











# BARRINGTON REVIEW

ESTABLISHED 1885

M. T. LAMEY, Editor and Publisher  
LESLIE B. PADDOCK, Managing Editor

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All communications should be addressed to the

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TELEPHONE NO. 1 BARRINGTON, ILL.

## CURIOUS CUSTOMS

Among the peculiar customs which have influenced mankind, one of the most interesting, as well as amusing, is that of taboos. This system attained its fullest and most complicated development among the native island inhabitants of Polynesia, from Hawaii to New Zealand. Its usages may be discovered in most parts of the world, even among civilized peoples.

The word "taboo" in its ordinary sense means set apart or sacred, and the person or things so set apart were usually designated by kings, chiefs and priests. A right to be general or special was the privilege of the taboos.

For example, in Hawaii, the flesh of hogs, fowls, turtle and certain kinds of fish

were taboo in favor of gods and men, but were not to be eaten by women, except in special cases.

Certain periods of religious ceremonies were marked by strict taboos, during which all food was prohibited. When a new cause was launched, no one, neither a dog, might bark, no pig, no cock crow. The animals were caused to observe the taboo by having their mouths tied up.

In New Zealand the places where great chiefs had rested were taboo or sacred, and funeral customs are among the most sacred, so that no one might tread thereon.

It was believed that as a penalty for the violation of certain taboos the offender would swell up and die, but the priests were able to prevent such dire consequences by performing certain mystical ceremonies, for a sufficient fee. Death, however, was a heavy penalty to pay, and the dead were liable to judicial robbery, whereby the unlucky victim was despoiled of all his property.

There are only a few of the innumerable strange customs associated with taboo and its attendant superstitions. But if we will but look around us we may discover them and customs in vogue today which are not far removed from those of the native Polynesians, so far as rationality is concerned.

## UNCLE SAM PRINTER

Uncle Sam's Post Office Department, which it is estimated will have a deficit of \$100,000,000 during the present fiscal year, will be saving in the business of compensating local printers in the form of printed envelopes, having recently awarded a contract involving more than \$15,000,000 in this connection.

This means that one concern will have a monopoly of this amount of gross business, a large portion of which will be derived from contracts with the government, the only class of business men with whom the government competes in this manner.

The injustice of this practice is the all the more marked because the printing is done for an additional charge of only a few cents, a thousand over the cost of the plain envelope, and the printer is practically the only class of business men with whom the government competes in this manner.

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Having been victims of this unfair competition for half a century, it is little wonder that the commercial printing industry is in opposition to government operation of business enterprises. All fair-minded business men should assist the National Editorial Association in its efforts to eliminate this Socialistic and un-American practice.

There would be no much justification for the operation of a chain of retail stores by the government as there is for the retail sale of printed envelopes, in competition with local printers.

## RELIEVING THEMSELVES

Practically everybody would be glad to see some practical means of farm relief brought about by legislation, but the wise farmer is more than willing to do his part for the betterment of his condition.

Some instances in which farmers have successfully sought relief through better methods are related in a recent magazine article which gives food for thought. Here are a few:

John D. Brader of Oswego, Kan., rented

out three-fourths of his land seven years ago and devoted the rest to dairy cattle and poultry. From 17 cows and 350 hens he cleared \$2,600 last year. Fifteen years ago he was a renter; now he owns his farm and is a producer of a meat product. He has increased his farm property so profitably, so he increased his herd, likewise increasing his monthly milk check to an average of \$300.

Henry Hogan of Elmet County, Ind., got out of the beaten path by buying 300 acres of land with a \$1,000 down payment. His son, William, Madison, another Iowa farmer, has a big flock of poultry in connection with his other farming operations and made money.

In many sections of the South the "cow, son and hen" are bringing prosperity to farmers who formerly grew cotton. The cotton is not so good as cotton alone. In other words, many farmers are bettering their condition by similar means.

There is no denying that agriculture is in a bad way generally, but a better planned farm program would enable many farmers to overcome this condition to a great extent.

## THE ALARMISTS

Luckily for humanity, it still maintains a saving sense of humor. Were this not so, the wailings of the pessimists would drive us all crazy. For surely there is no lack of prophets of doom to harry us with their dire warnings that the world is going to hell.

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Then, after listening to these apotopes of doom, with a more or less pronounced feeling of boredom, unregenerate humanity turns to the funny page and smiles at the antics of Jiggs and Andy Gump.

This indicates that the average person is indifferent to the evil in the world. It means that sensible people recognize the inherent weakness and folly of humanity and refuse to become unduly excited about it. They realize the futility of trying to control it. Just think what harm all our politicians might be saying about us if this were not a Christian world.

Putting the trivial campaign managers' statements to one side, we note that there are only 65,000 state voters.

It is the average person, however, that ought to be taught the things that ought to be taught.

## HEAVY GASOLINE TAXES

An interesting compilation of figures showing the amounts of gasoline taxes paid per capita by motorists of various states has recently been made by the American Motorists' Association.

For example, in the state of New Jersey, the average motorist paid \$2.29 each for the year 1927, New Jersey, South Carolina with \$255, Alabama, Georgia and New Mexico with \$24, and so on down to the lowest, which were Minnesota and North Dakota with a per capita tax of \$0.00. The average gasoline tax for the United States was 2.76 cents a gallon.

Comparing the total amount of gasoline revenue from the total cost of \$67,625,000 (followed by Ohio with \$19,911,481, and Pennsylvania with \$17,296,233, and New York and Massachusetts levy no gasoline tax, while Illinois law passed last year was declared unconstitutional).

All states except three charge the tax, ranging from one to five cents a gallon.

"KNIGHTS OF THE WING" is just two-fifths of a year old, the air-mail and general cargo department of the Chicago and North Western Railway, and the company has the greatest interest in the world's airmail service.

It is the first airmail service in the country to have airmail in every major city in the United States. The service is now in operation in 100 cities.

"No man except an idiot," says Nichols and Wright War aviators, "could surpass the man of natural ability in the amount of knowledge he can accumulate in a short time and hope to arrive at the same result."

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