

LATIN-AMERICANS PREVENT CRIMES WITH PAWNSHOPS

Absence of Money Is the Most Prolific Cause of Transgression, Argue Our Neighbors, So They Proceed to Supply It Easily and Quickly With Gratifying Results



LATIN AMERICA has a theory of the cause of crime and a method of its prevention. It has operated the preventive panacea for hundreds of years. It believes that it has demonstrated its effectiveness. The United States, however, has never taken this leaf out of the book of the other American republics. She might do so with profit. The idea is at least worthy of consideration. There are a score of peculiarities in the life and customs of the peoples of the south that might be studied with profit up here.

The man speaking was the director-general of the Pan-American Union, and his utterances, therefore, had authority back of them. Dr. Leo S. Rowe is the new head of that permanent organization of the 21 republics of the western hemisphere, which was the first such agency in the world to provide an ever-ready means by which such a group could get together around a table for the discussion of interests and differences.

Dr. Rowe is the successor of John Barrett, who, starting with the encouragement of President Roosevelt, and assisted by four clerks, built up this remarkable agency of hemispherical amity. John Barrett made for himself a master reputation as an organizer and an advertiser.

"The Latin-American theory," Dr. Rowe was saying, "is that one of the most common incentives to crime is the need of immediate money. When one is hungry, when there is illness in the family and no money with which to buy medicine, when there is a mastering desire for any sort of thing without the means of gratifying that desire, resort is had to theft, burglary, robbery, murder. The immediate need of money, the Latin American holds, is the major cause of crime.

"That crime may be prevented, Latin-American communities provide a means by which an individual facing an emergency may get a little money. They establish municipal pawnshops. In those pawnshops almost anything is accepted as collateral. The formalities of procuring a loan are very simple. The interest charged is low. There are small profits or none at all. The belief in the power of these municipal or government-owned pawnshops to prevent crime is widespread. It might be demonstrated this side of the Rio Grande."

Dr. Rowe gives one the impression of being a very incisive sort of individual. He is of average stature, somewhat spare and sharp-faced, with a stiff, close-cropped mustache. He is always hurrying from one conference to another, usually diplomatic. His interruptions are more likely to

be spoken in Spanish than in English. He is very fluent in the former tongue.

One goes to see him in the building of the Pan-American Union which, architecturally, is one of the most alluring things to be seen at the capital. More tourists go through it than any other building. There is a patio of Yucatan design full of tropical plants. There is a sunken garden in the backyard for the development of which Andrew Carnegie gave a million dollars.

"There are many respects in which we might learn from the peoples of our sister republics," Dr. Rowe continued. "The educated classes, for instance, take their intellectual life more seriously than we do. College men in this country, for instance, are not likely to keep abreast of the development of any of the sciences they may have studied in their universities. They make no pretense of arranging meetings for the discussion of such subjects.

"In Latin America it is quite different. University men continue their studies. They usually read two or three languages and subscribe to the scientific publications of their own and European countries. We are a

one-language people. This puts us at a disadvantage, narrows our horizon. Latin Americans are likely to be less provincial because of their linguistic contacts.

"There is less of the hurried activity elsewhere in America than in the United States. The family circle takes more time for the more idiosyncrasy pursuits of cultural studies. Music and the arts are given prominence. Classic literature has its true devotees. People congregate for the discussion of purely intellectual subjects. Lectures on science, literature, art, such as would be almost unattended here, are closely followed there by a surprisingly large percentage of the people.

"In the United States we put little store by poetry. A poet with us is by no means a much revered member of the community. We are much given to treating him jocularly. The present generation is particularly uncharitable to the poet.

"Quite the contrary in Latin America. Most of the republics to the south have poets of national reputation upon whom all the people look with admiration. The fact that one of these poets is composing a new piece of verse is a bit of news of general interest. When it appears it is certain to be printed in all the papers. It will be generally commented upon. Its appearance will be an event in the intellectual life of the community.

"The poet is given much consideration in public matters. All are interested to know his opinion on public matters. It is not uncommon for him to be given high public office. It is taken as evident that he is a man of intellectual quality and therefore worth listening to.

"There is much to be said in favor of the family life of Latin America. The ties of kinship are much more binding there in the United States. The old patriarchal idea still survives. In the United States the ties are loose and easily broken outside the immediate family circle. Not so in Latin America. The family sticks together. Its members help one another. If one prospers he is likely to bestow liberally on his kinsmen. Distant cousins are helped in their roads are rocky. The case of an individual without close relatives seeming entirely alone in the world is rare. They stick to each other in times of trouble.

"If one goes into the home of a well-to-do Latin American he will notice at least one thing that will seem to him peculiar. The table is unduly long for the size of the family. There are no leaves that may be

removed to shorten it. Covers are laid for the members of the family and the known guests and then there are a half dozen places that may not be occupied. These are always kept ready for relatives or late arriving visitors. All are welcome and the larger the circle the happier the hosts.

"The eleemosynary institute does a poor business in Latin America. This is not because they are without their poor, their cripples, their otherwise unfortunate. It is because there is greater charity among the masses. They take care of the unfortunate among themselves. The spirit of neighborly assistance is strong. They would not allow the cripple, the blind, the aged, to become public charges."

"Governmentally," I suggested, "what are the lessons we might learn from the south?"

"Latin America," said Dr. Rowe, "got a different start from that of the United States in city building. From the standpoint of ground plans and architecture their municipalities are better thought out. They were not allowed to grow up haphazard as have many American cities. The city beautiful idea was in existence from the very beginning.

"Latin-American towns are well laid out. The sites of public buildings are carefully selected. They are strategically located from the standpoint of being seen to advantage. They are not crowded into narrow streets. Latin America has learned much from the French in this respect. The percentage of the influential citizens who have studied in France is very large. They are not provincial. They are more likely to know what has been done in other countries than their own.

"The municipality has complete control over new construction. Your ownership of a lot on a certain street does not give you the right to put up any sort of house you want to on it.

The plan for a prospective house must be submitted to the authorities. They consider the plan without reference to its surroundings and determine whether or not it is acceptable. If it is they study it with relation to the other houses in the street. It must harmonize with them. There may be a house next door of such a design that the new structure would throw it out of key, would overshadow it, discredit it. The man who built his house first, has rights. He will be protected. The new house must not clash with his to his disadvantage. Thus are streets developed harmoniously, beautifully.

"In some of the cities to the south prizes are offered for the most attractive designs of buildings. It is not uncommon that houses of certain quality should be freed from the payment of taxes for certain periods. Incentive is developed for building well. The idea of proper development is kept constantly to the fore.

"It is a peculiar thing that the institution of the straphanger, so common in the United States, is entirely nonexistent in Latin America. The Latin-American will not tolerate conditions that make it necessary for him to do so.

"The resident of a South American city might start from his suburban home in the morning, might walk down to the corner where he takes the car. A car might approach and he might signal it to stop. It might not do so. It might be noticed as it approached that it carried a placard at the front which read 'Completo.' This means that it is filled. An American would watch it pass with surprise, for there would be no single individual standing in the aisle. Everybody would be comfortably seated, but all the seats would be taken. It was 'completo.' It would take on no other passengers.

"The South American would look at his watch. He would hold up his finger to the next car and it might pass on. If cars thus passed him and he were left standing on the corner for 15 minutes, he had recourse. He would write a letter to the proper municipal authority, stating the circumstances. That authority would investigate, would write a note to the street car company. It would call its attention to the fact that a citizen had been forced to stand on the corner for 15 minutes because all the cars passing were 'completo.' The street car company would please put another car on that line.

"There is much satisfaction in business relations with Latin-Americans. In the stores there is but one price. There is none of the European custom of bargaining. There is almost a complete absence of misrepresentation. A man's business word is dependable. Few Latin-Americans go into bankruptcy, and where one does it is next to impossible to rehabilitate himself.

"Governmentally many evidences of business ability have been shown. There is a willingness to strike afield, to try the thing for which there is no precedent. One of the smaller countries, for instance, found that virtually all its fire insurance was being handled by foreign companies. Thus the money was going abroad. It believed that the rates were unduly high. So the government determined to write fire insurance for its own citizens. It placed the rate at just half those that had been paying. Naturally, it got all the insurance. Despite the low rate its operations in insurance yielded it a profit. Its novel venture proved an immense success. It demonstrated successful governmental undertaking worthy of consideration elsewhere."

"This man, who has become the chief co-ordinator between the republics of America, is an authority of long standing on what is happening between Tia Juana and Tierra del Fuego. He began 25 years ago as professor of municipal government and political science at the University of Pennsylvania. When we acquired Porto Rico he was appointed a member of a commission to revise and compile its laws. This was his start in Latin-American affairs. Since that time there has hardly been a mission from this government to the south that he has not been on. He is secretary general of the Inter-American high commission. He became assistant secretary of the treasury of the United States. He has received degrees from universities all over Latin America, including the University of San Marcos, the oldest institution of higher learning on the western hemisphere.

unlucky by studying the eyes of her co-worker—the cat—for hours. In the "protrusion shades and shifting glances" of the eyeballs she saw visions and revelations which she tried to interpret through the medium of bar art. There she saw things which the crystal did not show her.

FLOCK OF DOLLY GRAYS TELL HOW TO TAME 'EM

Even Girl Who Has Been on Bargain Counter Since Year of Big Wind Says She Knows.

BY GEORGE ADE

ONCE there was a flock of Dolly Grays who had nothing to do in the afternoon except look for Kitchener Hops, who organized a Club at which Macaroons were served and Current Evils received many a Rap.

Several times they had settled all outstanding differences between Capital and Labor, but they forgot to send Word to the Disputants.

One day they all took hold of a long Rope and pulled George Bernard Shaw down from his Pedestal. The only Thing that saved Shaw was that he did not hear about it.

But when they rallied around Home Topics, that was where they lived. When it came to settling down Rules for repressing the natural-born Instincts of the Tots, they were Fine and Fancy.

Occasionally they took up Man and picked him to Bits. One Week they proved that he was absolutely N. G., and at the next Round-Up they discussed Ways and Means of keeping him at Home.

A Girl who had been on the Bargain Counter since the Year of the Big Wind, arose and wanted to know why, if Man was such a Bunch of Tribulation, they were not willing to pass him up. She was hoisted and the Executive Committee threatened to take her License away from her.

Minnie McGraw had a very snappy Essay, tied with Blue Ribbon, on how to make Home so alluring that the Bread-Winner would not care to beat it into the Night Air. Min had just fluttered out of a School for Girls and she had a lot of fragile Theories that were simply waiting to be frost-bitten.

She allowed that if a Wife would put tissue-paper Shades on all the Lamps and surround the Sultan with plenty of Sofa Pillows and permit him to Smoke and then fit to the Piano and do a crooning Love Song he would be so Charmed with his own Fireside that it would never occur to him to put on his Muffler and go Down Town for a little while.

Min had it all figured out. She was for a Cherry Home with an \$80 Angora that were simply waiting to be frost-bitten.

A reformed School-Teacher with Moss-Agate Eyes took a different Tack. She never had been a Bird in the Gilded Cage, but she knew how to manage a Man because she

had worked the whole Thing out by Algebra.

She said that the boss Scheme for anchoring a Wage-Earner was to smother him with an atmosphere of Culture right at home. Then he wouldn't have to go to the Elks' Club in order to find Intellectual Stimulus.

She advised each Wife to back the Provider into a Corner at 7:30 P. M. and read to him about Psychic Phenomena. Later on, by way of Recreation, they could take a couple of Leaves out of the Dining-Room Table and play Double Canfield.

Another Lady, who had been doing a Monologue for 40 odd years, out in with a Theory that Home Life lost all Attraction because of the Evaporation of Love's Young Dream. She said that the Honey-moon ought to be made a continuous performance. Even those who had been roped together for Twenty Years ought to sit around on one another, talking Baby Talk and feeding each other Marshmallows.

Then there arose a chunk of a Woman wearing Service Stripes. She had been to the Mill and got her Grist. She carried a line of Black Goods in Stock and was letter perfect on any Show that can be pulled off in a Church.

Four times had she looked the Preacher straight in the Eye, and taken the tall Gamble. Of the Theories of Home-Making she knew precious little, but when it came to a working knowledge of Man, she was there with her Hair in a Braid.

"Men are roughly divided into two

classes," she began. "We have those who love the Front Room so well that they cannot be dragged out after they are once curled up for the Evening. On the other hand, we have those who telephone ahead, so that it won't be too much of a Shock. I have tried both Kinds and you have my part of either one. My preference would be for the Boy that is around when he is needed, and keeps out of the way in between, but I never met that kind except in my Dreams.

"I will say this much for all of them. For the first month they can't be shooed beyond the Front Door. The Wife who is not Wise to the habits of the Critter sees him planted there all Evening, surrounded by the Wedding Presents and reading a History of the United States presented by his Fellow Employees at the Wholesale House, and she tells herself that Domestic Life is a Pipe. But there comes an Evening when he lowers the Volume of History and listens for somebody to call him up on the Phone and say that Adams of Galesburg is waiting for him at the Hotel. She never met Adams of Galesburg, but she will hear about him now and then, also about Balancing the Books at the end of the Month, putting somebody through the Blue Lodge or the Consistory, and a Meeting of the Directors of the Business Men's League and the Committee on Street Improvement. There the Frowns will come when 'Alli goes with the Dirty Sneak. She will go to the Kitchen to count up the Breakage and when she returns she will have the Battle Field all to herself for he will have pulled the big Getaway. That is when she wants to join a Whist Club and buy a Motto reading as follows: 'Absence makes the Heart Grow Indifferent.'

"Now, I love to hear the Bright Bertinas get up and do their Solos at a Club Meeting, but I am here to tell them that when the Other Half of the Sketch wants to duck, he will get out if he has to carry a Window-sash with him, and you can't hold him by playing on the Piano or reading Modern Verse. I've tried everything from putting Morphine in the Coffee up to Brute Force. Now, when number 4 begins to act restless about 7 P. M., I slip him his Lid and tell him to come in without waking up the Cat."

MORAL: True happiness must be taken in Broken Doses. (Copyright, 1921, by The Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

CATS HAVE OWN VOCABULARY AND ALSO HYPNOTIC POWERS

Sylvia Breamer, Australian Screen Star, Who Has Made Study of Felines, Reveals Strange Facts Regarding Investigations.

CATS have come into their own at last. For the first time, probably, representatives with a histrionic sense are appearing in the movies. In a new production in the United States, Sylvia Breamer, the "star," is required to play the part of a spiritualist. On her lap is a Persian cat, whose soft, appealing eyes look with mystic gaze as though into the distant future and in their depths seems to be writ the wisdom of the past.

"The cat murmured words of encouragement while the scene was being registered," said Miss Breamer. "Indeed, the cat soon will be able to appear in the legitimate drama. Why am I so certain about it? Because cats have a language of their own that includes a vocabulary of 600 words. The common house cat, with less education than breeding, is able to express only its primary emotions, of course. But cats of breeding of a higher class have a well-defined language. The familiar 'meow' has so many modulations that each has a meaning all its own."

Humans Will Learn Cats.

"Will humans be able to understand cats when our little house pets go on the stage?" Miss Breamer was asked.

"To be sure," she replied, "but it will require training. Do you remember the story of the late Dr. Gardner, who lived for several years in the heart of Africa and finally learned the language of the ape? He became so proficient a student that he could fool one of these ancestors of ours by making him think his mate was calling him home. Some such course of training as Dr. Gardner went through will probably be systematized in respect to cats.

"This much I can tell the world now," she said. "There are 20 different inflections in the cat language, which is based much on the same principle of tonal variations as the Chinese language." Since the cat is to be found in every land on earth, Miss Breamer regards it as safe to assume that several languages have sprung up among the species.

"The cat that appeared in the movies used its eyes to good purpose, for until its voice is cultivated its eyes will remain its greatest asset in its relations with human beings. A cat's eyes seem to hold the secrets of the centuries. No wonder, then, that while this animal is in its ascendancy it has also passed the mil-

Direct Election Wanted.

WASHINGTON—A resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, going away with the electoral college and providing for the direct election of president and vice-president by the people has been introduced in the senate by Senator Norris of Nebraska.

Senator Norris' proposal, however, will leave to the states the same number of electoral votes they now possess and they will be certified to the president of the senate by the proper state officials. In this way, if fraud occurred in the elections in one state, it would be isolated in that state and could not affect the total election to the extent that it might if the popular vote alone were considered and added together for a grand total throughout the country.

It is Senator Norris' opinion also that too long a time elapses after the election of a new president until he takes office. He believes the newly-elected president should take office early in January following his election. He favors, too, having the newly elected congress enter upon its duties in January following its election. This would require a further amendment to the Constitution.

Justice Court Obsolete.

The Justice court is one of the most ancient and obsolete methods for handling civil and criminal cases that is known to the law," said Judge Harry Olson, chief justice of the municipal court of Chicago, addressing the Kansas City Bar Association.

"We inherited the justice of the peace from the old common law of England," said Judge Olson. "It has been said that the office of constable is older even than that of king.

"Chicago abolished its Justice courts 14 years ago when it established its municipal court, which now has 31 judges, 132 clerks and 147 bailiffs. The court is divided into several branches. It has a civil division, a court of domestic relations and a boys' court.

"Last year the entire court disposed of 170,769 cases."

Judge Olson told of the good work being done by the domestic relations branch of the Chicago municipal court. He said that fully one-half of all the cases that came before that court never went to trial, but were adjusted outside of court. Many homes in Chicago, he said, were saved by the actions of judges in handling these marital troubles.



Farm Bureau Launches Campaign.

WILLOW, Cal.—Glenn county's farm bureau has launched a campaign to increase its membership from 700 to 1000. There are 1300 farmers in the county.

But there comes an evening when he lowers the volume of history and listens for somebody to call him on the phone and say that Adams of Galesburg is waiting for him at the hotel.