

As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked.—Ezek. 33:11.

The most happy ought to wish for death.—Seneca.

DANGEROUS! BEWARE!

THE Bulletin of the American Bureau of Shipping says the great danger of Government ownership and operation of ships is—that do you think? Not that it will be costly to the country. Not that the ships will be badly managed. Oh, no, nothing like that.

The great danger, the Bulletin says, is in the increasing efficiency of our Government's shipping board. This, coupled with increasing freight and passenger rates, might soon make the Government ships actually profitable.

That would be all right, the Bulletin continues, except that the "radical element" would be sure to notice it. They would use it as an admittedly "strong" argument for other forms of Government ownership, among which railroads are mentioned. This would never do, because "only those with socialistic tendencies will admit that public operation of such great utilities would be for the best interests of the people."

In other words, if the facts are dangerous, then down with the facts!

With respect to Government ownership and operation of merchant marine units, against which this newspaper can see no good reason, there are other things to consider besides the possibilities of the Government making a profit.

In the first place, so long as peace reigns this country can get along very well without any American merchant marine at all. Even our captains of industry can invest their dollars and make a good return in other lines of business. As a matter of fact, most of them do so anyway. Foreigners carry the bulk of our foreign trade efficiently and at rates American shipping men don't generally want to try to beat.

But in case of war things would be different. A war might arise in which neither the British nor any other great shipping nation would be on our side. Then the Government would need American merchant ships, to help out the Navy, to carry American goods in submarine infested seas, to transport troops and supplies. It would need facilities for building ships. All these it would need in a hurry.

How can our Government be sure of having the right type of ships, trained sailors of American nationality, shipyards and shipping supplies at hand in case of war, unless to some extent it is in the shipping business itself?

POLITICAL QUESTIONNAIRES

AND now it is proposed to do away with an institution in politics. Representative Thiel of Lake County proposes that the political questionnaire be put out of business. He would make it unlawful to ask candidates where they stand on public or any other kind of questions.

Putting the questionnaire out of business would be a death blow to many reform organizations which keep themselves before the public largely by announcing how candidates did or did not answer questions.

Of course, questionnaires are embarrassing to most candidates. They are intended to be. They don't permit dodging. And candidates hate to be pinned down. They don't like to go on record, because if circumstances should cause them to change their minds it would be embarrassing. Going on record also cramps their style when it comes to carrying water on both shoulders, a balancing feat in which most politicians are proficient.

Seriously, nothing should be put in the way of the voters knowing everything they can about a candidate. On the other hand, public officials should be free to exercise their best judgment.

We don't believe the candidate with honest convictions will hesitate to state his convictions.

Average Congressmen Go Along at Moderate Pace

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—There are members of Congress who drink. There are members who gamble. There are members who lead a hectic and luxurious life. In the courtroom of a little Michigan county seat, a Congressman's wife recently told the world about it, and it must be so.

But don't get the notion that she is describing the normal life of a Congressman and his wife. There are as many kinds of Congressmen as there are kinds of other citizens and the great majority of them are simple, home-loving, law-abiding men, with the sort of wives that such men naturally would choose. They lead a reasonably interesting existence, traveling life's pathway at a very moderate pace.

Members of Congress receive \$7,500 a year, and the greater part of that goes within that income. The margin between \$7,500 and what it costs to live in this city of high rents and expensive groceries is too small to permit one to travel what is called the cocktail circuit or help support Washington's limited number of cabarets. If the cabaret owners depended on Congressmen for their living, they'd wear no more diamonds than postoffice employees.

There are, of course, many rich men in the House and many more rich men in the Senate. They live expensively in Washington, just as they do at home. Some of the House members live in expensive hotels, while some of the Senators, sure of at least six years' residence in Washington, buy themselves expensive homes. But these are the exceptions. Certain family hotels situated close to the Capitol furnish the rule for these exceptions. In one of these hotels alone there are nearly 100 members of Congress and their families, including a half dozen or so Senators. A comfortable room and bath and three meals a day for

NAVY DEPARTMENT HAS ROW WITH WEATHER BUREAU

In a Polite Way the U. S. Official Forecasters Have Been Told What They Don't Know Would Fill a Book.

By CHARLES P. STEWART.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—In a polite way, the Navy Department has told the weather bureau that what the latter doesn't know about the weather would fill a large book. It happened as a climax to the lengthy argument the department and the bureau have had over the question of long distance forecasts. The weather, proclaimed the naval hydrographic office, after investigating the subject, can be forecast accurately a year in advance. Some way of doing it may be discovered later, rejoined the weather bureau, but it can't be done now, by any means known to science. We have discovered the means already, insisted the hydrographic office. It can be done by a study of ocean temperatures. So many other considerations enter into weather forecasting, contradicted the bureau, that a study of ocean temperatures, by itself, can't amount to much.

A Hard Smack

So far as publicity is concerned the bureau has had the best of this dispute. Through numerous bulletins, pamphlets and books it has set forth its side of the case. The hydrographic office, lacking adequate facilities for expressing itself in print, hasn't generally been heard. Recently, however, it began issuing a little leaflet called the "National News Service." Lieutenant Commander George E. Brandt, assistant to Capt. Frederic B. Bassett, hydrographic office chief, is editor. The latest of these leaflets takes a slap at the weather bureau, the smack of which can be heard a mile.

All 'Guesswork'

L. MITCHELL, official United States Weather Bureau forecaster, is authority for the statement that long-range weather predictions are, at present, an impossibility.

He declares that to prognosticate weather more than a few days in advance is the vaguest kind of guesswork.

"Long-range weather forecasting is an interesting field," Mitchell said, "and it is a shame we have neither the time nor money to devote to exhaustive study of it. Some day we may have—and this may result in great benefit to mankind."

"But right now it is out of the question. Too many factors—ocean currents, air currents, ice floes, volcanic action and what-not—affect weather conditions to make accurate predictions possible even a month in advance. As to predicting weather for a coming season or year—it can't be done. Some day, perhaps—but not now."

True, the bureau isn't mentioned by name but it's easy to read between the lines.

The leaflet is as official as it can be made. It bears the hydrographic office imprint and the name of Lieutenant Commander Brandt, and what it says appears under the signature of Secretary of the Navy Charles D. Wilson—written especially for National News Service.

Starts in July

Secretary Wilbur tells first of the oceanographic researches to be begun by the Navy next July—the Maury Research, so called "in honor of the late Lieut. Matthew F. Maury, the father of the sea, whose pioneer work in the study of the ocean, enriched the commerce of the nation and made his name famous throughout the world."

"It is hoped," writes the Secretary, "that we are now on the threshold of scientific knowledge regarding weather from which we can predict unreasonable conditions a year in advance."

Which is exactly what Chief Charles F. Marvin of the weather bureau says can't be done—at any rate, by the method the hydrographic office proposes. True, Secretary Wilbur expresses only a hope, but he continues, "the weather is born on the ocean. A study of the temperature, salinity and circulation of the ocean waters will supply the necessary information for making predictions with confidence."

That's definite and positive enough. Besides, the secretary says "meteorologists are agreed." The weather bureau folk emphatically do not agree. Does the secretary imply that they're not meteorologists? And what meteorologists does he mean? He tells.

Means More Money

"Long range weather predictions," he says, "are being made more successfully now in India, the Scandinavian countries and South America."

It behooves us to do the same thing if we would take advantage of the opportunities within our grasp. We learn we shall have large sums to agricultural and commercial interests."

Meaning that the United States weather bureau had better wake up? And if anybody wants it still plainer than that, "The weather bureau," observes Lieut. Commander Brandt, "is too busy getting out weather forecasts to study the weather."

Saving Money

Any method of transit which saves time has a very large economic importance. Our finest example is that of the more expeditious transmission of banking documents through the air mail. The saving in interest as the result of this establishment results in indirect saving of many times its cost. Secretary of Commerce Howland before House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

RIGHT HERE IN INDIANA

By GAYLORD NELSON

Towers

MICHAEL J. GLENN, inspector of traffic, proposes traffic towers on Meridian from Ohio to St. Clair Sts. They would be controlled in unison by the officers at Ohio St.

The proposed towers would speed northbound traffic during the rush hours as they would eliminate delays at now unpoliced intersections.

Another advantage would be the pleasing effect, artistically. The Washington St. towers are like pine cones on barren landscape. An extension of that system would go far toward the reforestation of downtown Indianapolis.

Of course mechanical regulation must be adopted for Meridian and other thoroughfares very soon. However before any new system is installed the whole subject should be studied.

Our present automatic cops suffer from a bad case of variety. They are in the center of intersections, on the curbs, hanging overhead, and groveling under foot. Some are gaunt and cadaverous; others short and squat. Some flash comment in words; others merely wink war-colored eyes.

It would be a convenience to motorists if the city would standardize on a single type. Variety is the spice of life, but variety in automatic policemen is a mustard plaster for traffic.

Remorse

GEORGE FRAZER, confessed bandit, was sentenced at Marion, Ind., Saturday. The young man admitted participation in the Upland State Bank robbery and other depredations, for which he drew ten to twenty-five years in the State reformatory.

While confined in the police station he has been closely guarded because he vowed if he could get hold of a gun he would blow his brains out.

Now that it is too late to be of any particular use to him he suffers a bad attack of remorse. Some day it would be an interesting experiment from the scientific—not humane—standpoint to furnish the young man the desired weapon.

Criminals often become penitent. Usually, however, not while penitence would be unprofitable and inconvenient. Only when they are arrested and convicted is the spiritual soil prepared to bring forth a bountiful crop of penitence—which generally withers when exposed to freedom.

True repentance is one of the greatest moral forces for the betterment of man.

It has lifted some sinners to spiritual heights and to lives of usefulness. But true repentance comes not from the idle caperings of remorse awakened by a court conviction.

Weekly Book Review

Cupid Applies Same Rules to Love Making in Cottages as in Palaces

By WALTER D. HICKMAN

ONE is the day when the average patron of a public house asks for a "good love story."

With a shrug of the brow, the Little Theatre, luncheon clubs, the radio and other thought producing mediums, the patron of fiction no longer merely craves a good love story.

Today the public is demanding brains and realism in its fiction. The best sellers prove my point. Such a condition you will find in Arthur Train's "The Needle's Eye," recently published by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.

Train has taken a stiff problem for consideration—the emotional, physical and social effect upon the sons and daughters of the richest men of the country. The central character is John Graham, the son and heir of the head of the banking house of Graham & Co. The problem is to show the effect of unloving or attempting to unloving the coal fields of the Grahams but rather the effect that such a movement had upon John and the others associated with him.

And yet John became rather socialistic (not too much) because Rhoda McLean, who rebelled against conditions that great wealth caused in the home of her parents, influenced him. Rhoda was not wild for night life, but she had the idea that she should be a sort of a Joan of Arc for the "suffering coal mines" during a fight over unionizing the Graham coal mines. Rhoda found

'Bill' Butler

THE old iron derby, steel rivets and all, has been dragged from the moth balls by William M. Butler, Massachusetts' new Senator. We wired Bill to ask him what he was too busy to answer. As you remember, he managed the Coolidge campaign and was in a position to know if a full dress suit against a derby was a fair bet.

Dress

ESTERDAY, with appropriate ceremonies, the oath of office was administered to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and reporter of the Supreme Court—the latter a woman.

A large crowd from all over the State assembled to witness the ceremony. This is customary for an inauguration is a significant public event.

Consequently for the time being the central figures in the event are of more than ordinary new-interest, and much is printed about them. The attire to be worn by the reporter of the Supreme Court was minutely described several days preceding the function. Hat, shoes, hose, frock, received painstaking editorial attention. Her dress was important news.

Not a line appeared describing the apparel of the Governor or Lieutenant Governor. Their dress was of no public interest. As far as the news stories disclose these equally prominent actors in the inaugural drama might have taken the oath clad in bath-robes, barrels, or goose flesh.

Despite their political equality the inauguration reveals there still exists a gulf between the sexes in their attitude toward clothing. Woman's dress is news. Man's clothes are not, unless he appears in public without 'em.

The political reporter of the future will have a merry time unless he takes a course in dress-making.

Questionnaire

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN W. THIEL of Lake County will introduce a bill making it a felony to ask a candidate how he stands on a question or to mail him a questionnaire.

He believes these promise-extracting devices are legislators' hands. The victim is thus prevented from exercising his own judgment on measures.

Doubtless the questionnaire practice has become a political nuisance. No sooner does a sterling patriot announce for dog-catcher or constable than the bombardment begins. His promise is solicited on every proposed measure of public policy from painting the town pump green to the League of Nations.

He answers because an easy promise helps in the heat of the campaign. It's only afterward the promise gets nasty and haunts him.

Suppose questionnaires would perhaps relieve the mental anguish of candidates. Still voters are entitled to know how office-seekers stand on public questions. They'll never know until they ask. Candidates don't commit themselves until prodded. Their natural pose is the straddle.

Candidates can throttle questionnaires and promise-solicitation without statutory help. The waste-basket always yawns in receptive mood. However, it's easier to substitute a State law for lime in the backbone.

The Paradox

Many, if not most of the lame ducks, are performing a strange miracle—singing swan songs.—Senator Ashurst (Dem.), Arizona.



Inauguration Date Just Happened

Times Washington Bureau, 1322 New York Ave.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—Because the first Wednesday in March, 1789, happened to fall on the fourth day of the month, the regular terms of American Presidents have ever since that time begun on March 4. There is no other special reason why inaugurations need be held on that date rather than on March 1, or March 5, or even in January or February.

In recent years there have been numerous measures introduced in both Houses of Congress designed to change the inauguration date to a day earlier in the year in order to cut short the life of congressional sessions participated in by large numbers of lame ducks. Pending at the present time before the Senate is Senator Norris' proposal providing for inauguration early in January. Though Norris proposes to amend the Constitution in order to accomplish his purpose, it is worthy of note that other dates which were fixed at the same time that the "first Wednesday in March" was stipulated, have since been altered by mere act of Congress.

In July, 1788, the Constitutional Convention, learning that the Constitution had been ratified by the requisite number of states, adopted a resolution calling for the election of the first President. The resolution provided that this States should choose their electors on the first Wednesday of January, that the electors should cast their votes on the first Wednesday of February, and that the President should take office on the first Wednesday of March.

The poor facilities of communication and travel, were, of course, the chief reasons why a month was permitted to elapse between each of the successive steps in the selection of the President. In fact, the allowance of time was found to be wholly inadequate, and Washington, at his home in Mount Vernon, did not learn of his election on "the first Wednesday of February," until well after March 4th. He arrived in New York, which was then the seat of the government, nearly two months late and was not inaugurated until April 30.

Washington began his second term on March 4, 1792, and left office March 4, 1797. His failure to "make connections" for his ceremony cut short his term by one month and twenty-six days, and he is to this date the only President to serve two full terms who did not serve exactly eight years.

Congress many years ago, on Feb. 2, 1837, changed the other two dates fixed by the constitutional convention and provided that the electors should cast their votes on the second Monday of January and that the votes should be formally counted on

the second Wednesday of February. Only that part of the early resolution referring to the first Wednesday in March has not been altered, except that the definite date was substituted for the day of the week.

Though little prospect is now seen for the early adoption of amendments which would move the date of inauguration forward, there are but few arguments presented in support of the present method, and many, based largely on the change in transportation and communication facilities, advanced in support of the earlier date.

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Tom Sims Says

The silent drama seems to be having a very hard time securing a silent audience.

Stretching the truth ruins it.

The boy of today seems to want to leave auto tracks on the sands of time instead of footprints.

We know a man whose home would be much happier if she hadn't married such a cross husband.

The only man who can say your head is dirty and get away with it is the barber.

You never will realize your object in life if it is objecting to work.

All that stands between us and a hot time is the rest of this winter.

The income tax blanks are being mailed out. Utopia is a land where you can leave the income tax blanks blank.

Education is almost as expensive as ignorance.

Times are so bad some people haven't bought a single new shirt all winter.

Shock absorbers on autos would be better if the driver could wear them.

Isn't it funny what a woman will show to hide her age?

Some movies call a spade a spade. That's all right. But others call a spade a plow.

The man who takes good care of his health at home never will have to go somewhere for it.

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At Miami

The most beautiful estate of the many wonderful homes at Miami is owned by James Deering, millionaire manufacturer of harvester machinery. He will spend the winter season there.

What is the area of the anthracite coal fields of Pennsylvania?

About 484 square miles in four narrow fields—the Northern, or Wyoming; the Eastern Middle, or Lehigh; the Southern, and the Middle Western.

New Books at Public Library

New books of fiction at the Public Library include: "Slave Ship," by Mary Johnston; "The Pearl Lagoon," C. B. Northcott; "This Above All," Harold Speakman; "Plumes," Laurence Stallards.

New books of religion, sociology and economics include: "Youth and the Bible," by M. A. Striebert; "Intellectual Worker and His Work," William MacDonald; "Czechoslovakia," edited by Josef Gruber.

New books of literature, essays, poetry and drama include: "Best British Short Stories of 1924," "Best Plays of 1924," "Literary Spotlight," edited by J. C. Farrar; "Stories From the Midland," The Midland; "My Dear Cornelia," S. P. Sherman; "Songs of the Sea and Salome Chanteyns," edited by Robert Frothingham; "Aren't We All a Comedy," Frederick Lonsdale.

New books of architecture include: "Your Future Home," Architects' Small House Service Bureau of Minneapolis, Inc.

YOU'VE SEEN

some great pictures this past season—

And the lineup of coming attractions at

THE CIRCLE

is a stunner—

Beginning Sunday, we offer one different from all the rest—

It's the story of a wonderful girl who found romance and thrill in the high mountains of the West.

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