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Ye Smudge Pot

By Arthur Perry

There has been a revolution down in Guatamala. This means a drive in this country for the formation of an association to procure longer shirt tails for the natives.

Roy Gardner says he is crazy. The sheriff at Phoenix, Arizona, hopes he don't regain his sanity and bust out of jail.

WHERE'S THAT SHOTGUN
(Corvallis Gazette)

But there's a beautiful little valley
That's nestled mid the Oregon hills
That brings to my mind a serious thot
That my heart with rapture thrills.

If there I only owned a little farm,
And had a loving wife that's plum and cute,
In Kings Valley I could live and die
On the banks of the river Luckiamute.

The science that gave to the world many marvels of inventive genius have yet to discover a way to get heat into radiators without putting fuel in the furnace.

The blanket of fog that covers the valley, turns out to be an old-fashioned quilt. It is apparently useless, but some peanut politician is converting it into propaganda for the spring primary.

The proposed new curfew ordinance puts the responsibility of keeping their youngin's corralled on the parents, instead of the police, and who ever heard of such a thing. The very idea that a giddy gal of 16 years should not be allowed to run hog wild till she gets ready to go home.

THIS CRITIC HAS GAZED AT THE STREET BALLET
(Sacramento Bee)

There is a chorus of considerable size and some of the costuming effects are quite pretty, but bathing girls have become passe and it takes more than bare limbs to cause a thrill in these sophisticated days.

Madalynne Obenchain, who induced one sweetie to obliterate another one, announces a hunch that somebody was going to hang on her account, and that she would languish in the bastile for a spell, which is about right. Madalynne had the impression that capital punishment had been repealed for good looking ladies, and being that very thing—she should worry.

Congress has passed all kinds of laws to benefit the farmers. The farmer thinks he will avoid toil by legislation, and is strongly in favor of hand-painted plow handles.

Readers of the SatEvePost have hopes that some day Will Irwin will get through writing stories about the war.

"WHAT MAN WILL NOT WEAR PANTS, FINELY TAILORED AT THE GLAD YULETIDE SEASON"—(Ad Pendleton Tribune). Inasmuch as the officers are all busy enforcing the Prohibition law, one can, if one desires, get by with it.

It seems that the ex-Kaiser did not get enough of war. He is going to be married again.

SEARCH US
(Boston Globe)

Why is it that a railroad engine has to ding and dong and fizz and spit and clang and bang and hiss and yell and wail and pant and rant and howl and yowl and grate and grind and puff and bump and click and clank and chug and moan and hoot and toot and crash and grunt and gasp and groan and whistle and wheeze and squawk and blow and jar and perk and rasp and jangle and twang and clack and rumble and jangle and ring and clatter and yelp and howl and hum and snarl and puff and growl and thump and boom and clash and jolt and jostle and shake and screech and snort and snarl and slam and throb and crink and quiver and rumble and roar and rattle and yell and smoke and shriek like hell all night long?

Editorial Correspondence

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—When Lord Riddel said that suspicion was one of the prime causes of war,—he said something. There is no use denying there is, in Washington today, a widespread suspicion regarding Japan. In the press conference there is an atmosphere surrounding the Japanese meetings quite different from that surrounding any of the other conferences. There is no hostility, the friendliest feeling prevails, but there is an undeniable undercurrent of distrust evidenced by a certain subtle tension on both sides.

After the announcement by Vice Admiral Kato for example, that the 10-10-3 naval ratio would be opposed, Baron Kato—not the vice admiral—did not appear. Prince Tokugawa alone presided at the press conference. This was at once interpreted as an evasive maneuver, for it is well known that the prince is not an authoritative member of the delegation, but the social member, the representative of a related nobility, the glad-hander, who can talk English and disarm hostility by the skillful use of a pleasing and popular personality.

It was in the spirit of,—well aggressive intensity—that this particular conference progressed. Pointed queries were fired at the spherical scalp of the smiling prince, like bullets from a machine gun battery, and it may be said for the prince, that he came through the ordeal with colors flying.

How about Admiral Kato's interview? Well it was the admiral's opinion, not the opinion of the delegation.

What was the opinion of the delegation? Had their naval program been formed? The prince would neither affirm nor deny that a definite program had been formed. How about the Mutsu? There was nothing to say about the Mutsu. How about withdrawal of the Japanese troops from China? Well Japan must be friends with China and withdrawal of troops was accepted in principle and would be carried out as soon as internal conditions in China permitted.

It was the old, old story. Now similar conferences have been held, in fact a real "news" conference is decidedly the exception. But where with the British, Italian or Holland representatives, mere diplomatic conversation is accepted as a matter of course, when the same thing occurs with the Japanese, there is a different reaction entirely.

The reason is,—although it is never expressed—Japan is regarded as the nigger in the woodpile. She holds the position,—deserved or undeserved—of the villain in the east.

Whether or not this suspicion is justified,—and we believe in a sense it is—the fact remains that until this attitude is relieved either by a better understanding of the Japanese view point or a radical change in that viewpoint,—the danger of trouble exists.

As Lord Riddel has said, the nations can disarm until Doomsday but until suspicion, distrust, selfishness and misunderstanding are removed, the causes of warfare will persist. The big purpose of this conference therefore is not only the reduction of armaments, but the preparation of the international field for the growth of spiritual understanding.

While from the American standpoint the prince had done well,—so well that the newspaper men gave him quite a round of applause at the conclusion of the meeting—the Japanese viewpoint was apparently very different. For the next day the prince did not appear, and Baron Kato was on hand as usual with that inscrutable mask which passes as a face turned toward the journalistic batteries for the usual rapid fire. The only thing Prince Tokugawa admitted—that Admiral Kato's interview was not official—the baron refused to confirm, in fact he refused to confirm anything.

Baron Kato can smile more and he assassi less,—he can talk more—in Japanese—and say less in English than any other figure of prominence this side of Egypt, where the original Sphinx holds forth. And speaking of Egypt, he is the living image of a royal Egyptian mummy, barring the eyes which are black and very lively. The yellow skin is drawn tightly over high protruding cheek bones, cheeks sunken, with an expression of impassivity which in the Anglo-Saxon, is only attained in death.

For twenty-five minutes, through a Japanese interpreter, he answered questions without saying anything at all other than that there was nothing to say.

This performance coming directly after a second conference with Secretary Hughes was very illuminating. For it threw a lurid light upon the difference between American and Japanese diplomacy at the present time.

Hughes,—not to be quoted of course—was perfectly frank and outspoken. What he said will be printed tomorrow morning, as the view of the U. S. government,—in diplomatic parlance an inspired communique.

But queries put to Baron Kato regarding these same topics brought nothing but diplomatic evasions and smiling allusions to newspaper talk, which the baron said he always refused to take seriously.

In other words Mr. Hughes practiced new world diplomacy, Baron Kato old world diplomacy. Mr. Hughes took the press into his confidence, and that confidence will not be betrayed. Baron Kato refused to take the press into his confidence, and very politely told it to go way back and sit down.

What is the result? The result of course, is a general confidence in the American position, and a general lack of confidence in the Japanese position, for what the press feels in this country, the people are certain to reflect.

Of course racial differences, differences in custom and practice, differences in language, and most of all a decided difference in the official attitude to the press, all enter into this judgment, but whatever the determining factors the net result is the same,—a wall of distrust and suspicion is gradually being erected between the American people on one hand, and the Japanese people on the other.

Perhaps this wall will be torn down before the conference is over. What seems like duplicity, evasion, equivocation, may be revealed in the final analysis as merely a difference in diplomatic habit. Let's hope so. For as long as this wall exists, no disarmament program can entirely remove serious dangers in the American-Japanese situation.

Quill Points

Advice is another monster that we first endure, then pity, then embrace.

As we understand the tangled Far Eastern question, American business wishes to bring orders out of chaos.

No doubt the world would get along nicely if all statesmen were locked up somewhere to confer for twenty years.

Pity the poor man who forgets which set of books he is keeping for private use and which for income tax purposes.

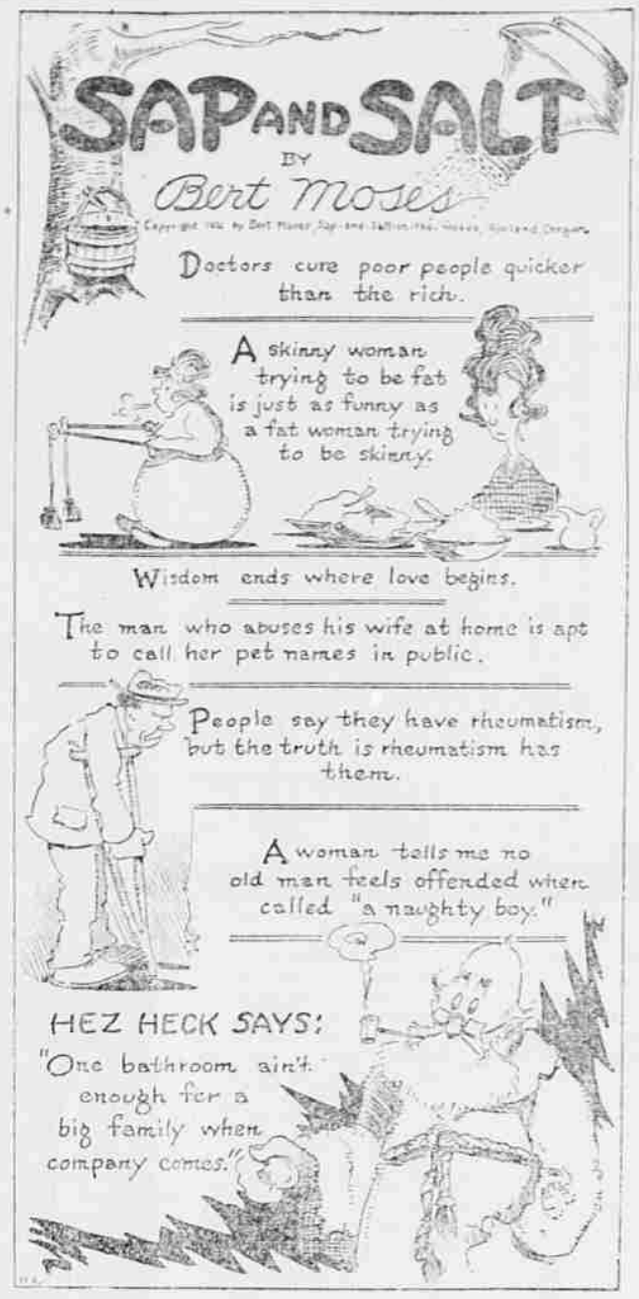
Mother and the girls are beginning to talk loud enough for sly old Dad to catch on to what they want for Christmas.

When you look at what some women married, you know that nothing less than love could have persuaded them to do it.

Rippling Rhymes
by Walt Mason

LOOKING AHEAD.

THE glad new year will soon arrive, according to Time's plan, and we, to make our country thrive, should do the best we can. The nation's lacking vim and pep, as all wise merchants know; the eagle moves with laggard step, and doesn't like to crow. Each day some fancy cure is sprung, evolved from someone's hat; each day some statesman sprains a lung announcing this or that. Our land, once safest of all bets, has moped a long, long while; if every man would pay his debts, she'd soon sit up and smile. She'd soon sit up and say, "Odsfish, that dope has made me well; my strength's returned and now I wish to go outdoors and yell." By fancy nostrums she is bored, she's tired of statesmen's pills; her energy will be restored when we all pay our bills. The brave new year is drawing near, so let us start it right: let's resolve to start the year without a debt in sight. We'll take a basketful of coin and pay up all we owe, the butcher for his tenderloin, the baker for his dough; the catskin dealer for his fur, the coal man for his slate; then normalcy will feel the spur, and hit her old time gait.



HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW?

1. How many colleges, universities and professional schools are there in this country?
2. What is Oakum?
3. What is the oldest legal code?
4. What is the art of rolling iron, steel and other metals into various shapes called?
5. What Spanish explorer came to this country seeking the fountain of youth?
6. Which pair of legs does a tadpole grow first?
7. Where is General Custer buried?
8. What is the largest city in Persia?
9. What cape forms the triangular northeastern corner of South America?
10. What is theocracy?

Answers to Yesterday's Questions:

1. What is usually used to adulterate coffee? Ans. Chicory is the chief adulterant although beans, peas and cereals are sometimes employed.
2. What is meant by the expression, "to blaze a trail?" Ans. Used in this sense, blaze means to place a white mark on a tree to mark a trail, a boundary or a forest path. The mark is made by slicing the bark.
3. Has the membership of churches increased with the increase of population in this country? Ans. It has gradually increased.
4. What president bore the popular name of "The Little Magician"? Ans. Martin Van Buren.
5. Should the initials N. Y., D. C., or U. S. A., be divided at the end of a line? Ans. The style book of the government printing office says no.
6. In what year was the battle of Gettysburg fought? Ans. In 1863.
7. What single word expresses nearness of time, place or relationship? Ans. Propinquity.
8. What is the smallest liquid measure? Ans. The minim.
9. Who has the direction of foreign affairs in the United States? Ans. The secretary of state.
10. Who invented the steam hammer? Ans. James Nasmyth.

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(To be continued.)

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