

**Russia's Girl Terrorists.**

It is not a new role that the young women who throw bombs at Russian generals, police chiefs and autocratic ministers have recently assumed with terrible results. Young women have taken a leading part in the work of the terrorists in Russia for a generation. What we now witness is but the logical result of woman's training since the outburst of nihilism which followed upon and was consequent to the violent removal of Alexander II. in the eighties. It was then we heard of young women, some of them mere girls of good lineage, abandoning home and friends and faith to "go to the people," as this phase of social errandism was called. They went from mansions to fraternize with and teach the denizens of hut and hovel. The young Russian women now so ubiquitous and terrible in the work of slaughter are said to be coached by the men of the central committee of revolutionists. But they are not mere hired tools, for they know their business, are at home in official circles and add intelligence if not genius to their vengeful spirit. It was two of these cultured, clever and likewise seductive women who put through the plot to capture the uniforms and equipments of two of the czar's real officers, in which two terrorists masqueraded in the all but successful attack upon Prime Minister Stolypin. The role of the women in this case was subordinate in a spectacular sense, but the entire plot hinged upon the work of these two sirens, work that none but women could perform.

It remains to be seen whether the dreadful exploits these skirted revolutionists engage in is to completely obliterate the natural virtues of their sex. It is easily possible that two women, the czar's wife and the czar's mother, may become regents to rule in the name of the infant monarch. Would the female avengers have a deeper reverence for womanhood than for royalty and would their prayers stay the hands of male assassins when a wife and a mother were marked as victims?

**American Public Spirit.**

"Open confession is good for the soul" that unbosoms itself and also for those to whom it may bring a revelation of affinity with the repentant sinner. Recently a Chicago citizen who during a busy career of money making had been content to let public affairs limp along any old way made a trip to Europe and after visiting several continental cities gave his impressions as follows:

My deepest and saddest impression after a seven months' ramble through Europe is that American cities have not learned the A B C's of municipal government. London, Paris, Berlin, Hamburg, Vienna, Budapest, Amsterdam and Stockholm are far in advance of the best of our communities. Everywhere cleanliness, respect for law and safety of life and property are the rule and not the exception. I diagnose the cause of this superiority as not the higher governmental efficiency of the Europeans, but the higher civic ideals from which the excellence of their institutions springs, the pride of the individual citizens in good government, their readiness to pay equitable taxes and their insistence that the revenue shall be devoted to the objects for which it is levied.

Waiting for others to carry the burden of development is a strong trait with a certain class of Americans, both in the city and in the country. Europeans expect to live all their lives where they are born and to have their children step into their shoes. With them environment is home, and they put their best into it as a family investment. As American society becomes more stable public spirit grows keener and more liberal.

**Newspapers and Sanity.**

Manifestly Sir James Crichton Browne, an eminent English authority on mental and nervous diseases, is not one of those Pharisees of science who join in the condemnation of the press. In an address recently delivered at Blackpool he said:

I say deliberately that the newspaper, with all its faults, is one of the bulwarks of sanity at the present epoch. It is the antidote to corroding egotism and gives a worldwide horizon to the purblind and shortsighted. It is real and earnest in its tragedy and comedy, while a novel is only a make believe. It supplies snacks of biography in the form of gossip. It manufactures heroes by the dozen, and it furnishes an easily digestible intellectual purgative. Many a man has been saved from melancholy and fatuity by his daily paper. Suppress your newspapers, and you will have to enlarge your lunatic asylums.

Sir James may be right. Certain it is that the modern, up to date American newspaper can hardly be charged with producing nerve lassitude or insomnia, whatever its other sins may be.

England thinks it something to boast of that her new poetic genius, Alfred Noyes, "lives by his verse" in an age when "nobody reads poetry." Noyes is an Oxford man, a college athlete and only twenty-six years old.

Russian peasants have begun to knout the knouters. It may be, as some of the critics say, that there are no more poets in the world, but poetic justice continues occasionally to be heard of.

The Antichild Slavery league wants to limit the work of children to eight hours a day. That's right, but how about school work that has to be done at home and keeps them at it till midnight?

**Corrupting New Citizens.**

A feature which counts heavily against the importation of masses of men from the old world who are supposedly ignorant of the first principles of self government is the fact that they tend to settle in the seaports and drift to the slums as a natural environment. There they join in with the lowest elements of society and become a menace to order and good government. Whatever their intentions may be in seeking a home in this land of liberty and political equality, whether noble or mercenary, they never see American institutions at their best and cannot rise to that level of good citizenship which is far and away out of sight and reach of the Atlantic seaport slums.

But there is a very large percentage of immigrants who are actuated by one sterling and lofty motive—the desire to develop themselves and their children on the American plan, something they have been taught to believe is good. They arrive here wearily ignorant, but deadily in earnest in the belief that about everything in America is all right for the poor man. The difference between good and evil must be shown them. They've had no chance to find out under monarchial systems. Here, too, often enters in the political serpent with promises of everything man can desire if only the newcomers will follow his guidance. The poor immigrant does not know the difference between a corrupt Tammany district leader and a real official of the American government. He has seen the well dressed, plausible and good natured fellow around city hall or some other civic headquarters doing official duty and imagines that when he speaks on the street corner or in the back room of a saloon he is talking the best American ideas and is going to break the stranger into ways of honest, progressive and lucrative citizenship. What else could he suppose? Once caught in a trap of crooked dealing he is placated with the assurance that that is the American way, "everybody does that here," whether it be false registering, false swearing, repeating or what not. The poor fellow has awoke to the fact that gold is not picked up on the streets here, knows that he must hustle to live and not be too squeamish about how he gets on. If the original immigrant holds out against temptations his sons quickly "get on" to the American way, and so the slums of Europe indirectly contribute to the American electorate a class of menial, conscienceless and possibly criminal voters. There's a chance for some political missionary right at the landing whenever an immigrant ship comes in.

**Giving Cripples a Lift.**

One of the newest philanthropies that aim at the cure of social ills is the plan of starting a factory for the employment of cripples whose infirmities, great or small, crowd them out of the ranks of wage earners. Many a man is able to earn something, but still cannot keep his end up with sound limbed competitors. Experiments made by relief associations in large cities show that many who are listed in the "down and out" class are simply short an eye, an ear or a couple of fingers or some such matter and are willing to accept short pay. Our industrial system makes no suitable provision for this class.

In the end the proposition to adapt labor to the particular capacities of the employees must be found to pay. Cripples have managed to stub along in little private and one horse industries, and, with capital and business brains to co-operate, the crippled basket maker, cobbler and chair mender who is now being starved out by the cheapening of commodities could be given steady employment at living wages. In a land where there is a dearth of ablebodied laborers no willing hand should vainly beg from his more fortunate brother the simple "leave to toil."

Speaking for his master, the czar, General Kaulbars, the Russian governor of Odessa, recently declared that if one member of the league which is engaged in outrages upon the Jews should be assassinated "Odessa will be inundated in blood." This is a frank admission that the Russian rulers approve of the horrible massacres of Jewish subjects that have occurred within the past few years and makes the czar's protestations of affection for his "little children" a base mockery.

General Horace Porter's report as president of the West Point visiting board, that "hazing has been effectually stamped out" at the Military academy, will give pleasure to every person who has heard of the cowardly and thoroughly brutal assaults on the helpless by their own fellows, while hazing was practiced there, with amazement and indignation.

Webster defines assimilation thus: "To appropriate and incorporate a like substance; to absorb." The joke in the matter of the late Spanish dominions and this country lies in finding that "like substance."

It was President Palma's duty to remain at his post, but he had that false sense of dignity which prompts a statesman sometimes to do the worst thing possible to be done in a crisis.

**The American Voice.**

English newspapers are commenting upon the advice recently given by the head master of a popular boys' school to his pupils. It was that they acquire the American tone and manner of speech. The American style and accent, he declared, are evidence that its possessor is "shrewd, energetic and resourceful," and British youngsters would do well to acquire them if they want to "get on" in the world.

The reports of this radical head master's new departure do not specify the faults of the English way of speech. We do not need to be told the merits of our own way. But a recent screed by William Dean Howells on the American woman's speech may help us to fathom the Englishman's thought. Howells says that many American women manage their voices carelessly and lazily. He would certainly except from this indictment the country maidens and young women who vie with their big brothers in all sorts of activities and jollities, indoors and out. In strange company the American woman is duly modest and shy, but among familiars the particular class of genuine American women here referred to know how to speak out. And that is the main difference between the English schoolboy and his American cousin. It is all a question of speaking the words out clearly and forcibly, a trait commonly called "speaking up." Some American boys, too, have to be told to "speak up." When they get out in the world and begin to hustle, the lesson comes home. Passion never fails to speak up. Earnestness is one form of passion, and the speaker who is earnest—and every boy about serious business should be earnest—will deliver his message and meaning in clean cut language and clear, strenuous tones. This is the American style which the English professor advised his pupils to adopt.

**Cuba's Supremacy In Sugar.**

Professor Julius Wolf of the German University of Breslau appears to be borrowing unnecessary trouble concerning the sugar capabilities of Cuba. He thinks that Cuba may increase its production to five times its present crop, a condition to seriously affect the German producers.

The professor argues that the present cane fields of Cuba cover scarcely more than 1,500 square miles and that despite this fact Cuba already produces more than half as much sugar as Germany, but that 44,000 square miles of arable land are available in Cuba for sugar culture. He estimates that sugar can now be produced in Cuba at \$1.20 per 100 pounds, which is very much less than the cost of producing sugar in Germany, and indicates a great fear of the injurious competition of Cuba with the Germans for supremacy in sugar production.

It is not likely that the kaiser will see a menace to German commerce in the rehabilitation of Cuba, for world economists know that Cuba is passing through a labor famine, and planters have refrained from opening new fields to cane. It is necessarily flattering to Cubans to know what natural conditions they have in the way of sugar production, but for Cuba to produce five times its present crop, or, say, 6,000,000 tons of sugar, would require such a readjustment of the labor question there as seems impossible for many years to come. If Cuba could be assured a good and permanent government, without fear of revolutions, its production of sugar might be largely increased, but the consumption keeps pace with the production.

**Burning Up Money.**

The International Society of Building Commissioners and Inspectors is authority for the statement that in the United States we burn down annually buildings valued at about \$200,000,000 and expend in new construction and reconstruction \$500,000,000. Since we also pay \$300,000,000 for fighting fire, inflammable structures prove to be very costly affairs.

The society asserts that only one building in every 3,000 is fireproof, and that only nominally so, since the so called invulnerable structure is really liable to damage to the extent of 30 to 90 per cent of value. It is claimed by these experts that our \$500,000,000 constructions would cost but \$500,000,000 if they were built so that they could not burn. Measures to abolish fire traps are suggested, among them higher taxes for buildings not fireproof and prohibitive insurance rates on risks that are hazardous.

The sultan of Turkey has again refused to receive the American ambassador in audience. Napoleon held that "cannon are the best ambassadors," and the appearance of an American warship in Turkish waters is probably the only thing that will cause the sultan to admit that we now have an embassy in Constantinople.

What has become of the old fashioned schoolteacher, who boarded around with her pupils? asks an exchange. They give her the money and let her board herself.

Having nothing else to say under the Monroe doctrine, the foreign press sneeringly insinuates that Brother Jonathan has gone pirating for the pearl.

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**C. A. JACK, PRINCETON****The Two-Cent Rate in Ohio.**

The news now comes from Ohio that the 2-cent passenger law promises to force profits into the pockets of the unwilling railroad corporations. That is to say, the reduced rates that were fought as "confiscation" and robbery of the defenseless stockholders have not only brought back a good share of the travel that was lost to the electric lines, but will without much doubt be a source of increased profit to the companies when the time comes for an accurate accounting of this part of the business. The experience of the Ohio roads has had the effect of greatly reducing the opposition to the enactment of a similar law in Indiana. It is now predicted that it will be passed during the coming winter without opposition from the railroads.—Nebraska State Journal.

**An Awful Cough Cured.**

"Two years ago our little girl had a touch of pneumonia, which left her with an awful cough. She had spells of coughing, just like one with the whooping cough and some thought she would not get well at all. We got a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, which acted like a charm. She stopped coughing and got stout and fat," writes Mrs. Ora Bussard, Brubaker, Ill. This remedy is for sale by the Princeton Drug Company.

**Couldn't Use the Prize.**

"I've got you down for a couple of tickets; we're getting up a raffle for a poor man of our neighborhood." "None for me, thank you. I wouldn't know what to do with a poor man if I won him."—Philadelphia Press.

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