Morning Oregonian

ESTABLISHED BY HENRY L. PITTOCK.
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WHERE RESPONSIBILITY RESTS.

The Versailles treaty was rejected by the senate through opposition by the irreconcilables to the league covenant and opposition by the standpat Wilson democrats to the Lodge reservations to that covenant. The only reservations which relate to the peace terms proper are those referring to Shantung, to the appointment of American members of commissions to execute the terms and to jurisdiction of the reparation commission over American foreign trade. Taken alone, it is not probable that these latter reservations would have proved serious obstacles to ratification. The presence of the league covenant as a part of the treaty was the insurmountable obstacle.

The covenant is there in consequence of President Wilson's determination to negotiate the treaty without the advice and consent of the senate, to interweave the covenant with the peace terms and to force the two together down the throat of the senate.

When the draft covenant was laid before the senate in February, 1919, more than enough senators to defeat ratification informed the president in writing of their opposition to the coupling of the two instruments, but he returned to Paris defiantly declaring that they would be inextricably interwoven, and he relied on his personal influence to arouse such popular feeling as would force the senate to submit to his will.

On his arrival in Paris, he discovered that in his absence the big four had decided that covenant and peace terms should be separated. He published a statement that the covenant would form part of the treaty, thus issuing an ultimatum to the allied delegates. They let him have his way, accepting as true his assumption that he was the "unembarrassed spokesman" of the American people.

As a result of Mr. Wilson's determination that he alone should conduct the foreign affairs of the country, that the senate's co-ordinate treaty-making power should be reduced to a mere form and that he should figure in history as the chief architect of a league which should inaugurate an era of world peace, the United States has no peace and is outside the league in such congenial company as Germany, soviet Russia, Turkey and a few other barbaric states. The United States is estranged from the allies, the allies are in a state of discord, there is revolution in Germany, bolshevism is triumphant in Russia, and famine and disease reign in Europe. Such are the fruits of misguided idealism and of yielding to the lures of fame and arbitrary power.

THE CLIMAX REACHED IN TURKEY.

Concentration of allied, chiefly British, land and sea forces at Constantinople has the double purpose of compelling the Turkish government to stop the massacre of Armenians and of overawing it into acceptance of the terms of peace which the allies are almost ready to dictate. This show of force was made necessary by the dictatorship of Mustapha Kemal Pasha, the nationalist leader and confederate of Enver and Talaat, who was sent into Anatolia last summer to suppress brigands but assumed supreme power, organized an army, held a convention of irreconcilables and ordered the government to cede no territory under threat of rebellion. Through his intrigues, the notorious committee of union and progress regained power last October and forced the appointment of a nationalist cabinet composed of Mustapha Kemal's supporters. Thus protected, the nationalists stole arms and ammunition from the Gallipoli peninsula, right under the nose of the allied troops, perpetrated the Marash massacre, formed an alliance with the Tartar republic of Azerbaijan and carried on agitation among the Mohammedans of India against expulsion of the Turks from Constantinople.

This defiance of the allies is the consequence of long delay in presenting peace terms to Turkey, of their internal dissensions and of loss of prestige through unsuccessful intervention in Russia. They delayed preparation of the treaty in the hope that the United States would accept a mandate under the league of nations for Turkey, or at least for Armenia and Constantinople. While they waited, the Turks intrigued to divide them and to unite the whole Moslem world in protest against expulsion of the Caliph from Constantinople. Hope that the United States would accept a mandate has been abandoned, and the allies, in fear of rebellion among their Moslem subjects, have resolved to leave the sultan in Constantinople but to take charge of the straits themselves.

Although Premier Lloyd George unsparingly denounced the Turks during the war and at times plainly intimated a determination to expel them from Europe, at other times he said they should retain their capital. His present policy is dictated by alarm at the Moslem agitation in India when that country is in a state of smoldering rebellion and when the bolshevists are working to unite the whole Moslem world under their banner. He is supported by Premier Nitti of Italy, who relies on him to sustain Italy's claims on the Adriatic. France yielded reluctantly, though it was inclined to leniency toward Turkey by a friendship which dates back four centuries and by the fact that it has millions of Moslem subjects in North Africa.

The decision of the allies has aroused a protest in Britain which compares with that of Gladstone in 1876, when he demanded that the Turks be driven "bag and baggage" out of Europe. The bishops of the church of England and many clergy of that and all other denominations have joined in a memorial for expulsion of the Turks which has been signed by liberal statesmen and others who abhor the Turk. They make light of the Indian danger, say that Constantinople is not one of the holy cities of Mahomet and that the sultan could rule as well in the capacity of spiritual caliph from Broussa or Konia, and they demand that the mosque of St. Sophia be returned to the Christian church. Some of them charge that the allies have been influenced by holders of Turkish bonds, who fear that loss of their money will follow limitation of Turkish territory to Anatolia.

This Turkish crisis is a result of the treaty deadlock in the senate, which has ended the allies' hope that this country would undertake the Turkish mandate. While that hope still lived, President Wilson sent Major-General Harbord, at the head of a military mission, to Turkey to investigate the extent of the responsibility entailed. The senate has been trying to induce the president to communicate the general's report to it, but in vain. Senator Poindexter said he had information that the report was adverse to acceptance of the mandate, which would require an army of at least 250,000 men, and the reservationists are indignant at the president's non-compliance with the request for information. Thus the effects of the deadlock extend right to the Bosphorus and to the highlands of Asia Minor.

GIVE HIM TIME.

"I say again," said Mr. Ashurst, in a senate speech, "that Mr. Hoover never will be president, because he is not a democrat; but if he would say the words, 'I am a democrat,' he would be elected president because he can do things."

Mr. Hoover has not only not said that he is a democrat; but he has said that he was not a democrat prior to the war, that his connection with a democratic administration was non-political, and that he is now an independent progressive.

A book agent who had persistently broken in on a sales prospect, in the person of a more or less patient citizen, was finally taken by the collar and thrown out. The discomfited salesman gathered himself slowly and ruminated: "I know what's the matter with that fellow. He doesn't want to buy any books."

Will the democracy press Mr. Hoover on the question of his party status, until he shows the whole outfit the door?

How can Mr. Hoover say what he is until he finds out? All he knows now is what he isn't. But what he will be time alone will tell.

WOODEN HOUSES.

Americans, accustomed to living in houses built from wood, will hardly enter into the spirit of the opposition to use of this material to meet the housing emergency in Great Britain. Yet the conservatism of some Britons is so ingrained that it has proved practically impossible in numerous instances to induce local authorities so to amend the building regulations to permit the suggested innovation.

But there are signs that the light is breaking. The London Times has recently given space to a long letter written by an architect of eminence, who among other achievements built the famous parliament buildings in Victoria, and who comes out flat-footed for the wooden house, as against the kind of structure in which Britons have been living for centuries. Among other things, he says:

My own personal opinion is that a wooden house is far healthier than any stone or brick house that could possibly be erected. Whilst to compare them with the cheaper forms of brick buildings is to me absurd. My reason for thinking this is that any brick or stone building absorbs a considerable amount of moisture in the walls and then expedients of various kinds have to be adopted to keep that moisture from evaporating into the house. These expedients are rarely quite successful, because it must be common knowledge that most brick houses that are shut up for a period of time become damp, and have to be aired and warmed before they can be re-used. In a wooden house the walls are really a continuous system of ventilating ducts, and it is almost impossible for any moisture to penetrate inside the house or for any gases to accumulate; and in a climate very much wetter than the English, climate houses are found to be as dry after being shut up for a time as they were before. The other advantages of wooden houses are that they can be built very much more quickly and can be altered or added to with very much less expense.

We, who have been accustomed to seeing frame houses on every hand all our lives, believe this to be true as gospel. But Great Britain is just beginning to learn the housing possibilities of wood. A British Columbia official, who also has a letter in the Times, reminds Britons that fir is a really superior timber for building purposes, while the value of spruce was fully demonstrated by its use in the construction of airplanes. Western hemlock, he says, is little less strong than fir and is very suitable for house construction and interior finish. "Western red cedar," he adds, "because of its great durability, is used enormously in North America for roofing shingles." He goes on to explain that all the woods named are available in great sizes for paneling, and that they lend themselves to use in practically every department of the builder's trade.

Great Britain not long ago, by the passage of a national housing act, undertook to furnish the driving force and to accept the financial responsibility for a large amount of the work in expanding British housing facilities. The act required that every local authority should report to the minister of health a scheme to meet its own needs. These reports show serious attempt to make provision for about a third of a million houses, fit for occupancy by about a million and a half of people, but they also show that because of shortage of material and of relatively great labor involved in brick and stone construction it is going to be hard to transform schemes on paper into actualities. It is here that the forests of the new world have their chance to help. It is hardly conceivable that even a hidebound conservative would rather sleep out of doors through a British winter than dwell in such a house as ninety-nine Americans out of a hundred would deem it a high privilege to own.

THE LAW AND THE EVIDENCE.

There will be no serious dispute of the statement of "Juror," who writes to The Oregonian today on the Montesano verdict, that juries are often called upon to extract the truth from wholly conflicting testimony. It is a fact, however, which the writer does not mention, that it is one of the duties of a jury to weigh the credibility of witnesses. The jury that conscientiously performs that duty will generally reach a verdict that will satisfy one side in the case, if not the other side and the public. The Montesano jury failed to satisfy anybody.

It did not reject this testimony and accept that testimony accordingly as it relied upon the demeanor of witnesses. In effect it refused to believe the witnesses on either side and entered a verdict foreign to all the testimony.

This was conspicuously the result as regards the defendant Eugene Barnett. It was the testimony of the state's witnesses that Barnett fired the shot that killed Warren Grimm, that he shot from an upper window of the Avalon hotel, approximately a block from the I. W. W. hall and on the opposite side of the street, and that Grimm was slain a distance from the hall that precluded possibility of his participation in a raid.

Barnett's defense was an absolute alibi. The testimony of himself and that of others in his behalf was that he knew nothing of any plan to defend the hall against an expected raid and that he was not in the Avalon hotel at the time of the murder but was sitting in the lobby of another hotel, the Roderick, reading a newspaper.

In the first instance, this remarkable jury attempted to convict Barnett of manslaughter. In other words, it found that he was in some undefined way responsible for an unjustifiable homicide but that the unfortunate affair was an inexcusable accident. The court rejected this verdict and Barnett was thereupon found guilty of murder in the second degree.

Clearly in this instance the jury did not attempt to compose a conflict in testimony. It could not be composed. Barnett was either wholly innocent or he was guilty of murder in the first degree.

The law of Washington includes among the definitions of murder in the first degree the following:

The killing of a human being (unless it is excusable or justifiable).

1. With a premeditated design to effect the death of the person killed, or of another, or

2. By an act immediately dangerous to others and evincing a depraved mind, regardless of human life, although a premeditated design to effect the death of any individual.

Either Barnett should have gone free or he shot and killed Grimm with intent and premeditation or, out of depravity and lack of regard for human life, fired at random from a window when a parade was passing, and should have been convicted of murder in the first degree.

Only a little less conspicuously unsupported by the testimony of either side was the degree of guilt found against the other defendants. One can hardly conceive of a more glaring avoidance of effort to weigh testimony and judge of the credibility of witnesses or of a grosser neglect by jurors of the responsibilities fixed upon them by law and their oath. It is a temerarious individual who admits that he would probably have done likewise under the same circumstances.

AMERICAN TRADE WITH RUSSIA.

Soviet Russia is making a studied effort to enlist the support of the business interests of the United States for recognition of the bolshevist government. As with the allies, it seeks first to have the blockade lifted, both in order to supply Russia's pressing needs and to pave the way to full recognition. Evidently for this purpose, Evans Clark, of the Russian soviet government bureau in New York, has contributed to the New York Evening Post a cleverly framed article.

He begins by stating that the blockade cannot legally continue after peace with Germany is restored, as the espionage act by which it is authorized will then expire. He then tabulates a number of important raw materials of which Russia produces a larger percentage than any other country, others in which Russia stands well but does not lead, and Russia's percentage of the world's undeveloped resources. Under the last head he claims the lead in iron ore with 50 per cent against the United States' 15 per cent; petroleum 45 per cent against the United States 37; timber 37 against the British empire's 27; furs, 35 against the British empire's 35; fish 30 against the British empire's 27 per cent. He says that Russia ranks second only to the United States in coal and that it is exceeded only by Australia and Argentina in sheep.

Then we are treated to figures on Russia's peace imports and exports, showing that Germany has steadily gained and Britain as steadily lost, and that the United States made a "phemonenal gain" in export trade since 1913. He then says that "the United States is heir to the bulk of Russian trade by the logic of historical development," points out the inability of Britain, Germany or any other country to compete and remarks that "the United States has an almost unlimited opportunity to take the place of both Germany and England in Russia."

He proceeds to detail the "strenuous efforts" which Britain is making to capture this trade, and says that "no corresponding activity" has been shown on the part of America, though this country could secure from one-half to two-thirds of Russian trade. He estimates this share at $1,000,000,000 for exports and imports combined.

This is a tempting bait to offer as a preliminary to recognition. It is the same bait at which Premier Lloyd George grasped when he persuaded the allied supreme council to authorize trade with the Russian co-operative societies. The allies then protested that this did not involve any relations with the soviet government, yet they could not explain how goods could pass across the Russian frontier without direct dealing with bolshevist officials. Britons who had recently returned from Russia exposed the weakness of Lloyd George's pretense by saying that the co-operatives had been either dissolved or taken under control of the soviet, and their statement was confirmed by that of a high soviet official that the co-operatives had become a part of the government.

The British premier has strong motives for the policy which he has imposed on the allies. He refrained from armed intervention and stopped sending supplies to the white armies in order to conciliate the labor party. He now proposes to open trade relations under pressure from the British element, even at the risk of opening the gates to bolshevist propaganda. That element is strongest in the liberal party, and he may hope by his policy to reunite it in his support. British commerce and government finance demand strenuous efforts to restore foreign trade, and Russia offers an open, inviting field. Britain may hope to use economic control as a means to gain political control of Russia, as Germany did before the war, and to occupy the field before Germany can recover.

Americans take a very different view. Manufacturers are so well supplied with foreign orders that the Evening Post says exporters find difficulty in placing orders from Argentina with firms which will fill them within the desired time. When American manufacturers can sell elsewhere all the goods they can make, why should they go to Russia, where they must do business by barter and encounter many difficulties? The government cannot be expected to facilitate trade with red Russia, when this means that they must deal with a government headed by a band of assassins and must open the way for travel of bolshevist agents who aim to overthrow this republic. Manufacturers will give weight to these considerations, since the first weapon to which the reds would resort in this country would be the revolutionary strike, designed to deliver their industries over to the proletariat. Trade with Russia would be dear at such a price.

Yet there are manufacturers and merchants who are prepared to take these risks. Martens, the pretended soviet ambassador, admits having placed contracts for large amounts, to be filled soon after the blockade is raised, and a secret meeting of men eager to engage in Russian trade was held recently in Washington and was much chagrined when reporters discovered it and published the names of those present. Offers of peace and pleas for recognition will surely be supported by such men, who gaze hungrily at the trade bait.

The department of agriculture's estimates as of January 1, 1920, of the number of head of livestock in the United States do not bear out the forecasts of the pessimists. There is a falling off, as compared with the preceding year, in the number of horses, but probably this no more than keeps pace with declining need. There is increase both in numbers and value of the mules in the country, and the mule is a highly useful animal in times like these. But there has been a steady increase in milch cows, of which we had 20,625,000 in 1910, 20,727,000 in 1914 (the year in which the war began), 23,475,000 in 1919 and 23,747,000 at the beginning of the present year. The gain, both for the year and for the decade, at least kept pace with the gain in population. There were losses, however, in meat cattle, sheep and swine in the year and a loss for the decade as a whole in sheep. Total values, nevertheless, have increased enormously in ten years.

When an old maid of 46 can be declared insane for saying that a clergyman "made eyes" at her, what maiden lady of mature years is safe? If the making of eyes was a hallucination, it was but the result of hope deferred.

One year after another the prairie states are afflicted with storms at this time of the year. The damage seems great but they survive the disaster, and when spring opens forget all about it.

It is within the memory of young men when all the business of this city centered at First street. Now the new location of the Elks temple at Eleventh is far from out of bounds.

Hitchcock on a plank for beer and light wines against Bryan "dry" will make the Nebraska democrats pause between machine and principle. But is Bryan any more a Nebraskan?

Evidently Charlie Chaplin is not a good fellow at home, which times, Mrs. Chaplin alleges, are seldom. Greatness and conjugal felicity occasionally do not mix.

As a social comet Lester L. Hymans was resplendent, but his passage through Ontario accorded with the view of the superstitious, for it left a trail of woe.

After the ex-soldiers have become expert at driving tractors and have returned to the army to drive tanks, they should be known as the heavy brigade.

Judging by Admiral Sims' revelations, any average high school boy could have directed the navy's part in the war better than Secretary Daniels.

Major Dalrymple, the prohibition chief who raided Coos county, is in danger of the fate of the goat who took himself too seriously and butted into much trouble.

Grand Duchess Olga, the last of the Romanoffs, may be the saving grace of unhappy Russia on the turn of the wheel.

It is up to the house of lords to declare for the independence of the Philippines by way of returning the compliment.

What a great collection of lightning rods there will be in the junk when the San Francisco convention adjourns!

What need have the Chaplins of a divorce? They already had all the advertising it is possible to get.

Wilhelm, late kaiser, burns the lights all night to scare away the ghosts.

Mr. Charlton belongs to Portland and Portland appreciates him.

Those Who Come and Go.

Twice Seaside has voted a bond issue of $263,000 for improvements and now the city is ready to sell the bonds to any dealer except one Portland concern. "A Portland bond house gave us a good price on a bond issue," explains M. F. Hardesty, "and everything was O. K., the election was held and the bonds voted. By that time, however, the bond market was a little off, so the bond house discovered an illegality in the election and declined to take the bonds. Well, we had Clyde Fulton looks after matters and held another election the other day. The bond house sent a wire that our election was illegal again, so we wired to Mr. Fulton, who was in Portland, and he answered back that we could tell the bond house to go to hades. Well, we'll sell our bonds, but not to that Portland bond house. We're going to use some of the money to build a bulkhead along the ocean shore and when it is completed we'll have the finest waterfront in America. The present council will make the town or bust the burg."

Three eggs and the Peters family arrived from Banks yesterday. The three eggs were traveling serenely in L. H. Peters' coat pocket and Mrs. Peters and her small daughter were along to keep an eye on them. It appears that the farmer owns five dozen White Leghorn chickens and one of the hens has taken it upon herself to maintain a reputation for the entire flock. About once a week she lays an egg that is either twins or triplets and often weighs as much as four and a half ounces. It happens that in the last three weeks she has kept up her usual record and her owner brought a trio of mammoth specimens to town with him. One measures 6½ by 7½ inches in circumference and the three at present weigh almost 12 ounces. Mr. Peters thinks he has spotted the champion hen and says the remarkable part of it is that she is not a remarkably large chicken.

Grants Pass is at the head of hard-surface paving at present. From that place there is an almost uninterrupted stretch of hard surface on the Pacific highway to Ashland and the few interruptions will be connected within a few months. North of Grants Pass is Sexton mountain, where the state highway commission is constructing a new and less dangerous grade. Work began on this grade last year and all of this year will be consumed in finishing it. The Sexton mountain section probably will be the very last segment of the highway to be hard surfaced. Mr. and Mrs. L. Willard of Grants Pass are among the Imperial arrivals.

Eugene L. Coburn, county clerk of Josephine county, and one of those entered in the "free-for-all" derby for secretary of state at the republican primaries in May, is in Portland for the purpose of sizing up the situation from this end of the political horizon. He expressed himself as being entirely satisfied with the progress of his candidacy thus far. He is at the Imperial. Henry Shulderman, corporation commissioner, another of those in the grand scramble for secretary of state, is also in town looking over the situation, and he, too, is also entirely satisfied with the progress of his candidacy. He is at the Benson.

Roaming from Rome, N. Y., are Mrs. A. R. Kessinger and Miss Lois Anderson, who are at the Benson. Mrs. Kessinger inquired where they could eat without having to wait all day. She explained her experiences in various grills and restaurants, and said that the only establishment she could discover where there was quick service was a place where she sat on a peg.

E. M. Larrabee has been appointed assistant manager of the Multnomah. Recently he has been in the service of the government in charge of commissary and canteens. Formerly he was connected with the St. Francis and was manager of the Union League club in San Francisco, assistant manager of the Belmont, New York city, and manager of the Statler, Buffalo, N. Y.

After experiencing five feet of snow and several blizzards at home, Mr. and Mrs. William Huber of New York are tickled pink with the climatic conditions of Portland. They are registered at the Multnomah. Mr. Huber represents one of the largest pottery companies in the United States.

S. Benson, chairman of the state highway commission, was due to arrive at the Benson last night from Long Beach, Cal. Mr. Benson is coming to attend the meeting of the highway commission next week and will probably remain in Oregon for the rest of the season.

W. F. Isaacs, one of the active citizens of Medford, is at the Imperial, reporting that Medford is one of the most progressive communities in the state and that already the tide of tourist travel from California is trickling over the Pacific highway

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The friend of a candidate for county commissioner was offering to bet $10,000 in the Benson lobby last night that his man would win the nomination. This sum is more than a county commissioner draws in pay for several terms.

T. A. McKay, one of the Seaside councilmen, made the trip to Portland by machine in less than five hours, it is said. Anyway, the rate was about 25 miles an hour on the average.

Strong advocates of "safety first" are Dr. and Mrs. A. Tilzer, after a visit to Los Angeles. The automobile traffic there is such that walking across the street becomes an adventure.

Until he felt the yearning to be a farmer, J. R. Horning was a resident of Portland. Now he is at Hermiston and is at the Imperial while looking around his old haunts.

Hemlock, if it has nothing else, possesses a postoffice and prospects. Hemlock is in Tillamook county, on the road "out." W. P. Waldron of that place, is at the Imperial.

Mr. and Mrs. William Jones of Tacoma are at the Multnomah. Mr. Jones is the president of the Jones-Scott company, grain dealers.

Charles G. Spencer of St. Louis, who holds the scatter-gun record of the world, is at the Imperial.

One of the visiting lumbermen now in the city is R. J. Low, who registers at the Multnomah from Omaha, Neb.

One of the stockmen of Moro, S. A. Wilson, is in town and is at the Perkins for a day or two.

G. F. Christensen, who is cashier at the bank in Stevenson, Wash., is at the Multnomah.

A. W. Hanson of Silverton is at the Perkins. Mr. Hanson is a timberman.

They Didn't Keep Servants.

Houston (Texas) Post.

"Do you keep any servants?"

"No, of course not."

"But I thought I saw one in your kitchen."

"Oh, we have servants on the premises a day or two at a time; but we don't keep them."

GEN. WOOD AS ADMINISTRATOR

Not as Soldier, But for Work in Civil Life Should He Be Judged.

Lawrence Abbott in The Outlook.

General Wood's record as an organizer in this country during the war is too recent and too familiar to need description here. He created the Plattsburg idea, and the training camps for the A. E. F. under his guidance were models of efficiency.

We Americans are sometimes a forgetful people. I wonder if we are not in danger, under the glamour, on the one hand, and the fear, on the other, of militarism—I wonder if we are not in danger of forgetting that General Wood's great services to his country are really in the domain of civil government. Three of the best judges of modern government have not forgotten it. And they are all three civilians.

Elihu Root said of him:

From December, 1899, until General Wood came out of Cuba in May, 1902, I kept track of what was done and studied the subject as carefully as any business man ever studied his own business or any lawyer ever studied a case which he was to try. I went to Cuba three times and went all around the island and visited the camps and the army posts and the prisons and hospitals and asylums and the schools and public works; I talked with everybody I could get hold of and got all the information I could get by conversation with soldiers and civilians and Americans and Cubans. I read the reports and I directed the course of government in Cuba and I knew what was going on; and I feel under a debt of the greatest gratitude to General Wood for what I think is one of the most conspicuous and meritorious pieces of work ever done by an American.

Lord Cromer, the greatest colonial administrator that Great Britain has produced, who put modern Egypt on its feet, and whose two volumes on the Egyptian problem are the master work on colonial government in the English or, for that matter, in any other language, is reported by Eric Fisher Wood to have said: "That Leonard Wood's work in Cuba was the best colonial work of the century, that he was the only man in the world who was completely fitted to carry on the work which Cromer himself had initiated in Egypt, and that he only regretted that Wood was an American and not a British subject."

And finally, Theodore Roosevelt, who if he were alive and well would undoubtedly be elected president next November, confirmed in 1917 what he said as follows in 1903:

Leonard Wood four years ago went down to Cuba, has served there ever since, has rendered services to that country of the kind which if performed 3000 years ago would have made him a hero mixed up with the sun god in various ways; a man who devoted his whole life through these four years, who thought of nothing else, did nothing else, save to try to bring up the standard of political and social life in that island, to teach the people after four centuries of misrule that there were such things as governmental righteousness and honesty and fair play for all men on their merits as men.

The testimony of these three witnesses is high praise indeed. But might it not at least lead us to read the records and ask ourselves: If what we really want is to have our government reorganized on a plane of efficiency, with competent men appointed who will work ably and harmoniously to give us a fair return for our taxes, do we need to look much farther for a president than Leonard Wood?

TRIAL JURY HAS DIFFICULTIES

It Is Expected to Reach Verdict from Testimony Wholly Conflicting.

PORTLAND, March 19.—(To the Editor.)—While the verdict of the Montesano jury is being lambasted by the press, and The Oregonian also goes on record with an editorial criticism, perhaps you will allow me a little space in defense of the ordinary trial jury.

During the last 12 years I have sat on 10 trial juries and served one term on a Multnomah county grand jury. In my younger days I looked with respect on the juridical learning of our courts and thought very little of the composite intelligence of the average American jury. While my respect for the honesty of our judges has not decreased, I have since learned from experience that a trial jury exercises the most important function of our whole legal machinery. Since the Montesano verdict was returned I have listened to many painful indictments of the men who composed that jury and after carefully reviewing the details of that trial as far as this is possible at this distance, I am of the opinion that if The Oregonian editor or I or both of us had been on that jury, the verdict would have been no different.

Unfortunately in all criminal trials which assume a quasi-political character the prosecution is determined to convict, and the defense equally determined to clear. Neither side spares any cost or labor to obtain the desired result. One group of witnesses testifies to one thing, another group testifies to exactly the opposite; a number of experts make certain specific assertions which an equal number of other experts refute; material evidence goes in with immaterial and it is clear that if some of the witnesses are telling the truth, others are lying. At last the court instructs the jury, lays down the law and the 12 men retire.

From all this mass of opposing views, opinions, lies, legal interpretations, verbal clashes, orations, sobs, tears and public excitement, the jury is expected to return a verdict which shall please everybody. It can't be done, it shouldn't be done.

A JUROR.

NO MYSTERY IN OUIJA BOARD

Mere Toy of Quarter Century Ago Gains Unworthy Reputation.

PORTLAND, March 19.—(To the Editor.)—Perhaps a few words from one of experience may help to dispel the foolish faith that some have acquired in the ouija board. To begin with the board is not a new invention. Twenty-five years ago we owned one, purchased for 75 cents from among the toys of our biggest department store. We used it as a funmaker at young folks' parties until we were tired of it and then the board came in handy as a basting table for the family sewing.

We had friends who also had ouija boards and who believed in them as surely as do some silly folk of today. For the benefit of these later-day believers let me add that these friends assure me that not once in the past 25 years has one single, solitary prediction of the ouija board become a fact.

There is nothing mystical about the ouija board any more than there is about dominoes or checkers; a boy with a jackknife can make the outfit. It is in the same class as the idols manufactured in Birmingham, England, and shipped to the worshiping pagans of the far east.

In its manipulations at least one of the workers must think the answer beforehand, therefore it is a case of the effect of mind upon matter.

What a great pity that a toy can become the cause of such tragedies as we have read about in the past few weeks.

MRS. S.

Depends Upon Muscle.

Washington (D. C.) Star.

"Is your place within walking distance of the cars?" "I dunno," answered Farmer Corntossel. "How far kin you walk?"

Views as to Office.

Puck.

The Optimist—That boy will be president some day.

The Pessimist—That boy will be vice-president some day.

HOOVER BELITTLED? HARDLY

"Horse Sense" of Former Food Administrator Lauded.

BAY CENTER, Wash., March 19.—(To the Editor.)—Quite typical is Mr. Odell's frame of mind about Mr. West and Mr. Hoover.

What shall happen as between Sir Knight West and the dukes of the old guard is not the concern of some of us. The state of mind about Hoover is distressful, and gives rise to some questions.

Can a man refrain from political candidacy; refrain in good faith? If he does it, can he be of sane mind or a good citizen?

Since when have honor and patriotism required us to sign a blank check or be disfranchised?

Is the Indian lost, or is the wigwam lost? What, anyway, shall a good Indian do when he comes back from the hunt and finds the late cyclone has effaced his abode and that of the whole tribe? Shall he hunt for the site of his late domicile and dutifully lie down on the cold, cold ground? Or should he hunt up the place where the buffalo hides composing the walls of his late wigwam are hanging in the top of some tall tree, and roost underneath on some lower branch? And if the latter, then as the morning sun comes up, must a good Indian climb down and all day keep himself seated within the moving shadow on the ground?

I quote: "Mr. Hoover's stand—claiming not to be a candidate—belittles himself by not frankly declaring his party affiliation."

Well, suppose Hoover is really not a candidate; what then would friend Odell have the poor devil do, in order not to "belittle himself?"

Again, suppose Mr. Hoover does not have party affiliation which he follows through good and bad, what then shall he do to entitle him to citizenship in these days of Americanization?

To quote again: "Pleading unsettled conditions dependent upon lines of progressive development, is flimsy and beneath the dignity of statesmanship."

Since when, then, has it been beneath dignity to recognize plain facts?

Beside the question of the league of nations treaty, which may possibly be settled before convention times, there are several other major issues to be outlined. Can Mr. Odell today tell what will be the attitude of the national conventions of either party on those issues? Americanism, to be sure; economy, to be sure; pointing with pride and viewing with alarm, to be sure. But what will be the lines of divergence of policies?

There is every evidence that Mr. Hoover knows just what he thinks; that he is not waiting for any party platform to tell him what he thinks; that he does not want the popularity that has come to him from his recent work to be used by himself or by his friends to determine the platform of either party; that when the millions composing the existing parties have presumably expressed themselves through their conventions, he will know which comes nearest giving a summary of his beliefs.

Since when did such a frame of mind become a sin?

Has the world come to this; that a man can not go his own way, refuse partnership in all deals, mind his own business, without the entire public assuming that each little thing he does or says, or does not do or does not say, is part of some subtle scheme for office?

This is not to boost Hoover. He is not my first choice, nor yet my second. As nearly as coming issues can be now foreseen, I expect to be voting other than for the party that is just now claiming him the loudest.

Just the same, I wish we had more Hoovers.

And if fate should make Hoover president, before the first year of his term will have passed, there will be some sore Americans, about 90,000,000 of them. It will be the same 90,000,000 now afflicted with the notion that the delay of the millennium is the fault of the government; who are sure we ought to heave a brick at something; are equally sure that a good shot with the brick would bring down H. C. L. and other sins and sinners with a dull thud.

Hoover has the horse sense to know that the government is just the organized expression of us—the most of us, and as nearly as we have got together.

He knows that what ails us is us, and he has the nerve to say it.

I think about 10,000,000 Americans would be delighted to hear the plain truth told, as Hoover sometimes tells it.

The other 90,000,000 of us—well, perhaps Herbert could get away with it. The old colonel used to, generally. Success to anyone else who can.

L. L. BUSH.

Getting Even With Him.

Buffalo (N. Y.) Courier.

Girl Shopper—Why did you make that poor salesman pull down all that stuff and then not buy anything?

Second Ditto—Why, the mean fellow was in a car yesterday and never offered me his seat, though I looked right at him; so I just decided I would get even.

More Truth Than Poetry.

By James J. Montague.

THE LAWYER.

A lawyer draws up wills and sich,
And loosens legal snarls;
But what has made him really rich
Is other people's quarrels.
The business man, too wise to scrap,
(For fighting wilts his collars),
Goes out and hires a lawyer chap
To fight about his dollars.

The lawyer never gets het up;
It doesn't help his case
To call some other man a pup,
Or smash him in the face.
And anyway his client's cause,
While gear his heart, no doubt,
Is nothing that a man of laws
Need get chastised about.

And therefore, while the business man
Enjoys serene repose,
The lawyer cheerfully will pan
His client's business foes.
He fights for his employer's pelf,
Unstirred by rage or fury,
And, as he is unmoved himself,
He better moves the jury.

I have but little laid away,
But surely if I had
I always cheerfully would pay
A lawyer to get mad.
And while he fought my enemies,
And licked 'em fair and square,
I'd loll amid the blossoming trees
And never know a care.

* * *

Let the Law Take Its Course.

A New York judge has sentenced two thieves to terms of 52 years each, and it will now be necessary to graft interstitial glands on them to enable them to serve out their terms.

* * *

The Real Loser.

Mary Pickford wept when she got her divorce, but considering everything we should think her ex-husband should have done the weeping.

* * *

Even if He Didn't Have It Long.

Anyway, Lansing was a good fellow when he had it.

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A Little Way With Me.

By Grace E. Hall.

Come, walk a little way with me;
The sunlight lingers on the hill,
The winds are murmuring cheerily,
The pool is dark and still.

My hand in yours—oh, let us stroll
With hearts at rest a little while;
The daisies bloom on yonder knoll,
The skies are fair, and smile.

Oh, walk a little way with me;
The path has drear and somber grown;
The winds are wailing plaintively;
I fear to go alone.

Come, walk a little way with me;
The lonely night draws on apace;
But, oh, the sunshine I shall see
Forever in your face!

In Other Days.

Twenty-five Years Ago.

From The Oregonian of March 26, 1895.

Brigadier-General Beebe is expected soon to name his staff members and there is much curiosity in national guard circles regarding possible appointments.

The Ministerial association, at its session yesterday, promulgated a rule that no newspaper reporter will be admitted to its sessions.

Since November 1, 1894, there has fallen in this city but 16 inches of precipitation, which is 14 inches below normal and is without precedent.

Vale.—A reward of $200 has been offered by the mayor for the arrest of the person or persons who set fire to the Vale hotel.

Boston.—Jake Kilrain of Baltimore and Steve O'Donnell of Australia, Corbett's sparring partner, fought eight rounds to a draw here last night.

Playgrounds for West Side.

PORTLAND, March 19.—(To the Editor.)—I notice in The Oregonian that the city is buying land for playgrounds around the suburban schools on the east side.

How about the children on the west side? Take the Couch school, where all the heavy traffic from the industrial section and the Linnton road passes; also the Ainsworth school, facing on the car track and the main artery for all Council Crest cars and automobiles.

Why not buy a block adjoining these public schools for playgrounds while the land is cheap?

LOUIS ROSENBLATT.

Idea for a Novel.

Washington (D. C.) Star.

"I have an idea for a novel," said Mr. Penwiggle. "What is it?" "A large volume, thickly upholstered. When you get sleepy after reading a few pages you can use it for a sofa pillow."

IN THE SUNDAY OREGONIAN—
Can the Ouija Board Pierce the Veil That Separates the Living and Dead?

"There is a door to which we have no key; there is a veil through which we cannot see." Old friend Omar said something like this a thousand years ago. But along comes the ouija board, prepared to solve the unsolvable. Through this little instrument, declare its followers, most of the spirits in the great beyond can be successfully paged. Some who declare it too loudly are occupying rooms in the insane asylums. Read The Oregonian tomorrow for a little inside picture of how Portland people, in the quiet of their rooms, are playing the ouija.

HAVE YOU PLANTED YOUR GARDEN?—If not, do not do so—just yet. Read tomorrow's big Sunday paper first. Four big pages devoted exclusively to garden topics, with valuable pointers as to planning and preparing the garden, varieties best suited to your needs, succession of crops and kindred subjects. Fully illustrated.

AN EYE THAT FIGHTS TO VICTORY—When Georges Carpentier, brilliant French boxer, steps into the ring he does not enter the fight alone. M. Francois Descamps, his manager, is at the ringside and his hypnotic eye, declare those who have studied the Frenchman's victories