

Editorial Page of "The Capital Journal"

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IGNORANCE OF THE LAW

It is a legal maxim that, "Ignorance of the law excuses no man."

This sounds as wise as it is trite. In practice however it does not pan out worth a cent. If it were true, no man would have occasion to patronize a lawyer, and to perhaps wish later he had patronized some other, because he found the one engaged on his business did not understand some things in the law.

This is not said in disparagement of the lawyers, or any of them, but for the reason that no lawyer understands the laws or even a small fraction of them. The same might be said of the judges. One of these latter once quoted the above maxim to an attorney who was arguing to the jury that his client did not know he was violating the law in the act that brought him before the court. "Yes, your honor," said the attorney, "every man is supposed to know the law. The most ignorant laborer on the docks, the foreigner not yet acquainted with our language, the most illiterate negro, in fact everybody is supposed to understand the law except your honor and your fellow circuit judges for whom the legislature has wisely provided a supreme court to correct your mistakes."

There are now on the statute books of the United States and the states, thousands and then more thousands of laws. Congress is in session most of the time grinding out more, and every winter or at the most every other one, the legislatures of the four dozen states are in session from two to four months making more and still more laws, and unfortunately in spite of the maxim aforesaid, without any understanding of those already on the books. On top of this every city has a council busy one or two nights a week grinding out laws. It is estimated that there are from all these sources about 40,000 laws brought forth each year.

"Ignorance of these excuses no man," says the law; and yet no man could possibly read the whole lot working eight hours a day, let alone understanding or remembering them.

Here in Oregon we have some laws, and are rapidly accumulating more.

In 1882 the codified laws, Deady's, filled a volume three inches thick. In 1885 Hill's code was placed on the library shelves occupying five and a half inches thereof. In 1901 Bellinger & Cotton again codified the laws of the state and keeping them down to a close margin managed to get them into six and a half inch shelf space. In 1909 Lord's code was compiled and this filled ten inches of shelving. Since that the laws of 1911-13 and 15 have been added; and with them it now takes one foot three and a half inches to hold the laws of the state.

As another example, the Portland book of ordinances printed in small type, fills more than 1,000 pages. Every man is supposed by the law to understand all of these, if he lives in Portland at least, otherwise he is liable to punishment for violating them.

It would seem the part of wisdom to, say every twenty years, repeal the whole business and start out with the Ten Commandments alone until the legislatures met and pointed out wherein they needed adding to or taking from. This would do away with some lawyer accidentally running across some old law long since forgotten or ignored because times and conditions have changed and there is no longer any occasion for it, and so stirring up trouble and incidentally, business for himself.

Again: every man is supposed to understand the law, yet even with our supreme court, all gentlemen who have spent their lives in the study of the law and in deciphering its intricacies the rule does not seem to hold good, for on some questions they will be divided three holding one way and four the other. Necessarily some of them are wrong. How then can a poor devil of a tyro be held responsible for ignorance of the law?

If ignorance of the law excuses no man where does the legislator stand who undertakes to make new laws without knowing anything about what laws he is repealing or making doubtful?

There is probably much more serious conditions in Germany over the food question than the world is permitted to know, and hence it is liable to happen that the stories of conditions will be largely exaggerated. There is admittedly demonstrations in front of the reichstag over the food supply and its distribution, and this in spite of the government having taken charge of both. Where there is much smoke there must be some fire.

The program for the Elks memorial services Sunday among other things has the statement that Hon. Fred W. Wilson will make the memorial address. "Fred" is one of the brightest of the many bright men The Dalles has given to the state and one of the most eloquent speakers on the coast. Those who have the pleasure of hearing him will have something to remember.

When the exposition closes tomorrow there will be some sad people and the saddest of these will be those who had some position or other that permitted them to see the fair from beginning to end. They will be lost for awhile after getting home and will, no doubt, make everybody tired with their stories of the great fair.

Since the democratic party has its Byran who occupies now about the same relation to it that Roosevelt does to the G. O. P. why not persuade them to get together and run on the same ticket? The trouble would be to get either to take second place. However oil and water will mix by the addition of alkali, but the result is only soft soap.

British Columbia cities have subscribed a little more than two million dollars to the last British war loan. As the cost of the war to England is said to be \$25,000,000 a day, this would pay the English war bills for a few minutes more than two hours. Rather discouraging pouring money into that kind of a hole.

When the committee from the land grant conference and the railroad officials get through cussing and discussing the matter, the committee will be ready to submit a suggestion to congress about as reliable as that contained in the old song: "I dreamed last night I almost found a quarter."

According to Mr. Ford when he and his peace delegation reach the Hague they will elect an international court to which all or any of the warring nations can apply for peace terms.

With 45 doctors among its members the Commercial Club should be able to get through the winter without any serious illness, especially with the help of 10 druggists.

According to the arguments of some of the most ardent believers in big armies and navies, no man should be sent to the front as a soldier until he is a veteran.



SUNSHINE

Oh, let us wear the cheerful grin, and mugs that shine like new made tin, when we are paying taxes; 'tis customary then to scowl, and lean against a fence and howl, and brandish battle-axes. But all our howling doesn't help, nor does our protest, groan or yelp, we must dig up the roubles; the treasurer rakes in the dust, and doesn't notice our disgust, or care about our troubles. And since it doesn't pay to roar, what is the use of acting sore, as though bereft of senses? Why not produce our little rolls, and say it warms our hearts and souls, to help to pay expenses? 'Twere better far to sing and smile, as we cough up our meagre pile, to keep the wheels a-turning; 'twill help us on a future day, when, in the good old-fashioned way, for Public Trusts we're yearning. Some day, to make your store increase, you'll run for justice of the peace, or something of that nature, or you may higher yet aspire, and through the press voice your desire to join the legislature. Then, if you always raised a bawl, when paying taxes in the fall, the story will confound you; you'll see true patriots arise to dot you one between the eyes, and flash their knives around you.

TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES ONLY

Washington, Dec. 2.—The state department will not issue passports to the Ford peace ship party to enter belligerent countries, it was announced today. The papers will permit passage only to neutral countries.

WAR NEWS OF ONE YEAR AGO TODAY

Christians fled from Turkey when a holy war was proclaimed. Seven million Belgians were dependent upon America for food. London said copper concealed on cotton ships caused the holding up of American shipping.

Clears Complexion

Don't worry about skin troubles. You can have a clear, clean complexion by using a little zemo, obtained at any drug store for 25c, or extra large bottle at \$1.00. Zemo easily removes all traces of pimples, black heads, eczema, and ringworm and makes the skin clear and healthy. Zemo is neither watery, sticky nor greasy and stains nothing. It is easily applied and costs a mere trifle for each application. It is always dependable. Zemo, Cleveland.

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SERVICE IN MILITIA NO LONGER DRESS PARADE AFFAIR

It Means Now Persistent Drill and Plenty of Hard Work

While there is great honor and glory in serving one's country as a member of the state militia, it is not all glory, as now, since military service has become a science, the government requires more from its private soldiers than in the good old days when a soldier was a member of a local company mainly for the dress parades and social features.

During the month of November, Co. M was divided into squads and each member was given special attention in everything that pertains to make a private soldier thoroughly educated in every line of duty that may present itself.

The work for next Tuesday evening, includes first a company close order drill, 15 minutes. This is followed by bayonet exercises for 15 minutes, and squad drill for one hour as follows:

- First squad, tent pitching and making blanket rolls.
 - Second squad, sighting and position and aiming drill; deflection and elevation correction drill.
 - Third squad, first aid, personal hygiene, care of feet, camp sanitation.
 - Fourth squad, honors, courtesies, uniforms, equipment, rations, etc.
 - Fifth squad, mechanism, nomenclature and care of rifle.
- The quarterly inspection will be held December 28, but before this inspection the privates will have ample time to perfect their military knowledge, as the evenings of December 14 and 21, will be given to work as follows:

- December 14.
(a) Company close order drill, 15 minutes.
- (b) Bayonet exercise, 15 minutes, Par. 23-45.
- (c) Squad drill, 1 hour, as follows: First squad, sighting and position and aiming drill. Deflection and elevation correction drill.

- Second squad, first aid, personal hygiene, care of feet, camp sanitation.
 - Third squad, honors, courtesies, uniforms, equipment, rations, etc.
 - Fourth squad, mechanism, nomenclature and care of rifle.
 - Fifth squad, tent pitching and making blanket rolls.
- December 21.
(a) Company close order drill, 15 minutes.- (b) Bayonet exercise, 15 minutes, Par. 23-45.
- (c) Squad drill, 1 hour, as follows: First squad, first aid, personal hygiene, care of feet, camp sanitation.

Second squad honors, courtesies, uniforms equipment, rations, etc. Third squad, mechanism, nomenclature and care of rifle. Fourth squad, tent pitching and making blanket rolls. Fifth squad, sighting and position and aiming drill. Deflection and elevation correction drill.

EAT A SQUARE MEAL AND NOT FEAR INDIGESTION

There are hundreds of people in Salem who were not the least bit surprised when they read in the Journal that Daniel J. Fry is selling Mi-o-na on a guarantee to refund the money in case it did not relieve. This remarkable dyspepsia remedy will relieve the worst case of indigestion, headache, dizziness, or the general played-out condition that afflicts every one suffering with stomach trouble. Mi-o-na does not simply relieve, it aims to cure.

Daniel J. Fry can tell you of many well known people in this city who this remedy has restored to health, often after they have tried many other methods of treatment with little or no benefit. No other dyspepsia remedy has made so large a percentage of cures as Mi-o-na. It is so large that Daniel J. Fry stands ready to refund the price to any customer whom it does not help. The best kind of advertising is the praise of a pleased customer, and there are hundreds in Salem today praising Mi-o-na because it does what it is advertised to do. A few months ago they could eat nothing without wondering what the result would be. Since using Mi-o-na, they eat what they want and when they eat with no fear of suffering. This medicine comes in the form of a small tablet and is very pleasant to take. It speedily and permanently relieves almost all forms of stomach trouble and is the only one sold under a positive guarantee without any restriction, to refund the money if it does not relieve. This is a good time to get well and you ought to take advantage of Daniel J. Fry's offer.

CHILDREN'S ROOM AT THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

With next Saturday's story hour, the series of animal stories ends. "John of the Woods" makes up the program. The following new boy's books and animal stories will be put into circulation on Saturday morning: Bond, Pick, shovel and pluck. Brown, John of the woods. Comstock, The pet book. Deming, Little brothers of the west. Duncan, Adventures of Bill Topsail. Kaler, Amateur fireman. Laut, Pathfinders of the west. Peck, The wolf hunters. Pier, Gramis of the fifth. Bolt-Wheeler, Boy with the U. S. explorers. Sabu, Beaufort canna. Quick, The third strike. Schultz, On the war path.

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Schultz, Quest of the fish-dog skin. Schultz, With the Indians in the Rockies. Seton, Wild animals I have known. Shafer, Harper's everyday electricity. Stoddard, Chris, the model maker. Wesselhoft, Sparrow the tramp. Wood, Boy scout's roll of honor. Young, Chuck, Fussy and Saoot. Young, Hector, my dog.

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J. W. RITCHIE, Agent, Salem, Ore.

Pacific International Livestock Exposition, Portland, December 6 to 11

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