

He who helps a child helps humanity with an immediateness which no other help given to human creature in any other stage of human life can possibly give again.—Phillips Brooks.

Water Works; Some Adages

SPEAKING for himself only, the writer would have the city of Salem proceed in an orderly way to the purchase of the water works; "make haste slowly," but make haste—

And the price would be higher than it was in 1910, when it was about \$400,000; higher than in 1926, when the figure was around \$850,000—

For two reasons. First, the physical value has increased, because there are more miles of mains and more machinery and equipment. Second, the franchise or going concern value was not included either in 1910 or 1926. Only the physical value was taken in the negotiations. The going concern value is a lawful one according to court decisions. It would have to be paid now. The city has grown. The going concern value grows with increased population, by fixed rules. It will be more next year and every succeeding year.

Then, this writer believes, the question of supply should be deferred. "Be sure you are right, then go ahead," said Davy Crockett. "We will cross that stream when we come to it," said Lincoln, who also said "it is no time to swap horses while you are crossing a stream." Perhaps others said those things before Crockett and Lincoln. They are adages. The root meaning of the word adage is, "I say." The pioneer Salem lawyer, Ben Hayden, was wont to open every important sentence with "I say, I say." That became a local adage or by-word expression.

No one seems to know how to keep the algal growths out of the Salem water as we get it now. The city would find out—ought to find out, after it became the owner. If this cannot be done, there should be another source of supply. Perhaps filtration. A good authority says this would cost "three-quarters of a million dollars; that is, an adequate system would cost that much. We would still have the cost of pumping. Perhaps deep wells. But we would still have the pumping cost. Perhaps mountain water, if we are already big enough as a city and can develop enough hydroelectric power on the way down and dispose of it for enough revenue to justify the cost. This would eliminate pumping costs. The power sales might make up enough to justify the large initial cost.

But, for any supply, there would have to be chlorination or its equivalent to insure perfect safety against water-borne diseases.

These are all questions for engineers. But municipal ownership is a duty we owe both to ourselves and those to come after us. Our neglect or delay will be at the cost of future Salemites, on account of the ever growing going value.

In general, private ownership is best. But the case is different with utilities that we must have, like water, just as certainly as that we must have air.—R. J. Hendricks.

What Is a Dollar Worth?

THE value of a dollar depends on what you do with it; if used in paying a debt contracted in 1914 or earlier it is worth about 70 cents, but if used to pay a debt of 1920 its value is about \$1.50—

And it is slightly less than it was a year ago; yet it is and has all the time been worth 100 cents in gold. Some economists say gold itself fluctuates in value. A Yale professor proposes to stabilize the dollar by varying the gold content from time to time. A congressman from Kansas suggests that the same end may be reached through the federal reserve system's control of the volume of currency—

But values are relative, depending on how much of one commodity must be exchanged to secure some other; for instance, the bricklayer's hour is worth about a dollar now; in 1914 it was a good deal more—

Still the American dollar is about the most stable thing in the world today. The German mark, the French franc and even the British pound are valued in comparison with the American dollar—

And tinkering with our dollar would have the opposite effect of what would be intended.

Gold is not a value in itself. That is, gold without its measuring value would be of little worth in the world. As the standard or measure of value, however, it has the world's exchange custom and history behind it. It is like the inch or the foot rule. That goes back to the ancient time when measures came from the threshing floor, and the inch came to be "three grains of barley dry and round placed end to end lengthwise." From that start the measure has become stabilized and we no longer think of the origin any more than about how we happen to walk on our feet and do not crawl on the ground or hang from trees with our tails.

It is much the same with gold as a standard of measure of values. We cannot thread all the avenues that led us to accept it, but we know we have it—

And there you are. For all we know now or can vision, we are not more likely to change the standard than we are to tamper with the length of the inch or the foot rule.

Denaturing the Act

THERE is a prevailing opinion that the famous Sherman act having for its purpose the curbing of trusts and undue restraint of trade has outlived its usefulness—

That modern industrial conditions require the very things that the Sherman law prohibits.

But Abram F. Myers, chairman of the federal trade commission, says its repeal would be an unwise step—

His main contention being that the Sherman act is a beneficent measure because its teeth have been pulled by the decisions of the courts to the extent that renders the law harmless; he further contends that the courts will continue to construe the act in the light of business necessities so that a progressive construction will result which will assist the government in curbing "bad trusts" and encouraging good ones.

The argument is simply that in case of a bad law it is better to rely on the courts to denature it than to depend on congress to pass a better one; of the two evils the lesser one is chosen—

And based on experience perhaps the reasoning is logical.

Americans have a different view point from that of the British. We are apt to think of large combinations and operations as leading to dangerous conditions—

Heading us towards the abyss. When radio competition in the British Isles threatened to injure the business and impair the efficiency of the telegraph and telephone systems all such concerns were merged into one gigantic concern, eliminating all troubles in that line.

The same thing may become necessary or at least expedient in this country—

But the roads to such a merger are more or less blocked by our laws, backed by public opinion.

What a pity it took a tragedy to wake Monmouth to the necessity of conserving the safety to the limit of the splendid young women and men who attend the state normal school there, the future guardians of our children!

Kellygrams

BY FRED G. KELLY

NEARLY everybody, I suppose, strives to appear wiser than he really is. But an ignorant or stupid person is usually less inclined than a more intelligent person to confess lack of information. Since knowledge means superiority, those of us who have none to spare can't well afford to take chances on appearing ignorant. But what makes it particularly difficult for a woefully ignorant man is that he doesn't even know just what it is permissible not to know.

The Herr and the Tortoise



Who's Who and Timely Views

Satisfaction Expressed Over Filipino Legislative Session

Governor General, Philippine Islands  
By HENRY L. STIMSON  
(Henry Lewis Stimson was born at New York City, Sept. 21, 1867. He is a graduate of Yale university and Harvard law school, being admitted to the bar in 1891. He joined a New York law firm in 1893. From 1906 to 1909 he was United States attorney general of the southern district of New York. He was the Republican candidate for governor in 1910 and served as secretary of war in the cabinet of President Taft from 1913 to 1918. In 1927 he was the special representative of the president in Nicaragua and later that year was named governor general of the Philippines. He served with the American Auxiliary Force in France in 1917 and 1918. His home is in New York City.)

I am well satisfied with the results of the recent Philippine legislative session. While there was much delay in organizing and in beginning work, owing to the fact that it was the first session and many members were serving their first terms, several bills of outstanding importance as well as others of much value have been enacted.

The first was the Belo act authorizing a proper staff for the executive. The staff organization under this act has already done much to make effective the meetings of the council of state by examining for the governor general pending bills so that they could be discussed at those meetings.

In this way the governor general has been enabled to keep more abreast of the current work of the legislature and to convey his suggestions and those of the cabinet to the legislative leaders concerning pending measures and also to receive from those leaders their explanations and views of the legislation.

One-Minute Pulpit

A righteous man falling down before the wicked is as a troubled fountain, and a corrupt spring.

It is not good to eat much money; so for men to search their own glory is not glory.—Proverbs, xxv, 26, 27.

Old Oregon's Yesterdays

Town Talks From The Statesman Our Fathers Read  
Jan. 3, 1904  
Professor J. H. McEwen, Scottish hypnotist and magician, will headline a benefit which the Salem Elks are sponsoring here next week. Professor McEwen is an old member of Salem lodge No. 235, B. P. O. E.

Brush College Grange To Meet On Friday Night

BRUSH COLLEGE, Ore., Jan. 2.—(Special)—The Brush College Grange will hold its regular meeting Friday night. The program and dinner are to be in charge of the men of the organization. The Brush College Helpers will meet with Mrs. John Schladler at her home on the Wallace road Thursday afternoon. Devotions will be led by Mrs. Marie Flint McCall.

Recovering From Injuries of Fall

Mrs. L. R. Hicks, a visitor here from Seaside, is recovering at the home of Charles E. Hicks from the injuries she suffered when she fell headlong down the stairs Monday. Mrs. Hicks, an elderly woman, was severely injured but no bones were broken.

PHYSICIAN AWAY

SILVERTON, Ore., Jan. 2.—(Special)—Dr. C. E. Wilson, and Mrs. Wilson's brother, Tommie, are spending a few days at their home at Riddle, Oregon. Mrs. Wilson did not accompany her husband and brother as her health did not permit. Dr. Wilson's office in the Ames building is closed during his absence.

High Pressure Pete



The Grab Bag



Who am I? Where was I born? Of what instrument am I the master?

What is a midshipman? For what purpose was the Alhambra at Granada, Spain, built?

What oath do candidates for the degree of Doctor of Medicine take?

"Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." Where is this passage found in the Bible?

JIMMY JAMS

WE USED TO GO SWIMMIN' HERE IN THE SUMMER—!



'Today's in the Past' Washington defeated the British at Princeton, N. J., on this day, in 1777.

Today's Horoscope Persons born on this day are not dictatorial, but they usually run everything, and people like to have them do so. They are very jolly.

A Daily Thought "It is much easier to be critical than correct."—Benjamin Disraeli.

- Answers to Foregoing Questions 1. Fritz Kreisler; Vienna, Austria; violin. 2. Student at Annapolis naval academy. 3. As a palace-fortress for Moorish kings. 4. Hippocratic oath. 5. St. Mark, ix, 23.

Poems that Live

TO BLOSSOMS

Fair pledges of a fruitful tree,  
Why do ye fall so fast?  
Your date is not so past  
But you may stay yet here awhile  
To blush and gently smile,  
And go at last.

What! Were ye born to be  
An hour or half's delight?  
And so to bid good-night?  
'Twas pity Nature brought you forth  
Merely to show your worth  
And lose you quite.

But you are lovely leaves, where we  
May read how soon things have  
Their end, though ne'er so brave;  
And after they have shown their pride  
Like you awhile, they glide  
Into the grave.

—Robert Herrick (1591-1633)



Bits for Breakfast

By R. J. Hendricks

Is it worth it—  
The Christmas tree lighted with candles?

There is danger enough in the new way, with the tree lighted with electric globes, with amateur wiring.

Perhaps the men preparing to bore for oil on the west side got their hunch from the algae in the Salem water. Here's hoping they have a better hunch.

There is a young man in Salem who before coming here spent two years working in an eastern Oregon town the water supply of which is 40-rod strong with alkali water. At first he could not stomach that water at all. But when he came to the valley he found the water here too soft and insipid. It did not taste good at all. He longed for the kick of the alkali in his drink. He suggests that probably, if this thing keeps up, Salemites away from home may yearn for the zest of the alkali flavor.

There's nothing like getting used to a thing. "You can get used to anything but hanging," as the saying goes out at the east end of State street.

Christmas trees (fires) have nothing over automobile wrecks. They come only once a year.

They have a gasoline price war down at Portland. But that is too far away from Salem to interest most of us.

The dude mayor of New York blames most of the crime of the metropolis onto narcotics, and he asserts that, compared with its great population New York is a fine moral city. Next let the country hear from Big Bill Thompson, mayor of Chicago. He no doubt will be able to show the windy city as a paragon of puritan virtues.

The grim reaper was busier than the stork during the old year at Woodburn. That would shock the shade of Teddy Roosevelt.

The suggestion is made that a new department of communications be inaugurated with a cabinet member at its head to care

for the radio systems and other means of communication such as telegraph, telephone, cable lines and the like. The country has one department of communications known as the postoffice department and the better method would be to put all those various matters which are now so badly scattered under the postmaster general.

Well, the more ships John Bull and Uncle Sam build in competition, the more they'll have to help one another in time of trouble.

Americans! Going to Europe to get culture; having an awful time until you find some Americans to spend your time with.

Note to Mussolini! The volcano shows you what happens when a little crust at the top tries to hold things down.

There's always a bright side, and the prevalence of divorce proves that boarding-house life isn't what it used to be.

A group of scientists spent three months in the Tennessee mountains trying to photograph lightning hitting superpower lines. They obtained one picture, and it cost them \$75,000. They say it was worth it because it added just a bit more to the great total of human knowledge. Anything worth doing requires a large investment of money, or time, or intelligence or energy. Henry Ford is positively reckless the way he throws fortunes into plans out of which he hopes to take larger fortunes. However, it's his own money—that makes a difference.

The Way of the World

By GROVE PATTERSON

HIS OWN FUNERAL SERMON  
A California evangelist died recently and preached his own funeral sermon. The voice of the preacher issued from a phonograph. He had made the record a few months before death. He said: "I have guarded my soul through life. I alone feel qualified to give my soul its departing message." The preacher was right. He knew more about himself than anybody else. He was best qualified to preach his own funeral sermon. So are we all. The trouble is that so few of us will admit the truth, even about ourselves. Few of us would like to tell the truth about our lives and publish it on a phonograph record.

PEACE WORK  
The council of the League of Nations has put the league's health organization at the service of the Greek nation. There has been an epidemic of peace and that country appeals to the league for help. This bit of news may give some a new idea about the League of Nations. There is great peace time work that may be done by such an organization. It is a war time purpose and peace activity. The day will surely come when war and militarism will be little discussed in international conferences. Such affairs will be out of date and greater matters will have taken their place.

NOT ALL SPENDING  
The American people are supposed to be the freest spenders on the globe. But they also do a mammoth job of saving. It is estimated that in the days just before Christmas there were 25 billions of dollars in savings accounts in the banks of the land. There is such a thing as being a spender without being a spendthrift and there are spender nations that are not spendthrift nations. And already Christmas savings accounts have started for 1929.

BREATH OF VIEW  
Of course the outstanding reason for such success as the American democracy has as a political system lies in the quality of leadership that has been developed. And leaders who are worthy of the name and who have earned a following have, above everything else, a breadth of view. News dispatches, for example, carry the information that former Governor Lowden addressed a letter to a "venturers of the American Farm Bureau Federation" in which he urged farmers to support Mr. Hoover's farm relief program. Mr. Lowden hoped to be nominated for the presidency. He failed in that ambition but he has sufficient breadth of view to urge cooperation with the man who won the prize which he desired.

It is breadth of view which makes great men, and only great men can make democracy a successful system.

By Swan

