

The Manchester Democrat

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 1915.

The three republican daily papers of Des Moines are trying to make it appear that the appointment of George Huffman, as postmaster of that city has stirred up a great democratic row.

THE MORAL NOTE IN POLITICS.

(Chicago Herald.) That picture at Philadelphia of Mr. Bryan on his knees at a "Billy Sunday" meeting, autographing total abstinence pledges, is a picture that could for the signers who thronged forward—may strike some people as rather below the dignity of the Secretary of State.

But the picture is significant. In it we catch the easy clew to Mr. Bryan's influence over a large section of American voters. In all his political campaigns he has managed to sound the moral note. No matter how remote the issue, might seem from ordinary ethics, he has managed to find the note to which the public most readily responds.

We catch there the clew not only to Mr. Bryan's influence, but also to Mr. Roosevelt's. No matter how much technical politics there might have been in it, in essence, the Progressive movement was for the rank and file essentially a moral revolt. It was the note of moral indignation that roused and led it on. And when that indignation subsided, no political issues availed to hold the rank and file's allegiance.

Much the same thing may be said of President Wilson. His experience, his ability, his statesmanship, in pursuit of objects clearly perceived—these are natural elements of his strength. But the greatest element, as far as the moral note is concerned, is the moral note which recurs from time to time in all his utterances.

From now on the moral note promises to grow more and more important in our politics. The old idea of public affairs as a cold business transaction is rapidly being superseded with newer ideas of public responsibility and wide humanity. The human element is coming into its own. The tendency is to emphasize the age-long question: "Am I my brother's keeper?"

This does not mean that politics will become sermonesque. It does not mean that what one side assumes to be the exclusively moral view of any question will necessarily triumph over views less sincerely held by thousands of other citizens. It does not mean that the morality of an issue always will be absolutely clear. There still will remain divergent moral questions more or less responsive to temperamental or acquired differences of people.

But it does mean that the day of the moral politician—the national leader who bases his claim to leadership on his skill as a strategist and his opportunism as a statesman—is about ended. Henceforth the man who expects to impress himself on the great American public must ground his appeal on wide sympathy on lofty aims and moral earnestness.

BOND ISSUES MAKE ROADS.

(Marshalltown Times-Republican.) Pasadena, Cal.—To the Editor: Every member of the present legislature should be required by statute to provide a satisfactory answer to your query as to why the people of Iowa should wallow hopelessly in mud for six months out of every year, when practically every main traveled road in either Ohio or Indiana is now paved with brick, concrete, stone, or asphalt.

It is all so simple when a man looks into it that I am astounded to learn that any man big enough to represent a constituency in an Iowa legislature should propose to abolish the state highway commission. Northwestern Railway company to abolish its engineering department, from chief engineer down to division and local engineers.

Bond issues are what it is that pays roads without increasing taxes. Special assessments against property, especially benefited, and special assessments distributed to distribute the road tax in accordance with the benefits to be received, but the bonds distribute the cost of a thirty year road improvement over thirty years of taxes.

Putting it another way, the bond issue puts thirty years of road taxes on the road in one year and thereby we get a road that is worth while out of the same amount of road money instead of sinking the money in the mud and getting nothing for it.

I may bond issues pave roads because I have investigated what it is that makes a hard surfaced road possible in every state where such roads have been built and in every state it has been the bond issue.

I have mentioned the system of paved country roads in Los Angeles county. Now note what the county road commissioner says as to their cost. I asked him a few questions by letter and he replied as follows:

1. What per cent. is levied upon assessed values for your county roads and how much has this been increased, if any, since you began to pave your county roads?

A. The present levy upon assessed values for road tax in 40 cents on each \$100. This tax has not been increased, but is being slowly lowered.

2. Do the taxpayers complain about their road taxes and oppose paved roads, or do the majority favor them?

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bond issue had been completed, other property owners came forward with a willingness to pay 60 to 70 per cent of the cost themselves and the road commissioner's office is at work on plans for the state.

The county road tax in Iowa today, together with the auto license money, if bonded, would pave with concrete half of the entire county road system of our state. If this legislature would provide such road laws as other states have our people could have some of their roads and then property owners would gladly pay the other 50 per cent and inside of five years we could have the entire county road system of Iowa paved and the mud forever afterward.

ASIA IS THE SPILL.

(The Evening Gazette.) Those who seek to ascertain the true cause of the European war must needs go further back than the murder of the Austrian archduke in Bosnia. That was but an incident. It may have been a match carelessly thrown by the hands of a wanton wretch who had no knowledge of world politics and who could not have comprehended the awful results that were to follow. His idea was, no doubt, that the murder would do something to weaken the power of Austria—the of the Teutons, if you like—in the Balkan states, and that there the matter would end at that point. It may be believed that no nation desired the war for which all had been preparing. The cause may date back to the times when Britain established herself in India and when Russia began to exert herself in the Far East.

The case may date back to the times when Britain established herself in India and when Russia began to exert herself in the Far East. Unhappily Russia and Britain, now almost their opponents—and still at heart the bitterest and most jealous of enemies—began the plans for the present world war.

Russia placed Turkistan under tribute; Russia crossed the Caucasus and made a capital of Tiflis; Russia sent a Young Turk to place Tibet, a Chinese dependency, under British influence. The British had occupied Hong-Kong; the Russians had a railway to Port Arthur and wrung a lease from China.

In the beginning Germany had no part in this struggle. France—what Germany's content with Cochinchina and Tonquin, and had been given the greatest island of Madagascar to still their craving for an enlarged empire. In northeast Africa, it is true, the British and French interests impinged upon each other and the "Fashoda incident," now almost forgotten by the world, came near to supplying to match cast by the Serbian anarchist in Bosnia.

Germany, on hundred years ago, as a nation in the true sense, was in the womb of time. England had dominated her Baltic ports and dominated her commerce, until Britain was hated from Hamburg to Memel, as it is today. Russia had been false through Czar Alexander, a pretended friend of William of Prussia, when dealing with France, then the autocrat of continental Europe, and Napoleon had insulted the most gentle and loyal queen—Luitpold—Prussia ever knew.

That insult the Germans never have forgotten and never will forgive, and France paid an installment on Napoleon's brutality in the 70's.

Gneisenau and Schornhorst inaugurated a political revolution in Germany one hundred years ago that has had its counterpart only in Japan, awakened from the sloughful sleep of barbarian tribes in 1861 by the guns from an American fleet, when dealing with France, then the autocrat of continental Europe, and Napoleon had insulted the most gentle and loyal queen—Luitpold—Prussia ever knew.

The trouble with pavements is not the sort of pavement but the quality of the material.

THE VOICE OF SPRING. I come, I come, ye have called me I come o'er the mountain with light and song; Ye may trace my steps o'er the waking winds which tell of the violet's birth. By the primrose-stars in the shadowy grass. By the green leaves opening as I pass. —Felicia Hemans.

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of the work, and that means the quality of city engineering.

One of the best pavements in Des Moines today is the first asphalt pavement ever laid. Some of the poorest pavements in the city have been laid in the past two years.

The Vast World.

A student of Erfurt, desiring to see Nuremberg, departed with a friend on a journey thither. Before they had walked half a mile, he asked his companion whether they should soon get to Nuremberg, and was answered: "This scarce likely, since we have only just left Erfurt." Having repeated the question another half mile farther on, and getting the same answer, he said: "Let's give up the journey and go back, since the world's so vast!" Luther's "Table Talk."

Healthful Drink.

Barley water is a safe and cooling drink and is nutritious as well. Put into a pitcher one large tablespoonful of well-washed pearl barley, pour over it two quarts of boiling water, cover and let stand until cold. Drain off the liquid, add one-half cupful of sugar and a little nutmeg. The juice of a lemon is a pleasant addition.

Profession of Farming.

Farming is a business which requires the highest business talent, it is a profession which requires the best technical skill. There is no other profession that requires such a variety of learning, such an insight into nature, such skill of a technical order to be successful, as the profession of farming.—From Dr. Harvey W. Wiley's "The Lure of the Land."

Immutability.

In a field that I passed there was unearched, not long ago, the great country grange of a Roman settler, with its refectory, its little cloistered court, its baths and chambers, and storehouses. And it may all last on, hardly changing, for another thousand years, or longer still.—A. C. Benson in the North American Review.

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Use for Anthologies.

The mistake is in thinking that all poetry is for all readers. On the contrary the realm of poetry is as wide as the world, for the very reason that each man may find there just what he needs and leave the rest. The thing is to discover the poetry that was meant for us, and perhaps the best way to do that is to turn over the pages of some well-made selection, and see where our eyes get caught and held.—Richard Le Gallienne.

Grasshoppers Boomed the Town.

"Yes," said the western boomer, "the grasshoppers descended on our state last year and ate a path a mile wide from one border to the other; but were we discouraged? I guess not. We just fenced the land and turned it into an automobile highway, and now you can't buy property along it for less'n \$10 a foot."—Puck.

First in Resurrection.

In some districts of India the eastern parts of cemeteries are regarded as the most desirable. The choice is based on the belief that the dead in the eastern section will be the first to leap from their graves, brush the dust from their bones and proclaim their readiness to ascend.

Daily Thought.

The key to every man is his thought. Sturdy and defying though he look, he has a helm which he obeys, which is the idea after which all his facts are classified. He can be reformed only by showing him a new idea which commands his own.—Emerson.

That Also to Be Thought Of.

She was leaving the city for home, and by way of making her departure pleasant for those who had served her gave a nickel to a chambermaid, saying, "Mary, you take a nice long car-ride." The maid replied: "yes, ma'am; thank you, ma'am, but how will I get back?"

Testing Precious Stones.

The science of optics has in the last year or so given much aid to jewelers in making tests that are said to be absolutely conclusive as to the nature of a gem. The refractive index, or the power of bending light rays, is determined as to precious stones in the same way as that of the spectacle lenses which the opticians sell.

All of Tomato Utilized.

Italy harvests about 22,000 acres of tomatoes yearly, and the wastage amounts to practically nothing. The skins and seeds, formerly discarded, are now utilized, the former as stock feed and the latter as a source of oil. The crude oil is suitable for soap-making and for lamps, and the refined product is said to be edible.

Dust and the Lack of It.

That "the mean and mighty have one dust" is true. But those who have the dust are mighty, and those who haven't feel mighty mean.—Louisville Courier Journal.

Trade With French Oceania.

America sends French Oceania more than 47 per cent of its imports, and receives in return a trifle over 50 per cent of its exports.

Greatest Fault.

The greatest of faults is to be conscious of none.—Thomas Carlyle.

If You Wish to See Character Demonstrated

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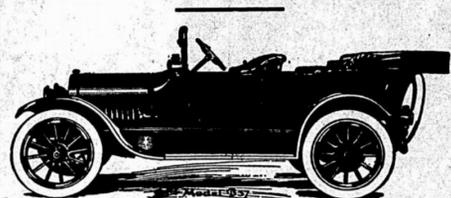
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