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Oregon Observations

Portland—The Portland Navigation company, incorporated April 1 by Dean Vincent, V. A. Crum and Captain Clyde Raabe, has purchased the river steamer Grahamona and taken options on the steamers Pomona and Gregson and expect to begin operating by April 20, it was announced by Dean Vincent, vice president of the Portland Trust company and president of the new steamboat company.

The route to be traversed by the Grahamona has not been determined. Her district of operations, according to Vincent depends upon the degree of interest manifested on each of three proposed routes. One of these is up the Willamette to include Salem, Independence and Albany.

Portland.—New retail prices of milk ordered by the municipal milk commission were placed in effect Friday by the Portland distributors, according to A. M. Work, general manager of the Portland Damascus Milk company, who has represented the distributors in the controversy which has been waged between milk producers and distributors.

Portland.—Officials of the city water department say that nearly five feet of snow has fallen in the Bull Run watershed, from which Portland gets its water supply, within the past few days, and the ample water for the summer season is assured as a result.

Portland.—A referendum on all tax measures which will be submitted to the voters of Oregon at the election in May is being conducted by the Oregon state chamber of commerce. Ballots containing the various bills will be submitted to the constituted bodies of the state chamber together with arguments for and against the measure prepared by men and women who favor or who oppose them.

Portland.—An injunction temporarily restraining union pickets from standing in front of a shoe store operated by J. A. Levy was issued Friday by Judge McCourt in the circuit court here. A strike is in progress against Levy's store. Hearing on application for a permanent injunction will be held.

Portland.—Employes of the Portland Railway Light and Power company, were notified Friday at a conference with officers of the company that they propose to re-open the scale agreement for the purpose of affecting a reduction of wages May 1 next, owing tot the heavy losses being sustained by the company and its inability to obtain relief in increased fares at the hands of the public service commission.

Medford.—Rangers in Crater Lake national park reported today that there is seven foot of snow at the lake with more falling. Reports previously sent out that the season in the park was likely to open early this year were recalled, and it was said July 1, likely would be the earliest date automobiles could reach the lake.

Portland.—Keel of the Quinault, a steam schooner to be built for the Hart-Wood Lumber company, will be laid within two weeks at the Peninsula Shipbuilding Company's plant here, officials of the lumber concern announced. G. F. Mathews, president of the Mathews Shipbuilding company of Hoquiam, Washington, is expected here from San Francisco Saturday. The Hoquiam firm has taken the contract for the ship, but will build it on the ways of the Portland company.

DALLAS PROPERTY CHANGES HANDS

Dallas, Or., Apr. 3—Dallas city property which has been on the boom for the past several months still has a tendency to change hands and this week the residence of Mrs. F. R. Rich on Levens street was sold by G. Gerbrecht, a local real estate broker, to W. H. Davis a recent arrival in the city from Montana. Several other large dealers are pending and will in all probability be closed up within the next few days.

Abe Martin

"Umph! Are we goin' t' have peas for dinner? I kin git them at banquets," complained Lafe Bud t' his wife t'day. Another thing we didn't use t' have when th' saloons wuz open—th' feller that drinks ser th' novelty o' the thing.

THE DOLLAR ABOVE THE CHILD

In their effort to cut down the high cost of government, the Marion County Taxpayers League has succeeded in crippling the public schools to save a few cents to each of its members in taxes—perhaps a saving almost sufficient to meet the costs of the litigation they have initiated.

The circuit court has granted the league's injunction restraining officials from collecting the taxes levied in excess of the six percent limitation, authorized under chapters 251, 271 and 272 of the laws of 1919. These levies would have raised $26,000 for common school purposes, $12,000 with which to provide a high school tuition fund, and $10,000 towards the construction of the Silverton Armory. The decision will be appealed.

The saving to the taxpaper by further handicapping the already handicapped school system, will be $2.20 per $1,000 valuation. Thus the taxpayers league places a higher value on the dollar saved than on the education and future welfare of the children. What matter is it, if the schools are crippled, so long as the taxpayers save a few pennies?

The league is against taxes. It doesn't make any diffeernce what they are for, it opposes them indiscriminately. The cost of living has soared, the cost of doing business has doubled, products and wages are far above what they ever were before, yet it expects the public's business and the public schools to be conducted on a pre-war basis of expenditure. With an increasing population, it expects teachers to continue at wages half those of day laborers, and schools to care for increased attendance at the old schedule of costs.

Some of these taxpayers are demanding 14 cents for loganberries they were glad to sell for 3 cents a few years ago, some are selling shoes for $15 they sold a few years ago for $5, and some are paying $4 a day for labor they got for $2 when the war broke out. All of them are paying double for clothing and groceries, yet they expect education to be furnished at the same old price.

A taxpayers association is useful only when it curbs waste—but to the narrow vision of many of our taxpayers, all taxes are waste. They are willing to participate in the benefits of public improvements, enjoy better public service and greedily grasp the benefits of progress forced on them, but they don't want to pay their share for it—and the payment of taxes causes excruciating pain.

FORM HOOVER CLUBS.

Unless the people wake up and act promptly, they will find the reactionary politicians, financed by Wall Street, in complete control of the republican national convention and General Wood nominated.

They will find the democratic convention in complete control of the politicians of the official bureaucracy, who, like the republican politicians, had rather meet defeat at the polls than lose control of the party, and McAdoo, the crown prince of the administration, the nominee.

If the republicans refuse to liberalize the party and nominate Hoover, it will give the democrats an opportunity to name Hoover—but he is equally objectionable to the democratic politicians. Only pressure of public opinion will force his selection by either party—and if both refuse, the way is open for a third party to sweep the country.

The treatment of the peace treaty, the hopeless deadlock in national government, the failure of both the democratic admfinistration and the republican congress to function, has caused the public to lose faith in both old parties and in the wind-jamming, hell-roaring, egg-sucking politicians that control them—and a majority of the electorate would welcome the birth of a new party pledged to business administration and national welfare rather than party profiteering.

Hoover organizations should be formed in Salem and elsewhere for the purpose of making Hoover president—and if enough of such Hoover clubs are formed, representing the independent, untrammeled common sense patriotism of the country, they can take the control of the nation out of the dismal swamp of politics.

Rippling Rhymes

APRIL.

With April comes the feeling that winter's hit the ceiling, and spring at last is here; we are not always freezing, or catching cold cold and sneezing, and flu germs disappear. The winter's grim and dreary, it makes us sad and weary, it fills our bones with aches; but April is enchanting, and we begin our planting, and plying hoes and rakes. The winter's knell is tolling, and naught is more consoling than is the breath of spring; there's solace in its breezes, and men are simply cheeses who do not dance and sing. The tumblebug is tumbling, the bumblebees are bumbling, the grass is getting green; this fact appeals to reason; there is no better season for burning gasoline. Oh, April is a hummer, she is the cheerful comer who gets the welcome sign; though sometimes wet and windy, inclined to raise a shindy, her curves are mostly fine. She shows that winter's ended, for she is not attended by snow and ice and sleet; with cold she's never stung us, and so she lands among us with both her queenly feet.

LOVE and MARRIED LIFE

By the Noted Author
IDAH McGLONE GIBSON

WHAT HAS JOHN DONE.

I shall never forget the sight which confronted me when I entered my room. John Gordon and his sister stood facing each other; both were white with anger. For the first time since I have known Alice I saw a great resemblance to her brother. She had dropped all that impulsiveness, all that irresponsibility that she had usually seemed to have, and she stood there quite as determined and belligerent as he.

Both stopped what they were saying and turned to me with forced smiles.

"How did you leave Mme. Gordon?" I asked Alice.

"Oh, mother was all right," she answered.

"Wish to Heaven you'd stayed with her," said John.

"You're always very careful about having other people carrying out your wishes, John," was her comment.

"Did you ask Alice to come down here?" he said, turning to me.

Not Entirely Fair.

"She did not," was Alice's terse remark, "but I was not sure that you were coming. I couldn't get hold of you, and I didn't think it was quite fair for the family to leave Katherine alone at such a time.

"Mother said she was sure you did not get the telegram."

"I didn't" was John's unexpected confession.

"How did you find it out?" she asked, as I kept perfectly silent.

"I met Karl Shepard on the street and he said that you had told him and that you were trying to find me."

"I thought Karl had gone to South America," said Alice.

"The business which would take him there has been unexpectedly postponed for quite awhile," John explained. "And, Alice I want to tell you that you need not send me any more messages by Karl Shepard. I don't like him, and I don't want to speak to him."

"So he, too, has told you that you were making a fool of yourself?" was Alice's comment.

"Never mind what he told me. Suffice to say he will never tell it to me again."

"Did you knock him down again?"

"What did you want me to do, John?" I asked, for I couldn't stand their quarreling any longer.

John's Retort Is Ugly.

"I wanted you to come up here where you belong and leave that Gaylord woman alone," was his ugly retort.

"I see no reason why Katherine should leave her when she is all sweetness and sympathy, to come to you and be greeted with ugliness and contemptuous commands, John," said Alice.

"This isn't your 'butt-in'. I wish you would go to your own room, Alice."

"I am going to talk with Katherine first."

"You will do it while I am here, then."

"I want to do it while you are here. I have kept silent too long already."

"Please, please," I pleaded, "won't you both wait until we have put my mother away forever. Alice I know you mean well, but I can't stand any more just now."

"Of course you can't girl," said John, unexpectedly, "and we won't say a word about anything," and he came over and again put his arms about me.

"That's exactly the way you would like it, brother of mine," said Alice. "Any way to get out of the scrape you have gotten into."

Protest Is Emphatic.

I raised my head in protest so quickly that it jolted John. However, I had decided upon a course of action and I did not intend—in fact, I could not—stand any more just now. I had heard enough from Alice to know that John had gotten himself into some peculiar affair that I did not know about. I was almost sure that Elizabeth Moreland was concerned in it. More because her name had not been mentioned by either my husband or his sister since they had come than because Alice had openly accused her and John had denied it.

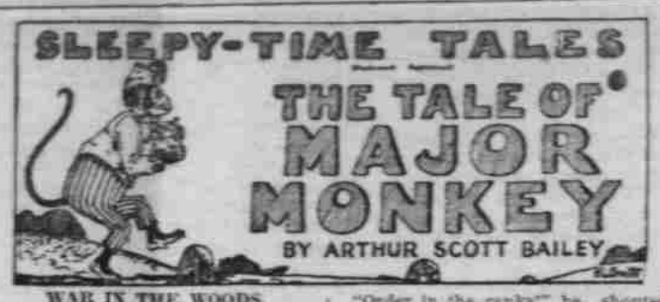
"If you have nothing more to say to me, John," I said. "I think I will go in and see if my packing has been completed. I believe that Bobbie has made all arrangements for us to leave on the afternoon train."

"Gaylord needn't worry himself over the arrangements," said John, "he knows me well enough to know that I am perfectly capable of making them."

"But they had to be made immediately, John, and getting no telegram from you, we didn't know whether you would be here or not."

(Monday—Helen and Bob)

SLEEPY-TIME TALES



THE TALE OF MAJOR MONKEY

BY ARTHUR SCOTT BAILEY

WAR IN THE WOODS.

CHAPTER XI.

Although Major Monkey had ordered him out of the army, Peter Mink declared that he wasn't going till he was ready to leave.

"Very well," said the Major easily. "You may stay here; and we'll go."

"There!" Major Monkey remarked.

But Peter Mink was an obstinate fellow. The moment the army started to move, he went along with it. And what was worse, he insisted on walking right behind Major Monkey, and trying to strut just as the Major did.

Some of the generals couldn't help snickering. And of course Major Monkey couldn't overlook such behavior.

"Order in the ranks!" he shouted as fiercely as he knew how.

The generals stopped tittering at once. For a minute or two everybody marched on in silence. And then the cry, "Halt!" rang suddenly out.

The generals all stopped. Major Monkey stopped, too. And his face seemed more wrinkled than ever as he looked every general in the face.

Naturally, that took some time, for there were several dozens of them.

"Who shouted 'Halt!'" the Major asked at last.

But nobody knew. At least nobody answered. And there was a good deal of low talking and craning of necks. For some reason or other, everybody peered at Peter Mink. But he stared straight ahead in the most innocent fashion.

Major Monkey said nothing more. But he walked behind the army and picked up a stick.

"Forward, march!" he commanded then. And as the army moved on, he continued to walk in the rear, just behind old Mr. Crow.

Soon the cry, "Halt!" sounded again. And as soon as he heard it, Major Monkey threw his stick with great force and caught Peter Mink neatly in the back of his head. Peter Mink toppled over where he stood.

"There!" Major Monkey remarked. "He won't bother us any more today" And before the army had stopped gasping, he marched it forward again, leaving Peter Mink stretched upon the ground.

Some of the generals objected, and said that they thought that Peter Mink ought to be looked after.

But Major Monkey told them that they were in the army, and that it was WAR, and they must expect even worse things to happen.

Now, Jimmy Rabbit was a tender-hearted chap. He couldn't bear the thought of leaving even a rascal like Peter Mink wounded and alone.

"I think you ought to send the cook back to take care of him," Jimmy told Major Monkey.

At that, Mr. Crow—who was the cook—spoke up and said that he was going to stay with the army.

"I don't see," he said, "how you could get along without me. An army without a cook is as good as lost."

Major Monkey promptly agreed with Mr. Crow.

"Certainly we mustn't get lost," he said. "If we were lost, the enemy never could find us. And we might wander about in the woods for years and years."

His remarks made some of the generals a bit uneasy. And one of them—a soldier called Billy Woodchuck—announced that he would have to be leaving.

Bolshevik Drive On Toward Boku Oil Fields, Report

Constantinople, Apr. 1.—Vladikavkaz, an important military station and trading center in Ciscaucasia has been captured by the Russian bolsheviki, according to advices received here.

Vladikavkaz is situated on the Terek river about 95 miles due north of Tiflis. Its capture, together with that of Petrovsk on the west shore of the Caspian sea, which was reported this week shows an advance of bolsheviki toward the gerat oil center of Baku and the frontier of the Georgian republic.

County Officers to Return Funds

(Continued from page one)

have been avoided with the consequent tangle in the tax collector's office had the test suit been filed when the opportunity was offered in December.

County Assessor Ben F. West stated Saturday that the extra work had taken so much of his time that he was prevented from undertaking a test suit in the matter. In order to embody the extra items on the tax roll, a force of men worked day and night in the assessor's office. Despite the fact that the crew worked overtime, the tax rolls were delayed about three weeks. Another expense item incurred by the restraining order will be the revision of statements and the special work incurred should the remittance of the payed portion of the roll be made.

Salvation Army To Close Revival Sunday Evening

An open air meeting at 7:30 and a revival service in the hall at 8 o'clock Sunday evening will close the series of special meetings which the Salvation Army has been conducting in Salem during the past week. Colonel S. L. Brengle, international evangelist, will have charge and he will be assisted by his daughter and Captain Wesley Bouterse, soloist.

Colonel Brengle will also preach at the service Saturday evening and will be in charge of the holiness meeting Sunday morning. The large crowds that have ben in attendance during the few days in which the evangelist and his assistants have been in the city, are unanimous in their appreciation of his ability as a preacher.

The pubilc will be welcome at the special week-end services in the hall Sunday evening.

Caretakers Fear Art Thieves Plan to Loot Collection

Chicago, Apr. 3—Fearing art thieves were planning to loot the house, conservators of the estate of Mrs. W. W. Kimball today asked the Chicago Art institute to take charge of the Kimball collection of paintings, jade and other art objects. Mrs. Kimball is the aged widow of the piano manufacturer. Experts who recently examined the collection valued the pictures at "far in excess of $2,000,000." The jades and other pieces were pronounced valuable beyond estimate.

Generally Fair Weather Predicted

Washington, April 3.—Weather predictions for the week beginning Monday are:

Rocky Mountain and plateau regions: Generally fair; cold with freezing temperature first half, normal latter half.

Pacific states: Except for occasional rains on the north Pacific coast, fair. Normal temperature probable.