FOURTH IN "FAR EAST"

Filipinos Ratify Petition to the American People.

MEETINGS IN THE ISLANDS

People Demand Equal Advantages With Porto Rico.

FOR FREE TRADE WOULD HELP

Congressional Action Necessary to Restore Prosperity in the Archipelago.

MANILA, July 4.—A mass meeting was held here today on the Luneta, the public park and driveway of this city, at which a petition requesting the American Congress to enact legislation that would give the Philippine Islands equal trade advantages with Porto Rico was adopted. In the gathering were several delegations from workmen's organizations carrying transparencies with the words "We Want Justice," "We Want Equal Treatment With Porto Rico," and other devices.

President Gibson of the Merchants' Association, who presided, made a stirring speech in English, Spanish and Tagalog indorsing the petition. The petition follows:

What the People Want.

"To the American people: On this auspicious day, which commemorates the day of your wonderful republic 132 years ago, we, the people of the Philippine Islands, send you greetings and felicitate you upon your marvelous growth, your matchless achievements, your boundless prosperity.

"We deem it fitting that the Fourth of July should be the day chosen to make formal representations of our conditions and our needs.

"Since the 13th day of August, 1898, the affairs, economic and political, of the Filipino people have been under absolute control of the government of the United States.

"We recognize the fact that during the ten years this relation has continued much has been accomplished for the advancement and uplifting of this race, and the development of industry in these islands.

Are Not Ungrateful.

"We are not insensible to the benefits of the great public school system; nor of the fiscal system; nor of the system of railroads and public improvements that have been inaugurated by and with the energy, fidelity and genius of the American people. Yet, while the United States has done so much for us, so much that will make for the security and stability of prosperity in the future, there is one thing that could have been done which, if done, would have prevented much suffering and disaster that has overtaken a large body of our agricultural population. We refer to the removal of the tariff barriers of the United States products from the Philippine Islands. While sections of the archipelago that yield hemp, copra and rice have continued during recent years under a fair measure of prosperity the country has lacked the stimulus of capital and the producers of many articles, notably sugar, have labored under conditions that precluded success, and during the present year the low prices that have prevailed for hemp and copra, together with a partial failure of the rice crop, have prostrated industry and precipitated an acute economic crisis.

Here Is the Reason.

"We earnestly direct your attention to these facts:

"That while it is true that labor in our fields is poorly paid, there is good reason why it cannot be better paid. The same law that applies to and controls other industries applies also to the agricultural industry here. If the cotton trade languishes the wages of your mill operatives are reduced; as business improves wages are advanced; and it would be just as reasonable to tell our hemp, sugar and tobacco planters that if their business is not paying then they must turn to wheat growing or the raising of cotton as it would be to tell your cotton mill owners or your cotton planters that when the cotton business is depressed they should turn to making iron and steel, or to raising sugar beets.

"We do not charge that the government of the United States is responsible for the unhappy condition of industry in these islands, but we do maintain that as territory belonging to, controlled by and dependent upon it a moral obligation is imposed that may not be justly disregarded, to assist in every possible way the material interests of the people here.

"We have been made to witness the splendid development and evident prosperity of Porto Rico; that island has enjoyed the advantages of free trade with the United States, and we naturally feel that if it were justice to so legislate in the case of Porto Rico, then full justice has not yet been done the Philippines.

"We, therefore, earnestly petition the people of the United States to influence the United States Congress to enact legislation that will give to the Philippine Islands equal trade advantages with Porto Rico, that the economic troubles with which we are afflicted may be removed and these islands once more be brought to a condition of prosperity and happiness."

Jollification Everywhere.

The observance of the Fourth of July throughout the Philippine Islands was devoted largely to ratifications of the petition sent by the people of the Philippines to the American people asking that the products of the islands be admitted to the American markets. The central meeting was held here, where at a late hour this afternoon the large gathering on the Luneta, including several thousand Americans, ratified the petition. At the same time meetings with the same idea in view were held throughout the islands.

According to telegraphic reports received by the committee of the central meeting, the signatures already affixed to the petition exceeded 100,000. It is intended to continue the circulation of the petition until the American Congress meets again, when it will be presented to Congress and the President. It is hoped that by that time it will have a million names.

There was an old-fashioned Fourth of July celebration at Camp McKinley under the direction of Brig. Gen. John J. Pershing and a committee of officers and men and citizens of Manila. Gen. James F. Smith, governor general of the islands, delivered an address on patriotism and the duty of the soldier. He said it was extremely difficult to perform the best duty in Cuba and the Philippines when irresponsible agitators misrepresented the truth and thrust aside the helping hand. Nevertheless, the American people would continue to perform their duty and redeem the pledges made by President McKinley.

The Prodigal's Return.

From Puck.

The Prodigal Son approached the ancestral homestead with a considerable degree of pleasurable anticipation, only to be met afar off by his elder brother, who straightway lifted up his voice, saying:

"Our beloved father begs me to inform you that, owing to the fact that he has but recently been invaded by a prodigal daughter and her titled and impoverished husband, he does not at this time feel equal to the task of providing for you the reception you doubtless expect and probably deserve. However, he bids me request you to repair to one of the plain but serviceable restaurants in the village and there sojourn until he can get the present incubusses, or incubi, as the case may be, off his hands, when, if there is anything left of the fatted calf and the other comestibles, he will be delighted to share the same with you."

OUTFIT FOR PEDESTRIAN

CLOTHES TO WEAR AND THINGS TO TAKE ON TRAMP.

Walker Should Carry Haversack and a Number of Articles of Convenience—Also a Camera.

From Literary Digest.

No way of spending a vacation gives more pleasure than a walking trip, but its success depends largely on small things. An ill-fitting shoe, clothes that are too heavy or not heavy enough, a superfluity or a deficiency of baggage—any one of these may turn what should be a season of joy into a period of discomfort. In Good Health James M. Hutchinson tells the walker how to dress and what to take with him to insure the maximum of ease and benefit. We read:

"On a walking trip a person should be properly dressed and equipped in order to get the best results, but any old clothes and comfortable shoes will do if the walker wishes to cut down expenses to the minimum. However, a little money invested in a walking suit and a few accessories will be well spent. A suit of this kind always looks neat and attractive, which could not be said of one's ordinary clothes after a long walk—is cool, and feels comfortable, and is of lighter weight, with much less hindrance to leg action. * * * I have tried numerous colors and kinds of suits, and like the color of those worn by the Overland Club members the best of any that I have tried. The cloth is a good grade of flannel, and the shade a medium gray; three or four yards will make a suit. Any tailor can make it, but a dressmaker can usually do just as good a job for half the money. The cloth should be shrunk before being made up into the suit.

"Any kind of belt may be used to hold the trousers, although personally I like the wide cloth belt, which is very easy. The bottoms of the trousers are held in place by elastic which is run through the bottom of the trousers, and which fits just below the knee. This elastic should not be tight, but just snug enough to hold the bottom of the trousers in place. The trousers should not be lined, and the shirt not too long.

Trousers and Shoes.

"The stockings for this suit are black cotton ribbed hose, pinned to a union suit of underwear. This does away with all hose-supporters, which is a good idea, as most hose-supporters are a hindrance to the free action of the muscles. The underwear with this suit is of medium light weight and of cotton. A gray cap to match the suit is about the most convenient headgear to be found. It should be well made, but not lined. In places where one expects to walk much in the sunlight, a white canvas hat is very good. I used one of these hats on a walking trip in Colorado in 1906, and found it the proper thing in southwestern Colorado, where the heat at times is intense. These canvas hats may be washed. The walking shoes should be light and strong and easy-fitting. There is no pleasure in walking with sore feet, and if the feet are inclined to be tender a bath in cold salt water every day will benefit them. Some pedestrians have said that an Indian moccasin is the best shoe to walk in. Others favor a heavy, thick-soled shoe. If we could spare the time to walk from twenty to thirty miles every day no doubt the moccasin would be the best footwear, but for the average person who walks occasionally for pleasure and health I would advise a medium-soled shoe. A very heavy soled shoe will have a tendency to tire one, and the sole should be just thick enough to protect the foot. In climbing mountains it is advisable to have a few hobnails driven in the soles of the shoes, as they are a great help in climbing on rock. I like the rubber heel very much, and have all my shoes equipped with them, making them as low as possible. For a short walk from five to ten miles an ordinary rubber-soled gymnasium shoe is very easy to walk in, but for long distances the Overlander walkers have found the elk-skin shoe to be the best."

Blanket and Haversack.

The accouterments of a walker, the writer goes on to say, should depend on the length of his trip and on whether he wishes to sleep out of doors or not. A medium-weight woolen blanket rolled up in a piece of rubber cloth may serve as bedding, and a haversack makes a good pillow. One suit of underwear and a pair of hose are the extent of extra clothing advised by Mr. Hutchinson, for, he says, in most parts of the country one can buy these goods as he needs them. He goes on:

"You will find a small haversack of much use during the trip, and these can be made to order in almost any size and of any material desired. The one I have carried for the past five years is made of canvas, rubber lined, and weighs, when filled, from two to four pounds.

"This is the place to carry all small necessary articles, and in mine are usually found a notebook and pencil, road maps, camera films, cards, comb, mirror, handkerchiefs, an extra necktie, twine, shoe strings, safety pins, knife, compass and any other article that I may wish to carry with me. One other article of importance, but not of necessity, is the camera. The weight of the camera, haversack and blanket will not be over eight or ten pounds, and if there is a party going on the trip the divided weight will be still less. A walking stick is of considerable use at times in walking, and especially so in climbing. After one gets used to a certain stick he soon regards it as an old friend. If you are an enthusiastic pedestrian or like walking trips you will do well to equip yourself with this walking kit, or with at least the most necessary articles. The expense will be small and the investment a good one."

Cost of Handling Bank Account.

From Bank Notes.

If a little more were known about the actual cost of handling a country bank account, it is reasonable to believe that there would be a surprise in store for bankers who wonder why all city banks will not handle all of their "outside" items at par.

Taking the states of Mississippi and Louisiana as examples, a Chicago bank has compiled some interesting statistics. A country bank which carries an average balance of $10,000 sends a daily letter which averages $600 made up the number of outside checks. By careful computation it is figured that these checks cost $1.25 per thousand to handle. The Chicago bank arrives at the following results: Average daily balance, $10,000; average balance in transit ($600 per day, four days out), $2,400; average net balance, $7,600; less 2 per cent reserve (on $10,000), $2,500; loanable funds, $5,100; exchange $15,600, at $1.25 per thousand ($600 per day, twenty-six days), $19.50; interest allowed on $7,600 at 2 per cent, $12.49, total, $31.99. Deduct interest on loanable funds, if loaned at 6 per cent, $25.15, and there remains a cash loss of $6.84. Thus it would be seen that an account which apparently shows a good profit is actually being carried at quite a loss.

Joys of Being Fat.

From the London Chronicle.

According to a writer in a contemporary magazine it is the fat men that get all the good things in life. They are conducted to the best tables at restaurants, they get the corner seats in the theater and always seem to have enough money to get along without worrying. When a fat man enters a drawing room, doesn't he always get the most comfortable chair? asks the writer. When his hat blows off on a windy day, doesn't some one always run after it for him? No one expects him to get up in a 'bus or a train to give his seat to a lady—he would block the gangway if he did. Even his wife doesn't expect him to stoop to pick up things when she drops them. Everybody tells him their best stories, because they like to hear him laugh.

The Glut of Books.

From the Saturday Review.

There are too many books. If only the publishers would combine and agree to boycott—a real boycott, not the Times make-believe boycott—the extremely prolific writers!

THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS

BRITISH GUNS TURNED EASTERN ANARCHY INTO ORDER.

Story of the Federated Malay States. English Authority Brought Peace to Natives.

Elizabeth Washburn Wright in the North American Review.

The federal Malay states represent as complete a bit of executive mechanism as Great Britain or any nation may today boast of. There are four of them—Perak, Pahang, Selangor and Negri Sembian. They are touched in the north by four much-disputed states partially protected by Siam, and reach in the south to Johore and Singapore, which is the southernmost point of the Asiatic continent and misses the equator by a hair's breath.

Johore is the one and only Malay state governed by its native head. It is, however, protected by Great Britain and submits its external policy to British supervision. Otherwise it holds an unique position of independence in the peninsula. Singapore is on a tiny island separated from Johore and the mainland by a narrow strait.

On one side of the peninsula stretch the Straits of Malacca, and on the other is the big wash of the China sea. Malay, therefore, lies half-way between Ceylon and Hongkong, and within easy reach of that fragrant bunch of islands, Sumatra, Java, Borneo and the lesser islets of the archipelago.

Singapore was bought as a personal venture by Stamford Raffles in 1819, and it is today the coaling station and calling port of all the traffic that rides on eastern seas. It is as well a formidable stronghold in case of war. Besides this, it is the chief and executive center of the detached British colonies that dot the Straits of Malacca. There are five of these—a united crown colony, once forming an Indian presidency, but at present owing allegiance to their governor in Singapore and to the colonial secretary in London.

Quaint Malacca.

North of Singapore and nearest it in point of distance is Malacca, a quaint and historic town which has passed through a picturesque and varied occupancy. Originally seized by the Portuguese in 1511, it was taken from them by the Dutch some hundred years later. This was followed in the next century by a temporary settlement by the English, who surrendered it again to Holland in 1808. Five years later it passed finally into the keeping of Great Britain, who gave the Dutch in exchange the valuable and then unexplored Island of Sumatra.

Two hundred miles farther up the coast lies a cluster of beautiful but practically uninhabited islands called the Dindings. These island were the last acquisition of the Straits Settlement, having been taken in 1873 by the government in Singapore on the outbreak of the Malay disturbances.

The next of these colonies, the farthest north, is the island and town of Penang, or properly speaking Georgetown. This territory was bought and settled in the latter part of the eighteenth century in the interest of the East India Company. On the mainland directly opposite Penang is Wellesley Province, a narrow tract of rice fields bordering the straits. Here the so-called and badly called Straits Settlements end: Singapore, Malacca, Dindings, Penang and Wellesley province—five pearls, as it were, on a broken string.

Energy of Individuals.

Practically all the steps leading to the acquirement of these detached territories were due to the personal energy and initiative of a few individuals, without the sanction or knowledge of the country for whose aggrandizement the work was being done. But common interests and common enemies gradually drew the little settlements together and brought them to the notice of Great Britain, who promptly amalgamated them and took them under her wing.

Their growth and government are well worthy of study. But in this paper I can only touch on their institutions as related to the government of the Malay states. This connection lies in the fact that the governor of the Straits Settlements is also high commissioner for the protected Malay states. In this capacity he has a voice in their external policy and in all matters not strictly confined within the jurisdiction of their resident general. He, likewise, has power to reject or modify papers before submitting them to the colonial secretary, whose potter's thumb must give the final imprint to all clay from colonial kilns.

Here were cease finally with the marginal influences of the Malay states, and now for the states themselves. Thirty-odd years ago they were disorderly, disorganized provinces under the rule, or misrule, of native rajahs or chiefs. These Malays were fishermen, hunters, pirates and despoilers of one another's peace and provinces. They carried their differences up and down their long rivers or confined them with slaughterous results within their tiny kampongs or villages. Again, banding together, they attacked unwary craft that ventured too near their shores.

They were in fierce and constant friction with the Chinese, who, led by the rumors of rich minerals in the peninsula, had broken into their stronghold. Knowledge of the ferocity of these encounters and of the general state of distraction existing among the Malays themselves occasionally drifted to the outside world. These rumors had from time immemorial frightened away all would-be invaders. The undesirability of forcing a more accurate acquaintanceship was further discouraged by the British authorities in Singapore, who warned all subjects that they ventured into the unknown territory at their own risk.

British Intervention.

This enforced seclusion gave unlimited swing to the Malays and kept intact till the time of British interference an almost prehistoric and brutal condition of life. The long-delayed intervention took place in 1873, when the internal distraction in the native territory reached its limits and burst into open rupture on the seacoast. The Chinese were preying on the Malays, and the Malays to the best of their ability were retaliating. The native sultans were at loggerheads with one another, and totally unable to control or direct their turbulent and disorderly subjects.

This warfare was carried to the coast, and there it became an open menace to commerce and to all traffic passing through the straits. Then at last, in self-defense, the government in Singapore was told to interfere. The result was the appearance of a British man-of-war in the tumultuous waters, and, after a violent collision and some loss of life, steps were taken toward the conclusion of a treaty and overtures were made for a better understanding. This ended in the British occupation of the Dindings, the chief rendezvous of these lawless folk. Here Great Britain was able to check and finally abolish their dangerous practices.

Negotiations were opened at the same time with various native chiefs. Finally, at the invitation of the Sultan of Perak, who was tired of the internal turmoil, a quasi-administrative, quasi-commercial officer was established in that state, with the somewhat ambiguous title of resident.

There follows a perplexing, unpleasant page of history. Confusing mists fortunately surround the actual facts. But to Great Britain the reading was plain enough. Her official representative had been brutally murdered and that death was to be avenged. And it was. Reparation was demanded and grudgingly granted. The circumstance sealed the fate of the Malays. Great Britain was behind her cannon and there she was to remain.

The curious and venturesome who had long desired to explore the forbidden provinces now pushed forward, and the gate has never since been closed. They came as the flotsam and jetsam of restless life that washes from one pole to the other, as individuals and in groups, as fortune hunters drawn by the persistent rumors of gold and as the lawbreaker seeking shelter. As young, untried men they came, to whom adventure is as the breath of their nostrils and the breaking of virgin soil a delight which through all ages has set young pulses throbbing. Finally, they came in little bands that government sent out—raw, untried cadets and earnest, energetic men, who were intrusted with a great lump of unmolded clay and told to set to work. Some were appalled and turned the ball helplessly from hand to hand, knowing no design. Others grew weary with the unwonted weight and threw away the clay. Others again took the raw matter in hand and toiled soberly and unceasingly upon it and finally traced out a design that thought and keen observation told them was the appropriate one. Today this pattern stands elaborated in an unique system of government that calls other men and nations with like work before them to stop and study.

SERMONS IN STONE.

Grandeur of Laon Cathedral—French Government Repairing Edifice.

From the London Spectator.

Laon is a city set on a hill. It cannot be hid, for it stands on the one hill of a wide, wind-swept plain, very flat and very monotonous. The situation alone is wonderfully impressive; from down below, the hill with its church looks like a headland out at sea; but it is not only the situation that makes Laon Cathedral such a dominating feature in the landscape. It has a wonderful cluster of towers, unlike anything else. The character of the church seems concentrated in these beautiful, high, upstanding things, just as the character of the church at Beauvais lies in the sheer precipitous rise of arch, with its empty niches and ineffectual ornament that make the height of the huge, bare space so impressive and terrifying. The old town stands squeezed together on the top of the hill, parted by its old walls with their thirteenth-century gates from the new town that lies in nightmare hideousness on the lower slope beside the railway station and the sugar factory. Laon has been a stronghold under at least three of the races that have occupied the land.

One of the roads you see from the hilltop, cleaving the plain as straight as a bolt flies, keeps the memory of the undying race who taught the Christian world that the making of empires begins with the making of roads. After Laon had ceased to be a Roman military station, she became a still more important station of the church militant of Rome, and took a masterful part in the affairs, as well ecclesiastical as temporal, of the middle ages. Froissart has many tales to tell about Laon and her martial clergy. The cathedral was turned into a temple of reason during the revolution, and now the government is turning it into a national monument by scraping, scrubbing, chiseling and repairing in a hygienic and vastly expensive manner. But in spite of archeological patronage, Laon still preaches with every stone, as the makers of these stone Bibles of the thirteenth century intended they should preach, to the populace for whose education and edification they were built.

Most of the French cathedrals have their special character. Laon is said to be peculiarly the erudite cathedral. All round her walls are carved figures that taught the layman, high and low, of the early middle ages most of what he knew about things intellectual.

Clean Money.

From the Housekeeper.

Tainted money may be perfectly sanitary and the honest money of the saintly may be unclean. There are so many seemingly more important things in life than a campaign for clean money that we are apt to smile at the sanitary advocates, thinking that they are pursuing fairy lights instead of the sun. However, it is only necessary to consider what has been done since the germ theory was discovered to have faith in what may come about. The Treasury Department of the government is considering one way of escaping unclean money, and if it is adopted the department will replace soiled money by new if sent by registered mail. Another way that is being advocated is to encourage people to demand clean money at the banks and other places. If the demand becomes universal the government will surely find some way of putting new money to replace the soiled into circulation.

It is not necessary to go into details to show how money travels from place to place, from the sweatshop to the mansion. To help in the cause it has been suggested that whenever any one receives money in a dirty condition the coins be dropped in boiling water and the bills be ironed with a hot iron.

How It Happened.

From the Kansas City Journal.

"True, the night was dark, but he appeared to jump deliberately in front of the automobile."

"Force of habit. The poor fellow was an actor, and naturally dived for the spotlight."

Rebuilding Sale.

Phenomenal Values in Fine Footwear for Men, Women and Children.

Vast inroads have been made into this gigantic stock of footwear since the inauguration of our Rebuilding Sale. From early morning till closing time each day, people have been crowding in and snapping up the bargains offered, but our gigantic stock can withstand big demands. The selection is nearly complete and offers you footwear for yourself and the family at less than manufacturers' cost.

Women's Low Shoes.
Full Line of Sizes.

Full line of Ladies' Tan and Black Low Shoes, in Three-eyelet Gibson, One-eyelet Court Ties, Pumps, etc. Regular values, $3, $3.50 and $4. Special **$1.95**

All our $2.50 American Girl Shoes; high and low. All styles and leathers. Reduced to..... **$1.85**

Ladies' $2.00 High and Low Shoes; all styles and shapes. Special..... **$1.65**

Men's Low Shoes.
Full Line of Sizes.

Any pair of Men's $5 Low Shoes, in all leathers and shapes and styles. Reduced to..... **$3.45**

Any pair of $3.50 or $4 Low Shoes, in all leathers; in black, tan and gun metal. Reduced to..... **$2.85**

Any pair of Men's $3 Low Shoes, in any leather, shape or style. Reduced to..... **$2.45**

Bargain Tables . . Odds and Ends of High and Low Shoes for Men, Women and Children, priced ridiculously low.

TWO GOOD THINGS FOR THIS WEEK.

Boys' and Youths' White Canvas Low Shoes, with leather soles. Just the thing for this weather. Regular $1.00 and $1.50 goods for.....

Also Ladies' White Canvas Oxfords. Regular $1.00 and $1.50 values..... **50c**

SPECIAL BARGAIN THIS WEEK.

Ladies' Genuine Imported Tan Russia Calf Colonial Pumps, with large brass buckles. Welt soles. Pumps that sell up to $4. Reduced to..... **$1.95**

FAMILY SHOE STORE,

JOS. STRASBURGER CO.

310 and 312 Seventh Street N. W.

DRAINING THE EVERGLADES

FIVE MILLION ACRES MAY BE RECLAIMED IN FLORIDA.

Basin the Rim Which Was Probably Formed by Volcanic Action—Control of Okeechobee.

Gov. Broward of Florida, in the Independent.

In the state of Florida, in the region commonly known as the everglades we have five million acres of land suitable for a most profitable form of agriculture, but valueless at the present time because it is covered by water. It may be needless for me to assert that its richness and fertility have been demonstrated by the investigations of soil and climatic experts.

I can say that at last we have settled this point. For, since the year of 1906, when plans to reclaim the land were undertaken by the state through trustees of the internal improvement fund, the project has progressed so far that all doubt of its ultimate success has been removed, and we know that it is only a matter of time when most of this vast area will be made fit for cultivation.

To give a clear conception of how this great drainage work will be accomplished, it will be necessary for me to refer briefly to the position of the everglades and their character. They are sufficiently elevated above the sea to permit all of the surface water to be removed if an adequate system of outlets is constructed while Lake Okeechobee can be kept at such a level that it cannot overflow the surrounding country when its feeders are filled with flood water. We do not expect to drain the lake. It is not necessary, and the task would be too great, for the lake's present area is about 650,000 acres, but we can confine its waters to their normal area by carrying off the overflow through the canal system we are constructing.

Origin of the "Glades."

The everglades lie in an immense basin whose rim, probably of volcanic origin, is composed of coral and limestone rock. There are times when the surface of the everglades is so slightly submerged that the rim is above the water, while during the flood season it may be partially or wholly covered. This barrier is what creates the everglades, as but a small portion of the water can escape through it. Measurements made at various points by state and government engineers show the elevation of the submerged lands is fully twenty feet above the sea at the lowest point, and there is a continual descent from Lake Okeechobee to tidewater.

Consequently, the problem to solve has been how to make passage through this rim which would be of sufficient capacity to allow the water it confines to find a lower level and thus escape. This was the problem that my associates and myself—the trustees of the internal improvement fund—have attempted to overcome. I have given such study to it that when I was nominated for governor in 1905 I pledged myself to drain the everglades, and made this the main issue of the campaign. The project was taken up immediately after election. We had two dredges constructed from designs of my own. They began operation in July, 1906, at the head of what is called the New river, about twenty miles from the city of Miami. The New river flows directly into the sea. Each dredge is excavating through the rim I have described a canal which averages sixty feet in width and has a depth ranging from twelve to fifteen feet. So far nearly three miles of each canal have been completed, but the work is to proceed much more rapidly, as we shall have at least six excavators in service within the next year. A tax of 5 cents an acre on lands sold to settlers gives us an income of about $220,000 annually, and will enable us to increase our operations, as the excavation of the canals is being done with great economy—about one-seventh of the usual cost of such labor.

To provide a complete drainage system will necessitate the construction of about 600 miles of outlets. Most of this work, however, will be merely mud excavation. It is intended to pierce the rim at several other points with canals which will connect with tidal rivers like the New river, and the success we have attained warrants the undertaking. As the channels are dug, the surface water in the vicinity finds its way into them and flows seaward, so that already we have over 2,000 acres of what has been submerged soil reclaimed and being sold to the settler for cultivation. Thus, as the drainage proceeds, the farmer will follow to occupy the land.

Fertility of the Region.

Is it worth while to make this region fit for human habitation? If any one so questions, let him consider for a moment the benefit it will confer, not only on the south, but upon the whole country, from merely one standpoint. There is now imported into the United States more than 2,400,000 tons of foreign sugar, for which we pay, in duty and to the foreign producer, more than $150,000,000 yearly. Our total exports per annum of the following articles, corn, wheat, flour, beef and naval stores combined, amount to but $144,000,000. In other words, we are paying for foreign sugar, in American money, more than the people of foreign countries pay the people of the United States for all of the corn, wheat, flour, beef and naval stores shipped them from the United States. There are in this submerged Florida 5,000,000 acres of land suitable for the cultivation of sugar cane; 3,000,000 acres of which land are free of trees and shrubs, containing only grass; 3,000,000 acres of muck land, varying in depth of muck from 2 feet at the edges to 20 feet in the middle. A small portion of the territory, when reclaimed by private enterprise and cultivated, some years ago, actually produced 63 tons of cane to an acre of ground—cane which yielded 12,600 pounds. If even 500,000 acres of this soil were put into sugar cane it would yield more than the 2,400,000 tons of sugar now annually imported from abroad.

In proof of the assertion that southern Florida affords the site for another great industry, I will briefly refer to the opinions of Dr. H. W. Wiley, the head of the United States bureau of chemistry, who has analyzed samples of sugar cane raised on land reclaimed from this section. Dr. Wiley says: "All of these samples are of over 88 per cent purity and are the most remarkable samples we have ever examined. They contain no glucose (a sign of inferiority) whatever when tested."

Mr. Claus Spreckels, the noted sugar plantation owner and refiner, writes as follows regarding his inspection of these reclaimed sugar lands: "I take pleasure in saying that during my recent trip to inspect your sugar operations my surprise was great at finding such a country for the growth of sugar cane. The soil is as rich as any that I have ever seen, and with proper cultivation the yield should be equal to that of any other country on the face of the globe."

What has been already done in the raising of fruit and vegetables on the small areas of soil which have been drained by private enterprise shows that such work will be repaid many fold. Not only is this part of the state adequate for the production of every pound of the nation's sugar, but it can be covered with fruit orchards and vegetable gardens. The 5,000,000 acres to which I have referred, however, represent only a small portion of the swamp land, granted to Florida by the United States, on which millions of people might find homes and occupations if it were properly drained, which it is possible to do at a very small expense, considering the value of this land for settlement.

Examples in Reclamation.

Let me give a few statistics to further show the extent of this land, now a great waste which might be made of such value. It covers a space equal to the total area of three states of the Union—Connecticut, Rhode Island and Delaware—and comprises over one-half of the surface of the state of Florida.

Did not England reclaim the lands in the valley of the Nile? Then can we not reclaim the lands of Florida? Centuries ago the people of Holland found themselves cramped for room, because of the rapid increase of population. Instead of falling upon some neighboring people and taking from them their territory, they looked out over the reaches of the sea and said: "Here is land in plenty, which the sea does not need; we will take it." They built dikes, shut out the sea, pumped out the water—and today the bottom of the ocean has become the garden spot of Europe, the home of a multitude of happy and prosperous people, and the very sea, whose land was taken, has been confined between canal banks and made the carrier of a nation's commerce. Much of Holland is below the level of the surface of the ocean. Our everglades, as I have said, are above the level of the ocean, so our only task is to let the water run out of them to make habitable a region which is one of the richest in the world and can be made one of the most productive in America.

Installed in Municipal Building and in All Buildings of This Class Where Superior Equipment Is Desired.

The Perfect Mail Chute

——Made by——

THE AUTOMATIC MAIL DELIVERY COMPANY,

Times Building, New York City.

Authorized in Accordance with Act of Congress for the Secure Protection and Custody of U. S. Mail.

Be Cheerful.

From the Southern Banker.

It is safe to maintain that two-thirds of banking mistakes are due entirely to lack of judgment, undue pressure of responsibilities or too great faith in men or things. It has been said that those things for which some men serve terms in prison are done by others without discovery. It is, then, either an accident which causes justice to be done, or an adverse fate which results in an injustice. Whichever it may be, the country is too great to allow its banking affairs to be the sport of chance. We don't want any more suicides, either, among bankers, because of their misdeeds, or among the people because of the bankers. There has been entirely too much accusation against bankers who should be above reproach. We want for our banks and our bankers a position so strong and unquestionable that there can be no possible room for any question, either of their solidity or their judgment.

Now is the time for us all to be optimistic, cheerful and ever ready with the glad hand of confidence for those who are weak-hearted and pessimistic. There never was a time when doubt and lack of confidence had so little cause for existence as now. The nation is blessed with good harvests, and high prices prevail for all its products. Gold is flowing in from abroad to pay for these, and everything points to continued prosperity in the business world. There is absolutely nothing the matter with business. Things will be adjusted all in good time to meet the changed demands. Preach confidence and prosperity first, last and all the time, and ask everybody you meet to do the same.

The Fit.

From Puck.

His sense of fitness was wonderful.

"But is it right?" objected sundry of the other characters in the novel, narrowly thoughtful of mere convention.

"Right!" sneered our hero, in just scorn. "Of course the question is not at all if this thing be right, but whether it will go in New York, if dramatized!"

And to such an exacting standard of conduct did he rigidly adhere, from the first page unto the last.