I got out of bed and went down! "Did he kill himself?"

There was something horrible in the black depths of the lower hall.

THE SPRINGFIELD NEWS

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GERMAN RESPONSIBILITY

Having been over a great part of the devasted areas of France and Belgium we do not sympathize with the agitation to release Germany from reparation payments. Certainly when one country goes wild and lays waste to others it should be made to pay for it. The property damage to France and Belgium as a result of the war can hardly be estimated. It will take many generations to repair these damages.

Germany was untouched, except for the loss of her man power, by the great war. She has been allowed to become the world's greatest borrower following the war and much of this money has gone into public improvements and into reloans to individuals to build factories, apartment houses and store and office buildings. Certainly a country which has lost several million men did not need all this expansion to take care of its own.

Germany is now trying to wriggle out of both her borrowed debts and the reparation payments. Threats of Bolshevism are hurled at the world. The German people have too much sense for this in our estimation. They are no more likely to turn bolshevik than is America. This is but a brand of their sly propaganda learned so well by them during the war. We do not believe the American government, at the expense of its own people, will let Germany "get away" with this sort of irresponsibility and we are quite certain France will not, even if she has to move back into the Ruhr.

WHO PAYS THE TAXES

The valuation of the taxable property in Oregon for 1931 was \$905,847,238.52, according to the state tax commission. This is a decline of about 35 million dollars from the previous year.

Tillable Land, 10,525,256.92 acres, value	\$231,349,271.17
Non-tillable, 13,773,148.67 acres, value	72,338,920.00
Improvements on Deeded or Patented Lands	47,760,132.00
Livestock, mostly on farms	20,951,195.00
Town and city lots, value	209,766,041.00
Improvements on lots, value	
Public Utilities, value	
Timber lands, 2,777,789.74 acres, value	58,227,857.00

An analysis of the above figures will show that farm property is about 32 per cent of the total state valuation, city property over 42 per cent and public utilities, timber lands and miscellaneous about 25 per cent. If tax millages were even throughout the state this percentage would hold as to the amount of burden each class would bear. This not being the case one may guess that the farmer pays less than 20 per cent of all taxes, the city property owners more than 50 per cent and the utilities and timber owners about 30 per cent.

Only nine amendments to the United States constitution have been adopted since 1791 out of over 2000 proposed. Even a Democratic congress will have a hard time putting anything permanent over on us.

Japan is some times called Nippon. We wonder if this comes from her prolonged relations with China.



PROPHETS

A man who was an officer in France told me this story, which is interesting and may be true.

He said that on November 10, 1918, a friend of his went into our headquarters and stopped beside the desk of an officer who was engaged in statistical work. The officer had been so busy with his charts and figures that he had hardly left his office for days.

The visitor said to him: "Well, I guess it's about all over.

"What do you mean?" asked the statistican.

"Why, the armtistice will be declared tomorrow."

"Nonsense," the statistican exclaimed. "This war is going on for another five years." Whereupon he drew out his graphs and his charts and proceeded to prove it.

Here's another story, told me by a banker.

In November, 1930, the ten leading economists of the United States held a secret conclave and took a ballot on

how long the business depression would last. One of them said it would be over in six months.

Four said it would last from one to three years.

The other five said it would last from three to five

"If they are right, the outlook is pretty gloomy, isn't it?". I said it certainly was.

"There is just one joker in the story as I told it," he added. "That the meeting was not held in November, 1930. It was held in November, 1920. And that depression came to a close, as we now know, in August, 1921.

Looking back over history, we can see that prophecy has always been a dangerous business. But as between the optimistic prophets and the pessimistic the balance is in favor of the optimists.

Old Mother Shipton, in the early 1500's, prophesied that "iron upon the sea would float as easily as a wooden boat." She foretold the ar-plane, the submarine, and the telephone. She was suspected then of being crazy, but she does not look so crazy now.

John Law, of Mississippi Bubble fame, sold shares in his vast concessions on this continent. Speculation ran them up to wild prices, and the ensuing panic ruined thousands. But those concessions represented the richest part of the United States. Even at their highest prices they would be cheap today.

I do not intend to join the ill-fated company of prophets. I merely record my general agreement with the late P. T. Barnum, who said:

'If the truth were known I think it would be found that in this wide-awake country more people are fooled by believing too little than ever were fooled by believing too



FIFTH INSTALMENT

SYNOPSIS

At the first sitting the medium tells the At the first sitting the medium tells the details of a murder as it is occurring. Later that alight Sperry learns that a neighbor, Arthur Wells, has been shot mysteriously. With Johnson he goes to the Wells residence and they find confirmation of the medium's account. Mrs. Wells tells them her husband shot himself in a fit of depression.

The French maid admits she was out at the time Wells was shot, telephoning from a nearby drug store. Johnson goes to the drug store where the clerk tells him the maid shoned to the Ellingham house, telling somebody there not "to call that night." my wife came into my bedroom, and stated flatly that there were burglars in the house.

"Do you know that Arthur Wells is dead?"

"Yes. He is dead."

NOW GO ON WITH THE STORY

When I told him it was a case of suicide, he remarked, philosophically: "A lot of people get the bug once in a while, they come in here for a dose of sudden death, and it takes watching. It's a matter of the point of view," he continued more cheerfully. "And my point of view just now is that this place is darned cold and so's the street. You'd better have a little something to warm you up be-fore you go out, Mr. Johnson."

I was chilled through, to tell the truth, and although I rarely drink anything I went back with him and took an ounce or two of villainous whiskey, poured out of a jug into a graduated glass. It is with deep humilation of spirit I record that a housemaid coming into my library at seven o'clock the next morning, found me, in top hat and overcoat, asleep on the felt, the moment darkness surrounded don't know."

in top hat and overcoat, asleep on the library couch.

I had, however, removed my collar and tie, and my watch, carefully wound, was on the smoking-stand beside me.

The death of Arthur Wells had taken place on Monday evening. Tuesday brought nothing new. The coroner day brought nothing new. The coroner day brought nothing new. The coroner layer and the lower hall.

We are old-fashioned people, and have not yet adopted electric light. I light the moment darkness surrounded me, considerably less trepidation content of the coroner of the lower hall.

Here the medium laughed. It was horrible. And the laughter made the whole thing absurd. But it died away quickly.

"If only the pocketbook was not lost," she said. "There were so many things in it. Especially car-tickets. Walking is a nuisance." was apparently satisfied, and on have not yet adopted electric light. I Walking Wednesday the dead man's body was cremated.

Mrs. carried a box of matches, but at the foot of the stairs the one I had things.

the floor of his office.

"I'm going to give it up, Horace," he said. "Perhaps you are right. We may be on the verge of some real discovery. But while I'm interested, so interested that it interferes with my work, I'm frankly afraid to go on. There are several reasons."

I argued with him. There could be no question that if things were left.

She refused to take the supper Mrs. Dane had prepared for her, and at eleven o'clock Sperry took her home in his car.

I remember that Mrs. Dane inquired, after she had gone.

"Does any one know the name of the Wellses' butler? It is Hawkins?"

I said nothing, and as Sperry was the only one likely to know and he had prepared for her, and at eleven o'clock Sperry took her home in his car.

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no question that if things were left ever, Sperry went back to the sitting the only one likely to know and he had cone, the inquiry went no further, so they were, a number of people would go through life convinced that Elinor Wells had murdered her husband. Look at the situation. She had sent out all the servants and the govern the structure of the week before, and referred to questions and answers at that time, the had cone, the inquiry went no further. It ing back, I realize that Herbert, white less cynical, was still skeptical, that his sister was non-committal, but fore some reason watching me, and the limit of the structure of the week before, and referred to questions and answers at that time, the had cone, the inquiry went no further. It is inguired to the situation. The inquiry went no further, the inquiry went no further, the inquiry went no further. It is inguired to the situation of the inquiry went no further, the inquiry went no further. It is inguired to the inquiry went no further, the inquiry went no erness, surely an unusual thing in an cane. She lifted it, and struck the lightful anticipation.

My wife, however, had taken a disJeremy had been vindicated in three "Do you know to whom that stick like to Miss Jeremy, and said that" Jeremy had been vindicated in three points; some stains had certainly been washed up, we had found the key where she had stated it to be, and Arthur had certainly been shaving himself.

Table a hard blow with it.

"Do you know to whom that stick belongs?"

A silence. Then: "Yes."

"Will you tell us what you know hole thing bored her.

"Will you tell us what you know hole thing bored her.

"The men like it, of course," she said, "Horace fairly simpers with pleasure while he sits and holds her

"It is writing."
"Writing?" "In other words," I argued, "we "Writing?"
can't stop, Sperry. You can't stop.
But my idea would be that our inveswashed it away." tigations be purely scientific and not

"Also, in other words," he said, words and incomplete sentences. It is it is such thrilling nonsense!"
"you think we will discover something, inarticulate, and the secretary made no so you suggest that we compound a record of it. As I real, however, was about water, children, and words "ten o'clock" repeated sever

WISH OF STATE BOARD

dual apart from those who are carefitness. Men and women of dis- early childhood. tinction are men and women realizing the important part physical health plays in their success. Diet. exercise, rest, fresh air and re- made in the last fifty years against creation occupy a much larger part the ills of humanity. Smallpox, by in the program of leaders than reason of vaccine; typhoid fever, formerly was the case. The funda- through the proper control of milk

health habits, while always import- succumbed to the onslaught of sci- Fogel of Sweet Home submitted to ant, were not so particularly essentence and are therefore pre-eminta major operation at the Pacific tial as they are today. Life moved ently under control.—State Board Christian hospital in Eugene on at less speed, enervating duties and of Health.

those of society.

GOOD HEALTH FOR 1932, pleasures were not so abounding as HIGH SCHOOL CLASS they are at the present time, and the highly specialized aids to com-In wishing the people of the state fort did not exist. In the old days of Oregon a happy, healthful and much that is now done by machinprosperous New Year we remind ery was accomplished by the indiyou that good health habits once vidual. Exercise and open air actiestablished form an easy road to vities were a necessity and fact. ing. Following the dinner gifts Riding, walking and outdoor life in were exchanged and dancing was general occupied the attetnion of enjoyed. Those present were Doro-Good health habits set an indivi-everyone either by compulsion or thy Withers, Mrs. Don Meakins, choice. That the disease rate was Keith Kendall, Dora Wagner, Mrs. less in the niceties and refinements much higher in the good old days Audrey Moscop, Mrs. Alfred Townof proper living. The proper dis- was not based on a lack of exer- send, Edith Eaton, Evelyn Jacobcharge of one's daily duties in ac- cise but upon the inability of scicordance with the laws of hygiene ence properly to cope with the com- Donald Palmer, Jack Danner, Franis the primary requisite of physical municable diseases of infancy and ces Frizell, Irene Crow, and Maxine

words "ten o'clock" repeated several

Today the situation is quite re versed. Amazing progress has been mental living rules, as a matter of and water supplies; tuberculosis on fact, are as rigid and exacting as account of modern treatment; diphtheria to immunization: the maladies of children due to prenatal and county clerk on Saturday. Years ago, the necessity of good well-baby care; all of these have

Mrs. Dane's secretary suddenly

pleasure while he sits and holds her hand. But a woman doesn't impose on other women so easily. It's silly."
"My dear," Mrs. Dane said, reach-

"It was writing, but the water washed it away"

Then, instantly and with great rapidity, followed a wild torrent of bus and Galileo. And if it is nonsense,

TO BE CONTINUED

HAS REUNION MONDAY

The annual reunion dinner of the Springfield high school class of '29 was held at the Lee-Duke cafe in Eugene Monday evening with fifteen members of the class attendson, Lawrence Roof, LeRoy Inman, Snodgrass.

Daughter Born- Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Mauney of Jasper are the parents of a baby daughter born at the Pacific Christian hospital on Saturday, December 26, 1931.

Collects Bounty-John Wilson of Lowell collected a \$2 bounty for one bobcat at the office of the

Major Operation - Mrs. A. D.



WASHINGTON, D. C .- Evidence that the present session of Con-cur over the bills to impose more parties. gress is going to be one of the hardest-working bodies ever selected was furnished on the opening day when the roll-call divulged the fact that only four Senators were absentees out of the ninety-six entitled to sit, and the only two Representatives were missing out of the 434 provided for.

Leaders of both parties will be called upon to exert their utmost endeavors to keep their members in Washington during every vote and to placate their insurgents and independent members. The lower house has a Democratic majority of two over all opposition and has taken over all the chairmanships of the various committees. Any hope the Republicans had that splits would develop in the selection of men for these important posts vanished when the Democrats held a six-hour caucus, named the various chairmen and broke up without leaving a single disgruntled party member.

The Republicans proved equally united in the face of defeat and the Snell-Tilson battle for the Speakership, which had been announced in advance as a struggle that would go to the death, ended in Representative Tilson congratulating his opponent and promising his full allegiance. Observers here predict that the two leading parties will function strictly along party lines on all matters of importance.

Never before in the history of Congress have there been so many bills offered for consideration as at the present session. Nearly three

Wednesday the dead man's body was cremated.

"Thus obliterating all evidence," agreed a box of matches, but at the foot of the stairs the one I had not before a provided the stairs the one I had not before the stairs the stair the present session. Nearly three thousand bills are now in the hands of the public printer. They are to conscious of a sort of the stairs the there was a drawled the stairs the theorem and the terms and the stair that the present session. Nearly three thousand bills are now in the hands of the public printer. They are to conscious of a sort of the public printer. They are to conscious of a sort of the public printer. They are to conscious of a sort of the public printer. They are to conscious of a sort of the public printer. They are to conscious of a sort of the public printer. They are to conscious of a sort of the public printer. They are to conscious of a sort of the public printer. They are to conscious of a sort of the public printer. They are to conscious of a sort of the public printer. They are to conscious of a sort of the public printer. They are to conscious of a sort of the stair stair the theat of the public printer. They are to conscious of a sort of the public printer. They are to conscious of a sort of the public printer. They are to conscious of a sort of the public printer. They are to conscious of a sort of the public printer. They are to conscious of a sort of the public printer. They are to conscious of a sort of the public printer. They are to conscious of a sort of the stairs and an are the strike the strike the present dund. The train the present dependent and the public pri

all I found a total lack of that sense of the unknown which made all the evening sittings so grisly.

I am sure she knew we had wanted something, and that she had failed to give it to us, for when she came out she was depressed and in a state of lowered vitality.

"I'm afraid I'm not helping you," he said "I'm a little tired, I think." She was tired. I felt suddenly very sorry for her. She was so pretty and so young — only twenty-six or thereabouts — to be in the grip of forces so relentless. Sperry sent her home in his car, and took to pacing the floor of his office.

"I'm going to give it up. Horses"

was all over.

Miss Jeremy did not come to ding the received the reom overhead?"

But here we received the reply to the previous question: "There was a cupied the room overhead?"

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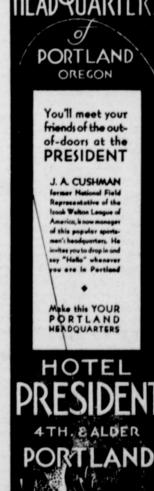
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But here we received the reply to the tree we alto the previous question: "The pr

Bank Act; and revision of the pres I remember that Mrs. Dane inquired, ent income and inheritance tax pro visions. Politically, the change of the complexion of the Lower House from Republican to Democrat to expected to benefit instead of narm President Hoover, Whatever the Democrats do will be used by Mr Hoover's campaigners as a boost for their candidate in the coming election and, conversely, whatever that party fails to do will be equal



ly valuable to the Hoover spell taxes. The general feeling here is binders as campaign material.

Meanwhile the president can be interests being said to agree that expected to bow to the will of the this is the most logical action. The Democrats in the Lower House on ordinary taxpayer is not to escape il matters that are not of the grav- scot-free, however, as new sales est importance allowing himself to taxes, especially on luxuries and e guided by the feeling that half near-luxuries, will be proposed it is a loaf is better than no bread, ob- said. Changes in the inheritance

that the wealthy are to have their taxes boosted, even the so-called laws appear certain and are expect-Perhaps the hottest fight will oc- cd to prove agreeable to both

In Appreciation

The holiday season again affords us an opportunity to extend Greetings to our friends and patronsand wish them all-happiness in the days ahead.

Ketels Drug Store

In the New Store

Springfield

Brighter Days



Our wish for all is the happiest of holidays and realization of cherished hopes during brighter days

"Home of Violet Ray and General Ethyl Gasoline"

"A" Street Service Station 5th and A Streets



FOR A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

H. E. GERBER

TO OUR FRIENDS

To our friends, loyal and true; To our valued friends; and to those Whose friendship we strive to deserve. We wish unmeasured happiness and good Fortune throughout the coming year.

EGGIMANN'S

4th and Main Streets

HERE'S TO THE NEW YEAR

New Year 1932! The end of one year-the end of a unique epoch—the beginning of a new! That is what we are all so happy about—it is more than just another New Year-it is a New Era! During the past year we learned our business all over again. It was a year of adjustment-of change of pace-of adaptation to altered circumstances for buyers and sellers alike. We all, now face a new year with new courage—new methods-new ideas. We have become adjusted to new conditions-mutually used to one another's changed manners-ready for a banner year. A happy and prosperous New Year to you all!

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THE SPRINGFIELD NEWS