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ATHENA, ORE., FEB. 14, 1913

IMPOSSIBLE TO CHEER UP.

The Gloomy Gus feeling that has come over newspapers and the people at large when a legislature was on, was about to be overcome this year, says the La Grande Observer. But, alas, it is almost impossible to cheer up when one considers the flood of bills already introduced. In national affairs when Wilson was elected the newspapers of the country grumbled their teeth and said "we will not let a period of hard times come," and sincerity marked every word.

The same feeling was felt in Oregon regarding the state legislature.

But what's the use? When men of supposed intelligence get it into their heads they can change not only the judicial code but the moral code, twist the constitution into a corkscrew, add personal popularity to themselves by introduction of bills that are impractical and unjust, what's the use to grit your teeth any longer and say that you like it?

A recess in law making for the next 20 years would be the best thing that Oregon could have. Our statute books are now crowded with law after law that not only lacks enforcement but lacks practicality.

Oregon is in the midst of an epoch when ambitious lawmakers threaten by their wonderful productiveness of impractical laws to set the state back in advancement for a number of years. Take a rest, ye loud toned legislators. Go back to your homes and forget the spotlight and brass bands. Get in and earn something; produce something to add to the world's wealth and to feed the multitude. Do this and you will have contributed more to usefulness than session after session of legislative assemblies.

In describing the ways and means of combatting the mail order house and to take advantage of the parcels post, the Eugene guard thus advises its home merchants:

"Local merchants in all lines must realize that the one way to combat the mail order houses, now that the parcel post is established, is to advertise their goods through the local papers. The newspaper in each community stands for home institutions and is a home industry itself. Properly encouraged it will be able to do a great deal toward educating the people to see the value of building up their own institutions. Mail order business builds up only the large cities, and forces the smaller retail dealer to ask higher prices for his goods, because of his restricted business, and to pay lower prices for the country produce he handles. A large, thriving town benefits the entire community that surrounds it by affording better local markets, and means that business competition will be keener with better stocks to select from than in a place that is properly classed as more dead than alive. And a live town cannot be built up unless the local people spend their money at home, a duty incumbent upon the business man as upon his customers, a potent factor in the work also being the home newspaper."

The uses to which parcels post is being put indicate clearly that it is fast reaching into the business of the express companies and that shipments develop. Not many days ago a baby was sent from its mother's place to its grandmother. All of the requirements of the postoffice department were complied with and the rural carrier had the distinction of having carried the first parcel of the kind in the United States. Fancy a seven or eight pound baby wrapped according to regulation with the bright red stamps of the department attached to a snow white blanket, delivered to its grandmother, several miles distant, by the rural carrier. When this youngster matures, he will have history attached to himself in the making of which he did nothing but consent or protest. When that carrier consigns the job to a successor his proud record will be headed by the story of the baby that rode in the mail wagon as a parcels post package.

Official statistics throw some light upon the conditions which have increased the price of beef. Reports of the Department of Agriculture show that the number of cattle on farms in this country declined from 72,000,000 on January 1, 1907, to 58,000,000 at

the beginning of 1912, although farms were encroaching upon range areas. But the population was growing in those five years. One Western expert says that since 1900 the beef cattle supply has been reduced by 28 per cent, while the increase of population has been about 25 per cent. Prices have risen in obedience to the law of supply and demand. Decrease of supply has out done our exports. Only 33,000 cattle were exported last year, their value being about \$3,000,000. The number exported in 1911 was 104,000, valued at \$14,000,000, and a steady decline is shown since 1904, when 599,000, or \$41,000,000 worth, were shipped. There has been an increase of imports.

A "tobacco census" taken by the Eugene high school club, composed of young men of that institution banded for intellectual and moral betterment, shows that of the 215 young men enrolled in the school 131, or 61 per cent do not use tobacco in any form; 13, or 6 per cent, are occasional users and 71, or 33 per cent, are habitual users of tobacco.

The Agricultural college of Oregon has demand for more agricultural, horticultural and domestic science graduates than can be turned out, and these young men and women are given salaries commensurate with their positions. And today is but the beginning of the "back to the land" era.

COMMUNICATED.

Since there still survives among some Christian people a tendency to minimize the importance of baptism, I wish to call attention to the language of Dr. Charles Edward Locke, pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal church, Los Angeles, on the subject. On Sunday evening, January 5th, 1913, at his regular monthly "question-drawer service," in answer to the question: "Is it necessary to be baptized in order to enter the Kingdom of Heaven?" Dr. Locke said, as reported by the Los Angeles Daily Express of Jan. 6, 1913:

"Baptism is enjoined in the Bible and the true follower of Christ will obey His command. If the rite of baptism were impossible or impracticable to a dying man who had accepted Christ, I do not believe that the omission of the beautiful service would close the gates of heaven to the repentant man. Baptism is a holy sacrament, however, and cannot be omitted without a disregard to the plain and explicit teaching of our Lord." Joseph N. Scott.

THRIFTY NAPOLEON.

He Made Sure of Being Served With Honesty and Economy.

Emperor Napoleon I. dressed in plain clothes, often visited the markets of Paris in order to learn the current prices of food and find out whether his household officers served him with honesty and economy. In "Foreign Reminiscences" Richard Lord Holland says that this was only one illustration of the emperor's thrift and shrewdness.

When the Tuilleries was being repaired Napoleon suspected that the upholsterer's charges were higher than they should be. So he asked one of his ministers, who was with him, how much the ivory egg at the end of the bell rope ought to cost.

"I do not know," was the answer. "It shall be ascertained," said Napoleon. Thereupon he cut off the ivory handle, called for a valet, bade him dress himself in plain clothes, inquire the price of such articles at several shops in Paris and order a dozen as if for himself.

The valet bought them for two-thirds of the price that the emperor had had to pay. Napoleon, inferring that the same overcharge had been made in the other articles, deducted a third from the entire account and informed the tradesman that it was done at his own express command because on investigation he had found the charges to be exorbitant.

A DREAM AND A CRIME.

The Story of a Slumber Vision That Comes From Cicero.

Cicero furnishes us with a tale of two Arcadians, who, traveling together, arrived at Magara, a city of Greece, between Athens and Corinth, where one of them lodged in a friend's house and the other at an inn.

After supper the person who lodged at the private house went to bed and, falling asleep, dreamed that his friend at the inn appeared to him and begged his assistance, because the innkeeper was going to kill him.

The man immediately got out of bed, much frightened at the dream; but, recovering himself and falling asleep again, his friend appeared to him a second time and desired that, as he would not assist him in time, he would at least care not to let his death go unpunished—that the innkeeper, having murdered him, had thrown his body in a cart and covered it with rubbish. He therefore begged that he would be at the city gate in the morning before the cart was out.

Struck with this new dream, he went early to the gate, saw the cart and asked the driver what was in it. The driver immediately fled. The dead body was taken out of the cart and the innkeeper apprehended and executed.

No Secret Telegraph System.

Many persons are of the opinion that the wireless system of communication is particularly subject to tapping; but, according to the Scientific American, no telegraph system is absolutely secret. Any one familiar with the Morse code can read ordinary messages entering any telegraph office. At Poldhu, on a telegraphic wire, the message passing on a government telegraph line a quarter of a mile away can be distinctly read. It has been shown that it is possible to pick up at a distance, on a similar circuit, conversation which

may be passing through a telephone or telegraph wire. On one occasion an investigator was able to interfere from a distance with the working of the ordinary telephones in Liverpool.

Why Rain Clouds Are Black.

The color of a cloud depends on the manner in which the sunlight falls upon it and the position of the observer. It will be noticed that high clouds are always white or light in color, and this is because the light by which they are seen is reflected from the under-surface by the numberless drops of moisture which go to form the cloud. Heavy rain clouds, on the other hand, are found much nearer the earth, and so the light falls on them more directly from above, giving a silver lining to the cloud, though the under-surface appears black owing to the complete reflection and absorption of the light by the upper layers. Seen from above by an observer in a balloon, the blackest rain clouds appear of the most dazzlingly brilliant white.

Death by Boiling.

In old England, before the law was passed which prohibited "cruel and unusual forms of punishment," murderers were often condemned to death by boiling. In such cases the victims were chained in large kettles of cold water, which were gradually heated until it caused the flesh to drop from the bones. The last English victim of the "boiling death" was one Rouse, a cook, who, it was alleged, had killed seventeen persons.

A Bad Egg.

"Owens is trying to strike every one he meets for a loan. He's a bad egg, that fellow."
"Why do you call him that?"
"When he's broke he makes the fact decently conspicuous."—Boston Transcript.

No Deception.

Toff—You told me that horse was free from faults. Why, it's blind, Dealer—Blind? Well, that's not a fault. That's a cruel misfortune.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Those edges somewhat turn that are most keen. A sober moderation stands sure. No violent extremes endure.—Aleya.

GLASS IS PECULIAR.

It Has a Number of Curious and Contradictory Qualities.

Glass is one of the most interesting as well as one of the most peculiar things in the world. It has curious and contradictory qualities, and many astonishing phenomena are connected with it. Brittle and breakable as it is, yet it exceeds almost all other bodies in elasticity.

If two glass balls are made to strike each other at a given force the recoil, by virtue of their elasticity, will be nearly equal to their original impetus. Connected with its brittleness are some very singular facts.

Take a hollow sphere with a hole and stop the hole with the finger, so as to prevent the external and internal air from communicating, and the sphere will fly to pieces by the mere heat of the hand. Vessels made of glass that have been suddenly cooled possess the curious property of being able to resist hard blows given to them from without, but will be instantly shattered by a small particle of flint dropped into their cavities. This property seems to depend upon the comparative thickness of the bottom; the thicker the bottom is the more certain of breakage by this experiment. Some of these vessels, it is stated, have resisted the stroke of a mallet given with sufficient force to drive a nail into wood, and heavy bodies, such as iron, bits of wood, Jasper stone, etc., have been cast into them from a height of two or three feet without any effect, yet a fragment of flint not larger than a pea dropped from a height of three inches has made them fly.

ELIZA WAS GENEROUS.

Her Munificent Offer For an Original Five Act Tragedy.

People are likely to look back commiseratingly upon the past in these days of modern progress. When we hear what the most prolific of present day novelists receives a word and what the weekly royalties of any well known playwrights are we say that the literary profession has come into its own. Some hark back to the contesting tale—that Milton received only £3 for the first copyright of "Paradise Lost," an epic in twelve books containing a total of 10,565 lines, but that was over two centuries ago. Poe received \$10 for "The Raven." That may be dismissed with the statement that poetry never paid.

The modern way of making money by literature is even more recent than is generally thought. Alexander Hill of Cincinnati, one of the best known bookmen and collectors of the middle west, has a letter to his collection of autographs that proves this point.

Two generations ago Eliza Logan was a leading actress in America. Read her letter. O budding genius on the typewriter, and be glad that when you are paid it is space rates for the local paper:

Tremont House, Boston, May 11, 1844.
E. Dussault, Jr., Charlestown, Mass.
Sir—I wish an original five act tragedy—the feature to be a heroine, myself the personator of it; the scene not to be laid in this country; the plot to be original with the author—for which, if I like it, I will pay \$5. Respectfully,
ELIZA LOGAN.

—Boston Post.

American Leaf Colors.

It has been observed that the leaves of American trees, such as maples, scarlet oaks and so forth, which at home exhibit splendid colors in the autumn, fall below their reputation in this regard when transplanted in England or on the continent of Europe. An English observer, who has been studying the causes of the autumn tints of trees, thinks the superiority of our woodlands arises from the soft and mild yet glowing climatic conditions prevailing here in the fall. England, it is added, is rarely blessed with an Indian summer. When the climatic conditions permit the leaves to retain considerable vitality in the autumn the colored pigment is normally developed; hence the glorious forests of the United States. —Chicago Record

JOY OF CREATING.

Put Your Heart in Your Work, No Matter What It May Be.

While every man who makes a living is not a genius, yet the real joy of creating can belong to each of us in just as real and true a way. If we put into farming or banking or our school work the sense of making something we get the great treasure out of it. When we fill any task with ourselves we make something.

A girl says, "I made the room tidy," which simply means she put something of herself into the disorderly room and so beautified it. After she had made it tidy it reflected something of herself; it looked some idea of order such as she had in her own mind. A boy says, "I made a good recitation in school yesterday," and he is right, for, although the lesson was already there, it had to wait for him to come along and make it a recitation.

So it is everywhere. Making anything means, no matter how simple the task, that we bring out something that did not exist before and that that something is to some degree like the maker of it. We get out what we put in. If any one wants to be miserable the surest way is just to do things without putting his whole heart and self into them. Think of the mere outside of the tasks and they are not worth doing. But once put yourself into them and all that is changed.—St. Nicholas.

A LEGAL LEGEND.

The Tale of a Telling Comparison in an Oriental Court.

When Abd-el-Hakk was poor, as he was one day traveling across a weary plain, he came to the house of the Widow Zaidah, who was also poor, but when he made known his hunger she set before him two hard boiled eggs, all the food there was in her house.

Later, when Abd-el-Hakk lived in Marakesh and was very rich, Melud, the lawyer, disliking him, persuaded the Widow Zaidah to sue him for the eggs, but not for the eggs alone, for they would have become two chickens, which in time would have so multiplied that the whole fortune of Abd-el-Hakk would not now pay for them. When the case came to trial the rich man was not in court.

"Why is the defendant not here?" demanded the judge.

"My lord," said counsel for the defense, "he is gone to sow boiled beans."

"Boiled beans?"

"Boiled beans, my lord."

"Is he mad?"

"He is very wise, my lord. Surely he had boiled eggs can be hatched boiled beans will grow."

The suit was promptly dismissed, with costs to the plaintiff.—Pearson's Weekly.

A Wonderful Escape.

Fieschi tried to assassinate King Louis Philippe of France in July, 1835. The king was riding along the lines of the national guard in the Boulevard du Temple. There came a crash and a rush of bullets. Louis Philippe's arm was grazed, his horse was shot in the neck, Marshal Mortier fell dead and about thirteen other people were killed and thirty wounded. Fieschi had taken the upper floors of a house several weeks before and there rigged up an oak frame four feet by three feet six inches, supported on four posts of oak and itself supporting twenty-five gun barrels fixed in grooves at various angles so as to command an area of twenty-five feet in length and ten feet in height. When he fired the train of powder that let off his battery the king would have been killed if four barrels had not burst and two missed fire.

Sorrows of Authorship.

"Paradise Lost" brought Milton only a paltry £5—about \$25 of our money. Hawthorne for twenty years continued to be, to use his own words, "the obscurest man of letters in America." "There is not much market for my wares," he said at another time.

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NOTICE OF FINAL ACCOUNT.

In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Umatilla County.

In the Matter of the Estate of Robert J. Boddy, Deceased.

Notice is hereby given to all persons whom it may concern that Jackson Nelson, administrator of the estate of Robert J. Boddy, deceased, has filed his final account and report and that the judge of the above entitled court has appointed Monday, the 17th day of February, A. D. 1913, at the hour of ten o'clock in the forenoon of said day, as the time, and the County Courthouse at Pendleton, Oregon, as the place, where the said final account and report will be heard and the settlement thereof made.

Dated this 17th day of January, A. D. 1913.

Jackson Nelson, Administrator.

Peterson & Wilson, Attorneys for the Administrator.

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Athena, Oregon. — Pendleton, Oregon

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