DEFUNCT ORCHARD FIRM PROBE BEGUN

Government Officials Confiscate Papers and Inquiry May Cause Arrests.

MEETING IS DUE TUESDAY

Holders of Columbia River Orchard Company Bonds Would Seek Relief—Fraudulent Use of Mails May Be Charged Soon.

To ascertain whether or not officers and promoters of the defunct Columbia River Orchard Company have violated any of the Federal statutes, Government officials, under the direction of United States District Attorney McCourt, have confiscated all the papers and documents pertaining to the company, in the possession of the Oregon-Washington Trust Company and A. J. Biehl, former secretary of the orchard company, and will make a thorough investigation.

This action may lead to the arrest of promoters of the bonds, which have been widely circulated throughout the Northwest, on charges of fraudulent use of the mail. District Attorney McCourt said yesterday that the whole proposition is to be probed and the promoters of the company brought to justice if there has been any violation of the law.

"I have in my possession all the documents which were in the possession of the Oregon-Washington Trust Company and A. J. Biehl," said Mr. McCourt. "I have not examined all the papers yet, but intend to do so at once. Whatever is of value will be turned over to the receiver. My investigation is merely to ascertain whether there has been a violation of the postal laws.

Oregon Laws Too Easy.

"The Oregon-Washington Trust Company was organized in Oregon to handle the securities of the Columbia River Orchard Company, and an office was established in the Chamber of Commerce building. It seems that it takes a deposit of $50,000 to form a trust company in Washington, while such an organization can be perfected in Oregon for nothing and on nothing. That is probably why the company was organized under the laws of Oregon.

"I am anxious to have all persons who have bonds in the orchard company to report their holdings to me. If the deal is found to have been crooked and the mail was used in promoting the sale of bonds or in the transacting of the business of the company the promoters are liable to arrest for misuse of the mail."

A. J. Biehl as yet has not made a statement regarding his connection with the bond sales of the defunct company. He has not made public any statement as to whether or not the "interested parties" to whom he says he turned over the assets of the company which were in his possession, were the Federal officials or whether someone else has the papers.

Meeting to Be Held Tuesday.

Bondholders of the defunct company have postponed the meeting announced for tomorrow until 11 o'clock Tuesday morning. The meeting will be held in the Labbe building. Jay Bowerman, who is representing some of the bondholders in a legal capacity, announced yesterday that the meeting was postponed to accommodate a number of the bondholders.

Represented at the meeting will be $500,000 of the bonds. The holders, some 40 in number, will arrange a plan whereby their interests can be protected while the assets of the defunct company are in the hands of the receiver. Ways and means of instituting criminal proceedings against the promoters of the company will be considered also.

Since Monday the number of bonds brought to Mr. Bowerman's attention by Portland holders has increased from $100,000 to $375,000. He says he has assurance that the total will be $500,000 by the time the meeting is held.

"I can say nothing yet as to what will be done," said Mr. Bowerman. "As a matter of fact I am not authorized to talk now for the bondholders as a whole because I have not been retained as attorney for all. Just what action is best to take I am unable to say. It is the opinion of the bondholders that there are a good number of assets upon which the bondholders should realize. The extent of these, of course, cannot be ascertained as yet."

SUIT IS STARTED IN SPOKANE

Allegation Made That Property Valued at $6000 Went for Bonds.

SPOKANE, Wash., Feb. 10.—Charles Wittsack and wife filed suit here today against Frank and Glen Earnest, real estate dealers, in connection with the purchase of bonds of the Columbia River Orchard Company.

They allege that they were induced to surrender property here valued at $6000 for orchard company bonds represented by the Earnests to be worth $100 cash, but which, in reality, were worth but $1.80.

E. M. WILLIS IS SPEAKER

Prominent Y. M. C. A. Worker Will Talk This Afternoon.

E. M. Willis, a member of the international committee of the Young Men's Christian Association and manager of Association Men, the official publication, arrived in Portland yesterday and will speak this afternoon at 2 o'clock at the usual men's meeting in the Y. M. C. A. auditorium. Mr. Willis is one of the best known men in association work, among other things, managing the annual conference that is held at Silver Bay, New York, and attended by prominent religious workers from all over the world.

Besides Mr. Willis' address, the subject of which has not been announced, there will be a special musical programme, including solos by Mitchell Carter. The Bible clubs will convene following the meeting, and these will be followed by the weekly fellowship supper.

BLUE LAWS COPY VALUED

Ancient Volume of Connecticut Statutes Owned in Portland.

A volume of Connecticut statutes of the 17th century, containing the famous Blue Laws, is the valuable possession of J. H. Graves, an old-time printer, now living at 864 East Taylor street. The book came into Mr. Graves' possession more than 40 years ago, when he was at the head of a small newspaper in the state of New York.

Half demolished by vandal souvenir hunters, the ancient book yet contains many grave laws that draw forth a smile of amusement when viewed in the light of modern jurisprudence, and not the least amusing of these are the clauses which cover Sabbath observance. Failure to attend public worship in some congregation by law allowed, is punishable by a fine of three shillings, and those who assume to gather in an unlawful congregation are assessed 10 shillings. Shouting, "hollowing," running, screaming, dancing, jumping and blowing of horns, cost 40 shillings on Sunday.

Lying was a crime in those days, punishable with a fine of 10 shillings for the first offense, 10 stripes for the second, with five stripes increase for each additonal lie.

Burglars had one ear nailed to a post and cut off, for their first offense, while the third one merited death.

PANAMA JUNKET PLANNED

Associated Business Bodies of Pacific Coast Ask Free Tolls.

Arrangements were made at the meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of the Pacific Coast in San Francisco to run a big excursion of business men to Panama in April to inspect the canal. A ship for the purpose is now being fitted out in San Francisco and about 200 business men representing commercial organizations of the entire Coast will make up the party.

Most important among the business matters considered by the chambers was the demand for free tolls for American ships through the canal. The Associated Chambers went on record as firmly in favor of such provisions.

W. H. Robbins, president of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, was elected as H. M. Haller's successor to the presidency of the Associated Chambers, and L. D. Loman, of the Seattle organization, was elected vice-president. Mr. Haller returned to Portland from San Francisco Friday evening.

FUNERAL OF PIONEER WOMAN WILL BE HELD TODAY.

Mrs. Drusilla M. Heslin, Late of Fairview.

Mrs. Drusilla M. Heslin, daughter, of H. C. Dunbar, who took up the Dunbar Donation land claim at Fairview, died at her old home early last Friday at the age of 64. The funeral service is to be held at Fairview at 1 o'clock today, and the interment at Gresham Cemetery. Two years after her birth on February 25, 1848, at St. Joe, Mo., she crossed the plains with her parents, who settled on what is now known as the Dunbar donation land claim, which has been her home ever since.

The trip across the plains took six months, partly because the party was delayed by cholera, having to bury several members while the others suffered severely from hunger through shortage of food. At La Grande some Indians gave them salmon to enable them to continue the trip.

At the age of 16 she was married to J. P. Heslin. Six children with her husband survive her, their names being E. E., John T. and Claud Heslin, of Fairview; Mrs. Anna Heiny, Miss Calla Heslin and Mrs. Ethel Thompson, all of Portland.

OLD - NEW MEXICO.

Another Attempt to Estimate the Earliest Americans.

Harper's.

How long were the ruins of the Southwest inhabited? and, how dense was the population in ancient times? Some of the best archeologists have strongly insisted that appearances are deceitful. The hundreds, and indeed thousands of sites of ancient villages in Colorado, the Texan Panhandle, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona, as well as in similar parts of Northern Mexico, were not all inhabited at one time, so they tell us. Most represent more temporary stopping places where migratory bands of a people supposed to have been ancestors of the Indians settled for a few years and then moved on. At the outside limit, so say these archeologists, the entire population never amounted to more than a few score thousands, whose civilization was of the lowest and most insignificant type. Other students, fewer in number than the orthodox school, hold that the majority of the ruins were all occupied at the same time and for century after century. They say that the population of the arid Southwest must have amounted to many hundred thousands—decidedly more in all probability than the country supports today. Furthermore, if this were so, although the type of civilization may have been most primitive compared with ours, yet it was by no means so low as that of the modern Indians. It must have been of the same grade as that of early Babylonia, Egypt, Palestine or Greece before the art of writing was invented. People who could dwell peacefully for centuries in large, permanent communities and could build great communal houses and long systems of canals, were by no means untutored savages. Civil order and submission to the will of the majority must have been as well developed among them as among us. Such a view leads one to believe that, if only we could trace it, the history of the primitive Americans would prove quite as interesting, and to us possibly more interesting than that of early Oriental peoples to whom our scholars devote so much time and our millionaires so much money.

A favorite sport in New Zealand, as also in Australia and Tasmania, is competition in wood chopping and sawing, and in these contests, which attract a great deal of interest, the championships are always won through the use of American tools. In fact, the expert woodsman working for a prize would never think of using any other kind of tools.

CRITICS OF T. R. HIT

Suffragists Deplore Attacks by Their Co-Workers.

HARM TO CAUSE FEARED

Speakers at Session of Forum Say Questioning Colonel's Motives in Espousing Votes for Women May Injure.

Suffrage speakers who attacked Colonel Roosevelt because of his editorial in the Outlook wherein he advocated the cause of women's suffrage, which they ascribed to political motives, were themselves the object of attacks by suffragists at the second regular session of the Forum, recently organized by the Portland Women's Club. The meeting was held yesterday afternoon in the auditorium of Olds, Wortman & King's store. The attacks were condemned as being injurious to the cause, by several women speakers, in a discussion opened by Dr. Esther C. Pohl.

The first intimation of opposition on the part of the suffragists to Roosevelt's recent pronouncement in favor of suffrage came Tuesday night at the home of Mrs. J. C. Gauld, at 252 King street, where 200 persons had assembled to listen to addresses by Mrs. Helen Hay Greely, representing the New York Equal Suffrage League, and Miss Charlotte Anita Whitney, president of the Equal Suffrage League of Northern California.

Editorial Is Criticised.

At that time Mrs. Greely called Roosevelt's editorial "sloppy," and referred to Roosevelt as "the omnipotent Oom of the Outlook and of Oyster Bay, who has taught the farmers' wives how to dress and the stork how to fly."

Wednesday night, before the State Women's Press Club, Miss Whitney also attacked Roosevelt, saying that he had kept quiet on the suffrage subject until he had learned that 1,500,000 would cast the ballot at the coming election. Friday night Roosevelt was the object of an attack at Spokane by Mrs. May Arkwright Hutton, leader of the suffrage movement in Washington, who referred to him as "a four-flusher and a hot-air artist."

"I think it is injurious to the interests of our cause to attack public men," said Dr. Pohl yesterday. "Where one of us who criticizes a public man may have one follower, that man criticized may have a thousand. Suppose all of us became public speakers and started out to criticize men in public life; why, in a short time we wouldn't have a friend left and our cause would be hopeless, unless the men were big enough to overlook our foolishness."

Mrs. M. L. Hidden, president of the State Women's Press Club, who followed Dr. Pohl, not only deplored the criticisms of Roosevelt, but said that she thought Roosevelt's stand on the suffrage question would prove a positive aid.

Attacks Declared Unwise.

"We have just one thing to do at present," she said, "and that is to get votes. Anything aside from that means a useless expenditure of energy when it is needed more in other ways. And most assuredly we are not going to get votes by attacking public men, and particularly men that have their followers by the thousands.

"When a great man expresses himself so kindly as Roosevelt has done we should be thankful for it."

Dr. Mary Thompson followed Mrs. Hidden. "We must at this time," she said, "avoid anything that might tend to weaken our cause in this state. The time is a critical one for us, and it is now that we are called upon to exercise our women's duty and stroke the fur the right way."

Mrs. Albert Ehrgott addressed the assemblage on "The Mother Spirit," which she said predominated in the motives that induced women to seek the ballot, since it grew out of a desire to better the advantages and environments of working girls and boys. Miss Whitney gave an address in which she went over an extensive field, advancing many arguments in favor of granting the ballot to women, telling of the workings of the privilege once granted, and outlining methods for conducting a campaign to secure it. Mrs. Sarah Evans, chairman of the executive committee of the Portland Women's Club, presided. It is the intention to hold the forum in the auditorium of the Olds, Wortman & King store every second Saturday afternoon.

DANCERS AT MULTNOMAH HOTEL ARE SIGNED FOR EASTERN CIRCUIT.

Harry Weber and Ethel Wilson.

So great has been the success of Harry Weber and Ethel Wilson, terpsichorean artists now presenting in the Arcadian Garden of the Hotel Multnomah their refined version of the celebrated Texas Tommy dance, that the Western representative of Oscar Hammerstein has booked the clever young couple for 40 weeks on the Hammerstein circuit. Weber and Wilson will open at Hammerstein's Victoria Theater in New York the first week in March. The Texas Tommy is new to Gotham, and although there is declared to be nothing suggestive or immoral about the dance, it recently was condemned by the National Dancing Masters Association. Miss Wilson is a native Californian, and a few years ago won the Alameda County prize for the most beautiful girl in Oakland.

FIRE PREVENTION THEME

Expert Will Point Out Ways to Save Property Losses.

Franklin K. Wentworth, a leading authority in the United States on fire prevention and safety standards, will undertake to show to the business men of Portland Monday evening at the Commercial Club how they can save every year in this city $412,000. What he will say is not a vision of what someone thinks, but the applied principles of fire preventing which, if adhered to by every community, will save to the people of that community half their total fire losses each year. Charles E. Meek will speak along the same lines.

By extending application of the principle throughout the United States, Mr. Wentworth insists that the Nation will save $125,000,000 of the annual $250,000,000 fire losses now sustained. It is the mission of the leading worker in the National Fire Protection Association to get the entire country so aroused that all preventable losses will be made a thing of the past.

One of the things which the National fire workers hope to achieve as a result of their visit here is establishment of an Oregon Fire day. These days have been held in the East, and result in far-reaching good.

The complimentary dinner to be given to the visitors Monday evening, at the Commercial Club, is under the auspicies of the Portland Association of Credit Men, who are primarily responsible for the visit to this city.

A meeting has also been called by the Credit Men for Tuesday noon, at the Commercial Club, when it is the purpose to get the results of Mr. Wentworth's advice put in definite form for future aid to the state.

WELL-KNOWN PIONEER WOMAN DIES AT CARLTON.

Mrs. Sarah P. Laughlin.

Mrs. Sarah P. Laughlin, of Carlton, Or., who died Monday, February 5, was one of the best known pioneer women of Yamhill County. She was born in Washington County, February 12, 1846, near where the town of Cornelius now stands. She was the stepdaughter of the late Judge Rowland, a prominent resident of that section in pioneer days. Mrs. Laughlin was married to D. W. Laughlin, November 20, 1862, who, with a daughter, Mrs. Orice Harris, of Carlton, Or., survives her. Mrs. Laughlin was first worthy grand matron of Checowan Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, and a member of the Oregon Pioneer Association.

DEMOCRACY AND MANNERS

Inquiry Into Teachings of Manners in the Public Schools.

Dr. Charles W. Eliot in The Cenutry.

Manners affect for good or ill the daily happiness of every human being and the fortune and destiny of every tribe or nation. Their influence on human existence is profound and incessant. Good manners are founded on reason or common sense and good will. They put people at ease in social intercourse, welcome graciously the stranger and the friend, dismiss pleasantly the lingering visitor who does not know how to withdraw, express alert sympathy with others, and prompt to helpful co-operation with others. They enable people to dwell together in peace and concord; whereas bad manners cause friction, strife and discord.

The oft-mentioned difference between good manners and good breeding, namely, that the latter involves a long education and the acquisition of much knowledge and skill, whereas the former do not, is quite as important in democratic society as in aristocratic. Peasants, barbarians and illiterate persons often exhibit some of the best elements of good manners, but their experience of life has not given them access to good breeding.

Selfishness, ignorance, stupidity and habitual inattention to the desires and claims of others are the chief causes of bad manners; and since these qualities are rather common among mankind and some admixture of them often exists in meritorious characters, bad manners are not uncommon.

The street railway companies in American cities maintain active schools of bad manners wherever they fail to provide a number of vehicles adequate to carry in a decent manner the throngs that a compelled to use them. Any crowd which is in a hurry is apt to afford practice in bad manners.

There can be no doubt that the great majority of American public schools are actively contributing today to the diffusion and development of good manners among the people, and hence to the improvement of social conduct. Whoever learns to observe and respect, through manners firmly based on ethics, the lesser rights of others is likely to acquire increased respect for the larger rights of the neighbor and citizen.

Since the safe conduct of democratic society on its bold voyage of philanthropic discovery depends on an unprecedented development of mutual good will, manifested kindliness and hearty co-operation, the function of the common schools in teaching manners and morals is plainly one of the most important parts of public education, and the main reliance of democratic optimism.

A suit growing out of a fire set in a patch of heather, and involving damages fixed by one judge at 5 shillings, has been fought through six courts in England, finally reaching the court of appeals.

FUND AID IS READY

Pledges Totalling $25,000 Are Given Willamette University.

SUPPORTERS ARE PLEASED

President Homan Points Out That Last Quarter of $100,000 Will Be Most Difficult Part of Subscription to Be Secured.

One-quarter of the $100,000 sought in Portland for the half-million-dollar endowment fund for Willamette University has been pledged in the first three days of actual solicitation.

Such early success was hoped for, but hardly expected by Dr. Homan and Dr. Hancher, and the Willamette backers in the city are correspondingly elated with hope of a whirlwind campaign to a triumphant victory for the Salem institution.

Several large pledges have been secured, in the sums of $5000 and over, but the managers of the campaign at this time feel that it would be injudicious to make public the names of the generous friends of the university.

"The fact that pledges for practically $25,000 were secured in three days," said Dr. Holman, "should not be understood to mean that getting this amount represents only three days' work.

Extended Work Cited.

"Some of this money has been in sight for weeks—yes, I guess I may say for months. Some of the donors have had the question under consideration for a long time. The needs of the university and the duty of Methodism to rally to its aid at this time had been called to the attention of some of these people weeks ago. Some of the donations are the results of seed sown carefully and judiciously even farther back than that.

"Another thing I would call attention to is that some of these gifts are from people who give not because they are Methodists, nor even because they are special friends of Willamette University, but because they are friends of and believers in Christian education, and feel that a gift to Willamette at this time will be the best aid to that end that can be offered in the Northwest.

Last Half Held Difficult.

"And one more point," said President Homan, in conclusion. "I would warn Willamette's friends from a too hasty enthusiasm over this most generous response so quickly following our appeal. They must remember that the last half will be harder to get than the first half, and the last $25,000 will be the hardest $25,000 of the whole amount."

Satisfactory replies are being received to the invitations for the luncheon given by business and professional men in honor of Dr. Nicholson at the Commercial Club tomorrow evening, and it seems certain to be an enjoyable and successful social event.

MINSTRELS PLAN TOUR

LINCOLN SCHOOL PUPILS TO VISIT COLLEGE TOWNS.

Special Car Will Carry Troupe of Amateur Actors to Eugene and Corvallis This Week.

With the laurels they won at the Bungalow Theater still verdant on their respective brows, members of the Lincoln High School Minstrels will start the end of this week for a two-day road trip, visiting Eugene and Corvallis.

Students at both the State University and Oregon Agricultural College will have one opportunity, the minstrels say, really to relax and to enjoy life. The minstrels will play Friday night at the Eugene Theater and the following night at the Corvallis Opera House.

At both colleges the itinerant minstrels will be feted, the high school alumni associations having promised to make the barnstorming trip a thoroughly profitable one for the Athletic Association of the Lincoln High, towards which the funds will go. The alumni associations have promised to sell tickets, act as constables and do other offices of that nature.

The company will travel in its own luxurious palace car, will carry its own scenery, costumes and "props." In addition to the members of the minstrel troupe there will be the orchestra, company electrician, company stage manager, wardrobe mistress and all the paraphernalia that is part of the highest class of road production.

The minstrels say they are determined to let both cities know that the Lincoln High School Minstrel Troupe is the livest organization of any kind that ever left Portland. With the exception that both songs and jokes will be localized around the universities, the performances will be identical to that one produced in Portland.

NO EARTHQUAKE IMMUNITY

No Reason Why They Should Not Occur Anywhere on the Earth.

New York Times.

Scientists who have made a study of earthquakes expressed no astonishment at the fact that extensive shocks had occurred in Germany and Switzerland, where heretofore they have been almost unknown. They said that while earthquakes were more common in certain other localities, there was no reason why one should not occur anywhere.

"Earthquakes in Central Europe are unusual," said one seismologist, "but that doesn't mean that there is anything surprising about one. The seismologist, hearing of one, is inclined rather to say to himself, 'Hello, there's something going on in that region now!'

"The something that goes on, outside of districts where volcanic disturbances are the direct cause of shocks, is usually a break or geological fault, a slipping of a stratum of the earth's crust, which may first crack and then sink or be thrust up, according to the direction of the stress that caused it. This rupture is enough to cause tremors through the earth, often with resulting damage to buildings.

"The ideas some people have that the earth rolls up in great waves like the sea is erronous, and those who describe how they have seen these waves rippling across a field, are much gifted in imagination. In fact, the ground moves upward, downward, obliquely, or horizontally, through a very small fraction of an inch, and seldom through a space of more than two or three inches. The destructiveness of an earthquake depends more on its velocity than on the size of the waves. With great velocity a movement of a small fraction of an inch is sufficient to shatter brick buildings.

"Now as to these breaks in strata that cause many earthquakes. A considerable amount of corrugation of the earth's crust has occurred, for which a number of causes have been assigned. Whatever the causes, it is certain that stresses have accumulated sufficient to raise great mountain systems and bring about much deformation of the rocks of the earth's crust. It is reasonable to suppose that these stresses may at certain times and places accumulate to such an extent as to cause violent rupture, which would be felt as an earthquake shock.

"The view is therefore commonly accepted by geologists that many earthquakes are but incidents in the readjustment of the earth's crust to changing conditions of pressure. These naturally occur more frequently along the boundary between great elevations and great depressions, as along the Pacific Coast, with the Rocky Mountains and the Andes on one hand, and the steep declivities of the ocean bed on the other.

high mountains, and the shelf of the ocean bed declines gradually. Severe stresses, therefore, would be more unusual in this neighborhood, yet there is no reason why one should not exist and cause an earthquake. Central Europe is remote from the ocean bed, so that great depression is eliminated and only the mountains remain.

"In Switzerland, of course, we have the Alps, and earthquakes may be, and often have been, caused by great avalanches. On the whole, it is perhaps more remarkable that there have been so few earthquakes in that region."

Tale of a Woman's Hate.

Harper's.

"How effusively sweet that Mrs. Blondey is to you, Jonesy," said Witherell. "What's up? Any tender little romance there?"

"No, indeed—why, that woman hates me," said Jonesy.

"She doesn't show it," said Witherell.

"No; but she knows I know how old she is—we were both born on the same day," said Jonesy, "and she's afraid I'll tell somebody."

The Christian population of India now numbers nearly four million.

Special Sale of Talkers

$24.25 now buys the very latest Hornless Graphophone, including 32 selections, your own choice; Filing Case and box of Needles. Terms 10c a day. Only 27 outfits left to be sold at this bargain price. Make your selections tomorow.

This beautiful Hornless Talking Machine is of the very latest model. The sound waves gathered by the reproducer are transmitted through the tone arm to the invisible tone chamber and are thus so magnified that they sound full, strong and absolutely true to life.

This talker has a powerful, noiseless spring motor and plays both 10 and 12-inch records of any make, and can be wound while running. Convenient device for adjusting the speed permits the operator to obtain the best possible results from the records.

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Never before has such value in talkers been given for so little money.

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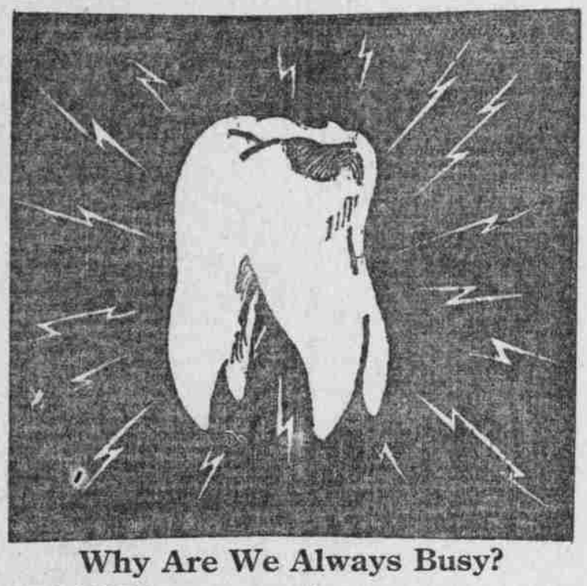

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