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## Blossom Time in The Golden State

A friend just back from Southern California says: "The weather was fine, in fact too warm for heavy clothes. Many were bathing at the beaches. Oranges were ripe in the valleys, while the mountains nearby were covered with snow."

With warm sunny weather it will not be long before the blossoms on the trees will be everywhere announcing that spring time is here.

Take a vacation trip now where life is different; where climate surroundings and amusements are out of the ordinary.

**Spend a Different February**

Three Trains Daily

**Senic Shasta Route**

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**Fred Rock's**

The "Pastime Billiard and Cigar Store"  
STAYTON, OREGON

## TO BUILD SHIPS AT COST PRICE

Bethlehem Steel Will Make Offer to Uncle Sam.

BIDS ON 16 INCH NAVY SHELLS

No Chance For Profit In Them Under Present Tests, Grace Says—Possible Explanation of the Prices Made by an English Firm Which Bids Under All American Manufacturers.

Speaking recently before the Terrapin Club of Philadelphia, Eugene G. Grace, President of the Bethlehem Steel Company, said in part:

In a peculiar sense Bethlehem Steel serves the American people.

For example, though we have been able to obtain in Europe almost any price, we have adhered, in our charges to the United States Government, to the basis of prices established before the war began.

We agreed—if the Government would abandon its plans for a Federal plant—to make armor for our Navy at any price the Government itself might consider fair.

Our ordnance plants are at the disposal of the nation at a fair operating cost, plus a small margin, thus saving the Government investment and depreciation.

One of the special needs of the new navy is sixteen-inch guns—guns sixty feet long and capable of hurling a 2600 pound shell with such power and accuracy as to hit a 50 foot square target fifteen miles away.

We have undertaken voluntarily to construct, at a cost of \$4,500,000, a plant fitted to build sixteen-inch guns.

Under no conceivable circumstances can orders which we may receive for this plant pay even a fair return on the investment.

Considerable comment has been made upon the fact that a British manufacturer recently bid less than American manufacturers for sixteen and fourteen-inch shells for the navy.

I am unable to state the basis upon which the English bid was made. It should be remembered, however, that this bid was for a specific shell, samples of which are being sent over for test—a test not yet made.

Two years ago we took an order for 2400 fourteen-inch armor-piercing shells at a contract price of \$708,000, to be delivered within a certain time or we had to pay a large penalty.

The only specifications for making these shells are that they shall be of a certain size and must pierce armor-plate at a certain velocity on impact. It is impossible to foretell the exact conditions of the tests.

We had made large quantities of shells in the past which had been accepted. But in placing this particular order the Department altered the angle at which the tested shells must pierce armor-plate. The result, however, has been absolute inability on our part to produce in any quantity, shells which will meet these novel tests. In fact, we know of no process of projectile-making through which it is possible to produce in quantities shells which will conform to the requirements.

The result is that up to now on that contract of \$708,000, we have put into actual operating expense \$447,881, and have been penalized for non-delivery \$405,744, a total of \$853,625, with no receipts whatever.

Such was the experience in the light of which we were called upon recently to bid for sixteen-inch shells.

We bid on these shells at approximately the same rate per pound as that of a fourteen-inch shell contract of one year ago upon which the Government awarded contracts.

We have not the slightest idea what profit there will be in the making of these shells. We do not know that there will be any. There is no certainty that it would be possible for us to deliver a shell to meet the test.

For officers in the Navy to assume that any bid made under such conditions is "exorbitant" is utterly unfair.

We bid on the new battle-cruisers sums which Navy department experts, after examination of our books, found would yield a profit of less than ten per cent. We agreed to assume risks for increased costs of materials and labor, that made it possible that these contracts might yield no profit whatever.

The costs run beyond the amount appropriated by Congress on the basis of the cost estimates made a year ago.

And because shipbuilders could not alter the inexorable cost facts and reduce bids to early estimates of the Navy Department, the prices are called "exorbitant."

It would be a real advantage to be relieved of this naval construction. The profit from it cannot possibly amount to much, and the responsibility is enormous.

We have determined to make this offer to the American Government.

"If you will build two of the battle-cruisers in Government navy yards, we will build the other two at the ascertained cost of building the ships in the Government yards, without additional expense or commissions of any kind. We will also contract to have our ships ready for service ahead of the Government ships."

Inspired by  
Lincoln's Words

In a letter to the New York Times Mortimer Lampson of Mountain Lakes, N. J., late assistant surgeon Thirty-sixth United States Volunteer Infantry, Army of the James, told how a few words from Abraham Lincoln in the White House aided him in serving the Union in civil war days. Mr. Lampson wrote:

I remember how I thrilled as I met those deep brooding eyes looking down at me. What he said I could never accurately remember, but it was in substance nearly as follows:

"Well, my young friend, what are you doing for your country in these days?" There was considerable more to the interrogation, but I was so startled that I became almost speechless. Recovering myself, I told him that I was very desirous of serving my country that my ancestors had fought to establish as a free and independent nation; that I was a young medical student, and that I was in Washington to undergo an examination for appointment as medical cadet and hoped to pass the ordeal. He then put his hand very kindly on my shoulder, still keeping my hand, and patted me and said: "That is right. You will never regret it." And again: "That is good! Every young man should do something. You will be proud in the future. I wish you every success now and in the future."

With another pat on my shoulder I passed on, how or whether I could never remember. I know that I was much elated and full of courage. I went at once to the office of the examining board, where I was placed on the rack. But now, strange to say, the answers to the questions seemed to be on the end of my tongue almost before they were finished, although the examination was a pretty stiff one. But my troubles were over, and my mind worked as though just oiled up. I was released finally, after a couple of hours, with a complimentary observation and told to present myself at the surgeon general's office the next day. I did so and was informed that I had passed. That is my story, and it is not much. But so long as I live I shall continue to thrill with pride when I recall that hot July day when Abraham Lincoln, one of the great figures of history, put his hand on my small shoulder and wished me luck.

It is better to back out than to be thrown out.

Many Filipino women catch and sell fish for a living.

As a rule, more things are easy going than easy coming.

Ignorance ceases to be bliss after you begin to get wise.

Bacteria are killed by a pressure of 3,000 atmospheres.

Australia boasts of the tallest trees grown on British soil.

Nine cubic inches of water frozen will measure ten cubic inches.

If advertising does not pay why do people dress up?—Dallas News.

There are at present more than 1,500 Esperanto societies in the world.

It is a serious offense to ride a bicycle anywhere near Constantinople.

All white garments should be hung in the sunlight; colored garments in the shade.

"What are dreams?"

"The movies of slumberland."—Boston Transcript.

Ted—You know, money is your best friend. Ned—Yes, and the trouble is that the best of friends must part.

Pop—Are you familiar with mathematics? Weasel—Sure; I call 'em "math" for short.—Princeton Tiger.

To build a twelve story loft or office building, 50 by 100 feet in area, requires 600 tons of fabricated steel.

"Is your country place finished yet?"

"Oh, yes. Why, I have already begun alterations on it."—Boston Transcript.

A nut and a joke are alike in that they can both be cracked and different in that the joke can be cracked again.

"Pride goes before a fall, you know."

"Maybe it does, but it goes a lot quicker after one."—Boston Transcript.

When the sun's center is six degrees below the horizon in Alaska the brightest stars are visible on a clear day.

Some people may have a splendid ear for music, but the trouble is they can't sing with their ear.—Charlotte Observer.

On a large ocean liner the amount of coal used per day varies from 800 to 1,200 tons, according to the speed of the boat.

There is many a woman whose eptaph ought to be, "Nobody ever saw her hands folded but once."—Youth's Companion.

Of all the Balkan people, the Servians are the only unmixed race since they came into their territory, eight centuries ago.



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