

Capital Journal

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"With or without offense to friends or foes I sketch your world exactly as it goes."—Byron

Flaming Youth

Dr. Eugenie Leonard of Columbia university lists as the result of a questionnaire answered by 203 first year girls at Syracuse university, the following major points on "what every girl should know on entering college."

That she be disillusioned about life. How to drink, dance, smoke and neck and "what it is like." How to act with drunken men.

One might think the co-eds were spoofing, were it not for the many scandals featuring flaming youth nowadays. Indeed from recent developments, our high schools apparently provide the required knowledge. It almost seems as if the girls should have this knowledge before entering high school—let alone college.

The doors of the state prison elanged the other day on a number of youths from Klamath Falls, while eight high school girls were taken into custody by the juvenile court as result of the discovery of a vice and booze ring among students. Similar rings were disclosed in California and Colorado, resulting in wholesale arrests and detentions. And our own high school youths staged a wild bacchanalian orgy during the holidays—the most revolting in Salem's history.

The Capital Journal has been taken to task for not printing the story of this prolonged debauch. For several reasons it could not. No complaints have been filed or arrests made. The sordid details were unfit to print and would have barred the paper from the mails. And we have no desire to place the brand of infamy on thoughtless or even shameless youth, who under the influence of liquor knew not what they did. Neither the police who checked the saturnalia, nor the school officials, nor the parents have taken official action. The participants, back in school seem to be regarded as heroes and heroines.

One does not know where to place the blame. But when such wild "parties" are tolerated, and thereby encouraged, it is evident that parents, churches and schools are failing their main task, the inculcating in boys and girls, the morality, chivalry, courtesy and decency that was instinctive in previous generations of the well bred. It may be a symptom of the degeneracy of the times, but it makes one dread a future dominated by such decadence.

There can be no question but that prohibition and the conditions it has brought about are largely responsible for the present demoralization of the young. In the effort to safeguard the old soak, it has fostered depravity in youth. Before the reign of St. Volstead, such performances were unknown or unthinkable. School boys did not tote flasks, necking was not tolerated, sex barriers were not broken down. To the dry laws with their futile inhibitions, which always react adversely, must be added the movies with their exploitation of sex and crime and the auto making assignment easy. These combined with the laxity of parents and the lack of discipline at home and at school are perhaps the contributing causes to the delinquency of youth.

Recent Social Trends

The report of eminent scientists appointed by President Hoover to study recent social trends in the United States furnishes food for the thoughtful as it assesses in detail the direction of a culture. It has been summarized, condensed from lengthier reports, in two volumes aggregating 1,568 pages, published by McGraw-Hill Co. The research covers every phase of our national life, and is invaluable for a planned society—if we ever get that far.

The chapter on population shows that growth of population is slowly going down, with the chances that the peak will be reached of 146,000,000 in 1965. Growth has been smallest in agricultural regions, though the depression has accentuated it as unemployment has caused a drift from the cities back to the country, with the "danger of developing a large peasant population which will permit self-sustaining farming on a low standard of living."

It is found that the consumption of minerals in the 20 years ending in 1929 was greater by far than in the entire 300 years since the landing of Captain John Smith in 1607. While population increased 62 percent in these 20 years, mineral production increased 286 percent, power equipment, excluding autos, 536 percent, including autos 2510 percent, which was the main factor in the large increase of output per worker.

Mineral resources are limited, and may eventually face exhaustion, but the cost of extraction is increasing, and our mining industries are showing signs of advancing age and increased cost, as those of Britain have. Yet nearly all are suffering from over expansion and excess capacity, while machinery is replacing workers.

Inventions are increasing at an accelerated pace, and are a major force of social change, many of their influences are indirect and diffused. Social adjustment lags behind mechanical advance. "The problem of the better adaptation of society to its large and changing material culture and the problem of lessening the delay in adjustment are cardinal problems for social science."

In concluding, Professor Charles E. Merriam, editor in chief says:

"The heavy pressure of powerful social, economic and technical forces threatens to crush the shell of a government which becomes more and more important in the social and economic situation. . . . Only a strong government can either act intelligently in . . . crises or refrain from action. A weak government can do neither. . . ."

"The industrial order is on trial as well as the political. . . . If business is closer to technical mechanical efficiency, it is farther from the sense of social responsibility equally important to mankind. Industry as well as government suffers from disorganization and lack of direction, from conspicuous waste and profitable fraud.

How shall we blend the skills of government, industrial and financial management, agriculture, labor and science in a new synthesis of authority, uniting power and responsibility with a vivid appeal to the vital interests of our day, able to deal effectively with the revolutionary developments of our social, economic and scientific life, yet without stifling liberty, justice and progress?"

BULLDOGS LOSE

Woodburn—The local high school basketball team divided two games with West Linn high here Friday night. The Woodburn B squad defeated the visitors 21 to 10, but the Bulldogs were beaten by West Linn, 22 to 16. Woodburn failed to score during the first period while West Linn was checking in 9 points.

PACIFIC BEATEN

Walla Walla, Wash, Jan. 21 (AP)—Whittman's basketball quintet came from behind last night to defeat Pacific university, 42 to 33. Pacific led at the half, 23 to 12. Led by Nelson, husky center, and Clark, freshman forward, the Missionaries led the basket and soon overcame the visitors' lead.

Bank Holidays And Foreclosure Moratoriums

By W. A. DELZELL

We have grown somewhat accustomed to bank holidays but we are not so familiar with the idea of mortgage foreclosure moratoriums. The principle involved is the same. In these disastrous times a bank may find itself unable to meet the demands of frightened depositors.

A moratorium mortgage foreclosure is the same principle applied to ordinary debtors and their creditors. Mortgage creditors, like depositors become panicky in times of distress and demand payment of the debt. The debtor is like the bank, he cannot meet the payment. It would seem to be in the interests of both for a moratorium, to be declared. Certainly the law of contracts is no more violated in one case than in the other. A run on a bank destroys valuable assets which would otherwise be available to meet the regular demands of depositors in the orderly course of business. So indiscriminate foreclosures destroy valuable assets of the debtors—which if left intact until normal times are restored, would not only pay the debt in full but leave the debtor solvent and a valuable taxpayer instead of a bankrupt and possibly a mendicant.

Our mortgage foreclosure laws were all framed in the interest of the creditor. When a borrower promises to pay a certain sum of money at a given time such a writing is called a note. It is a contract. If he pledges property to secure such payment that writing is called a mortgage. The word means literally, death grip.

In times like the present with all property shrunken in value the debtor finds himself unable to repay the loan or make the payments as agreed upon. If the lender chooses, he may call upon the court to sell the pledged property. This is what is meant by foreclosure. While the property was worth double or triple the debt when the loan was made, today under the sheriff's hammer it sells most frequently for less than the face of the debt. The court may then grant a deficiency judgment for the difference and the poor debtor not only loses the property mortgaged but also loses any other property he may own.

Mortgage foreclosures at present are simply legalized confiscations. Wolves pulling down sheep caught in a snow drift is a mild comparison. The debtor is as helpless as the sheep. Look over the list of foreclosures in Marion county for the past 12 months, and doubtless Marion has a better record than most counties. There was an average of one foreclosure every two days and in nearly every instance the property sold for less than the total debt. The lender confiscated the debtor's property and the debtor was evicted. The same conditions obtain in every one of Oregon's 36 counties. There can be but one end to such a merciless program of confiscation and eviction. Read your history and you will find that every revolution was preceded by such programs of confiscation and evictions. England tried that program on Ireland and Ireland tried it and brought on the revolution—and lost their own heads on the guillotines. Within our own memory we have seen what happened in Russia. The oppressors reaped what they had sown. Unrepealed such a policy can be found for such confiscatory foreclosures in Oregon we too, will soon be reaping what we have sown and it won't be a pleasant crop to harvest.

Already hundreds of ranches have passed into the hands of eastern invasion companies. It is only a question of a short time until vast areas of Oregon will be owned by non-residents—lands taken under foreclosure. In our commendable desire to reduce property taxes we are playing into their hands for they will be paying no taxes at all and the dispossessed ones here will carry the load in some other form of taxes. We are rapidly approaching a feudal system—a system of absentee landlords and tenant farmers. Do you like the picture? Isn't it time to ask where we are heading? If bank holidays are good for harassed banks why not a moratorium for harassed debtors?

The joint committee already has scrutinized all refunds above \$75,000. It has never rejected a single recommendation for a refund. For that reason and others the rebate given Treasury Secretary Mills did not rest on good foundation. Mills received the abatement for state inheritance taxes paid in New York. The government makes you pay for your state tax and then gives you a statement deduction for it. There was no reason for arguing much about it. The McKellar plan would have entailed too much work for the joint congressional tax committee. It would have to work night and day for months to scrutinize all tax refunds above \$5000.

The reason that McKellar tax refund amendment went into the deficiency appropriation bill so easily was that the house promised to pay it out later. Private assurances were given to senate leaders and prospective house conferees to that effect. Therefore there was no reason for arguing much about it. The McKellar plan would have entailed too much work for the joint congressional tax committee. It would have to work night and day for months to scrutinize all tax refunds above \$5000.

Our relations with Mussolini are just fine, thank you. The Duce was the first to accept the Hoover moratorium. He was the only one who made the December 15 debt payment without a squawk. "There are a few good reasons for that. Mussolini has his eye on France and is encouraging friendship with us."

The reason the Harrison economic investigation is being held back is that the boys do not plan any legislative action until the special session.

Hearings will be begun in the finance committee in two or three weeks. Passage of the bankruptcy bill will not interfere with plans to explore inflationary proposals there. That is why the wild inflation boys are setting up such a howl now. They realize that when and if it comes it will not be in the form of a free currency issue as they want. Also they can see it is being postponed and they are suspicious. No matter how loud they howl it will do no good.

The state department shrugged its shoulders when its representatives Day and Williams announced in Geneva that unless our war debt problem was settled it would be a legitimate subject for the world economic conference. Everyone here knew that months ago but officials have always been denying it.

Now that they have run out of denials and an announcement is made by their plenipotentiaries the situation may be clarified. Recent agreements made on the St. Lawrence treaty do not mean anything. It will not be ratified at this session of congress. After March 4 it all depends on how Mr. Roosevelt feels about it.

TWO GOOD GAMES SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY EVE

Two first class ball games, either one of which is expected to be worth the price of admission will be played on Saturday evening at the Willamette university gymnasium. The opening tilt, featuring Coach Lever's Linfield college varsity squad and Parker's quint of Salem, will get underway at 7:15. It will be followed by a clash between the Irish from Columbia university and the Willamette Bears.

The appearance of Linfield was made possible because the Badgers cancelled a trip north due to unfavorable travel conditions.

Coach Keene's basketballs met defeat at Portland Friday night when Columbia outscored them 41 to 35. Columbia was ahead 24 to 19 at the half way point. Willamette tied it up and then went out in front but was unable to check a rally staged by the Irish.

Bud Riecke scored 13 points for Willamette, while Lemmon checked in 8. Kaiser and Francis who did not make the trip to Portland will doubtless be returned to the lineup against Columbia tonight.

The National Whirligig

News Behind the News

By Paul Mallon

Washington—Mr. Roosevelt has begun to assert some leadership here—but it is all under cover. He is sending his college professors and close associates down to direct the handling of specific legislation. Prof. Berle of Columbia is handling the bankruptcy bill. Prof. Rex Tugwell from the same place handled the allotment farm bill Young Henry Morgenthau is handling the farm mortgage legislation. All their activities are confined to private conferences with congressmen. They furnish the ideas and the congressmen get the publicity.

Mr. Roosevelt is thereby kept out of the public picture. The result of this new kind of leading is Mr. Roosevelt does not assume open responsibility for what is done. He does not have to take a position as he would if he issued public statements or sent messages to congress that enables him to back and fill to suit and take without public embarrassment.

He is not officially committed to do any of the things his college professors are doing for him.

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It was largely a bookkeeping matter done as clumsily as the government usually does such things.

The new Italian ambassador, Rosso, Mr. Mussolini's old debts and naves man. That shows what Mussolini expects from Washington during the next few years.

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Cold Reception Given By City Councilmen To Elliott's Proposal

E. C. Elliott, president of the Oregon-Washington Water Service company, found little enthusiasm in the Salem city council yesterday when he proposed that the company

enter into a contract whereby the city would have option to buy at that figure when ever economic conditions were right. Added to the basic price would be the cost of whatever improvements and betterments were made between date of contract and date of purchase.

Elliott, on a stop-over here from San Francisco, made his proposal at an informal conference with the city council late yesterday at the city hall. Though urged by some members to name a figure "to shoot at," Elliott declined to do so, but said that if invited later he would come to Salem with such a figure and data to support it.

Advantages of such negotiations, Elliott said would include the elimination of expense to both parties of a condemnation suit, and further cost and inconvenience in carrying on the piling suit to test the validity of the \$2,500,000 water bond issue, Elliott explaining that the company would agree to dismissal of this suit. The opinion of the council in general, however, was that the test suit should not be dismissed, and some members, Alderman Watson Townsend in particular, saw legal obstacles in the way of negotiating as Elliott had outlined.

In suggesting that the city exercise the option when economic conditions warranted Mr. Elliott mentioned the improbability that bonds, even in a small amount could be sold at present, and this was not disputed by the council. Elliott said also that the suggested contract would be binding on the company, but probably not on the city, and Walter Keyes, attorney for the company agreed with this.

Alderman Olson inquired as to the effect of the proposal on the pending suit and Elliott answered that it would be dismissed. Alderman Townsend was of the opinion that the suit better be carried through to decision, and added that the charter amendment by which the bonds were voted would not permit negotiations as outlined by Elliott.

"Wherein would the city be benefited by this option?" asked Alderman Hughes. "The validity of the bonds would not be in jeopardy," Elliott answered. "Until someone else attacked them," Townsend added.

City Attorney Chris J. Kowitz said the charter lays down the exact procedure to be followed. "It seems to me," Townsend remarked, "that the water company is leading the city into a cul de sac—in other words up a blind alley." Mayor Douglas McKay was fearful that if the proposal were adopted and the bond issue later attacked in court the water issue might be held up indefinitely.

Townsend, insisting that the city could do anything until the court decides on the validity of the bonds read the charter provision. "Only two things are left for us to do," he said. "We have made the company an offer and they have rejected it. Now we can either condemn or we can build a new plant. There is no authority for us to take any other procedure, and our action can be challenged if we do."

President Elliott, replying to questions, said he would be willing to meet later with the utilities committee, or the entire council if invited to do so.

Eugene, Ore., Jan. 21 (AP)—The strong Husky basketball squad from the University of Washington swamped Bill Reinhardt's crew of University of Oregon players in the first half and coasted through the final session to win 58 to 38. In northern conference game played here last night.

The gun ending the first period found the Huskies on the long end of a 38 to 13 lead mainly as a result of the stellar play and shooting of Captain Johnny Fuller, all-coast forward.

In the final period the game Web-footers came back with an avalanche of baskets that had the northerners on the run and ended the final period with a 25 to 20 edge over Washington but still lacking many points to win.

Captain Fuller was the high-point gatherer of the evening with a total of 17 points on his string. Lee and Heaman with ten and nine respectively were also effective for Washington. Oregon's leader in the scoring division was Olinger with 11 and Cap Roberts played a stellar floor game.

Unless his physical condition takes a decided change for the better, Morley will be lost to the Salem high school basketball team for at least six weeks and possibly for the balance of the season. He was injured last night. Following the game with Eugene this week Morley complained of a distress in his side. An examination by a physician revealed that an operation for appendicitis was necessary. If the operation is performed, Morley will be out of competition for several weeks. He has been playing center during this season and was finding his stride during recent games. His loss will mean that Coach Huntington will use Phil Brownell or Engle at center.

SALEM HI CENTER OUT FOR 6 WEEKS

Basketballers from Parrish high had a close squeak Friday night when they invaded Scotts Mills for a return engagement with the high school squad of that place. The final score was 20 to 19 in favor of the juniors. With Parrish trailing by one point, Quesseth found the hoop for the winning score just 15 seconds before the game ended. Parrish went out in front during the first half and held a 17 to 9 lead at the intermission. Quesseth's shot was the only field goal annexed during the second half. The Scotts Mills grade team lost to the Parrish Trojans, 21 to 13. More than half the automobiles in Singapore, Maylay Settlements, are from America.

FRESHMEN LOSE TO SALEM HIGH BY 29-34 COUNT

Changing their tactics in the second half after they had trailed by many points during the first two periods, Salem high hoopers came from behind Friday night to win their annual tilt with Willamette's freshmen 34 to 29. With Bob McKerron, the big center of the freshmen, tipping the ball to his teammates, Hageman, Eckman and Pomeroy soon ran up a commanding lead over their opponents. This advantage was maintained throughout the first half which ended 20-12.

Not at all awed by their handicaps, Coach Huntington's youngsters went out after the yearlings at the start of the third period and with Kelley finding the range, Salem managed to knot the count at 25-all when the whistle ended the third quarter. Brownell marked his return to the high school lineup by chalking up 13 points for high score.

A second string freshman team defeated Salem high's "B" squad, 24 to 23 in a preliminary. Salem held a good sized lead during the first part of the game but it steadily melted during the closing minutes and forth Stockwell potted one from far away to give his team the game just as the final gun sounded.

Defense in the trial of William Baughn for the murder of Roy Robnett, expected to bring its case to a climax this afternoon when the defendant himself will take the stand. The defendant is expected to be the trump card to build up his own theory of extenuation—self defense. He is the only witness available to the defense, present at the actual occurrence but listed among the state's witnesses and consequently his own testimony is expected to be the backbone to bolster up what his attorneys said at the outset would be the sole theory of the defense in fighting off a charge to the execution chamber at the state prison.

The trial moved haltingly this morning. The start was nearly an hour late, delayed while attorneys for both sides were presenting argument in chambers to Judge Mahan on the matter of admissibility of evidence combating statements made by a defense witness as to good character of the defendant. And it was apparent the character building for the defendant was about to continue. The question for the judge to decide was as to how far the state could rebut this testimony as to the defendant's character by showing specific acts of the defendant which would rebut the theory as to his good reputation in the Detroit community. The court finally held that testimony as to such specific acts when put in in good faith by the prosecution would be admissible, although the state could not actually prove that the man had been guilty of another crime. Seemingly the decision halted further questioning along the line as to the defendant's character.

Rheta Bewley, Detroit matron, resumed the stand this morning at the outset of the trial. Late yesterday afternoon she had given testimony intending to impeach testimony given earlier for the state by Leonard Noe, resident at the Robnett home. This has to do with assertions Noe had made before the killing and was contradictory to some statements made by Noe. It was then that Mrs. Bewley was asked as to the general reputation of Baughn in the community and the fireworks of legal discussion were touched off between the contending attorneys which wound up in the judge's chambers this morning.

The state in cross examining Mrs. Bewley today was plainly endeavoring to bring out in evidence the defendant, William Baughn, and his son, Major Baughn. She stated she was separated from her second husband. She admitted on questioning of Deputy District Attorney Page that she had gone around with Major Baughn, that she had attended places of public entertainment with him, but said only when other people were around. She said she had stayed all night at her house but that he had stayed with her son. She also said the defendant himself had visited her home, sometimes with his wife, sometimes when alone. She declared she was not unfriendly to the Robnett family and had never had trouble with them. In stating that the reputation of Baughn was bad in the community she also said she'd known him 15 or 20 years and had resided at Detroit herself for 30 years.

Major Baughn was then called by the defense and he also gave testimony intending to impeach that of Leonard Noe by repeating statements he said Noe made at the home of Mrs. Bewley the night after the murder when Major Baughn and Mrs. Bewley were present and Gordon and Edna Brown were in the house, also.

The defense then asked him about a party one night at Robnett's home before the killing when a number of persons were present. The state refused to let the questioning proceed until it was stated by the defense what they intended to show and then the court and attorneys again retired to chambers and a little later recess was granted while the arguments proceeded out of hearing of the jury.

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