

The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, SUNDAY, JAN. 1, 1935.

"NIGHT FET—" A peace meeting was called, in the midst of our Civil War. "Fellow-citizens," said the leading speaker, "war is the most terrible of the calamities that fall upon our race. War is the scourge of God. War is both a curse and a disgrace to humanity. Why should war ever occur? Then the orator paused, for at this place he wished to introduce a select classical quotation. In impressive tone he resumed, "Night fit—" Here a roar arose in the audience. One jumped up on his seat and, swinging his hat, shouted: "Bully for Night! Three cheers for the man who fit!" It was a fighting time.

And the fighting time comes to every nation, the time when it must fight or cease to live. "So Japan is fighting now. We all want peace, but we all wish to be in a position to have it on terms not degrading or ruinous, nor even injurious to ourselves; and to have peace on these terms we must be in some state of preparation to fight for it.

The matter of war between nations lies in their inevitable competitions and rivalries; of civil war in the conflict of great opposing forces that arise in the course of national growth and change. Such wars are of very long preparation; and in such situations it is as useless to try to prevent war as to propose to arrest the tides or to stop the roll of the planet.

President Roosevelt mentioned the "big stick." A bunch of critics assailed him, and he thought to disarm them or escape them by proposing a new economic situation, or universal peace conference, for removal through arbitration of all causes of war. For the first time in his life the man gave way to "bumcombe."

None of us all, among the nations of the earth, want war; but we are all going to fight when it is necessary; and we are the judges of the necessity, for ourselves. Such questions as that of American independence, or of the preservation of the American Union, are not settled by arbitration. No more can the pressure of Russia upon Japan. No more could the contest between Austria and Prussia for the hegemony of Germany. No more could the duel of revolutionary France with monarchical Europe. The proposal to abolish war is the "ridiculous dream." The proposal, however, does honor to human nature—and yet it doesn't, because it goes against the judgment, formed on universal human experience.

The superiority of moral force over physical is acknowledged. But the argument framed upon it begs the question. Of the political morality involved in contests between nations there is no common judge, nor can there be. Even if there were, the attempt to enforce the decrees of such a judge would end the area of war. Great Britain would have fought the half of Europe sooner than abandon South Africa. Russia would risk war with other powers rather than abandon her pressure upon Manchuria, Korea and Japan.

War now indeed, much less than formerly, depends less on accidents of personal temperament in rulers, wounded sensibilities of pride between women of the court, or trifling things of ill sort; but it has causes that are unavoidable and ineradicable, too. No concord of nations could have prevented the one great war now in progress; for what court could have undertaken to say to Russia that she must abandon her designs upon Manchuria and Korea, or to Japan that she should not resist them?

Among the oldest topics of literature are the miseries of war. Herodotus makes an old moralist who was endeavoring to dissuade his King from war say: "Know that in peace children bury their parents; but in war parents bury their children." No speech more pathetic was ever uttered. "War, hateful to mothers," was a similar expression by the greatest of Roman poets. In English literature the powerful essays of Robert Hall and of William Edmond Church on the horrors of war carry the effect of war upon morals will always have place. Yet for all that and all that, war never will be exterminated, for the causes lie too deep. They spring from the nature of things in the development and progress of nations.

The Japanese, though until now the most unobtrusive people in the world, except, perhaps, the North American Indians, gave their victorious Admiral, Togo and Kamimura, a most enthusiastic greeting upon their late arrival in Tokyo. The demonstration was dignified by wild and joyous shouts of welcome and by gaily decorated streets, while thousands of school children added their joyous acclaim to the clamor of the populace.

If any one is so stupid as to suppose that Japan is not advancing in the way of civilization, let him read the details of this reception to her naval heroes at the capital of the empire and revise his judgment. Not even Admiral Dewey was more joyously welcomed when he returned from the Philippines than were these quiet, gray-bearded brown men of the Mikado's navy upon their arrival in Tokyo Thursday. Truly the Japanese are awakening all along the line. A year of struggle has changed them from a quiet, unobtrusive, smiling people to an eager, shouting, enthusiastic host, still willing and ready to die for their country, but quite willing also to make a noise in their country's and commanders' honor.

PROGRESS OF THE DRAMA. Seeking information in regard to the removal of District Attorney Hall and the causes of it, The Oregonian is told on good authority that he is not accused of participation in the transactions of the parties under prosecution or accusation in Oregon, but that his political and personal relations with some of the chief persons in the state render it improper, in the President's judgment, that he should be continued in the office. In the circumstances, Mr. Hall could scarcely be expected to be an active prosecutor of political and personal friends to whom he owes so much. The President therefore seems to have acted on the suggestion that he was a hindrance to the prosecution, or at least of best help to it. In the circumstances, Mr. Hall would be relieved from an embarrassing position.

This proceeding means, further, that the President is standing behind this investigation and intends that it shall be pushed to the uttermost. No one can say that it is malice on his part. There have been frauds here, and it is his purpose that they shall be probed to the bottom, without favor to any or wrong to any, if it shall be proved that the relations of Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Hermann to the persons who have been convicted were such merely as The Oregonian has heretofore conjectured—namely, that they put the claims through, not knowing them to be fraudulent, because they were asked by Oregonians to do so—the people of Oregon will be lenient in their judgment; for representatives of the state at Washington had much work to do for themselves, into the details of which they cannot particularly inquire.

But, what will the testimony be? Since Mitchell and Hermann have also been indicted, there will be extreme eagerness to hear the evidence. Till the trial comes it cannot be known. But it is the most interesting drama in the history of Oregon.

It is not the province of The Oregonian to attempt to excuse or to accuse. In view of the present situation, and of all the past, it simply awaits results. The right will win, and The Oregonian quietly waits for the salvation of the Lord.

LOCKS OR SEA-LEVEL? Not yet has it been settled, definitely, whether there is to be a canal with locks at Panama, or a sea-level canal. Construction of a sea-level canal will require not less than fifteen, perhaps twenty, years. A canal with locks may perhaps be completed in half the time.

But the chief engineer of the Canal Commission, John F. Wallace, thinks we ought to build a sea-level canal. He urges that a sea-level canal would be less expensive to maintain and to operate; that time and expense would be saved in transit or passage through it; and that these advantages would, on the whole, compensate for delay in construction and for additional cost. Thus far the work that has been done could be utilized for a sea-level canal. But if the plan is to be changed to a canal at the sea-level, the time required for its completion will be extended perhaps to twenty years, or thereabouts. The cost of the Panama canal is \$390,000,000. Is it worth the time and the money? That is the question to be settled.

A great majority of the American people were for a canal at Nicaragua. In the first report of the Canal Commission to the President, in November, 1901, in which the two routes (Nicaragua and Panama) were examined together and put in contrast and comparison, the cost of construction was estimated as follows: Nicaragua \$150,000,000 Panama 144,225,282

But the French company at Panama was then demanding \$109,141,800 for their rights and property, which would have carried the cost at Panama up to \$253,374,858; whereupon the Commission decided in favor of Nicaragua. The Russians reduced their demand to \$40,000,000, and the Commission quickly reported in favor of Panama.

It will devolve on Congress to decide whether a canal with locks or a sea-level canal shall be built. Perhaps the decision will not be made for some time yet; for the work thus far undertaken can be utilized for either plan. It is a matter, largely, for engineering judgment.

THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL. The new High School building, permission to construct which was granted at the annual meeting of the taxpayers of School District No. 1, was urged as a necessity. The proof of this estimate is conclusive. If we are to maintain the High School idea, we must furnish the necessary equipment, which includes, first of all, suitable and adequate buildings for the accommodation of the pupils who apply for High School privileges. It has been evident for several years that our present High School building is not up to the requirements of our growing population. It was constructed a number of years ago, and even then was not an entirely satisfactory building. Intelligent effort has been made by the Board of Directors from time to time to correct the defects in sanitary lines, which were glaring from the first. This effort was given a great impetus by the fact that within a few days of the session, and the greater part remain for final action during the last ten days. Under the present rules, no bill which has been passed by one house will be received by the other during the last two days, except by unanimous joint consent of both houses. Under this procedure each house sends to the other just before the time limit elapses a large number of bills which have been passed by the house in which they originated. As a consequence the last few days of the session are given entirely to passing bills, and even with the greatest haste there are always some left that could not be considered for want of time.

A scene in the State Legislature on the last day of the session inspires the spectator with anything but confidence in the result of the day's work. Half of the members are preparing to leave for their homes, and it is with difficulty that the presiding officer keeps together a quorum with which to transact business. Members rush around in confusion trying to ascertain whether their bills have been reported, passed or enrolled, and very few pay attention to the work that is going on. The reading clerk takes his bill after another and hums through them so fast that no

idea. Perhaps some of us may not know it, but that is no matter. The climax of a system of free education, it is regarded by thousands, who have no thought of seeking its benefits for their children, as something within their reach if they cared to possess themselves of it. It is an institution that is as firmly established in the American thought as is the free school itself. This being true, provision must and will be made for its expansion in accordance with the demand that follows the city's growth, and in keeping with that feature of civic pride that requires an intelligent community to do acceptably what it undertakes to do.

THE THEATER. Why are there no American dramatists? Who reads an American drama? Was asked a great many years ago by Sidney Smith. Who goes to see an American play? Has been a common question in England and on the Continent until within the recent few years. No one today in France, in Germany, in Austria, in Italy, or anywhere else in Europe, indeed, cares to see the product of an American dramatist or playwright, and few in any of these countries care anything about an American book or an American painting or an American piece of statuary. It is true that some Americans, like Whistler, Abbey, Sargent, St. Gaudens, MacMonnies and Story, have made an impression upon the European world of art; but these are merely the exceptions.

Most notable progress by any branch of art in Europe has been made by the American playwright. It is perhaps true that the products of their literary skill, constructive fancy and of their practical stage experience do not rise to the realm of genius; but nevertheless the works of William Gillette, Augustus Thomas, Clyde Fitch, George Ade, Paul Potter and others are practically well known in London as far as the New York theater. The names of these playwrights are at least as familiar in England as the names of Mifflin, Jerome, Pinero and others are known here. It is not easy to understand the reason of the decided progress of the modern American drama in England, unless it is to accept the statement of Charles Frohman—that it all comes about through his control of both London and New York theaters. Mr. Frohman is the most important theater manager in the world. He contributes to the current issue of Harper's Weekly an article of decided interest on "New Phases of Theater Management." Its purpose appears to be mainly to record a defense for the theatrical syndicate, otherwise known as the "trust." It is sufficient, however, to notice this phase of his discussion only so far as he declares that the purpose of combination is solely to facilitate the troublesome problem of booking attractions in all parts of the United States. In all features of theater management—in the production of plays, in engagement of actors and the running of theaters—members of the combination work separately and are competitors in the strictest and severest sense.

Discussing the question of plays, Mr. Frohman says: Foreign plays, if successful, are valuable in America. A successful play, though, is not a question of geography. If a foreign play is serious in its intention and of genuine appeal it does not matter in so far as it declares a "Mousetrap in the Champs Elysees" so far as an American audience is concerned. The successful English play is one that makes for construction and expansion. The French play is exciting so far as the American stage is concerned. The French play begins where our plays stop. With the French play the interest begins with a nation and extends to the interest chiefly centers around people who are engaged in courtship. The French play is almost invariably concerned with infidelity.

The surprising rise of musical comedy is the most interesting feature of the modern American stage. We have often heard predictions from critics of the drama that the musical comedy would soon have its day and would disappear. But this expectation, so far from being realized, has been entirely confounded by the growing necessity for larger expenditures and a larger number of this pleasing variety of stage production. The reason is not hard to find. It is solely that the accepted view of the theater today is that its mission is to entertain, and not to instruct. It has come to pass that the society drama no longer appeals successfully to the public unless it is presented by a star of established reputation—or perhaps by a permanent stock company. On the other hand, the public has ceased to weary of the musical comedy. Why? Because it contains color, beauty, singing, light, grouping, dancing, a changing variety of attractive and tasteful stage pictures that enchain throughout the interest of the average auditor. We may quarrel with the public taste; we may reprobate the avarice of managers; we may groan aloud about the decline of the stage; but we must face the fact that the public wants what it wants, and that it will get it, whether it pays 10 cents at a vaudeville house or \$2 at the leading theaters.

RESH WORK BY LEGISLATORS. Attention has several times been called in these columns to the need of change in the joint rules of the two houses of the Legislature with a view to preventing the rush of work that makes intelligent action impossible during the last two or three days of a session. As everybody knows, a very large number of bills are introduced and it takes time to have them printed and get through the several readings. Comparatively few are passed during the first twenty days of the session, and the greater part remain for final action during the last ten days. Under the present rules, no bill which has been passed by one house will be received by the other during the last two days, except by unanimous joint consent of both houses. Under this procedure each house sends to the other just before the time limit elapses a large number of bills which have been passed by the house in which they originated. As a consequence the last few days of the session are given entirely to passing bills, and even with the greatest haste there are always some left that could not be considered for want of time.

A scene in the State Legislature on the last day of the session inspires the spectator with anything but confidence in the result of the day's work. Half of the members are preparing to leave for their homes, and it is with difficulty that the presiding officer keeps together a quorum with which to transact business. Members rush around in confusion trying to ascertain whether their bills have been reported, passed or enrolled, and very few pay attention to the work that is going on. The reading clerk takes his bill after another and hums through them so fast that no

one can understand them. The bills taken and the members—number "Aye," while most of them do not even know the subject upon which they are voting. The bills go to the enrolling committee, where they are copied nearly as fast as they were read, and are then signed by the presiding officers. And this is lawmaking. No wonder that clerical errors are found, and members afterward admit that they passed bills inadvertently.

The fault is not with the members, but with the system. The time limit during which no bill passed by one house will be received by the other should be extended to at least five days, and a time should be specified within which committees shall report bills unless they have consent under suspension of the rules to retain them longer. In the earlier part of the session and there would be time to act with deliberation during the last few days, when the most important measures receive final action. For the sake of their own reputation the members of the Legislature should change a system which is so conducive to errors as that now in use. Men who have had experience in past legislative sessions should be able to derive some plan that would make mistakes less probable and obviate the necessity for special sessions.

Asylum are obviously necessary. An enormous proportion of those who are insane are probably incurable, and therefore beyond the stage at which custodial

care is profitable. For such we need to provide shelter and protection. When we have fulfilled this duty we must set our hands and feet free to do our duty as largely as we can by our failure to deal with this great and growing evil by curative measures in its earlier stages. We must strike at the roots if the growth is to be arrested.

HOME-GROWN FICTION. Human nature, said some cynical Englishman, is the same the world over—except in Ireland. The phrase might be twisted into more truthful form by saying that human nature is the same in all professions—except authorship. Your author is a pernickety person. He must hate the publishers or the critics, or the public, or possibly all three. He must be increasingly discontented. Caine's grievance is that he is satisfied with it. Conan Doyle, true-blue Conservative and Protectionist, calls for protection for the British author, although it is not quite clear from what he must be protected. All that the chattering nest of writers can agree upon is that British authors should, like authors using another language than English, have the privilege of American copyright with a year after publication. As the law now stands, a British writer to obtain copyright here must have his book published in America not later than in his home country. This provision acts against the little-known writer, who finds it difficult to arrange for publication here. The matter, however, is not one of importance; it merely serves to call attention to the change in the American "copyright" an appropriate term in dealing with "best sellers."

Without reference to the fiction of James or Howells, but considering only the more ephemeral novels of the day, the vast increase in the number of popular American writers is very noticeable of late. Nor should these less pretentious writers be deemed unworthy of notice, for there is a visible advance in style in their writing. A writer in the Atlantic Monthly thinks that because we have not a "highly organized and finished society" we cannot have good American novelists. It is among the plain people that the American writer is to find his true field, and the popularity of those that have made the essay is a cheering sign of the times.

Wales 112,984 certified insane persons under restraint. In the public institutions provided for the care of the insane, there are at a conservative estimate 150,000 of this hapless class. The National statistical tables show that the proportion of recoveries, calculated on the admissions to the asylums, is about 40 per cent. Of these, about one-half relapse, and 10 per cent of the resident patients die. "What," asks Dr. Chance, "would be thought of a general hospital in which only 40 per cent of the patients recover and one-half of these had to come back?" The point that he wishes to make is that an insane asylum should be pre-eminently a hospital in which the conditions that bring the patient there should be recognized and treated as a disease.

True, the ailment is a most subtle one, and its manifestations include every form of expression. The brain is a physical organ through which the impulses of the mind are sent, and in common with other organs of the body, it is subject to disease. "Insanity in all its forms," says Professor Carter, "is as purely physical as lameness or measles. A man walks lamely because he has a weak, injured or diseased leg, and he thinks lamely because he has a weak, injured or diseased brain."

Little of the pathology of insanity is known, and this, Dr. Chance contends, is due to the fact that proper attention has not been paid to insanity as a disease, the cause and cure of which is not beyond the power of scientific knowledge and research. The truth is that the attitude of the public toward the insane has never been entirely freed from the influence of medieval superstition, and the progress of science in this matter has not kept pace with the accomplishments in other diseases. Society has to be protected, so the insane are placed under restraint. The curative function of the insane asylum has been and still is subordinate to that of restraint. The medical portion of the superintendent's duties is very much subordinated to his executive duties. In the first place, he owes his appointment to political influences rather than to scientific knowledge. It is in ministering to the mind diseased, his assistants are chosen on the same basis. Discipline is often enforced by the most brutal men through the most brutal means, and the curative function is often lost sight of in the details of the management of a large community of brain-sick people.

In illustrating the fact that a great deal is being done for the comfort of the insane, Dr. Chance describes in detail a model asylum for the insane which he lately inspected. The arrangements of the institution were elaborate. There was a well-equipped laundry; a soap factory and flower gardens; a great dairy with sheds filled with cows of approved breeds, each one stalled with the nicest distinction in regard to her physical condition, with a veterinarian in charge to look after her herd. There were perfectly equipped pigsties, huge reservoirs of pure water, a cold-storage and ice plant, a central power-house which supplied heat, light and ventilation; storehouses and granaries; and a perfect system of bookkeeping by which every penny of the cost of this vast establishment was accounted for. Nothing in this vast equipment was omitted that would be of any use in maintaining a high character as a model lodging-house for the insane.

But beyond this, what? Nowhere, says this critic, was there a suggestion of treating the disease that brought these hapless lodgers there. All other needs were supplied save that. He adds: "One could not refrain from asking, 'What are you doing for the man's insanity?' He is not a prisoner; he is a patient; you amply clothe his body, suitably feed him and comfortably protect him. What have you done for the treatment of his diseased brain?"

One cannot avoid the conclusion, after reading this strong presentation, that in the treatment of the diseased brain medical science has fallen short of the success that it has achieved in other of the more occult sciences. The insane have been relegated to asylums, the primary object of which is to dispose of them in such a manner that they may neither injure themselves nor others. For the rest, they are permitted to get well if they can. The steady increase of insanity demands something more than this. No other countries bestow such enormous sums on the public care of the insane as do England and the United States. But this expenditure is not directed toward the prevention and cure of insanity. It is applied mainly to custodial effort, with such provision for the comfort of the brain-sick as humanity and civilization demand. Concluding, Dr. Chance says:

Asylums are obviously necessary. An enormous proportion of those who are insane are probably incurable, and therefore beyond the stage at which custodial

care is profitable. For such we need to provide shelter and protection. When we have fulfilled this duty we must set our hands and feet free to do our duty as largely as we can by our failure to deal with this great and growing evil by curative measures in its earlier stages. We must strike at the roots if the growth is to be arrested.

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care is profitable. For such we need to provide shelter and protection. When we have fulfilled this duty we must set our hands and feet free to do our duty as largely as we can by our failure to deal with this great and growing evil by curative measures in its earlier stages. We must strike at the roots if the growth is to be arrested.

Without reference to the fiction of James or Howells, but considering only the more ephemeral novels of the day, the vast increase in the number of popular American writers is very noticeable of late. Nor should these less pretentious writers be deemed unworthy of notice, for there is a visible advance in style in their writing. A writer in the Atlantic Monthly thinks that because we have not a "highly organized and finished society" we cannot have good American novelists. It is among the plain people that the American writer is to find his true field, and the popularity of those that have made the essay is a cheering sign of the times.

Wales 112,984 certified insane persons under restraint. In the public institutions provided for the care of the insane, there are at a conservative estimate 150,000 of this hapless class. The National statistical tables show that the proportion of recoveries, calculated on the admissions to the asylums, is about 40 per cent. Of these, about one-half relapse, and 10 per cent of the resident patients die. "What," asks Dr. Chance, "would be thought of a general hospital in which only 40 per cent of the patients recover and one-half of these had to come back?" The point that he wishes to make is that an insane asylum should be pre-eminently a hospital in which the conditions that bring the patient there should be recognized and treated as a disease.

True, the ailment is a most subtle one, and its manifestations include every form of expression. The brain is a physical organ through which the impulses of the mind are sent, and in common with other organs of the body, it is subject to disease. "Insanity in all its forms," says Professor Carter, "is as purely physical as lameness or measles. A man walks lamely because he has a weak, injured or diseased leg, and he thinks lamely because he has a weak, injured or diseased brain."

Little of the pathology of insanity is known, and this, Dr. Chance contends, is due to the fact that proper attention has not been paid to insanity as a disease, the cause and cure of which is not beyond the power of scientific knowledge and research. The truth is that the attitude of the public toward the insane has never been entirely freed from the influence of medieval superstition, and the progress of science in this matter has not kept pace with the accomplishments in other diseases. Society has to be protected, so the insane are placed under restraint. The curative function of the insane asylum has been and still is subordinate to that of restraint. The medical portion of the superintendent's duties is very much subordinated to his executive duties. In the first place, he owes his appointment to political influences rather than to scientific knowledge. It is in ministering to the mind diseased, his assistants are chosen on the same basis. Discipline is often enforced by the most brutal men through the most brutal means, and the curative function is often lost sight of in the details of the management of a large community of brain-sick people.

In illustrating the fact that a great deal is being done for the comfort of the insane, Dr. Chance describes in detail a model asylum for the insane which he lately inspected. The arrangements of the institution were elaborate. There was a well-equipped laundry; a soap factory and flower gardens; a great dairy with sheds filled with cows of approved breeds, each one stalled with the nicest distinction in regard to her physical condition, with a veterinarian in charge to look after her herd. There were perfectly equipped pigsties, huge reservoirs of pure water, a cold-storage and ice plant, a central power-house which supplied heat, light and ventilation; storehouses and granaries; and a perfect system of bookkeeping by which every penny of the cost of this vast establishment was accounted for. Nothing in this vast equipment was omitted that would be of any use in maintaining a high character as a model lodging-house for the insane.

But beyond this, what? Nowhere, says this critic, was there a suggestion of treating the disease that brought these hapless lodgers there. All other needs were supplied save that. He adds: "One could not refrain from asking, 'What are you doing for the man's insanity?' He is not a prisoner; he is a patient; you amply clothe his body, suitably feed him and comfortably protect him. What have you done for the treatment of his diseased brain?"

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