

ORIGIN OF OLD CUSTOMS.

Most of Them Hark Back to Events of Significance.

When some illustrious person dies, flags are lowered to half-mast. If the average man in the street was interrogated for an explanation he would probably say it was just the usual custom. However, there is a distinct meaning in this, for the space above is left for the flag of the Angel of Death.

Again, a ship is invariably spoken of as of the feminine gender; this is traced to the ancient Greeks, who called all ships feminine names out of respect to Athene, Goddess of the Sea.

Friday is believed to be an unlucky day by those who are superstitious. It is derived from the fact it was the day of our Lord's Crucifixion as well as the one on which Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit.

Few, perhaps are aware why a weather-cock is frequently attached to a church steeple. This is believed to remind people of Peter's denial of Our Savior.

Journalists are spoken of as "members of the Fourth Estate." Burke is generally credited as being the originator of the phrase, for while addressing Parliament one day he said there were three branches of government, the king, the house of lords, and the house of commons, the Three Estates; but, turning to the reporters gallery, he added, "There sits the Fourth Estate, far more important than the others."

The barber's pole has also a curious history. In other times barbers were also surgeons and practiced the art of phlebotomy, and a pole was given to the patient to hold in his hand in order to let the blood run more freely. The pole should have a line of blue paint, one of red, and one of white, winding round its length, blue representing the blood in the veins, red the blood in the arteries, and white the bandages.

"Uncle," adopts his familiar sign of three balls over his shop, because the balls form part of the old Arms of Lombardy, the people there being the first pawnbrokers in existence.

It is a common belief that peacock's feathers are unlucky. This is due to the tradition that the bird opened the Gate of Paradise to the serpent.

The nick in a coat has been a puzzler to many. It is said to date back to the time of Napoleon. A general named Moreau had many followers, but they were afraid to openly express sympathy with him. It was therefore agreed to put a nick on their coats as a secret sign. The letter M can be seen in the lapel representing the initial letter of the general's name.

The word "tip" finds its origin in the fact that restaurant keepers used to place a box with a slit in it, with the words, "To insure promptness," the initials of which spell the now familiar term for gratuity.—Edinburg Scotsman.

LEX KLUTTZ WORKING TO GET ON OLYMPIC TEAM.

(By The Associated Press.)

CHESTER, June 17.—A. W. Kluttz this morning received the following telegram from his son, Sergt. Lex Kluttz, dated Philadelphia, Pa., June 16, "Landed at Hoboken safely on Pocahontas Wednesday afternoon. Our track team of Olympic aspirants now on special Pullman en route to St. Louis, Mo. First track meet there soon. My address care American Forces German Olympic Team, Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis. I am well and hearty. Best regards to all."

Sergeant Kluttz some time ago wrote from Coblenz, Germany, that he was striving to make this track team, however, the competition was so keen he did not know whether his ambition would be realized.

The event he will participate in is the 100-yard dash which it is understood he can run like a deer now. To eclipse the world record he will have to shatter the record made by D. J. Kelly, of Spokane, Wash., who ran the 100-yard dash in 9 3/5 seconds, June 23, 1906. Sergeant Kluttz's quickness in getting off, which is very essential in the 100 dash, is greatly in his favor.

SAN FRANCISCO'S GLOOM.

The glory of San Francisco has passed. In the last ten years it has been outstripped in population by Los Angeles, its hated rival in the south. In the course of a turbulent life it has survived mining booms and panics, the rule of the gamblers and the vigilantes and the sand-lotter's rise and fall, and weathered earthquake, fire and labor wars that threatened its commercial existence. And still it has prospered, and waxed rich. Now gloom settles like a pall upon its terraced hills with the tragic announcement from the Federal Census Bureau that Los Angeles outranks it by 67,000 inhabitants.

It is the cruellest blow San Francisco has ever had to endure. With the passing of the crown it is grievously stricken in its pride. More than twenty years ago there was alarm at the sudden rise of Seattle when the Klondike and Nome bursts into fame. But San Francisco soon settled back comfortably in the knowledge of its assured supremacy. It was decreed that it was to be the gateway to the Far East and Alaska, the Philippines, Australia and the myriad islands of the sea. The Panama Canal raised it to newer heights of greatness.

It is hardest of all to be beaten in the race by Los Angeles, the foster-mother of the movies, the refuge of idling tourists and health-seekers, a second-hand capital of Iowa and camping ground of Middle West Yankees, that regularly returned Republican majorities too big for San Francisco's Democratic wards to overcome. It has not so much as a waterfront, or even a Barbary Coast for the mass of fiction. With its 575,480 people, carefully counted, Los Angeles, a dry island town, with a background of oil and oranges, can never be to true San Francisco anything better than a second-class place, census or no census.

PERSHING TO RETIRE.

New York World.

Gen. Pershing has the very good reason for desiring to return to civil life that as ranking General of the army he finds himself with next to nothing to do. To a man of his age and disposition, in sound health, it is a condition that must appear distasteful and unprofitable. His choice naturally is for a field that will afford him a freer outlet for his energies.

By consequence of being promoted to the rank of General for life he has been forced into an anomalous position. The Chief of Staff, who holds that place only temporarily, is the real head of the army, and the General Staff, under the system established by Congress, is the body in which authority resides for the administration of the army. In effect, Gen. Pershing, as a reward for his services in the war, has been raised to the honorable office of a sort of supernumerary. The duties properly to be assigned to him are limited in scope and leave him leisure that promises to prove irksome because of the restrictions that go with a military career.

Outside the army, as he says, he would be "free to engage in something more active," a laudable ambition for a great soldier fitted by ability and experience for the fullest employment in other directions. The decorative side of a General's existence in Washington, with occasional excursions elsewhere, does not fit in with the Pershing theory of life.

Under a different army system Gen. Pershing's talents could be utilized to advantage. As it is, today a General of the army on active duty of necessity is a misfit through no fault of his own. He outranks the Chief of Staff, to whom he is subordinate, and it is difficult to provide work to keep him occupied.

The credit for this absurd arrangement belongs to Congress, but the penalty of it falls on Gen. Pershing.

An English astronomer has invented a device that tells the elevation of meteors above the earth, the length and direction of their courses and the places of their entrance into and exit from the atmosphere.

An automatic phonograph has been invented that can play 40 records in order, select any one indicated, allow intervals of various set lengths between records, repeat if desired and stop at a determined point.

INADEQUATE INCOMES.

Make Them Larger or Do Without. If you find yourself unable to live within your income, there are just two remedies, either you must increase your income or reduce your standard of living. That proposition is so simple that a six-year-old child should grasp it, but it seems too much for a lot of us grownups. If we could examine the budgets of most of the people who are howling so lustily about the high cost of living and the difficulty of making both ends meet, we would find that the tap-root of their troubles is that they are buying too many things that they could get along without. The main truth is that the standard of living that has been adopted by the vast majority of Americans is entirely too high for sound economics.

The masses of our people insist upon having a great deal more in the way of expensive luxuries than can be supplied by any possible adjustment of the forces of production. It is simply physically impossible for everybody to have fresh laid eggs, the choicest cuts of steak and out-of-season fruits and vegetables.

Neither can there be a piano in every home or costly furs and laces for every woman. There are not enough of these things to go around, and that is all there is to it.

Nor is the remedy to be found by the easy process of raising everybody's wages. The real remedy, both for the individual and for the nation, is diminished consumption of needless things. This will divert labor to the production of necessities, with a consequent reduction of cost and, at the same time, provide the family that is in difficulties with a margin of income over expenditures.

Of course, this is all very fundamental economics, but it will do us no good merely to know it; we must apply it. Failure to apply this doctrine is the cause of most of the economic discontent that hurts. People have got it into their heads that they are entitled to more of the world's things than they are able to earn.

The man who is living beyond his income is not "playing the game," as our English friends put it. No one has a right to more than he can pay for, and the fellow who tries to get it is usually for some hard bumps. The sensible thing to do is, first to find out the things you think you can get, then pick out from them the things you want most, then set about getting these things first. When nations adopt this policy it is called political economy; when individuals adopt it it is called thrift. It is simply the principle of the square deal, or trying to get the things we are entitled to and no more.

CHAS. E. HUGHES SAYS THAT WE PRESENT A SORRY SPECTACLE

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., June 21.—Charles E. Hughes, speaking at the centenary of Harvard law school here today, declared that "in the art of governing ourselves we not only fall short of what we should expect in a free people of so great intelligence, but we frequently present a sorry spectacle." His subject was "Some Observations on Legal Education and Democratic Progress."

"A passion for legislation is not a sign of democratic progress," he said, "and in the mass of measures introduced in the legislatures of our free commonwealths, there is too little evidence of perspective, and an abundance of elaborate and dreary facilities. Occasionally, a constructive measure of great benefit is skillfully planned, but we are constantly impressed with the lost motion and the vast waste in the endeavor of democracy to function wisely."

The regrettable thing, Mr. Hughes continued, is "that the tendency to enact uncertain laws seems to be increasing, and what is still worse, that the people tolerate it and that there are but faint demands for improvement. Our material progress seems to have created complexities beyond our political competency, and disregarding the lessons of history there has been a disposition to revert to the methods of tyranny in order to meet the problems of democracy. Intent on some immediate exigency, and with slight consideration of larger issues, we create a tyrannical power by giving administrative officials who can threaten indictment the opportunities of criminal statutes with an any appropriate definition of crime."

The credit for this absurd arrangement belongs to Congress, but the penalty of it falls on Gen. Pershing.

WILL PAY HIS RESPECTS.

Concord Tribune.

The New York World carries a dispatch quoting Senator Johnson as saying that at the proper time he will pay his respects to North Carolina and other States which he carried in the primary but failed to receive any votes from during the Chicago convention. And who can blame him? for in the primary in this State he secured more than 15,000 votes to 5,000 votes for General Wood. It is true that the delegates at the convention did not know of these figures, but it was generally understood that he was leading by a large majority in this State in the primary vote.

He was entitled to the 22 votes from this State, therefore, but he never received more than four on any one of the ten ballots, and on most of the ballots he received only one or two. The delegates from this State carried out their usual program of voting for the man they thought had the best chance, and the best means of paying, regardless of the vote of the people as expressed at the polls, and the Senator has a just kick against the Republicans of this State. It is plain to him now that the cards were stacked against him, and knowing this all of the time the North Carolina delegates paid no attention to the voice of the people, and they voted in utter defiance to the returns of the primary.

It seems that the California Senator has a just claim against the G. O. P. in North Carolina, and who could blame him if he should, at the critical time, pay his respects to his party in this State!

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