

Eastern Clackamas News
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OUR APPETITE

When Socrates, ancient Athenian philosopher, was condemned to drink the hemlock, he did so with the full knowledge that the draught would be fatal and forever end his earthly career. He took the fatal cup in the presence of his friends, acting in full compliance with the edict of the judges who had condemned him, because had he not they would have undoubtedly put him to death in some horrible manner, and thus he became his own executioner. Knowing the fatal effects of the poison, it may be assumed that only under the stress of the law and judgement would he with his full senses, philosophy and learning, have put that to his lips which would deprive him of his most cherished possession, life. This circumstance occurred many centuries ago, and yet may be used to point an illustration. In the present day we find many so dull and indifferent to their own welfare, such bounden slaves to an appetite that they pour down their throats that which just as surely, if not so suddenly, brings them to the portal of an untimely death as did the potion which Socrates sipped. Unlike the old philosopher, they are not compelled to this, but fly to it willfully and of their own accord and pour into their systems the

poison alcohol, as baneful a poison as was the hemlock. Centuries of experience and advancement in civilization, of learning, of daily example, have not taught us how to control the morbid appetite of man and cause him to put to proper use the faculties which should function for his own welfare. The sense of self-preservation is strong enough in us to shun many dangers, from an outward source, to flee from those which threaten our being, to defend our lives in almost every way except in this one matter of our appetites. Seemingly without moral sense to overcome this, we allow ourselves to be bound with its chains until we eventually sink down in utter helplessness to be a condition that damns our very souls. Man as an intelligent being should not permit this, but should stand up in the perfect image in which he was created until it may be said of each one after he has passed from this life, as Plato did of Socrates: "He was the wisest, and justest, and best of all the men I ever knew."

STOCK MANIPULATION

When one views large numbers of signs in empty store buildings denoting that they are FOR RENT by SHARKEY & SKINEM, there's a reason. Usually Shylock demanding his pound of flesh. This is one of the simple explanations. We will now proceed to an explanation of the simple, who assist in this process by mortgaging their incomes for months to come on the "nothing-down-dollar-a-week plan." It costs more to conduct a business, giving such liberal terms. The percentage of losses to the merchant is greater; the cost of collection is greater. The recovery of the used or worn articles upon non-payment is sometimes greater than the articles are worth. The percentage of professional dead-beats is greater. It stands to reason the price placed upon the article must be increased to meet the additional

cost of successfully conducting a business upon this plan. It stands to reason that the simple are paying the additional cost.

Having gone to the bottom of high prices, let us ascend the ladder by which the public utility corporations have solved the proposition of high prices with satisfaction to themselves. Having organized a corporation to furnish gas, heat and electricity, telephones or transportation to a community, as the community grows, so the earnings grow. In order to hide the facts from the dear people, and public officials who have a right to know what percentage they are earning on their investment, the corporation issues bonds drawing six per cent, or increases its capital stock and issues a stock dividend. The dividends in cash, after deducting interest on its bonds, may then run from four per cent to seven per cent. If the earnings increase too rapidly, a holding corporation is organized to take over several subsidiary corporations. This holding corporation may have a capital stock of anywhere from one hundred million to two billions; it may also issue six per cent bonds based on the subsidiary corporation's valuation. It pays up to nine per cent on its stock, besides the interest on its bonds, out of the earnings of the subsidiary corporation to public service bonds for an increase in rates is, that is unable to meet these fixed charges, interest i.e. and earn anything for its stockholders. Or a corporation is organized to furnish light, power and transportation. As in a well conducted business, the management knows just how much each department is earning. The power department may charge such a figure to the transportation department to make it appear that the transportation department is losing money. The power department may show a nice fat earning power. The lighting department may also show an equally fat earning power. Comparisons with other cities may show one company to be charging twenty-five per cent less for its light and power than another under like conditions. The transportation department may ask for an increase in rates because it shows a loss, while the other departments of the same corporation show a nice profit. But the increase in rates will be granted on such a showing; and the dear people pay the price. An extra issue of stock may be floated to absorb the earnings or to take preference over the stock already issued and outstanding. A permit will be issued by a public official to the corporation to sell this extra stock, and the earnings never catch up to the sponges to absorb them. The ultimate consumer reads that this or that public utility corporation has been granted an increase in rates. One corporation may be using saw-dust as fuel, but its rates automatically increase with the cost of oil per barrel, and so the high prices are justified in the eyes of the public utility corporations. And the dear people just can't understand why high prices remain so high.—Contributed.

LET THEM ALL BE ESQUIRES

By Fred L. Boalt

A printed program of the series of lectures which Paul Harvey is to deliver on international affairs at the Lincoln high school next month has come to me through the mail. When I first glanced at it, it caused me some concern.

On the first page of the leaflet is the list of sponsors—an imposing list including my name thus: "Mr. Fred L. Boalt, Editor The Portland News."

Further down the list, which is alphabetically arranged, I find "A. L. Mills, Esq., President First National Bank," and "Edgar B. Piper, Esq., Editor the Oregonian."

"Bring to me," I said to my assistant secretary, my first secretary being for the moment engaged in gathering data for my income tax return,—"bring me the dictionary."

She did. "Look up 'esquire.'" She did. "And tell me what it means." "It means," she said, "a number of things." "Such as—" Originally a shield-bearer or an armour bearer. Neither the editor nor the banker can be truthfully thus described. "Also a candidate for knighthood; thus the title may be given to the eldest sons of knights and their eldest sons, and the eldest sons of the younger sons of peers."

"Shall I go on," asked my assistant secretary? "Please do." "A landed proprietor." "Well I own a 50 by 100 lot out in Walnut Park. Anything else?" "It says here that it is 'a title of courtesy, having no special significance.'" "Will you please read that again?" She did so. My equanimity returned. I dismissed her with a pleasant smile. What do I care? Let them be 'esquires' if they enjoy it. It is a title of courtesy and has no special significance. None at all.—Portland News.

The program we received contained the names of B. F. Ervine, Esq., Editor Portland Journal, and L. R. Wheeler, Esq., Editor the Portland Telegram. We are at a loss to account for the partiality displayed by the News in omitting these learned scribes from the honor accorded Mr. Mills and Mr. Piper. Still greater is our bewilderment in noting the name E. C. Sammons, United States National Bank upon this same program, without prefix or suffix. Has not Sammons' bank larger deposits than Mills? Or is a profit without honor in his own community? Why the sins of omission and commission?

THE PRESIDENT'S DUE

To President Coolidge is due a great deal of credit for the present status of the world court at Washington.

When the fight was hardest and the opposition most furious, a few days ago, he allowed a formal statement to go out to the effect that the vote on the court ought not to be delayed. There is no doubt about the favorable effect of that action by Mr. Coolidge. It heartened the proponents of the court. It probably lined up the senators who were in doubt. It encouraged the democratic supporters of the court.

President Coolidge has supported the court from the first. He appealed for it in his acceptance speech. He followed the honorable course of former President Harding and recommended it in his message to congress.

Mr. Coolidge is hampered in his foreign policy by the noisy battalion of death, composed almost entirely of members of his own party. They are in powerful committee positions. They can do a great deal to hamper his endeavors at home and abroad, and in general are ready to do so.

He had to defy them in taking his decided stand for the world court. He ran counter to most of them in proposing an American delegation to the preliminary meeting of the disarmament conference, proposed by the League of Nations.

Hampered as he is by a divided party, he has kept his face steadily in the direction of world peace. In his late message to congress, he was very clear in his appeal for some step that would lead to disarmament.

If instead of a band of irreconcilables, he had a united party back of him, there is reason to believe that President Coolidge would make American influence felt in the struggle of the nations for a warless world.—Journal.

Notes and Comment

Chad Alton in Sutherland Sun

An organized farm lobby has established itself in Washington, D. C., where it will function six months in the year. There are about one hundred of these minority organizations gathered around congress now whose acts they expect to influence and wise statesmen see in the fact something of a menace to the rest of the country.

The short skirt is not an altogether source of great joy to the female after all. It has served to attract public attention to the feet which the ungodly assert are growing larger. Thus by featuring the item of calves they unwittingly disclose what they would rather keep secret.

The year 1925 was a successful one for Oregon. Bank resources increased 30 millions, the agricultural production was good except a decrease in wheat, which was offset by higher prices, wool growers were benefitted, cattle prices advanced, and lumber reached a large output.

The long controversy over the ownership of Wrangell Island, off the northeast coast of Siberia, in the Arctic Ocean, has been settled for the moment by Russia planting a colony thereon. The bolshevik has a manner of taking things it wants when it wants it.

A retired newspaper man of some prominence says newspapers are going to the dogs, as far as use-

fulness is concerned, because the owners are getting too rich. That is a very unwise remark to make at this time, because our income tax has been turned in and we very much fear its contents will not agree with what the aforesaid gentleman asserts.

Five United States prisoners passing through St. Louis the other day on their way to the pen were met at the depot by friends and sympathizers and tendered flowers, candy and baskets of fine food. Thus a bred disrespect for the law. No one appeared to shower presents upon the officers acting in their line of duty.

Governor Smith of New York announces that at the close of his term he will retire to private life, but that does not signify that he will retire from politics. He has an eye on the presidency, likewise Mr. McAdoo. And the aspirations of these two would split the Democratic party so wide that the Pacific ocean would roll between.

Business men and heads of great industries are at variance in their views on the installment plan of buying. One thing is quite certain, it is an expensive way, because of increased cost and the adding of that more tax upon people who complain of excessive taxation. All installment plans include interest.

A man in Kansas City who took 5 cents from some colored boys, was held in \$20,000 bail. The bootlegger and the moonshiner who violate a sacred-law of the land escape under bonds ranging from \$50 to \$250, and often on their recognizance. The scales of justice need inspection and adjustment.

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Investment Department
820 Electric Building

Portland Electric Power Company

MARCH 22, 1923
1,000,000
DECEMBER 16, 1925
1,500,000
On March 22, 1923, Buick celebrated the building of the millionth Buick. Approximately eighteen years were consumed in the accomplishment.
On December 16, 1925, Buick reached the million and a half mark. A million Buicks in eighteen years—the next half million in two years and nine months.
At the present time, public demand calls for more than 20,000 Buicks every month. This means the next half million in the hands of Buick owners, within two years.
These bare figures tell a graphic story of Buick's continuous advance in public regard. The great acceleration of demand, at the present time, speaks strongly of the increased value and desirability in the Better Buick.
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