

Spicing Up the Bryant Case

THE hitherto highly amusing effort of the enterprising Portland papers to make a class A case out of the really quite ordinary murder trial over at Corvallis seem about to be supported by the "defense of womanly honor" interjected by the defense attorneys. The Portland Journal started playing up the case some months ago with Sunday feature stories, picture lay-outs and special staff correspondence. The Telegram followed up with a camera drive on the principals involved. Until the defense theory put up in court the case merited no such magnified exploitation. It had none of the aspects of "best sellers" in murder trials. It lacked scandal; there was no revelation of plot; there was no daring escape or thrilling chase and capture of the accused. All that gave it more than local interest was the fact that the victim was a prominent ex-football player.

So the sprinkling of spice on the part of the defense attorney may prove a life-saver to the staff reporters who were making a desperate effort to make an enlargement of the legitimate news values. "Red" Bryant, a Corvallis youth with a poor reputation, jealous because Dickerson was taking his girl home one night, accosted him. They got into a fight, Bryant stabbed Dickerson with a butcher knife so badly that he died a few days later. Two men fighting over a girl; ergo, there must be a "story"; so the Portland reporters shoveled in the chaff in metropolitan fashion. Now the defense attorneys have come to the rescue of the exhausted reporters with the promise of showing that Bryant, a common town "bum," fought to save the honor of the girl he loved. Now it's getting "hot," so we will probably get more pictures and maybe a sobby interview with Bryant or Miss Troxel.

Well, we just can't see this case in appraising its news value as any other than a pale story of a fight that ended fatally. The story is so simple, so lacking in "angles," so devoid of the actual scandal that goes to give the real thrillers their front page rights, that the journalistic zeal seems poorly placed. We don't think the public that has been feeding on raw meat like the Hall-Mills case, or the Hickman and Northcott cases, will show more than passing and local interest in the Bryant case, even though a popular football player was the victim.

Missouri Throws Professors to Lions

THREE professors at the University of Missouri have been thrown to the lions at the behest of outraged bigots in Columbia and over the state. Descendants of the persecutors who flogged the Quakers because they had unconventional beliefs, compels of the Tennesseans and Arkansans who tried to bottle up scientific truth by legislative fiat, the Missourians proved themselves not open-minded at all as their "show me" slogan would indicate. Students attempting a scientific study working in the departments of the professors involved, sent out a questionnaire on sex to students of the university. Too daring probably for college students, unwise probably; yet by no means intentionally improper.

Result: resolutions, petitions from agitated townspeople; dogs of bigotry let loose; legislature threatening to cut off appropriations; a scared university president hitting wild; and three university professors discharged.

One of these was Prof. Max Meyer, one of the most eminent physiologists in the country, graduate of the University of Berlin, and 30 years a professor at Missouri. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch calls his dismissal a "drumhead court-martial of a distinguished man."

Another was Dr. Harmon O. DeGraff whose final lecture in his course "The Family," a constructive plea for sociological science and tolerance, ended with the professor and many of his students overcome with emotion. The class planned a testimonial dinner and set on foot a movement to retain him as personal adviser. Kansas City clergymen were among his strong defenders.

We were impressed with the fine substance of his final lecture. What a pity indeed that an institution devoted to the search for knowledge, and to the intelligent education of youth, should in a wave of hot hatred dismiss an able and cultured professor such as Dr. DeGraff. Here is the condensed report of the lecture as given by the Post-Dispatch:

Dr. DeGraff told in his lecture of how he had been constantly called upon to advise students. "I have immense confidence in the youth of America," he said just before he left. He believed even the conservative element would come to realize he was doing something worth while and eventually would commend him for it. He explained that he had consulted students in regard to their intended professions, what fundamental principles they should follow in the selection of life mates and how religion is the great fundamental underlying demand of every person. "I vigorously denied that there is any so-called hierarchy among college students toward religion."

"I have no fear of your constructive criticism of family life," he continued. "I think we have a right to criticize and point out the faults in future fathers and mothers. I think sociology, as all studies, has the right to point out these faults."

He criticized "the family" as a group of interested persons who have attempted in a feeble way to organize and point out the functions of the family and how these functions can be carried out by men and women to perpetuate in their children the best things in their group."

"We criticize the family in transition but not as to its fundamental purpose. We make suggestions as to how its fundamental purpose may be carried out. The purpose is the handing on from parents to children all that is good and workable in customs, standards, mores and traditions."

"Twenty-five years from today you are going to be the conservative element of the group. Youth is dynamic. The dynamic personality youth, youth in its impetuous haste and its desire to help does things in a mistaken way. You need your parents to act as a balance to your impetuosity; parents need you to soften their conservatism."

"What we need in all groups is tolerance of one group for another."

An Outline of Foreign Policy

THE Statesman some days ago discussed the article by John D. Davis in April "Foreign Affairs" which inspires the following comment from the able editor of The Oregonian.

This Mr. Davis comes to the point which The Oregonian has urged by saying: "The United States to make an active part in governing measures for the prevention of war. . . All the nations whose treaty is broken, or threatened so to be, have a mandate to concert measures to prevent the breach or to restore it."

The consequence, he says, would be to make neutrality immoral, to make governmental protection of munition-makers who attempt to supply a treaty-breaking nation "an act of national wickedness."

Joint action by both the United States and Great Britain against a treaty-breaking nation would mean conflict of naval policy between the two nations. For they would join in a "treaty-restricting war," but the restriction would be that Great Britain might be engaged in "an old-fashioned private war" which, though she might not be the aggressor, it could not be established that her adversary had broken the covenant of the League or the League treaties of the Kellogg-Briand pact. "In such circumstances he expects Britain would not attempt to interfere with the fullest freedom of sea transit" by neutrals.

Experience accumulates that the American and British minds draw daily nearer the meeting point on naval policy, and that the agreement forest would involve no sacrifice on the American side. The seas would be free at all other times, for private wars are outlawed by the treaty and freedom to navigate would be open to all except our law nations, to which the United States also would deny that right.

We "view with alarm" any commitment by this country for joint action with Great Britain or any other country in some future contingency. Any naval entente between the United States and Great Britain (for that is in effect what the Davis proposal amounts to) would evoke the hostile attitude on the non-Saxon powers. American financial hegemony is now viewed askance in many lands; and a British-American understanding would quickly have a counterweight in Latin, Teuton, or Asiatic alliance.

The Davis policy is the policy of sanctions. Its basic idea is that of the league to enforce peace, framed now in the covenant of the league of nations. The United States in rejecting the covenant rejected also the idea of sanctions; of engagement to resort to force except at its own will.

The Kellogg treaty lays the right foundation: the renunciation of war as an arm of national policy. The execution of that treaty lies not in girding of nations to chastise some recalcitrant, or some nation branded "aggressor." The execution of the treaty must lie in the judgment of properly constituted world-courts, armed by the force of public opinion.

Our national policy is clear and definite. We will not adopt any Capper resolution with its danger of foreign entanglement. We will not follow the Davis proposals for any British-American understanding committing us to use force in a joint undertaking at some future date. We shall work for peace through the agencies of judicial procedure, not through assuming mandates to police the world.

Same Old March

Snow in California; hot weather in Kansas City.

Au Revoir!



Life's Race Well Run,
Life's Work Well Done,
Life's Victory Won,
Now Cometh Rest.

Who's Who & Timely Views

Oil Conservation Declared Serious Matter to Montana

By THOMAS J. WALSH
Senator from Montana
(Thomas James Walsh was born at Two Rivers, Wis., June 22, 1859. He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin. After serving as principal of a high school at Stevens Bay, he became the practice of law at Redfield, S. D., with his brother in 1884, moving to Helena in 1890. He was elected to the United States senate in 1913 and is now serving his third term. Five times he has been a delegate to the Democratic national convention, and was chairman of the same in 1924.)

It is not unlikely that President Hoover's decision regarding the conservation of the government's oil deposits will be tried out in the courts. The general leasing acts of 1920 authorizes the secretary of the interior to issue permits for the exploration of public lands believed to bear oil. Then, following the discovery of oil, leases are granted.

The president apparently contemplates a number of exceptions but seems fixed in his purpose of conservation where it can be done without injustice to the claimant. Montana and Wyoming are the states most directly interested in the president's newly declared policy. Considerable areas in these states are withdrawn from taxation by the government and to retard their development is detrimental to the good of the states.

Bits for Breakfast

By R. J. Hendricks

Health pays a city—As Dr. E. L. Russell of the county health demonstration forces showed to the Salem Rotarians at their noon luncheon yesterday.

He showed that Steubenville, Ohio, lost her chance for the location of a great factory there because of her high rate of infant mortality. By the same sign, Salem and Marion county may get future factories by extending indefinitely, in at least efficient working order, their present health program.

Men who direct great factory operations look, among first considerations, to the efficiency of their laborers, the health of whom is one of the main factors of such efficiency; including the members of their families. Anything that reduces that efficiency is a big economic loss in large scale operations of any kind, calling for considerable numbers of working people.

The people who heard Mr. Noble at the Salem chamber of commerce luncheon on Monday, learned a lot about possible trade relations with China and Japan, our nearest neighbors in the Orient. Mr. Noble is the owner of the Sky Island orchards, and he is more at home in Salem than elsewhere, being engaged in international trade. Mr. Noble explained sketchily, in the very short time available, the reasons why there are three classes in Japan—the first the samurai, going with the feudal system of the shoguns, in the period ending in the revolution of 1867-68. Those are ideals as high as the world knows or follows. The second class is made up of the rest of the Japanese people outside of the merchants and traders. The people imitate much of the ideals of the old samurai caste. But the merchant and trading class have low ideals. The reasons are too many for space here.

Mead and Smith Not Discharged

WASHINGTON, Mar. 27.—(AP)—Secretary Wilbur said today that the resignations of Commissioner Mead of the reclamation bureau and Director Smith of the geological survey had been returned. It has been generally understood at the interior department that both Mead and Smith would continue the director of their respective bureaus.

Prof. Albert Sweetser, state biologist, is in the city from Eugene to make some water examinations in this vicinity. James and Lloyd Mott, students at the University of Oregon, are spending a few days' vacation with their parents, Dr. and Mrs. W. S. Mott. Charles K. Spaulding of Newberg, president of the Spaulding Logging company, was a business visitor in the city.

Passed Up!

THE STORY OF A GIRL WHO MADE MEN LIKE HER
By ROE FULKERSON
Copyright 1929

"It looks like he might do something of the sort," snorted the old gentleman. "Suppose you sit on his bag and take the answers to these letters. When you go into the other room to type them you might carry all these things in there so he can't escape you! Women are such fools!"

"I know I am!" cried Betty, happily.

"You are the only one I ever heard admit it. I like you. I might have known you would get married. The good ones always get married and leave the office. You are the only one who ever took my dictation and didn't interrupt me."

"Your top-knot is down," Betty smiled at him.

"What's that? What's that?" His hand ruffled up his hair, inquiringly.

"It's all right now. You look fierce again. I'm afraid of you now."

"Nothing the sort! Nothing of the sort! You're not afraid of me! I'm not fierce! Am you going to take this dictation? I hate people who dilly dally and shilly shally when they have work to do!"

"I have taken all you have dictated this far," answered Betty. "You need not dictate anyway. I can answer those letters without dictation."

"Think you're smart, don't you? Andy said you could attend to everything while he was gone. Think you can put the old man on the alert, do you? Get a good secretary who can attend to his work for a month or two and then

Old Oregon's Yesterdays

Town Talks from The Statesman Our Fathers Read

March 22, 1904
A debate has been arranged between the Philodorian society of Willamette university and the Gamma Sigma society of Pacific university. E. K. Miller, W. C. Winslow and R. C. Glover will represent the local university.

James and Lloyd Mott, students at the University of Oregon, are spending a few days' vacation with their parents, Dr. and Mrs. W. S. Mott.

Charles K. Spaulding of Newberg, president of the Spaulding Logging company, was a business visitor in the city.

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