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THE CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Salem's property owners do not seem to realize the importance of the coming election, or the bearing it may have on the future of the city. They, as a general thing, are taking but little interest in it, and yet it is of vital importance to each and every one of them. There is a certain amount of money due and owing for a street improvements. That money must be paid by some one. If the owners of the property along the streets do not pay it the city must. To meet this situation the council has submitted three amendments which are to be voted on next Monday. One of these simply provides for giving the majority of the property owners the right to say whether a street shall be improved. There should be no objection to that by anyone. Another provides for making liens against property for street improvements enforceable. There should be no objection to this for it is the acme of silliness to give the city a lien that is no lien at all. If it cannot be collected it is absolutely worthless. The principal objection to this comes from those who have had the streets improved in front of their property but have not paid for the work. Naturally it does not appeal to them, yet they have had the benefit of the improvement and should be willing to pay for it.

The third amendment provides for reassessing the property when through some error the original assessment is invalid. It is against this amendment the greatest fight is being waged. It will affect most strongly those living on Twelfth street, the improvement of which is still largely unpaid for. Great stress has been laid by the opponents of this measure on the mandate of the supreme court, which through an error was made to hold that the "remonstrance was sufficient," when as a matter of fact the supreme court held no such thing. What it did decide was that the attempt to replat certain portions of the property along the street was invalid and of no effect. Twelfth street presents a serious problem, and one that requires just the amendment submitted to solve it in the best manner possible for the city and for the property owners, on whom the assessment bears too heavily. Section 79 which is proposed to be added to the charter, after providing for a reassessment reads: "Such new or reassessment shall be made in an equitable manner in accordance with the law in force at the time of making the original assessment, BUT THE COMMON COUNCIL MAY ADOPT A DIFFERENT PLAN OF APPORTIONMENT OF SUCH COST, WHEN IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO SECURE A JUST ASSESSMENT."

It will be seen from this that the amendment provides for making a more equitable assessment and apportionment of the cost of the improvement, and provides the only way in which an equitable division of the cost can be made.

It is also argued that the council is trying to force these charter amendments down the people's throats by threatening them with a bond issue. So far as that goes the city council will not compel the city to issue bonds to meet its obligations for street improvements if the amendments fail, but circumstances will. The taxpayers will either have to meet the payments for street improvements already made and which are not paid for, by a bond issue or by a heavy tax levy. The city is responsible for the bill and will have it to pay if the amendments fail to pass. It will be up to the council to provide the way, and the two mentioned are all that are available. It is either bonds or increased taxes if the amendments are not adopted, and this from force of circumstances not from force applied by the council.

It behooves every citizen to go to the polls and cast his or her ballot, for those who do not own property now, may very likely do so before the bond issue, if made, is paid off.

Another argument against giving the council power to make a reassessment is that it may exceed the powers given it. If this is a good argument against these amendments it is equally good against the whole charter. It follows naturally if this is a sufficient cause for with-

holding this power from the council, that all other powers should be also withheld from it lest it exceed them and set aside the law.

A CRIME AGAINST CIVILIZATION

The recent horror at East St. Louis is one to make civilization ashamed. It should cause every American to protest in such a way that never again could so brutal a crime be committed on American soil. For years the North has pointed scornfully at the South for its treatment of the negro. While the accusations against the south were just, it can be said of its treatment of the negro, that it at least confined its cruelties, and its crimes if you will, to the punishment of negroes suspected of a crime. It never indulged in wholesale massacre of the innocent; in ruthless butchery of women and girls who had committed no crime, and whose only offense was that their skins were black. This senseless and heartless series of murders, was done ostensibly for revenge for the killing of a police sergeant by a negro. Surely this would not justify this wholesale murder any more than his killing by a murderous whiteman would justify murdering all the whites in the vicinity. This crime was committed in one of the most populous northern states, the state that Lincoln honored by his presence, and whose hands struck the shackles from the ancestors of these very victims. Some hundreds of those who formed the mob are under arrest, and the state can only purge herself of the foul blot these persons have placed on her escutcheon by meting out to them a punishment severe enough to forever deter others from a like offense.

A WORLD-WIDE ANNIVERSARY

The celebration of the American day of all days, July Fourth, has become world-wide in its scope. Today Paris is gay with American flags, and while American soldiers for the first time are celebrating the day in a warring European country, they are not paying any more profound reverence for the banner of Freedom than are the citizens of France. At the same time the Russians are having a great celebration of their own, a real one, and while the American flag is not in evidence on that battle front, the things that flag stands for are what is putting strength in the Russians' blows. The Russians are not fighting now as puppets of the czar; but as free men glorying in their new found freedom and ready to die for it if need be. The star spangled banner does not fly in Russia, but the same love of freedom that inspired our forefathers has found expression in the giant of the north, and her flag which a few months ago stood for the most despotic government in existence is now, as is our own, an emblem of a free people. The two flags today float over a free people whose two countries reach practically around the world.

Rippling Rhymes

by Walt Mason

THE WAR SPIRIT

The martial spirit's in the air, and keeps men's blood a-boiling; I run across it everywhere; for glory we are spoiling. We walk with military stride, becoming to the jingo, and take a sort of wholesome pride in talking army lingo. The grocer's humming warlike tunes, such airs as "Yankee Doodle," as he wraps up his boneless prunes, to gain a little boodle. The plumber's thinking, as he plumbs, of war, and he is singing, "Oh, see, the conquering hero comes, Red Bill's Angora bringing." The chef in glowing words repeats, while he stirs up the gravy, the story of the golden feats of heroes of our navy. The lawyer drops the points of law he's scheduled to unravel, and tells how his forefathers saw the Hessians scratching gravel. The pastor takes material text, a text that treats of battling, and tells how he'll be sorely vexed if he can't wield a gatling. The baker, as he moulds his bread, in fancy predetermines what he will do with all his dead, when he has met the Germans. Peace always was a dream of mine, to which I still am partial, and yet it thrills my ancient spine to see the boys so martial.



MRS. WILLIAM T. GRIM DIES

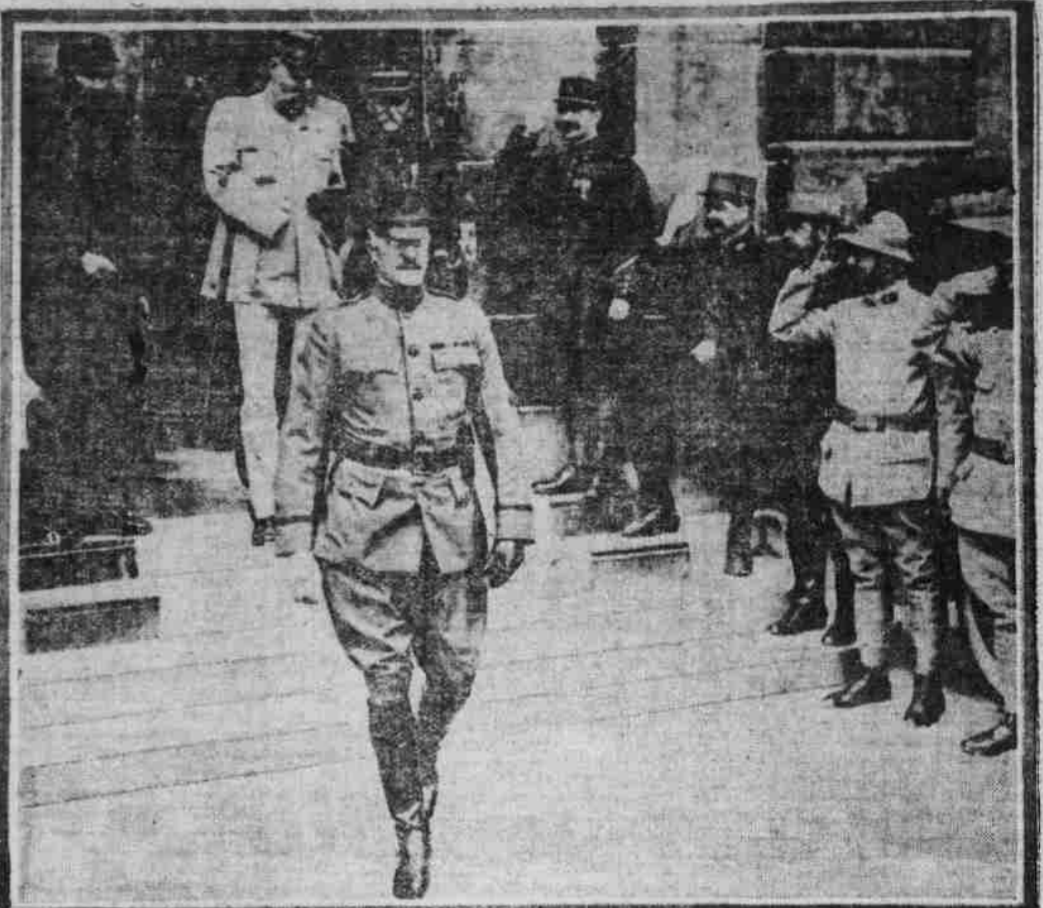
After an illness of one week of pneumonia, Mrs. William Grim passed into the great beyond, Friday evening, June 22, 1917. Early in the week the family feared the worst and wired the youngest son, Gordon, who has been located at Juneau, Alaska, for several months. Fortunately he received the wire two hours before the boat left for Seattle, arriving home Monday morning. The funeral was held at the home Tuesday morning at 10:30 conducted by Rev. E. C. Butler, of Sherwood, prayer was offered by S. E. Long, pastor of the Hubbard Congregational church. The morning was beautiful. In the shaded spot on the south of the house the casket was placed on a mound of flowers as the service began. A double quartet sang the songs that were favorites of the departed. Mrs. P. C. Butler sang, "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere." After the sermon the large number of assembled friends followed the remains to the cemetery. Mrs. Grim grew to womanhood in this community

MRS. MAE NICHOLS SEEKS DIVORCE

Dallas, Ore., July 2. — Mrs. Mae Nichols, formerly of Dallas, now a resident of Salem, has brought suit for a divorce from Walter Nichols, a former cashier of the Falls City bank. Mrs. Nichols alleges that her husband became infatuated with a young Falls City widow and that, as a result, their home was broken up. Mr. and Mrs. Nichols were married in this city in 1902. Mrs. Nichols is a daughter of W. J. Reynolds, a former school superintendent of Polk county.

MOVES PLANT TO PORTLAND

Portland, Ore., July 2. — E. L. Thompson, banker and head of the Portland Woolen mills, announced today that he had bought the Brownsville Woolen Mills and would move the entire plant to Portland where the equipment will be installed in auxiliary relation to his present plant.



GEN. PELLETIER IN PARIS—LEAVING THE INVALIDES—THIS PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN ON THE AMERICAN general's tomb of official visits, showing him just after he had inspected the army museum—Gen. Pelletier is following him down the steps.

VOTE ON STRIKE WEDNESDAY

Seattle, Wash., July 2.—Whether a strike of six thousand electrical workers and several thousand girls, telephone operators, which would completely demoralize telephone companies on the Pacific coast, will be called, will be decided Thursday night. A conference held or delegates of the ten locals of Washington, held in Tacoma Sunday called for a strike vote in every local on the coast for Thursday.

"Mothers of France" Shown at Penitentiary

Manager Bligh of the Oregon state penitentiary has granted the inmates of the Red Cross work of America, as he has already invited the officials of the Willamette chapter to witness the performance of this wonderful picture, he thinks that it is only fair that the members of the Red Cross at the prison should also have a chance to see it. Perhaps there will never be another motion picture so vital, so beautiful, so timely and so significant as "Mother of France," in which Madame Sarah Bernhardt does the supreme work of her career. Certainly it would be hard to conceive of any other picture being produced under similarly intense circumstances, for this feature lays the bleeding heart of France bare to the world. It carries a big, vivid message from the mothers of France to the mothers of America. Purchased by the World Film Corporation against the most severe competition in the history of the industry. Today and tomorrow will be the last times that Salem people will have the chance to see this picture. Showing at Ye Liberty theater.

LITTLE TALKS ON THRIFT

By S. W. STRAUS
President American Society for Thrift



Economy in the home can be effected both through the elimination of waste and through the utilization of foods to the best possible advantage. One of the most expensive features of the family food bill is meat. Most Americans eat too much meat. Also there is a tendency to buy the more expensive cuts and the amount of waste is heavy. The United States Department of Agriculture points out that where meat has been purchased by telephone or orders to a butcher's boy, personal shopping and careful selection may make a saving possible. In purchasing the cheaper and often tougher cuts of meat instead of the choicer ones, little if any nutriment is lost. Cheaper steaks are purchased to a degree of tenderness may be imparted to them by the well-known method of pounding the meat. The juices and flavors of such steaks will be retained more satisfactorily if flour is sprinkled over them during the heating process and so worked into the fibers on the surface. Tougher meats also may be ground up, formed into balls and broiled like steak. Cheap cuts of meat may be cooked slowly with vegetables or dumplings in a casserole or any other thick walled baking dish which may be covered, the juice thereby being retained. An important way in which the amount of money expended for meat may be lessened is by preparing small quantities of meat in such a way as to extend its flavor to other and cheaper foods. It may be ground and combined with rice or bread crumbs, to form croquettes, made into pies with relatively large quantities of pastry, cooked with dumplings in water and the same dish with gravy and starchy foods, such as spaghetti or rice; ground and used with bread crumbs or other materials, as a stuffing for vegetables, or cut thin and wrapped around a stuffing of bread crumbs, rice, or vegetables. Left over fat may be tried out by grating or chopping and heating in a double boiler. The tried out fat then may be boiled in water and allowed to solidify on the surface of the water when the latter cools, impurities being scraped from the under surface of the cake. Trimmings of lean meat, gristle, and bone may be boiled slowly and used for soup stock. Every American housewife should take the position that it is unpatriotic to waste the slightest particle of food.

My Husband and I

By Jane Phelps

AN UNPLEASANT ENDING TO A HAPPY DAY

CHAPTER LXXXVI
I danced with Carol Blacklock, then as Tom, Peggy and Everett all came back to the table, he excused himself. Our supper was served and then we left. But all the time I was eating I watched the girl Tom knew, and determined to make him tell me all about her when we reached home. Mr. Crandell had sent his own car to the garage when we arrived at the supper place, and had ordered a taxi to take us home. He insisted upon going with us, though Tom urged him not to. We drove up through the park, then out at 114th Street. In some way the driver lost control of the cab and we dashed into an elevated pillar. Mr. Crandell was on one of the small seats, and as the door flew open he was thrown out. The driver also was knocked off his seat. Tom, Peggy and I were terribly shaken up, a little cut by the broken glass but not injured otherwise. Tom jumped out and raised Everett in his arms and I heard him say: "Thank God! He's not dead." Just then a policeman came up, and helped Tom hold him, while another one turned in a call for an ambulance. Peggy was sobbing hysterically, but I was too frightened for tears. The driver of the cab was dying, the officer said as they carried him into a drug store. Two ambulances drove clanking up. One for Everett, one for the cabbie. Tom gave our addresses to the officer; then after telling the ambulance surgeon that he would come to the hospital later, he called another cab and took Peggy and me home. Anxious Waiting. We scarcely spoke all the way home. After Tom had helped us into the house and had assured himself that we were not hurt, he left for the hospital. He first changed his clothes. "I may not come back. It is two o'clock now, and if there is anything I can do for Crandell, I shall stay down town," he told us, then left us alone to wait for news from the hospital. I fixed Peggy's cuts, and she did the same for me. They were slight, yet they added to our discomfort. We didn't attempt to go to bed. We had told Tom we would not until we heard from him. It was so awful to think of Everett lying unconscious, perhaps dying in the hospital. He, who so short a time before had been our gay, laughing, generous host. "If he dies I never want to ride in a motor car again as long as I live!" I declared. "Oh, yes you will!" Peggy replied. "With a good driver you are as safe there as anywhere. That man in some way lost control of the taxi. I felt it wobble quite a while before we struck the post." "Well I feel that way now," I insisted. "Wouldn't it be terrible if he should die?" I said for the fourth or fifth time just as the telephone rang. It was Tom. "You girls go to bed. Crandell is still unconscious. He may live though. The driver is dead. I will call you about eight o'clock and let you know how things are. Good night." I had not said a word, so I repeat-

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