

The Oregon Statesman

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THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM APPROACHES ITS ZENITH

"Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war," said Milton more than three centuries ago. McLaughlin, in his "History of the American Nation," speaking of the period immediately following the war of 1812, says: "When the war was over, America turned her attention to the tasks of progress and of peace."

American historians of the present day find many parallels in the periods 1914-1920 and 1805-1816. Wilson, like Jefferson, preached democracy and practised autocracy. Wilson, like Jefferson, was confronted with a situation where "an American ship might refuse to be searched and in consequence be blown out of the water." Efforts were made in 1806 to bring England to terms by some means short of war, and Monroe and Pinckney negotiated a treaty in London which Jefferson refused to accept as satisfactory. "He ought either to have accepted it or to have prepared seriously for war. He did neither." A similar situation confronted Wilson with respect to Germany, and he followed Jefferson's example. Wilson, like Madison, at length "timidly and reluctantly yielded" and "thus there fell upon his shoulders the unwelcome, ill-fitting task of leading in war." In 1816 James Monroe was chosen president by an overwhelming vote, and four years later he was re-elected with only one electoral vote against him. The eight years under Monroe's administration were commonly called "the era of good feeling."

The "era of good feeling" from 1816 to 1824 was national. An era of good feeling from 1921 to 1929, under Harding, bids fair to become international. The conference at Washington is achieving results looking toward peace far beyond the dreams of the President who initiated it and of the able and far-seeing American delegates who were appointed and have been given the widest opportunity to participate in it. It was truly predicted that the conference would center on Pacific problems and their solution. If there is any outside of war, it is to be found in the proposed four-power treaty, the basis of which is understanding.

Certainly it can be said that reflexes of the "get-together" attitude of the delegates to the Washington conference are already displaying themselves in other portions of the globe. The Anglo-Iberian treaty which gives promise of culminating in the Irish Free State is a case in point. If the English and the Irish are able to harmonize their difficulties there will no longer be good ground for the bitter feeling exhibited toward England by Americans of Irish descent. The overtures being made by Chile to Peru to end by peaceful means the 38 year old stalemate known as the Tacna-Arica dispute is another example. The text of Chile's recent note proposes that the long delayed plebiscite in that territory be expedited so as to do away with the necessity for maintenance of excessive military establishments.

Turning to economic questions, it will be found that almost everywhere there is a change for the better, marked in some countries, slower in others, but generally perceptible. The Washington conference is creating world wide return of confidence. The nations of the earth are encouraged by the belief that the vast sums heretofore devoted to the upkeep of non productive armament and men, are, in goodly portion, at least, to be turned to productive account for the benefit of humanity. This is a glorious season. Not since the birth of Him whose Nativity we celebrate December 25th could the world have said with such fervor and faith as we now possess: "Peace on Earth Good Will Toward Men!"

THE DEADENING GOSPEL OF IDLENESS

(Copyrighted by the San Jose Mercury)

Humanity has long been taught to look forward to a state of idleness as the heaven in which the blessed are to spend the ages of eternity. It is perhaps not strange, therefore, that many of the ignorant and unthinking, the lazy, the rattle-brained and the dissipated have the foolish conception that the very acme of human enjoyment is to live in affluence without effort of any kind; to have every selfish, physical, animal want and desire gratified without laboring to procure the means for their gratification. Perhaps we ought not even to be surprised if many of these human derelicts mistake the red flag of Bolshevism, now floating in the east, for the millennial dawn which all at once through some upheaval or revolution they believe is to break upon the world.

To begin with, there is no warrant in the teachings of Christ or the New Testament for believing that heaven is a place or state of idleness, nor that the saints and angels are an aggregation of celestial drones with nothing to do but to sing and enjoy the beauties and delights that surround them. On the contrary, Christ teaches in words clear and unmistakable that action, achievement, service, determine the status of men in the life to come. He himself is an example of untiring effort for the good of others. "He went about doing good." His words to His disciples were: "He that would be greatest among you, let him be your servant."

The man who has not felt the thrill of achievement has not yet begun to live. The human being who makes a hated and unwilling task of his work or daily duties is only a slave, even though the shackles that bind his mind and his limbs are of his own making. The idle, the unambitious, the lazy, are already half dead, and the narrow grave will but fittingly complete the work of their own purposeless habits of thought and life. Those whose lives do not make the world richer or happier or better are only drones, driftwood, rubbish, that clog the streams of progress and civilization.

We are led by reason as well as by the Scriptures to believe that God values a human life solely by what it is, by what it does, by what it means to the world; and that under His laws the world is so ordered that the man who springs to his work with hope beaming from his face, with energy quivering in every fibre of his being, and with persistence forcing him irresistibly, not only gets the greatest pleasure out of his work and his life, but by labor thus made pleasurable he gets a strength and development that fits him for larger work and greater responsibilities. In this favored land at least, the prizes in business, in industry and in other lines of endeavor generally go to this kind of men. It is right that they should. Any other result would put a premium upon listlessness, inefficiency and indifference.

Who can conceive of a spiritual or religious man being an idler? As he "grows in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord" he hears more and more clearly the call to effort, and he counts every day lost in which he has not wrought to the limit of his capacity for truth, righteousness and humanity.

Bolshevism and all the other spawn of Socialism, by whatever name they are called, would change all this. They would have the world believe that the prizes now awarded to honest, efficient, energetic and conscientious effort are all wrong; that thrift is not a virtue; that to be forehanded and acquire more wealth than is possessed by the poorest of men is a crime; and the man who has the capacity to organize industry and the means and will to employ others is an arch criminal who is to be annihilated. These Socialistic isms want no captains of industry, no learned professions, no proprietors of stores or mines or factories wicked (?) enough to ask their fellow men to work for them. They would not even be satisfied to reduce all humanity to the dead level of mediocrity, but they seek to elevate the most ignorant, inefficient, undeveloped and unsuccessful into the positions of power and make them the rulers of the world.

It seems almost unbelievable that such doctrines could have any considerable following even in dark Russia. Yet right in this country they are spreading. It is time that normal men and women should make a determined and organized effort to combat them.

Everybody, no matter what his status, should be glad that we have had inventive geniuses, wizards of industry and leaders and captains in every line of human endeavor. Through their efforts the processes and means of production have been so enlarged and cheapened as to bring within reach of the humblest the things that in the last century have so enriched the human life, and that a hundred years ago the richest could not procure.

Yet how many of these leaders in human effort would we have had if a big reward for their achievements had not come to them individually? Without such reward there would have been, there would be, no sufficient motive for the development and exercise of unusual abilities or skill.

The hopes of those who are praying for the failure of the arms parley are at the nadir. Do you get it?

The hero of the next war is likely to be Warren G. Harding, who is doing a man's work to prevent it.

A CHRISTIAN PEACE

Chieftains of the Faith are of the opinion that the final disarmament of the world will come through the church. Plans are afoot for a universal Christian conference in which methods for the establishment of the enduring peace of the world will be considered. Rev. Edgar P. Hull, general secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Education, is spokesman for the thought. He says that men must recognize their common brotherhood and enter into the meaning of Christianity's message to humanity.

Under its acceptance there is no further call for strife or preparation for conflict.

Christianity will be the greatest factor in the accomplishment of universal peace as soon as the church ceases controversy over creeds and forms. If the churches can finally agree on exactly who is to go to heaven and who to hell, it would end a lot of controversial hickering and create a large consignment of peace. If they cannot find accord, how can they expect the rest of the world to reach an understanding? If the universal Christian conference can forget creed and schism it may be a wonderful thing for the world.—Los Angeles Times.

SUFFERING SANTA!

The usual tragedy of the season is reported. Santa Claus was snacking a pipe in a New Jersey home. He nodded and presently his whiskers burst into flames. The fire extended to his clothing and Santa was so terribly burned that he had to be removed to a hospital. He will not be able to perform any more this season. But there are several substitutes out on the job and it is expected that the good work will go on just the same. The incineration of a Santa Claus or two cannot spoil our Christmas.

THE EYES HAVE IT

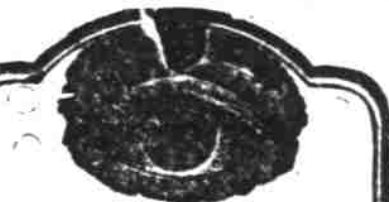
Bishop Nicholson of the Methodist church wants to know whether we are going to raise our daughters as Peggy Joyce or Frances Willards. As Peggy has a couple of million dollars' worth of diamonds in Paris it is likely that the Peggys would make quite a showing if we left it to a vote of the girls themselves.—Los Angeles Times.

LADYLIKE VAMPIRES

The new crop of English debutantes are said to be following the lines of the lithe, tigerish and hectic American vampires in their methods. Their lips are reddened and their cheeks paled in order to give the eyes a chance to glow. The British flappers must have taken their models from the movies, as the school-girls here have got beyond this stage and are using more intellectual lure. The girls might as well learn to use a lasso and have it over with.

FUTURE DATES

December 28, Monday—Legal holiday.
January 2, Monday—Legal holiday.
January 3, Tuesday—Public schools open.
January 4, Wednesday—Salem Symphony orchestra concert, armory.
January 19-21—Eggs' Mardi Gras.



CHRISTMAS

"Christmas comes but once a year
Have a Glass and see things clear
Some 'glasses' double all we see—
Best left alone we must agree
Our glasses double naught but joy
And make one see as when a boy"

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The Junior Statesman

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CUB REPORTER LEARNS HIS LESSON

Gets Chance to "Cover" Story of a Big Accident, Writes "Masterpiece," and Finds Out Something

One of the rules the newspaper reported follows is: "Get all important information in the first paragraph."

Three days before the Fourth of July, 1905, F. J. Duncan-Clarke, now a managing director of the Boys' Club Federation, and former chief editorial writer of the Chicago Evening Post, secured a position as cub reporter on a southern newspaper.

"I had been hanging around the office for three days," began Mr. Clarke, when the writer asked him to tell of his first newspaper job, "waiting for my chance. Nothing had happened. The Fourth of July rolled round. A celebration was being held in the morning in the court house square.

"Go down to the square and fool around a bit," the city editor directed. "I've sent someone else to cover the celebration, but maybe you can pick up something too."

"It wasn't a very lively assignment for one so ambitious as I, but I had resolved that no matter what I was told to do, I would do it. I went down to the square.

There was an immense crowd. I saw other members of our staff, as well as men from the rival newspaper, getting their stories. But I could see nothing for me to do. So, after an hour or so, I wandered back into the office of my paper.

"Things were pretty quiet. The only other person in the office was the assistant city editor. "Suddenly the phone rang. The assistant city editor answered. He made some hurried notes on a sheet of paper. Then, after hanging up, he turned to me.

"Another job," Mrs. Gilmore, the wife of Tom Gilmore, the distiller, he announced, "has just been run over by a train, according to this

skilled," I replied. Then why in the name of catfish didn't you say so in the first paragraph? You've got it buried at the bottom of the story."

"Then it dawned upon me—and I learned my first big lesson in newspaper writing—that I had forgotten to put the biggest fact in the first paragraph."

ONE REEL YARNS

MISS CHRISTMAS EVE

"Eve sighed and looked out over the sunbaked plain. "Tomorrow is Christmas, tomorrow is Christmas," she sang a bit sadly. "At home they are doing Christmas shopping, and making holly wreaths, and the air is crisp with Christmas. And here—it's no use trying to pretend that it is Christmas at all."

She turned around and started back into the house. "Well, here's my little Eve, my Christmas Eve," said her father. "What is the matter with your face? It doesn't look just right." He slipped his arm about her.

"Nothing, only—only—this is our first Christmas away!" In spite of herself, Eve began to cry.

"So that's it," said her father. "You miss an old time Christmas. Go out and take a walk in the garden, and I'll see what I can do." When Eve came back into the house she found an invitation to take dinner with the daughter of the chief consul, who was a great friend of hers, so she smiled more cheerfully and ran on.

When she came back it was after nightfall—a warm, quiet, tropical night. She had brought her friend with her to spend the night. Her father met them at the door. "Come in," he said solemnly, "we're having a Christmas Eve celebration." Wondering, the girls followed into the living room of the long, low house. The floor was covered with

corn bits of white paper. "This is snow," said Eve's father gravely. Then he pointed to a "fire" made of red paper, which stood in one corner. Pieces of wooden boxes were the "yule logs," and strips of red paper, kept waving by an electric fan, were the flames. The girls looked around and giggled.

"You wanted a real Christmas Eve," said Eve's father, "so here goes." He clapped his hands, and in came Joe, the native porter, grinning from ear to ear, and wearing an old red soldier suit and a white cotton beard. The girls greeted him with shouts of laughter.

"That sounds better," said Eve's father, "but isn't this what you wanted?"

"I see how silly it is," Eve answered, "to want Christmas to be just the same everywhere. After all it's not in any outside place, it's inside."

TODAY'S PUZZLE

"I-h-t-t-g-v-t-t-t-r-e-d-e"
Fill each blank with the proper letter and you will have an old adage often heard at Christmas time.

Answer to yesterday's: Irene, Maud, Marjorie.
Answer to today's: "It is better to give than to receive."

MINCE PIE

Perhaps it is taking advantage of the enemy to refer to the subject of mince pie so soon after Thanksgiving, but an aroused and indignant public sentiment will not be restrained. The old adherents of that one-time great American institution known as mince pie cannot longer be muzzled. A sacred old edifice seems tumbling about their heads. For the old-fashioned mince pie has been substituted a camouflage under the same name, and loyalty to an old friend compels the exposure of the fraud.

What has become of the mince pie of the fathers, which mother used to make? Until that question is answered a large and riotous party of American citizens will march under the banner of H. G. Wells proclaiming that civilization is threatened and the social order is crumbling.—Kansas City Star.

DAMAGED GOODS

The Wisconsin supreme court has decided that the owner of an automobile is not responsible for injuries that happen to his guests. If they chance to get hurt in an accident they cannot expect to recover civil damages from the owner of the car any more than they would if they were guests in his home. Of course, there may be cases in which this interpretation would not apply, but in the main the principle is reasonable and just. If a man goes riding with a friend he doesn't have a come-back if Henry climbs his frame. It is treated as an act of Providence.

THE BOMB PLOTTERS

Possibly that Warsaw anarchist who has confessed a share in the Wall street bomb plot is only anxious for a chance to get back into this country. Life in jail in America is better than running at large in Russia. The prisoners here are usually well fed, at any rate.

FIELD OF ENDEAVOR

Under the Pacific quadrupact American missionaries are given full play in Yap. They are granted all the rights they ever had and may maintain stations to their heart's content. It is predicted that the island will be pretty well flecked with missions before another season has closed.

ANSWERED PRAYERS

Keep on praying for the Washington conference, but do not forget to give thanks for the way in which it opened.—Congregationalist.

FOR EPICURES

The most delicious mushroom in the world is one that grows under the snows in the higher Alps. It is comparatively easy to pluck a handful of them if one is used to standing on a stepladder seven thousand feet high with a snow shovel in his hand. But by the time they reach the table of the New York gastronomic they are worth about a thousand bucks a pound. Nice dressing for the Christmas bird.

ART AND THE BATH

An eminent English painter and critic says that art in America is represented by a well ordered bathroom. Our Raphael is a plumber and our Michelangelo a machinist. Well, to have a clean mind in a clean body is something. If the Americans use a bathtub for their shrine it speaks for clean living, at any rate. We don't care to monkey with an art that leaves a lot of mussy paint on the fingers.

BITS FOR BREAKFAST

Merry Christmas.
And many merry returns.
Salemites are promised a white Christmas, but most of them are yearning for warm south winds to follow soon.

It is likely that the people will have a chance to vote on the gasoline bill. If it shall be decided that it has not been properly referred by the legislature, it will no doubt be initiated.

The Oregon constitution says: "A majority of all the members elected to each house shall be necessary to pass every bill or joint resolution." One member of the senate died and there was no election called to fill his place. It has not been the custom in Oregon to call such elections. That left 29 senate members. Fifteen voted for the gasoline bill and fourteen against. The president of the senate ruled that this did not pass the bill. An appeal to the house was had, and he was overruled. There you are. It is said Joseph Simon, when he was president of the senate, made a ruling that fifteen votes were sufficient in a similar case. Of course, the dead member could not vote. In strict construction, the ruling made in the present case was right. But was that the intent of the fundamental law? There are many fine points involved.

It would perhaps have been better all around if there had been no special session of the legislature. The initiative could have been invoked for all the legislation that was important.

The reporters say everybody wants the fair; even the men in the senate who opposed the gasoline bill, with a possible single exception. Everybody wants the fair, but most every one wants the "other fellow" to get under the burden of the expense of it.

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