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THE DAILY CAPITAL JOURNAL

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### NO ALLIANCE.

There have been rumors coming from Paris lately to the effect that France, not being content with the safeguards provided for her in the German peace terms and in the establishment of the League of Nations was to be further protected by an alliance with Great Britain and the United States.

Just what is back of these rumors, if there is anything back of them, is not apparent. But it is hardly conceivable that President Wilson has undertaken to commit the United States to any sort of alliance with France or any other country.

The president has taken the position all along that this country would ally itself with no nation unless it allied itself with all, through an international federation to which all countries were eligible.

The League of Nations, of course, may be regarded as such an alliance, justifiable because it is universal, and therefore consistent with Washington's advice, because Washington by "entangling alliances" obviously means allances with single powers or limited groups of powers.

Until authoritative word comes from the president himself, there is no reason for assuming that he has changed his attitude, and it is not likely that the nation would support any change of policy along this line.

America loves France, and might voluntarily rush to her aid if it ever became necessary. But America does not want to be obligated to such action by any pact aligning her with one set of nations against another set. It must be either a world league or a return to our old isolation. There is no half-way policy.

### THE LUXURY TAX.

It is natural enough for merchants to kick about the new "luxury tax", now in effect. The tax makes troublesome bookkeeping and probably an artificial restriction on the sale of certain kinds of goods. But the general public is not kicking much, in fact, is not greatly interested in the matter.

The reason is simple enough. It is not excessive patriotism. Mr. and Mrs. Average Citizen do not like to pay taxes any better than anybody else. But in this case they don't have to pay the taxes.

We respectfully submit that this hypothetical average family is not given, even in an era of war incomes and war prices, to paying more than \$2 apiece for neckties; more than \$3 apiece for shirts; more than \$10 for shoes or picture frames; more than \$4 for parasols; more than \$7.50 for purses and more than \$50 for trunks.

This being the case, the tax is demonstrably what it professes to be—a "luxury" tax. It may be annoying, unwise, unjustly discriminatory, etc., but it has the saving democratic spirit that nobody has to pay it unless he feels rich enough to afford to do so.

## RIPPLING RHYMES

By Walt Mason

LET THEM GO.

If a man is discontented with this country of the free, with a government invented for such folks as you and me, let him take his aunts and nieces, pack his bombs and knucks and creases in his second hand valises, and go sailing o'er the sea. If a man comes here to jabber while the other fellows work, if he's prone to be a stabber with an anarchistic dirk, let us tell him, through our faces, we'll be happy if he chases to the foul and foreign places where his fellow loafers lurk. If a skate from Europe's alleys comes to this star spangled shore, hoping by his quips and sallies to make honest workers sore, let's condemn his crazy notion, let us curb his weird emotion, let us lead him to the ocean and the ship that sails at four. War has left our people nervous, and we should reduce to junk any freak who comes to serve us with a lot of Russian bunk; let us treat him as a traitor, as a sinful agitator, let us load him on a freighter, where the billows go kedplunk.

### LIGHT AND AIR FOR SENATORS.

Writing in the New York Times, Miss Virginia Egan, long engaged in government work at Washington makes a suggestion as to what is the matter with congress. It is mainly the senate chamber itself, which has neither out-door ventilation nor light. The room is in fact like a tomb, whatever ventilating system there may be failing utterly to convey really fresh air, and there are no outside windows. The house chamber is really little better.

It is impossible, thinks Miss Egan, and sensible folk will agree with her, to do clear, first-class thinking under such a handicap. The only wonder is that there are not more blunders and disagreeable scenes.

If President Wilson would do as the lady suggests, and call the next session of congress to assemble in the White House yard, it might go far toward putting all sorts of matters in a better light. Similar treatment would be good for the executive departments, too. There is no escaping the authority of that first great command, "Let there be light!" to which we might add a second, "Let there be air!"

The severe terms imposed upon Germany will be generally endorsed in this country probably, but there is grave danger in them. The new German government, struggling for existence against the Bolsheviks and anarchists, is likely to go down under the blow, and another large portion of Europe may be rent and torn by red revolution for years to come. What the world needs most now is quiet and peace and the terms imposed upon Germany may tend toward disorder and revolution.

The crowds that paraded the Italian cities and howled anathemas at Wilson were the same crowds that shouted their heads off with enthusiasm for Wilson when he visited Italy last winter. The Italians have changed as the opportunity to grab something that belonged to someone else loomed before them.

Lots of people are opposed to this daylight-saving because they can't imagine having a good time except by electric light.

Ruth Garrison murderer of her paramour's wife, has been declared not guilty because of insanity. But at that she is not half so crazy as the jurors who tried her.

Italy evidently felt pretty lonesome on the outside, and was anxious to get back.

## THE PROMOTER'S WIFE

BY JANE PHELPS

NEIL REQUESTS BAB TO SAY NOTHING OF HIS AFFAIRS TO HIS AUNT.

The next day aunt told us all about the accident. It had been a rear end collision and several had been badly injured; two or three killed outright. "It was a terrible experience," she said. "One I hope will never be repeated, although it makes very little difference how we die, if only we are ready." She was a very good and really, elegant woman.

"I thought that this news would come," I said. "It would have been very lonely and tiresome for Neil had you not been with him. I know of nothing more worrying than waiting any time in a railroad station. Then, too, you were worrying about me." She had turned to Neil at her last sentence. He was about to say that I had been the one who waited alone, but caught myself just in time. Neil flushed when she said that it would have been trying for him to wait all alone. I would not embarrass him by letting her know that he had arrived at the station only a few moments before she came.

I hoped great things from Mrs. Carter's visit. Neil was very fond of her, very proud to have her see how well he had done and anxious for her good opinion. Perhaps he would give up spending his evening away from me. He might even give up going to Blanche Orton's if he thought she would know and disapprove. I would plan to do things for her entertainment, give little affairs for which Neil could not say a word about himself.

you have told her." "Neil—you aren't doing anything wrong, are you dear?" "What? I must say Bab that you are getting to be rather a wet blanket. You used to be so pleased when I was successful, now you get all the time like a bear with a grouse. When I look around and see how differently we live from what we did when we were first married, I can't understand you. Most women would be delighted to have as much—most young women I mean. Of course older people like Powers have more, but even they are in the minority."

"But Neil that man Tearle, and Connor, too must have very bad reputations. I do wish you would not be with them. It is your association with men like them that makes men like Powers afraid to trust you—and your—dear." I had been about to say schemes.

Editor Capital Journal:—Any old post in a store will not be adequate as a phrase to express the abandoned baby situation that has gradually arisen in the now already famous Cherry City. As a matter of fact we have come to accept any honor that comes along to us as a city, in the past few years, just because we were mentioned, and thought we ought to accept without any hesitation or questioning.

### Open Forum

#### SALEM BABY HAVEN AND WHY?

Editor Capital Journal:—Any old post in a store will not be adequate as a phrase to express the abandoned baby situation that has gradually arisen in the now already famous Cherry City. As a matter of fact we have come to accept any honor that comes along to us as a city, in the past few years, just because we were mentioned, and thought we ought to accept without any hesitation or questioning.

stead of one conferred, it is one taken upon us.

The situation is this: During the last three or four years, there has been a many babies deserted and left on people's porches, or in other corners of public places. Some inferences may be drawn, namely that they were from the outside of town, that usually the detailed care shown in leaving the baby well tucked in, and provided for, proved the deserter to be a woman, at least in most cases; then the fact that they continue to come on, way. These thoughts serve as a basis for the writing of this article. It is a trait of human nature to want to do a questionable thing or commit a crime, as far away from the actual life and environment of the perpetrator as possible. Thus a woman having a keen sense of the worth of a baby, will bring a baby away from her native home, not necessarily to some out of the way place, but to where she believes the best chances for the baby's adoption and care can be had. She sees the audacity and the hardness of heart to desert the child, but also has a real mother's instinct and in the very thought and act of abandonment will make an good a provision for it as possible.

The real reason for our generous receipt of babies is to be found in that very above trait of mother nature. A little while ago we received the first installment of our deserted babies, and what was the result? Well there was no great rush of women all babbling over with this God-given mother trait, but it was not only this but a generous making in of the psychological moment, which we all have, and also a generous amount of sheer sentimentality, so much that the court had to be appointed before due process of time, and printed notice given that no more applications would be received, before a breathing respite could be had for settlement of the case in hand.

Most of the above I do not condemn as coming from mothers, but there is after all to me, an element of inconsistency that could be overcome, if they would think for a moment. The above revelations reveal to me two things, namely, that there are a lot of childless homes in Salem that ought to be supplied with the very and only thing that can produce a perfect balance in married life; then that most of these homes I think would adopt a child, if that child could come from some unusual circumstance in life, out of some peculiar situation, with a halo of novelty about its head, or an element of romance. Why are we any way? A human desire to become logical and legitimate when the agent of the desire will acquiesce in supplying that desire with the actual need, and not necessarily the want alone. I can't forget the old cry of the lost sailors in the great Amazon river; they cried for water, and natives, or other sailors passing answered, let down your sails and draw. The illustration infers that they thought themselves to be in salt water alone and fresh was all around them.

Now the strange thing to me is that we have babies, babies, all around us in baby homes, and the cry from Belgium and France is in our ears, babies from all these sources in need of mothers, evening lullabies and her love that she alone can supply. Babies that the Heavenly Host would rejoice in seeing taken and adopted, yet only an occasional father or mother, with the ear to hear the pleas of the care takers and the little ones themselves ever go down to these good baby homes and say, "I will take one and do the best I can with it." So often the plan is made that those babies are from. "Well, I know not where." So are those that are born upon the generous heart of good old Salem. The accident of a child's birth is no index to the possibilities of its life and circumstances. If I wanted a baby and the circumstances of my family life were not as to provide for it, I believe I'd go to the St. Agnes baby home, or the Louise home, or Commons Mission home in Portland and take a look at those little marvelous possibilities of the future. Or I would consider one left bereft of moral or natural support in my own city, I would not care a snap about whether its parents were Roman Catholic or Protestant, holy or nominal.

But there is a reason why the babies keep coming our way, I hardly blame these mother deserters; Salem women and their great hearts of sympathy of the best advantages.

J. D. WOODFIN,

#### A MAN WORTH HEARING

Salem people are to have a special treat offered them by a Salem society who has induced J. A. Gillespie, formerly of Omaha, Neb., to visit our city. Mr. Gillespie, a man of refined, unassuming personality and unless you paid very close attention to his unpretentious manner of introducing himself to the superintendent of our local music institute and had seen the smile of pleased surprise flash across the face of Mr. Tillingshast when he learned who his visitor was, you would never have known a man of note was in our midst.

Mr. Gillespie has a record that reads something like this, born in Pennsylvania in the early 40's, enlisted as a volunteer in the civil war as cavalryman in the 2d Iowa, was educated in the Iowa state university, entered the state service of teaching the deaf in 1872, married in 1874, and was made state superintendent of the Nebraska state institute for the deaf in 1878, and remained superintendent of that institution for nineteen years; during this period he originated the Arzberger method of teaching the partially deaf to both articulate and to hear. He was also active in other methods for the improvement of pupils placed in his charge.

## Economy In National and State Expenditures Needed---Clews

### Tightening Of Capital Predicted If High Taxes Continue.

New York, May 3.—We are now approaching the final stage of peace negotiations when hitches and delays would cause no surprise. It must be remembered that in order to make any progress the toughest problems were put off till the end, and the way of least resistance naturally prevailed in the early parleys. While Italy will probably compromise, it is in her power to cause considerably delay and irritation. Germany may balk at the drastic peace terms which will be imposed upon her, though submission is inevitable. The only hope for a rapid settlement depends upon a realization of German statesmen and their larger and permanent interests lie in prompt acquiescence. Italy must recognize the large gains that she has made would have been impossible without allied aid; and vanquished Germany may as well submit promptly and gratefully to the inevitable. As soon as peace is signed, practically all remaining trade restrictions will disappear; and the next question to occupy diplomats will be the making of new international treaties, the war having swept away most of those existing between belligerent countries. Much difference of opinion will doubtless develop between those who seek wider international intercourse and those who desire to penalize enemy countries. The infliction of penalties will call for much wisdom and self-restraint; for it would prove unwise and against our own interest to name suitable indemnities and then impose conditions ranking payment impossible.

#### Hope in the New Congress.

A special session of congress is likely to be called in the middle of May. It will be more occupied with practical reconstruction than with visionary reforms, of which the country has had a surfeit for the past decade. Taxation, appropriations, railroads, tariff and treaties will absorb Washington's attention for some months to come and the extra session promises to be a busy one. Economy also is one of the most urgent questions demanding attention. Before the war, this was a billion dollar country. This current year federal expenses will reach \$18,000,000 or \$20,000,000 and the prospect of a radical reduction are not very encouraging. There is a prospect of the country facing a heavy loss this year on shipbuilding, the railroads and on the wheat crop guaranteed price. It is quite certain that this year's wastage after the war ended will be not far from \$10,000,000. It is not a considerable reduction of expenses will be secured by partial disbanding of the army, but the proceeds of the Fifth Victory loan have already been largely spent, and with such heavy expenditures or losses to meet it is plain no great reduction of taxes will be possible during the coming year. These are unpleasant facts, but they might as well be faced. There is only one solution of this difficulty and that is economy, not only by the federal government but equally so by state and municipal authorities throughout the country. The war economy seems to have been eliminated from our vocabulary, and it has been foolishly popular among those who waver to increase taxes rather than cut expenses. It is much more popular to strike wealth through taxation than to strike public waste and extravagance. Unless some effective effort is made to curtail taxation and curb the socialist fever for destroying wealth, capital will leave the country and deprive both labor and industry of their chief necessities. No time should be lost by business men in impressing upon congress the urgency for economy in expenses; also fair treatment of capital, which, like labor, will go where it receives the best rewards.

#### Failure of Government Operation.

Government operation of railroads, telegraphs and telephones has proved a failure. However necessary it may have been to take over these instrumentalities as a war measure, it has been completely proved that the government is absolutely incapable of securing the efficiency and economy of operation attained under private enterprise. Expenses that upon a scale that would mean complete if the government did not tax the people to meet losses; all because that same government lacked the courage to hold wage demands within the bounds of reason. Not even a heavy increase in passenger and freight rates could meet these demands, which must continue several times, delivering Billington under the auspices of the I. R. S. The book written by John Edgar on the Pyramid and its passages has been corroborated in actual measurements, biblical chronology, showing Jehovah's plan of redemption, giving data and findings that show a divinely appointed superintendency of its building, which in turn creates a desire to prove the truth of Bible by the Stone Witness in the land of Egypt.

#### A Better Labor Outlook.

The labor situation at large is somewhat more promising. Liberal concessions in wages and shorter hours having already been granted. There is no great amount of idle labor. Employers and employees are showing a disposition to get together, and consider each other's difficulties. Agitators are becoming less regular and more and more distrusted by such a desire to steady job. Bolshevism makes no headway in the United States, and is at least on the decline in Russia. British labor has already assumed a more reasonable attitude and its own will not sailably follow suit.

#### Stock Market Irregularities.

Activity on the Stock Exchange was somewhat checked by profit taking which restrained unreasoning enthusiasm. In a number of the speculative and industrial advances had been excessive and not well distributed. Some individuals, owing to the loss of war profits and the diminution of legitimate profits by heavy taxes, refused to sympathize with the upward movement, and this, too, checked the upward speculative ardor. There was good buying, however, of the better class of railroad shares, owing to expectation that the railroads would be returned to owners in due time and that congress would not fail to deal justly with them beforehand. Recent developments against government ownership were also a favorable feature, though not a market influence of immediate importance. After so prolonged an advance the stock market is naturally exposed to reactions. Soft spots are more numerous and the disparity of values calls for careful discrimination in all purchases. The highly speculative issues should be sold on all sharp rallies, and the best purchases will be found among the better class railroads and industrial shares have been neglected but are closely held

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