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DEMAND THE LABEL

Lure of Death

Not More Suicides, But More Publicity

By RABBI JOSEPH SILVERMAN,
Temple Emanu El, New York City.



I do not believe there are more suicides to-day than there ever were. Newspapers are more alert now. There were just as many suicides in ancient times. Once upon a time when a man committed suicide people said he was "crazy" and let it drop. Now suicide news is especially featured, but I think the actual number is no greater than in ancient Rome. Nature has many ways of getting rid of her unfit.

At one time suicide was almost fashionable in Rome. Seneca advocated it, and among his disciples there was what he called a "passion for suicide." A man was justified in destroying his own life, the stoics believed. A Roman senator declared that the one point in which man's lot is superior to that of a god is that he has the power of "flying to the tomb." He describes it as the greatest proof of the bounty of Providence that in the world there are so many herbs from which the weary man can secure the means for a rapid and painless death.

Lucky says: "The dramatic death of Cato the Stoic was the favorite subject of Roman eloquence." "Indifference to death" is a favorite phrase of the stoics. It is said that Seneca clung to the idea of suicide with "passionate joy," as "the one refuge for the oppressed and wrong," saying: "Against all the injuries of life I have the refuge of death." It is only weak minds, however, in my opinion, that for a moment seriously entertain the idea of suicide. What the people need is a good cold bath and some healthy optimism.

Fancy Neckwear



The vogue of fancy neckwear has reached the proportions of a mania. The amount of money spent on neckwear by the up-to-date woman makes serious inroads upon an ordinary dress allowance, and her new Dutch collar, or Eton collar (which it really is), has become almost a craze among younger women. Many different designs are shown on this page.

These collars are made up of plain linen or of linen and lace, which appeal to those young enough for the somewhat youthful effect. They are mounted on a band, but are much deeper than the ordinary flat turn-down. They spread a little, coming down to almost Eton depth in front, but with sharper points and narrower openings than the Eton models show.

Other collars, much closer to regulation Eton lines, but mounted on a band which while not high brings the collar up more closely around the throat than the Eton, are much worn, and are comfortable for warm weather, though essentially of youthful character. They are made of embroidered linen of varying softness and sheerness, ranging from the stiff boyish collar to sheer collars, exquisitely hand-embroidered and inset with lace.

Soft bows of silk with tassel and fringed ends are worn with these low, turn-over collars, also jabots of lace or of finely plaited linen and lace fastened just under the chin by a long jeweled pin.

PLAYHOUSE FOR A CHILD.

Simple Contrivance That the Busy Mother Will Appreciate.

The small wooden fences used by many mothers to keep the kiddies in bounds are well known. Not so familiar is a miniature playroom invented by one young mother, who objected to having her child's toys scattered all over the room.

She bought a large box. Had the sides cut down to allow it to go under the bed. The box was put on rollers so it could be easily moved.

The inside was lined with chintz that could be readily taken out when soiled. On the upright sides of the box was white muslin, to which was pasted all sorts of gay pictures and animals that children love. When finished this miniature picture gallery was given a thin coat of varnish so it could be wiped off when soiled. The baby's toys were inside.

When baby was deposited in his playhouse he was out of harm's way, and could amuse himself for hours. When he was through playing all that was necessary was to push the box under the bed, where it was hidden by the valance.

Ribbons for Lingerie.

The latest touch for lingerie is to have cherry ribbon bows to fasten up the dainty garments instead of the old familiar baby blue and pale pink. This is a very decided change and one that indicates a complete revolution in the general dressing of the particular woman. Where before she attempted to wear only feminine garments of the soft shades, she now would not think of wearing the plain white gown without some touch of splashy embroidery.

As you see, she carries out the idea even to her dainty bits of lingerie. Light shades are far too quiet. Something really definite must be worn, and while all of the embroidered undergarments are quite simple and trimmed only with hand embroidery or a band of real Valenciennes lace, the color of ribbons makes up for lack of feminine frills and furbelows.

Bordered Mulls.

Among the many pretty French mulls a new idea has developed in narrow stripes of color that end in the border design, and correspond to the deepest note of the tinting given to the flowers in that, or to the Persian pattern, for this latter effect is almost more popular this season than any other and comes frequently above a solid color border band that is in some very beautiful new hue. Mousseline d'India is another very light and airy fabric of but little more than gossamer texture and is pinstriped lengthwise, which gives a tiny bayadere stripe to the gown when the goods are used as attached flounces or in tunic effect, which the 30-inch width makes necessary. The side border is in either two narrow bands of Chinese flowers, as quaint as if worked on a sampler, or in little cross bars of the color, broken by a center stripe; other groundings with pin dots of color have Persian designs at border.—Vogue.

Renewing the Edge of Skirts.

In buying a new petticoat it is always wiser to get one several inches too long. Run in one or two tucks just above the flounce, and when the edge is worn it can be cut off, re-hemmed, and the tucks let out, and the skirt takes on a new lease of life. Do not leave the drawing in the top of the petticoat. This means a certain ridge at the waist line. The top should be cut off, darted to fit, put into a narrow band and fastened with a hook and eye or button.

Curis in Fashion.

Among the folk fashions borrowed from Poland is that curious one of the jangling curis at the sides of the face. Some of the darling women in Paris are trying the little curis which fall over the temples and account for the stray locks about the face.

REALLY NOVEL SOFA PILLOWS.

How One Woman Found Use for Small Embroidered Tea Cloths.

A woman who can cleverly utilize odds and ends that most of us would throw away has found a fascinating use for small embroidered tea cloths that are too small for a card table and too big for a centerpiece. She turns them into sofa pillows that are striking in their novelty.

If the cloth has a deep embroidered border the center of linen is cut away and the border applied to a cover of colored art linen, giving it an air of handsome hand embroidery. These cushions are made up to button so they may be easily laundered.

A tea cloth with drawn work border is used as a cover to a colored lining, which gives a charming effect with no work. Sometimes a large monogram is embroidered heavily in the center of the tea cloth. It is done either in white or in a color to match the lining.

This is an excellent way to use centerpieces that have worn into holes, though the border is still in good condition.

FOR A RAINY DAY.



Natty empire raincoat of elephant gray, waterprook silk, trimmed with black satin sash, cuffs and collar, and silver buttons and belt buckle. Such a coat is dressy enough for general spring wear.

The Day at Home.

The feminine custom of having a day at home originated in France in the beginning of the eighteenth century with Mme. Scudery, says the Milwaukee Journal.

Mme. Scudery was an authoress and a woman whom all the great personages of old Paris delighted to honor. She was as busy as any modern American woman, and for that reason being also a wise woman she organized her activities. She had two days a week at home. Her Saturdays became historic, for it was then she received the brilliant men and beautiful women who made famous the salon of Hotel Rambouillet. On Tuesdays she received her intimate friends.

Scarfs Edged with Satin.

There is a widespread belief that the colored chiffon scarf may not last much longer because it is too universal. The tulle scarf and those of metallic net will be even more popular.

They have been edged with fringe and fur but the new thing is to finish the sides and ends with a narrow binding of self-colored bias satin.

Back Stitching.

To start back stitching, take a short stitch on the upper side and a long one on the under side, bringing the needle out a stitch in advance of the short one just taken. Insert the needle where the short stitch on the right side finishes, passing it under the material and out again a stitch in advance of the last one taken.

REVISION TO COME

TARIFF CHANGES SURE, BUT WILL NOT AFFECT BUSINESS.

Legislation Is to Be Shaped by Men Who Appreciate Value of Policy of Protection in a Judicial Form.

President Taft is beginning his experience with misquotation, and he may expect a good deal of it. Everything he says now is of interest, and some of it is certain to find its way around in a twisted form.

The other day at Indianapolis Mr. Van Cleave, speaking to the tariff convention then in session, advocated the appointment of a tariff commission, with large powers to investigate tariff duties and make such changes from time to time as it thought best for the country. His proposition was that congress could not be relied upon to deal with the subject intelligently; that it lacked both information and practical ability. And he emphasized his remarks by declaring that the president was in sympathy with the views he was presenting.

Without intending it, probably, Mr. Van Cleave conveyed a wrong impression. President Taft was not in sympathy with the speaker's attack on congress, or with the proposition that the tariff be handed over to a commission of so-called experts for revision. He had gone no further than to express the opinion that congress should have the fullest light on the subject, and that liberal provision should be made for assisting congress in the collection of statistics. He well understood that congress had no power to surrender its control over the tariff, and would not do so if it could.

Now a report is abroad that President Taft attributes whatever business depression there may be to the Dingley schedules and to the agitation for their revision. He is made thus a free trader and a standpatter rolled into one. Down with the Dingley law, and yet what a frightful penalty we are paying in preparing to get rid of it!

Republican criticism of the Dingley law relates only to its extraordinary success. It more than fulfilled the calculations and expectations of its friends, and soon produced a situation calling for revision. This was true, as Mr. McKinley pointed out at Buffalo, eight years ago. And every year since has increased the necessity of revision.

As for the effect on business of the agitation for revision, the matter has been greatly exaggerated. Business has not felt the shiver this time that it did for a year preceding the tariff revision of 1894. Then the coming legislation was to be shaped by men who professed hatred of protection and a purpose to put an end to it. The Democratic stumpers in the campaign of 1892 had danced linguistic jigs all over protection. To-day revision is in the hands of the champions of protection. That policy is to be kept in mind in whatever is done. Wherever protection is necessary and working good in the public welfare, it is to be retained; but wherever unnecessary, as the result of long enjoyment and the growth of business, it is to be modified or ended, as the public welfare demands.

It is too late for anybody to play tricks with this question. President Taft's position is well known, and the duty of congress was so emphatically laid down at the polls last November that a disregard of the instructions then issued would cost the Republicans the next house of representatives.

A Tariff Argument.

While there is something to be said for revision of the tariff downward there are some remarkable examples of argument without reason. One of the most flagrant examples of this sort is the article of Miss Ida Tarbell in the March American Magazine. Throughout this writer takes the prices of commodities for the lean year of 1896 and compares them with the prices of the boom year of 1906, charging the difference wholly to the Dingley tariff. A more absurd comparison could hardly be conceived.

That there was an immediate improvement in business after the election of McKinley in 1896 everybody knows. That it was followed by an advance in prices and in wages is equally well known. But the era of greatly advanced prices did not set in until after the Spanish war, and really not until two years later. Without any change in the tariff there has been a material decrease in prices of many things since 1907 and a marked advance in others. In the commodities course of prices abroad has been in the same direction as here during the past ten years. Surely the tariff in this country has not advanced the price of the English-made goods.

It is such ill-considered theses that have created the confusion that prevails on the whole tariff question. If writers of reputation cannot distinguish between diverse causes and effects they ought at least to refrain from adding their confused perceptions to the discussion of the question.

Result of Fleet's Great Voyage.

Our battle fleet has become an international factor. It has drawn Australia and New Zealand near to the great republic. It has stillled the clamor of Japan. It has given China new hope. It has steadied the loyalty of the Philippines. It has revealed our naval power to all South Asia from Singapore to Suez. It has shown that a third great fleet can divide the Mediterranean with England and France.—Philadelphia Press.

HAS APPROVAL OF COUNTRY.

President Taft's Cabinet Both Representative and Able.

On the whole, the new cabinet will be received with favor by the country. Senator Knox is one of our best equipped men for the position of secretary of state. There is no rival anywhere to Secretary Wilson as head of the agricultural department. Frank Hitchcock is thoroughly equipped for the task of directing the post office department. While his appointment might be regarded as the reward for political service, it will be remembered that before he entered upon the Taft campaign he was assistant postmaster general, and now returns to the head of the department in which he was formerly a most efficient assistant. His executive ability and his capacity for work which he so strikingly illustrated during the recent campaign ought to make him an ideal postmaster general.

Franklin MacVeagh, the new secretary of the treasury, is one of the merchant princes and bankers of Chicago. For years a prominent Democrat, he left that party in 1896 and has since affiliated with the Republicans. He is a pronounced tariff reformer and should be of material assistance to President Taft in carrying out his well known ideas upon the tariff. No cabinet officer will be confronted with graver or more difficult problems at the beginning of the administration than will Secretary MacVeagh. His talent and ability will be taxed to the utmost.

Messrs. Wickersham, Dickinson and Ballinger, as attorney general and secretaries of war and the interior, respectively, are new men to the country and have yet their spurs to win in the field of national statesmanship. Yet they rank among the ablest attorneys in the land and have adorned the positions of responsibility and trust they have held.

Secretary Meyer is a member of the present cabinet and his appointment as well as that of Secretary Nagel is probably due to political considerations.

An Odd Sort of Coolness.

It may be, as various wise observers have it, that "there is a coolness between Roosevelt and Taft." It may be that the ex-president, after fighting manfully for the present president for two long years or more, is now "jealous" of the latter. Yet somehow it doesn't seem so.

President Taft summarized the Roosevelt administration in a tribute to the head so full of real affection that no one can doubt its genuineness. Mr. and Mrs. Roosevelt invited Mr. and Mrs. Taft to spend the night of March 3 with them at the White House.

If the "coolness" existed ex-President Roosevelt would not have deliberately made his last evening in the executive mansion an unpleasant ordeal for himself, his wife and the whole Taft family as well. As we said before, this tale of "estrangement" may be true, but it doesn't sound altogether reasonable.

Taft's Tariff Talk.

President Taft has been driven by misrepresentation in New York to a fresh statement of his position on the tariff. This should not have been necessary, for what he now says is but a reiteration of what he said repeatedly during the campaign—that his party is pledged to an early revision of the tariff—and the country now expects the immediate fulfillment of this promise. As to the precise changes to be made in the tariff, President Taft did not then and does not now express opinion. That the present tariff needs revision—modification, equalization, adjustment of duties to actual conditions—is agreed. Whether the revision be "up" or "down," or in some places up and in others down, is a question of detail, the fundamental purpose of a protective tariff being conceded. The great thing at present is to reach a conclusion as early as possible, that business may be relieved from suspense.

Tillman Represents Only Himself.

Senator Tillman is fond of voicing on the floor of the senate extreme views with respect to the race question and asserting and assuming that he is speaking the sentiment of the whole south. Senator Bacon the other day found occasion to remind him that he was not correctly representing the sentiment of the whole south, and to advise him that he assume to speak only for himself or for his state in giving voice to extreme ideas. Senator Bacon's point was well taken. Too many persons are prone to accept Senator Tillman as a representative of southern public sentiment, whereas he is nothing of the kind. He doesn't even represent South Carolina, as a whole, but only himself, and that for personal purposes.—Savannah News.

It is noteworthy that only one member of the new cabinet is under 50 years of age. Postmaster General Hitchcock will be the youngest member, having been born in 1867. Secretary Wilson at 74 will be "the grand old man" of the executive council.

Five of the cabinet are lawyers and Secretary MacVeagh is himself a law graduate and for a number of years practiced law before entering upon his mercantile career. With President Taft at their head, there will probably be gathered around the cabinet table of the next administration the largest and ablest array of legal talent in the history of national administrations. This cabinet may be classed as conservatively progressive. As such it should merit the confidence and support of the country.