

The Oregon Statesman

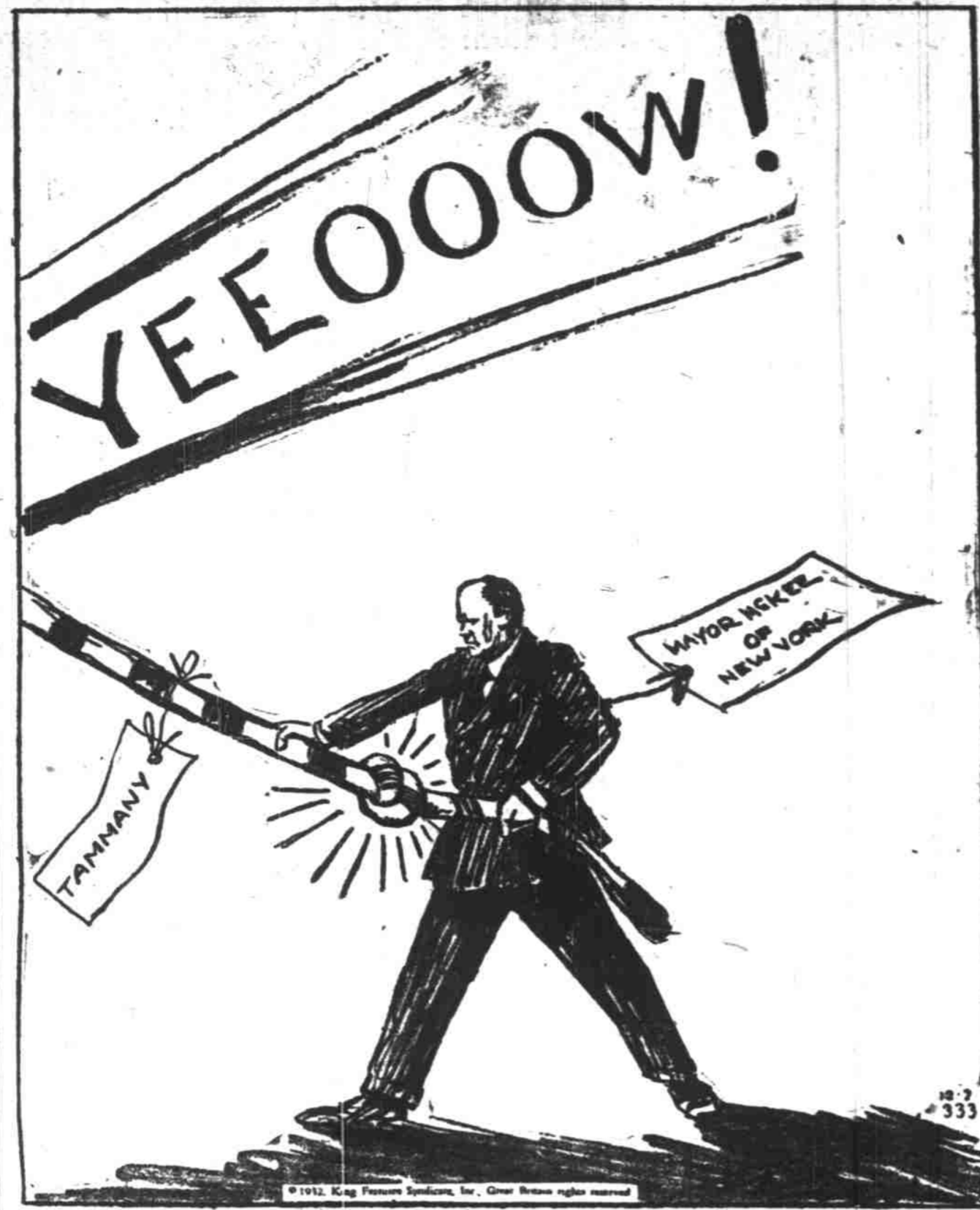
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Big City Blues



"THE BLACK SWAN" By Rafael Sabatini

SYNOPSIS In 1698, following the death of Sir John Harradine, Captain-General of the Levant Isles, his beautiful daughter, Priscilla, leaves for England aboard the "Centaur," accompanied by the pompous, middle-aged Major Sanda, her father's aide, who seeks Priscilla's hand and fortune. The Major resents Priscilla's interest in his fellow-passenger, Charles de Bernis, a Frenchman, and wishes to marry her. De Bernis, who has been in command at Guadaloupe, but Captain Bransome refuses to go to that pirate-infested port and offers to drop him at Sainte Croix instead. Learning that the handsome Frenchman once sailed with Henry Morgan, the notorious buccancer, new Governor of Jamaica. Major Sanda calls De Bernis a pirate, adding that Morgan and his cut-throats were just bloodthirsty, thieving scoundrels. Morgan, however, had given up preying on ships to enter his King's employ and rid the sea of pirates. In spite of Morgan's endeavors, a few still eluded him and the authorities suggested he might be playing a double game and receiving tribute from these still at large. Morgan has offered a large reward for the capture of Tom Leach, a brutal, remorseless second-rate, who sails the Caribbean in a powerful ship, "The Black Swan." "The Black Swan" crew crosses the "Centaur's" path. Ignoring the advice of De Bernis that they continue their course with the hope of outdoling the pirate ship, the captain orders his men to board the "Black Swan." The Frenchman overtakes the "Centaur." In despair, Capt. Bransome turns to De Bernis, who says they must fight. The Frenchman takes charge of the guns. Their only chance lay in putting up the "Centaur's" helm and trusting to a lucky shot crippling "The Black Swan." But Bransome disregards De Bernis' suggestion reminding him that he, Bransome, is in command.

The Death Dance SOME politicians are exhibiting almost fiendish glee over forcing Great Britain to pay up her debts to this country. With the pound sterling slipping to fresh lows almost daily, which further paralyzes international trade, these "little Americans" do a death dance over Great Britain. Yet there is probably no country in the world with a better record for meeting its obligations than Great Britain. It was the first to fund its debt and did so on a very generous basis compared with the settlements we allowed other lands. For years her industries have been almost prostrate, but old John Bull has kept his chin up; and British bull-dog tenacity has kept that country fighting to maintain its national credit. Even now, though it cuts to where it bleeds, Britain will not default.

We will get our money, but we will also lose our trade. If we were merely forcing a final settlement of an old issue, it might be all right to extract from our debtors every penny that is due. But there are other days coming. American cotton-growers want to ship cotton to England's mills. American wheat-growers want to ship wheat to feed England's tolling millions. American farmers want to ship pork to a market which for years absorbed our surplus production. England was always our best customer. We can now force England to pay; and then we can step in our own surpluses of cotton and wheat and corn. And we can proceed to tax our consumers and give subsidies to our farmers, when an intelligent foreign policy would give giant strides toward normal recovery.

President Hoover is in a hard situation. He knows the facts, as do most men of affairs in Washington and New York. He urges the appointment of a new commission to make a fresh study of the individual cases. But the chauvinistic politicians clamor for the pound of flesh, little realizing that they are crippling the machinery of foreign trade. It is said, let them save out of expenditures for armaments. That is not the problem, which is one of transfer from one currency to another. France can make her payments in gold all right; but few of the other nations can without impairing their position.

Our attitude is not one of particular concern for foreigners; but of prime interest in maintaining and improving present day trade. We repeat: England is worth more to the United States as a good, solvent customer than as a busted debtor. Congress should follow the Hoover suggestion and create a new debt commission. Instead of forcing the countries into defaults we should make an effort to recognize the realities of the situation and to rebuild international economy on a sound, gold standard basis. Then many of our domestic problems: taxes, prices, debts, may be put on a road to solution.

Threat of Veto

ANNOUNCEMENT is made that President Hoover will veto any beer modification bill that comes to him during the short session. His position is sound, that what is proposed is mere nullification of the constitution. He has previously expressed his approval of submission of a new amendment modifying the present prohibition provision. That is the proper, constitutional course. In the rush of wets for liquor they would ignore the fundamental law, depending on majority sentiment as expressed at the polls to justify overriding of the constitution. It is not a matter of merely increasing the alcoholic content and still keep it non-intoxicating. What the wets want is booze that will intoxicate; and they are willing to override the constitution to get it.

The proper, orderly procedure is first to amend or repeal the 18th amendment. If the sentiment of the country has changed as radically as the last election indicated, the delay of ratification of a new amendment would not be great. We have always favored repeal rather than nullification whether by action of congress or law-breaking by the citizens. The same steps must be taken in Oregon. If the people want booze, repeal the prohibition section of the state constitution. In the present befuddlement there is no clear voice as to what the people do want, except something different from what they have.

J. P. Morgan got angry when news photographers tried to snap his picture on his return from a trip to England. J. P. it seems, is a sphinx, refusing to give out interviews and never allowing his picture to be taken and printed in the horrid newspapers. It used to be that kings could get away with that stuff, hedging themselves about with an assumed divinity; and after the kings, the captains of industry and finance. One thing the depression has done, it has stripped the halo from around the heads of the reputed "great" in the business world. What a big banker says nowadays isn't worth a reporter's risking a leg for. The big fellows are mere guessers, with as much capacity for guessing wrong as the little fellows.

Here is one "success" story, and a farmer too. This man, a poultryman, netted \$1.50 per hen during the year ending September last, which covered the period of very low prices for eggs. He has a flock of 1500 hens. He lives in Idaho; but there are probably a good many Oregon poultrymen who can report profits instead of losses even this year. The hen may still qualify as a mortgage-lifter.

The Corvallis G-T thinks its the sunshine that brings football victories to California. Other commentators credit them to another asset for which California has been famous since '49.

A few more weeks, thinks Pres. Hoover and he can let Franklin Roosevelt act as head of the reception committee for hunger marchers, job hunters, and pensioners.

Chinese in San Francisco are breaking out in a new tong fight. When the Chinese fight they go at it "hammer and tongs".

Yesterdays BITS for BREAKFAST

By R. J. HENDRICKS

First Congregational church; More on the 80th anniversary: "Our home was then on the farm (on the Garden road and the Gilbert house still standing, and going to church was great fun, for it meant a horseback ride behind my father, with my sister riding in front, while my mother rode another horse carrying the baby Frank and our lunch. . . After sister Mary came a two seated carriage succeeded the faithful animals, "Prince" and "Kate," but we children never thought it nearly as nice as going to church and Sunday school on horseback.

Salem and Portland had their first snow flurries of the season yesterday, but the ground was not whitened. Rising costs of grain and hay are reflected in increased prices of milk of 1 cent a quart here. Effective today quarts will retail at 13 cents, pints at 8 cents and gallons at 40 cents. As a result of the 3-to-3 tie in the football game between University of Washington and University of Oregon yesterday, the Pacific Northwest conference season ended without a definite champion. Oregon and Washington are tied for first place, while Whitman college stands third. Willamette landed in the cellar with two games lost and none won.

Daily Health Talks

By ROYAL S. COPELAND, M. D.

Do not force a child to learn to speak at an early age. Encourage talking, but do not scold or show impatience if the child does not talk. Forced training at this age may cause mental over-stimulation and be the forerunner of nervousness. Every child should be examined at periodic intervals and all physical defects noted. Bad hearing and other abnormalities interfering with speech require treatment, and possibly special methods of training. These should be used, however, only in later childhood, the particular methods depending entirely upon the nature of the defect. Often it is impossible to determine the defect until the child is five or six years of age. You will feel better if you talk with your doctor about the matter.

Editorial Comment

From Other Papers

IF WE KEEP ON RETRENCHING Retrench is the order of the day. Everybody is doing it. Industrial engineers have been laying off men and cutting wages these past three years. State, county and city governments have been and will prune their budgets to the core, reducing wages and laying off every employ who can be spared. Every individual, faced with a smaller income has been cutting expenses, buying less of everything. In the face of this do we wonder why times are hard? Every retrenchment forces another retrenchment. The Democrat-Herald was one of the few to sound this warning when the railroads started the process shortly after the stock crash of 1929, pointing out that it was a vicious circle which once started kept going with increasingly disastrous effects. The circle is not completed, much less thrown into reverse. In fact the federal government now expects to join by slashing half a billion or more off its budget after holding out against the trend for three years.

New Views

Yesterday Statesman reporters asked: "Which do you enjoy most: football or basketball? Why?" The answers: Stanley Simpkins, Parrish junior high school: "Basketball. Why? It's a faster game." Francis Fuller, attorney: "That's a hard question to answer. I like both. Now if one is baseball, I could draw the line. I don't like it."

Daily Thought

"Leisure, itself the creation of wealth, is incessantly engaged in transmitting wealth into beauty by secreting the surplus energy which flows in great architecture, great painting and great literature. Only in the atmosphere thus engendered floats that impalpable dust of ideas which is the real culture. A colony of ants or bees will never create a Parthenon."—Edith Wharton. BLANKENSHIP PASSES SUVER, Nov. 29.—Mr. Blankenship died November 29. He had been ill for some time, and was brought here a few weeks ago to stay with his sister, Mrs. Arthur Steele. Interment will be made at the Independence cemetery Thursday afternoon.