

CURING AN ABUSE

Two bills have been introduced in the legislature that if enacted into law would affect considerably the present process of direct legislation. One would require a majority of all voters registered in the state in order to adopt an amendment to the constitution. The other, which has been passed by the house, would do away with petition peddling.

The first is uncalled for, and would probably result in making it impossible to amend the constitution. That, of course, would be no great calamity, for in late years the Oregon constitution has been amended so rapidly that no one has been able to keep pace with the changes. But there is no good reason why a majority vote of the electors taking part in an election should not be enough to amend the constitution of the state. The judgment of the voters in the past has been good, the principal trouble lying in the fact that at each election a frightful mass of measures is presented for consideration.

It is this abuse that would be cured by the second bill referred to. Petition peddling has not only resulted in a lot of nasty scandals in Oregon, but has brought each year an over-load of measures on the ballot. Doing away with name-chasing and requiring petitions to be left with some public official where those wishing to sign could go and put down their names voluntarily would not only prevent petition forging and use of the initiative as a means of blackmail but would reduce materially the number of measures appearing on the ballot at elections. The average voter, we think, will agree that this alone is enough to recommend the plan rather highly.

It may be argued, to be sure, that such a method would make it difficult to get a measure on the ballot by petition, but that is not so much of a drawback as it might be. Direct legislation, to be ideal, should not be employed promiscuously. It should be kept, as Mr. Wilson once aptly remarked, as a club behind the door, to be used in case of need. If the public is really interested in a proposed law, it should not be difficult to secure a sufficient number of voluntary signatures, and if the public is not interested enough to go and sign voluntarily it is pretty fair evidence that the law in question is not of enough importance to be put to a vote.

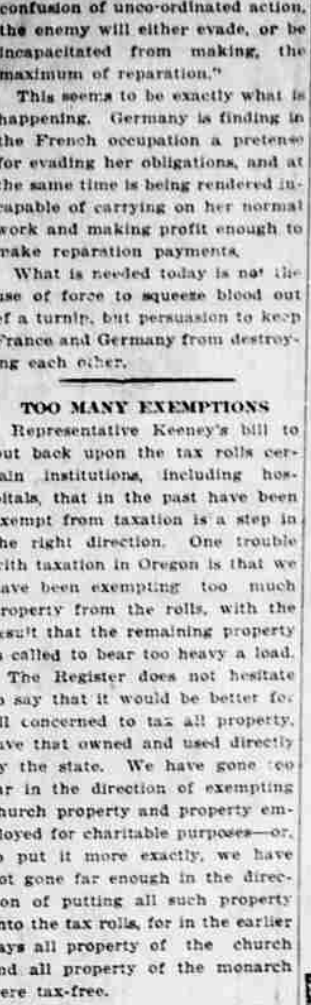
INCONSISTENT

It seems clear enough that France is inconsistent in her invasion of the Ruhr, in view of her opposition to Rumania's invasion of Hungary, in 1919, for the same purpose. On that occasion the Paris peace conference, which was then in session, declared, with the assent of the French government: "If the collection of reparations were to be allowed to degenerate into individual and competitive action by the several allied and associated powers, injustice will be done, and in the confusion of unco-ordinated action the enemy will either evade, or be incapacitated from making, the maximum of reparation."

Talk of inconsistency, however, is hardly profitable just now. All of the nations, including the United States, have been inconsistent in their peace policies, and France is not interested in precedents. But that statement made four years ago is worth recalling because, in the light of today's events, it seems prophetic.

Observers outside of the countries directly interested are, for the most part, little concerned by the "injustice" that may be done to Germany by the French action. But all of the "allied and associated powers" are seriously concerned with the fact that "in the confusion of unco-ordinated action, the enemy will either evade, or be incapacitated from making, the maximum of reparation."

"Lost" British Colonel Found in Ranks



Col. T. E. Lawrence

Colonel T. E. Lawrence was one of the outstanding romantic heroes of the world war. Almost an Arab by inclination, he roused the Arab against the Turks and waged the most picturesque campaign of the whole war. After the war the student-soldier disappeared. Now he had been found, as pictured here, enlisted in the aircraft service as a private soldier, using the name of Ross. His identity was discovered when an inspection officer came across his wonderful library, in ten tongues. He said he had "joined up" to get local color and to find time for his literary pursuits.

Springfield is again happy. The Booth-Kelly mill is in again running day and night. Emerson Stickels, who has been visiting his brother Charles Stickels on Fern Ridge, has returned to his home at Boise, Idaho.

BOGS SAVINGS STAMPS

Warnings have been issued by the government that counterfeit war savings stamps of the issue of 1918 are being offered for sale in this country. Arrests already have been made of persons attempting to pass these counterfeit securities at the banks. According to the federal reserve bank officials, these counterfeit stamps are made in Germany.

It is a swindle striking at the very heart of American thrift. People of all stations and classes have been urged to invest in United States government securities as the very safest sort of purchase. A swindle reaching any considerable dimensions in these notes would be fraught with serious consequences. It is believed, however, that the cheat has been discovered in time to prevent any widespread trouble. Of course, for the individual the way is clear—buy no war savings stamps or accept none in payment of obligations except from persons or institutions known to be reliable.

A new bill in congress proposes reducing immigration by half. Now if we could get rid of half of the undesirables we already have, we could heave a sigh of relief.

The Sunny South has been heavily damaged by frosts. Oregon fogs may be chilly, but they prevent drops in temperature that do severe damage.

There is just a suspicion that the Turks are running a bluff and are trying to see how far they can go without being called.

The weather man is hereby reminded that the valentine we're waiting for is a bit of warm sunshine.

Earlier Days in Eugene

(From the Morning Register, February 7, 1904.)

President E. D. Reesler, of the Monmouth State Normal school, formerly of Eugene, has created a furore among the church people of Monmouth because he allows the students of the school to attend public dances.

A. J. Colt, who has been engaged in the grocery business at Harrisburg, is in the city looking for a location for a barber shop.

Miss Mary F. Berger, of the Shumate and Berger millinery store has left for San Francisco to attend spring openings.

Early Peace With Turks Not Likely

(Continued from page one)

derstood the Turks will require such ships as do not meet with their specifications to leave Smyrna harbor by tomorrow midnight.

Holy City Is Cheerful

(By the Associated Press)

CONSTANTINOPLE, Feb. 6.—Reassuring news from Lausanne indicating new approaches toward a settlement is reflected here in the cheerful tone prevailing in both foreign and Turkish circles. The evening papers say that "barring the unexpected, peace is certain."

There is reason to believe that Ismet Pasha's "about face," after refusal to sign, was due to urgent instructions which left Ankara the same day.

Curzon Issues Statement

(By the Associated Press)

LONDON, Feb. 6.—Marquis Curzon, British foreign secretary, declared today in a statement to the press that he was "content to be judged" by the results of the near east peace conference at Lausanne. He believed that from Lausanne indicating new approaches toward a settlement is reflected here in the cheerful tone prevailing in both foreign and Turkish circles. The evening papers say that "barring the unexpected, peace is certain."

Whatever may be the future," said his statement, "I console myself with one reflection—that whenever I had every excuse for complaining that the allied unity had been endangered by the action of outside parties, I declined to swerve an inch from the position I took up before I went to Lausanne and to which the British delegation adhered unflinchingly for eleven weary days; that it was only by absolutely unbroken solidarity between Great Britain, France and Italy that peace could be won and the treaty signed."

When others talked of separate treaties I rejected the overture, and preferred to fail with my allies rather than win a selfish victory of self interest or national advantage. I am content to be judged by the results."

The statement was issued with a view to clarifying some misunderstanding concerning the final phase of the conference. Lord Curzon emphasized his surprise over the Turk's final refusal to sign when apparently everything in the draft of the treaty had been accepted. He claimed the Turks had been met with a generosity unexampled in dealing with a vanquished power, and that when they refused to sign, M. Bompard of the French delegation denounced their refusal as a "crime."

1922 AUTO TOLL 12,000

TEN CITIES LOSE OVER 100 EACH IN CAR ACCIDENTS

CHICAGO, Feb. 6.—More than 12,000 persons were victims of automobile fatalities in the United States in 1922 and more than 100 persons lost their lives in such accidents in 10 cities. New York and Chicago with their large populations had by far the largest numbers, according to statistics of the National Safety council, made public today.

New York had the largest number of auto fatalities, 745, which did not include the month of December and Chicago 735. Los Angeles ranked third with 321. Other cities ranked as follows: Pittsburgh 18, Detroit 146, St. Louis 121, San Francisco 129, Cleveland 124, Baltimore 122 and Boston 105.

In 78 cities over 50,000 population, 1347 children lost their lives. Springfield, Ohio, and Holyoke, Mass., had the best records, each with two fatalities. Other cities of 50,000 or over had the following automobile death records: Denver 64, Omaha 20, Kansas City, Mo., 58; San Diego 21.

SOME ODD DUNNING METHODS

Collectors Have Various Ways of Bringing Customers to Time

The woman was talking the other day with the man who runs the corner drug store about the way people didn't pay bills. He said he used to know a man in his home town who ran up a tailor bill for some time, and after several requests on the part of the tailor a notation was added to the bill to the effect that an immediate settlement would be appreciated.

The man owing the bill called and gave the tailor his check and said: "Now look here, Abe, I'll pay my bills all right, but don't write anything on the bottom of them."

A few months later another bill remained unpaid in spite of several duplicates sent by Abe, so another was sent on which was scribbled: "You told me not to write anything on your bill—so I won't."

The woman said she used to know of a grocer who, when the bills were too long overdue, wrote on them: "Pay something, if it's only attention."—Chicago Journal.

MOTHERS AND THEIR CHILDREN

Getting His Own Breakfast

My son never wanted to eat very much breakfast until I let him get his own. He took his own egg in a tiny skillet, watched his own toast until it is golden brown, and even cooks his own breakfast food.

The Office Cat

Copyright 1921 by Edgar Allan Moss



HEARD ON THE TRAIN

"Is this seat reserved?" "It seems to be; it hasn't said a word to me since I've been here."

The attorney had talked for over an hour. He noticed what seemed to him insinuation on the part of the court. It was as he had feared—his worship was unable to appreciate the points of his argument.

"I beg your worship's pardon," he said, "but do you follow me?" The magistrate shifted uneasily in his chair.

"I have so far," he answered, "but if I thought I could find my way back alone, I'd turn around now."

WHAT I SAW

A girl in a cafe smiled and cracked the enamel on her face. A flogger was caught in a rain had had the scenery washed off.

An "assistant" is the man who does all the work. Some men we know ought to wear tail lights so those in a hurry won't bump into them.

If the workers in the pajama factories strike, there will be no new show on Broadway next year.

THEIR REAL DANGER

She had studied all the modern fads and was rather amused at the latest theory about kissing. Doctors said it was unhygienic and dangerous.

Finding herself alone with a rather silent young man, she mistook his silence for shyness. "Do you think kissing is dangerous?" she asked.

"Terribly," he answered. "Why? Whatever can it produce?" "Marriage," he snapped.

"Don't you detect people who talk behind your back?" "Yes, especially in a theatre."

Remember, girls, the honey bee doesn't waste much time over an artificial flower. "Why is your wife so jealous of your typist?" "Well, you see, my wife used to be my typist."

A near-sighted man lost his hat in a strong wind. He gave chase, but every time he thought he was catching up with it, it whisked from under his hand. A woman screamed from a nearby farm house.

"What are you doing there?" "He mildly replied that he was trying to retrieve his hat."

"Your hat?" exclaimed the woman. "There it is over there under that stone wall; that's our little black hen you've been chasing."

Today's sunshine is mine, says the optimist, and he leaves tomorrow's clouds for the pessimist.

ASK THEM—THEY KNOW. It only takes a wedding. To make a fellow learn. He thought that she was his'n. But he found that he was her'n.

IMPOSSIBLE TO SET BOUNDARIES FOR GROWTH OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE

William Shakespeare's vocabulary was about 15,000 words. John Milton needed only 8000 different words for "Paradise Lost," while the Old Testament has fewer than 6000 different words. Some people use only about 800 different words, and most of us get along with between 2000 and 3000. A few years ago some peasants in rural England, farm laborers, were found who used about 300. Professor Max Muller (1823-1900), the great Oxford philologist, who was perhaps the greatest authority of his time on this subject, put the number of words in the English language at 100,000. "If we include all the words which have fixed places in the dialect of the country," he said, "and include also many which we know were spoken in earlier times, we shall have to put the total at 400,000 for the English language." The number is

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