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PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

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JULIUS F. TAYLOR, Publisher and Editor.

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Miss Delia Stacey, the well-known New York actress, has made a tremendous hit in the metropolis by accepting a $5 bet to smoke a cigarette on an open Broadway car, and carrying out the wager. To say that the appearance of this beautiful girl calmly puffing her paper cigar on the car created a sensation is to put it very mildly. A number of other ladies left the car at once, but Miss Stacey was fired in her determination to win the five and she did.

Why is it that people will keep various poisonous drugs about the house in close proximity to harmless medicines? Why is it, furthermore, that persons knowing such facts get up at night and drink something out of an unlabelled bottle? Is it so much trouble to light the gas and be sure what one is doing? Day by day the newspapers recount deaths resulting from such carelessness and it is hard to feel much sympathy with people so reckless of common sense.

There are in the United States, it is stated, 200,000 machinists, 10,000 toolmakers, 25,000 boilermakers, 10,000 patternmakers, 750,000 carpenters and joiners, 200,000 masons and bricklayers, 50,000 contractors and builders, 50,000 plumbers, gas and steam fitters; 150,000 stationery engineers and firemen, 100,000 locomotive engineers and firemen, 50,000 electric railway and light employes, 50,000 cabinet-makers, carvers and woodworkers; 50,000 civil, mechanical, electrical and mining engineers.

Here is a genuine tragedy: Peter Fleming, aged 81, a New York organ grinder, loved with unrequited passion Mrs. Ida Peters, aged 36, in fact not half as old as himself, by four years. She presided over her washtubs and ironing boards with a queenly grace which so captivated the old "musician's soul, that he offered her his heart and hand, including the organ, but she turned a deaf ear to his protestations of love, whereupon he went upstairs to his room and shot himself. Who then shall say that Cupid regards years or any other earthly consideration?

The census returns show 213 centenarians in France, and the only consolation the statisticians can find is that they are better off than Germany, where there are only seventy-eight centenarians. A comparison of the different countries of Europe in this respect is interesting. Switzerland, for instance, possesses no centenarian at all, England has 146, Spain 401 and Ireland 578. It is in the Balkan states, however, that there is a surprisingly large proportion of people over 100 years old. Servia, for example, has 978, Roumania 1,064, and Bulgaria 3,861.

A Brooklyn romance of ten years' standing was culminated the other day by a marriage on the death bed of the bride, Miss Annie N. Gargan. The groom of an hour was a wealthy liquor dealer named Peter J. Kelley. A curious series of accidents has repeatedly caused the postponement of their wedding and finally the bride became fatally ill. Both wishing to consummate the sacrament of marriage, a priest was summoned, and amidst the weeping family the beautiful ceremony was performed. Their troth was originally plighted when he was a lad of 15 and she a baby of 5.

Farmers near Alexandria, S. D., some distance north of Sioux City, Iowa, report the appearance in that section of a potato pest never before seen in the northwest. It is a dark green bug about half an inch long, appears in swarms and settling on the potato patches quickly eats every vine. It is extremely lively and hard to catch and whenever it settles on the face or hands raises a blister. Farmers have been killing it by scattering straw in the patches, driving the pest into it by beating the vines and then burning straw and bugs together. Thus far the bugs have not been numerous nor have their ravages extended over a wide area.

A professor in Johns Hopkins University has discovered that only the female mosquito bites. This is highly important if true, and greatly simplifies the situation. Henceforth in the stilly watches of the night if you are serenaded by a winged New Jerseyan don't get excited, but strike a light and find out whether your visitor is a male or a female.

In St. Paul the other day a plumber and an iceman were sunstruck. Even the heated term is not entirely without its bright spots.

TRAVELS IN MEXICO.

THIRD OF A SERIES OF E. B. LIGHT'S LETTERS.

Anyone Who Imagines That Free Silver Is Injuring Our Country Ought to Read This—Not an Idle Workman Anywhere in the Republic.

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THIRD LETTER.

Chihuahua, Aug. 16, 1896.

I find so many attractions in this quaint, enterprising city, that I am tarrying here longer than I expected, that I may fully investigate its industries.

The largest manufacturing plant in Northern Mexico is that of The Industrial Company of Chihuahua. The principal owner is Mr. Enrique Creel, the banker, whose very instructive interview I reported in my previous letter. Mr. E. C. Creel, his brother, is the superintendent. The works were established by the erection of a small foundry and machine shop, and employed of a capital of $40,000. Later the capital was increased, and the profits have been allowed to accumulate until now the company has a capital of $250,000. Mr. Creel very courteously showed me through the works in which he takes a purifiable pride. He informed me their employes are chiefly natives, to whom they pay the same wages for the same work as to foreigners, and the scale of wages now employed was molders, $2.00 to $3.00; machinists, $3.00 to $5.00 per day of 10 hours.

In the rolling mill the employes from foreman to iron handlers average $4.00 per day of 12 hours per shift. Six months ago they employed twenty foreigners mostly Americans. Now they employ but three, as they find that the Mexicans turn out more work, because they will bear rushing, which the Americans would not. Mr. Creel said he preferred the Mexicans because they did not understand the art of combining and coercing their employers as did the Americans.

The weekly payroll of the Industrial Co. amounts to $5,000. The product covers merchant bar iron, castings for stoves, architectural work, castings for smelters and mines, and general machine work. The work is of inferior finish, inartistic in design, and lacking that attractive style our Americans produce; but it may satisfy their trade. The thought presented to my mind was, with the competition of an American plant, under the direction of one who was thoroughly conversant with the business, it would be necessary to turn out better work or lose the trade. I believe there is a grand opening at Mexico City, the commercial metropolis, for a plant of equal magnitude, to be operated by American capital, and directed by American skill.

Mr. Creel told me that last spring a large contract was awarded in Mexico City, to which foreign manufacturers were invited and were present, but that the Industrial Works secured the entire order amounting to upwards of $250,000. This was made possible by the high rate of exchange which has proved of inestimable benefit to Mexican industries, and shut all manufacturers out that operate in gold standard countries.

As I look into this question I can come to no other conclusion that that our manufacturers have not studied this monetary question from the standpoint of self-interest. That they do not realize that through its operation the silver-using nations are establishing new industries, covering every important branch in those countries where we have long monopolized their valuable trade, and that new industries are being planted upon such a solid foundation they can never be dislodged. Look at Japan. Never did a country develop their resources more rapidly, and never were our industries so seriously threatened in our home markets, as by that nation operating upon a silver basis with their abundant cheap labor. Should we remain on a gold basis and double our present tariff (barring transportation) they would yet have an equal chance in our markets. Restore unlimited coinage of silver, and we at once place them on a level with our manufacturers if there was no tariff. Then by continuing the tariff of today, or increase it if you please, we shall effectually shut them out of our markets. If the committee that is now in South America looking for new avenues of trade will take up the monetary question and study it from a non-partisan standpoint, they will reach the conclusion that they can accomplish more by returning and acquainting their brethren of the true cause of the present paralysis of their business, than can possibly be accomplished by advertising their wares in countries operating on a silver basis. If this statement is doubted let them send a committee to Mexico, where our manufacturers a few years ago sold this republic a very large part of the goods it consumed. Then we annually held a balance of trade against this nation of some $15,000,000, which has been gradually reduced until in 1894 there was a balance against us of over $11,000,000. Under these conditions is it surprising that upwards of $350,000,000 of foreign gold has found more profitable investment here, than at home? But let us not soliloquize. I prefer to give statements as I gather them from gentlemen in the various walks of life, and especially manufacturers; for I recall how at home we have over 3,000,000 idle workmen denied the right to earn bread by the sweat of the face, because their employers cannot find sale for their wares.

From the rolling mills we drove to La National Soap Works, owned and ably managed by the Brittingham Brothers. I am told this business was established in 1885 in a small way, since when it has been enlarged three times until now, it has a weekly capacity of two car loads of laundry soap. These gentlemen have since built a much larger factory at Lerado which has a capacity of three car loads per week. In connection with the Chihuahua factory, Messrs. Brittingham and Tarrams operate a candle factory with a capacity of seventy-five boxes per day. In all of these works they consume quite largely cotton seed oil, which they formerly bought in the United States, but the high rate of exchange caused the building of a factory here, consuming Mexican cotton seed and thus we lost another source of income and another struggling industry was crippled. They are now buying soap boxes in Michigan. It is hoped we can retain that trade. The Brittinghams are loyal Americans and expressed regret at seeing our country losing so rapidly the valuable trade of the Southern Republic. I asked these gentlemen how present wages compared with those paid when they began manufacturing. To which the reply came, when we began in 1885 we paid our men from 25 to 50 cents per $1.00 per day, and to some of our older and better men we pay $1.25 per day. We pay our engineer and carpenter each $2.25 per day by the year, we employ only native help. All work 10 hours per day. Labor is organizing and wages are going up.

At present the demand for labor is in excess of the supply, especially for the farm. During the past two weeks two car load of laborers have been shipped in. The last one, two days ago, and today there is not an idle man in the city that wants work. For several years past we have not had our usual amount of rain fall. Many men have left the farms and found work in the factories, until now the farmers cannot procure sufficient labor to raise and harvest their crops. The demand has been so great for farm help that the state has leased their prisoners to the farmers in the immediate locality.

Before leaving El Paso, Mr. Donahue, general agent of the Mexican Central, told me if I desired information at Chihuahua, I would find their agent at that point very well informed, and he would gladly give me information if I applied for it. Therefore my next call was upon W. S. Clayton at the depot. I found him a regular encyclopedia. It was quite satisfactory to have him corroborate the statements made by those interviewed, as it increased my confidence in their correctness. It is proper to say here, that I have aimed and shall continue to give the name and address of the party interviewed in full, that any person desiring to test the correctness of my statements may do so by addressing the party personally.

I asked Mr. Clayton to give me the rates governing traffic on the Central, to which he replied: "On passenger business we have first, second and third class. The first class is three cents, the second is two cents, and the third is one and one-half cents per kilometer, or about ⅝ of a mile. The first class cars are furnished with chair seats, the second with seats of the usual pattern, but are not upholstered, having slatted seats, the third class cars have slotted seats running lengthwise along each side, and a double row of seats back to back, through the center. These cars will accommodate more than twice as many passengers as the first class cars. As the low rates encourage travel I believe the suggestion of lower rates for cheaper accommodations, worthy the consideration by our American railroads."

To the question do you find the liberal use of silver inconvenient or burdensome? He replied: "No we are accustomed to it, and the large amount of silver in circulation enables all to pay cash for purchases as made. Our merchants would rather handle the silver than keep books. Then plenty of money improves business. The high rate of exchange encourages the establishing of new industries, which creates a demand for labor which is fully employed at good wages considering the cost of living.

The average pay for peons is from sixty to seventy-five cents a day. Masons $1.50 to $2.00, carpenters $2.00 to $5.00, machinists $3.00 to $5.00, boilermakers $5.00 to $8.00. All work 10 hours per day and no strikes. In the southern part of the republic lower wages are paid as labor is more plentiful, except to foreign mechanics who command about the same rate in all the states. There is a fair demand for labor at these prices. It is proper to say that not all the men coming from the states can secure employment at these wages until they have been here some time, as they must first learn the language before they can make themselves useful. They must also be prepared to live differently and work more hours."

I must emphasize Mr. Clayton's suggestions as to our workmen coming here for employment. All persons before coming here for a prolonged stay, should take up the study of the language. You will learn the language more rapidly when among the natives, but the rudiments should be mastered at home, as well as the names of things in common use.

This suggestion applies to all who would visit the republic for pleasure. There are so many Americans here that one can get along very comfortably in the cities, by exercising their ingenuity and patiently persevering with those who speak broken English.

Do not come here with the idea that our ways are superior, and therefore should be adopted. These people change very slowly, and you will be more successful if you fall in with their ways as rapidly as possible, and leave changes to be made when you better understand the situation. Then you will probably decide it is better for things to go on their way.

EDW. B. LIGHT.

THE SLINGS AND ARROWS OF OUTRAGED FARMERS.

LABOR'S WAGES AND MONOMETALLISM.

The advocates of the present gold standard are fond of asserting that wages are higher in gold standard countries than they are in bimetallic countries. They quote the daily wages paid in Brazil, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Holland, Great Britain, Argentina, Norway and Sweden, Spain, Turkey, Portugal, Canada, Switzerland, Venezuela, United States, Chili and Australasia, all gold standard countries, as against Austria, China, Russia, Central America, Persia, Peru, Uruguay, Mexico, Colombia, Japan, India and Ecuador—all silver standard countries. It will be noticed that not one of the countries named are on a bimetallic system, except it be the United States (the figures are for the year 1890, when this country was on a partial bimetallic basis) which they nevertheless put in the gold standard column. Today all the countries named have either a single silver standard or a single gold standard. Not one of them has a financial system like the United States had up to 1873, and, in a measure, from that time to 1893, when the Sherman law was repealed by a forced panic and under which wages advanced so much. A single silver standard is almost as bad as a single gold standard. The one virtue of silver monometallism over gold is that it keeps the forces of production at work. There is practically no unemployed in the silver countries. A third of the forces of production in the gold countries are idle at the present time.

And again it is organized labor that keeps wages up in every country. Labor is thoroughly organized in nearly all of the gold standard countries. In the silver countries it is not. All of the gold countries named have heretofore been bimetallic countries. The silver countries have always been monometallic. Wages thrive under the bimetallic system. Wages go down under the monometallic system—be it gold or silver. This country is now on a gold monometallic system and has been since 1893. Wages have gone down 30 per cent. since then. The daily pay of workmen in the United States in 1892 was $12,000,000; today it is about $8,000,000. We want to get back to the bimetallic system, not merely as it partly existed prior to 1893, but as it wholly existed prior to 1873. Then wages will go up.

Demonetizing Silver.

I will take it on myself to answer Mr. Edward Helliwell, who inquires about what is meant when it is asserted that silver has been "demonetized." His letter, published in the Record Aug. 6, refers to two objections often stated, as he says, which he gives as follows: 1. "We were not using any silver in 1873, and therefore silver could not have been demonetized." 2. "We are using more silver money than ever before in our history."

It is a technical word. One might say the silver coin now has no independent purchasing power, whereas once with us all the silver coin of the United States did have such independent purchasing power, and from 1853 to 1873 the silver dollar possessed it, while the fractional silver coin did not. The independent purchasing power of the fractional silver coin was taken away in 1853 and that of the silver dollar in changes that occurred from 1873 to 1878. That is "demonetizing." The taking away of the independent purchasing power of any of the precious metal coinage by law is the "demonetizing" of such coin. While we did not actually use the silver or gold coin as a part of the volume of the circulating medium in 1873 the law permitted the gold coin and the silver dollar to be carried on independent purchasing power, and after that this privilege was taken from the silver dollar. While the silver coin now has the same purchasing power as gold coin it is so because they are in the volume of the circulating medium as the solvent representation of the gold coin. The silver coin changes purchasing power with the change of the gold coin, and not with the change of silver bullion. It may then be true that in 1873 we were not using the silver coin in our volume of the circulating medium, and yet the silver dollar was privileged to be coined and used on its own purchasing power, but after 1878 it could only be used as the solvent or insolvent representation of gold coin. The silver dollar was restored in everything but its independent purchasing power in 1878. The silver dollar therefore remained "demonetized."

Nor does it make any difference about the volume of silver coin, for be the issue few or many, the question involving the "demonetizing" of precious metal coinage is whether or not it is issued on independent or dependent purchasing power. Purchasing power alone is "standard of prices," and any money to perform the office of a "standard of prices" must have sufficient independence of purchasing power to fill this office. Solvent representative money never has any purchasing power of its own, and therefore can only be subordinate money and is "demonetized."—Ebenezer Wakeley in Chicago Record.

How to Weigh Without Scales.

Those who would like to try some new recipe but infrequently find themselves perplexed to accurately do the measuring and weighing required. The following table of equivalents will in some cases be found very helpful: Wheat flour, one pound is one quart; Indian meal, one pound two ounces are one quart; butter, when soft, one pound is one quart; sugar, when broken, one pound is one quart; ten eggs are one pound; four pecks are one bushel; sixteen tablespoonfuls are one pint; eight large tablespoonfuls are one gill; four large tablespoonfuls are half a gill; two gills are one pint; two pints are one quart; four quarts are one gallon; one common-sized tumbler holds half a pint; a common-sized wine-glass holds half a gill; a teacup holds one gill; a large wineglass holds one gill; a tablespoonful is half an ounce; ten drops are equal to one teaspoonful; four teaspoonfuls are equal to one tablespoonful.—Boston Transcript.

"Pinned" on the Spot.

A most amusing incident occurred recently at a London club. One night after Mr. Berrian, the conjurer, had exhibited some tricks with cards, a rather jaty member observed: "What humbug it all sleight of hand and I'll play you for all you're worth at score, despite your nimble fingering."

Quick as lightning the conjurer said: "Sir, I could not afford to accept your challenge. See, you have the kings concealed up your left sleeve," and he drew the cards from the indignant gent's coat.—Tid-Bits.

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