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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1910.

A Navy "Reform" Farm.

It was probably an unfortunate title which former Surgeon General P. M. Rixey, U. S. N., gave to his proposed institution for the benefit of the health of certain members of the enlisted force when he called it a "reform farm."

The naval authorities do not appear to have taken seriously the recommendations for the establishment of such a farm, the object of which is to improve the moral and physical welfare of enlisted men of the navy, more especially for men of the service who are serving sentences of imprisonment imposed by naval courts.

In philanthropic projects of this kind, care must be exercised not to make the situation of the prisoner altogether too pleasant. It is not necessary to have the conditions of imprisonment rendered a comfortable retreat, with relief from arduous duty or attending circumstances which impart an air of luxury to a man who is being punished because he violated regulations or disobeyed the laws of the land.

Against Ship Subsidies.

In an editorial of November 25 dealing with our trade with South America, we quoted from a speech by Mr. Lewis Nixon, formerly a well-known shipbuilder, and credited him with being a long-time friend of ship subsidies.

In a speech before the Chamber of Commerce, New York, last year, Mr. Nixon cited the fact that "we pay about \$30,000,000 freight charges now to foreign vessels carrying our commerce abroad; and in a magazine article, supplementing this speech, he adduces from this fact that "a nation which depends upon other nations to do its carrying on the sea is tributary to the nations that do its carrying, and as its dependence increases, so will the tribute."

Under such conditions, expenditures for the erection and maintenance of municipal institutions in Washington will not compare favorably in point of economy with similar expenditures in other cities.

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knowledge that the American flag had flown over an American cargo.

We think it is undoubted that a great majority of Americans would be glad to see our merchant marine recover from its present poor estate, to regain some of the glory in friendly rivalry on the seas that it had won so worthily prior to the war of 1812.

In spite of all they are saying against Senator Lodge, we know there must be a lot of good in a man who is careful never to split an infinitesimal.

Betting in the Navy.

The mercantile community of Annapolis, Md., appears to be having a celebration of its own as a sequel to the Navy victory over the Army in the football game at Franklin Field in Philadelphia.

"Annapolis was, of course, much tickled when the Middies' team defeated the Army last Saturday, and their joy was perfectly undisguised—then, to-day, however, the joy of the Annapolis merchants, tailors, &c., was even greater than it was last Saturday."

Is it possible that there is any such betting going on between the two academies? This sort of thing has been effectually discouraged in baseball contests, to the gratification of lovers of that game and to the decided advantage of the game itself.

The statue of Liberty on Bedloe's Island is to display a much brighter light than heretofore; and this, also, will probably be accredited to the Democrats.

Magnificence, Not Extravagance.

The citizens of Washington, than whom there are no more zealous workers for civic welfare and improvement, come in for undeserved criticism at times on the score of extravagant demands and unreasonable requests for improvements.

All the great capitals of the world have experienced similar conditions. It has long been perceptible in parts of London. When Napoleon inaugurated his great plan for beautifying Paris, standards were set which have been adhered to in all subsequent improvements and additions.

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clip the wings of its successor by abolishing the franking privilege toward the end of the session.

The President, in showing how the government may be saved \$3,000,000 a year, has put himself into the Louis Brandeis class.

And yet it is intimated that the President's message did not contain everything he thought of.

A Boston woman is going to take her friends up in her own aero. We surmise that some of them will prefer not to rise so high in her estimation.

A Louisiana court has decided that a widow's kiss is worth \$50. On the principle that practice makes perfect?

More counterfeiters have been arrested. It is becoming more and more difficult for the plain citizen to make money.

Judge Dill, "the father of trusts," is dead, but he left a numerous and vigorous progeny.

The Democratic members of Congress seem to be divided in opinion as to whether Champ Clark should be Speaker or the presiding officer of a debating society.

What the people want to see is a wireless political campaign.

If, as some believe, the Panama revolution, which made possible the canal, had its origin in Washington, should not the canal celebration be here also?

Somehow we never doubt a man when he admits that he is a liar.

A hand-organ man of St. Paul, Minn., left an estate of \$30,000. Thus may a nuisance become a source of wealth.

A French physician claims as a new discovery the curing of drunkards by waifs. In this country the water-wagon cure has long been in occasional use.

The mayor of Milwaukee wants to see "Salome" before he condemns it and prohibits its performance. There's selfishness for you!

Milwaukee, under its Socialist mayor, is to give municipal hope. It may be recalled that it was hops that made Milwaukee famous.

When the women get hobble skirts which will not hobble and hat pins which will not stick, their reformation will be nearly complete.

And the fact that the children need a lot of sweets about this time of the year ought to help make Christmas a merry time for the sugar trust.

It is just as important to shop right as it is to shop early; in both ambitions you can be greatly aided by The Washington Herald's advertising columns.

Sixteen pugilists have been killed in fights this year. If this average keeps up, the reform of the prize ring may come from the inside.

The schools are complaining that letter-writing is a lost art. But the divorce courts do not bear out this complaint.

One way not to economize is to consider the expenditure of \$14,000,000 for the fortification of the Panama Canal.

If we get universal penny postage, it will be harder than ever to spot those patent medicine circulars in the mails.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

A HURRY CALL. Oh, Burbank, for thy aid we yearn; Our need is sore, Just do for us this kindly turn—We ask no more.

Put on a hundred men or so To work in shifts At training Christmas trees to grow Their little gifts.

Christmas Charity. "See me just before Christmas about it." "But he who gives quickly, gives twice."

He Explains. "Before we were married you bought me much handsome presents." "My general expenses were lighter then. You lived on your father, and I lived on your love."

A Week with Each. "I don't like to be always moving about," declared the cook. "Don't eh?" said the new janitor. "I've been in this apartment house a year. There's ninety families in it; I'm good for a year more."

No End to It. Some bought gifts early, they avow. But still they stew. They hustle out and daily now Exchange a few.

A Wonderful Woman. "Thrifty, is she?" "Thrifty? I won't go into a long discourse. I merely tell you that she banks money in December."

Noticed Any? "I notice one harbinger of the new year." "What's that?" "The 1911 models in automobile jokes are out."

A String of Names. "It must be troublesome to name these royal babies." "Easiest thing in the world. No suggestion need be rejected."

GOD BLESS US EVERY ONE.

"God bless us every one!" prayed Tiny Tim, "Crippled, and dwarfed of body, yet so tall. Of soul, we uptoo earth to look on him, High towering over all."

He loved the loveless world, nor dreamed, indeed, That that, at best, could give to him, the while. But pitying glances, when his only need Was but a cheery smile.

And thus he prayed, "God bless us every one!" Enfolded all the creeds within the span Of his child-heart; and so, despairing none, Was nearer saint than man.

I like to fancy God, in Paradise, Lifting a finger o'er the rhythmic swing Of chiming harp and song, with eager eyes Turned earthward, listening—

The Anthem stilled—the angels leaning there Above the golden walls—the morning sun Of Christmas bursting low-like with the prayer, "God bless us every one!"

—JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY.

HUMAN NATURE IN WASHINGTON

By FRED C. KELLY.

Members of the staff of the Grand Rapids Herald, owned by Senator William Alden Smith, of Michigan, regard the Senator as an ideal man to work for.

One of the crowds of visitors being shown through the White House the other day was a tall, thoughtful-looking man, with a prominent Adam's apple and a toothbrush in his upper left-hand vest pocket.

The Indiana visitor pricked up his ears. "The Tariffs don't keep a dog, do they?" he inquired indignantly.

Speaking of the election surprises last month—assuming that people are still speaking about them—a Kentucky Congressman was telling here a few days ago of a surprise in Louisville some fifteen years ago.

At that time he was nominated on the Democratic ticket in the county where Louisville is located was equivalent to being elected. When the Republicans were making up their ticket that year—they went through the formality of having the voters of the county vote on a committee who made up the slate, conceived the idea of perpetrating a little joke on a young friend of his by putting in his name for the office of county prosecutor.

It was about a month before the members of his party could ascertain his whereabouts, for he had left town not even knowing that he was a candidate for office. At last they found him. He was down in Texas, or somewhere in the Southwest, posting bills for a circus.

He came back, took office, hired an experienced lawyer for his "assistant" and got along in that way. His "assistant" was "Bob" Woods, present postmaster of Louisville.

Brooklyn Eagle: To the classified list the President would add first, second, and third class postmasters, taking them out of politics. As to second-class mail matter, he protests that the government is furnishing to the owners of magazines a service worth millions more than they pay for it, and that justice requires the rates be increased.

New York Evening Post: There is at least one recommendation in the President's message that there ought to be no difficulty in carrying out during the short session of Congress. The reasons in favor of increasing the salaries of United States judges are so strong, the expense involved so utterly insignificant in comparison with the importance of the object to be attained, that the passage of the bill already pending—legislation that may be attained with very little expenditure of the time of Congress.

New York World: "Business and industry will be interested in the fact that no changes of importance are proposed in interstate commerce and anti-trust laws. While the President makes it plain that he did not at the recent session secure all the legislation on those subjects that he desired, he now asserts that business methods have been greatly improved, and he is willing to proceed for the present with the laws as they stand, promising their strict enforcement."

New York Herald: "I insist that by the fact is, as the experts of the Post-office show, that we are furnishing to the owners of magazines a service worth millions more than they pay for it, then justice requires that the rate should be increased."—President Taft.

Renewing the suggestion made in his annual message of last year, the President again calls the attention of Congress to the inadequacy of the postal rate at which thousands of so-called magazines that are in substance mere circulars are distributed as second-class matter.

The Postmaster General has pointed out that the advertising part of a magazine should be charged for at a higher rate than its reading matter, a plan which would result in the publications from being excluded from the mails by a prohibitive rate. President Taft evidently approves of this.

New York Sun: In the President's message will be found four sentences: "The unrestricted manner in which the franking privilege is now being used by the several Federal services and by Congress has laid it open to serious abuses, a fact clearly established through investigations recently instituted by the department. While it has been impossible without a better control of franking to determine the exact expense to the government of this practice, there can be no doubt that it annually reaches into the millions."

The method by which nonpayment of postage is obtained is simple. A good-natured member of Congress is induced to have printed in the Congressional Record those documents which are of importance, of which is regarded as of importance. They are then reprinted in pamphlet form and are entitled to carriage free. The object they are designed to serve may be partly for political purposes, but they are privileged because of publication in the Congressional Record and by virtue of the signature of a Representative or a Senator.

LORD KITCHENER AT THE HOTELS.

SHUNS LIMELIGHT

Lord Kitchener is a great soldier, as all the world knows, but a poor advertiser. Instead of standing in the limelight as some of his less gifted "conferees" do and explaining in pathetic tones that old England is bound to go to the bow-wows unless it takes his advice, Lord Kitchener will go a mile out of his way to avoid an inquisitive reporter or interviewer, and when he is suddenly confronted with the photographer's camera he pleads for mercy on account of his "inexperience," or some such naive words.

There is one thing—Lord Kitchener never gives advice until he is asked to do so. He believes that it is the business of an officer to command and not to advise, and, what is more, he believes in sticking to what he conceives to be his duty, just as a cobbler sticks to his last.

Lord Kitchener for some time past practically has been out of a job. It is one of the drawbacks of the military profession that as soon as you have served your time as a journeyman, as it were, you are debarred from setting up in business for yourself, as other journeymen may do. Lord Kitchener now is an expert at commanding armies, but were he to start an army of his own and go on the warpath there would be a good protest raised in one quarter or another owing to the great popular prejudice against that sort of thing.

Kitchener's success primarily is due to the fact that he always has taken his profession seriously. He recognizes that an army must have brain as well as muscle, and he has done his best to supply his share of the goods. The average British officer, as a rule, is more remarkable for pluck than intelligence. You have only to go to any gathering, either public or private, and hear a half-pay retired major or colonel airing his views on life in order to learn what nonsense results.

As a young man Lord Kitchener did not bother much about lawn tennis parties or polo matches, and if he had to choose between the study of tactics and an invitation to a picnic from a fluffy-haired girl, he would choose the latter. It is said that the great Napoleon spent all his spare time "with his nose on the map." Kitchener did the same thing. He not only learned how to down the foemen with a straight thrust, but he also learned how to win a railway war, that you could chase the foe for days in case the trust had not quite done his hip up.

Most of Lord Kitchener's work has been done in the East, chiefly owing to the fact that there has been no war worth mentioning in any other quarter of the world belonging to the British for some time. And, though all England admires his valiant field marshal, it cannot be expected to get up a war just to keep Lord Kitchener busy at his trade. As a young man, it is true, Kitchener managed to work himself into the outside edge of the Franco-Prussian war, but just as he was beginning to enjoy the fight, hostilities were suspended and the railway war began that cost Napoleon his throne. But as Kitchener was no talker, even then, he had to look for another job.

Kitchener's great achievement, as we all know, was the recovery of the Sudan for Great Britain. When he was given the job he did not at once rush out to his post with a ringing battle cry and wave his sword excitedly. He just sat down and began to figure out how much it would cost to build a railroad along the line of the Nile, and how long it would take to do it. He had been an officer of the average type, probably he would have voted that sort of warfare a horrid bore, and he would at once have started to climb a tree or the trouble instead of walking around it.

If he had done as some of the British officers did in the Boer war he would have just trusted to British luck and British pluck, and he would have gone down in the first rush. It would have been, perhaps, magnificent, but England would have lost the Sudan and its only field marshal as well. So it would appear that Kitchener is right and that an officer is paid for something else than his readiness to commit picturesque suicide when in a tight corner.

From his long residence in the East Kitchener has come to understand something of that very difficult problem—the Oriental mind. When you are dealing with a gentlemanly Arab, who believes that if he dies fighting for Islam he will hold a superior rank in Paradise, it is no use threatening to kill him if he does not behave. The whole business of his life is waiting for death, and he would far rather die from a Christian bullet than from internal cramps in his desert home. One of the things that many people object to is the fact that during the Sudan campaign Kitchener shelled the Mahdi's tomb. As a man he is a very simple method of demonstrating to the sons of the desert that their dead chief could not work the miracles for which they were waiting patiently, undoubtedly lessened the death roll on both sides of the conflict.

Lord Kitchener never took the trouble to explain to his critics. It would have taken too long and too much valuable time, and he had no guarantee before-hand that he possessed the necessary intelligence to understand his own position at issue. War, after all, is not a quiet social game in the parlor. It is rough enough sport, in which two peoples set out with the idea of being very rude to each other.

Kitchener's great speciality is the same as that of "Bre'r Fox," which, as you all remember, was to "lay law on 'em nuffin'." When he speaks it is only on matters that are within his own immediate experience. If he has framed a scheme for running the government of Great Britain, he has so far never allowed that fact to leak out. He is in the military department, not in politics, and he sticks closely to his own line.

If the truth were fully known, it is just because he sticks so very closely to his own counter that he is not as popular as he might be in official circles. There was talk recently of putting him at the head of the war office, but there are so many "slackers" there who in that case would be sent out to find another job if Kitchener had the running of that department that the great aim of all patriots ever since has been centered in an effort to keep Kitchener out of office as long as possible.

When he was commander-in-chief in India he was on several occasions known to order a parade on the day which had been set apart for a polo match or a tennis tea, and the ladies could not make him understand that their parties were more important than the British army.

Now, wasn't that "dense?" And he might be as dense as that if at the head of the war office, and the fellows who had been looking forward all the week to a billiard match or a bridge "drive" would have their fun spoiled. By way of getting Kitchener out of London again he was offered the post of commander-in-chief in the Mediterranean, where he would have had to spend his time steaming up and down the bright blue sea and giving a cheery wave of his hand to any British territory he might pass. He declined.

It should rather have related to hear the remarks he made to times when declining the honor. But, all joking aside, I hear that Kitchener is going East again. I know he will accept. Why? Simply because he won't have to answer fifteen times each day impertinent questions as to why he does not get married.

—PLANEY. (Copyright, 1910, by McClure Newspaper Syndicate.)

Point Well Taken. From the San Francisco Chronicle. Of course, after it is pure, is wholesome. But that is no reason to permit milk dealers to put it in milk. It can be got more cheaply from the kitchen faucet.

When Diaz opened the Tehuantepec Railroad, something like three years ago," said William Nelson, of San Francisco, who is at the New Willard, "he made real one of the oldest projects on the American continent. Nearly 60 years ago, a century before the Pilgrim Fathers or John Smith and Pocahontas, old Cortez conceived and explored the Coahuila-Colima route in the hope of finding a quick water passage from Cadiz to Cathay." Finding that the river was navigable for only twenty-five or thirty miles, he was still convinced that a great highway commerce would some time be laid out along this route. He secured the grant of a strip of land across the isthmus, which still remains in the possession of his alleged descendants.

"It was across the isthmus of Tehuantepec also that the great engineer, James E. Eads, projected his great ship railroad. Eads' plan was to construct at each end of the route a terminal dock, built over a great sunken pontoon. When the ship was in the dock, the pontoon would be raised, lifting the ship up all the water to the required level, with all its freight and passengers on board. Then the ship would be transferred to a specially constructed and built across the isthmus by steam. The idea was so fantastic, but the reputation of Eads as a great, practical engineer is firmly established, and before he died, in 1887, he succeeded in interesting a vast number of people in the project. He lived several years of his life lecturing on the proposed ship railroad and exhibited a beautiful working model of his project.

"Now, in 1910, twenty-six years, the Eads project, changed to a ship railroad, has been carried out by Diaz, and the world wonders how far the Tehuantepec Isthmus Railroad will interfere with the ultimate success of the Panama Canal."

Rev. F. H. Parker, of Chicago, who is at the Arlington, is in favor of press agents for churches, and says: "Gospel publicity, in my judgment, is the one connecting link between the church and the world which will save the race from plunging into an abyss of destruction.

"In my opinion, the only remedy for barren churches is not to depend upon the inefficient efforts of individual parishes, but to organize a central, strong, centralized, national organization, a national gospel publicity bureau that shall aim to reach all of the people all of the time; that shall, by every wise method of publicity, carry the gospel message to the man, woman, and child in the United States."

"What advertising will do for commerce it will do for religion. Even more, for in gospel advertising men must reckon with God.

"It requires the same ingenuity, aggressiveness, hustle, expenditure, and hard work to wrest souls from the clutches of Satan that it does to wrest dollars from your competitors in business. You can get results for heaven if you make as strong a bid for men as hell does."

"There are more automobiles in the British Isles than there are in Germany, France, or any other continental country," said Richard Case, of the Automobile Club in England. "And yet time was, and that a little while ago, when the automobilist was looked upon in England as the very devil in disguise as he went 'hogging it,' as it was termed all over the country, and the law was very severe on him."

"Driving at excessive speed to the public danger," as it is termed in the police court charge sheet, is an offense which is growing less and less, thanks to the efforts of the Royal Automobile Club and the Automobile Association. But when an offender in this respect is caught in a police trap it is not the duty of the policeman on duty to arrest the chauffeur. He does not always even take the trouble to note the car being contacted with simply registering the number in his notebook for future use.

"Compared with American methods for dealing with such cases, and as an instance of the easy case, the case of the Automobile Club in England, a member of the Automobile Club tells a good story. He was touring in Cumberland some months ago, when he was stopped for exceeding the speed limit. Time went on, and as he heard no more about it, he thought the matter had been dropped; but the other day he got a friendly letter from the local police superintendent which said that this official had received a complaint against the automobilist for exceeding the speed limit. He was told that the driver was driving at an excessive speed on September 30 last. The police official added that there was no great danger caused by this fast driving, and that he was not to be summoned for the alleged offense. The automobilist was a member of the Automobile Club and the automobilist that when he came into his county with his car the next time to comply with the law."

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