

The Oregon Statesman

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

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Novelty vs. Stability

AS long ago as Solomon's time the philosopher found there was nothing new under the sun. Alas, the coiner of proverbs did not live in the fast moving 20th century when change was the mainspring of human action. Until the world slipped over the precipice some three years ago the tempo was constantly being accelerated. New models, new designs, new ideas were tumbling out of brains and mills so fast that people grew exhausted trying to keep up with the latest things in dress, automobiles and perfumery.

Novelty indeed has its place. It prevents a culture from growing stationary. It keeps blood flowing instead of congealing. But novelty pushed to extreme is devastating in its effects on the mind. Life then becomes a process merely of tasting and discarding. The craze for novelty has been costly indeed in the world of business. When sales of an automobile line commenced to slacken a bit, the manufacturer decided to bring out a new model. Perhaps he merely altered the paint or the cut of louvers on the hood, or added a new gadget. But it was a "new" model which forthwith made others of the make antiquated though they had as much service in them as the newer ones.

In the field of apparel change has been extremely costly. The merchant for a decade has gone through a nightmare of trying to guess the fickle fancy of the buying public. The designers contrived some new style in footwear. The manufacturer and retailer invested heavily in the new pattern, only to find it did not take; and nothing is such a dead loss as something out of style. Or a line did find sudden favor, but before the merchant could unload his stock the winds of fancy blew in another direction. The same difficulty applied to dresses: long skirts, short skirts, colors, fabrics, — everything a question mark, playing havoc with the whole business organization from the producer of raw material to the retailer.

Variety may be the spice of life; but one cannot well live on cloves and cinnamon. He needs strength-giving foods as well as condiments. So there is need for stability along with change. The mood of the public should change from the flutter for something different in glassware and in shoes, with each change of the moon, to more conservative temper. There should be less craze for novelty and more regard for stability. We have worn thin our ideas for things new whether in movie plots, advertisements, or colors for dress goods. At the same time our appetite for change is a bit jaded. So it is that now things which are more substantial and more wholesome are having greater popularity. Change of course is one of the laws of life; but there is no need to keep the mind in a continuous whirl.

Decide the World Court Question

IT will be ten years next February since the senate had first submitted to it the question of our adherence to the world court. In January seven years will have passed since the senate laid down the conditions under which this country would agree to come within the jurisdiction of the court. These conditions generally have been approved, but for three years the treaties involving ratification have been gathering dust while the senate gave its attention to other matters.

Why not bring the question up for final decision at this short session of congress? Few other legislative matters are going to be considered. This question has been before the country a long time; and a decision should be made without further delay.

The United States should affiliate with the world court. It is more than an empty gesture. It is an initial step in the direction of world peace. It is founded not on the principle of force either military or economic, as is the league of nations. It is not founded on the idea of arbitration which often amounts merely to compromise. The world court is erected to administer justice between nations, depending on the potent influence of public opinion throughout the world to give validity and weight to its decisions.

Senator Borah, chairman of the foreign affairs committee, is the individual who is holding up the treaties and refusing to bring them out for consideration of the senate. Such a procedure is unfair. The treaties should be brought out, debated, and passed on. This government should come to a final decision on the world court issue without further delay.

The congressional record has started coming again. No improvement is noted in its make-up. Now to make it the best read publication over the USA a new managing editor should be engaged. Besides the dry reports of congressional debates, there might well be added a society column, telling just who Mrs. Congressman Zoozybug had at her party and why; a column or two of keynote stuff which the hangers-on of the press gallery could write in off hours; latest quotations on legation sherry and Virginia corn whiskey; reports of the night's sessions at the Board's Head; and a dictaphone record of what goes on in cabinet meetings. Since the country seems hungry for the "low-down" and the "inside", why not supply it at government expense, via the congressional record?

President Hoover has not decided just what he will do when he retires from office, but there is one thing he will not do, that is write for the magazines. That has been a favorite, and profitable diversion for our ex-presidents. Rarely though have they had anything much to say, since T. R. at least. About all an ex-president can write are bromidic homilies about politics and morals. We should be grateful to Hoover for sparing us that. Incidentally we hope Roosevelt can find enough to do without writing for "Liberty" and "Cosmopolitan". Not that they bother us, we never read them anyway; but if a president has anything worth saying the press will report it without charge (also without pay to the writer).

The cold weather has its compensations. There is the view of the mountains for example. The last few days the snow peaks have been visible all along the range: St. Helens, Adams, Hood, Jefferson, and from points farther south the Sisters. Hood and Jefferson have been grand in their moulth of fresh snow. The lower ridges show traces of snow too, though the snowfall has been unusually light this fall.

The claims for balancing the budget with beer are turning out to be pretty much froth.

"I think they ought to pay us the six billions in gold!"



HEALTH BITS for BREAKFAST

By Royal S. Copeland, M.D.

"TRICHINOSIS" is a big word applied to a disease which fortunately for us is rare in this country. Yet it is more prevalent than is commonly believed. Because the treatment of this disease is unsatisfactory, every precaution should be taken to prevent its occurrence. It enters the body when contaminated meat is consumed. The parasite, given the name "trichinella spiralis", is found in certain animals, notably the pig. It is transmitted to man, chiefly through the eating of contaminated pork.

The effects of the poisoning speedily occur. Within from three days to three weeks after eating the infected meat, the afflicted person has nausea, vomiting, intestinal cramps, and diarrhea or constipation. Sometimes the condition is mistaken for typhoid fever. In a severe case bronchial and lung complication may take place.

Rheumatism May Follow Recovery occurs within ten days or may be postponed for ten weeks or more. In some cases a severe form of arthritis or rheumatism may follow the attack and persist for many years. Federal laws require rigid inspection of all meats. But as yet, no dependable method of inspection has been devised which makes certain the detection of the parasite in pork. For this reason all persons should be warned to be careful of pork or dishes containing pork unless properly cooked.

Trichinosis is apt to be found in a family or number of families, the members of which have attended some festive where infected and uncooked pork has been served. Though all may have partaken of the diseased meat, many escape infection. Not all persons who eat contaminated meat will contract the disease.

Pork Must Be Well Cooked When a limited number of the parasites are swallowed no noticeable complaint results. In severe infections it has been estimated that an overwhelming number have been swallowed. The more infected meat eaten will of course carry more of the parasites.

Trichinosis is prevalent only where there has been negligence in the cooking or curing of raw meat. Local outbreaks of this disease occur frequently where the practice of eating raw or uncooked pork is indulged. Many are under the impression that if pork is properly preserved on ice it is a safe food. This is not true. The parasites are quickly destroyed by heat, but not by the cold of refrigeration. The only safe rule to follow is to cook pork well before eating it.

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"THE BLACK SWAN" By Rafael Sabatini

It is the year 1698. The "Centaur" sailing from the West Indies for England is captured by the cut-throat Tom Leach, who, on board his vessel, "The Black Swan," has long terrorized ships on the Spanish Main. Passengers aboard the "Centaur" are Priscilla Harradine, daughter of the late Sir John Harradine, Captain-General of the Leeward Isles; Major Sande, Sir John's distinguished assistant, who hopes to marry Priscilla; and Monsieur Charles de Bernis, gallant, young Frenchman. De Bernis was a lieutenant of the notorious buccaneer, Henry Morgan, who reformed to enter the service of his King and rid the seas of pirates. Morgan has offered a reward for the capture of Leach. After seizing the "Centaur," Leach murders the captain and crew. The passengers are spared a like fate through De Bernis' wit. He introduces Priscilla as his wife and the Major as his brother-in-law. He then tells the pirate chief a convincing story about his leaving Morgan to search for Leach and enlist his aid in capturing a Spanish plate fleet worth a king's ransom. It is agreed that De Bernis is to take command of the "Centaur" and lead Leach in "The Black Swan" to the treasure. Major Sande, who dislikes De Bernis because of Priscilla's interest in the Frenchman, believes the Frenchman to be in league with Leach. De Bernis assures Priscilla and the skeptical Major that they are in no immediate danger. Pierre, De Bernis' servant, warns his master that Leach intends to double-cross him and not give him his share of the loot. De Bernis tells Leach that "The Black Swan" is too slow and needs careening, adding that if he were in command of the "Centaur" at the time of its capture, he would have outtailed and probably sunk "The Black Swan." Leach retorts, "Outsailing me is one thing; sinking me, another."

CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO "A ship that can be outtailed may be sunk if the other is skillfully and resolutely handled. In a seafight mobility is all. To swing into position swiftly, to loose a broadside, and to be off again, with masts in line, showing the narrowest mark to your opponent, that is the whole art of sea-fighting. And this the Centaur could have done, and would have done, had I been in her master's place. I'd have turned and twisted about you like a panther about an elephant, taking my chance to strike before ever your barnacle keel would answer the helm to ward the blow." Leach shrugged contemptuously. "Maybe ye would, and maybe ye wouldn't. But whether ye would or whether ye wouldn't, what's this to do with our destination?" "Aye," said the fery-faced Ellis. "Beats her something besides a boatload from you." "Ye'll hear something very unkind from me, unless you practice civility yourself!" he was coldly answered. Leach smote the table with his fist. He roared, "Is it just to be talked and talk until we fall to quarrelling, or are we to come to business? I ask thee again, Charley, what's all this to do with our destination?" "Everything. What I've been saying is meant to show you that you are in no case to go into serious action; and ye're not to make the mistake of underrating the ships or the men of the plate fleet. They will be stout, well-found, well-manned frigates. The two ships we possess will readily account for them if properly handled. But you must first put yourself in case to handle them properly. The stake we play for is too heavy to admit of risks."

Yesterdays ... Of Old Salem Town Talks from The Statesman of Earlier Days December 13, 1907 The reported discharge of employees throughout the country since the panic began foot up about 179,000, according to the New York Journal of Commerce, while the unreported cases are considered numerous enough to send the total above 200,000.

New Views Yesterday Statesman reporters asked, "Do you get tired of hearing about the depression? Why or why not?" The answers: Carl Smith, wood Sawyer: "I think everyone is tired of hearing of depression. But you can't blame people from talking about it and you can't get away from it by not talking about it."

Daily Thought "The chief difference between a wise man and an ignorant one is, not that the first is acquainted with regions invisible to the second, away from common sight and interest, but that he understands the common things which the second only sees." — Starr King.

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