

**Bruckart's Washington Digest**

**National Union Endangered by Trade Barriers Between States**

**Bootlegging of Milk and Cream Calls Attention to Condition That Has Become Flagrant; Proper Government Functions Used to Accomplish Unscrupulous Ends.**

By WILLIAM BRUCKART

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WASHINGTON.—City officials and newspapers of Washington, D. C., have worked themselves into a terrible dither lately over a new kind of bootlegger—a bootlegger of milk and cream. This city, like every other city, has tight regulations concerning milk and cream that enters the national capital. They are regulations designed to protect the health of those who reside here. Moreover, maintenance of such regulations are an entirely proper function of government, because there can be nothing more important than health.

According to the charges filed and upon which arrests were made, a dairy four or five hundred miles from Washington, inspected and licensed by the state of its location, brought in a truck load of refrigerated cream without first having obtained a permit to do so. The city officials, prodded perhaps by local dairies and nearby milk producers, threw a couple of men into jail and barked and squawked all around the place because of this bootlegger. The local press reports indicated the city officials had made asses of themselves over the whole matter, but that is of no particular concern to this discussion.

The incident is very important as illustrative of a condition that is rapidly endangering the national union of states, and is, therefore, a matter for analysis here. Frequently, great national issues lie around, or are kicked around, for months before somebody inadvertently sets a match to the powder; and it happened to be local officials who struck the match.

**Barriers to Trade Between States Has Become Flagrant**

The thing called to national attention by the cream bootlegger is the existence through the nation of barriers or obstacles to trade between the states. It has become flagrant. Selfish interests have been operating, first, in one state; then, in another. Laws have been passed utilizing proper government functions to accomplish unscrupulous ends. These have bred retaliatory measures. Other states have passed laws to "get even" with those acting ahead. State officials, state trade and civic organizations have threatened, and have been threatened right back, until now we have throughout the United States thousands of people sticking out their tongues in the most childish fashion at other thousands of people. Each group saying in sign language or otherwise: "you're another."

It is serious business, and there is no doubt in my mind but what the condition bodes ill for national unity. It takes no expanded imagination to think of the time when we might have 48 little nations, snarling and frothing at the mouth as crudely, and quite as unintelligently, as they do throughout Europe.

Now, it is one thing, and a very proper thing, to use regulations for the preservation of health, for the protection of property, for the support of government, or governmental policy. It is quite another, and dastardly, thing to make use of those regulations to prevent the flow of commerce and the products of farm and factory. It is such things as that from which monopoly is made. If the now rather ill-famed monopoly investigation is worth its salt (which it has not demonstrated thus far), it could demonstrate its value by examining into trade barriers between states.

**Proper Legal Power Used, But It Is Selfish**

Representative Halleck of Indiana has been engaged for weeks in digging up facts about these trade barriers. He told me the other day that he intends to try to break them down, either by constitutional amendment or by national statute. There are plenty of difficulties confronting him, he admits, because all of these things have been done by using entirely proper legal power, but by using it selfishly.

To illustrate, Mr. Halleck referred to that oft-repeated assertion that "the power to tax is the power to destroy." Indeed, it is! The power to tax for government revenue is, and always has been, used. But there are many instances of record where that taxing power was employed to levy such high rates of tax that the tax collector took everything produced. And it is the same thing disguised use of proper power that is getting the nation into an awful mess, now. This choking of trade is going on despite the constitutional provision which says emphatically that no state may levy tariffs against importations from other states. The bright law makers, and their henchmen, have got around that in the manner mentioned above.

Mr. Halleck supplied some facts to show how widespread the condition has become. He mentioned, moreover, that the nation is so blan-

ketted with a variance of laws on most subjects that it seems almost a hopeless job to untangle them.

For example, there are 170 different state laws dealing with the labelling and grading of farm products. A good ear of corn in one state won't be recognized as a good ear of corn in another. My friend, the ordinary Irish potato may be accepted as No. 1 in one state, and find himself as No. 3 in another. A bottle of beer in Missouri, tax paid and respectable there, becomes virtually a bottle of slop in an adjoining state. Wines from grapes grown in California cannot possibly be as good as wines grown from grapes in Oregon, because the Oregon law says so and lays a burdensome tax to prevent Oregon citizens from having their stomachs corroded or something. Cement entering Florida, for a time, was not as good as cement produced in Florida and Florida was prepared to tax it—until the case got to the Supreme court of the United States.

**States Differ as to What Constitutes a Truck Load**

Take another and less known condition—less known because fewer people come in contact with it, but it enters into the cost of the things you buy, just the same. I refer to state laws about load limits of trucks. I don't have any love for trucks; they are so dogged on these days that I want to take to the timber when I see one of them coming head-on along the highway. But they have rights. Yet, there are no two states as far as I can learn that have the same regulation about the size of a truck's load. The trucks can be regulated because they use the highways, and yet one state says 120,000 pounds is a load and another state says 18,000 pounds is a load. The others have laws specifying a load at varying sizes in between, and there you are! Just what is a load, anyway?

The truth of the matter is that local interests are to blame in most cases. They are taking advantage of situations to further their own selfish ends. And where are they leading to with this polyglot of legislation?

The whole thing seems a bit incongruous to me. Here, on the one hand, Mr. Cordell Hull, the very able and valuable secretary of state, has been moving heaven and earth to get rid of trade barriers between nations. Reciprocal trade treaties, he calls his method. Some of them seem to work badly, and some others appear to be producing results, but no one knows yet whether the whole system should be kept or thrown out. That question does not belong here. It is the national policy of breaking down obstacles, jarring loose log jams, so that our products may move into other nations that is important to be considered when within our own boundaries every known means is being used to block shipments and sales between states. I cannot figure it out unless some folks are strict followers of the Biblical injunction not to let the left hand know what the right hand doeth.

**National Government Policy To Blame for Conditions**

I have been wondering, therefore, what had actuated the selfish interests of the country to start on this spree of battling among themselves. There must have been some reason behind that. At least, I have come to believe there is. I believe that the condition fundamentally springs from national government policy which for years now has been in the direction of destroying the rights of individual states. Little by little, the federal government has torn away the rights of the states—and the states, with pain reduced by federal money, have permitted it.

Suddenly, however, the states and their citizens have discovered their whole jurisdiction is enveloped in creeping paralysis. We have all noted resentment in the last few years at the encroachment of federal regulation upon individual rights and freedom. When these things were realized by the rank and file of the people, there developed a new disease as a counter irritant, the disease of knocking the other fellow off. It will take more than socialized medicine to correct it. The national government's policies, having started it, will have to assume the blame and will have to find a way to remedy the condition. I hope Mr. Halleck, and those he has enlisted to help him, can find the proper prescription for the cure.

**California's First Capital**

Monterey, a quiet and unhurried little town on the shore of the blue Pacific, was the first capital of California. There, under three flags—those of Spain, Mexico and the United States—California's administration was carried on from 1776 to 1849. Because of its historic role in the settlement of California, Monterey has been described as the "Williamsburg of the West."

**New Colors and Styling Say Silk Prints for Spring**

By CHERIE NICHOLAS



**I**F YOU have not already been seized with a mania for a new flock of gay silk print, call a physician. Your case is serious and needs immediate attention, for it is as natural for womankind to seek the inspiration of bright colorful prints in the springtime of the year (any time of the year for that matter) as it is for flowers to turn their pretty selves toward the warm rays of the sun.

It is positively exhilarating to look over the new prints this spring. The colors are so out of the ordinary and the patterns so versatile.

Colors that lead? Answering the question, fuchsia shades perhaps come first in favor although a flair for prints that pattern navy or black backgrounds with chartreuse or spring green motif is definitely evidenced in the ensembled costumes featured at various prevue showings. These green and black or green and navy prints are wonderfully attractive.

Major trends in prints from a styling viewpoint? Well, for one thing, there are the very chic jacket costume suits. And when we say "jacket" we do not mean the usual casual jacket types we are accustomed to seeing season after season. The new jackets are done in a man-tailored way with lapels and stitched pocket flaps, are frequently lined with a monotone silk and the niftiest are double breasted buttoning (large pearl buttons) with real honest-to-goodness worked but-

tonholes. There's nothing smarter "going" than these extremely practical and attractive print silk jacket suits. The better shops are showing them but if you aspire to "make your own," a few yards of swank print silk, a reliable pattern that has "it" in point of high style and there is no reason why, if you are handy at sewing, you cannot turn out a costume that will give you "class" wherever you go.

The pleated vogue continues a big factor in print-dress styling. The latest call is for pleated bodice as well as pleated skirt. The model centered in the group gives the idea. This short-sleeved daytime dress is made of pure dye printed silk crepon with white medallions centered with green and magenta on an orange yellow ground. These sun-gold print silks are the "last word" for spring.

To the right a slim jacket dress is shown of a silk print featuring violene tones in a closely spaced wool violet pattern. Quilting borders the wide-shouldered jacket and a nosegay of violets makes an appropriate flower accent. The belt is of violet colored leather—a costume that sounds a refreshing note of spring.

New looking and stunning in effect is the combination of print with plain silk fabrics as carried out in the mode to left in foreground. The skirt section and the lapels on the bodice are of monotone silk weave, worn over a dress of white-patterned-on-blue print. Often the monotone skirt is removable thus affording two-dresses-in-one, a very practical idea to say the least.

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**World Fair Print**



Just out! It's an official print showing all the New York World's fair buildings in their natural colorings. Of course this print is destined to cause talk and create excitement. See here pictured pretty Elaine Mulligan selected as "Miss Chicago" at the fair, posing in a charming housecoat made of this unique washable print. Spreading skirts and corded flounces illustrate the new romantic influence, in striking contrast to the geometrically formal symbols of the fair—the obelisk and sphere. This World's fair housecoat is one among thousands of new styles that were displayed during national spring wash apparel show held recently in Chicago.

**Fashions Stress 'Little Girl Look'**

If you follow fashion's lead you will be wearing clothes with the "little girl look," such as designers are turning out with such enthusiasm this season. The magic of these new ingenue fashions is that not only do they subtract years from your appearance, but you will be seen at your prettiest.

Notable among the young looking dresses that now center the fashion stage are the types that have short, full swing skirts pleated, or if not pleated, then gored in as many as 16 sections. It adds to their cunning that these skirts reveal tantalizing bits of frou-frou frill, which accounts for the term "petticoat dresses," as registered on fashion's program.

We could go on and on telling of this youth trend but "nuff said" for your shopping tours will convince you of the claim that the new clothes look as if they had been dipped in the fountain of youth.

**Lovely Things in Latest Neckwear**

Dainty white organdie fichus with the val edging your grandmother wore are charmingly feminine and so flattering on a black dinner or daytime dress. Another variation of the fichu is the camellian fichu which may be worn five different ways: as a fichu, as an ascot, tucked under the neckline of your dress as a piping, as a plastron tucked under your belt, or as a vestie.

Berthas are fashionable once again in georgettes, embroidered organdie with val insertions and edgings and will make you demure and quaint.

Should you feel an attack of "petticoat fever" coming on you, remember there is a reason for it this year—Mainbocher did adorable petticoat dresses with cute touches of white at the neck in his collection. Buy embroidered batiste by the yard and sew it on the full skirt of your pet dark dress.

**Star Dust**

★ Tracing Resemblances

★ For the Cause of Art

★ Indians Above Par

By Virginia Vale

**G**ENE MARKEY, the 20th Century-Fox producer, may have thought that Metro made a mistake when it abandoned "I Take This Woman" as Hedy LaMarr's second American-made picture. Certainly he liked the idea of taking that woman, to be his lawful wedded wife. Oddly enough, there's a strong resemblance between the new Mrs. Markey and the first one, Joan Bennett, as Joan appears in her brunette wig in "Trade Winds." And there'll probably be a resemblance in the setting of "Trade Winds" and the next picture in which Hedy LaMarr stars—"Lady of the Tropics," in which Robert Taylor will be her leading man.

This business of tracing resemblances can go on and on forever. Old timers can try to find one between the glamorous Hedy and that



HEDY LA MARR

glamour girl of an earlier day, Barbara LaMarr (surely there couldn't have been a thought of Barbara in the mind of the person who suggested "LaMarr" when the lovely Viennese Mrs. Markey was choosing a name for her American career!).

Believe it or not, Merle Oberon had her face washed with kerosene the other day. The same thing happened to Laurence Oliver and David Niven, and all in the cause of art. Not that the makeup man had anything against them. Kerosene, when mixed with paraffin and heated slightly, provides a quick-drying spray which dries white, so that he who gets sprayed looks as if frost had appeared on hair, eyebrows and eyelashes.

With the cops and robbers cycle waning, motion picture producers are certainly taking to playing cowboys and Indians in a great big way. Paramount has three big westerns scheduled for this spring and summer—"Geronimo," "Buffalo Bill" and "The Lives of a Texas Ranger," a sequel to "Texas Ranger." There's going to be a premium on Indians in the Hollywood studios, first thing anybody knows.

Muriel Wilson, formerly known as "Mary Lou" on radio's "Showboat" program, recently received a gift that moved her to tears. It is a crocheted tablecloth depicting a scene from "Showboat," and was designed and made by a blind woman.

There's a man in California who, if he could be granted the wish nearest his heart, would ask that Cecil B. DeMille decide to broadcast a play with a good wind storm in it. The man is Charlie Forsyth, sound effects expert who officiates on Mr. DeMille's Radio Theater, and he has two dozen new wind records that he wants to use. During the recent California windstorms he worked all night making records of the wind whistling through cracks in his garage and through the shrubbery around his house. They are the first authentic wind records Forsyth has been able to make, and he won't be happy until he uses them.

Lanny Ross celebrated his tenth anniversary on the air by giving a luncheon to which he invited all the other men who have been on the air for ten years or more and suggesting that they form a club. Everybody was delighted with the idea, but since then Lanny has sometimes wished that he'd never thought up the plan. He has been deluged with letters of protest from women all over the country and the only way out was to form an auxiliary.

Five years ago Shirley Ross made her screen debut as a bit player in a picture starring Lee Tracy. Imagine what a thrill it was for her when she was engaged to appear as his leading lady on a Silver Theater broadcast.

**ODDS AND ENDS**—After his Thursday evening broadcasts Felix Knight makes a bee line for an Armenian restaurant and a plate of shish-kebab . . . At rehearsals Kate Smith disrupts the men in the band by feeding them hamburgers . . . Be sure to see "Stagecoach"—it will probably prove to be one of the ten best pictures released this year.

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**Easy Filet Crochet For Baby's Carriage**



Pattern No. 6071.

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