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L. S. BARNES, President. CHAS. H. FISHER, Vice-President. DORA C. ANDRESEN, Sec. and Treas.

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AN HERCULEAN TASK

The arranging of the affairs of a nation of an hundred millions of people, causing as it does, drastic changes in the manner of conducting business, changing or casting aside many of the theories on which our form of Government is based, changes so great as is the difference between democracy and socialism, is a task of herculean proportions. A hundred million people who have lived as they pleased and practically without government restraint in any form, are suddenly required to give up things undreamed of, and which under war conditions alone, could be enforced.

The un-American system of raising an army by draft was submitted to without a murmur, and after brief discussion was accepted as the fairest way in which the troops necessary for carrying on the war could be secured.

A hundred million people accustomed to doing about as they pleased were suddenly asked to go without meat one day in the week to overcome shortage and to assist our allies. Then they were asked to make a "wheatless day" and on top of this "a heatless" one. They were asked to substitute something for the foods they were accustomed to and all these things were acceded to cheerfully and promptly, and it may be said almost universally.

The people generally showed commendable patriotism and whatever has been asked of them has been granted, and this regardless of station or class.

At the same time there is another phase to it that is not so bright looking, and that is the evident attempt by so many to exploit the country and take advantage of its needs. The civil war was taken advantage of the same way only perhaps on a much larger scale, proportionally. The investigation now being held in Washington concerning the letting of contracts for war supplies, and especially for clothing for the soldiers has disclosed some things that do not look well. The Council of National Defense, according to the testimony, let contracts amounting to \$800,000,000 through one committee. It was disclosed that many of the contracts were let to firms in which members of the council and of the committee were interested. One of this committee testified that 30 per cent of the wool used in making clothing for the soldiers was eliminated and shoddy substituted and that the clothing was "made better thereby." This same member stated that in such cases "the member interested in the firm did not take part in letting the contracts." That is a flimsy defense of a bad business proposition.

Another thing that looks bad on the face of it is the failure of the food administration to fix prices on some of the substitutes for wheat and meat, that it recommended.

It may be that these things are all right, and done with the best intent, but the fact remains that it is as necessary to avoid the appearance of evil as to avoid the evil itself, especially in dealings in which the whole country is interested.

That some crookedness is bound to occur in so many and such vast transactions is a certainty, for the reason that all men are not above temptation, and all that can be done is to guard the country's business as closely as possible.

Perhaps in a short time when things get to running smoothly most of the graft will be eliminated, and those who have profited by the country's necessities will be punished as they deserve.

What is necessary now is for the whole people to remain calm and not to believe evil until that evil is made certain. We must have faith in our officials, faith in those on whose shoulders rests the purchasing of supplies and taking care of all things necessary to the winning of the war. That there will be cases of crookedness, is certain; that some conscienceless persons will seek to profit by the war even at the expense of the boys in the trenches is equally certain, but that the great mass of those on whom we must rely is honest and patriotic we must believe, because it is undoubtedly true.

LADD & BUSH, Bankers

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.

All persons having an income of \$1,000 or over will be required to make a report.

SHOULD REGULATE PRICES

There is a rapidly growing demand that the food administration do something toward lowering the prices of certain foodstuffs, and especially those which it has recommended as substitutes for wheat and meat. Corn products are much dearer than those of wheat while the corn is not much more than half the price of wheat. Consumers want to know why this is so, and also why some steps are not taken to remedy it. It is the same with fish. As the Capital Journal stated a few days ago, cold storage companies are placing "chums" salmon on the market at 20 cents a pound, and these fish three years ago were selling at 15 cents apiece. As they average about nine pounds each, the price now is \$1.80, an increase of 1,200 per cent. It is self-evident that speculators are taking advantage of the patriotism of the masses to exploit them. It is generally understood that to prevent this is one reason for the creation of the food administration department. If it can neither control nor regulate prices, the quicker it goes out of business the better, for in that case there is no excuse for its existence.

PLANT WAR GARDENS

It is a trifle early to talk war gardens, but the weather almost forces one to begin figuring on them. That they are a good thing is shown by the fact that potatoes, which were grown so generally, are about the only thing on the market in the shape of foodstuffs that are at a reasonable price. Potatoes are the great substitute for cereals, and without the extra crop, for which the war gardens are largely responsible, there would be a real shortage of foodstuffs. The importance of growing another great crop of tubers cannot be over-estimated. When necessary they can take the place of half the grain crop, and would support life at least without the grain. Everything that can be used as a substitute for cereals and meats should be grown in the war gardens this year, for it all tends to keep prices from becoming prohibitive, and will assist in preventing actual want. It will not only help the family larder but will keep the prices of other foodstuffs lower, by making the demand lighter.

Chancellor Lloyd-George has stated fully England's war aims, and they are practically a repetition of those announced by President Wilson only going more into detail. It is noted though, that he insists on a separate government to be formed by their own people, for Persia and Mesopotamia. This is one of the things Germany will fight harder than any other for it puts an end forever to her dream of a Berlin to Bagdad railroad under German control and through German controlled territory. There runs between the lines too, a determination to eliminate the Turk from Europe, while leaving him his capital at Constantinople. At the same time a free Dardanelles and Bosphorus will be insisted upon. This is as it should be for no nation should be allowed to control the world's highways, because she happens to be in position to do so. The seas and their connections should be open to the world.

To conserve both coal and cars and facilitate transportation of freight, passenger trains in the east have been cut 20 per cent. Traveling for pleasure is likely to have most of the pleasure taken out of it, and the "fly-by-nights" will have to find some other way of killing time and spending money. As for the latter the new issue of liberty bonds will make a fine opening.

You may never have noticed it but the name of "web-feet" was probably applied to Oregonians because of the shape of the state. A map of it looks like the picture of a duck minus its head, and drawn by a cubist.

Rippling Rhymes

by Walt Mason

RUSSIA'S RUMPUS

With frenzied elocution the Russian leaders flock, and start a revolution each day at 9 o'clock. Bewhiskered men and grizzled assume the high command; by sunset they have fizzled, by twilight they are canned. A government is started that holds out promise rich; in half a day it's carted out to the dumpovitch. One liberator chases another to his lair; no mortal can keep cases on all that's doing there. We read the stories hazy, of what is going on, and say, "Those boobs are crazy, they're nuts, so help us John!" But let us not be hurried in handing out rebukes, for criticisms flurried are often worse than flukes. The Russians, wildly screeching, from despot's rule set free, are reaching, blindly reaching, for all the boons there be. Like men who have been hidden for black years under-ground, and who at last are bidden into the light, unbound, they're startled and they're frightened by such a stunt as that; of age-long burdens lightened, they know not where they're at. The despot long had bossed her, and Russia must obey; now faker and impostor must have their little day; but some day they'll be stranded, and nations will declare, "See where old Russia's landed—she's right side up with care!"



WALT MASON

Margaret Garrett's Husband

By JANE PHELPS

DRAWING BOB OUT

CHAPTER III.
I tried with all my might to appear different, interested, when Bob came home, but I feared all feeling for me had left him. He was as indifferent, apparently as if I had been a last year's calendar, or something equally as uninteresting. I tried to smile, but he didn't look at me, so he didn't know that I had smiled. He had absolutely no thought for me. I wiped the perspiration from my brow. Bob was making it terribly hard for me. And yet, how was he to know, even dream that I was trying to be different. I realized that Elsie was perfectly right when she had said it would do no good if Bob knew what was going on. He was a nature that could not, would not, be coerced.
Finally I mentioned that I had called on Eleanor Farnsworth, and that she had said something of her troubles to me.
"One never knows who is right or wrong," Bob replied in answer to the remark I made, "because one never hears but one side of such a question. Usually, the woman's side."
"But Dick Farnsworth was?"
"Oh, I am not excusing Farnsworth! I only made a remark that is applicable to all cases of that kind," Bob interrupted.
"But as a rule don't you think one more to blame than the other?" I asked curiously. Now that I had promised Elsie to do all I could to get my husband back, I was anxious to hear him express himself on such subjects.
"As a rule men and women marry with their eyes shut! They don't realize that they are making life impossible, life in its fullest sense because they are doomed to spend their days with someone who is," he hesitated, flushed, then said slowly, "forgive me Margaret. When I get on such subjects I always become excited."
"Some one who is incompatible, or some one they do not love." I finished for him.
"Well, yes, about that," he said, then went up stairs. When he came down he was in his dress clothes. "Is dinner ready?" he asked. "I want to catch that seven o'clock train."
"Yes, we'll go right in," I answered controlling with an effort by desire to ask where he was going, to beg him to remain with me. But I did not. I led the way into the dining room, and immediately began to talk to Donald, repeat his cute sayings, always interesting to Bob.
Bob left the table before the dessert had been brought on. He had watched me covertly all thru dinner, puzzled I knew because I said nothing about his going out. He called good bye from the hall, and I answered in a pleasant voice. But when the front door had closed I handed my head on my hand with a shudder. Was not active rebellion better than feigned indifference? At least it brought me some notice.
But I would not allow myself to give way to such thoughts. I went to the telephone and rang Mrs. Baldwin up.
"Is Mr. Baldwin at home tonight, or are you alone?" I asked.
"I'm alone, why?"
"Suppose we go to a movie? Mr. Garrett had to go in town."
"That's a good suggestion. I'll meet you at the theatre."
"Very well, I'll be there in about half an hour."
I joined her at the time specified and pretended not to notice that she appeared surprised that I had called her that I had had initiative enough to do so.
The film story was one which interested me almost painfully. It was the story of a young wife who loved her husband madly, and who knew he was untrue to her, but who never gave him up, even when he heaped all sorts of insult upon her.
"I held him when he loved me, I shall hold him if he hates me; it will be indifference that will cause me to give up," she had said in one of those voiceless speeches flashed on the curtain.
Bob was indifferent, I thought or was he? Was it not more an active dislike, I had engendered by my actions? How I wished I knew. The film held me until the end, where, when he had exhausted all else the husband returned to the faithful little wife, who never had given up; never allowed herself to become discouraged. He had hated her for a time because she stood in the way of his pleasures, or he had thought she did, but when all else failed, he remembered the little woman who had waited.
Would it be so with Bob? Not that I for a minute thought Bob untrue to me, or had I even mistrusted any sort of a fondness for another. But would he, when he saw that I was kind, patient, and loving, give me the love I so craved? Would he be satisfied then with my love, a rejuvenated, a better love than I ever had given him although I had always loved him?
I was beginning to see dimly that I had been wrong. Not yet was I sure that Elsie was right, however. But I had failed miserably in my way; so I would keep my promise to the letter no matter how hard, and prove if her way WAS the right way; and that I had been all the time in the wrong.
(Tomorrow—A Terrible Fight)

The Daily Novelette

THE S. P. C. G. O. I. P.

Five heroic weeks had Mrs. Ryzen-Fall spent in buying, sewing, planning and wrapping Christmas presents, and now at last she was about to have her reward. With an expectant smile she sat down before the great mound of packages and began to open them.
"Of course I know it's more blessed to give than to receive," she thought, "but receiving is such a comfort."
And she opened a long, oblong package aged with infant purple ribbon. It contained half a dozen frayed whisk brooms from Mrs. Spoozer, to whom Mrs. Ryzen-Fall had sent a seven dollar tub of candied watermelons.
"Merely!" said Mrs. Ryzen-Fall.
And she opened a thin rectangular package sealed with eleven gold seals. It contained a chessboard spectacle pulcher from Mrs. Hon-Stitchee, to whom Mrs. Ryzen-Fall had sent a solid silver set of bumbo forks.
"Pshaw!" said Mrs. Ryzen-Fall.
And she opened a circular package tied with nineteen yards of silver string. It contained an empty cardboard box labeled: "For shoes," from Mrs. Skuttis, to whom Mrs. Ryzen-Fall had sent a fourteen dollar edition of Skov-Edgins "How to Make Your Back Alley Beautiful."
"I'll get you!" said Mrs. Ryzen-Fall.
And that afternoon she founded the Society for the Prevention of Christmas Gifts Outside the Immediate Family.

SAVE!

\$5 to \$12

On a smart Suit or Overcoat during our January Clearance Sale—its the one best clearance of the year and the saving are Well worth coming here to make your purchases.

G. W. JOHNSON & CO.

UNITED STATES NATIONAL BANK BLDG.

And He Did



diction, that Mr. Adams is the peer of any man who has held a seat in the county judge's office at Salem, He is one of the foremost lawyers in the county. The silly politics of here today game of Mr. Adams.
Mr. Adams is a man of his word in politics, and out of politics, and will never permit selfish personal interests to be served at the expense of taxpayers. He is so well known by the people of this county as a man ambitious for the right side of every question that he has put their trust in him, and he is glad of it when he has served his first term in that office.

NEWSPAPER BOOSTING

(Roseburg Review)
No business man in any town should allow a newspaper published in his town to go without his name and business being mentioned somewhere in its columns, says an exchange. This applies to all kinds of business—general stores, dry goods, groceries, furniture dealers, manufacturing establishments, professional men and in fact all classes of business men. This does not mean that you should have a whole or a half page ad in every issue of the paper, but your name and business should be mentioned if you do not use more than a two line space. A stranger picking up a newspaper should be able to tell just what business is represented in a town by looking at the business mentioned in the paper. This is the best possible town advertiser. The man who does not advertise his business does an injustice to himself and his city. He is the man who expects the newspaper to do the most free advertising for his town. The man who insists on sharing the business that comes to town but refuses to advertise his business is not a valuable addition to any town. The life of any town depends upon the live, wide-awake and liberally advertising business men.

As all Case Cards used to say: "Any dead fish can float down stream, but it takes a live one to swim up."
We believe, without fear of contra-

OBJECTS TO CARTOONS

Salem, Or., Jan. 7, 1918.
To the Editor: Let all the United States help our president to make peace instead of printing such gruesome pictures and slurring the enemy. It is only helping kill and murder our dear boys at the front every time it is done. Don't make it any worse for them but try to better conditions for the boys that have their lives at stake. We have now had three copies of the Journal without those senseless pictures and, oh what a relief it was! Do you think our enemy don't see those things? I surely think they do. In as much as so many home papers are sent across to our dear ones who beg for news from home, I sent two copies of the New Year's number of the Journal to France, but hated it on account of the cartoons on the front page. The fire was never known to be put out by throwing kerosene on it, but makes it hotter and worse. Just such is the case with this; but now let's start the New Year by keeping down all the antagonism against the enemy that is possible on account of our loved ones who are over there waiting and thinking which of us will be the next.
—J. W.

MR. ADAMS' CANDIDACY

(Silverton Tribune)
Since Mayor L. J. Adams announced his candidacy for county judge in the Silverton papers a few weeks ago he has received many favorable comments from other "citizens" in the county, and it seems that the newspapers are with him to a unit. Hubbard, Aurora, Woodburn, Stayton, and all un-les Salem may be the exception. We have failed to notice an expression of pleasure regarding his candidacy in the Salem papers, but they will be with him after the primary election if they are not now.
We believe, without fear of contra-

WANT LAFOLLETTE REMOVED

Washington, Jan. 7.—The "vigilantes" today flooded the senate with demands for expulsion of Senator LaFollette. Petitions were sent Vice President Marshall from forty nationally known authors, playwrights and poets, members of the "vigilantes." All declared LaFollette guilty of sedition.