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What the Editors Say

You can always tell the pacifists by the fact that they are always quarreling with somebody.—*Corvallis Gazette-Times.*

Is it any wonder there is contempt of law when cases of this kind happen? asks the Oregonian. A rich banker of Chicago deserted his wife and two children in New York sixteen years ago, have acquired another wife, and progressively, these children in Chicago. Being exposed and brought to court, an accounting judge gives him until today to pick the wife he prefers, or go to jail. Perhaps the term "rich banker" contains an explanation.—*Shoreland Star.*

If the Centralia massacre had taken place in Oregon, instead of Washington the guilty parties would find nothing worse than imprisonment for a longer or shorter time, which fact is respectfully referred to the sentimentalists who put the anti-capital punishment law on the statute books. Taken in connection with the locking up as the extreme possible punishment of Johnson, who gibed confessed to killing in cold blood his benefactors, should at least cause them to realize whether it things are turning out as they figured.—*Willamette Independent.*

Having searched in vain for the popularity of Senator Chamberlain, we are inclined to repeat our assertion that he can be defeated by any business man. Chamberlain's great popularity with the former soldiers, which has been so loudly proclaimed by his friends, is found upon investigation to be business, in common with other folk, many of the former soldiers want to see a business administration of affairs. Politicians have been tried and found wanting. It is the general opinion that the application of sound business principles will straighten out the tangled skein in this country. It is up to the republican party to furnish the business candidates. Forget the politicians for a while and plan for the benefit of the nation.—*Dallas Observer.*

Old facts, those facts are, admitted we should proceed to try to justify the conclusion striking of the German ships at Scapa Flow on the ground that he was "obliged to assume that he had broken out again" because the British press had announced capture of the German submarine proposals in the peace treaty, and as he "acted in the conviction that it was war," he demands that he and his submarines shall be treated in accordance with the rules of war. Of course the world knows, and he knows that the world knows, that he is lying, and that in fact he sank the ships not because he thought war had started again, but because he knew that peace was assured. His act was a characteristic piece of Treason in spirit, for which it is gratifying to know that he and his followers will be made to pay full price.—*Harvard's Weekly.*

Why the Farmers Oppose Public Ownership

In the closing session of the know-

Chicago, a resolution was adopted opposing government ownership of public utilities. Farmer sentiment seems to be settling strongly against public ownership. Wartime experience with government operation of the railroads has dispelled many illusions, and the farmers are beginning to see that municipal ownership of street railway, power plants, etc., would mean heavier taxation on the farm.

City utilities, when owned by private corporations, pay a large share of state, county and city taxes. The fact came out in the recent Spokane city election that the Washington Water Power company alone pays more than one-eighth of all the taxes collected in this city.

When such utilities are owned by municipalities they become exempt from taxation, and the tax burden they bear when owned privately must be shifted to the general taxpayers.

For illustration, say that a private owned public utility is paying \$100,000 yearly in taxes. Say one-third of that tax goes to the city, one-third to the county and one-third to the state. If the city should acquire the plant, the state would lose its \$33,333 yearly. It would have to collect that \$33,333 from the taxpayers and a larger part of the burden would be shifted to the farmers. All the farmers in the state.

The \$33,333 lost to the county would have to be made up by a larger levy on all the taxable property in the county, including the farms.

The \$33,333 lost to the state would have to be made up by heavier taxation of the property in the city.

It will readily be seen that if public ownership should supplant private ownership, there would have to be an enormous shifting of the tax burden, and the farmers would get the worse end of the deal. They would get no use of the city owned utilities and their taxes would be increased.

The farmers have a way of thinking things out and coming to sound conclusions in the end.—*Spokane Review.*

Samples of Treason

Under union domination, nine men were required for a rowing crew when there would be twelve work before work and not be so thick as to be in each other's road.

- Five are the nine.
- Eight legs, hoarse.
- Seven passes.
- Strike on.
- Strike on.
- Strike on.
- Two strikes up.
- Two owners.

The three really needed for efficient work are:

- One boat.
- One row.
- One on.

Scraps of Paper.

What has become of the anxiety of those Democratic senators for immediate ratification of the peace treaty because the delay in the matter was cracking the heart of the world?

The Oklahoma Democrats who were trimmed so beautifully in that special congressional election, say they were the victims of "over confidence." What do you suppose it is that gives a Democratic candidate "over-confidence" these days?

Senator John Sharp Williams refers to Senator Walsh, of Massachusetts, as "Ireland's senator." What nation does Senator Williams represent in the Senate. In view of his impassioned statement on the floor of that body some months ago: "We are all free born Englishmen!"

In view of the "fact" that the people of the United States have for months been demanding the immediate ratification of the unamended covenant, isn't it strange that these stubborn obstinate congressmen to influence a strong drift in the opposite direction?

The belated memberships of Ray Stannard Baker about the achievements of President Wilson at the Paris peace conference prove that the way to convert a chronic snore-into a speechmaker ought to be put him on the public pay roll and give him a little official recognition.

If President Wilson, as indicated by his telegram of congratulation to Governor Coolidge, of Massachusetts, believed that the issue in the election was law and order, it seems unfortunate that he did not find opportunity to express himself before the vote showed the way the wind was blowing instead of waiting until afterward.

For many months the New York Times and World and other daily editorial attacks upon the senate with the assurance that in due time observers to the unamended covenant would have to swallow their medicine. The medicine is being swallowed all right, but it isn't the senators who wanted for an unamended covenant that are doing it.

Union labor will have to eliminate from leadership the scoundrels who are urging the organizations for the turbulence of political ends, or subtle disruption if not destruction. Those who seek to use the labor unions as a means of concealing or injuring the people in general are the worst enemies of organized labor and the best friends of those who would destroy union labor if they could.

"We are Americans, we will not fight our government," is the statement with which President Lewis, of the miners' organization announced that he would submit to the robe of the court. Fine words, truly spoken, and constituting an interesting commentary on the declarations of certain labor politicians at Washington to the effect that they would back the miners' organization in defiance of the courts.

WEDDED IN SMOCK

Reason for Scanty Garb of Some Old-Time Brides.

In England It Was Held That Acel Rellived Husbands of Debts Contracted by His Bride Before Their Marriage.

"A Bangor lawyer attending court in the ancient town of Wiscasset, Lincoln county, recently went rummaging in the Colonial court records of the place, and in the course of his reading came across the official registration of a 'smock marriage,'" writes L. T. Smyth from Bangor, Me., to the Boston Transcript. "Not knowing what a smock marriage was, the lawyer looked further, and got considerable light upon a custom that prevailed in England a century or more ago and also to some extent in the American colonies."

"Smoek marriages were weddings where the bride appeared dressed in a white sheet or chemise. The reason for such a garb was the belief that if a man married a woman who was in debt he could be held liable for her indebtedness if he received with her any of her property; and also, that if a woman married a man who was in debt, his creditors could not take her property to satisfy their claims if he had received nothing from her at marriage. In England, says an antiquarian, there was at least one case where a bride was clothed in parts naturalibus while the ceremony was being performed in the great church at Birmingham. The minister at first refused to perform the ceremony, but, finding nothing in the rubric that would excuse him, he finally married the pair.

"To carry out the law fully as the people understood it, the ceremony should always have been performed as it was in the church at Birmingham, in the case noted; but, modesty forbidding various expedients were used to accomplish the end without the unpleasant features. Sometimes the bride stood in a closet and put her hand through a hole in a cloth screen and put her hand out at one side; again, she would about her a white sheet furnished by the bridegroom, and sometimes she stood in her chemise or smock. Eventually, in Essex county, at least, all immodesty was avoided by the groom furnishing all the clothes worn by the bride, retaining the title to the same in himself. This he did in the presence of witnesses, that he might be able to prove the fact in case he was sued for any debts she might have contracted. A marriage of this kind occurred at Bradford in 1773, and the following is true copy of the record of the same:

"Bradford, Dec. 24, 1773—This may certify whomever it may concern that James Bulley of Bradford, who was married to the widow Mary Secun November 22 last past by me ye underscriber then declared that he took said person without anything of estate and that Lydia the wife of Linser Suckard and Mary the wife of Thomas Suckard and Margaret the wife of Caleb Suckard all of Bradford were witnesses that the couples she then had on were his providing and bestowed upon her.

"WILLIAM BLANCH, Minister of ye Gospel."

"It is noted by the same writer that in all cases of smock marriages that have come to his notice the brides have been widows.

"It is thought that during the reign of George III there were many smock marriages in Maine, then a part of the province of Massachusetts Bay, chiefly in the counties of Lincoln and York, or in the territory which is now so known. There is nothing to show that the practice outlived the Revolution. In Maine, up to 1852, a husband was liable for debts of his wife contracted before marriage, and no such subterfuge as the smock marriage could escape him."

New Pipe Reveals Character.

A new method of telling a man's character is now advanced by William E. Chubb, a clergyman, of Boston, Mass. He says:

"You can tell more about a man by the way he lights his pipe than you can by the shape of his head. There's the fellow who strikes a match on the south end of his trousers, holds his hands over the bowl until he gets it going, throws down the match and all pipes, and fills his pipe up toward the North Star. That man may hurt down his home and barn, but he'll never hurt his wife or children, because his heart's right.

"Cooks and butlers don't often smoke pipes. They wouldn't be cooks if they did, because there's something about an old history pipe that inspires a man to play fair with his neighbors."

In Memory of James Watt.

The eponymy of James Watt, the inventor of the modern steam engine, who died August 25, 1819, was celebrated in Scotland by the raising of a fund of \$250,000 to further the cause of the engineering department of Glasgow university, to provide additional facilities for the training of engineers.

Doctor Was a Comfort.

WILL ROAR TOWARD GERMANY

Position of Sculptured Lion on Famous Battlefield of Waterloo is to Be Reversed.

The lion on the battlefield of Waterloo is to face the other way, and before long it will stand with open, ponderous paws roaring silently, after the manner of your fierce but considerate sculptured lions, toward Germany instead of France. Fortunately for the quiet of the countryside the roar is imaginary or the lion would long ago have become a nuisance whichever way he faced. The lion was set up by Belgium after the battle of Waterloo, and stood as a warning to France not to engage in any more Napoleonic dreams of conquest; and year after year it looked toward France, while behind it Germany prepared for the next effort to dominate other nations. It maintained its attitude while Germany carried through the program that separated Alsace-Lorraine from France; but presently behind the lion's back Belgium began to fortify, and eventually left him in the ridiculous position of looking in one direction while the Belgian fortifications looked in another. A tame lion, one might say, roaring for the edification of tourists and with no personal feeling about it. But now Belgium decides to turn him round and let him roar toward Germany as a solemn reminder of the unwisdom of dreams of world conquest.

THINK TERM IS EFFEMINATE

Some Tennis Players Object to Word "Love" as at Present Employed in Scoring System.

There is talk among the overlords of tennis of finding another word than "love" to mean "nothing" in the scoring system, for, although it may surprise many to hear it, the game is sometimes spoken of as effeminate, and this bit of terminology is held responsible. Nobody has ever explained why "love" means "nothing" in tennis, but there is a footnote in an old and rare book about card-playing which refers to an old Scottish word "luff," which meant "nothing," and this, perhaps, may have been somehow transferred into the game of tennis. Or, again, the term may be of far eastern origin, where a word sounding like "love" was used in the old form of tennis that was once popular in the orient. Whether or not the terminology undergoes change, the game is in no immediate danger of falling off in popularity, and the repeated shooting of these seeming endorsements across the tennis net has occasioned much innocent derision.—*Christian Science Monitor.*

Honor Cuban General.

Cuba is to pay honor to the memory of General Maximo Gomez, the island republic's military hero, by erecting a costly monument. A first prize of \$25,000 was awarded recently to Jose Gaba, an Italian sculptor, for a model of the memorial, which is to cost \$200,000. Second and third prizes went respectively to Evaristo Castellanos, a Spanish-Cuban, and Gerson Buehling, an American. General Gomez became popular as the leader of the Cuban forces in the war for independence from Spain, from 1895 to 1898. He also held a prominent part in the Ten Years' war, a revolt which began in 1906. On the day of his death, June 17, 1905, the general's family was presented with a gift of \$20,000 by the government of Cuba. At the conclusion of the Spanish-American war, General Gomez was honored at a public reception given by the American forces occupying Havana at that time.—*Popular Mechanics Magazine.*

Helium Gas Cheapened.

Up to 1915 the total output of helium gas in the world had probably been less than 100 cubic feet, and it was worth about \$2,700 a cubic foot. But just before the armistice was signed a shipment of 2,500,000 cubic feet of helium gas was sent to Europe, and it costs less than 10 cents a cubic foot.

Helium gas was first discovered on the sun, by spectroscopy. It is the best gas for use in balloons, because it is not inflammable. It is now extracted from the natural gas of Texas and Kansas. The method is delicate and complex, but is based upon the fact that the principal constituents of natural gas liquefy when cooled to about minus 225 degrees F., but that helium remains a gas at that temperature, and hence is easily separated.

Surgeons Use Airplanes.

Four airplanes are being used to survey the extensive forests of Labrador to determine the value of the wood pulp represented by the growing trees. Aerial photographs will be taken of many parts of the peninsula for use in compiling statistics. The surveying party, which left the United States recently for Nova Scotia, is composed of 40 persons and is headed by a man who served two years as a captain in the British air forces.—*Popular Mechanics Magazine.*

Rich Gift to Museum.

Miss Mendenhall, in Chicago, has just been given a rare treasure trove, consisting of a collection of gold ornaments excavated from the basin of the Nechi river in Colombia, South America, last June, consisting of bracelets, pendants, earrings, earrings, beads and necklaces, all in pure gold, forming the most valuable collection in the world of art of Colombia's ancient civilization.



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