

Mt. Scott Herald

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THE "MIDDLE CLASS."

It is the fashion of certain publications and periodicals given to viewing the horizon of life darkly, to argue the decline of the great American "middle class," meaning that class of citizens who have comfortable shelter, sufficient food and comforts, and are not subject to worry about the funds to supply their needs. Contact with life at all angles should give the lie to the theory of the decline of the middle class. The fact is that the middle class is increasing in numbers; that many families formerly classed as "poor" are now obtaining not only what they need, but also many of the comforts of life. In the United States there was never a greater proportion of people "comfortably" circumstanced and remote from fear of privation, says Seattle Post Intelligencer. The statistics of business and banking for the year just closed testify to this in the enormously increased business concerns handling not only the necessities of life, but many of the luxuries. People who are keeping the markets cleaned of automobiles, phonographs, pianos, furs and jewelry may be said to be in a fairly comfortable position in life. There are more of these people than ever before in the history of the United States.

Great Britain and France are the European bulwarks of credit; the United States is the bulwark behind them. All the other nations reckon back to the pound and the franc as a standard, says Utica Globe. Compared to the pound and the franc, their currency is depreciated. The pound and the franc, in turn, reckon back to the dollar. Thus, when the day's fluctuations in Paris settle the value in British and French gold of the other currencies, the real test is whether or not today an Italian lira, formerly worth 20 cents, the old value of the French franc, is worth more or less than 10 cents, while the French franc is worth 12 cents; the Roumanian franc more or less than 5 cents, the Austrian krone and the Russian ruble more or less than 1 cent, and the German mark more or less than 4 cents. Where after the Civil war the British pound and the French franc were the final standard, now the American dollar is the final standard "in gold on sight."

Prophets who do not believe in any unnecessary joy dwelling in life, are predicting new wars. A Harvard professor thinks a big war will break out within the next ten years and the premier of Australia is looking for a war in the Pacific. The world just now is war-wary, but amid all the jealousies and turmoil attending the birth of new nations, it is impossible to say what ambitions and what desires for revenge will again embroil mankind. But it is devoutly to be hoped that the United States will have none of the hostilities.

The inmates of the Egyptian harems are demanding Egypt's independence of English rule. It strikes us that these ladies would make more progress by asserting their independence of polygamous domination. Their fezzed and turbanned masters bar their way to honor and virtue, not England.

The clothiers tell us that the designers have decreed the shallow hip-pocket. Except for the benefit of the do-nothing class who want a place to carry their hands in they might as well adjust the other pocket to the slight requirements of the attenuated wad.

A new rocket has been invented which, it is claimed, will ascend directly upward 200 miles and then come down to the same spot, somewhat generally speaking, from which it was fired, those who fired it, of course, prudently removing themselves from the immediate neighborhood meanwhile.

An optimist is a person who believes that sooner or later the whole blamed country will come back to the good old idea that, all things considered, honest work is a better way than profiteering, grafting or plain stealing.

An Englishman has invented a device to enable a one-armed person to eat eggs. We need a device to enable a two-armed person to eat some of the yard eggs now on the market, and another device to enable able-bodied persons to buy eggs at all.

ILLITERACY IN THE UNITED STATES

Our war with Germany revealed through the draft a fact which the American people cannot well forget, and that is that 700,000 young men from 20 to 30 years of age in this country were illiterate.

This truth, however it hurts, can be remedied by the elementary school and Oregon is planning to take her place among the states which will put the greatest possible effort on this early education of the youth.

The two-mill levy bill, which is to be voted upon by the people May 21, means that Oregon is determined to take her place among the states of the nation looking toward bettering our youth by levying an annual tax of two mills on the dollar on all taxable property of the state for the support and maintenance of the public elementary schools of Oregon and providing for the distribution of the fund created by the tax.

In an article in the Literary Digest it is brought out definitely in various comments that this problem must be met and met quickly by the people of America. It says:

"The question involves, of course, a failure of Americanization as well as neglect of education, for the number of illiterates contains, besides those of our own breeding, many who speak only the tongues of the foreign lands from which they spring. There can be neither national unity in ideals nor in purpose unless there is some common method of communication through which may be conveyed the thought of the nation," says ex-Secretary of the Interior Lane. By a series of searching questions he puts before us the figure we cut to an outside observer "of a world-leading democracy wherein 10 per cent of the adult population can not read the laws which they are presumed to know."

"What should be said of a democracy which sends an army to preach democracy wherein there was drafted out of the first 2,000,000 men a total of 200,000 men who could not read their orders or understand them when delivered, or read the letters sent them from home?"

"What should be said of a democracy which calls upon its citizens to consider the wisdom of forming a league of nations, of passing judgment upon a code which will insure the freedom of the seas, or of sacrificing the daily stint of wheat or meat for the benefit of the Roumanians or the Jugo-Slavs when 18 per cent of the coming citizens of that democracy do not go to school?"

"What should be said of a democracy in which one of its sovereign states expends a grand total of \$8 per year per child for sustaining its public school system?"

"What should be said of a democracy which is challenged by the world to prove the superiority of its system of government over those discarded, and yet is compelled to reach many millions of its people through papers printed in some foreign language?"

"What should be said of a democracy which expends in a year twice as much for chewing gum as for school books, more for automobiles than for all primary and secondary education, and in which the average teacher's salary is less than that of the average day laborer?"

"What should be said of a democracy which permits tens of thousands of its native-born children to be taught American history in a foreign language—the Declaration of Independence and Lincoln's Gettysburg speech in German and other tongues?"

"What should be said of a democracy which permits men and women to work in masses where they seldom or never hear a word of English spoken?"

"Yet, this is all true of the United States of America in this year of 1918, wherein were fought the second battle of the Marne and the battle of the Argonne Forest."

A DESERVING CAUSE

Supporters of the legislative bill to be put before the voters at the state election May 21 providing for the levying of one-sixth of one mill for the purpose of erecting and equipping an industrial and employment institution in Oregon for the blind, are finding that the bill is meeting with general favor throughout the state, because of its practicability.

If this bill is approved it will provide the means whereby the blind of Oregon may drop their dependence on charity. Provision is made in the bill for the levying of one-twenty-fifth of a mill in 1921 and each year thereafter for maintaining the institution, which will at all times be operated under the direction of the state board of control.

Many American soldiers, sailors and marines are now in the ranks of the sightless as a result of the great war, and because of this fact, states throughout the Union are fast awak-

ening to the necessity of providing a practical solution of the blind problem. To make the unfortunate dependent on their own work is considered the best solution, and the small sum sought from the taxpayers of Oregon will result in a permanent solution of this serious problem.

CANDIDATES FOR COUNTY OFFICES

By F. J. Kupfer

As stated last week we will give a review of the list of candidates for nomination for county offices:

For judge of the court of domestic relations there are two candidates in the field: Jacob Kanzler, now presiding, and R. A. Nielsen. Judge Kanzler served in the world war and won his spurs as a soldier should, loyal, obedient and always ready to volunteer in the midst of the fray.

For judge of the circuit court, department No. 6, there are three candidates in the field for nomination on the Republican ticket: Judge John McCourt, now presiding, Boon Cason and Will H. Bard.

For district judge, department No. 1, there are five: Judge J. W. Bell, the present incumbent, James F. Alexander, C. A. Applegren, John A. Mears and Fred S. Wilhelm.

For district judge, department No. 2, we have Richard Deich, now acting as deputy district attorney; Joseph H. Jones, the present incumbent, and F. C. McDougal.

District judge, department No. 3, has only two contestants for the office: M. F. Hawkins, present incumbent, and William B. Kauffman.

For sheriff: T. M. Hurlburt, John E. Cullison and M. W. Petersen.

For assessor: H. U. Welch and W. A. Cadwell.

For county commissioner: A. A. Muck, John E. Kelly, E. N. Wheeler, George B. Thomas and C. S. Rudeen.

For county clerk: Joseph W. Beveridge and Arthur W. Jones.

For county surveyor: R. C. Banner.

For county school superintendent: W. C. Alderson and A. H. Burton.

For coroner: Dr. Earl Smith and Dr. H. M. Greene.

For constable: Sig. Wertheimer, formerly chief deputy under Andy Weinberger, who knows the constable business from A to Z; Charles N. Ryan, Charles P. Stayton, H. L. Wallace, Mrs. Mary B. Jackson, Eddie Gloss and Sam F. Funk. It's very strange why so many candidates run for constable when it pays the least money of any of the offices, but we all have our tastes.

The merchant who advertises in the Herald will give best values for your money.

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WEDNESDAYS

9 a. m. to 3 p. m.

Lents Station
Over the Herald Office
JOSEPH A. FINLEY

MRS. C. S. OGSBURY ENTERTAINS AT "500"

Mrs. C. S. Ogsbury of 9621 59th avenue, entertained a number of friends last Saturday night at "500." A very enjoyable time was reported by her guests, "500" and luncheon featuring the entertainment. Those present and partaking of the social hospitality of the Ogsbury home were: Mesdames Hanken, Snider, L. Katzky, F. Katzky, O. Katzky, O. B. Guisness, Gesell, Darnal, McSloy, McGrew Kennedy, Hayner, Droste, and Ogsbury.

Evening Star grange will meet Saturday, May 1, at the hall on Powell Valley road. Closed session at 10 a. m., first and second degrees will be conferred on candidates. In the afternoon at the lecture hour at 2 p. m., Ballot measures will be discussed by prominent speakers, A. F. Miller will speak on "Grange Pioneers," Miss Myrtle Anslow will give a reading, vocal solo by Miss Edith Snider and a violin solo by Miss Mildred Deaver. A cordial invitation is extended to all to attend.

Mrs. Thompson of Seattle visited Mrs. K. M. Wagner Monday of this week.

Paul Dodge of the U. S. M. C. visited his aunt, Mrs. Gulliks, and grandmother, Mrs. Wagner last Saturday. He received his special discharge recently after three years service.

Mrs. McFadden Given Shower

A number of ladies of Mt. Scott chapter, Eastern Star, gave a stork shower for Mrs. Lena McFadden, 47th and East Lincoln, Tuesday afternoon, presenting her with a beautiful bassinet. Refreshments were served at the close of the afternoon. The guests were May Howe, Nellie McGrew, Emma McGrew, Stella Katzky, Nellie Katzky, Mable Snider, Mrs. Campbell Myrtle Sager, Edith Droste, Emma Hanken, Mrs. O. A. Hess, Maud Connell, Mrs. Hayner, and Vivian Howe, Frances Droste, Esther McGrew and Clyde Sager and Gerald McEadden.

Aeronauts Class.

Last Thursday evening 29 young people, members and friends of the Aeronauts of the Friends church, met at the home of Laurine Heacock for the monthly business meeting of the class. The class is now in the midst of a contest in which the losers are to banquet the winners. Games introduced by the social committee chairman, Wilda Mann, assisted by Violet Littlefield and Carroll Tamplin were greatly enjoyed. Just before departing every one was seated and served with the most delicious pop corn balls:

Mrs. A. Soubrou and children of 5816 83rd street, left Thursday on the Celilo for California. They will make their future home in Los Angeles.

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The fishing season is here and we have your tackle ready, everything you'll need on the trip, from rods to sinkers. Be sure to see our big line of trollers, spoons, flies, lines, hooks, rods and fishing baskets—everything to make your fishing enjoyable.

Heavy Salmon Poles	\$2.50
42-lb. Test Salmon Lines	1.00
250 yd. Heavy Salmon Reels	4.00
Backmore Salmon Spoons; assorted colors	.25
Heartshaped Salmon Spoons,	.35
McMahon Salmon Spoons	.75
Tyee Salmon Eggs	.40
Expert Brand Salmon Eggs	.35

Hedge says:—"If you are hungry to get your hand on a good rod, just come in here and see my big stock—You're welcome to try any of our rods so that you can get just the weight and length that suits you best—then pity the fish."

Free Lessons in Fly Fishing to Beginners. Ask Hedge

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