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black soil, and the broad, satisfied smile of the owner tell the story.

The cultivation of potatoes for industrial purposes, is also a recent industry in Holland. Potatoes are also produced in large quantities for edible uses. About 69,000 acres of potato land produce 40,000,000 bushels of potatoes annually, which are ground into potato-flour, of which 80 per cent is exported. This is 10,000,000 bushels more than that used for the same purpose in Germany. Most of the potatoes, for industrial purposes at least, are cultivated on land which in protection years was considered unfit for tillage. In the same district, very heavy small-grain is now also raised, and the straw therefrom furnishes the raw material for a large and flourishing straw-board manufactory. These two manufacturing industries together, which employ all surplus labor in their respective localities, were conceived in and developed out of the present system of free-trade.

All these figures, facts or statistics that one might tabulate indefinitely, go to show that Holland's agricultural prosperity is great. The proof of it lies in the yearly increasing profitability of the farm, the improved condition of the farmer, and the swelling annual exports of products of the soil. Several farmers told me that this was the result of free trade. They have no antagonism in the way of retaliatory tariff measures in countries where they market their produce. A year or two ago, there was much agitation in favor of a tariff on flour to protect a small milling industry that has grown up but the threat that the United States would retaliate by raising the duty on bulbs and plants, defeated the measure in the Dutch States general.

A wholesome result of free-trade in Holland is the absence of great industrial trusts and monopolistic combinations, with their evil and unlawful operations. The small, independent farmer, tradesman, and manufacturer, are a bulwark of strength in the land. Instead of many small enterprises being merged into one or more large ones, and the small owners becoming hirelings in the great concerns, each man has his own business and is a more contented and valuable member of society.

Statistics also show that wealth is much more equally distributed in the Netherlands than in the United States. There are altogether 1,358 people in the country who have annual incomes of from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Another group of 47 have incomes of \$40,000 a year and upwards, the total income of the 47 being about \$3,500,000 per annum. Holland has 568 millionaires in Dutch currency. Of these 568, there are 302 who possess only one million florins (\$400,000); 110 have one and a half million florins; 136 from two million to five million florins; 15 from five million to ten million; and only five with over ten million. The aggregate capital of the five latter is only \$34,000,000. One of the five has about \$10,000,000, and is considered the richest man in Holland. He is not engaged in any business; all others are active business men. The remainder of the 6,000,000 Hollanders have incomes of less than \$5,000 annually.

In spite of the nation's great aggregate wealth, it is not a country in which great private fortunes have been amassed. There are no idle rich. Unlimited competition has prevented the growth of a favored class. The independent, competitive business policy of Holland is the rock on which her national prosperity is founded.

CURRENT TOPICS

THE story of the Illinois senatorship is told by the Washington (D. C.) Post in this way: Whenever J. Hamilton Lewis comes to town and hits the lobby of the Willard he is almost immediately surrounded by a crowd of friends and admirers, but recently when he walked into the hotel the greeting accorded him was more enthusiastic and clamorous than ever. The universal salutation was, "How are you, senator?" To which the Hon. J. Hamilton replied blushing, "Not yet; not yet." Mr. Lewis bears his prospective honors with becoming modesty, and insists that the Illinois legislature has not yet chosen him to represent his state in the United States senate, and may not do so. "You see, nobody can tell what the legislature is going to do," said Mr. Lewis. "It would be audacious for me to say that a sufficient number of members of the legislature will vote for me to insure my election, although in the senatorial primary my vote exceeded by 12,000 that of any presidential elector. The democrats will lack 4, perhaps only 2, of a majority in the legislature on joint ballot. There are about 24 or 26 progressives, and the remainder are republicans. I have hope and reason to believe that I shall get the votes of the democrats and enough republicans or progressive votes to elect me to the senate, but then, no one can tell any more what an Illinois legislature may do, even when a man is the undoubted choice of his party in the primaries." Asked what the progressives might do, Mr. Lewis said: "I really do not know. Of course, I have seen it mentioned that there may be an agreement among the republicans and democrats whereby I might be chosen to succeed Senator Cullom, and that Senator Cullom might be elected to fill out the unexpired term of Mr. Lorimer. I do not know, as a matter of course, whom the republicans would favor. Both Mr. Cullom and Mr. Sherman are excellent gentlemen, and fitted by character and qualifications for United States senator."

NOT only are Roosevelt postmasters being retired under the Taft regime, but Mr. Roosevelt himself, is being punished, and worst of all, he is being punished with respect to the trophies he brought from Africa. A Washington dispatch to the New York American says: Theodore Roosevelt two months ago visited the National museum to inspect the faunal exhibit collected by him on his African hunting trip and was pleased to find the trophies prominently displayed in the main hall. Today the only occupant of the hall was a lone camel. It will disappear soon and join the trophies removed to obscurity by the regents of the Smithsonian institution. All trophies will probably remain hidden until their captor is purified of the sin of political insurgency. No explanation is given that the main hall of the museum is now to be a hall of fame. Heading the list of the members of the Smithsonian institute is President Taft, and after him are included all the members of the cabinet. Interest in the exhibit, it is said, has been dimmed by recent political activities on the part of the distinguished naturalist.

CERTAIN disputed points in the life of General Stonewall Jackson was the subject of an address recently delivered at Williamsburg, Va., by Dr. James P. Smith. A dispatch to the Richmond Times-Dispatch says: Dr. James Power Smith was the chief speaker at the meeting of Phi Beta Kappa at the College of William and Mary recently. The subject of the address was "Disputed Points in the Life of 'Stonewall' Jackson." As an aide to the great strategist, Dr. Smith knew as no other living man does, the closest and most personal facts of Jackson's life and spoke out of a rich and beautiful love. The imputations of over-ambition, lack of humor, of awkwardness, were all answered by Dr. Smith with point and evidence. He showed the great-hearted, deeply religious, sympathetic, human nature of the man and illustrated it with mirth-provoking and delightfully droll stories and with incidents of such heart-interest as to bring tears to the eyes. He showed the lack of historic basis for the famous Barbara Fritchie story, but paid a beautiful tribute to Whittier, who immortalized the story which was told him by Mrs. Southworth, the novelist, through a poem which Dr. Smith declared to be true to Jackson's humane spirit, if untrue as to real fact. He showed the humanity of Jackson by stating that

as his aide, the speaker himself handled \$30,000 raised under the general's direction for the relief of the suffering people of Frederick, Md. The story of Jackson's little friend, Jennie Corbin, was told, and how she would come to his quarters to play and the general would send the little maid home with his gold braid wound about her hair. Then, at last, when the message came that the little girl was dead, her grown-up playmate sat far into the night hours grieving over the little friend that he was so soon to join. In illustration of the great man's sense of humor, Dr. Smith told many charmingly funny stories. Never, he said, had he seen him more hilariously moved than when he received a letter addressed to "Mr. Stone W. Jackson," which began, "May it please Your Lordship." It was from a woman recently from Ireland, who sought the release of her husband from the guardhouse.

CONCERNING Washington's industrial laws, an Associated Press dispatch says: Since the state industrial laws went into operation in October last year, there have been 228 accidental deaths in hazardous occupations covered by the act. In 133 cases pensions were awarded to dependents. One hundred and four men were killed in lumber and milling, and employers have automatically paid \$403,000 into this state fund. Claims have been paid to injured lumber workers and dependents of \$289,000, and there has been set aside in reserves, \$114,000 to meet pensions. The next greatest death loss was in the coal mining industry, with twenty-one fatalities. In all, the commission has collected \$1,200,000, has paid out on claims \$600,000, has set aside reserves on claims altogether approved of \$284,000 and has a cash balance of \$316,000.

THE first women's jury in Kansas made a record. An Eldorado, Kan., dispatch to the New York World, tells the story in this way: When the first women's jury in a Kansas court of record entered the jury room to begin its duties the twelve paused, a trifle uncertain as to the first move. "I believe we should pray," one said, so the twelve women bowed heads in silent prayer; then one juror led in a spoken supplication for guidance. The jury organized by electing as foreman its oldest member, Mrs. Hattie E. Riley, who has lived in Eldorado forty years. Three hours later the twelve women, escorted by a woman bailiff, returned to the court room. The forewoman gave the written verdict to her husband, W. L. Riley, a regular court bailiff. It awarded the plaintiff \$1,200 damages, based on alleged misrepresentation of a quarter section of land in Gove county. A year ago the same case was tried before a jury of men. They could not agree on a verdict.

THE smallest republic in the world, says a writer in the Philadelphia Public Ledger, is that of Tavolara, a little island situated about seven and a half miles from Sardinia. It is a little more than a mile in length and has a population of 55. The sovereignty of the island was accorded in 1836 by King Charles Albert to the Bartoleoni family. Up to 1882 Paul I. reigned peaceably over his little island kingdom, but at his death the islanders proclaimed a republic. By the constitution of the republic the president is elected for 10 years, and women exercise the franchise. A democratic form of government seems quite the fashion now. The tiny republic on the little island has the same principle of liberty the larger nations have, and France on one side and the United States, the greatest democracy in the world, on the other, will take the hands of this least republic and bid it godspeed.

THE romance of the Rothschilds is just now interesting literary London. A London dispatch to the Houston (Tex.) Post says: London is interested in the efforts which are being made by the London house of Rothschilds to stop the publication of a book dealing with the history of the famous financial family. The volume is entitled "The Romance of the Rothschilds," and the publisher is Everleigh Nash, who, it is understood, told his friends that he was determined to go on with the book despite the objections of the Rothschilds. Arrangements have also been made by Nash for simultaneous