

HEPPNER HERALD

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Published Thursdays

by
E. G. Harlan and L. K. Harlan

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E. G. Harlan, Editor

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Thursday, June 4, 1914.

Tragedy of The St. Lawrence River.

The sinking of the Empress of Ireland is not so dramatic a disaster nor so costly in human lives and treasure as the foundering of the Titanic, but the horror of the tragedy of the St. Lawrence river scarcely yields to that of the tragedy of the Newfoundland seas says the Spokesman-Review.

The terror of this catastrophe is intensified by the fact that the Canadian Pacific boat appears from testimony at hand to have done everything humanly possible to prevent mischance, whereas the White Star ship courted catastrophe, that the Empress of Ireland sank within 15 minutes or less and that an explosion of the boilers, icy waters and almost freezing temperature made it impossible for those who reached the decks to have any fair chance to survive.

The calamity illustrates again the impossibility of absolute prevention of disaster at sea the necessity of invention and science redoubling their efforts to construct an unsinkable ship the value of wireless telegraphy and the urgency of all maritime nations immediately adopting and enforcing the international code for safety at sea that was promulgated at London last winter.

The questions that the world asks about this disaster on the St. Lawrence are these: How is it that three serious marine calamities have happened on this route within the last two months? Should not this one have been impossible? Who was at fault? Ought not watertight bulkheads to be so built that, even if the ship be ripped open amidships, its parts will remain afloat? Have the terrible lessons of the Titanic been lost on the Canadian Pacific company? Had the owners of the ship actually taken every possible precaution to assure safety?

At this writing it appears from all available accounts as if somebody had been guilty of criminal negligence. It looks like the captain of the collier, inasmuch as the other boat was proceeding slowly, awaiting the thick fog to lift. Nothing but the most thorough investigation will satisfy the public.

Wages in Mexico.

Some of the American operators in Mexican industries have actually expressed regret that if order is restored in Mexico wages may go up. They have been 60 cents "Mexican," which means 30 cents American money a day. But can even a peon work and live on such wages? Why should any man with either brains or heart regret an advance from such servile conditions? Perhaps, if the Mexicans received living wages, they would not be so revolutionary. What would you do if you had to work and toil for thirty cents a day and what kind of life and civilization could you nurture on such an income. The truth is that many Americans have been operating in that country because they have been able to buy human muscles as cheaply as donkey muscles and then we have cried over the fact that they seem to have so many

donkey-like men in that country. The first and best step in the civilization of that country is not an American army, but living wages for the poor peons. They will respond to living wages even better than to the appeals of missionaries and school teachers, and certainly better than they will ever respond to bayonets and cannon and bombs.

If the existing disturbances in Mexico will result in raising the standard of wages, which involves the standards of living and civilization, the bloodshed will not have been in vain after all. Instead of wishing our neighbors were in hell, as was recently done in congress by a man from Iowa, recently elected, Mr. Vollmer of Davenport, we should be wishing them the increase in wages that an official of the American Smelting Co. has been dreading as one of the ultimate results of the present wars.

Where The Church Lays The Blame.

The special committee of the Presbyterian church, charged with the making of a report on the causes and remedies for social vices, blamed the present styles of women's dress, the trend of present day literature, the character of present day dances, and the present day growing demands for sex knowledge.

This is a rather severe indictment of present day things. We are inclined to the opinion that that committee has exaggerated these things. Social vices are not any worse than they were a year ago, or than they were many years ago, or than they were in the days of the ancients. These things have always flourished—they flourished when present day clothes, books, dances and thirst for intimate knowledge were not known. If these evils had come upon us suddenly they might be so accounted for, but they run in a stream of scarlet through all of human history and they have engaged the attention of all law givers from Moses among the Jews and Solon and Lycurgus among the Greeks. The Presbyterian committee, we fear, is more anxious to indict the present than it is to find out the truth.

The department of justice of the United States government which has made extensive investigations, does not agree with the church committee either. The department says that 90 per cent of social vice, according to its statistics, results not from the superficial causes assigned by the church committee, but from two deep-seated causes, namely, the poverty of the girls and the greed of the traffickers. These unfortunate women come almost wholly from the poorer classes among whom the modern clothes are not important, neither are books. It is the combined desire to make a living, and that easily, as they think, and the desire for easy profits on the part of exploiters and managers of these women that the government believes does the fatal work.

The government may not be entirely right in its conclusions either, but we believe it is nearer right than the church committee is. In the end we may have to conclude that some of the social vice is due to the mere desire for the gratification of human passions, regardless of either clothes or bread and butter. And there is the further fact that three-fourths of women in sin are mentally defective.

Women and Children

"I feel that it's a perfect good career to be a mother," says one of the characters in a book of the day, "The Women We Marry." "I don't think it's necessary for you to withdraw from

the world. But I think when we go into it we must have a different point of view from the old one. We ought to accumulate observation and experience for the benefit of our children instead of sensations for ourselves. We shouldn't insist on always veiwng ourselves as heroines of romances and we shouldn't get discontented if others don't view us as such."

But the author is at outs with many others who are writing books in these later days. In some of the current books motherhood is made incidental. The principal thing is what they call freedom from man. That is, the women is told that she must be a producer and an earner in her own right, instead of being dependent on the earnings of the man of the family, formerly called head of the family.

But one wonders what it is that women can hope to produce that is more esteemed in the world than sons and daughters who are worthy of their parents. Even books and pictures and the flubdubbery of fine and artistic things do not compare at all with children. Under whatever name feminism may pass, if it neglects to place the emphasis on children, as the best and holiest and most worth while product of women, it seems to us, as to the author of the book quoted, more or less a failure.

Newspapers as Business Institutions.

A writer, in discussing the newspaper as a community asset, recently called attention to a phase of the business which is very frequently overlooked. In the course of his article he says:

"There's another that is seldom given much thought, and that is that the newspapers of any city or town are a paying investment for such place as industrial institutions. People welcome with open arms and loud acclaim any factory costing a few thousand dollars and they think the town is wonderfully fortunate in securing a plant that will give employment to a number of people. Sometimes they even put up bonus to secure such a plant. There are many newspapers which give employment to a number of people, and nothing is thought of it. The money that comes to a paper is spent in the town or city where it is published. None of it goes away except for ink and paper and some other small supplies that cannot be bought at home. The newspaper is essentially a home institution. It works day and night to build up its home town and state and spends its money freely with home people. It is published on strict business principles these days, and that is the reason for the growth and prosperity that has come to many papers during the past few years.

"As a business enterprise, a good newspaper is about the best industry that any town has, and its publishers ask nothing but a square deal."

The Herald received through the mail some time ago an excellent piece of manuscript which we much desire to publish. We withhold it from our columns for the reason that it came to us unsigned. Publishers in general rule against printing unsigned communications but are always glad to omit the names of the writers should they not care to have them printed. If the writer of the article mentioned will send us his or her name we will be pleased to publish the communication.

People from this section should arrange to attend the picnic at Lexington in large numbers. Our towns are generally too far apart socially and a picnic of this sort is a good place to meet old friends and make new ones.

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NOTICE.

All county script registered up to and including April 1st will be paid upon presentation at the County Treasurer's office. Interest ceases after this date.

Frank Gilliam,

Treasurer Morrow Co.

Dated, May 28, 1914. 5-tf

NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed by the County Court of Morrow County, Oregon, administrator of the Estate of Edward R. Currin, deceased. All persons having claims against the estate of said deceased are hereby notified and required to present the same to me duly verified as by law provided at the office of C. E. Woodson in the City of Heppner, Morrow County, Oregon, within six months from the date of first publication of this notice.

Geo. J. Currin,

Administrator.

Dated and first published this 14th day of May, 1914.

ATTENTION Threshermen

I make a business of repairing Combine Harvesters, Threshing Machines, Engines, etc., and guarantee all my work. Experience has shown that money can be saved by having machinery put in working order before harvest and you should not fail to have your repair work done early. Don't wait until harvest starts, as you did last year.

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