

TONOPAH DAILY BONANZA

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W. W. BOOTH, Editor and Manager

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INVENT TO KILL, BUT NOT TO SAVE.

With fifty persons in imminent danger of being swept to death from the deck of the steam schooner Washington on the northern coast Monday the men of the United States life-saving service had to stand on the beach helpless. Brave men they are, willing to take any chance and run any risk, but anything they could have done would have been ineffectual in the absence of a line to the distressed vessel, for the steamer was rapidly drifting toward a rocky reef that would have crushed it to splinters and given its human cargo to the angry sea. A line to the disabled boat meant its salvation but that line could not be thrown; the vessel, although in full view of the crowd on the beach, was beyond the range of the guns used for hurling lines by the life-saving service. When it seemed certain that all on board would be lost, a chance came and a heroic tug captain darted to the rescue, but still the government life-savers had to look on in utter helplessness.

What an incongruity! The United States government has spent enormous sums in the perfection of guns for killing human beings but in the past decade has spent not a cent to develop guns to save human beings. Every few days we read of some new discovery for the improvement of the heavy naval and coast defense ordnance or note that a test has extended the shooting range a mile or two and made resistance to the projectile hurled out of the question. But we see no word of progress in the equipment of the life-saving service; we find nothing bearing on a new gun to throw a line to a crippled vessel at sea. The progress we read of is destructive, not preservative. It contemplates death, not life of human beings.

In the face of the development of killing weapons, this nation should be ashamed that it has done nothing to improve saving weapons. The equipment in the hands of the life-saving service is antiquated and useless unless a disabled ship be within a stone's throw. The guns provided will not hurt a line any considerable distance and in a rough sea like that which tossed the Washington about a line offers practically the only hope.

To our mind, the federal government should put a premium on the application of American ingenuity to the betterment of the apparatus used by this service. We can kill far enough away now; let us see if we cannot at least save people when they are within hailing distance. The latter achievement would be very much more to the national credit while our president is leading the movement for world peace.—Sacramento Union.

PLAN EARLY.

Each year the slogan of "Shop Early for Christmas" has been advanced a few days. This is because, while the rush has not been so great since a majority of the Christmas shoppers have been moved to consider the clerks and the shop girls, there is still a nerve-racking rush during the few days before Christmas. This can be remedied if the prospective purchasers will begin to plan their Christmas shopping earlier. Good intentions for early Christmas shopping have often gone astray because the shopping was not planned early enough in the season.

There are still a considerable number of days between us and the time when the active Christmas shopping will begin, but it is none too early in the season to plan. The local merchants have initiated this movement by assembling their holiday displays already. This is rushing the season to a good end, for only the purchaser who plans early will be able to keep the commendable resolution to shop early.

The last hour rush at the Christmas season not only makes life harder for the clerk and the shop girl, but it also has a tendency to make the Christmas purchaser who should be full of the spirit of Christmas time just a bit peevish. It takes some of the joy out of the giving to have to go through a nervous agony in making a purchase at the last hour. The Christmas shoppers have begun to realize this and every year they plan to do their shopping in ample time. But somehow a good many of them are not able to carry out the resolution. The self-evident reason is that they do not plan for the task ahead of time.

"Shop Early" is an excellent slogan for this time of the year. "Plan Your Christmas Shopping Early" is another maxim that the shopper should put in a prominent place about this time of the year.

ELEVEN GREAT QUESTIONS.

Through its department on the regulation of industrial corporations the National Civic Federation, of which the Honorable Seth Low of New York is the president, has just mailed to about twenty thousand representative citizens of the United States—manufacturers, editors, merchants, farmers, labor leaders, lawyers, bankers, political economists, officials of chambers of commerce and boards of trade—a letter dealing with the business situation in this country and proposals for constructive legislation by congress in connection with it. With this letter is enclosed the following list of questions:

1. In your judgment what caused or causes the present disturbed business conditions?
2. Do you believe that the Sherman law as now interpreted is made clear and workable?
3. Do you consider it feasible to attempt to return to what are commonly known as old competitive methods in business?
4. Do you favor a repeal of the Sherman law?
5. Do you favor amending the Sherman law in any way? If so, in what particulars?
6. Should railroads be allowed to enter into agreements affecting rates subject to the approval and regulation of the interstate commerce commission?
7. Should trade unions be excepted from the operation of the Sherman act?
8. Should combinations of farmers either to restrict production or to hold a crop for higher prices be rendered lawful under the Sherman act?
9. Do you favor a national incorporation law?
10. Do you favor a federal license law?
11. Do you favor an interstate trade commission, with powers not unlike those now enjoyed by the interstate commerce commission in relation to common carriers?

A most imposing array of inquiries, surely—one running the whole gamut of our interstate commerce problems, not to mention others. The answers received will be classified by states and tabulated and will then be turned over to the committee on interstate commerce of the United States senate as an aid to it in its hearings on the general subject to begin on November 20. These letters ought not to be thrown into the waste-basket. Every one of the eleven questions ought to be answered in some way—for the recipients are all supposed to be men with some opinions on these matters and capable of expressing them.

But who would be so rash as to venture the prediction that 20 per cent of the letters will never be answered at all? Is it not the fact that comparatively few men the most evenly interested in our problems of business ever take the trouble to "chip in" for their solution? It is to be hoped that this letter may prove to be an exception and that President Seth Low may be able to report at least 90 per cent of the answers. The federation ought to be bearing fruit.

There is many an old mine in the mountains of the west about which could be woven an interesting tale. Such for instance as the one which paid big in its early history, but passing into incompetent hands, failed to produce profits; from one to another, it passed, until finally abandoned as worthless. Then followed a long period of rest, finally abandoned as practically worthless. Then followed a long period of rest, finally a re-location and eventually its working out once more into a producing, profit-paying mine. This is the bare sketch of only one mining property. There are many other concerning which could be told tales of great interest. The old mining regions have many such incidents, which could be related.

President Taft was a candid opponent of woman's suffrage, but cheerfully accepts the inevitable. At Cincinnati last week Mr. Taft voted for Miss Edith Campbell, candidate for the school board. "I think there should be women on the school board," said Mr. Taft. To paraphrase the Latin poet—"There lived wise women after Abigail." If you have forgotten the services of this lady of good understanding and beautiful countenance, who had a fool for a husband, refresh your memory by reading the captivating romance in the twenty-fifth chapter of the First Book of Samuel.

Ishi, the aborigine, has been sought in marriage. As we said before, it was a mean trick to take poor Ishi away from his lonesome but happy wilderness. If proposals of marriage continue to come, we shall read one of these mornings that Ishi has broken away from his keepers and gone back to the Butte wilderness, where they know nothing of leap year customs and do not invoke them out of season.

A husband and wife have been drawn for the same jury at Tacoma. If the couple have been married less than a year, there is a chance for an agreement, but if they have been married for a greater period it is almost a safe bet that one of them will hang the jury.

A bachelor of Dos Palos, hearing that there were a number of widows wanting husbands at Santa Monica, writes offering to marry any one of them. It pays to advertise widows.

A young man of Ludlow, Mass., was given a watch because he had never kissed a girl in his life, but what's the use of giving a watch to a lunatic?

Now that the annual football contest is over, the general public will have to get a thrill out of the lesser conflicts that are being waged in China and Tripoli.

It has been discovered that stinging is not fatal to bees. Being stung is not fatal to human beings, either, or very few of us would be alive.

Just now most of the candidates in the last election are away at the springs trying to soak off the mud.

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