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SEE GOD'S HAND IN RESCUE

Natives of Rimatara Describe Their Escape From Death by Miraculous Interposition.

"Saved by the hand of God," is the way the nine natives composing the crew of the 80-ton schooner Ororua characterize their escape from death, after having drifted helplessly 60 days on one of the loneliest bits of ocean in the seven seas.

When the wreck of the Ororua was towed into Papeete harbor, Tahiti, one of the most remarkable voyages known in these waters was completed. The vessel, a two-masted schooner, owned by natives of Rimatara, an island about 300 miles southwest of Tahiti, left her home port, without cargo, bound for the island of Rurutu. In the same group, where she was to undergo repairs and take cargo of copra for Tahiti.

Two days out, she was struck by a storm, which carried away both her masts and later her rudder, leaving her a helpless derelict. With never a glimpse of land or sail to give a ray of hope, the Ororua drifted for 60 days. After 15 days the supply of food was gone. The natives managed to catch a shark with hook and line. This lasted them five days. The rest of the time they had no food. An occasional shower prevented death from thirst.

Then the "miracle" happened. The mountains of Tahiti rose slowly over the horizon. The shifting sea current brought them nearer and nearer until they were finally sighted from shore and a powerboat sent to tow them in. They were too weak to rise to their feet, but, after a few days ashore all appeared to be rapidly recovering from their experience.

The natives say the hand of God guided their craft, for the prevailing winds in these latitudes are from the northwest, a direction which would never have brought them to Tahiti.

SHE KNEW THE GREAT STORY

Girl Lacked Gift of Narrative, but Was Able to Tell All About Chateau Thierry.

As we crawled up a railroad track in the vicinity of Chateau Thierry (this was in October)—a railroad track which seemed the only new and complete object in sight—the Y. M. C. A. girl, who had been sitting in the corner of the compartment resisting all advances at conversation, volunteered a remark.

"Our division took it," she said. It turned out that she had gone in with her canteen just behind the division, during that fight when America made good. She lacked the narrative talent, that girl, but she came out at intervals with flashes like this:

"When our boys came up the stragglers said to them: 'You can't stay in here!' And our boys said: 'We'll not only stay there, but we're going forward!' When the stragglers saw that, they formed, too, and went back with them." Or this, as we drew into sight of a road bordered by blackened ruins:

"There's where our divisions came into sight, singing, 'The Yanks Are Comin'.'—Will Irwin in the Saturday Evening Post.

Pretty Polly. "Polly, want a cracker?" "Why, yes," answered Polly as she plumed her plumage and neatly brushed out her cage with her port-side wing. "Now that the war is over and the necessity for food conservation has been reduced to a certain degree, I feel that I may indulge in my favorite dish without serious damage to my conscience."

And the wealthy munitions worker who overheard the remark bought her on the spot for \$1,000 cash, saying that she should be surrounded with luxuries for the rest of her days, yes though she lived to be as old as the mother-in-law joke.

Note—Gentle readers who look for a moral to this particular piece of patriotic persiflage will please try to hear up under the disappointment. There ain't none.—Indianapolis Star.

Matter of Patches. Seven-year-old James and his mother were visiting the latter's spinster aunt. As was their custom these maids ladies showed their visitors their vast supply of home-made quilts. "This is the first four-patch quilt I ever made," announced one proudly, displaying a quilt whose blocks were made up of four square pieces.

"And this is Mary's nine-patch," explained Jane. "She made it when she was only seven years old." The third quilt was an embroidered silk one, made of myriads of tiny irregular pieces—the gifts of friends and the remnants from ancient wedding and reception clothes. James stared at it a few minutes and then he turned to his mother. "Is this one an all-patch?" he asked.

Round Trip. Aunt Mary Wells is one of the few "befo' de wah" darkies left in a little Kentucky town. Recently she was discussing with her employer the merry-go-round that was runnng up on the corner.

"Nawsuh. Mr. Malcolm," she said, "nawsuh, I don't ride on none o' dem things. Why, Mr. Malcolm, I've seen some o' these here fool niggers get on that thing and ride as much as a dollar's worth, and get off at the very same place they gets on at; an' I sees to 'em, 'Now you spent 30 money, nigger, what yo' been?'—Saturday Evening Post.

Note the label on your paper.

Influenza Abating

The influenza epidemic that has prevailed to an alarming degree in Portland, as well as practically all sections of the country, is subsiding and at present the number of new cases and resulting deaths are but a fraction of what was once the case. What the so-called Spanish influenza is, or from whence it came, has not yet been convincingly determined. Many and diverse opinions have been rendered on the subject, among which appears the following written by a contributor to the Portland Journal, and which theory has been advanced by others:

Baker, Jan. 25.—To the Editor of the Journal—I have read with interest the articles by J. H. Wilson and A. Larson, whose theory is that this so-called influenza is caused by powder gas. I would rather say that it was caused by poison gas, great quantities of which have been looted in Europe, and rather to the gas used by the Americans than the Germans, as the American gas was so much more deadly than that of the Germans; also to the fact that this so-called influenza did not appear until after the Americans had been fighting for several months. My contention is that the gas arose in the air, drifting around and coming down first in Spain, where the epidemic first appeared, drifting back into France, thence across channel into England, and across the Atlantic to America. The fact that the earth turns from west to east, consequently causing the atmosphere to travel from east to west, shows why the epidemic has traveled westward rather than eastward.

This theory explains why it seems to be contagious in some places, attacking whole families at once, while in other instances but one or two members are affected; why those who are in the open air most are most susceptible; why old people and children have not suffered so much as others, because less exposed to the outside air; why hospitals which have had the windows wide open had so many more serious cases than are found in homes; why a hospital in Portland, where all the patients and nurses and doctors wore masks, was immune; particularly, why those 100 sailors who submitted to contagion from patients in the worst stages did not get it, for the reason there were no germs to transfer, and any amount of the mucus would not have the desired effect; why the germ has not been isolated, for there is no germ to isolate; why cattle, horses and sheep on the range have been dying of a mysterious disease; why people in isolated districts—as reported from Wasco county the other day, and even up in Alaska—have been affected; why farmers in the fields have been suddenly stricken, and I might go on ad infinitum.

Let our doctors and scientists take some of the air where the disease is raging, as in Portland at present, and analyze it. The question could then, perhaps, be easily solved.

The wonder is, that, considering the great similarity of some influenza cases to the effects of poison gas, this theory has not been advanced long ago and tested out. Should this theory prove correct will mean that our league of nations must absolutely prohibit the use of poison gas in warfare, or someone will invent something some day that will utterly destroy the human race. We know that poison gases do travel in the air—the region around any smelter proves this, where the vegetation is destroyed and the people are sickly. Why, then, when so much has been thrown into the air as in Europe, should it not travel farther and do more damage?

Contrary to Mr. Larson, though, I believe the only protection is the mask. I also believe that in all hospitals and other buildings where windows are kept open the windows should be masked.—J. A. Andrews.

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Ed Buttles. You may say a word in a thoughtful way. That the whole of a life on earth may pass.

A trifle it seemed to the one who spoke. To the heart it pierced it was not a joke. A wonderful thing is the friendship of earth.

But is it a blessing or is it a curse? When the world is bright, and your life is gay, Like birds in the trees, they are with you each day.

But when trouble assails and life looks black, Our friends whom we trusted are hanging back.

Remember in life is sorrow and pain? Remember in life are clouds and rain.

Into each life comes grief and tears. Into each life comes doubts and fears.

The way of the world is from none remote. This fact you will learn as your load you tote.

In poverty here you may not grind. To the needs of the poor you may be blind.

Of glittering gold you may have full store. With ne'er a thought to the poor next door.

For the tears of the orphan you may not care, The beauties around you are far more fair.

Yet all that you see on earth below, Is only a sham, a glittering show, And when the angel of death draws nigh, Your earthly neglects may cause

Employes Pay Respects

Employees of the Grant Smith-Porter shipyards paid their respects to Eric V. Hauser, vice president and general manager of the company, Sunday afternoon, with the shipyard land and with a series of resolutions which had been postponed presentation because of Mr. Hauser's absence in the East.

The band played a number of selections at the opening of the visit, after which Elmer O'Callaghan, chairman of the yard Liberty loan committee, presented the resolutions and expressed the appreciation of the men of the cooperation and pleasant relations they had had with their manager. Phil Jennings, drum major of the band, also made a short talk.

Mr. Hauser received the resolutions, dressed in the band uniform of the Grant Smith-Porter company, which had been presented to him in recognition of his musical abilities.

A buffet luncheon given by Mr. Hauser in the Multnomah hotel ballroom to the shipworkers and their families, numbering about 800 in all, concluded the event.

In a small village in Ireland the mother of a soldier met the village priest, who asked her if she had had news. "Sure, I have," she said. "Pat has been killed." "Oh, I am very sorry," said the priest. "Did you receive word from the war office?" "No," she said. "I received word from myself." The priest looked perplexed, and said, "But how is that?" "Sure," she said, "here is the letter; read it for yourself." The letter said: "Dear Mother—I am now in the Holy Land."

Income Tax Pointers

The big income tax drive of 1919 is now under way and every preparation is being made to handle the largest collection in the history of income tax. "I am not waiting for the final passage of the new revenue bill by Congress," said Collector Milton A. Miller, "nor for the new regulations and blank forms to be issued. To get this big tax in and get it accurate and complete, I urge that we all begin now."

The income tax obligations imposed by the old laws as well as the measure now in Congress, consist of two distinct operations. One is, to file return or statement of all items of income and times of deductions allowable by law and to do this within the period named in the law. The other is, to pay the tax if any is due.

Neither of these obligations can be met without a careful review of income and expenditures for the tax year. That is the big job right now, and that is why I say the Income Tax Drive is already under way. Everywhere the pencil is busy. The old year is done; all its fruits are gleaned; and every person who fared well, or earned a good competence, must analyze his own case in cold figures.

When the new Bill is enacted into law, I will have the proper return forms distributed throughout the District and everybody will be informed of the date when the sworn statement or return must be filed. It is my plan to send my men out to central locations, and to have them travel through the District aiding taxpayers in the preparation of the returns and to deciding doubtful points. We will go right to the people with the Income Tax, and with the cooperation which the public can give the Government men, the returns will be filed by everybody who comes under the law's provisions, the right taxes will be paid, and the district will have done its full patriotic duty toward the Government's support.

Meanwhile, let me say again, there is no need delaying the preparation of figures. Anything that Congress does now will not affect the amount of a person's earnings for 1918. Let us avoid the belated throwing together of figures that may hit or miss. Guesses cannot be accepted as the basis of taxation. It is clearly the duty of every person to compile correct figures and ascertain whether his income for 1918 was sufficient to make necessary a sworn statement.

All signs indicate that the income tax this year will reach nearly every working man and woman, and nearly every merchant, shopkeeper and farmer. Not all will have to pay the tax, but nearly all will be obliged to make a sworn statement of the year's income. I am therefore advising every unmarried person who earned \$1,000.00 or over during the year 1918, and every married person, who together with wife or husband, earned \$2,000.00, to sharpen his pencil and figure how he stands. He must ascertain accurately his gross income from all sources. There's his salary or wages, including overtime pay and any bonus received as additional compensation. A married person having children under eighteen who are working, should include the earnings of such children.

Everybody wants to know what income is exempt from tax. Very few plums that fall to the average man may be legally disregarded in figuring up his 1918 income. Gifts and bequests can be eliminated; also proceeds of life insurance received by the beneficiary of an insured person. A person who cashed in an annuity policy need report as income only that portion which exceeds the total of the premiums he paid in all years on that policy. Annuities are not taxable, unless the person received in the year payments which represent, when added to all prior payments on the annuity, an amount greater than the original cost of the annuity. Dividends on unexpired life insurance policies are not taxable income; but dividends on paid up policies must be considered income. Alimony is not income to the recipient, nor is it an allowable deduction on the part of the person who pays.

From the total of all items of income, there are certain deductions allowable by law. All interest paid on personal indebtedness and all taxes paid during the year are deductible, except Federal Income and Excess Profits taxes, inheritance taxes and assessments for local improvements, such as sidewalks, sew-

Many Vessels Salvaged

Anyone who imagines that all the vessels sunk by enemy U-boats or mines are left at the bottom of the sea would be surprised if he could be told the whole story of ingenuity, resource and unremitting toil of the British admiralty salvage corps.

Almost as soon as a vessel is sunk salvage operations are commenced. Divers are sent down to take accurate measurements of the size of the hole made by the torpedo or mine. Small holes are plugged with wood, but large ones are patched with "standards" patches. These are made of 12-inch wooden beams, and a patch sometimes weighs as much as 20 tons.

As may be imagined, the size of the hole varies greatly. In some cases it has measured 40 feet long by 20 feet wide, and in one case it has been known to be 84 feet long by 25 feet wide.

When the vessels have been plugged and patched, their cargo removed and the water pumped out of them they proceed to the nearest port, where they can be permanently repaired.

Several vessels have been torpedoed after being refloated and have again been successfully raised and taken into port.

Losses incurred in business or trade are allowable, also losses arising from fires, storms, shipwreck, or other casualty, or from theft, in cases where such losses are not compensated for by insurance or otherwise. Losses incurred outside of a person's regular business are allowable to the extent of gains reported from similar transactions within the year. Debts due to the taxpayer actually ascertained to be worthless during the year are deductible.

Depreciation on property used in a profession, in business or in farming is another item that may be claimed as a deduction. The storekeeper may claim depreciation on his fixtures and on his delivery horses and wagons, but not on his stock held for sale. The professional man may claim similar deduction on his instruments; and, in the case of a physician who maintains a team or auto for making his calls on patients, reasonable depreciation may be claimed. The farmer may claim depreciation on his farm buildings, aside from his personal residence, also on his farm machinery, his work horses and farm wagons. The theory of depreciation, in connection with the Income Tax, is that wear and tear caused by use in earning income is a real expense in the earning of the income. The rate is determined by the number of years that the property ordinarily would be useful and the cost of the property is the basis of the computation. If the property suffering depreciation was bought or acquired prior to March 1, 1913, the market value as of that date is used, instead of the cost, in figuring depreciation.

After the total of all income is found, and the deduction allowed by law has been computed as an offset, the amount of income in excess of such deductions is the net income, which forms the basis of the assessment of tax. If every person in this District will examine his own 1918 income and his allowable deductions, in line with data that I have given, he will know beyond doubt whether he must file his return when the blanks arrive. And here is how he will determine his liability to file a return. If he is single he must file if his net income was \$1,000.00 or more, and this requirement is enforced whether or not he is the head of a family. If he is married, he must file his return if his net income, including that of his wife and minor children, was \$2,000.00 or more.—MILTON A. MILLER Collector.

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you to sigh. The mistakes you have made will then unfold, As your eyes turn dim and your hands turn cold, And the way of the world you will know no more, When you embark at last for eternity's shore.

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Voiced Their Approval

Women employees of the Portland Woolen Mills last Wednesday afternoon, through a committee of two, voiced their approval of a nine hour day that leaves them Saturday afternoons off. The committee making the statement consisted of Mrs. Etta Debenham, 930 North Kellogg street, and Mrs. Alice Ogden, 892 North Jersey street. They said that the nine hour day, with Saturday afternoons off, gives them a full week's wage and enables them to do their shopping week ends without interfering with their work.

They also praised the management of the mills, stating that the matter of daily hours had been left entirely to the employees and that there was no disposition to refuse an eight-hour day if the employees wanted it.—Oregonian.

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