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# The Spokane Press Editorial Page

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## "IMAGINARY CRIMINALS."

Ballinger is on the defensive. Ballinger is not in a happy frame of mind, if one may judge from his utterances. He has been talking. Some of the choice expressions found in his defense are—

"Muckraking."  
 "Penny-a-liner."  
 "Vagaries."  
 "Faddists."  
 "Sentimentalists."  
 "Ferment of uncertainty and alarm."

No one of these expressions, however, was applied to Cunningham, who is sure that Taft is a greater man than Roosevelt, or to any of the men protected by the Ballinger policy. He does make use of another term. This is—

"Imaginary criminals."

Who are they? Why doesn't he name them? "Those who do not become hysterical," says Ballinger, "over the tales of dire calamity and calmly ask for facts are charged with being in league with or accomplices of these imaginary criminals."

That's is, the "imaginary criminals" are the men who are stealing the land, lumber, water, coal, etc. From the Ballinger viewpoint they are "imaginary."

Then Ballinger gets down to a statement of what he is at. "There is no discretion or supervisory power or executive control except in the execution of specific or general laws."

That means, if it means anything, that Ballinger still believes that an executive officer can do nothing unless congress has first found out in detail just what he should do and has put an instruction into the statute books which the officer cannot fail to read.

But really do men in high position—even cabinet officers—who fail to serve the public, deserve to be called "imaginary criminals"?

## WILL PATENT A MACHINE THAT MEASURES SIZE OF 'LOVE WAVES'?

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 29.—After exhibiting a model of a "love gauge," which he declared will measure accurately the strength of human affection, Charles Trudow, an Elmhurst mechanic, today announced that he has applied for letters of patent upon his invention.

By means of its mechanism, Trudow claims, a pointer on a dial will register the force of emanating "love waves" when two persons grasp mental handles. When two men grasp the handles, the inventor claims, the pointer will not move. He has submitted the machine for examination to the instructors in the psychology department of the University of California.

## HOW MILK TRUSTS WORK

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 29.—An investigation into the milk trust is bringing out some facts vital to the people of every city of 50,000 or more population in the United States.

Witnesses have shown at the investigation that milk can be produced for New York at less than 3-3 cents a quart. Even with the increased cost of feeding and keeping dairy cattle, the milk can be produced at a good profit at this figure.

Large eastern cities pay from 7 to 12 cents a quart. Testimony shows that the Borden Condensed Milk company and the consolidated milk exchange of New York have run the price up to 9 cents a quart, and that the prices were set for this milk on the exchange, and these prices prevailed everywhere.

One of the witnesses at the hearing, Geo. H. Greaves, farmer and dairyman, said the milk producer got no share in this bulge to 9 cents a quart. Many poor people could no longer use the milk at that price, and the consumption fell off greatly. He said the milk trust resorted to chemical treatment to prevent the milk spoiling in storage.

Testimony taken so far establishes that:

1. The farmer must sell his milk to the trust.
2. The trust makes the price of milk six months ahead.
3. The cost of production is a little more than one-third what the milk trust asks.
4. The consumer has nothing to say about prices or quality of milk.
5. Farmers cannot get a market through any independent dealer.

## MR. SKYJACK FROM MARS

SAW MALE EARTH-BEING ASSIDUOUSLY APPLYING SELF TO TASK OF ENCASING FEMALE EARTH-BEING IN TIGHT BODY-COVERING—WAS NECESSARY TO FUMBLE WITH LONG SERIES OF HOLD-TOGETHER DISCS, ENGAGING SAME TO AS MANY GO-THROUGH APERTURES—PHYSICAL STRAIN WAS SUCH AS TO RENDER MALE EARTH-BEING PEEVISH.



## Press Humor--Most Anything--Have a Smile

### The STORY TELLER



In his experiments with storage batteries Mr. Edison has had men at work for years with a patience unparalleled. More than a half ton of reports on experiments with batteries have been made. Two of his best men had to give up the work because of its unending monotony to save themselves from nervous breakdown. The work was continued night and day for more than three years, and more than 9000 experiments were made without obtaining the results which Mr. Edison wanted. A visitor to whom this was told, exclaimed:

"Then all those experiments were practically wasted?"

"Not at all," said Mr. Edison. "I now know 9000 things not to do."

The old dorky had driven his fare to the hotel and was now demanding a dollar for his service.

"What?" protested the passenger. "A dollar for that distance? Why, it isn't half a mile as the crow flies?"

"Dat's true, boss," returned Sambo, with an appealing smile, "but ye see, sub, dat old crow he ain't got free wivies an' 10 chilluns to support, not to mention de keep-

Edna May—for Mrs. Oscar Lewishohn—tells a quaint little story. "I was a patroness," she said, "of some amateur theatricals given by children at a party in Belgrave square. During the first act, as I wandered about behind the scenes, I came upon a little girl seated all alone in a dark corner. "Why are you left out, my dear?" I asked. "Aren't you playing, too?"

"Oh, I've not left out," said the child. "I see the baby waiting to be born."

He called at the money order window of the local postoffice and asked permission to send an order for \$100 to the "old country." Then the man with the money gave his own name as payee.

"I'm going over next week," he volunteered, "and I want to have the money waiting for me on the other side, so that I can give it to my mother."

"Why don't you take it with you?" asked the clerk. "You would save 40 cents."

"Well, suppose the ship sinks and I drown?"

### PROF. NOAH LOTT SPEAKS ON HIGH COST OF LIVING

New York hasn't heard about the high cost of living. They are building a new theater a week. There must be no dearth of hams, at any rate.

Mrs. Jiggsworth of Hohunk won a \$10 prize for the best letter on how to feed a family of five on three-quarters of a pound of biscuit, and bought six gallons of ice cream with it to give a party.

We interviewed a landlord and a tenant on the cost of living. The tenant included rent in the cost of living and the landlord counted repairs and taxes. There you are in a nutshell. Now what's the answer?

A man who avoided contracting an \$80 bill for dentistry so he could buy food now hasn't any teeth to eat it with. Who wins, A or B?

Everybody wants to be a farmer because he gets higher prices for everything, but because he has to pay higher prices for everything nobody wants to be a farmer.

Some folks say the trusts are behind everything, while others disagree. They say the trusts are all around everything.

Older men say that if the tax were off, butter would drop in price. If they wouldn't get the benefit of it, would they want the tax off.

Some people think of going back to the soil—to become clay eaters.

The purchasing power of a dollar is less. This is only one-twentieth of the truth—the purchasing power of a nickel is also less.

"I thought you didn't care for him. What won you?"

"His language. He told me that his love for me burned like gasoline, and begged me to honk-honk through life with him."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

This thing of throwing up to the husband his studio frolics and to the wife her bar bill isn't just what conduces to keeping a well regulated family well regulated.

Irishman (suddenly appearing appearing at window of breakfast room): Av ye please, sor, it was so late this morning before me wife shied home last night from the place she was working at yesterday that she can't come today.—M. A. P.

The following are to be found in the catalogue of the Quantum Corners public library:

Bacon; Its Preparation.

Lead Poisoning.

Kindly Light.

—Jack O' Lantern.



Josh Wise SAYS: "Ef th' way t' a man's heart lies through his stum-mick, a lot o' men's affections has been sidetracked by gastritis."

### CAUGHT AT THE CURB

In breadth, length and thickness he didn't vary very much. And he had a smile that shone like a Kohinoor in the mass of crusty passengers and crustier conductor on a crowded car that crawled westward during the rush hour. The radiance of his smile wasn't dimmed in the slightest by the many stories that irritated the conductor and everybody else.

When the conductor called the street upon which the bulky man lived, the latter made his way to the door with a series of lurches that would have made a poetic waddle under any other conditions. Gingly he began to slide down the steps. The conductor lost his patience and snarled:

"Come on, come on; get off."

The big fellow hesitated, turned toward the conductor and smiled seraphically and said:

"Can't come on and get off at the same time."

Passengers expected the general expansion due to laughter to burst the car.

It was evident by his every remark that he was from a strictly rural district. He ambled along the street like one of those "make-up rubes" advertising a public dance.

"Where's the postoffice, Bud?" he asked a newsboy. The stranger was pointed out the federal structure. After he had walked up and down the corridor several times he was accosted by the corridor custodian. "What are you looking for?"

"Where the deuce is your store?" asked the ruralite. "I want to get a plug o' tobacco and I allus like to patronize the government."

### ARTLESS ANSWERS.



### THREE GOOD STORIES

The American Druggist credits Dr. Arthur T. Holbrook with the following resolution, according to the St. Louis Globe-Democrat:

"It was, perhaps, unintelligible, like the Wheeling man's prayer, 'This man, praying in meeting for a brother who lay very ill, cried:

"Oh, Lord, restore unto us our brother, if he doth not interfere with Thy perquisites."

"The situation was saved by a deacon, who shouted:

"Hallelujah, the Lord knows what he means."

### STRONG PROOF.

"Sued for a breach of promise, eh?"

"Yep."

"Any defense?"

"Temporary insanity, and I expect to prove it by the love letters I wrote."—Washington Herald.

### 'T WAS ONE OR 'T OTHER.

Mr. Rubberneck: Those Jeffersons across the street have frequent calls. They must have become popular.

Mrs. Rubberneck: Or else have been buying something on the installment plan.

### JUST WHERE THEY ARE.

"What has become of all the people who were visiting their country relatives six months ago?"

"They are at home in the city neglecting to answer their country relatives' letters."

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## CHICAGO BECOMING RIVAL OF POVERTY STRICKEN LONDON



A LITTLE GIRL AND HER PRECIOUS SACK OF FLOUR AT CHICAGO POOR AGENT'S OFFICE.

CHICAGO, Jan. 29.—The question of providing for Chicago's poor is becoming almost as serious as the same question in London. The great January cold wave that spent its force on the ragged, starved multitude revealed an appalling state of affairs, among this city's destitute and hopeless inadequacy of the means to provide for them.

Each winter for the past 10 years the number of poverty stricken people has increased greatly. This year more than 10,000 half starved, poorly sheltered and partly clad men, women and children are applied to the county agent and United Charities for relief. Some of them had not tasted food for days. Many shivered in light summer apparel while zero blasts penetrated their rags. Hundreds of them gave their places of abode as barns and empty buildings.

Little children, with emaciated faces, shriveled bodies and thin limbs admitted they had been living on the contents of garbage boxes for months. The poor who needed of their rooms were aristocrats among their class. Many of these told the county agents that their miserable habitations were entirely devoid of heat. But little relief could be given them, since a coal famine made it difficult for even employed wage earners to buy fuel.

These wan specters of want were mostly anemic children, middle aged women with shawls over their small and mishapen heads, and trembling old men.

The procession of woeful paupers before the windows of the county agent's office was continuous for five weeks. It remained there throughout the long, cold nights. If the police dispersed the ragged aggregation, the old men, bent women and shivering children scurried away like rats at the approach of a dog, and remained in hiding until the police were out of sight. Then they rushed back to reform the line with the eagerness and ferocious competition of starving animals.

It is estimated that Chicago's poor population is fully 100,000 persons. London has an estimated pauper population of 600,000. Chicago is the American city that bids fair to become in this respect the London of the United States.

The most eloquent evidence of the desperation that increases daily among these despairing victims of a maladministered society is the startling number of suicides. When the reports are daily made to the coroner's office of the self destruction of workmen, who have reached the age limit of 45 years and are unemployed, no further motive is looked for.

## DENIES SHE IS WIFE OF MAN WHO CLAIMS SHE IS

NEW YORK, Jan. 29.—There's a case on Ellis island that requires more than Solomonic wisdom to solve. The department of commerce decided if Abraham Merzow is really the husband of Sonia Merzow, who arrived on the Kronland, Abraham says he is her husband, but Sonia says he isn't.

She says her husband, when he left her in Russia four years ago, had a beautiful blond beard, highly polished boots, long coat and an astrakhan cap. After Sonia reached here and Abraham had been sent for, she couldn't recognize the stylish appearing man, with the smooth face, dapper little mustache, smart cutaway coat of black, yellow waistcoat, barred shirt, with red cravat

and a diamond and peg legged blue trousers, with tan shoes. The alleged husband also carried a dinky little cane.

Abraham rushed to embrace Sonia. She repulsed him. "You are not my Abraham," she said between her sobs. "My husband had beautiful whiskers. He was a different looking man from you and wore no such clothes. I fear some trick."

The department doesn't know what to do. Ten years ago a woman was awarded to the wrong man as her husband. The papers in the present case have been sent to Washington and the secretary of commerce and labor must decide upon the proofs of record submitted by the tailor. If there be any doubt, Sonia will be deported.



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