

# Capital Journal

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## The Treaties

The treaties resulting from the Disarmament Conference now before the senate for ratification, mark the permanent passing of the idea of American isolation as a national policy, despite its championship by the republican party and Mr. Harding before the election. The treaties, however, do not solve any vital international problems and are by no means epoch-making.

The conference has made for a better understanding between the United States and Japan and eliminated the senseless naval rivalry between Britain and America. In this regard it has been a success. In settling oriental political issues, it has resulted in failure. An exhausted world has agreed to curtail naval armaments for 15 years, but Chinese and Siberian issues remain unsolved.

The treaties provide a ten year naval holiday in the construction of capital ships by the United States, Great Britain and Japan, a reduction of naval strength of certain fleets and a practical cessation of all naval programs. France, however does not accept any ratio of fleet maintenance though agreeing to cessation of construction.

Naval warfare is in a transitory stage, with battleships becoming obsolete and aircraft and submarines taking their place. Just what the future navy will consist of is not known. Meanwhile it is a matter of prudence to cease wasting money on discarded types. Moreover all the nations except the United States are broke and cannot afford to build capital ships, hence the desire for a truce in needless expenditures. In 15 years when the treaties expire, conditions may be different.

China under the new treaties, is permitted to impose a tariff of 5 percent duty as against 3 1-2 percent at present. In some other minor matters, China is given freedom over her own affairs. China is promised the restoration of Shantung, but Japan continues to hold strings on the railroad. Japan remains in Manchuria, and the British in Hong Kong and Kowloon. Japan refuses to get out of Siberia—so we have all the causes of a first class war whenever China awakens or Russia recovers.

The conference has undertaken to provide rules for future warfare, in other words to make war a clean sport. Poison gas and submarine are to be barred—provisions quite as futile and absurd as similar rules adopted by the Hague conference proved to be when the beginning of hostilities made them scraps of paper. Honor rules for warfare are a joke, for grim necessity knows no law and self-defense is a natural law. The only object in adopting humanitarian rules for war, is for political effect.

There is no reason why the treaties should not be ratified. They do not mean anything very vital outside the saving effected by abandoning insane naval competition, but are a beginning towards vital accomplishment to be realized under the league of nations.

## Everyone's Privilege

A Chicago youth of 25, after a meteoric career as a frenzied financier, has been thrown into involuntary bankruptcy with liabilities exceeding \$7,000,000 and assets of less than \$1,000. In his two years of operation, thousands of confiding people literally forced their money upon him in return for promises of fabulous profits.

All of which again proves that the people like to be humbugged as well as that there is a sucker born every minute. Despite the efforts of restriction laws and protection statutes, and the vigilance of special officials, swindlers of greater or less magnitude are exposed daily in all parts of the country and there seems no way to keep the fool and his money from being parted by some of the million and one schemes of bunco artists. All the "blue-sky" legislation in the world seems powerless to check the shearing the lambs.

The hope of getting something for nothing, of reaping where they have not sown, of gathering in unearned increment in fabulous returns for trivial investment is the inspiration that brings the clever crook his harvest of victims and enables him to ride as fortune's favorite a few fleeting hours before he gets away or the inevitable crash overwhelms him.

It is not always the ignorant foreigner that falls, nor is it necessary to go east. We have an endless procession of promotions in our midst. Only a week ago an operator was arrested for selling stock in a machine to extract gold from water. Oil stock peddlers are continually exchanging prettily printed paper for real money. Miners are busy taking more gold out of the pockets of the people than is ever taken out of the mines. Timber locators reap wealth by selling mythical claims to our first families and there is a fine sale of sites unseen in distant paradises.

This is a free country and it is every man's privilege to be bumped, butted and buncoed into bankruptcy as often as he desires.

## Trust Discrimination

(From the Eugene Guard)

Effective dates for a number of east bound freight rate changes which were announced recently, were received Monday by H. E. Lounsbury, general freight agent for the Union Pacific system, in a message sent by the transcontinental freight traffic bureau. The reduction of newspaper paper rates from \$1.42 to \$1.25 on movements to Missouri river and Texas points will become effective February 16. A ten per cent reduction in rice and rice products moving to eastern territory will become effective February 11. Older and vinegar rates will be reduced from \$1.20 1-2 to \$1.05 March 13.—Oregon Journal.

This news print rate reduction benefits nobody but the news print combine on this coast. They can make print paper for half what the eastern mills can turn

## Starligh T

By the Noted Author  
IDA H. M'GLONE GIBSON

Theodore Stratton Phones  
Kitty read the letter carefully and with a little chuckle exclaimed: "It's a humdinger, Virgie! Your society bringing up stands you in good turn. I could never have written that in a thousand years. You have said everything and yet you have said nothing. Stratton will appreciate it."

"How can I go out to dinner with such a looking face?" I asked irrelevantly although much comforted by Kitty's staunch loyalty.

"It is swollen, Virgie, but you fill the bowl with cold water and stick your face down in it, once or twice. No one will notice, particularly if you use a little powder and redden your lips. They have grown very pale since you have been sick."

I followed Kitty's advice and soon, refreshed, we started out.

"Wait a minute, Kitty, I must mail this letter."

"How did you address it?"

"Ten to one Stratton won't get it. You know he has a lot of secretaries for 'fan letters' and it will probably be put in the waste basket with the rest of the truck."

"But if I send it to his hotel he won't get it until tomorrow night."

"Let's go around to the hotel and give it to the doorman. The walk will do us both good. We can ride down Angel's Flight."

"Do you think he is at the Alex?"

"Tony Melville told me he was. You know he rented his Beverly Hills home furnished and the people will not be put out until the first of this month."

"Does Theodore Stratton own a home here?"

"Of course! The moment a person gets to be a star they advertise it by buying an expensive home, filling it full of expensive Italian or Spanish furniture. After that they purchase a car with special built body, to ride in to and from the studio."

"Don't that sound nice?"

"Yes, but I am afraid that you and I are long ways from Virgie. The formula calls for seven years from atmosphere to stardom. Tonight we are two little waifs and strays holding our breaths as we ride down Angel's Flight in the cable car."

"Virgie, let me take the letter," she said as we drew near the door. "I'll take it to the desk and then we will be sure that he gets it."

In a few moments she came out smiling. "I think Mr. Theodore Stratton will have your letter very soon. I saw him pacing up and down the lobby looking as though announcing: 'The world is my oyster,' and as I started out he walked toward the desk. I slipped behind a pillar and he didn't see me."

"Kitty, you made a mistake in going into pictures. You should have been a messenger boy," I laughed.

"Oh, no, my dear. Those aren't the tactics of a messenger boy. They are just the maneuvers of someone who is determined that you shall have your chance."

"But I thought you intimated the other day that it would be better for me not to go with Theodore Stratton."

"Good Lord, child, you didn't get my meaning at all. Go with anybody or anything that will give you a chance but keep your eyes open and play your own game. Don't let anyone ring any marked cards in on you."

I smiled at Kitty. I loved her when she dropped into her rowdy speech. Her sparkling eyes had such a wicked little sparkle and her mouth such a mischievous little quirk.

"Come on, Virgie, I am hungry!" With this Kitty caught hold of my hand and fairly ran into a cafeteria nearby.

"Oh, how I hate cafeterias! Their pails and platters piled with food just sicken me. When I think of the mouths that most of my meals were picked out, dish by dish from long lines of food—with their mixture of smells—I hope never to see the steam table of one of them again."

Kitty didn't seem to worry over it though and with a skill born of long practice she deftly picked out the most indigestible looking things before us.

She was in high spirits and told me all the little gossip of the studio. "They are still talking of Ria, Virgie. Everyone thinks that she has feathered her nest beautifully. I tried to tell them that Herb was the lucky one but they would not have it. Money seems to be the aim and ambition of every person from the man getting \$3 a day to the star getting \$5000 a week."

"Kitty," I suggested, "let's go to a movie! I think Theodore Stratton has a picture on. Wouldn't you like to see it?"

"I certainly would and tomorrow, Virgie, you will hear from him."

Kitty was wrong. When we arrived at the apartment that night there was a message asking me to call up Mr. Stratton at whatever hour I returned.

Tomorrow—Virginia Gets Her Chance

### SAP AND SALT

BY Bert Moses  
Sap and Salt in the Woods, Astoria, Oregon.

Pretty girls don't need jewels to make them prettier.

Everybody can hustle for business but the undertaker.

Gradually Eve's reputation is being overshadowed by Fashion.

Nobody can go to a dentist too soon, but nearly everybody's goes too late.

The more a man knows about music, the less he seems to know about business.

What people think but are afraid to say—well, wouldn't you like to hear 'em say it?

Hez Heck Says:

"Pianners is bought more for style than fer music."



## Creation of Market For Farm Products Is Advocated As Remedy

By Warren W. Wheaton

Washington, Feb. 15.—Make Uncle Sam's dollar worth one hundred good old-time American cents, create a market for farm products and the law of supply and demand, long asked, will again become workable and agriculture will find a firm foundation.

That program forms the best solution of the agrarian ills of the country if the consensus of farmers' views counts for anything.

Farmers throughout the United States are talking of bursting surplus and products. The excess in food stuffs held, however, is due to the fact that there is no market demand, officials at the United States Department of Agriculture asserted today.

There is no real over production. The trouble is that there is under consumption, they say. Claim is made by them that there is not enough food in the world today to provide for normal consumption.

In the fifty years following the Civil War, according to best statistics available, the United States farmer increased cotton production five times, wheat production four times and corn three times. This increase happened while the population of the country only increased two and three-fourths times.

"No wonder," says Dr. E. D. Ball, director of scientific work of the Agricultural department, "that when the Secretary of Agriculture states that the United States produced twenty-five per cent of the wheat, sixty per cent of the cotton and seventy per cent of the corn of the world, with only one-sixth of its population, the nation should feel it was on a firm foundation and its future prosperity assured."

"The peak of agriculture production per capita of population was passed in 1893. Agriculture production almost kept pace with population increase for some time after that date, but in the last decade it has steadily and ever more rapidly fallen."

"Probably this can be more concretely shown by the definite statement that the cotton production has fallen in a decade from 14,000,000 bales to less than 12,000,000 bales. Corn production reached its peak a decade ago and has remained practically stationary ever since. The 1920 average was 104,000,000 bushels the same as it was in 1910. Wheat production no doubt would be even worse if it had not been for the fact remarkable advance in the selling price of this cash crop.

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Dr. Ball declares that the large area of fertile land in the country has been taken up and that the increase in farm area in the future will be very slow. Production costs will be higher, he predicts.

Statisticians in the department of Agriculture has estimated that the population of the United States will be more than 220,000,000 at the close of the present century. They have placed the probable time in which the United States will begin to import staple foods at from fifteen to thirty years. America today, they declare, is a food importing nation, measured in dollars.

## Mrs. Wurtzbarger May Yet Escape Colorado Prison

Portland, Or., Feb. 15.—(Special)—Alma Louise Wurtzbarger, confessed slayer of her husband at their home on the grounds of the Chemawa Indian school last fall who was sentenced to serve a 10 year sentence in the Colorado federal prison, may yet be successful in her fight to be sent to the Oregon penitentiary, or some other Pacific coast prison.

Federal District Attorney Humphreys has received a telegram from Attorney General Clegg instructing him to have a medical examination of Mrs. Wurtzbarger by two independent examiners pending determination of the prison in which she is to be confined. The attorney general also asks that the court be requested to extend the stay of execution granted Mrs. Wurtzbarger.

The stay recently granted Mrs. Wurtzbarger expired tomorrow.



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## Supreme Court Hands Down But Single Opinion

One lone opinion, an order and a probationary admission to the Oregon bar constituted the week's grist of the supreme court as released at the regular Tuesday conference.

The decree of Judge Gustav Anderson of the Malheur county court in the case of T. E. Jenkins appellant, vs. Tiselle Belle Jenkins, in a divorce suit, was affirmed by the court in an opinion by Justice Brown.

On objection to the cost bill in the case of F. W. Landbetter vs. O. L. Price, costs were taxed in favor of Price in the sum of \$123.75.

Charles Henry Clarke of Portland was admitted to practice law in Oregon for the nine-month probationary period on a certificate from Missouri.

## Sailor Adrift In Mid-Ocean; Ships Conduct Search

New York, Feb. 15.—A score of ships of all kinds were continuing the search today for John Birkner, 24, a sailor cast adrift from the steamship Gaffney last Wednesday, 700 miles away, in an unfrequented part of the Atlantic.

Birkner was warmly clothed and his boat was well stocked with food. Birkner was one of four sailors ordered to lash a lifeboat in a terrific storm when a giant wave heeled the Gaffney over. The lifeboat was swept into the sea, and Birkner with it.

## Uruguay to Honor Dead Explorer

Montevideo, Feb. 15.—Military, naval and state honors will be rendered by the Uruguayan government tomorrow to Sir Ernest Shackleton when his body is put on the British steamer Woodville, which will convey it back to South Georgia Island for burial.

After services at the English church, the coffin will be placed on a gun carriage and conveyed to a pier with an escort of troops. The cruiser Uruguay will accompany the Woodville to sea and fire a farewell salute.

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