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Editor and Publisher

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SMILING LITTLE 1918

It seems but a short time since we were welcoming little 1917 as he came across the mountains from the far east, and today we are telling that same year, now grown old and ready to pass out, farewell.

It has not been a prosperous year for the Willamette valley, though to give it its dues it may be said that it "split about fifty-fifty." It was so far as agricultural matters were concerned, as near a failure as any since the whiteman first arrived. The summer was an unusually dry one and the result was little better than half a crop in most products. However prices were the highest ever known for all farm products so that in money returns the year compared to others was not a bad one. The outlook for little 1918 now but a few hours old is far brighter. Oregon's lumber industry is to have its innings at last. Every mill in the state will run to capacity if not held up by labor shortage. The average production of lumber in the state is valued at \$30,000,000, but this will be far exceeded this year, and may be doubled. An estimate of \$50,000,000 from this source is considered a conservative one by those best posted, and they point out that airship lumber alone will bring into the state this year more than \$10,000,000.

The price of wheat is established, and is such that every available acre will be planted. The yield in the state runs close around 20,000,000 bushels in an average year and with average crops it will be considerably in excess of that this year on account of increased acreage. This should bring the value of the wheat crop to around \$40,000,000. It is the same in all other Oregon products. Salmon prices are nearly doubled, and this means several millions. Locally the outlook was never brighter, for not only must the whole country feel the benefit of the boom in lumber, but Marion county essentially and agricultural one, will benefit greatly for farm products are high.

The establishing of the King's Products company here means much not only for Salem but for a large district around it. The company wants vegetables of all kinds and it wants them for years to come. It stands ready to contract for all kinds of vegetables for three or even five years. This assures a market for all surplus, grown in the valley, and should encourage the growing of more and more vegetables every year. They mature at times throughout the entire summer and fall and will prove a source of ready money between main crops on which the farmers rely. The company has built so that its plant can be quickly enlarged by units and this will be done as fast as the crops grown will justify. The dehydrated product turned out by this company will always be behind the demand, for a hundred such plants could not supply their products as fast as they will be taken. The government could use many times the product of the Salem plant in furnishing fresh vegetables, for that is what they are, to the boys in France. To satisfy the demand would require plants capable of furnishing a supply of fresh vegetables to a couple of million men. With 15,000 acres of bearing orchards, with a product valued at above \$2,000,000 in the immediate vicinity of Salem, with the dairy industry growing rapidly, and livestock increasing at a hitherto unknown rate, the money returns this year should fill every bank to overflowing and furnish coin for many new industries. All that is needed to make Salem and this section the best and happiest on earth, is the ending of the war, and the returning of our boys to share in our prosperity.

The county budget remains as it was when submitted by the county court, and there is no provision made in it for a county agent at \$4,400 a year. This is one of the first results of President Kerr's successful increasing of his salary. The farmers generally are sore enough over that little scheme to recall him if he was get-at-able.

The demand for marriage licenses Saturday afternoon showed some of the young folks are determined to start the new year right. Four licenses in two hours sounds like a Vancouver story.

LADD & BUSH, Bankers

CAPITAL \$500,000.00 ESTABLISHED 1868

A Government income tax officer will be at the Court House from January 2 until January 30, 1918, and will, to all those who wish it, explain the new income tax law, and will furnish the necessary income tax blanks.

The little new year got by the war zone last night before the fighting for the day commenced, and arrived on this side of the pond, or at least on this side of the continent, bright and smiling. It was not long after he slipped by the western front however before the good christian people were at each others throats again and the fighting today is certainly "the fiercest of the year." Apparently the great German offensive promised for the past month has begun. The kaiser is making a supreme effort to strengthen his position as a preliminary for getting the best peace terms possible. If he is beaten in his efforts to break through on the western front now, it will be an entirely defensive war on his part until the end comes.

It is stated the press censorship is to be less severe. It is hoped it may at least be less foolish. The suppressing of all news as to the movement of troops in advance is recognized as a proper measure, but what sense is there in keeping of all news of the safe arrival of troops in France from the public, and at the same time allow the news to be sent to private individuals by members of the forces? All Oregon was interested in learning of the safe arrival of her boys in France, knowing they were either on the way or about to be sent, but the war department saw fit to suppress this news that could have injured no one.

At Globe, Arizona, Saturday 111 Apache Indians joined the Red Cross putting up \$2 each to do so. It doesn't seem so long ago that these same Apaches under old Cochise and Geronimo were putting in most of their time murdering stray prospectors and running stock off the scattered ranches. This shows that something might be done toward civilizing the kaiser if he could be brought under the influences of the reformed Apaches.

Germany and her Bolsheviki representatives have made peace with each other. Now watch the kaiser dodge and refuse to carry out any of his promises about restoring conditions to what they were before the war. "Camouflage" has done yeoman service during its short life but it will take something new in the way of words to describe what the Germans have handed the Russians through their alleged government.

Of course you know better but the chances are you will occasionally date that letter "January 1917" just the same. The force of habit is a pretty strong one and even writing a date is hard to quit once you have the habit firmly established.

A troop of American cavalry crossed the border Saturday on the trail of a gang of Mexican cattle thieves. They came home the same day but at least six bandits will stay put in the brush where they were caught. Their raiding fever is cured for all time.

The Federal Trades commission has notified the leather goods trade that it intends to investigate their business and warns its members to mix up a large sized pot of camouflage and have it ready for the great surprise.

Drastic measures are being taken by McAdoo to relieve the coal shortage, and apparently this will be accomplished. All old priority orders have been sent to the scrap heap and freight is given the right of way over passenger traffic.

The kaiser in a speech to his troops Christmas day said: "You must have wondered why God allowed a fourth year with us still at war." Then he proceeded to tell them all about what "me and God" had permitted this for.

Rippling Rhymes

by Walt Mason

EXPENSIVE LUXURY

There's always something needed about a choo choo cart; the more it's worked and speeded, the more it breaks your heart. It fairly makes one totter, this digging up the price, for stuff to keep the water from freezing hard as ice; this blowing legu tender for inner tube and tire, for axle and for fender, and costly copper wire. Your engine needs a blanket, to keep the heat therein, or when you go to crank it, it's sure to balk like sin. There's always something breaking, there's always something wrong, and human hearts are aching, as they chug-chug along. There's trouble



WALT MASON

most titanic whenever you go abroad, and then a punk mechanic will touch you for your wad. Sometimes when I am sobbin' o'er motor griefs and ills, I wish I had old Dobbin, to climb the verdant hills. I used to have a survey and horse, for self and frau, and had as much of worry as I am having now. For when we wished to frolic a parasang or two, old Dobbin had the colic, or he had lost a shoe. There is no fun, I'm thinking, with no discordant note; and though my roll keeps shrinking, I would not lose my boat!

Margaret Carrett's Husband

By JANE PHELPS

MARGARET'S HUSBAND RELAXED TENSION.

CHAPTER XXVIII.
When Bob had left me I sank back in my chair weak and trembling. I had been so fearful in spite of what Elsie had said, that he would refuse, that now I knew he had given me the respite for which I asked, I felt almost ill.

How long I sat there I do not know. But it seemed hours afterward that I dragged myself upstairs to bed. In the morning I rose early, and schooled myself for the part I was henceforth to play. I longed yet dreaded to see Bob. But I need not have feared. He had given his word and by neither word or look did he refer to the conversation of the night before. We had promised to play bridge at the Baldwin's that night, and before he left he spoke of it, and said he would be home. Otherwise we were very quiet; he reading his paper, and I pretending to eat.

After Bob left I called Elsie up and told her that Bob had agreed to her plan. "Tell me just what he said," she asked. "At first he objected, as he said it would only prolong the unpleasantness for us both, and when I insisted he simply said: 'very well,' in a resigned sort of way, and went immediately to bed."

"And this morning—how did he act?" "Just as usual, perhaps a little more quiet than of late."

"Good! It sounds promising. Did you cry?" "No, and I shall never cry again when he is around. I promised you, you know."

"If you'll keep your promises to me, all of them, you'll be all right, and by the end of the year, Bob will wonder how he ever thought he could live without you."

"I hope so," but try as I would I could not feel very much encouraged. "Your voice doesn't sound hopeful," Elsie returned. "I should think you'd be dancing with joy. The main thing was to gain time; and that you have done."

I knew Elsie was right, and that my depression was more the reaction than anything else. I had suffered so since Bob told me he wanted to leave me; that he had married me only from gratitude, that I hardly appreciated my good fortune in gaining his promise with so little trouble.

"Yes, Elsie, I know and I am very happy over it; but I also am worn out with the strain and uncertainty."

"You poor thing! don't I realize that? I am coming over to lunch tomorrow. You might mention it to Bob to-night and suggest asking Tom to dinner. Then we'll have a nice evening together, playing cards or something. It may help you a little not to be alone for a day or two."

"That's just the thing, Elsie!" I exclaimed, "that is unless Bob has an engagement."

"If he has don't mention his breaking it, but send him away with a smile. And don't sit up for him if he's late. Begin RIGHT. Anyway I'll be over to lunch."

How wonderful it was to have such a friend. Elsie had disappeared of me, my methods all along; yet when I needed some one to comfort and help me, she was still the same dear friend she had been in our girlhood days. I kept busy all the morning; and then after luncheon, while Nellie had the boys out in the park I took a nap. When I laid down I did not think I would sleep, but I was physically and mentally worn out. I must have fallen asleep immediately for I did not hear a sound until Della called me two hours later. She was having a trifling dispute with a tradesman which she wanted me to settle.

And He Did

"I'm so sorry ma'am! I wouldn't have woken you up for anything," she said contritely.

"It's time I got up," I said looking at the clock, "it's nearly time to dress for dinner."

I attended to the tradesman; then went into the nursery with the children for a romp before I dressed.

"I'm glad you waked up ma'am," Donald said. "Nellie wouldn't play house with you and let Nellie rest. And she wouldn't let me make noise wiv my cart."

"You poor lamb! mother will play house with you and let Nellie rest awhile. You may go to your room for half an hour if you like," I said to her, "and thank you for keeping the children so quiet. I needed the rest."

"I know you did ma'am. You haven't looked well lately."

For nearly an hour I played horrid, or anything else that Donald wanted me to; then, when he became tired I took him on my lap and told his stories.

"Gordie is too little for stories," he remarked as he cuddled in my arms. "He'll soon be big enough. He's getting a big boy," I reminded Donald.

"Shall you be glad when he is big enough to hear stories too?"

"Oh, I don't know! I guess he's all right like he is," he replied after a moment.

(Tomorrow—A Pleasant Evening.)

The Daily Novelette

FOUR TO ONE

From Mrs. Ery-Rizer in the country to her husband back home in the city: "They have the cutest chickens here, and the elegantest cows. P. S. I feel anxious about you. Do write."

II.
From the same to the same: "I'm longing to tell the grass from the flowers. Yesterday I chased a lot of ducks away from the water and saved them from drowning. P. S. What is the meaning of your silence?"

III.
From the same to the same: "I waved a red flag at a bull today just to see if there is anything in all the talk about red being a bull's least favorite color. There's a lot in it. It was the first time I ever climbed. P. S. This dreadful suspense is killing me. Write."

IV.
From the same to the same: "The sunsets are beautiful, and always in the west, so far. P. S. If I do not hear from you by tomorrow I shall take the first train home."

From Ery-Rizer in the city to his wife in the country—special delivery: "Keep calm. I'm all right. Am mailing you a check today."

Open Forum

EXPOSITION REPORT

Salem, Or., Jan. 1, 1917.
Mr. Editor: Recently I read that Senator Hawley would introduce into the state senate a resolution calling for a report of the Panama Exposition commission. By all means let's have a report, we want it. And yet, Mr. Editor, I assure that such report will not be news to Sen. Hawley. Senator Hawley is a member of this commission. There was appropriated to be handled by this commission the sum of \$200,000. Out of this appropriation, I suppose Senator Hawley's accomplished daughter was given

I'M GOING TO GET LITTLE FREDDIE A JACK IN THE BOX AS A SURPRISE!



AND HE DID



a trip to San Francisco, enplaned, too, by County School Superintendent Seymour and wife at public expense. Senator Hawley and his family attended the exposition prepaid. The senator made several trips and yet made an extended stay at the exposition, returning about its close, twirling a duple cane. For one, Mr. Editor, I would like to see even the expense bill of Senator Hawley.

Some 3 or 4 months ago I read in the Portland Journal that this exposition commission had just held a meeting in Portland and they found that all of the exposition appropriation was not expended. Be it remembered that the Oregon building was given away—donated to some organization and well, at this Portland meeting the commission decided to again visit San Francisco, attend the ceremonies of formal turning over of our building and spend the remaining appropriation.

I have heard a story of early mining history in Idaho, when the miner would work all week in the mine get his wages Saturday night go to the saloon and to the gambling table and remain until his money was all gone, and would then return to his bunk and turn in to sleep.

A Saturday night had come, a miner had drawn his pay and gone to the saloon and to the gambling table. At about 12 o'clock he lost all his wages, as usual, and gone to his bunk to turn in for the night. He got out of his pants and threw them upon the floor when he heard a thump that he did not understand, and so in a moment he took up the pants, felt in the pockets and he found six-bits that had been over-erickoid.

He hesitated a moment then pulled his pants on again returned to the gambling table. In a short time he lost the six-bits and dead broke he could go home and to bed and fall asleep.

This exposition committee have discovered about six-bits unexpended and will, by all means, they should go to San Francisco at the formal turning over of our building, take their little cases along and expend what yet remains of the \$200,000. Why not; and then we want the report from this committee.

Respectfully,
JAMES K. SEARS.

Hugh Dillman, once of the Baker Stock company, is playing the juvenile role in J. M. Barrie's "Barbara's Wedding," in Boston.

Season's Greetings Wishing You

A Happy and Prosperous New Year

We truly thank you for the part you have taken in making our first year the great success it was and we feel sure that you have appreciated our efforts to give the VERY BEST OF SHOE SERVICE, including courteous treatment, new styles, right fitting, highest quality, coupled with Lowest Prices, which things go toward making up our effort to be

YOUR SHOE STORE



By J. B. LITTLER, Mgr.