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### HOLDING UP A MERITORIOUS BILL.

Senate Bill No. 149, giving county courts the right to reject bids for constructing county bridges and do the work by day labor where the lowest bid, is in their estimation too high, has again been reported into the senate by the committee on roads and highways with the recommendation that it pass but without the signature of Senator Day, boss of the senate steam roller.

When the bill was before the senate Wednesday the big Portland contractor, after taking much of the time of the senate to belittle the idea of doing either county or state work by day's labor, stated that he would be satisfied with the bill if a clause was inserted requiring that the county court make an estimate of what such construction should cost, keep the estimate secret and then reject all bids not coming within the estimate so made. In deference to the senator the bill was returned to the committee and the change made exactly in accordance with the request of the senator, still as a member of the committee, he refuses to sign the report. He assigns no reason but simply refuses to place his signature on the report, according to the best authority available on the subject.

Every person familiar with bridge construction in this state feels that contractors have been holding the counties of the state up for bridge construction for years past; that they have practically districted the state and by a system of agreeing that bids on each bridge shall be at a stipulated figure have received thousands of dollars that was not justly their due. The recent revelation in regard to the cost of bridge building in Lane county is but one instance and it is high time the county courts were given some weapon with which to fight down the contractors.

Throughout the last session of the legislature the little click headed by Senator Day exhibited a strong inclination to favor the big interests and this session this is becoming even more apparent.

The people of the state will do well to give some attention to the actions of the senator as there is a little whisper going the rounds that he has aspirations to hold an office that pays more than three dollars a day and is good all the year round.

### DIMES AND NICKELS.

If it were possible for the parents of an average home to see in a single pile all the small coins spent during the year by their family, they would no doubt be amazed.

The reckless nickel-spending habit is not confined to the children by any means. How many good, hard-headed business men are continuously handing out small coins for things that gratify a moment's whim! There are women innumerable who are most careful in home management and self-denying in their own wardrobes who will literally "load up" with trifles merely because the cost is little. The result is more than the dropping of bits of money; their homes are cluttered up with these cheap things, until neat housekeeping is impossible.

Apples half eaten; nothing finished up; new supplies of all kinds before they are needed; nothing more than half used. It is the result of abundance, with no idea of an end thereto.

It has all come about in one generation. How our grandfathers and grandmothers hoarded their small possessions, mended their toys and cherished bright-colored cards!

The complexity of modern living lies not merely in our doing too many things, but in our having too many, in more books and papers than we can possibly read, more clothes than we can wear or care for, more utensils than we have need of, and so on through a long, long list.

"No great success was ever attained by kicking," remarks the Portland Journal "small change" editor. And to think that he never heard of Charles Brickley of Harvard!

If the United States does remain strictly neutral our natural reward will be the dislike of all the warring nations.

Some of those legislators protest their desire for economy so strongly as to arouse suspicions.

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The Portland papers are attacking the quality of Salem's water supply when as a matter of fact it is probably as good as that possessed by the average city in the country. The only way to have water of guaranteed purity is to install a modern gravity filter, and without it, even Portland's vaunted Bull Run supply is liable to contamination, which probably accounts for the prevalence of typhoid in that city, as shown by the records of the health department. Salem has been as free of typhoid fever during the past two years as any city in the Northwest, unless it was Eugene, where filtration of the water supply has solved a problem which worried the community for several years.

It must be getting more difficult to protect the game and propagate the fish, judged by the increasing expense. When only \$50,000 a year came in from the licenses they managed to do the work, and yet last year it cost \$137,000 to do it—all the revenue that was received. And ridiculous as the whole game and fish business is, a lot of so-called economists in the legislature pass it up like a sacred fetiche—something that should not be treated with common horse sense and business methods. It is far more to their taste to lop off asylum and school estimates where the lobby is numerically weaker and less persistent.

The senate might possibly allow the shipping bill to pass if it was provided that the trust would be allowed to operate the vessels after the government had purchased them.

A whole lot of people are lobbying for an irrigation bill. Why not adopt the proposed prohibition law?—it's wet enough to suit almost anybody.

Hungary is playing an important part in the war just now. But plain hunger will probably cut more of a figure in due course of time.

A prohibition law so wet that no one will feel the necessity of breaking it seems to be the idea of some of the "dry" leaders.

General Villa is evidently preparing to leave Mexico. He has made the first step in that direction by assuming the presidency.

### LITTLE BOBBIE'S PA

(By William P. Kirk)  
Mister & Missus Binge came up to our house last night, it was the first time I had ever seen them, they knew Pa & Ma out in Denver.

Missus Binge was a very pretty woman & she had the nicest smile. I was stuck on her rite away. If I can't have a wife like her or Ma wen I grow up I am going to stay single & save money. But Mister Binge wasn't a nice looking man, anyhow I didn't like him, his eyes was like the points on nails & his hands was cold wen he shook hands & he didn't have any grip in his hand.

Well, sed Pa, wen everybody was setting down, how is everything out in dear old Denver? I haven't been out there for five years, Pa sed.

The town is all right but the people in the town are getting on my nerves, sed Mister Binge. I can't make as much money there as I used to make.

It is realy too bad about you, said Missus Binge, you have more money now than you can ever spend. Why in the world dont you git a little pleasure out of it now while you are living?

That is the rite idee, sed Pa. I can't see much sense in having a fat bankroll & bum health. How is old man Billings, the good old sport?

The less you say about him the better sed Mister Binge. I always sed that he wasn't a good man & you always stuck up for him, he sed to Pa.

I always stuck up for him becus I liked him, sed Pa. If I like a man I stick up for him. I aint a jellyfish, Pa sed. I always thought a lot of old Billings.

But you was never a keen judge of human nature, sed Mister Binge. I used to diff at you wen you had some fellow sized up to be a good fellow. You had a way of seeing more good in people than was in them. Not so with me, sed Mister Binge.

Well, sed Pa, here is the way I feel about judging human nature. I will admit I was never much of a hand to put a man under a microscope. I never felt much like judging anybody, anyway. I think it is better to try to find the good in people you meet than to git a diamond drill & dig down to them for a men streak. I have lived this long on that principal sed Pa & I think I will be able to keep up the idee till I die.

I think that is noble of you, sed Missus Binge. I wish my husband was more like that.

How in the world can a man be like that & git rich, sed Mister Binge. I am a boumy unker. That is my pleasure, I sed wen I went to Denver I would be one of the richest men there in ten years & I have made good my word.

Well, sed Pa, now that you have succeeded, do you think that you are more of a man than you were wen you were poor?

Certainly I am more of a man, I have the money now, sed Mister Binge. Well, sed Pa, I feel sorry for you.

& Missus Binge & Ma & me all sed the same thing & Mister Binge went home kind of ery. Mussy aint everything.

No matter what you have to sell, a Journal Want Ad will sell it for you if it can be sold.

### Not Worth While

The night of death will soon descend, a few short years and then the end, and perfect rest is ours; forgotten by the busy throng, we'll sleep, while seasons roll along, beneath the grass and flowers. Our sojourn in this world is brief, so why go hunting care and grief, why have a troubled mind? And what's the use of getting mad, and making folks around us mad, by saying words unkind? Why not abjure the base and mean, why not be sunny and serene, from spite and envy free. Why not be happy while we may, and make our little earthly stay a joyous journey. We're here for such a little while! And then we go and leave the pile for which we strive and strain; worn out and broken by the grind, we go, and leave our wads behind—such efforts all in vain. We break our hearts and twist our souls acquiring large and useless rolls of coins and kindred things, and when we reach St. Peter's Town, they will not buy a sheet iron crown or cast-off pair of wings. Why scheme and sweat and skip and save! The money will not buy a grave much better than the one in which the village pauper lies; in this brief that man is wise who has his share of fun.



He is a dangerous man who thinks he deserves credit for keeping out of jail.

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### STATE NEWS

Roseburg News: H. J. Frear, one of Roseburg's best known citizens, passed away at his home on West Masher street this afternoon at one o'clock, after an illness which had been of but a few days' duration. But few of his friends knew that he had been ill all and the news of his death came as a shock to all who had the pleasure of his acquaintance. Mr. Frear was a native of Pennsylvania, having been born in Factoryville, Wyoming county, on January 29, 1844.

Marshfield Record: Master Bennett Swanton, the six-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Bennett Swanton, is considered very much of a hero by all who have heard of what he did last Saturday, when, by great presence of mind, he performed a feat few children of his age would have thought to do. Master Bennett was playing about with his sister, Roberts, the youngest daughter of the family. The little girl was playing with fire and it caught in her clothing and hair. Master Bennett promptly seized his sister and beat the flames out with his hands before they had burned the child. Bennett Swanton, the boy's father, said he attributes the boy's promptness in handling a very dangerous situation to the little talks they frequently have at home relative to what the children would do in cases of similar nature. The children have been taught to fear fire and act at once in the event others are in danger.

convinced in the police court last Saturday upon a charge of maintaining a nuisance, the case being the first one brought for the enforcement of the local option law, is now housed in the county jail. Zegers has failed thus far to provide bonds and perfect an appeal of the case, with the cash fine set being paid. The time now being served is credited upon the sentence of 30 days in jail. Because of bad weather, Zegers has not been asked yet to assume the part of a laborer upon the streets, which was incorporated in the sentence given him. He did, however, inquire of the jailer if he would be given butter upon the bread to be served with the water if put upon the diet which the judge said was to be his if he refused to work. The judge said nothing about butter in the sentence.

Engene Guard: The entire family of Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Lovell, with the exception of their son, Elbert Lovell, and two guests were made seriously ill by ptomaine poisoning as a result of eating canned shrimp salad at dinner yesterday noon. Elbert Lovell, the 9-year-old son, is convalescing from typhoid fever and was not given any of the salad, hence he is in better health today than any member of the family. The two guests present, Sam Lovell, a brother of Mr. Lovell, and Martin Stanley, a friend.

### Papers Consolidated By New Owner

R. A. Harris, ex-state printer, who recently took charge of the Messenger in this city, reports that he has sold that publication to C. D. Babcock, former state industrial accident commissioner, and a well known newspaper man of Salem. Mr. Babcock has also purchased the Salem News operated until recently under the name of the Weekly Visitor and will consolidate the two publications in the near future.

### Mr. Harris' Statement.

Owing to the failure of resources that had been deemed certain, my ability to proceed with the Messenger is prevented. This announcement is made with the least regret inasmuch as I had entertained the highest and most serene hopes of its success, which hopes were sustained by many words of praise for my first edition, together with a generous number of new subscribers. For the reasons given I have transferred the good will and subscription lists of the Messenger to Mr. C. D. Babcock who will continue the publication. All money due the Messenger on subscription is payable to the assignee, the cash will be refunded to all those who have paid in advance to me if they do not wish to continue. Mr. Babcock is a newspaper man of experience and needs no introduction to Salem people by me. I bespeak for him your generous support.  
R. A. HARRIS.

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**OPEN FORUM**  
Monmouth State Normal.  
Editor Journal: Allow me to say a few words for the State Normal school at Monmouth. The new semester opens with a large increase in attendance and about 30 had to be refused at the dormitory for lack of room. The dormitory has earned and put in the treasury \$1500 in two years. No deficits are created under the management of President Ackerman, and all students pay tuition, board and room rent. All are workers and agree to teach at least two years in the public schools before they are admitted. Not a dollar is spent at this school but in the preparation of teachers for the public schools. There are no side lines carried on, and no members of the faculty go out and deliver addresses except at institutes and for the training of school teachers. There are no expensive trials or experiments at public expense. President Ackerman saved enough out of the appropriation for a dormitory given him by the last legislature to build a gymnasium costing about \$12,000. The attendance is now so large that only about half the graduates can be given the training practice required. A training school building is an absolute necessity.  
and the legislature might as well order the State Normal school discontinued as to let its work be rendered inefficient for lack of facilities to give the teachers the proper practice work before sending them out to teach in the public schools. The Monmouth Normal school needs a training school building and the extension of the dormitory facilities. If the legislature will make this provision the number of teachers can be increased to six hundred or a thousand a year. At present 300 a year go out and teach, and about that number of teachers die every year, to say nothing of those who commit matrimony. The public schools suffer for lack of trained teachers, while the state spends hundreds of thousands for Panama exhibitions and new judgeships and prosecuting and defending criminals. That is wasteful economy. Why spend more money on higher education when we are suffering for the common school necessities?  
E. HOPPER.

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