

body hear from you. The voting will last but a few days.

WHY NEW YEARS EVE DRUNK?

JUST why is it considered good form to get drunk as a means of bidding farewell to the old year and giving welcome to the new?

There is the day after—the bad last in the month, the demoralized stomach, the shattered nerves and the headache. Wherein does the revelry fit the occasion, and what is the particular idea that makes the custom as religiously emphasized under prohibition as in the wet days?

Perhaps these words should be more in sorrow than in anger. Those who had the night out certainly needed sympathy more than censure. That morning after, if all accounts be true, is full penance through suffering for a possible exhilaration of having been highly "stewed" the night before.

Is pleasure drunk as enjoyable as pleasure sober? Is it really necessary to suspend some senses, chloroform others and transform the mind into a state of delirium in order to give the new year a hospitable reception? Could the new year speak, would he express himself as highly flattered to be met on the threshold of the world by sundry and diverse persons with a wild fantastic "jag" on?

We all know that it is in a pure spirit of innocent pastime that so many remain strictly sober all year, but get drunk New Year's eve. This is undoubtedly of particular truth in the case of the wives and sweethearts who worshipped at the feet of John Barleycorn so abandonedly Wednesday evening. Yet, granting the innocent purpose and all that, the question remains, why so peculiar a custom?

Why not, at a funeral, also get drunk as a token of affectionate farewell to the departed?

Bandits cracked a safe and made off with \$100,000 at Kingley, Iowa, killed a man in Seattle, assassinated another in California, and hold up and rob everywhere, very much as they will. Civilization nearly broke down in the war. The blood lust of the jungle is again loose in the world. War is fury, and fury poisons the blood, demoralizes conscience and rips the heart out of human well being.

A MEASURING STICK

NEXT to their mothers and fathers, teachers have more than any others to do with forming the characters of our boys and girls. Nor is their duty more than half performed when they have taught them the "rule of three." The youth's attitude toward usefulness, thrift and work will be determined largely by what he learns at home and school. He ought to emerge from the period of elementary education with an accurate measuring stick for life's real values. If he doesn't get it then, the chances are he never will.

No fortune is to be compared with the blessing of usefulness. No business or domestic safety can be found in extravagance. No greater safeguard can be had than work against moral disintegration.

Affirmatively, usefulness builds the only enduring structures of any career. Thrift paves the road to happiness. Work gives grace to respectability, sauce to food and relish to recreation.

Ambition to do things well promotes the cheerfulness and eager readiness that open the way to employment and success. Training of both hands and brain leaves only one quality of unwillingness—that anyone else should be able to do anything better.

These thoughts are suggested by the state teachers' convention. The expressions do not imply that our educators are failing in their duty. Without doubt it is their ideal to serve the growing generation faithfully and well that keeps them so ably at their illy remunerated tasks.

A patient wait of 20 minutes for central to answer was an incident in The Journal office yesterday afternoon. And after that long wait, the call had to be given up without getting central at all. The delays happened, not only on one phone, but on all phones in The Journal office. And yet the company tells us it ought to have higher rates. What for? For a rotten service?

WHY PLAN?

IT IS related that in the olden days when a bridge was proposed across the Willamette, a citizen opposed the reckless scheme, declaring that he had always used the ferry or his personal skill and those were good enough for him.

And, at the dizzy moment in municipal progress when streetcars were suggested and a franchise disbursed, another citizen arose and declared that he had always used a horse and buggy and the conveyance was good enough for him.

Still more modernly, when the widening and improving of tawdry Burnside street was urged as desirable in a general plan for the city's growth, a citizen declared that for a decade he had walked to his office along this street, that its crumbling landmarks were endeared to him, and it was good enough for him.

It may be that only disinterested wisdom actuates the citizens who oppose the zoning scheme on the ground that a city which, like Topsy, "just grewed," is good enough for them.

It may be that individual intelligence becomes only mass foolishness when grouped about such propositions

as planning the community's growth. There may be something inherently dangerous about the idea of guiding the future use of local property with relation to the city as a whole. Blind instinct in the placing of industry, residences, business and public buildings may for some deep and vital reason be safer than any leadership based merely on training and experience.

At any rate the zoning idea has been developed far enough to place the city under obligation to make its terms clear to the general public as well as to the smaller groups of enthusiasts and chronic objectors.

The people can be trusted to decide what is best for the majority.

PIGS AND CHILDREN

THERE is a curious coincidence between the finding of an Eastern specialist that a third of America's school children are undernourished and the report of the children's bureau of the department of labor that since advances in the price of milk only 99 per cent of 728 children between 2 and 8 years in Baltimore are drinking fresh milk as contrasted with 60 per cent a year ago. The specialist avers that 40 per cent of the children graduated from elementary school are unfit, and the report declares that only half of the small children in Washington, D. C., get fresh milk to drink, while the proportion in New Orleans is smaller.

No one would raise pigs or calves and underfeed them, because such a policy would destroy profits. But the idea seems to be that while the fattening of livestock is imperative the physical fitness of children may be left to chance.

Rations for cattle and hogs are carefully studied but too great a proportion of the nation's children are allowed to eat without guidance.

Yet how long would any industry thrive if committed to the hands of an under-nourished, retarded generation?

It is time to awake to the fact, not only that fresh milk should be a large factor in the diet of every child, but that economic losses will be greater from underfed children than under-nourished livestock.

Why not, to save time and uncertainty, have a constitutional amendment adopted providing that the Rogue river fish bill should always be considered as unfinished legislative business each succeeding session? Then its perennial appearance would be a matter of law as well as a matter of course.

HOW ABOUT THE TWELVE

OF 300 business men asked by the Chamber of Commerce to help keep the community's promise to the Aladdin company, only 12 refused outright. One hundred and thirty-four responded with the amounts asked of them. Five persons responded indefinitely.

Now the soliciting committee proposes to bring its appeal in a personal way before those not heard from. The money is being used to pay for a fill at the site of the manufactory in North Portland.

Originally it was proposed that the port meet the expense and thus make the inducement to the company to locate here a public offering. But the port commission found it had no legal powers to spend public money thus. Then a group of aggressively public spirited men undertook the amount.

Invited among the many the cost involved in bringing a big payroll to Portland is small. But what of the 22? How can they show their merit to share in the profits resultant from the industrial upbuilding of Portland?

AN ENGLISH JOKE

ENGLISH business men, according to a London news dispatch, are "firing" their women employees as rapidly as they can find men to take their places. Three years and more of experience has led them to the conclusion, they contend, that men are to be preferred to women in both commercial and professional lines of work, and they give some very interesting, and from the view of American experience, very amusing reasons for their conclusions.

One prominent Londoner, who asked the reporter not to disclose his identity, contends that women employees "create an atmosphere of intrigue," whatever he may mean by that. He argues that it is a "waste of time" to try to remould women from "superfine beings of wile and witchery to good business machines." He complains also, after jockeying any thought of vanity, that try as he might, he could not escape the conviction that his fair employees were continually "dressing to attract me and my assignants," and he naively confides that "we do not want that sort of thing to distress us in business."

Women employees, the English business man continues to complain, have another and a glaring fault. They are very prone to disclose business secrets to their men friends when those gallants take them out to luncheon, out of a "sheer love of being important." But the thing that troubles him most is the fact that he was often confronted with "hearingbreaking, tearful scenes" when he tried to discharge one of his women employees.

Taking it all in all, it is contended by the Londoner that women employees are much more to be desired out of shops and offices than in them. Evidently American business men have not found the same faults in their women employees, for they seem to be hanging onto them pretty steadily, even in the face of protests from returned service men and their

friends who have been protesting because women are continued in positions given up by young men who entered military or naval service. Maybe the American business man likes the "distress" from which his English cousin so hastily flees. Maybe, also, the American girl attends to her knitting better than her English cousin.

High Cost and Profiteering in the Pioneer Days

Leading to the Establishing of a Mint, and the Beaver Coinage.

In 1847 Clackamas county in point of population, industry and prestige led all other counties in Oregon. There were the eight counties in the Oregon country—Clackamas, Clatsop, Tualatin, Yamhill, Polk, Clatsop, Vancouver and Lewis—with a total population of about 6000. But one newspaper was published in the Oregon country—the Spectator at Oregon City. W. P. Hudson set the type, ran the press, set up and ran off the job work and helped to gather the news. In the fall of 1848 the scarcity of men on account of the rush of almost the entire male population of the Willamette valley to the California gold fields, made wages higher and provisions and all other commodities went up in price accordingly. The high cost of living for a man on a salary hit the Spectator as well as the other industries, so Hudson responded to the lure of the yellow metal, going to California to make a stake if possible. He washed out \$21,000 worth of gold dust within a few months and came back to Oregon to resume his job at the case. Next year, 1850, he died at sea while on the way aboard a sailing vessel to San Francisco.

Hudson was but one of hundreds of Oregonians who brought back to the Willamette valley "fat" "pokes" of gold dust. Beaver skins and wheat had served as medium of exchange prior to the discovery of gold in California, but upon the return of Hudson to Oregon City of the Argonauts they found the gold dust which had been weighed out to them at \$16 an ounce at Hangtown in San Francisco would pass only \$10 an ounce at the Hudson's Bay store in Oregon City and that their quotation set the price of gold dust throughout the Willamette valley. With over \$200,000 worth of gold dust in circulation in the Willamette valley the prices of everything went skyrocketing. Butter sold at 75 cents a pound, potatoes \$2.50 a bushel, apples \$10 a bushel. The merchants were getting rich by charging excessive profits and taking in gold dust at far below its real value. The indignation of the community was aroused and the provisional legislature to establish a mint for the coinage of \$5 and \$10 gold pieces. The act was passed, in spite of the remonstrance of Medford Crawford and W. J. Martin, who pointed out that such an act would be unconstitutional. The other members of the provisional legislature acknowledged the truth of their criticism but passed the act anyway, to stop profiteering by the merchants. Governor Abernethy approved the act, February 16, 1849. No officer of the mint was to receive a salary of over \$2000 a year. The salaries were fixed at \$1999 per annum. The act provided that an assayer, a melter and a coiner were to be employed, that no alloy was to be used in the coins and that the smaller coin should contain five and the larger one 10 pennyweights of gold. James Taylor was appointed director, Truman B. Smith assayer, George L. Curry melter and coiner and George L. Curry assayer. American gold coins were very scarce. Gold Spanish doubloons and smaller coinage of gold from Spain and South America were the usual medium of exchange. A few barrels of Mexican silver dollars had been shipped to Oregon City and some kegs of Peruvian

silver coins had also been shipped to the Hudson's Bay store.

The arrival of General Joseph Lane, governor of Oregon territory put a stop to the mint on the ground of its illegality. The need for gold coinage was met by the formation of the Oregon Exchange company, which carried on the business as a private enterprise. The members of the company were W. K. Kilbourn, Theophilus Magruder, James Taylor, George Abernethy, W. H. Willson, J. Q. Campbell, W. H. Rector and Noyes Smith. Rector made the stamps and dies. Campbell did the engraving. About 6000 Beaver five-dollar gold pieces were made and about 2500 10-dollar coins. On one side of the coins was the image of a beaver, under which were the letters "O. T." and the date "1849." The dollar piece had seven stars over the beaver, which was secured by "K. M. T. R. C. S.," being the initials of the members of the company.

Today a Beaver 10-dollar piece will readily sell for \$150, while the five-dollar Beaver coin is worth \$100, as they are very rare. They were called in by the mint at San Francisco, as they were pure gold and were worth more than their face value. Occasionally one of these old Beaver gold coins is dug up in Oregon City, the home of Oregon's first and only mint.

Letters From the People

[Communications sent to The Journal for publication in the Letters From the People column on only one side of the paper, should not exceed 300 words in length, and must be signed by the writer, whose address in full must accompany the contribution.]

Has Fun at Wood's Expense

Portland, Or., Dec. 20.—To the Editor of The Journal—"Ship or shoot!" Dear old Wood! I am afraid the Reds will have in and out of his pockets before he gets them all shipped out. That was the manner of Czar Nicholas and it went for a long while. However, the American Red is faster than his Russian brother. He will progress as much in one month as the Russian in 10 years, and may set the whole Republic woodpile aflame. From the way the senate has acted in these latter days, it will not take long to make it go. It is dry as powder and ready to explode.

Thank God that Woodrow Wilson is at the head of the United States. Now we understand why our president chose Pershing instead of Wood to lead our troops overseas. If Wood had come home victorious, as Pershing has, everyone that was not a G. O. P. surely would have had to skidoo. But, for the old party, like the old maid, "Who? Who? Anyone will do." J. SCOTT.

Questions About Certain Islanders

Portland, Dec. 27.—To the Editor of The Journal—"A Parable." In the Journal of December 27, wherein is recounted the strange adventures of 12 men on the prolific island, it stimulated thought, which is a joy. But, the denouement being somewhat obscure, and seeking additional enlightenment, I am taking the liberty of asking four questions, to wit: Since each man was free to obtain any one of the desired commodities, there being no deeds or other legal bar to each satisfying his desires, could anyone have secured his own grub and thus avoided anarchy? Are the men assumed to be idiots for the purpose of the tale? Had landlordism been in vogue on that island G. O. P. (as is usual) one third the product of labor for the right to produce (which would have meant a far greater loss to the community), do you think landlordism would have been good thing for that island and its 12 inhabitants? Does landlordism produce anarchy? LOUIS BERGMAN.

He May Make Sinner

From the Detroit News
How do they find out what Colonel House wants for Christmas?

BALLOT ON PEACE TREATY

Vote one choice. Indicate preference by X mark in square.

1 ☐ I favor compromise on reservations and immediate ratification of peace treaty and League of Nations covenant;

Or, 2 ☐ I favor ratification with Lodge reservations.

Or, 3 ☐ I favor ratification of the peace treaty and League of Nations covenant substantially as presented to the senate by President Wilson.

Or, 4 ☐ I am opposed to ratification in any form.

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