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THE "FIRING" OF LANSING

The old timers of Salem used to tell a local story of a prominent Salem man who was on the witness stand in court and being questioned by one of the attorneys.

After giving his testimony, the witness was asked if at the time spoken of he was in his normal condition.

He testified that he was.

He was then asked if he remembered whether he was drunk or sober.

He replied that he did not remember; but that he was always in a normal condition, drunk or sober.

President Wilson evidently thinks he is in his normal condition, sick or well; and he has "fired" Secretary of State Lansing because that functionary next to the throne dared to assume that his chief was not able to exercise all the duties of his great office, even though his physician ordered that he be not burdened with the cares of state—because Mr. Lansing called a cabinet meeting at that time to talk over some important matters.

"In case of the removal of the president from office, or of his death, resignation, or INABILITY TO DISCHARGE THE POWERS AND DUTIES of the said office, the same shall devolve on the vice-president," etc.

That is the wording of the United States Constitution.

Mr. Wilson clearly intimates to the people of the United States that he believes no "inability" exists or has existed.

Perhaps nothing will come of the situation that now confronts the people of the United States; but it is clearly within the possibilities of the case that some new experiences will have to be undergone before the fourth day of next March, and some new slants of history written.

In the expenditure of the \$10,000 which is to be furnished to the Salem Commercial Club for its urgent needs, among which is a vigorous publicity campaign, provision should be made for a thorough exploitation of flax growing and possible linen manufacturing here in Salem; led up to, perhaps, by the making of seine twine and shoe thread for home use. The field is wide open. There is ample capital in Oregon. Organization of the kind that is able to organize is needed.

There should be no thought of letting lag the movement to get the electric light and power lines extended into the country. The Industrial Edition of The Statesman, to be issued next week or the week after, will have a clear statement concerning the paved roads program. The electric light and power lines might follow the paved roads.

Produce more flax. That's the stuff. Linen mills will follow.

The Willamette valley is not going to let Canada beat us to it in the linen industry—when we can raise flax the fiber of which is worth three times the average produced up there.

The new literature being planned by the Salem Commercial club will refer very largely to what can be grown on the land here. That's the stuff. "More acres and more to the acre." All the other benefits will follow.

The Hunt Bros. Packing Co., when the new addition to their big Salem cannery is completed, which will be by May 31, will be ready to take the products of any acreage offered them—of the fruits and vegetables that go into tin cans. The sky will be the

limit—or rather the earth. That is mighty good news for Salem and the country surrounding this city.

You will learn some new things about the potato industry, if you will read the Salem slogan pages of The Statesman of next Thursday. In the meantime, tell us YOUR experience with potatoes, if you are a grower.

VISCOUNT GREY'S CONCLUSIVE LETTER.

Viscount Grey of Falloden, England's great peace advocate, has done much by his recent utterances to clear the international atmosphere. He has pointed out that there is no objection on the part of the British government to the reservations which the senate is now discussing and which may be a part of the resolution of ratification. Ex-Presi-

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dent Taft, most reasonable of the American peace advocates, commends highly the sentiment expressed by Lord Grey in a recent letter to the London Times and says that the way is cleared for early ratification with reservations—provided the members of the senate will only cease verbal quibbling and realize the gravity of the question they are debating.

Lord Grey came here in September as special ambassador representing the British government. He was not able to fill the functions of that position because President Wilson was secluded by reason of his illness and did not receive him.

He spent three months in Washington, seeing little—he is almost totally blind—but hearing much.

His letter to the London Times shows that he formed a clear judgment of the sentiments of the American people in regard to the League of Nations. The communication itself is a model of diplomatic expression. He presents the situation to the British public in a way that is understandable to them, and there is nothing in his statement of the case to which Americans, however sensitive, can take offense.

He writes: "The participation of the United States was enormously helpful in securing the victory in the critical months of 1918, and its help will be even more essential to secure stability in peace. Without the United States the League of Nations will become little more than a league of the allies formed for self-defense against a revival of Prussian militarism or against a sinister sequel to Bolshevism in Russia. Bolshevism is despotism, and despotisms have a tendency to become militaristic, as the French Revolution proved. The great object of the League of Nations is to prevent future wars and to discourage from the beginning the growth of aggressive armaments that would lead to war. For this purpose it should operate at once and begin here and now in the first years of peace to establish a reputation for justice, moderation and strength."

An utterance by Lord Grey on any international subject would command instant attention and respect. He has grown old in the public service of Great Britain and has earned a reputation as one of the clearest thinkers and most forceful and logical writers in the galaxy of living statesmen. Perhaps his most notable utterance was his reply to Bethman-Hollweg, German chancellor in 1914, respecting the sanctity of treaties. Lord Grey was at that time foreign secretary for Great Britain and the German chancellor had referred in contemptuous terms to the peace treaty guaranteeing the integrity of the soil of Belgium. Lord Grey's reply that Great Britain would never regard any treaty on which British signatures appeared as a "scrap of paper" did much to win the sympathy of neutral countries for the cause of the allies.

Lord Grey is no recent convert to the idea of a League of Nations. He was the leading British exponent of a league of peace before the war began. He attended the peace conference, representing Great Britain, and ably seconded President Wilson's efforts to make the constitution of a League of Nations a part of the peace treaty. Like President Wilson, he held that the league covenant must be made a part of the treaty itself, that it would be futile to try to create a league after the

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FUTURE DATES.

February 8 to 14—Boy Scout week.
February 11, Saturday—St. Valentine's day.
February 16, Monday—Spanish War Veterans' basket social at armory.
February 17 and 18, Tuesday and Wednesday—Conference of Indian workers at Kimball College of Theology.
February 18, 19 and 20—Salem Automobile show.
February 19, Thursday—Children's eugenics test at Commercial club.
February 22, Sunday—Washington's birthday.
February 22, Sunday—French government awards, through American legation, memorial certificates to relatives of soldiers who lost lives in war.
February 23, Monday—Federal inspection of Company M, National Guard of Oregon.
February 23, Wednesday—High school alumni meet for organization.
February 25, Wednesday—Cherry city bakery to entertain Rotarians at banquet.
September 27 to October 2—Oregon State fair.

peace negotiations were concluded.

Mr. Taft speaks in the highest terms of the reasonable attitude which Lord Grey has taken. He says that it must be understood that Lord Grey speaks, though as a private citizen, with the assurance of the British government; that he expresses the official British view of the controversy. But for his failing eyesight Lord Grey would now be floor leader in parliament and holding an important cabinet position. He went to Washington at the sacrifice of his physical comfort, hoping that he could aid in compromising the differences between the president and the senate. The president displayed, however, an apparent disinclination to meet him, another indication of the uncompromising attitude that President Wilson has assumed.

Lord Grey said that it is "A League of Nations" rather than "THE League of Nations" that Great Britain desires. He declared that Great Britain would not object to an increase in the number of votes allotted to America in the assembly of the league. Holding that the self-governing colonies of Great Britain earned their right by their defense of other free peoples to a voice in the assembly of the league, Lord Grey said that he did not doubt that Great Britain would readily agree to an interpretation of the league covenant which would hold that none of the British colonies should vote on any dispute between this country and Great Britain that might come before the league.

Conciliation is the dominant tone of Lord Grey's utterances. His attitude is similar to that of Mr. Taft in this country. He does not attempt to impugn the motives of the senators who are opposing the ratification of the treaty; but he makes clear that Great Britain is willing to accept any reasonable reservation that the senate may impose. He says that the United States must enter the league as a willing partner, although with a limited obligation, in order that it may be of real service in promoting peace and discouraging war.

It President Wilson and Senator Lodge would display a similar spirit of conciliation the peace treaty would be quickly ratified. Commenting on Lord Grey's letter Mr. Taft writes:

"When we note in the accounts given by both Senator Lodge and Senator Hitchcock of the meeting of the bipartisan committee how small is the difference between the two sides, a difference that is largely verbal and not substantial, and weigh this fact with the attitude of Great Britain, evidenced by this great letter of Lord Grey, we have a right to hope that a ratification of the treaty will be promptly brought about."

The great body of the American people hope that Mr. Taft speaks with a voice of prophecy. The "verbal quibbling" is discreditable to all concerned.

PAPER EXCESSES.

While the senate was wrangling over the use of paper by American publishers Senator Smoot appeared with a volume that could not be carried in a wheelbarrow.

It was a compilation of the more than seven million words wasted by the senators in debating the league of nations and sent to voters all over the country as printed in the Congressional Record. As an illustration of paper extravagance it was complete.

Senator Sherman, who also has his rare moments, said that the mass of department mail sent out from Washington was so vast that the average country editor couldn't handle his share without having a private secretary.

As it was, almost all of it went directly to the waste basket.

In the matter of paper waste the government is indeed the greatest offender in the world. The publisher gets paid for his in one way or another, but the government doesn't—that is, to any material extent.

OIL AND TROUBLE.

The ship of state doesn't sail any more. She is an oil burner. The United States is producing a little more than a million barrels of oil a day at the present time, but experts

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What Lincoln said
(From an address by Abraham Lincoln to the Women's Association in 1864)
"Property is the fruit of labor; property is desirable; it is a positive good in the world. Let not him who is houseless pull down the house of another, but let him work diligently and build one for himself, thus by example assuring that his own shall be safe from violence when built."

When the talk turns from politics to railroads, and the traveler with the cocksure air breaks in with, "There's an awful lot of 'water' in the railroads," here are some hard-pan facts to give him:

American railroads have cost \$80,900 a mile—roadbed, structures, stations, yards, terminals, freight and passenger trains—everything from the great city terminals to the last spike.

A good concrete-and-asphalt highway costs \$36,000 a mile—just a bare road, not counting the cost of culverts, bridges, etc.

Our railroads couldn't be duplicated today for \$150,000 a mile.

They are capitalized for only \$71,000 a mile—much less than their actual value. Seventy-one thousand dollars today will buy one locomotive.

English railways are capitalized at \$274,000 a mile; the French at \$155,000; German \$132,000; even in Canada (still in pioneer development) they are capitalized at \$67,000 a mile. The average for all foreign countries is \$100,000.

Low capitalization and high operating efficiency have enabled American railroads to pay the highest wages while charging the lowest rates.

This advertisement is published by the Association of Railway Executives

Those desiring information concerning the railroad situation may obtain literature by writing to The Association of Railway Executives, 61 Broadway, New York

USEFULNESS GONE.

"I hear there are many poisonous snakes in your part of the country."
"Not now. What's the use of them when every place is dry?"—Baili-more American.

MEAN INUENDO.

She: This is a portrait of my grandmother at 79.
He: What a strong family resemblance! It might be taken for you, more American.
—Nashville Banner.

CRACKER and COOKIE Special for Saturday

On Saturday only we will sell all Pacific Coast, Biscuit Co.'s 20c packages cookies and crackers 2 for 35c. 45c pkgs. 40c. Family Size Caddy Perfection Crackers. \$1.60 Family Size Caddy Snow Flake Crackers. \$1.75 BROOM SPECIAL. A good medium weight broom for 79c

Fresh Vegetables

Brussel Sprouts	Head Lettuce
Green Peppers	Cauliflower
Spinach	Bunch Turnips
Artichokes	Celery
Sweet Potatoes	Radishes

Fresh Fruits

Florida Grape Fruit	15c and 2 for 25c
Arizona Grape Fruit	4 for 25c
Per dozen	75c
Oranges (Fine Juicy Fruit)	50c, 55c and 65c dozen
Cocoanuts	20c and 25c
Yellow Newtown Apples, per box	\$1.75 and \$2.00

Fresh Home Made Cakes

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