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SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 1916

United States as Sugar Exporter

AMONG the many new developments of the war is sugar exportation from this country.

Before the war the United States shipped no more than \$3,000,000 worth of sugar in a year, but for 1915 the total shipments amounted to nearly \$40,000,000.

As much as 50,000,000 pounds of sugar, worth \$2,500,000, left our shores last week. Ireland and France are among the chief customers.

Our sugar exports are largely the result of the cutting off of German trade, for Germany was an exporter of great quantities of beet sugar previous to the war.

In this field, as in that of dyestuffs, she will have hard work to regain her former position.

The last heard about Henry Ford he was still at sea.

New Year Resolutions

RIDICULE is so effective a means of discouragement that it is a great pity most worldly things lend themselves so readily to exaggeration and caricature.

All of us ridicule New Year resolutions, and all of us are wrong in making sport of them and of the spirit that inspires them.

What if they are not kept? What if determination weakens and we fall back into the same old rut? It isn't success that fixes the value of endeavor.

The effort, though unsustained, to improve what needs improvement is beneficial in itself, and even the mere desire, self-aided, tends to better things.

Even if we do stumble and fall, at least we have tried, and "man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what's a Heaven for?"

Good resolutions may fade and be forgotten, but it is worth while to have made them. And whether they are bravely kept throughout the year or not, they are not to be laughed away; they will be recorded—Somewhere.

Bryan's mouth "in repose is beautiful," says a sculptor. We now know how Mr. Bryan will look when he is dead.

Commission-Manager Success

SCORE one more for the commission-manager plan of city government.

Jackson, Mich., employing this new system, within one year has wiped out its floating indebtedness, reduced the net debt of the city by \$50,000, supplied \$10,000 worth of service in addition to that provided for in the budget, and left a cash balance of \$10,000, exclusive of sinking fund. The tax rate was not raised, but nearly \$1,000,000 worth of property that had been improperly exempted from taxation was placed on the rolls.

Scientific systems of purchasing and accounting were installed, effecting large savings. Coal, for example, was purchased on a heat unit basis. A waste-water survey resulted in the saving of several hundred thousand gallons of water a day. Municipal employees were taken out of politics.

There were a good many other reforms, and the city manager expects to do much better the coming year. It certainly does seem that living examples of this character are worthy of Richmond's close consideration.

Huerta Dying in an American Prison—News headline. This is better than being backed up against a wall in Mexico and shot full of holes.

Why Should We Care?

IN dispatches from London, announcing the elevation to the peerage of William Waldorf Astor, we are told "it is gossip to-night that some of the King's advisers entertain the belief that Mr. Astor's honor will be especially pleasing to Americans."

If any of the King's advisers are afflicted by thoughts of that description, they really should have something done to their heads.

That Mr. Astor becomes a baron is interesting to Americans, but their attitude in the matter is one of strict neutrality. They are neither pleased nor displeased. They do not care a rap whether this expatriate is raised to the peerage or depressed to the collarage.

There is no reason why they should care. Long ago the descendant of the New Amsterdam fur trader abandoned his American citizenship, on considerations that to him must have appeared quite sufficient. America has appeared quite sufficient. America was willing—or should have been. Now he has obtained his heart's desire, and occasion for quarrel or jubilation this side the Atlantic still is lacking. "Each to his own taste," as the old lady said when she kissed the cow.

Richmond's Real Estate Values

ABOUT the most reliable index to a city's prosperity may be found in its real estate values. If they increase steadily and constantly, without leaps or "boom" advances, it may be taken that the city's growth is wholesome and that its financial condition is sound.

Richmond has just cause to be proud of the showing made in the report made by the State assessors, by which it appears that there has been an increase of 60 per cent in her property values within the last five years. It is to be understood, of course, that these figures do not represent accurately the present value of her real estate. They mean only

that assessments have been raised to the sums represented by them. But even now it is maintained that the assessed values do not approach the market appraisals.

Judged by the scale heretofore existing, this, doubtless, is true. Assuming that the 1915 assessment ratio is the same as that of 1910, the report of the assessors reveals not more than two-thirds of the real property value. Taking this ratio into account, Richmond's real estate values now are \$180,086,217, as against \$112,812,128 in 1910.

Republican National Chairman Hillis suggests, or hopes, that the present Congress will develop an orator who will, as temporary chairman of the G. O. P. convention, sound the keynote of the Republican campaign. The keynote of the old party is pretty rusty, and it is doubtful if there is enough wind in the minority of Congress to start much of an embezzler.

For Better Street Cleaning

WHATEVER the Administrative Board decides to do with the offer made by a responsible firm of engineers to take over the work of the Street-Cleaning Department, the Richmond public will not forget that the offer is to do more than is now done—substantially more—for \$175,000 a year. This is \$25,000 less than the appropriation for street cleaning and garbage and ash collection and disposal for the current year, and \$65,000 less than the estimate for next year.

It will be remembered also that the makers of this bid propose to give bond for the faithful execution of their contract.

There is no difficulty in understanding that there are substantial objections to the contract method of cleaning the city's streets. In the first place, if a firm of contractors can cut the cost at which the work has been done and still make a considerable profit—as evidently is expected—the city ought to be able to effect this saving for the taxpayers.

The one sufficient reason for doing city work of this continuous character by contract is that it assures as good or better service for less money.

Our criticism of the Administrative Board has been, and is, that it shows small disposition to place the Street-Cleaning Department on a modern basis. The department's inefficiencies are manifest. Although in the last year some improvements have been effected, its waste of labor and energy is apparent to the most casual inspection.

Primarily, the trouble lies in defective methods. Such defects are curable. If the Administrative Board really is desirous of providing efficient service, it will bring to Richmond an expert in this work and turn over to him the duty of reorganizing the department.

Without undertaking to predict in detail what such an expert would do, it may be assumed with entire safety that he would recommend an economical but sufficient plan for washing the smoothly paved streets, of which all Richmond thoroughfares of this description stand in large need a large part of the time. Furthermore, he would abolish the senseless assignment of two or three men to a single one-horse ash or garbage cart.

If this clear waste of public funds was found attributable to defects in city ordinances and regulations, he would present arguments that would result in the sound amendment of these ordinances and regulations.

The Administrative Board, obviously, should do one of two things. Either it should accept the contract offered it or some other contract, or it should make a real effort to improve the Street-Cleaning Department as at present organized.

Richmond spends quite enough on these services to obtain good results. Its expenditures are decidedly larger per capita than those of most American cities. It is time, certainly, that the city began to realize on its investment.

When Lloyd George told the laboring men in Glasgow that they couldn't "haggle with an earthquake," he knew what he was saying. But you know what another Englishman once said about getting at the mentality of a Scotchman.

Deeds and Words

NEWS of the sinking of the Peninsular and Oriental steamship Persia by a German or Austrian submarine renews gravest apprehensions that the recession of Austria from its earlier position as to the Ancona and the prospect of the settlement with Germany of the issues raised by the destruction of the Lusitania had served to abate.

Among the passengers on the Persia, most of whom are reported lost, were United States Consul McNeely, en route to his post at Aden, Arabia, and two other American citizens.

In the absence of specific information as to the manner in which the vessel was destroyed, reservation of judgment, of course, is demanded. We do not yet know whether warning was given, whether the Persia resisted or sought to escape, or whether her destruction was in the manner of the Lusitania and the Ancona's. That the loss of life was so large will arouse strong suspicions.

If it should develop that at the very time Austria was dispatching to this country a conciliatory and apologetic note, announcing the punishment of the submarine commander who sank the Ancona, another submarine of the central powers was committing another act of atrocity, the preservation of diplomatic relations will have been rendered impossible.

Deeds speak louder than words.

If Santa Claus ever loses his job, we beg leave to suggest Henry C. Frick, of Pittsburgh, as his successor. Of all the charities we have seen enumerated, Mr. Frick's act in making good the lost savings of 41,000 school children of his city is the greatest, not only because of the benefit it was to the little ones, but because it heads off a throng of evils which would have swooped down if Mr. Frick had not appeared.

Villa announces that he will go to Argentina and raise cattle. We have read eleven paragraphs put in almost this identical way, and each one states that this is better than what he has been raising in Mexico. Why hasn't it been stated just what it was that he raised in Mexico? Sherman used the word in his definition of war, and nobody was ever afraid to spell it.

Happy New Year to the young man whom the Britons delight to call the Clown Fritz of Germany. Here's hoping he won't be "killed" as frequently in 1916 as he was in the year that has just glimmered.

Up-to-date Germans are busily engaged putting the Poles underground.—Boston Transcript. This is better than putting women and children under water.

The present year will be a good one in which to build water wagons in Old Virginia.

SEEN ON THE SIDE

Just as Usual. Though Willie Binks prepared himself, in youth, to garner stacks of beef, He distempered likewise his soul; For Willie, though he wanted cash, With which in life to make a splash, His hands just would not soil.

His feeling was that some kind fate Should hand him on a silver plate Large hunks of rich success; But things worked out as oft before— Though Willie always wanted more, He got a good deal less.

Shakespeare for Everybody. For the merciful: "Sweet mercy is nobility's true badge."—Titus Andronicus, l. 2. For the brave: "Life every man holds dear; but the brave man Holds honor far more precious-dear than life."—Troilus and Cressida, v. 3. For the man who prays: "My enemy is despair, Unless I be relieved by prayer, Which pierces so that it assaults Mercy itself and frees all faults."—Tempest Epilogue.

Turnovers. One good turn deserves another, unless a man wants you to turn the grindstone on which to sharpen an ax for himself. A financial pool is often made by watering the stock. Talk is cheap, except when you hire a lawyer. The good that men ought to do is often cut into their tombstones.

So far as is recorded, Lot's wife was the first woman to take salt. And this was caused by curiosity. An affidavit is often used to shelter a lie. A New Year's resolution and the man who makes it are soon parted. A loan is regarded by some men as a gift.

Quizz—Are you a peace-at-any-price man? Flizz—If it begins at home, yes.

The Pessimist Says: Good resolutions are like good wine—the longer they are kept the better they are.

Moderation. "Did Miss Sweetthing make a New Year's resolution?" "Yes, indeed. She resolved not to have more than half a dozen engagements running at the same time."

Sizing Up Timothy. Timothy came last, looking half-scared, half-sleepish and half-amused.—Young's Magazine. Timothy must have been a big chap, at least.—New York Tribune, Jan. 4 freak.

What She Had on Her Mind. "As I was out walking I met the best man," he said. "Oh, Jack, you mean that! This is lean year. Why didn't you give me a chance," she said.

A Minute With the Cop. The cop, hailed the cop on the Main Street crossing with greetings of the season. "What did you get in your sock?" asked the cop at last. "A hole. Move along now before you get in one yourself. Don't act as if you were trying to figure in the casualty list."

Some Changes. "You had your first patient to-day?" asked old Sawbones. "Yes, daddy," replied his son. "What was the diagnosis?" "Didn't make any." "Didn't you feel her pulse?" "No, she wore a wrist watch, and I couldn't get at it." "Didn't you look at her tongue?" "No, she was using it."

Wigzles is blind to the faults of that widow he is going to marry. "How Wigzles will kick himself when he recovers his sight!"

Held by the Enemy. Grubbs—Why are you looking so doleful this morning? "Stables—I took part in an attack on the champagne trenches last night, and I think I must have got caught in the wire entanglements or been overcome by the fumes of gas."

Following His Own Tale. "Howler is a firm believer in preparedness." "Yes, and he practices it, too. For example, he is always prepared to take a drink."

Market Diversions. There was a bold huckster named Sam, Not too good for an innocent sham, So his turkeys he filled With hot air till their build rivaled that of the stateliest ram.

Gossip From "Down Home"

A few days before Christmas the Siler City Girl carried this item: "One produce dealer here yesterday shipped 2,100 pounds of dressed turkeys. Can any other dealer in the State equal that record?" Think of over a ton of turkeys being shipped by one dealer in one day!

The Chatham Record rejoices as follows: "Much has wisely been received at this place last week during our week just before any previous Christmas. This was due to the law enacted by the last Legislature prohibiting any person from receiving more than one quart in fifteen days."

This item comes from the Greensboro Record: "The moonshiners who had their still located on the farm of the Guifford father and within hearing distance of the land of the sheriff of the county evidently did not suspect the officers of looking for 'treason in the household of the king!'"

The Henderson Dispatch says: "Here in plain old North Carolina, where most of the people have a habit of regarding everything that happens at home as part of commiseration, not a great deal was said in commendation of Governor Craig's action in granting all State prisoners three full holidays. But the big Northern papers were quick to catch on to the significance of it, and played it up in great style."

The Maxton Scottish Chief is proud of Mr. Kitchin. It says: "Mr. Justice Leader Hon. Claude Kitchin, in the fight to extend the special war relief tax, led his hosts right over the Republican ramparts and left them motionless from the effect of gas that overpowered. Who said Claude Kitchin was not 'prepared'? He is a little ahead of the navy, which Secretary Daniels said was 'equal to any in the world.'"

The Smithfield Herald can't make the same boast for its town as the Chatham Record. It says: "The quiet law is in full force; however, it did not deter the thirsty from obtaining their supply of Christmas liquor. Something like 200 quarts were shipped to parties who were barons of the Smithfield express office. Somehow this office was a popular distributing point, since it seemed that folks from all parts of the county got their Christmas supply here."

"Out in Costa Rica," says the Charlotte Observer, "Major E. J. Hale has been reading of

Chats With Virginia Editors

"Nineteen hundred and sixteen—what will it bring us?" asks the Salem Times-Recorder. Here is hoping it has none of the political squabbles like those of 1915 in store for you.

On the last day of the old year the Harrisonburg News-Record made this unique announcement: "No paper from the office of the Daily News-Record to-morrow morning. The journalistic toilers will take a day off to do their annual New Year resolving."

The leading editorial in all of the weeklies reaching the exchange desk the past week read about as follows: "A happy and prosperous New Year to all of our subscribers, and also to those who are not patrons, but ought to be. Now is the time to subscribe."

Says the Clifton Forge Review: "The health authorities in Richmond have put a ban on kissing, but it is dollars to doughnuts that the order of the Health Department will not be obeyed. Old Man Personal Liberty must have been asleep when this antihygienic proclamation was issued. The alleged order of the Health Department was merely a suggestion; one that receives about as much respect as would one that we snore only while awake."

They are good reading—those strong resolutions of the rector and board of visitors of the University of Virginia adopted in indorsement and support of the movement to establish at Charlottesville a woman's college affiliated with our State University. This institution must lead in educational advancement and expansion in Virginia or be discarded. It is not easy to see in what other way our university's leadership could find expression.—Charlottesville Progress. So say we all.

J. F. Lawson, of Chicago, a director of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, is quoted as saying: "Newport News has possibilities of being the finest harbor on the Atlantic Coast. Ships can load and unload there at about a quarter of the New York cost, our road could probably expend \$10,000,000 on Newport News harbor, although I am not saying that such an expenditure is under consideration." This leads the Newport News Times-Herald to say: "That is the opinion of many citizens of Newport News. We believe that now is the time to make the most of the prestige which Newport News has gained as a port. Naturally, it is already the finest port on the Atlantic Coast, and it has a great advantage over New York in the matter of climate. The harbor is never choked with ice, and business is never obstructed by adverse weather conditions. The harbor has never had a dollar spent on it in dredging, for the sufficient reason that dredging is not necessary. There is room enough in the harbor to float the navies of the world, and the commerce of New York, together with the commerce of the other ports along the Atlantic Coast, could be accommodated at Newport News without crowding. In fact, the capacity of the harbor is practically unlimited, for it extends from Hampton Roads indefinitely up the James. We hope the other directors of the Chesapeake and Ohio will concur in Mr. Lawson's view of the port of Newport News." Good all around, but "indefinitely up the James" is particularly good.

Queries and Answers

Mechanics. Is it true that the top of a buggy wheel in motion goes faster than the bottom? CURIOSUS.

No. Please give the meaning of the stock market phrases "puts and calls." E.

"Puts" are contracts by which the purchaser or holder of the stock has the right to sell a stated amount of stock within a stated time at a stated price. "Calls" are similar contracts to buy. The speculator may lose only the purchase price of the put or call, and his chance of profit is unlimited. Nothing but the possible fluctuation of the stocks.

The Sphinx. About all my life I have been hearing of the Sphinx and I have often intended to find out what they were. Please tell me. MISS L. B.

The Sphinx was a fabulous monster of mythology which sat ever on a high rock and asked every traveler what he meant by that which was "that which has four feet has two feet and three feet and only one voice, but its feet vary and it is weakest when it has most." Oedipus solved the riddle by saying that "it" was a man, whereupon the Sphinx killed herself.

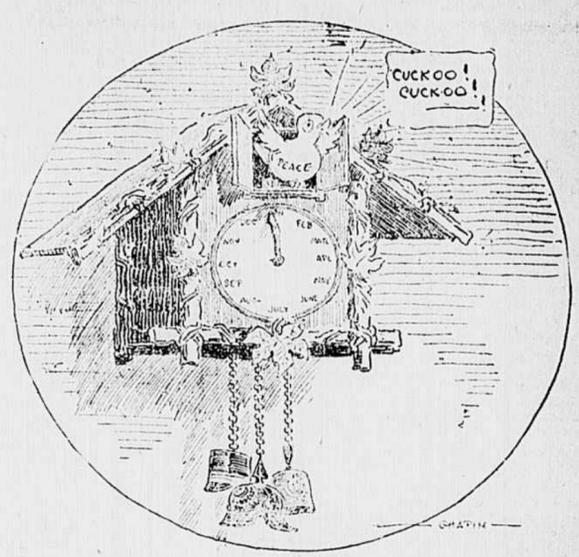
Curen's Editorial Comment

The principal objection to the recommendation of Secretary Daniels that officers in the navy be promoted by merit rather than seniority is that such a system would introduce features of personal, political and social influence and would invite officers to develop "pull." No officer who has been giving real service to his government will doubt his own ability to obtain recognition if his superior officers are fair minded. If the right kind of men fill the higher places, those lower down whose services are meritorious will be recognized and promoted. Only the backward promotion follows inevitably upon long service. Such a system in the business world would mean bankruptcy. The men of real merit, boldness and natural efficiency would have to wait for years before they were able to take the leadership.—Washington Post.

How Nation of the cost of the new equipment to create in response to its needs is proposed by Frank A. Vanderbilt, former Assistant Secretary of the Treasury. Mr. Vanderbilt suggests that expenditure rather than earnings be made the basis for the taxation which the coming of an income tax means for those non-American citizens who thus outline the plan which he believes would put \$500,000,000 into the national treasury annually.

There is a lot of luxuries which we would be better off without. My plan is to grade the tax so that it becomes much heavier as soon as the article passes from the ground of necessity to that of luxury. Thus, when a restaurant check for a meal was more than \$2, I would impose a tax of 10 per cent. A man who can afford \$3 for a tax, a motor car would be a big source of revenue. Some tax would be imposed on the life insurance, but the sixty-horsepower motor would pay a great deal more proportionately than would the twenty-horsepower cars, because obviously they would represent more of a luxury, and their owners could afford to pay more for every unit of clothes costing more than a fixed amount could be taxed, and every gown for which was paid more than \$50 or \$100.—New York Mail.

One of the Day's Best Cartoons.



From the St. Louis Republic.

UNIFORMS FROM EAST INDIES

The roll puttee, now a part of the uniform of nearly all European soldiers, is of East Indian origin. The word puttee is a corruption of the Hindu patti, bandage, a term derived from the Sanskrit patta, meaning a strip of cloth.

A puttee consists of a long, narrow strip of cloth, wound spirally around the leg from ankle to knee. If it is put on tightly and neatly, it acts both as a protection and support. In India the puttee was used chiefly by horsemen, and the British, who first introduced this form of legging to Europe, adopted it originally as part of the uniform of the cavalry. Later, however, all branches of the service were given puttees.

Until the outbreak of the war the English army was the only one in which this Indian adoption had found its way. The German soldier wore the heavy boot, which runs half way up to the knee; the French infantry wore a light, leath boot; the Belgians a similar combination boot and legging; the Turks marched in heavy boots of German pattern; the Bulgarians wore either boots or a legging of cloth and secured by very narrow strips, and the American soldier wore the canvas legging, which is still in use.

The war soon demonstrated the advantage of the puttee. It is light, wears well, is comfortable, binds the muscles of the calf so they cannot swell excessively from marching, and acts as a general support. It enables

the soldier to wear a shoe instead of a clumsy boot. Moreover, the khaki puttee is very neat and trim in appearance, and is now becoming as a part of a military uniform.

Since the beginning of the war the French and Belgians have pretty generally adopted the puttees of their English allies, while some of the Italian mountain troops have been equipped with them. In Germany the infantry still wears the heavy leather boot that has been so much criticized, but the wearing of boots, leather leggings or roll puttees has been made optional for officers. Many have availed themselves of the opportunity to wear the leg gear that their enemies introduced from India. The puttee is used by most Austrian officers, and a large part of the infantry has been equipped with them. The Turkish soldier now wears the rolled leggings almost exclusively, although the older reserves most content themselves with cumbersome leather boots. In Russia the puttees have also come into use, as is shown by the most recent war photographs.

The enlisted men of the United States Army wear an improved canvas legging, which closes in front and is secured by a thin cord. The militia, generally, still wear the old model canvas legging with a canvas strap to hold it in place. Officers have their choice of leather boots, leather leggings and roll puttees when in the field, and a great many choose, the latter.

Corporation Farms

The small farm is not a success in the United States. It is to be discouraged by a bulletin issued by the Federal Department of Agriculture. That is a surprise to many people who have been for years urging people of cities to get back to the land and take up small parcels for farming. But the bulletin hardly says what the reviewers have wired out from Washington. It does not attack the small farm as a source of comfort with enough acres as they go to the natural end of life. The small farms discouraged by the department are those of less than 100 acres to which men move with the intention of being able to make their own living by raising crops, and as working investments, by raising general crops. The reason for the objection is that it costs as much to keep horses and cattle and machines to do the work on the small farm as on the large farm. A 100-acre farm, with fifty acres as well as one acre, that is the keynote of the bulletin. A man can manage a few hundred acres as well as a few acres. He can get the same amount of crops on an acre or off twenty acres, and that means he is progressing faster on the larger farm.

The problem has been studied as never before by Federal officials in agriculture. They have been all over the country looking for the facts. They have found that on farms of thirty to forty acres the average necessity is for \$15 worth of machinery for each crop. On the farms of one acre, and more the cost of machinery for each crop per acre is \$5. On the small farm, one horse is required for each acre, on a large farm, one horse is enough for seven or eight acres. That is the basis of calculation of probable success. It is not a dream, but a deduction from the facts as they are in many sections. The small farms are all right enough if close to markets, but even then the larger farm is the better for the progressive man.

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And the whole proposition leads to corporation farming, which is coming to be the rule in some sections, and that means management by experts made in the agricultural schools of all States.

German Sumptuary Laws. The following announcement is said to be posted up outside certain town halls in Germany: "The wives of soldiers in the firing line are not to wear jewelry. They are not to indulge in cakes. Further, they are not to visit the theaters, the cinemas or the Kaiser Panorama. Should any woman disobey this order her military allowance will be stopped." The stoppage of these enjoyments of the wives of the soldiers at the front is declared to be an economic necessity, for the allowances to German wives and dependents are so small that if any of the money goes in amusements there will not be enough left to buy food and other living necessities.—Providence Journal.

The Return of the Home-Born. All along the white-chalk coast the mist lifts clear. Wight is glimmering like a ghost. The ship draws near. Little inch-wide meadows. Lost so many a day, The first time I knew you Was when I turned away.

Island, Little Island, Lost so many a year, Mother of all I leave behind, Draw me near. Mother of all the rolling world, And O so little and gray, The first time I found you Was when I turned away.

Over you green water Sussex lies, But the slow mists gather In our eyes. England, Little Island— God, how clear! Fold me in your mighty arms, Draw me near.

Little twany roofs of home, Where in the gray, Blows across the bay, Fold me, teach me, draw me close, Let in death I say The first time I loved you Was when I turned away.

—Alfred Noyes.