

The Evening Herald

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Published every afternoon except Sunday by The Herald Publishing Company at 102-122 South Fifth Street, Klamath Falls, Oregon.
Entered as second class matter at the postoffice of Klamath Falls, Oregon, on August 30, 1906, under act of Congress, March 3, 1879.

MAIL RATES PAYABLE IN ADVANCE
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Saturday, January 31, 1931

The Menace Of Narcotics

YESTERDAY'S mail brought a pamphlet which announces the fifth annual observance of Narcotic Education Week, February 21 to 28.

The first reaction from the pamphlet was that there are so many things claiming special weeks that there are no longer enough left in the twelve months of the year to provide for them all. But on second thought, following a few minutes of reflection, there came the realization that narcotics are becoming a graver menace than ever. More people are using deadly drugs in the United States today than ever before. This condition applies not only to adults, but to young people, the traffic having extended its slimy tentacles into the high schools of our cities.

Naturally the question arises: Why are more people using narcotics today than ever before?

The argument is frequently advanced that the growing drug habit is the result of prohibition. It may be a stock argument of those who are desirous of amending or repealing the eighteenth amendment and legalizing the sale of intoxicating liquors. However, no one has pointed out the reason in a manner that is entirely convincing.

It is barely possible that when the eighteenth amendment became effective some of those addicted to the booze habit turned to the use of drugs to satisfy their craving for artificial stimulants. But, why should the drug habit increase among the young who never acquired the habit for strong drink and artificial stimulants, or kicks, as they are called in this age?

The most likely explanation is that the attempt to enforce the prohibition law above all others resulted in a slump in the effort to enforce the law against deadly drugs, and that those engaged in the latter traffic took advantage of the situation to increase the scope of their trade.

Whatever the answer, the drug habit is with us in increased proportions, and presents a problem commanding the attention of every citizen who is interested in the conservation of human life. It is one, irrespective of the desire to enforce prohibition and other laws, which must not be lost sight of, for it is the most deadly and damnable habit which the human being can acquire. The condition provides substantial proof that one danger must not be magnified to such an extent that we lose sight entirely of those of equal or graver dangers.

Outlaw The Revolver

A BILL making the possession of a machine gun by anyone except the police or authorized military organizations a crime has been introduced in the Minnesota legislature.

It is designed to aid the police in the campaign against professional gunmen and gangsters who have terrorized other sections of the country and will undoubtedly pass. There is no reason why it should not be adopted as a law. It is one which should be in effect in every state. There is no reason why any civilian should have a machine gun, any more than he should have a ten-inch cannon. Possession of one should be made prima facie evidence of criminal intent.

In their efforts to reduce crime and to provide added safety to human life, lawmakers of the states should go a step in advance and outlaw the revolver as well as the machine gun. This would do more to save the lives of our citizens and reduce crime to a minimum than any action which is available to our law-making bodies.

There is no more reason for civilians to go about armed with a revolver than with a machine gun. In certain emergencies they could be authorized and supplied to civilians by police departments, but if the revolver were outlawed emergencies would be few and far between.

One of the most fertile causes for the appalling number of violent crimes in this country is the unrestricted use of firearms. Had it not been that he was bolstered and strengthened with a revolver, the lone bandit would not have skulked into the bank yesterday at Chilquinn and robbed it of \$3,000, and every available police officer of the county compelled to scour the countryside in an effort to apprehend the bandit. Had it not been for revolvers Klamath county jail would not have recently had a murder row with four members in it. Had it not been for the revolver his slayer carried, Sam Prescott, Ashland traffic officer, would not be in a premature grave.

Truly, it is high time that the members of state legislatures, and others who are appalled at the wanton abandon with which men go about the country robbing and killing, take steps to outlaw the revolver.

Dr. Einstein doesn't live among the stars all the time. He is found frequently with his feet on solid ground. Though a mysterious astronomer, he is also a plain-spoken philosopher.

EDITORIALS

From Over The Nation

"The Great Indoors"

Judge: In that grand revue, "The New Yorker," Frances Williams sings a song called "The Great Indoors," which has deep sociological significance. The reaction against the cult of the open air may be here.

There is a new building in Cincinnati which houses under a single roof two department stores, various smaller shops, a hotel with 750 rooms, a garage that parks 650 cars, and forty-eight floors of offices. This, according to Col. William A. Starrett, is the new type of skyscraper. He believes that we have gone about the limit in height—not the economic limit, for they could build twice as high, but the engineering limit, for they could not put in windows at all, ventilated artificially.

Soon, without ever stepping foot on pavement, it will be possible to be born, reared, educated, married, to play golf, carry on an intrigue, get a divorce, have an operation, grow old, die and be cremated and have your ashes at last scattered to the outer air that you never breathed.

There Must Be Faith

George W. Alger in the Atlantic Monthly: What we are slowly coming to in American finance is the system of old China. The Chinese merchant knew he could not go to court for redress from his debtor. China has no lawyers. Having no other protection against dishonesty, the Chinese merchant developed a system of not trusting anybody he did not know was honest.

No business man whose word was not good, who did not pay his debts and meet his obligations, could continue in Chinese business, which required a continued and unvarying reputation for probity.

We are today, in America, approaching a new age of faith, in which the individual, in an era of corporations, supercorporations, giant banks and investment trusts, is driven to rely mainly on his faith in the character of those with whom he deals, to whom he intrusts his savings, and who control the destinies of the corporations in which he invests. Whether this represents a step forward or a step backward remains to be seen.

The changes which the large corporate organizations have brought about in the general conditions under which modern business is conducted have been on the whole exceedingly useful in improving the quality of our business morals.

Alien Criminals

Chicago Tribune: The task of defeating flagrant crime in the United States is being materially assisted by the deportation of alien criminals. The district director of immigration, Shirley D. Smith, reports the deportation of 450 within the year, a record for the district, and notes that the number of deportations is steadily increasing. This, he says, in large measure is due to increased co-operation from the Chicago police department and the state prison officials, who are turning all deportable criminals over to the immigration department. All of these official agencies are to be congratulated. It is to be hoped there will be no slackening of this important co-operation. We have too many criminals of our own breeding. The alien criminal is conspicuous in the conditions for which European critics inveigh against us. He is an importation we have foolishly permitted for many years with results advertised against us throughout the world.

Stories of floggings recur time and again in the report, but Liberian soldiers and others who had power over the forced labor on the roads also engaged in more bizarre tortures. An apparently well known practice, the commission says, was that of tying victims with ropes, dangling them in the air, building fires under them and throwing red pepper into the flames.

Many Prisoners Tortured
The "basket punishment" was a favorite punishment and amusement of soldiers guarding the road workers. A big basket loaded with earth and heavy

DAILY WASHINGTON LETTER

International Inquiry Reveals Women Slaves Bring Higher Prices Than Men in Liberia—Commission Cites Many Instances of Floggings and Other Forms of Torture

BY RODNEY DUTCHER
NEA Service Writer

WASHINGTON—Women are more valuable than men in Liberia's domestic slavery.

The International Commission of Inquiry, which investigated slavery and forced labor in the African republic, reports that between 1912 and 1920 the redemption price for female slaves was about \$20 apiece, that for men about \$15, but that since 1920 the price for women has been \$30 and that for men has remained the same.

Domestic slaves become such under the "pawning" system which is officially recognized by the Liberian government, but which the commission severely condemns. In return for money, human beings, usually child re-latives but often wives or mothers, are given into uncompensated servitude for indefinite periods and with little chance of redeeming themselves.

Woman Pawns for \$5

Pawns may be recovered by the holder, and the commission found persons remaining a pawn for 10, 20, 40 years or for life. One woman had been held in pawn six years for the sum of \$5. Instances are cited where, in order to pay government fines or taxes, many natives pawned wives, sisters or children for from \$15 to \$40.

Late in December, the State Department sent a scathing note of censure to the Liberian government which is supposed to have caused the resignations of President King and Vice President Yancy. Secretary Stimson said the report established the direct criminal participation of Yancy and many other officials in shipment of forced labor to Fernando Po and said King was aware of the various practices.

The note mentioned evidence of torture and the "pawning" system. Liberia has promised to clean up, it said, but had done nothing in that direction and guilty officials remained in office. Stimson virtually threatened to break off relations.

One of the many pitiable stories told in the report, on which the note was based, concerns a long march of several hundred Wedabo women who went to Cape Palmas in 1925 to petition Yancy not to send away their husbands and brothers to Fernando Po, a Spanish colony. The women "ranged helplessly about the town" and their petition was ignored.

Strange names are found in the evidence taken by the commission—such names as Sea Breeze and Sea Breeze No. 2, Africa, Tin Cup, Book Don't Lie, Black Man's Trouble, John No. 1, John No. 2 and John No. 3. A profitable traffic grew up at one time among persons who could lure boys for shipment out of Liberia to other African points using various wiles. One woman, who was said to have worked for Yancy and the postmaster general, testified that "civilized" persons were paid \$5 for each boy recruited and natives \$1.25. She served relations with the postmaster general when she discovered she was being paid the native rate.

Stories of floggings recur time and again in the report, but Liberian soldiers and others who had power over the forced labor on the roads also engaged in more bizarre tortures. An apparently well known practice, the commission says, was that of tying victims with ropes, dangling them in the air, building fires under them and throwing red pepper into the flames.

Many Prisoners Tortured
The "basket punishment" was a favorite punishment and amusement of soldiers guarding the road workers. A big basket loaded with earth and heavy

stones was lifted by four soldiers and placed on the prisoner's head. The prisoner then being ordered to walk. Many men were killed thus when their necks were broken, according to the evidence, and others received fatal injuries. A large number of deaths from beatings were also reported.

In one instance reported, the natives retaliated. Two hundred women were put to work for nine months at barracks building. The soldiers appropriated them and committed other acts of oppression against the natives. Then professional poisoners of the tribe got busy with their herbs and at least three men died and seven others were incapacitated seriously or permanently.

The State Department, when it sent its December note, had evidence that the government had encouraged acts of retaliation against helpless witnesses who had told their stories to the commission. Many chiefs told the commission that they feared such reprisals and one said:

"They have told us that if we talk our towns will be burned. I have thought about this much and now I say, 'Then let it be history for our children that the towns of the people of Liberia were destroyed this day because they told their troubles.'"

Timely Quotations From People in the Public Eye

There are many factors which give encouragement for the future.—President Hoover.

We cannot legislate a return to prosperity.—Governor Franklin Roosevelt of New York.

The so-called business cycle forms a subject for psychologists rather than for economists.—Paul M. Warburg.

I believe that in the future no individual business or any industry of any line of business will be judged truly successful, unless it succeeds in giving fair returns to its investors, real wages to its customers, and security and fair and liberal wages to its workers.—General R. E. Wood, president of a mail order house.

Perhaps many of us now are suffering from a case of undigested charts, percentages, cycles and forecasts.—Allard Smith, Cleveland (O.) banker.

Education is what is left after you have forgotten all that you have learned.—C. H. K. Marten.

ROCKET TO AMERICA
BERLIN—Within 200 years, according to Fritz von Opel, German rocket expert, rocket ships will be flying to America from Germany, making the trip in three hours. He thinks these ships will reach a speed of 5000 miles an hour. Fares, he says, will be very much cheaper than present ship rates, because of the ability of rockets to make several trips a day.

THRILLING
Agatha: Weren't you thrilled when you looked down into the depths of the Grand Canyon? Amantha: Yes, the guide had his arms around me.—Pathfinder.

EIGHTEEN YEARS AGO IN KLAMATH

Forty-three inches of snow fell during the month of January 18, according to the meteorological record compiled by the reclamation service. On January 18th, 15 inches of snow were on the ground, while on January 21, the depth was three inches greater.

The greatest snowfall in any one day was 5½ inches on January 16. A fall of five inches was recorded on the 18 and 22.

Mean average temperature for the month of January was 17.4. The mean maximum is given as 27, and the mean minimum as 7.9.

Of the 31 days, comprising the month 14 were clear, 4 were partly cloudy and 13 were cloudy.

Wednesday next is designated as Ash Wednesday, and marks the commencement of Lent, the period of 40 days before Easter, the season of preparation for the feast of the Resurrection. The Lenten season is marked by fasts and abstinences, a shunning of pleasures and frivolities and other little acts of self-denial.

An "eleventh hour" meeting will be held by the directors of the chamber of commerce Tuesday evening, at which time they will complete arrangements for the entertainment of the dairymen of the county who will be here Wednesday to effect organization of a Klamath county dairymen's association.

J. H. NAPIER IS ELECTED HEAD

J. H. Napier, local attorney, was elected chairman of the city civil service commission, at a meeting attended by all three members of the commission, held yesterday at the city hall. Roy Fouch, police judge, is secretary of the commission.

J. E. Hosking suggested that Mr. Napier be made chairman and was seconded by Richard Weatherly.

The commission set Tuesday as the time for the next meeting when rules and regulations for the guidance of the commission and the police and fire departments will be drawn up.

No action was taken on the pending petition of a number of policemen discharged the first of the year, as to cause for their dismissals.

Agatha: Weren't you thrilled when you looked down into the depths of the Grand Canyon? Amantha: Yes, the guide had his arms around me.—Pathfinder.

ROY BURGESS IS VICTIM OF SERIOUS FALL

Roy Burgess, age about 45, carpenter for Mayer and McMillan contractors on a drydock at the Kesterson mill, died at 5 o'clock Friday evening of injuries received earlier in the afternoon when he fell 50 feet from a block and tackle platform on which he was working.

With John Conrad and A. C. McGhee, Burgess was on the platform and John Gentry was holding the rope on the ground. As Burgess leaned over to secure a brace on the drydock the hook slipped from the platform, Burgess lost his balance and fell to the ground, fracturing one leg and causing internal injuries which resulted in his death a few hours later.

Burgess was immediately rushed to the Hillside hospital in the Arrow ambulance. Doctors were unable to save his life.

Burgess was a widower and is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Myrtle M. Anderson of San Diego, who has been notified. The body is at the Earl Whitlock funeral home, Pine avenue at Sixth. Funeral arrangements await word from his daughter. Coroner Earl Whitlock is investigating the accident.

Allingham Will Assist Making Income Reports

W. W. Allingham, deputy collector of internal revenue, will be in the council chambers of the city hall next week to receive income tax reports and to assist those who wish help in making out reports.

Because March 15 falls on Sunday income tax payers will have until March 16 to file reports this year, Mr. Allingham points out. This year, the government returns to the rates used two

years ago, as last year's reduction has been abolished.

Mr. Allingham will be in Klamath Falls February 2 to 7, inclusive, and February 23 to March 16, inclusive. He will be at the court house in Lakeview February 9, 10 and 11.

Married men making less than \$3500 do not have to file reports and single persons making less than \$1600 do not have to file reports; all others must make reports, it is stated.

Geo. Walton Moves To New Location

The local office of the Prudential Building & Loan company, which is in charge of George Walton, was moved Friday from the former location at 616 Klamath avenue to a room adjoining at corner of Ninth and Main streets, next door to the Metz jewelry store.

A motor finance company, which is in charge of K. A. Moore and which has been located in the same office with the Prudential insurance company also moved to the new office room.

The building and loan company has installed new fixtures, making the interior very attractive, and a large neon sign has been erected on the front of the building.

MEXICANS FLY MORE

MEXICO CITY—The Mexico City-El Paso and Brownsville-Mazatlan air lines flew more than 1,250,000 miles during 1930, a report from offices of the lines shows. Despite this great total, all flights were made without a single accident. During the year many flights were made in aiding government highway and irrigation in survey work.

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Famous Statesmen

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of —7	48 To bind.	4 Wrath.	thought.
6 Mackenzie	49 Deluge.	5 To adore.	14 Billow.
King was	51 Dross.	17 Mushroom.	
prime minister	53 Southeast.	19 Laborer.	
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13 In line.		27 Embryo	
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YESTERDAY'S ANSWER
SCOTIA JOFFRE
SALES IT RULER
LITA MOORE
ART DOYLE WIT
LE BUT DYER DO
BRAN P LEAVE
DEED TAB MINT
RAD POLARACE
AN BOMBEREL
BIBER GAINEL
EVENTS EMBERS