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NO WINTER HERE.

I.

Ever a dream of violets: A bird is on the wing.
 The sunlight always dreamin' where the honeysuckles swing;
 The vines still lookin' brighter on the old porch, there at home,
 An' the bees are sippin' sweetness for to make the honeycomb.

II.

When the frostflake finds the furrow still the turf seems warm and sweet,
 And we listen in the silence and hear the world's heart beat;
 With soft, caressin' fingers in Winter's locks of gray,
 We dream that Spring, sweet-smiling, has kissed his grief away.

—Frank L. Stanton.

ASCERTAIN THE FULL FACTS.

There appear to be wonderful differences of opinion with reference to the amount and the quality of the water at Thorn Hollow. Members of the council who recently visited the place predict there will not be enough water for the city. They declare the amount of water now running is insufficient for a town of this size.

Yet Chairman Brown of the water commission, who has followed the development work very closely is optimistic over the outlook. He says the development work is bringing favorable results and he looks for an abundance of water. He is also emphatic in his declaration that the water will all be mountain spring water—not seepage water from the river. He declares it is easy to tell where the water comes from and that people should withhold judgment until the water commission has had a full opportunity to test out the spring.

Whether or not there will be plenty of water in the Thorn Hollow and adjacent springs is a question of fact. Surely it will be possible to arrive at the facts within a short time. There are ways of accurately measuring the flow of streams and there are ways of testing the quality of a water supply. It should not be hard to determine whether the water at Thorn Hollow comes from the mountains or from the river.

For the present the request of Mr. Brown that people withhold judgment and give the water board a chance to finish their work is very reasonable. The development work is not costing much money—critics to the contrary notwithstanding—and the board is justified in going to reasonable expense in this matter. It is a proposition of the greatest importance to Pendleton and this is the time for a thorough investigation. It would be folly for the city to construct a water system and then investigate afterwards.

It is not necessary for people to pass judgment on the Thorn Hollow project at this time nor should it be necessary for members of the council to worry any upon this subject just yet. The subject has not yet been brought before the council by the water commission. Members of the board say they won't ask the council to sell the \$250,000 bond issue until they are first able to demonstrate that an abundance of water may be had. It is a very reasonable position to take.

Let the water board complete its development work and then pass judgment on the Thorn Hollow project. The full facts regarding the quantity and the quality of the water should be ascertained before a decision is made.

THEY ARE STILL DIVIDED.

It is not likely there will be any special session of the legislature to enact good roads legislation. Governor West has volunteered to call a special session of the legislature if the people want it. However he prefers to have members serve without pay and to confine themselves strictly to good roads affairs. It is not at all probable that the legislators would meet under such restrictions.

However there is no sure thing good roads laws would be enacted should the legislature again convene. The legislature spent 60 days striving to pass good roads laws and left a very bungling job. The fault though was not entirely with the legislature. Friends of good roads themselves are sorely divided and it was this variance of opinion as to what should be done that caused all the trouble. There are evidences that these differences of sentiment still exist and it might be as hard to secure legislation now as it was last winter. Perhaps by the time the legislature again convenes in regular session it will be possible for the good roads people to agree more perfectly as to the sort of legislation that should be enacted.

HE SHOULD BE PAID.

Umatilla county pays its county judge, who serves as chairman of the board of commissioners, a salary of \$1200 per annum. There are people who consider the salary very small considering the importance of the work done by the judge, yet the salary seems to suffice.

In many ways the mayor of Pendleton has more arduous work to do than has the county judge. The city does not spend as much money as does the county, it is true. Yet there is more administrative work to do and often the problems confronting the mayor are more perplexing than those confronting the judge. The mayor is responsible for the enforcement of the local laws and it is a task that often involves much headache.

Why should people expect the head of the city government to work for nothing? Would it not be better to pay him a reasonable compensation and then expect him to devote closer attention to his duties. No one objects to paying the county judge a salary and people would not think of asking the county judge to serve without pay.

A PLACE FOR EFFICIENCY.

The recent grand jury severely criticized the management of the poor farm and past grand juries have also found objections to the way affairs are handled out there. From appearances there is need of a change in management and methods. The grand jurors are mostly farmers and when they say a farm is poorly handled it is safe to say they understand what they are talking about. It is not necessary that the poor farm should be poorly managed. On the contrary it should be a model of economy and efficiency. If the man in charge does not run things satisfactorily then the course is simple—get some one who will. The county court has the whole world to choose from.

DISTRESSED EUROPE.

Europe is a boiling caldron just at present. France and Germany appear on the verge of war. Great Britain is just recovering from a fearful strike; in Vienna the people are rioting because of the high cost of living; in Russia the prime minister has been assassinated; a full grown revolution has just been sprung in Spain and the dethroned Manuel is plotting to regain the crown of Portugal. The affliction seems to be general.

The harvester trust is going to reorganize so as to be within the law. But the important question is will the reorganization bring more serviceable machinery or any lowering of prices. Tomfoolery will not work forever. What the people want is results.

At least there is one question upon which all people agree—the Round-Up was a humdinger.

THE LAFFERTY INCIDENT.

The Portland Oregonian gives space today to a long explanation by Congressman Lafferty of an incident in his Washington career that has recently found publicity in one or more newspapers. It is not agreeable to The Oregonian to be obliged to notice or discuss such an affair. The facts, or alleged facts, had been known in this office for some time; but since they have involved the name of a sensitive and reputable young woman in unsought and undeserved notoriety and since, besides, publicity, savoring of personal scandal except for grave reason, would probably have impaired the usefulness and dignity of a representative of the state of Oregon, the article was withheld.

The impression has been gaining ground recently that the Second Congressional District had made a mistake in electing Mr. Lafferty to congress; and that impression will not be relieved either by exposure of this painful affair or by Mr. Lafferty's extraordinary explanation. Mr. Lafferty says that he had sent out about one hundred cards of admission to the House gallery and among others he included Miss Kubel, whom he did not know; but even if ninety-nine were formal or perfunctory notes to friends or acquaintances, the sinister

fact of the uninvited and humiliating letter to Miss Kubel remains.

The intimations by Mr. Lafferty that there is a conspiracy on the part of the Portland press to ignore him at the behest of the railroads, do not deserve serious consideration. Mr. Lafferty is one of the kind, evidently, who will not suffer himself to be ignored. He will not be.

SONG OF THE MARSHES.

Man is the lord of the land and the moon is the queen of the sea,
 But the marshes have neither lord nor queen, the fair wide marshes are free.
 Their blossoms flaunt in the wind, which sows what the frost doth reap,
 And all the marsh is astir with a life that never knows sleep.

Swallows twitter and dart, while in the sun-glad weather,
 Grasses and rushes and rippling reeds dance down the wind together.
 Oh, the idle, sunny marshes so jubilant and free!

The shimmering, slating marshes, that neither are land nor sea!
 Sparkle of Myriad fire-flies, frogs that twang through the night,
 Whirling of water-beetles on pools where the moon shines white;
 A stir of things in the darkness, lurking where shadows abide,
 Things that are hungry and stealthy, things that raven and hide.

The water-rat gnaws at the roots and the night-heron cries for his prey,
 Till the dawn-wind sighs in the reeds, and the marsh-wren heralds the day.
 Sound and movement always—life is so eager and free,
 In the whispering startle marshes that neither are land nor sea.

Then summer ends in the marshes and all their singing is done;
 Gone is the flashing of wings, and the glancing of fire-flies gone,
 Only the wind sighs on through the rushes, withered and sere,
 Earth yields harvest, and so does the sea; but none reaps harvest here.

Untasked—untaxed for their treasure, unforged by share or keel,
 The marshes are left alone, while the chill gray sea-mists steal
 Over the stiffening reed-beds—the clinging mists from the strand,
 Velling the sorrowful marshes that neither were sea nor land.

—Maud Going in Success Magazine.

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