

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Continued from Page 1.)

to the newspapers serving the organization.

that in the present year the 20th anniversary of the national-wide co-operative non-profit-making news-organization in the United States to make the publication something respecting it.

of the Press is in no way of the newspapers membership; it is disinterested servant.

of directors is composed of newspaper men chosen by the membership in an experience running over 20 years of intimate contact with the present organization also that of the oldest corporation. I have never seen an instance in all the personnel of boards of directors there was any deviation from the highest obligation and disregard of private interests.

of the Press of today is a many-year struggle between two opposing systems of news-gathering on private or limited ownership dealt at arm's-length papers to which they sold their profit as might be over which the news bought from them had control than over the paper applying them with print.

system is based on the a powerful, privately controlled news-gatherer is a menace to the press.

to establish an agency to the control of papers for whom it acted a group of Western men the Western Association' a fight to attain this end that time a contest two opposing principles waged. In asserting the Associated Press, a limited, is the servant of the newspaper only, I have no thought of the tremendous importance of the work it does, but wish simply to thought that proper it has no entity of its own save to serve its.

ers are scattered from the Pacific, from the Gulf, and represent a wide shade of political faith and economic views. It is obvious that the Press can have no sectional bias, no religious or capitalistic nor profit-making bias.

is simply to serve with a truthful, clean, non-partisan and broadest sense—report of the world as experienced with accuracy and economically as possible.

the newspapers membership contribute news of their localities weekly assessments of about \$3,000,000, with which the system of leased wires (22,000 miles of wire at night), the principal American supplementing and news of local newspapers for the original news throughout the.

of the news report to news greatly, ranging in words daily by telephone to papers but a small amount news matter, to more words daily or newspapers columns in important cities.

of collecting foreign news greatly changed in Formerly The Associated Press collected its foreign news, receiving the London, receiving the Agency of Germany, Agency of France, affiliated agencies in.

to this method was as received in London to be impressed bias—in any event not collected from viewpoint.

the criticism The Associated Press has established its own in all the papers, and now main-staffs in London, Rome, St. Petersburg, Tokyo, Peking, Mexico, Havana, in addition of individual correspondents through the.

that in the foreign extraordinary genius Stone, the general of the Associated Press, strikingly exhibited the Russo-Japanese secured from the abolition of censorship newspaper men still remarkable frankness the Russian government news of Russia's recent.

of the messages of the Press were is-stance by the Ger-

man, French, Italian and Russian governments, and as a result it has come to be common for European capitals to get the first news of continental events through Associated Press reports cabled back from New York.

One beneficial result coming from this more direct relationship is to be found in the minimizing of the ill effect of the occasional outbreak of some utterly inconsequential German, French, English or Japanese "yellow" sporadically abusing the United States and its people.

Formerly profound significance of a wide-spread hostility was attached to such outpourings. With the closer understanding that comes from more intimate knowledge, we now understand the relative importance of the newspapers of other countries as we are able to weigh and grade our own.

The disadvantage of lack of news is strikingly apparent in the relations of the United States with the Central and South American nations. These countries secure their news of the United States by way of Europe, and it consists mainly of murders, lynchings and embezzlements. The antipathy to the United States by the people of these countries is undoubtedly largely due to the false perspective given by their newspapers. If in truth we were the kind of people they are led to believe we are they would be fully justified in their attitude.

It has been the aim of those interested with the management of The Associated Press to secure as its representatives both at home and abroad men of high character and attainments, and it may, I think, be fairly assumed that the reputation for accuracy and fairness to be attributed to an unusual measure of success in this endeavor.

While The Associated Press is generally held in good esteem, I would not be understood as indicating that it has been exempt from criticism and attack.

If in a campaign all the candidates, or their managers or press agents did not accuse The Associated Press of the grossest partisanship as against the particular candidate in which they were interested, those bearing the responsibilities of the service would feel convinced that something was radically wrong and would look with suspicion on the report themselves.

This is but human nature. During the last campaign for the Presidential nominations every candidate either in person or by proxy expressed his conviction that The Associated Press was favorable to somebody else.

Mr. Wilson's press agent asserted that our service was pro-Clark, and in the opinion of Speaker Clark we had sold out to the Wilson people.

Mr. Taft's managers felt that he was not being given a fair show and Mr. Roosevelt was firm in his conviction that the avenues of information had been choked to his disadvantage.

Of course later we know that Mr. Wilson does not share the only-for-publication views of his press agent and Speaker Clark is as emphatic in his withdrawal as in his hasty charges. Mr. Taft's managers realize that The Associated Press cannot report speeches that he does not make, and Mr. Roosevelt must see a humorous side to the suggestion that any one has interfered with his getting a fairly adequate representation on the first page.

With all this, however, goes a fundamental misunderstanding of the functions of The Associated Press. The individual correspondent or reporter for a given newspaper or a small group of newspapers having a common bias may be permitted to indulge in partisanship or in propaganda.

This is absolutely not to be permitted in The Associated Press. No bias of any sort can be allowed. Our function is to supply our members with news, not views; with news as it happens—not as we may want it to happen. Intensely as its management may sympathize with any movement, no propaganda in its behalf can be tolerated. Very jealously indeed does the membership guard against their agency going outside its allotted duties and argus-eyed is the censorship of every handler of our "copy."

It is not, naturally, to be claimed that no mistakes are made. They are made and will be made. But in the very nature of the business, with the heart so worn upon the sleeve, detection very swiftly follows, and the mistakes are few and far between.

The desire to enlist The Associated Press in propaganda or advocacy is usually to be found at the bottom of criticisms of its service. Added to this often is misinformation as to the real facts and sometimes, though happily rarely, actual malice.

The service from Russia, for example has been harshly criticized by some who thought that the province of The Associated Press was to undertake a crusade against the Russian government because of its anti-Semitic attitude. Our theory of our obligations is that we should report the facts as they occur, without fear or favor, but that it is no part of our duty to draw indictments save as the facts alone are damning.

The case of the Koreans charged with a plot to assassinate Governor-General Teruchi has recently been much discussed.

These Koreans were almost all converted Christians and the American missionaries in Korea were nat-

urally intensely interested in the matter.

It was freely alleged that the Associated Press, unduly influenced by the Japanese government, had suppressed the fact that these Koreans had made confessions, implicating American missionaries as accessories to the plot and had subsequently retracted these confessions, asserting that they had been extorted by atrocious torture inflicted by the Japanese police, the intimation being also that the missionaries were in peril by reason of the repudiated confessions.

Based on this some of the missionary authorities here became much perturbed, and indeed one of the great New York papers printed news and editorial articles criticizing The Associated Press for the suppression of the matter.

As a matter of fact an inspection of news service received by The Associated Press and distributed to its members showed that it carried the full facts; the confessions, the implications of the missionaries, the allegations of torture, the fact that the allegation of torture was believed by the missionaries, and also the fact that the Japanese denied the torture stories and attached no credence whatever to the prisoners' statements implicating the missionaries.

On learning the real situation the New York newspaper in question promptly printed an ample amende honorable, but I do not doubt that many still ignorant of the retraction feel that The Associated Press was guilty of some dereliction.

Another cause of frequent misapprehension is in the general tendency of newspaper readers to attribute anything seen in print to The Associated Press, and it is constantly necessary to explain that some violently partisan or inaccurate article was the work of a "special" and not a part of our service.

Away back in the middle of the last century, an alliance, offensive and defensive, existed between the old New York Associated Press, a news-selling organization owned by seven New York papers, and the Western Union Telegraph Company under the terms of which the New York Associated Press dealt solely with the Western Union and the Western Union in turn gave discriminating rates and advantages to the New York Associated Press.

Although this arrangement (in the light of today a very improper one) was abolished more than 30 years ago, many people think that it still exists and occasionally some one arises to denounce this unholy alliance.

The simple truth is that The Associated Press has during all these 30 years and more paid exact; what other news associations pay, and that the rates charged by the telegraph companies for the facilities furnished us are greatly in excess of those charged individual newspapers and still more than those charged stockbrokers having leased wires.

The Associated Press leased wires, many thousand miles of them, from the Western Union, the Postal, the American Telegraph & Telephone Company, and from several of the independent telephone companies.

The first three have a common basic rate, charging us \$24 a mile a year in the daytime and \$12 a mile a year at night. For exactly the same wire they charge an individual newspaper \$20 and \$20, respectively, and a stockbroker gets a still further reduction.

Far from receiving discriminatory favors, The Associated Press feels that it is being distinctly and heavily discriminated against.

In these days when all transactions on a large scale are being subjected to so rigid a scrutiny it is natural that so conspicuous a mark of public attention as is The Associated Press should not find itself immune from critical inspection.

From time to time some voice is raised denouncing The Associated Press in the same breath both as a monopoly and because it is not a monopoly, and insisting that it become a monopoly by admitting to its membership all desiring desiring its service; the theory being that in some way the activities of the association impress it with a public use and subject it to the obligation of a common carrier to serve all comers.

From an ethical standpoint only, then, is there anything improper, unsafe, or unwise in a group of newspapers, large or small, associating themselves together to do a thing that each must otherwise do separately and of reserving to themselves the right to determine to what extent the membership of such a group shall be enlarged?

It does not seem possible to hold fairly that a newspaper in New York may not join with one in Chicago and one in Philadelphia to maintain a common correspondent in Washington without making it obligatory on these three newspapers to share the fruits of their enterprise with other New York, Chicago and Philadelphia newspapers.

If in addition they arrange that each shall supply the others with the news of its home city, is it within the bounds of reason that they are required to furnish competitors the same facilities?

I give this illustration because that is exactly the relation of the newspapers composing the Associated Press—the scale only being enlarged.

The obligations of a common carrier are, however, in no wise dependent on the magnitude of its transactions. The ferry sculled across a stream is just as much impressed with a public use as is the Pennsylvania Railroad. Each is a common carrier. It is the nature of the transaction and not its size that determines its obligations. As respects the question of common carriage, what is right for three to do is proper for three hundred or for eight hundred to do.

To compel The Associated Press

to assume an entity of its own and to serve all comers would, in my judgment, bring about a condition fraught with the gravest dangers to the freedom of the press and in turn to the freedom of the people.

At present about one-third of the daily newspapers of the country are represented by membership in The Associated Press.

There are a number of concerns engaged in the collection and sale of general news to non-members of The Associated Press, and in one way or another they supply their customers with what are declared to be satisfactory services.

In no wise desiring to become anything approaching a monopoly, The Associated Press has avoided even the appearance of any competitive price rivalry, admitting additional members solely on the ground of common benefit to the members of a co-operative institution.

If, by some occult reasoning, The Associated Press could be held as a common carrier, these news-selling organizations would be wiped out and The Associated Press would, if the end sought for was accomplished, become a real monopoly and the incentive for co-operation no longer existing, it would naturally drift into a concern for pecuniary profit, in private ownership and subject to private control.

No more dangerous situation can well be imagined than the passing of the control of the greatest news-gathering and news-disseminating agency of the world from the hands of co-operating newspapers to the control of some individual interested in manipulating the news—the master and not the servant of the newspapers.

Because this danger would be so grave it will not come, but for another reason also, a very basic reason.

There can be no monopoly in news.

The day that it becomes apparent that a monopoly in collecting and distributing news exists, that GAL FOUR—Associated Press... day, in some way, by some method individual newspapers or groups of newspapers will take up the work of establishing a service for themselves, independent of outside control.

The news of the world is open to him who will go for it. Any one willing to expend the energy, the time and the money to approach it may dip from the well of truth.

The news service of The Associated Press does not consist of its leased wires or its offices. Its soul is in the personal service of human men, of men with eyes to see, with ears to hear, with hands to write, and with brains to understand, of men who are proud when they succeed, humiliated when they fail and resentful when maligned. The telegraph wires are but the blind instruments of this service, though the wire has brought the uttermost

parts of the world marvelously close. These human entities are ranging the world to send word of its doings, of its rejoicings and its sorrowings to satisfy the thirst of the people for intelligence of the march of events.

The news service of The Associated Press of the horror of Martinique was not the event itself. It was the personal service of a man who at the first hint of the disaster that had wiped out a population took his orders, chartered a boat and went to Martinique, where no correspondent still lived, and sent his story, H'S story of the great tragedy, wrecking his health by the effort required.

To get this report, this "news," was open to any one.

To get it cost the members of The Associated Press more than \$30,000 in addition to the human wastage and prodigious effort.

It was part of the day's work.

And as today devoted men labor and die in order that the members of The Associated Press, an organization that neither owns nor prints a newspaper, may lay before their readers a fair picture of the world's happenings, so always will these and other men serve nobly and die bravely that the world may have tidings of sport and festival, of birth and death, of Congress and Parliament, of Hague conference and program, of battle and plague, of shipwreck and rescue.

—Frank B. Noyes, in North American Review for May.

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NOTICE.
In the District Court of the United States for the District of Oregon.
In the matter of the estate of Arthur S. Blanchard, a bankrupt, in bankruptcy.
Notice is hereby given that the Trustee herein has filed his report on the sale of personality of the above estate and that I appoint and fix Saturday, May 3, 1913, at 2 o'clock p. m., as the time for hearing any and all persons interested therein to protest or show cause why said report should not be approved and said sale confirmed; said hearing to be held at my office in Marshfield, Coos County, Oregon.
C. A. SEHLBREDE, Referee.

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