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SALT LAKE CITY, - NOV. 25, 1908.

LET US GIVE THANKS.

Once more the season is upon us when, according to a time-honored custom, the people of the United States will lay aside business cares and many will spend a few hours in contemplation of the mercies of Providence, grateful for blessings bestowed upon them individually, or upon the communities, or the nation, of which they are a part.

It is a custom that has come down from the Pilgrims. It dates back to the time of the very birth of the nation. After the terrible winter, 1620-21, when half the number of the settlers who had landed at Plymouth died of cold, poor food and other hardships, the survivors planted their garden seed and were blessed with an abundant harvest. When this was gathered in, they decided to celebrate the event by observing a Thanksgiving week. To the Pilgrims this was no empty ceremony. Their escape from Old World tyranny, their preservation from death and destruction, the prospect of liberty of conscience, and the well filled store house against the coming winter—all was to them, with their implicit faith, a subject of gratitude and joy.

The first Thanksgiving feast, or feasts, must have been a wonderful affair. It was made an occasion of good will between the two races, for the Pilgrims invited the Indians to partake of their hospitality. The latter went out in the woods and procured a large number of wild turkeys and contributed these to the feast, and the birds were pronounced delicious.

For entertainment the men went through a series of military maneuvers and demonstrated to the Indian friends how they could shoot, and demolish defenses. These exercises impressed the Indians. To them it must have been a striking picture to see these white men going through military paces, brandishing swords and playing war.

It was in every respect a wonderful Thanksgiving. It was one of the first steps in the westward march of civilization on this Continent—a march that has been marked all along the route by periods of toil, deprivation, fighting, even starvation and death.

Looking backward we find so much for which to render gratitude to the Ruler of Mankind. For an abundance of the necessities of life; for spiritual and temporal blessings; for past experiences and future prospects, let us give thanks. And the best way to express gratitude is by making others happy, as far as it is in our power to do so.

THE ENGLISH WORKINGMAN.

The continued lack of steady employment among British workmen has led John Burns, the labor leader in that country, to direct their attention to the fact that the drink evil is responsible for most of their actual suffering.

Statistics show that the average Englishman spends each year from £15 to £18, that is from \$75 to \$90 on drink. Of this amount, Burns shows that the average workingman spends about five shillings per week. This sum, \$12.50, may look small to the British workingman, accustomed as he is to regard beer as a necessity rather than a luxury. But Burns goes on to show that for this amount a man could get, in one of the mutual societies there after twelve months' qualification, 10s. a week out-of-work pay, 10s. sick benefits, 10s. a week superannuation, and a number of other trade and similar benefits. Suppose, he argued, that the enormous amount of money wasted by the workmen in the good times had been devoted to insurance against unemployment, they would not experience much of the trouble they at present had. In the year 1906-7 the Clyde produced \$20,000,000 tons of the cheapest, best, and fastest shipping in the world. One British river produced twice what Germany produced. Within a month after the depression from America had made itself felt on the Clyde, however, unemployed meetings were held, at which it was urged that the grant to the Clyde should have been £19,000,000 instead of £11,000,000. But, in the preceding twelve months £4,000,000 had been spent by the same Clyde artisans in alcoholic liquor alone. Burns said he would be false to his class and his duty if he did not tell workmen that, if they relied too much on the State and the municipality and too little on themselves, it would be bad for both them and the country.

No one at all familiar with the habits of most of the British workmen, will be inclined to question the soundness of the labor leader's argument. The British workman receives far higher wages than any other European workmen receive. Yet he contrives to throw away the most of his advantage on beverages that are not only of no real use to him, but in the vast majority of cases positively harmful. The result is that the underpaid but more frugal French and German workmen manage to live almost as well as their English brethren who receive wages far higher. What headway can Burns make, however, in his effort to induce the extravagant workmen to use prudence and to save the five shillings per week they now throw away on alcoholic beverages? Judging the future by the past, there can be little doubt that the large

majority of his improvident countrymen, will prefer periodical hunger and destitution to methodical saving.

ANNEXED.

Belgium, it seems, has now formally annexed the Congo Free State. About a year ago a debate on that question was held in the Belgian House of Representatives which resulted in a vote that a committee should immediately make a preliminary examination of the accounts of the Free State, and of the already drafted Belgian Colonial law, with a view to an early report on the advisability of Belgian annexation of the Congo and the terms under which the transfer should take place. Annexation has now been decided upon, and the question arises whether international interference in the affairs of the Congo state will thereby be rendered unnecessary. It will be remembered that our Senate in March, 1907, adopted a resolution pledging the support of that body in any steps the President might take, not inconsistent with treaty obligations, in co-operation with other powers for the amelioration of the conditions of the people in Congo. Such interference King Leopold has dreaded. Will annexation render interference unnecessary?

One thing is evident. Belgium, by the annexation of Congo, becomes an African power in fact, and as such she will be in constant danger of collision with other powers having territory in Africa. In the event of a conflict between the independence of Belgium might be in danger. France has had its eyes upon that country, and it seems that Napoleon on at one time sounded Bismarck on the proposition of acquiring it. Possibly the time will come when the annexation will be regretted. Small countries generally find colonies a danger and a burden.

A MESSAGE FROM CHINA.

Tang Shao Yi, the Chinese ambassador who is on his way to Washington, to convey to the American government the appreciation of the Chinese government of the generous remittance of a debt of about \$14,000,000 incurred by the Boxer rising, is said to be one of the most powerful figures in the Chinese empire. He is accompanied by a young prince, a cousin of the late emperor, and they have a large retinue with them. The Chinese government is evidently anxious to impress upon the United States the fact that its gratitude is sincere.

Tang Shao Yi is a Chinaman but he received his early education at Springfield, Mass. He came to that city in 1874, when he was only twelve years of age. After having passed through high school he entered the Columbia university. He comes this time, not only as the bearer of messages and costly presents to American government officials, but he is also commissioned to study as closely as possible American finances and commerce, so that his country may benefit by his observations, on his return home.

It is stated that this distinguished Chinaman, who has served his country in many important positions at home and abroad, is identified with the patriotic party whose motto is "China for the Chinese." But it is also thought that this is simply diplomacy with him, and that he firmly believes in progress and western civilization, though he realizes that he can hope to bring it about only by degrees.

It is believed that his mission to this country means a great deal more than the formal exchange of civilities. He will remain in Washington until after the inauguration of Mr. Taft as president.

HOBSON ADDRESSES ROOSEVELT

Congressman R. P. Hobson has addressed a letter to President Roosevelt urging him to rescind the order for the withdrawal of the fleet from the Pacific. The burden of the argument is the necessity of being in the control of that ocean so as to prevent Japan from making an attack upon our island possessions, or even upon our western coast. In his letter Mr. Hobson says in part:

"Permanent occupation of our territory by a hostile force from abroad is not possible in the Atlantic. It is possible in the Pacific."

"World problems of the gravest nature depending largely upon America for solution are in an acute stage in the Pacific. They have no counterpart in the Atlantic."

"We understand European nations and know when danger approaches in the Atlantic. We do not understand Asiatic nations and are liable to be struck without warning in the Pacific."

"There is a balance of power in Europe, keeping the nations in check. There is no balance of power in Asia, and only America can keep Japan in check."

"Supremacy in the Pacific Ocean is not at stake, carrying with it territory of great value, nor defenses in American possession, and the trade of China, already great and with boundless prospects. This supremacy is complicated by the unrest in Asia and the dangerous race problems of the Pacific Coast. The Atlantic presents no counterpart."

"The San Francisco incidents show that our relations in the Pacific are at a dangerous stage. In these incidents and in the immigration question Japan has already thrown down a challenge to our laws, our institutions, and our sovereignty, and because of the absence of the fleet our Government for the first time in our history felt it necessary to back down. No such humiliation is possible from the Atlantic."

"The four great historic causes of conflict between nations, desire for another's territory, competition for trade, antagonism of race, and conflict of institutions are all operating in the Pacific. The forces involved are entering in their results as the physical laws of nature. Any one of these causes, unless counteracted, would be sure to result in war. The only effective counteractive is the presence of our fleet. All of these causes of war are in acute form operating on a great military power armed to the teeth, ready on land and sea, just emerging from feudalism, flushed with victory, and standing without check, unbalanced in half the world. The constant presence of our fleet is the only chance on earth to maintain peace. These conditions have no counterpart in the Atlantic."

"In the event of war with our fleet absent, we should be defenseless; disaster would be inevitable; and we should find ourselves powerless to bring to bear our latent strength and resources. It would be flying into the hands of a conqueror and of Providence to take such chances."

Mr. Hobson's agitation for military

ism is not in keeping with the modern progressive spirit. His idea, undoubtedly, is that we need a strong fleet in the Pacific and another, and much stronger, in the Atlantic, and then, in addition, a large standing army. With such aspirations the American citizens who believe in better methods of arranging international affairs than those of which armies and navies are the representatives, can have no sympathy. But Mr. Hobson is right in assuming that the immediate future will concern itself with the Pacific countries. The observant students of current events all over the world believe this. Many believe that only the powers with large fleets will be able to make themselves heard in the coming competition for influence. The Hamburger Nachrichten speaks of the "Japanese-American peril" but not as being of so definite a character as to warrant an expression of opinion on the matter. Congressman Hobson believes in the peril mentioned, and, naturally, he sees in the presence of the battleships near the point of danger, the only means of averting it. Others hold that if only a fraction of the money that is now spent on armies, navies, and armaments was spent for propagation of the gospel of peace and arbitration, there would soon be no more danger of war in the world than there is of a vendetta in a civilized community with good laws and impartial courts.

However, we have not attained to that happy condition. That stage of civilization is yet to be reached. And in the meantime we do not know but that the suggestion of Mr. Hobson ought to be carried out. Why not leave the fleet, or a large part of it, in the Pacific as a reminder to other powers that our interests in that part of the world are very large?

The fear of balloons in war is groundless.

There will be a great many echoes of the tariff hearings.

Thanksgiving tomorrow. Indigestion day after tomorrow.

Cold cash is an excellent thing to warm the cockles of the heart.

No one takes a man at his own valuation, not even the assessor.

The steel barons feel like calling the steel king to account at Runnymede.

Speaker Cannon has declared in favor of tariff revision. That settles the question.

England is still able to make a raise. She has raised her two-power standard ten per cent.

If Salt Lake is not entertained it is her own fault. She has an abundance of theaters.

Milliners say that the "Merry Widow" has gone. But the merry widow goes on forever.

As the holidays approach, remember that if you cannot send presents you can send regrets.

The battle of Dorking was as a mere skirmish as to the one Field Marshal Lord Roberts foresees.

What a great employment agency Satan must keep to be able to find mischief for all the idle hands to do.

To be able honestly and actually to say, "I told you so," is one of the most gratifying things in the world.

The fall of snow has broken the record. It has also broken a great many trees and telephone and electric light wires.

The people who say that they have seen Belle Gunness here and Belle Gunness there of late are the kind who always see double.

One of the hardest things in the world to do is to do your duty when you want to do something plainly in contravention of your duty.

In the house of lords Field Marshal Lord Roberts has sounded a note of warning against the German peril. And he wants it understood that it is a note bene.

That there will be no revision of the currency laws at the coming session of Congress seems certain. There is no pressing emergency, and should one arise the banks could again resort to the milk ticket currency plan.

If public men feel that they must talk why do they not talk to phonographs? And when the phonographs repeat their comments they will be surprised and generally thankful that they did not publish their views.

England used to fear that France would dig a tunnel under the channel and invade her unawares. But now England's fear is that Germany will put an army on board the ships that pass in the night and land it some foggy morning on England's shores all unbeknown to her.

NO STING, BAD HONEY.

Boston Transcript.

The stingless bee, about which we have been hearing the last few years, and in which those who raise bees have been deeply interested, for obvious reasons, is a disappointment. It does not sting. In that particular it keeps faith with those who provide a hive for it. And it is just as industrious as the bees that do sting. But its honey is not the fine article the stinging bee produces. The bee without a stinger is good and harmless, but its product is tame, so to speak. It is without the zest that the unprincipled bee's honey possesses. This deficiency affords food for thought to some who do not keep bees.

WAS IT A BLUNDER?

Baltimore Sun.

The Chinese, it appears, are a sensitive people. They cannot understand why we should have sent our entire fleet to Japan, but allowed the Chinese the privilege of seeing only a part of it. Our government loses no opportunity to express friendly feeling for China. Through our consulate representative at Peking we are making every

effort to secure the good will of the Chinese. And now the "Chinese boy," comment and people are humiliated, because we sent only one-half of our fleet to China. Is it possible that after all our years of commercial intercourse with China, and the observations and researches of our diplomats at Peking, we do not understand the oriental spirit? Knowing that the Chinese fear and dislike Japan, why should we have given the Chinese government and people any cause for suspecting that we did not consider them worthy of the best naval display we could give them? Was it a blunder?

CHINA'S FUTURE.

Washington Star.

China can never go back into the dark. It has been brought too far into contact with the world of ideas and action now to revert to the ancient type. It may be several generations before western ideas are firmly planted in the Chinese soil, but, nevertheless, there has been a great work of preparation there to insure an eventual rooting of civilization as the west conceives the term.

WORST KIND OF SICKNESS.

Chicago Record-Herald.

The moral sickness of Peter Van Vlissingen has made a wreck of him in the prime of life. He is infinitely worse off than he would have been if he had suffered grievously from some bodily disease. Men have achieved remarkable success in business, in literature, in politics, in spite of ill health that has continued through as many years as Van Vlissingen's forgeries. They have won the admiration of their fellows and felt that life was worth living, notwithstanding their sufferings. Even if death came as a release they have left the best of inheritances to their children in an honored name.

JUST FOR FUN.

"I don't care about a church wedding, Myrtle. Do you? Wouldn't you rather be married right here at your own home?"

"Yes, but I'm afraid we can't do that, Algy. I'm quite sure it's forbidden in the case."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Westend—What did your wife say when you got home from the stag the other night?

Brooklyn—Nothing at all. She just sat down at the piano and played "Toll Me the Old, Old Story."—Puck.

"I know I am not as handsome as some men who woo you, but remember, the lead has a diamond in its head."

"Do you happen to have a diamond in your pocket?"—Houston Post.

Mrs. Jawback—Do you know I came very near not marrying you?

Mr. Jawback—Sure—but who told you about it?—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Young Mr. Bliggins is thinking of proposing."

"Yes," answered Miss Cayenne; "but I doubt if he will ever do so. The only way for a man to get courage in such matters is to stop thinking."—Washington Star.

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And all the week, special matinee Thursday. Last season's great musical success.

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