FARMERS' REVOLUTIONS

History Shows That the Efforts of the Soil Are Invariable When They Move.

It is hard to believe that the quiet, long suffering and money earning farmers are ever revolutionary in their ideas and methods.

They submit to a good deal of oppression and plundering, and it is dangerous to crowd them to the wall.

In at least two great modern revolutionary movements the farmers took the lead and come out on top.

In England, in 1381, the farmers and the mechanics really had exactly any rights that were respected by the governing classes. The story is too long to tell in detail, but something like a Farmers' Alliance was organized, with Wat Tyler at the head. The movement spread in the towns and cities, and the people were soon headed together to resist an just taxation and oppressive laws. The countrymen with their hoes, allies got together in a compact body and swept over the land like a prairie fire. From county to county and from town to town they pushed their rapid march until they reached London, where, after being their leader in a skirmish, they dispersed when the king had made them certain promises.

The government succeeded in pocketing many of the ringleaders, but the solid fruits of victory went with the revolutionists. From that time for about a century English farmers and workingmen had the use of as much land as they could cultivate, and were free to combine together for self protection. That period was the golden age of England. Then there was no poverty. All were well fed, well clothed and well paid. After that, in the thirteenth century, the monopolists or privileged classes finally gained control, and the concentration of wealth in the hands of the few plunged the many into poverty.

Another farmers' revolution was the one in France in the latter part of the Eighteenth century. The French countryman were as much oppressed as their English brethren were in the Fourteenth century. They organized local societies with a central society, and in the course of a bloody contest of several years' duration brought their king and queen and thousands of their oppressors to the guillotine. Generations of suffering made them unreasonably violent, and they gave France what is known in history as the "Reign of Terror." Yet this revolution was a great triumph for democracy. It greatly modified monarchical rule in Europe, and paved the way for the present French republic, under which the farmers are the most prosperous people on the face of the earth.

These two revolutions were essentially farmers' movements. There is much in them that will shock the readers of today, but it should be remembered that in those days the people did not have the ballot to right their wrongs, and they had to resort to force. In both England and France those popular upheavals resulted in substantial victories for the farmers.

The uprising in this country at the present time of the agricultural population results the kindred events which we have briefly outlined. Like the tillers of the soil in England and France, our farmers are kept down by unjust taxes, oppressive laws and monopolists, who, in their way, are as dangerous as the feudal barons of old; but our people, armed with the ballot, understand the power of organized action, and they know the full significance of the expressions of numbers. Yet, while this great struggle for reform is thoroughly peaceful and in the interest of peace, it bids fair to be as sweeping a revolution as the others that we have mentioned.

The cause of the united farmers is the cause of democracy. It is an effort to restore a government of the people, for the people and by the people, with equal rights for all and special privileges for none. It is a cause that will win, and its triumph will be all the more glorious because it will be a victory of peace, a victory of honest labor, won through ballots instead of through bayonets, won at the polls and not on battlefields.

The hurried glance at the past is suggestive. It shows what organized farmers have done, and foreshadows what they will do.—Atlanta Constitution.

An Example to Taxation.

A man died this week in a town not far from Springfield whose estate is estimated at from one to three millions of dollars in value. He paid taxes on less than $100,000. Probably not more than one dollar in ten of his possessions paid any part of the taxes for the support of the town, county or state. In other words, the tax he escaped was paid by the real estate owners and by the poor in higher rents on taxed homes.

The sum actually taken out of the pockets of the poor or those in moderate circumstances by our unjust system of direct taxation probably cuts over ten times the money the heirs alleged to be imposed by the tariff. If the 5 per cent tax on collateral inheritances, now pending in the Massachusetts legislature, had been a law, the state treasury might get at least $50,000 from this estate. If it all passed to direct heirs, and the 1 per cent tax on such inheritances of personal property were established, the state would get at least $10,000.—Springfield Homestead.

More Than in Ireland.

There were in the United States in 1890 [illegible] tenant farmers paying rent, and 704,341 tenant farmers, tillers or laborers, farming on shares, a total of 1,098,536. Ireland's tenant farmers. The total number of tenant farmers in England, Scotland and Wales is 1,060,137.

If the 704,341 free tenant farmers should be compelled to make their crops equally with their landlords, as 703,341 American farmers must, such an outcry would go up to heaven as was never before heard in the world.

If the 400,000 English tenant farmers were required to do so they would take only from thirty-six to forty-eight acres in which to rope and the whole system of land tenure. The greatest class over which of farms was one-fourth.—F. E. Willers.

Twin Cure for Insomnia.

Rope off your bed and open every this from the closed queen. Then take some the manner of assault. Boston poisoned; imitate the action of the tiger, stalking up the shows, and if an idea shows but his head in the ring seize him by the collar and throw him out. If your wife is basically obstinate you will win the day.—Boston Transcript.

Who Was the Fool?

"Talking about April Fools' Day jokes," said one of a group of bystanders, "reminds me of an incident that happened to me some years ago on the 1st of April. I was walking along the street when I noticed directly in front of me a large, much worn pocket book. The minute I saw it I came to the conclusion that it was some mischievous boy's trick to catch an unsuspecting passer by, so I kept round near it for several minutes, hoping to show in the enjoyment of the joke. Several persons saw it, but passed by without paying any attention to it.

At length one man came along, saw it and stooped to pick it up, but remembering himself suddenly, gave the pocketbook a kick which sent it flying into the gutter. Then it was, though I can't say why, that I was seized with a great desire to pick up the old wallet and open it, even if I should be the victim of the joke; so, walking up to where it lay, I picked it up and put it in my pocket to carry home."

"Well, gentlemen," he continued, "what do you suppose that old wallet contained?"

"A roll of bills," said one.

"Five hundred dollars," ventured another.

"What was in it?" asked a third listener.

"Not a blamed thing but paper," said the story teller, and he turned, on his heel and walked off.—Boston Herald.

Starting Rocks to the Metropolis.

The operations of the blaster on the upper west side of the city were never so extensive as now, and the explosion of dynamite, accompanied by showers of disloodged rock, reverberates from block to block throughout that whole section.

When the exposed tenants of that aristocratic neighborhood see a red flag they do not charge it, like the traditional animal in a cornfield, but "lay low" until the shower is over. If an occasional fragment of Manhattan Island is buried through a kitchen window the maid of all work simply gathers it up and pitches it out again.

"Dat 'im!" fully covers the situation so far as she is concerned. She ought to be frightened into spilling the family soup, but she isn't.

Most of these steam drillers are boring foundations for expensive private residences, though here and there along the great Boulevard are whole blocks of excavation for the coming flats.—New York Herald.

Food Prejudices.

The climate of Hindoostan explains the religious scruple which would make millions of Brahmins prefer starvation to meat stews, but a less intelligible prejudice is that of the Japanese peasants, who could as soon be persuaded to drink blood as cows' milk. The Abyssinian highlanders would shrink from neither alternative, but would promptly cut the acquaintance of a neighbor who should defile himself by broiling a rabbit.

Moses, too, interdicts rabbits' flesh, which constitutes the only luxury of the moslemed Jehoots, who would scorn to waste a copper on an Chinaman, but are apt to fiddle with a decoction of fly toadstool. The Tartar emirs scandalize American missionaries by their fondness for milk brandy (koumiss), but are in their turn amazed at the caprice that makes their pious guests prefer pork to horseflesh.—Felix L. Oswald in Philadelphia Times.

Old California Settlers.

There are men in California who have not been to their eastern homes since they left them as boys to seek their fortunes in the unknown west. They have grown so accustomed to one line of life that it seems like breaking up housekeeping to start out on a visit to the scenes of their childhood. The road by which they came, weeks, and with some, months long, appals them, and the idea of crossing the dread plains of '49 in four days as it is done now, never becomes a part of their belief. Yet it is the ambition and intention of each and every one of them to see the old home again before they die and make one last survey of the old haunts, now but fading memories. If all these good intentions are realized and hopes are not dashed to pieces at least half California will be scattered over the Columbian-ring the progress of the World's fair.—San Francisco Letter.

Fairly Safe at Counterfeiting.

Counterfeiters now have at their disposal every facility which the government has. Their engravers are as skillful as the government engravers. The only defense has been in the use of special paper containing hair lines, but now this defense has gone, for the special paper used by the counterfeiters is now like just brought to light is as good as that turned out by the two mills in Massachusetts under government control. The counterfeit has the same delicate thread running lengthwise, which is discernible only by the aid of the microscope.—Chicago News.

Short Bills Passed by Parliament.

The shortest bills ever introduced which became acts of parliament were the following: 9 Henry III, chapter 4 of Magna Charta, containing four words only (Latin), which in English mean its meaning: "Thus shall be marked without disparagement." Edward I, "The king commands that from henceforth neither furs nor markets be kept in churchyards for the honor of the church." Edward III, "It is ordained that the plea of mountain of fee which from henceforth shall be levied shall not be taken for any but fine in some." This last bill and shows had reference to a method of barring an entire bill. Mr. Gladstone introduced a bill into the house of commons and an act of parliament was passed changing the "District Chapelry of Kirkheaton" into the "District Chapelry of Cowgill," and this is possibly the shortest bill of the present reign.—London Tit-Bits.

Good Intentions Wasted.

"Jesse" is a bootblack and a philosopher, and he is a well known character in Broad street. Moreover, he is a very dark representative of the African race. "I've got no use for beggars," he muttered the other day just after a man whom both he and he had passed had given a tipped manifesto a bit of silver. "Why not, Jesse?" asked his customer. "I thought that you had a tender heart."

"No much tender heart, boss," responded Jesse unexpectedly. "Too bad that someone taken out of me stuck!"

"How so, Jesse?"

"Jest this way, boss. A pale, rugged man comes up to me the other day and says, 'For the sake of mercy, gi me a dime, I'm starvin.' Well, boss, I didn't see nobody starve if I kin help it, so I just pulled out a couple of dose yar St. Andrew's mission tickets, which give a man a bowl of soup, a plate of beans, a bowl and a cup of coffee, and I tole the man to come along o me. I tak him to the mission house, where he could get his meat, and who you tink he did? Why, he just give a contemptuous look at dat mission and turned round to me and said: 'See yar, you miserable nigger, what you mean by bringin me yar? Do you spose I eat in dat place? I no pauper.' And he free de tickets on de ground."—New York Times.

Hot Time Was Over Alive.

In some parts of the earth people eat the dirt, which is found to possess nutritive qualities. The substance is known as mountain meal. The Indians on the banks of the Amazon river use this meal as food during times when other food is scarce. It is made up into a dough and baked as bread. Chemists have analyzed this substance and find it to be composed of the remains of infusoria, and it is this animal matter yet remaining that makes it available as food.

If we now go a step higher and examine other food samples, in size resembling to the eye the head of a pin, we find that a large part of the crustal crust of the earth is composed of them.

A little shell mound called the mill-stone must have existed in southern Louisiana in the age of the centennial period. In settling to the bottom of the ancient seas that covered what is now central France there shells formed immense strata, some of which are several thousand feet in thickness. The beautiful city of Paris is built from stone quarried from this deposit, mostly from the quarries of Montmartre.—Macon Telegraph.

The Capitol Dome.

The Capitol dome at Washington is the only considerable dome of iron in the world. It is a vast hollow sphere weighing 8,000,000 pounds. How much is that? More than 4,000 tons, or almost the weight of 70,000 full grown persons, or about equal to 1,000 ordinary road cars of four tons each, which, if strung out one behind the other, would occupy a mile and a half of track.

On the very top of the dome the allegorical figure "America," weighing 15,988 pounds, fifty its proud head high in air. The pressure of this dome and figure upon the piers and pillars is 14,477 pounds to the square foot. It would, however, require a pressure of 793,296 pounds to the square foot to crush the supports of the dome. The cost of this immense dome was little short of $1,000,000.—St. Louis Republic.

Parrot Shows a Hawk.

Speaking of parrots, Mr. R. A. Houston tells a story here a tame parrot of his routed a hawk. The parrot was hopping about in the yard, when the hawk, probably mistaking it for a new chicken, pounced down upon it. Polly gave a squawk that rather startled the bird of prey, and then turned on the fierce intruder with such vigor, beak and talon that the stranger bird was driven from the field in great shape. The parrot is no meek barnyard fowl.—Springfield (Mass.) Homestead.

A Puzzle.

The following proposition is left for the reader to think about:

If there are more people in the world than any one person has hairs upon his head, then there must exist at least two persons who possess identically the same number of hairs to a hair.

This same proposition may be applied to the face of human beings in the world. If the number of perceptible differences between two faces be greater than the total number of the human race, then there must exist at least two persons who are to all appearance exactly alike. When it is considered that there are about 1,500,000,000 persons in the world and that the human face does not vary, except within comparatively narrow limits, the truth of the proposition becomes obvious, without applying the logical reasoning of it.—New York Tribune.

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Is more especially that one other blood disease, and for this simple reason: Adding from infancy and growing with the child, it has time to develop in the tissues, which are composed of white tissue, there is a period of fatal life when the whole body seems to be one mass of white tissue, and scrofula becomes the curious child is especially susceptible to this dreaded disease. Yet there never was a period in which Hood's Sarsaparilla failed to prove a perfect remedy for scrofula, whether hereditary or acquired. It is Hood's Sarsaparilla which expels every trace of the disease and gives to the blood the quality and color of health. Get Hood's.

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