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### AMERICANS ARE WASTERS

There is just one way to reduce the cost of living and that is to be more economical. This not only in the way of foodstuffs but in wearables. Americans are noted for their unthrif, and as wasters they have never been approached at any time. In every home there is waste of food, because it has never been necessary, in America, to conserve the food supply. Bread, potatoes, meats and vegetables, all have been abundant and cheap, and all have been generously wasted by practically every family. Some is difficult to prevent but much can be avoided. For instance take the hotels and restaurants of Salem and note what is disposed of as waste. Hundreds of pounds of meats, some the choicest, that have been served but only half of which were consumed. These are accompanied by other remnants of bread, butter, vegetables and whatever has been served on the tables. This is the waste of the individual, for it is he who minces over and leaves perhaps as much food from his serving as he eats. This waste is beyond the power of the hotel men to avoid, for it cannot be served again in some other shape. In the families it is different for there each member of the family can be served just what he or she will eat, and what is left can be utilized in many ways known to the thrifty housewife. It can be saved, often is, but this is the exception rather than the rule. It is safe to say the waste from American tables during the European war would have fed the starving Poles, Serbians, Armenians and all the balance of the war-made paupers, and had some left over.

The same waste is shown in our wearables. We are complaining just now about the high price of shoes which we are told will be still higher. This suggests economy in this line. How many will get out their old shoes, still good, but perhaps needing a half sole, and help better the shoe situation by lessening the consumption and demand?

Suppose all Americans should try this, and it should result in saving to each person one pair of shoes by providing in this way shoe wear, equaling that of one new pair. This would mean, cutting out all below five years of age, about 90,000,000 pairs of shoes, that would not have to be bought during the year. With the war demand removed this would cause the market to be glutted and prices to fall. It is the same with clothing; a suit otherwise good, becomes "shiny" and no matter how much wear there is in it it goes to the scrap heap.

It may be that sometime Americans will learn thrift, but it will be when they are forced to do so by circumstances such as have prevailed in Europe for the past two years, and as those conditions are not likely to afflict us, the practice of thrift is something for the future to teach us.

The German interpretation of the allies reply is that it is a flat refusal to accept peace at this time. What the result of that interpretation and the actions following it will be remain to be discovered. Some of the "high officials" in Washington are prognosticating all kinds of submarine war on the part of Germany and a consequent severing of relations between that country and our own. They know as little about it as other folks not so high in office or so low in intelligence, and so it is not worth while borrowing trouble about. It is a safe bet that President Wilson will not get tangled up in the European scrap so long as it can be avoided with honor. It is at the same time conceivable that Germany is not going deliberately to force us to take sides against her.

Seattle does things. At 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon the news was received that Valdez, Alaska, had been destroyed by fire. At 6 o'clock that evening the steamer Mariposa had left the city carrying several hundred tons of supplies for the homeless of the burned city.

When you meet a stranger around Salem now who wears a haughty smile and looks like he owned the earth, you can depend on it he is from Eugene and somewhere about his person you will find some thing that reads "14 to 0."

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### IT IS WORTH INVESTIGATING

Thomas W. Lawson is always interesting and sometimes, at least, tells the truth. In his recent charges of leakages from the departments of news which benefits speculators, he may be in one of his real truthful moods. He is a speculator, and a bold one. It may be that his present charges are only for speculative purposes, but as no one can be certain of this without an investigation it seems that such a course would be a wise one.

He asserts in his last public note that he can convince the president in an hour's conversation that what he says is true, and that Wall street, or some of it, cleaned up \$60,000,000 on the leaks relating to the president's note to the warring nations as to peace. It would only take the president sixty minutes to find out if Thomas is telling the truth and it might prove an hour well and profitably spent. He says that if congress will begin a real investigation of his charges at once that the cost of living will drop. He also charges that \$40,000,000 of American securities were sent from Germany in an undersea boat for the purpose of smashing the market, and that it accomplished the purpose for which it was sent. He adds that over \$50,000,000 was cleaned up in the transaction. This he says was split with "important people."

If the state departments find they have to cut out many things they want, owing to the tax limitation law, they will only be doing what the average citizen has been trying for sometime. The man who works found out some time ago that he and his family would have to cut out many things they wanted and which they had been accustomed to having. They have three or four Fridays a week so far as meat eating is concerned, and their economies extend to all lines. If the state has to do the same thing it will be in the same condition as the great majority of the citizens who compose it.

The Portland Telegram commenting on the disreputable depot of the North Bank road says the cities along the Southern Pacific all have depots palatial in comparison with that of the North Bank. Now that the legislature is about to meet it might be well for our contemporary to take a squint at the Salem junk pile that has done duty here since Ben Hollidays time, and correct its statement.

One by one those things we have been accustomed to accepting as being true are being taken away from us and the pleasant beliefs destroyed. The last iconoclast is Rev. Arthur F. Bishop who asserts that "Hell is not paved with good intentions." There is still hope the reverend gentleman may be mistaken for he makes no distinction between good intentions and good resolutions.

It is claimed the text of the English reply to Germany's peace offer was first written in Russian, translated into French and from this into English. If this is true there is no telling what the original answer was. If you doubt this read Mark Twain's "Jumping Frog of Calaveras," as translated into French and then back again into English.

Oregon has set aside \$50,000 for experimenting in the matter of flax growing and the preparation of fiber. It is pointed out that the Irish parliament in 1707 made a grant to the city of Belfast for the bettering of the linen manufacturing industry of about \$100,000 a year, and this grant was paid yearly for more than 120 years, it being stopped in 1828.

If Villa succeeds in capturing Chihuahua, again, and taking General Murguia into camp, negotiations with the Carranza faction may be cut off entirely. Villa will in that case control all lines of communication.

During the year 1916 there were 1,666 brides made in Vancouver. How many of them were "war brides" the divorce courts will show in a year or two.



### UNWISE PRAISE

You praise your kid before his face, explain to callers he's a peach, the pride and glory of the race, the only pebble on the beach. And soon that kid an aleck grows, a smarty all swelled up with pride; and people long to twist his nose, and lam the sawdust from his hide. The greatest bore that ever was is that obtrusive, forward kid, whose parents gave him wild applause for everything he ever did. When grave and thoughtful people call, to talk of weather and the crops, young Willie grieves and shocks them all, by his persistent, foolish yawns. The grave and thoughtful people look to see the father take a strap, or strip of board, or shepherd's crook, and pound that most annoying chap. But Father smiles, as does his spouse; he says, "Our Willie is so gay! He is a sunbeam in the house, he surely drives one's cares away!" The callers do not tarry long, they hasten from young Willie's door, and sigh, "How sweet to take a thing, and swat that kid until he's sore!"



### OUCH! MY BACK! RUB LUMBAGO PAIN AWAY

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Lumber up! Don't suffer! Get a small trial bottle of old, honest "St. Jacob's Oil" from any drug store, and after using it just once, you'll forget that you ever had backache, lumbago or sciatica, because your back will never hurt or cause any more misery. It never disappoints and has been recommended for 60 years.

### WANTS AMERICA TO REMAIN NEUTRAL

#### But Some Germans Think This Country Does Not Want Neutrality

By Carl W. Ackerman  
(United Press staff correspondent)

Berlin, Jan. 3.—The question of whether the United States intends to remain neutral, or whether President Wilson is playing for the psychological moment to enter the war, is raised by the Cologne Gazette today.

The question of American neutrality is now to the fore in the ceaseless talk of the peace situation, but Germany has not yet reached the working stage as to America's position. It is to be noted that the people are also talking of Germany's fighting possibilities. There are rumors of great movements, new inventions and new war plans.

There is no doubt the Germans want

### Itching Torture Stops

It is unnecessary for you to suffer with eczema, blotches, ringworm, rashes and similar skin troubles. A little zemo, obtained at any drug store for 25c, or \$1.00 for extra large bottle, and promptly applied will usually give instant relief from itching torture. It cleanses and soothes the skin and heals quickly and effectively most skin diseases.

Zemo is a wonderful, penetrating, disappearing liquid and is soothing to the most delicate skin. It is not greasy, is easily applied and costs little. Get it today and save all further distress.

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## 50-50

WITH  
**NORMA TALMAGE**  
**OREGON THEATRE**  
Tonight and Tomorrow

### He Gave Me a Pass

A WORD OF APPRECIATION  
TO MR. A. E. LAFLAR  
By James M. Heady

MR. A. E. LAFLAR,  
MANAGER OREGON THEATRE,  
"Where the Crowds Go."

My Dear A. E.:  
I want to THANK YOU for THE PASS which you sent me the other DAY. I assure you that NOT having to PAY to go to the SHOW will enable me to get RICH lots faster.

Whenever I meet FRANK FRICKEY (He works at LADD and BUSH Bank and is President of the Unitarian Boosters) on the STREET, he always invites me IN to the CROWN DRUG STORE and BUYS ME A DRINK. Once in a while somebody GIVES ME A CALENDER. So you see I get LOTS OF THINGS for NOTHING, besides what I get at CHRISTMAS.

About that PASS, I wanted to WARN YOU. The other day, over at THE PEOPLE'S MEAT MARKET, a MAN (it wasn't MR. THOMPSON the PROPRIETOR) mistook me for MR. B. L. BEALL. Mr. BEALL is a nice young MAN. He is the BUSINESS AGENT of the same BOOSTERS that FRANK belongs to, but MOSTLY he is FOREMAN of the COMPOSING room of the JOURNAL.

If your ADS are ever SET-UP WRONG, its HIS FAULT--SO GO AFTER HIM.

What I started out to tell you was THIS: BEALL might TRY to get in YOUR THEATRE on MY PASS, and I DON'T look a BIT like HIM, although I'll admit he does resemble ME A LITTLE.

You know it's FUNNY about this PASS BUSINESS. "I guess you give a PASS to EVERYBODY that asks YOU--don't you?" A fellow says to you, "Laflar, old man, give us a COUPLE of PASSES for to-night?"--and you say--"Sure--no trouble at ALL."

And then when you go in his store he says, "That was a fine show, you had on last NIGHT--Here's a PASS for A PAIR of SHOES, or a LOAF of bread or a CIGAR, or MAYBE a HAT or SCREEN DOOR. If you give AWAY what you've got to sell why shouldn't EVERYBODY?

I'm going to TRY my PASS one night next WEEK to SEE the HOME TALENT MOTION PICTURE and I wondered if it would be ALRIGHT to bring the WIFE and BOY in on the PASS. You see HIS name is the same as MINE and besides there might be an EXTRA SEAT that wouldn't be WORKING anyhow.

"THE ADVERTISER."  
"Who hopes everybody will go to Mr. Laflar's Theatre even if they have to PAY."

America to remain neutral—but the Germans are not sure that America wants neutrality. The German public, in its analysis of recent developments, regards the American president as a sphynx.

The greatest interest is felt in the British plan to arm all neutral and allied ships laden with supplies. Berlin newspapers are pointing out that this may involve Germany with neutral nations since it would bring liners within the classification of armed auxiliaries and subject to attack without warning from submarines.

In view of statements in Washington that the Wilson note was designed to carry warning to Germany, that unbridled resumption of submarine warfare would force the United States to deviate from its position of neutrality by breaking off diplomatic relations with Germany, the above dispatch is significant. It is the first hint from Germany that this implied warning in the Wilson note has been discovered there.

Heretofore all German dispatches have reflected the German view that Wilson was simply animated by a desire to aid in restoring peace. Apparently Secretary of State Lansing's text of statements on the Wilson note—the first one describing America's position as "on the verge of war"—and the second toning down this expression—have never been published in Germany. At least no dispatches from there have ever commented upon them. It is known, however, that the exact text of these two Lansing statements were telegraphed to Ambassador Gerard, in common with all America diplomats in Europe "for their information."

Eddie Mahan quit the University of California because they wouldn't let him work, thereby shattering every precedent in athletics.

## CASTORIA

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## MY HUSBAND AND I

By Jane Phelps

### MURIEL FRANKLYN'S ATTITUDE

CHAPTER CXI  
"When we are young we think and speak in terms of positives and negatives. Muriel Franklyn was very high-spirited, and occasionally became very indignant over the way I was neglected. She never called it that, but that was what she meant."  
"It's a perfect shame the way you sit here alone just because Mr. Hammond things his business needs him!" she spat. "I wouldn't do it!" she declared, positively. "Why, Leonard Brooke says you have refused to motor with him unless he took me along. Don't be a silly! Mr. Hammond wouldn't care."  
"No, I don't think he would," I replied.  
"Of course, he wouldn't! He knows Leonard is little more than a boy," she answered, totally misunderstanding my reply.  
"He is older than I am."  
"Oh, you know a man is always ages younger than a woman. I wonder why?"  
"I haven't forgotten, Muriel, that I caused comment by going out with Burns Mayson, and I don't propose to do it again."  
"But that was different!"  
"Why different? Clifford not only was willing, but urged me to go; yet it caused gossip."

"Burns Mayson was an older, more attractive man. It isn't at all the same thing!"  
"Leonard Brooke is a favorite."  
"I believe you are in love with Leonard and ventrill!" I laughed.  
"I confess I have a penchant for the boy," she returned, laughing also, "but I'm not musical, and that means that I'm of no real account."  
"That makes me think, Muriel, Leonard said he was going to bring me some new music today. You see I play with him, if I do object to going motoring unless you—or some other woman—goes also."  
"What a wonderful musician he is!" Muriel responded. "I don't know of anyone who plays with such feeling. He sings so well, too. It's strange he never has married, isn't it?"  
"Oh, he has plenty of time. According to you he's only a boy yet, and boys don't marry—not very often, now."  
"Leonard was 28. He had told me his age the last time he called. I thought 28 quite old enough to marry, but did not say so to Muriel."  
"He had been a little peeved because I had refused to motor with him unless some one else went along. But I had been quite firm in my refusal and he had said nothing more. He evidently, however, had complained to Muriel hoping to enlist her sympathy so she would accompany us."  
"Leonard Brooke arrives."  
"Do your ears burn?" Muriel asked, as Leonard Brooke came in, a roll of music under his arm.  
"No; why? Have you been gossiping about me?" he asked, as he greeted us. "Indeed we have!" Muriel declared; "you haven't a shred of character, left."  
"That's too bad—I hadn't any to lose," he laughed, as he unrolled the music. "Here's the song I spoke about, Mrs. Hammond. Will you try it?"  
"Oh, do Muriel! I'd love to hear a little good music, even if Leonard does say I am no critic."  
"Very well, I'll do my best Muriel, but I have never seen this song before, so you'll excuse all mistakes."  
"Do you EVER make any mistakes?" Leonard asked in a low voice as he placed the music on the piano. "I have never known of any."  
"Before I commenced to sing I thought what nice things Leonard always says. It is no wonder I like him," but what I said was:  
"Attention to business please! we have an audience!"  
(Tomorrow—Clifford Invites Brooke to Dinner.)