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THE NATION'S WEALTH.

According to figures compiled by the Funk & Wagnalls company, the commercial growth of the United States since 1900 has surpassed all previous records. The various items of this increase and their respective values in 1900 and in 1908 respectively constitute a most interesting study. The total wealth of the country in 1900 was estimated at \$3 billions of dollars; and in 1908, at 116 billions. These amazing totals, and the growth since 1900, represent the greatest total and perhaps the greatest per capita wealth of any country. Until quite recently the greatest wealth per capita was still found in Great Britain; but it is now believed that the per capita wealth of the United States is considerably greater than that of any other country. Unfortunately our various statistical tables are not wholly reliable.

We have no such authority on national statistics as Mulhall, the English statistician. Moreover, the relatively large increase in wealth as reckoned in dollars, during the last decade, is in part accounted for by the fall in the purchasing power of the dollar itself. Thus, if a dollar today purchases 2 per cent less than it did ten years ago, the national wealth as estimated in dollars would appear from the total values to have increased 25 per cent, yet it would not have changed at all if it were found to total just one-fourth more than ten years ago. If, now, we had a Mulhall to tell us what is the real increase in value, apart from the fact that the dollar has fallen in its power to make purchases, then we should know about what the actual increase has been. The apparent increase, that reckoned in dollars, has been beyond precedent.

Thus the bank deposits rose from 7.2 billions in 1900 to 12.8 billions in 1908. The money in circulation in this country increased from 2.1 to 3.8 billions in the same period.

The paid in capital of national banks increased from 622 to 919 millions of dollars.

The government disbursements rose from 488 to 669 millions; the government receipts increased from 587 to 691 millions; the customs revenue went from 238 to 286 millions.

The imports of merchandise increased from 550 to 1,124 millions; exports increased from 144 to 1.9 billions.

Farm products rose from 3.8 billions in 1900 to 199 to 7.8 billions of value in 1908. This was the greatest increase of all the items. Corn and wheat practically doubled in value, as did also rice, while barley went from 24 to 92 millions of dollars.

The gold coined was 99 millions in 1900, and 123 millions in 1908. Gold exported was 48 millions in 1900, and 72 millions in 1908. Gold imported: 45 millions in 1900, and 148 millions in 1908.

The production of minerals of all kinds was 1.1 billions in 1900, and 2.1 billions in 1908. Of this total, coal rose from 307 to 615 millions; iron, ore, from 67 to 182 millions; petroleum, from 76 to 120 millions; gold, from 79 to 96 millions; stone, from 37 to 71 millions; cement, from 13 to 56 millions; natural gas, from 24 to 53 millions.

The products of manufacture rose from a value of 13 billions in 1900 to a value of 15 billions in 1908—the figures for 1908 not being reported. It would seem that products of manufacturers have not increased so much as those of agriculture and mining.

Manufactures imported in 1900 and in 1908, were valued at the following millions: Cotton, 41 and 68; silk, 31 and 33; iron and steel, 20 and 28; products of wool, 16 to 19, raw cotton, 8 and 14.

The exports of manufactured products estimated in millions of dollars were as follows in 1900 and 1908: Cotton in bulk, 242 and 438; products of iron and steel, 122 and 184; of copper and its manufactures, 58 and 104; of the products of cotton, 24 and 25.

Coffee imported in 1900, 52 millions; in 1908, 65 millions; tea 11 and 16 millions. Life insurance policies in force in 1900, nine billions; in 1908, 14 billions.

The total capital of railroads in 1900 was 11 billions; in 1908, 16 billions. The public school expenditures in 1900 were 215 millions; in 1908, 331 millions.

These are the amazing totals, placing our country at the head of the nations in financial strength. Of course, the wealth of other nations has increased and the depreciation of money—the rise in prices—may show results somewhat similar in other countries. We must wait until the complete figures show what the actual or potential as compared with the apparent increase, has been before drawing conclusions.

IN MEXICO.

It is now rumored that the trouble in Mexico is so grave a nature that it is doubtful whether President Diaz will be able to fulfill his appointment and meet President Taft at El Paso. He expects to be detained at the capital of Mexico by important business.

It is all on account of the coming election. Corral is a candidate for reelection as vice president. Diaz, it is supposed, favors Corral. But General Reyes is supported by the army. And the real question involved is whether Corral or Reyes shall succeed Diaz as president, in case the latter should be summoned by death. The question is

whether the Diaz policy is to continue after the death of Diaz. Diaz is an old man and is not expected to survive another term. The vice president is, therefore, likely to be called upon to preside over the destinies of the republic. The choice of a vice president is the choice of a successor to Diaz.

Corral it seems has grown weaker politically during the years he has been vice president. There is a strong feeling that he is largely responsible for the trouble with the Yaqui Indians. It is felt also that he is merely the puppet of Diaz and not of the iron caliber necessary in a Mexican ruler. The cry is for a strong man and Corral does not measure up to the demands of his countrymen.

Reyes, on the contrary, is said to have all the qualities that appeal to the Mexican imagination. He is a military man, strong, aggressive and fond of show. He is essentially a man of action, quick and blunt. He is devoted to the army and the sentiment is reciprocated. Reyes is short of stature, strong of frame and pleasing in countenance. He wears a flowing beard and a heavy mustache. Although he has never been credited with remarkable diplomacy, he has, like Diaz, welcomed American capital and has steadfastly afforded it the fullest measure of protection.

UNCERTAINTY PREVAILS.

Elder John O. Peterson, of Logan, who has just returned from a mission to Sweden, where he has been laboring for three years, says the prospects are very bright in that country, especially in the northern parts. There are many inquirers. The established church, he says, is drifting as a ship without rudder or anchor, before the various winds of religious doctrine. Just now, Elder Peterson says, there is a curious controversy concerning the existence of a devil. Some of the leaders of religious thought announce that they do not believe in the existence of a personified evil principle. They ridicule the idea. Others proclaim universalism as the true gospel. They believe in the ultimate redemption of all mankind, and fallen angels as well. Others proclaim the final authority of the sciences. Nothing, they say, but that which the modern sciences prove as true can be accepted as the word of God. In the midst of all these uncertain voices, the clear Gospel message of truth and salvation is being heard.

The condition obtaining in Swedish religious circles is not peculiar to that country. There is uncertainty everywhere. Standards of faith are being lowered and each individual sets up his own standard, with the result that general confusion ensues. Many again turn to nature but without the simple faith of the early nature worshippers who saw God in the glowing sun, the twinkling stars, the raging storm, the roaring wave, the gentle zephyr, the smiling flower, or the playful brook. They turn to nature with the dissecting knife or the microscope, but not to worship. Others accept old heathen philosophies as if they conveyed newly discovered truths. There is uncertainty and unrest everywhere, except where the Gospel has brought light and faith, and a testimony concerning its truth.

LET THE WORK GO ON.

We are pleased to notice the activity of the people of Cache stake for the closing of saloons. They are but following wise counsel when they engage in warfare upon an institution that cannot exist and prosper without ruining body and soul of its patrons. We hope the city authorities will consider the petitions sent to them and enact the ordinance asked for.

It has been frequently said that prohibition does not prohibit, and that the internal revenue figures prove this. In view of this fact, the following statistics on internal revenue receipts for five years are interesting. They prove a remarkable falling off in the receipts for the last two years. Here are the figures:

	(1) Gallon tax On Spirits.	(2) Barrel tax on Fermented liquors.	(3) Cost to peo- ple of liquor Produced.
1905	\$129,512,628.19	\$49,559,559.93	\$1,724,057,985.90
1906	136,965,911.49	44,651,496.63	1,571,108,535.55
1907	149,749,338.53	58,546,116.59	2,092,770,726.50
1908	123,626,276.45	58,747,690.14	1,894,193,809.05
1909	128,215,181.45	56,303,496.68	1,855,133,464.85

(1) This figure represents the exact amount received by the United States government from its \$1.10 tax on each gallon of spirits produced.

(2) This represents the exact amount received by the United States government from its \$1.00 tax on every barrel of fermented liquor produced.

(3) This is found by (1) dividing the internal revenue figures for spirits by 1.10 which gives the number of gallons of spirits produced, and (2) multiplying the result by 6.25 as \$6.25 is the average value of spirits per gallon. (3) As the tax on beer is \$1.00 per barrel, the figures given are the exact equivalent of the number of barrels of beer produced, (4) multiplying this number, representing the total number of barrels, and (5) adding these two totals, we find the exact cost to the people of the liquor produced in any given year.

The figures, which are sent out by the Associated Prohibition press show that the internal revenue from liquor dropped \$24,450,274.53 during the two fiscal years ending June 30, 1909. They also show that the aggregate shrinkage in the receipts from mere items of production of spirits and beer, totaled not less than \$23,589,276.53.

It is nonsense to say that prohibition does not prohibit. It reduces the consumption of the soul-destroying liquid. It reduces the number of places where it can be obtained and compels those who must have intoxicants to sneak to some out-of-the-way hole to get it. It removes the temptation from the open daylight.

The prohibition wave is still sweeping the country. Let the people of Utah not be the last to join the general movement.

Just now Alabama has obtained the most drastic law ever passed in this country on the subject. According to this, no liquors may be sold, no advertisement of liquor appear in any paper or upon any billboard, and no train may leave a car containing liquor upon any track in the state. No place selling any sort of goods may be called a saloon, nor may any word

saloon be used. Officers may raid places under suspicion and destroy goods when found. The presence of any internal-revenue license, whether liquor is found or not, is prima-facie evidence of guilt. Every corporation of whatever kind must promise when its charter is issued to refrain from bringing in liquors of any kind, violation of which will revoke the license automatically.

It has been said that prohibition is all right in the South in order to prevent the negroes from obtaining whisky, but that it was never intended for the white people. This law is a complete answer to that poor pretense, as far as Alabama is concerned.

All hail Latham, king-of aviators!
Jack Johnson is Jim Jeffries' beto noire.

At Rheims the aviators are all treading on air.

Few cups of bitterness beat a dose of quinine.

A fast man generally is slow to pay his debts.

The burglar takes things quietly or not at all.

A good joke is one that all who hear it can enjoy.

Ignorance of the law excuses no one, except chauffeurs.

Will Nikola Tesla be able to precipitate rain from war clouds?

Next to the end-seat hog is the man who wants to take his peace.

Cry of the pure food men—Heaven preserve us from preservatives.

It will take quires of paper to tell of the triumphs of the Tabernacle choir.

A man who thinks he thinks really is not capable of thinking he thinks.

These days one doesn't have to rise so very early to get up with the sun.

A person who is speechless with rage is very liable to die of apoplexy.

It is still undetermined whether benzoate of soda is a bane or a blessing.

To the September bride the June bride seems like an old married woman.

Our neighbors' possessions are but too apt to be the standard of our wants.

Mr. Harriman cannot be seen because he is two thousand feet above the sea.

Divorce gives a woman more than liberty: It gives her license, if she cares to take it out.

Time doesn't fly faster than an aeroplane, but it never stops; and that is why it always wins.

Dreaming dreams is chewing the string rather than eating the pudding in the world of achievement.

The great trouble with the starvation cure is that at the point where it becomes effective, death steps in.

The cause of much ill luck is found in the fact that many people pull when they should push and push when they should pull.

The establishment of a postal bank system would be an acknowledgment that the government never intends to wipe out its debt.

A supposed victim of Belle Guinness writes from Wisconsin that he is alive and well. He cannot be very much alive or he would have written sooner.

The president of the Indianapolis

Motor Speedway company says that accidents were expected. With seven deaths these expectations were not disappointed.

Idaho county, Idaho, the largest county in the United States, has gone "dry." It has set an example worthy to be followed by all the other counties of the country, be they big or little.

PRISON WINDOW A CHURCH-YARD GATE.

London Graphic.
It is not often that a gate is made out of a widow, much less out of a prison window; but the gate of St. Cedd's churchyard, Canning Town, East London, was at one time a window in old Newgate prison. Many people wonder at the size of the gate, but when they hear its curious history and the use to which it was put in years gone by they understand the reason of its massive dimensions.

TRYING TO FOOL THE PEOPLE.

New York World.
What the big navy boomers have cleverly avoided making clear to the people in connection with the policy of replacing the old style battleships like the Massachusetts with a few new ones, is that the government is really building two battleships for one. It is another way of increasing the strength of the navy and of course naval expenditures. Nothing is said about the appropriations for new construction, as a result of the doubling fighting ability of the battleships about to be laid down. At this rate the strength of the navy within the next twelve or fifteen years may be almost trebled merely on the pretense that obsolete battleships are being replaced. To build fewer ships would be the last argument to appeal to the jingo.

PASSING OF THE VANDERBILTS.

Pueblo Chieftain.
With the advent of Harriman as the controlling spirit of the New York Central system, which is expected to take place soon after the return from Europe a few days hence, the Vanderbilts, as factors of importance in the railway world, will drop into the background. This is the comment of

the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. It is believed that the recent sales of convertible bonds of several of the Harri- man roads were for the purpose of giving him the cash which would enable him to get a dominant voice in the Central. Early in 1909 he became one of the directors in the Central, and several other members of the board are favorable to his interest. It is believed that when the proper moment comes he will have no difficulty in getting sufficient stock to place him in control of the road and its subsidiary links.

THE OPTIMIST'S CORNER

By George F. Butler, A.M., M.D.

The world is not at all bad. If it seems a bad, unappreciative world it is due to the eyes you look through. You may be looking through distorted eyes. Forget for a moment the pleasure of squinting. Look about you at the good things being done by your neighbors and the world. You will find the truth and you will be glad. Goodness is in everyone. Often negative in those who are all goodness, but positive in those whose whiteness is flecked with little black spots. This is true; think it over. No, the world is not bad. It is good, and growing better. Creeping and crawling under the cloaks of old superstitions and beliefs are rapidly being supplanted by the boldness and freedom of independent thought. Simple, earnest, strengthening love is the creed of today and tomorrow. None other is necessary or wise. Sympathy, love, helpfulness, charity, mercy, brotherhood are abundant today, and it is the knowledge of their power that is slowly but surely awakening the good that is dormant in us.

It is easy for you to learn lessons in goodness; the efficacy of giving, without red tape; the beauty of giving, not as an investment, and the value to you of optimism. Let your mind dwell on the good and sunny side of life and you will quickly acquire a habit of cheerfulness.

JUST FOR FUN

Reassuring.

Mr. Brown and his family were about to enter the lions' cage. "John," said Mrs. Brown, "if those animals were to escape, whom would you save first—me or the children?" "Me," answered John, without hesitation. "Everybody's."

Wise Mr. Fly.

"Will you walk into my parlor?" Said Miss Spider to the fly. "Not I," his flyship answered, "As he winked his other eye. 'For your dirty socked parlor—' Well, it isn't in my line; It's nothing but a diningroom; So none of it for mine."

—Chicago News.

The Machinery of Talk.

The silence grew painful. At last someone dropped a remark. Someone else picked up the conversation.

And while the droppers and pickers continued busy the silence was discontinued. —Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Discouraging.

Mifkins—I understand your daughter is learning to play the piano.

Birkings—Then your understanding must be better than mine. It sounds more like work than play.—Chicago News.

Had the Nerve.

"Do you consider your nerve is sufficiently steady to fit you for an airship navigator?"

"Well, I've been out in a canoe with a nervous fat girl!"—St. Louis Times.

Convincing Proof.

"Good gracious, Jane, my hand is always in my pocket."

"No, it isn't, John, or you would feel that letter I sent you to mail two weeks ago!"—Baltimore American.

Sacrifices.

With the salary doubled, there will not be so many by half who would rather be right than be president.—Charleston News and Courier.

Sarcasm in the Box.

Judge—Then when your wife seized the weapon you ran from the house?

Plaintiff—Yes, sir.

Judge—But she might not have used it.

Plaintiff—True, your honor. 'Maybe she picked up the flattery just to smooth things over.'—Boston Transcript.

"That man," said the court reporter, "will be convicted surely. He's making a very poor impression on the witness stand."

"That isn't the defendant," said a lawyer. "He just one of the alienists undergoing cross-examination."—Detroit Free Press.

Skimmed Milk is Pure

But would you put it in your coffee in preference to rich cream? Hardly.

Ordinary Vanilla May Be Pure

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