The Times-Dispatch

DAILY—WEEKLY—SUNDAY

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TUESDAY, MAY 12, 1908.

WILL THE SENATE FIGHT?

The letters which Mr. Roosevelt has written to Senators Stewart, Rayner and Smith open up possibilities of a most interesting nature. Their exact contents have not been made public, and final judgment on their propriety and the validity of the position taken in them by the President must be deferred. There is little reason to doubt, however, that in these letters Mr. Roosevelt has stated—and with what emphasis and distinctness may be readily imagined—that he is commander-in-chief of the army and navy of the United States, and in that capacity has the right to deal with the officers and men entirely as his own conception of the good of either service may deem proper. There is equally good ground for attributing to him the declaration that if Congress reinstates the soldiers discharged on account of the Brownsville shooting, he will veto the bill, and if it is then passed over his veto he will ignore it.

It is clearly evident that these letters created an intense feeling of anxiety and resentment among the Republican Senators—anxiety at their possible political effect on the party's fortunes; resentment at the rebuke administered by Mr. Roosevelt to the position taken by the Senate on the Brownsville affair and his defiance of what Congress may do towards reinstating the soldiers.

The limitations of the President's powers as commander-in-chief of the army and navy have not been authoritatively defined. Congress is empowered "to make rules and regulations for the government of the land and naval forces," and the plain inference would seem to be that the President commands subject to such rules and regulations.

But Mr. Roosevelt draws his own inferences and makes his own interpretations, both of the Constitution and the statutes.

If he shall insist that he can command according to his own personal will, and Congress shall maintain that his command is subject to the rules and regulations it may prescribe, there is here abundant room for serious conflict.

The President's character for obstinacy and his proclivity to unrestrained action render it certain that he will not recede; but of the Senate's hardness of purpose, especially in view of the uncertainty of the political situation, there is no assurance.

The resolution of censure that the Senate entered on its journal against Andrew Jackson for the removal of the deposits from the Bank of the United States affords the Senators a memorable precedent should Mr. Roosevelt's action flagrantly outrage their judgment of his powers; but considerations of party will probably outweigh the regard for the Senate's dignity and authority prevailing among the Republican members and prevent them from imitating the procedure of Clay, Webster and Calhoun.

CHAIRMAN ELLYSON UPHOLDS PRIMARY.

Lieutenant-Governor Ellyson, chairman of the State Democratic Committee, has given a body-blow to the oft-repeated charge that primaries are prohibitively expensive. According to the statement of Chairman Ellyson, which appears in to-day's paper, it cost the candidates for United States Senator and Governor only $632.96 apiece, and the assessment of candidates for Attorney-General, $210.99; State Treasurer, $126.59; the Secretary of the Commonwealth, the Commissioner of Agriculture and Superintendent of Public Instruction each paid less than $85, and the Lieutenant-Governor paid less than $43.

So much for the absolute and unescapable cost of the primary. As to traveling expenses, postage, literature and all legitimate incidentals, it is enough to say that this money was spent in familiarizing the people with the candidates they were asked to support.

It is one of the essentials of Democracy to bring elective officers as close as possible to those whom they represent, and no one who followed the campaign of 1905 can have any doubt that Senator Martin, for example, came infinitely nearer to the people by his personal campaign than he ever could have done by the proxy of legislators who were making their run on the implied or real promise that they would finally support him. What is true of Senator Martin is equally true of Governor Montague.

As to the candidates for Governor, the ordinary citizen had an infinitely better chance to make his wishes known by a ballot in the primary than exposing his choice of candidates to the rude hazard of the ward or precinct meeting, with the final chance that a convention in which he would have no part or lot would decide the whole question against him.

Chairman Ellyson has said the strongest word for the primary yet uttered in this discussion, and his opinion and statements further confirm us in our belief that the primary as an essential Democratic institution cannot with safety or wisdom be abandoned by the Democratic party.

PREVENTING CONGESTION.

In Sunday's Times-Dispatch, Dr. E. C. Levy had a striking article on the photographs taken by this paper, showing some congested localities in this city. Dr. Levy's knowledge of the conditions in Richmond and his experience of conditions elsewhere give unusual value to his suggestions on the best means of dealing with present conditions. The Times-Dispatch heartily agrees with Dr. Levy that the best course to pursue now is for the Chamber of Commerce to appoint a committee for studying the general problem of housing Richmond's poor.

Already the Chamber of Commerce has made a step along this line in its appointment of a committee to report on the best locality as a new outlet for the growing negro population of this city. If the Chamber of Commerce adopts Dr. Levy's suggestion and so enlarges its committee as to provide it with the experience and the numbers necessary for taking up the wider problem of housing for the whole city, a great service would be rendered this community.

Richmond's future lies in manufacturing. As such the population of this city must be greatly increased, and, unless we are to combat the dangers and degradations which have come to other cities that grew without taking thought for the morrow, we must begin at once to plan the lines of the future development of this city in its homes, streets, parks and playgrounds.

NEED FOR STATE BANK INSPECTION.

The report of the Messrs. Boudar to the State Corporation Commission on the shortage in the bank at Boydton again emphasizes the serious mistake made by the Legislature in not passing a rigid bank examiner's law for Virginia.

It is true that the Corporation Commission has the right to order the inspection of any bank used as a State depositary, or any State bank whenever stockholders representing one-fifth of the capital stock shall petition the Corporation Commission to investigate its affairs. In each of these cases the cost of the investigation must be borne by the bank. In ordinary conditions, however, the State Corporation Commission has no funds with which to pay for those regular investigations, which the examples of Portsmouth, Chase City, Boydton and the Southern Interstate Bank of Richmond have shown to be so necessary.

The wholesale looting described elsewhere in to-day's paper shows how utterly defenseless the stockholders of uninspected State banks can be. For their protection the State banks of Virginia should raise a fund to pay for a regular legal inspection of their books. Banking is one of the most important functions in our modern life, and no means should be spared to absolutely protect depositors.

TOTAL DEPRAVITY.

Total Depravity is a theological doctrine that does not enjoy either the repute or the terrors that once belonged to it. The loosening bands of dogma, the wider outlook of mankind, the teachings of science, in short, that toleration which comes with increasing age to nations, as well as to individuals, have all combined to make us doubt whether, after all, any human being is, as the language of the old common law writ had it, "wholly devoid of social duty and fatally bent on mischief."

But facts that will not be gainsaid rise to jar these gentle dreams of optimism. Surrounded by such beneficent and uplifting efforts as those to which the National Conference for Charities and Correction, for instance, owes its being, doubtless we recall the gruesome tales of robber barons and donjon keeps and murdered travelers in the middle ages, only to shrug our shoulders with the comforting thought that those happenings were centuries ago. But how about the Benders, who made murder a mere trade in a little Kansas cabin? How about the car barn bandits? Or Harry Orchard? And, most of all just now, how about Mrs. Guinness? The lure, the scheme, the coldly calculated reasoning of an intelligent mind, all were present in this unspeakable creature. But the heart, the emotions, the human side were apparently not in existence. To all outward appearances the woman was normal. She had friends and neighbors; she went to church; she had been a wife; she was a mother. But some spring of human sympathy in her heart was closed and she became a human monster. Of mercy and forgiveness no man may judge, but without them this Mrs. Guiness seems fairly entitled to the badge of Total Depravity.

Thunders Editor Seely, of Atlanta: "The Georgian is not now and never has been owned, controlled or influenced by any corporation of any kind in the world." In the world, mind, which includes Egypt, Mesopotamia, Cappadocia and the dwellers in Phrygia and Pamphylia. Now, children, will you please sit down and try being good for awhile?

However, that hot contest between Smith and Brown in Georgia is far preferable to those struggles between the Untermeyers and the Schlopordowskys which frequently make us wonder whether we live in the United States or in Northeast Poland.

We are glad to note that Delaware will have 4,000,000 baskets of peaches for the market this season. They will help to allay the angry disappointment of those whose orders reach old Bill Skillit after the splendid Henrico orchards are sold out.

Just 176 days from this morning, we shall be calling upon the stakeholders and cashing in the bets.

Mr. Taft's visit to Panama does not indicate that he considers the nomination cinched, but merely that he has the habit of foreign travel.

Rhymes for To-Day

WHY ANNOY JOSEPH FURTHER?

IN the bosoms 'neath the blouses of
the two assembled Houses,
There are notions which would
make the country gloat,
There are sundry clever measures
which would give us divers
pleasures—
If the blooming things could only
come to vote!
There are many, many members whose
cerebra glow like embers
With the noble plans that flit before
their eyes,
But they're held up at the border by
some so-called rules of order—
I. e., Cannon cannot see them when
they rise.

O I wish some Kurd or Koptic would
look into Cannon's optic
And determine what has injured of
his sight,
And I wish some doc in flannels would
research Joe's aural channels
And inform us why he cannot hear
aright.
O if Congressman Jocannon is retained to put the ban on
Every act that didn't sprout in his
own head,
Why should we pay all the others?—
Let us rise and fire 'em, brothers,
And let Cannon frame our laws at
home in bed.

H. S. H.

MERELY JOKING.

Yes, Yes.

Willie: "Dad, what's the difference between incognito and alias?"

Dad: "About the same as between kleptomaniac and robber."—Illustrated Bits.

Did Son Catch On?

"Pa, what is a monologue?"

"A monologue, my son, is a conversation with the only child of one's own parents."—Lippincott's.

Those Fool Questions.

"Would you like me to trim a little off the ends of that hair, sir?" asked the barber.

"Naw," snapped the grouchy customer. "Leave the ends alone and take some out of the middle."—Cleveland Leader.

Cook Was Satisfied.

Mr. Stubbs (after engaging cook): "There's one other thing I suppose you should know, Miss Flannigan—my wife is a chronic invalid, confined to her room."

Miss Flannigan: "That's fine! I wor afeerd she might be wan iv thim chronic kickers that ar-re confined t' th' kitchen, begobs!"—Puck.

How They Make Novels.

Fair Visitor: "Why, I had no idea that novels were written in this way."

Foreman of the Six-Best-Seller Factory: "Oh, yes; at these machines they punch in the plots; across the room they stitch in the description; the dialogue is put in by hand, and the whole then goes to the finishing room, where it is sawed into chapters."—Puck.

His Iron Constitution.

He was the first tramp of the season, and merrily we welcomed him in. "Here," we said, "is a glass of water—pure, cold, delicious water. What? You refuse it, man?"

He shook his head and sighed. "I have to, sir," he said. "You see, I've got an iron constitution, and water would rust it."—Tit-Bits.

REPLYING TO OURS.

THE Richmond Times-Dispatch comes forward with the suggestion of a lawn mower to be called the "Merry Grass Widow." Evidently some damsel, coming under that classification, has at some recent interval amused herself by "cutting" the shortliner of the Virginia paper.—San Antonio Express.

* * *

As far as that goes, there is no real reason why Alton B. Parker should not get a stab at the vice-presidency at Denver.—Richmond Times-Dispatch. Except the reason that he, having had one try at the great prize and failed to land it, will hardly care for the second fiddle position.—Brockton (Mass.) Times.

* * *

The Richmond Times-Dispatch editorializes upon the congestion in cities. Some of us are not so much worried over that problem as the solution of another; the indigestion in restaurants, for instance.—Columbus Enquirer-Sun.

* * *

"There will be no hello girls in heaven," says the Richmond Times-Dispatch. Sometimes we get angry at the hello girl ourselves, but we don't cherish a grouch like that.—Baton Rouge State.

* * *

Poetic license passes understanding. Henry Sydnor Harrison writes a rhythmical farewell to the oyster, when as a matter of fact the only oysters it would be possible for him to bid adieu are those that never got within his sight or reach.—Houston Post.

* * *

The Richmond Times-Dispatch says that probably the reason some orators are so keen for free speech is that they couldn't get a cent for theirs.—Lynn (Mass.) Item.

* * *

According to Shanghai correspondence of the Chicago News, the Chinese doctors believe that the stomach is the seat of knowledge. Young men married to biscuit-making brides from Norfolk, Atlanta and Houston have long held the same view.—Richmond Times-Dispatch. Oh, well, you know the old saying, "the way to a man's heart is through his stomach," and that being true, young men with Atlanta brides who know the art of biscuit-making are the most devoted hubbies in the world.—Atlanta News.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

E. H. Harriman, if he so willed, might start to-day at Savannah, Ga., and walk to San Francisco without stepping off his own property or property that he controls.

It is stated that the Peking government intends to dredge the canals in Chili, Shantung and Kiangsu. (This would include the dredging of the northern portion of the Grand Canal.)

Consul Edward J. Norton sends the information that an agricultural exposition will be held in Asuncion on May 14th, 15th and 16th under the direction of the National Agricultural Society of Paraguay.

Consul-General James L. Rogers, of Havana, states that the estimates on the sugar crop of Cuba have fallen below 1,000,000 tons, and only the most optimistic cling to the hope of that amount.

The Governor of Hongkong, having decided to stock some of the reservoirs with trout, a consignment of trout ova is expected to arrive shortly at Hongkong from the hatcheries of the Canadian government.

Consul-General Richard Guenther, of Frankfort, reports that Germany's importation of rubber (caoutchouc) during 1907 amounted to 15,800 long tons. About 1,400 tons of this came from the empire's African colonies.

Professor Cook, of Washington, reports the surprising discovery of camphor as an animal secretion. The animal concerned is a myriapod, resembling a worm or small slug, and scientifically known as polyzonium rosalbum.

In Australia are found some of the most remarkable ants' nests in the world. They are known as "magnetic" nests, for the reason that they are built in a due north and south direction. Consequently, a traveler may readily direct his course by their aid.

When it comes to getting there, Representative Charles E. Townsend, of Michigan, either does the trick or makes a great big effort. This husky son of the Middle West has not reached his fifty-second year of age, but there has been something doing with him for several years.

It is related that in passing through her husband's library recently the attention of the Empress of Japan was attracted by a peculiar-looking machine. On learning that it was a typewriter and having it explained to her, she became interested and began to hit the keys. Now it is said she does a good deal of correspondence for the Emperor.

Funeral Cars.

The recent use of a street car as a hearse in carrying to the cemetery the body of a conductor in the employ of the Milwaukee company causes the Journal of that city to suggest that it is time for American cities to adopt the custom so common in Mexico of using the cars regularly for this purpose. Archbishop Messmer, of the Catholic Church, has frequently spoken in favor of the change as one means of bringing down the cost of funerals. In some of the Latin countries special funeral cars are used, with a place for the casket and ample room for the mourners and friends. The expense is much less than when carriages are used. This is an important consideration, for the cost of funerals among the poor of this country is approaching a scandal.—Kansas Journal.

STATE PRESS

Ogden Movement.

A great many of the newspapers of Virginia are going into annual convulsions at this time upon the return of the Ogden movement or the Southern Educational Association. The Monitor at one time was not in sympathy with a lot of philanthropists coming down here from the North to show us of the South how to educate, who were proceeding quietly and successfully with the work, and were expending about twice as much proportionately as the North in educating our own white children, and in addition the colored children which had been left on our hands. Pride and lack of knowledge were the prompting of such criticism on our part, and we believe these two factors are largely responsible for the censure from elsewhere.—Hampton Monitor.

Too Much Handicap.

The Washington friends of Governor Johnson, who are grooming General Miles as the running mate of the gentleman from Minnesota, could impose no more fatal handicap on their favorite. There is no man within the limits of the United States, calling himself a Democrat, who would so surely estrange the Southern States from all interest in Democratic success or in any candidate who would peal issues with him. The "Why" is not necessary to state. The fact is absolute.—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

Far in Advance.

With four avowed candidates in the race for Governor next year, it will be interesting to note what doctoring will be given the primary system at the Roanoke convention. A clear majority of all the votes cast would tend to complicate matters considerably, and we venture to guess that the proposition will be fought with a vengeance if introduced. And on second thought we might opine there may be some combination of interests to favor it.—Accomac News.

Roads Good, All Good.

While there may be minor causes of variations in the value of farm lands, it is an undoubted fact that as a general rule the higher values of certain States are largely due to their superior roads. Records on file in the office of public roads show that farm lands have been known to advance in value from 50 to 500 per cent. on account of the improvement of the roads connecting them with market towns.—Winchester Star.

Are We So Stiffnecked?

We warn a certain national organization, now assembled at the State capital, that while Richmond is strong on charity, she will never tolerate a suggestion that there is anything within its gates in need of correction.—Newport News Times-Herald.

No Inspiring Time.

We opine it will be somewhat difficult for the Republican chieftains to rally their legions to enthusiastic battle this fall to the sound of the long roll beaten on the resounding bottom of the empty tin dinner pail.—Pearisburg Virginian.

FIVE CELEBRATED MEN.

Mr. Roosevelt's Guests at the Coming Conference of Governors.

In the opinion of a Washington correspondent of a New York paper, President Roosevelt has singled out five men whom he considers the greatest Americans of the day—and they are all Democrats. The President invited Grover Cleveland, W. J. Bryan, J. J. Hill, John Mitchell and Andrew Carnegie to meet the Governors of the States in a conference held at the White House to discuss the conservation of our natural resources. Of course, a man as politic as the present occupant of the White House would not think of calling his five guests the nation's greatest men; that was a side deduction of the correspondent. The fact that all the Governors, the members of the Cabinet, of the Federal Supreme Court, and of the National Waterways Commission are to attend in their ex-officio capacities, and that the President could not, naturally invite himself, may have limited his field in selecting the five greatest men. Who is greater than Taft, for instance, in the Roosevelt opinion?

It is a safe guess that the President had no such idea in mind when he picked the five for special invitations. The task of choosing the very few greatest men of the day in America would be fruitless, as well as impossible, but thousands would insist that one of the five must be the man who in the present case issued the invitations. Each of the five named is an eminent representative of the great American people; each stands for something no other of them does, and each may be considered an accredited spokesman for his respective constituency. No one will quarrel with the selection, and few will insist that the choice means anything more than indicated above.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Fireless Cooking Tests.

The War Department has decided to make more practical and extensive tests with the fireless cooker in the field. A type of fireless cooker has been developed by the army commissaries and manufactured at the Rock Island (Ill.) arsenal. Some 100 of these, each containing two nine-gallon kettles, or enough to supply food for a full company, will be issued to various regular organizations for use on practice marches and in field manoeuvres should any occur the coming summer. Among the troops to be thus equipped is the Twenty-fourth Infantry, stationed at Madison Barracks, New York, which will be furnished with four cookers, to be tried on the march to Felt's Mills, N. Y., where the annual encampment will be held. The commanding officers of the fifteen organizations to be equipped with the fireless cookers will be instructed to report on the work and suggest improvements. The advantage of the system is that it provides a hot meal for men in the field without increasing transportation.—Leavenworth Times.

A Door Bookcase.

The dweller in the city flat, the lodger in the city boarding house, are often confronted with an "unused door," a door leading into an adjoining room, which for some reason or other is kept firmly locked. A good way to utilize this unsightly wooden expanse is by converting its recess into a bookcase.

To do this have a carpenter set up two horizontal boards on each side of the door jamb, and on these boards nail the crosspieces on which the bookshelves are to rest, or, better still, fasten them with screws.

Then have the entire woodwork painted or stained to match the door behind it. A curtain of canton flannel, denim or other suitable and serviceable material hung from a rod fastened just inside the door jambs, or, if the recess be very shallow, from a rod fastened across the outside of the door recess, will keep the books from the dust.—Dallas News.

Stage Superstitions.

"A stock actor is apt to have a prejudice against decorating or fixing up his dressing room. He is certain to get his notice shortly after he puts his pictures on the wall and otherwise makes the place comfortable and homelike.

"Actors and managers both have a horror of the witch lines in 'Macbeth,' and they never will allow them to be spoken, as it means a fire in the playhouse before the twelvemonth is over. Sir Henry Irving was a firm believer in this superstition and he would never allow the fateful lines to be read when he was playing the tragedy.

"I know many players who fear to have any one pass them on a stairway when they are entering or leaving a theatre. There are many actors who make the sign of the cross before they make an entrance."—Chicago Tribune.

Coach Horses in Fox Chase.

They had some spirited horses in the old coaching days. Just a hundred years ago a remarkable proof of this was given, and fortunately recorded for the astonishment of later motoring generations. In the case of the Liverpool mail coach, horses were changed at Monk's Heath, between Congleton, in Cheshire, and Newcastle-under-Lyme.

On this particular occasion a pack of foxhounds was heard in full cry just as the horses from Congleton were freed from the coach, and they started off with the harness on their backs and followed the run to the finish. One of them, a blood mare, stuck close to the whipper-in and took every jump after him through the two hours. And in the evening they took the return coach to Congleton as merrily as if they had been in the stable all the time.—London Tribune.

Voice of the People

The Virginia Primary.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—No intelligent man or woman has ever been able to present any good reason against the contention that a primary is the only possible way by which the true choice of the voters can be shown.

This has properly come to be regarded as an axiom, and it has so increased in strength that now nineteen States of this Union nominate their officers by means of a primary election, and the principle is plainly expanding on account of its true merits.

It has obtained its present commanding position over the most strenuous opposition. The present Virginia primary has a most significant history, and is plainly the worst now in existence in the American Union.

The true principles of the primary have been distorted by designing Democratic politicians of my own party. It is the rich man's primary, and as bad as it can well be, but I do not hesitate one moment to state that, bad as it is in its present condition (and it could not well be worse), it is far better and far preferable to the old convention system.

The man does not live who could prevent fraud in making nominations under the old convention system, and to go back to it would be like going back to barbarism.

The remedy for the present Virginia primary is perfectly plain and simple. It is nothing more nor less than for the State of Virginia to levy a tax and pay all the primary expenses of both political parties.

I have made a careful estimate of the entire cost, and it will not amount to more than $9,000 a year, which is comparatively small. It would be a most excellent plan for your paper to print the method in use in reference to primaries in each of the nineteen States in advance of the Roanoke convention.

The present Virginia system imposes a grievous burden upon the deserving poor, which closes to them the door of office, and it was so intended, the object of the politicians being to curtail and narrow the office-holding class and thus avoid all possible competition.

Almost all of the Congressmen now have themselves renominated for another term very soon after they are elected. They select a time when the people have had no time to consider public questions.

This action will hold them in office indefinitely. No poor man can afford to pay $10,000 to become a candidate for United States Senator, nor $5,000 to become a candidate for Governor, and the tax for many other offices is equally prohibitive. The writer, while a member of the State Senate in the session prior to the last, was instrumental in conjunction with others in the preparation of a bill which fairly met the situation. It easily passed one branch of the General Assembly and but for filibustering tactics would have passed the other. It was delayed till the last day of the session, and the President of the Senate on that date recognized only two gentlemen—first, Senator Tavenner, and then Senator Barksdale—who occupied the whole time of the session, and no ruling could be obtained from the President of the Senate to relieve the situation, although many vigorous efforts were made for that purpose. I make no charge against the President of the Senate. I only state facts from which my readers can draw their own conclusions. The defeat of the primary bills was the result of a deep-laid scheme, and I am sure was engineered by the same political leaders who were able to retain in their seats during the same session the two delegates from Norfolk city, although the Democratic caucus by a signal majority had voted against their retention of their seats, to which they were clearly not entitled.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch has bravely exposed a state of facts relative to the Norfolk election, which it was almost sickening to contemplate.

The political leaders to whom I have alluded held these delegates in power to the last hour of the legislative session.

I have long been satisfied that this was the same power which defeated the primary bills during that session.

The writer is a true and loyal Democrat, but he does not believe that the best interests of the party can be subserved by the action of the leaders I have mentioned.

Our recent Constitutional Convention, while it did great good, was very far from being the able body for which it has credit, and it committed a grave error and opened wide the door to fraud by requiring the capitation tax to be prepaid in advance of the election. It gave over the State to the control of the county treasurers.

Past bitter experience should have pointed out to the convention the unwisdom of this action. With the rich man's primary and the prepayment of the capitation tax in advance, a certain class of Democratic politicians have been able to intrench themselves in power. They have closed the door to the aspirations of some of the ablest men in Virginia. The earnest attention of the Roanoke Democratic Convention is invoked to the situation, which has caused a feeling of unrest all over the State, that bodes no good to the continued success of the grand old Democratic party, whose possession of power should be dear to every lover of constitutional law and constitutional liberty.

The time is at hand for intelligent reform.

CAMM PATTESON.

Buckingham Co., Va., May 8, 1908.

Where?

If but one prayer were granted me,
Not wealth I'd ask or joy or fame,
'Twould be that I might glimpse today
The Great Beyond, Eternity,

And know that in that Somewhere Far,
Which men call Heaven and tired ones Home,
SHE lives serene and shares with God
Eternal things, with naught to mar

I'd ask but this; the daily due
Of pain and sorrow patient bear,
Could I but once her freedom feel,
Beyond the gray—beyond the blue!

Could crush it back, the bitter thought
Of struggling breath when spirit fled,
Did I but know the things of time
In life eternal count but naught;

Could know the Conquering Good dies not,
But cleansed of dross all stronger grows;
Could know that Love and Purity
Forever live, with sin forgot.

For then I'd know to her death meant
But loosening of the bonds of earth,
For she was Love and Purity,
A gift of God, to others lent.

And yet, altho' I cannot know,
Nor yet in part the meaning grasp
Of all this mystery of life,
Of joys and griefs that ebb and flow—

This much I know, in me the cry
That seeks to know is not of Time,
The Cry in me that calls for God
Is God—and is not meant to die!

And tho' no answer comes to me,
I will not yield my faith, my hope,
That Somewhere, after Time and Space,
Close to its Source my Soul shall be!

* * * * * *

But some days Faith and Hope both bow
To heart of pain, remembrance filled,
And questioning they falter, ask
Oh, where art thou—Oh, where art thou?

K. L. B.

Feminine Initiative.

We could never begin to take the oaths and our seats to rule the world, had not some hand rocked our cradle, and occasionally made it more easy to take the oaths than the seat. We are physically and morally in debt to feminine initiative and discipline. Probably, if this primary principle about rocking the cradle were submitted to one of our senior spinster suffragists she would say, "Rock a cradle! I would scorn the action!"—Christian Globe.

THE Packard SHOE FOR MEN

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KING SUGAR IN HAWAII

BY FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

Honolulu, T. H.

Sugar is king. To Hawaii he is a most indulgent monarch, for he has brought this little group of islands to the point where it is the greatest exporting country of its population on earth. This year the Hawaii sugar crop will sell for between $40,000,000 and $50,000,000. The price is high on account of great shortage in Cuba, Java and elsewhere. The crop here is larger than ever before. Last year it was 440,017 tons. This year it is estimated at from 475,000 to 500,000 tons.

Hawaii has been growing sugar for nearly a century. By 1875 the production had increased until the annual crop was 12,500 tons. Then something happened. The United States made a reciprocity treaty with the kingdom of Hawaii, and the sugar from the islands was admitted to America free of duty. Immediately the sugar business began to take on new life, although the crop returns did not show an enormous increase for some time. Sugar cane cannot be grown over night. Each crop grows two years in Hawaii. Even the two-year period was not the beginning of the greater day, for all great businesses must grow. Modern methods of agriculture have brought the Hawaiian cane fields to their present productivity, but it was the abolition of the duty on sugar entering the United States that made this development possible.

Twenty years after that treaty went into effect Hawaii became frightened lest the United States might abrogate it, as it had the right to do upon one year's notice. Hawaii was clamoring for annexation. The War with Spain came up, Hawaii's great strategic value was impressed upon Congress, and annexation came. Free sugar was made a fixture by that act, for Hawaii was annexed, and made a part and parcel of the United States before the "insular possession," to which the Constitution does not follow the flag, was invented.

The treaty of 1875 was made before there was any beet sugar interests in the United States, or it would never have been made at all. If the American beet sugar industry had been as great in 1898 as it is now, Hawaiian annexation probably would have been defeated.

Hawaii, having benefited by these things, is now a unit in opposing the extension of like assistance to the Philippines. The worst nightmare that can come to a Hawaiian planter is the dream of Cuban annexation. Hawaii has the backing of the powerful beet sugar interests in this, and the beet sugar people have the backing of the entire "stand-pat" party on principle, so its danger is remote.

It is interesting to take a retrospective glance at the industrial history of Hawaii to show what King Sugar, with an American free market, has done. Just twenty-five years ago a pamphlet was published in Honolulu reviewing the sugar industry of the islands. Maps of the various islands were given with the plantations marked on them in red. Tables showed how much land was planted in sugar cane, and how much more there was available for that purpose. At that time, 1882, there were 55,000 acres of cane, and the estimate of the "maximum possible" acreage was 72,500. As a matter of fact the present acreage is 213,400, or nearly three times the "maximum possible" of twenty-five years ago. The same authority said that on the Island of Oahu, where Honolulu is situated, the acreage was 3,000, and that its maximum extension would be 3,500. The sugar acreage of Oahu now is 36,532.

The statistician of 1882 was honest and painstaking, and his estimates of the maximum possible extension of the industry were not made by guess, but by careful surveys. But he did not, and could not, take into consideration the present methods of irrigation and steam cultivation.

The irrigation plants now in use on Hawaiian sugar plantations cost over $14,000,000. As there are only fifty plantations of considerable size this indicates a great expenditure for individual plants. In fact, only twenty-six plantations have irrigation systems at all, the others depending on rainfall. Six plantations have plants which cost over a million dollars each. A good rain that will fill the reservoirs means a saving of a thousand dollars a day for pumping on more than one plantation.

This kind of agriculture requires capital. The sugar plantations of Hawaii have a combined capitalization of something over $70,000,000. The ownership of this is divided between about 7,000 shareholders. The control of the sugar industry is centred in the hands of half a dozen big companies in Honolulu, sugar factors. These companies act as agents for the plantations, and they are not prohibited from owning shares in plantation stock, not by any means. There are fourteen sugar agents on the list, but there are six big ones. These big companies grew out of small stores established many years ago in the days when nobody dreamed of doing business by the millions.

The small sugar planters of the old days had to have supplies for their places. They obtained them from a Honolulu trading store. When the crop was made they sold their sugar to the same store, or employed the store to act as agent for its sale. As the sugar business grew from a small matter of farming to the proportions of a mighty industry, the factors grew with it. But the old ways are strong, and these old institutions can to-day sell you anything from a million-dollar steamship to a box of carpet tacks. They are still supply stores of the general type, waxed great and rich.

As half a dozen firms and a dozen or so men control the sugar business, they control the business of Hawaii. They are King Sugar's ministers. Up to this time no one of them has been charged with disloyalty to his monarch. They are faithful servitors. It was inevitable, of course, that the concentration of this economic power into a few hands would cause strife. There have been sharp contests, there are now murmurings and bickerings.

It is said that a total stranger can buy machinery or other supplies from a sugar agent much cheaper than one of that agent's plantations can buy it. A muck-raker would undoubtedly find some molasses on the tines of his implement if he trailed it over Hawaii. On the other hand, the prosperity of the islands and everybody in it has been made by sugar, is supported by sugar, and without sugar would perish miserably. The sugar barons have brought a great curse upon their land by the importation of an excess of Oriental labor, perhaps, but whatever blessings the country has they also brought.

Politics in Hawaii is not ideally free from corruption. It wasn't in the old days of the monarchy, and it isn't now. But it is to be doubted if any State in the Union has laws which throw as much light into the inside workings of corporations as do the laws of Hawaii. This in spite of the fact that a dozen men control all of the one great industry of the country. It is not meant that these laws are Utopian, or that they accomplish great results. It is merely the wonder that such publicity laws are on the statute books.

The sugar barons apparently have not been put to the necessity of studying politics. They had a bill in the Legislature two years ago to enable them to bring in some Portuguese and Spanish immigrants, badly needed to relieve the labor situation. They didn't mention it to their leader in the Senate, and it went to the table. If he had known it, it could have been passed without a word. As it was, it required hard work to pull it through. On the whole, the sugar barons seem not to be such bad barons after all. The community knows that they have built its prosperity, and, in a measure, the community is grateful.

These things may change. Some of the sugar barons are placing obstacles in the way of homesteading and other efforts toward Americanization, fearing the effect upon their system of labor. This attitude is antagonistic to the moving spirit of the Territory, and when the clash comes it will be the sugar barons' heads that are cracked. Some of the sugar barons, especially the British and Germans, still believe, or affect to believe, that the United States will again open the doors to Asiatic immigration so far as Hawaii is concerned. The majority of the American planters look toward the south of Europe for help.

The sugar planters have problems, of course, but in Hawaii their outlook is rosy. Just now they are glorying in the biggest crop of their history and a top-notch price. Even if the dreaded thing happens and Philippine sugar, or even Cuban sugar, is admitted into the United States without duty, the sugar planters may find consolation in the rapidly increasing consumption of sugar. Thirty-five years ago the sugar crop of the world was two or three million tons each year, over half of which was made from cane. It did not reach four million tons until 1883, when for the first time the beet sugar production was a little the larger half. The crop reached the ten-million-ton mark in 1902, six of which was from beets and four from cane.

The last annual statistics reported a world's crop of over twelve million tons, seven from beets and five from cane. The increase of consumption of sugar in the United States, as might be expected, has been startlingly rapid, having tripled in a quarter of a century. This growth continues all over the world, and the sugar producing sections are called upon to do their utmost. So far as Hawaii is concerned, it is believed that practically all the available sugar land is now under cultivation. But such predictions are uncertain, as witness the "maximum possible" estimate of twenty-five years ago. In the meantime, King Sugar smiles on Hawaii, and this Territory is one part of the United States that knows not the meaning of industrial adversity in the good year 1908.

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