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PHONE 96

ALBANY, OREGON, FRIDAY, MARCH 12

AFRAID OF THE LEAGUE?

While the treaty fight drags on in the Senate, and every conceivable objection to the League of Nations covenant is amplified and made most of by enemies of the treaty, and partisan passions tend to obscure facts more than ever, it may tend to calmness and sanity on this subject if quarreling factionists will note the present attitude of the world's leading neutral nations toward this League.

Three important Latin-American republics have declared their adherence to the League "unreservedly." They are Argentina, Chili and Paraguay.

At the same time Spain, the most important neutral in Europe, votes "without reserve" to enter the League. Norway, Sweden and Switzerland do the same thing, and so does Persia.

None of these nations seem to be afraid that they are assuming improper obligations or forfeiting their national sovereignty. All of them agree to play their part, without evasion, in helping to preserve the world's peace. Their action seems particularly bold, because they are going to have little to say in shaping the League's decisions—it is the big allied powers that will determine policies and obligations.

It is all right, no doubt, for the United States to qualify its adherence to the League by such explanatory reservations as make perfectly plain what part this country can play, consistently with its history and traditional policies. But has not all this reservation business been carried to quite unnecessary lengths? When a Uruguay or a Denmark or a Switzerland steps forward and assumes the burdens and responsibilities of the League without fear, does not the recent attitude of the United States—which can virtually dominate the League when once in it—appear rather cowardly and shameful?

NOT EXCUSES, BUT SERVICE

For several years the principal activity in the railroad business has been "passing the buck." Before the government took over the roads, the railroad executives were always explaining that transportation imperfections were due to governmental restriction. Under government operation, the federal operators never permitted the public to forget that they were handicapped by a system that had "broken down" under private ownership and control. Now the owners are busily complaining that the public need not expect much from them for some time to come, because of the depleted condition of the property as it comes back into their hands.

There has been plenty of truth in all these contentions, and there is no question that the railroad men are now facing serious difficulties, many of which are not of their making. But the public is tired of excuses, and little interested in past history. What the people want now is service.

No doubt the people are expecting too much of the roads. This, however, is largely the result of the lavish promises made by the railroad men themselves, when they were pleading for the return of their property. They will now be held to those promises, and judged by performance.

The public will not expect a miracle all at once. No doubt the private executives will be allowed, in the mind of the ordinary citizen, a reasonable time to make good. But make good they must, if they are to retain the public confidence that they now seem to enjoy. If railroad service is not improved all along the line, in both freight and passenger departments, before the end of the year, there will be a



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revulsion of sentiment, not necessarily in favor of public ownership, but certainly in favor of a much larger measure of public control.

The Senate Agricultural Committee has voted to eliminate from the annual agriculture bill the \$240,000 voted by the House to continue the custom of distributing free seeds to constituents. Of course the new secretary of agriculture recommended this move, but if such sensible recommendations are followed too closely how will congressmen get themselves re-elected?

Comments of the State Press

Needs a Maid—

A Nebraska woman is asking for a divorce because her husband won't wash the dishes. She doesn't need a husband. She needs a maid.—Columbian-Astoria.

Laying on of Hands—

Now we have a man who claims to get away with all ills of human beings by the "laying on of hands." This is no new wrinkle. Many a youngster has been completely "cured" by the "laying on of hand" process and some of the older heads have been "swung around."—Evening News Roseburg.

Naval Officer—

Admiral Sims says he has shown up mistakes in navy politics because he considered it his duty to do so. Most people will agree with him as against Secretary Daniel's stand that a naval officer should keep his mouth shut, no matter what happens.—Oregonian.

Article 10 or Eight—

In his statement yesterday President Wilson proved that sick man or well, he is still the clear-cut thinking, broadest visioned man who ever sat in the white house. His explanations why article 10 must not be destroyed are clear cut and masterful. They cannot be refuted. They make the words of senate obstructionists sound like contemptible drivel.—East Oregonian.

Dog Meat—

The federal department of justice has solved the high cost of meat and says that hereafter every family can have cheap meat. All it has to do is to ask for the cheaper cuts. If it is still not cheap enough, no doubt the attorney general will urge them to eat dog meat.—Gazette Times.

Attorney for "Reds"—

W. S. U'Ren is now the regular attorney for all the "reds" and radical-charged with law violation in Portland. It is only a step after all from democracy to anarchy, and the trouble is that the many half-baked intellects cannot discern the line of demarcation.—Eugene Guard.

TODAY'S EVENTS

One hundredth anniversary of the death of Sir Alexander Mackenzie, the famous explorer of Canada.

Chief Justice White today completes his twenty-sixth year on the supreme bench of the United States.

Gen. John J. Pershing is to be the principal guest at a reception tonight of the Southern Society of Washington, D. C.

At Indianapolis today Gen. Leonard Wood is to hold conference with Indiana Republican leaders favorable to his presidency candidacy.

Governor Milliken, Senator Hale and other eminent sons of Maine are to be guests of the Maine Society of New York at a dinner and dance tonight in celebration of the centennial of Maine Statehood.

Organization of an inter-allied commission to investigate conditions in Russia is expected to be taken up by the League of Nations Council at a meeting to begin today in Paris.

Native Poetry

PREJUDICE

(By Guy Fitch Phelps)

It has no eyes, no ears, no heart,
No brain, no soul, this thing called
Prejudice.

But heavy lipped and with obdurate
jaw

And eyes obfuscate it walks the round
Of martyr's pyres. Nor obsecrate
hands

Which plead for pity its dark breast
may move.

To it there is no beauty truth or love;
No praise for virtue and no pride in
worth;

But dead to these, and dead to God and
right,

With brutal brow and squalid shufflings
It hovers at the van of all progression,
And with ape arms and fist of wickedness

Strikes every angel of advancement
down.

Buy A Home

We offer for sale the Harry Stearns property located at No. 326 W. 7th St. The owner is leaving Albany and has reduced the price from \$3,000 to \$2,600. The lot alone is worth \$2,000.

The cottage is plastered, has good modern plumbing and bath, 2 bed rooms, living room, dining room, kitchen, pantry, bath, basement, laundry tubs, electricity wired in for lights and electric stove. Pavement is laid for also cement walks, 7 bearing fruit trees, lot is full size 66x110 feet.

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MISFITS --- HIS COLUMN

BY F. P. NUTTING

Timely Comments and Gleanings of News from Here, There and Everywhere by a Former Editor of the Democrat

By F. P. Nutting

Married March 10, 1870, at Monmouth, Ill., Jas. Mitchell Pollock and Miss Lida Shaw, lived ever happily together. Last Wednesday evening, at their pleasant home in Rose Park the golden anniversary of the event was remembered in a delightful manner, enjoyed with the worthy couple by a number of their many friends, of whom the writer was a fortunate one. The rooms were tastefully decorated with the season's best golden flowers. In keeping with the golden affair a pleasing ceremony was performed by Rev. Seeley, state missionary of the Presbyterian church, full of wit and good cheer. During the evening a poem written by a relative, in the east, was read, suggestive of the event. Miss Olive Baltimore, of the Washington high school, formerly of Albany, read a bright poem in honor of the affair. The "Golden Days" song, composed by J. C. Irvine, of Albany, was sung by Dr. and Mrs. McMichael and made a hit.

Mrs. Olive Miller Nutting, an old friend of the family, was heard in a

couple of songs in keeping with the anniversary celebration. Delicious refreshments were served.

Mr. and Mrs. Pollock came from the East to Oregon in 1891, locating in Albany, where they resided until 1899, making many friends for themselves and family. They have two children, Harry Pollock, a captain in the Portland fire department, and Miss Mae Pollock, a graduate of Albany College, then a teacher in the Albany schools, afterwards going to Portland, where she has taught for many years, one of the city's best teachers. Mr. and Mrs. Pollock afterwards resided in Junction, Dallas and Forest Grove, before settling in Portland about seven years ago.

Splendid people, active in good works, they deserve many returns of their wedding anniversary, and the writer certainly hopes to be able to attend their diamond anniversary twenty-five years hence, and promises if they will remember the event he will do his best to be on hand with another kiss for the bride.

Do You Know That

Nowadays, it has become a figure in billions, yet few people are able to visualize the amount which the term "billion" symbolizes. Some idea, however, may be had from the statement that a person 32 years and nine months old has only lived a billion seconds.

Japan is preparing to build a pyramid for the first emperor, Jimmu Tenno, somewhere in the suburbs of Tokyo, and for this purpose a committee of prominent men will collect a stone from every subject of the empire. It is the intention to make this the highest structure in the Far East. Serbia is the land of centenarians. In that country, figuring on the pre-

sent number of centenarians in proportion the whole population, one person in every 2,260 lives to the age of 100 years. In Denmark and Switzerland, on the other hand, the average is less than one to a million of population.

The muzzle velocity of the shells that the Germans fired into Paris is believed to have been about one mile a second. It is calculated that a shell with a muzzle velocity of five miles a second, if fired at the correct angle would become an attendant satellite of the earth, and would go round it in less than one and a half hours. If the speed were increased to seven miles a second, the shell would go off into space altogether, and presumably could be sent to the moon if correctly aimed.

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