

The Havre Herald

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So many and new alarming phases of our national law making body are continually being brought to light that the average American citizen, when he takes time to think, most suddenly asks himself, "Where are we drifting?" Bribe giving has ruined scores of men who would otherwise have been most useful statesmen; the influence of the trusts have rendered many more unfit to continue in office as the representatives of the people; and now another startling condition is brought to light by that fearless exponent of fair dealing, Bob LaFollette, who in speaking recently to the student body at Ann Arbor, said: "On anything involving corporate interests, I have invariably found that 40 members of the United States senate are lined up with the corporations, and 27, who have only private interests, are against them."

"I have offered nine amendments on trust matters and eight of these were recommended by the interstate commerce commission," he said. "All were tabled. When I went down to attend the last session they said they would table me also. I tell you this country is in the control of the corporations."

Poverty of means has also been put forth at many times as a reason for the non-success of some senators who would otherwise have become great men. No later than this winter has this been done, as in the case of John C. Spooner, who resigned from the United States senate for the alleged reason that he couldn't afford to "hold up his end" in the national capital. An appreciator of public men and official life in this country says that "there is no place in American public service which a man of the talent and poverty of Spooner can afford to occupy."

Our readers should keep their weather eye open for fakirs and swindlers, they are numerous and work every scheme to catch people. The latest swindle, worked by a sharper in one of the cities recently, is an apt illustration of the ability of these dead beat fakirs to catch not only the ignorant but all others who are not constantly on their guard. This swindler walked into a jewelry store and selecting a \$125 watch left a check for \$600 drawn on an out-of-town bank, with instructions that the watch be regulated and that he would come after it and his change a week later. On returning he was informed that his check was no good. "Well, that's strange," he said. "It's the second time the bank has done that thing to me. But here's the money for your watch," and he counted out \$125 in currency and started for the door. "Oh, yes," he said, turning round, "you'd better give me that check." It was willingly handed over to him. On the back was the jeweler's endorsement. With this the man went into a bank, got it cashed and was never heard of afterward.

"It is reported that the Great Northern is building a large reservoir in the vicinity of Bowdoin lake. The reservoir when completed, will be the largest one of its kind on the entire Hill system. A large cistern is also in course of construction, which will be kept filled with good drinking water during the hunting season for the benefit of the sports who camp and hunt in that vicinity.—Harlem News.

It would be easy for every North Montana sport to grasp the above report as a real news item were it not for the cistern proposition. Who ever thought a real sportsman ever

drank water at the lake, judging by the stories told?

An Irishman, wishing to take a "homestead" and not knowing just how to go about it, sought information from a friend.

"Mike," he said, "you've taken a homestead an' I thought maybe ye could tell me th' law concernin' how to go about it."

"Well, Dennis, I don't remember th' exact wordin' uv th' law, but can give ye th' meanin' uv it. Th' meanin' uv it is this: Th' Government is willin' t' bet ye 160 acres uv land agin \$14 that ye can't live on it five years without starvin' t' death."

What are you doing for your town? If you have no confidence in the growth and improvement of the town and country in which you live, how on earth do you expect other people to move among you and cause the country to develop and grow for your benefit.

The Chicago man who returned home after thirty-one years' absence and gave his wife \$5,000 got off rather cheaply after all in the support of the family—about \$3.25 a week.

It pays to read the advertisements of enterprising home merchants. They are the people who make it possible to have conveniences right at your door, so to speak.

"Think what a dreadful world this would be," says an exchange, "if all the people were like you." But think how much more dreadful it would be if they were just like your neighbor.

The republican members of the Iowa legislature favor a third term for Roosevelt. Maybe they are too young to remember what happened to the third term ambition in 1876.

The man who can live at home through two weeks of house cleaning without grumbling is one who sees in every cloud a silver lining. This cannot well be doubted.

"Aunt Alice Hawkins had four dozen eggs freeze on her last week," says a Missouri rural exchange. Aunt Alice must be a mighty cold proposition.

Don't work for wages any longer than you can help it," says Mr. Carnegie. This is what the walking delegates have been saying all along.

The fellow who is anxious to give something for nothing, intends to cheat. Don't dicker with him. Don't write to him; don't talk to him.

If they can ever make a battleship that will kill as many of the enemy as it does of its own crew, it will be a grand success.

When the last congress closed, seventy-two very lame ducks went sadly home from the House. They died of scound-patism.

Wouldn't it scare the life out of a mollycoddle if he should happen to get caught in the stock exchange this week?

Could the floods in the east have been caused by the enormous amount of water squeezed out of the railroad sock?

A special from Prineville, Oregon, says Rev. Homer N. Street was instantly killed and blown into the Matolis river, together with his horse, at dusk last Saturday, by his horse stepping on some dynamite. Mr. Street had placed the dynamite under a log, but it is supposed that coyotes scattered the explosive in the open. The accident happened in the presence of his wife and children. The body of the horse is located, but no trace of the rider has been found.

FICTION IN HISTORY

AMERICAN RECORDS IN PARTICULAR ABOUND IN ERRORS.

For Instance, There Were No Cotton Bales at the Battle of New Orleans, and Cornwallis Did Not Hand His Sword to Washington at Yorktown.

The fact that a large proportion of all the history of all the world is false is perhaps known to few people. That American history particularly abounds in errors, blunders and stereotyped falsities is known to even a smaller number. Walpole, wishing to amuse his father after an unusually wearisome day, proposed reading to him from a book of history. "Anything but history," said the old man, "for history must be false."

When it is considered that historians in every period of the world have been narrowed and biased by personal opinion and surrounding circumstances the wisdom of this remark is perceived. The worst part of it all is that when once a mistake has been made it has rarely been rectified, each succeeding historian being content to accept as facts the work of those who went before him. The ultimate result of this was that the mistakes were believed by those who read them, and events in history that never happened or were false were accepted by the world and ever after known as the markers of important epochs.

For instance, the battle of Lexington, which occurred April 19, 1775, is known as the first battle between the colonists and the British. But this was not so, for the records of Orange county, N. C., show that on the road from Hillsboro to Salisbury on May 16, 1771, an engagement between a squad of British troops and a body of colonists took place, in which thirty-six men were killed and several wounded. The trouble was caused by the resentment of the colonists over the illegal taxes imposed by the British clerk of the county court.

Historians persist in saying and people persist in believing that the breastworks thrown up by General Jackson at New Orleans were made of cotton bales covered with earth. As a matter of fact, there was not a pound of cotton on the ground, and this fact has been verified by Major Chotard, General Jackson's assistant adjutant general, who was himself a participant in the battle.

A well known engraving that nearly always appears in modern school histories is that of General Cornwallis handing his sword to General Washington at the surrender of Yorktown, and this in spite of the fact that, to spare Cornwallis the humiliation, General O'Hara gave his sword to General Lincoln in token of surrender.

Possibly in the course of time the battle of Bunker Hill will be rightly called the battle of Breed's Hill, and, to return to ancient history, the marvelous chronicles of Herodotus will be discredited. It is told in history that Hannibal cut his way across the Alps with iron, fire and vinegar, but the question still remains as to how he applied the vinegar. The conflicting accounts of the life of Napoleon go to illustrate the discrepancies of many historical writers.

All have heard the words, "All is lost but honor," attributed to King Francis I. In a letter to a woman, yet when this letter was referred to for the phrase it was not to be found there.

And, again, when Louis XVI. laid his head beneath the guillotine his confessor, Abbe Edgeworth, dismissed him from the world, so history tells, with the beautiful viaticum, "Son of St. Louis, ascend to heaven." Yet in reality he said nothing of the sort.

The brave defiance, "The guard dies, but never surrenders," attributed to Cambronne when at Waterloo the imperial guard were ordered to throw down their arms, has been shown to have been the fanciful creation of some historian's mind, and the saying, "Providence favors the stronger side," or, as it has been corrupted, "God is on the side with the heaviest artillery," which has been attributed to Napoleon, really originated with writers of antiquity. Cicero alludes to it as an "old proverb."

It would take volumes to contain all the blunders, small, large and indifferent, that historians have made, and the lamentable part of it is that the old blunders are constantly being made over again, so that, with the errors that are bound to occur in the history of the present and the mistakes that our forefathers made and which we are still making, history in time will become little more than a long though extremely interesting work of fiction.—Sunday Magazine.

What We Owe to Insects.

Professor Darwin said that if it had not been for insects we should never have had any more imposing or attractive flowers than those of the elm, the hop and the nettle. Lord Avebury compares the work of the insect to that of the florist. He considers that just as the florist buys by selection produced the elegant blossoms of the garden, so the insects by selecting the largest and brightest blossoms for fertilization have produced the gay flowers of the field. Professor Plateau of Ghent has carried out a series of remarkable experiments on the ways of insects visiting flowers. He considers that they are guided by scent rather than by color, and in this contention he is at variance with certain British naturalists. Whatever may be the attractions in flowers to insects—as yet it appears undefined—it is certain that the latter visit freely all blossoms alike, making no distinction between the large, bright colored ones and the less conspicuous blooms like those of the currant, the lime, the plane tree, the nettle and the willow.

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Fooling a Critic.

What can be more mirth provoking than the naive simplicity with which a pompous critic, who prides himself on his lynx eyed acuteness, will sometimes walk into a trap that has been set for him? When Alexander Pope was translating Homer he read by request several books of the "Iliad" to Lord Halifax, whom he characterizes as a literary coxcomb, at his house. During the reading his lordship several times stopped the poet and suggested that certain passages might be improved. Perplexed and irritated by the advice, the poet withdrew with Garth, who laughed heartily at the incident, and told him to leave the verses just as they were, to call on Halifax a month later, thank him for his criticisms and then read again the verses to him unaltered. Pope followed this advice, saying to Halifax that he hoped his lordship would now find his objections removed, upon which Halifax, delighted, cried out: "Aye, now they are perfectly right. Nothing can be better."—William Matthews in Success Magazine.

The Milky Way.

The milky way in the heavens is composed of myriads of fixed stars, but it is not true that they have any influence that anybody knows of on the direction of the wind or other element of the weather of the earth. Their apparent changes of position are due only to the changes of position by the earth in its daily and annual revolutions. The stars in the milky way are so far from the earth that it takes thousands of years for the light from them to reach us.

Ancient Glass.

In the Slade collection at the British museum in London the most ancient specimen of pure glass the date of which can be approximately fixed is a small lion's head, bearing the name of an Egyptian king of the eleventh dynasty. That is to say, at a period which may be moderately placed at more than 2,000 years B. C. glass was made with a skill which shows that the art was far from new.—London Telegraph.

How Soldiers Reduce.

The army officer who finds his waist growing greater than his chest, thus destroying the symmetry of his uniform, eats for a little while nothing but lean meat and drinks nothing but hot water. Thus he loses two pounds or so a day. He keeps this diet up till he has sufficiently diminished himself—a matter, as a rule, of but three or four days' abstinence—and then he returns to his usual food again. Many army officers manage by confining themselves to lean meat for three days in the month to keep their figures perfect.—New York Press.

Your Own Work.

"It would pay most of us," says W. R. Yendall in the Hardware Bulletin, "to be cranks on thoroughness for a few weeks—not toward others, but toward ourselves. There is hope for the man who stands off and looks at his own work and asks himself, 'Isn't there a better way? Surely, I have not exhausted the possibilities of this thing. How can the work in hand be improved?'"

Water Pipes and Freezing.

Housekeepers as a rule do not understand why it is the hot water pipe is the first to freeze in very cold weather. They think that it ought to be the other way around—that hot water ought to withstand the low temperature longer than cold water will. That does seem reasonable, but a little investigation shows us that it is not. Hot water freezes more quickly than cold water for several reasons. In the first place, the boiling of water expels the air from it, and water will not freeze until it has parted with its air. In the second place, there is always a slight agitation on the surface of hot water, and this promotes congelation by assisting the crystals to change their position until they assume that most favorable to solidification. Then the particles in hot water divide into smaller globules by reason of the heat, and less resistance is therefore offered to the cold than in cold water.

Linnaeus and His Works.

How much sleep do men need? Jeremy Taylor was content with three hours, Baxter with four, Wesley with six. Bismarck and Gladstone needed eight, but Goethe, Napoleon, Mirabeau and Humboldt professed that they could get along very well with less. Linnaeus, the naturalist, was one of those who robbed themselves of sleep during their earlier years and made up for it later in life. In his wakeful periods during his old age he would retire to his library, take down one of his own works and read it with a sigh of regret. "How very fine!" he would murmur. "What would I not have given to be able to write a book like this!"

A WATCH

That will keep accurate time and possesses good wearing qualities is an article of great satisfaction. Why be annoyed with a poor time piece when our guarantee goes with every watch that we recommend and can be had on prices and terms to suit your purse. Remember that you get satisfaction or your money back.

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