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Inadequate Transportation.

The railroads have been the great developers of the country. Rail transportation has given the American people possession of thousands of miles of productive area which, without their aid, would have been practically unoccupied to this day.

Such has been the history of things for half a century, from the time when the frontier was reached on the banks of the Mississippi till that retreating line was forced back to the Pacific ocean.

And yet now, at the very hour of the country's greatest prosperity, when the evidences of commercial stability and strength are strongest, and when the development of our resources and the volume of business rises to unprecedented heights, the railroad interest alone of all the great industries of the country seems to falter and lose its confidence.

That is one explanation of the present deplorable insufficient transportation service of which the public justly complains. Other excuses and explanations are given. The policy of making every car earn money for every mile over which it turns a wheel—no empties hauled—is one explanation.

In the absence of agreement among railroad men themselves as to the reason, the first one seems to be generally regarded as perhaps the most probable and least calculated to provoke hostile criticism. It means that the railroads have fallen down. They figured each year that the next would be the last without a break in the prosperity of the country, and they refused to keep their equipment up to the increasing demands of the country.

The railroads are public servants. They are failing to render a fair and reasonable service. The government is going to find out why. That is the new phase of the car-shortage problem, and it opens a new field of activity for the power of the state, which has undertaken to control the railroads. This inquiry will be undertaken in no spirit of hostility or reprisal, but for the sole purpose of ascertaining what the public has a perfect right to know and to have remedied as far as practicable and as soon as possible.

This is an important move on the part of the government, but our Washington dispatches today say that it is sure to come. Whether the interstate commerce commission possesses any power to compel the railroads to meet the demands of the business world may be doubted, but if it will develop the facts, public sentiment will do the rest—it will condemn and make such a demand upon the roads for fair and reasonable service that they will presently acquire a larger faith in the permanency of our prosperity and make haste to catch up with the procession.

matters in the state and has lent an intelligent assistance in formulating legislation for the country on insurance matters. An executive should have credit for the good work done by his appointees and Governor Johnson is entitled to point to the insurance office as a department in which his administration has won distinct credit.

The Creative Spirit of Today.

Several of America's best-known literary men have contributed to a symposium in the Outlook, answering the editor's question, "The Creative Spirit in Literature, Is It Dead or Dormant?" The note of optimism is strong in all their replies. None will admit that literary genius is dead, and they are loth to admit that it is sleeping.

"This may be granted. But the self-deprecating air of the 'writing person,' tho he may be too self-conscious, is a pretty reliable index of the fact that the master touch of genius is seldom to be found in all of our vast annual disgorgement of literature. Writing men realize that the spirit of competition, of commercialism, has pervaded the field of letters as it has everything else in modern life.

The man who has once made a name that is a drawing card cannot write enough to satisfy the clamor of those who make books and magazines. It is impossible to shut out the siren voices, to think, to dream, to work for the pure, careening love of the written thing. The writing man beats from the forge of his brain a new idea. Before it is pounded into shape it is sold for delivery on a future day, just like the wheat ripening under the summer sun.

It has gone out as never before into the realms of material things. In literature, we may be sure, its brighter day is to come. By the merest chance while pursuing her admirable habit of reading the papers, Mrs. Henry Hyde of Patchogue, L. I., learned that her maternal uncle, John Russell, had died, leaving \$100,000 and no heirs.

At all stages of the history of this city there have been men who have conceived great things for Minneapolis, who have looked into the future and anticipated in large part what has afterward been accomplished. Some of them have had little credit at the time for the exercise of common sense, and the evolution of practical ideas. It has only been after the city has overtaken their imagination and surpassed their fondest anticipations that the general public has been able to do them justice, and credit them with having a better conception of what the city is to be than those who have been their severe and ready critics.

Such a plan of reconstruction of our city as is proposed by the architects who submit the plan outlined today, will probably meet with little respectful consideration at this time. Probably everyone who prides himself upon his practical view of things will regard this as entirely beyond the range of the feasible. Certainly it would be if it were to be regarded as something to be accomplished in the immediate future.

Science is continually bestowing new blessings on her children. The latest is what has been called "the mother-in-law plant," botanically known as defenbachia. Its peculiar property is that its juice so paralyzes the tongue of him who bites the stalk that he must be mute for seven days. The possibilities of this discovery are tremendous. Setting aside as flippant the suggestion that mothers-in-law may be thus silenced unawares, we may consider what ineffable peace would fall upon the land for a whole week were the peerless Willium Jennings Bryan induced to masticate the defenbachia in a moment of inadvertence. Or suppose that a cigar with a defenbachian wrapper were handed to Senator Tillman at the precise moment when he was about to set off some oratorical fulminate of mercury. Might he not think better of his negrophobic tirade after a week of thoughtful muteness? And then there would be Forensic Foraker—what joy would reign in the senate if he should hap to borrow a chew from a colleague just before ringing the Fire Alarm and should by accident get a wee bit of the wonderful plant in question!

The man who talks too much is continually getting himself—and others—into trouble. Why not empower the courts in all such cases to administer doses of defenbachia, so that the offender might be wrapped in the solemnity of his own silence for seven long days? A drastic sentence, it is true,

but immensely effective. As reticence is often mistaken for supernal wisdom, the talkative man might thus acquire a reputation for sapience quite beyond his deserts. All hail to defenbachia!

Wall street is disappointed in the Union Pacific statement, which it considers does not justify the advance of the dividend to 10 per cent. But Mr. Harriman would much rather disappoint Wall street now than before he got what he wanted to get out of the announcement of the 10 per cent dividend.

A Political Renaissance in Islam.

The political decadence of Mohammedanism has long been accepted as axiomatic by students of oriental matters. It has been supposed that the contemptuous conservatism of Islam, its isolation as a matter of principle from western religion and civilization, would continue to exert a degenerative influence. But a writer in the Pall Mall Gazette points out that human forecasts of social and political evolution are often falsified in the event, and that perhaps one of the most startling instances of this may be furnished by a renaissance in Islam.

Certainly such a renaissance would have far-reaching effects, especially upon the two Christian powers having the largest number of Mohammedan subjects—England and Russia. At this moment two-thirds of the Mohammedans in the world are under Christian domination. Turkey remains the only Moslem power of note, now that the powers have assumed the paternal attitude agreed on at Algiers toward Morocco.

The spread of western ideas and western civilization has had two different effects on followers of Islam. In northern and central Africa its fierce reactionaries are preaching the old religion of the sword as a means of curbing the hated gaur. On the other hand, in Asia, Turkey and Egypt the eager young Moslems are striving to emulate Japan in adopting and assimilating all that is best in western progress. Remarkable changes are taking place. Perhaps as significant as any is the fact that Turkish girls are now compelled to go to school and that the former dense ignorance of the harem is disappearing before the influence of education. Turkish women have a newspaper of their own and many of them have even distinguished themselves in literature. This is in a country where not many years ago an educated woman would have been thought a witch. The Turkish press is gradually gaining a freedom quite unwonted. An Islamic railroad is now being built that will connect Constantinople with the holy city of Mecca and will carry by steam the thousands of pilgrims who have for ages toiled thru the desert. The contributions of the faithful furnish the needed money and the soldiers of the sultan do the work. If the imminent death of Abdul Hamid does not bring to the caliphate a reactionary, the regeneration of Turkey from within will go on with great rapidity. But it will go on in any case.

There are many other evidences of this awakening in Islam which may well give Christendom pause. The aspirations of young Egypt for independence and self-rule, the move in Persia toward a parliamentary government, the intellectual revolt in India against British rule, the appeal of the idea of pan-Islamism to the oriental imagination—these are some of the outward signs that Mohammedanism has great vitality and may yet overcome its strong decadent tendencies.

The pope is said not to be pleased with the new Spanish cabinet. It is the work of a boy king and probably there are several lads in the South Side high school who could throw together a better article in the Christmas vacation. Turkey is not very expensive this year—if you don't buy big ones.

Ambitious Schemes for City Improvement.

In this issue of The Journal may be found charts and accompanying text describing a very ambitious scheme for municipal betterment. It looks like a dream, and, indeed, it is a most interesting dream of what the future Minneapolis might be. At all stages of the history of this city there have been men who have conceived great things for Minneapolis, who have looked into the future and anticipated in large part what has afterward been accomplished. Some of them have had little credit at the time for the exercise of common sense, and the evolution of practical ideas. It has only been after the city has overtaken their imagination and surpassed their fondest anticipations that the general public has been able to do them justice, and credit them with having a better conception of what the city is to be than those who have been their severe and ready critics.

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scale down the bill. Captain Ijams was adjudged and awarded half his claim.

It was a sad but glorious day for the captain. He had won his contention that the peculiar services he rendered could be converted into money, but he had lost out on the value of his yarns.

A few intelligent and industrious gentlemen are trying to outdo Messrs. Bryan, Hearst and others and gently deposit the democratic nomination on Woodrow Wilson's doorstep. The president of Princeton has gotten word of the scheme and instructed the janitor to keep a sharp lookout for such pranks.

The Annexation of Spitzbergen.

The report that Norway is contemplating the annexation of Spitzbergen and its surrounding islands, while not officially confirmed, has aroused no little interest in Stockholm and also in St. Petersburg. This bleak bit of Arctic land has never seemed valuable enough heretofore to lead any of the northern European powers to raise a flag upon it. Recent discoveries of rich deposits of coal, however, and the belief that there are other rich mineral deposits, have made Spitzbergen not altogether undesirable. From Stockholm comes a report that Sweden has a claim prior to that of Norway, and that King Oscar's government may insist upon its rights. Such a contention, if it be true that Norway is seriously contemplating annexation, would give rise to an unpleasant diplomatic controversy, the settlement of which might have to be referred to an international conference. Russia may also decide to lay claim to the islands.

Geographically, the Spitzbergen group would seem to be more naturally to belong to Norway. They extend from the seventy-sixth to the eighty-first parallel of latitude and are directly north of Norway. Swedish ships would reach them only after a long sea voyage along the entire coast of Norway. The coal mining companies already active there are Norwegian, with financial backing secured in England and America. Before the discovery of coal the islands were valuable only as a base of operations for Arctic explorers. They are quite uninhabited, being far to the north of the Arctic circle.

At Barbourville, Ky., a fat man projected himself first into the tunnel which the prisoners had dug for an escape and by the time the others had got tired cussing him for taking up so much space the warden woke up, kicked fatty two or three times and threw them all back in their cells.

Mark Twain celebrated his birthday by playing pool all afternoon with his secretary and some friends. Of course the secretary took his share of the games and the friends insisted that Mark's eyesight was actually improving.

The democrats now have a majority of the civil service commission, but it is the last thing the democrats ever wanted to have a majority of.

The land office appears to have been vacated just in time to galvanize some ex-pring congressmen into an appearance of life.

In de opinion of Big Bill Devery de Caruso case was a shakedown. Bill probably reasons from analogy, without knowing it.

Senator Aldrich is refusing to pay his taxes. The wealth of Aldrich must be tremendous if he can bluff the tax gatherer.

Senator Tillman had a noble opportunity to act the gentleman in Chicago, but the responsibility was too much for him.

"HOOT MON"

Boss Ruef of San Francisco certainly had the right idea. All of his fine work was done under the guise of giving legal advice. This reminds one of the remark of Boss Butler of St. Louis, who was fought to a finish by Governor Folk when the latter was prosecuting attorney. Butler said that if he were beginning his political career with Ruef he would set a foundation study law and then he could do a great many things under the guise of giving advice which he couldn't get at as a lawyer.

De Tocqueville, when he visited America, mused upon the length of time it would take America to discover a fondness for titles and on what foundation our aristocracy could be based. He found in the legal profession. At the time of his visit America had no vast businesses and no swollen fortunes. The population was distributed thru the farming country and straggling villages with here and there a somewhat modern town. In the villages he found the lawyer easily the head of the community and therefore De Tocqueville looked for America an aristocracy of education, brains, and—lawyers.

The French philosopher's judgment seems to have gone astray or else America is off her trolley, for the lawyer is relatively in a less position than he was half a century ago. He has not founded an aristocracy. He not even so eagerly sought a public servitude. He is less frequently honored by the community in other ways. Some people charge him with being back of much of our modern politics thru his opportunity to confess his clients in the legal profession themselves lament the decay of their profession thru its commercialization. It is easy, good lawyers say, for a man of fine legal attainments to fall at the bar unless he combines with his legal attainments business sagacity. This is a rare combination, but it is the few who have it who are making the fortunes at the bar.

Years ago when the roller skating craze was over the country much good lumber was used in building skating rinks. The rinks were long stretches of floor upon which the maniacs of the sport displayed their antics. The craze subsided suddenly, but unfortunately the awful temptation being created by the rinks did not melt away as did the enthusiasm for skating. Thousands of them survived to mar the landscape and annoy the assessor. But they have been absorbed gradually, some of them being branched into the lively stable and other branches of trade which withstand public declinence.

Now the country is being treated to another craze, that for private conservatories. Private conservatories do very well where the house is large enough to conceal or obscure their bare outlines and where the income is sufficient to guarantee their successful working. But there are more private conservatories today than there are conservatory incomes—just like the automobiles—and there is bound some day to be a reaction. What then will become of the conservatories? A New York man has solved it. "I tried to grow some flowers for five years," he says, "and failed. Something whispered to me 'eggs' and I turned a lot of hens into the sun-warmed conservatory." Presto! wealth came on his horizon.

The ordinary hen, kept in a zero coop will quit business thru four months in the year, will lay 200 eggs per annum in the conservatory. The hens reverse its warmth and don't seem to know when vacation time comes. They try to lay more than the limit. "You may have the flowers," says the New Yorker, "the hens for mine."

That truth is stranger than fiction has passed into an axiom but that it is more powerful than fiction is evidenced by the letters of the girl Grace Brown, for whose murder her lover is being tried. The letters of Grace Brown are of a kind which rend the heartstrings, while the letters of the convicted murderer are of a kind which make one's hair stand on end. The letters of the girl are of a kind which make one's hair stand on end. The letters of the convicted murderer are of a kind which make one's hair stand on end.

The failure of the Ohio Penitentiary News is not satisfactorily explained even by the fact that there is a dearth of newspaper men under conviction. Aren't there members of other professions in the penitentiary and did a newspaper ever die for lack of men who could run it better than the editor? There is said to be enough bankers in the Ohio penitentiary to open a convention on classed money. Bankers always have had ideas on how a newspaper should be run and this seems a golden opportunity to use them. Let them revive the Penitentiary News and run it as a safe and sane literature devoted to the conservative business interests of the prison, eschewing gossip, sport, tales of business dereliction, dangerous assaults upon the tariff or stories calculated to excite passions.

There are said to be a number of politicians in the prison also; statesmen who were caught stuffing ballot boxes or selling their offices for gold. These fellows always have ideas about how to run a newspaper. It would seem as tho a public utility rested upon them to resurrect the News and conduct it on a non-muckraking plane.—James Gray.

FATHERLY ADVICE TO HEARST

Louisville Courier-Journal. Mr. Hearst is much too young a man to set up either for a sage or a back number. What he most needs to do is to survey the field of his not unprofitable labors and expenditures with the purpose to recreate himself after the image of the self-denying philanthropist, and to cast aside the stinking habits of the self-seeking politician. His resources are good as great. Far less than other rich men's sons has he shown any disposition to evil. He has merely made the mistake, or seemed to make the mistake, of thinking that money can do all things. It can do many things, but it can neither make a silk purse out of a sow's ear, nor change a neglectful congressman and a rich parvenu into a hero and a statesman, albeit sometimes very young people think so.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

- 1697—St. Paul's cathedral, London, opened. 1805—Battle of Austerlitz. 1808—Madrid taken by the French and King Joseph restored. 1814—General Jackson arrived at New Orleans and declared martial law. 1823—Monroe doctrine declared. 1842—Father Francis Xavier Wernz, president general of the Jesuits, born. 1848—Ferdinand of Austria abdicated; succeeded by Francis Joseph. 1852—Louis Napoleon became emperor of France. 1891—Armored cruiser New York launched at Philadelphia. 1892—Jay Gould, financier, died. 1899—Samoan treaty signed.

What Other People Think

In Defense of Tillman. To the Editor of The Journal. In an editorial in Wednesday's Journal you are trying to heap abuses upon that noted and patriotic statesman, Benjamin R. Tillman of South Carolina, because of his address on the race question in Chicago. Among other ridiculous things you say he made such a spectacle of himself as to cause any self-respecting white man to blush for his race, and yet you say he failed to goad the law-abiding negroes to any acts of violence.

Now, I happened to hear Senator Tillman deliver his address on the negro question at Minnetonka in this state a short time ago, and the only feature about the address to which any fair-minded, unbiased person could object is his profanity.

Of the large audience which listened to him at Minnetonka none found any fault with him excepting a very few smarties who think they know more about the conditions in South Carolina than Tillman does, who has lived there all his life.

The trouble with the men who find fault with Tillman and traduce him is he is telling the truth and they know it; and the truth is what hurts. Had you said the braying donkeys who have been trying for a generation and more to establish negro supremacy in the south were enough to make a self-respecting white man to blush for his race, you would have come nearer the truth.

Why should the negroes be goaded to acts of violence? Surely Tillman says nothing at which either whites or negroes could take offense. In not a single word in his address does he throw any taunts or insults at the colored race. But he does lay the intricate race problem as it is today at the door of those who are reviling and persecuting him simply because he dares to tell them the truth as it is.

Probably the best explanation of Mr. Ellet's defense of Tillman is that the evidence has not read what Tillman said in Chicago.

Government Insurance. To the Editor of The Journal. Life insurance in this country has grown to enormous proportions within the last decade. No human institution is organized capable of doing more good. No business is more vital to the home and dependent ones for that reason there should be no doubts about its management or integrity.

Why not nationalize the life insurance business? Why not let the people manage and run their own insurance thru the government? How much better the people would feel with their dependent ones protected and their welfare guaranteed by an insurance arrangement with Uncle Sam than, as under present conditions, live in constant dread of the poorhouse. I would have the government establish a bureau, not only to regulate the present insurance business, but also to provide, within certain limits, protection at the lowest possible cost consistent with safety. I would eliminate all forms of so-called investments from these certificates and make a reasonable amount of insurance compulsory with all. The poor could be protected in this way, and be better off than they are with the awful and constant dread of reverses and death with the uncertainty of their own and children's welfare. Should the insured stand by their insurance period, say five to ten years, the amount of the contract held could be converted to an annuity during the remainder of their years.

This idea is not new. Other countries are providing for their people by a similar system. The conditions of the government must care for its dependent ones. Why not as a government policy compel all to be provided to the extent of a limited amount of insurance, and in this way many almshouses and asylums would be needless.—George H. Ely.

Manufacture of Flax in Minneapolis.

To the Editor of The Journal. I would like to draw the attention of the Commercial club to the importance of securing for our growing city one more very important industry, and that would be a flax fiber plant or linen mill to use the flax straw grown in the northwest that is now either burned up or fed up. At this late date seems not to be doing justice to the people of the country to be compelled to buy imported flax. I think it a fact that almost all the goods on our markets come direct from the old country. Why not make our own linen, down to the finest fabrics? Can we do this very thing? Experts tell me there is no reason why we can't. Big flax here in Minneapolis we have the best machinery made in the world, water just right for retting, just the right kind of a climate and soil to grow the flax. The flax crop would be a very important and very profitable crop. Our wheat crop is growing less every year, and less profit in growing it. The farmer is compelled to diversify farming, and a flax crop all utilized to the very best advantage would bring him big returns. What helps the farmer is very liable to help the mill. In my judgment there could be built up here in Minneapolis a great and growing industry in the manufacture of the cheapest articles—wrapping twine, rope, cordage of all kinds, gunny sacks, summer covers for horses, linen suiting of all kinds for men and boys, ladies' dress goods for summer, toweling, table linen, shirting and many other fabrics, the finest in the land, can all be made right here in the city of Minneapolis and employ a big lot of men.

THE DREAM

The broad noon blazed athwart the street, I heard the ringer say: I met myself that used to be In this unlustful today. Pity for those who meet the dead, Avenging wrongs of yore; I heard the ringer say: I met myself that used to be In this unlustful today.

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Why not nationalize the life insurance business? Why not let the people manage and run their own insurance thru the government? How much better the people would feel with their dependent ones protected and their welfare guaranteed by an insurance arrangement with Uncle Sam than, as under present conditions, live in constant dread of the poorhouse. I would have the government establish a bureau, not only to regulate the present insurance business, but also to provide, within certain limits, protection at the lowest possible cost consistent with safety. I would eliminate all forms of so-called investments from these certificates and make a reasonable amount of insurance compulsory with all. The poor could be protected in this way, and be better off than they are with the awful and constant dread of reverses and death with the uncertainty of their own and children's welfare. Should the insured stand by their insurance period, say five to ten years, the amount of the contract held could be converted to an annuity during the remainder of their years.

Manufacture of Flax in Minneapolis.

To the Editor of The Journal. I would like to draw the attention of the Commercial club to the importance of securing for our growing city one more very important industry, and that would be a flax fiber plant or linen mill to use the flax straw grown in the northwest that is now either burned up or fed up. At this late date seems not to be doing justice to the people of the country to be compelled to buy imported flax. I think it a fact that almost all the goods on our markets come direct from the old country. Why not make our own linen, down to the finest fabrics? Can we do this very thing? Experts tell me there is no reason why we can't. Big flax here in Minneapolis we have the best machinery made in the world, water just right for retting, just the right kind of a climate and soil to grow the flax. The flax crop would be a very important and very profitable crop. Our wheat crop is growing less every year, and less profit in growing it. The farmer is compelled to diversify farming, and a flax crop all utilized to the very best advantage would bring him big returns. What helps the farmer is very liable to help the mill. In my judgment there could be built up here in Minneapolis a great and growing industry in the manufacture of the cheapest articles—wrapping twine, rope, cordage of all kinds, gunny sacks, summer covers for horses, linen suiting of all kinds for men and boys, ladies' dress goods for summer, toweling, table linen, shirting and many other fabrics, the finest in the land, can all be made right here in the city of Minneapolis and employ a big lot of men.

THE DREAM

The broad noon blazed athwart the street, I heard the ringer say: I met myself that used to be In this unlustful today. Pity for those who meet the dead, Avenging wrongs of yore; I heard the ringer say: I met myself that used to be In this unlustful today.

THIS DATE IN HISTORY

- 1697—St. Paul's cathedral, London, opened. 1805—Battle of Austerlitz. 1808—Madrid taken by the French and King Joseph restored. 1814—General Jackson arrived at New Orleans and declared martial law. 1823—Monroe doctrine declared. 1842—Father Francis Xavier Wernz, president general of the Jesuits, born. 1848—Ferdinand of Austria abdicated; succeeded by Francis Joseph. 1852—Louis Napoleon became emperor of France. 1891—Armored cruiser New York launched at Philadelphia. 1892—Jay Gould, financier, died. 1899—Samoan treaty signed.

What Other People Think

Government Insurance. To the Editor of The Journal. Life insurance in this country has grown to enormous proportions within the last decade. No human institution is organized capable of doing more good. No business is more vital to the home and dependent ones for that reason there should be no doubts about its management or integrity.