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**AULD LANG SYNE.**  
 Should auld acquaintance be forgot, An' never brot to min'  
 Should auld acquaintance be forgot, And days of auld lang syne?  
 We two ha'e run a-boot the braes an' pu'd the gowans fine,  
 We've wander'd many a weary foot sin' auld, sin' auld lang syne.  
**REFRAIN—**  
 For auld, for auld lang syne, my dear, For auld lang syne,  
 We'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet for auld lang syne.  
 We two ha' sported i' the burn, frae mornin' sun 'til dine,  
 But seas between us braid ha'e roar'd sin' auld, sin' auld lang syne,  
 An' here's a han' my trusty fren', an' gie's o' hand o' thine;  
 We'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet for auld, for auld lang syne.  
 —Burns.

Let it be hoped the county will soon be able to proceed with the task of straightening the Hurry It Up road leading to the bridge just above town. This is the time of the year when construction work is light and the more work that can be brought about the better. There are men who need the work but they will not be the only gainers by early action. The county can naturally build roads more economically when work is slack and teams and men are plentiful than it can during the busier months of the year. As to the need of the work in question it is enough to say that it is a marvel why the county has endured the present condition this long and it is even more marvelous that no fatal accidents have occurred at that double curve leading to the bridge.  
 With so much exaggerated criticism of our navy going the rounds it is refreshing to hear something that was Trippitz Thinks, spoken before the war broke out and when our warships were not generally regarded as junk, even by our present day jingoists.  
 "Ship for ship, man for man, I consider that the American outclasses the Japanese navy. In fact I doubt if it is surpassed by that of any nation. Your navy has kept well in view the object and purpose for which it was built."  
 This utterance was by a man who is just now considerable in the war game in Europe—Admiral von Tripitz of the German navy. Either he is part Irish or he holds a better opinion of our seafighters than do some of our armament shouters.  
 Not only in the northwest but in other portions of the country as well are people giving earnest study to the Value of Water Routes, subject of water transportation. The crop of the middle west this year went to the Atlantic seaboard largely by water.  
 According to the annual report of the collector of customs at the port of Chicago, given by the News, extraordinary amounts of wheat, oats and flour have been shipped east by the great lakes water route during the year 1914. The wheat shipments from Chicago in that period are said to have been as great as were those in the four preceding years combined. The demand for foodstuffs on account of the European war explains the heavy shipments of grain and flour in recent months. The movement of other commodities by water has been less than usual since the beginning of the war.  
 When the new Erie canal is completed much grain naturally will move by water all the way to the Atlantic seaboard. Most of the lake shipments are now taken only as far as Buffalo

by water, and at that point they are transferred to cars for rail shipment. With the general 5 per cent advance in railroad freight rates east of the Mississippi the water route to the east will be more attractive to shippers, for the advance in freight rates does not apply to shipments by lake or by lake and rail. Thus cities situated on the great lakes will escape in part the burden of higher freight rates that will be borne by inland shipping points.  
 With advancing rail rates the country should put forth greater efforts than ever before to secure the early improvement of inland water routes.

Secretary of the Navy Daniels is correct when he says that "the voice of the swashbuckling jingo is heard in the land." That voice is very loud, and crieth in the wilderness of the Hearst papers. Wherefore, "Mr. Hearst" is much incensed with Secretary Daniels for his remark concerning the "swashbuckling jingo." So are other swashbuckling jingoes, and the militarists, as well as the manufacturers of guns, gunpowder, armor-plate and other stuff of "preparedness for war."

The jingoes are well organized. There is plenty of money behind them, and there is no doubt as to the source of that money. The Krupp murder factory in Germany is paying dividends that make the wish-bone of American gun, armor-plate and powder manufacturers swell with a great hope. Militarism means millions of dollars of The People's money handed over to those who find great profits in "preparedness for war."

The War Trust can well afford to finance a campaign for more battle-ships, more guns, more preparedness and an army of half a million men. And one question very naturally arises: "How much is Hearst getting for his activities in behalf of a big navy and a big army?" Remembering his \$30,000 contract to deal fairly with the Southern Pacific—though the full amount was never paid, because Hearst didn't have the influence it was thought he had—that question is very pertinent at this time, as it always is when Hearst becomes active.—San Francisco Star.

**THIS MAY ENTERTAIN**

**CONTRASTS.**

The snow beat mercilessly into their faces as the young man and young woman turned the corner of the avenue.  
 "Did you get any in your eyes, darling?" he asked, fondly, drawing her closely to him.  
 "Yes, sweetheart," she murmured, searching for her elusive handkerchief.  
 "Which one, beloved?" he pressed.  
 "The right one, love! Did you get any in yours?"  
 "Yes, dear heart!" he responded, using the same corner of the handkerchief that she had used.  
 "How sweet!" she exclaimed.  
 "And yours was in the right eye, too!"  
 "Ah!" she thrilled, "do you suppose it could have been part of the same piece of snow that got in our eyes?"  
 "I hope it was!" he exclaimed, fervently, blinking a pleasurable beam with his good eye.  
 "Wouldn't it be lovely, love?" she cried.  
 "Oh, love, wouldn't it!" he wriggle.  
 And the wind howled as though in pain and from the house opposite a "Votes for Women" board fell with a sickening crash upon the pavement.

**CHEAP SKATE**

They sat out on the old pier, according to the Pittsburg Dispatch. "My beau is so romantic," said Shantay Mamie, rapturously. "Why, only last night he looked at me dreamily like real poets do an' said: 'drink to me only wid thine eyes.' Ain't that the dandy, though?"  
 Tenement Sussie turned up her nose. "What a cheap skate!" she jeered.  
 "Why a feller that wouldn't say 'drink to me only wid soda water, an' then treat you to two glasses ain't worth standin' room at a truant officers' picnic."

**THERE YET.**

"I'll warrant," said his wife, "that there's a letter written by a woman in your pocket now."  
 "Impossible, my dear," replied her husband. "You know I—"  
 "I know better," said she. "I wrote one and gave it to you to mail three days ago."

**CURRENT THINKING**

**ITALY AS A "NEUTRAL."**

(New York World.)  
 It shows neither tact nor consideration for Austrian sensibilities that Italians in hundreds of places should have held meetings yesterday to commemorate the anniversary of the hanging of the soldier Oberdank who was executed in 1882 for an attempt on the life of the Emperor Franz Joseph. In more opportune circumstances Vienna might have strongly resented such a manifestation by citi-

zens of a neighboring nation, and demanded the right to take a hand in their forcible suppression, especially if they had belonged to one of the minor Balkan states.  
 Oberdank was a deserter from the Austrian army who, through his Italian sympathies because of Austria's retention of Trieste, turned assassin. But Italy's position as the third member of the Triple Alliance, and religious observance of neutrality, naturally entitled it to special privileges. If patriotic Italians choose to celebrate Oberdank's memory as a hero and martyr to a cause still dear to them, why should Austria protest or the government at Rome interfere?

At the same time the attitude of the Italian government, in spite of all temptation, is always severely correct. If Premier Salandra addresses the senate, he plainly announces that when the time is ripe, with its rights and the power of its arms to enforce them, the country will be enlarged. Italians may be led to believe he has Austria in mind, but as the head of a neutral government he has preserved the proprieties without disregarding the political requirements of home.

**PITCHER FERRITT IS MOUNTAINEER'S SLAYER**

VENTURA, Cal., Dec. 31.—Herbert Lathrop, mountaineer, hunter and guide of the Ojai district, died as a result of being shot by Floyd Perritt, a pitcher on the Los Angeles team of the Pacific Coast baseball league, who was hunting a mountain lion. Lathrop's body was taken 12 miles to Nordhoff on horseback, over a narrow mountain trail.  
 Perritt mistook Lathrop for a mountain lion and fired a high-powder rifle bullet into his abdomen. Perritt was on a hillside. Lathrop, wearing a gray sweater, was on the opposite side of the canyon building a fence.

**HIGH SEA RATES ON FOOD WORRY UNITED KINGDOM**

LONDON, Dec. 31.—The resumption of the freight markets after the Christmas recess showed another extraordinary rise in rates, especially from Egypt and the River Plate, as well as from North and South America. The Morning Post thinks the situation is becoming so serious in its effect on the prices of foodstuffs that the government will be obliged to intervene with the object of preventing a still further rise. The newspaper says such intervention is being freely discussed in shipping circles.

**INAUGURAL BALL IS AT ALBANY TONIGHT**

ALBANY, Dec. 31.—The inaugural ball will be held here tonight in the state armory. Special boxes have been reserved for Governor-elect Whitman and Mrs. Whitman and Governor Glynn and Mrs. Glynn. The military staff of the incoming executive will also occupy a box. Mrs. William Barnes, wife of the ex-chairman of the republican state committee, is among the society people, listed as unofficial box holders. The function, which is a subscription event, will be for the benefit of a local charity.

It is very rude of the warring nations to question one another's veracity in the reports of battles won.

**OUSTED TEACHER LOOKING FOR A JOB**

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**Miss Henrietta Rodman.**  
 NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—Miss Henrietta Rodman, the public school teacher who has been suspended for ten months without pay as a result of her open criticism of the attitude of the board of education on the teacher-mother question, is looking for a job. "I've got to earn some money while my fight for reinstatement is pending," said Miss Rodman. "I think I shall apply for reinstatement after the first of January, when eight members of the board go out and eight new ones come in. If they decide the case unfavorably I shall appeal the case to Commissioner Finley, and if he decides against me I'll carry the case to the supreme court."

**SHORT COURSE WILL TRY TO SOLVE FRUIT PROBLEM**

**ORCHARD ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT WILL BE TREAT. ED BY O. A. C.**

**OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Corvallis, Dec. 31.**—How to solve the two great problems of keeping up the grade of Oregon fruits and at the same time reducing, if possible, the production cost will be made the subject of critical investigation in the O. A. C. short course that deals with orchard economics and management. Because of its many advanced study phases this course is open only to students that have previously taken the horticultural short course at the Oregon institution. To all growers who are working on these lines of fruit production and sale and who are eligible for admission to the course, the work carried in it will be of the highest practical value.  
 Special stress will be laid on methods of handling orchard help, systems of keeping tree records, and all other items that enter into the cost or sale of a box of fruit. Laboratory exercises in planning, plating and planting the orchard will be given to make clear and lasting the impressions gathered from instruction. Exercises will also be given in the arrangement and construction of spray houses, packing houses, home canneries, dryers and other necessary buildings.  
 Entering into the production cost are included land values, clearing charges, planting, tillage, spraying and other overhead expenses, since in no other way can the profit margins be exactly determined. Although fairly complete in itself this course is but one of twenty-five courses in horticulture to be carried during the short course, many of which may be taken in whole or in part in connection with it. The work of the course will be conducted by Professor C. I. Lewis, chief of the division.

**Mute Speaks and Dies.**

ZANESVILLE, O., Dec. 31.—The rarest case of the kind in local medical annals proved a puzzle to physicians when Mrs. Melissa Fouts, of Cannelville, born a mute, was able to talk just before she died.  
 Her daughter, Mrs. Mary McIntire, nearly fainted when her mother told her how much she was suffering, these being the first words she had ever spoken. She called her daughter by name several hours later and then passed away. Her husband, who died several years ago, also was a mute.  
 Mrs. Fouts was 70 years old.

**Locks Shearer Guilty.**

HILLSBORO, Ore., Dec. 31.—A jury here Monday found William Haskell guilty of assault on Miss Annie Freeman of Forest Grove, from whose head he had cut a curl with a jack knife while she was seated in front of him in a Forest Grove moving picture theater. Immediately before the jury left the court room to deliberate on the case, Haskell took oath that he was innocent, but the jury returned with a verdict of conviction in a few minutes.  
 The trial attracted great attention the offense being the first of the kind ever heard in a Washington county court.

**Lions Not Fenced by Girl.**

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 31.—Confidence is the first essential in training and handling lions, according to Mademoiselle Adgie, who was at the Victoria theater with nine of the big beasts. She has been working with lions since she was 13 years old.

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**GIBBONS TO PROVE RIGHT TO TITLE**



Mike Gibbons, the speedy St. Paul brawler, is anxious to prove his right to the middleweight title. Taking on two such tough op-