

THE WASHINGTON HERALD

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SUNDAY, JULY 14, 1907.

The Story of Harriman.

"Mr. Harriman," says Commissioner Lane, in the report of the Interstate Commerce Commission summarizing the results of the Harriman inquiry, "may journey by steamship from New York to New Orleans, thence by rail to San Francisco, across the Pacific Ocean to China, and, returning by another route to the United States, may go to Ogden by any one of three rail lines, and thence to Kansas City or Omaha, without leaving the deck or platform of a carrier which he controls, and without duplicating any part of the journey."

This is a graphic picture of mastery over transcontinental and trans-Pacific commerce attained by the development in the Western country of Mr. Harriman's theory of community of interest and harmony of management.

Mr. Harriman's dominance is not confined to transcontinental rail lines; he controls two important north and south routes, the Illinois Central, paralleling the Mississippi River, and various roads forming a connected route from the Columbia River to the Mexican border, parallel to the Pacific coast.

Another Naval Movement. As a result of the flurry over the prospective dispatch of a fleet to the Pacific, another significant naval movement has been almost unnoticed.

We refer to Great Britain's graceful waiving of her treaty rights in order to permit the United States to send another American war vessel to the Great Lakes.

Already this country has more naval craft on the Lakes than the treaty allows; but, in spite of that, we have now, after a friendly understanding with London, dispatched to the inland seas the captured Spanish gunboat Don Juan de Austria, which is to be used as a guardship and training school for the naval reserve.

Since the creation of the treaty in regard to the Great Lakes, Great Britain has made no use of her privilege. There are a few small Canadian revenue cutters, but not one gunboat or cruiser on those unvisited seas under England's flag.

On our side, the States have been busy with their naval militia, and Ohio, Michigan, and Illinois each has built armed steam vessels, which are used on the Lakes to teach the youth of those States the uses of naval arms.

To all this Great Britain has made no objection, and, moreover, is going to grant our cruiser bound for the Great Lakes the use of those Canadian waterways which afford the only route by which an ocean vessel can reach either Cleveland, Detroit, or Chicago.

All this, of course, emphasizes the possessive his adding the Santa Fe to his other possessions. If the Harriman policy of gathering all transcontinental lines under one head has been fully executed, Harriman, to use the language of Commissioner Lane, obtained "absolute mastery over every avenue leading to the Pacific coast within the United States save that afforded by the Great Northern on the northern border of the country and that offered by the Santa Fe on the southern."

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that the functions of a railroad corporation should be confined to the furnishing of transportation, and that railroads should not be permitted to invest in the securities of other than connecting lines. Moreover, the commission concludes that the time has come for reasonable regulation of the issuance of securities by railroads engaged in interstate commerce.

If legislation should be enacted along these lines, it would prevent further exploitation of American railway systems by men of the Harriman type. But what of Harrimanism in the flesh? Has Harriman done anything in violation of the law, or that can be rectified or punished by the courts? On that vitally interesting point Commissioner Lane's report is discreetly silent.

W. T. Stead has broken loose again. England sadly needs our society for the suppression of useless noises.

As to the Treatment of Lobsters.

We are strongly in favor of the propaganda of those humanitarians who are raising their voices ever and anon against the cruel and unmerciful treatment of lobsters. Animals and no plea they have made seems to appeal quite so much as that which they are now submitting in behalf of the lobster. They point out that it is the custom to boil lobsters alive, and they believe that some more gentle and pleasant custom of slaying these birds should be found. One of the humanitarians declares that she knows a gentleman who always kills his lobsters by bleeding them with a cut near the end of the tail. Of course, as between the two methods, boiling seems less lingering and more sure; though it is astonishing that any gentleman should engage in such an occupation.

It is, indeed, bad enough to be a lobster in life without having additional obloquy fastened on one by the method of one's taking off. We don't know how long it has been since boiling lobsters to death came into fashion, but it is a matter of record that most lobsters are kept in hot water while they are alive. Bleeding lobsters is an old custom, and though some lobsters have complained to the police of the cruelty of the practice, the trade is still carried on unblushingly.

Indeed, so prone are we as a nation to make light of such cruelty, and to find matter for a joke in even the most ferocious things, we believe there is a standard "whereas" on the subject much in favor with vandeville artists. The Dutch comedian, hitting himself in the eye with a copy of the War Cry, says, with an air of naivete: "Say, Mike! My girl was eating at Rector's last night, and what do you think? She got a pearl out of an oyster."

"That's nothing," retorts the merry Irish comedian, "my sister got a diamond necklace out of a lobster last night." Some individuals have been known to laugh at this, which only goes to show how callous people may become to the sufferings of others.

Let us, then, unite as a people for the protection of lobsters. Bleeding them, we are happy to believe, is not an universal custom among American gentlemen, but is largely confined to the callous chorus girl. It is by her, too, that most lobsters are consumed, and we think that the whole question of continuing the custom of keeping them in hot water may safely be left to her tender administrations.

An Italian military balloon came to grief because lightning struck it and left all the hot air out. Many a Presidential boom has suffered the same fate.

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would be in direct contravention of the Hague agreement; but what of that? Who has, or is willing to assume, the power of punishing the disobedient nation? Whence arises the guarantee that these Hague agreements will be carried out? And if there is no power to enforce the decrees, although they are mutually agreed upon between the powers, what is the use of the conference, anyway? It is one thing to make rules; it is quite another to enforce them.

The owner of a steamboat on the Tennessee River has changed its name from "Alton B. Parker" to "Theodore Roosevelt." Now, perhaps, the President will be in good enough humor to apologize.

Glorification of Murder.

Congressman Mudd's description of the "unwritten law" as applied in the Posse case, and similar cases in Virginia and elsewhere, as a "progressive development of the elementary, adjustable principles of the common law" is mere blatherdash. His whole plea in behalf of the unwritten law is, in fact, nothing less than a plea for murder as a remedy for private wrongs of a certain class. He tells us, apparently with solemnity, that murder is necessary to the protection of the home, maintenance of the family, and the better and purer development of society! So unblushing a defense of homicide as a social institution, as a bulwark of domestic happiness, as appealing to the highest instincts of the human heart, has been seldom heard in an American court of justice. It ought never to be heard from the lips of a member of the legal profession, no matter how hard pressed for something to say in defense of a client.

In such sentimental glorification of murder as that indulged in by Mr. Mudd we may, perhaps, find a clue to the astonishing prevalence of homicide in this country. We cannot deny that Mr. Mudd's opinion of the usefulness and effectiveness of killing the person who has done you wrong has the support of a considerable popular sentiment, and that there is a widespread belief that homicide is a relatively trivial crime as compared with some other crimes against the person.

Where such opinions prevail, it is not strange that homicide should also prevail, nor is it remarkable that juries should deal leniently with homicide when popular applause greets sentimental verdicts, while judges themselves, descending from the bench to the level of the rabble, openly commend the perversion of justice.

We cannot too strongly condemn the sentiment which regards homicide as a minor or venial offense, if not a positive good to the community. Such doctrine as this, so far from being a development of the common law, is opposed to all the principles of justice and human rights upon which the common law is founded. In no civilized code of jurisprudence is homicide recognized as an inferior crime, or as one that may be tolerated as tending, under given circumstances, to the purification and elevation of public morals.

The idea that murder is a good thing is a latter-day development of "unwritten law" pleaders, to regard what as juridical evolution is simply grotesque. It is, more accurately, a reversion to barbarism, to the control of society through the primary instincts of man as they rise to the surface in moments of unengorged passion.

A Kentucky gentleman says it is not chivalric to shoot a man in the back. In Breathitt County, however, it is a case of business before chivalry.

Because of a flaw in the new liquor law, Texans are forced to go twenty days without irrigating. For once in our lives we shall have something like a three weeks' rest from the Houston Post's big talk.

It is not at all necessary for the is-it-not-enough-for-you idiot to try to make up lost time, however.

As to the animals themselves, they probably would contend that the possum is the chief nature faker.

That theatrical manager who is advertising for people who must "come on wire" must be looking for a slack lot of performers.

The mayor of Alton, Ill., kissed a thousand babies in one day recently. The man must have an insatiable thirst for office.

All beer may be "unfair," as we are informed, but—un—un—we do not observe any especially attractive substitute lying around loose.

Mr. Carnegie says it is a disgrace to die rich, and Dr. Wiley says it is a disgrace to die under 100. The public will water with great interest the finish of these eminent gentlemen before deciding that they are physicians willing to take their own medicine.

Winston Churchill says he cares not who becomes governor of his state if only the nominee will allow him to write the platform. As platforms are polite fiction as a rule, why not compromise with the gentleman and let him do it?

A particularly fiendish murderer complains that the newspapers spell his name a different way every time they see it. This is apt seriously to depress the fiendish murderer business.

Raisoul is coming to this country to accept a theatrical engagement at a salary that will enable him to return to his old haunts soon and finance another rebellion.

The government has hedged pretty well on the law providing for a pension for all women of certain qualifications who are "forty-five years of age, or over."

A New York judge holds that kissing a girl in public is not a misdemeanor if a good deal depends on the miss' demeanor, however.

"Everything will be in harmony 3,000 years from now," says an optimist. Perhaps so; at least Mr. Bryan, Mr. Roosevelt, Mr. Foraker, Mr. Tillman, Mr. Tom Watson, George Fred Williams, William E. Chandler, and a few others will not be here to break up the peace conference.

Police Commissioner McAdoo, of New York, says the House of Lords "must go." At last, things begin to look really ominous for the lords.

Two temperance lecturers were mobbed for interfering with the operation of a blind tiger in Kansas recently. A prohibition law without public sentiment behind it is fully as useful as a sifter for balling out a swamped boat.

The London writer of the female persuasion who insists that she never met an American gentleman probably has never realized that it may have been the gentlemen's fault.

"Rats! That's all," says an editorial headline in the Augusta Chronicle. Well, isn't that enough?

We note, with pleasure and congratulations, the wedding, in Kansas, of Mr. Singer and Miss Nightingale. This is peculiar, because the lady is the first nightingale we ever heard of who was not a singer to start with.

Gov. Hughes is certainly making a success of the business of attending strictly to business.

A SUNDAY TALK.

For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Jesus Christ our Lord.—Romans, viii: 38, 39.

What St. Paul said in the text quoted above has proven true through the ages. Within the past century there has been an astonishing growth of materialism, and away from belief in revelation as such; science has, largely in vain, been dragged in to the aid of miracle, and efforts, many of them grotesque, to square human action as we know it with the Scriptural accounts of what happened nineteen hundred years ago, have been conspicuous for their lack of success.

But one thing remains unchanged and unchallenged, and that is the deep, abiding love of God inherent in every heart and without which life seems even to the direct object meaningless and unsatisfactory. One result of modern thought on the subject has been, almost insensibly, perhaps, the creation of a distinction in the mind between Jesus Christ, the founder of Christianity, and the idea of God, which is the fundamental basis of all religion.

Modern thought recognizes that the man Jesus Christ pictured in the Scriptures, whence the world gets all its knowledge of Him, is not the ideal leader for the progress of mankind. The life He lived is not possible as an example for men to-day; it ignores too many of what we have come to recognize as duties and responsibilities. Much has been made too much, perhaps—of the fact that the boy Jesus worked in the carpenter shop of his father, Joseph. Afterward, as a man he did not work; that is, unless we consider performing work. He was, as it were, a learned teacher, his own living, nor that of others. He recognized marriage as a duty in other men, but sedulously avoided its practice. He was the father of no children; he kept himself from the affairs of the world. Had mankind since followed that example there would be no progress to record.

The system of religion to which Jesus Christ gave His name was not, as is too often accepted for want of thought, His system. It was the religion of the people. As the Rev. Charles F. Dolan says: "The man who, having been a power in local politics, sought a livelihood and lived down his past. An Ohio newspaper man presented him to the Secretary, who greeted him pleasantly. But there was no position open. Even in that day the civil service regulations blocked the way of the party workers. A perfunctory promise to keep him in mind was the best Mr. Smith could offer."

"Now, look here," said the reformed Ohioan, with a John L. Sullivan pose and swagger, as he glared at the Secretary, "if I'm going to get it, I'd like to know it, and if I ain't goin' to get it, I'd like to know it. I don't care to be dubb'n' around here on a dead card."

Then the Secretary told him frankly that he could do nothing for him, and the Ohioan returned home to resume his old life.

Telling this story yesterday, a Southern newspaper man ventured the opinion that that excellent journal of the uplift, Collier's Weekly, in its thunderous assaults upon Vice President Fairbanks, was now playing the role which the Ohio reformed gambler escaped—being "dubb'n' on a dead card"—since, with the present radical trend of things, the distinguished Hoosier, whatever his qualifications or disqualifications, is in no imminent danger of being struck by Presidential lightning.

A New Australian Line. Advocates of ship subsidy ought to find much food for reflection in the announcement, which has appeared recently in the London Times and in cables to various American papers, that Andrew Weir & Co., of London and Glasgow, are soon to inaugurate a new mail steamship service between San Francisco and Australasian ports to replace the American Oceanic Line, which went out of business a few months ago, as an alleged result of Congress' failure to pass the subsidy bill. Naturally, the question is asked, why, if a foreign concern is willing to enter the field without any unusual amount of urging, could not the American company have made the venture pay, or subsidy or no subsidy? The fact of the matter is that the Oceanic's three ships in the Australasian service, only one was wholly seaworthy and capable of making schedule time. That was the Sierra. The Ventura and the Sonoma were in such condition that they could be depended on to arrive at their destinations anywhere from two or three days to two weeks overdue. Passengers naturally avoided them, shippers preferred the more reliable Canadian-Australian line, and the New Zealand Parliament became so disgusted over the repeated delays in the handling of that country's mails that it withdrew the considerable subsidy paid. It is assumed that the new British line will have no larger mail grants from Great Britain, the United States, Australia, or New Zealand than the Oceanic had. Furthermore, it will not be allowed to carry goods or passengers between San Francisco and Honolulu, because the law prohibiting the carrying of coastwise trade in foreign bottoms has applied to the Hawaiian Islands ever since they became an American Territory. This, of course, means that a considerable revenue will be lost.

Cushman and the Circus. It does not take long for some great statesmen to become so accustomed to the adulation of the multitude that they accept it as a matter of course. A few days ago Representative Cushman, of Washington State, the lanky lawyer who has built up something of a reputation as a humorist in Washington City, and perhaps elsewhere, was seated in Judge Lanning's office, out in Aberdeen, Wash., and was busily engaged telling J. G. Lewis, Percy Perry, and other veterans how much brighter life was to him after meeting them. He sat on the small of his back with his feet in the show window, and was getting on famously. As the words rolled from his lips a blurring rode down the street outside, blowing stirring dust. Then came a hand in glittering cuffs, tooting for dear life. Immediately Mr. Cushman rose, bowed low to the people in the street, made some expressive gestures, and commenced to express his thanks for the thoughtfulness of the townspeople in providing such a welcome for him.

"Well, er—you see, Congressman, this isn't exactly in your honor," stammered Percy Perry. "As a matter of fact, Humbuggen & Mammoth's circus is in town to-day, and this is the front end of the parade."

Mr. Cushman went away that afternoon without seeing the performance.

Miss Beeks Returns. Miss Gertrude Beeks, secretary of the National Civic Federation, has returned to New York from Panama, where she went to inspect the housing, feeding, and amusement of canal employees, and to look into social conditions. She will submit a report within the next ten days or two weeks, and, judging from remarks attributed to her by the metropolitan press, it will be quite favorable. Miss Beeks was on the isthmus twenty-three days. She has been engaged in sociological work for some time.

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