

# TIMES EDITORIALS

## Pythians' Fine Idea

The writer of this editorial is not a member of the Knights of Pythias nor familiar with that order's ritualistic services.

However, he can understand what an impressive initiation ceremony the lodge can, and no doubt does, celebrate each summer on the slopes of Mount Tacoma. In all this world there probably is no spot where men could gather under more fitting circumstances for such a purpose.

No neophyte who enters the order there ever will forget the experience, we are sure.

The Pythians have originated an idea that ought to be extensively copied and adapted by other Tacoma fraternal and civic organizations. Nature gave us a ten million dollar mountain. We should use it.

## No Wonder They Left

Oh, Peanut Politics, what stunts thy votarie pull off in thy name!

For instance, what an edifying spectacle Senator Jones furnished the country Thursday evening!

The shipping bill was under consideration. The North Yakiman arose with the announcement that he was going to speak.

He would not be offended, he explained—evidently scenting the temper of his audience—at those senators whose business might call them elsewhere.

And, naively adds the news dispatch: "Most of the members took him at his word and left."

Whereupon the Washington senator proceeded profoundly and ponderously to condemn the administration plan for building up a merchant marine.

The proposed \$50,000,000 appropriation, he gravely asseverated, is a violation of the democratic campaign pledge for economy.

Bosh! Bunk!

The lesson of this little episode is that should Washington be unfortunately or foolish enough to promote Seattle's submarine congressman Humphrey to the senate, we'd then be represented in the upper house by two asses instead of one.

## Overheard in Crowd

Some of the best editorials we have ever seen were reported and not composed. Here's one overheard by a friend of ours on the Potlatch, way up Hood canal, Sunday.

"How many children have you?" a comely young woman asked a handsome man who had been acting like the father chum of a boisterous boy.

"I haven't any children," he replied, the boyish smile fading from his clean, pink face.

"I supposed you had a house full," she said, "because I never saw a man who seemed to love them as you do or who attracted youngsters as you do."

The silence was lengthening when he asked:

"You have children?"

And then it was the woman's face which clouded with pain as she replied:

"No; and that's all we want that we can't have."

It was a long while before these two resumed conversation amidst a happy, laughing throng of Sunday excursionists.

## Billions

The total cost of all the world's wars since the time of Napoleon I until the present time, is but one-half of the cost, so far, of the European conflict.

The Napoleonic wars, lasting two decades, cost... \$15,000,000,000

The Crimean wars cost in total... 12,000,000,000

The American Civil war cost... 7,000,000,000

The war between Prussia and Austria cost... 500,000,000

Total... \$34,500,000,000

Compared with this thirty-four and a half billions of dollars as the total expenses of belligerents from the time of Napoleon until 1914, the terrific cost of the present titanic struggle can be better comprehended. For this world war, according to Jean Finot, the famous French statistician, has cost to date about eighty billions of dollars, and should it be prolonged another year, will cost the staggering sum of one hundred billions of dollars, or practically THREE TIMES the amount used in the above noted wars.

## ANSWERS

BY CYNTHIA GREY

Q Miss Grey answers all letters of inquiry by mail when postage is enclosed.

Q Letters of general interest are answered through this column unless the correspondent requests that they not be.

Q Miss Grey receives callers at the office from 11 o'clock to 5 o'clock on Wednesdays.

Q—Please explain the use of the hyphen in the names Boy-Ed and Sir C. Spring-Rice? Are "Boy" and "Ed" two different names, also "Spring" and "Rice"? Respectfully, MOVIE.

A.—The hyphen signifies that the first name was not originally a part of the surname. It is probably a surname on the mother's side that the family wishes to retain. This is more or less supposition upon the part of the writer as I have been unable to obtain definite information.

Q.—I read your answer to the U-boat question and beg to state that U-boat stands for the abbreviation of the long word, not for the classification of German submarines. The real name is "U-ter-subot," or "U-boat."

By all means the Deutschland is a U-boat because she makes voyages under the sea and is apt to submerge and raise.

Q.—While visiting my sister in another city I met a young man who treated me very nice and asked permission to write to me. I liked him very much so we have exchanged some friendly letters. Now I have met a friend of his who tells me the young man is not of good character. I don't care to go with a bad man, and would like to find out the truth about his habits. Should I tell this to the young man and break off our friendship?

A.—You should not break off your friendship with the young man without giving him a chance to defend himself. But you have

an opportunity to get outside knowledge of his habits and character by asking your sister to make inquiries in his home town. Do not remark too much faith in the remarks of his "friend" who told you the damaging stories. It is a poor friend who goes about telling tales against a man.

Q.—What should be done for a child who craves sweets and refuses other food? Does a child's natural fondness for sugar indicate a need of his system. A MOTHER.

A.—A moderate amount of sugar is desirable as it supplies some of the child's energy. But all the sugar a child needs can be included with other foods at meal time. It is a mistake to allow a child to eat candy or cake or other sweets between meals, for he will lose his appetite for more nourishing food. Give your child milk, eggs, cereals, fruit and vegetables, well cooked and seasoned palatably at regular meal times, and he will soon recover from an abnormal desire for sweets.

Q.—We are a number of girls who are puzzled as to whether we should ask our young men friends to call at our homes. They have brought us home from dance and parties, but we have never asked them to call. Should we have done so, or is it their place to ask to call?

A.—Every wholesome acquaintance or association between young men and women begins in the home. Who seeks the invitation or extends it is of small importance compared with the fact that the man comes to the house and that you receive him under the protection of your parents or guardian and with their approval. When young people meet and find pleasure in one another's company sometimes it is more natural for the girl to extend an invitation to a young man to come to her home; sometimes the young man makes known a desire to do so. The latter is the strictly correct order, but naturalness has precedence over mere formality.

## Personal and Social

L. L. O. A. will give an entertainment and card party at Tacoma hall, 1149 1/2 Commerce st. tonight at 8 o'clock.

Saturday, 8 p. m., at the Socialists' hall, 715 Pacific av., an open meeting for Scandinavians will be held. The purpose is to discuss the organization of a Scandinavian Socialist club. Nels R. Swanson of Seattle, will be the main speaker.

Tacoma and Trinity branches of the Woman's auxiliary will picnic August 14 at the country home of C. R. Drew at Longbranch. Take the Stellacom car from 9th and Broadway at 9:30 a. m. A launch will meet the car at Stellacom.

Mrs. Berthe Knatvold Mellett, who has been visiting her parents Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Knatvold, 805 North J st., this summer, will leave Tuesday for her home in Washington, D. C.

The Robert Emmet Literary Society of Tacoma will hold its annual picnic and games at Spanaway park Sunday, Aug. 27. There will be dancing in the big hall all afternoon and evening. Music by Kilgore's orchestra. There will also be Irish step dancing, boat racing, swimming contests and other races.

David L. Soltan, well known in Tacoma musical circles, is leaving the city today for New York, where he will be connected with the Monroe Publishing Co., publishers of the Engineering World. Soltan has been with the N. P. in Tacoma as draftsman. He is a member of the Orpheus club.

Washington temple, No. 6, Pythian Sisters, will give a card party in Pythian temple Thursday, Aug. 17.

## WILL SLICE BRING TAX ON THRIFT?

The article "Watch Your Pocketbook," which appeared in The Times Wednesday, has called forth the following letter from Charles W. Stewart, attorney, Editor The Times:

Would like to call attention to some of the effects of the nine million dollar cut in Pierce county real estate valuations for taxation.

As the value of improvements and personal property has not varied in the last few years, I

and personal properties—the very large portion of it against buildings, against the homes, factories and business blocks.

A Tax on Thrift. Now what is the effect of this reduction of land values—this shifting of taxes to improvements?

To determine this, it must be considered that the taxation of improvements tends to curb improvements by increasing the cost of owning improvements.

In effect, it taxes one for industry and thrift along constructive lines.

To take the tax off of improvements encourages improvements by reducing the cost of owning them. By such a policy you encourage industry and thrift. These are absolute propositions.

Now with regard to taxation of land. Land being a fixed commodity can neither be increased nor diminished in quantity by taxation. However, the taxation of land does effect the ownership of land in this, that the higher the taxes against land become the more expensive it becomes to own land in idleness.

Encourages Speculation. The owner of land who uses it himself or who improves it in accordance with its site value and rents it, can always afford to pay a good tax for the privilege of owning it; but he that owns it in idleness can ill afford to pay much of a tax against his land.

It is beyond dispute that to increase the tax as against the land will cheapen the market value of the land, by compelling the owners of idle land to seek a user, or will compel the owner to improve it in accordance with its site value and rent it out.

The effect of reducing the tax on the owner of idle land is to make him more secure in his speculation.

Many Want Land. Now if there is any one thing wrong with the Northwest it is the high price of vacant land.

There are in Pierce county thousands of acres of good agricultural land, yet, due to a faulty system of land tenure which may be cured by taxation, this land is withheld by speculators from use.

There is no manner by which a worthy man able-bodied and educated in the high speculative value plus interest will consume more than the land can possibly be made to produce.

That there are many who would use it if it could be acquired on any reasonable basis is well evidenced by the recent effort of over ninety thousand people to acquire a home in the Colville reservation.

Sacrifice of Industry. I assert that this shifting of approximately \$360,000 of taxes from land to building improvements in Pierce county will have the effect of discouraging improvements, that it will make the speculator more secure in holding for high prices, that it will tend to close up agricultural lands to many who are worthy and willing to use it, that it will aid the tide-land owners in their nefarious work of holding up industry seeking their lands, that it will aid the owners of idle business property in holding on to their property, that it tends to increase the cost of land for homes, that it will shift much of the tax burden from the idle land to the homes,

## OUTBURSTS OF EVERETT TRUE



TAKE THAT BALE OF TOBACCO OUT OF YOUR FACE IF YOU WANT TO TALK WITH ME!



the factories and the business blocks of the county, that it aids the timber speculator in holding for future market and high prices—and all of this at the sacrifice of homes, business blocks and factories, and at the sacrifice of those who wish to enter property to improve and use it.

CHAS. W. STEWART

John A. Logan circle, Ladies of the G. A. R., will entertain at five hundred at the armory Monday night. The hostesses will be Mrs. Josie Berg, Mrs. Ed Mobus, Mrs. McGuigan and Mrs. Anna King.

Rev. A. D. Shaw will give an address on Washington, D. C., illustrated by stereopticon pictures, at East Congregational church Sunday afternoon at 4:45.

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## Emma Gets Paula Job As Hat Girl In Cafe

"Do you know, Margie," said Paula, "as I left Emma to go up to my room, I felt her motto was a good one. I, too, looked into a little cracked glass at the side of the faintly burning gas jet and said to the already saddening young face, 'Smile, darn you, smile!'"

"Then I smiled at the incongruity of it all and ran down stairs again to see Emma. She looked me over more carefully than usual. Her eyes traveled from my custom-made shoes to my imported hat.

"You certainly have class," she said, "and if you have the stamina to back it I can put you in a position where you can make coodies of money."

"I looked up quickly.

"The hat girl at the restaurant left today. Do you want the job?"

"Perhaps I was too long silent, for Emma said: 'If you don't want it say so, kid. You see, when I told the boss about you, I had not seen you with Horace Chambers, and I can see now it would be rather hard to take his hat from him when he comes in with any of the girls from Lake Forest or some grand place. I don't blame you, kiddo, but I thought it would be a grand place for you to get back some of the money you lost the other day.'

"You could save up enough to keep you six months while you are looking for a real job."

"I don't believe I'll care a brass tack about what 'Hod' Chambers thinks of me," I said. "When \$4 stands between a girl and starvation, and she is offered an honest way to get her living, she would be a fool if she let a little silly pride stand in her way."

"You are right, kid," said Emma. "I was a bit dubious when I saw you coming out of Bonn's with Horace Chambers, but afterward I remembered he might be a friend of yours. You see, Paula, I have never been closer to a girl who was born a swell before. Honest, I've always thought rich girls were just kind of wax dolls. I didn't think they were like you. Why, kiddo, you're just like me or you will be when you get a strangle hold on yourself."

"And I'm telling you, my dear, you'll get a lot of experience at the seat and hat rack of the College Inn."

"You don't mean to tell me, Emma, that you are working at the 'College Inn'?"

"I certainly do. What's the matter with that?" she asked rather belligerently.

"Nothing—only it is supposed to be rather Bohemian isn't it?"

"Well, I don't know much about our patrons, but I do know that you've got to be straight and keep straight to work at the 'College Inn.' That is the very reason why the hat girl is going—she is getting rather gay. It takes a pretty level-headed girl to fill that place. She must not be a grouch and yet she must know how to keep herself not only respectable, but respected by all the fool men who try to flirt with her. It is where I began, Paula, and you see you are different. You've got education and class."

"Lots of good either has done me. I have been educated in the wrong things and thrown out of my class and now, my dear Emma, I'll try your position and fill it as well as I can, but I'll probably need your help very often."

"You've got the right kind of nerve, Paula, and you'll get there. I can see us both on the list of patronesses of the charity ball in a few years."

"Emma, I'm afraid you have been reading 'aura Jean Libby.'"



Confessions of a Wife



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