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Stickney's Frank Discussion.

A. B. Stickney generally comes forward with some timely and genuine contribution to the debate. His speech at Washington on the defects of the interstate commerce law is of this character. It is a masterly handling of the subject, from the public standpoint, by a railroad man, and its recommendations are not mealy mouthed.

Mr. Stickney says, give the interstate commerce commission the power to make the whole schedule, arguing that it would be much simpler and more logical for the commission to make a public schedule than to unmake a private schedule in sections whenever complaint is lodged.

Congress will perhaps not go so far as to turn over the initial making of rates to the commission, but we should like to know what kind of a congressman he will be who will hesitate or higgle over the president's moderate recommendations after reading Mr. Stickney's speech. There could be only one of two conclusions drawn from his holding back. Either he is too stupid or too dishonest to serve his country.

Mr. Stickney's remarks illuminate some points in the railroad discussion as they have not been illuminated before. His explanation of the "midnight schedule" is lucid and startling. It shows how difficult it is to make a man honest by legislation when he is dishonest by birth. The "midnight schedule" corresponds to that brand of burglary where there is a confederate on the inside and a gentleman with a jimmy on the outside ready to enter and do business whenever the window is opened for him.

Railroad discrimination has always operated on the principle that any old trick, which was not discovered, was smart business. Only the stupid knaves who got caught were discharged. The others were promoted. Before there was any legal regulation of rates, railroads fought for competitive business with all the cunning and trickery that hunger could suggest. The result was a low average of freight rates and the most wanton and wicked discriminations against persons and places.

The demand of the people at length produced the interstate commerce bill, in which congress for the first time seriously undertook the responsibility of regulating commerce between the states. The railroads paid no attention to this or other acts of congress, except to invent new tricks to beat new laws. They never accepted a law of congress with honest intent to fulfill its conditions. It really seems as tho the railroads have so voluntarily allied with themselves with deliberate lawbreakers, that they have little or no standing in court.

Now comes a class of more enlightened railroad men like Cassatt, Morton and Stickney, who have seen the light, and whose eyes have been opened to the fact that the only possible solution of the rate question is in a frank surrender to the right and duty of the government to make reasonable rates where the public carrier is unable or unwilling to do it. A solid body of enlightened and earnest public opinion has been moulded. The Depews and the old bribing lobbies may fuss about it, and "confer" frequently. They might just as well know, however, that if they can bribe this congress away from assuming the rate-making power, they will have to bribe some other one from taking entire control of the railroads.

Lillian Russell's daughter, Dorothy, has filed suit for divorce. Evidently daughter has been watching mama's career.

The Auto on the Farm.

Some day, in the not very distant future, the automobile will be found on many farms the country over, and the farmers will rank near the top in the classification of callings using the motor car in a practical way. This is at least the opinion of John Carson of Chicago, banker, and president of an automobile club, who has given much time to the study of the automobile and its possibilities.

So many difficulties have been overcome, in the work of developing the automobile, that it is entirely reasonable to suppose that still greater ones can be overcome, and it is by no means an impossibility that the agricultural machinery manufacturers may in time perfect an "auto-reaper" or "electro-binder" or some such hyphenated contrivance. Already the motor is driving big freight trucks thru the streets of Minneapolis, and while the application of locomotive power to machinery intended for use in the open field, upon all sorts of ground and all conditions of soil, is quite a different proposition from propelling vehicles to be propelled over smooth roads or paved streets, there is still no reason to doubt that this will one day be brought about.

Then we shall see the farmer driving his auto-plow, or whatever it may be around the field, and it will not be more wonderful than was the operation of the binder and mower when first these machines came upon the market.

This opens up a wide field for speculation as to the advantages of light autos for use on the farm, and for running into town and back, and it suggests consideration of the effect of such increased use of the auto upon the horse, and the business of horse raising.

Before any of this can come about, however, the auto must be cheapened. There is room for almost illimitable expansion in the business of manufacturing automobiles, but many fields must remain barred, until a serviceable machine can be put upon the market for less money than it now costs.

The twine trust has been tied up by a receivership.

The Straight Edge.

The standard acknowledged straightedge is the only way by which the builder determines the straightness or crookedness of a line in his work. President Roosevelt believes in applying that standard straightedge to corporation actions which bear relation to the welfare of the people of the United States.

There has been a deal of kicking against the application of the straightedge to the moral obliquity of corporations, and yet the nation, by a large majority, stands for maintenance of right principles, or the straightedge, in industrial and transportation and other capitalistic combinations and for relinquishment of the demoralizing assumption that might makes right. The straightedge is a terror to the parties who have been cherishing the latter delusion. They all said that the government talk of applying the straightedge was a bit of vaporing for political effect, but Theodore Roosevelt has never been in the habit of talking into his hat. He has utilized the straightedge with no little effect during during the three years and a half in which he has exercised the duties of the presidential office. The bureau of corporations, one result of his influence, is laying the foundations of future usefulness as a promoter of publicity as to the business of corporations. The straightedge has been applied to the beef trust, which is now aware that it is positively forbidden under the federal supreme court's decision to do any act, the purpose and result of which is to prevent competition and restrain trade in dressed meat, or in live cattle. The straightedge application dissolved the Northern Securities company, under a decision of the supreme court, widening the effective power of the federal government to correct the obliquity of interstate corporations.

The president's insistence upon the application of the straightedge has brought about agreement of the house interstate commerce committee upon a railroad rate measure which more nearly approximates the terms of the president's recommendations in his annual message than any bill yet presented, and which may be passed at this session by the house, altho probably destined to fail in the senate. The measure, however, if killed by the senate, is likely to become the basis of legislative action, if the president calls an extra session of the Fifty-ninth congress.

The emphatic call for the straightedge application by the president in his message touching rebates, was flavored with the categorical imperative—"Whether the shipper, or the railroad is to blame makes no difference; the rebate must be stopped; the abuses of the private car and private terminal track and sidetrack systems must be stopped."

Not only does the president insist upon the application of the straightedge to such matters of business relations, but he is thoroly justifiable in bringing the line and plummet to bear upon the family relation and the necessity of securing the best material conditions for the healthful propagation of the race and maintaining the ancient tradition—the man with the prime duty as breadwinner; the woman, with the prime duty of maternity and the housewife and no national decadence. The abominable moral obliquity of lax divorce laws in most of the states, varying in terms to a frightful extent, is the theme of the president's message to congress on Monday, suggesting the importance of securing marriage and divorce statistics of a reliable character. In his address to the Annapolis cadets, this week, the future naval officers were given some effective glimpses of the straightedge, as when speaking of the duty of concentrated application to their preparatory studies, he declared: "One of your great duties is to see that shots hit."

There are people who object to having the straightedge, the standard of righteous conduct, confronting them thru the president's public utterances so frequently. They think it savors of the daily repetition to King Philip of Macedonia by an obsequious courtier: "Philip, thou art mortal." But it may be remarked, there is no obtrusion on the part of the president. The nation needs the holding up for inspection of the straightedge by its first citizen, who can talk to eighty millions of people or more, because it has reached a point in its career, a crisis of a moral nature, when, in a peculiar sense, the battle of obligation against inclination, of right against might, and of conscience against expediency is on, nationally as well as individually.

Cheerful gentlemen are Maxim Gorky's publishers at this season.

A Great Market.

The demand from Port Arthur for flour, provisions and stores of all kinds was so great after the surrender that rush orders even came to the Pacific ports of the United States. The Portland Oregonian says that "these orders and those which were rushed forward just prior to the opening of hostilities, show the tremendous trade possibilities for this country when the final peace settlement is made. Estimates made several weeks ago on the cost of the war placed the figures in excess of $500,000,000. All of this vast sum is practically waste that must be made good as soon as possible after the declaration of peace, and great as its proportions now seem, they are small in comparison with the new trade which will spring into existence with the advent of a modern civilization." This new market seems to be worth all the trouble Secretary Hay is taking to secure its freedom of trade.

After all, about the best argument the socialists have is the United States senate.

The Demand for Gold.

Wall street is now concerned with consideration of whether or not the outward movement of gold, that is gaining in volume, is to have bad effect upon the bull market in stocks. Six millions have been shipped within a day or two and $2,000,000 more engaged yesterday. This is really not much gold, considered relative to the supply, and gold stocks on our side are so heavy that it has been estimated $50,000,000 might go to Europe without changing our position sufficiently to cause a rise in money rates. Nevertheless, an outward movement of gold, in appreciable quantity, is not a good sign as a rule, and, following long-continued strength, has frequently in the past been found to be coincident with the beginning of a downward trend in the securities market.

This makes an influence adverse to further gains, in a market dominated by bullish sentiment, and a situation, favoring in the main, full maintenance of values. The commercial reports of the country are for the most part good, and the industrial outlook increasingly favorable. Prospective legislation affecting railroad rates and looking towards tariff revision has been used as an argument against prices with some little effect, and has probably spent its force, at least for the present. Unfavorable features, as, for instance, the rate disturbances in the west, resulting principally from competition between gulf lines and the Chicago roads, are more than offset by other things favorable, as continued heavy tonnage offerings for the railroads and activity in the steel industry. There is, moreover, a large amount of idle money seeking profitable fields, and investors are confident. In general summary, the showing is on the side of strength. It remains to be seen whether the European demand for gold will draw down American stocks to a point low enough to harden loan rates and put a damper upon speculation.

Paris is getting the gold. France has no need for it now, and, indeed the last statement of the Bank of France shows a good general condition. But there is disposition in Paris banking circles to anticipate. The time may come, before long, when Paris will need gold in reserve to strengthen her position. She cannot draw from London, for the English bankers expect that Japan will want more money, whether hostilities cease or not. Berlin is unwilling to weaken her position to help the Paris reserves, for she, too, is interested in Russia, altho to no such degree as is Paris. New York affords a good mine from which to draw, for in our country everything is prosperous, money is plentiful and rates of interest moderate.

The entire world of speculation hangs upon the Russian-Japan war. A victory or substantial diplomatic gain for either country would have its effect, and a peace declaration would be as great an influence for general enhancement as could develop.

The Illinois legislature has appointed a committee to investigate itself. The press is barred. Perhaps the legislature will find itself guilty of boodling! Perhaps.

The Senate Is the Boss.

The rules of the United States senate do not provide for closure of debate. No measure can pass that body until each senator has had the opportunity to debate it to his heart's content. It is thus within the power of a small minority or one senator to block legislation almost indefinitely. Examples of this are common in the annals of the senate.

The theory upon which such power is vested in a single-handed senator is that each member represents in himself the sovereignty of a state and that until that sovereignty is satisfied proceedings should not proceed. Some efforts have been made to change the rules of the senate, notably the campaign of Mr. Mason a few years ago for closure. He accomplished merely his own extinction from politics. The theory of sovereignty and the traditions of the senate were too strong for him.

Similarly in the house until Reed's time the minority by means of the rules could hold up an important measure indefinitely. This was accomplished usually by tedious speeches on everything but the question of the hour, to be followed by dilatory motions, involving tedious rollcalls which wore out the members. When every other form of obstruction was exhausted, the minority would flee to the cloakrooms and endeavor to leave the house without a quorum. These tactics when successful necessitated a call of the house and more tedious waiting.

When Thomas B. Reed became speaker, he announced that he would count as a part of the quorum those members not voting, whom, his senses told him, were present. There was at once a terrible outcry from the minority, but the speaker stood firm, and his ideas of parliamentary law were eventually incorporated in the rules of the house. In a succeeding congress when the democrats had a majority, and elected Judge Crisp of Georgia speaker, the Reed rules were abandoned. The house immediately fell into anarchy, and the democrats were forced to restore them. This was the end of the filibusterer.

From that time the importance of the house as a legislative body declined until under Speaker Henderson it became a mere machine for registering the decrees of the committee on rules.

Meanwhile the senate had grown very much in importance and self-importance, by the opposite policy of unlimited debate. When the president wished to put some measure thru the house, he had only to secure the co-operation of the committee on rules. But when it came to the senate, every member had to be considered satisfied.

The senate has thus, from a coordinate branch of the legislature, advanced to the position of keystone of the government. This might have been not so bad had the senate maintained its ancient standing. But the senate has grown to a body of ninety members; its character gradually changed by accreations from new, raw states and by the subtle change of its personnel. From a great body of statesmen it has swelled to a large body of special agents of commercial and industrial institutions. The railroads, the sugar and oil trusts, the bloated beneficiaries of the tariff today have a majority of the senate.

They are enabled to maintain this ownership mainly thru the method of electing senators by legislatures. The senate rules do the rest. It is only by herculean efforts that the people in any state can elect a reform senator. It is only by methods akin to revolution that they can blow a trust-ridden senator out of his intrenchments.

Ther has grown up a demand for the direct election of senators on the principle that if they are the representatives of sovereign people, let the sovereign people elect them. The allied interests that now control the upper house can be relied upon to fight this reform to the last ditch.

It is a reform which means much. It is the first step toward bringing the senate into a proper subjection to the expressed will of the people. But it can be brought about only by a demand from three-fourths of the states asking for a constitutional amendment. If the people understand their stake in the character of the United States senate they will make that call.

In New York a company has been formed to import small packages of earth from the Holy land. A much more fertile soil could be secured in Minnesota.

The Duties of a Director.

The sharp criticism of the directors of the defunct First National bank of Faribault, emanating from the office of the controller of the currency, and printed in the Washington dispatches of The Journal of yesterday, touches upon one of the live financial questions of the day—the duties of a corporation director.

It is alleged that the Faribault bank directors met but once in every six months. If this be true, it is sufficient in itself to indicate that there was lack of that close supervision necessary to the safeguarding of the interests of the depositors.

The question of the obligations upon a director takes on many different forms. Not very long ago, in the interest of law enforcement and general morality, a great fight was started in New York, against the poolroom evil. It resulted in disclosure of the intimate relationship between telegraph companies and these gambling places, and the charge was made that the telegraph companies were fostering the evil and promoting its spread, the poolroom wire service affording large revenues.

Nothing resulted from this charge, however, until the Wall Street Journal printed a list of directors of the telegraph company, under the head of men engaged in the disreputable poolroom business. Then there was sensation, for on the list were men of great wealth and high social standing, financiers, lawyers, club members, church members, United States senators. Something had to be said on their side and so the public learned that the directors knew little of the internal workings of the company, that many of them rarely attended the meetings, and that the policy of the mangement with reference to increasing the earnings was a matter with which they did not concern themselves, being content to know that their financial interests were protected and the dividends regularly paid.

The incident served to stimulate general public interest in the duties of a director, a consideration fitting in well with the call for greater publicity of corporate affairs, now the feature of the day in American economic thought.

More recently the directors of the American Grass Twine company have been compelled by the courts to pay back to that company about $650,000 representing dividends illegally declared. A stockholder of the American Malting company has just won a suit against that company of a somewhat similar nature. All over the country, the men who sit on the boards of great concerns are beginning to take notice, for it has begun to look as tho the time is passing when a number of men, controlling a big corporation, can be guided in administration of its affairs by consideration of the effect of their actions upon the stock market value of their holdings, rather than by conservative consideration of the greatest ultimate good to the whole body of stockholders.

We are not far from the day, when to be a director of a corporation will mean much more in the way of responsibility and men who accept positions on company boards will have to understand this.

There is an old railroad directors' idea, that is dying hard, that the railroads are private concerns. It is difficult to make the old-time railroad capitalist admit that public or governmental inquiry into the management of the roads for the correction of an evil, or the general public good, is not interference with private right, but he will have to see it some time.

Just so, there are many directors who have thought of their positions primarily as affording them opportunities and advantages not accruing to the ordinary stockholder, but they also will have to change their views, and come to see that as directors they are supposed to be principally concerned with the safeguarding of the interests of the stockholders, and that there are certain duties to be performed, failure in which will get them into serious trouble.

Mr. Stickney says that in England the laws against taking free transportation are obeyed. When the members of parliament ride they pay and when the king orders a special train he pays the tariff for a special train. In America courts, sheriffs, county attorneys and councilmen all unite to secure laws against passes and then they all unite to break those laws. The people get mad at the railroads, but they are not altogether to blame. It would be a very stupid railroadman who would ignore a request for a pass from a district or supreme judge.

Who Gorky Is.

Alexei Maximovitch Pyeshkoff is the family name of the Russian author, Maxim Gorky, who was arrested in connection with the revolutionary movement at St. Petersburg on Sunday two weeks ago. He is of the school of realistic writers and has accumulated the material of his novels by extensive wanderings over his native country as a tramp. The varied scenes of his vagabond life among the lowest class of the population have furnished him with the material for his subsequent literary work. It is everywhere tinged with the note of pessimism, as might well be the case with a Russian sincerely concerned for the future of his country and his people.

Whether his arrest shall result in his deportation to Siberia is among the mysteries of the present situation in St. Petersburg. The grand dukes have no use for literary men, especially those who dare to speak for the people as Gorky has done.

Elmer H. Dearth, former insurance commissioner, displayed an unwillingness to talk to the house committee on public accounts yesterday afternoon, that some consider peculiar. Mr. Dearth was asked whether he received any part of the fees paid the actuaries for valuing policies. He replied that the question was hardly fair, and declined to answer it. There is no use in embarrassing Mr. Dearth. His silence is an admission that he got the fees, so let it go at that.

Because President Alderman, the head of the University of Virginia, recently deplored the quality of the men in public life in the south, Senator Bailey of Texas says he will no longer countenance the movement to secure an adequate endowment for the famous university in which Jefferson took such pride. This action shows that President Alderman was right in one case, at least.

These merger rates as compared with those on competing lines (see Litchfield case)—are they to be taken as an evidence of the benefits the public derives from railroad consolidation?

NEWS OF THE BOOK WORLD

THE UNEASY CHAIR

A Prodigal Who Dies Two Deaths: Another Intense Story by Hall Caine.—The prodigal in Hall Caine's The Prodigal Son sets out for his far country from Iceland. He does not go, however, until his selfishness and unstable character have brought ruin and sorrow upon two families which have hitherto known little but the joys which a kind heaven and a simple life have to give. When he goes away, therefore, he has no inheritance to squander and almost at once finds himself among swine and filling his belly with husks. His extremities soon drive him to permit the desecration of his wife's grave, to desperate playing at Monte Carlo, to cheating at cards and to his first death—refuge in a false report of his suicide, which forever forbids his use of his name again. Then follow years of toil as a composer, under an assumed name, financial success and restitution to the remnant of his family in Iceland, but no escape from that ultimate bitterness which is the harvest of evil sowing and from that death which is the wages of sin.

The future prodigal, Oscar, returns from Oxford to his home in Iceland, a young man of attractive appearance and promising qualities, of mind at least. He finds his brother, Magnus, pledged to marry Thora, a lovable Iceland maiden. Magnus loves the girl, but she has given her consent to the arrangement only because she respects his manly qualities and because it is the wish of her father. Oscar, however, wins her heart, and Magnus, seeing the situation, surrenders his claim to the girl in order that she may find happiness with Oscar, but makes an awful threat of vengeance on Oscar, should he desert or bring sorrow upon Thora. Helga, Thora's sister, then comes upon the scene from Europe, where she has been educated, and Oscar's devotion to Thora weakens. But to escape his fascination for Helga he marries Thora. Then comes the tragedy. It breaks upon the head of little Thora, who believes that her child will bind her husband's heart to her against all the attractions of the beautiful temptress, Helga. Helga fears the thing that Thora hopes for, and cunningly plots to have Thora's babe taken from her. The plot succeeds, and from it springs a brood of devilish consequences, including the prodigal's departure.

This is melodrama, spelled thruout with capitals. There are the necessary abundant ingredients of romance and agonizing situations. These are of such proportions, indeed, as to make a veritable saga, but the proportions are well preserved for the most part, and the grotesque is avoided, except, perhaps, in the case of Magnus, who now and then comes close to tearing passions to tatters. Thruout, however, Mr. Caine shows more restraint in the intensity of his situations in "The Prodigal Son" than in some of his other books, "The Manxman," for example, tho there are quite enough "bleeding arteries," "torn tendons" and the like. In spite of these, or, perhaps, because of them, it is not difficult to see why Hall Caine is widely read.

D. Appleton & Co., New York. $1.50.

MADONNA.

The same rich hair is yours, the sweet, deep eyes
That meet us in old frescoes, where are wrought
The prayers of the old masters as they sought
To paint Christ's mother. And that look defies
The world and time—bright as the morning skies
With love and trust; as listening you had caught
The glory from them, or some holy thought
Or whispered promise out of paradise.
Press that wee, sleeping bit of humankind
Close to your breast, and sit here at my feet,
I see—no, Raphael, Guido were not blind!—
'Twas such as you at twilight came to greet
Their tired footsteps at the door, that taught their art
To weave its sainted spell about the heart.

—Charles Coleman Stoddard, in the February Booklovers' Magazine.

Do Prisons Do Nothing to Reform Prisoners?—"No. 1500," the author of Life in Sing Sing, says Sing Sing, at least, does nothing to reform those who serve sentences therein. He puts it even more strongly, for he says:

> There is not a single indisputable case of a reformed character in the whole history of Sing Sing that can be placed to the credit of the agencies aimed directly to that end.

The reason he gives is a bit strange, tho it must be understood to be only a partial reason and to apply to the period of the author's service, which, however, is rather recent. He says that reform agencies fail largely because the idea of graft permeates the institution, so that the prisoner leaving it goes out as from a school of thievery, "with dishonesty in every fiber." The case of Sing Sing he regards as typical.

"No. 1500" writes as one who has been observant and is anxious to tell the truth. He certainly gives a graphic picture of prison life as he found it, in serving a ten years' sentence.

The Bobbs-Merrill company, Indianapolis.

With the Long Bow.

—"Eye nature's walks, shoot folly as it flies."

A few violets dotting the greensward wouldn't go so bad.

Do you remember when water used to run in the streets?

How would you like to smell a lilac bush in full bloom.

An organization of corner lot owners, who own 50 or 100 feet one way and 150 feet the other, and who get very busy after every snowstorm, has been formed and will volunteer to dig the Panama canal.

Some years ago the Peary expedition brought back an Eskimo boy, and the New York papers report that he is just delighted with this weather. That boy ought to be under engagement to the state to do time with a hammer on the rockpile.

Dr. Dowie is spending the winter in Bermuda, where the onion comes from, to regain his strength.

A Roman literary authority says that there are over 1,000 minor poets in Rome. As a literary center, Rome is beginning to crowd Indiana a little.

It seems strange to think that about three-fourths of the Russians do not know anything about the trouble they are having. There are no papers of any circulation and the people couldn't read them anyhow. Russia needs a strong dose of the little red schoolhouse.

Effective bombs as big as a lemon may now be made for 9 cents each, says an European dispatch. How would you like to be an autocrat?

How do you like the thought of March 21, 12:57 a.m.? That is the date of the official opening of spring.

In a New York restaurant the other night a fine-looking woman fainted artistically. A thoughtful stranger and two waiters ran to her assistance. She recovered quickly and asked for water. Both waiters hurried after it, while the young woman threw her arms around the stranger and sobbed hysterically on his shoulder. The moment she got a drink of water she revived and hurried from the restaurant.

The stranger sat down to his luncheon and marveled at the young woman's quick recovery. He felt for his wallet and it was gone, with $195. He ran out and captured her just as she was boarding a cab, and the goods were found on her. The next time he sees a woman faint in an artistic manner this young man is going to run.

We regret to see any ill-feeling arise between the ladies and the church, and we note with pain that the Woodlawn (Ill.) Ministers' association caused the arrest of Mrs. Lena Gehrig, a respectable woman, for giving card parties exclusively for women in her home, for which 25 cents a seat is exacted, and painted china distributed as prizes. The Rev. M. P. Boynton and the Rev. R. H. Little asked for the warrants, charging gambling, and obtained them. Mrs. Gehrig admits that 25 cents a seat was charged, but claims that it was for luncheon expenses.

"The right to give prizes in card games," says Mrs. Gehrig, "is based on the same principle as competitive prizes to students and athletes."

The women are all church members, but relations are strained just now and the ladies are freely stating that they expect to worry along hereafter without the aid of the ecclesiastical organizations. Brethren, let us not stir up strife; let us rather labor with the erring in the spirit of meekness.

—A. J. R.

WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK

Canadian Wheat Imports.

To the Editor of The Journal.

That our export flour trade, the chief factor in the development of the northwestern prairie farms, should be held in imminent danger of extinction, does not seem to enter into the consideration of your recent correspondents, Messrs. Oliver Dalrymple, Anson, Neilson and Wellman; otherwise they would not oppose the importation of Canadian wheat for milling purposes.

These gentlemen are types of a large class of farmers and others who seem oblivious to the fact that for many years the Minneapolis millers have stood between the farmers and the foreign market, paying higher prices for the best milling grades of wheat, in order to maintain the world-wide reputation of Minneapolis flour.

The northwest is dotted with hundreds of country mills, where, in order to get the best and retain the reputation of their particular brands, that are largely exported, a higher price is paid for wheat than can be obtained at local elevators.

Mr. Dalrymple can confirm this from his personal knowledge that at Casselton, N. D., where his great farms are situated, the few grain elevators have but a small proportion of the business, because of the better prices paid by the local flour mill.

These country millers buy wheat on its merits directly from the farmers, and without state grading. Minneapolis millers, in keen competition with each other and with buyers for numerous mills in other states, also purchase wheat on its merits, from samples taken each day from every carload as it arrives here, and actually pay premiums above the values indicated by the state inspectors' grade.

Owing to the ravages of black rust last summer, the spring wheat crop was of poorer quality than ever known before, and the very competition between millers to obtain the best milling grades of this short crop has been the direct cause of prevailing high prices.

Yet we are confronted with the amazing spectacle of large numbers of farmers opposing the only course possible that can prevent the total loss of our export milling business, notwithstanding their immediate pecuniary interests lie in retaining and extending this as the principal wheat market of America and the primary flour milling center of the world.

Never was there a more apt illustration of "Killing the goose that lays the golden egg."

Argument would seem to be unnecessary to show that disaster will inevitably fall upon our milling industry should your correspondents' opposition prevail, for they certainly know that our milling capacity far exceeds the requirements of local and internal consumption; indeed, its present magnitude has been achieved only thru increased foreign export business.

Therefore, when these mills cannot procure sufficient quantities of home-grown wheat, they must of necessity be obtained elsewhere to avert the calamity of our export flour trade being diverted to Canada.

This direful result would mean the loss of vast fortunes invested in milling plants, especially in Minneapolis and the spring wheat belt; the discharge of many thousands of people directly and indirectly engaged in the flour milling, cooperage and many other manufacturing and transportation agencies.

Surely your correspondents cannot have given heed to the disastrous effects that the wrecking of one of our chief national industries will have upon the prosperity of our country.

Farmers should know that of late the mills of Minneapolis have been "closed down" more frequently, and for longer periods, each year, because of the annually decreasing proportion of milling grades in our spring wheat crops; also, that only the importation of Canadian wheat in bond has enabled the millers of this city to hold a portion of that immense export trade which they had built up during the past quarter of a century.

Still, in these times of millers' perplexities, we find the farmer advocating a policy that will not only deprive him of a high-price home market for his wheat, but will also be a potent influence in the development of Canadian wheat and flour industries.

Of course, all crops are subject to climatic influences and the black rust of last summer may have been due in some degree to them, but that evil was immeasurably increased by years of careless cultivation of the soil, and chiefly in utterly ignoring nature's law of "the survival of the fittest" by culpable neglect to select none but the finest quality grains for seed.

In the eighties No. 1 hard was the contract grade; in the nineties No. 1 hard had become so scarce that No. 1 northern was made the contract grade; in the succeeding decade No. 1 northern has become so rare that for the past three years there has been increasing agitation by a large section of prominent grain men to have No. 2 northern substituted as the contract grade.

Thus has the quality of spring wheat been deteriorated and by reason of lower vitality became a ready prey to the attack of black rust.

Mr. Neilson has qualms as to "What effect the dumping of the offal on the domestic market would have on the value of oats and barley." He should know that the best grades of barley are always in demand for malting purposes, and that the market price of inferior barley and oats is governed by the price of corn, these three kinds of grain when mixed being converted into "ground feed." But wheat offal, consisting of bran, shorts, etc., is termed "mill feed." These two kinds of feed possess such separate and distinct economic values as foodstuffs that, practically, they are noncompetitive.

Thru increasing demand in recent years the price of all feed has risen over 400 per cent, therefore, as to the effect on prices of this prospective "dumping," any of the army of dairymen, teamsters and stockowners could reassure Mr. Neilson.

Every farmer must know that the world's ultimate wheat market is Liverpool, and that the price of wheat in every part of this and every other exporting country (except at milling centers) is the price made in Liverpool, less freight, etc., to that port, by the competition of wheat from all quarters of the globe with our export surplus.

Even speculators and "corner" manipulators have to base their calculations on the Liverpool price.

When farmers learn to view these indisputable facts from a personal, instead of a partizan standpoint; when they cease to confuse "politics" with political economy, to their great pecuniary loss, then, and not until then, will they understand that, when the price of wheat rises above the export market price, the increase is caused by temporary and abnormal conditions; also that such prices cannot continue without reaction upon our agricultural prosperity.

Should we have a succession of poor or rusted crops, which seems probable from past experience, the superior Canadian grain will inevitably supplant our exports of wheat and flour.

This would be calamitous to, and a permanent reflection upon the business qualifications of the American farmer.

—Alfred Sherlock.

Minneapolis, Jan. 31.

NOT INFLUENCED THAT WAY

Kansas City Times.

In conducting the case against Senator Smoot before a senate committee Judge Taylor asserted that one great reason for exclusion was the fact that the Utah senator believed in revelations from heaven. Apparently the members of the upper house have realized perfectly the odium which they would incur among their colleagues were there to be any hint that their conduct was influenced by considerations from on high.

A SERIAL MATTER

Washington Post.

Mrs. Chadwick says it will take months to tell her story. That's the strongest hint yet that it was to be told in a magazine.

LOVE VS. MAMMON

So you are strong?
I've often heard it said
In many ways you are,
And yet I know,
And so do you,
Vast hoarded sums,
Faith, Power, Place, anything you will—
You'd gladly give
Could you possess
By their exchange
A woman's tender touch, and,
In the eyes of her,
See Love and Passion flash
For you alone.

—William S. Lovegrove.