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### PUBLIC OPINION THE FINAL JUDGE

Scientists of a speculative turn of mind have for generations discussed the problem of what would happen if an irresistible force struck an immovable body. None of them have of course been able to solve it. It seems the problem has been passed up to President Wilson and he has passed it on to congress. Whether it can solve it remains to be seen. Compulsory arbitration laws can be passed and arbitration can be perhaps enforced, but after that is done, what then?

Suppose the present dispute should be left to arbitration and after the arbitrators had decided what was fair between the men and the roads, the men should still refuse to go to work? There is no law that will compel them to work if they do not want to, and there you are.

Suppose the railroad contention as to arbitration should be granted and when it was all settled the men just remained at home. Would the situation be any better than it is now? If there is no law under which men may be compelled to work than there is no law that can control this situation nor can one be made that will. As Senator Cummins pointed out yesterday a law that will compel men to work against their will is involuntary servitude that borders on slavery. The railroads being a public utility can be compelled to do things. The men being free citizens of a free country cannot. The result is that unless the two parties, employers and employees can get together and agree, there is no law that can compel them to do so.

There can be but one outcome if both parties insist on standing by their guns and conceding nothing, and this is government ownership. In time of danger to the country men can be drafted into the army for the country's defense, but whether this can be done in time of peace to save the lives and property of the nation's citizens is an open question. Self preservation is a natural law and the protection of its citizens the duty of every government, and on top of all is the undoubted fact that necessity knows no law. If all other plans fail the government will be forced to take over the roads for the protection of its citizens. When hunger drives, thousands of men will come to the front to run the engines, manage the switches and do the work the men refuse to do, but it will take time for them to learn the work and business will suffer untold loss while they were learning, but it would be done eventually. After that what? Would the country not be in danger of the same thing happening at any time? It looks as though government ownership is the only real solution that will prevent a repetition of present conditions.

President Wilson has done all that man can do. He has not taken sides in the controversy, but has taken only the people's side, showing the disputants how the people will suffer from their acts in case of a strike and urging some compromise. He made the proposition that the roads concede the eight hour day and that all other matters be left to arbitration. This the men accepted but the roads refused. All his suggestions were refused by one side or the other, and as a last resort and to prevent overwhelming disaster overtaking the country he has passed the whole matter up to congress. If the law making body cannot find a remedy, then there is none.

The question both sides are facing is what will public opinion decide? Whatever that is both sides must finally yield to it, for neither can hold out in the face of it. The railroads are trying to manufacture public opinion, but that kind is of little value. It is a class only, and to be powerful enough to compel an agreement it must be the unsolicited opinion of the masses reached from understanding of the case. When hunger stares millions in the big cities in the face, that opinion will materialize rapidly and then a settlement will come. Whoever that opinion is against will have a hard row to hoe to get back into public favor, if it ever succeeds in so doing. Each side should consider this phase of the matter and be sure they are right before going ahead. Above all they should consider that the business, the prosperity, and perhaps the lives of many of one hundred million people, are jeopardized by their dispute.

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### COOS BAY'S BEAUTIFUL MYRTLE WOOD

One of the great industries of the Coos Bay country lies practically dormant just now, but it will some day become a big, tangible reality. That is the manufacturing of furniture and ornaments of her myrtle. It is one of the handsomest of woods, fine grained and capable of a high polish, and on top of this is wonderfully variegated, each tree having its own especial coloring and markings. No one looking at the magnificent table brought home by the Cherrians can doubt the demand that must sometime come for articles made of this most beautifully marked of all woods. While there is apparently a wealth of it around Coos Bay it is peculiar to that section, and there, like the black walnut of the east it is wantonly destroyed, or has been. The time is not far distant when it will prove a valuable asset to the Coos Bay section. It can be put to hundreds of ornamental uses and it will be. It is far enough from New York and the homes of the money kings of the east, and will cost enough to make a demand for it, as it will never be common. The land owners who have this timber will do well to conserve it for the days of its appreciation are at hand and its value is assured.

Governor Johnson has been nominated by the republicans of California as their candidate for the United States senate, beating his opponent by perhaps 20,000. Booth carried southern part of the state by a good majority but the balance of the state went for Johnson strong enough to overcome this and leave a good round majority. His election has not harmonized the G. O. P. of the state to any great degree and it is possible the governor may have a harder fight for the election than he had for the nomination.

Some energetic American proposes to make bricks of molten lava getting his supply from one of the volcanoes in Hawaii. He proposes putting an endless chain into the lava flow and by this means transporting the melted lava to the molds at a convenient station. It looks as though the everlasting yankee can't let a poor old volcano pursue the tenor of its way without setting it at work, and making it do something for the benefit of the country. If this works Satan had better pass new immigration laws, to protect his home industries.

Oregon is one of the first to feel the effects of the impending strike. Here in Salem an order for \$15,000 worth of green prunes was cancelled because they could not be delivered if the strike is declared. Reports from the Medford section are to the effect that the car shortage has caused heavy losses to pear growers, much of the fruit rotting. The recent order will put the finishing touches to the crop as there is nothing that can be done with the fruit except to dry it, and this is not profitable.

The dispatches this morning intimate that King Constantine of Greece has fled. The proverb, "Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown," applies with especial force to that class in Europe, and the Greek king, who has never been in touch with his people, evidently fears not so much just now for his crown as for his head. It is tough to have to give up a job in the king row, for the pay is good, and other fellows do the work. It is seldom one so employed goes on strike.

That straw vote taken on the Willamette-Pacific road recently is not very encouraging to the republicans of Oregon. It was about two to one in favor of Wilson.

Mr. Hughes would have displayed wisdom by remaining in Colorado until after Monday. He might not have to move at all.

The cruel war is over and the national guardsmen will come marching proudly home in a few days.



### CHARITY

A man came feebly to my door; he'd walked a hundred miles or more, since last he had a meal; he said, "The road is harsh and long, and words, however fierce and strong, can't tell how tough I feel. I beg you for a half a plunk, that I may get myself a bunk, and something I can eat; for I am old and fear I'd die if I again must hungry lie in alley or in street." "In sooth," I said, "I'm glad to aid the man whose fortunes are decayed, his prayer I do not spurn; but I would pauperize you, friend, if haply I should give or lend some coin you do not earn. I'll give you fifty cents," I said, "if you will paint yon cattleshed, and prune those basswood trees, and make the sidewalk good and straight, and nail some hinges on the gate, and herd the bumblebees. And you might paint the window screens, and hoe that patch of Lima beans, and see what ails the pump, and skim the milk in yonder pans, and gather up the old tin cans, and take them to the dump." That pilgrim, ancient and forlorn, regarded me with blighting scorn, and shuffled out of reach; it merely shows that homeless men don't really want to earn the yen they soulfully beseech.

### THE TATTLER

Once there was a wise guy who said that hell is paved with good intentions, but he omitted to state whether the city owned the plant or not.

The entire country is holding its breath this week. Next week it will be breathing either hard and fast or slow and soft.

Let us cheer up. The impending trouble may strike out.

The McMinnville baseball team do not call themselves the "Yellowbans" any more, but the "Tigers." Thereby they have spoiled a juicy joke which a Salem chap has been planning to spring at the game next Sunday about liquid baseball—equal parts of loganberry juice and condensed milk.

Every man takes a sneaking look at the beauty column once in a while.

The majority does not always rule. Note the umpire.

Some men talk a whole lot without opening their mouths.

A Salem boy who favors Germany in the present war recently came into possession of two cats, one a large and fierce looking beast, the other a small and delicate looking creature. He named the former Germany, and the latter England. Last Sunday morning he appeared before his mother sobbing. "Mama," he wailed, "that nasty little England has chewed Germany all up."

### Big Totals for July Foreign Trade Made Public

Washington, Aug. 31.—Figures this week made public by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce, show American imports for July were valued at 183 million dollars, a falling off of 63 million dollars compared with June. July exports amounted to 446 million dollars, a decrease of 19 million dollars compared with the previous month. But although the total foreign trade for the month fell below that for the record month of June it exceeded that of the previous July by 40 million dollars and is the July record for American trade.

The foreign trade for the year ending with July last also marks a new high record, being 6,748 million dollars, compared with 4,540 million in 1915. The 12 months imports aggregated 2,237 million dollars, against 1,658 million last year, and exports 4,511 million compared with 2,883 million last year. The favorable balance of trade for July was 263 million dollars, and for the year, 2,273 million. A year ago the export balance was 125 million for July and 1,225 million for the 12 months, while two years ago there was an import balance of 512 million for the month of July and an export balance of 483 million for the 12 months.

Of the July imports, 64.8 per cent entered free of duty, compared with 64.5 per cent in July, 1915. The month showed a continuation of the net inward gold movement. For July gold imports aggregated 62 million dollars, as against gold exports of nine million. Last year July showed gold imports of 17 million and exports of two million, while two years ago July gold imports were but three million as against gold exports of 33 million dollars. The net inward gold movement for the 12 months to August 1, 1916, aggregated 441 million dollars, as against 71 million in the preceding year and a net outward movement of 75 million in a like period two years ago.

"That's a bad cold you have, old man. How did you contract it?"

"Hang it! I didn't contract it. It was only a small one and I expanded it by being careless."



### MILDRED REALIZES HER DESOLATION

CHAPTER IX.  
Mandy softly opened the door, then, forcing a smile, she said cheerily: "Here, darlin', see what yo' ol' mammy 'an' 'brung you!" and she placed her precious burden in the arms so hungrily held out for her. "Dat doctor man sed yo' only kin keep her jes' a lil' while," turning her head to wipe her old eyes unobserved. Mildred drew her baby close, but did not speak. She looked into the tiny face and wondered. Her when she grew up, some one would make her suffer as she was now suffering. Mandy watched her closely, and was alarmed at the quiet, calm way she received the baby she had been so anxious to see. "Ain't she pritty? Looko jes' lak yo' when yo' was a baby! See the lil' curls, honey; ain't dey cute?" So Mandy rambled on, her keen old eyes noting all the time the change in her darling's face; the hopeless expression, so hard to define.

The Little Bundle of Life.  
Mildred held her baby closely. She felt that she could never let her go—so little, so helpless, and all her own. All she had, she thought, as Clifford's face came before her. But as the tiny fingers closed over her's she felt she had something to live for after all; and determined to do all she could to get well quickly for her baby's sake. But she shivered as she thought of the baby's father; and a spasm of pain crossed her face.

"No, I shall get well—for baby's sake. Come back as I tell you." On Mandy's return she asked her to sit on the bed and hold her in her arms as she used to when she was a little girl. Then she talked to her very calmly, very quietly, very unlike the impetuous, laughing girl Mandy had known and loved. "You know, Mandy, Mr. Hammond has gone away. But only you and Miss Elden know where he has gone. I want you to promise me you won't say anything about it—I could not bear to have it gossiped about. But Mandy, he has gone away to have a good time—gone fishing!" and she gave a little hysterical laugh, but her face was so wistful and sad that Mandy's tears fell freely. "Pore chile!" she ejaculated. "Don't cry, Mandy." The weak voice went on. "Don't you see I'm not crying, even if he did leave me home sick, and with my baby so little. And Mandy, he only talked to me once after she came, and he didn't seem to care for either of us—very much. He talked about his going away. So you see, Mandy, you ought not to cry if I don't," but the smile she gave her old nurse was sadder than tears.

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