

## A MISFIT INDEPENDENCE.

Pop said that independence was the greatest thing he knew, And when my daddy says a thing it's generally true. It helps a man to triumph for the right and send his foes Up where the great Salt river is, up where the woodbine grows. But woe is me that it should be; It didn't work that way with me, And this is how it was, you see:

On July Fourth when I got up I'd settled in my mind That I'd be just the freest of the independent kind; I'd have my way all through the day, no matter what should hap, And that is why face down I lie across my daddy's lap, And that is why I cry, "Oh, my!" as he lays on the strap. He told me just at breakfast time to help him feed the cows, And when I said I wouldn't we'd the prettiest of rows. But I was firm, for I was free, Just as he said I ought to be, And then I skipped. Ah, woe is me!

I stayed away the livelong day, And then there was the deuce to pay, For when I got back home that night My daddy's wrath was out of sight. He wouldn't hear a word from me About the glories of the free, But simply put me on his knee And gave it to me—one, two, three— From which I judge that while it's clear That independence has no peer For nations fond of liberties, It doesn't do for families, Else pop has gone and changed his mind Or mine was not the proper kind. —Harper's Bazar.

## A DILEMMA OF THE FOURTH

By Mary Caroline Hyde

Six boys, aged about 14 and 15, had formed a club called The President's Own. Originally, the club room had been the upper story of a brick stable, and the boys had secured the use of it free of rent.

For several weeks the club had been saving money for a glorious Fourth of July celebration. Sky rockets, Roman candles and even flower baskets were to be bought with the ten dollars and thirty-two cents they had collected for this purpose and were to be set off from a huge rock above the village, where all could see the display.

James Porter, the keeper of the largest grocery in the village, went to New York for the fireworks which the President's Own had ordered; the weekly paper announced the pyrotechnic treat in store for Dogberry, and all was in trim for the most patriotic Fourth the little town had ever known.

The Fourth was due on Saturday and all Friday the President's Own figured through their lessons, and 4 o'clock had no more than sounded than they ran pell mell to the club room, where they had agreed to meet, six strong.

"I saw Jim Porter this afternoon," announced Maxwell Fenn, a leader of the club, "and he said he had our fireworks all right. Suppose we go right away and get them."

"That's the idea," said Alfred Warren, leading the way. "Come on. There's no time to spare."

The boys started whistling and doing a double shuffle down the path, when Clarence Richmond called out, "Who's got the money for the 'technics'?"

"That's so!" answered the rest, stopping short. "Guess we'd better go back and get it, if you've forgotten it."

Upon this The President's Own wheeled and returned to the club room, moving in a body on the closet, where the money was hoarded in an old leather wallet. The closet was well lighted by the window opposite, and the boys searched every nook and corner without finding the wallet.

"Where did you keep it, anyway?" was demanded of Maxwell Fenn.

"I didn't keep it anywhere; I gave it to Clarence," growled Maxwell.

"I know where I kept it well enough," retorted Clarence. "I kept it right up here on this shelf under the baseball caps, but it ain't there now; that's sure enough."

The President's Own groaned. Again and again they fumbled among the caps on the shelf, and among the bats, golf clubs and tennis racquets on the floor of the closet. The money was not to be found and they turned away looking into one another's faces for explanation, but finding none.

"What's to be done now?" asked Clarence.

"You ought to know."

"Well, I don't."

"Say! How'd it do to say nothing 'bout it to-night and to-morrow we can look again," suggested Alfred.

"Agreed!" cried the others, so they filed out of the club room, locking it with the greatest care, and disbanding, to go home with very sober faces and gloomy hearts.

The much-anticipated Fourth was a sunny, delightful day, and the President's Own convened early at the club room, as they had agreed. A second search, however, was as disappointing as the first had been, and a heavy-hearted six stood about the club table, tapping abstractedly upon it.

"It's hard on old Porter, too," observed one of them.

"Oh, his fireworks'll keep till next year, when we'll be able to buy them," said another.

Locking the door, the boys walked slowly down the main street, looking at other boys' fireworks. Thus they whiled away the day as best they could till 4 o'clock. Wandering dejectedly along a side street, they came face to face with Gen. Bradbury, the summer cottager of whom all Dogberry was so proud.

"Halloo, boys!" he cried. "A glorious day for your celebration. Hear you are to give us something fine to-night."

Glancing hastily from one to another, the boys blurted out, "That's all up now; the mon's lost somehow!"

"What! How?" the general demanded, sympathetically, much surprised.

"We don't know," answered Clarence.

"The men about the stable might have stolen it," and then he stopped, flushing at the realization that he had unintentionally expressed the boys' suspicions.

"See here, my lads, don't be so quick to blame someone till you're sure! Suppose you come up to my house this evening, and if there are any fireworks to be found in the town we'll send them off."

"We will," said the President's Own heartily, then added hesitatingly, "Jim Porter's got some fireworks, sir. We were going to take them, but—"

"Oh, yes! I understand," laughed the general, and he turned on to the main street and hurried to the pyrotechnic supplying Porter.

Half-past 7 o'clock that evening found the President's Own assembled upon the terrace of the general, helping him to adjust the most elaborate fireworks display that the little village had ever dreamed of.

The general's pretty daughter and housekeeper now left her seat on the

Bradbury as if she were a magician, but she only smiled and told them that she had mistrusted that it was there ever since her father had told her about its loss.

"A woman's fingers," she added, "are much better for finding things than a boy's—that is, the boys of The President's Own," and she smiled archly at them.

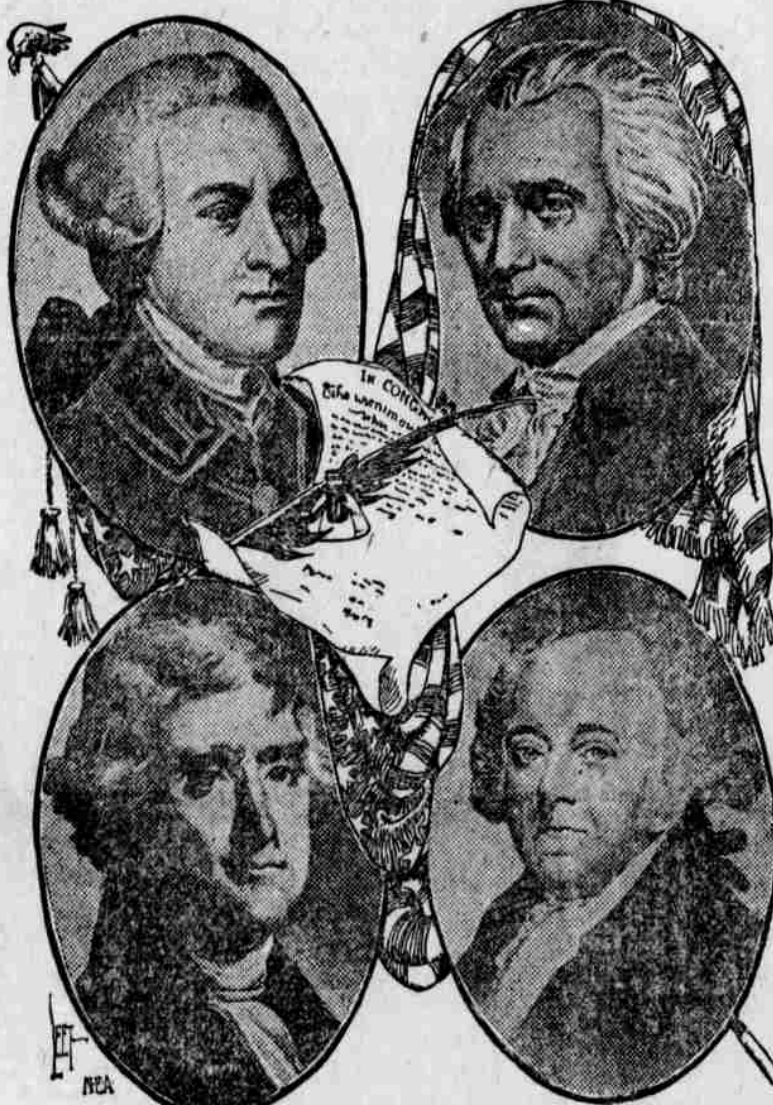
The club did not argue the point. It whistled, stamped, cheered, apologized for the racket, and immediately voted the charming girl the one and only feminine member of The President's Own.—Detroit Free Press.

## NOTHIN' DOIN' ON THE FOURTH.

July 2 Was the Date on Which Independence Was Declared.

The government has published a book showing that the Fourth of July ought to come on the 2d of the month. The book is entitled "The Story of the Declaration of Independence," and the author is Col. Wm. H. Michael, who has charge of that historic document and the priceless archives which go with it. The brief account given in the preface of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence shows that Congress passed the resolution on July 2. That is really the date on which a majority of the people's representatives formally and legally expressed their intent.

According to the journal of that Congress, the original of which is on file, nothing actually happened on the Fourth of July. On the 9th of July the vote, by States, was made unanimous by the addition of New York, which had not before been authorized to take this course.



JOHN HANCOCK.  
THOS. JEFFERSON.

RICHARD HENRY LEE.  
JOHN ADAMS.

plaza and, joining the President's Own on the terrace, invited them to the dining room to complete their celebration, there. This invitation produced a lively whispering among the boys of the club, and they followed their host and hostess to the dining room. Before partaking of the tempting refreshments, Maxwell Fenn rose to make a little speech.

"It has been unanimously decided, Gen. Bradbury," he said, "that you shall be asked to become a member of the President's Own. The club has now existed two years, and this is the first occasion upon which we have extended the right hand of fellowship to a fellow not our own age. We shall be glad to have you belong."

With cheeks very red, he sat down and dug deep into his mound of ice cream.

"Thank you, my boys," answered the general, waving his glass of lemonade. "I am highly honored and shall be very pleased to become what might be termed a sleeping partner of the President's Own."

The cheers that followed this pithy acceptance were only quieted when Miss Bradbury held up her dainty hand and asked for a moment's attention.

"My father," she said, "has told me of the club's pecuniary loss, and I have thought that if they would be so good as to allow me to visit their club room, that well—" and she stopped and looked up at her father as if he were to complete her meaning.

"Do come! We shall be glad to show you our room," the boys cried in one voice.

So that is how it happened that the next Monday afternoon, after school hours, Miss Bradbury was escorted by her father to the club room of the President's Own, and she seemed much interested in all she saw.

"See what a nice, big closet the club has," said the general, pointing to a door which was ajar, disclosing the paraphernalia of athletic boys.

"May I look inside just once?" she asked, exchanging a glance with her father.

"Oh, do!" they answered.

And it was then that, reaching up to the shelf on which the baseball caps were tossed, the girl felt under them and drew out the lost wallet, its contents undisturbed.

The President's Own stared at Miss

So this date might be celebrated if it were desired to commemorate the date of the complete adoption of the resolution. If it were desired to commemorate the day when the declaration was signed, Aug. 2 might be selected, as on that day the members of Congress began to attach their signatures to the formally drafted document.

By an error in the journal a note was made on the 19th of July to this effect: "Ordered that the declaration (passed on the fourth) be fairly engrossed on parchment, with the title and style of 'The Unanimous Declaration of the Thirteen United States of America.'" It is evident that the journal should have read "passed on the 2d," for that was the day when Richard Henry Lee's resolution commanded a majority of the votes. On that day the resolution received the votes of all of New England, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia. South Carolina and Pennsylvania voted against it. The Delaware vote was evenly divided; the New York delegates were unopposed, and refrained from voting. The next day, July 3, Caesar Rodney of Delaware came eighty miles on horseback, as hard as the beast could go, to add his vote for independence, and thus Delaware was swung into line. It was several days later that Pennsylvania and New York came wabbling along.

The first celebration of independence day was at Philadelphia, on July 8, when the sheriff of that city read a copy of the original declaration, passed on the 2d. The man who drafted the resolution passed on the 2d of July, which consisted of a short paragraph sufficient to voice the sentiment of each State for or against the proposed war for independence, was Richard Henry Lee. The man who supported the resolution on the floor, and led in the debate which preceded the vote, was John Adams. The man who afterward drafted the formal declaration to the outside world, embodying the sentiment of the Lee resolution, was Thos. Jefferson. The man who presided over the convention where the resolution was adopted was John Hancock.

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## OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

### SHEEPMEN KICK AT TOLLS.

Hate to Pay Tax for Driving Across Umatilla Reserve.

Pendleton—Three thousand sheep are now on their way across the Umatilla Indian reservation, being the first to pay the required tax and cross with a permit. The band belongs to Joe Connelly, and the expense incurred by the toll will be close to \$100. When the Indians, under the direction and supervision of O. C. Edwards, the agent, last year put a tax on livestock driven across the reservation there was much dissatisfaction among the sheepmen, who drove their flocks around instead of across. All the sheepmen, both last year and this, with the exception of Mr. Connelly, have taken their sheep on a circuitous and difficult route around the reservation.

The rule made last year requires a toll of 3 cents a head on sheep, 5 cents on horses and 10 cents on cattle. In addition the owner must give a bond for damages and pay an Indian policeman to act as escort, to see that no grazing is allowed along the route.

That the toll of 3 cents is wholly unjust is held by the sheepmen. According to them they have no objection to paying an Indian policeman to accompany them and to giving the bond for damages, but they look upon the toll as pure graft on the part of the Indians.

### Archie Mason to Build Aey Dike

Klamath Falls—Archie Mason, of the firm Mason, Davis & Co., has been advised by William Hood, chief engineer of the Southern Pacific Company, that his bid on the construction of the dike across the Klamath marsh had been accepted, and that he was expected to begin work at once. This is a good piece of news for this section as it means the early completion of the California-Northeastern Railway to this city. Mr. Mason expects to have two large steam dredges in operation by July 10, and states that he will complete the contract by the first of the year. The contract embraces a dike or grade about six miles long across the Ady swamp lands. The fact that Mr. Mason has undertaken construction of the dike gives assurance that the railroad will reach this city during the summer of 1908.

### Law Weak at Vital Point.

Salem—An inquiry received by the state railroad commission from a railroad telegraph operator calls attention to the fact that the act of the last legislature regulating the hours of labor of railroad employees was very loosely drawn. Though the law forbids the employment of telegraph operators more than 14 consecutive hours, there is nothing to prevent their being worked 23 hours out of 24 if they be given an hour's rest at the end of 14 hours. Trainmen are protected in this respect, but telegraphers are not.

### Adams Wheat Crop is Good.

Adams—The prospect for a banner yield of wheat in this locality was never any more promising than at the present time. The fall wheat in most instances was put in at just the right time and got a good start and while the spring wheat came on slowly on account of the backward season the late rain has now insured a good crop, and the acreage is considerably larger than a year ago. The same report comes from the Weston and Athena district, which is the center of the great Walla Walla valley wheat belt.

### Factory Employees Protected.

Oregon City—Deputy State Commissioner of Labor and Inspector of Factories and Workshops C. Henry Gram, of Portland, have made an inspection of the factories in this city. He visited the huge plant of the Willamette Pulp & Paper Company, where he made a close examination, and declared the protection afforded the lives of the employees was first-class, as was also the fire protection. Mr. Gram is president of the State Federation of Labor.

### Construction Starts Soon.

Drain—Every indication points toward an early opening of construction work on the Oregon Western Railroad from here to Coos Bay. Concrete abutments for the steel bridges on the "Y" across Elk Creek are being built and all the steel for the two bridges is now in the yards in South Drain. At the tunnels the machinery is being put in shape and everything will be ready for work in ten days.

### Mill Assessment Shows Increase.

Aberdeen—County Assessor Carter says that the total value of the mills of Grays Harbor, exclusive of shingle mills, as shown by the returns is \$896,020. The personal assessment property of Chehalis county will show a 10 per cent increase over the assessment of two years ago. Only personal property is assessed this year.

### WHEAT NOT SPOILED.

Clackamas County Crops and Looking Well—Large Abbie Crop.

Oregon City—The farmers of Clackamas county are encouraged over crop conditions, and believe that the yield will be large, especially in wheat. The aphid, which did so much damage last year, has not appeared, and the recent rains have been very beneficial. Last year the aphid prevented much of the wheat from heading, and the loss to the farmers was heavy. Reports from outlying districts are very satisfactory, and in the eastern and southern portions of the county there will be good crops. George H. Gregory, of Molalla, one of the few teasel growers of the Pacific Coast, says the crop this year cannot be excelled.

While the prune crop in many sections will be short, there is a fine prospect for a large crop of apples. The strawberry crop is still being harvested, and Wilson berries sold for \$1 per crate in the local markets Saturday. Indications are bright for a large crop of cherries, and very few have been spoiled by the rains so far this season.

### Trout Planted Near Astoria.

Astoria—A shipment of 2,000 brook trout and 12,000 rainbow trout has been received from the government hatchery on the Clackamas river. The brook trout were planted in streams near Forts Columbia and Stevens, while the rainbow trout were planted in streams tributary to upper Young's River and running through property owned by Dr. Vaughn and C. V. Brown of this city. Messrs. Vaughn and Brown will prohibit fishing in the streams for three years, will feed the young fish for a time, and will also fence off with wire screens the portions of the streams where the fry were planted.

### Crude Oil for Track.

Pendleton—The oiling of the O. R. & N. Co.'s roadbed between here and Spokane is now on in earnest. A trial run has been made under the direction of M. J. Buckley. The road that is being oiled is considered by travelers to be the dustiest and most disagreeable road to travel in the Northwest. The route lies through alkali dust and sand for many miles and all passengers alighting from the Spokane train are covered with a white coating. The dust, coupled with the heat of the summer months, makes travel on this road anything but a pleasure.

### Heavy Wheat Yield Certain.

Condon—About an inch and a half of rain has fallen here and the ground is soaked deeper than ever before at this time of the year. A big yield of fall grain is absolutely assured and many of the wheat men are expecting from 25 to 40 bushels to the acre, which will be the largest yield in the history of the country.

### PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 86c; bluestem, 88c; 89c; valley, 86c; red, 87c.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$27.50@28.50; gray, nominal.

Barley—Feed, \$21.50@22 per ton; brewing, nominal; rolled, \$23.50@24.50.

Corn—Whole, \$28; cracked, \$29 per ton.

Hay—Valley timothy, No. 1, \$17@18 per ton; Eastern Oregon timothy, \$21@23; clover, \$9; cheat, \$9@10; grain hay, \$9@10; alfalfa, \$13@14.

Fruits—Strawberries, \$1.50@2 per crate; cherries, 65@75c per box; apples, \$3@3.50 per box; apricots, \$1.25@1.65 per crate; plums, \$1.65 per box.

Vegetables—Turnips, \$2 per sack; carrots, \$2.50 per sack; beets, \$2.50 per sack; asparagus, 10c per pound; beans, 7@8c per pound; cabbage, 2½c per pound; corn, 35@50c per dozen; cucumbers, 75c per dozen; lettuce, head, 25c per dozen; onions, 15@20c per dozen; peas, 2½@4c per pound; radishes, 20c per dozen; rhubarb, 3½c per pound; tomatoes, \$3.50@4 per crate.

Potatoes—Oregon, \$2.75@3.25 sack; new potatoes, 3½@4c per pound.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 22½@25c per pound.

Poultry—Average old hens, 11c per pound; mixed chickens, 10c; spring fryers and broilers, 14@15c; old roosters, 9c; dressed chickens, 16@17c; turkeys, live, 10@12c; turkeys, dressed, choice, nominal; geese, live, pound, 7@10c; young ducks, 13@14c; old ducks, 10c.

Eggs—Candled, 23@24c per dozen.

Veal—Dressed, 5½@7½c per pound.

Beef—Dressed bulls, 3½@4c per pound; cows, 6@6½c; country steers, 6½@7c.

Mutton—Dressed, fancy, 9c per pound; ordinary, 5@7c; spring lamb, 10@10½c.

Pork—Dressed, 6@8½c per pound.

Hops—6@8c per pound, according to quality.

Wool—Eastern Oregon average best, 16@22c per pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 2J@22c, according to fineness; mohair, choice 29@30c per pound.