

British Realty Changes

From Living Age
On account of the inheritance tax, which practically halves the fortunes left by some English peers, and the income tax, which takes heavy toll of the incomes of heirs, many of England's fine old ancestral estates which have been in the same family for many generations are being sold to the highest bidder. Real estate developments are springing up, and scores of small houses now are growing where but one dignified mansion stood before. The former owners are discovering the conveniences of living in metropolitan hotels or apartment houses, and it is getting to be quite a common thing to find ancient and noble names on the registers of permanent residents of the more exclusive London hotels. A striking example of this enforced exodus from the country, by families who find it difficult to keep up their ancestral traditions, was recently afforded by the sale of the Esher place estate of some 350 acres. His last owner was Lord D'Abernon, but at one time the Esher lands belonged to the Charterhouse Abbey, which, in the reign of Henry III, sold them to the see of Winchester. William of Waynesflete built himself a palace there and occupied it until 1436. Cardinal Wolsey rebuilt the palace leaving Waynesflete's famous tower, which still stands. The Cardinal came to Esher after his downfall, and later Queen Elizabeth bought the estate and gave it to one of her favorites. The present chateau style high above the River Mole. The new development is planned with an eye to preserving the dignity and the artistic identity of the old estate. To those who have a weakness for the beauty of the English rural landscape it will be gratifying to know that the ancient park of Esher will be preserved intact.

The Sinclair Case

From Milwaukee Journal.
Harry Sinclair must go to jail; the supreme court has so ruled in the case that involved contempt of the senate. Tell that to the man in the street and you get in reply the incredulous query, "Will he?" and the further comment, "I'll wait and see."
So far has gone this thing of failure to bring to account the men of the oil scandals, so long have been the delays, so devious the paths that justice has had to tread, that even now the people refuse to accept the decree of the United States supreme court until they are "shown."

Not that such an attitude correctly reflects the record of the supreme court in dealing with the oil scandals. The record shows that the highest tribunal itself has hit the oil conspiracy hard whenever it had the opportunity. It did in the civil suits involving Elk Hills and Teapot Dome. And now in this contempt case of Sinclair, but the damage that weakened the people's faith in the government's ability to function was done in other ways. By the failure of men formerly high in the executive branch of the government to denounce the oil conspiracy as they should, by the tripping up of justice before juries and in lower courts, by the use of great wealth to push forward every dodge that legal ingenuity could conceive.

So once more the people will have to be taught, and the supreme court's decision is the beginning of that lesson. That Harry Sinclair and others like him are not supermen above and beyond the laws of the republic. The picture of Sinclair, looking out from behind the bars of the old Washington jail, will do more to restore confidence in government than anything that has happened in half a century.

But there is far more to this decision than merely what happens to Sinclair and we should not miss its significance. Here is in reality a renewed charter to congress to function as the founding fathers conceived it should function. When Sinclair challenged the right of congress to ask him questions that involved the very integrity of the oil leases, he challenged the power of the people's representatives to find out whether public business had been conducted honestly and to gain information upon which to found the future course of state.

Allowed Four Wives

From The Pathfinder.
Most of the 2,000,000 Kurds in the Near East inhabit the eastern part of Turkey, says the National Geographic Society, although a few tribes are scattered over the northern part of Iraq and western Persia. They have been influenced very little by other peoples. Now and then a Kurd will light his cigarette with a patent lighter instead of the old flint stone he once carried, and a few other modern devices have crept into his mountain village, but the close tribal life maintains the old racial customs.

Cherchez La Femme

From Kansas City Star.
A woman county school superintendent in Tennessee has got across a ruling which prohibits married men from teaching in the public schools. It is even-handed justice and a timely issue. What with scrubbing, the washing of dishes, care of children and other duties, a woman busy at home has very little time, thought or energy for such outside undertakings as the intellectual guidance of youth. The man's place is in the home, around which cluster the vital traditions of the nation.

Out Our Way



By Williams

Debenture System No Worse Than Bounties Paid to Manufacturers

From the New York Times

President Hoover, together with Secretary Mellon and Secretary Hyde, assembled powerful arguments against the debenture plan of farm relief. But most of them could be directed with just as deadly effect against the protective tariff. This is being pointed out by several democrats in congress, who appear to be ready to deny the soft impeachment that their party has become protectionist. Senator Glass, for example, states that whether the debenture plan for farmers is sound or not, it can be defended as not more "vicious" than the tariff protection given to many forms of industry. When horrified republicans assert that the debenture scheme would really amount to a government subsidy for farmers, the reply is that this is exactly what the protective tariff is for manufacturing. The possibility that debentures, if granted to the farmers, might raise the price of wheat 21 cents a bushel is referred to as a fearful thing to attempt to do by legislation. But it is precisely the kind of raising of prices to the consumer which is sought by a high tariff. It is now said that if the duties on textiles are pushed up the mill owners will not take the whole benefit, but will pay higher wages to their employes. Doubtless the farmers would be equally ready to agree that if the government, through a debenture plan, or any other form of bonus, made them a present of \$1,000, they would increase the wages of farm laborers by as much as \$1.37 per month.

Both logically and politically the farmers have a pretty good case. The republican party has promised by means of higher duties on farm products to protect agriculture equally with industry. But experience has taught the farmers that this kind of tariff does not really work in their favor to any extent. Therefore, they have got up this ingenious scheme of debentures, by which they believe the tariff will really be made effective in their interest. By flatly rejecting their plea, the republican leaders will make the farmers feel that they are entirely and deliberately removed from the shower of blessings which the tariff is supposed to bestow. There is little doubt that the farmers are cherishing a vain hope, and will not get what they want. But the republican managers have repeatedly found that they do not need to cater for the farm vote, which always falls into line for them, no matter how angry the preliminary protests, and will think it perfectly safe to treat the renewed threat of a political revolution in the republican farming states as wholly negligible.

However, as the deacon who owned the one-hoss shay remarked, "Logic is logic, that's all I say." The economic and political logic behind the debenture plan is almost exactly the same as that behind the system of protective tariffs. If the former is rejected as harmful to the true national interest, the latter ought to be. But it won't be. A little thing like glaring inconsistency never yet overturned a party policy.

Too Large An Order

From New York World.
The Association Against the Prohibition Amendment has asked President Hoover to let the vets state the case for modification when his new fact finding commission is assembled, and Mr. Hoover's secretary has replied that "opportunity will be given for the presentation of any facts which bear upon the enforcement of the Eighteenth amendment." To this, he adds: or any other of our laws.

Around the World For a 3-Mile Call

From The Nation.
Radioing to a man 13,000 miles away to get him to radio 13,000 miles back to a man at close hand in order to get the latter to hang up his telephone receiver—this is the extraordinary happening reported by Commander Byrd. The Times, it appears, found difficulty in receiving the wireless messages from Byrd which are sent by him every night from his position in the antarctic ice, because of the peculiar conditions around its building in New York City. The employe receiving these messages found that he could get them quite clearly in his home in Astoria across the East River from Manhattan, so clearly that by placing his telephone transmitter close to his radio receiving instrument the Byrd dots and dashes could be heard perfectly in the Times office. One night, however, the Times wished to call its employe in Astoria. There was only one way to do it. The newspaper radioed to that one of Byrd's ships which was receiving and asked it to telephone over the ice to the other ship to tell the employe in Astoria to hang

up by itself would seem a formidable enough problem to give the commission a good deal of work. There are at least four important questions to be answered: (1) Is it true, as the Association Against the Prohibition Amendment alleges, that the Volstead law is itself the cause of lawlessness and that it cannot be enforced without amendment? (2) If this is true, what steps can be taken to amend it? (3) If it is not true, what steps can be taken to enforce it? (4) What concrete plans for appropriating what sums of money and enacting what new legislation should be put in the hands of congress?

A hard headed inquiry along these lines would come closer to discovering what can be done about "lawlessness" in this country than Mr. Hoover's present plan for investigating everything in general and nothing in particular.

London Again Money Center.
Winston Churchill's speech in the house of commons reviewed, as these speeches usually do, the position of London as an international money market. He found reason for reassurance in that matter, and what he said had its bearing on our own position. London is still, the speaker declared, "the greatest international money market." Not only so, but it had very lately made great progress in regaining its old position.

"We are able to maintain money rates which are lower than those nominally prevailing in New York and lower still than those actually effectively ruling in New York. The bill exchange on London, which after the war was so seriously menaced that it threatened to disappear, has in the last few years regained its time-honored position as the favorite international instrument and token of commerce.

The truth of this assertion has already been recognized by Wall Street, particularly during the past three months. The surest measure of a money market's international service is its share in the discounting of acceptance bills, which represent the direct financing of international trade. In this class of bills the American market had virtually not dealt at all before the war; but by the end of last year the total outstanding at American banks was estimated at \$1,264,000,000, of which \$489,000,000 were held as investments by the reserve banks. The New York rate for discounting such bills was 3 1/2 per cent in our easy money period of 1927, a more favorable rate than London's, and the business rushed to New York. But the next year's tightening of the Wall Street money market, under the influence of the enormous brokers' borrowings, carried the rate to 4 1/2 at the end of 1928 and, combined with the subsequent gradual withdrawal of the reserve banks from the acceptance market, it has risen in 1929 to 5 1/2 per cent, the highest since 1920.

This rise in rates necessarily changed the position of the American market for such international bills in relation to London. Not only had the New York rates ceased to be inviting, but other demands on the American banks, present or prospective, were so heavy as to render the acceptance market no inducement for them. It followed necessarily that London should of late have been rapidly regaining business of this character which it had previously lost to America.

Q Explain the expression, "Cute with a worm" or "right cute with a worm."
A. The word "cute" is used here to mean clever and the copper coil used in a still is commonly referred to in old English history and among the mountaineers of Kentucky and Tennessee as a worm. Hence when referring to a man who is successfully making "corn liquor" he is often said to be "right cute with a worm."

Q What names for boys are most common? M. T.
A. One compilation gives the following, in the order named: John, William, James, George, Charles, Robert, Frank, Harry, Henry, Joseph, Walter, Thomas, Arthur, Edward, and Clarence.

Q What should an adult Persian cat weigh? G. J. H.
A. Persian cats vary greatly in weight. They are usually about 9 or 10 pounds. Sometimes males weigh 11 and 12 pounds. These cats are being bred for large bones and greater weight.

U. S. Radio Development Checked By Control of Wireless Patents

From Bulletin of Radio Protective Association.
You can telephone by wireless from New York to London. But you cannot telephone by wireless from New York to Chicago. Why?

In Europe, you can telephone by wireless from a moving train to your office or home. But you cannot do it in the United States, even though American railroad trains are the finest in the world. Why?

The answer to both questions is the same: Because under the Radio Trust agreements, the American Telephone and Telegraph company has an exclusive monopoly of all wireless telephone development. Under those agreements, the Radio Corporation of America, the General Electric company and the Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing company are under contract to give all their wireless telephone patents—present and future—to the American Telephone and Telegraph company, and not to compete with the telephone company in the wireless telephone field. In return, the telephone company agrees to give all its wireless telegraph patents to the Radio Corporation of America and to stay out of the wireless telegraph business.

The telephone company owns no wires across the ocean, so it is willing to permit wireless telephony from New York to London. It owns wires from New York to Chicago. Therefore it will tolerate no wireless competition there—or anywhere else in the United States.

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Until the United States government forces a dissolution of the Radio Trust agreements, there will be no wireless telephony in the United States and the people of this country will not be permitted to enjoy the full possibilities of the radio art.

Students Air Follies

From New York Times.
A majority of the seniors at Columbia college favor the republican party, drinking, Greta Garbo, "necking," James Branch Cabell, swearing, football, Walter Hampden, "Strange Interlude" and smoking, it was revealed in the results of the annual vote conducted by the Columbian.

The vote also bestowed laurels on the class heroes selected as being the "best" athletes, speakers, writers and politicians. Harold A. Rousselot, of 2968 Valentine avenue, the Bronx, chairman of the student board, received the major of the honors.

Rousselot was selected as the man who had done most for Columbia as the "most nearly ideal Columbia man" and the "best all-around man," the "best politician" and the man "most likely to succeed." Rousselot's activities have included rowing with the 150-pound crew, managing the football team, directing the business affairs of Jester, the college comic magazine, and serving as secretary of the Interfraternity Council.

Other class members singled out for honors were Kenesaw Mountain Landis 2nd of Legansport, Ind., nephew of Judge Landis, baseball coach, who was voted the "best speaker," and William Woodworth of New Rochelle, son of Prof. Robert S. Woodworth of Columbia, noted psychologist, who was selected as one of the "most unselfish." On the question "Do you drink?" 71 class members replied in the affirmative and 61 announced abstinence. "Do you favor prohibition?" brought 88 "noes" and 38 "yesses." Eighty-four members said they smoked while 41 said they did not, but 108 admitted they were swears and only 18 asserted they were not. There were 113 votes for dancing and 13 against it, while 90 members admitted they "necked," to 29 who denied it.

James Branch Cabell was selected as the favorite author, and as the author "least liked" the seniors selected John Erskine, who until recently was a professor at the university. Sharing the honors with Greta Garbo as the favorite movie actress was Joan Crawford. Jane Cowl and Ethel Barrymore were voted the favorite stage actresses, while Walter Hampden and Emil Jannings were selected, respectively, as the favorite stage and screen actors of the class. Eugene O'Neill's "Strange Interlude" was voted the favorite play of the year and "The Ladder" the worst.

Corporation Dairying

From Barron's Weekly.
Chairman J. C. Penney of the J. C. Penney company will become chairman of the Foremost Dairy Products, Inc., organized to operate in the south. It is expected expansion will be extended later to other sections. Arrangements have been made with George L. Forman and company and Moore, Leonard and Lynch to take part in financing of the new organization.

Capital will consist of \$1,473,250 purchase money obligations; 500,000 shares of convertible preference stock, of which 125,000 will be outstanding, and 1,000,000 shares of common, of which 250,000 will be outstanding. Proceeds of sale of purchase money obligations and preference and common will be used in part to pay for existing properties and for working capital.

J. C. Penney for five years has been a breeder of purebred Guernsey cattle. Organization of the new company is an outgrowth of plans for further development of the dairy products industry throughout the south comparable to development in the northwest.

Q How does Baltimore rank among cities of the United States in size and in volume of business? J. H. F.
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Q What is the average length of life of a dog? J. M. H.
A. The average life of a dog is about seven years.

Q How can index cards be cleaned that are dirty on the edge from handling? E. N.
A. Art gum is often used for this purpose. A number of cards may be held together firmly and the gum rubbed over them.

Q And How Soon?
From Anonym.
Husband: "What would you do if I should die and leave you?"
Wife: "How much?"