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ALBANY, OREGON, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

NATIONAL FUTILITY

A nation as a whole is generally a blundering incompetent. The United States is no exception. Doubtless it functions better, on the whole, than most other nations but still it leaves much to be desired. It ought to function far better than the rest because of the individual superiority of the average American to the average European in matters of practical efficiency. The nation as a whole does not begin to do its work as well as its representative citizens do their private work.

Take the present industrial situation. Here is this country, with more coal than there is in all the rest of the world together, and its people freezing and its industries closing for lack of fuel. Never mind details—the big fact is, we can't dig and distribute our coal.

Here is plenty of foodstuffs, and yet food is almost inaccessible to large numbers of people because of local scarcities and universally high prices. We can raise food, but evidently we don't know how to pass it around so that everybody gets his proper share.

Here is plenty of iron, plenty of copper, plenty of wood, plenty of nearly every kind of raw material, and also plenty of labor to turn it to human use, and yet there is a "scarcity" of nearly all the commodities of life.

We have some people overworked (though not just at present, it must be admitted) and others in forced idleness. We have some people making too much money and others not getting what they deserve, and trouble continually developing from the unfair division. Everywhere the economic machinery is creaking and groaning and cracking.

It is the same in politics or government. Imagine the board of directors of any private corporation fumbling and dawdling and milling around the way our state and national legislatures generally do, and have been doing more than ever of late.

What can be done about it? We don't know. But isn't it strange that people so efficient individually and in small groups should come so dismally short of their ideals when they try to act in large masses?

Sometimes we do see a nation really organized, functioning as one big organism with a brain directing it. Germany was like that, under Kaiserism. We do not want to pay the price for it that Germany paid. This nation itself

was like that during the war—we functioned as an organic whole, all working together for a common, conscious purpose, every class playing its part as an argon in the big, complex organism. But we do not want to pay the war-price right along for such results.

Can a nation never be as sensible, intelligent, energetic and effective, in time of peace, as its average citizen?

Without a Kick in It

Since kicks are unlawful and knockers taboo

By H. & A.

EPITAPH

Here Lie, as usual, H. & A. They lost much sleep thinking up jibes to poke at humanity; may they sleep thru the Resurrection, and Satan poke some of their own stuff back at them.

~*~*~

Sob Song

The poor benighted Hindu!
He hasn't any clothes!
He has to make his skindul!
And that, as Goodness knows!
Is not a mild exposure!
'Mid winter wild and snows!
! ! !
We'll have to put a drive on!
To clothe the poor brown boy!
He surely cannot thrive on
Dream trousers and shirts of joy!
~*~*~

In Languid San Fran.

A Linn county honeymooner in Frisco stopped at a "swell" hotel, asking the bellboy when they had breakfast. "Breakfast from 6 to 11, lunch from 11 to 3, and dinner from 3 to 12."

"Well, say, when in thunder do I see the burg?"
~*~*~

Vocabulary Club

POLITICS: 1—The oldest gambling game. 2—The Trouble with the World. 3—A craft wherein man breaks his neck to get a job without apparently trying. 4—The bulwark of democracy. 5—The bull of republicanism. 6—The target of Reformers. 7—The father of White Smiles and Hypocrisy. 8—The hope of the world.

Comment of the State Press

Snappy Gleanings from the Press of the Valley

And all the Staves Did Shrink—
There are 39,000,000 gallons of whiskey in Kentucky and the war time prohibition act has been declared constitutional. "Whiskey, whiskey everywhere, but not a drop to drink!"

An Essential Minority—
Just one half of one percent of our population quit work in the coal mines and brought on a threatened calamity. Thus do we see how important is each link in the chain of our complex civilization, the Gazette-Times points out.

Price Depends on Quality—
Liberty has cost only \$6 per capita per annum in Greece and Serbia, \$7.50 in Bulgaria, \$9 in Switzerland, \$13 in Sweden, \$14 in Portugal, \$15 in Norway, while in Ireland British militarism costs about \$40 per capita per annum, says the Brownsville Times.

A Mercy Taken—
All the funds that result from the sale of Red Cross Christmas seals are used to meet the necessary expense of organized attack upon that ancient enemy of humanity, tuberculosis. The Red Cross Christmas seal is the modern offering of the wise men who followed the star.—Portland Journal.

Build Well—
Water pipes here will freeze as long as people build on California ideas, insists the Oregonian. It will be well to consider this when the revival in building homes sets in, in the spring. There is but one person more disgusted than the man whose pipes are frozen, and that is his wife.

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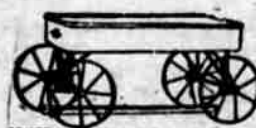
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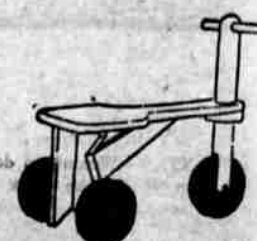
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