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TIGHTENS RULES FOR U. S. ENVOYS

Youthful Diplomats Find They Must Learn Foreign Customs.

Washington.—Young gentlemen with Harvard accents, who feel at home in a tall coat, spats and stove-pipe hats and who rushed hastily into the ramped career of foreign service of the government, are awaking to the sad fact that diplomatic life is not all pink tea and cocktails, to say nothing of beer and stittles.

They are actually being required to learn something about the manners, customs, politics and other things of the foreign lands to which they are assigned. Also, which is quite a change in policy, they are being required to stick at each post until they do so learn instead of skipping about from capital to capital.

Expected to Settle Down.
 Inquiry at the State department develops that diplomatic secretaries are now expected to remain at a post abroad for periods up to four years at a stretch. Examination of the records of many of the present-day seniors in the service shows that they were shifted about four or five countries on opposite sides of the world in a similar period in the past.

Even more drastic, however, is the study being made of reports from all foreign service personnel in the field, consular or diplomatic. Where there is evidence that the official correspondence is based merely on reading newspapers casually at the post involved and then sending in lengthy clippings and a few general remarks on the political, economic or commercial matters involved, the reporter is promptly shown the error of his ways.

The next mail will bring him a departmental injunction to do a little real research on his own hook if he expects to get a high-efficiency rating at home.

Candidates Are Surveyed.
 By way of illustration of this change, the executive decree setting aside the Near East as a zone of foreign service specialization is worthy of note. It means that an incoming group of foreign service candidates is surveyed and hand picked for men of promise.

These selected youngsters are told that if they elect Near Eastern specialization they will be sent as vice-consuls to such a post for an 18-month probationary period. During that time, in addition to doing their routine work up to the hilt, they must disclose the initiative and brains to do something in original research in their territory. No suggestions as to the subject are made. They must pick out the job themselves.

Having accomplished that, the youngster is given three years' intensive study in Near Eastern languages, being required to learn Turkish, Arabic and Persian, one of them very thoroughly and the other two well. Having proved by that time his serious purpose of having actual knowledge and understanding of the Near East, he will be kept on duty there at various posts thereafter as a key man in the foreign service system and a mark in efficiency at which others may shoot.

100 Pct. Persians Fight for Baggy Trousers

Ahwas, Persia.—Standpat Persians are ready to die for their traditional baggy trousers. That the sartorial reforms of the modernizing shah will not go the easy, unchallenged way in Persia of the like reforms of Kemal in Turkey is proved by sanguinary outbreaks here.

The attempts of the shah's envoys to disarm the population of this city, which has stubbornly refused to discard the traditional costume and don the coat, vest and trousers of European cut, resulted recently in open combat, during which six of the shah's officials were killed.

The prompt dispatch of additional royal troops to the unruly city restored order and effected the disarming of the rebels. But the rumble of revolt is still shaking Persia from border to border.

HOWE ABOUT?

By ED. W. HOWE

None but Communists now believe in idleness and robbery.

Honesty has so proven its utility over dishonesty—that everyone of reasonable intelligence is ashamed to be a Communist.

The best example of government we have today is that in Italy, and its head is a reformed Communist. In his younger days he taught the doctrine of Karl Marx, but, discovering its folly, became its most active opponent.

The new chief in Communist Russia has abandoned the policies of Lenin, Trotsky, Marx and Rousseau; not because of their morals, but because of their bad sense.

Nearly all men are weak enough to be Communists, but the bulk of them have too much practical sense to follow a doctrine which may be compared with advocating capturing all the wagons, and removing a wheel from each one.

I know a man who is always indignant because he does not get along better, and arraigns his country and its system bitterly. There is no possibility of this man getting along. He has every habit that renders success impossible. When he isn't drunk he is idle. There cannot exist on the face of the earth a country where a man may prosper with such habits as this man has.

Every system of philosophy is so long as to be confusing. One man wrote of philosophy all his life so are informed, and at the conclusion of it had not made up his mind what he finally believes by the time he is thirty; life is sufficiently simple to admit of this.

Look over the most useful men of your town. How many of them are "boomers"? Are not your most useful men noted for quiet effectiveness, rather than for noisy spluttering in clubs? The idea in everything is to get things done, not to talk about them.

It is a bad habit to clamor for more than you can get, as most people do. Examine the next ten people you meet, and you will find at least seven of them demanding things they are not entitled to. And if you take anything you are not entitled to, it will make you more trouble than it is worth.

The devil is dead, but he never took a much interest in your misconduct as your neighbors did. And your neighbors are still here to watch you.

Girl Out-Talks Robber, Keeping Her Fur Coat

St. Louis, Mo.—Miss Elinor Raymond, seventeen, is a pretty good talker. Returning home from a night school, she talked a highwayman out of a fur coat which she had borrowed from her sister.

A man who had followed her for several blocks pressed a revolver against her side.

"Lady, I want that fur coat."

"I can't give it to you, really," Miss Raymond replied. "You see, it isn't mine."

The robber insisted, but the girl was firm. "Really, I can't. It belongs to my sister, and, anyway, the coat isn't worth much."

The robber had met his equal. "Well, keep the coat and walk in the other direction." The girl protested it was out of her way.

"Lady, keep the coat, but you will have to walk the other way." And the would-be robber won that point.

Sets Lava Heat Power

Catania, Sicily.—An expert here has calculated that if heat of the lava in the recent eruption of Mount Etna could have been harnessed it would have furnished power to all of Italy for four years.

Ancient Razor Is Found

Audens, France.—The granddaddy of all razors seems to have been discovered. One found by archeologists is estimated to be ten thousand years old. Apparently it was used by Stone-age dwellers.

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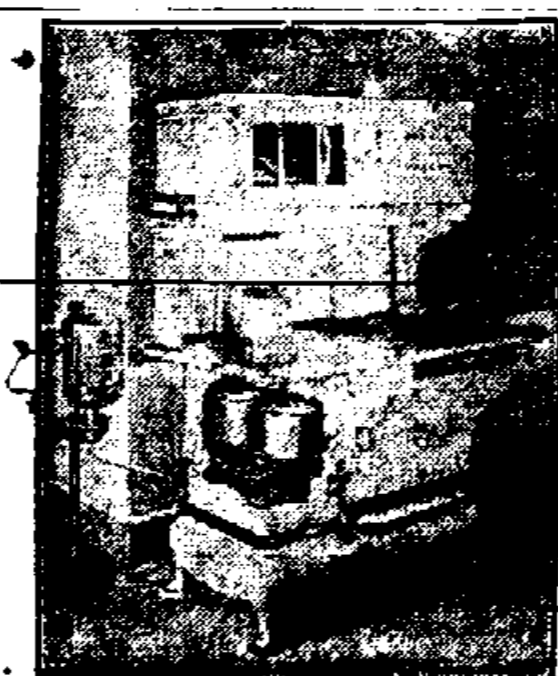
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THE WHY of SUPERSTITIONS

By H. IRVING KING

TURNING THE APRON

EVERY good housewife who is at all versed in folklore knows that when she first sees the new moon she should turn her apron to ensure good luck. This relic of moon worship is common both in this country and in Europe. There is a new moon; the great moon goddess, Isis, is again presenting a "new" face to her children; so what more suitable and fitting than that the housewife should turn her apron, thus presenting a "new" side of it to the new moon.

It is an invocation of the moon goddess; a putting of one's self in harmony with her. That it is an apron that is turned also has its significance for in the valley of the Nile, where, as far as we know, the cult of the moon goddess first began, the apron was the distinctive badge, the indispensable garment of the higher classes—the soldiers, priests and officials. Greece borrowed from Egypt, and Rome from Greece in civilization and moon worship and the world of today has inherited from Rome not only much of its civilization but a large part of its superstitions and its symbolism. Is it not possible that we see today in the apron worn by the Masons and other secret societies a survival of the aprons of the Egyptians?

The pious housewife would probably be shocked if told that when she turned her apron upon seeing the new moon she was practicing a heathen rite—but she undoubtedly is doing so. As Thistleton-Dyer remarks in his "Domestic Folklore," "These superstitions, beliefs and practices, have not sprung up in a day but have been handed down from generation to generation."

GYRO ON YACHTS AID TO SEASICK

Stabilizes Part of Equipment to Make Craft Steady in Storm.

New York.—Americans are equipping their newest yachts with a device to take seasickness out of sea voyagers. It is a gyro stabilizer that stops rolling in rough weather.

Announcement that four yachts now under construction are to be equipped with stabilizers is made by Sperry Gyroscope company of Brooklyn. The craft are being built for Fred J. Fisher, Alfred E. Sloan, Jr., and R. V. Judson, all of Detroit, and Harold Vanderbilt.

Mussolini Hears of It.

How anything inside a ship can stop its rolling has been one of the most difficult of modern inventions even to seamen to understand. An explanation of the secret was obtained by Premier Mussolini last summer from Elmer A. Sperry, the New York scientist, who devised the method. He had an audience with Mussolini after the Italian navy installed a stabilizer on its 1,200-ton cruiser, Guglielm Pepe.

"You have stabilized our Pepe," Mussolini exclaimed. "Our designer explained it, but I do not understand. I cannot see how you can stop a ship from rolling unless you reach out from one side to grip a mighty force."

"That," replied the American inventor, "is just what we do."

"Ah," exclaimed Mussolini, "I knew they told me wrong. What is the force?"

"It is a force," Sperry replied, "as strong as Gibraltar and a darn sight more useful. It is a law of nature."

It is Newton's law of motion, studied by every schoolboy, and its application is familiar to every boy who spins a top.

Spinning Top Is Example.

A top resists being pushed out of the upright plane in which it whirls. Scientists know that when it is pushed it does not fall over, as an upright stick would, in the direction opposite from the push. Instead it tends to fall as a man would if he pitched upon his face when pushed from one side. They know also that, while one side of a top so pushed is trying to go down the opposite side is resisting with equal force.

Sperry puts a spinning rotor in the middle of the ship, arranged on rings so that when it is tilted forward or aft along the line of the ship's keel it presses down on one side of the ship's center and up on the other. A rotor the diameter of an office desk precesses with tons of force.

Another gyro, no bigger than an electric fan, releases the machinery which rocks the big rotor. The little gyro detects the small beginnings of a roll. Caught early, the roll may be eliminated by a comparatively small force.

The technical name of the rotor's side force is precession.



Tax Book in Braille

Nashville, Tenn.—Because Overton county, Tennessee, elected a blind trustee, its tax book is being transcribed by the Braille system, so that the official may read the records with his finger tips.

"F" is in Photo

Salem, Mass.—A Salem athlete who wore the letter "F" on his sweater was asked what it stood for. "Phillips," he replied.

