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# The Seattle Star

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## Slandering School Children

The Spokane grand jury investigation into supposed immorality resulted in the almost complete fizzle that was to be expected.

Not a single indictment has been brought; not a single charge made definite; not a single allegation that differs from the loose-mouthed talk that disgusted the community and the state before Judge Webster called the jury to prove his charges.

Descending to the pit of absurdity, the august Spokane body gravely returns the finding that Principal Hart of Lewis and Clark acted in an unsportsmanlike manner in sending a stenographer to report a debate between two other high schools nine years ago!

This, and the opinion that Superintendent Pratt has not been as attentive to complaints as he might have been, are the net tangible results of an inquiry that started out by blackening the names of Spokane school children thruout the Pacific Northwest.

Judged by adult standards, the conduct of the average high school boy or girl is at times seemingly brainless, but The Star is convinced that the boys and girls of today in Spokane or in Seattle or in any other typical American community are quite as moral as boys and girls of their age were in, say, our own generation. Different they are, of course, but not worse. Frankly, better informed, a little more independent in their thinking, yet just as decent, just as clean as we were, men and women, when we were youngsters—maybe more so.

It is time the Spokane busybodies quit slandering school children and devoted their energies to some constructive line.

## Forestry Refrains

Announcement has just been made by the department of agriculture of the sale by Chief Forester Greeley of a billion feet of standing pine and fir from the Lassen National Forest of California for the sum of \$3,333,333.

That's a tidy sum for Uncle Sam's strong box, but it represents only a small part of the transaction.

Twenty years ago such a sale of timber would mean devastated mountain sides, smoking chimneys of 10,000 once lovely little "Christmas trees," a heart-breaking scene of destruction in the wake of the saw mill and woodman's axe, leaving tormented ruins of the next spring to combine with melting snows and carry death and destruction to the valleys below.

But so such horror can happen in Uncle Sam's forest. For by the terms of the sale to the California Fruit Growers' Exchange, it is stipulated, first, that only 70 per cent of timber can be removed and that only thru a series of years.

Second, that the removal must be made with the greatest care so as not to injure young and growing trees; and,

Third, that the remaining 30 per cent of the trees must be left and cared for under an arrangement in the contract, to form a basis for future forests and future needs.

Senator New and Secretary Fall of the interior department, are dissatisfied with national control of our forests. They want them transferred to the interior department where they can be "leased out," as Fall has just done with the navy oil lands.

New has been retired from public life by the votes of the people. Fall still hangs on at Three Rivers and elsewhere by the grace of President Harding.

After marrying a good housekeeper the proper thing to do is give her a good house to keep.

Perhaps a man smiles when a girl puts him on the head because that's his funny bone.

## A Letter From AVRIDGE MANN

"It shall be unlawful for any person to use any machine of the city except in the discharge of city business, and any violation of this provision shall work a forfeiture of all right and privilege to the use of any city machine thereafter."—City Ordinance.

Dear Dr. Brown: A little while ago I saw this nifty bit of city law; so, having nothing else to do, I thought I'd pass it on to you; for maybe, with your legal brain, you'll help to make its meaning plain.

Of course I know I'm not as wise as quite a lot of other guys; but here's a law that someone wrote that nearly gets my mental goat—it's one of those peculiar things that seem to run around in rings.

It raises quite an awful fuss about the festive city bus; it says the boys will get the deuce for taking cars for private use; and if they do, the guilty men can never take them out again.

And so, if all the boys there are whose work requires a city car, should take their buses out and go on pleasure trips an hour or so, our city cars could all be sold, for none could use them—so we're told.

Now that's a thing, it seems to me, that isn't very apt to be—unless the city cars, indeed, are things the city doesn't need; and so the law suggests the thought, "Go use 'em, boys—but don't get caught!"

Avriddle Mann

## GEOGRAPHIC PUZZLES

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER  
HEN - N + LEMON - MO + A = HELENA

## West Virginia's Treason Trials

(As Reviewed by the Literary Digest)

Treason, an overt act of betrayal, treachery, or breach of allegiance or obedience toward the government; leaving war against the states, or being the traitor and comfort.—Standard Dictionary.

SUCH is the most serious charge—the first to be brought since the Homestead, Pa., riot of 49 years ago—on which several hundred West Virginia United Mine Workers officials and miners are being tried in the little red courthouse at Charles Town, W. Va., where John Brown was sentenced to die some 49 years ago for the same offense.

The charge is not a federal one, but is founded on an accusation of treason against the state of West Virginia. There are other charges against the miners, ranging from assault to conspiracy and murder—the outbreak of the miners' armed march in August and September, 1921, from Marmet, Kanawha county, thru Boone and Logan counties to Mingo, which the governor of West Virginia had declared under martial law.

There are 24 different cases and more than 500 to follow if convictions are obtained in these. "Nothing like it is recalled in history," writes Roy P. Roberts, in the Charleston, W. Va., Gazette.

It is the contention of the state attorneys that the march of the miners last year, and the assistance given them by officials of the United Mine Workers, amounted to "declaring war against the state"; murder, they say, was in the killing of three deputy sheriffs and mine guards. The district officers of the union, backed by the international organization of miners, are in charge of the suppression of free speech, free assembly and the liberties guaranteed American citizens by the constitution.

The specific provisions in the indictment against the miners and their officials as summarized by Circuit Judge Woods, before the men are being tried, are as follows:

1. That the defendants, with their confederates, intended to invade Logan and Mingo counties, and by force, violence, murder and open warfare to deprive the people residing in said counties and members and citizens of

2. To destroy and nullify by force of arms, violence, murder and open warfare, martial law in said Mingo county, and the military occupation in said county, which martial law had been duly proclaimed by the governor of the state of West Virginia.
3. To release from imprisonment persons who had been duly and legally arrested and incarcerated in the jail of Mingo county for violation of the law and violation of the martial law proclamation of the governor.
4. To take possession of the counties of Logan and Mingo in the said state and to prevent the execution of the laws of said state in said counties and to deprive the people of said counties of the protection afforded by the laws of the said state.
5. Especially to destroy and nullify martial law in said Mingo county, and to nullify the proclamation of the chief executive of the state.
6. The release of prisoners duly held in jail in Mingo county as also stated in the third count.

Certainly, asserts the New Times, "Such a demonstration of wild disorder and sedition could not be allowed to pass without action by the courts to vindicate the law. Examples must be made of the leaders of the mob and of those who conspired against the peace of the state. How shall insurrection be defended? How shall alleged wrongs be redressed by defying the police of the state? Can a labor organization be a law unto itself? What provocation and mitigation, if any, were there for such a rising, for such destruction of property, for such license and disorder and the taking of life?"

IMPEACHMENT OF GOOD FAITH

The West Virginia state code, points out the chief counsel for the miners and officials, prohibits the employment of deputy sheriffs by private persons.

The New York Evening Mail is another of many papers which "can not see on what grounds the miners are being prosecuted for treason." Says this paper: "If the miners have been violent, let them be prosecuted for violence, and for violence let them be punished. If they have conspired together to commit a crime, let them be prosecuted for conspiracy, and for conspiracy let them be punished. Neither conspiracy nor violence is, however, treason."

"In bringing the charge of treason before the court," maintains the New York Evening World, "the prosecution lays its self open to the suspicion that it is merely endeavoring to intensify the hostility of the two factions, and so win support for extreme measures against future efforts of the mine unions to exercise their rights. The very seriousness of the crime charged against the miners is an impeachment of the good faith of the prosecution."

INSURED DIGNITY LATE IN MANIFESTING

"That armed march of miners was rebellion, and men convicted of rebellion deserve punishment," admits the Newark News, "but those who marched claimed the desire to liberate the slaves of the non-union coal regions."

"Moreover," adds the News, "it may seriously be questioned whether the march ever would have started had there not been reasonable ground that the state government was allied with the coal operators."

us till we turn for distraction to foolish things, things we wouldn't dream of doing if we weren't bored. You're driven to look for relief in anything that will divert your mind from the dreary routine of the daily life. As for me... Would you like it if I took a lover simply because I was bored silly, too?"

"Linda"

"But don't you see that's what we're coming to, that is how it's bound to end with us if we go on this way, all the time drifting a little farther apart? I feel as if I'd lost you already."

"What nonsense!"

"O perhaps not altogether yet. But slowly and surely I am losing you. Bell, I want my husband—and he needs me. Give me a chance to find him again and prove to him I'm something better than—a housewife to a man of fashion."

"Boutonniers?"

"A neglected wife, the finishing touch."

Bellamy laughed outright, and Lucinda's earnestness melted into an answering smile. "What a notion! How did you get it, Linda?"

"Thought it up all out of my own head, strange as it may appear. You see—this is the danger of it all—you make me think, dear. And if you keep that up, first thing you know I'll be all mental—and that would be too awful!"

Bell laughed again, more briefly, and slackened his embrace, and she understood from this that, if she had not actually lost, she had gained nothing.

"Perhaps you're right. At all events, it's worth thinking about."

"You will think it over, Bell—promise?"

"Word of honor. But now—late for an appointment—must run."

Against the better counsel of her instinct, Lucinda put all she had left unsaid into her parting kiss—and felt that his response was forced.

In chapter she wandered to a window and stood gazing blankly out till recalled by the voice of her secretary.

"I was to remind you to telephone Mrs. Rosseter Wade."

Lucinda took up the telephone but only to find the wire already in use; that is to say, somebody in another part of the house was talking without having thought to disconnect the voice she would have hung up at once had she not overheard a name.

"Lucky to catch you in, Amelle," Bellamy was saying in the blindingly accented she knew too well. "About our luncheon, you know—"

"See here, Bell you're not going to



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## LETTERS to the EDITOR

### Why Not Pave This Street?

Editor The Star:

How many more years are we to wait for a decent road on Charles st. I wait for a decent road on Charles st. for a road. It is the approach to Sturgis road. There are no sidewalks. One could be run down by a truck any minute. If there was a fire, the houses would have to burn, as an engine could not get there in time. I have a house on Sturgis road. It is a task to keep it rented. My tax was \$56 last year, a trifle less this year. The trouble is it is in the south. We are not so fortunate as our neighbors in the north, where all the improvements go.

MRS. N. J. NELSON,  
1505 15th Ave. S.

### Assails Randolph Again

Editor The Star:

No doubt by this time W. B. Randolph realizes the extravagance and absurdity of his mixed metaphors. He now introduces himself in more genteel terms. "Being a Christian," he says. This, he supposed, relieves him somewhat of the stigma attaching to his view; distinguishes him, as it were, from the general mass of those whose views he shares.

He quotes from somewhere, "True Christianity never shields itself behind majorities." This is quite true; why should it? May I quote from somewhere else? "Any intelligent man holding the same views as Randolph never shields himself behind the name 'Christian.'" He further

informs us that "Christianity recognizes the right not to believe" W. B. R. is again drawing upon his imagination. Christianity "recognizes" nothing of the kind. Will he kindly tell us what class or denomination of Christianity he belongs to? I hardly suppose he will; that would be "spilling the beans." We are all aware that the term "Christian" has come to be rather vague of late years. It is used sometimes for purposes of camouflage. Randolph himself will readily admit that, I am sure. All the more reason, then, why he should frankly answer my question.

HARRY G. MONROE,  
Yakima.

### England and Narcotic War

Editor The Star:

There is now a war raging in Seattle against the illicit use of opium and its narcotic derivatives. Would it not be well to carry the war into England? That would be going to the root of the evil—to the source whence opium supplies flow in increasing abundance.

It will be impossible to eradicate the use of morphine and its related narcotic drugs as long as England and their government derive large revenues from the cultivation and sale of opium. Its production in India is a monopoly of the English government, and is carried on with a labor cost of 3 or 4 cents a day. The traffic is so immensely profitable that the English have been able to wage wars to compel other nations to degrade and dehumanize their populations by reeking it as a commercial commodity.

If some way could be found to compel the English to abandon the production and distribution of opium narcotics, the result would be a benediction for mankind. Not the least to be benefited would be the oppressed Hindus, who would thereby be released from a species of slavery. They would also be able to devote opium lands to the production of food supplies. We might then hope for the disappearance of chronic starvation from India. Those terrible famines which so frequently have decimated the Indian population under English misgovernment might then be averted. JAMES HOYE,  
Auburn.

### LEARN A WORD EVERY DAY

Today's word is DISPARAGE. It's pronounced—dis-par-aj, with accent on the second syllable. It means—to depreciate, to cheapen, to detract from.

It comes from—the Latin prefix "dis," signifying the reversal of an action, and "par," also Latin, meaning equal.

It's used like this—"Residents of San Francisco and Los Angeles seldom miss an opportunity to disparage each, the city of the other."

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