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### A HELPLESS LEGISLATIVE BODY

The president has served notice on the senate that he will not call an extra session of congress unless the senate now in session make new rules under which it can transact the business of the country. The president is pre-eminently right. Of what use to call a lot of senators together so long as a handful of them can prevent any or all legislation? Acting on the president's demand the democratic senators have arranged for a caucus today at 10:30 to consider ways and means of amending the rules so as to limit debate.

This attempt will meet with serious objection, as many of the senators are stubbornly opposed to any rule that will "interfere with their constitutional right" to discuss a bill or measure "fully." The suggestion was made yesterday looking to a limiting of debate that shows how strenuous the senators are in providing methods of "how not to do it." The plan suggested is that sixteen senators at any time may by signing a petition have a vote taken the following day, "to close debate." An affirmative vote of two thirds would then result in "each senator being limited to one hour discussion of any bill or amendment."

Those familiar with legislative proceedings will recognize the absurdity of such an arrangement. The filibusters would have an hour each at the bill. Then they would propose an amendment and they would each have another hour. Their filibuster would only end when they got tired of offering amendments.

It is right and proper that each senator should be heard, if he so desires, on any measure; but this right does not, or at least should not permit him to read Robinson Crusoe or Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress hour after hour when debating a question of national polity. What is needed just now is a series of messages from home for each of the senators who insulted and humiliated the nation by their filibustering tactics. At the same time a few messages to the other senators that they must either establish rules under which the country's business can be attended to, or prepare to step down and give place to younger men who are not wrapped up in senatorial precedent and endless red tape. Those senators who insist on their "constitutional rights" to unlimited talk should get a hint that the people, too, have some constitutional rights, one of which is to have their business attended to without hindrance from a lot of self-seeking politicians who cater to influences not American.

### A BUNCH OF SILLY WOMEN

The suffragettes are sore at the president because he refused to meet a delegation of them who have been picketing the white house for a month and say they will go home and "shout it from the house tops" how he kept a lot of American women standing out in the rain and refused to let them come in, or to see them. They forget that only a short time ago the president invited them to go inside, feeling sorry for them when he saw they were suffering from cold, and they refused. Since then he has politely let them stay outside, since it seemed to be their wish. However if they will go home and mount the house tops, they can "holler" until their neighbors declare an open season for suffragettes before the people generally mourn them and then they wont. By their utterly foolish actions they have delayed the coming of national suffrage for twenty years, and if they continue to pursue the same tactics they will delay that day indefinitely.

The Chinese tong war has broken out again, this time in several places at once. Two were killed at San Francisco yesterday, two at Stockton, one at San Jose and one at Oakland, while at Seattle a dozen shots were fired but no one hurt. Sometime the Chinese will be made to obey American laws, instead of relying on gunmen; and if they do not take the hunch and quit their murderous plan of settling their affairs the whole caboodle of them will be sent out of the country. If they only killed each other it might be more easily borne, but instead the gunmen turn loose when the opportunity comes regardless of whom they may hurt.

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### LANE MISREPRESENTS OREGON

Senator Harry Lane is almost universally condemned by the people of Oregon for his stand against the president. The mildest criticism that may be made of his action is that he showed poor judgment--many believe him to be unpatriotic and, therefore, unfit to occupy the high position of senator in congress. Taking the milder point of view it may be said that wisdom would have prompted the senator to accede to the wishes of the president, whose leadership must be accepted without question in time of a great national crisis. To grant the powers he asked for did not necessarily mean war, but would be more likely than anything else to prevent it. The president stands for peace and a solid nation behind him would so impress the foreign countries that they would be far more likely to refrain from giving cause for hostilities than if they are given the impression that the nation is torn by discord and unable to act as a unit.

In brief there is the greatest possible danger of the country actually drifting into war when a strong determined policy might be sufficient to avert the catastrophe. Anyway, we are so close upon the verge of war that the time for discussion as to right or wrong in the steps leading up to it is past; the president realizes this and asked the representatives of the people for a vote of confidence--not a declaration of war. Senator Lane and ten other members of the upper house of congress took such a stand that all over the world--in many parts of which the situation is not fully understood--the news is flashed that the people of the United States are not behind their president in a crisis which may prove the most momentous in its history.

There is talk of recalling Senator Lane but this cannot be done. Moreover, it is not necessary since he has eliminated himself and will quietly sink into oblivion along with Senator Works and others of his colleagues in the shameful proceedings of Saturday night and Sunday. The people of Oregon are making it known in every possible way that they are being misrepresented by Senator Lane and we believe the nation at large will understand and sympathize with us rather than condemn the entire commonwealth for the action of a single politician.

The Japanese press, or part of it is making some pretty bitter attacks on America, complaining of her treatment of the Japanese in this country. If Japan is looking for trouble with the United States she has selected a splendid time to be accommodated. Americans just at this time are not in a mood to take dictation from any country. Besides they are getting mighty tired of having a Japanese bugaboo shook at them every time they turn around. The Japanese are given the same rights as other foreigners in practically all respects save that they cannot become citizens. That condition is going to continue for some time at least, and the Mikado should thank us for not taking his citizens away from him.

The establishment of a naval base at the mouth of the Columbia it is claimed is held up by those who own the land needed, holding it at double the price it is worth. This being the case the assessor should not overlook the price fixed by the owners when he makes his next official call on the land owners. Surely they know what their lands are worth and should be given the benefit when tax time comes around and not have their property undervalued.

That long lost inter-county bridge bill has at last become a law. It was signed by the governor yesterday. Now it would seem the way is open for reaching some sort of arrangement by which the bridge across the Willamette here can be built. Of course there is a possibility a contest may arise as to the validity of the bill, but this seems hardly possible. County Judge Bushey will do well to again open negotiations with the Polk county authorities looking to a settlement of the dispute. If this cannot be accomplished, it is up to the state engineer.



### OPEN CONFESSION

I think Bill Shakespeare dry as dust; his books, untouched, stand on the shelf; and I could take my pen, I trust, and write much better junk myself. Long o'er his pages I perspired, and sickened 'neath the grievous strain; his noisy bombast makes me tired, his style obscure gives me a pain. But when I'm in the social swim, I do not dare to talk like this. The Avon bard! I worship him! To read him fills my soul with bliss! I hate the dismal, horrid daubs Old Masters painted long ago; they look to me like misfit jobs, the pigments spread with broom or hoe. At these old works I gaze and stare, and fail to find a pleasing thing--fat cherubs loafing here and there, and corned angels on the wing. I tell the truth here in my den, where no rebuke can make me smart; but when I'm with my fellow men, I whoop it up for ancient Art. I'd like to meet a man so bold that he would say just what he thinks, hand out the truth, severe and cold, about the haloed, worshiped ginks. Alas, the man has not been born, who dares to hoot the goldbrick sage, who has the nerve to laugh to scorn the chromos of a bygone age.



### OPEN FORUM

#### MR. BENSON'S STATEMENT

Portland, Ore., March 5, 1917.—Editor Salem Journal: In regard to your editorial of February 25 criticizing the appointment of Mr. S. Benson will say that Mr. S. Benson has been in California nearly all winter excepting for one week about 30 days ago when he was up here. It was not announced on the floor of both houses during debate that Mr. Benson would not be a member of the highway board. Mr. John B. Yeom wrote a letter to the roads committees in both houses stating he would not be a member of the state highway commission, and I did the same. I have all the road work in Multnomah county in the last four years that I care for and I assure you it has been neither profitable nor a pleasure.

Please do not get Mr. S. Benson and myself confused in these different matters. I would thank you if you would mention this in your paper. If you wish to verify what I have stated above you can undoubtedly do so by calling on Hon. Sam Brown to whom the original letter was sent. Yours very truly, AMOS S. BENSON.

### SALEM BOY HELPED ARREST SAILORS

#### Raymond Anderson in Party Arresting Germans in Honolulu

Raymond Anderson, formerly a member of Company M, Third Regiment, Oregon National Guard, but now an enlisted man in the United States navy, was one of the 30 sailors who took a hand in taking prisoners the 200 German sailors on board the German ship in the harbor of Honolulu when the crew undertook to set it on fire and destroy it so it would not fall into the hands of the United States should war between Germany and the United States be declared.

Young Anderson is stationed on the St. Louis, which was in the harbor at the time the exciting event took place. The Germans squirted oil between the steel and the wooden deck-covering and

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then set fire to it. When the harbor officers tried to get on board to put out the fire the members of the crew fought them off, and the officers called for help from the St. Louis. Thirty sailors were sent to the scene and took the crew prisoners.

It was found on examination that the fires under the boilers had been lighted with no water in them, that the electric dynamos had been damaged with acid, the bearings of the machinery had

been ruined by chiseling, etc. Young Anderson, who is a son of F. A. Anderson, of 505 South Sixteenth street, was the second man on board the German ship, according to a letter received by Mr. Anderson recently.

TRY JOURNAL WANT ADS



### THE BREAK

CHAPTER CLXXI.  
It is not an easy thing to pull yourself up by the roots, so to speak, to give up a home of which you have been sole mistress, and in which every piece of furniture even has a place in your affections. No woman ever decides to do this without good reason, or what she considers good reason. That is no REAL woman ever does. I felt so grateful to dad for leaving me so well provided for that I had no need of Clifford's money. I do not think I ever could have brought myself to leave him, and then accept money from him. For his child, yes. For myself, no. I should have gone to work first. Kate was at first unbelieving, then heart-broken. "I can never stay on ma'am, with you gone for good." "You will not have to. Mr. Hammond told me he should close the house for the present and live at the club. The house is in my name, and I may come back to it though it is doubtful." "If you do, will you take me back, ma'am? It will seem so strange to work away from Mandy and Miss Edith," she wept. "Yes, Kate I promise. And I will give you such a good reference that you will be sure to get a good place," and when a little later I called Muriel up she said she would take her. I was delighted, and Kate was pleased.

#### An Interrupted Visit.

As we had agreed Leonard came finished with his evening paper I asked: "Clifford, was there cause for naming you in Mabel Horton's divorce suit?" "Harping on that again, are you? You women get an idea into your heads, and it's enough to drive a man wild the way you dwell on it." "Will you answer my question, please?" "Certainly there was cause! Now are you satisfied?" "I never have been able to understand how I dared question Clifford in the manner I did during this time; nor how he endured it as well as he did. It was foreign to us both. Sometimes I have felt that it was because he cared so little that he did not mind WHAT I knew, or found out; and that I had ceased to love him, so had more courage to risk his displeasure." "Is there still the same cause?" "Clifford turned upon me then." "Suppose there is! what are you going to do about it?" "It was only a tacit admission, but I grasped it." "What I have been thinking of for a long time. Get a divorce. Perhaps this time you will marry her." I replied, and strangely enough, without bitterness. "You can't get it too soon to please

me. I'm sick to death of your fool ways and actions!" he stormed. "What about Edith?" I asked. "I must have undisputed possession of her. No matter what you say, how much you dislike, and make fun of me; not you even can say that I am not a good mother."

"Who wants to say it? If you are in earnest about this divorce business, you shall have her if I have the privilege of seeing her when I choose; and if you go where you can get the divorce without making a scandal in Glendale. Otherwise I'll fight every step." "That suits me. I will go away. I suppose you fear to soil Mabel Horton's reputation if you were again mentioned as correspondent?" "We'll leave Mrs. Horton's name out of the discussion. If you wish to leave me, I'll settle an income on you, and—" "No, Clifford, I do not want your money. I have enough of my own that father left me. Settle as much as you will on Edith, provide for her education, etc. If you like, but I want nothing." "Save to be rid of me," he returned in a bitter tone. "I'm not going to quarrel with you, Clifford, but I have been very unhappy. I was too young; you were too old to—" "I suppose you'll marry some young fellow, Leonard Brooke for instance." "Perhaps—I don't know."