

REFORMS IN THE LAW. MOST PROGRESS MADE BY ENGLISH SPEAKING NATIONS.

The most important reforms in jurisprudence of the last century without question have been made by the two great English speaking nations.

Napoleon availed himself of the great opportunity presented to him when he became Consul to reduce the French civil law to a homogeneous system.

Such a work brought into being in that manner and in so short a time must contain many defects, and the French Civil Code has not escaped severe criticism.

The writings of Grotius, of Bynkershoek, of Wolf and of Vattel have produced greater and more beneficial results in the realm of international law, in the Netherlands and Germany especially.

UNIQUE POSITION OF SUPREME COURT.

The position of the United States Supreme Court at the beginning of the nineteenth century was unique. It was the only national tribunal in the world that could sit in judgment on a national law, and could declare an act of all the three powers of the Union to be null and void.

Great progress was made in jurisprudence also in England in the early part of last century, but of course it was not so rapid there as in this country.

PROGRESS SLOWER IN ENGLAND.

David Dudley Field will be remembered as the great codifier of the century. It was the dream of his life to see the body of the common law of his country in its present form in New-York.

But even in the early years of the century this great tribunal had other important problems to solve besides those of a purely technical nature.

judgment of the profession that changes more beneficial have rarely taken place in our law, and that it was a matter of profound amazement that such exclusionary rules had ever had a place in the law, and especially that they were able to retain it until nearly the middle of the nineteenth century.

A LEADER IN REFORM.

In legal reforms the State of New-York has frequently led the Union, and it has sometimes enthusiastically been declared that she has led the world.

The revision of the New-York statutes under the Constitution of 1821 is one of the great achievements of the century in the progress of jurisprudence.

As the natural sequence to the Revised Statutes followed the efforts at codification authorized by the New-York Constitution of 1846.

SOME INSTANCES OF HOW THE 19TH CENTURY IMPROVED FOR THE 20TH WHAT IT RECEIVED FROM THE 18TH.

- RECEIVED FROM THE EIGHTEENTH. The springless stage coach. Tallow dips. The flint and steel to strike fire. The needle. Toothless old age. The quill pen. The necessity of climbing stairs. The wooden water wheel. Crude heliographs. The sickle, the scythe and the flail, the farmer's harvesting tools. Only thirty elements known to science. The slow hand printing press. Setting type by hand. The fire bucket. One man making one pair of shoes in several days. Sixty per cent of the world's area unexplored. Wooden war vessels. Smoothbore muzzle loading guns. Population of the United States, about 5,500,000. Area of the United States, 3,631,000 square miles.

THE LABOR MOVEMENT. ITS HISTORY MOSTLY MADE IN THE LAST CENTURY.

In a general way, the history of the so-called labor movement can be said to have been made in the century just closed, although previous to that the need of organization and concerted effort had been felt by the toilers of the earth in their struggles for sustenance.

It is asserted that the organized labor movement as it is known to-day was first started in Massachusetts when, in September, 1832, a meeting of farmers and mechanics was held in the State House, Boston.

The first trade union—American at least—was organized on January 21, 1834, in the rooms of the Common Council of Boston.

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS. LESSONS THAT MAY BE LEARNED BY THE YOUNG MEN OF TO-DAY FROM EXPERIENCE OF OTHERS.

Possibly the success of no individual movement in the retail development of the retail trade of this country has been so rapid or so unique as the growth and progress of the 5 and 10 cent stores.

HUGE FOREIGN PURCHASES.

Mr. Woolworth himself goes abroad on business every year, and so large is the bulk of the engagements he makes there that the population of several German towns are entirely employed in filling his orders, and when these are given and the price is named they know where their bread and butter is coming from for the next year.

When the newest of the Woolworth stores was opened, June 30, 1900, in East Fourteenth street, no less than 25,000 people entered this huge building during the day.

It is located in the heart of the city's business centre, and was designed with a view of making its every condition favorable to the transaction of business.

The Woolworth building is of the French Renaissance style of architecture, and is built of stone, steel, iron and brick, five stories high, and with a roof garden above surmounted by colonnades and provided with a stage 53 feet wide.

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fully they got to wholesaling five cent goods. It occurred to me that I would like to run a five cent store, but I had no money to get the goods.

"In January, 1870, however, I told my employers of my wish, and they agreed to let me have goods on credit. I got \$325 worth and found a vacant store in Utica. The rent was \$30 a month, and I finally got them to trust me for the first month's rent. I opened up and did very well at the start. But soon business began to fall off. I made the mistake a great many others do. I was afraid to replenish my stock. I did not realize that to sell goods you have got to have goods. The result was that I practically failed.

"I wanted to try it again, and Moore & Smith, against the advice of Mr. Moore, agreed to let me have another bill of goods. After looking for a while, I finally started again in Lancaster, Pa., in June, 1870. I had \$425 worth of goods this time.

"I remember it was a very hot day. Everything depended upon that first day. During the forenoon not a person came into the shop. In the afternoon and evening they fairly mobbed in. We sold \$128 worth of the stock. I telegraphed that night to duplicate the order. Before the goods arrived I had sold everything in the shop. That was the beginning of my success. The result was that within my first year I cleared \$1,500. Then the business began to grow. I started stores in other towns. For the first ten years the growth was slow. Since then it has been more rapid. Now we have sixty stores, all east of Pittsburg.

"Is there the same chance now? I should say so, for the man that is willing to begin at the bottom and take something of his size. The trouble with too many is that they want to begin on too large a scale."

In Lancaster, Penn., where Mr. Woolworth first found success, he has erected, partly by way of commemorating that fact, a business structure that for beauty of design and completeness of detail has few equals in the State.

The music room, which is by all odds the grandest apartment in the house—in fact, the feature of the structure—is finished in pure white and gold, while the walls are hung with red silk, a cove ceiling standing out in relief high over all. Opening off from this striking room is the organ chamber, a most unusual feature, even in the houses of the wealthiest. Here rises, inclosed by an elaborately carved canopy, a large pipe organ, in which Mr. Woolworth has installed at a cost of \$8,000. It is of the most approved pattern, and experts have pronounced it a masterpiece of the usually fine instrument.

It has two manuals, an echo attachment, and an aeolian device, by means of which, if a performer be not at hand, the instrument can be made to play no less than 5,000 different selections.

The decorations of the spacious drawing room are of silver and the walls are hung with white silk. Controlled electric lights illuminate the apartment that no direct ray strikes the eye. All the woodwork of the dining room is of mahogany, while upon the walls hangs the choicest of hand-made tapestry, beneath a ceiling that is panelled in gold. A feature of this impressive room is the mantel, which is of rare Caen stone. The extreme eastern end of this floor is given over to the servants' dining room, the kitchen, storeroom, butlers' quarters, etc.

The construction of this beautiful home has been designed throughout by C. P. H. Gilbert, one of New-York's most eminent architects, while Harvey Murdock is the builder.



THE WOOLWORTH BUILDING, LANCASTER, PENN.

THE MUSIC ROOM AND ITS ORGAN.

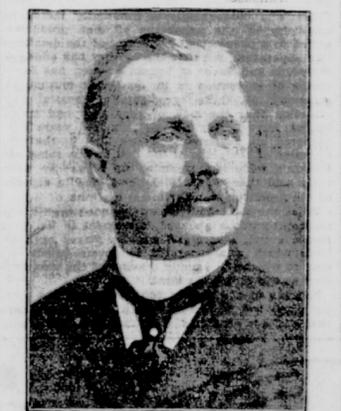
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F. W. WOOLWORTH.

pairs necessary to their clothing. During the recent holiday season these stores did a very large business. In the Sixth avenue store alone they made 44,000 individual sales in a single day. This is larger than the aggregate sales of their great store in Lancaster, Penn., made during its first year's start in that city.

AN ARMY OF EMPLOYEES.

Mr. Woolworth's employes vary in number according to the season. In the holidays they frequently exceed 5,000, while in the dull season, midsummer, they are never less than 1,500. His total expenditures last year were over \$1,000,000, while his salary list exceeds half a million.

F. W. Woolworth, the proprietor of the Woolworth stores, and the man who has pushed the five and ten cent store to its extremely modest beginnings to the great prosperity it has attained in his hands, is typical of the Americans who have pushed their way to success by a combination of an original idea and the pluck to back it up.

Following his graduation, he then went to work in the drygoods store of Moore & Smith, in Watertown. Mr. Woolworth tells the story best in his own words: "The first three months I got no wages and paid \$2.50 a week for board, and the second three months I got \$3.50 a week, and so on. I stayed there six years, and never got more than \$10 a week. I can see now as I look back on it that I wasn't worth anything. But out of that \$10 a week I married and lived, and yet managed to save \$50 a year.

"About this time they put in a five cent counter in the store. It took from the first. Event-

OUTPUT OF CARS AND LOCOMOTIVES.

Figures compiled by "The Railroad Gazette" show that the output of locomotives and cars in 1900 was greater than in any previous year. All the contracting locomotive works built 2,153 locomotives in 1900, or 27.5 per cent more than in 1899, when the record was also broken. Of the total output last year, 305, or about 14 per cent, were exported to foreign countries.

The various car building works in the United States built 124,136 cars during the year as against 120,890 in 1899. Of this output, 43,000 were freight, 1,055 passenger and 6,981 street cars for use in this country, and 2,561 freight, 1,000 passenger and 1,000 street cars for export. The extension of the steel car industry is shown by the fact that of the total freight cars turned out in 1900 12,000 were for export. In 1899 the total was 10,000, while in 1898 but 2,700 steel cars were built.

TRANSMISSION OF POWER.

From The Iron Age. So rapid have been the strides in the successful transmission of power by electricity over considerable distances that the limiting factor is no longer the length of the line to be run, but is now merely a question of the market price at which the power can be sold. Power at a loss of 20 per cent is now being transmitted over an extended eighty miles in California. The electrical equipment of water powers heretofore considered so inaccessible to the Nation, or so valuable are to-day among the most desired of all properties. The electrical transmission of power from the waterfalls of the Nation is now being made to attract the attention of capitalists, and at the close of the year there are several plants of this character in the air, which have proved to be great commercial successes.

By this time other trades not only had their local unions in all the cities and larger towns of the country, but many of them had formed National organizations, including the cigar-makers and printers of New-York. An aggressive union, which became a powerful one, was founded as an educational order by Uriah Stevens, but it became rather a prominent part of the organization in similar industries to engage in a number of great strikes. At one time it was said to have reached a membership of nearly one million, but its power and influence waned largely through dissensions among its members, until now it has only a remnant of its former greatness. Since then the labor movement has grown apace, and other great organizations, some international in their scope, have come to the front, among them the American Federation of Labor, with a membership of one million and affiliated unions in all parts of the country. Business relations have also been cordially through discussions among the Brotherhood of Railroad Conductors and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, and no general all along the line of the mechanical trades. It even reached the miners of the West, and successfully accomplished the objects of organization that from 1875 to 1880 they kept the wages of manual labor in the mines at \$3 a day.

Not least in the splendid achievements of the century were the securing of constitutional safeguards for liberty of speech and of the press. Alexander Hamilton, in the famous Crosswell case in 1840, stirred the hearts of the people to a realization of the wickedness of the old maxim. "The greater the truth the greater the libel," then still applied to cases of criminal libel, and in this State they put an end to it forever by providing in the Constitution of 1821 that in such cases the truth and the good purposes of the publisher might always be given in evidence, and that the jury should be judges of the law, as well as the fact. So now the courts of England are abolishing the old barbaric law of libel, and are permitting the jury to learn by evidence the character of the libel, and to award damages as plaintiff may see fit, in estimating the damage he has suffered by a defamatory publication. HENRY W. SACKETT.