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MISPLACED BACKBONE.

The next big event after the close of the Liberty Loan campaign are the state elections. Here in Oregon there are not many contests, the democrats having made no nominations for most of the offices. The big battle will be for the governorship, and despite the opinion of many it is going to be a real fight. The present governor has grown steadily weaker in public estimation since his management, or lack of it, of the state prison and the prison flax plant have become more widely known. The republicans owed it to their party and to the state to name a man for the office who had some backbone in standing up for the right instead of exhibiting that commendable trait only when he was dead wrong. His last stand on the prison parole scandal in which he takes the side of Parole Officer Keller instead of that of his appointee, Warden Murphy, has lost him many votes and will lose him more. In this connection it is noted that the governor has disagreed with four wardens since his incumbency of the office and all of them, so those best informed say, on account of Joe Keller. While his discharge of Superintendent Lawson was no doubt made on account of Lawson's politics, the governor is said to have made the excuse that he did not get along with the parole officer. It is known, too, that Superintendent Harry Minto, but a few weeks before his untimely death, told friends that he intended to quit shortly because he could not get along with Keller, and this because the governor stood by the latter. When John Minto was appointed to succeed his brother it was not long before this same trouble between the warden and Keller cropped up, and this too, found the governor standing with the parole officer. Now the same mess is being chewed over, for Keller openly accused Warden Murphy of being a party to a frame up "to get him." It remains to be seen if the fourth warden is to be let out to please the parole officer. It would seem the proper thing for the governor to do is to appoint Keller warden. This might end the interminable row at the prison—even if the salary of warden might not equal Keller's income in his present position although that fact will probably not be made known until after the election.

The Keller bribery investigation is not being hurried and no report may be expected until after the 5th of November.

THE KAISER'S PEACE OFFENSIVE.

If acceptance of the president's peace proposals came from any other country than Germany we would know what to do about it. The war would be over and in due time there would be a permanent treaty of peace. But no nation in the world has longer any confidence in the faith of the kaiser and his government. All the allies are scenting a new trick and see in the German desire for peace an attempt to escape a sound thrashing on the battlefield, only to break faith in the final negotiations and perhaps resume the war under more favorable conditions than at present.

The most general belief is that the kaiser hopes to secure a temporary armistice, which will save his armies in France and at the same time create trouble in the allied countries by the immediate formation in the United States, England and perhaps other allied countries of strong peace parties which will hamper further prosecution of the war if they cannot entirely stop it. This hope is not founded on any good grounds of course, but the kaiser's advisers are clutching at it as a last straw to save themselves.

What President Wilson will do is not yet known, but there is a general feeling that he will do the right thing, since he has been so successful up to the present time in the conduct of the war. The country wants unconditional surrender of Germany as the safest and surest way of dealing with the kaiser's government.

Even little Luxemburg rises up to demand that the Hun take his big foot off her soil.

Turkey today endorsed President Wilson's peace principles and asked for an immediate armistice. The members of the kaiser's unholy alliance seem to look upon Wilson's general declaration of what a peace agreement should be as a kind of an injunction to be invoked to keep the allies from making a good job of the walloping that they have begun.

Anyway, it is not going to be hard for Germany to comply with the required evacuation of France and Belgium. Foch is making those German soldiers long for home sweet home as they never did before.

The Montenegrins have gone on the war path again and are indulging their favorite pastime of shooting Austrians. And these fierce mountaineers have a real grievance to even up this time.

The secret of the surrender of Germany has been just learned. Ted Piper of the Oregonian has reached the war zone and Prince Maximilian heard of it.

Rippling Rhymes

by Walt Mason

AXES TO GRIND.

The man who has an ax to grind is always genial, bland and kind, of sweetness he is full; and he indorses all I say, however far I roam astray from truth, which is all wool. The friends I usually meet when I go bulging down the street, their own views entertain; and if I say the day is grand, when there is rain to beat the band, they say I've gone insane. And if I talk of politics, and stand up for a lot of hicks these friends of mine detest, they say my dome is full of bats, and prod me roundly in the slats until they spoil my vest. I surely like the honest skate who doesn't pause or hesitate at speaking of his mind; but I dislike the urbane gent who always is in salaams bent, who has an ax to grind. He is so passing sweet this morn that I might trample on his corn, and he would only smile; but I most certainly will find what sort of ax he has to grind, in just a little while. Some day he'll grab me by the coat and say he'd like to have my vote, he needs it, forty ways; and when I gently turn him down he'll shelve the smile and spring a frown, and hate me all his days.

:: THE WIFE ::

By JANE PHELPS

CLAUDE BECKLEY ARRANGES A SURPRISE FOR RUTH AND BRYAN

CHAPTER LVIII

By the time they reached home, Ruth had made up her mind what to do. Had it not been for Claude Beckley joining them, she would have said something about "her money" and then have been sorry afterward. She was grateful she had not mentioned it. That was the one thing she never must do if she and Bryan were to live happily. Suppose he had spent it for Mollie King! If he hadn't had it, he might have run in debt again, might have borrowed it from that man Clark. So when they were getting ready for bed she remarked:

"I wish you'd ask me to lunch the next time you ask Miss King. I'll not interrupt, if you talk business, and I would so enjoy it."

"All right, I will. But I don't suppose I'll take her again for some time," Brian answered, mollified by Ruth's tone and the thought that it was only her (Ruth's) desire to be with him that had made her act so she had on the roof. She was jealous.

Yet Brian Hackert knew he had done something that he had no right to do; and, as a person who is in the wrong invariably does, he was cross and unreasonably, both that night and the next morning.

"Shall you come home, Brian, or shall I meet you somewhere?" Ruth asked, "I might come down to the office, then you would not have to wait."

"Oh, I don't care what you do! I don't see what you accepted his invitation for. The sort of a dinner Beckley'll put up won't be half as good as Crawford could cook for us."

"I think it will be nice to go."

"Oh, I'll go all right! Only you'll be disappointed. What time will you come down?"

"I'll be there by six thirty."

All day Ruth thought of Brian and Mollie King. What right had Brian to object to her working, then take what she earned and spend it on another woman? She would have a talk with him, not mentioning Mollie. She would pay all the expenses of the flat, and that would give him his money to do with as he pleased.

The rent was due the next day, so she took part of her noon hour and visited the real estate office and paid it, taking a receipt. She would lay it where Brian would see it, then when he asked about it she would have a chance to tell him. It was too much to have him use her money for Mollie. It belittled her—and him. That was really what hurt Ruth more than the fact that Brian was with Mollie. That Brian, her husband, could bring himself to be unfaithful, and to demean himself by doing as he had, hurt. Yet Ruth in her thoughts gave him all the benefit of the doubt. She never would believe him unfaithful until she knew beyond all quibble that he had gone

from her. She still believed it was his hurt pride that she had taken her life into her own hands; and more than that, his jealousy of her earning power as opposed to his that had driven him to do things he never would otherwise have done.

And in this supposition Ruth was absolutely right at that time. Neither in word or positive action, had Brian been untrue to her, altho it may have looked as if he were.

Ruth dressed for the evening with the greatest care, altho wearing a simple, plain, dark dress. But she was very attractive. She was so well groomed, so dainty as to gloves, shoes, etc., that more than one woman looked enviously at her; and more than one man turned to take a second look as she waited for the car to take her to Brian's office.

Brian was still grouchy, but Ruth pretended not to notice.

"Can you cash this check?" he asked her. "One of my clients came in today and instead of giving me the money, gave me that. It makes me tired!"

"The check was for only seven dollars. I suppose they think I am sending to the bank every ten minutes."

"Of course I'll cash it. You know I told you I got paid today."

"Well, I can't go down with the old bunch without any money in my pocket, even if Beckley is going to blow. If you could 'nt have cashed it, I should have been obliged to get it somewhere—and that gives a fellow away so darn bad. Getting a seven dollar check cash-

Back Ache

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