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CONQUESTS OF THE PLOW.

The great problem that now seems to confront the United States, is whether it is to the boy's interest to leave a farming community where the chances are that in five or ten years he can own a valuable farm, "or whether he should go to the great cities and become the future motorman and street-car conductor."

These are the strong words of warning uttered by President Chapman of the Minnesota Bankers' Association.

The farmer, says the railroad magnate, James J. Hill, "has been discouraged by seeing every other industry preferred to his. The policy of stimulating these by legislation "has naturally tended to tempt the intelligent, energetic, and ambitious into other occupations."

In the introduction of the census of 1870, relating to the agricultural interest, we read allusions to such notorious facts as "corn selling in New England at 90 cents and being burned for fuel in Iowa; wheat selling at $1.35 in New York and for 45 cents in Minnesota; beef bringing $7 a hundred on the hoof in the east, while cattle are being slaughtered for the hides in Texas."

Such inequalities, Mr. Hill clearly shows, are unknown today. The perfection of our transportation system has made a market accessible to every farmer, and carries his produce at the lowest rates in the world. His life has become more comfortable and desirable. But the increased cost of living bears most hardly upon him, while it entices his children to the centers where they think that the larger income now found necessary may be won more easily. And while the enhanced price of grain may induce him to enlarge his wheat acreage, it does not lead him to more careful tillage.

Civilization, in Mr. Hill's unique way of putting it, "is mostly the story of the triumph of the human stomach in its struggle for food equal to the work of physical and mental evolution," and every one of the great nations of antiquity "guided its foreign relations and directed its invasions and conquests with a view to obtaining an adequate food supply."

The problem now confronts our own country, which requires a yearly increase of 15,000,000 bushels of wheat to feed the growing population—an increase that cannot be maintained by present methods of agriculture.

American agriculture, notoriously defective, yields only half the average per acre that is obtained in England and Germany upon inferior soil; and only by bringing new land under cultivation have we somewhat compensated for the direction of the older farms by the thronging of the younger generation into the cities.

Mr. Hill shows that we support, in round numbers, ninety millions of people on three million square miles of land. He estimates that we should be able to support 150 per square mile as easily as 30; and then we should have but a fraction of the density of population of Denmark with 167 inhabitants per square mile, Holland with 448 or our own state of Rhode Island with 407 in 1900. He admits that the education of a whole people in right methods of tillage is a stupendous task; that it took England nearly fifty years to do this, with powerful agencies at command and with a control over her farmers through leasehold conditions that no one in this country possesses. Yet she has raised her average wheat yield from 12 to 15 to upwards of 30 bushels per acre. "If," he argues, "it should take us fifty years, we would by that time probably have doubled our population also, and barely kept pace with our necessities. But we have not yet accomplished the mere preliminaries of such a process."

The education of the farmer for this purpose is on a par with the importance of the public school. The present agricultural colleges are not sufficient. They do much for the boys and girls who attend them, but as Mr. Hill puts it, "If all the graduates of all the agricultural colleges were sent out as missionaries to the farm, there would not be enough of them to do the work."

One farmer estimates that not one-half of one per cent of the farmers of his state are in touch with the agricultural experiment station. The ten million of farmers will require an enormous teaching force.

The farmer requires instruction in how to prepare a field properly for the seed; how to select and where to get the seed that will yield the best return; how to cultivate each crop, how to combine stock raising with tillage; and how to rotate his crops and preserve unimpaired the richness of his soil. On his own farm, with the material and the object lesson before him, under instruction that comes with public authority and sanction, he will be a pupil apt to learn. But he cannot go to the agricultural colleges; they must go to him.

Prof. Ferrero, in his story of the Greatness and Decline of Rome, attributes to the increased cost of living the agricultural depression of Italy, the ruin of her peasantry, and the distress of all classes that followed. He therefore announces his conclusion in these words: "The only durable conquests even in ages of barbarism, are those of the plow."

Upon which the railroad magnate makes this final comment:

"Today when civilization has built her imposing fabric upon the expected bounty of the earth, we must maintain, protect and extend these conquests by which the race has won its way. It is not, as in the old mythology, Atlas whom we see groaning beneath the weight of the world upon his shoulders, but the homeller and humbler figure of the cultivator of the soil. It is for each of us, in every capacity, public and private, to do what in us lies to enlighten, reinvigorate and sustain this common benefactor of our kind."

WHAT IS HE?

Rev. W. T. Brown is reported to have said that when some of the Church leaders deny Church interference in politics, they are liars. The report is taken from a sheet that is so utterly unreliable that an apology may be due for quoting it, but we do not hesitate to say that if Rev. Brown has stated anywhere that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is in politics, he is either an ignoramus or a liar himself.

Some prominent Church leaders are in politics, and they do not deny it. Nobody does. Senator Smoot is in politics, and no one denies that. Some other leading Church members may be in politics. Is it the opinion of Rev. Brown that an American citizen, because he happens to be a prominent Church member, must consider himself disfranchised? If so, where is his authority for that strange doctrine? Is he entirely ignorant of American history? Has he never heard of the Puritan preachers who moulded American opinion in favor of liberty? Has he never heard of John Cotton, or Jonathan Mayhew? Has he never heard of Rev. Jacob Greene who was a member of the Provincial Congress, or of Rev. John Witherspoon who was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence? Prominent Church men have every right that other American citizens have—no more and no less.

Nobody denies, then, that some leading Church men as American citizens are taking an active interest in the affairs of the country and the communities in which they live, but we deny most emphatically that these men, or any other Church men, have brought the Church into politics. The Church is an ecclesiastical organization that speaks through its regularly appointed assemblies, as any other association of the children of men, and there is absolutely no foundation for the malicious charge that the Church leaders are using the Church as a political organization. If Rev. Brown has made that charge, he is not fit to occupy the pulpit of a Christian minister.

CHURCHES AND SALOONS.

The Chamber of Commerce of Zanesville, Ohio, is scattering broadcast an advertisement in which settlers are invited to that city, and among other attractions displayed is this, that it has 30 churches and no saloons.

The people of Zanesville voted prohibition a short time ago and the saloons were closed. Then the business men sent out this advertisement: "If you contemplate a change of residence or business location, consider Zanesville the best city in the country. Beautiful, healthful, prosperous, shipping facilities and fuel supply unsurpassed. Thirty churches. No saloons.

It will be in order for our business men to issue a similar invitation to the world, before long. They might complete the list of attractions by the following item: "One hundred and thirty saloons and dives, a 'stockade' running in full blast, gambling protected and an 'American' police department innocent of wrongdoing." An announcement similar to this ought to draw "settlers" —of a certain class. Moreover, it ought to be of great interest to the Christian men and women throughout the country who, some years ago, in a moment of excitement, lent their moral and financial support to the anti-"Mormon" crusade, to know that, it has been so successful that before long dive and brothel keepers may sing in jubilant strains a Te Deum laudamus.

Philosophers often are failures in disguise.

A man cannot fail to see the error of his way if he will only heed his friends.

Harry Thaw does not call America a free country.

Did any one ever see anyone cry over spilt milk?

Social duties and society duties are entirely different.

Jumping at conclusions is as bad as a leap in the dark.

This winter's hats for ladies will be high and the prices tall.

President Taft carried the South this fall but can he carry it next fall?

A little learning isn't so much a dangerous thing as it is a nuisance.

Speculators in cotton would do well to see that they are not short on long staple.

Senator Cummins will not challenge Senator Aldrich to a debate. It is not the Iowa idea.

He isn't a very prominent public man who hasn't been suggested for the Chinese mission.

Possibly the North Dakota burst a "biler" because she was so puffed up with pride over her great speed.

President Taft says that we are a funny people. Certainly we are. Americans are noted for their humor.

While imitation is the sincerest form of flattery still it is often hard to distinguish between imitation and mockery.

Sometimes it is hard to tell whether it is opportunity or the bill collector knocking at one's door. Whoever it is, open it.

William Waldorf Astor complains that he is unjustly taxed in New York. As the foreigner pays the tax, what's the difference?

What kind of a short and ugly word would the Colonel apply to the orinator of the story that he had been killed in Africa by a wild beast?

Mayor-elect Gaynor spent his first day of rest after the election by taking a twenty-mile walk. That should have been easy as he had a walkover on election day.

Will the Industrial Workers now on a starvation strike in the Spokane jail have food pumped into them as it was into the suffragettes in the Birmingham jail? This is a new method of pumping prisoners—to get something into them instead of out of them.

Rear Admiral C. M. Chester, retired, says that Dr. Frederick A. Cook could not have reached the north pole and that Commander Peary did reach it. It is quite evident that Dr. Cook could not have reached the pole had Admiral Chester had his way. The Admiral was a member of the committee of the National Geographic society that passed upon Commander Peary's records and data. "Charge, Chester, Charge."

A Tribune writer refers to a prominent Republican as "a red-headed sheeny." That is, evidently, meant as a compliment to the Hebrew portion of this community. The organ has this charming and refined way of expressing its appreciation of whatever support it may have received by voters of Jewish descent. We hope these, in turn, will appreciate the slap in the face and kindly turn the other cheek.

"Or, does The News mean to insinuate that saloonkeepers and others . . . should be deprived of the right of suffrage?—Tribune, Nov. 6.

Answering that question from the Tribune point of view, we would say, by no means. They should be made members of the city council, and their besotted, ignorant, and morally depraved patrons should be given full liberty to import street walkers and construct "stockades." Frequenters of dives and saloons should be sent to the legislative halls of the State and Country! Disfranchise saloonkeepers and "others?" Perish the thought! Only ministers of the gospel and other men and women who believe in civic righteousness should be persecuted and disfranchised. What would become of the Tribune if its bosom friends were deprived of the control of the money of the honest tax-payers?

The consistory of the University of Copenhagen has declined the request of the National Geographic society that it be permitted to have a committee present when the examination of the data and records of Dr. Cook's north pole expedition is made. In Washington no surprise was expressed at the refusal, and none could be. The request was very strange and that it should have been preferred is the really astonishing thing. It was akin to a demand to have watchers at the polls when the vote is counted, to see that it is honestly counted and to prevent possible chicanery. The society has not been happy in its correspondence with the Danish university. Its first communication was practically a peremptory demand to be allowed to settle the question of Dr. Cook's claims, while it bordered on the insolent. It had no rights whatever in the premises though it assumed, in the name of the scientists of America, that it had. Its course in the matter has been unfortunate. This refusal is in reality a rebuff.

NEW NEWS OF YESTERDAY

THE INSIDE HISTORY OF A FAMOUS GRANT VETO.

By E. J. Edwards.

This daily series of anecdotes and incidents that throw new, interesting and frequently dramatic light on famous events and personalities of the past have been collected by Edwards during nearly forty years of more or less intimate acquaintance with many of the country's leaders since the Civil War. Each anecdote or incident is fresh from Mr. Edwards's notebook, and, either in whole or in part, it constitutes New News of Yesterday, garnered from the men who made the news—the history—or from equally authoritative sources. As important contributions of the "Human Interest" sort to American history, these articles have a distinctive value all their own.

"In 1874 he rendered a great service to his country by his veto of the bill passed by Congress for the inflation of the paper currency." So declares a standard American encyclopedia in its accounts of Ulysses S. Grant as president of the United States; and the school histories tell young America that one of the notable acts of President Grant was his veto, in 1874, of what was popularly known as the inflation bill.

I have good reason to believe that the inside history of this famous veto has escaped chronicling until now. The man who told me the story—the late Frederick D. Tappan, for many years head of the New York clearing house—assured me that he had never given it to any one else, and he believed that he alone was in possession of all the facts connected with it.

"At the time of the widespread panic and business depression that followed the failure of Jay Cooke in '73," said Mr. Tappan, "a few of New York's financiers—myself among them—received word from Washington that President Grant deemed it expedient to come to New York, that he might get at first hand such information regarding the financial situation as he felt he needed. You may recall that, in addition to the panic, at that time there was an insistent demand by a large section of the country that greenbacks be immediately put freely into circulation, the order withholding them to be rescinded.

"The president reached New York on a Sunday. Very few persons knew that he was in the city; in fact, to all intents and purposes, he was smuggled into it and also into the Union League club, where some of us who were in the little secret arranged to dine him, partly that he might have good opportunity to hear what everyone had to say regarding the financial situation.

"During the meal I sat so near the president that I was able to watch carefully the expressions of his face. He was chatty and very companionable right up to the time for the various remarks to be made; then, slowly, but none the less surely, there came over his features an expression that completely transformed them—that made his face like that of a graven image.

"One after another those men of financial authority spoke their views. I remember that several earnestly appealed to the president to issue an order by which the greenbacks, then withheld from circulation by the secretary of the treasury, would be put immediately into circulation. One of these men was particularly emphatic; he professed to be afraid that unless such relief was afforded the financial situation, there was danger of riot in New York and other large centers.

"After each of us had had his say—and our views were frequently widely divergent—Gen. Grant began to ask questions. He was like an expert cross-examiner with the financier who was particularly insistent that the greenbacks be restored to circulation. With equal relevancy he questioned every man in the room. He questioned us until it was time for him to take the midnight train to Washington—and when he left us not one of us had been able to read in that set mask a hint of how the conference was impressing its own. Never have I seen such capacity for concealing thought or mental intention as Gen. Grant displayed that evening. Then, for the first time, I understood his mastery of himself and of his campaign secrets when he was the commanding general of the union armies.

"Some time later Congress passed the so-called inflation bill, bowing to what seemed to be an overwhelming demand from all parts of the country for irredeemable paper money. President Grant took the bill, studied it, and then sent to Congress his now traditional veto, which stands as one of the two great measures identified with his administration, the other being the Geneva arbitration. That veto is a model of reasoning. It struck the first blow in favor of a sound currency system; it was the beginning of the end of Greenbackism.

"One day, years later, in the course of a chat with General Grant, I said to him:

"'General, it has always interested me where you, who never professed to know much about financial matters, got the data on which you based your veto of the inflation bill.'

"He smiled, 'I will tell you,' he said. 'Do you remember that Sunday evening we dined together at the Union League club, following the Jay Cooke failure? It was there, through questioning you and the other bankers assembled, that I secured the information on which I based my veto.'

(Copyright, 1909, by E. J. Edwards.)

Tomorrow Mr. Edwards will tell of "The Mysterious Disappearance that Made a President."

THE OPTIMIST'S CORNER

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

The true danger of every form of mental exercise is the addition of worry. Laborious mental exercise is healthy unless it is made anxious by necessary or unnecessary difficulties. Regular mental labor is best carried on by introducing into it some variety. New work gives time for repair better than attempt at complete rest, since the active mind finds it impossible to evade its particular work unless its activity be diverted into some new channel. During the new work a fresh portion of brain comes into play, and the tired portion of the brain is given a chance to rest and recover its strength. Excessive competition in mental labor is ruinous at all ages of life. To combination of mental and physical fatigue is exceedingly injurious. Long journeys, each day to and from business, are hurtful. The idea that mental labor may be advantageously supplemented by violent muscular exercise is an error. Moderate and regular exercise, on the other hand, favors mental work. The practical point is to so regulate the physical labor that it shall not induce fatigue.

THE PRICE OF PEACE.

Denver Post.

Peace has her "victories no less renowned than war;" and they seem to be vastly more expensive. The civilized world is rapidly reaching a condition in which armaments are infinitely more costly than actual hostilities. Last year the United States, England, Germany, and France spent $1,000,000,000 on their armies and navies. Since the war with Spain we have increased our own naval and military appropriations by $1,072,000,000. This year 72 per cent of our aggregate national revenue will be expended in preparing for war, and on account of past wars. During the present fiscal year we have expended over $110,000,000 on the army and land defenses, and over $96,000,000 on the navy and naval defenses. Only 28 per cent of our national revenue is available for national administration. And it must be remembered that we are just beginners in this war game of beggar my neighbor. England is increasing her burden; Germany is increasing her burden; Japan is increasing her burden; we seem destined to do as those countries are doing; and the dreary competition will go on until the cost of it becomes intolerable to some civilized country, and our billions of dollars of preparation will vanish in the flame and anguish of war. Think of it deliberately, and it is an inconceivable condition; but it is actual; a pregnant and pitiable fact.

WOMEN SWIMMERS.

Philadelphia Bulletin.

"The Korean women are the best swimmers in the world," said a lifeguard. "The Korean pearl diving is in their hands. They swim—they don't boat—they swim out to the pearl fisheries of Quelpart lugging baskets with them. After this swim of half an hour they dive down fifty feet and catch up queer one-shelled pearl oysters as big as babies. They dive till their baskets are full—the baskets are corked to keep them afloat—and after three or four hours' work they swim back home with their catch. The big one-shelled oysters are valuable as Pearl mines and as food, too. A half dozen Koreans will sit down to a boiled lobster. Sometimes when the great shell-fish is eaten raw it quivers and moans slightly as the knife is plunged into it.

JUST FOR FUN

Mabel's Gowns.

In clouds of tulle, pearls peeping through,
Our Mabel made her grand debut.
A flimsy gown of snowy white
She wore, her graduation night.

In bridal robe of satin sheen
Sweet Mabel looked a royal queen.
The gown in which she "went away"
Was of the latest shade of gray.

She donned a sombre black, of course,
The day she sued for a divorce.
Her "going home to mother" gown
Was some sad shade of rusty brown.
—Puck.

The Purist in Court.

The Magistrate—You accuse your husband of having raised his hand against you.

The Plaintiff—No, sir; of having lowered it on me.—Pele Mele.

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