

THE WASHINGTON HERALD

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SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 1910.

CANNONISM.

The shortcomings of Congress can no longer be charged up to Cannonism. That bugaboo disappears. With it goes an issue that promised to be potential in the approaching campaign.

Cannonism was a term to conjure with. Never clearly defined, it has been held blamable for about all the ills, real and fancied, that afflict the American people to-day.

High cost of living—Cannonism. Inequitable operation of the new tariff—Cannonism. Unfair discrimination in railroad rates—Cannonism. Continued growth of the trusts—Cannonism.

After all, the American public and the American press usually succeed in being fair in their measurement of American statesmen.

Silence at Annapolis. It is assuredly an ingenious circumvention of discipline in which the midshipmen at the Naval Academy have been "engaged," if an active verb can be applied to such passivity.

War with Japan? Never! Mr. Fairbanks says there is no danger of war with Japan. For this relief from Jingoism, thank!

Work Along a Different Line. The defenders of the recent tariff revision seem to have heard the explosion of the theory that a lie well stuck to is as good as the truth.

What Confronts Mr. Ballinger. What confronts Mr. Ballinger is not a nebulous theory, but a troublesome condition of public sentiment. And it will be made worse by frequent methods.

What is Life Without Trusts? An opera trust, a motor trust, an oil trust, a leather trust, a button trust, a laundry trust, a labor trust, a clothing trust, a packing trust, and every sort of whisking trust!

The Hon. "Pete's" Sad Plight. It must fill the soul of the Hon. "Pete" Hepburn with chagrin to think that he missed election to the only House of Representatives which in his time has seriously undertaken to discipline the Speaker and to relax the severity of the House code of rules.

Strong Arguments for Statehood. Arizona and New Mexico are once more clamoring loudly to come into the United States, and the largest divorce colony in the United States, and New Mexico can raise more cactus and sagebrush per acre than any other Commonwealth. Besides, they make a beast of other features. Let them in!

Unrest. There's a freshness to the breeze, And a new warmth to the air, And a sweetness to the sunlight, And earth smells are everywhere.

Keeping a Secret. Village gossip has so often been presented as one of the characteristic features of American life as to create the impression that we are a nation of scandal mongers.

While we may relish tales which should never be told, we have, on the whole, a sense of honor that places us far above the position the pessimist would give us.

If Mr. Roosevelt noticed that the Nile was running up hill, he may have thought it was merely a part of the celebration.

When Washington was located in Georgia to-day, it would be the unanimous opinion of the people that something had broken loose.

We confess that "Little Joe" Brown appeals to us much more convincingly in his familiar role of "Jack, the Giant Killer," than he does as an authority on north pole exploration.

"Why doesn't some one trot out a Japanese jingo and alarmist of the size and weight of ex-Secretary Shaw and let the two fight it to a finish?" inquires the Richmond News-Leader. The Japanese

are an extremely polite people, and it is just possible that the question may embarrass them.

"It is the beginning of the end of Cannonism," says the Newark Star. Whatever that is.

Some person recently referred to Mr. David Graham Phillips as "The Balzac of America." This person was merely seeking to hand one to Balzac, he might have accomplished his purpose much more happily by designating Balzac as the David Graham Phillips of his day.

Still, "a small but select" audience in Knoxville, another in Chattanooga, and another in Atlanta may have had something to do with the cancellation of those remaining Southern Peary dates.

The House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States, ladies and gentlemen! It does not know where it is going, but it is on its way, all right!

It is hard to stand pat, of course, when the steam roller insists upon running over you.

"The Democrats have the next House of Representatives won, hands down," says a contemporary. The great Democratic specialty is having elections won six months ahead of election day, of course.

The Senate could do practically any old thing nowadays, and no one would notice it at all.

"The Washington Herald was not many days off in calling our commandant 'Admiral Marshall,'" comments the Norfolk Landmark. We somehow felt—perhaps instinctively—that so level-headed an officer surely ought to be an admiral.

"King Edward has a cold," says a cable. Perhaps this was flashed across in order that some of the snobs on this side might lose no time sneezing.

Cotton four? "Chewing the rag" may yet come to have a literal, no less than a figurative, meaning!

The Democratic minority and the "insurgent" Republicans having yoked themselves together and started down hill, we shall not be surprised if the head-up-of-darn-our-fool-souls cry is heard long before they reach the bottom.

Mr. Roosevelt and Judge Alton B. Parker are scheduled to be in Paris at the same time soon. However, it is not stated that the judge will attend the colonel's forthcoming lecture.

It is going to be rare fun out on Capitol Hill—while it lasts, perhaps.

"Ambassador Bryce has protested to the Philadelphia Ledger. The government probably is too busy with its other troubles to notice, just at this time; but we have no doubt the Ambassador is quite right about it, whatever it is.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

The girlie-girle authors. She has a lot of fears. She loves to write. In phrases tried. About the flood of years.

She's always gazing backward; Her memory is vast. With eyes of brown She looks adown The vista of the past.

The girlie-girle author Is only twenty-two; A youthful miss To remember— But that's the way they do.

A Big Production. "I guess the mother-in-law joke is dead beyond recall." "Nix. A popular star is going to appear next season in a grand revival of the mother-in-law joke, with gorgeous scenery and some special music."

Happens Occasionally. "I saw it again yesterday." "Saw what?" "Saw a woman start a street car door. The last time I saw that occur was in 1885."

A Useful Fowl. "Why don't you get rid of that hen?" "She never lays." "Well, she is an incessant cackler, and thus she keeps the other hens at a high mark."

In March. The man in the street, By the way, Sees some hoisery neat On display.

A Mental Tonic. "I have discovered a new dramatist. Just accepted a society play written by a drug clerk." "Well, well! One hundred epigrams, one dollar."

The Proper Reward. "He saved my life," declared the millionaire. "Hand me a fountain pen, somebody." "Going to make out a check?" "No; going to endorse him for a Carnegie medal."

A Wealthy Dinner. "It was a neat idea." "What did she do?" "Had the ice cream molded to look like individual pork chops."

NEWSPAPER ENGLISH.

Veteran Reporter Takes Occasion to Roast Some Ordinary Specimens. From the Editor and Publisher. Albert L. Blair, a veteran newspaper man of Brooklyn, recently entertained the Business Men's Association of Bridgeport, Conn., with a description of the inside workings of the newspaper.

Shakespeare's Kin. So far as direct descendants of Shakespeare are concerned the Poetry Recital Society's researches have failed to discover any living being who is able to back up such a claim with genuine palatable evidence.

The Usual Treatment. Post—I should like to leave these verses for your editor's inspection. What is the usual procedure? Office Boy—Dey usually leaves dem here an' calls in a few days an' gets dem back.

Silent Nature. Ye nature moves so quietly At rise and set of sun; We cannot hear the break Or the night fall, either one.—Christian Science Monitor.

Evidence Can Be Fabricated. In a case in one of our Indian courts a jury had before it evidence that could not be in any way shaken. When the concluding stage had been reached the following interchange of conversation took place between the judge and his colleagues in the administration of justice:

"Gentlemen, are you ready to give your verdict?" "Yes." "What is your verdict?" "Our answer is, sir, that you can do as you like with the men that have confessed, but we acquit all the rest."

Economic Value of Babies. In spite of high food prices, our national baby crop promises to be a record-breaker. Based on figures compiled by a Boston economist, its value for 1910 will be \$1,887,000,000. These figures represent, approximately, of course, the economic value to the United States based on population of the United States.

Couldn't If He Would. From the Chicago News. Shortlight—I say, old man, can you lend me \$10? Loughan—Impossible. I've tried to lend you money several times, but you always seem to look upon it as a gift.

Explicable. From the Philadelphia Public Ledger. A waiter in one of the small restaurants of New York testified in court that his tips did not amount to more than \$15 or \$20 a month. No arrest followed. Is perjury no longer a crime?

PEOPLE AND THINGS.

A Motion Picture Fake. There is a film which has lately been sent out all over the country that marks the climax in the art of motion picture faking. It is so cleverly done, however, that the chances are not one man in a thousand who sees it will have the least idea how it was done.

Answer 2. The nucleus of a comet is probably solid, but not a single solid body. It is likely that the head of a comet consists of a multitude of solid particles, like a close packed mass of meteors.

Answer 3. The gaseous portion of a comet does not condense into crystals because there is practically no pressure exerted upon it in open space. The cold there would no doubt be sufficient to liquefy or solidify any gas, but experiment shows that cold alone cannot produce this transformation; there must be great pressure also.

Answer 4. If the tail of a comet were nothing but an illusion, produced by the sunlight thrown into the form of a beam, the rays caused by open pigeonholes in a hay mow, there would have to be all about the sun and throughout the solar system some kind of dusty medium or atmosphere to reflect the light.

In order that the head of a comet should act like a lens it would have to be transparent to the ordinary rays of light, which is contrary to all that we know of the nature of such bodies.

Then, too, the shapes and the changes undergone by the tails of comets are inconsistent with the hypothesis that they are simply condensed beams of sunlight.

The spectroscopic also gives positive evidence that the emanations from comets consist of gases, mingled perhaps with minute solid particles. They always contain hydrocarbon gases. The wonderful tail of the recent comet "A" showed the presence of sodium, the basic element of common salt.

In short, there is no getting away from the fact that comets are very real things, and it will be no illusion that we shall have to deal with next May if Halley's comet stretches its tail over the earth, however innocuous the reality may be.

Food for the Gods. From the Detroit Free Press. "That girl must think I'm made of money." "What's the matter?" "I invited her to a little lunch after the theater and I'll be hanged if she didn't order pork chops."

We See the Point. From the Boston Transcript. Pupil—Teacher, may I be absent this afternoon? My aunt's cousin is dead. Teacher—Well—yes, I suppose so; but really I wish it was some nearer relation.

WHAT IS A COMET?

Eminent Astronomer Answers Pertinent Questions on Live Topic. Garrett P. Servis, in New York American. A reader of the American asks the following questions, confessing that the recent influx of remarkable comets, and the prediction that one of them is going to give us a taste of its real quality next May, have given him "comets on the brain."

First. Do you think they are projectiles shot from the sun? Second. Is there any solid nucleus? Third. How do you account for the fact that the gaseous portion does not condense and solidify into crystalline particles in space which registers 270 degrees below zero centigrade?

Fourth. If you take a magnifying glass, either a spectacle lens or a reading glass, and focus the light from an ordinary incandescent lamp and manipulate the glass at different angles you can produce a comet in miniature, and you can turn its tail either from the light or toward the light at will. Do you think that would explain the illusion of a comet's tail?

Answer 1. It is probable that comets have originated from the sun, but not in the form of projectiles shot out of it. The trend of recent investigation is to show that comets, like the planets, were originally formed from the primeval mass of matter that gave birth to the sun and his system of attendant bodies.

Comets, according to this view, are not simple interlopers from outer space, as was formerly supposed, but they have as much right to claim nationality in the solar system as have the planets. They differ from the planets in being less massive and in having orbits much more eccentric. They are the sun's scouts, and their excursions carry them to enormous distances into the wastes of extra-planetary space, but sooner or later they come back to report at headquarters.

Answer 2. The nucleus of a comet is probably solid, but not a single solid body. It is likely that the head of a comet consists of a multitude of solid particles, like a close packed mass of meteors. The fact that many comets are known to have turned into meteor swarms strengthens this probability.

Answer 3. The gaseous portion of a comet does not condense into crystals because there is practically no pressure exerted upon it in open space. The cold there would no doubt be sufficient to liquefy or solidify any gas, but experiment shows that cold alone cannot produce this transformation; there must be great pressure also.

Answer 4. If the tail of a comet were nothing but an illusion, produced by the sunlight thrown into the form of a beam, the rays caused by open pigeonholes in a hay mow, there would have to be all about the sun and throughout the solar system some kind of dusty medium or atmosphere to reflect the light.

There is no evidence of the existence of anything of the kind, and if it did exist it would produce a general misty illumination in the sky.

In order that the head of a comet should act like a lens it would have to be transparent to the ordinary rays of light, which is contrary to all that we know of the nature of such bodies.

Then, too, the shapes and the changes undergone by the tails of comets are inconsistent with the hypothesis that they are simply condensed beams of sunlight.

The spectroscopic also gives positive evidence that the emanations from comets consist of gases, mingled perhaps with minute solid particles. They always contain hydrocarbon gases. The wonderful tail of the recent comet "A" showed the presence of sodium, the basic element of common salt.

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AT THE HOTELS.

"Japan is not going to get into a war with the United States," said Dudley Warner, of Shidzooka, Japan, who is visiting this country. Mr. Warner was born in this country, but he has spent most of his life in Japan, and he has acquired a thorough familiarity with Japanese conditions.

"The bonds of Japan are selling at 80 per cent, the people are taxed to death, and there is no chance of a war. But Japan is turning all her energy to building up her commerce, and every reputable business man can show the slightest sign of being successful can get a subsidy from the government. It means more taxes, but the Japs say: 'We are building up industries for our children, and you are piling up a big bonded debt for yours,' and he is right."

"The nobility of Japan is getting away from the old notion that it was beneath it to engage in business. The Mitsui family is the Rockefeller of Japan, and with subsidies from the government, is getting into many lines of business. The United States will have to look out some of these days. As it is now, the American cannot compete for the cotton trade over there. He buys his raw cotton in Georgia, for instance, ships it to Massachusetts to be woven, paying full rates and full freight charges, sends it back clear across the country again, loads it into ships on which he must pay full freight rates, lands it at Dalny, in Manchuria, and sends it up into the interior by railway, paying full freight rates again."

"Now, what does the Jap do? The Mitsui family buys the raw cotton in Georgia, loads it at San Francisco into vessels subsidized by the Japanese government, and on which the family does not have to pay full freight rates, manufactures the cotton in Japan at factories owned by the Mitsui family and subsidized by the government, ships it again by subsidized vessels owned by the Mitsui family to Dalny, and puts it on that same railway subsidized by the government and owned by the Mitsui family. What show has America?"

"If the American Congressman had been induced to take a trip around the world with his eyes open, he would come home enthusiastic for a ship subsidy. He could see just eleven ships on the high seas flying the American flag."

"There was a time when the tea industry was almost entirely in the hands of foreigners," he said. "They bought the tea, would not sell it back. The Japanese began taking charge of the firing, and now they fire and sell all of the tea, excepting what is marketed by five outside companies, and these are not making money to-day. It is only a matter of time when they will be taken by the Japanese, too. The warmest sort of feeling is growing up between China and Japan."

Scott H. Humphreys, of Minneapolis, Minn., who has just returned from an extended business tour of Europe and is at the Raleigh, said last night that Americans are the greatest self-knockers in the world.

"I'm beginning to believe that we're the only people in the world who really hammer our own system of government. Do you know that there are plenty of Americans who, when traveling in Europe, knock the United States? I wouldn't have believed that if I hadn't been present on many occasions when it happened. Some of them knock their country openly and deliberately and almost studiously, while others knock it by implication; that is, they fall to come to the defense of the United States when this country is being sneered at by Europeans with whom they are chumming."

"I don't know which of these two classes is the more cowardly. The touring Americans who openly rap the United States, without any suggestion or help on the part of Europeans with whom they happen to be training, belong to that class of obvious snobs who profess to be 'ashamed' of the fact that they were born and reared in the United States. I couldn't possibly have believed that such a type of Americans existed had I not within the last half year come in contact with them time and again. I ought, perhaps, add that while I'm not offensively spread-eagled or anything of that sort, it was often about all that I could do to keep from punching the heads of some of the males of this species. The touring Americans who let Europeans wallop their country without any 'comeback' whatever, but who, on the contrary, justly agree with the rappers, are, as they say as hard to endure. I, at least, found them so."

"The Englishman, for example, points out in a supposedly humorous and sometimes sneering way to the touring Americans some of the things that he has read about corruption in the American governmental system. 'Well, I'm sorry to have to admit it, but it's true,' is the way I've heard scores of spineless Americans mumble their replies to Europeans who've thrown the harpoon into them about some badly exaggerated mess of rot they've got pouched about the States."

A most remarkable convention will be held in this city in May next, according to Marcus Krynskiy, of Chicago, who is at the Regis.

"The purpose of it will be to further the movement for Polish nationality. It will be the first Polish national congress that has been held in this country, and it is to be expected that it will bring together a striking aggregation of Polish patriots, not only from this country, but from other parts of the world. The movement to hold this Pan-Polish convention was started by the Polish National Alliance of the United States, which is the largest Polish organization in the world."

"The central government of the alliance recently issued an appeal to all Polish parties and organizations to elect delegates, and mailed personal invitations to about 1,000 prominent Poles in Europe and America. It is to be expected that this congress will have an important bearing on the question of making the Poles a free people, and restoring to them the nationality of which they were despoiled by the combined powers of Russia and Austria and Prussia."

Circumlocutory Luck. From the Cleveland Plain Dealer. "Look there, doctor, see that superstitious idiot trying to pick up a pin! Let's give him the ha ha." "Hush. Don't do it." "Good gracious, you don't think it brings luck, do you?" "Yes; I do. The pin is probably rusty. He may stick it in his finger. That means blood poisoning—and blood poisoning means business for us. Let him alone."

Rather Mixed. From the Baltimore American. Silas—Aren't you delighted, John, that dear mother is going to spend six weeks with us? John (glomously)—Delighted! She (suddenly)—Oh, John, would you put the old cut out? He (abstractedly)—I'd like to, Marla, but she's your mother.

TO-DAY IN HISTORY.

PALM SUNDAY—MARCH 20.

When Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time the people took palm branches and went forth to meet Him, crying Hosanna. This incident has led the last Sunday before Easter to be called Palm Sunday. The date of its establishment is uncertain, but the first writer who expressly refers to it is the Venerable Bede. The usage certainly existed in the seventh century.

Throughout the greater part of Europe, in defect of the palm tree, branches of some other tree, as box, yew, or willow, were blessed by the priests after mass and distributed among the people, who forthwith carried them in a joyous procession in memory of the Saviour's triumphant entry into the Holy City, after which they were usually burned and the ashes laid aside, to be sprinkled on the heads of the congregation on the ensuing Ash Wednesday, with the priest's blessing.

There was an old saying that "He who had not a palm in his hand on Palm Sunday would have his hand cut off."

After the Reformation, in 1538, Henry VIII declared the carrying of palms on this day to be one of those ceremonies not to be condemned or dropped. The custom was kept up by the clergy till the reign of Edward VI, when it was left to the voluntary observance of the people.

Many years ago the Palm Sunday customs of England were considerably more elaborate than to-day. The flowers and branches designed to be used by the clergy were laid upon high altars, those to be used by the laity upon the south step of the altar. The priest proceeded to consecrate them by a prayer, beginning, "I conjure thee, thou creature of flowers and branches, in the name of God the Father," &c. He then prays, "We humbly beseech thee that thy truth may sanctify this creature of flowers and branches, and slips of palms or boughs of trees which we offer," &c.

The flowers and branches were then fanned with frankincense from censers, after which there were prayers and sprinklings with holy water. The flowers and branches being then distributed, the procession commenced, in which the most conspicuous figures were two priests bearing a crucifix. When the procession had moved through the town, it returned to church, where mass was performed and the branches and flowers offered at the altar.

In the extreme desire manifested under the ancient religion to realize all the particulars of Christ's passion it was customary in some places to introduce into the procession a wooden figure of an ass mounted on wheels, with a wooden human figure riding upon it, to represent the Saviour. Before this wheeled figure people threw their willow branches, and after it had passed over they gathered them up, for these twigs were deemed an infallible protection against storms and lightning during the ensuing year.

Another custom of the day was to cast cakes from the steeple of the parish church, the boys scrambling for them below. Later an angel appears to have been introduced as a figure in the procession. In the accounts of St. Andrew Hubbard's parish in London under 1539 there is an item of 8 pence for the hire of an angel to serve on this occasion.

March 20 is the birthday of many eminent men. Edmund P. Gaines, the noted general of the war of 1812 (1777); Neal Dow, the temperance abolitionist (1800); John McCloskey, the first Roman Catholic cardinal of America (1810); Henrik Ibsen, the Norwegian author (1828); Admiral John G. Walker (1835); and the day on which the following notables died: Louis Kosuth (1894); Sir Isaac Newton (1727); and Henry IV of England (1610). It was the day on which Pitt's Sinking Fund was established in 1786 and on which Mrs. Stowe's novel, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," was first issued in 1852.

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