

# Rich American Socialist Helps England With Her Poor.



Headquarters of the Poorhouse Brigade, On The Fels Farm.

### Establishes a Farm Where Agricultural Pursuits May Take the Place of Enforced Idleness at the Poorhouses.

LONDON, Dec. 31.  
**J**OSEPH FELS, of Philadelphia, a manufacturer whose wares are almost as widely advertised in America and England as Sir Thomas Lipton's are, has the satisfaction now of seeing a big move forward for a scheme he proposed some time ago to various conservative British officials who looked upon the idea at first as revolutionary, and, therefore, quite beneath their notice. It was on such a big scale that it frightened the officials.

When Mr. Fels came to London, a few years ago, many of the English poorhouses were overcrowded with able-bodied paupers who wanted work and couldn't get it. The Poplar board of guardians, as the poorhouse trustees of that London district were called, had a particularly anxious time of it. Their workhouse had an alarming number of able-bodied men among the inmates. Charity was appealed to in vain to relieve the distress, but continued depression of trade at the docks and in general industry always kept the workhouse full. Will Crooks, a member of parliament who came from the workhouse, tried various schemes to get rid of the surplus able-bodied in the institution without much success.

Then Mr. Fels came on the scene and suggested that those who were able to work should be sent on to the land. He offered the land, but the local government board, which is the executive authority in the administration of the poor law, could not see the practicability of the scheme. However, Will Crooks and one or two others kept pecking away at the department until at last it gave permission to test the scheme.

**Bought Derelict Farm.**  
Mr. Fels bought a hundred acre derelict farm for \$10,625, and placed it at the disposal of the Poplar board of guardians free of rent for three years, with permission to purchase before or at the end of that time. He asked no consideration for the use of his money, but if the guardians are unable to complete the purchase at the time stipulated the farm will revert to Mr. Fels in a vastly improved condition. He has made similar offers to other boards

of guardians throughout England, and he says that he is ready to furnish an amount of capital for identical enterprises sanctioned by the local government board.

He recently offered to buy 1,000 acres of land for the board, wherewith to test on a larger scale the plan now in operation under the care of the poorhouse trustees of the Poplar district, and after considerable hesitation the offer has now been accepted, and Mr. Fels is looking around for the land.

**Not Philanthropic.**  
This millionaire American socialist says he is not animated by either business or philanthropic motives. Of course, in the event of the farms reverting to him his investments would yield a handsome return through the enhanced value of the land consequent on the improvements made by the workhouse men. On the other hand, it cannot be overlooked that Mr. Fels's business may derive some advertising. In any case, he is now recognized as a public benefactor, and Mr. Long, the secretary of the local government board, has had many lengthy discussions with him with regard to the unemployed problem.

Sumner's farm of 100 acres, which was acquired by Mr. Fels for the Poplar trustees, is situated in the heart of picturesque Essex, about forty miles from London, and here 100 men, young and old, from the congested Poplar workhouse, are back on the land with spades and pickaxes. The farm is miles away from the nearest village, and even its water supply is three miles distant. The construction of a reservoir became, therefore, a matter of immediate necessity, and in this work a large proportion of the men are now employed. The erection of laundries and living quarters is in progress. It is estimated that the Poplar poorhouse, but it will be destroyed by the Poplar guardians.

**First Object of Colony.**  
The first object of the colony will be to make a portion of the land yield sufficient vegetables to satisfy the demands of the Poplar poorhouse, but it will require much hard work before this can be accomplished. The men's ages range between twenty-five and sixty years,

and unlike other colonists, they work quietly without the necessity for a large number of foremen or overseers. Besides the superintendent and his assistant there is one foreman and a practical bricklayer. Men who spent years of uselessness lounging in the dormitories of Poplar workhouse are now being transformed into vigorous and useful members of society, exhibiting mental and moral improvement. Out of the hundred men who have been working on the farm now for three months only two have turned out failures. Chronic laziness followed them even in the bracing air of Essex, and they decided to return to their luxurious quarters in Poplar workhouse.

**Remarkably Industrious.**  
Considering that the men receive no wages it is remarkable to see the amount of industry they put into their work and the interest they take in endeavoring to make this derelict land immediately fertile and productive. An eight-hour working day is the established rule. They rise at 6:45 and breakfast at 7 to 7:30; have dinner at 12, and finish working at 4:30 p. m.; supper is provided at 5, and the men go to bed at 8 p. m. The ordinary workhouse rule is relaxed and they are allowed to go where they please on Saturday afternoon, Sunday, and each evening after work. The public house has no attraction for them because their finances are limited, and what few coppers they may have from time to time, receive from their friends or relatives go in tobacco or cigarettes. Their leisure hours are spent in reading papers and magazines sent on to the colony from the public libraries. Some play draughts and dominoes, while others play football and cricket. The first time that asking men to work hard without pay is demoralizing to the worker, but he refuses to accept responsibility for this condition of

things. They work for the guardians, and he must leave the guardians to deal with them in this respect. He believes, however, that it is better for the physical welfare of a healthy man to work without pay than to be idle.

Many of these new colonists never used a spade in their lives. They are a mixed community. There are doctors, lawyers, and schoolmasters among them, and all, or nearly all, have come down through faults of their own. The experience, which they are now acquiring will open up fresh avenues of employment for them, and it is expected that they will be able soon to be useful farm hands. They show no disposition to return to the towns or cities—the scenes of their failures—and they are unanimous in their admiration of the Philadelphia man who has given them an opportunity of escaping from a state of idleness and humiliation.

Mr. Fels, like Herbert Spencer, be-

lieves that "To be a nation of healthy animals is the first condition of national prosperity." He holds rather advanced views on social questions, and backs the faith that is in him by handsome contributions to societies with advanced aims. He and Mrs. Fels have recently joined the Fabians, to whose funds they have contributed some \$1,000. Here they will have as fellow-members such characters as Earl Russell and George Bernard Shaw. It is noteworthy that a man of such pronounced socialist views as George Lansbury should be mainly instrumental in influencing Mr. Fels in the direction of the labor colony. It is also reported that he has offered under certain conditions to pay the election expenses of a prominent socialist parliamentary candidate.

Mr. Fels's hands are pretty full at present with his colony schemes. He has applications from a number of boards of guardians throughout the country

### Does Not Pose as a Philanthropist, and Is Ready to Duplicate Experiment Wherever Authorities Will Co-operate.

and he has replied that he will find land for them all on the terms of the Poplar colony.

**Offer Applies Here.**  
He says that his scheme applies equally to the United States or to any other country where able-bodied paupers are willing to work.

"I have changed the dull, hopeless, inanimate expression that met one on en-

tering the Poplar workhouse," he said to the writer, "and what is possible in one place is possible every time."

Mr. Fels is a remarkably modest man, personally. He not only refuses to talk about himself or his affairs, aside from the land cultivation scheme, but declines to let the newspapers have his photograph. "I have never had a picture of myself published," he said, "and I never shall."  
P. M. HIGGINS.

## LITTLE ARTICLES IN EVERYDAY USE

HOW little thought is given to the little articles in daily use, how they are made and what becomes of them, yet they are frequently the products of great inventive genius and some of them employ millions of dollars of capital in their production. Nearly all of them have something of special interest about their history or the methods of their manufacture.

What becomes of all the pins is a question never to be answered, but it is possible to find out whence they come and in what numbers and thereby to give some curious information. A claim for Adam as the inventor or discoverer of pins might be established by a simple course of reasoning. Nature undoubtedly furnished in the thorn the first suggestion of a pin, and, necessarily, the mother of invention, first applied to Adam for means to attach fig leaves together to form a garment. It is, therefore, not unreasonable to assume that Adam was the first to use pins. In very ancient times pins were made of bone, ivory, bronze, copper, or iron, but they were clumsy affairs compared with the modern pins made of fine wire.

Pin making in this country has been largely dependent upon the tariff, a slight change in rates serving to depress or build up the industry. Americans, however, greatly improved the machinery for the manufacture, more than doubling the capacity of the English machines, and introduced the machines for sticking pins into paper, which helped to lessen the cost of production. When pins were made by hand, each pin passed through the hands of from fourteen to eighteen persons. At present the greater part of the labor is performed by automatic machines.

**Requires Skill to Make Needles.**  
The making of needles requires so much skill and experience that the manufacture of the finer kinds of sewing needles is almost altogether confined to a single district in England, where the trade has descended from father to son for generations.

As late as 100 years ago needles were crude affairs, made chiefly at home by hand labor. Drill-eyed needles were introduced in 1838, then the burnishing machines were devised to finish the eye and shortly afterward the stamp to impress the print of the groove, with a punch to pierce the eye, came into use. With the introduction, in 1840, of oil instead of water to harden them, the needles as we know them were per-

fect, although in recent years machines have been introduced which do away with some of the operations heretofore performed by hand.

The amount of labor required to produce a needle is enormous, and even with the aid of automatic machines it seems incredible that they can be produced and sold at the prices asked, as each needle has to be dealt with separately in a dozen different processes. The best quality of creable steel wire is used for sewing machine needles. It is straightened, cut into blanks of the required length and the blanks are passed over coarse and fine emery wheels until they are polished and pointed.

Although the manufacture of hooks and eyes is of more importance than that of pins, both in the amount of capital invested and in the value of products, the industry has been very largely developed. The trade has grown to such an extent, not only in this country, but in Europe and other parts of the world, that a great factory run night and day is unable to keep up with the demands for that style.

All of the finer grades of hooks and eyes are made of brass wire, but iron wire is used for the coarse kind. There are ten regular sizes, ranging from 60, a very dainty little hook, to No. 15, an inch in length, which is used for cloaks. The so-called invisible eyes are almost straight pieces of wire to take the place of silk loops formerly used.

**Three Pen Factories.**  
In Philadelphia there is a modest little steel pen factory—one of three in the United States. One of the others is in Camden and the other in Ohio. Steel pens have been made in this country as well as in England and France since 1800, but a good many years elapsed before mechanical appliances were so far perfected as to make the manufacture completely successful. Since 1870 the American steel pen factories, although only three in number, have been able not only to supply three-fourths of the pens used in this country, but to export considerable quantities. Women and children under sixteen years of age are chiefly employed in the industry. The operatives develop a great deal of skill, as great numbers of pens must be handled by them daily to enable the manufacturer to produce pens at a cost allowing any profit. Each pen is dealt with individually in a dozen operations, and in spite of the use of machinery the cost of handling is considerable.

As New York has large deposits of the finest graphite in the world for making so-called lead pencils, it is quite natural that that State should be the chief seat of the lead pencil industry of the United States. The raw material is graphite mined at Ticonderoga, N. Y. It is almost pure carbon containing only one-tenth of 1 per cent of impurities. After being ground the particles of graphite are further separated by float and sink tests, and the coarsest grades may be deposited in the first tub and finer and finer grades in successive tubs until the last is reached. The graphite is mixed with bluish clay in such proportions as will produce hard or soft pencils, the greater the quantity of clay the harder the pencil. The clay and graphite are ground together in mills and reduced to a consistency of 30 thick dough by hydraulic presses. The mass is then put through a forming press which squeezes a ribbon the shape and size of the lead required. The ribbon is straightened, cut into lengths, and kiln dried, after which it is ready to be put into its wooden case. Six pencils are made together and afterward cut apart and finished in any desired style.

**Collars and Cuffs.**  
One of the most interesting of the minor industries is that of the manufacture of collars and cuffs which presents a remarkable case of centralization. Seventy-five or more years ago shirts were made with collars and cuffs attached. The thirty wife of a blacksmith in Troy, N. Y., annoyed by the soiling of his collar while the shirt remained clear conceived the idea of making the collars separate from the shirt. The innovation attracted the attention of Ebenezer Brown, a Methodist preacher, who was at the time the proprietor of a small dry goods store. He undertook the manufacture of collarless shirts and Button manufacture is one of the oldest in the world. The industry that he employed his neighbor-merchant cut out the collars and hired women to put them together and wash, starch, and iron them. Payment was made in merchandise.

Button manufacture is one of the minor industries of considerable importance. A button maker of Iowa discovered in 1891 that the union shells banked up for miles along the Mississippi River would furnish suitable materials for pearl buttons. He started in business on a small scale, but soon the proprietor of a button factory in New York City would furnish suitable materials for pearl buttons. He started in business on a small scale, but soon the proprietor of a button factory in New York City would furnish suitable materials for pearl buttons. He started in business on a small scale, but soon the proprietor of a button factory in New York City would furnish suitable materials for pearl buttons.

### When She Becomes "Wife."

Some London papers have been discussing the subject of honeymoons and have decided that a bride ceases to be a "bride" and becomes a "wife" after six weeks of matrimony.

This is absurd, because there are some women who are brides all the days of their lives, and there are some foolish women who cease to be brides or even wives twenty-four hours after the wedding. No time limit can be set upon the honeymoon. It may go down with a dull, sickening thud after a week of married life, or it may shine on merrily to the golden wedding. A woman may know that she has ceased to be a bride only:

When she finds herself saying uncomplimentary things to her husband that she never said before.  
When she begins to quarrel with her husband.  
When she discovers that she is jealous.  
When she grows economical with his kisses.  
When she begins to nag.  
When he becomes sarcastic about the food.  
When she does not mind coming to the breakfast table in curl papers.  
When he tells her how pretty some other woman looks.  
When she begins to remember the virtues of the man she didn't marry.  
When he begins to eulogize his mother.  
When a meal becomes so quiet that she can plan a whole flock between the courses.  
When she begins to go out to his club.  
When she begins to hunt up her old friends and enjoy calling on them.  
When he comes in late for dinner.  
When she forgets to come home before the matinee in time to greet him before dinner.  
When the days while he is away begin to seem too short instead of too long.  
As none of these things need ever happen if two people are bent upon prolonging their happiness, there isn't a scientist living who could set an exact date for the waning of the honeymoon.  
New York Press

### NOT A STUDENT.

The story is told by President Hadley, of Yale University, who enjoys a good story none the less if he is himself the victim. Mr. Hadley was traveling in Yellowstone Park when he chanced upon a young man, who from his appearance he judged was a student. "This is a wonderful scene, isn't it?" said the professor. The stranger smiled, nodded to his questioner, and turned without speaking to look at the view. "Do you think," asked President Hadley, now confirmed in his idea that he was talking to a student, "that this chasm was caused by some great upheaval of nature, or is it the result of erosion or glacial action?" "What are your views?" said the stranger, quickly opening a bag he carried containing photographs, "are only 25 a dozen, and are cheap at the price. Let me show you some samples."—Denver Republican.

## "OLD GORGON" GRAHAM IN JAPAN

**M**R. GEORGE HORACE LORIMER, "Morimer," the Japanese call him—has the honor of seeing himself introduced to Japan. The Japanese have translated and garbled him, and, taking him at all points seriously, figured him as the mere collector and editor of letters written by a real Gorgon Graham to a real young Pierpont. The result—a book put forward as a significant revelation of the West to the Far East—is provided with a Japanese introduction, a Japanese preface, and a Japanese dedicatory note, excerpts from which, together with certain paragraphs from the text, are translated literally by a Japanese student. Here they are:

**Japanese Introduction.**  
Chicago is now the largest and most flourishing manufacturing place for canned meat in the world, and Mr. John Graham, the proprietor in this book, is, indeed, one of the most influential manufacturers of canned meat in that city. The canned goods made in his firm are sold extensively in both hemispheres, and the name of Graham is much spoken of among the Western people, especially since the publication of this book. But to most of our countrymen, it may sound rather new, and so it will not be a vain task to give here a brief sketch of his life.

Mr. Graham raised himself in life from a boy in a dry goods store. At the start of his life he was miserable enough to receive a very low salary of only \$2 a week at a dry goods store, to work hard for eighteen hours a day, and by night to have a cold sleep in a corner of the office. Again he peddled far in Egypt (The Japanese have evidently never heard of Cairo, Ill.), and wandering lonely in the hot country of pyramids, endured extreme hardship. But all the while he was independent and self-helping, and mustering all his strength, he could raise himself to a high position he holds today. A man of such a life, whatever his rank of profession may be, is the lowest position in his office, and spared no trouble to make his son a man. And drawing from the inexhaustible store of his experience and observation, gained from his hard struggle, he sat down to write these letters of advice and precepts. The

sixteen pieces in this collection are not more than occasional letters, but it is remarkable to find such variety in style ranging from mildness of spring wind to severeness of autumn frost, from hurriedness of a cataract to gentleness of a leisurely stream. Mr. Pierpont Graham, who was instructed through the letters, is now grown to be a man of independence and self-help, and is one of the foremost young business men in Chicago.

**Japanese Preface.**  
This book is a translation of the sixteen letters the translator thought most instructive to our general public, selected out of twenty letters compiled by Mr. Morimer, editor of the "Saturday Evening Post," of New York. The original title of the book is: "Letters from a Self-made Merchant to His Son," but we give a free rendering of it and put it as: "Letters of a Successful Man: Management in the World Teachings and Precepts." The letters in this book were not written with any idea of being made public. So we omitted such parts only dealing with the writer's household affairs and having no instructive value to the general public.

Large stores in America and England adopted the book as reader for their young employees. At present it is a shame for a young man in America not to know about the book and a certain paper even went so far as to say that if one falls in business, its main cause must be sought in one's neglecting to read the book.

The original being in the style of pure letter-writing, it is quite full of slang in common use in America, which are hard to be understood. The translator managed to get rid of this difficulty by Japanizing expressions and at the same time, tried to retain the happy flavor of the original. He, however, greatly regrets that in many cases his endeavor has fallen short of his desire.

**Dedicatory Note.**  
To make the thought of Gyo (the Chinese sage) as our thought and to act the acts of Gyo is to become as Gyo. The man we need most pressing in our country today is a gentleman useful and worthy of respect as the Venerable Graham. If our countrymen make the thought of the old man as their thought and act the acts of the old man, they will be all Grahams. On publication we thank for the kindness of our esteemed friend Hantaro Minegishi, who sent us the valuable original from far America; we thank for the trouble of Mr. Morimer, editor of the "New York Post," who compiled these valuable letters; and especially we thank for the willing consent of the Venerable Graham to make

public his valuable advice, and for the invaluable benefit he contributed to us by doing so. We respectfully present the book one copy each to the three gentlemen: GIEIHI MASUDA, Proprietor, the "Industrial Japan."

**Extracts From the Text.**  
Original: "Your letter of the seventh twists around the point a good deal like a setter pup chasing his tail. But I gather from it that you want to spend a couple of months in Europe before coming on here and getting your nose in the bull-ring." Japanese version: "On reading through your letter of the 7th date, I'm minute-closeness made me almost agonize to get its main ideas. After reading carefully over and over I came to find slowly where the desire of your honorable self lay. In short, your honorable self wants to make a tour in Europe for two months before taking business up at my hand-plate (sic) and I guess."

Original: "What every man does need once a year is a change of work that is, if he has been curved up over a desk for fifty weeks and subsisting on birds and burgundy, he ought to take to fishing for a living and try bacon and eggs, with a little spring water for dinner." Japanese version: "Any person must change his work once a year. If he is following (engaged in) the work of leaning over the desk for fifty weeks and is eating fowls' flesh and drinking wine, he needs to take up fishing next and make food of mutton, eggs, and well-water."

Original: "It is never easy to get a job except when you don't want it; but when you have to get work, and go after it with a gun, you'll find it as shy as an old crow that every farmer in the country has had a shot at." Japanese version: "Outside the time when your honorable self goes to find a job, it is not easy to get a job. On finding the time when your honorable self tries to shoot and take it with a small gun in hand, the job, just like an old bird often escaped to be shot, cannot be approached easily."

Original: "There is one excuse for every mistake a man can make, but only one. When a fellow makes the same mistake twice he's got to throw up both hands and own up to carelessness or cussedness." Japanese version: "Man is not a being who never falls into a mistake; mistakes are not always to blame deeply; but when one does again the same mistake, one has no word to give reason for it. One has only to apologize for one's carelessness with one's body flat and head low."

**SILENT.**  
"And," concluded Mrs. Peck, "I treated her with silent contempt." "Silent contempt?" exclaimed Henry Peck; "Maria, do you expect me to believe that?"—Houston Post.