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AS THE YEAR PASSES.

As the old year goes out, there are many things for which the American people can feel truly grateful. Those in a position to know predict good times, with an abundance of employment at good wages. It is claimed that by January 1 more than a million men who were idle six months ago, will have found work in the various industries. This is encouraging.

Another cause of gratitude is the awakening of the consciences of the citizens to their responsibilities and duties. For the past few years this awakening has been going on, and now there are signs everywhere that the people are beginning to realize the necessity of self-government taking the place of political machine government. We are beginning to throw off the just reproach of foreigners, that, after all we are indifferent to government by the people.

As a result the standard of official conduct is rising. Evil-doers in office are being hunted down. We are still far from the standards of some other countries, but we are approaching the ideal and making perceptible progress.

Different standards are also being applied to financial transactions. Some men who at one time were held up to the children as patterns of integrity, industry, and genius, because they succeeded in amassing large fortunes, are now regarded as no better than robbers and highway men. So radical changes have occurred in public opinion. This means the dawn of a better day.

It is but three centuries since the Pilgrims first landed on this continent. Little did they dream of a Republic spreading its protecting wings from the Atlantic to the Pacific over a population of a hundred million souls, living in 46 states and the mountains. When they fought starvation and hostile Indians, little did they look forward to the times we have seen, when the soil could yield and the mines could add two billion dollars more. Little did they dream of a republic strong enough to hold its own against any world power. But it has come to pass. The Republic has stood the test of many storms. The American form of government has been preserved and is stronger than ever. Its educational value has been demonstrated on the largest possible scale.

But, in acknowledging all these blessings, it would be hypocrisy to deny that many things call for improvement. The people are still in the hands of many concerns that cause the cost of living to soar to exorbitant figures, and the oppression is keenly felt among the victims. This is an anomaly. The world is ample for the feeding and clothing of all who want to work in comfort, and then there is some left for the unfortunate. But all do not share in the benefits of the common resources, according to their true worth. And this forms one of the great problems of the world today, which will not down. Like Sancho's ghost, it appears at the most unexpected opportunities and in the most unexpected places. It is a problem that should be solved. It is worthy of the most brilliant minds of the age.

As self-government was the solution of the problem of tyranny, so self-government in another sense of the word—in the sense of co-operation—will, in all probability be the solution of the social problem. What laboring men can do by intelligent co-operation has often been proved both here and in other countries, notably England, and Belgium. There is no reason why they should not, by co-operation build their own flats and own them; take up land and produce their own food, etc. There is no reason why they should not, by co-operation become independent of all combinations that take undue advantage of the consumers.

To illustrate what can be done by co-operation, Ella Wheeler Wilcox tells of an experiment made by George Elmer Littlefield of Westwood, Mass. He induced forty persons to pool \$250 each a month for one year. With the \$1,200 thus obtained they paid the first installment of \$1,000 on a farm that cost \$8,000, and agreed to pay \$250 quarterly until the balance was paid. Forty acres of the land was laid out in one-acre lots, and each one was sold to a shareholder for \$200. The rest of the land together with the farm buildings was common property. In due time a workshop and other buildings would be erected. Meanwhile, Mr. Littlefield says, we shall accumulate deposits or voluntary loans, and open a co-operative loan account with members and sympathetic outsiders, at 3 1/2 per cent interest, with which we will add members to erect the first cottages on the home acres. The families moving in will each pay only \$10 monthly until each has paid for his house. Then the money will be turned over and other cottages will be erected and paid for in the same way. Those who do not desire to build will have, besides their own land, a fourth interest in the continually improved and increasingly valuable collective property.

This merely by illustration of what can be done by intelligent co-operation. Co-operation was one of the principles taught by the leaders of Pioneer life in Utah. And we have no doubt that

the world will find in its application the best, if not the only, solution of its most intricate problems.

THE BOND ISSUE.

The supreme court has declared the last bond election in this City legal. A writ of prohibition restraining the City from issuing the bonds was asked for on the ground that no legal notice of the time and place of election was given, and that the ordinance authorizing the election contained a misleading statement as to the establishment of a sinking fund for the redemption of the bonds.

The court considered both objections and came to the conclusion, as to the legality of the notice, "that in this case there has been a substantial, if not a literal, compliance with the statute;" and, as to the second objection, that "the contention that the voters were misled by the statement in the published notices that the interest and principal of the contemplated water bonds should be paid out of the revenues obtained from the water system of Salt Lake City, is not tenable."

Concerning the first objection the court observes that it devolves upon the protesters to show that a defective notice actually has affected the result of the election, since the courts are strongly inclined to uphold rather than to defeat the popular will. As to the second objection, it is pointed out that the statement in the ordinance relating to a sinking fund "was not a misrepresentation of an existing fact. The statement was simply a proposition made by the city council upon a subject which it had no right to speak, because the statute determined what should be done. If it was a misrepresentation at all, it was in the nature of a misrepresentation with regard to the law, and not to a fact."

"But," the opinion continues, "if we should assume that the statement was in the nature of an inducement to the voters, of which they may complain, then it constitutes what is termed an irregularity. It certainly cannot be said to be more than this. It was a matter which, if it had any effect at all, must be considered in the nature of an inducement of the voters to vote for the bonds, but there is no allegation, or intimation, even that voters were in fact induced to vote for the bonds that otherwise would not have voted for them."

And so, the election was perfectly legal. If we read the opinion right, it holds that the notice may have been defective, and that there may have been some irregularity in the ordinance; the city council may even have made a proposition upon a subject on which it had no right to speak, because the statute determined what should be done, but there was no defect, no irregularity so serious as to invalidate the bond issue.

It will be remembered that the charge was openly made in the streets, at the time of the election, that a great number of illegal votes had been cast. Some insisted that irregularities of this kind were numerous enough to affect the result. It was also pointed out that the bond advocates promised to apply a certain amount of the bond money for a purpose not authorized by the law. Neither of these objections were brought into court. It is not impossible that a thorough consideration of the facts upon which they were based, might have resulted in a different conclusion.

The memory of the reckless way in which so-called "American" officials, under the lash of irresponsible, self-elected party manipulators, spent the million dollars borrowed a few years ago, without particular regard for the promises made when the bonds were asked for, and without proper accounting as required by law, does not inspire a very strong hope that the \$800,000 will be applied for the greatest benefit of the public. But the situation has changed somewhat for the better. There has been a defection from party tyranny by some who have become convinced, by late election results, that the party bosses are not popular among the citizens. This has made independence of party tyranny possible, and if those whose duty it is to disburse the money, will assert their independence as men and trusted public servants, and give the City the benefit of a business management, there will be no reason for complaint.

It may be just as well, however, to see what can be done, by proper legislation, to secure for the City such a business management, under the supervision of a large representative body of citizens, and not take any further chances with selfish party bosses and un-American party machines.

LABOR COLONIES.

Commissioner Hebbard, of the New York City Charities department, proposes the introduction into the New York legislature of a bill, the intention of which is to deal with the problem of vagrancy. The measure is framed by experts and will ask for an appropriation for a labor colony to which habitual vagrants are to be committed. It contemplates the establishment of compulsory labor settlements on the plans tried in Belgium and Switzerland.

The proposed bill provides, we understand, for the appointment by the Governor of five trustees, whose duty shall be to select sites, appoint and direct principal officers, and exercise general direction over the colonies. These trustees are to serve without compensation. The object of the institution is to detain, reform and instruct vagrants, habitual drunkards who fail to support themselves, and persons guilty of railroad offenses, such as stealing rides on trains, obstructing tracks, and the like. The superintendent of each colony, it is provided, shall be a practical, educated farmer, and it is proposed to authorize the trustees to secure the services of a superintendent of a similar institution in Europe. It is proposed to have three colonies in the state—one near New York, one in the vicinity of Albany, and one close to Buffalo.

Undoubtedly something must be done in order to protect society from the depredations of a class that prefers a criminal career to honest toil. This

class is increasing. According to reports there are more vagrants this year than any previous year. They swarm along the railroad lines and infest the cities from coast to coast. The president of the New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad, states that on one occasion during June 103 men were ejected from one of the freight trains of the company in a journey of 132 miles. The general manager of the New York, Ontario & Western, says that there are probably 50 per cent more vagrants passing over the line than a year ago. They break into cars and stations. They sometimes assault and kill brakemen and conductors. They set fires along the lines and even build fires inside the cars, use the company's materials for the construction of small shanties, terrorize the occupants of section houses and commit various other depredations. In some places they break into stores, rob farm-houses and assault women and children. In view of these facts it seems necessary that some concerted effort be made to deal with this problem. Whether labor colonies offer the true solution will best be proved by experience.

It should be remembered, though, that the problem of unemployed is much more comprehensive than the vagrancy problem. There are many honest workmen who are out of employment, for one reason or another, not on account of any fault of theirs. They cannot be classed as vagrants and should not be dealt with as criminals.

Last call for Leap Year.

A high flyer isn't necessarily a soaring soul.

Good by, old year. We part to meet no more.

Even a porcupine has its good and bad points.

"No longer is the cry, 'Shop early,' heard in the land.

When army aviators take the riding test they will mount Pegasus.

So far as known, a pretty man comes the nearest to being the missing link.

The boy who has an air gun usually aims high—at a bird in the tree tops.

What is to be expected but water-laden butter when the milk is diluted?

Governor-elect Spry could very truthfully say, "Many call but few are chosen."

It is the blacksmith who knows that vise is a monster of such frightful mien.

The grey mare being the best horse, a woman has a right to nag her husband.

"Intellectual treats" are usually best enjoyed by those who haven't any too much intellect.

All men are created equal but those born in Ohio stand the best chance for the presidency.

"We all eat and talk too much," says the Atchison Globe. Then why doesn't the editor let up?

A conductor's life must be very monotonous. His fare is the same every day in the year.

In the senatorial fight at Columbus it is to be hoped that they will not use columbiads.

The night riders of Tennessee have discontinued their merry rides, temporarily at least.

Let the Gatun dam break loose a few times and nearly everybody will be in favor of a sea level canal.

So many kinds of boards are being proposed for the State that one wonders where all the timber is coming from.

It is to be hoped that the City Council's New Year's resolutions will be good ones for they are very apt to become ordinances.

Remember the grief-stricken people of Italy and Sicily and give cheerfully and liberally in their aid. "The Lord loveth a cheerful giver."

The defeated Marathon runners (it begins to look as though their name would soon be legion) are beginning to complain of race discrimination.

Castro says that he is a slave to honor and duty. Whoever would have thought it? But after all some people have such queer ideas of honor and duty.

President Schurman of Cornell says that colossal fortunes are on trial in this country. It will be pretty hard to secure an impartial jury to try the case, the general public being so prejudiced.

T-BONE STEAKS FOR EVERY MAN

Los Angeles Times.

A visitor in Los Angeles who is in close touch with the live stock and meat markets tells the world that cheap meat is not to be hoped for. The people of America, from the wealthy clubman to the plain wage-earner, must have T-bone steaks and prime roasts. For the inferior cuts of beef there is no great demand. Therefore these must be sold cheap and the choice cuts dear. This is suggestive of how we waste our money and imperil our health.

The speaker truthfully referred to the ways of the plain people in Europe whom necessity has compelled to learn to cook choice cuts of meat in such a way as to make them palatable, digestible and nutritious. Over there a good cook will take an ox tail and the lungs of a calf, with a few sweetbreads, and create a stew that is delicious. A rich, brown gravy accompanies the stew and the whole is seasoned with the skill of an expert. The only cost is that of the one or two sweetbreads that furnish each guest with just a taste of a lamb. This dish is preceded by a potato, or soup made mostly of vegetables; and with the stew goes a portion of cauliflower or other vegetable and a piece of French bread. This is a more economical dish than most of our people know how to prepare and the meat portion

is more palatable than beefsteak. Americans as a rule do not take kindly to the continental potage. As a people we are not strong on soups, and if we do condescend to try one we want a whole chicken or a pint of oysters to the quart of soup. The American wit names the potage a frog-pond because there is a good deal of green vegetables in it.

OLD ORDER CHANGING.

William Allen White in American Magazine.

For ten years there has been a distinct movement among the American people—feeble and imperceptible against the current during the first few years of its beginning—a movement which indicates that in the soul of the people there is a conviction of their past unrighteousness. During the five years last past that movement has been unmistakable. It is now one of the big self-evident things in our national life. It is called variously reform, the moral awakening, the new idea, the square deal, the uplift and by other local cognomens; but it is one current in the thought of the people. And the most hopeful sign of the time lies in the fact that the current is almost world-wide. The same striving to lift men to higher things, to a fuller enjoyment of the fruits of our civilization, to a wider participation in the blessings of modern society—in short, to a "more abundant life"—the same striving is felt through Europe and among the islands of the sea, that is tightening the muscles of our social and commercial and political body. And it is worth while to look about us and note the changes that are coming to us in the days when they are in the making, for

The old order changeth, yielding place to new;
And God fulfills Himself in many ways,
Lest one good custom should corrupt the world.

JUST FOR FUN.

Safe.

Excited Woman—Are you going to run away with me?
Reckless Driver (slightly intoxicated)—Sorry, mum; but I can't oblige. I'm mar-married already.—Judge.

A Poser for Pop.

"Papa!"
"Yes, Willie."
"Papa, when the cannibals eat a man do they save his Adam's apple for dessert?"—Boston Transcript.

"What do you lawyers mean by 'professional courtesy'?" "Passing a rich client down the line."—Cleveland Leader.

Muggins—"Harduppe claims to be very bashful about meeting people." Bughins—"Meeting people? Why, Harduppe even hesitates about meeting his obligations."—Philadelphia Record.

Excited Caller (at police station)—"I had my pocket picked on the street cars just now!" Desk Sergeant—"Well, if you had it done what are you coming here to kick about?"—Chicago Tribune.

"Ma," asked the little rabbit, "is it true that pa was shot by an amateur gunner?"

"No, at all," snorted the mother rabbit scornfully; "the gunner was shooting something else while your poor father sat behind him and laughed. Unfortunately the gun kicked, and the man sat down on your father and killed him."—Catholic Standard and Times.

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