THE GLORIOUS FOURTH.

Here it is, the "Fourth" ag'in!
Sakes alive, how time does spin!
Don't seem like it's sixty year
Since I first begun to hear
All the loud, tarnation noise
We stirred up when we was boys,
All of us a-wishin' powder
Was lots cheaper and lots louder!

Recollect with what delight
Used to be up half the night
Helpin' fire the anvil or
Makin' other sounds of war?
Used to wish the earth was drilled
Out inside and powder-filled,
And that I could somehow just
Touch her off and hear her bu'st!

Weren't no cannon-crackers then.
Kind o' wish there had a-been—
Then they would 'a' sounded sweet;
Now they lift me off my feet.
I've begun to think that noise
Was invented just for boys.
Fourth o' July don't seem to me
'T all like what it used to be.

Just as patriotic, still
Somehow I don't catch the thrill
Of the loud, tumultuous joy
Like I used to when a boy.
Nothin' doin' then but I
Had a finger in the pie;
But that finger, as you see,
Got blowed off eventually.
—Nixon Waterman in The Sunday Magazine.

OLD-TIME CELEBRATIONS.

Parades, Dinners and Speeches Characteristic Features.

Parades, dinners and the drinking of as many toasts as there were States in the Union formed the characteristic features of the early Fourth of July celebrations. There was less noise a century ago than is usually the case to-day and absolutely no overindulgence in fireworks, because fireworks were so scarce that their use was practically restricted to the public gardens. These popular resorts, of which there were several in New York, Boston, Philadelphia and other large cities, were careful to announce, often weeks beforehand, the attractions prepared for the anniversary day Nearly every town and village could point with pride to Revolutionary veterans, and the presence of these warriors who had contributed their share toward making the Declaration of Independence mean something to the country added to the deep personal interest in the day. The love for their young country rang out true and clear in every oration and after dinner toast. The following toast, given by the merchants of New York in 1795 at the Tontine Coffee House, is but a sample of many which the day always called forth:

"The auspicious day that rescued our country from the hated yoke of foreign tyranny and gave us honorable rank among the nations of the earth—may its glorious events never be effaced from our memories; may the blessings it has conferred be as lasting as the globe we inhabit and may each revolving year find us more united, more happy and more free"

During the early years of the last century the celebration in New York invariably opened with a discharge of cannon from the Battery. A parade of the militia and volunteer rifle organizations, accompanied by the leading societies of the city, in which Tammany was always well represented, marched through Broadway below the present city hall, Wall street and some of the other thoroughfares.

After a march of about an hour the paraders filed into St. Paul's or some other prominent church, where the Declaration of Independence was always read, followed by an oration.

In the evening every tavern and coffee house had a special Fourth of July dinner. This latter custom was universal. No hamlet was so small that it could not gather its company of patriotic diners in the village tavern, where their enthusiasm was displayed in repeated protestations of loyalty to their country.

The residents of Brooklyn 100 years ago were not to be outdone by their friends in the greater city across the river, as, according to a newspaper account at the time, the Fourth of July, 1804, was celebrated in Brooklyn as follows:

The military of Kings county assembled at the town of Brooklyn to celebrate the day. At sunrise a salute of seventeen guns was fired. The uniform corps of the Troop of Horse, Republican riflemen, Washington fusileers and the Rising Sun companies formed on Brooklyn Heights at 10 o'clock and marched through Sands street, Main street, Front street, up old Ferry street, to the parade ground.

Later in the day there were dinners in the various taverns and the customary toasts.

An account of a celebration at Potts Grove, Montgomery county, Pa., is interesting not only for the picture of rural enjoyment, but as a sample of the journalistic writing commonly seen in the early newspapers:

"Two fieldpieces, cheerfully served, sent abroad in the forenoon the lofty report of both fun and frolic by sixteen well timed and successive discharges. Joy beamed on every brow; the green valleys and distant hills participated in the gladness of the day by reverberating the magnificent and far sent sounds of liberty and independence."

Mention is then made of the dinner, with its attendant speeches, and in concluding the writer adds:

"The retired sun had just by this time let in the gloomy shade of night, upon which the company betook themselves to the tavern of James Kinkead, where they enjoyed themselves with the sprightly dance and feasted to a late hour upon song, sentiment and rosy wine."—New York Times.

A Terrible Presentment.

In ten years, in ten cities of the United States, the casualties of July 4 were as follows:

Persons killed, 1,100.
Persons injured, 5,593.
Fire loss, $5,659,000.

This is a terrible presentment. It indicates that the Chinese idea of patriotic display, as employed by Americans, is sanguinary in the extreme.

There is no sense in such celebrations of the great day. Patriotism surely is something more than a desire to explode powder and make a loud noise. Yet we seem to believe otherwise.

All over the country there goes up a demand for a sane celebration of the nation's birthday. It will win in time, and when it does, there will be no innocents slaughtered, lockjaw will find few victims and the day and night will not be hideous with the boom and crackle and spitting of cannon, firecrackers and rockets.

Not an Explosionist.

"There goes a girl," remarked the observing person, "who is shy of patriotism."

"How do you know that?" asked the bystander.

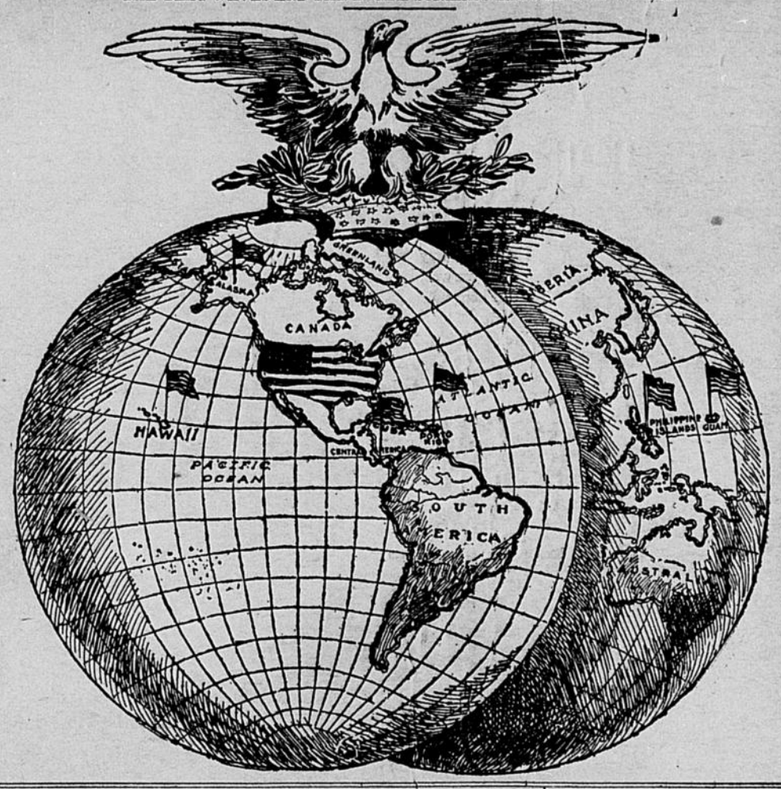
"She refused to use powder or wear bangs on the glorious Fourth," explained the o. p.

Not the Usual Rate.

Jones—Did your boy enjoy himself as much as usual this year?

Brown—No. He only blew off one finger.

THE FLAG WAVES AND THE EAGLE SCREAMS AROUND THE WORLD



THE PATRIOTS OF PEACE.

REMEMBER what Sherman said about war? It also applies to Independence Day and the popping, roaring, crackling, whooping, exploding that drives some folks almost to insanity and means that we are a nation of patriots and are so glad of it that every year we burn tons of powder and maim, mutilate and cripple between 4,000 and 5,000 human beings—mostly boys.

And the popular idea of patriotism is war. We are glad we fought or that our ancestors fought, and the hair bristles on the back of our necks, and we feel, by hoky, that we can fight again and that the foreigners from London town to Vladisvostok had better keep off the toes of your Uncle Samuel. Huh!

All right. The navy is growing and we are spending millions for target practice and more millions for great guns. But let's hope hard that there will never be another war, and that widows and orphans will never again be made in a strife with other nations or at home. God grant it, is the prayer of the millions.

A patriot isn't necessarily a soldier. A man doesn't have to storm a fort to prove that he loves his country. That kind of bravery is fine. It gets into the papers and there is a thrill of pride even in the later days when flowers are strewn on graves and women in black weep.

But don't you forget that there are more patriots to-day than ever before. There are millions of them. They are behind counters in shops; they are running locomotives and tilling farms. They are not thinking much about war. They have no hatred in their hearts.

And how is it that they are patriots? Because they are trying to do their full duty as American citizens. That is how. They toil till their backs are stooped and their hands gnarled and knotted. They rear homes and honor good women. They bring up children and educate them. They do not hesitate to deny themselves to the end that those who come after them shall find greater opportunity and fill a better place in the affairs of the world than did their parents.

They are the fathers and mothers of progress. They are the bone and blood and sinew that make the nation strong. They are the living exponents of charity, decency, energy and human love, and they are stronger than the combined armies and navies of the world.

And so, while the explosions in memory of '76 shake the earth, be glad that you are a worthy member of that great army—the patriots of peace. God guide them all.—Kansas City World.

THE FRENCH FOURTH.

Similarities in the Holidays of the Sister Republics.

The French Fourth of July, coming as it does on the 14th of July, recalls to both Frenchmen and Americans the date of the destruction of the Bastile and the generous republican sentiments that at the time vibrated between the two countries. Just as the Declaration of Independence was acclaimed by Frenchmen in those early days, so in America the news of the destruction of the Bastile was received with hurrahs of rejoicing as a new declaration of the rights of man.

Like our own Fourth, the French 14th comes in the hot month of July, when the great cities are deserted by the posing fashionables and are in the full possession of the great mass of average democratic citizens. As on our own Fourth, it is a day of iced refreshments, with the streets and houses decorated with all kinds of festive flags and bunting. As with us, there is the smell of powder in the air, a pandemonium of explosions in the streets, and everywhere the small boy with his crackers, cannons, drums, horns, flags and lanterns.

Early in the morning everybody ornaments his windows with Venetian lanterns, flags and bunting. Here, again, the colors are the same—red, white and blue. Salvos of artillery announce the dawn; the bells are rung in the church towers of all France; the marines of every warship on the coast fire the great guns, while in each city, town and village as the sun rises they chant:

"Domine, salvam fac rempublicam!"

In city, town and village the trumpeters salute the day in the open squares, and the hot sunlight of July falls on a population proud to be republican.

In Paris the fete opens on the night of the 13th with immense torchlight processions of choral, patriotic, gymnastic and shooting societies, led by brass bands that play the patriotic songs whose words are known to all—the "Chant du Depart," the "Marseillaise," the "Mothers of Alsace" and "Returning from the Review." With them the multitude sings itself into a sort of drunkenness as the grand old words roll out from the memory. Then woe to the ill advised swell who dares to smile mockingly! Within the past five years men have been half killed for nothing more when the hot ghost of 1789 walks the streets of Paris for one night in July. There are fierce words for children even in those old songs, as—

We envy the fate of Barra and Viala.
They died, but they conquered!

Both Barra and Viala were boys of the great revolution. Every school child in France knows their history.

As with us, the boys are much in evidence upon the independence day of their republic. While their fathers and their mothers sleep or sit beside cool drinks in shady cafes, amused by a hundred vagrant mountebanks, the boys of France for one day in the year make more noise than their elders.—Washington Star.

If Your Boy Burns Himself.

This is the time when the mother of small boys finds her heart in her mouth the major part of the time. Patriotism is rampant, and patriotism with young America is synonymous with much noise and a plentitude of hairbreadth escapes.

If wise, she will have her medicaments ready against possible—yea, probable—emergencies. A roll of linen, or cotton gauze bandages, a package of absorbent cotton, a bottle of antiseptic tablets for cleansing any wound before bandaging, an ounce of aromatic spirits of ammonia for a stimulant in case of shock, a reliable lotion for burns, a paper of pins, pair of scissors and a plainly written "What to do" list, that she can hastily consult if her memory plays her false.

For a dry burn there is nothing better than equal parts of linseed oil and lime water. This makes the "carron oil" which the Welsh miners use in case of burns. It should have a place in every closet where household remedies are kept. In applying it, shake the bottle, saturate a soft cloth with the mixture and lay over the burn. Then cover closely with cotton batting or flannel to keep out every bit of air, and secure the whole with a light bandage. Burns may also be treated by covering with a thick layer of any bland oil, like vaseline, sweet oil, linseed oil, cocoa butter, cold cream or almost any fat that is not rancid. Glycerine should not be used. It is too irritating. Soft powders like flour, laundry or corn starch may also be dusted on thickly, then bound on.

For a scald or burn by steam no treatment gives better results than a dressing of saturated baking soda. Wring out cloths, lay on the burned surface, and as they dry pour on more of the solution.

"Shock," which is always present in severe burns, requires the administration of stimulants. The amount of shock or collapse after any bad injury or sudden fright differs with the character of individuals. Some succumb to it much more readily than others. When serious the temperature drops below normal, the face is pale, pinched and anxious, the pulse slow and feeble, the body bathed in a cold perspiration. Sometimes there is shivering. Sometimes the mind wanders.

Place the patient at once in a horizontal position, the head slightly raised. Administer stimulants, alcoholic or aromatic vinegar. If whisky or brandy is used, give a teaspoonful to a tablespoonful of hot water every ten minutes, until five or six doses have been taken. Surround the body and legs inside the thighs and under the armpits with hot water bags, hot stones—anything to give warmth—but take care not to burn your patient.

If the injury is to the head follow the same treatment, but omit the alcoholic stimulant.—Washington Star.

Undoubtedly.

"There is at least one thing," observed the Norwood philosopher, "that will never become popular in this country."

"What's the answer?" asked the Mt. Auburn man.

"A noiseless Fourth of July," replied the philosophy dispenser.

The United States Signal Service made the world's record by flashing sun-ray messages between mountain peaks 180 miles apart.

AUNT CHLOE'S FO'TH OF JULY.

Come, chillun, git up—all de ear', hit es bright
En' es pink es dat quilt on de company bald;
De hoe-cake it sizzlin', de coffee jes' right,
En' de rose by de winder poke in its gold hald
Lak it noddin' "Good mawnin'," en' look lak it say:
"What lazy folks, sleepin' dis time o' de day!"

Susannah Magnolia, roll outer dat cot—
You gittin' too lazy to draw yo' own breff.
Ef you don' come erlong while de vittles is hot
We can eat 'em all up, en' you sholy git lef';
Yo' pappy en' me isn't gwine fer tuh wait—
We's gwine tuh de doins befo' it git late.

I 'lowed dat'd fetch y' all runnin' right fast—
Jeminy en' Sam, git away fum dat cake.
Po' little Orlando, he comin' de las',
Wid his po' little eyes ony jes' half awake,
In 'is little blue night-shut en' ony one shoe!
Come, honey, tuh mammy—she waitin' fur you.

Whut dat? My good lan', how dat chile mek me jump!
He shoot off 's hald wid dem crackers, I know;
En' powder! I 'low he be daid es a stump
When de time come fer startin', en' den he kain't go.
You, Gawge, drap dat 'volver, you ornary tad,
You kill you'sef, den won't yo' pappy be mad?

Heah, Washington, gimme a boost fum de back;
Come, 'Lando, en' set in he mammy own lap.
You, Sam, en' Jeminy, quit qua'l'in', right smack—
Mek room dar fer Jinny, 'longside o' 'er pap.
Now let dem two mules kick dey heels up en' fly—
Hi, chillun, we gwine tuh de Fo'th o' July!
—Harriet Whitney Durbin, in Leslie's Monthly.

The Use of It All.

What is the use of it all—the booming cannon at sunrise, the firecrackers all day, here and there a parade and a speech, and the bombardment of the heavens with rockets and Roman candles in the evening, till at last, along in the middle of the night, there is a welcome silence?

It is what is left of an old and changing fashion of observing the anniversary of American independence. We celebrate the day in a different way from that which appealed to our grandfathers, but there are few so pessimistic as to think that freedom and national independence are less highly prized by seventy-five million people to-day than by three millions a hundred and twenty-six years ago, even if not so much is said about them now as then.

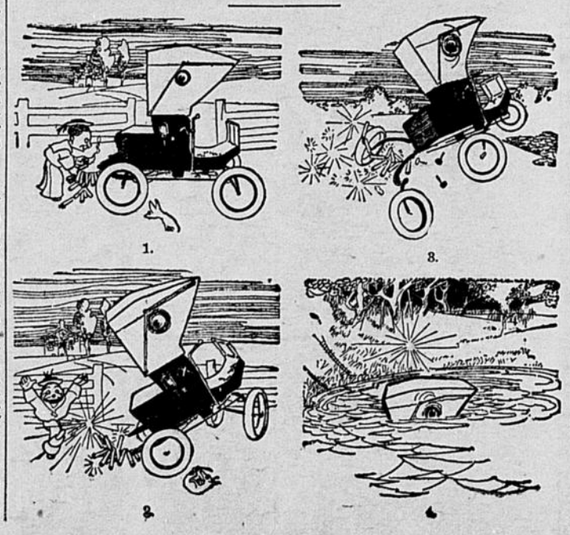
The decay of the Fourth of July oration does not mean that we forget the significance of the time, but only that we do not need to remind ourselves that we are free. We make the anniversary a gala day, instead of devoting it to congratulations on our liberty. We let the British lion alone, instead of twisting his tail. We no longer need to whistle to keep our courage up when we think of England.

Picnics and trolley rides, golf and baseball, bicycling and tennis are now preferred to the old-fashioned customs on "the day we celebrate," although some of those still survive. The significance of the anniversary has not been forgotten in the change, nor will it be allowed to pass from the memory so long as it is celebrated at all. There may be less gunpowder burned by the next generation, and the oration as an incident may disappear altogether; but the national holiday will remain a day full of meaning, for all that, when a free people enjoys its enveloping and surrounding and enwrapping freedom as unconsciously as it breathes the all-embracing air.—Youth's Companion.

Dance Favors for the Fourth.

For the Fourth of July dance there are enormous crackers or snapping mottoes in tri-colored isinglass. An extra loud snapper is in honor of Independence day, and the caps and aprons packed into the small space are all in patriotic colors. Other dance favors are tiny canes wound with tri-colored ribbons, and small pistols which, when the trigger is pulled, send out a small Japanese folding fan, while those of a larger size shoot forth diminutive parasols in the same colors, with the cutest of fringed edges.

A FOURTH OF JULY ABSURDITY.



POLITICS OF THE DAY

Stand Patism a Mania.

In the chaste language of the New York Evening Post, "Chasing the devil 'round a stump is profitable exercise compared with running down a standpatter." Well, that depends. If you can "give him a kick and make him jump," your exercise will not have been entirely in vain.

Secretary Shaw roundly denounced Governor Cummins of Iowa the other day on account of the latter's tariff revision proclivities. Yet the Secretary himself had no hesitation in purchasing 20,000 barrels of cement abroad when by doing so he saved to the government 27 cents a barrel, or $5,400. It is proposed, in the event of confining bids for materials for the Panama Canal construction to those of American manufacture, to add the tariff duty to the cost of such materials abroad, and then further increase the expense by permitting the bidder another addition for a "reasonable profit." Truly, it would seem that the Creator of all is not the only being who "moves in a mysterious way, his wonders to perform."

But, as the same paper remarked in another issue: "Standpatism is daily mounting to new heights of unreason, resembling mania. Like the defenders of slavery just before the war, protectionists are making a religion of their practice, and every man who dissents from it is a heathen and an infidel."

So, too, with the Massachusetts Republicans who recently complained that unless they were given free hides and other raw material they could secure no markets abroad; whereupon Mr. Sereno Payne serenely answered that New England manufacturers need no foreign market, being possessed of magnificent domains on our own continent. Talk about your talkabouts! There's an answer as is an answer.

But when some of our patriotic Democratic representatives in Congress pointed out that some of the most highly protected trusts, such as the Steel Trust and the Watch Trust, for instance, are so eager to secure foreign markets that they sell their goods abroad more cheaply than to the consumer at home, Standpatter Hepburn took the trouble to explain that that charge was simply a campaign roorback. Of course, we are willing to take his word for that until the figures prove differently.

When Mr. Williams of Mississippi, leader of the House minority, occupied two days in piling up evidence to the contrary, Mr. Dalzell of Pennsylvania kindly and frankly admitted that the goods made by protected American interests are sold for less money in Europe than at home, simply because they are unable to secure the foreign trade in any other manner.

Of course, as Mr. Dalzell so naively put it, it is a simple business proposition—undersell the other fellow whenever and wherever you can, no matter who gets the benefit of the lower price. But wouldn't it be a good proposition to so adjust the tariff schedule as to permit American citizens to purchase American-made goods as cheaply as Europeans may purchase them?

That, of course, would be a patriotic movement. But who will accuse a standpatter, in these twentieth century days, of patriotism? Perish the thought! Business first and patriotism after, is the motto of the trusts and their standpat allies, in Congress and out. As some wives reach their husbands' hearts through the medium of the stomach, so he who would chase the standpatter 'round the stump must appeal to his pocketbook, regardless of the welfare of the rest of the community.—Exchange.

Advanced Cost of Living.

The cost of living is now 47 per cent higher than on July 1, 1897, without including rent, though it is safe to say that rent keeps pace with the increased cost of building materials. As everyone pays these increased prices, it is important to know what has caused such an enormous advance. It should be first noted that the present trust-fostering tariff law went into effect July 24, 1897, and that almost immediately the price of all protected articles began to advance in this country, although there was no similar rapid advance of prices in other countries. As this tariff law protected the American producers from competition, it was very natural that they should increase the price they charged for their products to the point where foreign goods could be imported and pay the freight and costs and also the tariff duties averaging over 50 per cent.

The large profits possible under the protective tariff induced the formation of trusts and combines to control the home market and this monopoly advanced prices to the highest limit. No figures or argument are necessary to prove the advance in prices, everyone who buys food or clothing, or pays rent, knows of the large increase from their daily experience. It is most exasperating to also know that the trusts and combines, which produce about all the necessities and luxuries of life, are selling their surplus stocks, after the American people have bought all they can afford, at much lower prices to foreigners than they charge our own people. As the tariff is a political issue the Republican leaders and writers denied until lately this selling abroad cheaper than here, and denounced it as Democratic fabrication, but the evidence produced of the facts has now compelled them to admit it, and in sheer desperation boast of it as one evidence of prosperity. Yet if the trusts would offer this surplus to the American people at the same price as they sell to foreigners, our people would gladly buy this surplus at the reduced price, but that would naturally tend to decrease the demand for the high priced goods and lead to a reduction of the price of the whole trust productions.

There is another cause for the constant advance in prices, that is working the world over, which is the extraordinary increase in the production of gold. As gold is the measure of values, when it becomes more plentiful it decreases in value—as measured by labor—and thus the prices of all classes of commodities—as measured by gold—are advancing to higher levels. But prices in the United States are so much higher than in other countries, especially England, which is on a tariff for revenue basis, that there must be some great fundamental cause at work to produce so much higher prices here than elsewhere. As our high tariff taxes prevent the importation of foreign goods, which would compete with the trusts and combines, except to a limited extent of high class goods, we are at the mercy of monopolists banded together to plunder us. To obtain relief from high prices the tariff must be revised.

Tainted Prosperity.

The cost of everything we need keeps going higher and higher, and the average advance has now reached 47 per cent. Only wages remain comparatively unchanged. This means that we are all growing poorer and poorer if we rely upon wages for a living, and not upon the profits of stock-jobbing or private monopolies. For this condition the party in power is responsible. It claims credit for everything else, let us give it credit also for the hard times produced by its adulterated, one-sided, tainted prosperity, which is breeding millionaires and paupers, tyrants and slaves, concentrated wealth and widespread poverty. The times are ripe, either for honest reform, led by men of genuine Democratic principles, or else for revolution led by Catalines and Caesars. The indictment of a few Burtons and Mitchells, a few Gillettes and Perkinses, and the like, will not suffice. The people must and will overthrow a system which gives to private monopolies the benefits of their labor. If Democracy is too weak to resist the powers that have grown up by reason of Republican policies, then socialism, springing from those same policies, will rise up and confiscate all wealth for the government. If you believe in the right of private property and personal freedom, join with the Democrats in bringing about the needed reforms.

When men say, let well enough alone; when they say, standpat; when they say that the prosperity of the country is safe only under Republican rule, remember that the policy of inactivity is the policy of the Bourbons, the policy of grafters. It is negative graft. The great interests adverse to the people are no longer demanding legislation. They have their lands, their charters, their franchises, their well-nigh uncontrolled possession of regulation of the rates for the services which they render. They are asking nothing except to be let alone.

The result is that we have legislative assemblies—city, State and national—in which men who in ancient times would have poisoned wells or defiled temples are engaged ostensibly in passing laws for the communities which they represent.

Nothing would please the beef packers, the railroad rebaters, the bank wreckers, the insurance thieves, the land grabbers, the postoffice robbers, the coal barons and steel barons than to be let alone. The very author of the slogan, "stand pat" was the worst corruptionist of modern times, and his triumph in politics was due to lack of that vigilance and jealousy of popular rights which is the price of liberty and peace. Down with the standpatters! They are the pestilential brood of adulterated prosperity, of abnormal, one-sided prosperity, which is inconsistent with the general welfare of the country. "To your tents, O Israel! Look to thine house, David." Apathy now means moral degeneracy and political suicide. It is only the enemy of the people who preaches apathy.

A Republican Tariff Reformer.

Former Congressman George N. Foss, a Republican of Messachusetts, and a would-be tariff reformer, who has just returned from a European tour in the course of which he made a special study of the matter, declares that his travels and observations strengthened his convictions as to the pressing need of immediate tariff reform and reciprocal trade treaties with other nations. He sees a dangerous competitor to the United States in the shape of Germany, whose commercial development and progressiveness in general is in keeping with the wonderful advancement already witnessed by the twentieth century in various parts of the globe. Mr. Foss says:

"We are confronted by a condition in Europe, and we must adjust our tariff to meet this condition. If we wait too long, we stand in grave danger of losing many of our best markets. The 'stand pat' argument will not avail when the crisis comes, and there will be a crisis unless we avert it, just as surely as there is a great, progressive country called Germany. If I were asked to sum up my conclusions, based on my observations abroad, I would say, first, prepare to meet maximum and minimum schedules, and, second, prepare to pass reciprocal trade treaties. The first preparation should come at once, and the second by the next Congress."

The Boston Advertiser predicts that Mr. Foss will again try for Congressional honors in the Eleventh Massachusetts District this fall, making his campaign on the tariff issue. It might be a good thing to have a man of his stamp in the lower house, but, if elected, Mr. Foss will have to turn to the Democratic party for effective aid in bringing about such tariff reform as the exigencies of the times clearly demand in the interests of the American people. He will never find it among the "standpatters" or trust agents of his own party.

Some "Captains of Industry."

The Beef Trust is just as good as any other trust. The methods of all trusts are the same. They are all actuated by the principle of a monopoly, which is to lower the cost of its product and increase the price of it at the same time, and that this end justifies any means tending to bring it about. The men who manage the beef trust, the men whom Mr. Roosevelt is now denouncing as poisoners and thieves, are the same men whom he has lauded as "great captains of industry," and as "the strong and forceful men" who have won success in business.

Several English song birds, including the lark, nightingale, blackbird and thrush, are thriving in an outdoor flying cage in the New York Zoo and make themselves quite at home with American birds.

Education is an ornament in prosperity and a refuge in adversity.—Aristotle.

Money talks to most people, but it is deaf and dumb to the tax collector.

Geese and pigeons pair, but ducks, turkeys and chickens do not.

A little oilmeal in the stable will assist the curry comb, but it will not take its place.

Now, honor bright, is there any good reason why a farmer should not grow plenty of strawberries for home use?

Keep fresh lime scattered around hog pens, feeding pens and troughs. It is one of the best and cheapest disinfectants.

The man who is most benefited by what he has heard and learned at farmers' institutes is the one who puts them in practice.

Pork is what we make it. There is as much in the feed as in the breed, doubtless, when it comes to producing wholesome and good-flavored meat.

Maryland sheep raisers are urging the Legislature to pass a law to check sheep scab. Thousands of dollars are lost yearly to the farmers through its ravages.

Borrowing money and borrowing trouble are two different things in the beginning, but they are very similar when it comes to paying. Then it usually amounts to the same thing.

"Any old place" never was a good place for a garden. More gardens are located there than anywhere else. Should this be the selection the yield ought to be "any old kind of a yield."

The present outlook seems to promise a practical milking machine. Two different machines are being given a thorough test and the reports are very promising. None of these machines are at present on the market.

The mortgage is going—to stay or be removed, according to the efforts put forth. It is going to stay when robber cows, loafer hens, unthrifty hogs, diseased sheep and poor seed are kept. The question is what will be done with the mortgage?

Hogs can be kept in better trim if they have a little charcoal to aid their digestion. A thoroughly charred log thrown in their pen or yard will answer the purpose. It is better than wood ashes, and the danger of choking is reduced.

A train boy sold an old farmer some bananas. They did not suit his taste and he threw them away. When the boy returned the old farmer asked him if he had any Ben Davis apples. He wanted to eat a few to take the taste out of his mouth.

For starting early tomato and other plants in house or hotbed, use sod cut in three-inch cubes or old tin cans, with solder melted off, or little paper boxes, which have only to be wet when placed in the ground. Transplanting can then be done easily without checking the growth.

In the dry, warm shed provided for the hens in cold or rainy weather, keep both straw and gravel. There will be no better dust bath for them than fresh coal ashes. If a box of this is kept convenient, the fowls will rid themselves of vermin and will find necessary adjuncts to their rations in the cinder which they pick out.

Nothing is more amusing than to see a man backing out of an individual hog house with an infuriated sow as the assailant. There is a sort of dexterity that is unusual to say the least. The doors of such pens should be made so one can enter easily and get out suddenly in case of an attack. With some sows it is a good plan to carry with one a hand hurdle.

It is the general opinion among hen men that the hen that hides her nest is more successful than the hen that does not. Should a hen hide her nest and come off with a large brood of chicks she is held up as being all right, but nothing is said of the thousands of hens that hide away and are never found again. This probably gives rise to the saying that the hen that hides her nest is always successful.

The inside of the barn door may be a good place to keep accounts and records, but it is not the best place. Notches in sticks have their significance for the time being, but they lack permanency and it requires more or less memory to keep accounts in this manner. The best way to keep accounts is to obtain a book and keep account of all thing that are liable to slip the memory.

The price of clover seed has been known to influence the area sown. Some times a failure to get a stand is attributable to the price when ranging from $8 to $10 per bushel. No failure to get a stand ought to attach to climatic conditions so long as there is a tendency to economize in the amount of seed used because of dear seed. One ought to be honest enough with himself to point out why he made a failure.

Yellows must be reckoned with by the peach grower as one of the troubles he will have to fight. Its cause is not yet known, and no cure for a true case of yellows has yet been found. Growers who have not studied the symptoms of this trouble often class all trees with a yellow foliage as "yellows" trees, and then say that with proper treatment a large number of yellows trees will recover. Yellow foliage is only one symptime of the disease, and the one least dependable.

Red raspberry plants should be taken from a young, healthy bed. Plants from an old bed are less vigorous and more liable to be diseased. The proper distance between the rows is seven feet for garden culture, and eight feet for field culture. The plants should be set three feet apart with two plants in every hill. This will assure a better stand and will also give double the crop the second year because they have double the amount of canes. Always choose a rich, heavily manured and well-tilled soil.

Where possible to do so, the preparation of the potato ground should begin two or three years previous to the year of growing the crop. It consists in keeping the soil clean so there will be few weeds to contend with in potato cultivation. Sheep and calves are good agencies to use in cleaning potato ground. A clover pasture or an old pasture of any kind will supply an ideal potato plat and should be plowed in the fall. Potato ground plowed in the spring should be plowed late.

Many Soils Need No Bacteria.

The Department of Agriculture after many tests of soils finds that there are many that need no inoculation in order to fit them for growing alfalfa and other leguminous crops. Bulletin No. 240, issued by the department, fully explains this whole matter of nitrogen culture in regard to soils and growth of legumes. It is a valuable bulletin.

Referring to the erroneous impression abroad on this subject, Prof. C. F. Curtiss, of the Ames, Iowa, Experiment Station, in a recent circular on the subject, says:

"Barnyard manure and thorough tillage are worth more than all the nitrogen cultures on the market. Put the soil in good enough condition to grow seventy-five bushels of corn per acre; then sow twenty pounds of alfalfa seed about the middle of August, following a crop of small grain, and the question of cultures will take care of itself."

Artichokes Valuable Crop.

The value of artichokes is not generally understood. Last spring a Missouri farmer planted nine bushels of the tubers on three-quarters of an acre and in the fall harvested 300 bushels. This would make 400 bushels to the acre. Some years ago this farmer raised 600 bushels on one acre, with but very little cultivation. Not only do they make the cheapest, but in many respects the healthiest hog feed grown, being a natural specific for cholera. Once planted, the hogs will do the harvesting, and after the first year there will be no necessity for planting. Some think that artichokes can not be exterminated, but this is easily accomplished by letting the tops grow about a foot high and then plow them under. But why exterminate a crop that will bring you $25 to $35 worth of hog feed every year without the trouble and expense of planting or harvesting?

Overfed Chicks.

In case you have overfed chicks on too much starchy foods till diarrhea has resulted, the following ration has been found beneficial in correcting the trouble:

Bran three parts by measure, cornmeal two parts, cut clover two parts, meat meal one part. Let the birds have access to this at all times. Feed roots and cabbage, all they will eat, and one full feed of whole grain an hour before they go to roost. Let this be wheat one night, barley the next, corn the third, and then go over the list again. Give no medicine. Deep litter for exercise in getting the grain, with fresh water several times a day. When the animal supply of food has been too small the birds fill up constantly on starchy foods, overtaxing the liver and digestion. Diarrhea and breakdown are the natural outcome of this method of feeding. Growing birds will stand high feeding, but when a bird has reached maturity more careful feeding is required.

Small Fruit Farm.

Small fruit culture will bring the family bigger returns than anything else about the farm. Knowing this, it is strange that so many country people prefer to buy dried fruits rather than grow them right in their own gardens. Any soil that will produce a vigorous growth of corn and potatoes will be all right for fruits. The currant is one of the most valuable of our small fruits. It is hardy, easy to cultivate and yields abundantly. Good cultivation and severe pruning will increase the size of the fruit. Plenty of old manure should be spaded in about the roots, and the soil should be kept clean and mellow. On account of its hardiness the currant bushes are too often left to shift for themselves, and of course when left in this condition one need not expect big, fine-flavored fruit. Currants do best in a somewhat protected location.

The gooseberry bushes are also shamefully neglected, until blight and disease destroy the prospect of a crop. With sensible care, such as pruning, cultivation and the use of fungicides, the culture of this fine fruit may be made certain and even remunerative. So many of the best varieties are affected with mildew, that no one who expects to get well-developed fruit should neglect spraying.—Southern Fruit Grower.

Selecting Seed Corn.

The experiment station of Ohio furnishes valuable information in a bulletin on the selection of corn for seed, the selection being made during the growing of the plant in the field, which ought to have the careful attention of growers of corn everywhere. Taking Dent corn for the purpose, it is scored as follows: Vigor of plant, 20 points; position of ear, 5 points; weight of ear, 50 points; length of ear, 5 points; uniformity of plant and ear, 10 points, and shape of kernel and size of germ, 10 points.

Very important is the note which gives the disqualifications, as plants growing under less than normal stand; plants lying upon the ground or badly broken; plants diseased; plants maturing too late or too early. To select the seed corn from such plants is fatal to the following crop. The vigor of the plant is indicated by the circumference of the stalk below the ear; by its upright growth and by its leaf development and freedom from disease.

The ideal position of the ear is such that it does not pull too heavily upon the plant. The weight of the ear is to be determined by scales when the ear is thoroughly air-dry.

The plan of uniformity of plant and ear is based on the habit of growth and vigor of plant as well as size, shape, color and indentation of ear. Corn growers everywhere should profit by these points, which will mean decidedly improved crops.—Exchange.