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The Tacoma Times

THE ONLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER IN TACOMA.

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Night Edition

WEATHER
Tacoma: Fair tonight and Saturday.
Washington: Same.

25c a Month

CORNER BANDITS IN SEATTLE!

HIP, HIP! BUSTLE'S COMING!

By Edgar C. Wheeler

"I understand," remarked my wife, "that bustles are coming in again."
"The Fiji islanders are wearing rings in their noses," I countered.
"I must get one," said my wife.
"No, stupid. A bustle."
"Woman," said I sternly, "if you do I shall not divorce you. Instead, I shall wear one of those green coats the designers of men's fashions are talking about—the kind with flaring skirts draped over the hips."
She paled at that.
"It won't be a very big bustle," she said. "One must be in fashion."

Yes, bustles are coming in again.
Dear, dear, how the thought of them makes my thoughts gallop over the back trail of the years!

Back in the '80's my great aunt and sisters and all their women friends wore bustles. I remember one woman, a friend of my great aunt's, who was so generously endowed with fleshy curves that she really didn't need a bustle.
But she super-imposed a contraption of wire anyhow—and every time she turned around in a room, her rear elevation knocked over the tables and chairs.

We used to say that bustles served no useful purpose. It isn't true.

I have a great-uncle who is a retired army officer. During the bustle period my great-uncle and his wife were going from one army post in the Dakotas to another, with a small escort of soldiers, when they were attacked by Indians.

The redmen captured and looted the wagons, but the whites escaped with their lives.
My great-uncle and his wife lost all their baggage, which included a yellow satin ball dress and a bustle.

Years later by great-uncle was visiting a reservation when he met an old squaw. She was wearing the yellow satin ball dress, now very ragged and dirty.
She carried a papoose on her back. The papoose was in a basket. And the bottom of the basket rested on my great-aunt's bustle.
It took the strain off the squaw's shoulder blades!

Then, too, I had a boy chum who made excellent use of his mother's bustle which he borrowed without leave. He had been reported for truancy from school.
"My son," said his father, "this hurts me more than it does you."
It did, too. Thanks to the bustle, my chum told me, it didn't hurt him at all.

There is one thing to be said in favor of bustles.
They are not pretty and they are not, as bustles, utilitarian.
But they are not necessarily expensive.

Any old thing that will make a woman stick out behind is a bustle.
An old-fashioned wire rat trap makes a fine bustle. The kitchen mop can be made to serve as one. Or a sofa pillow.

Just, women should want to stick out behind is neither here nor there.
For that matter, I don't know why they once wanted to wear hoop skirts.

Or, much more recently, they wore their skirts so tight they couldn't navigate, and then slit them to the knees so they could.
Nor do I know what pleasure the Fiji islanders find in wearing rings in their noses.
Or why la-de-da boys wear monocles. Or green coats.

URGES PACKERS TO ECONOMIZE
OLYMPIA, Feb. 25.—J. B. Powell, Seattle commission merchant, at the meeting of the state horticulture association yesterday declared that western fruit packers must economize in packing if they hope to compete with eastern growers. He favored barrels and cheaper containers.

NOBODY HOME!

In Mason Library--Whose Job Is It to Dust the Shelves?

A high class picture of nothing at all:
A perfectly good library building empty and going to waste; hundreds of perfectly intelligent North End families starving hungry for books and a place to get them; the North End in need of an assembly hall; the city and the library board in a dead-lock, and stubborn "city fathers" announcing in passive contentment:
"Let George do it."

The library is there to be occupied, the gift of an old-time Tacoman, Allan C. Mason, and the city has been pledged to keep it up to snuff for library purposes.

"Fine," say the mayor and city council. "We'll show our generosity by bequeathing it to the library board. Great public spirit. Only we won't fix it up and put it in repair."

Back comes the library board and refuses the gift unless it is put in working order. With a chopped budget the board hasn't the money.

It needs all the available funds to handle its rapidly increasing circulation with the limited supply of funds on hand.

It refuses to start a new branch library unless that library is equipped to serve the public.

What Whitworth college did do or didn't do to the old Mason library doesn't cut any ice here.

The fact remains that there is a library building and that the public is entitled to the benefit of it.

By all the rules, the city is pledged to turn it over to the public in tip top shape.

Well, whatcha going to do about it?

British Commerce Harried By Raider

TENERIFFE, Feb. 25.—The German raider Moewe harried British commerce off South America between Jan. 16 and Feb. 9, according to the captain of one of her victims which arrived here today.
The Moewe encountered the 4600-ton British steamer Flamengo en route to Valparaiso. She attempted to escape and wireless for help.
The steamer was overtaken and sunk after she had been hit by two shots. One seaman was drowned and two were wounded.
The captain of the unnamed victim said the Moewe took the steamer Corbridge into the mouth of the Amazon, transferred her coal, then sank her.

Investigate Attack On Munitions Train

Special Agents Davis and Southard of the Great Northern railroad's criminal investigation department, accompanied by Agent Montgomery of the Northern Pacific, began in Tacoma this morning a searching inquiry into the alleged attempt, made yesterday morning to attack a Great Northern freight train of war munitions as it passed through the local railroad yards.
John Ross and Sam Rusky, the two Austrians captured by trainmen after an air-hose in the train had been slashed open and the train brought to a stop, were given a grilling examination by the railroad operatives. The session was secret.
Put into "Dungeon."
Afterward Rusky was thrown

W. C. T. U. IS NOT YET SATISFIED

SEATTLE, Feb. 25.—The next state convention of the W. C. T. U. will be held in Bellingham. Delegates to the mid-year executive session which met here yesterday decided that an effort should be made to obtain state constitutional prohibition.

NORTHWEST DAIRY SHOW OPENS HERE

Dairying in all its phases will be discussed in Tacoma during the next three days by dairymen from seven northwest states, attending the first Northwest Dairy show. A butter judging contest will feature today's session.

RETAIL GROCERS MEET AT BANQUET

Although their chief speaker, John T. Bibb, got confused on the time and did not appear, 125 retail grocers sat down to an elaborate banquet last night in the Lotus grill. C. H. Plass, first president of the organization, presided.

G. O. P.'S WON'T BACK CANDIDATES

No candidates will be backed by the Young Men's Republican club of Tacoma until after the primaries. This decision was made at a meeting last night of the directors and the officers of the club.

Train Robbers Today Surrounded by Posse Inside City Limits; Made Rich Haul

SEATTLE, Feb. 25.—The arrest of the two armed bandits who last night held up and robbed the North Coast Limited near Auburn is expected hourly in Seattle. Sheriff Hodge is said to have definite information that the robbers are hiding within the city limits and early this afternoon his deputies were following up a definite clue which is expected to lead to their capture.

The officers declare they have the men cornered and all avenues of escape from the city have been cut off.

It will be impossible to determine the full amount of the robbers' haul, postal officials say, until the mail sacks, which have been unloaded at Spokane are checked.

One Tacoma man is reported by officials to have lost \$6,000 worth of negotiable paper.

Man Hunt On.
The clue which led to the cornering of the fugitives came from one of the passengers, who, after returning to the city, declared he had seen one of the bandits on the streets of Seattle. Ten Seattle deputy sheriffs are out on the man hunt.

Rob Registered Mail.
The two bandits climbed over the engine's tender at 8:45 o'clock last night and forced the engineer to stop the train.

Four pouches of valuable registered mail, just arrived from the Orient, were slit open and their contents rifled. The baggage car safe was unsuccessfully dynamited.

Passengers Not Molested.
Several shots were fired at Flagman James Hinckley, who started down the track to the Covington station, one and one-half miles away, when the train was stopped, and both robbers blazed away at Express Messenger James Grace and Mail Clerk Burt Embree of Puyallup, who stuck their heads out of the car door to see what the trouble was.

The passengers were not molested by the robbers, who made their escape on the engine.

Climb Over Tender.
The men were riding blind baggage on the train, which left Tacoma at 7 o'clock last night. One and one-half miles east of Covington they climbed over the tender, poked their revolvers into the faces of Engineer H. A. Moore and Fireman George Wright and commanded Moore to stop the train.

Then they detached the engine, mail and baggage cars, fired several shots at brakeman Boyd, who started to run, and commanded the engineer to pull them a mile up the track toward Ravensdale.

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Here they exploded seven charges of dynamite under the express safe, which failed to give way.

Unable to get into the safe, the robbers tumbled four registered mail pouches into the engine cab, drove the engineer and fireman away, detached the engine from the mail and baggage cars and drove off.

While running toward Ravensdale on the engine the robbers slit the mail pouches and rifled the letters and packages. A mile away, within sight of the lights of the town, the robbers abandoned the engine.

Escape in Auto.
Half an hour later passengers on the train noted an automobile traveling toward Auburn at a furious pace along the road which parallels the railroad tracks. It is believed that confederates had an automobile stationed near the place where the robbers planned to abandon the engine.

The robbers' commands to the train crew indicated that they were experienced railroad men, and they showed their knowledge in the operation of the engine.

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Tough Luck, Men--Girls Planning to Establish an Adamless Eden



Miss Marie Holmes.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 25.—Representing a bachelor girls' club of Chicago, Miss Marie Holmes, who has just returned here from Honolulu, has been investigating the possibility of establishing a colony for women in the South Sea Islands.
An Adamless Eden is her desire.
"All the members are agreed that men are not necessary to happiness. Some of them are widows and some have never been married, but all of them have met with disappointments in a man-regulated world.
"Most of the members are self-supporting.
"In addition to raising everything we need to eat, we will make our own clothes out of natural materials and it will not be necessary for the colony to have any communication with the rest of the world."

President Holds Congress In Line

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 25.—House conferees today failed to swerve President Wilson from his stand that the armed merchantmen decree transgresses against international law.

After an hour's session with Speaker Clark and Representatives Kitchin and Flood, there was still a disagreement between the president and congress about the decree.

Wilson emphatically declared he wouldn't budge from the plan of insisting that Germany recognize every American right.

Clark replied just as positively that the house was overwhelmingly in favor of issuing a warning.

After much argument, all promised Wilson that the house would not take any action today.

Flood and Clark heard rumors that Germany intended to postpone the operation of the decree.

Would Make It Illegal.
When the senate convened, Sen. Gore immediately introduced a bill making it illegal for Americans to ride on armed merchantmen during the war, and also resolutions warning them against such travel.

Sen. Jones' resolution is on the senate table requesting the president not to sever diplomatic relations with any nation, and thus avoid placing America in a position where it would be difficult to avoid being engaged in war.

The senate confirmed the nomination of Henry Fletcher as ambassador to Mexico.

U. S. COMMERCIAL AGENT BUSY HERE
W. B. Henderson, commercial agent for the U. S. department of commerce, spent yesterday in this city reviewing the trade situation and becoming acquainted with local manufacturers.

It is Henderson's duty to stimulate foreign trade in the northwest by acquainting the merchants with markets. He has charge of Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Oregon and Washington.

SUFFS FIGHT FOR PLATFORM PLANKS
NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—Suffragists at the first meeting of a series yesterday took steps to force the democrat and republican parties to add a national platform plank supporting a constitutional amendment giving women the vote.

AGRICULTURIST TO ADDRESS CLUB
T. J. Newbill, federal agriculturist, will speak at the Commercial club tomorrow noon. Newbill, with his assistant, Mrs. Elizabeth Jones, are touring this section of the state lecturing to schools on farming.

A few causes of death never reported by the doctors after the post mortem:
Not enough play.
Too much work in his youth.
Not enough work.
Dirt.
Ignorance.

By the way, what has become of the old fashioned boy who used to imitate Charlie Chaplin?
What has become of Charlie Chaplin?
Anybody can be smiling by noon, but can you look pleasant across your breakfast coffee cup?

GERMAN ATTACK WEAKER

PARIS, Feb. 25.—The German offensive against Verdun is slackening. Paris is smiling slightly over the Kaiser's "drive."

It was announced today that there were no attacks last night and that the artillery firing is less violent.

The French artillery is holding its own along a 25-mile front. There is every indication that the offensive has been checked, temporarily at least.

The French are organizing new positions behind Verdun and the heights east of Champagnville south of Ornes, near Verdun.

They are preparing to meet the expected renewal of the drive.

10,000 PRISONERS
BERLIN, Feb. 25.—The French losses around Verdun have been very heavy while the German losses are only such as might have been expected. It was announced at headquarters today. The amount of booty has not been compiled.

Fortified villages and farms five miles north of Verdun have been stormed and captured.

Prisoners taken in the drive number 10,000. Towns taken include Chammeville, Cotellette, Marmont, Chambrette and Ornes.

FLASHES

RIO DE JANEIRO—A dispatch received here today says a bomb was placed aboard the steamer Tension which left Bahia recently.

DUBUQUE, Ia.—Sheriff Bordell was fatally shot today while pursuing a negro fugitive. The shot was accidental.

LONDON—Peasants near Budapest are hiding great quantities of flour as a result of the government's new food distribution edict.

BALTIMORE—The liner Cretan collided with the steamer Dorothy, 14 miles north of Cape Hatteras, early today.

SAN JOSE—George A. Jones, retired banker, was found murdered in his home today with a deep dagger wound in his throat.

NEW YORK—Elihu Root has asked that his name be dropped from the primaries as a candidate for the republican presidential nomination.

PETROGRAD—Remnants of the Turkish troops in Persia have reorganized and strongly fortified themselves in the Bide-surks pass.

TODAY'S CLEARINGS
Clearings \$275,284.18
Balances 53,017.30
Transactions 868,298.22

Talk o' the Times

Greetings, have you set out onions yet?
Speaking of railways that start north to go south, how about the American lake line?

And while the subject of metropolitan car service is up, the T. R. & P. says it's going to run cars EVERY 20 minutes hereafter on the Jefferson av. line, EXCEPT during certain hours week days and on Sundays.

A. U. Mills doesn't think any more of a dollar than he does his right leg.

Five Saturday paydays in April.

Now is the time to plant your spaghetti. Don't buy the young plants, but wait for an envelope from Albert Johnson.

A few causes of death never reported by the doctors after the post mortem:
Not enough play.
Too much work in his youth.
Not enough work.
Dirt.
Ignorance.

By the way, what has become of the old fashioned boy who used to imitate Charlie Chaplin?
What has become of Charlie Chaplin?
Anybody can be smiling by noon, but can you look pleasant across your breakfast coffee cup?

FLOSSIE FLIM FLAM'S ANSWERS
B. COMBER—The film you refer to, "Eddie of the Bear Vineyards," wasn't passed by the censors because in one scene the hero was shown chewing gum.
Read "The Red Emerald" Monday.