

WHY IS THE HERALD?

Dear Mr. Editor:

Under the caption "A Plain Statement of Facts" the Herald of the 15th Inst. has a most remarkable article over the signature of one L. K. Harlan, which article I beg leave to answer through the medium of your columns lest, perchance, even one of the more desirable and respectable of the community may have heard of the article, through one of their friends, for the thought of any one of good taste picking up that issue of that paper and innocently reading such scurrilous epithets is one, I am sure, most distasteful to the mind of anyone like yourself, anxious that the people of this county should read nothing but good English, and matter that would have a tendency to elevate and improve the mind whilst imparting information of a generally desirable kind and which would interest most of your readers. In this you are right and a paper which does not strive for this object has no excuse for existence.

It has been laid down as a dictum that an editor who runs a paper for selfish and personal reasons without due consideration for the wishes of the community, (whose interests are supposed to be his) is not a fit person to edit a paper or to hold public office of any kind. It is furthermore a generally accepted theory than any person who would make use of the editorial chair for the paying of private grudges, and in order to vent his spleen upon private individuals through the medium of his journal, shall be deemed a person unfit to occupy the chair or even to be employed in any capacity upon the staff of a respectable paper.

These are generally accepted theories of all enlightened people in all civilized countries of the world. To be sure it happens occasionally that a man or woman gets into the semi-journalistic profession in a town through a back entrance. They are seldom found in the employ of a decent man, in fact they generally own the papers in which their articles appear, or which is equally as bad they are in the employ of some person more unscrupulous than themselves who is not willing to appear on the surface and take on responsibility for what is printed, and rather than regard the pleasure of hitting some enemy in the back (and from ambush at that) or to gain some political advantage which by reason of their personality or lack of brains they are unable to obtain, they pay some one else to do their thinking and their dirty work for them, and in return for their work, and which is more important, their silence, the muckraker, as this class of editor is called, is CALLED the owner of the paper, and as long as he is prepared to do his dirty duty to his miserable master he remains, to all outward appearances, owner of the filthy rag, and a pestilence to the community in which he breeds his discord.

Public opinion has always been opposed to this class of paper and although some few people read the paper out of curiosity and a few others in the hope of getting grounds for a damage suit, in the main their circulation is multiplied many times over by gratuitous copies to people they desire to obtain upon their subscription list, whom they endeavor to get by unctuous flattery and a sickening inflation of their commercial standing, forgetting in the mean time of their souls, that an upright man abhors unnecessary publicity as he does any other kind of plague. Therefore the main source of their income is derived from blackmail.

As a rule this class of paper is short-lived; sometimes it is stopped by the man who holds the position of postal inspector, then again it dies a lingering death through the disgust of the people who have unwisely supported it. It sometimes happens that the law courts kill it with a sentence that cannot be paid.

Such a paper has been cured of its sickness by the removal of the cause. Witness the "Daily Mail" and "John Bull".

The first of these papers was fined \$500,000 for a statement which was a part of a systematic attack on Sir Charles Leaver. The paper changed its policy and its editor, and now it is ranked as one of the greatest daily papers in the world.

Horatio Bottomley, who had been for a great many years member of Parliament for Hackney and was the owner of a weekly called "John Bull" was fined \$250,000, and all the court costs in the case, for a mean and scurrilous attack upon the memory of one Arthur Armstrong, his widow bringing the action and getting the benefit of the verdict of the jury.

In the case of the "Daily Mail" the payment was made into the court within thirty minutes but in the case of "John Bull" the money could not be found in the ten days placed at its disposal, and the paper was made bankrupt and placed in a receiver's hands to be conducted for the benefit of Mrs. Armstrong.

But unfortunately for those who are attacked, every muckraker has not got \$500,000, nor if they were put into liquidation would they have a paid circulation of 1,000,000, as in the case of "John Bull". The cases I have quoted are not in this country, but the laws of decency are at the root of all such matters and the people of this country are as decent as those of any other; I merely quoted those in question to point my moral, and because I did not happen to know any specific cases in America.

Both examples are of a consumma-

tion devoutly to be wished. "What, then," you will ask, "becomes of the little ones who have nothing at stake, and who appear periodically in the various small towns of west." The answer is simple. They serve the purpose for which they were brought into the electorate and then when they have to stand on their own ground without surreptitious assistance the people find them out, and they move to the nearest town in which they think they can play the game for a little while, and then they move again, and so on, ad infinitum.

"By their fruits ye shall know them."

"A Plain Statement of Facts," Well, well Just let us, for a few moments, consider these so-called facts. Later on I will let my readers into the unnecessary and unintentional cause for so much bad temper, bad manners, bad English, and positive panic of fright on the part of the writer of the mess in question.

When L. K. Harlan says I was in Echo, he is quite correct, and when he says I was enquiring as to the reason that the Echo plant was not in operation, he is also correct.

But I should have thought that the very statements which he now puts forward as his excuse would have been reason enough for not thinking that I was going to organize a plant in Stanfield.

If I had any intention of starting in Stanfield, it is in Stanfield, and not in Echo, I should have made my enquiries. Let us then be charitable and suppose in this one instance L. K. Harlan was only illogical, that is to say, for a few moments; later on I will show that it was something not quite so mild as want of reasoning power on the part of the writer.

L. K. Harlan says in his article that I accused HIM of being in the employ of a syndicate. How shocking it is that a man in charge of a nearly newspaper should be so very inaccurate! It is this inaccuracy, of which I spoke before, and to which I so much object. Surely the poor public who are paying the outrageous sum of \$1.50 per annum for the paper are entitled to accuracy, if nothing else, in fact I think that those people who take the paper home to light the fire with are entitled to truth in case they may be tempted to scan the front page whilst otherwise engaged.

I did not state that L. K. Harlan was in the employ of a syndicate. I referred to the writer of the article to which I objected, as an employee of a syndicate. The readers of the article will remember that this is so. The article might have been written by E. G. Harlan or the typesetter or by the office boy. Why I never dreamt for a moment that the MANAGING EDITOR of a paper would be so careless as to have written the matter in question.

However, L. K. now stands self-accused, and really after having read the last issue, I am inclined to go to the office boy and offer my humblest apologies for having suspected him.

What is a syndicate? Webster says a syndicate is a number of people joined together for promoting or financing or carrying on any enterprise. In the same issue of the paper appears a sworn statement of the proprietorship of the paper, and it clearly gives more than one name on the list of owners. Therefore, according to Webster, the paper unquestionably belongs to a syndicate. The assertion that it does not is an error of judgment on the part of L. K. Harlan, who, apparently, did not know the meaning of the word. And for the statement that the paper belongs to a syndicate, L. K. Harlan calls me "a liar," "the biggest liar that ever hit these parts of the country." Such a nice expression for the children of the readers to see in print! Such a nice way to speak of any man in print! Such a dignified article to come from the pen of THE MANAGING EDITOR of a Journal! I don't think.

To the careful reader there is fear, Fear with a capital letter, in L. K.'s fervid assurance that I am a liar and that the paper does not belong to a syndicate. Of what was L. K. so frightened? Why should the paper not belong to a syndicate? It is a perfectly legal way to do business. Why, then, show such abhorrence of the thought? As the advertiser says "There's a Reason" and my dear reader, a very good one. With the reason we shall deal later on.

L. K. further accuses me of putting before the public an article dealing with his "respectability and integrity." If L. K., or any of his supporters, can find any such article bearing my signature or can discover than any article was offered to the press by me, I shall be greatly surprised. How can a person write an article on what does not exist?

This then is the second point upon which we have proved L. K. to have been wrong in his article. Still I should hesitate before calling him a LIAR. He may have made the mistake through ignorance, and besides the editor of this paper is just a little particular as to what goes into these columns, and might not appreciate the good taste of calling a man a LIAR in his journal.

"In our own office, and in the presence of witnesses, this man has sought to upbraid and stamp upon the reputation and personality of nearly every business man in the city of Heppner." So saith the MANAGING EDITOR. How strange that I should go into the Herald office to "stamp upon the personality" of the more prominent business men of Heppner. I have never seen any of

them there. One would imagine that if I wished to stamp upon any man I would go where I should be most likely to find him, and that would hardly be in the Herald office.

The statement is wholly false. There is only one business in the county which I have attacked in any way, and on the occasion in question I spoke with some little feeling and considered that I was justified in doing so. But it was not in the Herald office, but in one of the most important stores in the city, and in my apology to the owner afterwards, I explained that I had seized the opportunity because L. K. was present, that being the surest way to get a hurried report to the man in question.

Why did I know that L. K. would be so anxious to report? I had good reason to know that he was himself by no means squeamish in regard to the manner in which he spoke of other leading lights of Heppner. I well remember on one occasion, when he first considered starting a paper in Heppner, I happened to be in the office of Mr. Knappenberg, a well known lawyer of Ione, and one of L. K.'s supporters in that city before he immigrated into this, when L. K. came in. Mr. Knappenberg accused him of getting support for his paper in Heppner from the saloon element, and with the intention of discontinuing the one they had all supported so lavishly in Ione. L. K., of course denied it, and when the authority was given, he called the man in question, what do you suppose? Why a "DAMNED LIAR". I well remember, though I am afraid that L. K. has forgotten the lesson, that Mr. Knappenberg took him to task about calling the men with whom he could not agree, "DAMNED LIARS. I remember he told L. K. that the expression was not a nice one to use, that the informant was by no means a liar, and he did not want the expression used in his office. He said much more to the same effect, and ever since I have looked upon Mr. Knappenberg with admiration and respect, not that I am so conceited as to suppose he cares a rap what my opinion of him may be. Why then was I so sure that L. K. would repeat this particular tirade. Because the man was J. L. Wilkins and the business in question was the Palace Hotel. Why, you will ask has that got anything to do with L. K.'s feelings? And again I reply, "There's a Reason" and a good one too.

But to continue our perusal of L. K.'s article, L. K. states that the cause of my imaginary spleen was the fact that certain men in question would not subscribe for stock in the creamery company whilst I was myself connected with it. I defy L. K. to give the names of five men who have subscribed for stock since I severed my connection with the proposition. But I, on the contrary, have had to persuade more than one to retain his interest in the company, which he wished to sever on account of my not any longer being officially connected with it, and I have told them all, as I wrote in the last issue of this paper, the proposition was good and to stay with it. We have therefore two more "facts" which were not facts, published in the "Statement of Facts."

When is a fact not a fact? When it is produced in a factory for a factor.

Again he states that I represented myself as having \$75,000 to \$100,000 in ready cash to invest. If L. K. can produce three men in the whole county, (always excepting members of the syndicate) who will bear out his statement, I will gladly pay the annual subscription to the Gazette-Times for ten people not now getting the paper. L. K. further states that he has certain statements of mine taken down in shorthand derogatory to the business man of Heppner. Clever, but not logical or sensible. In the first place, on the only occasion on which I permitted myself the pleasure of stating my opinion, which I have already explained, I was talking to L. K. and kept my eyes on him the whole time, and I am perfectly sure that he had no pencil. I wish he had had one; he left some of the best parts out.

Secondly the bluff is bluffed because L. K. was in such a bad temper when he left the district attorney's office that if he could have found something more substantial to have attacked me upon he would not have had to disgrace the journalistic profession by calling a man a liar in his paper. And thirdly it is not a logical thing to say because I do not believe that L. K. can write shorthand fast enough to take a conversation. Had he been able to do so, he would not have had to interrupt the inquest on Earheart's remains with the noise of a typewriter.

However, I will call his bluff and ask to see the nasty things I am supposed to have said, in print. An example of the product of a fervent imagination it will be interesting. The suggestion of horrible things to come, however, is typical of the class of journalists of whom I spoke in the first part of this answer and is the usual prelude to blackmail. Imagine being hounded for blackmail in Heppner! Why life would be worth while. Almost as exciting as the war. And then again imagine being fool enough to pay it. And last, just think of being rich enough to attract the blackmailier. One could have a pretty good time without the help of the Heppner Herald.

And now to come to some facts which are facts, and were not factored in the Harlan factory for the purpose.

(Continued on page 7)

Voters Beware!

The Dental Trust, with all its powerful political organization, is moving heaven and earth to defeat the dental reform bill.

In every town and city members of the Trust are out working against the bill.

The Medical Trust is helping the Dental Trust by forcing nurses and druggists, under threat of boycott, to work against dental reform.

All kinds of campaign lies are being circulated to deceive the voters. Don't let the Trust scare you.

The Trust made the present dental law. Under this law it controls the State Board of Dental Examiners—every member of that board is a member of the Trust.

In this way competent dentists are kept out of Oregon, and the Trust prevents competition and keeps up prices.

VOTE YES X 340 AND Bust the Dental Trust

Paid advertisement by PAINLESS PARKER, Dentist, 6th and Washington Sts., Portland, Oregon.

LITTLE SCHOOL MUST GO

It Has Done Great Work But Time Has Come for Bigger Consolidated Structures.

University of Oregon, Eugene, Or., Oct. 11.—"So far as the country school remains an institution of one room and one teacher it has become an anachronism in American life and must be changed to something different before the education it gives can be made adequate to the needs of the children living in the country today," says Dr. Joseph Schafer, professor of history at the University of Oregon in an article on rural education which is being widely printed.

Dr. Schafer mourns a little for the "little red schoolhouse" of old, which he declares all should honor for the great work it has accomplished in the past, but he proceeds to argue powerfully for an efficient, consolidated school, which will put the pupil into touch with times that are in a thousand ways different from those of his grandfathers.

"Because land is now high and margins of profit narrow," continues Dr. Schafer, "the farmer must be a business man. Because science can aid in making his farm more productive or in preventing losses, he must be trained to apply scientific principles. Because he is a citizen, cosmopolitan in his business and social relations, he needs as his equipment an education not a whit less thorough or less broad than that which today comes as a matter of course to the man entering business life in the towns or cities."

After two years of litigation the Oregon City municipal elevator is to be built.

A 46,000 acre project in Goose Lake valley, Lake county, is to be reclaimed.

J. A. Cartwright of Portland is investigating a cannery proposition at Roseburg.

To secure a site for a city hall Eugene will vacate the old high school site and build two new schools.

The federation of Woman's Clubs at Eugene endorsed a program of more labor laws to go before the legislature.

Unless signs of the times are misleading, the framers of the proposed eight-hour law will not recognize it when the people are through voting "NO" on the measure in November. It is in for a hard drubbing.—Union Republican.

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