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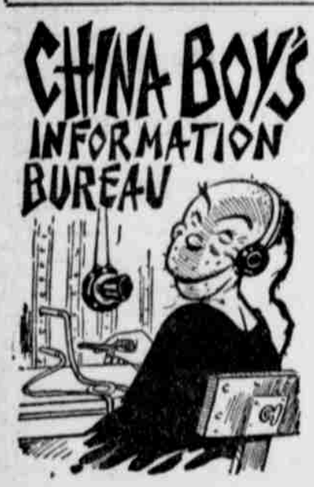
## HONG KONG KOLUM




ARTHUR—Yes, kiss may be either reward or punishment.

* * *

If war order profit may be called "tainted money"—you and I will agree—taint ours and taint yours.

* * *

**The Most Important Guy in the World**

He's called familiarly "Number One." He's always in the best row at the show. He gets the only vacant seat in the street car. Waiters wait on him first. Bootblacks jump when he appears. HE'S YOU.

* * *

**The Brute!**

Wife—John, who started the war, anyway?

John—The man who first introduced us!—Puck.

* * *

"I don't know how many phonograph records the family next door has," said the thin man in the brown suit," but it is certain that they broke all of 'em last night. They played till 1 o'clock.

* * *

**Vacation Being Over—**

"She was worth it."—Yale Record.

* * *

**Today's Bell Ringer.**

Edward McCall, chairman of the New York Public Service Commission, keeps bees at his place in Long Island. Once a youthful nephew, always getting in the way of the workmen, paid his annual visit to the place.

"I put Eddie to chasing bees," said Mr. McCall, "it didn't hurt the bees any and it kept Eddie out of the way."

* * *

**Stella's Bargain Counter.**

Old Time hands every woman a wrinkle now and then to let her know she isn't being forgotten.

* * *

Miss Eveline Cave and Ebenezer Mann were hooked up in Cadhill, Maryland, recently, which made it a cave man wedding, so to speak.

* * *

**Old Noah Was the First Hick to Preach Preparedness—and Practice It.**

When old Noah began building his boat, the landlubbers, the frog-pond croakers, called him crazy. They proclaimed that the ship carpenter was off his base. These harpers and critics said old Noah was a bug.

They said that the very fact he was building an ark would bring on a flood. Preparation would start something.

Some time after that, and while Captain Noah sat on the bow of his boat, his self-respect seemed to increase, and he often wondered just what had become of his critics.

* * *

**Do Be Careful of the Poor Little Rocks When You Go Swimming Next Time.**

(From the Heber Springs, Ark., Jacksonian.)

Lloyd Lawrence, one of Heber Springs star ballplayers, broke a rock all up in the bottom of the Little Red river last Sunday while in swimming. He struck said stone with his head when he made a big dive. His head was not injured.

## THE SITUATION

WHEAT is one of the staple crops of the Rogue River valley and has been for half a century. Unscientific farming has reduced the average yield from sixty bushels to the acre, secured by the pioneer, to twenty bushels, in some cases to ten bushels.

The Medford Roller Mills this year has paid $80,000 to farmers for cereals—representing 100,000 bushels, which is an encouraging beginning for the mill's first year—a larger return on account of war prices, that the farmer has averaged.

Wheat is one of the diversified crops that should be annually increased in acreage. Much idle land is available. Its local manufacture in flour helps solve our economic problem. The industry is one of several that need encouragement. The $80,000 should be made $160,000.

* * * * *

But much of the land planted to wheat has been exhausted through poor farming, shallow cultivation, failure to rotate crops. Little advance has been made in methods. Though agriculture has become a science—unscientific, slipshod methods are too prevalent for profit.

Much of the land exhausted for wheat can be utilized, with irrigation, for sugar beets, and beet culture will rapidly restore and improve the soil. The net profit upon an acre of sugar beets is 200 per cent greater than upon grain.

Yet many farmers will continue to extract a poor living on exhausted soil from grain, with its fluctuating values, rather than adopt modern methods, remove the gamble from farming by irrigation, and plant an assured profitable crop like sugar beets with a fixed market for years to come for the product.

To the $80,000 received from grain could be easily added $800,000 from sugar beets.

* * * * *

A man will pay $100 an acre for land, spend $50 an acre in planting it to orchard, spend another $50 in caring for it until it comes into bearing, yet he will not spend another $50 on easy payments for water to insure a crop when he has one.

In a favorable year the fruit crop of the valley is worth $2,000,000. In an unfavorable year it is worth $200,000. Irrigation will convert most of the unfavorable years into favorable years—yet many orchardists oppose irrigation—though the fruit crop loss alone in an unfavorable year will put water upon every acre in the valley.

The orchardist will wait from six to eight years for a profitable crop—when sugar beets will give him a profitable crop each of six or eight years without any wearisome wait—yet he prefers the fruit gamble.

We need the $2,000,000 from fruit added to the $80,000 from wheat and the $800,000 from sugar beets—but to keep it from being cut to $200,000 irrigation is essential.

* * * * *

A farmer will till land costing from $100 to $200 an acre or more planting and cultivating crops that will net him, in favorable years, not to exceed $10 an acre. In unfavorable years his labor is frequently lost. Yet he refuses irrigation that assures crops and enables profitable diversified farming.

Some farmers plant the same crop year after year with steadily diminishing returns, exhausting the soil, going deeper into debt, yet obstinately refuse to co-operate in securing a sugar factory by planting beets that net him twice or thrice the profit and improve his soil.

* * * * *

Land owners have witnessed their land values shrink annually. They cannot rent idle land nor can they sell it, because it is not a business proposition—a practical farmer cannot utilize it at a profit.

To make the land a business proposition, irrigation is needed. To rent the land profitably, both irrigation and an industry that furnishes steady market for products that can be profitably grown, is necessary. The beet sugar factory solves the problem.

Yet the land owner keeps the land idle, vainly expecting unearned increment from speculative profits that will never materialize without irrigation and industry.

A responsible company offers to spend several millions of dollars in placing water upon the land at easy terms, an established, successful company offers to build a half-million dollar sugar factory, that means payroll and profits for all—laborers, farmers, stockmen and land owners—yet the attitude of the average land owner is that of the German resisting invasion.

What has become of the boasted progressiveness of the Rogue River valley? No one can complain of hard times who refuses co-operation in creating prosperity. If we fail to secure irrigation, if we fail to supply required sugar beet acreage, we can expect more years of depression, for until we remedy our faulty economic conditions by increased and diversified production, through irrigation, and industries, like the sugar mill, to consume our products, we will not be self-supporting and will have hard times, no matter how good they may be in the nation at large.

## TRANSPORT SOUTHLAND TORPEDOED IN AEGEAN SEA

LONDON, Nov. 12.—The war office has issued the following announcement:

"On September 2 the transport Southland for Alexandria was torpedoed in the Aegean Sea, but reached Mudros under her own steam the same day. As a precautionary measure the troops were transferred to other transports.

"There were some casualties amounting to nine killed, two slightly injured and twenty-two missing—believed to have been drowned."



## ASHLAND TAX BUDGET IMPLIES 20.3 MILLS LEVY

ASHLAND, Nov. 12.—Preliminary estimates, subject to revision, imply a levy of 20.3 mills in the city budget for 1915 on a valuation of $2,109,990. The levy in 1914 was 13.8 mills, on a valuation of $3,030,875, a difference of $325,885 in the annual schedules. The 1915 levy is apportioned as follows: General fund, 7 mills; interest and bonds, 8 mills; fire department 0.9 mill; park, 1.5 mills; street, 1.5 mills; library, 0.9 mill; maintenance springs plant, 0.5 mill. The levies will yield $55,012.80, as against $41,826.08 last year, the increase on account of auxiliary water bond requirements approximating $15,000. Otherwise the necessary levies for the two years would not have changed materially. Interest,, bond and maintenance charges lead the list, requiring $23,034.91, less cash on hand $5,473.27. The general fund requisition is $18,969.93; streets, $4,064.99; parks, $4,064.99; library, $2,438.99; fire department, $2,438.99; maintenance springs plant, $1,354.99.

The assessed valuation of city property for 1915 is $2,409,990, to which is added an estimated corporation tax on $300,000. The council meets December 1 to further discuss the levy and apportionment figures, inasmuch as various discrepancies are inevitable. As an instance the park commission overlooked an item of $800 for meeting paving assessments in making up its proportionate share of the budget, and like the tariff there will be other "horizontal" equalizations to be made.

## OBITUARY.

Died—At the home of James H. Erskine, Wednesday, Nov. 9, 1915, 45 miles northeast of Medford near Prospect, Mrs. Sarah P. Adams, age 73 years, a native of Ohio, and a resident of this section for 11 years. The body will be shipped for burial at Warren, Ohio. For twenty years Mrs. Adams taught school at Youngstown, Ohio.