

### OLD-FASHIONED SMOKER BANS THE SPEEDY "PUFFER"

Quiet, Long-Drawn-Out Seances With Favorite Pipe Thing of Past—"Progress" Is Blamed

What has become of the old-fashioned man who could discuss the theory of evolution, the principles of democracy and the philosophy of Nietzsche without letting his pipe go out?

He has gone to the Land of Useless and honorable practices—or is it art?—of smoking. Gone, perhaps, to the same exile of the convicted chap who needed a glass or two of encouragement to sing properly "Captain Jinks of the Horse Marines?"

"Fancy smokers" is the scornful appellation applied to the present generation of men, by a member of one of the Canoe street clubs who believes he has lived to see the decline and fall of the old school of fire-side pipe artists.

Matches for every pipeful, and then he usually throws away a handful of good tobacco, unsmoked in the bottom of the pipe. A long conversation requiring thought and attention always means a "sleeper" if the man is smoking a cigar, or a "cold bowl" if he has a pipe.

"As a matter of fact, the old-fashioned around-the-fireplace talks are also pretty nearly extinct, and conversation is something of a lost art, but that is another story.

"The fact remains that something, perhaps it was the cigarette, has ruined old-fashioned smoking. The pipe especially is going into limbo, probably because it looks silly hanging over the steam radiator whereas it seemed to fit in exactly with the smoke-chambered fireplace. One seldom sees a pipe in a hotel

restaurant, and only in some clubs in there any pretense of giving allegiance to the once-popular monarch of the tobacco kingdom.

"Between you and me, I wouldn't be surprised if Mr. Volstead had some effect in furthering the lowering of smoking standards. It has put a damper on legal conviviality, and conviviality generally had a long, black cigar or a soothing pipe of a favorite mixture mixed up in it somewhere.

"What I have said applies to Americans. It may be that over in England, where old customs stick longer, old-fashioned smoking standards have also survived. It is more than likely our dynamic, almost cyclonic methods in the United States are responsible principally for jerky, nervous smokers of today.

The conversation turned to a recent story concerning the winning by the French of the world's championship in tobacco smoking. The Philadelphian expressed positive doubt as to whether any Philadelphians could challenge the Gallic title holder. Others, asked the same question, had much the same feeling.

"I wouldn't go as far as to say that there aren't men here who could equal

this Frenchman's feat of smoking a pipeful of tobacco for fifty-eight minutes without relighting, but I do believe there isn't enough interest in old-fashioned smoking to start an organized contest in this or any other American city.

"It wouldn't be a bad plan, either, for one of these clubs which pride themselves on maintenance of old-time customs to try to get up such a contest, just to test out the abilities of smokers on this side of the ocean. Slow and fast smoking competition could be arranged, provided the judges were provided with gas masks or smoke screens in the latter case, and the affair might bring about rebirth of the good old days of real smokers.

"As it is now, the few real smokers left are born to smoke unseen and waste their best tobacco on the desert air. If they break Monsieur Monastek's speed record of three minutes one and two-fifths seconds for a cigar nobody knows about it except their wives, who complain of ashes on the parlor rug. However, I doubt if there are many of them who break records. Most of them do little but smoke matches."

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