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ALBANY, OREGON, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27

TWO THANKSGIVINGS

A year ago it was easy to give thanks. Gratitude welled naturally from American hearts. The armistice had just been signed. The United States had emerged victorious from the greatest of wars, with full credit for the victory. The name American was honored throughout the earth as the synonym of such a combination of courage, freedom, democracy, broadmindedness and generosity as the selfish old world had never seen. Conditions at home were equally pleasing. There was universal good feeling. The American people were functioning as a great, patriotic, efficient unit. The nation was at its best—at the apex of domestic virtue and foreign honor.

And now? The land seethes with discontent. Capital and labor are fighting for profit and power, indifferent to the public welfare. Violent radicalism is showing its ugly head. Political parties have turned from co-operative service to destructive partisan bickering. The program of reconstruction has been wrecked. The Senate, after long months of quarrel, has failed to agree on any acceptable form of ratification of the peace treaty, and thus held up the peace of Europe and the remaking of the world.

The American people have seemingly repudiated the fine professions of principle and service with which they fought the war. The war-time virtues are strangely obscured. Abroad there is seen, ever more clearly, a tendency to distrust America, and to scorn us as a nation of cynical hypocrites. This is especially true of our allies, who trusted us most.

It is difficult, then, for an American eager for his country's welfare and sensitive of her honor, to approach this Thanksgiving time in a spirit of thanks. His feeling, at best, is somewhat negative—it contents itself with thanking Heaven that things are not worse.

They could not be much worse; and therefore they must shortly change for the better. Surely this is a merely temporary relaxing of American effort and dimming of the American soul. Such a lapse followed the Civil War. Surely the nation will find itself again, and purge itself of its present sins, and show itself still the strong, honest, generous, unafraid Big Brother of the World that won the war and saved civilization and heralded a better age.

CHRISTMAS SANITY

Doing it early has its merits. Doing it sanely has more. This is not a time for foolish and extravagant buying. Nor does wasteful luxury benefit merchants or manufacturers in the long run. They, too, are part of the economic whole, and must suffer in one way and another from the wastefulness of the people just as everyone else does.

Christmas is no time to be stingy, however. There is probably no joy so pure and satisfying as that of making gifts to those one loves. There is every reason in the world why everyone should share that joy.

But may there not be measure in all things? Is not a small gift, but well-made, substantial, better to give than an object showier, perhaps, but made only for the moment?

And would not one's real friends prefer that one make gifts which come reasonably within one's buying power than things which cramp the giver for months thereafter?

ANCIENT PROFITEERING

Any age is prone to fancy that its own problems are new. Take profiteering, for example, and the "middleman" problem. One might suppose, from most current discussions, that such evils had never been heard of before.

Well, when the Great Wall of China—now fallen to decay—was new, its builder, Chihoangti, was complaining: "Intermediaries are exacting from the people a greater share for their non-productive occupation than the producer is given for his labor, more than the 'tithe' of the priest, and still more than the All-High One ever demanded as payment for eternal bliss."

The Jewish prophets were always roasting profiteers. The old Roman emperors tried fixing the price of wheat. The Old Testament tells how Elisha, with an order from the Lord, set the price of flour.

Thousands of years ago, as the Talmud tells, the

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Hebrew authorities forbade any merchant to make a profit of more than one-sixth of the cost price.
Nothing new under the sun!

Comment of the State Press

Snappy Gleanings from the Press of the Valley

"I Told You So"

Twenty people were trapped and burned to death in a Louisiana dance hall because the stairs were narrow and flimsily built, and now everyone is indignant. It is mighty easy to see what ought to have been done after it is too late.—Register.

Ouch!

A Cottage Grove dispatch says that an unidentified man committed suicide there and no reason has been discovered for the act. Perhaps the man was merely afraid he might have to spend the rest of his days in Cottage Grove, thinks Bro. Ingalls.

We Don't Dispute It—

When a man disputes with a fool the fool is doing the same thing, the Polk Itimizer points out.

The Berry Game—

Fruit juice and preserving plants are bringing Oregon, and especially Western Oregon, to the attention of the world through their national advertising, says the Yaquina News. One organization alone is creating such a demand for its products that it is literally forcing prosperity on numerous communities by the market it has created for small fruits of all kinds.

The Idaho Way—

Up in Idaho they sent a fellow convicted of being an I. W. W. organizer to prison for five to ten years. Down here in Oregon we generally give them free board and lodging in the county jail from 30 to 60 days, complains the Guard.

Ancient Spectacles—

The trouble with a good many who do their duty as they see it is that they're short-sighted, — Roseburg News.

After 9 P. M.—

Let no one sneer at the ringing of the curfew bell as a signal for youngsters to get off the streets and go home. In these days we need more of the homely, old-fashioned village virtues and less of the modern city vices, thinks the Register.

From Bad to Worse—

The feeling of the Multnomah county grand jury on the subject of a scaffold are shared by a very large number of people in this region, says the East Oregonian. Bandits and I. W. W. are becoming a bit too numerous.

Without a Kick in It

Since kicks are unlawful and knockers taboo
By H. & A.

NOW and THEN OR THEN and NOW

There was a time when sugar could be purchased,
There was a time when stores were glad to sell;
But long, long since that time has surceased.
Now you're allowed to fill a peanut shell.

There was a time when Johnny minded Papa,
When Sister Susie got the meals for Ma;
But now the Old Man's glad if he can cop a
Chunk of something edible and eat it raw.

O woe is me, the Age of Sin's upon us,
Day of trials, triba-, weeping and of gnash;
But we should fret, for we draw a fat bonus
From the boss, with which to fertilize our hash. A.

We Can Think of No Head for This One

Every dog has his day, but the cat has all night.

Married Man Can Regain Digestion

WANTED—Man to feed cattle, 4 months. Has to batch. F. H. Pfeiffer, 441J. 24n27

Wouldn't It RASP You?

If you suddenly decided to go for a hunt in the hills with your pal.

And you hurried home to tell the wife to fix you up some grub.

And in your haste you neglected to take inventory of that lunch until you had arrived at camp.

And you found that the lunch consisted of a wedge of lemon pie

And three Coconut sandwiches

And a half-pint of Date Charlotte

And a Napkin

AND some toothpicks

And a Sliver of bacon—

Now wouldn't that rasp you? H.

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