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THE NORTH POLE.

The papers have been talking about "hailing the flag to the North Pole" until some readers may be under the impression that there is, actually, a "pole" on the top of the earth. That is, of course, absurd. The pole is merely the point on the earth's surface in which the axis of rotation terminates. They are the points in which all the imaginary lines that we call meridians meet. There is nothing to halt a flag to, except ice blocks, possibly. Dr. Cook says he found absolutely no evidence of plant or animal life at the Pole, though there were bear tracks and evidence of life in the water as far north as 83 degrees. At the Pole there was only ice, and the ice, Dr. Cook says, was about the same as throughout the rest of the Arctic zone, with the possible exception that it is more active. Observations showed that the drift of the polar ice is southeast, while the direction of the winds is southwest. It is evident, therefore, that even if the flag is raised at the North Pole one year, next year it may be found miles away on the ever drifting ice.

Speculation has been indulged in as to whether the successful explorer would find land at the Pole. For many years, however, that idea has not been entertained. Nansen and Ahlstrom came near enough to justify them in the conclusion that the Pole is covered with a frozen ocean, and that seems to be corroborated by Dr. Cook.

Some scientists take the view that there were Polar continents at one time in the early age of the earth. They hold that through the revolution of our globe around its axis, the water "poured" at the Poles and flowed outward toward the Equator. This caused a continent to appear at each Pole. As Moses expresses it: "God divided the waters from the waters, and caused the dry land to appear." The climate of those Polar continents, it is thought, was tropical, as is evidenced by the fossils within the Arctic zone. What caused the great change in the Polar conditions?

To this question the following answer has been offered: As the interior of the earth became fused the matter expanded and when the expansive force became sufficiently great an explosion occurred which resulted in the elevation of what is now the eastern extremity of the globe. By this explosion a large percentage of the earth's weight was removed from the interior to the surface, with the result that the earth was thrown out of center, just as the moon is now. The earth then commenced to drift instead of revolving.

To illustrate what happened when the explosion took place that elevated Europe, Asia, and Africa and made them appear above the water, we may consider what would happen to a revolving wheel, if a large per cent of its interior should be removed to one side of its surface. It would soon cease to revolve, having lost its balance. Thus, it is said, is what happened to the earth. It lost its balance. The North Pole was turned from the sun, just as the heavy part of the moon is turned from the earth. The temperature was instantly changed and the climate became one of frigidity. All forms of animal and plant life perished. The life of the Arctic continent went out in the terror of darkness and cold. As soon as the earth ceased revolving upon its axis the Polar continent was inundated. The waters, divided by the earth's diurnal motion, divided back. Animals were washed together by the force of the incoming tides. They were thrown in heaps by the force of the rushing torrents. Many of these carcasses were frozen in ice where they are found to this day.

Such is one theory. It seeks support in the words of the scriptures: "The earth standing out of the water and in the water, whereby the world that then was, being overthrown with water, perished." (2 Peter 2:5-6).

Later in the history of the earth another explosion occurred, this time in the western hemisphere. This earth crust was opened almost from Pole to Pole, and the great Rocky Mountain system and other rugged mountains were lifted up above the surface of the ocean. The action of the shell of the earth lying between the Rocky Mountains and the Appalachian system was lifted up and laid in position by the fused matter underneath, until the mountains emerged and the continent became permanent.

By the elevation of the Western continent, equilibrium was again restored to the earth and it began to revolve. It was, however, no longer on a perpendicular line but on a line at an angle of 28 degrees rising to the Arctic preponderance of land in the northern regions. The water again began to recede from the Poles. In the north the Polar continent has already appeared above the water. In the north the frozen waters have not yet been "divided" sufficiently to let the land appear again. But the drift is evidently away from the Pole.

There was an impression at one time among Bible readers that perhaps some part of the Ten Tribes had found their way to a country supposed to exist beyond the northern sea barrier. But there never was, to our knowledge, any sufficient reason for accepting such a theory. The ancient prophets say that the Lord will bring His people

from "the north country" and "gather them from the coasts of the earth." They say that "the days come, saith the Lord, that it shall no more be said, The Lord liveth, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; but the Lord liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north;" but "the land of the north" does not necessarily refer to a land at the North Pole. Any land north of Palestine, where the prophecy was uttered, would be a "land of the north." And the prophecy is being literally fulfilled in the gathering of the latter-day Saints in great numbers from the countries of northern Europe.

WAR IN THE SOUTH.

The Cologne Zeitung is of the opinion that a great war is imminent in South America. Two South American powers, that paper says, are but waiting until their armies are prepared for a conflict, and then the storm will break loose.

The powers referred to are Argentina, and Chile. The Argentine republic, it is stated, chafes under certain boundary rules which exclude her from the Pacific. Brazil and Argentina are both striving to place their armies on a formidable war footing, and Bolivia has called in German army officers to train her recruits. All these signs are interpreted as signifying that war is expected.

South American papers take a more optimistic view of the situation. The Buenos Ayres Promesa says the negotiations between Rio Janeiro and other South American capitals have always concluded happily and that no alarm should be felt over the outcome of the latest diplomatic efforts at an adjustment of difficulties. That paper predicts a peaceful solution of pending problems.

No greater folly could be committed by the South American republics than to engage in a bloody conflict and destroy the fruit of years of peaceful pursuits. Boundary disputes are among the most foolish in which a nation can engage. Nature has erected no boundaries between her children, unless the color of the skin and other race characteristics may be so regarded. People living along boundary lines generally mix and blend in perfect harmony. Even the spoken languages fuse into one dialect. If nations were civilized they would disarm and spend the money now wasted on armies and navies on industrial development. They would invest the enormous sums in productive enterprises and thus increase the wealth and prosperity of all.

A WOMAN AT SIXTY-FOUR.

The superintendent of the public schools of Chicago is a woman sixty-four years of age. The Board of Education recently elected Mrs. Ella Flagg Young to that position. The salary is \$19,000 a year.

The superintendent will have under her charge 255 separate schools and 6,250 teachers. The pupils number 298,427.

This occurrence in Chicago is regarded by the Woman's World, published in that city as "a greater victory by womanhood than many a noisy and expensive suffragist campaign has achieved," and believes that every woman in the land should rejoice in this triumph for her sex.

Many men of national reputation as practical educators were considered for that position. Mrs. Young's immediate predecessor was Edwin G. Cooley, who resigned to become president of a big publishing house. Another former viceroy of the Chicago Public Schools left the presidency of an eastern college to take the place now held by Mrs. Young, and upon leaving that position became the president of a large western university.

The election of Mrs. Young is another illustration of two evident but often disputed facts; namely, that a man or woman may be the most fit for their life's work after passing the half-century mark, and that a woman is as fit as a man for many of the positions hitherto regarded as the exclusive domain of the male sex.

From all that we can learn the schools of Chicago as well as the women of the world and the sexagenarian upon this occurrence and all that it signifies generally are to be congratulated.

OWNERS FIGHT THE LAND TAX.

The political battle between the landlords and the tenants thereof in Great Britain is becoming one of the most interesting contests of recent national issues. The debate also are of the most instructive nature. From the reports that reach this country, it is very evident that the landlords who, according to all school texts on English history, have ruled England for centuries, are being hard hit in the new taxation plans of that country.

England has been described as the "landowner's paradise." Over half of the land of that realm is owned by 25,000 persons. It is now proposed to take by taxation part of the increased value, the so-called "unearned increment," which economists say has not been created by any exertion on the part of those who own the land, but which is due to the mere increase of the population. It is population that makes rental value, and the increase in population is what augments the rent of land itself apart from its fixtures and improvements.

The claim of the Asquith government is that the treasury proposes to take for revenue a portion of the wealth which is "unearned" from owners who are of special ability to pay.

This theory of the origin of rent value, first suggested by David Ricardo of England, and followed to its utmost logical conclusion by Henry George of this country, is today vigorously combated in Britain by the owners of land and by nearly all classes who deal in land as such; that is, by corporations that have invested in land, insurance companies, conveyancers, and others. Defending the proposition of the ministry are many so-called socialist and radical writers. The landowners deny that land

should be distinguished from other forms of wealth, and ask: "Why should you tax one form of wealth and let others alone? A invests his savings in land. If in railways or industrial stock, why should you place a burden on A which you do not place on B?"

The answer of the ministry to this argument is that it is not proposed to tax past but only future "unearned" increments. The past increases in land value, though unearned, have often been sold to those who paid full value for them and thus earned them as much as anyone earns value. In taxing only the future increments, the ministry admits that it might break up some of the large estates by compelling the owners to use them more productively.

But if this is true of national politics where great party principles are often on trial and party interests always at stake, how much more is it true of municipal affairs, on the main and most important issues of which honest men do not differ. How can it hurt any one's political party to elect men irrespective of their political preferences pledged and devoted to the welfare of the city—honesty, efficiency, morality, and economy in its administration? No one has been able to show that such a course, beneficial to all the citizens, might somehow be prejudicial to the larger interests of state or national party issues. Let all who believe in good city government work for that end, instead of working merely for party principles, which have little direct application in municipal affairs, and the reforms which every one desires may be expected to be realized.

The case for the government is put by the Manchester Guardian in these words:

"A tradesman's business or a professional practice may owe some increase of value to the growing size and prosperity of the town. But any increased value here is much less certain, and less valuable, than that of land, its emergence is checked by competition, while land is always a limited supply; it would be impossible in practice to distinguish it from the earnings of ability or enterprise of the business manager or the professional man; its fluctuations could be too intricate. Land is fixed, its rise of value can be measured, and this rise, allowance being made for expenses of development, can be imputed entirely to social causes. Therefore, admitting that there are other forms of unearned increment, there remains a good reason for singling out land values for special treatment. All taxation is in this sense discriminative; it cannot be taken as a reasonable objection against taxing any sort of property or income that you do not similarly and simultaneously tax another sort. If you put a tax on tea, you are not in reason called upon to put a tax on sugar or bicycles. Finally, it must be borne in mind that other 'unearned' incomes do not escape the increased income tax and a vacant lot, though it is not feasible to value them separately for specific taxation as is the case with land value and liquor licenses."

The argument of the opposition is thus stated by the London Spectator: "Is it not rather the fact that the prosperity of a town attracts new people who at once share and increase its prosperity, and that their new competition raises the price of the land? If the town is not prospering no one wants to come to it, and though the ratepayers carry on their self-regarding activities as usual, vacant lots on the outskirts are advertised for sale in vain. That several persons simultaneously want land which a year or two earlier no one would buy does not seem a very good reason for penalizing the landowner in an especial manner, as if he were responsible for other people's desires. When more people than usual want land, it is because of the fact that the price of these things increases. Why not tax the owners as wicked regulators, and again as immoral receivers of increment value which they cannot prove to the satisfaction of the commissioners to be directly due to their own labor?"

The British proposal to tax the "unearned increment," or the rising rental value of land due to increase of population, is attracting the closest attention of political scientists of all countries.

It is perhaps the most notable attempt of this century to change the basis of national taxation from values produced by individual effort to those attributed by the growth of the community itself.

THE BECKONING WEST.

"Wheat, corn, and oats have outdone themselves in fecundity, and mightily will be this year's harvest with three billion bushels of corn, seven hundred millions of wheat, and a round billion of oats, to meet men out of work."

So preaches last week's Collier's, and the sermon is full of the most of truth. The west stands with open arms, hungering for a share of that vast stream of population which we are told concentrates and stagnates in cities. In the great centers of population of the east, their wise men have no moral problem before them today than the question of how to distribute the surplusage of humanity that is fighting for existence in the big cities. Is it not anomalous, even grotesque, that our cities should be groaning with an overload of idle population, while our farmers must see many of their crops perish for lack of help at harvest time, or, what is almost as bad, see the lands that might yield their millions to this world's breadstuffs, lying unused and idle?

A Jacob Hill who can solve this problem—how to depopulate the tenements by populating the farms, may well lay claim to the name of a benefactor of his race.

PARTY OR COUNTRY?

Senator Gore of Oklahoma, a statesman and sturdy Democrat of the highest ability, recently declared on the floor of the Senate that the time has come to vote for Republican nominees if they are better men than the Democratic nominees and stand for the greater advancement of country, rather than of any particular political party.

He was led to this declaration by the fact that a number of Republican "independents" concurred with him against Speaker Cannon, voting for a revision of the house rules and other reforms they believe necessary. Against such men, Senator Gore declared the Democrats should nominate no opponents at the next election.

Knowing well what strict party men would say concerning such a proposition, the Senator continued: "I suppose there will be those who will cry aloud 'Treason!' but if that be treason let them make the most of it. I place my country above my party. And I do not believe that a man who requires a man to be unfaithful to his country. If it does, it is an overfraud on my party loyalty. I would rather see a good Republican in Congress than a bad Democrat."

The independent and agricultural press of the country, with approval to the unusual attitude of party leader in professing the good of the country in the advantage of his party. Thus the Wisconsin Farmer is convinced that this movement will gain momentum as time passes. It says:

"Senator Gore may repeat his statement and the day is not far distant when the amendment it creates will be that a man should say so little and do so much. The American people have never yet failed in a crisis and they will not now. There is growing up a breed who put country above party, the good of all above the good of a few. When those few are the ones whose votes return them to power or not."

But if this is true of national politics where great party principles are often on trial and party interests always at stake, how much more is it true of municipal affairs, on the main and most important issues of which honest men do not differ. How can it hurt any one's political party to elect men irrespective of their political preferences pledged and devoted to the welfare of the city—honesty, efficiency, morality, and economy in its administration? No one has been able to show that such a course, beneficial to all the citizens, might somehow be prejudicial to the larger interests of state or national party issues. Let all who believe in good city government work for that end, instead of working merely for party principles, which have little direct application in municipal affairs, and the reforms which every one desires may be expected to be realized.

Change parties for the municipal dance.

The best return for his service is a kiss.

Scientists can lose their poise as well as other people.

"A man and his wife are soon parted," say the divorce lawyers.

When will Secretary Ballinger issue that bulletin on herpetology?

Talk about being in clover, what is the matter with the honey bees?

The hand that rocks the cradle is never the hand that rocks the boat.

Both Dr. Cook and Commodore Peary should be compelled to pay pole taxes.

Dr. Cook is the positive pole while Commander Peary is the negative pole.

There is little difference between a lone highwayman and a loan highwayman.

What kind of a preservative does Secretary Wilson use for keeping his job?

When one looks at a map of the Arctic regions how very far south Melville island seems.

If high prices do not keep people fat they at least keep them humble. And humility is a great virtue.

What more natural than that college students should indulge in hazing in the fall. It is the season of hazy weather.

"Rah for Salt Lake!" For August it stood at the top for increase of percentage in building. You can't keep a good city down.

The oldest love letter in the world dates from 229 B. C., and is Chaldean. But it tells the same old story that the latest dated love letter tells.

On his western tour President Taft will take the people into his confidence on the tariff question. It is said. This will be something entirely new in taking the people in on the tariff.

If representatives of four parties have approached Mayor Brandford on the question of again becoming a mayoralty candidate, as reported, the office must be seeking the man.

Had Cook come in second in the race for the north pole instead of first, Peary's supporters never in the world would have questioned his statement. They would have called him a great man.

If man ever led the strenuous life, E. H. Harriman did. A dying man, knowing his end was approaching as fast as an express train, he worked up to within one hour and thirty minutes of his death.

If his Wall street interests are protecting the stock market against what would be naturally the depression that would result from Mr. Harriman's death, they are doing a public service, for that is always a public service which prevents violent fluctuations in the market price of stocks and securities.

POLITICAL PLUMS.

The offices to be filled at the approaching New York city election, with the salaries are as follows: Mayor, \$15,000; comptroller, \$5,000; president of the board of education, \$5,000; president of the Board of Manhattan, \$3,500; president of the Board of Brooklyn, \$3,500; president of the Board of the Bronx, \$3,500; president of the Board of Queens, \$3,500; president of the Board of Richmond, \$3,500; four coroners, Manhattan (each), \$4,000; two coroners, Brooklyn (each), \$4,500; two coroners, Queens (each), \$4,500; one coroner, Richmond, \$4,000; 17 aldermen (each), \$1,000; 65 assemblymen (each), \$1,500; district attorney, New York, \$12,000; district attorney, Kings, \$10,000; district attorney, Queens, \$5,000; district attorney, Richmond, \$4,000; sheriff, New York, half fee and \$12,000; sheriff, Kings, \$1,500; sheriff, Queens (fees only), \$10,000; sheriff, Richmond, \$1,500; county clerk, New York, \$15,000; county clerk, Queens (fees), \$15,000; county clerk, Richmond, \$4,000; register, New York, \$12,500; seven judges, \$5,000 each; three justices, \$10,000 each; supreme court clerk, \$17,500; seven municipal judgeships (each), \$10,000—N. Y. Sun.

WORTHY OF NOTE.

The Seattle Exposition merits favorable attention for the simple reason that it is paying expenses—an unprecedented achievement—Springfield Republican.

GATHERED ON THE BATTLEFIELD OF THOUGHT

Language of Simple Genes.

The crowning triumph of English simplicity is the abolition of grammatical gender—that is, gender of words as words, irrespective of sex in the objects they represent. All the other leading languages give masculine or feminine gender to names of objects with which no thought of sex can be rationally associated, as mountains, rivers, trees, clothes, tools, articles of furniture, members of the human or animal body, etc. Some of these languages, as the French, Italian, and Spanish, have no neuter gender, so that every inanimate object must be represented as a masculine or a feminine noun. Hence we often have a quiet smile when the Frenchman or the Italian, in his early experiments with English, speaks of the chair or table as "she." In languages like the Greek, Latin, and German, which have a neuter gender, that gender is sometimes so explicitly applied that a neuter noun may be used for a living being which must have sex, as the German neuter noun Mädchen—maiden, girl, and Web-wife. Ingenious theories have been advanced as to the fixing of gender to inanimate objects on account of fairs, dryads, and other personifications, more or less divine, which were originally supposed to preside over some of them; but the illusive theory, it is said, should be abandoned.

It is a short sightedness, it is not realized that much more is involved than this. Our limited range of vision gives us not only a circumscribed but also a different view of our surroundings. Thus, in admitting nature, the myopic beholds a landscape other than that which spreads before you. Vegetation, for instance, is blurred and soft like an impressionistic picture, the color spreading occasionally as if a child had handled the brush. You see spaces between the clearly-defined leaves of the tree and the light shining through the spaces. I see merely a soft mass with no spaces, the leaves all blotting into one another. The same holds good with other aspects of Nature—it is a world without detail or outline, this giving even solid buildings a cloudy and unsubstantial look. Not only the inanimate, but the animate world presents itself in strange forms to the myopic. Humanity, for instance, is often revealed in somewhat human guise. Thus, so far as our acute demonstration goes, the world to the short-sighted is peopled by men and women as faceless, sometimes even as headless, as the horseman of legendary fame. Indoors myopic persons get quite accustomed to talking with persons who have neither eyes nor nose; and of course the phenomenon is more striking, because oftener repeated. At

quite a short distance the face melts into the atmosphere and becomes either a cloud or, like H. G. Wells' invader, a nothingness. I see the hat and the figure, sometimes the hand; I see the walking-stick—if the hand is gloved this stick is waving miraculously a little way from the sleeve's edge. By a little way from the sleeve's edge, Constance Clyde in the September Strand Magazine.

Progress. Once again Booker T. Of the Washington speaks the Negroes. "He says to the business men of his people: 'A little more than 40 years ago, when the negro was made free, he had almost no acres of land; now he has an acreage nearly as large as New England. Then he had almost no homes; now he has 40,000 homes. Then he had few farms; now he has 200,000 farms. When the American negro was made free, about 2 per cent could read and write, now 57 per cent can both read and write.'—Collier's."

THE OPTIMIST'S CORNER

By George F. Butler, A.M.

There are many little things which it is well to pay attention to in connection with sickness in the home, and the following hints may be found useful: Never stand at the foot of a bed and survey the patient; all nursing should be done from the head end of the bed; do not annoy with a sense of too much presence. Do not sit in the door very slowly, for then the attention is strained, speculating as to the next corner can be after the preparation, and with such caution approach. Low, but clear tones; quiet, but sure movements, and rapid rather than slow, are a great relief to any patient who is blessed with a practical nurse. Whispering is torture. Silence is best until you can discuss science in another room; but if you speak, speak out, and make no mysterious about anything. In severe illness the nurse must watch her patient steadily, but not seem to be looking. In convalescence it frequently soothes the invalid to have the nurse seated at the window, apparently looking out. This frees the faculties from the tension that the sense of being watched usually gives. The sick room should be well ventilated, and above all, there should be an atmosphere of hope and cheerfulness.

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