

TAFT DETAILS VISIT TO POPE LEO XIII

Former President Lectures Before National Geographic Society.

TELLS OF SECULARIZATION OF PHILIPPINE PRIAR LANDS

Deprecates Organization of Parties on Religious Lines, Believing They Do Not Benefit Republic.

Former President Taft lectured on the subject of "His Visit in the Spring of 1902 to the Vatican," when he brought about the secularization of the friar lands in the Philippines, before members of the National Geographic Society at New Masonic Temple last night.

Mr. Taft said that he found Leo XIII, although the Pope had reached the advanced age of ninety-two years, a man of keenly active intelligence.

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BREAD LINE IN BELGIUM NOW NUMBERS 500,000

Col. Hunsiker of London Relief Committee Says It Is Growing Daily.

NEW YORK, March 27.—Col. Millard Hunsiker, vice chairman of the Belgian relief commission in London, has arrived here from Liverpool, Col. Hunsiker said that he had come to the United States to confer with the heads of the American committee, and would be here several weeks.

"The bread line in Belgium now numbers about 500,000, and it is growing daily. In Great Britain there are about 112,000 Belgian refugees, many of whom have been given employment."

R. Hughes Le Roux, editor of Le Matin of Paris, said that he had come to the United States "at the request of the people of Paris to present the side of France to America."

"I am too old to become a soldier," he said, "I have given to France my only son, who bore my name. He was wounded at Verdun. I went to him and for twenty-two days I nursed him in the vain effort to save his life."

The doctor told me he was dying, and then I found out that he had been wounded in the chest. I purchased it twelve days before he died and was compelled to keep it until his death. His last words to me were: "If this is the last war the world will ever see, I have not died in vain."

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Gardening as Recreation.

By Frederic J. Haskin.

To every man who is not too many generations removed from the soil the first warm days of March bring a deepened yearning to get back to it. And, as our cities grow, the number of men who can fish and play golf and engage in other sports of the open country steadily diminishes; but with more and better trolley lines always reaching out to new suburbs the number of men who can own a bit of land and delve in it with a spade is growing apace.

Amateur gardening is really becoming one more great American sport. Nearly all Americans are of farming stock originally, and few of them are so many generations removed from the ancestral occupation that the smell of a fresh-turned soil has not a subtle appeal for their nostrils.

Thus it happens that the suburbanite is always happiest in the springtime. He bustles from his downtown office, burdened with gardening tools, seeds and bulbs for resetting. These are not sold at random, but each purchaser receives definite instruction calculated to insure their successful growth.

Hotbeds are also in vogue, and the man with a taste for carpentering is supplied with all the materials, as well as full directions for constructing one for himself, unless he prefers to purchase one ready-made.

The amateur garden movement is becoming better organized each year, and its advantages are many. In suburban sections of large cities it fosters neighborhood and sociability, as well as civic pride.

The trash heap in the back yard no longer exists. It is replaced by cultivated beds of flowers and vegetables. The families cultivating these small gardens get into the habit of comparing notes across lots.

They exchange seeds and cuttings and become acquainted and friendly neighbors. One of the tendencies of the back-to-the-soil movement in towns and cities is the abolishment of the ugly high board fence which separated one back yard from another.

Even though painted and vine-covered, the high fence is a nuisance, and in the garden and back yard of a square are in cultivation it tends to break a vista which would be otherwise attractive. Consequently, it is being replaced by attractive wire fences which separate the lots, but permit one resident to enjoy the good appearance of his neighbor's garden.

The rivalry among amateurs in the matter of flower and vegetable production goes to the highest degree. In one large city the "Forty-second Ward Citizens' Association" distributes well selected seeds and plants early in the spring. Two exhibitions are held, in which the products are upon display in a tent erected for that purpose in an open square.

The first is on the Fourth of July and is a feature of the special celebration held in this ward upon that day. The other comes in October. Prizes are offered for the best product. The October exhibition resembles nothing so much as a country fair.

Gigantic cabbages, potatoes, tomatoes, beets, onions, squashes and every sort of vegetable are shown side by side with flowers which rival those of the greenhouses in beauty and fragrance.

Few of those who enter into these friendly competitions have more than the space of an ordinary city lot to use. The principles of intensive farming are carried out to the highest degree. Not a foot of soil is wasted. As soon as one crop is finished something is planted in its place.

A number of new features are developed. One man raises prize tomatoes by training them to climb over the wire fence between his garden and that of his neighbor. This was accomplished by pruning the plants when they were young. It had the advantage of saving space, as when grown like a bush in the old-fashioned way a dozen plants occupied a considerable portion of space, while the ground taken by those planted against the fence is negligible.

Sometimes an amateur will have a particular penchant for one crop, and devote most attention to that. A lady had a small lot put it all in flowers, except a six-foot square which she devotes entirely to lettuce, chard, endive and other salad plants. She alternates them during the season, and is usually able not only to have supply for her own table, but to play Lady Bountiful for all the people on her square.

A clergyman had a unique fancy for growing antelopes, and a genius for producing exceptionally fine ones in small quantities. He has raised antelope on a single hill of seed planted at the foot of a climbing rose-bush at the front of his house, while a six-foot square in his back yard gave seemingly miraculous results in numbers and quality.

It is not only in the suburbs that the back-to-the-soil influence is recognized. A man who had a garden on his flat roof has for several years been raising flowers and vegetables upon the flat roof covering the rear of his house. He secured ten wagon-beds of earth from an excavation being made for a new building near by. He fitted a tight board wall around his roof and had the soil laid smoothly in place, adding a liberal amount of fertilizer. He attends to the work of cultivation after office hours, and claims that he took it up as a means for the improvement of his health as any other reason. The physical effect of working with the soil has been declared by prominent physicians to be the best possible cure for worn-out nerves.

Two women living in a city apartment had a garden last year which was the wonder and delight of their neighbors. The building had an open space at one side to supply light to interior rooms. The bottom of this space was about twenty-five feet square, had been planted with grass, but after several years was neglected and swept in appearance. The women received permission to plant a garden in that plot of ground. One of them had been brought up in the country and knew how.

A border going all around it was planted in nasturtium, sinigalla, marigolds, lady slippers and other old-fashioned flowers, including a liberal portion of the fragrant nigella. A row each of lettuce, onions, peas and string beans went the entire length of the garden. The few hills of cucumbers were at one side. A bed of cosmos and asters was planted in one corner. After the vegetables had been planted the women continued until frost. Except for the first preparation of the ground, the work was all done by the two women who were employed during most of the day. They felt that the vegetables repaid them amply from the flowers and the pleasure they gave their friends. The expense for labor, seeds and incidentals was less than \$5.

Movement Adds to Food Resources.

of social workers, and the vacant lot movement is well advanced in many cities. The principle involved in that every foot of land in city limits ought to be productive of beauty, profit or health to some one. The unimproved lot usually produces neither, but if it is placed under cultivation it may give all three. Owners of vacant lots are usually glad to have them cultivated, because it enhances their value.

A poor woman in Philadelphia several years ago was left with five children to support, when her husband was killed by a boiler explosion. Near the apartment in which she had been living was a tract of land in litigation. At one end of it was a sort of shed which had been used to store workmen's tools. She was granted the use of this shed rent free, with permission to cultivate the ground. With the help of two or three men, who had worked with her husband and were glad to give her an occasional job, she worked it for eleven and thirteen put every foot of land under cultivation. They worked it faithfully throughout the summer. They were able to sell from it over two hundred dollars worth of garden produce at low prices to the people of the factory district, and at the same time to have all that they could use themselves. In addition they had a good supply of potatoes, dried beans and some canned vegetables in the fall to add to their winter's food supply.

Thus, even in the heart of the city, the American gets back to the soil. And his going means health, food and recreation.

The great possibilities of amateur gardening in adding to the food resources of those in poverty are being recognized by all classes of social workers, and the vacant lot movement is well advanced in many cities.

SENATOR WEEKS STARTS TONIGHT FOR THE COAST

Will Visit Number of Cities on His Way and Make Addresses. Returns in June.

Senator John W. Weeks of Massachusetts, who has been mentioned many times as a potential candidate for the republican nomination for the presidency, and whose boom appears to be gathering strength as the weeks go by, will leave Washington tonight for the Pacific coast. Senator Weeks has been invited to visit a number of cities on his way to the coast to make addresses.

At St. Louis Senator Weeks is to be the guest of honor at a dinner and will deliver an address. And at Kansas City a reception will be tendered him by republican admirers. Former Senator Bristow and Senator Curtis of Kansas have arranged a luncheon in honor of Senator Weeks at Topeka, where he will meet the republican state leaders of Kansas.

Senator Weeks will visit the Panama-Pacific exposition and will spend several weeks on the Pacific coast. He has a brother living in Washington state and will visit him before his return east. It is expected that Senator Weeks' return trip will be broken by numerous stops where he can meet party leaders. By the time the republican caucus is held in June it is expected he will be generally heralded as the favorite son of his state for the nomination in 1916.

SELECTING G. W. U. DEBATORS.

Need of Increased Armament to Be Discussed With U. of P.

Members of the faculty at George Washington University are busily engaged selecting a team to represent the institution at the debate next month with the Philomathean Society of the University of Pennsylvania.

Try-outs already have been held, a large number of candidates appearing in the elimination contests. The proposition debated by the candidates was: "That in view of the existing circumstances the United States should take steps to increase materially the army and navy." Competitors were permitted to discuss either side of the question.

The board of judges is composed of members of the faculty of the law school. M. H. Francis, president of the Columbian Debating Society at George Washington, was in charge of arrangements for the try-outs.

STRIKES IN ENGLAND DESPITE AGREEMENT

Government May Be Driven to Take Some Drastic Measures.

LONDON, March 27.—Despite Lord Kitchener's warnings and the agreements between the government and the trades unions that strikes should cease, stoppages of work still continue. Though the number of men involved thus far is small, fears are expressed that the disaffection may spread and the government be driven to adopt the drastic measures which have been threatened in order to increase industrial production.

At Birkenhead yesterday the men loading three steamers quit work and announced that they would not resume their labors until Monday. Their ground was that they are not paid until the following week for work done Friday and Saturday.

On the Liverpool side of the Mersey a large number of dockers threatened to strike for a similar reason, and to lay off for an entire week.

GERMANY REQUESTED TO EXPLAIN ATTACKS

Holland May Protest Interference With and Destruction of Ships.

THE HAGUE, via London, March 27.—Members of the Netherlands government are requesting Germany to explain the attacks on the subject of interference with and destruction of Dutch shipping by German submarines, beyond saying that requests for explanations have been sent to Germany with a view to eventual protest after Berlin's reply has been received.

The ministry held an extraordinary council following conferences between the foreign and marine ministers and between the marine minister and the chief of the naval staff. The subjects under discussion were not made public.

Takes Serious View. The newspapers are taking a serious view of the situation, owing, as they put it, to the repeated "unpleasant incidents." They refer to the present warfare as "competition in illegality."

LONDON, March 27.—Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent gives the outline of a statement printed by the Handelsblad on the sinking Thursday of the Dutch steamer Medea. The article says that the steamer's orange cargo could not even have been considered conditional contraband.

Called Arbitrary Violence. "The sinking of the Medea," the paper adds, "is an act of arbitrary violence, which cannot be considered a legitimate error." This action, as well as attacks on Dutch ships from the air, can only be explained on the assumption that Germany feels certain that so long as no foreign troops or warships of the British fleet are in the North Sea, the country every day of arbitrary violence against Dutch subjects or property is permissible.

"We are convinced that complete compensation must be demanded from Germany. This last act is certain to arouse great uneasiness and bitterness here."

The deaths in Irish workhouses during the last year included those of seventeen thousand.

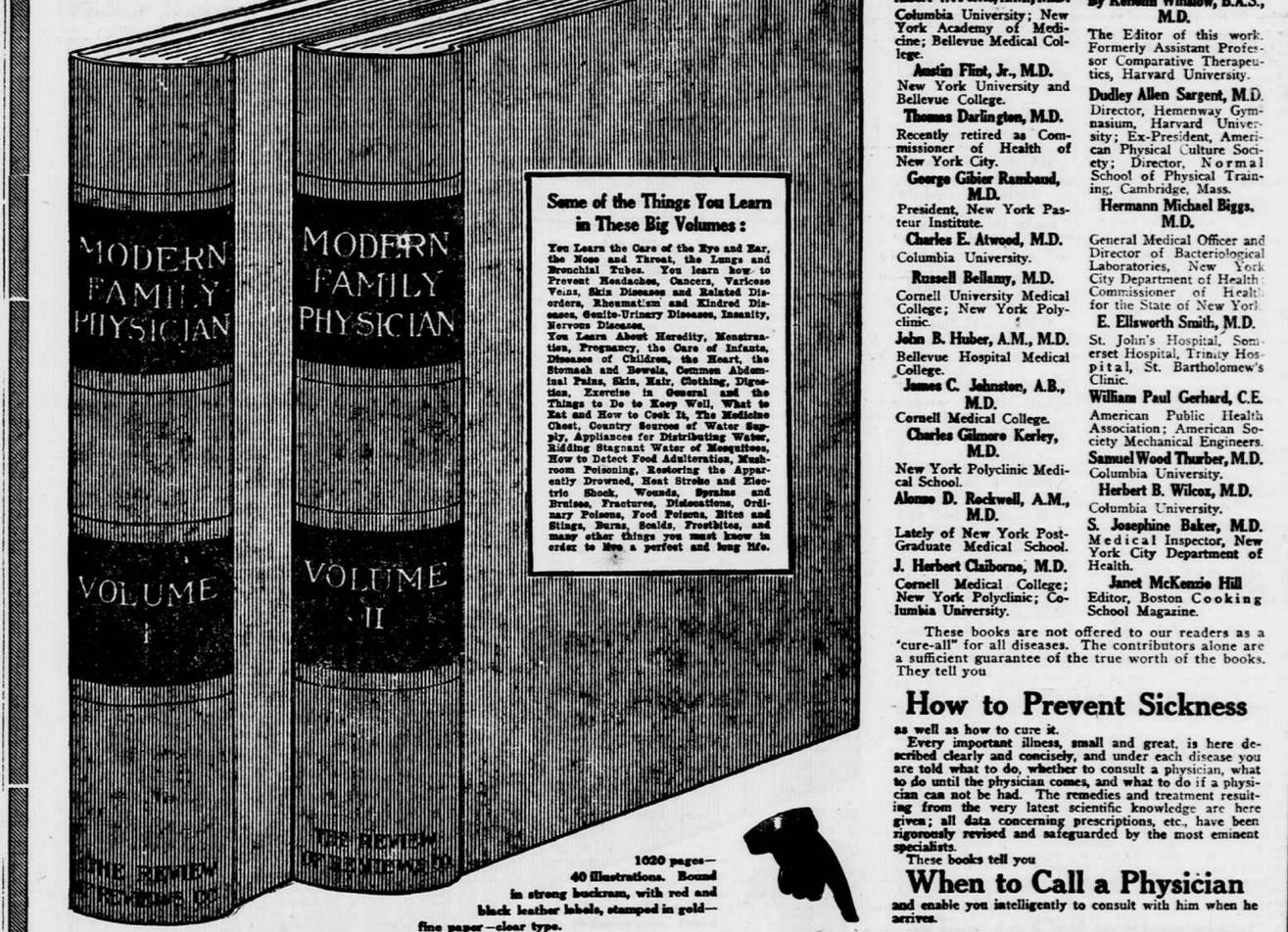
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What Some Prominent People Say About This Work: CLARA BARTON, Founder American Red Cross, says: "Concise, compact, practical knowledge constantly at hand, gives in distinct language and an attractive form that will insure its general reading wherever met. I feel it to be a most welcome aid to my own cherished work of 'First Aid' now so rapidly spreading over the country." H. VANDERVEER, Dean Albany Medical College, says: "I consider the two volumes of the Modern Family Physician excellent in every respect; correct in content, practical, written in a clear, forceful style, and if such books are to be introduced into the home I am sure these are the best." B. P. RAYMOND, President, Wesleyan University, says: "It is the most sensible treatise for the home that I have ever seen. The articles are handled in a scientific way. The suggestions are such as any sensible man or woman in the house could make wise use of for the treatment of almost any of the ailments which a wise man or woman would try to treat without a doctor."

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The Book That Will Win America for JOSEPH CONRAD The Story of a Woman's Love that is superb in its Faith and Triumph. JUST OUT—Net, \$1.35

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SAY HE ABDUCTED BOY.

William R. Downing Arrested at Atlantic City for Local Police. William R. Downing, thirty-five years old, whose address is given by the police as 1011 Monroe street northwest, and Joseph W. Hunter, fourteen years old, 817 Octa street northwest, were arrested in Atlantic City yesterday afternoon, the former charged with having abducted the latter.

Mrs. Carrie L. Hunter, mother of the boy, complained to the police that her son disappeared from home a week ago. He was located at a boarding house in Philadelphia, but when the police visited the house they learned that the pair had gone to Atlantic City. Detective George Weber of the tenth precinct went to Atlantic City last night to get Downing. He was accompanied by a brother of the boy.

AMATEUR GARDENING.

The department stores of the cities have done much to increase the interest in amateur gardening. Most of them have regular garden departments in February, which is in active operation at least until the end of May. Seeds, bulbs and plants, as well as gardening tools, are sold at attractive prices. Many stores now feel that it is not enough merely to sell these supplies. They must give their customers instructions as to their use in order that the results may give them a desire to buy the next year. Instructions and demonstrations are now quite usual. At least one large store has had a model garden upon its roof for several years. A professional gardener is in charge. Seeds are planted, and a daily course of lectures tells how it should be done. Customers are invited to visit the garden frequently to observe how the different plants grow. The chemical composition of soil is shown. Samples of different kinds of soil adjacent to and in the city are exhibited, and the result of their chemical analysis given. This analysis indicates the special properties each soil stands most in need of, and the necessary fertilizers are on sale.

A hothouse supplies plants of all kinds for resetting. These are not sold at random, but each purchaser receives definite instruction calculated to insure their successful growth. Hotbeds are also in vogue, and the man with a taste for carpentering is supplied with all the materials, as well as full directions for constructing one for himself, unless he prefers to purchase one ready-made.

How to Get These Books

The publishers' price of this set of books is \$5.00, and it is only by reason of an advantageous deal which The Star has been able to make with the publishers that you are privileged to secure them for less. For a short time

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