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HONG KONG KOLUM



What can I give my cousin who is a street car conductor?—A C. (Year subscription to real estate guide.) I am fond of my new stenographer. What shall I give her? (A desk outside your office.)

A Stockbridge (Mass.) hotel porter, employed by the same man for 43 years will spend his first vacation in Washington, having the free use of his boss' automobile during that period.

John Kendrick Bangs in the New York Times describes the mollycoddle in verse. Here's the first shot. Read:

I saw the lad strolling up the street, some pointed patent leathers on his feet; a dainty little heaver on his pate; a debutantish slouch as to his gait; a cigarette was dangling from his lips; two little sparrow coats-tails hid his hips; and any one who glimpsed him could have told his Ma had never raised him for a soldier.

O! These Men! A neighbor remarked to my wife, "I understand your husband is something of an after-dinner speaker?" to which my wife replied: "Yes, what Charlie is liable to say after dinner is the reason we can't keep a cook."

Today's Bellringer "Somebody has said," remarked R. H. Davis, the editor, at a recent banquet, "that if he could make the songs of a people, he didn't care who made the laws!" If this same fellow is the man who is making our popular songs today, I'd like to be the man making some of the laws," wound up Mr. Davis.

Tra La La Customer—How do you sell your music? Clerk—We sell our piano music by the pound and our organ music by the choir.—Columbia Tester.

John C. Juniper and Maud Elizabeth Hightower were married at Saginaw, Mich., this week. (No there steplack')

Our Own Xmas Bins For those who have an attic or cellar full of old stuff, we suggest you make Xmas present of them. For instance, if you have a fine bicycle model of 1889, on hand, make a gift of it.

The following was left over from the Thanksgiving Hong Kong Kolum but it's good and we'll pull it now.—Ed.)

A toastmaster after a Thanksgiving banquet got up and remarked: "Gentlemen you have just been giving your attention to a turkey stuffed with sage. I will now introduce a sage stuffed with turkey, Professor Horatious Dinky."

Forewarned "Young man, don't ever let me catch you kissing my daughter again!" "I won't."

LET THE OVER-RICH PAY

If the masses of the people are willing to fight for the country, the possessors of great wealth should be willing to pay the cost. The cost of preparedness should be borne by the rich, and not wrung from the poor. Inheritance and income taxes should furnish the money.

To enforce this propaganda, "the Rational Defense League" has been organized at the nation's capital, with a national membership. The league's platform is summarized as follows:

(1) Taxation of the rich instead of the poor for preparedness, by inheritance and income taxes, (2) government manufacture of all munitions of war, (3) conservation and development by the government itself of all national resources of timber, oil, coal, minerals, water power, etc., for national defense, (4) creation of a commission to study the possibility of aggressive war by foreign nations against the United States and to propose a plan of mutual co-operation between the republics of North and South America, and (5) the submission of an advisory referendum to the people, men and women, whenever possible before a declaration of war is made.

The league's proposals are sound common sense. They would accomplish in advance for the nation what the necessities of war have already accomplished in the belligerent countries. To them should be added a comprehensive plan for mobilization of industry and control of food supplies, for putting into effect immediately upon the declaration of war, thus saving time, money and possible distress and disaster.

The deficiency in the nation's revenues is caused by the war. Those who are profiting by the war should help share its cost to the nation. Millions are being made by munition plants, and these millions should be taxed rather than the pennies of the poor.

A half a billion is the initial cost of the preparedness program, which means \$5 apiece from every man, woman and child. Half of the wage-earning heads of families earn less than \$500 a year, and preparedness means a tax of 5 per cent or more upon the incomes of those who will also have to do the fighting—a most unjust and unpatriotic program.

TIME GROWING SHORT

THERE has never been a time in the history of the valley, in recent years, when there was as little moisture in the soil as at present. Only enough rain has fallen to moisten the surface. The water table is lower than ever.

It is the middle of December and there exists a 50 per cent shortage, not only in the year's precipitation, but in the seasonal rainfall. Should these conditions continue, farmers and orchardists face another dry year.

The only salvation for the valley will be irrigation. The Rogue River Canal company, which has spent \$100,000 the past year in constructing storage reservoirs in the mountains, and is spending as much more enlarging and extending its canals, stands ready to make further extensions, provided enough of the land-owners sign up enough land for irrigation to justify the extension. A twenty-year contract, on easy terms, is offered.

As it is, several thousand more acres will be under irrigation the coming year, but ten times the acreage should be added. It will be, provided the land-owners realize their opportunity, for the company stands ready to go ahead with its program.

Time is growing short. If water is to be placed on the land for the coming year, construction work must be speedily under way. Soon it will be too late to assure next year's crop, regardless of the season's vagaries.

A word to the wise is sufficient. Now is the time for action. If you want water, sign up and secure it.

MURDER RESULTS FROM SUICIDE PACT

SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 15.—Velt Veronia, aged 29, was shot to death in a rowboat on Lake Union early today by her companion, Anatole Vasileff, aged 30. Vasileff then shot himself in the head, but may recover. Both were Russians.

The girl's mother says that Vasileff, who was a frequent visitor at the Veronia home, on the lake shore, invited the girl to go rowing about 1 o'clock this morning and the girl assented. Half an hour later the mother called to the couple, and received the answer that they were all right. A few moments later shots rang out, and Mrs. Veronia heard Vasileff cry: "Mother, I have killed your daughter." A note in Russian in a woman's hand, not not penned by Miss Veronia, and telling of a suicide pact, was found in the boat. A postscript in a man's hand said the couple were tired of life and wished to be buried together.

MARRIAGE AND LONG LIFE In the "twelve commandments" which Dr. Arnold Lorand of Carlsbad Baths, Austria, lays down for a long life, he says: "Get married, and if a widow or widower marry again. A study of the lives of patriarchs proves the wisdom of so doing."

Another important factor is to avoid weakened, overworked, run-down conditions, and our local druggist, the Medford Pharmacy, have a rare combination of the three oldest tonics known in Vinol, which they guarantee will create strength and restore vitality in all such cases, or return your money.—Adv.

JOHN A. PERL UNDERTAKER Early Assistant 28 S. BARTLETT Phones M. 47 and 47-32 Ambulance Service Courier

LABOR ASKS VOICE IN PREPAREDNESS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, today told President Wilson that organized labor was ready to give its support to the defense of the nation and should be allowed a voice in making preparations.

Mr. Gompers asked the president to appoint a representative of labor to the commission he may name to confer with army and navy officers on the mobilization of the nation's resources. Since the war started Mr. Gompers said, belligerent nations had included representatives of labor in every important activity.

The president said he would consider the suggestion carefully.

Stella's Bargain Counter It's hard to keep an engagement secret because you've always got to let the girl in on it herself.



TODAY ONLY Ford Sterling

in a two-part Keystone Comedy. He will make you laugh.

The 29th episode of

The Diamond from the Sky

There is only one more chapter to this wonderful serial. See it and win the \$10,000.00

See The Miracle in one reel.

MARY PICKFORD Thursday.

Advertisement for Tuxedo tobacco featuring a large illustration of a jar and text: 'For 90c You Can Get the Ideal Gift for Every Man. A crystal glass humidor jar containing one pound of Tuxedo, the mildest, most fragrant tobacco. At every store where tobacco products are sold.'

The Page Tuesday December 21 Medford's Leading Theater. MARGARET M. ILLINGTON THE LIE. "A Great Actress in a great play."—N. Y. Herald.

PAGE MEDFORD'S LEADING THEATRE WED. DEC. 22. MAIL ORDERS NOW. Farewell OF Forbes-Robertson. His first and positively his last appearance in Medford AND LONDON COMPANY In Jerome K. Jerome's Modern Morality Play Passing of the Third Floor Back.

One Day Engagement Only and Closes TONIGHT THE PAGE Medford's Leading Motion Picture Theater. Something just a little different in picture plays and introducing Mary Miles Minter in "Emmy of Stork's Nest" to the Page patrons will prove an agreeable surprise for Mary Miles Minter is sure to win favor in the hearts of all.

Turkeys Wanted. I want 5000 pounds of prime fancy stock, dry picked Turkeys, heads, feet and wing leathers left on, entrails left in and empty crops, if possible, these to weigh from 12 to 15 pounds each. This birds not wanted, nor are the extra heavy Toms that weigh from 15 to 20 pounds and over, especially if they are old. For prime fat birds I can pay 15c a pound dressed. Live Turkeys 15c, all to be in the condition as above stated. All inferior birds rejected. Geese 11c, picked only. No live birds wanted. These to be delivered at the Westwood Warehouse, nearly opposite Commercial club building. Will begin receiving Saturday, 18th. Phone 715 during work hours or 7-65 evenings, or address. C. C. PAUL ROUTE 1 MEDFORD