

# Capital Journal

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GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor and Publisher

## Group Antagonism

Most senseless of all the group antagonisms existing in free American is the religious—and yet in Portland this week there was a class of 1200 initiated into the Ku Klux Klan, whose purpose is the spread of racial and religious prejudices and antagonisms. This is in itself a sorry commentary on conditions in the metropolis.

It was to escape the religious persecutions and intolerance of the old world that the first settlers came to America. The Pilgrims and Puritans came to New England, the Huguenots to the Carolinas and the Cavaliers to Virginia, yet we see in free and tolerant America 300 years later an attempt at organized intolerance similar to that which drove our ancestors from Europe.

The feeling against religious intolerance has always been strong in America—indeed religious freedom is Americanism. So strong was the feeling against religious meddling that the first amendment adopted to the constitution read "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Since its adoption, there have been sporadic attempts to revive bigotry, such as the "Know-Nothing" movement and the "A. P. A." wave, but sooner or later the native good sense of the American people prevailed.

This group antagonism, cleverly capitalized by organizers seeking profit and politicians seeking office, if not allayed in the future, spells trouble for the nation. If there ever was a time when unity and common sense should prevail, it is in this era of reconstruction. The problems faced are so serious as to demand the best efforts of all—yet with bigotry an issue, all the important problems are forgotten discord created, and people vote their prejudices instead of their reason.

In Oregon, the issues of economy, taxation, income-tax, personal qualification and all other vital questions are being passed-up, to vote blindly in accordance with the edicts of the self-appointed "Emperor" of an "invisible empire" of fanaticism, whose oath-bound followers have surrendered their Americanism to swear allegiance to, obeying the commands of one in whose choice they had no more voice than they have in the selection of the candidate they are voted for. And they call this 100 percent Americanism!

## Economy Promises

All of the candidates for governor are talking economy and some are promising the impossible. One is going to reduce state expenditures a million dollars, which sounds quite impressive but would only reduce taxation a little over 2 percent. Another pledges himself to a ten percent reduction. Others indulge in similar glittering generalities—most of which are bunk.

The legislature makes the appropriations, not the governor. It is therefore even more important to elect the right men to the legislature than it is to elect the right man for governor. By himself the governor is powerless, for the legislature can pass any measure over his veto. Governor West once vetoed 70 bills with the result that the legislature held over at its own expense to pass every vetoed measure—and history repeats itself.

As long as we have legislatures that deliberately plan to expend a six percent increase, as we have had, we shall have increased taxation. At the last session, Senator Patterson was chairman of the joint Ways and Means committee, which passes upon all appropriations. After all necessary expenditures had been met, there remained nearly a quarter of a million dollars that could be saved to the taxpayers or could be appropriated under the six percent limitation. The committee proceeded to devise ways and means of expending it, by building new armories, hatcheries, etc. Yet Mr. Patterson who as a legislator stood-pat to expend the limit, now as a candidate parades as an economist.

It has also been the fashion in the legislature for the ways and means committee to hold-up all appropriation bills until the closing hours of the session when millions had to be voted with a rush and without proper consideration. Most of the legislators never knew or were given opportunity to learn details considering the expenditures. The advantage of this system was that it enabled members of the committee to log-roll through legislation they were interested in, by holding up appropriation bills others were interested in, and forcing support of their own bills, as well as enabling the slipping through of questionable appropriations, without public discussion.

So the governor's power is limited, even in administration. Other members of the board of control have equal authority with the executive. The state treasurer and secretary of state are equally responsible and together can over-rule the governor at any time. Yet the public, which provides divided control, is prone to place undivided responsibility upon the executive. It is apparent therefore, that pre-election promises by spoilsmen must be taken with a grain of salt.

### WOMAN SAVES BEAUTY BY MASSAGE OF SALAD

Glendale, Cal., April 21—Salad came into its own today. With a newly-prepared salad, in which there was a generous quantity of oil, Mrs. R. S. Garretson saved her face from being disfigured by burns. This novel use for salad came when an oven of a gas stove exploded when Mrs. Garretson sought to light it. Plunging her face into the salad, the woman rubbed it over her face. According to her physician, the fact that Mrs. Garretson used the salad for this unusual purpose was all that saved her face from disfigurement.

### QUAFFS "LAST DRINK" AND THEN FALLS DEAD

Charleston, Ill., April 21—"Here's my last drink!" With this remark, L. E. Green, aged fifty-six, in the presence of friends lifted a glass of carbolic acid to his lips and drank the contents. An instant later he plunged headlong to the floor, dying in a few seconds. On a card in his pocket he had written his will. School teachers of York, Pa., have come under the ban for bobbing hair at a recent meeting of the school directors of the county. Also, cigarette-smoking on the part of teachers is put on the blacklist.

## STARLIGHT

By the Noted Author IDAH M'CLONE GIBSON

### Virginia's Aunt Arrives

When we got back to the St. Francis I found Eddie Montforth in the lobby, looking very mysterious. "Who won?" I demanded, eagerly awaiting news of the football game. "They trimmed us, Virginia, but I have some personal consolation anyway. You know the critics often say of a play that it was a failure but that some actor had great personal success in it. Well—that's me. In the second half I scored our only touchdown all by my lonely. But never mind that now. I've got something to show you. Mrs. Chester asked me to bring you right up to her room."

"Oh, Eddie! I thought you were going to let me help spend the money you got for your magazine story."

"Well, if you don't like what I have got up in Mrs. Chester's room, we will take it back and you may select something else."

All unsuspecting I went up to Mrs. Chester's room. They had heard me coming, for as I reached the door it was opened.

After one look at the person standing in the doorway I threw myself on Aunt Virginia's breast. Oh, how rapturously glad I was to see her.

With her loving arms about me I just sobbed out my whole homesickness and loneliness.

"Oh, Aunt Virginia, I never knew how much I have missed you until now. If I had known how lonely I was going to be without you, I do not believe that I ever would have come out here. You will stay with me always now, won't you? Never want you out of my sight again."

"Oh, my darling child! And, sometimes, when you did not write I thought perhaps that you did not care about me any more. I hesitated about coming to you for I knew it would break my heart if you were not glad to see me."

"Please, please, Aunt Virginia, never think that I have had many a queer, little, sick feeling down in the pit of my stomach when I thought of you so far away. Why, when Gloria married and went away, and Kitty died I just thought I never would be able to stay here without you."

"Lots and lots of times I would have jumped on a train and rushed down to you, if I had not been so determined that grandpa-ther should have been made to understand that I could get along without him."

"Everytime I was introduced to a woman older than myself, yes, even when I was introduced to Mrs. Chester, I wanted you. And every time I had a hard knock I wanted you—you can never know how I wanted you."

"After all, it is to our own blood relations we turn in time of trouble, isn't it, dearest Aunt Virginia?"

"Isn't she just lovely, Mrs. Chester?" I asked my good friend. "Eddie Montforth, you were just horrid to make me think that it was something else that you had up here for me."

"What have you been doing to yourself, child? You have grown up," smiled Aunt Virginia approvingly, as soon as she could interrupt my almost incoherent speech.

"No, I haven't grown up, I haven't grown an inch since I came out here."

"But you look so different, child. Oh, it's your hair. I don't think I have ever seen you with it up."

"I am just wearing my old braids wound around my head, Aunt Virginia. Although my height hasn't increased an inch I think my character has. Behold in your niece a real moving picture."

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### Husband Admits Spanking of Mrs. Montford



Mrs. Adele Montford

Mrs. Adele Montford is "she who got spanked." Because she "permitted the attentions of an Italian count" who was a tutor to their child, her husband spanked her, he admits. Now he is suing her for separation.

Actress, Aunt Virginia, I laughed, "and you have gotten here just in time to see me do one of the stunts you have seen on the screen."

"Tomorrow I am going to be blown up in a yacht and rescued from the water by the hero, who is no other than the great Theodore Stratton."

"Virgie, what are you talking about," interrupted Eddie. "You don't even know how to swim."

"Indeed I do, Mr. Montforth. I have been taking swimming lessons ever since I knew I was going to have this part. The swimming teacher says I am one of the best he has ever turned out in a short time."

"But surely the thing will not be really done."

"If you mean 'really' that the boat will be blown up while I am on it, no. But a real boat is going to be blown up and sunk off the rocks. But before this I am going to be thrown out in the water so that the camera will get something more realistic than a picture of a young woman making a dive."

"You must not do it, Virgie. You can never do it."

"That is right, Mr. Montforth, persuade her not to do it," urged Mrs. Chester. "I have been trying to talk her out of this mad adventure for a long while. There is no reason why she should not have a 'double'—a professional swimmer."

"Nonsense! Of course I can do it," I insisted. "Aunt Virginia, you and Eddie and Mrs. Chester can come down and be on the yacht when I am thrown overboard. There will be one camera on the yacht and one on a raft below. In this way they hope to get something that is particularly realistic."

"Virginia, you can count on one thing—I'll be there," said Eddie in a determined voice. It was clear the matter worried him. Tomorrow—A Day's Work.

### CHECK FAILS TO VERIFY REPORT OF SHIP BURNING

Cincinnati, April 21.—A check up of river craft in the vicinity early today failed to verify a report that an Ohio river steamer was seen burning 25 miles below Cincinnati. Vessels which would have been in the locality named by a railroad employe who reported having seen the burning boat from a passing freight train, later were accounted for at points beyond, according to river men.

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### Open Forum

Contributions to this column must be plainly written on one side of paper only, limited to 500 words in length and signed with the name of the writer. Articles not meeting these specifications will be rejected.

To the Editor—In Thursday's Capital Journal Mr. J. D. Lee in roset numbers tells us what he will do should he become governor of Oregon.

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