

TODAY

**To Kill or Not to Kill.
Paderewski Still Practices.
Your Rich Relative.
The Host Coat.**

Mr. Brisbane's views are presented as thoughtful comments of the world's most widely read and highly paid editorial writer upon the news of the day. They do not necessarily reflect the editorial policies of The Times.

By ARTHUR BRISBANE

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LOS ANGELES, Cal., March 6—While Governor Brucker signs a bill to re-establish capital punishment in Michigan, California discusses, and will adopt it, it is hoped, a bill abolishing capital punishment.

The state cannot discourage murder by imitating murderers, and killing as they kill.

Instead of death, the extreme penalty should be life imprisonment, and it should mean LIFE IMPRISONMENT with eight hours for work, eight hours for sleep, eight hours for regret and reflection.

Two criminals recently received sentences aggregating more than 200 years, and it was announced officially that they would actually stay in jail about 14 years. That makes a joke of justice.

THE one "secret of success" is work.

Paderewski, in his private car on a sidetrack in Los Angeles, amazed railroad workers by practicing for hours on the piano that he carries with him. One worker remarked "They say he's the best piano player in the world, and listen to him, still practicing."

That is one reason why he is the best player in the world. The other reason is his possession of genius.

But even genius, without work, as proved by the careers of many brilliant men born rich, is genius wasted.

IT is a comfort to have rich relatives even when you feel poor, and the nation's Uncle Sam is rich. He has in solid gold four billion, five hundred and ninety million dollars, within one hundred millions of the greatest amount he ever had.

With such a gold supply it is hard to understand why such a fuss should be made about the soldiers' bonus.

But everything about finance is hard to understand.

FASHIONABLE tailors in New York exhibit what they call "host coats." Brightly colored, blue with green lapels, or wine colored with red lapels, they allow the eaters and drinkers at the party to pick out the man who is paying the bills and prevent mistaking him for the butler.

The latter advantage is not important, because the butler may usually be recognized by his expression of concentrated intelligence, and is nearly always sober.

Herbert Swope had this "host coat" idea, long ago, wearing an evening suit of beautiful claret colored damask.

Why, no one knew. In his house there can't be any mistake about the host. And the butler had nothing to do with it, for Swope's servants are black.

A NEW name, marihuana, has been added to the list of deadly drugs that form a habit, and stupefy the nerves. This news interests the general public for marihuana "touched up with a bit of cocaine" makes the criminal, according to Admiral Hobson, "a desperate man, without pity or fear."

There are some things worse even than whisky.

PRESIDENT HOOVER describes the Franco-Italian naval agreement as "a matter for con-
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gratulation to the whole world."

It is pleasing to know that France, Italy and other European countries probably will not fight for some time.

It would be more pleasing, and matter for congratulation to all of our 48 states, if we knew that we were thoroughly prepared, regardless of what France, Italy or any other nation might do.

IN OPENING bids on the Boulder dam the government was surprised to find that Six Companies, Inc., of San Francisco had won the general contract for dam, power plant and appurtenant work with a bid of only \$48,890,955, many millions below the government estimate. The work will start in 30 days.

When it is finished, on the theory that the people and the government can spend money, but can't manage a business, the property will be turned over for exploitation to private individuals that can manage a business.

The "utility" stocks, that distribute light, power, etc., were cheerful and "strong" in yesterday's dull market. A formal statement from the White House that the government must not go into business for itself encouraged the power stock owners.

It is reassuring to know that you can exploit the people's necessities and natural monopolies without any danger of competition from their government.