

The Oregon Statesman
No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe
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December of Life



Eyes, that in the Spring of life shone brightly, Are faded now that Autumn's nearly fed; Heavy, too, are hearts that once beat lightly, Youth's fire has turned to ashes—cold and dead.

Shipwreck
INLAND though we be, we are close enough to the coast to feel a chill with each report of a shipwreck. It may be only a fishing schooner which is rolled over on a choppy bar with loss of one or two lives; or it may be a great ocean liner like the Admiral Benson which is a victim of the pounding waters. So near we are to the sea we follow with interest each tragedy or near-tragedy which is reported.

Fortunate we are that lives are lost so rarely. The radio carries the message of distress to bring instant response from coast guard stations. Facilities for rescue have been perfected, and now in the case of large vessels the danger of loss of life is small.

But the rocks and the sands, especially the sands, take a heavy toll of shipping. The papers may quarrel a bit over the application of "graveyard of the Pacific" to the mouth of the Columbia. The record of wrecks there however seems to entitle those sand spits that flank the river mouth to such a designation. It is rare indeed that a vessel frees itself from the clutch of the sands. The Astorian-Budget, published close to the scene of so many marine disasters, comments as follows:

"The sands at the Columbia entrance do not appear at first glance to be as dangerous to the ships that go to sea as the rocky shores of other coasts but their work of destruction is just as effective. If not more so. A ship, crashing onto a rocky ledge can usually be patched up and hauled off, unless the impact is so great as to cause immediate destruction and sinking. The process worked out by the sands of Clatsop or Peacock spit, however, is more subtle but more deadly.

The President's Message
PRESIDENT HOOVER'S last message at the opening of a session of congress had the virtue of brevity, at any rate. Instead of covering two pages of newspaper, it occupied only half a page. Many subjects were omitted, like prohibition for example, and other topics received brief reference.

Other big topics will be left for the special session which is expected to usher in the Roosevelt administration: farm relief; prohibition repeal; taxation. The lame duck congress will hardly attempt very much in the way of economic reconstruction.

Crying Over Taxes
THE Oregonian which fought the modified income tax law prior to the last election now comes to the conclusion that a revived property tax or a sales tax is inescapable. It says: "No conceivable economies will enable present visible revenues to pay current expenditures and attack a deficit that has now grown to such proportions that it must be whittled down."

The mayor-elect of Portland says we must quit asking the government to be a nurse to everything. Good thing he didn't utter such sentiments before the election. What is a government for if it isn't to make everybody rich and happy?

New Views

Yesterday Statesman reporters asked: "Are you for or against a state sales tax? Why or why not?"

Mrs. H. R. Robinson, home maker: "I think I'm neutral, kind of standing on the fence."
George H. Riches, bank cashier: "I'm for it. I think it is a tax that could be paid, that we would pay it with the least effort and without noticing it more. I look at it like the gasoline tax. We buy gasoline and don't think anything about it. I think the sales tax would work the same way."

BITS for BREAKFAST

By R. J. HENDRICKS

McLoughlin's answer to spies:
(Continuing from yesterday:)
For these reasons, when the old trappers who came with Astor's people were congregating in the Willamette with the American trappers from the Rocky mountains, to prevent their remaining idle, which would render them destitute and make them instruments of mischief in the power of designing villains, they were encouraged to cultivate the ground so as to support themselves, and by this means peace and order were maintained in the country. And since these men were there would remain there—and we have no right or power to drive them away—I wish Mess. Warre and Vavasour, or any one else, to point out what else more proper we could do.

Daily Health Talks

By ROYAL S. COPELAND, M. D.

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United States Senator from New York.
Former Commissioner of Health, New York City.
GLAUCOMA is fortunately a rather uncommon, although a serious eye disease of middle age. I am telling you about it because several of my readers have written about it. They ask whether or the ailment is curable.

Symptoms of Glaucoma
Glaucoma should be suspected in persons beyond forty who have impaired vision and complain of persistent eyestrain and headache. The first symptom is a dimness of vision which the affected one believes is due to improper glasses. He thinks there is nothing wrong except eyestrain. The exact cause of glaucoma has not been determined. There is some disturbance of the mechanism of the eye. In consequence, the pressure within the eyeball is more and more increased. When this pressure is continued long enough, the optic nerve is injured. This damage to the nerve results in impaired vision.

Answers to Health Queries
M. G. A. Q.—What do you advise for falling hair?
A.—Brush the hair daily and use a good tonic. Send self-addressed stamped envelope for full particulars and repeat your question.
G. R. Q.—Kindly tell me what you should use for superfluous hairs on the chin.
A.—For full particulars restate your question and send a stamped self-addressed envelope.

"THE BLACK SWAN" By Rafael Sabatini

SYNOPSIS
In the year 1696, when piracy was rampant on the Spanish Main, Priscilla Harradine sailed from the West Indies bound for England aboard the "Centaur." She is accompanied by middle-aged Major Sands, the aide of her late father who had been Captain-General of the Leeward Isles. The Major aims to win Priscilla's hand and fortune. He sends Charles de Bernis, former lieutenant of the notorious buccannier, Henry Morgan, to board the Major in hostile toward De Bernis, considering the latter a pirate, but Priscilla is fascinated by his charm and wit. Morgan now is Governor of Jamaica, and employed by his King to rid the sea of pirates. A few still elude him—among them the scoundrel Tom Leach, for whose capture Morgan has posted a reward. Leach, on his ship, "The Black Swan," engages the "Centaur" in combat and captures her, killing all hands on deck. In the cabin, De Bernis cautions the Major and Priscilla against denying anything he says as their lives may depend on it. He introduces Priscilla as his wife and the Major as his brother-in-law. De Bernis whets the pirate's greed with a story of a fortune to be gleaned from a Spanish plate fleet sailing shortly, adding that he left Morgan to search for Leach and enlist his aid in his capture. De Bernis and Leach sign an agreement that the former will lead the pirates to the plate fleet and receive one-fifth of the treasure. Leach begrudges De Bernis such a large share, but later, the pirate's lieutenant, Wogan, informs that the promise can be broken after the spoils are in their possession. He also reminds Leach that Priscilla would also be a fair prize. Priscilla and the Major overhear the negotiations between De Bernis and Leach, wonder if the Frenchman is in league with the pirate. When questioned, De Bernis only reminds them that so far they are safe and he will do his best to get them to England. He is given command of the "Centaur." The suspicious Leach appoints two of his men, Wogan and Halliwell, lieutenant and sailing master under De Bernis to watch the latter. De Bernis shows no resentment, but coolly turns to the task of having his ship cleaned.

Yesterday's Of Old Salem

Town Talks from The Statesman of Earlier Days
December 8, 1907
The state of Oregon will not lose a cent either through the failure of the Title, Guarantee and Trust company or the temporary embarrassment of the Merchants' National bank, both of Portland. Representatives of the American Surety company, security for State Treasurer Steel, yesterday admitted the company's liability and will reimburse the state to the amount of \$408,388.88.

Game For Benefit Of Town's Needy Slated for Club

STAYTON, Dec. 7.—Monday night the Stayton Athletic club met at Beachcamp hall. Advice of having a benefit game for the relief of needy families in the vicinity was discussed, and a decision reached to play such a game in the near future. Approximately 30 members who were present spent the remainder of the evening in discussion of music; also three tables of ping-pong were kept very busy.

Oklahomans Settle On Ranch Near Here

KINGWOOD, Dec. 7.—The T. L. Lane family, former Oklahoma residents, living for some months in the J. W. Beckley house, has gone to a recently purchased ranch east of Salem. The C. E. Wetherby family has moved from West Salem to the Olson place, "Village Farm" on Glean Creek road. Other recent arrivals in the neighborhood are Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Sharpe, who are settled in their new home on Cascade drive.

Daily Thought

"I must go down to the seas again, to the vagrant Gypsy life, To the gull's way and the whale's way where the wind's like a whetted knife, And all I ask is a merry yarn from a laughing fellow-rover, And quiet sleep and a sweet dream when the long trick's over."—John Masefield.