

# SEEN and HEARD around the NATIONAL CAPITAL By Carter Field FAMOUS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT



Washington—Out on the Pacific coast there was nothing like the shock, even to the investing public, that was felt back east over President Roosevelt's attitude toward corporations in general and public utility corporations in particular.

The public, so to speak, had been educated up to think that corporations were not mere aggregations of investors, but cruel inhuman things which ground down the poor, exploited labor, corrupted politics, and poured the profits of it all back to some mythical gentlemen in Wall street.

One of the strong forces in so educating the people along the Pacific coast in this direction was a publisher now very anxious to defeat Mr. Roosevelt—to wit, William Randolph Hearst. His clamors now remind one of the story printed not long after the Versailles peace conference, to the effect that Lloyd George and Clemenceau—having bamboozled Woodrow Wilson, found later they could not "unbamboozle" that stubborn Presbyterian.

Hearst, in brief, despite the circulation of his papers in Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles, is having a hard time convincing the folks that Roosevelt, so far as the corporations are concerned, has not been following the very ideas that Hearst himself has been preaching to these many years.

In the early days in the political life of Hiram W. Johnson, he got his start and rose to a leadership which has hardly been equalled in any other state by the simple process of fighting the corporations. Generally, as a matter of fact, Johnson and Hearst have fought together.

### Had Experience

So that the voters who were born and grew up in California have had a pretty thorough education in corporation baiting. Their fathers remembered the day when the Southern Pacific dominated the politics, business, and pretty much everything else in the state. They remember, and have told the present generation many times, of the fight to drive it out, a fight in which Hearst turned against his own father, and Johnson rose to such commanding heights that many Californians to this day do not understand why he was not nominated for President in 1920.

They never understood the bitterness of the eastern Republicans against Hiram for what happened in 1916, when Charles E. Hughes failed to shake his hand. That the eastern G. O. P. leaders blamed Johnson for the re-election of Wilson did not and does not percolate out here. Voters are used to being independent, and a little bit wild. Moreover, the big vote is down in the southern part of the state, largely recruited from Iowa, Nebraska and Illinois. Originally Republican, yes, but intensely progressive, and just as bitter against corporations as Hiram and his fellow veterans in the war to drive the Southern Pacific out of California politics.

All of which explains in part why this state is generally conceded to Roosevelt, and is made doubtful at all only by the possibility that William Lemke, with the support of Dr. Townsend and Father Coughlin, may take enough radical votes away from Roosevelt to give Governor Landon a chance. And from present indications it is only a chance.

### Oregon Turning "Dry"

Six years ago this writer visited Portland on a scouting mission. The quest was to determine if there was enough wet sentiment in this Pacific port to justify the Association Against the Prohibition Amendment in giving some financial assistance to the Democratic nominee for congress, Gen. Charles Martin.

Oregon was regarded as one of the driest states—next to Kansas—in the union. Every one admitted the state outside Portland was very dry indeed. The question was whether General Martin, who believed in repeal, should come out frankly wet—in which case the association would help his campaign fund—or whether he should remain silent on this issue.

Most of the shrewd political observers were confident that if Martin did come out wet he would be defeated. When this scout left Portland, Martin was still hesitating. Later he came out wet, and was elected, along with a flock of other wet candidates that year. It was the beginning of the wet tide that surprised every one, no one more than the leading wets, which was to bring repeal within three years.

But this year there are in Portland the unmistakable signs of a swing in the other direction—back towards prohibition.

All the obvious and objectionable phases of the liquor traffic are not only present, but flaunt themselves. And people are inclined to forget that this sort of thing was always present, even during the height of prohibition. They forget that dur-

ing prohibition it was concealed—was probably worse than it is now. They notice only what is thrust up on their observation, and that, in Portland, is very much like what the movies would have us think existed on the Barbary coast of San Francisco in the wicked old days before the fire.

### Ugly and Sordid

But even in those good old days there were lots of people in the Golden Gate district who never realized it was there—many more who never saw it. No visitor saw it unless he was taken there for that purpose.

But in Portland no one going to the union depot to take a train or meet an incoming friend can miss it. Between the station and the heart of downtown is a distance of five blocks. It is an old and run-down section of the city, a typical flophouse section.

But on the first floor of half of these flophouses are saloons—regular old bars, brass rails, dirty floors, sloppy towels, and, very obviously, women only too anxious to have some generous stranger buy them a drink or a cheap meal.

And all this not concealed in the slightest from the visitor walking, or for that matter, riding by. Gone forever is the swinging door, based on the idea that it would let the aroma of wet goods on sale waft out, but conceal the identity of the customers lest some angry wife with Carrie Nation propensities invade the premises to prevent her husband drinking up the rent money.

It's all open and above board whether it's on the level or not. What cannot be seen does not require much imagination, and both are calculated to work up to a frenzy the good folks of this country who achieved prohibition in the first place.

### Canada Drier Than U. S.

Despite the bitter complaints of American tourists in Canada at finding that most of the places they visit are drier than the good old United States—from an alcoholic, not a drouth standpoint—Canada thinks she has the right solution of the drink problem. Particularly the hard liquor problem.

Save for the permit idea, borrowed from Sweden, the system is not so different from the home state of Bishop Cannon, Virginia, save that the Virginia system is more liberal on beer and wine.

Hard liquor must be bought in government stores. The profit to the government is excellent, but the important element is that the one feature, which worries students of the problem more than any other—how to eliminate the profit motive—is handled.

Liquor interests in the United States admit frankly, when talking confidentially that their main problem is the greed of their own members for increased sales. Their motive, of course, is bigger volume, less expense per unit and a greater total profit. It is the motive in every line of business. There is nothing peculiar about it whatever except that in the case of this one business increased sales to the same customers mean a drunkenness, and a drunkenness spells trouble in turn for the liquor interests.

It is a vicious circle, and the liquor men themselves admit it. As a matter of fact they are frightened to death of the many evidences of rising feeling against them. They are more afraid of another prohibition tide than even the most optimistic dries would dare to hope.

### No Problem for Canada

Which revives a Lord's day feeling which had been forgotten these many years by most newspaper men. Yet it was not until 1910 that the city of Norfolk, Va., had a morning paper on Mondays! The thought was that Sunday newspapers were all right—they were printed on Saturday nights. But Monday morning newspapers were bad—to get them out reporters and printers had to work on the Sabbath.

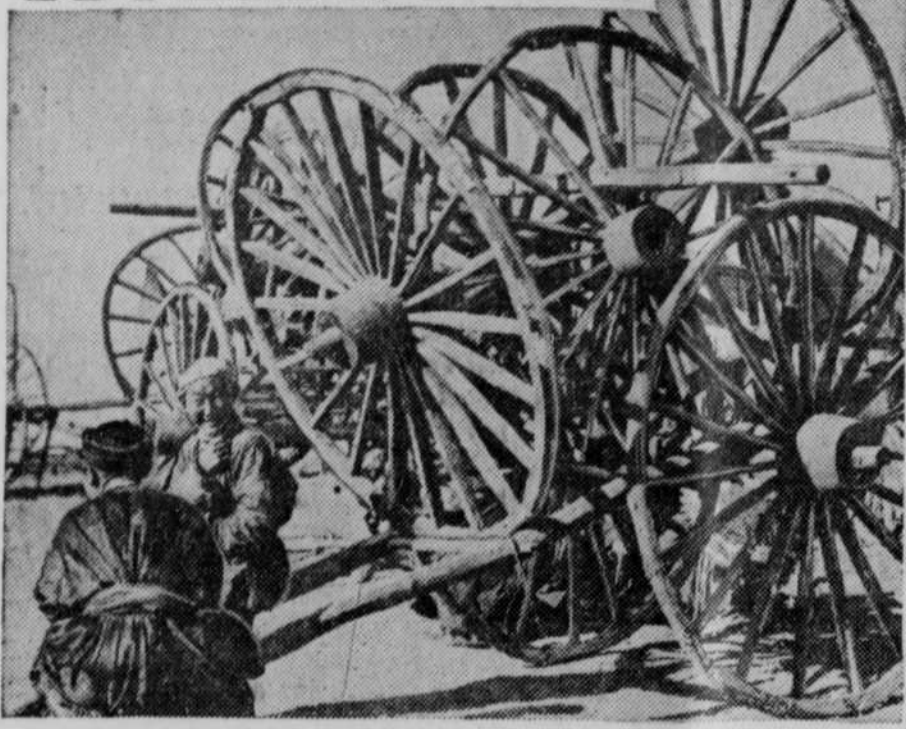
But in Canada there is no such problem. At least there is no such problem on the part of the retailer, who, American liquor interests sadly admit, is the worst offender. For here the government, having a monopoly, does not seek in any way to cajole customers into buying more than they want. Save perhaps by the subtle influence on foreigners that with one permit they can buy all they want! But this system is designed by natives. Not even to get good American dollars will they change it, or liberalize it.

Why a reputable hotel or dining car, for instance, should not be allowed to sell beer and wine, or for that matter cocktails and highballs, is a mystery to the American visitor. But that might open the door just a chink.

Canada knows the United States was not going to have the saloon back, and she knows it is back.

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## WORLD'S FAIRS



Display of Cartwheel Maker at Manchukuan Fair.

Prepared by National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.—WNU Service.

**T**EXAS tips its ten-gallon stetson to a stream of visitors for whom Dallas is a reception committee, and inaugurates the first United States exposition in the world's bumper crop for 1936. After the Texas Centennial the veteran exposition fan may as well start packing for jaunts to Cleveland, Ohio, and Johannesburg, South Africa.

Although this is the first world's fair in Texas, the United States has been a happy hunting ground for elaborate expositions. Philadelphia, Chicago and San Diego have each had two. St. Louis had one. New York and San Francisco have both set the date for their second, 1939.

Such celebrations are becoming the accepted sort of birthday party for important national anniversaries. The Philadelphia Centennial in 1876 brought the world's activities in miniature to the front door of a nation just one hundred years independent. The Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893 was intended to show Columbus that he hadn't seen the half of it when he discovered America 400 years before. In 1907 the effectiveness of English colonization of the United States was displayed by the Jamestown (Virginia) Tercentenary. The young nation's first wavering westward steps were recalled in the Louisiana Purchase Centennial in St. Louis in 1904, and Portland's (Oregon) celebration of the Lewis and Clark expedition's hundredth anniversary in 1905.

The South contributed to the country's fair festivities with the Cotton States exposition at Atlanta in 1895, the Tennessee Centennial exposition at Nashville in 1897, and in the South Carolina Interstate and West Indian exposition at Charleston in 1902. Seattle was "at home" for an exposition in honor of Alaska, the Yukon and the Pacific coast in 1909.

By that time the United States had acquired the world's fair habit, and would have one at the slightest provocation. When the Panama canal was opened in 1914, no one wanted to wait a hundred years for the event to simmer down into a centennial; so that formality was waived, and the occasion itself was celebrated with important expositions both in San Francisco and in San Diego.

### Began Again After the War

The general enthusiasm for fairs was dampened somewhat, after 1916, by the World war, which appeared to destroy man's appetite for the arts and industries of civilization. Then Philadelphia gave its second performance, the Sesqui-centennial in 1926. Chicago followed suit in 1933 with its own hundredth birthday party to which everyone was invited, and to which everyone went and then went back the following year. In 1935 the San Diego exposition was announced along with centennial celebrations in Arkansas, Wisconsin, and Springfield, Mass. The past century might well be called the Exposition Era, for it has witnessed the sudden gaudy sprouting of the world's fair from the ancient family tree of the traditional trade fair. This new and dazzling era began in 1851 with that grand-daddy of fairs in the modern manner, the London Crystal Palace exhibition, officially opened by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Since then, many crowned heads and presidents have seized such opportunities to combine official business with seeing the sights.

After London started the world's fair fever, it spread through Europe and North America with amazing rapidity, with isolated cases cropping up all over the world from Melbourne, Australia, to Seville, Spain. Within 85 years Paris has had seven important expositions and reports another planned for 1937, establishing a world record for world's fairs. London follows, with a score of five. It is often difficult to decide whether a busy industrial exposition or a big centennial celebration is a world's fair.

There are few set rules for playing the exposition game, although an international agreement on the subject has been discussed and standing committees exist in most European countries. Almost any occasion now is considered legitimate excuse for a world's fair. Rio de Janeiro staged one to celebrate the centenary of Brazilian independence in 1922. Antwerp commemorated Belgium's century of independence in 1930, and Brussels in

honor of the centenary of Belgian railroads in 1935.

### Transportation's Big Part

Indeed, the latter seems symbolic of the tendency of the 85 years of fairs—away from the early arts and crafts and toward the accomplishments of science, especially in the service of transportation. In 1851 the only transportation exhibit sent to the exposition from the United States was an artificial leg! But at the Chicago Centennial in 1933-34 modes of transportation constituted a more extensive display than did the exhibit of any one state or nation. There is no wonder, however, that fairs recognize transportation as important, since fairs are becoming bigger and better and more frequent largely because of the ease with which they can be reached.

The world's fair today, with its bewildering mixture of amusement, education and commercialism, is sometimes hard to distinguish from its more workaday relative, the international trade exposition for advertising purposes, such as the International Petroleum exposition in Tulsa, Okla. The world's fair is a sporadic celebration, however, and thus differs from the perennial industrial exhibition, like those of the British Industries fair held simultaneously in London and Birmingham every year since 1915, and the Leipzig fairs which have been landmarks of international trade for 700 years and are now considered the oldest and largest of the hardy perennials.

Each fair offers a novelty of some sort, like London's original Crystal Palace, Chicago's camel-ride in 1893 and its sky-ride in 1933, or the Texas Centennial's rocket-ride; but there is no novelty in holding a fair. Always it has been "fair" weather somewhere in the world, since Chinese tribesmen began to congregate at some convenient crossroads 3,000 years ago, when trade really meant trade and business was on the barter standard. Ancient Greeks and their Roman imitators held periodic fairs garnished with games and some religious trimmings.

### In Medieval Times

Shrewd medieval European merchants reaped the rewards of virtue when they all journeyed to their nearest religious center—and set up booths for a fair during a church festival. So general was this practice that some languages combined the word "fair" with that for "church service." The hiring of servants and the settlement of marriage contracts were transactions no more out of place on primitive medieval midway than the exchange of cattle or the sale of horses. Incidental merrymaking became such a substantial factor that it soon set up in business for itself, primarily differentiated with the term, "pleasure fair." One of these, the St. Bartholomew's Fair, was abolished in London only as late as 1926. England retains traces of many primitive fairs, such as Goose Fair and Onion Fair, while developing the more modern trade show to a high degree of specialization, from the annual exhibition of British products to an international audience with 80 different potential language markets, to the restricted Antique Dealers' Fair or the Exhibition of Acetylene, Oxy-Acetylene, and Allied Industries.

The old-fashioned fair to which products were brought, sold, and carted away now is being replaced by the modern exhibition which is simply a huge sample case, where potential buyers make choices but not purchases. Such are the fairs which have made traveling buyers thrive where the vanishing traveling salesmen once flourished, around such international commercial centers as Leipzig, Lyons, Basle, Praha, and Nizhni Novgorod in Russia. The great Hindu market at Hurdwar in India is less advanced.

Expositions have set the style for everything from jewelry to hotel facades. The Chicago Columbian exposition of 1893 was responsible for an epidemic of pseudo-Grecian architecture which supplanted the brownstone front throughout the United States until 1915, when the Moorish-Spanish buildings of the San Diego and the San Francisco fairs started a wave of low straw-berry stucco structures topped with red-brown tiles. The Eiffel Tower, at the Paris exposition of 1889, served as a calling card for the steel construction which later came to stay, in modern skyscrapers.

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If you wish to boil a cracked egg place a little vinegar in the water in which it is boiled. This will keep the egg from seeping through the crack in the shell.

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