

The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us; No Fear Shall Awe."
From First Statesman, March 28, 1851

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Funerals, Old and New Style

THEY are just ruining funerals in these modern times. There really is little attraction in attending one any more. We can remember in the small towns there were women, and men, too, who never missed a funeral. We knew one able merchant who made it a point never to miss an auction sale or a funeral. But then he was a merchant. The others went from, well, just from curiosity. Now the Portland pastors are recommending that undertakers dispense with opening the casket so the crowd can file around and look on the features of the departed.

That is just about the last straw. First they set the family off in a room by themselves so those who came to gape and crane their necks and see how the widow was taking it, or the fiancé or the daughter-in-law, get no satisfaction out of that any more. Then they changed the eulogy to brief Thanatopsis stuff. In the old days a preacher might make his reputation on his funeral sermons. The mere lachrymal gallantries he could get started the more in demand he was. It was a poor funeral that didn't have the relatives in collapse, the friends sobbing and the mere acquaintances swallowing hard. Nowadays the preacher reads a psalm, quotes some poetry, talks about comfort rather abstractedly, and cuts it off in fifteen minutes.

They have taken the crepe off the front door, changed the coffin black to neutral grey, speeded up the funeral procession, banished widow's weeds, and hurried up the opening of the will. The only thing left to link the funeral up with the gruesome, sobbing past was the march around the open coffin. Now the Portland preachers will take that away, so the only difference between one funeral and another would be the cost of the casket. The proposal of the preachers probably wouldn't reduce the bill for a first-class funeral any, so the undertakers shouldn't oppose it.

It is true, the preachers are right. We thought twenty-five years ago that it was a horrid survival of ancient custom to open the casket and let the curious wend their way past it. But the modern funerals seem too conventional, too impersonal, too much of form and too little of heart. The modern funeral affords no emotional climax to the relatives and no very satisfactory means of tribute for friends and associates. As death means less, so life seems to mean less. Or perhaps as life means less, death means nothing.

Priced to Tenth of a Cent

THE Standard Oil company of New York is trying a new twinkle in the retelling of gasoline. It figures the price at the seaboard, in bulk, adds a fixed charge to cover handling at retail and profit and then adds the actual rail cost to each community figured to a tenth of a cent. The price schedules at every service station in the "Socony" territory show the actual retail price on the above basis.

Thus the price in New York city is 15.3c per gallon; Mt. Vernon, 16.3; Ossining, 16.4; Yonkers, 16.3; Derby, Conn., 16.7; Litchfield, Conn., 16.8; New Haven, 16.6. To these prices are added the 2c state gas tax.

This may be the beginning of a change in computing prices at stations all over the country. "Socony" is an empire in New York and New England and the Standard Oil company of New York is all-powerful in that empire, more so it would seem than the other oil companies in other sections of the country. The General Petroleum company operating on this coast, is a subsidiary of the Standard of New York. The new plan has not been put into effect here, but if it goes over satisfactorily in the east, the General might initiate it here.

There is often too much of a spread in prices between one territory and another. The service station price at Portland was 19 1/4c Sunday, here it is 23c. We do not know just what the freight differential is, but the price difference is 3 1/4c per gallon. It will be interesting to see how Standard of New York's new way of pricing gas works.

A "Dynamic" Governor

OREGON has a dynamic governor at last. While the rest of Salem sleeps of a morning until 7:30 or 8, Gov. Norblad is up betimes and out, not to get to his work before the janitors get the room dusted and the halls mopped, but to career on foot over the hills and along the streets and roads of the town and country. A six, seven or eight mile jaunt for the governor is just an appetizer for his ham and eggs. After that, instead of being weary with having performed a day's labor, he is just fit to tackle his job at the state house.

He is a going governor, whether the travel is on foot, by motor car, rail or stage. In a week's time he manages to cover a considerable area of the state, meet several hundred Oregonians, address a dozen or more clubs, societies and gatherings, and get back to his desk to get it all slicked up for the week-end. One day recently he dictated 118 letters. He keeps a dictaphone by his chair, and if there is no one in his office to talk to he can dictate letters.

Regardless of what the newspapers and cartoonists do to Old Man Oregon, Norblad, so long as he stays on as governor, will set a pace that would give the Old Man heaves, and warm him up so he would shed his old muffler. Of course Norblad may not get the nomination; he rather makes the natives a little dizzy.

Harry D. Hobson, noted fashioner of bows and fishrods at his home along the Santiam, sends "The Statesman" a copy of the Cleveland District Golfer which shows how golfers there turn their courses into fields for the practice of archery during the winter months. Here golfers complain because of a few weeks of winter when the courses are snow-covered or soft from heavy rains. In the east courses may be set out for golfing for months at a time. Mr. Hobson adds a note that he has developed considerable business in Cleveland selling archery equipment to Cleveland business and professional men who substitute archery for golf in winter.

We see the spiritualists of Australia, England and the United States are praying for the recovery of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Why should that be? They can go on talking to him if he does die, can't they?

The new dictator of Spain predicts a "bright future for his nation." Must be another go-getter pulled off the membership committee of the chamber of commerce. Elbertio Spain has been living in the past. Now it must have a rotary club.

NAVY DIRIGIBLE IN GLIDER TEST



The long heralded flight of a glider from the Navy dirigible Los Angeles is held to be the first launching of a motorless flying machine in this manner, although planes have been carried aloft and dropped and have been both picked up and launched by the Los Angeles while she was in flight. The test will be at Lakehurst, N. J. Naval Air Station. (Above) Picture shows the "monster of the air" with the glider attached.

BITS for BREAKFAST

By R. J. HENDRICKS

The 15th census:

You will hear a good deal about this, from now on, till around and soon after the first days of May, when the totals of population for the cities and towns and other civil divisions of the United States will begin to be announced.

All the census supervisors of the three Pacific northwest states were gathered at Seattle on Monday and Tuesday of this week—the seven from Oregon, seven from Idaho, and nine from Washington. Besides about seven superintendents of Indian reservations. That made a gathering of about 30, besides the director of the census, W. M. Stewart, and his chief clerk.

They met at the directors' room of the Seattle chamber of commerce at 9 on Monday morning and worked together all that day, and all forenoon on Tuesday, and then went to the banquet room of the Seattle chamber of commerce, on the floor above, for lunch, that meeting being attended by many prominent people of Seattle interested in having a thorough census for that city.

That meeting was addressed by Census Director Stewart and others. Dr. Stewart (as he is known in Washington, though he is not a doctor but a lawyer), told something of the history of the census. The original purpose of the census, which is required by the constitution of the United States, was simply to ascertain the population of the several states as a basis for the apportionment of representatives in congress. The first one was taken in 1790. (That makes the coming one the 15th decennial census.)

Director Stewart related that Thomas Jefferson and John Hancock were in Philadelphia while this census was being taken, and, thinking they were not being enumerated, signed their names in good black ink to one of the schedules. This schedule is preserved to this day.

During the conference, Director Stewart related an incident that is interesting. While President Hoover was secretary of commerce he was tendered a banquet. Mr. Stewart was called upon for some remarks. He prefaced what he had to say by words something like these: "Mr. Hoover, your status as an American citizen has been questioned. Your parents and all others who could definitely establish this have long passed from earthly scenes. You have no way of definitely proving your place and time of birth. But I hold in my hand the proof. I have a certified copy of the Iowa census enumerators' schedule made in 1880, in hand which your own mother gave your age and the other data establishing beyond question the facts."

Mrs. Hoover was present. Mr. Hoover was interested. It was a memorable scene. The secretary of commerce was presented with the paper at his request. Mr. Stewart was an employee of the census department in 1880, and has been ever since, finally climbing to the head of it. He mentioned another historic incident, in his talk at Seattle. The governor of Virginia accosted him in Washington and charged that the census of the city of Richmond had not been properly taken. He knew this, he said, because his own family had not been enumerated. And he demanded a recount. Mr. Stewart ventured to make a wager with the governor. If he was right, a new enumeration would be ordered. If he was wrong, he would make proper amends for his false charge. It was agreed, and Mr. Stewart found the schedule for the district of Richmond in which the home of the governor was located. (This was at a former decennial census period.) Mr. Stewart handed the governor the

returns, in their original filing case unopened, and told him to open and examine it. Within a few minutes, he smilingly gave up the wager, stating he found the returns as given in by his (the governor's) wife to the enumerator—and they were absolutely correct, excepting for one line. The governor's wife had not given her correct age!

But Mr. Stewart was not disposed to be unduly critical of the lady's (or any other lady's) weakness in this respect—for he himself is arriving at the time when he would rather give his own age to a census enumerator, who is under a solemn oath of secrecy, than to sound it from the houseposts.

Censuses of manufactures were taken in this country in 1810 and 1820; and statistics of agriculture, manufacture and mining have been collected in every decennial census since and including that of 1840. A census of manufactures is now taken every two years, and of agriculture every five years.

And now, in 1930, for the first time, we are to have a "census of distribution," which will be, in brief, a gathering of statistics in regard to wholesale and retail trade. It will show all wholesale and retail stores of various types and other distributing agencies—from the great chain systems and gigantic wholesale establishments down to the roadside filling station and eating place. Sales, number employed, wage rolls, everything. And in groups, as much as possible. Thus we will know, for the first time, the whole story of distribution. It is calculated to help every man in every line of merchandising, and to help all consumers, by cheapening the agencies of distribution.

The census of distribution and manufactures will start at once—is starting now. It will be taken by a special set of enumerators; not nearly so many as the population and farm enumerators, who will get to work April 1.

This is in the present law. The census of distribution and manufactures must be taken this year. The questions will have to be answered—everything, and in groups, the oath of secrecy for the general good of business, and for no other purpose.

It was at first intended to have the distribution and manufactures census supervised by special men from Washington in all but the rural districts and small towns. It has been decided to send these men only to such big cities as Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland and Seattle. The regular supervisors will have charge in all other cities, large and small. But with a special set of enumerators.

The law gives preference to service men and widows of disabled war veterans. But these must qualify as to competence, under the direction of the supervisors.

A sample of the true "Seattle spirit" was shown on Tuesday afternoon, when the visiting Washington officials and supervisors were taken over the city by leading men with spirit. In many other ways, this spirit was exhibited by the people of the Puget sound metropolis.

We hear a good deal about the California spirit; or that of Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, etc., but not one of these has anything on the Seattle spirit.

It is expected that the coming census in continental United States will show about 123,000,000 population; that it will reveal that we have about six and a half millions of farms. And it will show a amazing number of manufacturers and distributors; many more of the latter than has been generally estimated.

Monotony Lowers the Morale

Change of Scene, Exercise and Sunshine Effective in Chasing Away the "Blues"

By R. S. COPELAND, M. D.
U. S. Senator from New York.
Former Commissioner of Health, New York City.

WHAT is this thing we call monotony? Many a person has gone to his doctor expecting to be told that something serious is gnawing at his vitals. To his great joy the doctor has given the news that nothing serious is the matter, but that he is merely a sufferer from "depression."

Well, that is comforting, and yet, after all, everything is not as it should be. Depression is a condition which, if left to grow, may end in some really serious disturbance.

Young and old may be afflicted with this debilitated state of health. It may follow some illness or injury. One may have depression from long continued worry, or grief, or fear, or from any disturbance, physical or mental. It is strange how one may lack strength at such a time. You haven't much interest in what is going on, you are quite indifferent whether you eat, sleep or move! Perhaps you do not sleep well, you feel irritable, and you just feel as though you aren't of any use to anybody!

Have you been too much engrossed in your business? Or perhaps you have allowed your household cares or other duties to keep you indoors too much. Staying up late nights, "burning the candle at both ends," as the saying goes, will eventually wear down your nerves so that you just cannot feel normal.

We all know there is always a cause for everything. If the cause is a mental one, then religion, or some philosophy in life, is a good thing. Perhaps we never needed religion in the world more than we do today.

"Do not talk defeat to yourself." It was Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick who said that words "debilitate personality." I think he is right.

The world is filled with all sorts of curious and beautiful things, a walk through a forest will show you this. An interest in the things and people around us is good for us. We ought to enjoy the out-of-doors more, take every opportunity to get out into the fresh air. If we live in the city, at least part of the week-end, could be spent out in the country. The country is beautiful in the winter time as well as in the summer. Likewise, a few days in the city will wipe out many an attack of the "blues."

We all need relaxation and change of scene, occasionally. It means health to us. For persons who are run down for any reason, being out in the sun and air is an essential factor in getting well.

Probably one of the greatest factors in getting away from the everyday grind has been the automobile. It is a good thing for us to be able to see new sights and sounds. But do not overlook the fact that you need daily exercise and a general building up of your body before you can be in a condition of health to not grow to some more serious trouble.

CAR MAGNATE DIES

KENOSHA, WIS., Feb. 6. — (AP)—Walter H. Alford, 52, vice president and controller of the Nash Motors company died of a heart attack at his home here today. He came here 15 years ago from Michigan when the Jeffery Motor company was taken over by C. W. Nash.

SENATOR KING MAY EXPLAIN FINANCES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5.—(AP)—Senator King, democrat, Utah, may appear before the senate lobby committee to explain two contributions of \$1,000 each which Herman A. Metz, New York dye importer, said he made to the senator's campaign fund in 1922 and 1923.

Reporting today to the senate on the lobby committee's investigation of New York importers, Senator Robinson, republican, Indiana, said he had been informed that King might wish to appear to testify concerning the contributions.

The Utah senator is a member of the senate finance committee which handles tariff legislation. He has told newspapermen Metz sent him a check for \$1,000 in 1922 but that it was not used and was destroyed, and said he had never heard of a contribution by Metz in 1923.

Appearing before the committee, Metz said the 1922 contribution was given to Samuel Russell, former secretary of Senator King, and the 1923 check had been sent to King and had not been used.

Russell testified he had sent the 1922 contribution to Samuel A. King, brother of the senator and his campaign manager in Salt Lake City.

Senator King is now in a Baltimore hospital receiving treatment for a stomach disorder and could not be reached for a statement.

Chairman Cawaway of the lobby committee said King had requested to see the testimony when he returns to Washington and that he might possibly wish to appear if there were any testimony he thought should be explained.

Robinson said the committee's report on its investigation into dye importers had been completed but that it would be held up pending the recovery of Senator King. The report consisted principally of a summary of testimony given by the witnesses to the committee.

In a brief statement to the senate, Robinson said the National Council of American Importers and Traders, Inc., had "practiced every method of lobbying known" in advocating foreign valuation bill.

"I have no doubt," he added, "that this organization was formed originally in order to bring to bear influence in tariff matters."

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In choosing Major General Herbert B. Crosby for appointment as district commissioner in charge of the police and fire departments, the chief executive said it would be a guarantee "to the nation at large that the capital of the nation shall be free of organized crime."

The new commissioner will take office next month after his retirement from the army.

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Lieutenant Norman S. Ives, commanding the S-4 and P. E. Grieshaber, supervising construction of the bell, came up from the submarine and were taken aboard the Falcon in the second test to-day, which were characterized as "successful and gratifying" by naval officers attached to the expedition.

The submarine S-4 submerged to the floor of the gulf and released a buoy which came to the surface on the first test. The buoy was taken aboard the Falcon and attached to the bell which was hauled down to the motor hatch of the submerged craft. The submarine personnel opened the hatch, entered the bell and then returned to the submarine. The bell was allowed to rise to the surface under its own buoyancy without occupants to complete the first maneuver.

Procedure was the same in the second test, except that Lieut. Ives and Mr. Grieshaber remained in the bell and returned to the surface with it and were taken on board the Falcon.

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DIVING BELL USED TO RESCUE SAILORS

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