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LET US BE THANKFUL.

The day after tomorrow has been appointed by the President of the United States and the governors of the various states and territories as the date for a general thanksgiving by the people of our country. In the hearts of our people, it is sacred only to the day which marks a period since the foundation of the country, the fourth of July. In some respects it goes beyond that day in its significance for you and for me. It is a celebration of past favors and achievements as well as present good fortune. Beyond all, it is the day set aside for us as a nation, as a state and as individuals to open our hearts in humble gratitude to a just and omnipotent God for His wise stewardship over the affairs of His children.

As a nation let us be thankful. It is the divine plan of the universe that nations shall be born, have their day of triumph and then pass from the earth in order that a better nation may live. What they have accomplished for the good and advancement of human kind survives, what is not well for or is harmful to man passes away. The nation has not lived since the first page of history was written, that did not bequeath to its successor something of goodness and benefit.

Throughout the countless cycles of time, it has been a struggle upward. A struggle out of the depths of ignorance to the high plains of universal knowledge.

A struggle out of the darkness of superstition and despair into the light of faith and happiness. The struggle will never cease until the one great purpose, the Brotherhood of Man and the Fatherhood of God has been fulfilled.

In the course of the divine plan, our own nation came into being and is now playing its part in the universal drama on the stage of time, the eyes of the world watching our every action. Let us be thankful that to us is vouchsafed, perhaps, a fulfillment of the designs of Omnipotence; that, thus far we have done well; that the future beckons us with the promise of greater things to be done; and that, most of all, we can and will do them. Let us be thankful for national honor abroad; peace and material blessings at home.

As a state, let us be thankful. Let us be thankful for being one of the brightest stars in a constellation of commonwealths. For our magnificent domain, our crystal streams, our towering mountains, our spreading plains, our flocks and herds, our fields of waving grain and mines of precious worth. Let us be thankful for an awakening sense of political independence and cleanliness and, above all these, a citizenship of sturdy, upright men, pure and beautiful women.

As individuals let us be thankful. Let us be thankful for opportunities unexcelled, for the privilege of breathing the air of freedom, for the bread earned by the sweat of the brow. Let us put out of our hearts all malice, envy and ill feeling of whatsoever sort and give thanks for the blessings which like the rains of heaven, fall alike upon the just and unjust.

NEITHER DEAD NOR DYING.

About all of the democratic political physicians in the country are now engaged in prescribing some remedies for Miss Democracy whose case is pronounced most serious by the republican medics. It would seem that the democratic does have made no diagnosis themselves but are relying entirely upon the examination made by the black and tan pill mixers. These latter fellows say that the old lady's tongue is thickly coated, that her heart action is weak, that her lungs are in a serious condition and that her digestive apparatus shows the effects of over taxation. Instead of relying so implicitly upon this statement of the case would it not be well for the friends of the old lady to side up a little nearer to her bedside and make a personal investigation of her ailments? Isn't it barely possible that such an investigation will prove that the patient is not so badly off as the fellows who were mostly responsible for her indisposition would have one believe?

Let us see. She is considerably over the century mark. Remember that when making your diagnosis. Also remember in connection therewith, that few of her sisters have ever lived to that age. Generally they have died early in life of cholera morbus brought about by partaking too liberally of new issues which have about the same effect as green apples. Sometimes they rapidly attain a maturity and flourish for a few years only to be cut down by gout in the midst of their glory, too much rich food such as the spoils of office, the manna of public patronage, being responsible for this ailment.

But Democracy has endured all of

these things and has, seemingly flourished despite such infirmities. In the early part of her career she had things pretty much her own way. She returned with a basket full of apples about every time she went to the orchard. And then there came a period when things went decidedly against her. The fruit crop was a succession of failures and every blessed interest of the lady seemed to be headed for the denotation bowwows. But she remained ever strong in the midst of numberless discouragements. She made it so perpetually interesting for those who were opposing her that they never had much of a chance to crow very vociferously. She kept crowding them and finally came to her own once more. It took her sometime to adjust herself to the unexpectedly pleasant turn of events. She had no more than got headed in the direction of Real Achievement before she had to go back and sit down for another four years.

With a singleness of purpose and pertinacity never before exhibited by a lady of her complex organization, she started out again after a rest of four years. But the weather looked like rain several months before she started. The sky was cloudy and in the distance could be seen the flashes of forked lightning and heard the low rumble of the thunder which foretold the coming storm. It was one of the rainiest seasons ever experienced in this country, and when Democracy had completed the circuit, her skirts were considerably bedraggled. She has never quite recovered from that trip and, apparently, is in worse shape right now than ever before.

But no matter what others may say, we believe that she will recover from the present attack. It is very necessary to the well being of this country that she be carefully nursed back to her wonted health. Without her beneficent influences, ills such as have never before fallen upon us may make their appearance in our body politic. She is indispensable to the other fellows who are now reveling in what they are pleased to term her approaching dissolution. Without her restraining presence they are liable to run into excesses which will be fatal to themselves. In fact, in their headlong impetuosity, due to splendid successes, they are in danger of falling into the little grave which they have scooped out for the ancient lady, Democracy.

The democratic party is not dead or even dying. The minority which it represents is composed of some 30,000,000 or 40,000,000 American citizens who are animated by the same hopes and aspirations that animate the majority which outnumbered it some 10,000,000. The republican party should remember that four-ninths of the people of the country do not approve of the principles which that party advocates and should be restrained from going too far into the things which such a powerful minority do not approve. The utmost conservatism should mark the actions of the successful party. It is the republicans, not the democrats who are occupying the crucial position. They have in their hands absolute power. If they use it wisely, well enough. But if they do not keep faith with the people, it will be easy for the minority to become the majority.

Miss Democracy has not yet donned her grave clothes and will not until the republican party demonstrates that it is infallible. The centuries have never produced such a political organization and it is several centuries too soon to hope for such a thing. Until such a condition of affairs is attained there must and will be a powerful minority and for that reason, the democratic party is today as highly essential to the prosperity and continued well being of this country as is the republican party though the latter is now in the ascendancy.

Although the republican landslide in Missouri will probably mean the retirement from the United States senate of Senator Frances M. Cockrell who has been one of the most influential men in that body for a quarter of a century, the venerable Missourian will most likely remain in the service of his country. President Roosevelt who regards Senator Cockrell very highly has signified his intention of appointing him as a member of the Isthmian Canal Commission or to some other post in the country where the senator's knowledge of governmental affairs can be utilized.

Every man, woman and child in Lewistown should have something on Thanksgiving to make the world look just a little brighter. There may be some in the city who are not in a position to afford a Thanksgiving dinner. The good people of the town should enquire to ascertain if anyone is likely to go hungry on that day and if such a likelihood is apparent, those who are able to do so should divide their good things. One cannot better manifest thanks for Providential favors than by assisting the needy and distressed.

Mr. Burt, the newly elected republican representative from Custer

county is going to put it up to his republican constituents as to whom he shall vote for the U. S. Senate. If Senator Waite and Representatives Weideman and Hedges adopted that rule in this county, it is a cinch that your Uncle Thomas Henry Carter would never get the three votes from Fergus.

A Missouri democratic politician states that the cotton pickers in the southern part of the state who were all democrats were to busy at their work to go to the polls and that is why the state went the other way. Those cotton pickers were probably out of jobs after the frost, which covered the state on the ninth.

Strangers who come into Lewistown remark upon its appearance of solidity. The numerous stone business structures which are already occupied and those which are going up impresses anyone with the idea that Lewistown is growing for permanency.

The Missouri building at the World's fair burned to the ground Saturday night. The republican party and fire seem to be playing the dickens with the old state this month.

An automobilist was shot dead in Chicago last week. Some run-over pedestrian was evidently trying to get even.

Col. W. P. C. Breckenridge who, in his day, was both noted and notorious died in Lexington, Kentucky Saturday.

Russia does not want peace. The Czar wants the whole thing or nothing.

The dismemberment of turkey is the next thing on the cards.

Someone rise up and tell us what is a "Trawler."

Late Mining News

Some interesting comparisons bearing on the gains in the production of minerals in the United States during the past few years may be made with the aid of the annual tabulated figures just issued by the government through the geological survey. Comparative figures for ten years are given to cover the production of sixty-three natural mineral products, from which it appears that within a decade the annual mineral output of the United States has almost trebled, that is, there has been a gain from approximately \$527,000,000 in 1894 to approximately \$1,419,000,000 in 1903. In round figures, therefore, it may be said that the mineral industries are now adding one billion and a half in dollars to the wealth of the country, and at the present rate of gain it will require not more than a year or two to bring the figure up to \$2,000,000,000, while in ten years hence the total product should be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$3,000,000,000 or more. In 1880 the total product was only about \$370,000,000, which means an increase of nearly 300 per cent in less than a quarter of a century.

As must naturally be expected, the gain in the production of nonmetallic minerals has been greater than the gain in the production of metallic minerals. Search for the latter will always precede the search for the former. Metallic products advanced from \$190,000,000 in 1880 to \$624,000,000 in 1903, while nonmetallic products advanced from \$173,000,000 in 1880 to \$793,000,000 in 1903. Of the metals, silver has shown only a moderate percentage of gain, though gold, by reason of the extensive discoveries made within the last decade, has about doubled. Pigiron shows a remarkable gain from \$65,000,000 in 1894 to \$344,000,000 last year, while aluminum, a comparatively recent commercial product, makes a pronounced showing. Copper, lead and zinc outputs have grown from two or three times in value, while petroleum, of the nonmetallic products, has increased from \$25,000,000 to \$94,000,000.

While these figures are important in themselves, as illustrating the growing activities in the broad field of crude mineral production, they are not half appreciated unless one takes into account the manufacturing interests that are dependent upon them. The enormous figures that the manufactured goods of the United States have attained are made possible only by the raw products that are secured from the soil, and the agricultural products make up a less percentage of these than do the mineral products. Manufactures stand for the labor factor that finishes and diversifies for use the products of nature, though it is also true that without the manufacturers many mineral products would be of little value, by reason of their not being adaptable to use in their crude condition. The intimate relationship existing between manufacturing and mining must not be for-

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