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"Without or with offense to friends or foes
I sketch your world exactly as it goes." —BYRON.

Cities Turn Thieves

The Oregonian, which recently exposed the questionable financing undertaken at Orenco, Oregon, by the issuance of bonds far in excess of security, is publishing a series of articles upon the defaulting of interest and principal and consequently repudiation of improvement bonds by various municipalities in Washington, through which investors throughout the country have been mulcted out of large amounts.

These bonds differ from improvement bonds issued by Oregon municipalities in that in this state the city is liable for their payment, even if the property securing them is valueless, while in Washington only the property improved is liable and under a ruling of the supreme court, the county can sell the property for taxes, thereby wiping out the bonded indebtedness, so that the purchaser evades the cost of the improvements.

The system is a legalized robbery, a deliberate attempt to defraud investors devised by dishonest politicians. Many of these bonds were sold in Oregon by high-powered salesmen for unscrupulous bond houses which received a large commission on the transaction, the sales being made mostly to ignorant investors, tempted because of the high rate of interest.

The communities affected cannot escape responsibility for being party to a swindle and should take steps to reimburse the purchasers and make good their securities. It is just as bad for a community to play the crook as for the individual. When such ethics are practiced by the municipality, what can be expected from the citizens?

While Oregon communities have not indulged in the wholesale frauds of Washington, there are many issues of bonds out, for which the security is questionable. Warrenton, Reedsport and other municipalities are examples of unscrupulous promotion. Some of the irrigation districts are in even worse condition—but blame for them must rest partly upon officials authorizing their formation and supervising their construction. Their securities realized about 50 cents on the dollar for construction, the other 50 cents going into the pocket of the brokers financing the contractor and marketing the bonds.

These oft recurring bond scandals should serve as a warning to investors to keep their money at home, building up the industries and developing the resources of their own localities, where they cannot only personally supervise their investments, but profit by the enhanced value of the community.

Remains a Mystery

Some 300 mediums, who asserted that they had received spirit messages from the late Mrs. J. Allen Gilbert of Portland, failed to present the secret countersign agreed upon with her husband before her death. The Scientific American superintended the opening of the scores of messages presented to win the $500 reward offered for proof of spirit communication.

Spiritualists and mediums from all parts of the world participated in the contest, sending in countersigns of various kinds alleged to have been received from the spirit world, but the test proved nothing, unless it is that the sincere mediums gets messages from their subconscious selves. Commenting on the subject, the Scientific American quotes Dr. Gilbert as saying:

"What means this medley and how are we to explain the phenomena as presented by the voluminous correspondence? Most of it can be swept from the board and considered explained by automatic writing, somnambulism, positive and negative hallucinations, objectifications of the subconscious, dissociations of the personality and kindred phenomena which have long been recognized and which can be found in abundance without resort to a so-called supernormal or a post-mortem state. The further investigation progresses the more one feels that the so-called occult or super-normal, if properly understood, can be organized and classified under the various phases of conscious and subconscious experience, explicable on the basis of psychological principles which are well understood."

So, in spite of this and other tests, no medium has yet proven communication with the spirit world in a way to satisfy scientists and so far as the world knows, the soul that goes into the invisible never returns "some letter of the after life to spell."

SECOND WIVES

By VIOLET DARE

A JEALOUS WOMAN

Marie was amazed, when she came downstairs to breakfast the next morning, to find that Herbert Lindsay was still there. He faced her rather defiantly as she came into the living room, but she hid her surprise and gave no hint that she had not expected to see him there.

Daddy's going to stay over Sunday," Madeleine announced, delightedly. "Miss Eaton is going to town, today, and let's us three have a picnic—not outdoors, but in here by the fire. Won't it be fun?"

Marie did not answer at once. She had planned that she herself would go into town that day, to see Mrs. Lindsay, but if the nurse was going she would have to stay. Well, she could write a note advising her employer of her desire to leave; that would have to do. She wanted to give notice at once; she was uncomfortable over the mere thought of remaining in the house with Lindsay that day.

He made every effort to put her at her ease, to put their relationship on the old family basis, and Marie acted as if nothing had happened to change it, but she was determined to go. Lindsay tried to talk with her alone, but she refused to leave Madeleine even for a moment; she wanted no more tete a tetes with him.

The papers were full of news of the approaching marriage of Billy and Janny; sitting by the fire after breakfast Lindsay commented on them.

"Funny, the way this fellow Lane jumped into the limelight, isn't it?" he remarked. "Two years ago nobody had ever heard of him except that some society girl had eloped with him. Wonder what's become of her? I've heard that she's very attractive. But the whole town was gossiping about Lane and this girl, Janny Malcom, after Lane made his pile and broke into society again on the strength of his wife's position, and the wife stepped down and out. You said you weren't any relation to him, didn't you? Of course, Lane's a common enough name!"

Marie stifled an impulse to shriek with hysterical laughter. So that was the town's version, was it, that she had stepped down and out. Well, it didn't matter.

How amazed he would be if she were to tell him the truth, that she was the wife who had stepped out when her husband wanted to marry another woman, that he had been quite wrong the night beore when he told her that Bob Randall would never marry her, when only a few hours before that Randall had come to that very house and renewed his appeals to her to marry him at once. Queer, how half the world didn't know what the other half was thinking about.

Her thoughts ran on, as she sat by the fire crocheting a sweater for Madeleine's favorite doll. Second wives, what a change one could make in a man's life! Janny would make Billy such a different man than he had been with her. And she herself, if she were to do what she certainly never could do, let this man who sat near her now divorce his wife, who had wrecked his life, and marry her —what a changes she could make in him. He would no longer be the idler that he was now, living on money that he had done nothing to earn; she would urge him to go through with his extensive plans for spending his money charitably—would urge him to build the small, model orphan asylums and give hundreds of forlorn little children the best substitutes for real homes that could be had. Second wives—marrying, usually, not in the mad rush of youthful love, marrying either calculatingly, as Janny was marrying Billy, or with understanding and real affection and friendship, as Caroline Phillips had married her Dan, as she herself would marry Bob Randall, if she ever did marry him.

Randall telephoned her early in the afternoon.

"Can't you run into town and dine with me?" he asked. "I must see you—something important has come up, and I've got to go away at once to be gone a month or more. Marie, you know what I want to ask of you—but even if you can't grant that, won't you come?"

"I can't Bob, she answered. "I've got to stay here till Madeleine's nurse comes back, and she won't be here till late this evening probably."

"Well, in that case I'll take a four o'clock train. I feel that I can't go without seeing you, but if you can't come—I might be able to run down there and stay an hour—if I can possibly get away I'll do that."

"Oh no, don't!" she exclaimed. It would never do to have him come, with Herbert Lindsay there. "I can't have you."

"Well,—all right." She knew from his tone he was hurt.

She went back to the living room feeling hopeless, forlorn. It had not been quite so bad when she knew that she could reach him if she wanted to. And she had meant to talk over her immediate future with him.

Early that evening, as she and Lindsay were dining, there was a quick patter of footsteps on the terrace, and Mrs. Lindsay came tempestuously into the room, with a man just behind her.

"So—Miss Eaton told the truth!" she cried. "She was right about Herbert's being here. Well—this settles it. I shall begin divorce proceedings at once, Miss Lane and name you as co-respondent."

Tomorrow—A Bitter Blow.

CITY BUDGET IS APPROVED FEW CHANGES

(Continued from page one)

getting the salary of City Treasurer C. O. Rice increased from $1620 to $1800 a year. Last year Mr. Race as a member of the committee got it increased from $1500 to $1620. Before Race's motion was voted on Joseph H. Albert wanted to know if it was possible for the committee to raise a salary. City Attorney Kowitz replied that it could not, but it could fix it in the budget which made it incumbent upon the council to raise the salary. Race said that to make the increase possible he would later move that only half the $1800 salary of City Street Commissioner W. S. Low be paid by the city, the other half to be paid from the street improvement fund. Mayor Giesy replied that the street improvement department had no authority to pay half the salary.

When a motion to this effect was later made by Race it failed to carry.

Jail Meals Reduced.

The next item to create a discussion was $1000 proposed for the purpose of feeding prisoners in the city jail. Alderman Rosebraugh moved that this be cut to $500. Alderman Williams opposed this from a humane point of view, but Rosebraugh contended that the jail should be made a place of punishment and not an attraction to offenders. He opined that bread and water would be an appropriate diet for the prisoners. Alderman Johnson said a bigger appropriation was necessary because no meals furnished the prisoners have been paid for since August 1 because the city has no money. U. G. Holt moved to amend Rosebraugh's motion by making the amount $750 and Race further amended by making it $820, cutting just enough from the tentative amount to pay for the increase in the treasurer's salary.

Alderman Patton endeavored to get the police force reduced from 16 to 14 men, but was unsuccessful. Charles E. Knowland opposed this.

"If we could all live under the bright lights of the state capitol where we could be absolutely safe at all times," said Knowland, "we might reduce the force. But some of us live in the outskirts. For the first time Salem has a good police force. Let's keep it."

Patton reminded him that the city no longer has saloons and doesn't need much police patrolling.

"When we had saloons," replied Knowland, "the meanness was all centered downtown. Now we have parties all over the darned town. Another menace is the delivery wagon drivers who seem to have their bosses' permission to drive through the streets and past schools at 30 or 35 miles an hour and endanger the lives of children."

Patton said he favored cutting down the personnel and putting more money into motorcycles so the officers could get about quicker. Mayor Giesy said this would do no good because officers in automobiles or on motorcycles are effective only on traffic duty and cannot handle burglaries.

Police Are Criticized.

Dr. E. E. Fisher declared that the present larger police force gives no more protection than ever in ward 5. U. S. Dotson said the officers were failing to stop fast driving on North Capitol street, which he called a speedway.

"I sometimes see an officer at the store there about sundown," he said, "but I don't know whether he worked after sundown or not."

Williams declared there had been a 500 per cent improvement in the police department in the last year.

Rosebraugh made an unsuccessful attempt to get the salary of the city health officer increased from $750 to $1000 a year.

Race moved for elimination of the item. P. M. Gregory defended the playground movement.

"I live near the playground in North Salem," said U. S. Dotson, "and it is nothing but a bed of dust and dirt. The children also spend too much time in the water. Few children go there. I found the same few children there every day."

"I agree with Mr. Dotson," said Williams. "Boys go there who are big enough to go out and earn $800. They even chase the little fellows away."

Dr. Fisher facetiously remarked that he would like to see the playgrounds continued. "They bring a good many broken arms and sick kids," he said, "and we doctors have to make a living some way."

"I have been at the playground when the water in the bathing pool wasn't fit to bathe a dog in," said Earl Race.

"It does more harm than good," said Albert.

As soon as this item for $800 had been eliminated the committee voted to add $660 to the public library fund, making it total $9905. It is understood the increase will apply to salaries.

The sum of $240 proposed for the Marion county child health demonstration was discussed, but was finally allowed. The question did not involve the merits of the work but whether the city could properly be called on for the money.

After all items had been considered it was found that enough money remained within the 6 per cent limitation to allow for $100 to be voted the Associated Charities for headquarters rental and $140 for a city lung motor for the resuscitation of drowning persons and both were approved. The lung motor will cost about $223, and the service clubs of the city will be asked to put up what the city cannot.

One more meeting remains under the law for consideration of the budget. This will be a meeting at which the general public will have opportunity to offer its sentiments about the budget. The council last night set it for Tuesday, December 8.

As approved the city budget totals $227,9[illegible]68. Total expenditures are estimated at $270,223.68, but it is estimated that $42,269 will be met by receipts.

John Tuel In Jail Again; Record In Prison Here Long

(Continued from Page One.)

victs who ever annoyed officers at the state penitentiary.

He was first received at the prison December 5, 1917, from Multnomah county for burglary not in a dwelling for a term of from 1 to 5 years, after he already done three terms in the state reform school as a boy and youth.

Tuel was paroled February 10, 1919, and returned as a parole violator on October 7 of the same year.

He staged his escape December 8, 1919, being returned three days later on December 11. Again he escaped on October 16, 1920, and was returned on November 20, just a month after his escape. He was then paroled again February 11, 1922, and returned September 15, 1923, on a new charge, this time from Umatilla county, where he committed larceny in a store and was sentenced to serve one year. He again escaped under that sentence June 22, 1924, but was returned July 19,1924, and managed to serve out his sentence, being discharged at the expiration of his term on October 22, 1924.

Tuel's actual delinquencies all have been minor in their character. He originally came in for larceny of a small amount of produce, was returned on his first parole because he forged his father's name to a check, but the check cashed represented money earned himself for a number of month's work.

Tuel is a Salem boy, son of M. Tuel of this city.