

INDEPENDENCE ENTERPRISE

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MEMBER OF THE STATE EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

THE MOTHER'S CHRISTMAS GIFT.

It never comes to Christmas but I think about the times
We used to save our pennies and our nickels and our dimes,
And we bunched them all together, even little baby brother
Put something for the present that we always gave to mother.

We began to talk about it very early in December,
'Twas a very serious matter to us children, I remember,
And we used to whisper nightly our suggestions to each other,
For by nothing cheap and tawdry could we show our love for mother.
Hers must be a gift of beauty, fit to symbolize her ways;
It must represent the sweetness and the love that marked her days
It must be the best our money, all combined, had power to buy,
And be something that she longed for; nothing else would satisfy.

Then it mattered not the token, once the purchase had been made—
It was smuggled home and hidden and with other treasures laid,
And we placed our present proudly in her lap on Christmas day,
And we smothered her with kisses and we laughed her tears away.

It never comes to Christmas but I think about the times
We used to save our pennies and our nickels and our dimes
And the only folks I envy are the sisters and the brothers
Who still have the precious privilege of buying for their mothers.

THE MOTHER'S SHARE.

The bosom of every loyal Oregonian swells with pride when he looks back over the record of his state since the nation entered the great war last April. Every call that has been made Oregon has been answered. Every duty that has been placed upon us has been faithfully discharged. In every branch of the national service Oregon men are doing their share. And their share has been done freely and without pressure because of the love of liberty and justice that they breathe in the very air about them. So prompt to the army's and navy's response to the army's and navy's call of need that we are known from the Atlantic to the Pacific as the Volunteer State. It is a proud title.

For all of this, let us place the credit where it belongs. Let us be ready to say frankly that but for the mothers of Oregon we should not have won so distinguished a place among the states. For that is the truth. It is the mothers who are responsible for the splendid showing that has been made. And Independence mothers have borne their share of the credit given our state.

It is the mothers who must bear the brunt of war always and everywhere. The young man who offers his life to his country is embarking upon a great adventure. He is entering upon a life of activity and variety. He has the loyal and hearty support of his fellows to sustain him in all the trials that may come up. He is entering upon a new life and to the young that which is new is always alluring. More than all else, he is in the thick of what is going on and has work to occupy him every minute.

But the mother's part is the waiting part. She must stay at home and watch the papers and yearn for news. She must smother her apprehensions and find solace for her heartache in the knowledge that she is doing her duty.

Yet, in the fact of all this, the mothers of Oregon have done their duty and have sent their boys out cheerfully to do the nation's work. They have realized that the cause is one worthy of any sacrifice that may be made and have put aside their personal feelings and their personal griefs. It is the mother's of Oregon who have made the state's great record for service.

Independence and the adjacent country have a great stake in the war. One full company from Polk county has been sent out and in additions many volunteered for various branches of the service. Therefore Independence is particularly glad at this time to welcome the mothers of Oregon, and in its welcome their is deep sympathy in their disappointment of their son around the Christmas tree to share with them in the festivities of holiday time.

LIGHT THE GREAT CIVILIZER.

The men who are converting our waterpowers into electric light are the missionaries of civilization and progress—the light-bringers who are elevating the moral standards and health of humanity.

The effect of a well-lighted city upon individuals and the community conscience, the deterrent of crime and degeneracy, the saving of police power, minimizing the evil that breeds in the dark, is all good.

Next to music, the greatest civilizer in the world is light. Men who love music and children, it is said, can not be

of evil nature. The same may be said of those who love the light. It exalts almost as much as music. It cleanses, it purifies, it is the enemy of bad dreams and the grouch.

People with devils in them should take the light cure.— It is no less than marvelous how a light bath will rinse the mind of demons.

In telligence is most akin to light. It has always been the poetic figure most in use in describing mental evolution.

When you feel that atavistic tug, sit in the light—sun-light or electric light.

HOW CAN OREGON SAVE THE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

Unless the people and press and business interests of Oregon get busy this state will lose the beet sugar factory built at Grants Pass.

It will be dismantled and moved to the Yakima Valley and this will be the failure of the second sugar beet industry attempted in Oregon.

This is a serious matter and grows out of the very simple fact that labor conditions are such that beets cannot or will not be grown here.

The chemical tests showed that sugar beets could be grown containing sufficient saccharine matter to warrant the plant being built.

Capital came in and built a modern sugar factory capable of handling the product of from six to ten thousand thousand acres of sugar beets.

So we have the capital, transportation facilities, the soil and climate and are lacking on two lines—common labor and irrigation.

The Commercial organization went so far as to offer farmers free use of pumps to irrigate their beet lands and co-operate in other ways.

The long warm summer should have turned off a bumper crop of sugar beets in Oregon, enough to run two factories and another was offered.

But we did not apply the water, and it takes common labor to weed the beets in the rows, to thin them, to hoe them and cut off the tops.

At Independence and Stayton about 700 acres of beets were put out and about 5000 tons of beets were sent to the factory at Grants Pass by railroad—an even 100 cars of beets left Independence alone.

Will the commercial clubs, the state industrial organizations, the various boards of agriculture and labor department of the state help?

What do other states do in such emergencies? Do they make an effort to get labor to make the crop or do they let failure overtake industry?

This is a serious situation and a test case of whether the state of Oregon and Polk county is an efficient commonwealth and can save a great industry. A factory could be located here within a year if the farmers would exercise the same energy as do the Yakima Valley farmers.

There is no real excuse for losing the second sugar industry—the one at La Grande went the same way—for lack of the raw material.

Sugar beet growing and sugar manufacture are highly profitable industries in all the states around us and failure is a state and county disgrace.

The live stock industry, the dairy industry, skilled labor and the pride of our county and state will all suffer if we do not save this industry.

CHURCH UNITY.

Protestants are joining in an effort for church unity. The plan is to hold a worlds conference some time the coming year either in America or Europe, to secure representation from all denominations, and to agree, if possible, upon common grounds of faith and church government.

Unity of effort is desirable if Christian churches are to accomplish their greater work in the world. Disagreement as to minor questions of faith should be easily brushed aside, for evangelical churches have long been growing into agreement that, after all, there is little dispute as to essentials. The day is past, or passing, when "immersion" and "sprinkling" shall divide Christian men and women into rival groups.

Church government may prove a more difficult problem, but if the conference will agree that such questions are not matters of conscience, a serviceable, working, understanding should be possible.

The conference should enter upon its task with full appreciation of causes contributing to multiplicity of churches. It is not, necessarily, the excess number of church edifices that dwarfs church effort, but rather the number of small and insufficient organizations, few working in harmony one with the other. Preventable waste in Christian activity, if it could be determined in dollars and cents, would stagger the ordinary person not wedded to creed and dogma.

Another phase of the problem is the determination of some people to be leaders. Churches, lodges and clubs have been organized to give these people opportunity for leadership. If the world's conference cannot change human nature, a plan may be devised for regulating it.



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Advertisement for Zerolene oil, featuring the slogan "no better oil" and the Zerolene logo with a dog.

Advertisement for The Independence National Bank, listing officials and directors.

Advertisement for D. D. Good's horse-drawn machinery, featuring an illustration of a horse and a man.