

Eastern Clackamas News

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JUVENILE WISDOM

In the light of observation we must be forced to the conclusion that little children display more wisdom than do those of adult growth. It has always been held that added years with their experience has brought to the human being the faculty of better reasoning for his own good and taught him to shun the things which did not operate to his welfare. But we do not find it so. The child who once burns its fingers in a fire needs but the one lesson to tell it never to commit the act again. We do not find it necessary to add a caution, instinctive wisdom tells the child that. Or, if playing in the open it innocently picks up a honey-bee and is stung thereby, the lesson thus learned is never forgotten and the act never repeated. These instances show the superior wisdom with which the young are endowed over that they have as they progress to the adult age. We are not so much concerned with why this is so as the fact that it is so, and it is only necessary to look about us on all sides every day to realize this lack of wisdom displayed as we advance toward maturity. Men commit crimes against society and are sent to prison, and after a term turned loose. In a

large number of these instances they return to their old ways, having failed to gain in wisdom by their punishment. They contract bad habits and had appetites which they have learned are harmful, yet fail to try and correct and not to repeat them, and therefore suffer from lack of wise reasoning. One would naturally suppose that experience, teaching and ordinary intelligence would compel a man addicted to strong drink and the use of narcotics or the commitment of some heinous crime to halt beforehand and display the same amount of wisdom as he did after he first placed his hands in the fire. It might, therefore, be safely argued that "out of the mouths of babes and sucklings" proceeds more of wisdom than from the adult who, by his own acts, goes through the world and out of it again with less of sound reason than he came into it with.

It stands, then, that we of older growth could do well and might much profit by observing the wisdom of little children, fresh from the creative power, as pure and simple as on the first morn of creation. And if education and added years are to make of us less than the least of these, it were perhaps better for the future of the human race that we had never been born.

THE BEST CITY

There are some folks so constituted, that if you put them into the highest class city or town in America, they would look at its institutions and privileges in a depreciating sort of way. They would be constantly remarking that if they could have their way they would go elsewhere, but they merely stay on there because they are forced to by having a job or business there.

And there are some, who if placed in any old ordinary town, where there is nothing out of the usual and no exceptional advantages, will yet love it and say it is the best town on earth. They will be such

loyal friends and good neighbors, that they will attract the affection of all the people they meet. They will feel such deep attachment to a community where these ties exist, that it will seem the best place on earth. And so it will be for them. We need more of that type of folks in Estacada.

CLEAN UP WEEK

These are the days when the home owner and the householder gaze speculatively at the back yard, glance with interest at the collection of partly-filled paint cans without which no garage, barn or basement is complete, and calculate the mileage left in last year's tires.

Nature, assisted a little by the proper public departments, is beginning to clean up; the lawn showed green this morning; there is a green shoot, species unknown, an inch above the ground. Against the back porch the dead limbs of last year's vine hang brown and ugly; all the winds of the earth have plastered waste paper against the fences; the window boxes have the decayed stubs of the annuals no one thought it worth while to remove; the alley is dowdy with a delapidated garbage can and occasional heaps of rubbish which the wind scatters again over nearby yards. This is spring.

The Clean Up and Paint Up campaign which has become a national institution in the United States is designed to capture this reflective contemplation with which one muses on the debris of a vanished winter, and harness it to an impulse. The impulse is nothing less than the will to remove the rubbish, tidy up the lot, front and back, dress the garden, mop up the garage, see the was litter removed, and, if necessary, have a job of painting done on the house before the window boxes are filled.

Homes are intended to be bright, pleasant, and attractive places. There will be many soft days this summer when the cleaned up house and lot will be a grateful spot. Going beyond the return to the owner or occupier, there is the incalculable benefit to the community. Estacada is a city of many beauties, the very chief of these should be the homes. And when the homes have all been made good to look at and around, the stores should also brighten themselves up, and while that is done and while it is being done, good citizens should give their attention to the less attractive portions of the community and see what can be accomplished to make them completely healthy, clean, safe and beautiful.

There are practical considerations of reduced fire risk, and there are the moral considerations of self-respect. Either alone should accomplish the task. Together their argument is irresistible.

Still, it isn't at all glorious to die defending your rights if the other driver is a road hog.

Affluence consists in ability to keep the old car instead of trading it in on a new one.

Notes and Comment

By CHAD ALTON

Someone comes forth with the information that the dandelion is not a weed. Have all our curs words been misdirected?

It is an odd fact that fruit-growers of Eastern Washington who have no bees of their own rent hives from those of other sections to place in their orchards in the blooming season for pollination purposes. Thus doth the little busy bee improve each shining hour.

The United States government has accomplished what many private industries would be glad to know how it is done. It reduced taxation and yet Secretary Mellon reports collection of a greater sum than before the cut. Perhaps those subject to the income tax have become more honest.

To enjoy unrestricted use of the automobile, booze must be kept out of this country. Give us back wines and beer and we might just as well junk our autos and quit building paved roads because not many would care to risk their lives driving where the reckless and drunken had things their own way.

Residents of the great Wellmette Valley are not cheered by the prospect that the river may go dry the coming season through a light snowfall in the higher altitudes. And this dryness will be one that no straw vote can avert nor an appeal to congress change the situation.

Congressmen who think of voting to allow wine and beer again might just as well take their hats off the eg in the congressional cloakroom and check out at their hotels. They will need something more than a straw vote to save their bacon.

There is not a law in all of the thousands that have been enacted that does not in some manner interfere with personal liberty. Trouble is we are too full of desire to do as we please irrespective of the rights of the other fellow.

The Florida land boom has arrived at its inevitable termination and a lot of people who during the craze paid big money now find themselves gazing at a few rods of land and wondering what they are going to do with it.

Governor Hartley of Washington marked his this year celebration of Easter by pardoning or paroling from the state prison and reformatory 177 convicted prisoners. He maintains that of these thus liberated by him 75 per cent are reformed in the past. If true, have made good. If true, such adverse comment of the governor's action should be modified.

Gerald Chapman, arch-criminal, including murder, was officially hanged in Connecticut on the morning of April 5th. His real name was Chartres and came of a respectable family. In his boyhood he

had been an altar boy and was brought up in the Catholic church. But evil companions and petty thieving ended in the last tragedy of his life. Every means known to the law was used to save this man but without avail.

From far-away Thibet comes a woman, Rin Chan Lha Mo, who says American women have too long noses and too big ears. If this semi-barbaric woman had have used more plain language, and said that many of them elevate the nasal organ at those considered below their level, and keep their auditory appendages to readily open and eager to listen to poison gossip concerning some sister making a false step, she would be no doubt less popular as a critic.

In looking over our dirty linen, we have neglected to inspect some of our own American variety, Ketchikan, Southeast Alaska, is said to parallel in wickedness and crime the Mexican city over the California border. In the Alaska town they have a mayor who upheld all sorts of immorality and boasts he mingles in it himself. Criminals, dopesters, fallen women and gamblers, bootleggers and all such are given practically a free hand.

A divorce proctor says that the first year of married life is the most trying and the next four years are just about as bad. Marriage is supposed to be a culmination of love, and just why the ceremony of wedding seems to end the divine passion, is one of the mysteries of human nature. The fact of the death of love or affection after the first twelve months is so marked in so many cases as to suggest the question, "Was it really love that prompted the male and female to unite?"

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