

The Observer.

MORO, OREGON.

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During the last fiscal year Uncle Sam received 240 million dollars for postage stamps, stamped envelopes and postal cards, an increase of \$18,000,000. The boom is still on, and parcel post will add to it.

More than a thousand tons of glass will be used in the construction of the buildings at the Panama Pacific International Exposition. 550 tons having already been contracted for use on eight of the main exhibit palaces.

We are sure that but one American in 10,000 understands the currency reform measure just enacted into law. If he were able to explain it so that everybody else could understand it, it would be easier to accept the reform.

The Oregon Agricultural College is one of the great educational institutions of the country. It began in one frame building and 22 students in 1867 and the growth has been such that now it has 23 large buildings and its enrollment last year was nearly 2900.

The public making use of the parcel post are extremely careless in wrapping their packages, using flimsy paper and string that is not strong enough. Unless better wrapped parcel post packages will be refused, the same as an express agent will do if presented to him for forwarding.

Eastern scientist claim they are now able to drain the blood from a human being, wash it of dangerous microbes, and return it without injury to the patient. We would like to know if, after a scrap, could the doctors remove the bad blood that might ensue between the parties to the fracas.

New Year breeds a world of truthful liars. We all make honest resolves to be better and do better the coming 12 months than we did the last year. But we know perfectly well that the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak, and that in a few weeks we shall have added more blocks of good intentions to the infernal pavement.

Three weeks of snow on the ground, such as we have had; or the resulting slush, mud, and water since the melting of the snow should leave nothing to be desired by those who, during the recent summer, were pining for a change. The world is made up of extremes, but not more in matters of weather than of temperament.

A reproduction of the Yellowstone National Park will be one of the features of the concessions district at the Panama Pacific International Exposition. A standard gauge railroad will run through the concession, taking visitors seemingly through the entire park. The cost of the concession is estimated at \$550,000 and it will be one of the most complete of its kind ever built.

Penny Letter Postage

One cent postage promises to be one of the live issues to be fought out in the regular session of congress. A dozen bills have been introduced and it is said that about half of these provide for penny postage outright. It is pointed out by those interested in the subject that the probable large increase in the parcel post revenue would make cheaper postage a possibility without seriously hampering the financial affairs of the postal service.

Upper Columbia Steamers Sold

The open river navigation boats, Queen City, Inland Empire and Relief, and a barge were sold by Sheriff Chrisman at public sale at Celilo last week, on an order issued by the circuit court of Multnomah county to satisfy a mortgage of \$4,600, held by the Security Savings & Trust Company, of Portland. The bank was the only bidder at the sale, and bought the boats for \$30,800. These steamers were used between Celilo and up river points; lack of patronage forced their sale; without them we would never have had the Celilo canal; a work that will be appreciated better in later years.

He Wears Same Sized Hat

Once in a while it does us all good to re-state a fact known to every one; therefore the following from The Dalles Chronicle is a nice way of saying that Nick Sinnott wore the same size hat he always wears during a visit last week to his home city.

Back in Washington, D. C. he is the Honorable Nicholas J. Sinnott, M. C.; he is that all the time of course, but here at home he is the same "Nick" he always was, smoking the same old pipe he hit before he was overwhelmingly chosen by the people of the second Oregon congressional district to represent them in the house of representatives.

Just Twenty Three

He came often and early and stayed too late. Recently, as the clock struck eleven, she asked him if he knew how to take eleven ciphers and make twenty-three out of them. He didn't, so she told him to put down eleven ciphers in a straight line, then to draw a perpendicular line about half an inch long down from the right side of the first, fifth and tenth, and up from the right side of the fourth, seventh and eighth. He read the result, and vanished.

That wasn't as bad, though, as the phonograph rigged up by a cruel father and attached to the clock. At eight it said "Welcome;" at nine "Music hath charms;" at ten "Eat, drink and be merry;" at eleven "Gitt!"

The roadway to success and efficiency is strewn with many wrecks from one cause and another, but the man who would make headway should not spend too much time studying the shortcomings of others that produced these wrecks. A fair share of his time must be given to initiative and the development of his own ability.

The panic that resulted from a false alarm of fire would not have been possible if a moment's thought had been given to their danger by the 75 victims. The safe course to follow in a crowded hall when an alarm is raised is to sit still and to help preserve order and self control. It is better to wait at least a moment or two and size-up the situation then to rush at once and run the risk of increasing the panic and being trampled.

A movement has been started by Lewiston, Idaho, for not only the opening of the Columbia river bar to safe deep vessel navigation, but also the canalization of the Snake river from its mouth to the upper stretches, giving to the entire inland northwest premier position in the matter of independence in transportation matters. The plan of development also carries with it a series of power dams, and bills in this connection are to be early introduced in congress by Congressmen French and Smith of Idaho.

SOMETHING DIFFERENT

An exchange reports a terrible tragedy; man and woman shot in the rear of their apartments; wounds not fatal.

Instead of considering the snow from the side walk standpoint, look at it from the viewpoint of the farmer. "Snowfall insures safety of crops."

A PREFERENCE

U often C a 1,000,000-aire; It's not so much 2 be 1, & yet I'll tell U on the square I'd rather B than C 1.

There aren't enough Gentlemen of the Old School left to have a class reunion.

A great many people have ideas about how newspapers should be edited, but they have never been able to get together much of a newspaper success.

Chicago's new inspector of morals is twenty seven years old. But then only a young man would dare to say that the tango as danced is not "espiglerie." That last word is in the dictionary.

If matrimony were a more exclusive club so many would not have to be knocked out by it.

The trouble with birthday reminiscences of famous women is that they never mention the year.

One swallow does not make a spring, but some fellows seem to think quite a number make a new year.

There was young girl named Stella Who got stuck on a bowlegged fella. So loving was she She sat on his knee, And fell clean through to the cella.

Santa Claus is the last person in the country to economize in his expenditures.

There are two ways to settle the egg problem, stop eating them or else raise chickens.

Merry Social Occasion

One of the most pleasant events of the local holiday season was the Bachelors Dinner at the farm home of Messrs. Wilford Belashe and James Kenny New Years day.

The hosts had been busy for a week past in delving into the mysteries of the culinary art until they had all the mysteries solved to the queens taste when dinner was announced and the fact became apparent that the guests were feasting upon viands that were exceptionally well prepared by the bachelor hosts, excepting the bread.

The dinner was served by the chefs in regulation costume, white caps, jackets, and aprons; and the dinner was voted so unique and satisfying that the guests also insisted upon taking the pictures of the chefs as they stood near the tables.

The menu served was Oyster Soup. Olives. Sweet Pickles. Chicken with Dressing. Irish Potatoes. Sweet Potatoes. String Beans, Lettuce, Celery. Honey. Fruit Salad. Whip Cream Cake. Mince Pie and Cheese. Cherries.

Those enjoying the hospitality of the occasion were Misses Gertie Johnson and Winnie Bailey; Mr. and Mrs. Martin Hansen; Linnie, Darold, and Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Belashe; Herman, Ruth, Evelyn, Arthur, and Mrs. Daisy Christianson; Lotus, Pearl, Francis, Lloyd and Mr. and Mrs. George Hennagin; Ethel and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hennagin; Phillip, Seral, John, Chester and Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Searcy; Addie, Ben, Orville, and Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Hockman; Clarence Sparling.

Abstracts promptly made by the Sherman County Abstract Company, Moro, Oregon.

An increase of ten million in the potato crop of the United States would not affect the cost of living nor will an increase of twenty million. The thing to do is to increase it 100,000,000, which will give us at least one more bushel per capita.

A GREAT FEUD

It Was Between Workers in Wax

By F. A. MITCHEL

More than half a century ago there was a craze for modeling in wax.

Among these waxworkers one became so much more skillful than the others that she at last found herself an object of jealousy to the other workers and the friends. This lady was the young Countess Hildegarde, a person of great modesty, who was not pleased in finding herself in such a position. When it was reported to her that she was an object of envy, that she was exciting antagonism among those at court, she was quite at a loss what to do in the matter.

Her nearest rival was the daughter of Prince Lichtenstein, who ruled over a territory some ten miles square. This princess, Sofia, being betrothed



THE CAPTAIN THREW HIS GLOVE AT THE PRINCESS.

a large fortune, was a person of influence and much sought after by the marriageable young aristocrats attached to the court.

The king heard of the quarrels of the adherents of the two ladies and, naturally taking the part of a princess of the blood, treated Hildegarde with marked coolness. The poor girl was at her wits' end. To be brought into a contest with one so far above her in rank was sure to result disastrously to the weaker vessel. She was not permitted to leave the field, and if she remained in it she would surely come to grief.

To make matters worse, a young officer of the guards du corps, Captain von Helmsmuller, must needs fall in love with the countess and advocated her claims to superiority in waxworking so loudly that he called forth the antagonism of Prince Herbert, the king's youngest son, who was devoted to the Princess Sofia. What had before been a gale now became a hurricane. The king, who deprecated quarrels among his courtiers, strove to quiet the contending parties, but failed. It seemed to Hildegarde that she must retire from court.

But when she mentioned this plan to her partisans they one and all intimated that they would consider such action an acknowledgment of defeat, a desertion of her supporters. The countess, unwilling to leave them in the lurch, after long deliberation finally hit upon an expedient which would show the folly of the war that was being waged and she hoped, would end it.

She induced one of her friends to offer a suggestion that the two rivals each make a wax peach; that the models be exhibited for a time, at the end of which a vote be taken as to which was the better work, the artist receiving the higher vote to be considered in possession of the field, the one receiving the lower vote to refrain from further waxwork.

The suggestion, being talked about, reached the ears of the king, who, seeing in it a possible way to end the war, seized upon it eagerly, issued a command embodying it and adding to it an important feature. He decreed that the artist whose work was voted to excel the other was to be appointed waxworker to his majesty for life.

There was now nothing for it but that the contestants should give their whole attention to the work in hand. The princess took two weeks to do hers, while Hildegarde took but one. When the models were ready for exhibition each contestant put her peach in a glass receptacle provided for it and sent it by her own maid to be placed on a stand in the room of the palace provided for the exhibition. A silver cord stretched across the room, ten feet from the works to be voted on, kept those inspecting from going too near them.

Alas for hopes of peace! The very first day of the exhibition Prince Herbert and Captain von Helmsmuller met in the room where the peaches had been deposited and got into a quarrel over which peach was the better production.

"No one ever saw a peach," said the prince, referring to the countess' work, "of a hue like that—a yellowish brown. And look at the specks on it—they are unnatural!"

"I grant, your royal highness," retorted the captain, "that the other peach is a representation of better fruit, but as to naturalness, why, any one can see easily that it is made of wax."

"Do you mean to tell me," retorted the prince, "that shrunken thing is a

more perfect work of art than the luscious fruit beside it? You are a fool!"

"Were I of the same rank as your royal highness," the captain retorted angrily, "I would teach you that you cannot call an officer of the guards du corps a fool."

"I waive my rank."

"Very well; I will send one of my comrades to your royal highness immediately."

There were but two other persons in the room at the time, and the prince gave them the choice between keeping the matter secret and incriminating his royal displeasure. Both persons promised not to tell, but the affair leaked out and was soon the talk of the court. The prince and the captain were regarded respectively as the champion of the princess and the countess.

Never before was such a hubbub raised in a court of Germany. The king was furious. He at once issued an order confining both his son and the captain in a fortress till he could be assured that they would not fight. He visited the room where the peaches were on exhibition and, seeing that the one that had been made by the princess was a far more beautiful fruit than that made by the countess, felt sure that it would be pronounced so by an overwhelming vote and the controversy would be ended permanently. So he gave orders that the next day at noon the election should take place and that Prince Herbert and Captain von Helmsmuller should be present.

From 9 till 12 the next morning the room where the peaches were deposited was thronged with members of the court. The princess stood near her work and the countess near hers. Just beyond the cord before the princess stood Prince Herbert, and in the same relative position on the other side stood Captain von Helmsmuller, each champion glaring at the other. At 12 o'clock the voting commenced. There was not the slightest doubt as to which would win, for the admiration for the Princess Sofia's work was unbounded, while Hildegarde's was pronounced a miserable, shrivelled little thing of no merit whatever.

At 12 o'clock the king ordered the two champions to act as tellers, and taking their hats in their hands, they collected the votes. The chamberlain counted them and when he had finished announced the result:

"Her royal highness' work has received eighty-seven votes and the Countess Hildegarde's one."

The prince turned and greeted the captain with an insulting laugh. The captain threw his glove at the prince and struck him squarely in the face. The king, seeing his son thus attacked, indignant at such an affront to one of royal blood, gave his royal sanction to the meeting and was about to leave the room when the Countess Hildegarde advanced and, kneeling before him, said:

"It has been decided, your majesty, that I retire from the field of wax-making. It only remains to assure these hot-headed champions that they have no cause for quarrel. Will your majesty deign to inspect the fruit that I have produced?"

Receiving the royal assent, she rose and, going to her work, raised the glass cover and took out the peach. Then, advancing to the king, she broke it in two halves, juice dropping on the floor, and, putting one half in her mouth, she gave the other to his majesty.

"Why, it's not wax at all!" he cried. "It's a real peach."

Then, putting the fruit in his mouth, he smashed his lips. "It's good, too; better than it looks," he exclaimed. For a few moments the assembly stood gazing at one another shamefacedly. Then those nearest the door began to slip out, followed by the others, till none were left but the king, the prince, the princess and the countess.

"My son," said the king, "give the captain your hand."

The prince hesitatingly did as he was bidden, and the captain, delighted that his beloved Hildegarde had shown a higher skill than in waxworking, grasped the prince's hand warmly.

"I am convinced that by your wisdom and adroitness you have ended a feud which if it had continued would have spread over my whole kingdom. What can I do for you to show my appreciation of the service you have rendered?"

"A boon, your majesty!" cried von Helmsmuller. "Let me receive the reward."

He looked at the countess, who, blushing and laughing at the same time, by a nod assented to his request.

"I ask your majesty," said the captain, "that I be rewarded with the lady's hand."

Hildegarde bowed her head and said nothing.

"Be it so," said the king.

The Princess Sofia swept laughingly out of the room. Within a few days the court circular announced her betrothal with Prince Herbert.

And that was the last of the feud of the workers in wax.

A Hopeless Pessimist.

At a gathering of men and women each one in turn was called upon to cite the attribute he or she considered of greatest worth in the formation of character, each attribute to be followed by the name of some one who best embodied it. For instance, a man gave sterling integrity and as his example Abraham Lincoln; a woman, tact, with Mrs. de Maintenon as illustration; another woman, loyalty, adding the name of George Washington. At last it came the turn of a very plain spoken woman, who, in loud, clear tones, cried, "Honesty, and I know of no example, either living or dead."

Legal Note.

Bix—My lawyer tells me I have a strong case. Dix—He probably means that it is one that will last for years.—Boston Transcript.

Poor Guesses.

Patience—Is Will good at guessing games? Patrice—I think not. He said he guessed I'd learn to love him.—Yonkers Statesman.

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