MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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HONG KONG KOLUM

My friend Bill is fond of walking. How can I best remember him Christmas morning? (GIVE HIM SECOND HAND AUTOMOBILE.)

• • •

Ha! Ha! Ha!

"He laughs best who laughs last."

"Nix. He laughs best whose laugh lasts."

• • •

Dr. Hack is the leading surgeon of Proctor, Vermont.

• • •

While the soldiers in France and Belgium are entrenching, the folks at home in London are retrenching.—Artie.

• • •

Sir: My uncle, an honest and bluff Illinois farmer, came to Chicago to visit us—his first visit to the big city. Of course we put him wise to a "L" ride, a taxi ride and a buss ride. "Well," said the h. and b. Ill. farmer, "ef your goin' to all this expense to show me around the town I'd like to ride in one of them cabarets I've read so much about."—L. B.

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Today's Bellringer

Mrs. Philip Lydig, the beautiful New York social leader once asked a young man who attended one of her fancy dress balls at Newport why he didn't wear fancy dress. She noticed that he smoked a cigarette in a long holder.

"I'm in fancy dress," he said blandly. "I'm here as a cigarette holder."

• • •

Stilla's Bargain Counter.

The bride wears white because white signifies the happiest day in her life. Gee, girls the men wear black, don't they?

• • •

I visited a packing house on my vacation last summer and the silly young thing with the white hat who accompanied our party on the trip said she wondered if the sausages were made on the ground floor.

• • •

A Slacker

Mother—Now, Harold, that you are through college, you had really better begin looking around for some sort of employment.

Harold—Mother, don't you think it would be more dignified to wait until the offers begin to come in?—Philadelphai Ledger.

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Life Was Just One Dry Goods Box After Another

(From Oklahoma City, Oklahoman.)

Jud Wilkins, one of our oldest and most respected citizens, departed this life last Friday. He left behind him five dogs, two children and the whole earth. For many years his business has been that of transferring himself from one drygoods box to another.

• • •

It Usually Is.

"Where did you go to school?"

"Yale. I was college bred—a four year loaf."

SANTA CLAUS AT MUNICIPAL XMAS TREE

The first Municipal Christmas tree in the history of the city and southern Oregon will be held next Friday evening (Christmas eve) in the city park, and it promises, with respectable weather to be a big success. The little boys and girls are keen for the event, and the largest public gathering of the year will be on hand. The exercises will begin at 7 o'clock.

C. E. Gates will act as master of ceremonies, and Judge E. E. Kelly will be Santa Claus. Over 1400 candy canes will be distributed, and the tree will be lighted with electricity, and decorated with all the traditional dodads. The voices of school children will be lifted in song. A prayer and benediction will be offered.

The final arrangements for the event have been completed, and the tree will bring gladness into the hearts of scores of the little ones of the city who have not lost faith in Santa Claus.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREES

MEDFORD, along with 600 other American cities, will celebrate Christmas this year with a community Christmas tree, dazzling in illumination, surmounted with the star of hope. Probably the institution will become a permanent annual celebration, increasing in elaborateness and beauty with the coming years.

It is only three years since the first community Christmas tree celebrations were held. In 1912 New York and three other cities celebrated with community trees for the benefit of the homeless and the poor, who need no longer look with envy on the sparkling Christmas trees and scenes of cheer in happy homes. Every one may share in the merrymaking around the "tree of light," as the New York originators of the community celebration call it.

The community Christmas tree idea spread rapidly. In three years there has been a more rapid, and striking change in the method of remembering the world's most beautiful anniversary than took place in all the preceding centuries. Each city originates some new idea to make its celebration unique. In another three years 6000 community Christmas trees will probably add to the joyousness of the festival season.

Newark, O., set a good example last year by actually planting its shapely tree in City Hall park and thus gave stimulus to a scheme advocated by forestry experts everywhere to save the forests from their annual depletion. It is now proposed that every city celebrating a community Christmas plant a new living evergreen in some city park, and hold its fete about this tree.

Marshaltown, Ia., last year entertained the entire countryside with 300 illumined trees, elaborate fireworks and a carnival. Syracuse, N. Y., had a Christmas story teller to entertain the crowds of children that came to the tree. Pittsburgers contributed so generously to the fund for their tree that $500 was left over as a nucleus for this year's celebration.

A sum of $500 is amply sufficient to finance any celebration, as was proved in Springfield, Mass., where for that amount a beautiful pageant, with carols and recitations, brilliant colored lights and music was arranged about the tree.

San Francisco and Philadelphia had several trees, and Pittsburg, Chicago and New York are among the cities which will this year likewise celebrate the community Christmas simultaneously in three or four different parks.

The community Christmas tree, typifying a broader humanity, is a move in the right direction—the restoration of its public character to the universal celebration, which had degenerated into a mere personal gift-swapping institution, with its selfishly restricted festivities, to inadequately commemorate the spiritual re-birth of the world.

WHAT WE ARE LOSING

A COMPARISON of what it is with what it ought to have been is always an interesting proposition, no matter what may be the chief factor in the problem.

The irrigated district of North Yakima produced about three-fourths of a carload of fruit to the acre. That was the general average. That would be worth, f. o. b. the cars at that point, an average of $450 the car. Yakima's 9600 cars of fruit, therefore would be worth $4,320,000.

The Medford district's acreage in bearing fruit was two-thirds that of Yakima. Therefore, had our acreage been irrigated, it should have produced two-thirds as many carloads of fruit worth two-thirds as much money, or $2,880,000.

Without irrigation, however, we did nothing of the kind. It is almost a shame to print the figures. But here they are: We produced 425 carloads of fruit, worth, f. o. b. the cars Medford, $191,250, which is just $2,688,750 short of what it should be.

More than two million and a half dollars is the sum, therefore, that the fruit producers lost this year on account of having no irrigation. The comparison with the Yakima district is wholly fair. It had an abundance of water for irrigation. We had none. Our loss shows the difference between results with irrigation and those without it.

We have in the Medford district 23,511 acres of commercial orchard. The acreage of what is known as family orchards is sufficient to make our total 25,000. The Yakima district has twice that total, but only a third more in bearing. Being equal in all respects to the Yakima district, except in the matter of irrigation, and superior to it in many respects, we should have shipped this year 6400 carloads of fruit. The difference between that figure and 425 carloads which we will have shipped by the close of the year is what makes us ashamed. It is what makes us poor, as well. It creates mortgages and it will never give us anything to pay them with, either.

NO LAW PERMITS HAISELDON PROSECUTION

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Dec. 23.—There is no law in Illinois whereby Dr. Harry J. Haiselden, the Chicago physician who refused to save or prolong the life of the Bollinger baby in that city November 17, can be indicted by a grand jury investigation.

Such was the information received today by Attorney General Lucey in a letter from State's Attorney McLay Hoyne of Cook county.

The letter was in reply to a request of the attorney general for an investigation of the case by the Chicago official.

NO CHANGE AT ADEN FOR OVER A MONTH

LONDON, Dec. 23.—On being questioned in regard to the recent Turkish official statement that, after successful fighting, Turkish troops were advancing on the British port of Aden, in southern Arabia, J. Austen Chamberlain, secretary for India, said in the house of commons today there had been no material change at Aden for the last two months.

"On December 20 there was a skirmish between our cavalry scouts and an enemy patrol," he continued. "The enemy lost nine killed and one prisoner. Our casualties were one wounded."

MAY STRIKE OIL IN WELL DUG FOR ARTESIAN WATER

If the Chadwick well, which is being drilled for artesian water at a point six miles southeast of Medford, should develop a flow of oil, it would create a local sensation. Indications now suggest that it may do that very thing. Oil sand has been found and already the prediction has been ventured by John Stevens, who has had extended experience at boring for oil in the fields of California and elsewhere, that a flow of oil will be found at a depth of 1100 feet. The well is now down 850 feet. Two hundred and fifty feet of that depth is a 12-inch hole. The remainder is 10¼ inches.

This well is being put down by John Stevens and J. R. Piatt. The original purpose of the Chicago man at the head of the project was to obtain an artesian flow of water for irrigation. During the progress downward, however, four distinct veins of coal have been found. Together they measure a thickness of twenty feet. The lowest vein, it is said, appears to be an excellent quality of coal. Analysis will be necessary to determine its quality, however.

Water has risen in the well to within fifty feet of the surface, reducing the progress of the work in attainment of depth. But steady work will be continued until a flow of artesian water or of oil shall have been reached, if at all obtainable within a possible depth.

About a quarter of a mile from and at an altitude of 800 feet above this well, it is believed that the Sunyside vein of coal has been discovered. It is found in the face of what is known as Castle Rock, and measures twelve feet in thickness. Search has been made for this vein at that locality previously, but without success. A further effort will be made to determine its extent and the quality of the product.

But the chief interest centers at this time on the possibility of striking oil in the Chadwick well in that vicinity. That there are indications of it no one at all familiar with that business expresses a doubt. Surface indications of oil are much stronger, however, several miles up the valley, following the base of Grizzly mountain, at a point not far beyond the lithia springs on Emigrant creek. The peculiar developments in the Chadwick well, near the Sunnyside coal mine, therefore, have renewed talk of development work at the upper end of the valley.

PROFIT SHARING PLAN FOR TOILERS IN HARNESS TRUST

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—The International Harvester company announced a plan today to assist its 35,000 employes to become stockholders and sharers in the company's profits.

Under the plan, which becomes effective tomorrow, all employes will have an opportunity to purchase profit-sharing certificates in the company, payments for which will be made in monthly installments from their salaries. These certificates, it is provided, may be converted into stock at a rate below market value.

To every employe who takes advantage of the offer before March 1, 1916, the company will add to his payments 1 per cent of his earnings annually.

Interest will be paid at the rate of 5 per cent per annum on all employes' payments and credits on his profit-sharing certificates.

Provision is made for postponement of payments in case of illness or unavoidable layoffs.

ROBBINS RESIGNS FROM DISTRIBUTORS

SPOKANE, Wash., Dec. 23.—The resignation of J. H. Robbins as general manager of the North Pacific Fruit Distributors has been filed with the trustees of the organization. Mr. Robbins said today he resigned on account of ill health. He is president of the Northwest Shippers' council, an organization of fruit shippers.