

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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EM-TEES

LOTS OF TIME. By CHARLES B. DRISCOLL. He looked at his watch—just a casual glance.

So he glanced at his watch as he crossed busy st. Just to make doubly sure his engagement he'd meet.

That was three weeks ago, but our hero don't know.

Yes, he took out his watch at the crossing one day. While a sea-going taxi was coming his way.

And he still thinks it's twenty-five minutes to eight.

Oh, he looked for the time as he shoved through the crowd.

"Ah, well," says the Doc, "He has still half a chance; In a year or two more he may get to the dance!"

A lot of us fellows ain't kicking about the high price of henfruit. This only use we had for an egg was for a shampoo.

Modern marriage starts out with a fox trot and ends up in a lame duck.

A few months ago our bullet pushers were looking for Villa when they didn't know where he was.

At the present time very few "bride fighters" have a wallop that, if it missed what it was aimed at, the draft from it would give the opposing "fighter" pneumonia.

It is advisable not to have a piano around where there is a baby who has the habit of putting things in its mouth?

And a dogfish won't run after a catboat?

PEACE OFFERED BELGIUM WITH WOE FOR REJECTION LANSING, Mich., Dec. 13.—The Telegraph today prints prominently the following: "We have received information from an indisputable source that the central powers recently offered peace to Belgium on the following terms: The Belgians are invited to insist upon immediate peace."

WHAT! A mellow, even-burning cigar for a nickel? Sure enough. You get it every time in the Million Dollar OWL. It's hand-made.

GERMANY'S PEACE OFFER

GERMANY, having fought a losing battle on all fronts for the past six months, having been forced back along the Somme, having been defeated at Verdun, having lost Bukovina and driven back in Galicia and Volhynia, has by a brilliant campaign crushed Rumania and occupied a large portion of her territory, and now that she has won all she can expect to win, offers peace on her own terms.

The offer is a clever political move and designed to throw upon the entente allies the blame for continuing the war and creating dissatisfaction with the war among the peoples of the belligerents. It is not at all probable that it will succeed.

German reason that having reached Bucharest as Brussels and Belgrade were reached, having conquered Rumania as Belgium and Serbia were conquered, having proved that the Allies were unable to save their latest ally, that the world will believe Germany unconquerable and will win the war, and that the people of the various hostile nations will be wearied by the apparently hopeless struggle.

The Rumanian campaign, except in a moral sense, has not materially strengthened the central empires. It was on the face a campaign to win peace—by the discouragement of her enemies. The effect, however, has been to stimulate the hostile nations to new efforts.

Peace now would leave Germany the acknowledged victor and merely postpone to some distant day the final reckoning. Allied plans have all been made to carry on the war until the objects sought are attained—and peace upon any terms Germany might offer as a victor would not realize those aims.

A GREAT MORAL REFORM

IT is evident that we are in the midst of a great moral reform. Through the courageous action of the Medford school board we can at last hold up our heads and bravely defy the devil, for the ban has been put upon that shockingly sinful pastime—dancing.

"Resolve that the superintendent of schools shall inform the principals of all schools having high school pupils enrolled in their buildings to instruct the teachers and pupils under them that the Board of Education will not allow any high school dances or any questionable social gatherings to be held under the auspices of the high school, and furthermore, that all teachers that are employed by the District in District No. 49, shall give all their moral support to inculcate into the pupils under their care the highest ideals of thorough American citizenship and the clerk is hereby instructed to furnish the Superintendent with copies of this resolution to be handed to the principals having high school pupils under their care."

No longer can our sedate young seniors and our wise young juniors and our callow sophomores and noisy freshmen make merry with the class balls and promenades. No longer can the pretty school maams chaperone the festive gatherings. No longer will it be "On with the dance, when youth and beauty meet."

Such things belong to the sinful past, and we blush with shame at the thought that we ever fell so low as to permit them. Long did the community close its eyes to these revels—until the scandalized school board stepped in to keep this happy and prosperous town from going to wreck and ruin, to save youth for a sober and somber future and extend the helping hand to erring light-footed instructors.

Why should any one want to dance when the school board has kindly provided courses in cooking and sewing and fancy work? Let the boys and girls substitute sewing and old-fashioned quilting bees for their sinful recreations. Let them have nice little parties at which the boys and girls can bring their fancy work and knitting.

We owe the school board a great deal. They have deprived examinations of their terror and every student is cheerfully passed on, whether he earns it or not. And they have shortened the eighth grade, in some cases to three days, in some to three weeks, in all to half a year. But our greatest debt is for the moral reformation worked in saving youth from tripping the light fantastic on the shining path to perdition and the demitition bow-wows.

FARNAM'S CONVICTION SUSTAINED BY COURT

SALLEM, Or., Dec. 11.—The supreme court has affirmed the conviction of Roy A. Farnam in Douglas county for man-slaughter. Farnam was alleged to have killed Edna Morgan in a barn and to have burned the barn and her body in order to conceal his crime.

The court was divided in its decision. Justices McBride and Harris wrote the opinion affirming Farnam's conviction in Circuit Judge Skipworth's court, and Justice Burnett wrote an opinion strongly dissenting.

The supreme court finds that the defendant either shot the deceased, which would be a deliberate murder, or killed her in the attempt to commit an abortion upon her, which under the Oregon statutes, would be manslaughter.

TOKIO STOCK EXCHANGE CLOSED BY PEACE TALK

TOKIO, Dec. 12.—The peace proposal of Germany and her allies averted such a violent slump on the stock exchange that the market has been closed temporarily by the directors.

VOLKS ZEITUNG ATTACKS PRESIDENT WILSON

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 12.—The Koelnsche Volks Zeitung publishes a sharp attack on President Wilson in connection with the representations to Germany regarding the Belgian deportations. The newspaper says: "We contest the right of the president of the United States to act as a marshall with regard to the acts of belligerents."

GERMAN LOSSES TO DATE 3,921,869

LONDON, Dec. 12.—The total German casualties, excluding those in the naval and colonial services, reported in the German official lists for November, says a British official statement issued today, are 1,661,176 officers and men, making the total German losses in killed, wounded and missing since the war broke out, 3,921,869.

COMMUNICATION.

To the Editor: My letter on the subject of the proposed irrigation district seems to have aroused the canal company, doubtless because of the exposure of the facts as to the sufficiency or insufficiency of the water supply. As I stated, the government report heretofore misquoted by the canal company, expressly says that there is no available data as to the run-off of Four-Mile lake the only measurements available shows less than 6000 acre feet.

I said it was a pussy-foot campaign because of these facts: First. The lines were drawn by the canal company to fit its irrigation system. Second. At the county court hearing Mr. Thomas stated that he appeared as the attorney for the petitioners. There was an effort to hide the fact that the whole thing was done by the canal company.

Third. In drawing lines for the district the canal company excluded the towns. But it did include every sub-division adjoining Medford; therefore, every lot owner of the numerous additions lying about Medford has the same power in voting this mortgage on the farmers as has the farmer with his 50 or 200 acres. But it is now said that after they vote the district they will proceed to exclude these lot owners.

There would be no objection, from my viewpoint, to the canal company coming out in the open and putting all the facts before the public and assisting in the organization of an irrigation district, but it wants a district organized that will not fit any other possible water system than its own.

How It's Done

The manner in which other irrigation districts have in other places been saddled on to an unsuspecting public is about as follows: The promoter corners a water supply by options or contracts in the name of a confederate; educational work is then done and sentiment for a district created; the district is voted, but its directors cannot sell its bonds; along comes the promoter who represents a bonding house and who really owns the water right in question, and proposes to take the bonds at par, providing the water supply and the permanency of the diversion works are approved by the engineer of the bond company.

This is a lovely parallel. The canal company owns the system; it is willing to take the district's bonds providing the district takes its system. It includes in the district to be voted upon, lands which can be watered from no other source than that of the canal company. It includes in the district enough town lots to vote the district; it knows that over the district is voted only a majority of the votes will be required to vote the mortgage bonds. It draws the lines for the different sub-divisions of the district so as to put those who are opposed to the district in the same sub-division with enough in favor of the district so that the objectors have no chance whatever to elect a director. It picks out men for directors whom the public will know are good men and above reproach. So it guides them along to a point where eventually an engineer must be selected. These directors have gone through a heated campaign; are thoroughly imbued with the good faith of the canal company and the opportunities for the selection of a favorable engineer are therefore ideal.

Canal Company Will Quit

The district then finds itself in partnership with the holders of the water rights for 5,000 to 10,000 acres outside of the district; the canal company goes out of business; if it does not go out of business it mort-

sages and bonds its holdings in immense sums, and then something happens to the water supply; the dam goes out; canals have to be rebuilt or some of the many other ordinary misfortunes overtake the district. It must then repair or rebuild. It looks for the canal company—it is gone; Mr. Brown left and took his strong language with him. It finds that it has a lot of partners owning not only water for this 5000 to 10,000 acres but water rights for such additional acreage as were sold before the canal company quit the field.

No Prejudice at All

I want it distinctly understood that I have no prejudice whatever against the canal company. To the extent to which it can furnish the farmers water at a reasonable price, I would prefer to have it do it than to have that water furnished by any one else. Notwithstanding the harsh, unkind, and knowingly untruthful statements of Mr. Brown for the canal company, I am nevertheless, disposed to look at the matter fairly and without any ill will toward the canal company as an institution. I do object to its present effort to unload upon the public by misrepresenting what certain government engineers have reported about the adequacy of the water supply.

I do not have Mr. Brown's article before me and shall not attempt to answer anything else than that which I particularly remember as needing reply. The statement of Mr. Brown that I have heretofore recommended a contract which provided for one and one-half acre feet of water for the farmers in this valley is incorrect and untrue. The reference he makes to a previous petition for an irrigation district having been drawn in my office is distorted—probably because he does not know the facts.

Mr. Brown also refers to the fact that the canal company at one time paid me for passing on a contract which he says contained a provision for one and one-half acre feet. The only purpose Mr. Brown had in his reference to his canceled check was to attempt to besmirch me with some of the canal company's money. This is rather small business. If there was anything dishonorable in the transaction we have not heretofore heard of it nor should the canal company have been mixed up in it.

As Attorney for Canal Co.

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FOR THROAT AND LUNGS

Eckman's Alterative. SOLD BY ALL LEADING DRUGGISTS. JOHN A. PERL UNDERTAKER. Lady Assistant 28 S. BARTLETT Phone No. 47a and 47-J-8 Automobile Hearse Service. Ambulance Service. Garage

by independent and competent engineers as to whether the water supply was sufficient or not, and I required the canal company to deposit \$2500 toward paying for the services of such engineers as would be required. I am only stating these things from memory, but they are approximately correct. I never undertook in that employment to pass upon anything but legal matters for the safe-guarding of the interests of those land owners who wanted water and were willing to contract for it.

Employment Open

My employment was open and known to the public and was told to prospective signers to whom these contracts were presented. This is the only employment I ever had directly or indirectly with this corporation and from the present efforts to misconstrue this employment it seems that I made a mistake in accepting it.

Mr. Brown criticizes my statement that the waters proposed to be sold to the district are in litigation. He says that the waters of Bear creek are not in litigation, nor are those of the South Fork. The public will be delighted to know that it is paying \$40.00 an acre for 25,000 acres which will get a substantial amount of water from so large a stream as Bear creek. Now, as to the waters of the South Fork which he says are not in litigation, when he has been here longer he will know that the South Fork runs into the North Fork above most of the irrigated land on the Little Butte creek, practically all of which is at this time in litigation. As to the waters of Fish lake not being in litigation, they are directly drawn into litigation by the claims of twenty five or thirty, or more farmers whom I represent, and who use the waters of the North Fork which flow out of Fish Lake.

As to Harsh Language

Possibly Mr. Brown's harsh language toward me is excusable because of his anger at having been exposed in his mis-quotations as to what the government report shows in regard to the water supply, and because of the exposure of what I have called the "pussy-foot" campaign, whereby it is intended to vote a district by the votes of lot owners, who it is now intimated are to be excluded after the district has been voted on the people. Without going specifically into his statements, suffice it to say that his

on true. nor the is true. of my cli. after the water, ought to be a to judge. It is their property. It is to be mortgaged and it is Mr. Brown's company that is to take the mortgage. What I did say was that no man in his right senses who wanted water enough to grow alfalfa by irrigation would be satisfied to mortgage his land unless he was getting at least five acre feet per acre. I am saying this from what the courts have found necessary on lands similar to those in this proposed district. I do think that upon some orchard lands material assistance could be had by the use of one and one-half acre feet, but I do not think it is sufficient for most of the land in the district. At least it is plain that it is not sufficient for some kinds of crops.

In addition to this I seriously doubt that the canal company has sufficient water to furnish one and one-half acre feet for 25,000 acres of land, or even 20,000 acres of land.

District Plan Not Wrong

I do not say that a district plan is wrong in principle for those who want and need irrigation, but I do think that the canal company outlined a program whereby the district is to be so voted as to insure the canal company the sale of its project. It is unfortunate that a district could not have been proposed to include the lands of those who want water and to exclude the lands of those who do not want it, and so as to leave the voting power for the creation of the district in the hands of those whose lands are to be mortgaged for the project. The farmers would then be in a position to handle the question of the amount of water required and of the adequacy of the water supply and the permanency of the works necessary to deliver it later. As it is, they must take the water from the canal company, regardless of whether one farmer may need five acre feet as against another's requirements of one and one-half acre feet and regardless of any other consideration excepting such as will put into the hands of the canal company the bonds which are a first lien upon the lands of the district.

A. E. REAMES.

The Safe Side "Those of us who are wise," says a well-known doctor, "will keep on the safe side by using only those foods that contain everything Nature puts into them." A bit of good advice, that. Many foods, as usually prepared, especially cereals, are lacking in the vital mineral elements—phosphate of potash, etc., which the body must have for perfect balance and health. There is one food, Grape-Nuts which is rich in these elements, containing, as it does, all the nutriment of whole wheat and barley. It is a delicious food, affording the sweetness of dextrinized wheat and the distinctive flavor of malted barley. Every table should have its daily ration of Grape-Nuts. "There's a Reason"

Spend the Holidays at Home The economical time of the year to travel. Holiday round-trip fares allow longer return limits than at any other time of the year. Christmas Holidays between all points in Oregon; also from all Southern Pacific points to Washington and Idaho Dec. 22 to 25 inclusive. Return limit Jan. 2. New Years Holidays between all points in Oregon; Dec. 26 to Jan. 1st inclusive. Return limit Jan. 2nd. Return to California points Dec. 26 to 28 inclusive. Return limit 15 days. Write or ask local agent JOHN M. SCOTT, General Passenger Agent Portland, Oregon SOUTHERN PACIFIC LINES