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"With or without offense to friends or foes
I sketch your world exactly as it goes."
—Byron

Official Whitewash

Without presuming responsibility for the accident which Wednesday evening snuffed out the life of Colonel A. J. Baldwin to necessarily lie with the driver of the "death car" in this instance, it is pertinent to inquire by what authority the state police and district attorney so glibly exonerated the driver of all blame.

Here in a case of violent death involving presumptive violation of a law enacted for the protection of life and property, the police and public prosecutor appropriate to themselves the prerogatives of judge and jury and, with but cursory examination into the circumstances, announce that there will be no further investigation into the facts.

What of Oregon's statutory provisions for handling such cases?

Are enforcement officials to be permitted at their discretion to write their own prescriptions for enforcement of legislative enactments? Are they to be allowed to scrap the constituted machinery of law to suit their convenience and whims?

The statutes require that where there is "reasonable" cause to presume that death has been caused by acts in violation of the law, it shall be the duty of the coroner after conference with the district attorney to determine the responsibility for such death through formal inquest or autopsy.

There is in this case no evidence of criminal intention—no indication of deliberate premeditation.

But there is "reasonable" cause to presume that the victim met his death through such negligence and carelessness as is sending the daily traffic toll of life to alarming heights. There is sufficient indication of disregard for traffic laws to warrant searching investigation. Colonel Baldwin was fully within his legal rights. He was walking along the left side of the road facing approaching traffic, as provided by the traffic code. He was in the prescribed "safety zone."

The law imposes upon motor drivers the obligation of caution. In passing other vehicles travelling in the same direction they are required to determine whether or not they have unobstructed clearance. It further stipulates that the brakes, lights and other safety devices of a car shall be kept in proper working order to meet emergencies.

It is entirely reasonable to presume from the evidence at hand that the driver in this instance did not exercise reasonable vigilance; that the brakes or headlights on his car were defective, or that he was driving at a rate of speed in excess as that indicated for safety.

Why then, with the public clamoring for and officialdom shouting for more drastic enforcement of traffic regulations, such whitewashings?

Scrapping the Classics

The efficiency expert Oregonian has come out for scrapping the classics. Having scrapped whatever could be regarded as classic or traditional in its own make-up and policy, this is perhaps logical if not efficient. It quotes with approval from the "Essays on the Classics" by Dr. Stephen Leacock, the Canadian humorist, the following:

This is what I should like to do. I'd like to take a large stone and write on it in very plain writing—
"The classics are only primitive literature. They belong in the same class as primitive machinery and primitive music and primitive medicine"—and then throw it through the window of a university and hide behind a fence to see the professors buzz!

Though intended to be humor, the Oregonian, with its new yearning for imitating the proletariat, takes it as "deadly serious" as the proletariat always take humor or satire, and declares "there is no answer to Dr. Leacock, the classics are primitive literature."

Webster thus defines the word classic:
A work of the highest class and of acknowledged excellence, or its author—originally and still especially used of Greek and Latin works or authors but now applied also to authors and works of a like character in any language and extended to art.

Whether the Oregonian refers to our own classics, such as Shakespeare or only the Greek and Latin authors as "primitive literature" is not set forth. If the latter it must remember that it was the rediscovery of these classics after the fall of Constantinople that brought on the Renaissance that ended the dark ages and gave us our present culture.

The classics are the products of the best minds of previous civilizations, minds comparable with the highest type of our own times, perhaps superior in intelligence, certainly superior to anything produced in the 20th century. If they are "primitive" what do we call our own mediocre literary output which dies abominably instead of living through the millenniums?

Any work of "the highest class and of acknowledged excellence" is worth serious study, and a knowledge of the classics is essential to understand a present colored by the past—notwithstanding the ukases of efficiency experts.

KENDLES GO EAST

Selo—C. E. Kendle and family have left by auto for an extended visit with relatives in the Rocky mountain region, planning also to visit in Indiana and Virginia. They took the northern route by way of Spokane, Butte and into North Dakota, and expect to return the southern route, through Arizona, New Mexico and California. They will be absent several weeks, according to plans. Mr. Kendle recently purchased a new car for the trip.

PAULSON IMPROVING

Silverton—Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Gunderson report the condition of Mrs. Gunderson's brother, Attorney Mark Paulson of Portland, as showing satisfactory improvement from a serious accident when he was knocked down on the Pacific highway near the Woodburn terminal, Friday evening. He is at the Woodburn hospital. His condition indicates he will need hospitalization for several weeks.

Servell—Carol Ammon, small daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ammon, is recovering from a bad case of bronchial pneumonia.

CLUB DANCES PLEASE

Monmouth—Several clever costumes featured their art dance Tuesday night, the third dance in a series being held by the dancing club recently organized among the married couples of the younger set. Twenty couples participated. The club meets again December 18 for its Christmas dance.

VALLEY VISIT ENDS

Hazel Green—Glen Kolb, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Stevens, was a recent guest at the Stevens home. On returning to his home in Oregon City Glen was accompanied by his brother, George, who makes his home here with his grandparents. Joe Stevens, who has been ill for the past few months, has recuperated sufficiently so as to be able to be around the house a few hours daily. Mrs. Stevens has been ill with a severe attack of influenza but is now recovering.

Jefferson—Miss Margaret Hamill of Portland, who was planning to spend several days' vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. Y. Hamill, was called back to her duties as night superintendent at Doernbecker hospital.

News Behind The News

By Paul Mallon

Washington, Dec. 6.—The AAA crowd has found it can catch more congressmen with Chester Davis molasses than a nix with Tugwell vinegar.

You remember those three amendments to the AAA act which were thrown into the last session of congress by southern democratic senators, who said the amendments would make Prof. Tugwell a rex or something like that.

Well, Messrs. Davis and Wallace have privately retrieved them, dusted them off, sugared them very, very cautiously and are going to try them again this session.

The plan is clever. Instead of proposing all three at once, Messrs. Davis and Wallace are going to put forward one at a time. The two non-controversial amendments will go first. Last to be offered will be the one extending the AAA power over small crops not in the basic commodity group. Each probably will be attached to some bill, so as not to stand alone.

Pressure—What heartened Cooks Davis and Wallace was an inside tip they received a few days ago that Virginia Senator Byrd has changed his mind. Byrd led the successful resistance to the amendments last time.

Since then, Virginia farmers voted in a referendum to continue the corn-hog program. Also, cooperation from Virginia tobacco growers has been extraordinary. Furthermore, there are some Virginia potato growers who have been trying to get their commodity into the basic list.

All Byrd will say is that he has nothing to say, which tends to confirm AAA hopes.

The AAA-ers already have gone to work on the farm crowd to get approval for revival of the amendments. Soon they intend to call in the members of congress and attempt to get an agreement before the amendments are formally offered.

Great stress will be laid by the AAA-ers on the fact that these are not Tugwell amendments. Prof. Tugwell probably will be hidden when the congressmen call.

That fact may give you a hint as to how things are going within the AAA now.

Hitler's Candy—Master Hitler knows how to use sugar also. The conciliatory gestures he has been making lately to the Catholics in Germany do not mean that he has changed his mind about religion.

The truth behind it all is that the Saar election is going to be held about a month hence, and 72 per cent of the Saar voters are Catholics. Hitler has fixed everything with France so that the Saar undoubtedly will go back to Germany, but he cannot afford to have the Catholics pile up a strong opposition vote.

Hitler really used his head for something besides the manufacture of bombastic words when he worked out the recent Saar agreement with France. The best minds in our state department believe he avoided a certain European war next spring.

It was not hard to do because France was thoroughly frightened.

Money—What happened on the Saar business was this: Hitler let it be known indirectly in France some weeks ago that he was going to get the Saar back either by votes or a

putch. France thereupon moved up troop reinforcements to the Rhine as a nervous counter-threat. Hitler accepted the dare and passed out word that preparations were ready to move up the shock troops of the Austrian Nazi legion still on Germany soil.

This left France two choices. (A) An endless fight to hold the Saar, which would gain her nothing; (B) A peaceable effort to get fifty million dollars promised by the treaty for letting the Saar go.

That was no choice for Fenchmen. They took the fifty million dollars.

Cotton Pill—President Roosevelt himself can re-roll a pill with the best of them when he wants to.

That is the explanation behind his announcement Wednesday proposing to exempt the one and two bale cotton farmers from the Bankhead curtailment program. A referendum on that program was scheduled for December 15. Senator Bankhead discovered a few days ago that the Japanese have been not going to support the program. He dashed around AAA headquarters here for awhile, but the AAA boys found they could do nothing until congress changed the law.

A long distance telephone call was put in to Warm Springs and the situation placed before Mr. Roosevelt. He agreed to issue his announcement promising to seek exemption for small farmers at the coming congressional session. It saved the referendum from disclosing a strong underlying opposition.

About one-fourth of the two million cotton growers thus will be exempted, but they raise only one-tenth of the crop.

Notes—The best financial quarters have received a tip from London and are trying to arrange a loan there for money to pay Russia for the Chinese Eastern railroad. The British do not care much for the idea.

Their policy is to float foreign loans only when the empire gets some trade or other advantage out of it.

The London naval conversations lately have been directed mainly toward finding a pillow for the conference to fall on. Our people have come around to the view that the only thing to do is to let the naval issue ride for ten or twelve months and see what happens.

A republican sadly surveyed the crate-like scaffolding around the Washington monument the other day and mourned. "Knew the democrats were carrying off just about everything they saw loose around here, but I did think they would leave the monument."

LODGE MEMBERS CALL
Donald—Members of Donald lodge No. 166, A. F. & A. M., who attended a meeting of the Woodburn lodge included Harold Lamb, W. Bush, G. B. Ackerson, F. J. Dolson, E. T. Come, P. O. Ottoway, Lyell Yergen, Norman Yergen, Bruno Struve, Nell Miller, J. Kraus and M. H. Evans. Two candidates received the third degree in the Woodburn lodge.

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PART OF THE "WIGGSSES"



Appearing with Zasu Pitts in this scene from "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," which comes to the Elsmore theater Sunday, are three of the five children of the picture. They are Carmelita Johnson, Edith Fellows and Jimmy Butler, who play "Asia," "Australia" and Billy. With George Breckston and Virginia Weidler, as others of the Wiggs brood, and Pauline Lord, famous American actress, making her film debut, they comprise the famous family whose antics have delighted readers and playgoers for more than 30 years. In addition there will be a cartoon, news reel and musical revue.

LINN GRAND JURY HAS FOUR ACTIONS

Albany—Four cases are under consideration by the Linn county grand jury in session here and those taken before the jury are those of Amos Cooper, charged with robbing the Lebanon S. P. depot; Gerald Pecor, accused of larceny; Mrs. Mabel Dow, charged with conducting a disorderly house, and Sam Collins, charged with assault with intent to kill.

A charge of assault with intent to kill against Frank Roth, brought by his wife, has been dropped. William Stetinger, accused of possessing marijuana, has waived indictment.

Jefferson—Mr. and Mrs. Max Schultz and family have moved from Salem where they have resided for the past six years, to their farm home in the Parrish Gap district.

SILVERTON HONOR STUDENTS CHOSEN

Silverton—The scholarship honor roll of the Silverton junior high for the second six weeks is as follows:

All grades ones, Lillian Neal, Alice Thoroldson, Pauline Lightfoot.

Three grades ones, Beryl Fletcher, Wilma Mills, Cheryl Sypher, Freda Hanson, Frances Mehl, Bernice Hannan, Wilma Hope, Marvin.

Average of two or better, Leslie Anderson, James Benson, Beatrice Leonard, Bruce Alexander, Mary Alfred, Dorothy Benson, Marjorie Bowen, James Bush, Betty Francis, Marie Hall, Kenneth Larson, Ellen Lerfald, Jordan Moe, Janet Mulkey, William Patton, Lyle Pettyjohn, Eileen Rahn, Matt Small, Jean Tomison, Alan Thorstrud, Patricia Penble, Phyllis Adams, Ardice Wik, Joyce Simmons, Lucille Benson, Verla Aycock, Shirley Tavner, Norma Sletton, Maybelle Fraser, Virginia Anderson, Ida Sey-

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