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THE TIMES

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THE TIMES

Port Limon, Costa Rica (G. A.)

In a School for Waiters

Among Other Things They Learn Some of the 714 Ways of Folding a Napkin.

In London there are three schools for waiters which attempt to teach the rudiments of what is on the whole a difficult and not unremunerative art. To one of these academies a writer in the *Strand* recently paid a visit.

In a long room occupied by three square tables, with a mirror at one end, and a pair of haise covered push doors at the other, a group of eleven young men are listening to the exhortations of a professor.

"The first thing they've got to do is to be clean," he says; "the second thing is to be quick, and the third thing is to be graceful. By graceful I don't mean you've got to imitate the Apollo Belvedere or a dancing master, but you mustn't be awkward in your movements. And you've got to have a good memory. There's nothing annoys a customer so much as a waiter saying he forgot."

"And now, gents, if you'll give me your attention, we'll begin at the beginning-table laying."

Port with a cloth was produced and, with the assistance of a waiter, a demonstration was given of how a table should be laid—plates, knives, forks and glasses, bread, salt, napkin and the rest.

"There are as many ways of folding napkins as there are of cooking eggs, namely, 714, but the leading way recommended in the best houses are these." Here the professor slowly performed several simple feats in napkin; folding after which he proceeded:

"We now, with our kind friend's assistance, assume that a diner has sat down. Now of course I needn't tell you that diners are of various kinds, each of which has to have rather different treatment. We'll begin this morning with restaurant diners. The customer arrives.

"If he hasn't been previously to the cloak room, which in this class is probable you must bow-like this—and take his hat, coat and umbrella and placing them on a chair for a moment help him to be seated and hand him the menu. While he is studying the menu you dispose of his hat and coat and return, taking up your position on his right-like this.

"The exact pose you ought to assume learned in a day. A year's study will hardly do it. I know one waiter who has made it the special study of a lifetime. The poses of one waiter at a certain private hotel in the West End make a diner forget when the soup is cold or the ices hot. He is so dignified that he actually takes his tip with his back to the customer—quite an extinct fashion.

"Is the dinner table d'hot, or a la carte? I listable table d'hot after serving the hors d'oeuvres you ask, 'Thick or clear soup, sir?' Never try to be original. There's no room for originality in our vocation. What we do is the evolution of centuries—conduct in its relation to the inner man. You know a waiter who invariably asked 'Clear or thick, sir?' but it put the customer off his feed at once.

"Suppose the customer asks you what Potage a la St. Germain is, you tell him, because you have previously asked the head waiter

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January 15th

what it is. You always get the man translated beforehand—that is, if you don't happen to know 'chief's French' naturally.

"Then there's the question of tipping. If you wish it to be seen that you are disappointed with your tip, you don't do it by a rude snarl. There's a way of letting a customer know you are disappointed. You convey a mild reproach and yet a desire to please on the next opportunity, which he won't forget."

¿Ys Europe decadent?

The well known Leipzig professor Wilhelm Ostwald, who gained the Nobel prize for chemistry in 1909, says, emphatically no. There is good reason, he thinks, for the theory that the intentional restriction of families threatens particular notions, but most other current notions as to decadence will not stand examination.

Prof. Ostwald in a notable article on this subject, which appears in the *Vienna Neue Freie Presse*, says that decadence theories are mainly spread by young people who are disillusioned by idle life in great cities, and who, being themselves decadent, wrongly imagine that they are products of a general decadence. But nature has provided against the spreading of this exceptional type of individual.

Prof. Ostwald recognizes another decadent social type, that is the type of aesthetic whic is characterized by "decayed will power and hypertrophied sensibility". But he holds that such individuals are also exceptions.

Prof. Ostwald, however, expects that in futre the idea of progress will not dominate the world as an end in itself. "Men will more and more see that it is more civilized truly to live than to fill one's whole life with mere preparations and means to live. Then men will also learn instead of the present passive art, which, whether play, composition or picture is allowed merely to impress one, the immediate, active art of leading a more graceful life.

"This art is a hundred times richer and more intimate than any external arts, which are mere surrogates for the active art. The new art will be optimistic and active instead of being pessimistic and passive, as is the art of the modern aesthetes, which consists mainly in sorrowing over the amount of 'artistic' things in the world."

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Jan 21st 1 m

The subsidies West india mail and direct line

The London "Times" of the 9th inst contains an article with regard to the granting of a subsidy to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company for the carriage of mails between Great Britain and the West Indies. It reviews the subsidies that have been granted to the company during the past 25 years, and asserts that the new contract entered into will be the means of averting the loss which would undoubtedly occur to the West Indian Colonies in respect to the tourist traffic and otherwise.

Referring to the cessation of the Direct Line contract between Jamaica and the Mother Country, the "Times" says that efforts are being made to secure the continuance of this service, but the chances of success do not appear very great.

Card

Mr. and Mrs. ISAAC L. MADURO and Family
Mrs. OSMUND L. MADURO
Mr. and Mrs. FRANK L. MADURO
Mr. and Mrs. J. PAULY,

beg to tender their sincere thanks for cards, telegrams and letters of condolence and sympathy expressed in their late bereavement.

Current News.

The Limon Water supply has given out and the railway company is supplying the people.

The lines at Lomas is still blocked and transportation of passengers and baggage continues.

The s. s. "Mount Vernon," consigned to the United Fruit Company arrived here yesterday afternoon from Mobile. No passengers came on her.

The pay car of the railway company has not yet arrived in Limon, this is owing to the continued slide. The employees and those interested are much concerned and anxiously awaits the arrival.

Mr. W. H. Field, who is well known here in the building of the Northern Railroad and who is at present carrying on extensive works in connection with the railway at Bocas is here on a visit and intend leaving shortly.

The s. s. "Altair" of the Hamburg American Line is held up in port awaiting the arrival of coffee from ahead.

The s. s. "Chirripó," one of the liners of the United Fruit Company came into port yesterday morning with the following passengers from Manchester: Miss. C. de la Guardia, Miss M. Farrer, W. N. Brand, A. M. O'Leary, A. Degun and E. Lawarre.

Among the passengers that arrived here yesterday on the "Chirripó" from Manchester was Mr. W. N. Brand. He will go up to San Jose to assume the position of Superintendent of the Electric

Tramway Company vice Mr. G. O. Green, who died recently.

Archdeacon Blyan leaves here tomorrow for the United States Colon in consequence of the illness of his wife. Mr. Cook of San José, will act temporarily. The Archdeacon preached an interesting sermon on Sunday night last, and had a large congregation. His departure will be much regretted by the people, having gained their esteem during his short stay here.

While Mr. Solomon Esna little son about 4 years of age was crossing the street, going from the store to the market a man that was riding a cycle at a good pace came in contact with him, throwing him to the ground. When he was taken up it was discovered that he was slightly bruised on one of his legs and arm. The man did not stop to see what damage the lad had sustained but continued is journey. Some bystanders on seeing the occurrence shouted "hold him, hold him!" A lad ran from a barber shop and held the cyclist until a policeman was called. The man was taken before the Agencia de Policia and fined \$ 25.

A boy about 14 years of age was roughly handled on Sunday afternoon last which ought to be an example for other little loafers that knock around the railway station. From information we re-

Private Secretary of King George

Lord Knollys, the late King Edward's right hand man, it is understood, proposes to relinquish his present office as the King's principal private secretary after the coronation. He will be succeeded by Sir Arthur Bigge, who acted in this capacity for several years to the present King when he was Prince of Wales. It is also stated that Sir Arthur will receive a peerage.

Troops await Simon

Haytien President and Army Going Home by Land

Cape Haytien, Hayti.—The dispatch boat Nord Alexis arrived here from Gonaives, where it took on government troops who had been transported to that place by the Allemania. The troops were landed and are now awaiting the arrival of President Simon, who at the head of a large force, is proceeding here by land. He was at Plaisance, about ten miles from this city, yesterday.

Te commandant of the Cape Haytien District today accompanied Gen. Florestal Magliore, who recently was appointed to command the Haytien army on an inspection of the city. Fightin continues at Ouaniminth and Tru.

National capital notes

The State Department Looking Into the Ecuadorean Loan

Washington.—Because of the large American interests in Ecuador, the State Department is taking steps to study conditions of a loan which the Ecuadorean Government is negotiating with a French syndicate. The American minister has been instructed to forward a complete report, which it is understood must be examined with a view to the protection of the American interests in the Quito-Guayaquil Railway. The Ecuadorean Government is now heavily indebted to the Railway Company. In addition to the investment of American capital, the State Department also is interested in the efficacy of the sanitary measures to be taken at Guayaquil, as the health conditions of that affect Canal Zone.

Colonel Goethals Injured

Washington.—Colonel George W. Goethals, builder of the Panama Canal, just back from the tropics, slipped on the icy pavements, in this city last night and fell heavily on his right shoulder, suffering a painful strain. It inconvenienced him somewhat, but he was able to about the Capital today.

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