

## Britain, Disarmament, Freedom of Sea

THE moves of Great Britain in calling for a new conference looking to the limitation of armaments indicate some genuine concern over the cruiser-building program of the United States. It is recalled that the collapse of the Geneva conference came over the disagreement of British and American experts as to cruiser sizes and tonnage. The later abandonment of the Anglo-French naval understanding left Britain standing alone. With the United States launching a building program to attain cruiser equality with Great Britain, thus apparently resuming the mad race of armaments which the Washington conference halted, Great Britain may feel her isolation and seek an understanding with this country.

More fundamental than Britain's gestures toward a new conference and more fundamental than our own cruiser-building activity is the Borah rider attached to the cruiser bill which brings up anew the issues of "freedom of the seas." The amendment expresses favor for treaties to regulate the conduct of belligerents and neutrals in war at sea, including the inviolability of private property thereon.

It is the old question of freedom of neutrals to sail the seas against the will of the dominant sea power. The United States has long been restless under British dominion of the seas. This was the issue which provoked the war of 1812. It was acute in 1914-1917 when the British fleet restricted American and other sea-borne commerce. Wilson made it one of his fourteen points, but lacked force to get his demands enacted in the treaty of Versailles.

In his speech while the cruiser bill was pending Senator Borah asserted that unless we can reach an understanding with England on the war-time rights of neutrals at sea, in 1931 the last vestige of the Disarmament Conference will be wiped out and we shall engage once more in naval competition which may end in "another cataclysm like that of 1914."

Senator Borah's definition of "freedom of the seas" was made as follows:  
"My idea of freedom of the seas is that it is the right of neutral nations to carry their commerce as freely in time of war as in time of peace, except when they carry actual munitions of war or when they actually seek to break a blockade. But the blockade must be a blockade sufficient to prevent the passage of ships, and not merely a paper blockade. But as to all legitimate commerce, outside of actual munitions of war and outside of speeding to a particular port where it is blockaded, there ought not to be any interference with the neutral powers."

The passage of the cruiser bill has given new hope to the big navy advocates. There is no doubt that militarism will revive, that the Kellogg treaty will be regarded as a meaningless document, that disarmament will be abandoned unless the forces for world peace work diligently and rationally. The cause of international goodwill has no more able advocate than Senator Borah. His penetrating drive at the crux of the war and navy problem lifts the cruiser bill out of the ruck of reversion to militarism and gives some promise however faint of a solution of the problem which has vexed us throughout our national history, and still threatens the peace of the world.

## The White House Spokesman

WASHINGTON press correspondents are wondering just how Hoover as president will treat them. Will it be a return to the old Rooseveltian days when Teddy was always turning up with news stories, even if afterwards the reporters were assigned to the Annanias club? Will it be a continuation of the "White House spokesman" of President Coolidge—that meaningless straw man who said nothing could be quoted on nothing and could deny anything? Will covering the White House be merely taking the hand-outs of the president's secretary with mimeographed sheets of no real news importance?

These questions will not be settled until Hoover takes office. The public of course would prefer the Rooseveltian method, for the public craves action. Coolidge is too inanimate for the head-line-reading mind. They are looking to Hoover to "do things," and to "do things" means to get the news of the doings in the paper. News men of experience in Washington, however, predict that Hoover will follow no such vibrating publicity program as the immortal Teddy. He will not submit himself to a running fire of questions from sharp-witted correspondents, many of whom are eager to entrap him. The grave questions of state involved are too serious to be disposed of by offhand replies to miscellaneous interrogatories.

Probably the best answer will be the reference to Hoover's own success with reporters at the department of commerce. Without sacrificing the public interest Mr. Hoover kept the press fully informed, met the reporters on a friendly plane and furnished them with reams of good copy.

News writers who accompanied the Hoover party or the South American trip complained at the censorship of their dispatches at the hands of George Barr Baker, who seemed to act as Hoover's press manager. Use of the radio was denied for certain stories and others were made subject to war-time deletion. The returning correspondents, some of them, made bitter comment on the censorship. We don't believe that Hoover will follow any such policy when in the White House. You can't bottle news even though you're commander of the army and navy. Hoover knows that and will act upon his intelligence.

## More on "Direct Marketing"

"DIRECT marketing" which has become a bone of contention in mid-western livestock circles, as related in the editorial column of The Statesman recently, is referred to in the remarks of President Louis F. Swift at the annual meeting of the shareholders of Swift and Company, as reported in the 1929 Swift and Company year-book. Touching on direct marketing of the farmer's produce, though not referring to "direct marketing" of livestock President Swift said:

"I believe that our produce business has a wonderful future. We buy the farmers' eggs, cream, and poultry at country points. We can and select the eggs, churn the cream into butter, and fatten the poultry on buttermilk and grains. Practically all of these operations are carried on in produce plants, which are separate and distinct from our packing plants. We then market these finished products through our regular branch house and car route outlets. In other words, we offer to the farmers of this country a direct, economical marketing service on their produce items. Between the farmer and the thousands of retailers throughout the country, we perform all the essential services of assembling, selecting, manufacturing, and distributing his products. It is a decided advantage to farmers to market their produce through an organization which has a nationwide outlet and which receives only one profit for a great variety of necessary services."

Quite aside from the matter of marketing the same address contains some significant comments about the cattle business. Mr. Swift says the outlook for the cattle raiser is much improved from the profits standpoint. "According to the estimates of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, there were only 55,696,000 cattle on farms January 1, 1928, which is the smallest cattle population this country has had in any year since 1912. The Department also estimated that the number of beef cattle in the country was 23,373,000, and that this is the smallest beef cattle population we have had since 1877."

As predicted exclusively in this column Kenneth Ormiston shed no light on Almee's "love offering" to the friendly judge. Give us a rest from the Almee scandal; Los Angeles ought to be able to think up something new to get banner heads with.

A Swede has developed a process for making paper from straw hats. This will let editors talk through their hats twice.

Lindbergh proved what every one suspected; solo flying is precarious business.

## Divided Opinion



## They Say ...

Expressions of Opinion from Statesman Readers are Welcomed for Use in this column. All Letters Must Bear Writer's Name, Though This Need Not Be Printed.

To the Editor:

There is a growing feeling that the moderate drinker is a greater menace on the highway than the drunkard. Doctor Frances G. Benedict, writing in the Industrial and Engineering Chemistry, warned:

"Moderate user, keep off, for at least four hours after a dose of alcohol, formerly considered 'permissible,' you as a motor vehicle operator may well be considered a 'menace to society.'"

The really drunk driver with his machine zigzagging along the street gives those in the opposite direction warning to slow down at the right hand curb. But the moderate drinker may be driving straight as an arrow and all of a sudden do some fool thing because his nerve centers were paralyzed by a supposedly permissible dose of bug juice.

CONTRIBUTED, Salem, Feb. 18, 1929.

Editor New Statesman:

Dear sir, kindly tell the readers of the New Statesman that I am very thankful to all who in any way assisted in making the grand success which attended the octogenarian banquet and talk at the Elks temple on the 15th inst. Words are insufficient to portray my gratitude for the delightful assistance received and the many birthday cards and their kind expressions.

—W. G. RIGDON

## Old Play is Renewed and Proves Good

Modernizing an old French play was the task that faced Dorothy Farnum when she adapted "Ardrenne Lecouvreur" for the films under the title, "Dream of Love." "Ardrenne Lecouvreur," one of the most famous plays in the history of the stage, was used for many seasons as a starring vehicle for Sarah Bernhardt.

In bringing the colorful drama up to the present day, the noted scenarist laid the plot in a Balkan state and provided a new background for the gripping narrative penned by Scribe and Legouve many years ago.

Scenes Are Brilliant  
The new production, in which Joan Crawford and Nils Asther are featured, opens today at the Elmore theatre, and brings to the screen a brilliant array of military scenes and vivid pictorializations of intrigue in a royal court. A royal opera house, coronation ceremonies, revolutions and the nomadic life of a wandering gypsy tribe are only some of the many picturesque and colorful scenes which form the background for the fascinating plot.

Actress In Regal Role  
Aileen Fringle returns to a regal role, that of a haughty and designing Duchess, in the production which Fred Niblo directed, and Warner Oland again is seen as an imposing ruler. Carmel Myers and many others of note are included in the elaborate supporting cast.  
The plot is motivated by the ro-

## Who's Who & Timely Views

### Pan-American Co-operation Discussed

By DR. L. S. ROWE  
Director General, Pan-American Union (Leo S. Rowe was born at McGregor, Ia., Sept. 17, 1871. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Halle. Admitted to the bar in 1895 he taught political science at the University of Pennsylvania for several years. He has been identified with numerous federal commissions sent to South America and served as assistant secretary of the treasury from 1917 to 1919. He has been director general of the Pan-American union since 1920. He is the author of numerous reports and books on political science subjects, especially pertaining to South American countries.)

THE Pan-American Trade Mark conference held recently marks another forward step in the important movement for Pan-American cooperation. An agreement on the protection of trade marks throughout the American continent will mean much to inter-American commerce and will tend to eliminate the irritation that is aroused from time to time by reason of inadequate protection of such trade marks.



The specialized conferences represent a most important adjunct to the general Pan-American conferences which assemble every five years. To such conferences are delegated the more technical questions which can only be spread through the interchange of opinion of experts. The adequate protection of trade marks is a matter of deep interest to every consumer throughout the continent. Thousands of persons in the republics of America have suffered real loss by reasons of the unauthorized and at times, fraudulent use of well-known and long established trade marks. The whole situation must be viewed primarily from the point of view of the interest of the consumer. Recommendations or resolutions approved, by the conference will be submitted immediately through the Pan-American Union, to the participating governments

for their approval and ratification, and in case of any government not a signatory to the original convention, for its adhesion. Under the tentative draft the convention would become effective after ratification by seven of the signatory states.

### Western Fir Will Go on 'Ironsides'

An opportunity to participate in the patriotic enterprise of reconstructing "Old Ironsides," the grand old fighting vessel which was the pride of the early American navy, has been offered to Northwest lumbermen, who have been asked to donate Douglas fir masts and spars for the ship. The famous old warship is now being rebuilt at the Boston navy yard by popular subscription.

The project was started several years ago and has reached a stage of completion where the spars and masts are needed. Thousands of persons and organizations, ranging from school children to large corporations, have contributed funds for carrying on this work. Part of the money donated was spent for Douglas fir timbers for use in rebuilding the

## Editors Say:

### MINING SURVEY ASKED

Out of the millions to be appropriated for various sections and interests at Salem this district is asking just one thing: A \$30,000 grant for a mining survey which has not been made for 25 years and for which the federal government will pay half cost. It seems moderate enough and if any other part of the state were asking for it there would be little doubt of its being voted. But its Baker and that may make a difference as it so often has before. Yet the benefits would not be restricted to this county or to the mining districts of southern Oregon. It is an outlay which will bring new capital and new payrolls into Oregon. It would not prove an expense but a dividend paying investment.—Baker Democrat-Herald.

### SIDESTEPPING

The telephone rate controversy at Salem arises from a widespread belief that the telephone rate structure will bear revision downward. That belief is shared by The Oregonian.

The difference between this newspaper and some others is that The Oregonian is not and will not be content with evasion, or sidestepping, or fraudulent remedies. There is today a wide-open space for sidestepping and a number of house members have taken advantage of it. It has been created by advancing the deception, for political and other selfish purposes, that that which the state has so far been incapable of doing can be done by the city of Portland.

The home rule measure is on its face a subterfuge, and a temporary way of appeasing public demand. On information and belief, The Oregonian states that the fair and informed city officials of Portland know that they can accomplish nothing if this bill is passed. The legislature has properly asked for a federal investigation of the structure and valuation of the telephone properties. If there is anything else that can be effectively done, the only agency that can do it is the state of Oregon.

And if the legislature is convinced that the public service commission, as now constituted, and empowered, is helpless and hopeless, it has no business appealing instigated public clamor by adopting a false relief. Its obligation is to establish a public service commission so constituted and empowered that it may serve the people to their satisfaction.

The elements so far lacking at Salem in this matter are courage and forcefulness.—Portland Oregonian.

### NOT SATISFACTORY TO GROWERS

A storm of protest from small growers resulted in withdrawal of house bill 311, which provided a license fee of \$15 for all bulb growers, and introduction of bill 488, a substitute measure. The new bill eliminates the gladiolus grower but still includes several features which the local growers find objectionable. In its present form the measure should not be passed. It includes within the scope of the license fee of \$15, all growers of flowering bulbs, roots and all kinds of bulbs, including tulips, irises, dahlias, narcissi, tulips, lilies and such other bulbs. Under roots must be included carrots, beets, turnips and such crops, according to the phraseology of the measure.

There are numerous small growers in the narcissal here and others are engaging in the culture of tulips, irises, anemones and such crops that would come under the bill. In other words, a man would be penalized at the start.

Proponents of the bill argue that added inspection is necessary for these crops because of federal regulations and that the license fees must be collected to pay an inspector. The federal government takes care of its own inspection and it is doubtful if a state paid inspector would add anything to this measure of protection.

Stress should be placed on the inspection of bulbs coming into Oregon. Other states are taking care of the inspection of bulbs being imported from this state.

The whole thing looks like an attempt to create another state board with a paid staff.

The growers here will continue to fight against the passage of any measure such as that now under consideration.—Grants Pass Courier.

## Bits for Breakfast

By R. J. Hendricks

In the long run—  
Or in the short run, and the shorter the better, Salem will own her water works system.

The shorter the better, for this reason: In 1910, the city was offered the water works at about \$400,000. In 1926, the price was \$850,000.

It would be a million or more now, partly because of the fact that there have been constant improvements to and extensions of the plant; partly because the franchise or going value of the business has constantly increased, with the growth of the city; and this was not included either in the 1910 or the 1926 offer. It is a legitimate value; the courts would allow it in condemnation proceedings—

And that value increases with the birth of every baby; with the coming of every new resident. It will accrue to the private owner. It would accrue to the city after municipal ownership became effective.

The purchase price will grow every day; making the interest charge on the money to buy the system larger with the passing of time.

The city can borrow money at a lower rate than any individual or company, on such an investment as a water system. It can therefore build for the future; larger mains, better facilities; extensions in districts where a private company could not afford to operate. These are the advantages.

No matter what source of supply is tapped, the city should own the works. Eventually, the source would be above the city, in order to get the supply by gravitation and eliminate the cost of pumping, and in order to use the power on the way down. This irrefragable value of "mountain water." Of course, even that supply would have to be chlorinated. There is no such thing as absolutely pure water, excepting that made pure by chemical treatment.

A year or two ago, Salem had a chance to get a chicken cannery factory on terms that should have been accepted at the time. It involved merely a small loan, that would have been good. Salem passed up the chance, and now

there are two such factories on the west side, where there was only one before.

Now comes the United States department of agriculture and takes an especial interest in chicken canning factories, sending inspectors to them, free of cost, in order to put the federal osh on their products and thus help in speeding up their sales, for the good of the poultry industry generally.

This goes for turkey canning factories, too. The Salem turkey enthusiast, Charles Simon, who wants to see turkey meat canning here, will get his wish gratified one of these days, and we will have chicken canneries here, too.

The baby chick men, who are growing in number in the Salem district, and whose plants are increasing in size, are pointing to the fact that Herber Hoover buys baby chicks from the regular trade for his 1300-acre farm on the Santa Fe railroad 150 miles north of Los Angeles and 280 miles below San Francisco. Mr. Hoover has 2500 hens, bred along scientific lines and kept according to the best rules of the game; with eggs and broilers for sale every day in the year; and he proposes to very much increase his flocks.

## Old Oregon's Yesterdays

Town Talks from The Statesman Our Fathers Read

Feb. 20, 1904

Business is living up in the local prune market, with packers expecting to sell all store on a 2 1/2 cent basis.

The suit which resulted over a difference of opinion over the trustees between the members of the Church of God in North Salem was dismissed by Judge Boise.

Willamette University co-eds defeated the Roseburg high school girls 4 to 3 in a basketball game here.

Trains are still running irregularly, owing to the effects of the heavy snow storm.

Miss Mille Kruse has accepted a position in the Yew Park school.

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