

# LAS VEGAS AGE

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FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 22, 1931.

## RAILROADS AND SERVICE

ONCE the railroads accepted business as if doing a person a great favor. They performed the services for which they were paid in a perfunctory manner, with condescension. Extremely indifferent generally as to whether the shipment arrived when wanted or not. Careless whether the goods were damaged with hooks, or soaked with water from being left beside an open door. In fact the writer recalls that paper houses used to mark packages of paper for shipment, "Please do not use hooks," and we would invariably, almost, receive the packages with a nice jagged hook mark or two through a lot of the nice new sheets just to show the independent attitude of the freight handler.

And now the fellows who used to put the hooks in our packages of new paper are, many of them, out of jobs. And the freight cars are sitting disconsolately on sidings, and the locomotives are eating their headlights off in the roundhouses while the little motor trucks buzz along merrily carrying the railroads' freight on the highways the railroads helped to pay for and giving the railroads' former patrons a convenient service they never would have had the nerve to ask the railroads for.

But things are changing again. General Manager Fred Knickerbocker of the Los Angeles & Salt Lake unit of the Union Pacific told us yesterday that the railroads are trying to get closer to their customers, to find out what they want and how best to serve them.

It seems perfectly reasonable that people should prefer to ship their small freight by rail if it were possible to do so. But there is still a long road for the railroads to travel before they can give the convenient service that the trucks have created for their patrons.

It is a case where theoretical efficiency in creating tremendously heavy and expensive locomotives and cars and excessively costly road beds has just "efficienced" the railroads out of business and put them in shape so they can not easily compete. Bank management of railroads and Wall street efficiency experts sitting in their offices have been too much managing the railroads. If real railroad men were permitted to carry out an idea of their own occasionally the situation would probably be very different. At least the railroads would have retained in a greater degree that valuable asset, the good will of the people. Which is something that only the local managers and workers of the railroads can promote and which, seemingly, the bankers cannot understand, or to which they are indifferent.

Mr. Knickerbocker's appeal for closer cooperation and better understanding between the railroad management and the people is timely and if he is properly backed by the higher-ups in his efforts to recover the lost local freight traffic he will make much progress.

Which leads us to remark in concluding that the "Soulless Corporation" and "To Hell with the people," attitude is entirely out of style, and is being supplanted by a sincere desire on the part of railroad men to give to the public an accommodating service.

## A PROGRAM

THE people of Las Vegas are not averse to voting bonds for an extension of the sewer system. On the contrary they are

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# New Yorker AT LARGE

By MARK BARRON  
NEW YORK—The Gay White Way, it appears, is doomed to be dimmed.

No sooner had the menace of the transfer of entertainment enterprises to Radio City appeared than a new threat arose. Night life is being transferred to the waves of the Atlantic, out beyond the prohibition law limit.

Night clubs already have practically committed suicide, what with their highway robbery tariffs, their poor service, their bad food and their insipid entertainment. The final and knock-out blow is being given by houseparty cruises on trans-Atlantic liners.

A dozen or more famous boats sail from New York on these holiday cruises. Some of them go out only for the week end, touching either at Bermuda or Halifax. Others make it a six-day ocean trip, visiting both ports.

These are strictly pleasure trips, giving jaded New Yorkers a new thrill of ocean holidays without having to go to Europe. During the day they play shuffleboard and deck tennis, try their hand at pigeon shooting or loiter around in outdoor pools.

In the evening there are movies, bridge tournaments, dancing, two or three night clubs on each boat, or promenading beneath the moon on the boat deck.

Ships now being used on these cruises fly the French or British flag, which means that once outside the 12-mile limit the bar is opened.

New York night life already is feeling a serious loss of patronage

due to these ocean jaunts. Night clubs and hotel grills are experimenting with new lures to combat the liners.

**MANHATTAN REAL ESTATE**  
Land in this city is worth almost its weight in gold. That is the reason for skyscrapers, and that is the reason one rarely sees an inch of space going to waste for even a few hours.

On Broadway they are erecting a new building. An enterprising merchant rented the few feet under the bricklayers' scaffold to erect a sidewalk flower shop. Across the street another building is going up. As fast as the framework is set, the exterior is rented for billboard space, to be used for advertisements until the building is ready for opening.

When the Mayfair theater was reconstructed from the old Columbia building, only one floor was rebuilt at a time so all the other floors could be kept in use.

**Talking About Rents**  
In numerous parts of Manhattan one finds buildings separated by two or three feet or space. These "pigeon holes" are rented for stores, such as miniature cigar stores, ticket agencies or locksmith shops. A Broadway ticket agency is three feet wide and 12 feet deep. The rental is \$6,000 a year.

In an Eighth avenue barber shop one chair was removed and the space rented as a midget watch repair shop. The rental for the space is twice the profit that would be made on the evicted barber chair.



## WASHINGTON BYSTANDER

By KIRKE SIMPSON  
WASHINGTON—It is notable that whenever anybody in a republican federal administration set-up wants to quote the last word on questions of state or war department policy, he cites that elder statesman of the party Elihu Root.

It is nearly a decade since Root took an active part in public affairs. It is nearly thirty years since he was war secretary, twenty-two since he was secretary of state, sixteen since he left the senate. Yet every now and then some party stalwart of today finds it useful to revive the "Back to Root" procedure.

The latest illustration is Secretary Stimson. Having created a furor over his own Latin-American policy announcements in the protection to be accorded Americans in Nicaragua and other points south, Stimson very naturally desired to clarify matters when he went "on the air" in the spring of cabinet broadcasts.

**COOLIDGE'S SHADOW**  
It is to be recalled that Calvin Coolidge had something to say publicly about the not-too-happy phrasing of those policy announcements inspired by the Nicaraguan incidents. Possibly Stimson had that in mind when he prepared his bit for radio use.

At any rate, Stimson more than anybody else who has been in office in Washington since Root's day could be pardoned for looking back to Root as an oracle and guide. Stimson has walked in Root's footsteps. His legal beginnings were with Root's law firm. He also has been successively secretary of war and secretary of state.

For whatever reason, Stimson's radio statement of Latin-American policy harked right to Root. He

## BROKEN BACK BRINGS LUCK

ASKALOOSA, Ia., May 20. (U.P.)—A broken back meant good fortune for Grant Dye.

Many years ago, with a family of three children to support, a slide of slate buried Dye while he was working as a coal miner. His back was broken, but not his spirit. He established himself as a shoemaker, although paralyzed from the waist down. Now his three children have received college educations; he has a neat estate built up; he is happy.

"Forget misfortune" is his advice to cripples who come to him asking charity. "I'm lucky. If I stayed in the mines I probably never would have owned my own home or given my boys a chance. It's a good thing my back was broken. I've done better since."

## CHILDREN TO VISIT FRANCE

PARIS, May 20. (U.P.)—The general labor federation of France will be host to 300 children of unemployed German workers this summer. The children will spend a month at the Ile d'Oleron at the vacation colony of the French Co-operative Union.

reviewed sketchily the cycle of revolutions in other countries with which he has had to deal. Washington would continue to be zealous for American lives abroad, he said, and to give "counsel and assistance" on imperiled American investments or claims.

But Washington would never lose sight, Stimson added, of the declaration by Secretary Root nearly twenty-five years ago that it is "the established policy of the United States NOT to use its army and navy for the collection of debts."

**"AMERICAN TRADITION"**  
So there you have it: Stimson's answer in Root's words to widely published statements that Stimson has laid down a new policy limiting protection to be accorded Americans in Latin-America.

"We are not departing from American traditions," Stimson continued. Incidentally, it might be recalled that coincident with that declaration Root made an official pilgrimage to Latin-America which did a lot to ease fear among southern neighbors of Yankee imperialism. And who has ever accused Elihu Root of inept phrasing of anything he wished to say?

eager, the majority of them, to get the improvement under way, realizing that the future growth of the city is largely dependent upon it.

They want to know, first, before they vote the bonds, what the money is to be spent for; when and where sewers are to be built and all about it. They are entitled to be shown estimates of costs on the various plans and features of the proposed system and, in short, to be taken into the confidence of the board and the engineers. Not in an abstruse and technical discussion of sewers in general, but this particular work proposed for Las Vegas.

And of course the people of Westside would be interested in knowing whether it is the intention of the city to include Westside in the new system. They already have helped pay for one sewer system and have no sewers and would, we surmise, be reluctant to vote bonds unless assured they will be taken care of this time.

## PHANTOM FIRE SPURS HUNT FOR TROVE

VENTURA, Cal., May 21. (U.P.)—Spurred by stories of phantoms and nocturnal fires that mysteriously disappear, treasure seekers are digging again in the Santa Ana Valley for the fortune believed to have been buried there by Juan Murietta, a notorious bandit, who roamed that district years ago.

The search for gold chases supposedly left by Murietta and other marauders has been going on for generations. The present hunt is now centered along the Santa Ana creek on the ranch owned by Lester Peirano.

Four men have applied to Peirano for permission to dig for the treasure and have promised to give him a share of the wealth if it is discovered.

The quartet was lured to the spot by the appearance of strange nocturnal fires which vanished completely when they investigated. The location is near another digging undertaken by a party several years ago.

Strange stories of phantoms connected with the buried wealth have come down from generation to generation, each succeeding appearance reviving the search for treasure.

One story is that a man who once worked on the Peirano ranch was plowing with a six-horse team. As he swung his plow about a certain giant oak he said he heard an eerie voice shout, "Whoa!" He could not find anyone and went on with his plowing, but every time the horses came to the oak tree they stopped. It is believed by some that this may be the spot where the gold is located.

The site of another excavation is near the little stone Santa Ana schoolhouse, a quarter of a mile distant from the oak tree.

Some years ago, it is said, a motorist was compelled to lag behind a one-horse rig driven by an aged man. When he attempted to pass the driver whipped up his horse and kept ahead of the car until a mile beyond the schoolhouse, where it completely vanished before the motorist's eyes.

From this it is argued the phantom driver knew the whereabouts of the hidden gold. Treasures in old Indian and Spanish relics have been found by the diggers at various times, but so far no definite trace of the bandit gold has been found.

## PRINCE MAY VISIT U. S.

STOCKHOLM, May 20. (U.P.)—A Swedish royal caber, Prince Bertil, third son of Crown Prince Gustaf Adolf, may visit America next year on board the Swedish armored cruiser, "Fligla," if present plans materialize.

## ARIZONA CALLS PARLEY ON COPPER

By WILLIAM TURNBOW  
United Press Staff Correspondent  
PHOENIX, Ariz., May 21.—An appeal to the nation for aid in bettering copper mining enterprises in Arizona and other states will be made by Gov. George W. P. Hunt through a conference of representative Arizonans.

Men and women of all walks of life—professional, business, agricultural, educational, industrial—have been asked to confer with the chief executive on plans to relieve the present condition, caused by the low price of copper and the importation of foreign metal.

Such a condition, the governor declared, not only has affected mines and miners, but business, agriculture, industry and other pursuits.

"It is time," he said, "that representative persons from these activities be gathered together in a conference for exchange of ideas and the adoption of some mode of procedure."

He declared that it is urgent that not only Arizonans should be told what is going on, but that the entire United States is suffering from an imposed condition, "neither economically or socially wise, nor American in action or spirit."

"All that is needed is that efforts be organized so that greatest efficiency be obtained," he added. "There is no doubt of the fact that we are suffering from the internationalizing of our copper mines and resources. Importations of copper are taking the place of copper that formerly came from American mines."

"When it is realized that in Arizona alone almost half of all the copper in the nation is mined, you know the condition is serious."

It is absolutely necessary to keep off this invasion of foreign mined copper so that our copper may have at least an even chance on our own markets.

Governor Hunt pointed out that domestic manufacturers of copper products are working at more than 70 per cent capacity. Mines, he said, are working at only 35 per cent of their full capacity.

"Why shouldn't our mines be working on a 70 per cent basis?" the executive asked. "That's the story we have to tell the nation as well as to the people of our own state."

## BANS DISCOURTEOUS DRIVING

HARRISBURG, Pa., May 20. (U.P.)—New instructions regarding the operation of all state-owned automobiles have been issued by Secretary of Property and Supplies Malone in an effort to stop all "discourteous, careless, reckless and stupid driving." All drivers of the cars now must pay their own fins.

## SCREEN LIFE IN HOLLYWOOD

By HUBBARD KEAVY  
HOLLYWOOD—Red-haired and freckle-faced, James Cagney, the boy you saw in "The Doorway to Hell" and "The Public Enemy," is an independent spirit.

Unaware of Hollywood's notorious habit of being late for appointments, Cagney called on a director (at the latter's request) on his first day in town. He was on time but the director wasn't. He waited 10 minutes and then told the office boy: "Say that Mr. Cagney was here."

With an uncertain future, the young actor walked out of the studio. It was three days before frantic executives found their newest contract player.

Lucky for them they did find him, too. While his role in the first named picture was of secondary importance, he helped greatly toward its success. "The Public Enemy" might have been written for Cagney.

Lucky also for Cagney that he was found and foregone. His successful future in pictures is practically assured. At any rate, the outlook is brighter than at any time during his few years on the stage.

**STARTED IN CHORUS**  
Jimmy Cagney, after his parents took him and his three brothers from a tenement district in New York to a better place to live, attended Columbia university for a year. When his father died it became necessary for him to support himself.

Dancing appealed to him, although he didn't know much about the technique. He applied for a job dancing in a chorus. The friend who hired Cagney trusted to the latter's Irish resourcefulness to prevent him from being fired.

Cagney advanced by degrees to a point where he tried out for a dramatic role in a show. He got the part, but the show, like nearly all the others he appeared in for five years, died in the first few weeks.

Review after review complimented Cagney and spoke of the worthlessness of the shows he was in. **"STAGE'S TOUGHEST GUY"**

"I got a lot of experience and little money," he says, wringing his face boyishly. "I did get a reputation as the toughest guy on the stage because I usually was cast as a gangster or a racketeer."

Naturally the movies claimed him.

## ASK RECOGNITION OF NEW RECORDS

CORVALLIS, Ore., May 20. (U.P.)—Oregon State college authorities have sent an application to Alonzo A. Staeg, chairman of the records committee, for recognition of the new world intercollegiate record in the shuttle race made by State college quartet in a duel meet with University of Oregon.

The four runners—Ken Martin, Jack DuFrane, Marsh Dunkin and Bob Prentiss—clipped the mark of 1:18 made by Ohio State in 1929 at Columbus, O., by two-tenths of a second. All timers caught the team at 1:18.

The wind was blowing south, aiding two of the runners, but the others raced against it to offset any advantage, college authorities said.

## ADVERTISE IN THE AGE THE AGE

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## OREGON LEADS IN CULTURE OF TULIP

SALEM, Ore., May 20. (U.P.)—Oregon has become the leading tulip-growing state in the Union, according to a nation-wide survey requested by Oregon State College extension service.

The report showed that of the plantings and productions of 125 growers from tulip growing states for 1930, Oregon reported a harvest of more than three times her nearest competitor, Colorado, and nearly half of that reported from the entire nation.

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