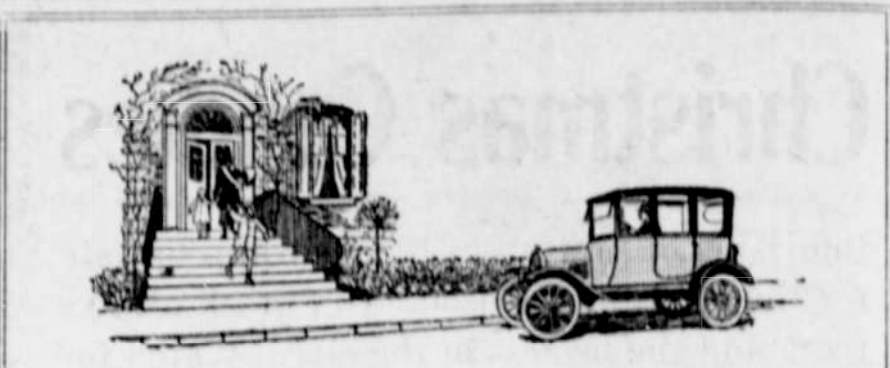
We have heard of animals with extra heads and legs and men of many minds—but for monstrosities the office-seeker with his hundred or more tales takes the prize.

City Council

Dec. 5.—Council met in regular session. Present: Councilmen Allison, Durham, Kime, Mackin, Short and Ventch, the mayor, city attorney, recorder, engineer, marshal and assistant water commissioner.

Minutes of the last regular, three adjourned and one special session read and approved.

Communications: From Blake-Compton saying they had made arrangements to



How Dry I Am

when I ride in my little Ford Sedan. The rain knows me not and the wintry breezes chill not my limbs. The rheumatiks do not bother me and the wife and I and a kid or two hum along to where we are going, knowing that we will get there all comfy and dry, and knowing also that when we get ready to leave the little old bus will be ealmy waiting for me to prod the self-commencee, a few minutes after which prodding we will be at home as dry and comfy as when we left our own fireside a few hours before.

In the morning I will tune her up and run down to the shop, picking up the mail on the way, and there will be no rain dripping from my hat or running down my clothing. I need not even wear my overcoat, and I will arrive at my desk ready to go to work.

I congratulate myself that I pulled a shrewd piece of business when I gave my wife this same little sedan for a Christmas present last year. A lot of my friends are going to follow my example this year.

WOODSON BROTHERS

Groceries, Fruits and Vegetables

for Christmas

Fresh Candies and Nuts

(Our Stock Always Fresh)

The Store Where Your Dollar Does Its Duty

EADS GROCERY

ON THE WEST SIDE PHONE 9



DR. ROYAL J. GICK

Eyegight Specialist

Practice limited to examination of the eyes and furnishing glasses.

Corner 9th and Willamette Streets Eugene, Oregon

IT SAVED HER LIFE

Mrs. Alma A. Martin, of Yakima, Wash., R. 4, Box 30, cured of Goitre, wrote in 1891: "I cannot too highly recommend Dr. Hayssen's Famous Goitre Ointment, for I honestly believe it has saved my life."

Mrs. Martin is well and hearty today and will gladly tell others of the remarkable cure of hundreds in her vicinity, even though hundreds of dollars had been spent without relief.

Ask your druggist, or write The H. H. Hayssen Co., Seneca Falls, N. Y.



If you would be rich, be thrifty. Save your money and bring it to us for safe keeping. You may miss big profits, but just as certain you will escape the danger of possible losses. We solicit your deposit, no matter how small in amount.



First National Bank
"The Old Reliable"

WATCH YOUR LABEL

GIFTS! GIFTS! GIFTS!

useful and pleasing, so

SMILE

Santa Is Coming

Step Lively Please

He is close on your heels

RIGHT THIS WAY

We'll Serve You Quickly Without Worry

Shop early.
16 days till Christmas.
Get greeting cards now.
Ask about our bargains.
Take advantage of our price reduction now.

The Modern Pharmacy

C. J. KEM, PROP. The Rexall Store COTTAGE GROVE

We have a Rexall Calendar for you.

R. A. Jones, Agent S. P., freight on rock.....	\$4.41
W. D. Stroud, refund of fine.....	1.00
O. P. & E., freight on lumber to Rajada.....	4.33
First National Bank, interest on water bonds.....	500.50
H. Eakin, water rent collection fee from July 1 to December 1, 1921.....	132.20
J. F. McFarland, unloading rock.....	3.20
Fred Beidler, unloading rock.....	4.45
J. L. Simpson, unloading rock.....	9.85
A. C. Matthews, 44 yards rock.....	66.00
O. L. Nichols, line and grade for street work.....	2.00
C. A. Cooley, rent.....	15.00
Wynne & Kime, supplies police department.....	2.55
Fire department, attendance and drill.....	25.00
P. T. & T. Co., long distance calls.....	1.89
J. E. Young, salary city attorney.....	30.00
B. R. Job, salary health officer.....	10.00
Homer Galloway, salary recorder and stamps.....	29.32
Chas. Newland, salary night police and expense.....	83.98
C. G. Electric Co., street lighting for November.....	233.83
Geo. H. Dahl, labor.....	2.50
Phill Jones, labor.....	37.80
C. G. Sentinel, pub. and prtg.....	68.37
City Transfer, street cleaning and cartage.....	32.75
G. B. Pitcher, salary marshal and expense to Rajada.....	130.00
Geo. O. Knowles, expense.....	19.16
Knowles & Graber, supplies water department.....	5.92
Mayor and councilmen, salaries for 1921.....	79.00
On motion council adjourned to Dec. 12, at 8 p. m.	
Homer Galloway, Recorder.	