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### FAILED TO CONSOLIDATE

As is the long established custom the average citizen is speaking slightly of the work of the last legislature. Undoubtedly there was plenty of trifling legislation, there always is; but it remains to be seen what really beneficial work was done, and it is too soon to make any just comment as to that. None of us yet know just what has been done, but as this becomes evident we may find at least something to commend. It was announced with some blare of trumpets that consolidation was to be one of the big achievements of the session; and it was expected, by some, that instead of some thirty boards and commissions there would be abolishing, merging, consolidating and straight firing that would leave but two or three. Such was not to be. It remains to be discovered yet whether there are fewer or more than before the session began. There were some changes, but a rose, or a board or commission would smell as sweet by some other name, and the roses surely do. It was found there was no need of consolidation for the committee had it abundantly demonstrated that without boards and commissions the state would go straight across lots to everlasting perdition. Dimick took up the task, smiling like a Vancouver bride with a new hat, but at the end of the third day his face was so long he could have eaten his breakfast food out of an old fashioned churn. So far as the session was concerned, he never smiled again, not until the last night, and not then until the last bill was passed and he had consolidated his feelings. Then he laughed. He did not know just what he and the others had done; but he realized that what he had not done in the way of successful consolidation would make a large sized volume. It is so with the general public for it too smiled and was exceedingly glad when the end came. It was not what had been done, but like Dimick it realized that nothing more could be done. However, if any bad bills were passed it can be safely asserted the public will hear of them, before long.

### A CRIME AGAINST THE RACE

If the prices quoted in yesterday's dispatches are correct, and it is supposed they are, there is abundant excuse for the riots in New York, and the thousands of women taking part in them were justified in doing so. Potatoes were priced at ten cents, cabbage at fifteen and onions at eighteen cents. These prices are far higher than in Germany, and there is no excuse for them and no reason either other than the rapaciousness of the dealers. The paper trust came to time quickly when the federal government got after it and the various food trusts will do the same if a vigorous prosecution is started against them. There is excuse for high prices in Germany and the countries engaged in war in Europe, the cause being scarcity, but in this country there is no scarcity. Crops were short in some, in fact most lines, but there is enough for all and then some. When it is realized that unscrupulous dealers dump carloads of foodstuffs into the lake at Chicago, and destroy it in the same way in most of the larger cities, no one will blame the women whose babies are pinched by hunger, with rising up against their despoilers. Americans are the greatest wasters in the world, destroying at least one-fourth as much food materials as they use. In spite of this there has always been plenty for all, though even when cheap, difficult to get by the very poorest. But when on top of this national shiftlessness is piled wilful destruction of food while the poor go hungry, anarchy begins knocking at the nation's door. It might be a good plan for the general government to pattern after Oregon and adopt a sterilization law, making it apply to those who wilfully destroyed foodstuffs.

The state house yesterday looked like "the morning after," all right. There was wreck and litter everywhere. Papers, bills at last indefinitely postponed, scattered books and baskets slopping over with discarded matter made it look like the early morning after a democratic national convention in a city that had never heard of the bone dry law. Like the legislators who recently occupied it, it will not attract attention for a couple of years.

### WOULD TAX THE GOVERNMENT

The Oregonian contends that the Bean bill is in the interest of the people of Oregon, especially the hard pressed taxpayer. It says among other things: "If the act is upheld," that is the act of congress in taking over the lands of the California-Oregon grant, "the Bean bill will raise the question as to whether the government by purchase of private lands for other than administrative or military needs may extinguish it from the tax rolls. Nothing is added to the railroad's case now pending. Nothing is subtracted from it. The Bean bill only asserts the fundamental right to tax land held for sale, regardless of the identity of the owner." If this reasoning is sound why can not the state tax the other government lands within its borders? They are held for sale or settlement under conditions which make that settlement a virtual sale, for the settler agrees to make the land productive by the act of taking advantage of the homestead laws to acquire them, and he generally carries out this implied contract. In that case the government is holding the lands for sale just as a private person would do. If the government cannot take over, or purchase lands except for administrative or military purposes, how did it acquire what is known as the Louisiana purchase? Suppose a homesteader locates on 160 acres of government land, holds it for a few years, but does not comply with the government's requirements and so the land is forfeited, would the government have to pay taxes on that tract of land? It would seem that it would, if it would be bound to pay taxes on a larger tract taken back under similar conditions and circumstances.

If the fight developed in the legislature is any criterion, there is going to be a redhot scrap over the bonding bill. Senator Pierce asserted he was going home to begin a campaign against its passage and that he would have plenty of help. He also asserted the granges, farmers, and union labor were all against it. Whether he had his ear to the ground and already heard the rumbling, he alone knows, but without passing on its merits it can safely be said that the proposition is one to catch many who generally can be depended on to vote against bond issues.



### THE HARDEST JOB

What is the hardest job, you ask--the most excruciating task? Go, ask the sad and heartsick jay who loses on election day. You know how bitterly he fought to get the public snap he sought. For weary weeks he drilled around, wherever voters could be found, and handed hot air to the rubes, and flattered all the hicks and boobies. He spent much coin he could not spare for punk cigars and railway fare, and all the divers odds and ends that statesmen think will gain them friends. He made a long and hard campaign; he toiled around in mud and rain, and talked his tonsils out of whack, and got lumbago in his back. And when election day was done, he found the other fellow won. No doubt when he was all alone, he filled the air with sob and groan, and cursed the voters, in despair, as being chumps beyond compare. But on the street he wore a grin, as though he'd really hate to win. To try and hide one's grouch and bile, behind a large three-cornered smile, to spring a laugh when one would sob--that surely is the hardest job!



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nor is there any name in Lloyd's register which might be mistaken for them.

**Turkey Stands Pat.**  
Washington, Feb. 21.—The Turkish government has reaffirmed its pledge of alliance with Germany and Austria-Hungary in a successful prosecution of the war, Ambassador Elkus cabled the state department from Constantinople it was announced today.

While the Ottoman chamber of deputies expresses the greatest desire to "strengthen our good relations in neutral countries," the foreign policy will consist in remaining entirely faithful to our treaties with our allies," the Elkus cable stated.

This action was taken by the Chamber of Deputies when the grand vizier appeared before that body and asked for a vote of confidence in the new cabinet. The request was unanimously granted.

The state department in making public Ambassador Elkus' message, had no comment to offer.

**Considering Note.**  
Berlin, via Sayville wireless, Feb. 21.—The United States note is actually under careful examination and will be answered later," declared the official press agency today, regarding the memorandum presented to the Vienna foreign office by American Ambassador Penfield, on the submarine question.

**Remove Art Treasures.**  
The Hague, Feb. 21.—Many art treasures in Alsace and Lorraine have suddenly been removed to the German

Stewart and Munish, on orders from German army headquarters, according to German newspapers received here today. The reasons were not stated.

**One Ship Sunk.**  
London, Feb. 21.—The British steamer Brigado has been sunk. The Brigado was a steel screw steamer of 425 tons, registered at Glasgow and the property of the Mason Shipping company.

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Why the Journal is popular—  
\* It prints the world's news to-day—while it's news. \*

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## SYMPTOMS OF HER DISEASE ARE UNDERESTIMATED

**Backache, Sideache, Nervousness, Dizziness, Faintness, all Disappeared After the Woman's Medicine was Taken.**

Berlin, via Sayville wireless, Feb. 21.—Sinking in the Mediterranean of "a crowded Italian transport steamer," two armed steamers of 3,000 and 4,500 tons, the Italian steamer Oceana, 4,200 tons, the French steamer Moventaux, 3,200 tons and the French sailing ship Aphrodite, six hundred tons, was announced in an official press bureau statement today.

The statement also added: "Papers observe that real submarine successes are undoubtedly much larger, since a majority of the submarines have not yet reported, besides the paralysis of neutral navigation must be taken into consideration."

According to the press bureau, the two armed steamers were loaded "with an important cargo for Salonika" and the French sailing ship with iron for Italy.

Lloyd's does not list an Italian steamship named Oceana, but there is a steamship Oceana of 4217 tons, owned by L. Pittalugia, of Genoa, which may be the one specified in the Berlin statement.

Neither of the other ships is listed,

# MY HUSBAND AND I

Jane Phelps

**CHAPTER CLIII.**

As the doctor predicted mother was very ill. She would lay for hours without speaking unless spoken to, then would smile her answer and drift off into another long silence. As I sat and watched her I often wondered of what she was thinking, then one day I asked her:

"Of your father, dear," she replied. "I think often of him while lying here. He seems very near."

I could not answer for the sob in my throat but she evidently expected none, and after a bit went on:

"I have missed him very much, Mildred. We were very happy together. I pray that you may be as happy with Clifford."

Again I did not reply, but left her and going into my own room I flung myself on the bed and cried out my sorrow and disappointment. There was but one consoling thought. Mother did not know.

Mandy had been right when she said she was able to nurse mother. In spite of her broken arm, which was far from healed, she waited on her with a deftness that was remarkable. Mandy was what Dr. Howard called "a born nurse."

"You can't get them out of training schools, or anywhere else; if nursing isn't born in them they are no good!" he had declared. "I'd rather have Mandy with her broken arm than any-

one else with two good arms. And I reckon she wouldn't let 'em in anyhow!" he ended with a laugh.

**Mrs. Sutton Talks to Mildred.**

Elsie had taken Edith for a walk, Mandy was down to the doctor's office and mother, and I were alone.

"Mildred," mother broke the silence, "I'm glad to have a chance to talk to you while we are alone. Tell me child, is all well with you and Clifford?"

"Then without waiting for an answer she went on, "When you were first married, when Edith was born father and I worried considerably about you. Father especially. You were his favorite child you know. I told him, and I comforted him, that as you grew older everything would work out all right, that you would learn to understand each other, and be happy. It has been so hasn't it dear child?"

"Yes, mother."

For the first time in my life I deliberately lied to my mother, and without a single qualm of conscience. Why should she be made unhappy by knowing the truth. I tried to put the thought from me but I—we all—knew that she wouldn't be with us much longer. Why should her last days be shadowed by my sorrows; by learning of my unhappiness?"

"I knew it child," she replied, a happy smile parting her lips. "Clifford is much older than you, but he is kind, and generous, handsome and distinguished

looking. Most any girl would be proud of him," and she smiled with a bit of her old humor.

"I am proud," I answered, "of his looks," I added in my thoughts.

**Elsie's Future Discussed.**

"Now that I am satisfied about you, I want to talk of Elsie before she returns. When I am gone, Mildred, I want Elsie to have a home with you until she marries—which I think won't be long—for some time at least. I am very much opposed to a young married couple having anyone with them until they have had time to become adjusted, so I prefer she should go with you instead of staying with Zona, especially at first."

"But, mother! You—"

"It won't be quite yet, dear, but I want to talk to you while I can. Don't cry, Mildred, it is all for the best. Don't you think father has been alone long enough?" she asked whimsically. Then, "I think Morton Levering cares for Elsie. If he should want to marry her it has my approval. He is older, but not enough to make very much difference; then Elsie is more mature than either of you. As to everything else that has been attended to long ago. It was easy. I had only to divide everything by three."

Elsie and Edith came in just then and we talked no more. But mother had given me a great deal to think about.

(Tomorrow—A Wild Ride.)

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