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EDITORIAL.

LET US GIVE THANKS.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord for his goodness. Let us give thanks for we have been blessed, for we have been blessed far more than we have deserved. God's sunlight has shone for us and we earned it not. The rains fell and for them we toiled not. Health, life, love and joy have come to us as a folk though to bring them we did naught. Rather, has the Lord given them to us in spite of our short-comings. We have broken the laws of nature, yet has He not turned his face from us. We have set our will against the Almighty will, yet has He not made an end to us. We have been vain and proud, we have not lived as He would wish us to live, yet are these many blessings come to us. Trials we have had, griefs we have known, and heart-aches and remorse, yet in all these have we seen the hand of His mercy. Unto us the Lord owes nothing, yet has He given with full hand. Though our pride deserved a fall, though our sins were as scarlet, yet have our ways been ways of pleasantness and our paths been paths of peace.

O Lord, Great Ruler over Men, we thank Thee. From our hearts we give Thee praise. We thank Thee for the well-being of our people. We thank Thee for the greatness of our country. We thank Thee that each year sees us nearer to the goal of brotherly love and the fellowship of man. We thank Thee for the love that has been given us and, most of all, we thank Thee for Forgiveness and for that great Mercy that we are to have yet another day in which to show our love, in which to right the wrong, in which to prove our thanks. And, as Thou hast given us Mercy, we pray Thee give us Strength. Strength to overcome, strength to withstand evil, strength to do that which is right. Help us O Lord, that when another Thanksgiving Day shall come, we may stand in thy sight better men and better women. Help us that we shall have earned the love of them we love. Help us to live a-right.

Again, we thank Thee, we give praise to Thee for Thy great goodness. We give our lives into Thy keeping knowing that Thou doest all things well. Amen.

MORE ABOUT GOOD GOVERNORS

When it was stated by the democratic statesman that the tariff was a local question he stated a fact that is but too true. There is too much of a tendency to consider all the great questions of government in the light of local conditions. The shoe manufacturer would like to see the tariff reduced on hides, but not on boots and shoes. The farmer would like to take his tariff reduction in just the opposite way. As we said last week, if we are to have good government we must have good governors. That means, that we must learn to look at problems from other than a purely selfish stand-point. The good ruler is the one who looks to the greatest good for the greatest number, even if it involves some sacrifice, even if he is not himself among the "greatest number" who will receive the benefit.

It is a confession of poor statesmanship to say "Of course, such a section is opposed to certain legislation, because it does not produce that particular product." It is not the purpose of this editorial to discuss the tariff or any other one question now before the American people, its purpose is to point to that larger view which should be taken before any judgment can be formed.

This is a great Nation, it is composed of many interests, many of them opposing interests. While it is inevitable, and to a large extent unavoidable, that each interest should espouse its own cause, unless this insistence is tempered with good judgment, consideration and generosity, only chaos can result. We must get over this habit of looking only to ourselves and remember that we are joint rulers over a great Nation and a great people. The theory of "noblesse oblige" ought to apply to every man who has a share in the governance of a nation. We do not know that we are in favor of the ship-subsidy bills that have as yet been presented to the Congress. But this we do not know, that it shows the worst kind of provincialism for any man to oppose it, simply because he comes from Iowa and the prairie

schooner is not included among the subsidized. Because there are no navigable streams in this section, is a mighty poor reason for opposing the building of canals and the dredging of the larger rivers. Because we do not need irrigation, is the cheapest of excuses for not supporting it in other states. None of these questions, the tariff, ship subsidies, river and harbor improvements, the suffrage, the question of the control of corporate interests, ought to be local questions. We must get away from selfishness, from pettiness, from provincialism and from prejudice if we are to be good governors of America.

PRESEKRVING HISTORIC PLACES.

Two historic places are to be evacuated by their garrisons as the governments possessing them do not regard them as of further use for military purposes. One of these places is St. Helena, that lonely isle on which Napoleon spent the last years of his life, and the other is Fort McHenry at Baltimore. Historic associations gather around both these places, but, of course, with us Fort McHenry has the greater value.

It was the sight of the American flag flying triumphantly from its ramparts on the morning after the furious bombardment by the British fleet that inspired Key to write the "Star Spangled Banner." It would be a mistake to allow a place that inspired such a patriotic ode to fall into ruin. The preservation of such places, and of such ships as the old Constitution, helps to keep alive our gratitude to the heroes of former days and to strengthen our love of country. Therefore it is a satisfaction to learn that the citizens of Baltimore will probably assume the care of Fort McHenry and convert it into a place of public resort.

AN ANCIENT POST-OFFICE.

The old saying that "there is nothing new under the sun" is not, of course, to be taken in an absolute sense. But it is remarkable how often things come to light to show that many of our present day institutions and inventions, on which we flatter ourselves that we are much wiser than the ancients, are, after all, nothing more than developments, and not always that, of what was in successful operation many centuries ago.

Take our postal system for an example. It is regarded as a comparatively modern institution, and in many of its best features this is undoubtedly true. Of course it has long been known that in ancient Persia there was some sort of postal system for the conveyance of government dispatches, but no one supposed that there existed anywhere a system that embraced many modern postal features.

But recently Drs. Grenfell and Hunt, the explorers of Oxyrhynchus, unearthed the interior of a post-office that was doing business in Egypt 255 years before Christ. The discovery clearly reveals that there were postal clerks who noted the day and hour of the receipt and delivery of each letter or roll, the name of the person who mailed the letter, of that to whom it was addressed, and that of the person to whom it was delivered. Here is one entry as found written on the papyrus discovered in the office: "At the sixth hour Phoenix the elder son of Heracleitus a Macedonian, delivered one roll for Phantasias, and Aminon delivered it to Timocrates." Here is another: "22nd The first hour A.....delivered to Dinias 15 rolls of which () rolls were for king Ptolemy, from the elephant country below Th.... 4 rolls for Apollonius, the dioeketes, 4 rolls for Antiochus the Cretan, and Dinias delivered them to Nicodemus." In the same document is another entry which speaks of "the price" or, as we would say, "the postage" paid by one who had mailed a letter.

From all this we gather that under the enlightened rule of the Ptolemies, centuries before Christ, our present system was anticipated and successfully operated. Whether there were any postal frauds in those days is not yet disclosed, but not unlikely further research will reveal that in this also the ancients were abreast of our modern civilization.

A SUGGESTIVE MOVEMENT.

Some of the British Columbia papers are urging that the province secede from the Canadian Confederation unless it succeeds in making better financial terms with the Federal Government. The slogan of the papers is, "Succeed or Secede." The cry seems to savor more of a sordid greed for money than of patriotism, and probably it will not amount to much.

But it is a singular coincidence that a very similar agitation is now going on in Australia, where the Legislature of West Australia has unanimously voted to secede from the Commonwealth if certain conditions are not complied with within the near future. This movement, like that of British Columbia, is mainly financial, but is deeper seated and of graver aspect. West Australia feels that its progress is seriously handi-

capped by the failure of the Federal Government to push the construction of the railway across the thousand miles of desert necessary to bring that state into direct commercial relations with the rest of the country. Whether the action of West Australia is merely a bluff or whether it voices a general discontent with its union with the other states is not easy to determine. The movement in both the Canadian province and the Australian state will be watched with a good deal of interest in our own country because with us the relation of the individual state to the Federal Government is in some of its features still an unsettled problem.

In many of our states the hunting season is now on and as usual there is the sad record of numerous fatalities to human beings as well as to the lower animals.

A few people have alleged that the President's recent action in disbanding the negro troops at Fort Brown was prompted by race prejudice on his part. That was not the case; it was simply a question of discipline. That and the honor of the army demanded the action taken.

Mr. J. J. Hill of St. Paul made a important speech in Chicago the other night, in which he strongly advocated reciprocity with Canada. Whether people do or do not agree with Mr. Hill's tariff views and whatever may be their opinion of his principles, all will doubtless admit that it would work to the interests of both nations if we could have closer commercial and social relations with a country which of late has made such astonishing progress, and in which so many thousands of our people have made homes during the past few years.

One of the principal causes of juvenile crime is found in the lack of wholesome home restraint and training. Many parents shrink from exerting their rightful authority because they don't want any little unpleasantness. But far better the slight temporary unpleasantness which the exercise of needful restraint may sometimes cause than to let the children grow up with no respect for parental authority. Many a child has gone to the bad because out of mistaken kindness the parents have failed to impose a judicious restraint.

That the greed for money makes men indifferent to the welfare of others is constantly being impressed upon us. One of the latest and one of the most glaring instances is that afforded by the contractors who, it is alleged, supplied defective boiler tubes to the United States war ships that they might make an extra and illegitimate profit. In the present instance the crime is greater than usual, because in addition to jeopardizing the lives of the crew the safety of the vessels is endangered also. What that might mean if the vessels were engaged with a hostile fleet can be easily imagined.

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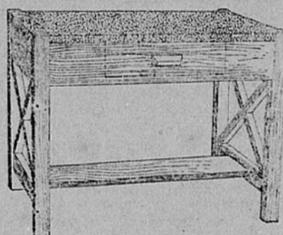
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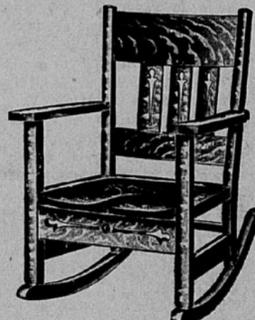


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