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TELEPHONE-BELL 455-456 Private Branch Exchange Connecting All Departments.

MISSOULA OFFICE 129 and 131 West Main Street Hamilton Office 128 Main Street, Hamilton, Mont.

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TO ADVERTISERS While The Missoulian takes every reasonable precaution to guard against typographical errors in its advertising columns, printers are but human and we will not be responsible for errors which may inadvertently occur.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1914.

What are fifty, what a thousand slaves, Matched to the sinew of a single arm That strikes for liberty? —Brooke.

CRUELTY TO PARENTS.

A writer in the current issue of The American Magazine hints that cruelty to parents is rampant.

"There is one thing that I have felt for years, of which I am a little ashamed. That is the fact that our children always seemed to consider it our duty to sacrifice ourselves for them. Not that they were more selfish than others, or that we were unwilling to make the sacrifices, but their careless, thoughtless presumption always irritates me.

It would be most unfortunate were the civilized parent to come to consider that he is not obliged to sacrifice himself for his children. For if he does not, who will?

Despite all the flubdub printing to the contrary, we maintain, calmly, that the American attitude toward the child is the ideal—generous self-sacrifice.

A FABLE.

There was once a coterie of boys who played together in friendly spirit. But one of them learned something about boxing, and was soon able to thrash any two of the rest.

He kept bullying the young men who had not become prize-fighters until they got together one day and jumped on him and beat him until he cried "enough."

Moral: If you do not want prize-fighting to become the ideal of your set, you have got to combine on the bullying boxer.

OLD ERROR REPEATED

One grows very weary of the statement, repeated here, there, everywhere, day after day, by people who ought to know better, that modern war is bloodier than of yore.

The facts point the other way, as everyone who stops to think must know. When men fought foot to foot, the conquered usually perished. Armies have fallen to a man.

Despite the terror created by latter-day engines of destruction, the percent of casualties in France today probably is far lighter than during the Napoleonic wars.

The struggle is horrible enough; let's not exaggerate it.

Comiserate Dives, if he is a miser. Remember how much possible joy he possesses.

AS TO INTEREST PAID

A few mornings since, in accordance with the policy of this newspaper to give all sides of all questions a fair hearing, we published a communication from the City Treasurer, by way of criticism of the proposal of the Chamber of Commerce for a meeting between the city and county officials, looking to a plan for curtailing the cost of our local governments.

In the course of Mr. Hall's animadversion he said, "We are now paying between \$40,000 and \$50,000 a year in interest on borrowed money. This is approximately one-half of the general taxes collected. It can be plainly seen that if we were not under this drain we could cut the tax levy in half."

The communication in question has given rise to many comments, questioning the accuracy of the figures given.

The Missoulian is in receipt of another communication from a source thoroughly friendly to the present city administration, from which we quote:

"In a recent issue of your valuable paper there appeared a signed statement by a City Official which is not only misleading and untrue but it is also calculated to injure the credit of the City of Missoula both at home and abroad. The statement was made without any qualification, that 'We are now paying between \$40,000 and \$50,000 a year in interest on borrowed money.' How any sane person could make such a statement is beyond comprehension. The fact is that the city is paying annually 4 1/2 per cent on a bonded debt of \$93,000. (Bridge and sewer bonds). This amounts to \$4,185. On April 30, 1914, the total floating indebtedness of the city was \$213,313.57. This bearing interest at 6 per cent per annum amounts to \$12,798.79. This brings the total amount of interest payable annually by the city to \$16,983.79, which is considerably less than \$40,000 or \$50,000," as stated by City Treasurer F. C. Hall.

"Since April 30, 1914, I am informed that the road warrants have all been paid, and that there has been no great increase, if any, in the general warrants outstanding, and that when the revenues just recently collected are applied to the payment of outstanding warrants, the general indebtedness of the city will be substantially decreased from what it was on the 30th of April, 1914.

"It would seem to an outsider that a city official should be more careful in his public or private statements regarding the business affairs of the city and not magnify or distort financial figures for the purpose of bolstering up some pet revenue raising theory. The treasurer's article does not do justice to the city nor to the present city administration, which has undoubtedly been a very economical one, rash statements of the uninformed to the contrary notwithstanding."

Our correspondent seems to be exact in his statement as to the actual yearly interest payment by the city and from another source we are informed that the amounts given by him are correct.

We believe that the proposal of the chamber of commerce has much of merit in it and hope that the proposed conference may materialize, and that it will lead to some measure of relief.

Local taxation has reached the point where, in some cases, it is almost confiscatory.

One thing is certain. Government in Montana is costing the taxpayers more than it should cost them for efficient government. The final remedy may lie with the legislature, along the lines of abolishing unnecessary offices and deputyships, but it is a step in the right direction for the local authorities to get together and see what, if anything, can first be done locally, to help relieve the situation.

COMMUNICATED

THE REAL CAUSE.

Editor Missoulian—In your editorial, "The Real Cause," in the issue of the 23rd instant, you made this statement: "If the truth could be known, the fast joy riders, with dissipation, extravagance and improvidence, as our chauffeurs would account for just about 90 per cent of the individual cases of poverty and want with adult men and women, not the children."

It is not true, Bishop Spaulding said that environment counted for more than 90 per cent. Victor Hugo said that society stands in the dock with every criminal. Our industrial competitive system is the real cause. Here is the proof: Dr. Scott Nearing of the University of Pennsylvania has written an interesting little book entitled "Financing the Wage-earner's Family." He says that the available figures indicate that the adult male wage-earners in the manufacturing and transportation industries east of the Rockies and north of the Mason and Dixon line receive in annual earnings: One-tenth under \$325; one-fifth under \$400; one-half under \$500; three-fourths under \$600; one-tenth over \$600.

Now remember that these figures represent the wages of grown men, not of women and children. Then he found that it required from \$850 to \$1,000 per year to buy a decent standard of living for a family of five in the industrial cities and towns east of the Mississippi. Now, Mr. Editor, just compare the cost of living with the wages received. How much do you suppose the average man has been able to spend on joy rides? How much do you think he can lay by for a rainy day? How much sickness and unemployment do you think he can stand before he will be "on the rocks?" Honestly, don't you think it has required some financial ability to make both ends meet?

Now, Mr. Editor, I commend to your attention Scott Nearing's little book. Someone has said that it is just the book for one who has got to the point where he begins to ask the question, "What is the matter?" You may not have reached that point, but it will jar your complacency, at any rate. Again, remember that while one-half of the men working in those great industries received less than would support a family in a decent living, remember, I say, that the corporations of this country in 1912 reported profits to the amount of nearly \$4,000,000,000. Do you suppose that those \$4,000,000,000 of profits have any relation to low wages and therefore have anything to do with your real cause of poverty and want?

Your editorials that morning were not very consistent. After you had finished with "The Real Cause," you told us about "The Waste of It." You said that last year we wasted \$200,000,000 in breakage and spoilage of eggs, and that hog cholera caused a loss of 40 pounds of meat to every family in the United States. Can you not see that our industrial system is terribly wasteful? Can you not see that there is a connection between this waste and the causes that produce want and poverty?

You are aware, no doubt, that there are some millions of women and children in this country of ours that have to work in mills and factories for low wages. It is plain to see how that condition makes for low wages and unemployment for men. Mr. Editor, your individualistic philosophy might have passed comment in the Eighteenth century, but it is sadly out of date in the Twentieth. We have been slowly learning that "man is his brother's keeper," and that "no man liveth to himself." Society was a tremendous responsibility for every one. We dare not complacently say that it was his own fault, and therefore let him go. This accumulation of poverty and unemployment will endanger our whole social fabric, hence the safety of us all. J. H. M'GUFFEY.

CURRENT POETRY

A MODERN CHILD'S GARDEN OF VERSES

THE DANCE The girls are dancing all around, At luncheon and at tea; They dance in every restaurant, And on the ships at sea.

NIGHT AND DAY In winter I sit up at night, And dance till early morning light. In summer, if I have my way, I like to dance the livelong day. And even in my sleep I see The Tango Trippers at the Tea; And hear the sound of many feet Still tapping to the music sweet. And does it not seem hard to you?— I have to leave at half-past two! Though I should like so much to stay, I cannot dance both night and day!

THE WHOLE DUTY OF GIRLS A girl should wear a pretty shoe, And smile when she is spoken to; And own a lot of lace and sables— At least as far as she is able.

A HAPPY THOUGHT The world is so full of a number of shams, I'm sure we should all be as happy as clams.

SYSTEM Every day I work it right I get my dinner every night; And every night that I've been good I get a cordial after food.

The girl who is not fair and sweet, With lots of flowers and things to eat, She is a stupid girl, I'm sure, Or else her beaux are awful poor. —Carolyn Wells, in Harper's Magazine.

Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton.

To the Gas Meter. They say the problem is unsolved, But still I have a notion That when some man invented you He found perpetual motion.

You never loaf upon the job, But do your stint most gallily; You are forever in our minds, We think about you daily.

Down in the dismal, darksome depths, In your most humble station, You cheerfully perform your task And ask for no vacation.

A faithful servant, tried and true, We think it right to mention The fact we think your masters should Retire you on a pension.

You creak and chatter all the day, And seem to tire out never, For men may come and men may go, But YOU go on forever.

Signs of the Times.

The latest dance is called the "knock-about trot." It probably will remain the latest dance at least 20 minutes.

Every time the Simplified Spelling board issues a new bulletin one's mind immediately turns to Josh Billings. A New Yorker worth \$50,000,000 never used a telephone. If he had he probably would be worth \$100,000,000. There are now three kings at the front, but it is not yet decided who will take in the pot.

Medicine Hat seems to be a long time getting into the dispatches this year.

Those Mexican generals seem to keep everything excepting their promises.

Why speak of those European war atrocities? See what they have done to the Bull Moose right here in America. It is said many of the Turkish battleships are only scrap iron. But what are all battleships but scrap iron?

There is nothing to indicate that the trenches occupied by those Fenegans are fitted up with bath tubs.

"Give me marriage or give me death," shouted a Pittsburgh girl. Pat Henry shouted it just the other way.

Many English women are making man look down on the American flag by wearing it about their ankles.

Twenty-seven nurses in New York hospitals went on a strike. The patients will save a lot of money.

Edison says we need no sleep. Maybe that is why he invented the night-prowling phonograph.

By Our Office Expert.

The Belgian flood which 'ud drown geese or ganders, Now hinders Those bounders, The British Commanders.

The great War-Machine with its near-Alexanders All pounded to flinders Still flounders In Flinders.

Uncle Abner.

A fat man kin never make anybody believe he is sick. There is only one class of people that gossip as much as the wimmen and they are the men. I never yet see a foreign nobleman who didn't look the part. A model husband is a feller who kin make his wife believe his excuses. Abner Jones ran away with the hired girl about six months ago and now every time his wife hears a knock at the door she jumps. She is afraid the hired girl is bringing him back. Anne Judson is now a doan'sback specially. He hasn't learned the new steps for nearly two weeks.

THE GAME

By SARA MOORE



ACCORDING TO HOYLE

The amateur asks: "Aren't hearts ever trump?"

The Way They Take It

SOME GENEROUS NATIONS.

(Billings Tribune.)

It is strange how generous some of the nations of earth are in those piping days of peace in America and good will to all men except those fighting on the other side, especially in the way of giving away the things that they do not possess. Some of the crowned heads are as busily engaged in bestowing provinces belonging to other nations upon someone else as a Montana legislature is in voting money not in the treasury to some favored object.

Germany wants Scandinavia especially Sweden, to get into the war, of course on the side of Germany, and it promises to give to the Norsemen all sorts of things in the way of territory but it is to be observed that it never offers anything that Germany has to give as a reward for co-operation upon the part of the Scandinavians. It is also to be observed that Russia is not to be outdone by the Teuton in generosity for she promises her Scandinavian friends territory which is held by the Germans.

Now what could be more generous than the offer of the kaiser to give Finland, Estonia, Livonia and a portion of Courland, all Russian provinces to Sweden? Of course it is to be noted that the kaiser does not offer to give up that portion of Courland that is in the possession of Germany but that slight omission ought not to lessen our appreciation of German generosity. It is also a considerable mark of the esteem in which Russia holds Denmark that she so kindly offers to give to the little kingdom the province of Schleswig-Holstein which Prussia acquired from the Danes some years ago. Of course the fact that Russia does not own or control a foot of the soil of Schleswig-Holstein ought not to reduce the value of Russia's free gift or impugn the very generous motives which the laud of the czar has evinced.

Of course, Germany rather detracts from the effect of her very generous offer to the Swedes by telling Sweden that unless she gets in and drills for the Deutschland the kaiser will make a deal with Russia whereby as a sort of consolation prize to the czar to make him feel less badly for the loss of Poland he, the kaiser, will give his imperial majesty of Russia, Sweden to have and to hold. Of course the czar has not yet lost Poland but it is probable that Germany's chances to acquire another slice of the ancient kingdom are just as good as it is right to make Russia a present of the Scandinavian kingdom.

If Russia is effectually whipped by Germany it is possible that Germany, and its running mate, Austria, will be able to absorb the rest of Poland, generous slices of which they now control, and it is barely possible, provided the Russian is sufficiently crushed, that Germany might be able to have something to say concerning the disposition

no matter which way the fortunes of war shall run, any power will find itself able to make any other power a present of Sweden.

Taking the matter all in all, the promises to give to someone something that one does not possess seems to suggest that the generous nations should observe the directions as to how to cook a hare: "First catch your hare."

One way to relieve habitual constipation is to take regularly a mild laxative. Doan's Regulets are recommended for this purpose 25c a box at all drug stores.—Adv.

MONTANA BLOCK DIRECTORY

Table listing various professionals and businesses in Missoula, Montana, including Physicists, Dentists, Attorneys, Contractors, and others, with their addresses and phone numbers.