

The Oregon Statesman

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REVERTING TO ROEBLING

A good deal of attention has been attracted by an editorial article in this corner of The Statesman of January 25, under the heading, "What Might Have Been," containing a clipping from the American Economist referring to a painting entitled "The Pioneer," by Peter Marcus of New York, referring to John A. Roebling, the great engineer who planned the Brooklyn bridge.

And, the American Economist said, who built it. But The Statesman of yesterday contained a letter from Washington A. Roebling, the oldest son of John A. Roebling, showing that he himself was the builder of the bridge, his father having met with an accident which caused his death, after planning the bridge.

But the rest of the story in the editorial article, outside of the mistake made by the writer in the American Economist, and not by the writer in The Statesman, was correct.

The vision was this: John A. Roebling, when he was a young man near Pittsburgh, Pa., was engaged to be married to a young woman. But she wished to go with her people who went to Bethel, Mo., and then came to Oregon and founded the Aurora colony. Mr. Roebling decided against joining the colonists. He turned back. The wedding outfit of the young lady had been arranged for. She went with her people to Missouri and came to Oregon and never married. She led a helpful and saintly life. She lavished her great love upon her people; upon the Oregon colonists.

And the vision: What a different history might have been written of Aurora had the "practical dreamer," the great engineer and man of genius, married the young woman and gone to Bethel and come to Oregon; and had taken up the manufacturing of flax products into fine linens! The Aurora colonists raised flax and made it into fiber and spun the fiber into thread and wove the thread into "home-spun" for wearing apparel and household use—the same as most pioneer Americans did, from colonial times. Washington's troops wore this home-spun clothing.

They did not realize that they were producing fiber fit for the making of fine linens—the finest in the world. The genius of John A. Roebling might have led him to this knowledge. He would have had the willing help necessary for developing a great industry. All the natural conditions were there in perfection. So Aurora might have become the Belfast of America. It might have been the chief manufacturing city of Oregon. It might have extended its city limits as far as Salem, and reaching out to the suburbs of Portland. Millions might have poured into its lap, from all corners of the earth.

That is what Salem needs now— A man with the genius of John A. Roebling, and with the vision of James J. Hill. The beginnings of a great linen industry are here, in the state flax plant, and with stations established or about to be established at Rickreall, Turner, Aumsville, and that may be easily established at other valley points. The opportunities are greater now than they were in the time when the Aurora colony was in its most flourishing condition.

Why? Because Congressman Fordney worked with flax when he was a boy on his father's farm, and when he became chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the House, and came to frame the present protective tariff law, he saw to it that the flax industry should have a chance— He gave it high protective rates; especially the manufactures of flax; and still more especially the fine linens that may be made with Salem district flax fiber.

The full development of the flax industry in the Salem district will be a bigger thing than the Brooklyn bridge. It will mean the bringing to this valley each year of \$100,000,000, from all sections of the United States, and from all the countries bordering the seven seas. And it will never run out. It will last as long as grass grows and water runs.

Perhaps the reader will wonder how such an article as the one referred to reaches such people as this one has reached. There are many ways. In at least five departments at Washington—the Slogan issues of The Statesman are kept on file; in several places in New York, and in numerous other cities. What we are doing here in Salem in development work and in other work while lines is being watched. We cannot hide our light under a bushel. We do not desire to. The Roebling concern, founded by the man who planned the bridge, has offices in all the chief cities of the United States, and throughout the world.

THE COSTS OF EDUCATION

It is a fact that a large per cent of our costs are for education. Education costs have gone up faster than any other line, and we sometimes think that the educators have taken advantage of the citizens more cunningly and effectively than anybody else. Public education in America last year cost \$1,500,000,000, and yet there are a lot of people who have not been reached. In most of the country districts teachers are provided for fair terms and the pupils well trained.

But it is a misfortune that many children, living in remote and sparsely populated communities, or in unprogressive states where regard for public education has been inefficiently developed, are in the schoolroom for a much shorter period of the year and often under unqualified teachers.

It will not help the national need for communities now supporting their public schools upon a generous foundation to foster waste and extravagance and yield to the pressure for every new thrill in education. That will not give the backward boy or girl in backward communities or states another hour of educational opportunity.

Nor will it contribute to a solution of our educational problems to watch

BUSINESS MEN IN CONGRESS

We note a communication in a state paper that only business men are sent to congress. The article stated that the need of the hour was a business congress. This may be true, as we must admit that we have most everybody else there. Our district has a college professor in congress; one of our senators is a lawyer; another is doing some business over in Idaho. We have stockmen, lawyers, editors, doctors, and once in a while they get in a business man.

In our mind there is a reason why business men do not get in congress. Often business is elusive, and business can not run itself unless it is controlled. The business man must watch his interests in order to have interests to watch.

ON ITS TOES

The chamber of commerce of Dallas is on its toes. It is beginning to do things. It is also apparent that Dallas is thoroughly awake and is going to make marvelous progress. Polk county is woefully undeveloped, yet potentially there is not a richer county in the world. It is starting on a swing of development that will double its population and treble its products. A man is fortunate to own land anywhere in that county.

A DEMOCRAT FIRST

Senator Walsh is making a close investigation of republicans, but he was very angry when his friend McAdoo spilled the beans and later burned his britches. Grandiloquently, Walsh declares, "I am still for McAdoo." It is to be hoped that this loyal democrat will read the speech of Jim Reed made at St. Louis, and then see if he wants to repeat his parrot-like phrase.

CONSERVATION IN DANGER

The public is slow to grasp one view of this oil scandal and that is that it is slowly and surely undermining the conservation policy of government and turning over to private exploitation the land and appurtenances supposed to be kept sacred for posterity. That is the worst part of the recent developments, and unless we have a crusade of revival, conservation will be into discard. It is not an encouraging outlook.

PROTECT THE STOCK

Oregon officials are to be commended for their alacrity and zeal in protecting the livestock against disease from California. All of the states have followed our lead, and California is making an earnest effort to stamp out the disease.

It is fortunate that the states have reached an understanding, and when a disease appears, can localize it without ill feeling. It means that in the future all communicable diseases will be checked before they get into full swing.

PREVALENCE OF PERJURY

It is lamented that people commit perjury in liquor cases where they disdain to do so anywhere else. That is because they have not been educated to the appreciation of the fact that perjury is a crime. The time will come when a man will not perjure himself for the purpose of helping out the liquor man, who is his worst enemy. It has arrived now in other parts of the country, and it will come in Oregon. There is nothing discouraging either in lack of enforcement of this law or the prevalence of perjury. Both can be depended on to take care of themselves and cure themselves.

MORE ABOUT OIL

The Oregon Statesman has another letter from Bill Sincellar of Waldo Hills in which he propounds a pertinent question. We quote exactly from a part of the letter: "I have watched the oil disclosures with more interest than the average citizen, because I have been calculating for some years to run for constable in my township and have just about concluded that this is my year. I want to know, and I wish you would ask your readers to advise me on the subject. Will my connection with oil injure my campaign as long as it is positively assured that it is confined to the Castor variety?"

OPTICAL ILLUSIONS

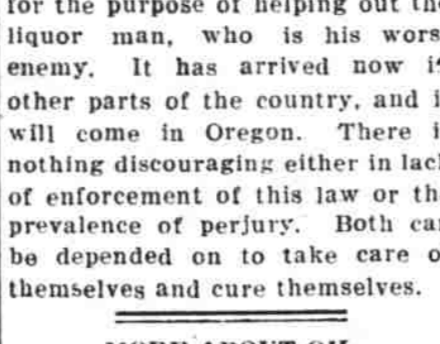
left appears shorter is because of the arrows which close it in. The eye travels along this line and is actually caught and boxed in by the inverted arrowheads. In the figure on the right, the eyes are coaxed along the curved line so as to make the straight center line look much longer than it really is.

In Fig. 2, all the four long lines are parallel, but they don't look that way because the eye can't follow straight along them and compare them accurately. The little short, criss-cross lines invite the eyes to stop their business of measuring and play with them—and the eyes do it.

—CAP'N ZYB.

Cap'n Zyb

MORE FUNNY EYES In Fig. 1 doesn't the center line on the left look longer than the center line on the right? Of course, they are actually the same length. Measure them and see. The reason that the one on the



MY MARRIAGE PROBLEMS

Adele Garrison's New Phase of REVELATIONS OF A WIFE

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CHAPTER 112

THE NOTE THAT KATIE LEFT Lillian had been close behind me as I entered the kitchen, and I turned to her with an unreasonable feeling of panic.

"Katie isn't here," I said blankly. Usually Lillian does not share my forebodings but at my words something leaped into her own eyes which told me she was also uneasy at the girl's absence from the kitchen.

"Has she been here at all?" she asked. "No—that's what worries me. And she never fails to have her fire built by this time. But perhaps she's overslept. She probably didn't close her eyes until late."

"If you'll see to the fire, I'll go and wake her," Lillian volunteered. There was a constrained note in her too-carefully-casual tones, and I know that ordinarily she would have volunteered to build the fire and have sent me for Katie. The vague uneasiness I had felt since entering the kitchen crystallized into a distinct, horrible fear.

"It isn't locked," I said. "Lillian!" I gasped. "You don't think—Hurry! We'll go over to her room at once."

"Frankly, I don't know what to think. But let me go first. I'll call you if you're needed." I knew what she meant. I am exceedingly fond of Katie, and if anything harrowing awaited us in her room, Lillian wished to shield me as much as possible.

FUTURE DATES

February 26-27—Tuesday and Wednesday—Lions Club Minstrel show. Grand theater.

March 1, Saturday—Pioneer Roundup, Marion county and Salem Pioneers, YMCA

March 13, 14 and 15—State inter-scholastic basketball tournament, Willamette gymnasium

March 15 and 16, Friday and Saturday—Marion county Sunday school branch of religious education meets at Stayton

April 19, Saturday—Dedication of state "The Circuit Rider," in state house grounds.

May 16, Friday—Primary election in Oregon.

June 10, Tuesday—Republican national convention meets in Cleveland.

June 24, Tuesday—Democratic national convention meets in New York

Ford Given

Solve This Puzzle Win First Prize

15 8 25 15 21 6 12 9 22 5 18

The figures represent corresponding letters in the alphabet. Figure 1 is A, 2 is B, and so on. The ten figures spell three words. What are the words?

To Men, Women, Boys and Girls All can share in these easy-to-win prizes. Send the three words on sheet of paper, neatly written, with your name and address.

First prize, 1924 FORD TOURING CAR. Besides this splendid first prize we are going to give away thirty-nine other prizes.

Send Your Answer Act Quickly THE PACIFIC MOTOR CO. 200 S. Commercial St., Salem, Or.

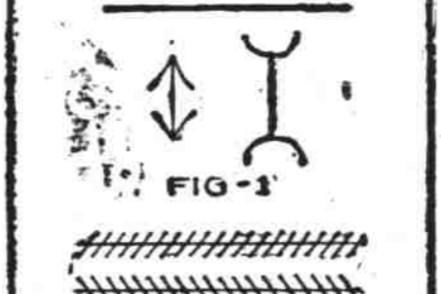
The Boys and Girls Statesman

The Biggest Little Paper in the World

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STORIES OF PRECIOUS JEWELS

The Topaz of Many Colors



A few centuries ago in Europe the designing of beautiful jewelry was considered the work of an artist, thus the talented goldsmith was respected and given honors along with the famous portrait and landscape painters of the day.

The work of his hands was usually intricate and delicate, employing the use of many metals and a great variety of precious stones in combination.

Kings, queens and courtiers vied in collecting the costly products of the master of "Joaillerie," as the person was called who mounted diamonds and precious stones. Great pride was displayed in the selection of the jewelry, some of the ladies having as many changes of jewels as they had gowns.

It was the boast of one old wad that he never wore the same jewel twice.

The picture shows a topaz necklace of the style popular in France. The topaz is a stone that must be handled with care, for if it is left in the light too long its rich transparent color fades away.

Usually the stone is yellow or a delicate brown, but it has been found also in greenish white, blue, pale pink and dull red. The most desirable topaz is pink, but since this hue is rarely found, darker stones are now faded to the desired shade by a process called "pinking."

It is done by wrapping the jewel in German tinder and burning it, or by baking it in hot plaster of Paris.

Next in importance are the brilliant blue and green topazes. The yellow and brown are the most common types, and are generally "pinked" for combination with expensive stones, but they are worth very little in their natural color.

The white topaz is found in unusual, rare sizes in Brazil, the chief topaz mining country in the world, Siberia, Asia Minor, Peru and a number of other countries have topaz resources in small quantities.

The topaz is usually cut with a rounded surface and flat back, and is rarely engraved upon, being a very hard stone. Its beauty is best displayed when it is cut in the form of a brilliant. When cut in this style it is often mistaken for a diamond.

It used to be claimed that if the topaz is worn in a gold ring on the left hand, the power of nightmares, magic, witchcraft can be overthrown. This jewel brings luck to all whose birthday falls in November.

Things To Do

"We haven't time to argue," I said tensely, as I started for the door. "We must hurry."

She made no further protest, but quickly a I walked or rather ran toward Katie's quarters. Lillian was close at my heels. And when I knocked at Katie's door—at first gently and then frantically, when there was no answer—she put a comforting, steady hand on my shoulder and kept it there.

"We'll have to get Jerry Ticer to break it down," I said wildly. "Suppose we first find out whether it's locked or not," Lillian suggested practically, and, adroitly putting herself between me and the door, she turned the knob.

"It isn't locked," she whispered, and then she pushed it open, and we were in the room, our curious, fearful eyes searching every corner of it.

But we soon determined that Katie's bedroom and sitting-room were empty as the kitchen had been. We looked at each other in amazement, which on my part at least was mingled with terror. Had she wandered away to end her unhappiness—or—

"From Poor Katie" I moved toward the door with some vague idea of going in search of her.

"Look at this—" Lillian said suddenly. I turned to see her holding up a pink envelope which I recognized as belonging to a box of fancy notepaper that Jim had bought Katie the Christmas before, and which I knew she highly prized.

"It's addressed to you, I think," Lillian said, scrutinizing it in a puzzled way, handing it to me.

"Miss Gram," evidently as near as Katie could get to the proper spelling of my name, was sprawled in angular, childish characters, which Lillian and I spent several minutes in deciphering. When we had finished the epistle my eyes were wet, and Lillian's face was full of pity.

I cannot reproduce Katie's spelling. No one who did not know her could make sense of it. But the letter in her characteristic phraseology ran thus: "My darling Miss Gram: "I lof, you, oh, so hard. Please forgive your poor Katie. I so sorry to leave you, go away dis way, but I no can stand it to stay by dis house ven Jeem gone. Me and Jeem so happy here, have so mooch fun. I no can live here if he gone."

"He write me sooch sorry letter. I cry me all night. Und I not know ver he go. But I know you I do. I go me to New York by my cousin's und I get me work, safe all my money, den I go hunt for heem. Maybe hé believe me bimbeby."

"I no like go like dis, sneak away like van tief, but eff I stay till morning, you talk so nice by me I no can go, so do eet dis way. I pack vot tings I need first in bag, take with me, walk to bridge hampton for dot first train. I have other things in suitcase and trunk. Some time ven I write you vere, maybe you be so kind und send dem to me."

"You no forget I lofe you. Oh, kiss dot babeey boy for me! No let heem forget Katie who lofes him so mooch. Oh, I cry my eyes out for you and heem!"

"Goodby."

"From poor Katie, who lofes you so mooch."

REGIONS OF INTEREST

Steelhammer President Of County Assessors

Oscar Steelhammer, Marion county assessor, was elected president of the Willamette Valley County Assessor's convention held in Corvallis Tuesday. C. L. Tallman, of Corvallis, was elected secretary. The assessors will meet at Dallas next year. Fourteen county assessors and deputy assessors were present at the meeting yesterday.

Problems of interest and importance to the men engaged in this line of county work were discussed, chief of which was the uniform assessments on personal property. This system was inaugurated about three years ago.

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THE TRAFFIC TRANSMISSION

On Display

The greatest advance in motor car design since the self starter—the Traffic Transmission, exclusive in the 1924 Chandler. Will be on display today in the window of

SMITH & WATKINS Corner Court and High Streets

Chandler car demonstrations to be given to all interested parties.

Come and Ride in a NEW CHANDLER

Chaperon Motor Co. State Distributors. PORTLAND, OREGON

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