

The deadlocked members of the board had been so long at loggerheads that their relations had swayed back to something like amity. Jim had scarcely entered when Con Bonner addressed the chair.

"Mr. President," said he, "we have with us tonight a young man who needs no introduction to an audience in this place, Mr. Jim Irwin. He thinks we're bullheaded mules, and that all the schools are bad. At the proper time I shall move that we hire him for teacher; and pending that motion, I move that he be given the floor. You've all heard of Mr. Irwin's ability as a white horse, and I know he'll be lauded to wide respect."

Much laughter from the board and the spectators, as Jim arose. He looked upon it as a tribute to himself, while Con Bonner regarded it as a tribute to his successful speech.

"Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Board," said Jim, "I'm not going to tell you anything that you don't know about yourselves. You are simply making a farce of the matter of hiring a teacher for this school. You know, and I know, that even if your silly deadlock is broken by employing a new candidate, the school will be the same old story. It will still be the school it was when I came into it a little ragged boy—here Jim's voice grew a little husky—"and when I left it, a bigger boy, but still as ragged as ever."

There was a slight sensation in the audience, as if, as Con Bonner said about the knock-down, they hadn't thought Jim Irwin could do it.

"Well," said Con, "you've done well to hold your own."

"In all the years I attended this school," Jim went on, "I never did a bit of work in school which was economically useful. No other pupil ever did any real work of the sort farmers' boys and girls should do. We copied city schools—and the schools we copied are poor schools. We made bad copies of them, too. If any of you three men were making a fight for what the Country Life commission called a 'new kind of rural school,' I'd say fight. But you aren't. You're just making individual fights for your favorite teachers."

Jim Irwin made a somewhat lengthy speech after the awkwardness wore off. He adjured Bronson, Bonner and Peterson to study his plan of a new kind of country school—in which the work of the school should be correlated with the life of the home and the farm—a school which would be in the highest degree cultural by being consciously useful and obviously practical.

Sharp spots of applause from the useless hands of Newton Bronson gave the final touch of absurdity to a situation which Jim had felt to be ridiculous all through. Had it not been for Jennie Woodruff's "Humph!" stinging him, had it not been for the absurd notion that perhaps, after they had heard his speech, they would place him in charge of the school, and that he might be able to do something really important in it, he would not have been there. As he sat down, he knew himself a dreamer. The nodding board of directors, the secretary, actually snoring, the bored audience restored the field-hand to a sense of his proper place.

"We have had the privilege of listening," said Con Bonner, rising, "to a great speech, Mr. President. Making a good speech is one thing, and teaching a good school is another, but in order to bring this matter before the board, I nominate Mr. James E. Irwin, the Boy Orator of the Woodruff district, and the new white hope, for the job of teacher of this school, and I move that when he shall have received a majority of the votes of this board, the secretary and president be instructed to enter into a contract with him for the coming year."

The president followed usage when he said: "If there is no objection, it will be so ordered. Prepare the ballots for a vote on the election of teacher, Mr. Secretary."

There was no surprise in view of the nomination of Jim Irwin by the blustering Bonner when the secretary smoothed out the first ballot, and read: "James E. Irwin, one." But when the next slip came forth, "James E. Irwin, two," the board of directors of the Woodruff Independent district were stunned at the slowly dawning knowledge that they had made an election! Before they had rallied, the secretary drew from the box the third and last ballot, and read, "James E. Irwin, three."

President Bronson choked as he announced the result—choked and stammered, and made very hard weather of it, but he went through with the motion, as we all run in our grooves.

"The ballot having shown the unanimous election of James E. Irwin, I declare him elected."

He dropped into his chair, while the secretary, a very methodical man, drew from his portfolio a contract duly drawn up save the name and signature. This he calmly filled out, and passed over to the president, pointing to the dotted line. Mr. Bronson would have signed his own death-warrant at that moment, not to mention a perfectly legal document, and signed with Peterson and Bonner looking on stonily. The secretary signed and showed the contract over to Jim Irwin.

"Sign there," he said.

Jim looked it over, saw the other signatures, and felt an impulse to dodge the whole thing. Then he thought of Jennie Woodruff's "Humph!"—and he signed!

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PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS

National politics got no prominence on the front page of Sunday's Oregonian, except a cartoon in which the elephant, at work on convention plans, calls out: "Hiram, can't you keep quiet?" There is, however, the announcement that the foreign trade council, sitting in Portland, went on record as opposed to the Esch-Cummings railroad law.

That a warning up is in progress is evident, however, in the following headlines on other pages of that issue:

"McAdoo is Leader in Bourbon Group."

"Omaha Has Primary; McAdoo Declared Leading for President."

"League of Nations Issue Still Sticks; Foreign Policy Big Factor in Coming Campaign."

"Local Issues (in Washington state) Vail Presidential Race."

"Idaho Republicans Try to Save State; Borah Still Unopposed."

"Presidential Race Warm Up Locally."

"Hiram Johnson's Friends to Battle for Him."

"League for La Follette."

"Henry Ford's Name to be Placed on Primary Ballot."

And this: "Democratic Women Crazy About William G. McAdoo."

In the senate committee's investigation of graft charges against the management of the veterans' bureau much crookedness in the dispensing of the sacred trust fund has been disclosed. Elias H. Mortimer poses as a complaisant husband who plied Director Forbes with soft pleasures and hard drinks in exchange for soft contracts. Forbes, on the other hand, unhesitatingly brands with crosses against him as liars.

Governor Walton has quit any effort at defense in the impeachment trial which the Ku Klux legislature has been holding, he and his counsel declaring that he cannot have a fair trial in that court. He will take his case to the United States supreme court on the ground that the exclusion of evidence of Ku Klux activities which he offered in his defense, deprived him of a legal right.

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Athens.—American standard food-stuffs are the best in the world, says Dr. Mabel Elliott, famous woman physician, who for the past two years has been medical director of American orphanages in the Near East. From the standpoint of purity and high food value, she asserts that no European nation can compete with the United States, and for this reason she insists on American products in all orphanages and hospitals, in order to meet adequately the needs of undernourished children.

Dr. Elliott's annual report, summing up the results of the care of 50,000 children in orphanages as well as clinics for 50,000 additional children in refugee camps and homes, says:

"Stable American foods are now the backbone of all our menus for rebuilding children who became weak and anemic during the refugee exodus from Asia Minor. Our menus contain, not only bread made from American flour, and corn grits in porridge and stews, but also the liberal use of corn syrup, American condensed milk and American cocoa and macaroni, thus making a balanced ration to meet all the scientific requirements as to relative food values, calories and vitamins.

The favorite orphanage pudding is composed of corn grits with cocoa, sweetened with corn syrup, and made more nutritious and palatable by adding a sauce of American condensed milk. Such a pudding has a high food value and is very economical—no other equivalent food value could be obtained from other foods at twice the cost. Moreover, it is so palatable that children eat it eagerly several times a week, and never seem to tire of it. The American people, in providing for these parentless children such pure and wholesome foods from their own tables, are certainly making a practical application of the golden rule."

Dr. Elliott has recently returned to America to arrange for the publication of a book of her experiences under the title of "Beginning Again at Ararat."

ALBANY DIRECTORY

This is good advice: "If you live in Albany, trade in Albany; if you live in some other town, trade in that town." But in these automobile days many residing elsewhere find it advisable to do at least part of their buying in the larger town. Those who go to Albany to transact business will find the firms named below ready to fill their requirements with courtesy and fairness.

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(Continued from page 1)

The county tax supervisors have approved Halsey's budget.

Mrs. J. G. Jackson, living near Albany, is experimenting with cotton growing and thinks she can make it a success.

After predicting rains that failed to come for several weeks past, the weather clerk reversed gear and last Sunday promised us a week of fair weather.

Ralph Malson, of Shedd, whose name is familiar to those who read reports of stock judging contests, lost the first finger of his right hand in a feed cutter Friday. Two other fingers were badly cut.

The Brock sisters did not sell their Harrisburg confectionery business. They moved to new quarters and another party took over the premises and now there are two confectionery stores with lunch counters where there was one.

Fogs took the sting out of every threatened freeze until this week, and tender plants have enjoyed the entire fall. In the Sutherlin district a spring apple crop is looked for if severe weather fails to come. All the fruit was knocked from the trees by the hail storm in August, but the trees blossomed again and now the fruit is the size of a walnut.

In potential possibilities, as well as in the number of dairy cattle, the Willamette valley is the outstanding dairy section of Oregon, according to Prof. Alfred L. Lomax, of the U. of O. The valley's possibilities as a dairying center, he says, are due to favorable climate, abundant green feed, ready local markets for butter-fat and a steady demand for dairy products, coupled with good roads and efficient railroad service. Foremost in the number of dairy cattle in Oregon is Linn county, which is developing rapidly as a producer of dairy products.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Hill and J. C. Walton are home from their California trip. W. F. White remained at Los Angeles to work at the carpenter trade. Los Angeles has been growing faster than any place on the coast had grown in fifty years, and carpenters from Oregon and Washington have been rushing there, while the receipts of lumber at San Pedro harbor have been "greater than at any other coast port, but the boom has passed its crest and is declining. Most of the buildings going up now are small.

(Continued on page 4)

Wednesday evening, Nov. 28, at the OPERA HOUSE
Children of the 4th, 5th & 6th
Grades, assisted by the I. O. O. F. orchestra, will give an

Entertainment
Proceeds for apparatus for their room.
Admission, 15 and 25c.

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The state tax commission has completed the county tax ratios for the year 1923. These ratios represent the per cent of taxable to full cash value of property generally in each county as determined by the state tax commission.

In order to prevent damage being done to the county roads during the wet season, the Douglas county court has issued an order limiting the loads which trucks may transport on county thoroughfares.

William Eih, charged with first degree murder for the killing of his wife at their home in West Linn in September last, was found guilty by a jury at Oregon City and was sentenced to life imprisonment.