

The Oregonian

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Portland, Sunday, February 21, 1915

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

Only two or three times in the course of history has a group of men appeared who could be compared for ability and character with Washington and his associates. Ability equal to theirs has been far more common than character. The men who guided the affairs of Athens were perhaps abler than Washington. Franklin and Madison, but they lacked moral standards. One after another they weakened when put to the test and under temptation either betrayed their country to the enemy or sought to advance their general welfare at the expense of the general welfare. Richelieu had no peer in France nor Cromwell in England. Bismarck left no successor in Germany, and Peter the Great was succeeded by a line of non-achievers in Russia. The "three men's souls" were not without their failures and traumas. Gates was thoroughly incompetent in the field and few men have proved more recreant to public trust than Benedict Arnold, but their names were more than counterbalanced by the merits of the true leaders.

There was little of the specialist about any of these great men. Franklin is one of the best examples in history of an individual of whose ability in half a dozen different fields. He stands equally as a man of letters, a scientist, a diplomat and a master of industry. Washington's capabilities were almost as varied. In his younger days he was a skilled woodsman, and by his farseeing investments at that time he laid the foundation of his fortune. He was capable, though not a great commander in the field, a master of political management, a broad-minded statesman and a dignified first Magistrate of the new Republic he had helped to found. More than all this he possessed the art of winning public confidence without which all his extraordinary gifts would have been wasted. It matters not how able a man may be, if he fails to make opportunities to exercise his gifts they are the same, as far as the public is concerned, as if they were absent. Washington showed admirable mastery over circumstances wherever he was placed. It is pleasant to think of him in his young manhood penetrating the great forests of the West as a surveyor, perfectly self-sufficient in all of his undertakings. He knew about the woodman's craft, sawge perfy had no terrors for him, and he was as much at home in his nightly camp as in his father's house. The hardy adventures of those days must have helped to prepare Washington for when at times his army was scarcely more than a survivor's party. He must have crossed many an unexplored river in scarcely less peril than he went through on that eventful Christmas when he led his little force across the plateau society in his youth, but not much. We think of him more as a solitary, roaming by himself in the forests with his gun, meditating on problems of mathematics or life and preparing himself by self-discipline for the great duties which even then he may have felt prophetic forebodings were awaiting.

Men born to greatness are seldom left entirely unwarned of their destiny by the inner monitor. Lincoln studied his geometry by the light of a pine knot on the hearth. Washington meditated his problems in the solitude of the untrodden forests. But both walked the road to greatness unhelped and alone. Very likely young Washington's boyish friends spoke of him as "queer," but if they did his queerness did not impair their faith in his practical ability. He never lacked employment, for the time when he was old enough to head a party in the woods. First as a surveyor and then as an Indian fighter he was always a leader of men who took command as naturally as Lincoln made political speeches. There was the same gift of leadership in Pericles and the same remoteness. Washington never has been so near to his countrymen as Lincoln. He is a little dim to most of us. We incline to worship him rather than to imitate him, telling funny stories in familiar intimacy with his friends.

Pericles ruled Athens for twenty years without allowing anybody to approach him closely enough to know his real secrets. The public was only confident if he except Aspasia. Washington found it easier to speak intimately to the army or the whole country than to his daily associates. The grandeur of his soul made a solitude around him all his days. The loftiness of his Farewell Address is never absent from the utterance. Even if the hand that wrote it was Hamilton's its voice is Washington's. Lincoln sought merit as a relief

to save at points where economy would increase efficiency. It has saved at points where economy was made at the expense of efficiency. It has refused to vote sums more or less than the Army and Navy. It has produced a surplus in the Postoffice Department by establishing parcel post rates for long distances which are higher than express rates; by carrying railroads just payment for carrying an increased volume of mail matter; and, worst of all, by depriving many remote sections of the country of mail service or by giving them very inadequate mail service. The treatment accorded to Curry County, Oregon, as detailed in a letter published in the Sunday Oregonian, and to the Olympic peninsula in Washington, as explained by Representative Johnson in the House, are examples of this last-mentioned species of false economy. The American people have hitherto been indifferent to this subject of economy. Now that they cannot talk over the telephone or sell or mortgage a piece of real estate without paying a tax, they are likely to give the subject some attention.

GOING DOWN

The student of public finance ought to be able to find something interesting in the following statement of the conditions of the United States Treasury at the close of business, February 12, 1915:

Table with financial data: Income of fiscal year Feb. 12, 1915, \$3,438,025,888.41; Decrease of income, \$27,328,770.64; Increase of outgo, \$3,164,293.23; Outgo over income last year, \$5,278,200.04; Decrease in surplus, \$5,323,062.86.

AN ENTERTAINING BOOK

Leroy Scott's new novel, "No. 13, Washington Square," is as good in its way as "Ruggles of Red Gap," which has been doing fun-loving readers of the Saturday Evening Post. Scott's story deals with a New York leader of fashion, Mrs. De Peyster, whom financial calamity overtakes through the shortcomings of the New York and New England Railroad. Compelled for her usual dividend to forego her European trip and afraid to step openly at home lest her social prestige should suffer, the good lady decides to live "on the Q. L." in her own magnificent mansion on Washington Square.

CLOTURE

The ship purchase bill was jammed through the House in a single day; it rests in the congenial bosom of a Senate committee, after weeks of unavailing effort on the part of the Senate. The majority party of the Senate is to drop an obstreperous minority into an agreement that it should reach a vote. The rules of the Senate made it possible to defeat the bill; the rules of the House made it possible to bring the bill to a vote in the Senate in a very short time. The bill operates under modified Reed, or gag, rules, which the Democrats once violently assailed; the Senate under a gentlemen's agreement that there shall be no limit to debate. The one is the antithesis of the other; the other is the very negation of it.

RUSSIA WITHOUT VODKA

Prohibition in Russia may have an important influence on that country's fortunes in the war. The means of success in Russia is the falsified production of vodka which her detractors made last August. Her army has whipped the Austrians, has occupied nearly all of Galicia, has withstood the most furious assaults of the Germans in Poland, has routed the Turks and has fallen on the invaders of the Mairian lakes region of East Prussia. The Russian army has vindicated itself, and the fact may be ascribed in no small degree to its abstemiousness from vodka.

UNITED STATES ABOVE ALL

The sentiment expressed by the Polish Courier of Milwaukee—"United States above all"—is so appropriate to the times that it should become the motto of every true American. The Courier has shown its genuine Americanism by commending this sentiment to its readers, printing it in Polish for the sole purpose of insuring that it will reach the understanding of those citizens of Polish birth who have not yet become familiar with the language of this country.

WHY WE PAY WAR TAXES

Table titled 'Source of Saving' with columns for 'Source of Saving' and 'Amount saved'. Rows include Consolidate live-saving, revenue-cutter and light-house service, Reclaim civil service and make lump appropriation, etc.

Mr. Taft went as far as he could within the limits of his authority to carry out the commission's recommendations, and thereby saved more than \$2,000,000 a year. As the commission's inquiry cost only \$23,000, and there is no doubt that, after the revelations it made by only "scratching the surface," it could have shown where at least \$50,000,000 and probably \$100,000,000 a year could be saved.

The Democratic party no sooner secured control of the House than it refused further appropriations for the commission and the work ceased. Had the inquiry been renewed when the Democratic party obtained full control of the government the commission would have been made the commission's party of its creator and hostile to its opponents, although Mr. Taft says that, in appointing the commissioners, he asked no question as to politics and that at all except one held political views contrary to my own. But the work has not been renewed under the Wilson Administration, and only one of the recommendations has been partially carried out at the present session of Congress—the consolidation of the revenue cutter and life-saving services under the name of "Coast Guard Service."

and property are in this country and depend for safety on the maintenance of American independence and institutions. A fond regard for the "old country" is natural and laudable, for many relatives still remain there and that country has many fond associations of childhood. It is natural and American to desire the success and to uphold the cause of his native country, provided that cause does not come into conflict with the interests of the United States, but no citizen can loyally do or say anything which may entangle this country in the war when his words or acts are dictated by regard for his native country and not for his adopted country.

The United States has no part in this war and should favor neither side until its own rights and interests are clearly arrayed in support of either group of belligerents, future events in the course of the war may compel him to reverse his position under penalty of being branded a traitor for American interests on the opposite side. This is possible because anything is possible in a war of such magnitude. Any citizen who attempts to commit this Government to any course favoring either party is still more culpable, for later events may require the United States to take an opposite course and such attempts may embarrass the Government in upholding National interests.

The only patriotic course, therefore, for every American citizen, native or foreign-born, is to limit his activities to his own country, to the discussion of its issues, to the expression of his sympathies and to aid for the sick, wounded and afflicted as a consequence of the war, but to avoid any act which would aid the armed forces or the cause of any belligerent as a guiding principle every American should be: "United States above all."

THE BEST BACK-TO-LAND ARGUMENT

Comparison of the prices of February, 1915, with those of February, 1914, shows that if the entire crop of wheat, corn, oats, barley and rye for the preceding year were sold at the respective prices of those months, the 1914 crops were worth \$91,625,392 more than those of 1913. Against this gain is to be set a loss of \$331,540,000 in the value of the cotton crop, which leaves a net gain of \$760,085,392. As a large part of the grain crops was sold early in the season at prices which their increased value is doubtless considerably less, but as cotton is now rising above the price on which the Agricultural Department based its estimate, the loss on that crop is considerably less than the amount stated. Hence, the department's estimate of an aggregate increase of \$600,000,000 in value is probably about correct.

PHRENOLOGY

We have just read an article by a newspaper writer who says that neither psychology nor phrenology can be properly included among the sciences. Psychology is excluded because, although we know many facts about the mind and its operations, we know nothing about its inner nature. The same reasoning carried into other domains would forbid the study of electricity, since no physicist pretends to understand what that subtle agent really is. We know a great deal about it, but the thing itself eludes us. Very likely scientists have gathered as many facts concerning the mind as concerning electricity. It corresponds to those of current transmission. Attention, with the help of a little imagination, may parallel electric density. Thought answers in some ways to electro-motive force, while the flow of nervous impulses may be an actual electric phenomenon. It can hardly be said, therefore, that psychology is not a genuine science though it is certainly very far from complete development. It is still in about the same condition as astronomy before Kepler discovered the laws of planetary motion.

Every normal man loves his family, his home and his neighbors. He belongs to the customs and conditions under which he lives. If his country's form of government gives a tolerable degree of liberty, he desires to preserve it, for his habits of life and thought have been molded by it from childhood. Even if his country's government be despotic or tyrannical, he abhors the substitution of a foreigner for a domestic despot. He prefers that any changes in the form of government be made from within by men of his own nation, in sympathy with its traditions and spirit, rather than from without. In the case of a self-governing people, whether republic or constitutional monarchy, the attachment to its form of government is the stronger because it is the creation of the people, is the expression of their will and is changed only by their will. Patriotism of native-born American citizens springs from these sentiments; that of foreign-born citizens should be at least as strong. Though they were not born, and many of them did not grow up, under the American Constitution, they have from their past conduct, his mental capacity and his future career. Rural audiences are filled with admiration for such performances, and indeed they are sometimes almost unaccountable. Unquestionably the phrenologist has something to say in the shape of a personality and something more from the contour and expression of his face. The texture of the hair also has a

to tell, and so have the carriage of the body and the unconscious gestures which everybody makes. The "professor" profits by all these circumstances to work his miracles. No doubt imposture mingles more or less with all of them. A lucky guess here and there, a bit of information picked up casually in the hotel public room, a hit or miss inference from spots on the coat front or cigarette stains at the finger tips, all these judiciously used go far to build up prestige and success for the phrenologist. But in our zeal to convict him of humbuggery, of which he is usually guilty, we must not overlook significant facts.

No doubt a "professor" who uses his eyes can perform wonderful feats of character reading with their help. But character reading without the help of the eyes of the blind phrenologists who must manage without any such aid? We have witnessed the most astonishing disclosures by these experts at meetings in churches and public halls where they could hardly resort to their phrenology. They must possess some veritable means of ascertaining the habits and characters of their subjects. The theory that the bumps on the head help them much may be dismissed promptly. The general court of the phrenologist, as we have admitted, form a rough index to the mind, but phrenologists go into minute particulars and oftentimes hit very close to the mark, so close that mere guesswork is excluded. What is their source of secret facts which they reveal to wondering and enraptured audiences? Phrenologists are popularly associated with mesmerists, hypnotists, prestidigitators, astrologers and queer people of all sorts who stray about in scientific vagabondage.

It cannot be denied that such practitioners rely heavily upon their wits for results, but just as certainly the successful ones among them do things which they find out for themselves now and then that are quite inexplicable on the hypothesis of fraud. Literally in the spirit mediums they manage in some way to mingle genuine miracles with their imposture. What is the secret of their magic? We have before this at various times confessed to a certain faith in "thought transmission" or telepathy. It is pretty well demonstrated that mind can communicate with mind by other means than the ordinary channels of speech and gesture. There must, in fact, be thought waves which are intelligible to a receptive brain. We dare say that some of the best of our days are self-sufficient.

In 1911, after he had made his sensational expose of the McNamara brothers in motion picture form, he was sent to do their bit in the federal prisons. Burns reviewed his remarkable case in McClure's Magazine, which has been running a series of stories of the work of the master detective. These and many other intimate facts he laid bare.

Burns' clew really began in 1905 at Portland, Ind., in the finding of sawdust in which explosive had been hidden. This all took place before the dynamiting of the Times building. Burns and his men subsequently trailed McGraw and J. B. McNamara to Detroit, Mich., where the Mayor Alexander, of Los Angeles, had asked Mr. Burns to take up the case. The unexploded bombs found in Los Angeles had been made by McGraw and the secretary of the Manufacturers' and Merchants' Association were identical with those discovered in the Times building. Burns was experienced structural iron contractors were experiencing a reign of terror.

In the course of time Burns had complete details in hand. A man named "Leonard," who it later developed, was M. A. Schmidt, just arrested, was found in the possession of an unusually strong explosive at a California plant. The explosive was purchased for one "J. B. Boyce," who it later turned out was J. B. McNamara, the man who set off the dynamite.

Between October 1 and about the middle of April, when McGraw and McNamara were arrested, together with a great quantity of convicting evidence, Burns had shadowed each of them. This all took place before the dynamiting of the Times building. Burns and his men subsequently trailed McGraw and J. B. McNamara to Detroit, Mich., where the Mayor Alexander, of Los Angeles, had asked Mr. Burns to take up the case. The unexploded bombs found in Los Angeles had been made by McGraw and the secretary of the Manufacturers' and Merchants' Association were identical with those discovered in the Times building. Burns was experienced structural iron contractors were experiencing a reign of terror.

Seattle appears to have a lower death rate than Portland, but appearances are often deceitful. Inhabitants of the city who are usually, it is said, who exist only in the imaginations of census takers are immortal. The more of them a city has the lower its death rate must be. Portland is blessed with none of that kind. Therefore the Grim Reaper seems to gather a larger harvest here.

Dogs are being killed in Germany to conserve the food supply, and if the typical animal has capacity justified by his shape, the plan is well based. In England the cats are being killed for the fur to warm Tommy's "tummy" and back. Ere long France will, no doubt, begin war on the rat, just to be in the killing swim.

The world's peace foundation has taken upon itself to define the rights of neutrals. Having never yet been right, this gentle organization probably has little to offer in the way of a solution of present-day difficulties.

A Hindoo temple in San Francisco has been left to people who are happily married. It is now up to some cynic to remark that the place will remain untenanted.

An Aberdeen man has recovered his memory after a prolonged lapse. Which may prove to be either a blessing or a curse to him.

The report that the Czar is seizing supplies held in reserve by speculators sort of brings a pleased feeling into our soul.

A Pennsylvania man writes to know what a Jiney is. No, Edith, it is very plain the man is not a traction magnet.

France is buying absinthe in large quantities. Which should give the Germans sweet visions of early victory.

Review of Detective Burns' Pursuit of Dynamiters.

AT extreme ends of the continent the last two of the indicted conspirators in the Los Angeles Times building explosion have been captured, and it is said, partial confessions. The men have been obtained. They are M. A. Schmidt, arrested Saturday, February 13, in New York, and David Kaplan, taken as he slept last Thursday night in his cabin at Bainbridge Island, a few miles out from Seattle.

Thus ends really the phenomenal search so successfully conducted by William J. Burns and his organization of detectives. Evidence may now be uncovered that will involve even more "higher up," but of the arrests of dynamiters, the arrest of Kaplan and Schmidt clears up the case and of a certainty leaves no doubt as to the thoroughness of the investigation. The work of Mr. Burns, who, from the beginning, has been amazingly confident of ultimate success.

It was in the midnight hours of September 30, 1910, that the infernal alarm-clock bomb ticked its destructive course onward. The morning of October 1 was scarcely an hour old when 21 lives were sent to an inglorious end and the plant of the Los Angeles Times was wrecked. By night Gray Otis, its publisher and an avowed and open antagonist of organized labor, immediately set the seal of complete silence upon the case who had been prominent in labor agitation.

But Burns, the detective, had many months before the Los Angeles disaster when in motion picture form he had been seen in the largest and most influential unions—the Bridge and Structural Ironworkers' Union, and the International Association of Bridge and Structural Ironworkers, and the International Association of Bridge and Structural Ironworkers, and the International Association of Bridge and Structural Ironworkers.

It was but the matter of turning a hand to the associate "Times" disaster with the many other "Times" disasters in a few hours Burns was on the job. His arrest of J. B. McNamara, Orville McManigal, J. J. McNamara and others, and eventually some of the highest-ups in a matter of history. But for more than four years he has felt that the other two—Schmidt and Kaplan—would be apprehended. The case was the last of his days as self-sufficient.

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Gleams Through the Mist

G. Washington, put on the hat. The drapery of the mantle flaps. Come down, oil chaf, and meet me at The ferry of the River says: For I have seen my life from beyond. And I desire to make a book. G. Washington, to boost thy stock. Among the younger set at home.

I sing not of the cherry tree. Or how thou couldst not tell a lie. That never made a hit with me. I think thou couldst, if thou hadst but try. Sing instead about the time. Thou sweetest flower and forefearful. I sing of this in metric chime. But not about the cherry tree.

I sing of how, throughout the war, Thou didst put up thy fist for peace. And boost the cause of freedom. That came was like to most. And yet to spite the best of us. Thou didst achieve in battle, still. Thou didst achieve the foothold firm. And went not into vaunder.

I sing of how, through President. Firm in the chair thou long didst sit. And let not all thy breath be spent. Telling the world when thou wert dead. Thou didst not third term bubble brook. I sing now, though a famous one. Thou didst not go and write a book.

I sing how on thy whole career. In peace or politics or fight. Or here or there, I boast for thee. Thy best kept no moving picture right. I sing of how, right down the line. As long as thou didst hold the reins. Thou hadst a hand within thy grasp. And hadst no grape juice in thy veins.

I sing not of the cherry tree; That does have his best days done. I sing of how, I boast for thee. I sing of how, I boast for thee. The kind of man I like to see. I sing of how, I boast for thee. But not about the cherry tree.

"Sir," said the courteous office boy, "did you not tell me that the late G. Washington was first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen?" "Yes, my son," I replied. "How do you account, then," said the C. O. B., "for the fact that the bug who addressed the high school today told us that G. Washington was second to none?"

As I wheeled a 42-centimeter howitzer into position and was about to give the order to fire: "Sir," said the C. O. B., "I cannot tell a lie; the sporting editor told me to pull that one up you."

Solemn Thought. George Washington, the country's sire, Looked over his land and he was tired; "One, sir, it flows," he said in rime, "To have a thankful, merry child!"

One who signs herself "Jeanette" has sent us a whence about G. Washington having been quite a cut-up in his boyhood days. The venerable cherry tree is still fresh and green we see, and "Jeanette" is just such a cut-up as her grandmother was.

Lives of great men all remind us. That if we get famous, too. Future years are apt to find us. Telling young folks what to do.

Or, otherwise: Lives of great men all remind us. How our teachers' leave would run. When in telling truth, they'd find us. Newsies like G. Washington.

A visitor from Mexico tells us that it now takes eight Mexican dollars to equal one American dollar—but think how much more Jiney they get for the money.

Foibles of the Great. It is said that George Washington never permitted himself to be taken to Cabinet meetings in an automobile.

Although given to drinking, Julius Caesar on no occasion would accept or smoke cigars or cigarettes from the Roman Senators.

An interesting sidelight on the successes of William Hryn's peace activities is found in the fact that neither Kaiser Wilhelm nor the Czar of Russia will compete against him for the Nobel prize this season.

Franklin T. Griffith has never permitted himself to develop the Hiney habit.

Oswald West, contrary to his action in previous years, will positively not veto a single bill passed by the Legislature this year.

General Von Hindenburg has developed recently a marked predilection to spending his summer vacation in Westport or other prominent Russian cities.

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