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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30

SPECIAL HOLIDAY ACTION WAS SERIOUS MISTAKE

The Guard believes it was a mistake to declare special legal holidays in Oregon in order that the banks might have a rest. Instead of serving the purpose intended it merely called attention to the fact that several of Portland's large financial institutions had emptied their vaults of Oregon money in order to loan to Eastern borrowers on better terms than could be secured at home. With the situation rapidly improving in the East it is more than likely that had the banks continued to do business in their accustomed way they would have passed the crisis without difficulty and their close shave would have taught them a lesson in conservative banking not soon to be forgotten. In the meanwhile Oregon and the entire Northwest would have passed unscathed through a financial panic that has been due to reckless speculation among Wall street bankers and brokers.

That the banks have seen their mistake in requesting the governor to declare the special holidays is evidenced by their reopening for business in Portland today. If they are able to resume business so soon after having undermined confidence by publicly confessing their indiscretions as financiers, how much better able would they have been to have kept going quietly along under the old conditions?

The country need not fear a panic because every material condition augurs to the contrary. Crops were good this fall, prices high, labor in demand and nearly all classes of population have more ready money at their command than ever before. The panic of '92-'93 was preceded by several years of falling prices and bad crops. Mortgages and debts of all kinds had been increasing until the country was practically bankrupt when the crisis came.

At the present time the Northwest was never so prosperous, and even in the East business generally is good outside of the stock markets. All the trouble seems to be with the banking system, and there appears to be no one who quite understands it. In most of its aspects it seems to be a prosperity panic with no sign of "hard times" present or even prospective. Possibly the business of the country has outgrown its actual money supply, just as increasing railroad traffic has produced the car shortage and all its train of evils.

What is needed locally, as well as throughout the country, is common sense action on the part of the people. They should realize that the condition is new and must be worked out carefully by cool-headed business men that their banks are solid, and that it is the duty of every citizen to go about his work and business as usual and refuse to be stampeded or frightened into assisting to make an embarrassing condition an actual menace to prosperity.

ARMY AND NAVY MATTERS IN CONGRESS

Questions affecting the army and navy will arise in the next congress. An effort will be made to secure the passage of a "graded pay" bill for the army, navy, marine corps and revenue cutter service. A bill has been drafted and will be actively pushed. The transfer of the Artillery Corps of the army to the naval establishment has been recommended at the instance of Secretary Taft and this change will be considered. The National Guard, which is more and more being recognized as a strong arm of defense of the country, will also come prominently before congress this winter.

A few years ago the guard was looked upon as an organization of "old soldiers," whose sole claim to credit was their fine appearance in dress parades and drills. With the passage by congress five years ago

of the Dick MURRA Bill, which placed the national guard under the War Department and appropriated money for its encouragement and advancement to an efficient military basis, this sentiment has changed and the guard is now regarded as an able ally of the United States army, capable of responding to a call to arms and participating in actual warfare alongside the regulars. The Dick law specified that the National Guard should conform to the organization of the regular army within five years. This period expires on January 21st next. The last annual report of the Adjutant General of the army showed that a considerable portion of the national guard organization do not conform to the regular establishment as required by the law. This is due in some cases to the disinclination of militia officers to adapt the army organization in the matter of formation of regiments, to the failure of the state legislatures to put the guard on a proper footing and to the lack of recruits in scattered communities to muster the proper militia strength. Since the spring inspection by army officers seven companies of the Georgia militia have disbanded on account of failure to comply with the law, and in Tennessee two regiments have combined in order to conform. Congress will be asked to extend the time of conformation two years from January 21st next and also increase the appropriation to the guard from two to five million dollars annually, which will in all probability be done. Another question affecting the National Guard which will come before congress is the recommendation of General Murray, Chief of Artillery, that there be employed on the defenses of the seacoast states a certain portion of that arm of the organized militia. This is made necessary by reason of the lack of a sufficient coast artillery force to man those defenses. It is also understood that a bill will be brought forward to put the naval militia on the same basis with the navy department as the National Guard holds with the war department.

Senator Elkins of West Virginia, chairman of the Interstate Commerce Committee, does not see the necessity for further railroad legislation. While admitting that federal incorporation and regulation of stock and security issues may come in time, he advises waiting to see if the present laws will not protect the people and at the same time insure prosperity to the roads. He says it is more important to enforce the railroad laws we now have than to enact new statutes on the subject. Mr. Elkins says that owing to the agitation against the railroads, in West Virginia, notwithstanding that two thousand miles of road are needed.

Young "Reggie" Vanderbilt had scarcely become reconciled to the marriage of his sister, Gladys, to a Hungarian count, when his mother informed him of her intention to bring another count into the family, as his step-father. Yet, there are people who think that the rich escape trouble.

Civil war veterans will be interested in the announcement that Congressman Sherwood of Toledo, Ohio, will introduce at the coming session of congress a bill granting a pension of one dollar a day to all veterans who served two years or more in that conflict.

Wonders never cease. Hotty Green, generally credited with being strongly averse to the social game, as played in saloons and restaurants, has been seen in Newport society with a lady, her opinion on the monkey is admitted.

"Mothers is a rule with O. K. the president" is the first "man who carries a baby is a good fellow," but the preponderance of masculine opinion is that he is an unfortunate poor fellow, or he wouldn't have to do it.

Our guess is that those who are now claiming that party lines are no longer viable to the naked eye will find them in plain sight at congress long before the dog star reigns again.

Skidoo, which was allowed to slip through the P. O. D. by some employees not up to snuff, as the name of a Pennsylvania postoffice, has been officially skidooed off the map.

Edison has set a date for the horse to go out of business, on account of his new and cheap electric storage batteries, but we have not noticed any ads of feed dealers rattling prices.

Another bunch of spots has appeared on the sun, which will give those who believe something new to blame for their "hard luck."

Well, anyway, it was better to find out that the Panama canal was too narrow before it was finished than after it, wasn't it?

AN ARMY EPISODE

By HAROLD OTIS.

MISS CORINE STEPTOE was spending the social season with her aunt in the city. Miss Steptoe was the daughter of Colonel Steptoe of the United States army, commanding Fort Atkins, and while at home her social relations were limited to the officers on duty there and to the members of their families.

Though a true army girl, regarding the army her home, she was not averse to enjoying a round of balls and parties in the city, but the idea of marrying out of the circle in which she had been born never entered her head.

Civilians were well enough to dance with, but no man except a soldier need apply for her hand.

Among the youths with whom Miss Steptoe flirted mildly was one whose collar was higher and whose manners were more pronounced than any of the rest.

It was whispered among the ladies that he was the wildest young man in society.

This was certainly not indicated by his name, which was Pettypace. He was the son of a wealthy merchant who seemed to supply him with plenty of money to throw away.

Among those who presented themselves for what Miss Steptoe considered "a good time" none seemed to fill the conditions so well as Jack Pettypace, and just before the close of the season, when she was about to start for the fort, Mr. Pettypace completed what she considered "a good time" by proposing marriage.

"I am sorry you have so misunderstood me," she said in reply. "I am an army girl and do not expect to marry unless in the army."

"What! One of those slow going fellows made to toe the mark like schoolboys?"

"The army is the home of many brave and dashing men," was the bristling reply.

"I think I'll try it myself."

Miss Steptoe laughed.

"I'm going to enlist in the corps under your father's command."

"And have three years of drudgery. Talk about the officers being schoolboys! In the ranks you'll be a prisoner in comparison."

"If I don't like it, I'll leave."

Again Miss Steptoe gave vent to her silvery laugh.

"Oh, I don't care a rap for your army fellows. I'm going to enlist, and when I want to get out of their toils I'll have no difficulty in doing so."

Miss Steptoe laughingly told Mr. Pettypace that if he would enlist in the army and get out of it without deserting, buying his discharge or using political influence, she would accept him for a husband. She limited him to two weeks to accomplish the feat.

Miss Steptoe had scarcely reached her father's quarters when she heard the women gossiping about a recruit who had presented himself for enlistment dressed in the height of fashion and evidently a gentleman.

Many causes were suggested for his having entered the ranks, from a disappointment in love to cheating at cards.

The next morning she was startled at seeing Jack Pettypace walking past before her father's quarters. He did not recognize her, and she had agreed to keep his secret.

A few days later she heard it stated among the officers' wives that the gentlemanly private had gone insane and had been put in a straitjacket. This is a true version of how it happened:

One morning after a horseback ride one of the bachelor officers entered his quarters to find the sentinel who had been on guard before his door standing at the end of his suit of rooms pointing his gun directly at his superior's breast. The sentinel's eyes were wild, and he was muttering incoherently. As soon as his gaze struck the officer he ordered him to halt and stand at attention. The officer lost no time in obeying the order.

"Mutiny! Mutiny! Mutiny!" shrieked the private. "Do you come to your general's quarters to kill him? Turn out the guard! Death to traitors! Would you assassinate the czar?"

While firing these incoherent sentences the lunatic was cackling and cackling his piece, pointing it at the officer's breast, laughing hysterically and muttering to himself,

"The mutineers are coming!" he howled. "They're going to murder their sovereign. I shall kill every mother's son of them, and then my title to the throne will be perfect."

"General—your majesty, I mean," said the officer, "shall I call a force to protect you?"

"Send the Swiss guard!"

In another minute the officer was at the telephone, calling to the sergeant of the guard to bring a dozen men with loaded guns to arrest an enlisted man who had gone insane and was howling in the officers' quarters.

Meanwhile the lunatic was taking a breather from his superior's sideboard to keep him up to his work, and when the guard arrived he had purposely parted with his musket.

But he struggled and screamed as he was hurried off to the guardhouse and thence to a room in the hospital where he was confined by himself.

The insane man's father was communicated with, the soldier's discharge was made out, and he was sent under guard to a private sanitarium.

One morning Jack Pettypace, armed with his discharge papers, visited Fort Atkins and walked straight to the colonel's quarters. His arrival caused a sensation at the post among the officers, their families and the enlisted men.

It culminated when Mrs. Steptoe announced the engagement of her daughter with the "insane" private who, by outwitting the officers and the surgeons, had secured his discharge.

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FOR SALE—A modern 7-room house on West Fifth street. Enquire of owner, 685 Olive street. 020

CORDWOOD FOR SALE—Leave orders with L. G. Brown at Dr. Brown's office in Christian block. 1f

FOR SALE—Single top buggy and harness, also one light one-horse wagon; will sell cheap. Call F. H. Bogges, College Hill. d&w n2

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FOR SALE—In best part of the city, good 8-room house and barn, on lot 58x160; house has hard plaster; good well. On right side of street; good shade and fruit. Lock Box 172, Eugene, Oregon. 1f

FOR SALE BY OWNER—New, 9-room, two-story house—all modern; improved lot 60 by 160 feet, two blocks from street car; worth \$2,500. If taken at once price will be \$2,800. Inquire at this office. 1f

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