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Mt. Scott Herald

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Geo. A. McArthur, Proprietor

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BREAKDOWN IN MORALITY

During the past week, a young woman of evident refinement, was picked up on the streets of Portland, incoherent and apparently suffering from the effects of a drug. She had made the acquaintance, more or less casual, for she did not learn their names of her companions, of two young men and a girl of her own age, and accepted an invitation for an automobile ride with them.

In San Francisco, two other young women, a few weeks ago, went through the same experience, but with more disastrous effects to themselves and those who were brought into the case by their indiscretion. Three officers of the law were killed, three of the men who had preyed upon the girls were taken from pail and hung to a tree, and three others are in a California penitentiary with a richly deserved maximum sentence of fifty years starting each in the face. And in every city in the United States today young women are undergoing the same experience, but through their fear of notoriety are concealing their experiences from the police and public.

In the press of the larger cities will be found every day numerous instances of young men stealing and wrecking cars; a large percentage of the criminal cases in the courts of the United States have to do with this form of foral laxy. In the penitentiary at Salem George Moore faces the prospect of "doing all of it"; Russell Braker roasts in the jail of the neighboring county of Clackamas while his attorney tries to find a loophole in the law to save him from the same punishment. And we might go on ad infinitum.

As to the cause of this moral laxity in the young people of today, scientists and psychologists differ, and in the differing have wasted ink and paper without end. Some ascribe it to the picturization in the "movies" of similar offenses in real life, while others find the reason in an alleged breaking down of the moral fibre brought about by the war.

For ourselves, we have a different feeling of where responsibility rests. While there may be some grounds for fixing it partially upon the two agencies cited, we believe it can be better summed up in a very few words: Lack of parental control and too much of the spirit of "jazz," no matter what the cost.

The war did many things; it emancipated women to a great extent, and it served to put ten dollars in the pocket of some young men (who stayed at home) where one dollar had been before. And, boys and girls alike, they proceeded to spend it. The young woman with parents in moderate circumstances suddenly found she had the price of silk stockings and other luxuries so dear to the heart of the average woman, but hitherto unattainable, at her command, and the boy of her own age the down payment of a car at his disposal. Too much prosperity went, like wine, to their heads. Then came the reaction. While it had a less harmful effect upon the gentler sex, nevertheless its dangerous manifestations were apparent, and many a man is today struggling to pay for the luxuries of his women dependents, the appetite for and expectation of which was acquired during the period when a girl thought it disgraceful to appear upon the streets with cotton hosiery on her limbs.

And the boys! From joy-riding in a partly-paid-for touring car or "bug," were brought to the pass when they were forced to depend upon the street cars or the means of locomotion nature provided. To those of a reasonably sound upbringing, the change, while disconcerting, was not disastrous. But there was a percentage, and a fairly large one too, who could not adapt themselves to the new conditions. They found themselves suddenly left with ten dollar incomes and fifty dollar habits, and something had to slip. In too many cases they satisfied the cravings for accustomed pleasures that they could no longer earn by "borrowing," temporarily or permanently, from a more fortunate member of their communities.

Back of it all, to a greater or lesser degree, is the shirking of parental responsibility. Gone are the days when the "old man" took down the nine-tailed strap or the barrel stave, and adjourned to the woodshed for a painful session with Johnny. Also in some homes are forgotten and past the days when Mary (Marye or Marie now) roughened and reddened her hands with dishwater, and mothers saw to it that their daughters did not leave the house in the evening except in the company of those whom the parents knew and trusted. That custom seemingly is too "old-fogyish" to be considered. The young folks must have their fling, and they certainly do. Not only are silk stockings a necessity, but there is nothing in the wearing left to the imagination of what they conceal.

The police every day have a long list of missing ears and a shorter one of missing girls. The police court dockets are crowded. Young women suffer experiences that blast and ruin their lives; officers are shot down and human wolves strung up to trees. Right here in Lents one day recently, a young girl of refined ap-

The New Day When Business Women Will Prefer Simple Clothes to Finery.

By MRS. L. L. FOREST, Nat'l Fed. Professional-Business Women.

You never see a young business man going to work in a Tuxedo coat, dancing pumps, combined with colored shirt and tweed trousers, but you see girls going to work in a general mixture of ballroom finery and tailored things.

Of course, this is not altogether the result of lack of sense of fitness. Confronted with the necessity of buying both evening and business clothes out of a limited income, the business girl buys the former and tries to make them do for both occasions.

But, no matter what the condition, this practice won't do any more than the mixed clothing will do for the young man. I feel that the Federation of Professional and Business Women should concern itself with a national movement in behalf of simple and suitable dress for business women.

The trouble has been that the moment dress reform is mentioned for women the world jumps to the conclusion that it means mannish clothes or a uniform. I do not believe in either, but what I do herald is the coming of a new day when business women will prefer simple clothes to perishable finery.

pearance and evidently from a home where the ordinary comforts and conveniences were provided, was heard to complain of the strictness of certain Portland public dance halls, where she was warned for tripping the light fantastic in too close physical contact with her partner. Which leads to the conclusion that, considering everything, it is surprising that there are not more girls recovering in the women's ward, and more men "decorating" the foliage of the parks. And so it goes.

ANOTHER VIEWPOINT OF TEACHERS' TENURE

The following communication to the Journal was handed in to this office with a request that it be printed as setting forth the viewpoint from the angle of an experienced teacher: "The teachers' tenure of office law has shown no need of change. It was put into effect after six months had been given to the superintendent and board members to clear the teaching staff of all incompetent workers. The teachers who remained were then placed under the protection of the present tenure law. Since that time all new teachers have gone into the school work under a two years' probation period.

According to the proposed amendment the accused, judge and jury. This would appear to be unconstitutional. The policeman, the fireman, the postman—yes, even the garbage man—have a right of appeal to a commission or an appeal board before they are ousted from their positions. Then why should the school board wish, by amendment of the present tenure law, to do away with the just, disinterested appeal board now? Even the lowest criminal has a right to a fair trial, why not the teachers? The present teachers' tenure of office bill is simply a civil service bill. 'Civil service,' said the present postmaster, 'has greatly increased the efficiency of our postal service.' Has it not increased the efficiency of the teacher?

"There was a time when a national election meant a complete change of federal officials. There was a time when a yearly election of teachers meant the dismissal from service of many a worthy teacher. No matter what party is seeking power, never has it cared or dared to return to the 'spoils system'; neither do the teachers wish to return to the spoils system. They, too, know the justice of civil service. What is needed is to keep the schools out of politics.

"A teacher's tenure of service should not be contingent upon his or her success in currying personal favor with a school superintendent, a school principal or member of the board of education. The profession of pedagogy should be a dignified one, not a stultifying one.

"If the board of education is competent to select a superintendent as manager who is of big dimensions, possessing ability, scholarship and experience and of absolute integrity of purpose and conviction, with the courage of his convictions, he will in turn surround himself with a class of assistants and principals who can be relied upon to get results, demand efficiency and impart justice.

"With the heavy costs of school supervision the taxpayers are cheerfully paying it certainly should be an easy matter, if our school officials are awake, to learn within the two year probationary period whether a teacher is competent to be retained in the teaching corps. If not, we should elect a new school administration that is strong enough to make the proper selections that they can stand by until there has been such a radical deterioration with the teacher so retained, that in asking for his or her resignation the reason for the same is so real that a disinterested appeal board will indorse the action.

"There was a time when the politicians bought votes for drinks or dollars; likewise, there was a time when a teacher, to be elected, had to interview every member of the school board. Let us not return to those relics of the heathen past. Let us keep the schools out of politics. If we cannot progress any more let us not retrogress in this important public service.

"G. P. EISMAN,
"An Ex-School Man."

Mrs. Philip Evans of 23 Washington street was stricken with paralysis of one side recently, and taken to the Geo. Derr sanitarium. Mrs. Evans was formerly Rose Lent of this place.

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