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THE DECLINE OF CANNON.

(From the Telegraph-Herald.)
Speaker Cannon never rose above the dignity of a fish-monger in statecraft. He is a vulgar, unrefined, profane and dogmatic. His name is not linked with a single piece of statesmanship, and he has never revealed mental endowments qualifying him to occupy a place of leadership even in a backwoods grocery store.
It was inevitable that Cannon, facing defeat in his own party, should turn with billingsgate upon his critics. His recent passages with Congressman Parsons of New York, with Congressman Fowler of New Jersey, his diatribes against La Follette and Cummins, and, most recently his charge of attempted bribery against Herman Ridder, president of the American Publishers' Assn., indicate how hard pressed he knows himself to be and how insecure is his leadership.
It may be that paralysis is overtaking Cannon, and the possibility of this being the case should temper criticism of him. But paralytic or not, it is high time he was relegated into oblivion.

ROBERTS FAVORS CENTRAL BANK.

George E. Roberts, president of the Commercial National Bank of Chicago and former director of the mint, who was also recently elected president of the Chicago clearing house delivered an address at Kansas City last week in favor of the proposed central bank plan before the Kansas bankers' association.
Mr. Roberts is an ardent upholder of the central bank and asserts that the plan offers a more comprehensive treatment of the currency question than any other scheme. Nine out of every ten objections offered to the plan do not apply to the sort of central bank that is proposed, says Mr. Roberts.
"The country is rounding up into a fine state of prosperity again," said Mr. Roberts. "Out here in Iowa you know little about the industrial reaction which followed the panic of 1907 for there has been a progressive scarcity in food products in recent years the world over, which has made good prices. But the panic created havoc in the manufacturing centers, throwing hundreds of thousands of people out of employment and causing untold distress. And now that it is all over and we can review the whole situation it is evident that it was all unnecessary.
Business Sound.
"We know now that the business of the country was in essentially sound condition; the fact that there was no epidemic of failures even under the strain of panic conditions is proof. No doubt there was some kite flying and they are at that again already. Stocks are higher now than they were before the panic and land speculation is as general as any as ever before in the history of the country. As a remedy for speculation, therefore, the panic cost a great deal more than the net results are worth.
"It brought about a wholesome cancellation of orders, interrupted industry, confused the outlook, caused business men to suspend their plans, cut the country nearly two years of progress, and now the factories that were running on half time for a year are behind and working under pressure to catch up with the delayed orders. The burden of this disorganization of the industrial machine has fallen of course upon both capital and labor, but more heavily, upon labor because those idle months are gone beyond recovery.
Currency System the Cause.
"The panic was directly chargeable to our crude and inflexible currency system," continued Mr. Roberts. "Our banking system is highly efficient in some respects. With our multiplying of banks and substitution of checks for money we do business with a comparatively smaller stock of money, and that is an economy beneficial to the entire community. We hear about \$14,000,000,000 bank deposits in the United States, practically all payable on demand and only about \$3,000,000,000 in the country all told. In the banks and out, and the fault in the system is that we have, no means by which the supply of lawful currency may be readily increased. If an alarm starts, if a big house stubs its toe and an unusual demand for cash comes at any time, the banks are helpless, although perfectly solvent. We can do nothing but import gold, a slow and costly process.
Country Helpless.
"No other country in the world is in this helpless situation. They all back up their system of local banks with a strong, semi-official institution to which is confided the power of note issue, and which is thus enabled by means of loans or rediscounts to supply cash to the local banks in any part of the country. The situation is never allowed to develop to a dangerous stage.
"The panic of 1907 started in New York City, and every New York bank that closed its doors then has since demonstrated its ability to pay depositors in full. If there had been any place to which they could have gone and obtained currency on their good assets there would have been no disturbance outside of New York.
"Don't Want to Copy."
"I want to copy any for the institution. What we do must be by way of addition to our present system. We do not want to impair or diminish the present banking facilities of the country in the slightest degree, or interfere in the business of the local banks in any particular. We do not want a central institution that will take deposits or do any business with the public. But

A WINTER REVERIE.

I love to sit while wintry winds
Go howling past my door;
I love to see the whirling snow
Go drifting o'er the moor,
And when against my window pane
I hear the driving sleet
I close my eyes, and happiness
With me is complete—
Until a terror takes grim form
And reaches from without the storm
To hurry and distress my soul—
"Wake up, you mutt, you're out of bed!"
I love to watch the daylight die,
The sun wrapped in a cloud
Of frozen haze that seems to me
A chilling, wintry shroud,
And when the ice king takes his grip
On pond and lake and stream,
I love to watch the crystals form
In many a fancy gleam
Until from out the wintry zone
There comes a grief-compelling tone
That puts my fancies all to rout—
"Come, stir your stumps, the fire is out!"

I love to hear the wintry wind
Go walling o'er the sea,
They bear a message to my soul
Of fancies full and free,
And when I hear them sob and wail
Like hearts that have no hope,
I seem to see grim implish forms
Through wintry darkness grope—
Until from out the wintry pale
I hear a wild and fearful wail
As if from one with soul accurst—
"Wake up, old hoss, the pipes have burst!"

The dead leaves whirl upon the gale
And sink beneath the snow;
Vain strives the sun to warm to life
The violets below,
I sit and dream as round the leaves
The fitful wind-gusts sweep:
Sweet dreams of victories yet to come,
Of treasures rich to keep—
Until somewhere from out the gloom
A thunder tone fills up the room;
A tone that makes me blue and ill—
"Dig up, here is the plumber's bill!"

AUTUMN IN IOWA.

With autumn's banner on the breeze
In gorgeous tints unfurled,
Our Iowa, with plenty, aways the scener
Of the world
Her bounteous crops are garnered now,
To cheer the wintry night,
White forest leaves are tinged with
Gold and brown, and scarlet bright,
Sweet goldenrod, with buoyant air, wags
Its feathery plumes, with odors rare,
A master hand designs for us a scene
From Eden fair.
In realistic splendor, too, no picture
Can paint the scene,
When autumn touches Iowa, the pride of
"Uncle Sam."
—Della Martin Schultz.

We want a central organization of the existing banks which will stand behind them all with the power of note issue and supply them with a lawful currency in time of need. The fact that they had such a resource would give them confidence and put an end to the selfish policy of hoarding cash, which at first symptom of trouble paralyzes the whole situation.
Taft was elected for the purpose of carrying out Roosevelt's policies. He has knocked the aforesaid policies down, jumped on them with the ponderous pleasure of a stamp mill and has them in fine condition to be carried out to the rubbish dump.

THE DAIRY BUSINESS.

It is no longer denied that dairying is one of the greatest and most profitable branches of agriculture. During the year of 1908 the creamery output of the state of Iowa amounted to \$25,000,000. Adding to this the value of the butter manufactured on the farm, milk and cream consumed on the farm and sold in the towns and cities and to cheese factories and condenseries and the value of the skimmed milk and buttermilk used for feeding purposes we can safely estimate that the value of the dairy products of the state of Iowa for the year of 1908 will not be less than \$50,000,000. We can perhaps more readily comprehend the value of the dairying industry when we realize that the value of the Iowa wheat crop for the year of 1908 amounted to \$5,716,239. The value of the oat crop was \$45,517,110 and the corn crop \$153,836,000.
Success or failure in the dairy business is mainly due to interest or neglect on the part of the dairyman. There is no work that requires more up-to-date methods than dairying so to make the work of greatest success. In order to assist the Iowa farmers who desire more information on dairy subjects the Iowa State Agricultural College has this year outlined a special course for dairy farmers. This course will begin January 3rd and continue for two weeks. The following subjects will be taught:
Dairy Practice, six afternoons per week.
Buttermaking on the farm and feeding, five lectures.
Cheesemaking on the farm, two lectures.
Ice cream making, two lectures.
Scoring butter, cheese and cream, three lectures.
Dairy Bacteriology and care of milk and cream, four lectures.
Ventilation of dairy barns, one lecture.
Judging dairy stock and swine, four lectures.
Feeding and breeding dairy stock, six lectures.
Swine, two lectures.
Poultry, one lecture.
Obstetrics and tuberculosis, four lectures.
Our record testing associations, one lecture.
Silos and its construction, two lectures.
Steam and gasoline engines, two lectures.
As there is room for only 100 students for this course we advise that anyone interested write at once for special circular giving further information in reference to the farm dairy course. Address Dairy Department Iowa State College, Ames, Ia.

RECORD TIME IN LOADING ORE BOATS.

A new record has been made this year in loading big steamers on the upper lakes with ore. The steamer Corey, belonging to the United States Steel Corporation, was loaded with 10,111 gross tons of iron ore from the Vermilion range in thirty-nine minutes. This was done at one of the docks at Two Harbors, a port on Lake Superior, just east of Duluth. The ore is brought from the mines in steel cars and automatically dumped into great compartments in a concrete dock. When a vessel is brought up to the side of the dock the chutes from the compartments fit the hatches in its deck, and there are usually from twenty to thirty of them. The entire hold of the steamer is given up to ore. When the signal is given the traps that retain the ore in the compartments are lifted, and a stream of ore four feet square is carried through the chutes by its own weight until the hold of the vessel is filled or the compartments are emptied. This process is so simple that one or two men can load a vessel with 10,000 tons of ore simply by pressing a button or turning a crank. The cost of handling is thus reduced to a minimum.
"In the case of the Corey the signal was given at 2:17 p. m. to open the traps, and to close them at 2:56 p. m., when the hold of the steamer was filled.
"The same process is used in loading coal at Cleveland, Ashtabula, Conneaut and other lake ports, where the ore is unloaded and shipped by car to Pittsburgh, and the ships are filled with coal as a return cargo to Duluth and other ports on Lake Superior."

GASOLINE VS. ALCOHOL.

Results of Tests by the Geological Survey.

A gallon of denatured alcohol can be made to do the same amount of work in an engine as a gallon of gasoline; moreover the alcohol does not produce smoke and is less liable to yield objectionable odors, but the lower price of gasoline makes it the cheaper fuel. These conclusions, based on the results of 2,000 comparative tests of the two substances as engine fuels, are given in Bulletin 392 of the United States Geological Survey. R. M. Strong, the author of the bulletin, briefly describes the tests but discusses the more important results at some length. The tests formed part of the investigation of fuels now being carried on by the Survey. To determine the relative efficiency and economy of gasoline it was compared with denatured alcohol. In this comparison not only the heating values of the two fuels but their adaptability to engine use and the effects of variations in fuel quality and in the principal operating conditions—such as load, fuel supply, and time of ignition—were carefully studied. Tests were made with gasoline and alcohol in the same engine and repeated in other engines of approximately the same size (10 and 15 horsepower) on the same piston speed, with different degrees of compression, different methods of governing, and different combustion.
Comparative Efficiency.
Mr. Strong states that almost any engine with a well-designed carburetor will run as well with alcohol as with gasoline, except for a difference in ease of starting and in certainty of operation at low speeds. By using alcohol in an alcohol engine with a high degree of compression the fuel-consumption rated in gallons per horsepower hour can be made practically the same as for gasoline in a gasoline engine of the same size and speed. An alcohol engine with a compression ratio of 10 to 1 will have 30 per cent more available horsepower than a gasoline engine of the same size, stroke and speed, and the weight per horsepower may be less. Tests with mixture of gasoline and alcohol showed no gain in efficiency over gasoline or alcohol alone. Diluting gasoline with water did not effect fuel economy. With alcohol the case was different,

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