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**SALT LAKE CITY, - FEB. 6, 1908.**

**WHY STUDY FARMING?**

The agricultural demonstrations given before the future school teachers at the State Normal school represent the newest thought and the most practical tendencies of the modern social idea of elementary education.

We venture the observation that, according to our judgment, school subjects have rarely, if ever, taken a better form than that which these lessons portray. For we suspect that they will ultimately begin to educate the practical farmer as well as the student teacher, the parent as well as the child, and reform the home as well as the school room.

Consider the subject presented according to our report in Tuesday's paper—the cereals, or grains, as they are grown in the west, under our arid or semi-arid conditions. Would either the farmer or the teacher, the practical man or the student, ask for more of beauty, interest, reality, and possible profit also, than that which the one lesson on the cereals alone indicates?

Why study the farm crops? Briefly to learn how they grow—to find out the conditions of climate, soil, water, and cultivation under which they best succeed. But when we consider that it is indispensable to know how to vary the composition of the soil by the use of fertilizers; how to improve its physical condition by culture; how to regulate the warmth of its seed bed by mulching and manuring; how to control its moisture by irrigation and plowing; how to insure its complete development by good husbandry in its protection and harvesting; how to cure and to care for the crop after it is taken from the field; when to hold and when to sell what a field is here for learning, profit, and all round development!

Consider the corn. Botanically it is one of the grasses, with jointed, cane-like bamboo stalk of shining surface and flinty outside texture. Once a wild grass—a much-branched plant that "stooped" or "tilled" at the roots in a form resembling its own flower clusters—today it has been cultivated into a single-stemmed wonder that supplies the main portion of the food of nations. The fruitful ear has been evolved from what must have been branches in its primeval estate; the shank represents several consolidated stems, the husks that cover the ear are simply modified leaves, the flowers are transformed branches, their separation into male and female clusters, a device for better results by the division of labor—"the differentiation of function," as it is termed by the scientists. The female flowers form a cluster at the end of a lateral branch; the male, a tassel at the top of the stalk.

As to the ear, it is a collection of plants in embryo, each one perfect, and ready to grow into a completely furnished individual yielding its fruit "an hundred fold." The very kernel is a living, structural miracle: outside is the seed coat, a thin, transparent skin; next comes the first layer of the grain proper, rich in protein and made up of a single layer of rather large, cubical cells; then occurs the white starch, chiefly at the upper part, with the hard starch, forming the flinty portion, at the sides; at the center nearest to the tip of the ear lies the germ, creamy in color, and with a high content of oil; the tip cap completes the equipment by attaching the kernel to the cob.

As to the wonderful process of germination, it is all slumbering within the embryo and the little, single seed leaf within the kernel, called the cotyledon, ready to burst forth in growth with heat and moisture, the embryo. First it sends a shoot through the ruptured tip (inner end) of the seed—a shoot that unerringly goes downward to form the root and from the outer end a branch that rises to the sunshine, forming the stem. The young plant at first thrives on the food contained in the seed; later its developing roots, covered with fine hairs, drink in its food dissolved in the soil moisture.

Then comes the building of the plant out of carbon and oxygen from the air and the hydrogen and nitrogen from the soil. Combined by the living plant as to form the carbohydrates, in the germ, and starch, sugar and cellulose in the leaves, these with certain minerals (the ash) make up the plant body.

The final activity, the ripening of the fruit, requires that the silk pistils of the ear shall be fertilized by the pollen grains from the staminate flowers of the tassels above them. They open together and the pollen falls upon the silks; small, delicate tubes from the pollen dust penetrate to the heart of the ovule or young seed, which then begins to grow, until, by various other complicated steps, the seed is matured. But since the fertilizing pollen may be borne on the wind from other corn plants, endless varieties of different individual ears may be produced.

And what farmer, contemplating this marvelous process, would not be inspired to make a study of the product—whether grain, fruit, vegetable or flower—from which his living is made and his profits accrue? What child will not be ennobled in mind, as well as profited in practical tendency, by making such work an essential part of his school activity?

We have no doubt in deciding and no hesitation in saying that in thus bringing into school exercises and so into child life, the wonders of creation

that may be shown to exist in the practical operations of everyday agriculture, the State Normal is absolutely true to its high calling in the field of our State education.

**THE WAR TALK.**

And the war talk still continues. A local architect who has been absent from the City for some time, returns and makes the statement that the opinion is general among European and American tourists, that a conflict between this country and Japan is inevitable.

Some months ago Captain Hobson ventured the prediction that this conflict might start in February. "If postponed that long," Why in February does not appear clearly. But Captain Hobson expressed himself as convinced that the policy of Japan in China would lead to war.

Japan, he said, has organized a movement by which China is to be divided into spheres of influence from which the United States is to be excluded. Upon this basis, Japan has negotiated treaties with the great powers of the world.

This policy, Captain Hobson explained, would ultimately lead to the absolute preponderance of Japan over China and the transformation of the Chinese from a peaceful into a military people, and lay the foundation for an ultimate struggle between the white race on one side and the yellow race on the other, for the supremacy of the world. But he added, the question has a more pressing and vital significance for us. These new Japanese treaties with the European nations, and especially the treaty of alliance, offensive and defensive, with the British, are parts of the diplomatic preparations that Japan has made for an attack upon America. "Her naval and military preparations are practically complete, and all that now remains is for her to secure a pretext for such an attack; this fact explains the apparently unaccountable attitude of Japan upon every little, ridiculous, trifling incident that occurs anywhere in this country."

The intention of Japan may, as Captain Hobson further explained, be to chase our ships out of the Pacific Ocean, but there are as yet no signs of hostilities. In a few more weeks the magnificent fleet that has just passed the Magellan strait will be off our western coast, and we fancy that will make some difference in the program.

**WHAT IS THE REASON?**

No one will feel greatly surprised if more or less serious irregularities are brought to light in the various departments of the City government. It is only what can be expected when public interests are sacrificed upon the altar of party interests. We have lately had depicted upon the stage of the Salt Lake Theater, the conditions that obtain under the despotic rule of an unscrupulous boss, and that lesson was to the point.

But one circumstance in connection with the alleged irregularity in the street department is significant. It seems to have escaped the notice of the expert accountants paid by the City to straighten out the accounts, we suppose. If such an error can escape the expert eye, what guarantee has the public, then, for the correctness of any accounts published to make a showing? How about the accounts of other departments?

Another question is also suggested. For some time strenuous efforts have been made to put out of the police department some of the very best men on the force—men whose capability and honesty are not questioned, while men in other departments, for whom that much cannot be said, are retained without question; what is the reason? "Nobody knows the answer," But it is time for the tax-payer to wake up and take notice.

**AS TO RAILROAD FARES.**

We have already noticed in these columns the decision of the supreme court of Pennsylvania that the two-cent per mile fare law passed by the legislature of that state is unconstitutional. The lower court had already held the two-cent rate to be oppressive and confiscatory. Because the big stem line can and does reduce passenger rates it does not follow that the branch line, owned by different interests, should be compelled to do business at a rate forbidding legitimate profit.

The decision will tend to restrain the legislatures of other states from attempting to deal summarily with a general situation without inquiring into and allowing for necessary inequalities in local conditions. It is absurd to ignore variations in the earning power of railroad properties and to prescribe the same maximum of passenger transportation charges for a trunk line operating a hundred or two hundred trains a day and a branch line with perhaps one train each way daily. Recently in a similar case, Geo. Hughes vetoed a two-cent fare bill passed by the legislature of New York.

The right of the legislature to compel railroads to fix reasonable rates is undoubted. The question is, What are reasonable rates? The Pennsylvania road can do the greater part of its business at a fair profit on two cents per mile. But this essential point in the decision is sustained by the supreme court, which says that a flat two-cent rate would prevent the company's earning a fair return on some of the lines which it operates.

**FAMILIAR PRINCIPLES.**

Two great principles are brought into forensic combat in a series of debates between W. J. Bryan and Albert J. Beveridge, the brilliant Indiana statesman, who is perhaps as much of a journalist as he is a man of affairs. The debates, which run through an eastern magazine, deal mostly with property in its relation to citizenship. That money is power, is a fact brought out pointedly by Mr. Beveridge—power as strong as an army, and as tangible as the word of an emperor. That the United States has within it a number of accumulated fortunes, in the hands of people who have done practically nothing to earn them, and that these exercise a power too great for the safety of the government, is the

**A SERMONET FOR WORKERS**

[For the "News" by H. J. Hapgood.]  
There is a vast difference between being consistent and being pig-headed. The consistent man is true to his principles. He has certain fixed policies of doing business and he will fight out all his battles on the same ground.

The pig-headed man, however, while caring little or nothing for principles and policies, will stick to the same old methods and is bound to do things his own way. He gets a notion in his head and all the common sense in the world can't get it out. If he once says a thing all the logic and truth in the universe will not avail against him. He is pig-headed and he never changes his mind.

The late President Finney of Oberlin College once made a statement in his lecture before the senior class, which contradicted something he had written in a book published a number of years before. Some well posted student immediately "interrupted" him.

"President Finney," he said, "in your book entitled 'The Philosophy of the World,' chapter the thirteenth, you assert that such and such is the case, and now you come before your class and say so and so."

"Sit down," replied the professor. "Don't quote Finney to me."

Here was a man who was great enough not to be afraid to change his mind. The facts of his life proved that he was consistent. The principles remained unchangeable, but to his dying day, he was as docile as a child and always stood ready to be convinced.

If you want to build up a successful business, you can't afford to be pig-headed, for horse sense is never found in a man with a pig's head. Don't hesitate to learn. Remember the man from Missouri and let them throw you.

**JUST FOR FUN.**

**The Fallen Idol.**  
David Belasco was being congratulated on the success of "A Grand Army Man."

"Writing plays is risky business," said Mr. Belasco. "Past triumphs don't count. He who has written twenty superb pieces is just as likely to be damned on his twenty-first piece as any tyro."

"There was once a playwright who sat in the front row at the first night of a new piece of his own. The piece failed. It failed dreadfully. As the playwright sat, pale and sad, amid the hisses, a woman behind him leaned forward and said:

"Excuse me, sir; but knowing you to be the author of this play, I took the liberty, at the beginning of the performance, of snipping off a lock of your hair. Allow me now to return it to you."—Harper's Weekly.

**Her Stimulation.**  
When a rosy-cheeked, good-natured Irish girl, fresh from the other side, recently sought employment in the service of a Germantown woman, the latter began anxiously to interrogate the girl as to her qualifications.

"Can you cook, Nora?" asked the lady, most earnestly. "Are you a good cook?"

"Yes, mum, I tink so," responded the girl, never getting up when it rained.

**Still Better.**  
"Did you ever see this one?" Inquired the funny man. "You can take two letters from 'money' and leave only one. Show it to me, please."

"Sure," replied the postal clerk, "and if I wanted to I could take money from two letters and leave absolutely nothing."—Philadelphia Press.

**The Point in the Case.**  
Complaining Wife—My husband is that sort of a man that is always keeping my nose to the grindstone.

"Unfeeling! Acquaintance—Ah! That accounts for it being so sharp.—Baltimore American.

**Master of His Own Destiny.**  
"Why do you set your alarm clock? You never get up when it rings."

"No. But I have the satisfaction of knowing I am sleeping late of my own free will, and not by accident."—Exchange.

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Matinees daily (except Sunday and Monday), 2:15, 50c, 25c, 10c. Box seats, 75c.

**CHINESE LAW AGAINST BRIBERY.**  
Shanghai Mercury.  
The new draft criminal code of China contains stipulations against bribery, in which it is mentioned that any official who receives a bribe above 1,000 taels will be cashiered and banished to a military post road, with hard labor, and any one who receives more than 10,000 taels and favors the person who gives bribes, against the laws, will be punished with death, and those who send bribes will be punished similarly.

**ELECTRICAL PROGRESS.**

St. Louis Globe-Democrat.  
Last year the people of the United States spent \$315,000,000 for electrical manufacturers, yet many men still in active business remember the time when some simple instruments in college laboratories, without practical utility, covered the whole field of electrical knowledge. This world is unable to define electricity, but has learned much about what may be done with it.

**THE PISTOL TOTTER.**

Atlantic Constitution.  
There is no evading the issue. Every man who carries a pistol without the sanction of law is a potential murderer. He may not leave his home with murder in his heart, but it needs only the slightest provocation to stir the blind blood-just in his veins and, reckless for the moment of consequences, to resort to the means of death so easily at hand. Makes the pistol totter an extinct species. He has no place in modern civilization!

**First Showing of the New Silk Fabrics**

Z. C. M. I. are now showing the new Oriental and Chinese Silks for Spring and Summer wear—the Pagoda, Tussorah and Mandarin Silks—which we cordially invite you to come in and inspect.

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