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## IMPRACTICAL THEORISTS

Recently a group of citizens of New York representing various labor, socialist, religious, pacifist and civic organizations, met at the Astor hotel and adopted a tentative program for "the first American Conference on democracy and peace terms." Upon its adoption they issued a call for a conference to be held at the Holland House, New York City, May 30. The names signed to the call show the primary meeting was composed of dreamers, faddists and those who are devoting their lives to fixing things for the balance of the world. They are no doubt good people---in their way, but it is evident from the things they propose, that they are impractical theorists, who would mould humanity over, and change human nature by printing pamphlets and preaching peace and brotherly love. Both of these attributes are beautiful and are the aim and object of the greater part of the human race. The question is not concerning their desirableness, but how to attain them. One of the features they lay especial stress on is the referendum on declarations of war. Theoretically this is a proper thing; but in practice it would be fareical. In a small community it could be used, but with our hundred million people, it is too slow and cumbersome for use. Under it if the country was attacked and an enemy was landing on our shores we would have to hold an election before we could take any steps to prevent it. Instead of calling the army to resist such invasion the president would call an election. Most of the other features indorsed in the tentative program are as impractical as the foregoing one. Besides, statements are made as a reason for calling the convention that are not supported by the facts. Among other assertions are these: "The pernicious gag bill is about to be forced through congress; standards to safeguard labor, carefully built up through years, have been swept aside; the right of free speech has been assailed; halls have been closed against public discussion, meetings broken up, speakers arrested---and now the danger of a permanent universal military training law confronts us." None of these things are true. The movers of the plan then call attention to "peace rumors coming from Germany, Austria, Italy and Russia, and assert that Americans should give heed to them and do nothing until these rumors prove true. The misguided bunch deals with theories and overlooks facts. They talk peace while Germany is ruthlessly sinking our ships, killing our citizens and forbidding our people the right to travel on the high seas. It is a bunch of short haired women and long haired men, standing far apart from the world as it is, and wanting to make it over in their own little molds. Unintentionally this class is the real enemy of their country.

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The president has decided to decline the offer of Colonel Roosevelt to raise a division for service in France. In reaching this conclusion the president says he is acting under expert advice from both sides of the water. To send a volunteer division now would seriously interfere with the carrying out of the chief and most important purpose contemplated by this legislation: "the prompt creation and early use of an effective army, and would contribute practically nothing to the effective strength of the armies now engaged against Germany." This is rather a hard slam at the Colonel's invincibility, and sand paper to his tender spots, but it is true, for war is not fought by infantry or battles won by that arm of the service without its accompanying artillery. The fact that those in command in France are against the plan shows this.

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That Oregonian paragrapher is at it again. This time he is guilty of lese majeste in speaking of suggestions that the city of Portland should be laid off into zones for business and residence. He says "the plan should first be demonstrated on young and GROWING towns, like Bend."

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Yesterday was a real Spring day, warm, clear and balmy, and "the next day it rained."

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## THE S. P.'S MISINFORMATION BUREAU

The Southern Pacific has a well organized bureau sending out information for the press, its matter being so labeled. The bureau is doing the work it is hired to do, but the headline expert should be fired. The literature should be headed "misinformation for the press," for that is what it is. The Southern Pacific having bottled up all Oregon industries, left the business of the state helpless and without cars, now sends this kind of stuff which is a bundle of complaints about legislatures and laws made in an effort to make the Southern Pacific do its duty by those who are forced to depend on it for the transportation of their commodities. It would have the newspapers print its misstatements free, and assist it in still further deceiving and maltreating the people. The truth about the Southern Pacific is that for more than a year it has deliberately discriminated against Oregon, and is still doing so. South of Eugene the state is at its mercy, and the S. P. has none of that attribute on hand just now. North of it it is diffferent. We can get along without it and it is likely to discover this before long. In any other state the people would long ago have found some way to make it understand this; but Oregon, although she "flies with her own wings," is most aggravatingly slow about getting off the perch and giving her wings a chance. Among other things the big corporation whines about is that the legislatures are trying to make it hire more men. At the same time it along with the other roads is applying to the interstate commerce commission to be allowed to increase its rates fifteen per cent, to cover its alleged increased cost of operation caused by the Adamson law. And this when its reports show it made more money last year than ever before in its history.

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The president has ordered that a division of regulars be prepared for service in France as quickly as possible. In fact while this order was only made public last night it was made some time ago. A dispatch was received over the United Press Monday to this effect but was held up at the request of the department of war. This being the case it is very likely the needed preparations have been about completed and that the division will soon be on its way. The division will be under command of General Pershing, and will probably consist largely of artillery.

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The news from the western front yesterday was to the effect that the Germans had applied the torch to Lens, flames and explosions being seen in the city from the British lines. This is exactly what has been done to every city by the Germans before evacuating it, and this gives color to the belief that the abandonment of the great coal city may be the next move. Reports from General Haig also indicate the city is pretty well surrounded and it is perhaps fear of being trapped that causes the Germans to get ready to leave on short notice.

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The farther west, the more patriotic the people of the United States are. Port Orford has sent practically all its men of age liable to conscription, to the army by enlistment. Seven per cent of the entire population has joined the army. This should be the record, for Port Orford is the western-most point in the United States.

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Anyway, the Bean bill is going on the ballot whether the lands go on the assessment rolls or not. This unless the supreme court upsets the decision of Circuit Judge Bingham.

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The proverb: "If you want a thing done go; if not send." This might be changed in the latter portion to read: "If you don't want it done send it to congress."

## Rippling Rhymes

*by Walt Mason*

### THRICE ARMED

Thrice is he armed, the sages say, who hath his quarrel just; thrice armed, therefore, is Uncle Sam, who's out to win or bust. For never since the world began has nation gone to fight with nobler purposes in view, with cause more truly right. We covet not a perch or rood of any foreign soil, no treasure chests of friend or foe do we desire to spoil. We were not hunting for a scrap, peace was our end and aim, we heaved a sigh of true regret when we broke in the game. We sighed in pity when we saw the old earth painted red, we suffered wrong with patient hearts, and laid away our dead. But patience cannot always last, nor pity still endure, when wrong is heaped on bitter wrong; such ills the sword must cure. And so we took our harness down, and strapped it on our breast, and reached for claymore, helm and lance, and trusty arbalest. And now the fateful die is thrown, and crimson war shall last, till autocrats and lords of war are relics of the past. And ever as we pot the foe, and bag the kaiser's men, true inspiration shall we find, again, and yet again, in that great truth the sages wrote in volumes filmed with dust: "Thrice is he armed," so runs the rede, "who hath his quarrel just."

## DIGEST OF MEASURES TO BE VOTED ON AT THE JUNE ELECTION

For the information of the voters of the state, the following brief digest of all proposals to be submitted to the electorate at the special election of June 4, has been prepared. Effort has been made to state the real purport and result of each proposal without bias and solely for the information and possible guidance of the voter in deciding the attitude he desires to assume at the polls.

Constitutional amendment, referred by the 1917 legislature first on the state ballot, entitled "Authorizing ports to create limited indebtedness to encourage water transportation."

This proposes to amend section 9 of article II of the state constitution in such manner that the people of any regularly created port district may, by a direct affirmative vote on a specific question, raise funds, by direct tax or otherwise, not to exceed one per cent of the assessed valuation of all taxable property within the district to be expended as a bonus to aid in the establishment of water commerce between that port and both foreign and domestic ports.

The constitution at present provides that no municipal corporation, by a direct vote of the people or otherwise, can raise money for, or loan its credit to, any joint company, corporation or association whatever. The amendment makes an exception to this rule by giving the people of a port district the power, by an affirmative majority vote of all persons voting on a proposal, to authorize a direct tax or a bond issue, within the limits noted above, for the purposes mentioned.

The voters who believe that the people of a port district should have the authority to tax themselves in such manner and for such purpose should vote "300 X Yes"; those who oppose granting such authority should note "301 X No."

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A proposed law, referred by the 1917 legislature, second on the state ballot entitled "A Bill for Taxation of Oregon & California Land Grant."

This is the so-called "Bean bill." It asserts, in effect, and contrary to the express provisions of the act of congress known as the Chamberlain-Ferris act recently declared valid by the supreme court of the United States, that the Southern Pacific railroad company owns the 2,300,000 acres of the Oregon & California land grant in fee simple, and declares, on the ground of this assertion, that the state of Oregon possesses the soverign right to tax these lands. It directs the county assessors of the 18 land grant counties to place the grant lands on the assessment rolls and levy taxes against them, notwithstanding the fact that congress, in the Chamberlain-Ferris act, revested title in the United States thus making the lands again government lands, and, consequently, untaxable by the state.

The voters who believe that the state should enact a statute in conflict with a federal statute should vote "3002 X Yes." Those who do not believe the state should attempt so to do should vote "303 X No."

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A constitutional amendment, submitted by the legislature, third on the ballot, entitled "Limiting Number of Bills Introduced and Increasing Pay of Legislators."

This measure proposes to amend sections 18 and 29 of article IV of the constitution. At the present time a senator or representative is not limited as to the number of bills he may introduce.

Members of both houses are paid $3 per day, with the limitation that the per diem shall not exceed $120 for any regular session, which has the effect of practically limiting the regular sessions to 40 days.

The proposed amendment would limit each member to the introduction of four bills at a session, while senate committees are limited to the introduction of a total of 30 and house committees to a total of 60 bills. This would limit the number of bills at any session to 450, exclusive of appropriation bills. The amendment also raises the pay of legislators to $6 per day, with a total per diem to each member of not more than $600 for each regular session, the equivalent of full pay for a 50-day session. The adoption of the amendment would very probably result, in practice, in the lengthening of the regular session from 40 to 50 days.

The voter who desires to limit the number of measures introduced and to raise the pay of the members from $3 per day for 40 days to $6 per day for 50 days should vote "304 X Yes," those opposed should vote "305 X No."

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A constitutional amendment, submitted by the legislature, fourth on the ballot, entitled "Declaration Against Implied Repeal of Constitutional Provisions by Amendment Thereto."

This proposes to amend section 1 of article I of the constitution. It provides, in brief, that any constitutional amendment adopted by the people which repeals any existing part or parts of the constitution without specifically stating the fact of such repeal shall be void. The effect of the amendment, if adopted, would be to take from the voters the right new given by the constitution to alter or amend it, whenever in the opinion of the supreme court a newly adopted amendment repealed an existing provision without definitely saying so. It would give the court the power to set aside a duly adopted constitutional amendment, no matter what affirmative majority it might have received at the polls.

Those voters who believe they should place such a limitation upon their present right of constitutional amendment should vote "306 X Yes;" those who do not so believe should vote "307 X No."

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A constitutional amendment, submitted by the legislature, fifth on the ballot, entitled "Uniform Tax Classification Amendment."

This proposes to amend section 32 of article I and section 1 of article IX of the constitution by broadening the present constitutional basis of taxation beyond real and personal property. The effect of its adoption would be to permit the enactment of laws taxing the gross income of corporations and the passage of other similar statutes to reach invisible or intangible property which now escapes taxation because not coming within the real and personal property limitations of the constitution.

The voters who believe that the legislature, or the people by the initiative, should have authority to extend the taxing power of the state beyond the ownership of real and personal property should vote "308 X Yes;" those who oppose the extension of such authority should note "309 X No."

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A constitutional amendment, submitted by the lexislature, sixth on the ballot, entitled "Requiring election of city town and state officers at same time."

This proposes to add a new section to article II of the constitution, known as section 14-a. It provides, in brief, that all incorporated cities and towns shall hold their primary and regular elections on the same dates as the primary and general elections [illegible] that the same election officials shall serve [illegible] municipal and general elections. [illegible] proponents of the amendment [illegible] nomy in its support, [illegible] the merger would eliminate [illegible] part, the expense of separate [illegible] pal elections. Those opposed [illegible] amendment contend that it would [illegible] in congested districts where many candidates and issues would be [illegible] shadowed by state and national [illegible]

A bill, referred by the [illegible] seventh on the ballot, entitled "[illegible] Hundred Thousand Dollar Appropriation for a New Penitentiary."

The bill was enacted by the legislature and referred to the people [illegible] the appropriation of $400,000 [illegible] taken with other legislative appropriations, would have exceeded the [illegible] cent increase limited by the constitutional amendment, and therefore, to be effective must receive an affirmative vote of the people. It provides, in brief, that an appropriation of $400,000, divided into [illegible] parts of $100,000 each, be made [illegible] direct taxation, for the purpose of constructing a new state penitentiary [illegible]

The bill resulted from the report of the commission appointed by the governor to make a survey of the [illegible] which reported that the present building was overcrowded, insanitary [illegible] er sanitation and so arranged that there could be no adequate separation of prisoners or attempts at [illegible] trol.

Those who believe that the appropriation should be given should vote "[illegible] X Yes"; those who do not [illegible] No."

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The measure designated as the "[illegible] Million Dollar Road Bond Law" or "[illegible] Highway Bill" provides for the [illegible] within the next five years of $[illegible]000 of 4 per cent serial state [illegible] bonds from which to build [illegible] trunk highways, designated as [illegible]

The issue of the bonds is [illegible] as follows: One million [illegible] year; two million the second year; the remaining three million [illegible] the third and fifth years at the [illegible] of the state highway commission [illegible] ning with the sixth year, they [illegible] be retired at the rate of [illegible] each year, making the total [illegible] iod 26 years.

An act of the legislature [illegible] force creates a fund for the [illegible] tion of the bonds out of the [illegible] derived from the increased motor vehicle tax and the quarter [illegible] erty tax. It is estimated that the total revenue from both of these [illegible] will be approximately $[illegible] num, $220,000 from the quarter [illegible] tax and $310,000 from the motor vehicle tax.

The quarter mill tax and the [illegible] license will be in effect, [illegible] of the action taken on the bond [illegible]

The voters who are in favor of the bond issue will vote "[illegible] those who are opposed will vote [illegible] X No."

### HOGS NET HIGH PRICE

Twenty-one hogs sold in the Portland Union Stock yards by W. A. Ayres for Wiley Maxwell Wednesday netted him $766.17 after all expenses were taken out. The animals sold at 16 cents a pound. One sow in the lot brought $85.45 despite the fact that it weighed 590 pounds.

This is the highest price ever recorded for Lane county hogs, according to Mr. Ayres, who says that the Union yard buyer declared the animals to be the equal of any that have ever been handled at the yards.—Eugene Guard.

### SAWMILLS ARE RUNNING

After a close down since the night of March 9, the Silverton Lumber company resumed sawing operations [illegible] day morning and all departments are running like clock work. Being shut down, waiting for logs, [illegible] were busy making improvements around the mill and have it in [illegible] class working order in every detail.

The car shortage is still felt to a certain extent and even at [illegible] pinches considerably, but the plant during the past two months has been reduced and even a slight lessening of requirements would not necessitate a shut down.

The Silver Falls Timber company mill is also running on schedule [illegible] The mill started over a week ago [illegible] the newness of the machinery and necessary adjustments of the various departments caused more or less [illegible] time at the outset.—Silverton [illegible]

## My Husband and I

By Jane Phelps

### A NEW PROBLEM

CHAPTER XLVIII.

After Tom went to work for Mr. Crandell his habits changed to a great extent. I now know from necessity, rather than from choice. He was later in getting home; more frequently remained out for the evening. He always telephoned, so I didn't worry particularly, but occasionally I felt uncomfortable.

One night he telephoned he would not be home until very late. Mr. Crandell wished him to entertain a large prospective customer, and he could not well refuse. I replied "all right" as cheerfully as I could, but I was disappointed. Helen and Walter were down town to dinner, and she had just telephoned to have Tom and me meet them about 8 o'clock and we would go to a moving picture that was making a great stir just then. Of course, timid as I was about going about New York, alone, I never dreamed of meeting them without Tom. And as she had left it that if we weren't there they wouldn't expect us; I couldn't reach her.

The clock had just struck 8; and I sat thinking that just at that time Helen and Walter were waiting for us, when I heard the elevator stop on our floor. I paid no attention, as I expected no one ;yet thought a little bitterly that the young woman across the hall—I had not yet met her—was not going to spend a lonely evening.

**A Visitor.**

But to my surprise it was MY bell that rang, and when I went to the door there stood Everett Crandell, hat in hand, smilingly waiting to be invited in.

"Won't you come in?" I stammered.

"If you will let me," he replied smilingly, and followed me into the living room.

I took his hat and coat, and after he had seated himself in response to my invitation he said:

"I suppose you are astonished to see me after my cruelty in ordering Tom to take Baggy to dinner and the theatre. But I had to see a man up near here, and thought perhaps you wouldn't min.l if I dropped in and chatted a minute."

His excuse was so plausible, so coolly given that I never thought of doubting him. It was only later, much later, that I found out that "seeing a man" meant almost anything.

"I'm very glad to see you," I replied. "To tell the truth I was a little lonely." "Then without meaning to I told him of Helen's telephone, and how she and Walter were probably still waiting for us.

"And I spoiled it all by keeping Tom out!" he said trying to look sorry, and not succeeding. "I tell you what we'll do. That very picture is being shown right around the corner from here. I'll take you."

"Oh, but I couldn't leave. You know my little maid goes home at night unless we plan to be out late."

"That's too bad! You make me feel guilty."

**A Pleasant Evening**

He made ME feel guilty. [illegible] come in, I reasoned, partly [illegible] he thought I might be lonely [illegible] at once tried to make his call as pleasant as I could. After we had [illegible] a few minutes he, rather [illegible] ly, reached for a package he had [illegible] on the table when he came and [illegible]

"I brought a box of candy [illegible] me; I thought perhaps you were [illegible] of them."

"Oh, I am!" I exclaimed as I [illegible] ed the box; "I love candy, always [illegible] But you are too good to me." I [illegible] tinued, candidly if recklessly, "you [illegible] always giving me something [illegible]

"I wish I might!" he said in a [illegible] which brought the hot blood to my face.

"But you have sent me so many lovely flowers, and——"

"Please don't speak of them [illegible] trifle," he interrupted. "Sometime I should like to give you something [illegible] ly worthy of you. Something [illegible]

"You are too good." I [illegible] and then to my relief he changed the subject and talked interestingly of his travels, telling me quite [illegible] of foreign life until the clock struck ten.

"I did not dream it was so late," he apologized as he rose to go. "I shouldn't be so entertaining."

After he left I sat trying to think what he meant. I had spoken [illegible] a dozen words the entire evening.

(Monday—Money Troubles Arise.)