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SALT LAKE CITY, MAY 11, 1908.

OUR WATERWAYS.

The President has called a conference of governors and other representative men to convene at Washington on the 11th inst., and discuss the important questions relating to the improvement of the waterways of the country. On March 14, 1907, President Roosevelt appointed a commission to "prepare and report a comprehensive plan for the improvement and control of the river systems of the United States." This commission submitted to the president a preliminary report, dated February 3, 1908, which was transmitted to Congress with a message, dated February 26, 1908; and the conference of governors is the next step for the promotion of the object in view.

In his message of Feb. 26, the President states that "our river systems are better adapted to the needs of the people than those of any other country. In extent, distribution, navigability, and ease of use, they stand first. Yet the rivers of no other civilized country are so poorly developed, so little used, or play so small a part in the industrial life of the Nation as those of the United States."

There is, of course, a natural reason for this. The United States is a new country, comparatively speaking. Its development belongs to the "railway era," and more attention has been paid, and rightly so, to the building of railroads than the deepening of rivers. The older countries depended before the railways, on rivers and canals for the inland traffic. But, the time has certainly come for this country to develop its river systems, for the simple reason that railroad building can no longer keep up with the ever growing demands of the country for transportation facilities. In times of plenty, we hear of the impossibility of supplying freight cars enough, and as a consequence prices on commodities of life are raised to famine figures.

From the point of view of the consuming public, this is an important question. According to an article in Popular Mechanics for January, it is estimated that 80 per cent of the entire cost of living is expended for transportation of goods from place to place. It is claimed that a large proportion of the articles we use cost less than \$2.00 a ton at the point of production. The cost of transportation of freight by water is said to be from .25 of a mill to 1 mill per ton mile, while the cost by rail is 7.5 mills. Anyone can calculate the immense advantages water transportation gives to a community. And it is not true that the canal system destroys the railroad lines. In the old world where canals and railroads sometimes paralleled one another, the business is plenty for both. It will be so here. Only the public will get the benefit of the reduced rates on goods, and the increased volume of business will more than compensate the transportation companies for the lower rates.

The enormous cost of making the rivers navigable and deepening the harbors, etc., could be met by retrenchment in the military expenditures. We now spend an unreasonably large per centage of the entire revenues of the country for war purposes. Some of that money could be used to advantage for the purpose of developing the resources and the lines of transportation of the country. And it must be done, too, if our civilization is to endure.

ILLEGAL VOTING.

Collier's Weekly for May 2 has an interesting article on the saloon business as conducted in New York. It shows that the average saloonkeeper must engage in some kind of crooked business, in order to make money, and that he pays the police for the privilege of running illegal side attractions. It also shows how the political power of the liquor, and kindred interests, is abused. On this point the article says:

"There is a bribed legitimate voter—the man who actually elects, living in the back room of the saloon, drinking in rear rooms on the floor. They do live at the address given, and for the \$2 to \$3 they vote the straight ticket. "The nature of the business of the liquor dealer is such that he must have protection and political favors. In return, he gives active service. He might very accurately be called, captain under the district leader in the local organization. He is nearer to the bottom of the community than any other man, so he can swiftly mobilize and marshal forces for election day. "Where he directly pays money for votes, his full expenses are met by the district leader, with something over for his services in producing the men. "The second sort of illegal vote—and this distinction has been neglected—is the artificial, fanciful vote, where a number of names have been registered at a saloon or disorderly house, and then one or two men vote these names of non-existent persons. "In former days they were registered in great numbers from saloons. But this has become risky, as it leads to investigation. The present method is to enroll the names in fair quantities in saloons, and then for the saloonkeeper and other district workers to distribute the remaining names in disorderly houses and neighboring ones. The landlady is coached just how to answer if any one calls to investigate any one of her seven or eight names. She replies that the man is out, but that he lives there. She knows her names by heart. "Of course, the registration lists had to be padded, or the repeater could not

have voted, his half-dozen names on election day.

This, we take it, shows one of the reasons for the prohibition wave that is sweeping the country. People are tired of finding the ballot struck from their hands, and seeing immorality triumph at the polls, when they struggle for a good and honest administration of public affairs.

ENGLISH JUSTICE.

English law, according to Prof. Lawson of the Missouri University, has for thirty years been swift and sure, while our own criminal jurisprudence has been going to seed on insignificant technicality.

England today is one of the fairest countries in point of criminal justice and the enforcement of law. It has long since abolished the old laws which were copied into our statute books. Enactments whose purpose was to protect, through their technicality, the rights of people accused of crime, and especially those accused of treasonable offenses, in the time of the Georges, the Stuarts, and the Tudors, have long since been discarded as unnecessary and antiquated.

In this country the reason for such technicalities has never existed. It is the judges and courts that have built up the tedious procedure that acts as a shield to protect the criminal. But the English improvements could easily be adopted.

Prof. Lawson thinks that what we need is a commission to investigate the laws and their methods of enforcement. He believes this reform is coming, and that the American President who advocates it will be doing his country the greatest service imaginable.

But we think it is to the courts that we must look for a remedy. They have slowly created the present technical and unsatisfactory procedure. They alone can correct it. The grave public abuse of court practice and the frequent miscarriage of justice to which it has led, have been endured by the American people only because it seemed to be founded on the favorite maxim that it is better for ten guilty men to escape than for one innocent man to be punished.

But even a good maxim can be abused in practice. Courts should now begin to lean the other way. A system that has slowly grown up is not easily abolished all at once. Probably a growth in the opposite direction will be the shortest road to a real reform of our absurd criminal practice.

TALK VS. FORESTS.

Nero fiddled while Rome was burning. American statesmen talk while the forests are disappearing.

In the Senate discussion on national forestry, Mr. Teller declared that he knew that the forestry division spends thousands and thousands of dollars in a propaganda in the interest of reservations.

"They employ people in the colleges," he said, "and I can see no service they can render except to influence opinion in favor of the forestry service."

Mr. Culberson then asked whether the Senator charged that the department of agriculture had hired professors and school teachers for their influence.

"I said that was my inference," responded Mr. Teller. "The department had a propaganda—men all over the country advocating forest reservations—and in my judgment they were on the payroll for that purpose."

Mr. Teller spoke of receiving letters favoring forest reserves and added that he believed these letters were prepared by somebody connected with the department.

Senator Teller imagines from the character and amount of the arguments he hears and the letters he receives in behalf of preserving the national forests that these arguments and letters must have been prepared by the agricultural department and that the educated classes of the country must have been hired to present these letters and arguments.

But there is a much easier way of accounting for the numerous and forcible arguments now made in behalf of forestry by the college professors and other educated people of this country. And that is that the nation is facing a timber famine, while no very thoroughgoing efforts are as yet being made by either the States or the national Congress to remedy the enormous waste and destruction of the forests, or to make good the annual losses and diminution of the timber resources, and so to avert the impending calamity.

Senators may jeer at the forestry movement and may find fault with such small efforts as are even now being put forth by the government in order to protect and renew the remaining forest trees of America; but no amount of clever ridicule, of specious argument, or of ingenious sophistry can serve to mask or return the actual conditions that confront this country in relation to its vanishing supply of timber.

At the present rate of destruction, actual scarcity of lumber will be felt within a decade, even if it is not already experienced or at least apparent. In thirty years the demand for timber, as compared with the supply remaining in this country, will amount to an actual wood famine. In less than half a century the forests will have disappeared. Such, at least, is our recollection of the facts collected by expert testimony, and never seriously controverted or successfully disputed.

No, the arguments and letters from teachers and the intelligent citizens, the newspaper warnings from practically the entire press of the country, and, more potent than anything else, the enormous increase in recent years in the price of lumber—these facts are not due to the "hiring" of persons to present arguments in favor of the intelligent care of the forests. It is a condition and not a "hired argument" that really confronts the Senators when they face the timber situation of the entire country and the flood conditions of great sections of it. By all means, save the Senators, if possible, from further bombardment with facts and arguments, but also save the country from irreparable injury. In the movement towards safeguarding the greatest and most remarkable of our national assets—the forests, which have been the pride, the wonder, and the wealth of

this continent—there should be no petty quibbling that will tend to obstruct the work or to paralyze still longer real action upon it.

The surest sign of summer is the bare-foot boy.

Winter's performance Saturday was a return engagement.

An effort is to be made to have Congress adjourn a fortnight hence.

The paper trust trusts to luck and procrastination to defeat justice.

Like Sterne's starling, Thaw is still crying, "I want to get out."

April showers bring May flowers, but what do May snowstorms bring?

The "Merry Widow" hat is so big that placing the ban on it in nowise inconveniences the wearer.

"How sleep the brave?" ask the cadets who have just returned from San Francisco.

If Emma Goldman had the "go" that Carrie Nation had, then her anarchy would be a thing to be dreaded.

That Chicago baby who is rocked in a thousand-dollar cradle must have been born with a whole set of silver spoons in its mouth.

Assistant District Attorney Henney admits that he goes armed in court. Perhaps he thinks that three just is his cause who goes armed.

Atlanta proposes to erect on the ruins of her burned district better and handsomer buildings. That is the right spirit. Good for Atlanta and success to her!

A Kansas convict is to be set free because of a poem he wrote. Evidently a mistake was made when he was sent to the penitentiary instead of to the insane asylum.

"Mme. Gould is said to be taking great interest in visiting ruins," says the Baltimore American. If she wants to see a perfect financial ruin all she has to do is to visit Bond.

Speaker Cannon has just turned his seventy-second mile post. Far too many miles to enter a presidential nomination race with any hope of success.

The President has addressed letters to three senators in which he tells them that as commander-in-chief he is supreme in all matters relating to the control of the army and navy. Now will they be good?

How history repeats itself. A woman believed to be Bella Guinness passed through Syracuse the other day. Thirty odd years ago it used to be that a woman believed to be Kate Bender passed through this or that town yesterday.

He may not be aware of it, but the fact is that Assistant U. S. Attorney Henney will suffer very materially in public estimation since it has become known that he goes armed when discharging his duties as an officer of the court. It would seem that he relies more on the unwritten than on the written law.

We have noted before that the efforts of peace friends to establish a branch of the American peace society in this City are followed with interest in the East. Mr. H. C. Phillips, secretary of Lake Mohonk Conference on International Arbitration writes to the "News," under date of May 4:

We have noted before that the efforts that you in Salt Lake City are trying to organize a peace society, indicating that, with the possible exception of the Pacific coast, which has probably gone somewhat wild over the naval matters and therefore while not opposed to peace, inclined to give it great attention, the West seems to be taking a strong lead in arbitration and peace movement.

Very sincerely yours,
H. C. PHILLIPS,
Secretary.

WALKING IS GOOD.

Cleveland Leader.

Whether compulsory or voluntary, walking is good for the average man or woman. It is second to no other exercise, taking the whole range of bodily and mental needs. It can be adapted to almost any condition of strength or weakness. There is nothing safer, nothing cheaper, nothing which requires less preparation, nothing which is so absolutely simple. No one has to learn how to walk, though millions might walk with better results if they were more careful to do it just the right way. And this is a good time of the year to begin walking more, in the double sense of walking more frequently and going farther. The sidewalks in the city are free from the ice and snow and slush of winter. The country roads are dry and the woods and fields are inviting. There is beauty everywhere out of doors. The weather is neither too hot nor too cold. The days are long and the hours when walking is pleasant are many. Every natural condition invites those who recognize the importance of good exercise to take it on their feet, as part of their daily moving about, as a special pleasure. It is no joke to say that "walking is good." That is the simple truth. There's hardly anything more general in its application to human needs.

OUR FUTURE FLEET.

Philadelphia Record.

If we build two of the new monster battleships every year for ten years the grand total of armored seagoing vessels of our fleet in 1918 will be sixty-four. From this number, however, those which will have then become obsolete and stricken from the list should be deducted. Ships twenty years old are generally classed as obsolete, and by this rule we should have to deduct only five of our total in 1918 as effective. We should then have fifty-nine fighting units of tremendous power, and could send out four fleets each year far superior in strength to that now nearing the double score. With such an armament all probable and improbable demands that might be made on our navy could well be met. The vessels authorized since 1893 will have cost when completed \$240,000,000; the contemplated twenty Dreadnaughts will add \$200,000,000 to this sum.

CLASSES IN AMERICA.

Portland Oregonian.

So far as we are aware, this is the first time that the portentous phrase "class consciousness" has ever been used in an American state paper, but

we venture to predict that it is far from being the last. Some people have been in the habit of denying that there are any social classes in this country, but they are mere ostriches, who think the danger is over when they have hidden their heads. We have classes, and we have also an army of propagandists, who are striving to excite hostility between them. Class consciousness is the first step toward class warfare. It arises from either of two things, both bad. Special wrongs excite it in those who suffer from them. The latter species of class consciousness is the more bitter, but not the more deeply felt. Most European class distinctions are rooted both in privilege and wrong. Our own, up to the present, depend mostly upon special privileges, but wrongs are by no means lacking. Mr. Roosevelt reasons that if we do not desire class warfare in the United States, we must abolish both the privileges and the wrongs which stir up hostility. Who has a better thesis to advance?

JUST FOR FUN.

Good Society.

The agent for a cemetery company was expatiating on the good point of a certain lot. Presently the prospective purchaser interrupted with the enumeration of several prominent families owning property there.

"Is this lot near theirs?" she asked.

The agent admitted that it was quite a distance off.

"Then," said the woman, "I don't want it. I rather pay more and get in a good neighborhood."

The agent collapsed.

"Has it come to the point," he said, "where people consider their next-door neighbors even in a graveyard?"—New York Sun.

The Situation.

"Are you able to keep a cook?" "Pharmacist," yes. "Diplomatically," no.—Kansas City Journal.

Rather Humiliating.

Representative Champ Clark frequently visited Washington before his election to the House and thought he was pretty well known there. On one occasion he went to the capital on business for a client. He was surprised and pleased to meet an old friend and townsman at the hotel Mr. Clark had selected for his stay.

"Well, well, if it isn't Brown!" exclaimed Mr. Clark. "I'm glad to see you. Is there anything I can do for you?"

Then Mr. Clark took his friend by the arm and marched him to the hotel's desk, saying: "I can do you one good turn, anyhow."

"Clerk," added Mr. Clark, when they had reached that functionary. "This is my friend, Mr. Brown. I want you to treat him right. Let him have whatever he wants, and if he gets too extravagant and runs out of cash, just charge it to me."

"Why, yes," said the clerk. "I know Mr. Brown very well, sir; but who are you?"—Washington Star.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

A little book entitled "The Law of Financial Success" has been published and met with great success. It can be recommended to all who desire to study that subject. The writer says that in his own life he has found that financial success is not a matter of grind and rush and fight and struggle. It is a matter of getting in harmony with the law and then following that law to its logical conclusion. He states the law, shows how to get in harmony with it, and then gives specific instructions for keeping in the closest possible touch with the powers that be in the world of finance. Here are the chapter heads: Money, mental attitude, fear and worry, faith, ambition, latent powers, desire, auto-suggestion, harmony, creation, concentration, persistence, habit, claiming your own, will power and making money. In his little book the author combines theory with practical knowledge. He not only states the law, but tells how to apply it. He not only informs one how to make money, but also tells him how and in what way to invest it to get returns.—The Fiduciary Press, 955 Tacoma building, Chicago.

Elder Andrew Jensen has just published a book from a description of his travels around the world a little over ten years ago. It is written in the Danish language and should be of interest to Church members who understand Danish. Most of the contents of the book has appeared in a series of articles in the "Bikuben."

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Prices—Evenings and Saturday Matinee, 25c to \$1.00; box seats and two rows Dress Circle, \$2.00. Wednesday Matinee, 25c to \$1.00. Boxes, \$1.50.

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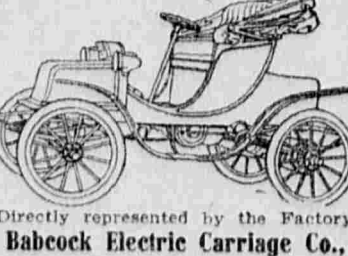
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