The Times-Dispatch

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TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 1909.

EXPATRIATE VIRGINIANS: A CRYING SHAME.

According to an estimate believed to be accurate, 575,000 Virginians and their descendants are now living and working in other parts of the country. This simple statement sums up and drives home a condition of affairs utterly and hopelessly opposed to the fullest progress and prosperity of this State.

These Virginians have for the most part done well in their new surroundings, though hardly ever better than they could have done at home. But their brain and their brawn and their tireless industry have not gone to the upbuilding of Virginia. They have been spent to enrich other States and other peoples, in the West, the Southwest, the North and the far South. So Virginia is allowing distant lands to exploit her without remonstrance and to prosper largely at her expense.

This vast army of Virginians left home because they thought that they could do better somewhere else. They were utterly mistaken. There is not one single State in the Union where the opportunities to make money are greater, more varied and more certain than they are in Virginia. Every ounce of industry and enterprise that has yielded one of these expatriates a dollar in the West would have yielded him a dollar in Virginia. Sometimes the same industry and enterprise would have yielded him two dollars in Virginia; sometimes five; now and then ten. But the State has committed the blunder of allowing its young men to think otherwise, and this unpardonable remissness has lost to Virginia wealth beyond all counting. If all the money and all the real improvements that this half-million of ambitious Virginians have made and are to make in scattered States could be gathered up and brought back home, the enormous increase in this State's prosperity that would follow all but passes the imagination.

We have referred to this wholesale expatriation as being Virginia's unpardonable blunder. That is precisely what it is. Here is no tale of misfortune or natural disadvantage. This is a story of indolence and sluggishness and blindness and stupidity. While we of Virginia have been content to sit down with the apathetic conviction that we were "doing well enough," or, more inexcusable yet, with the spiritless and slacktwisted idea that Virginia is "only a so-so State to make a living in," other States with far less natural advantages have been pushing and hustling and boosting and shouting prosperity and enterprise. Our young men have often grown up in an atmosphere of unenthusiasm, sometimes of downright despondence; and they have been easy prey for the smoothly astute promoters of the West. Distant boomers have deluged them with "literature," highly-colored, exaggerated and often entirely misleading, which tells them in golden language of an El Dorado awaiting them thousands of miles away, and speciously pledges a promised land to those who already have such a land under their very feet, and do not know it. So the young men go West, awaken to disillusion, make the best of a disappointing situation and plunge to work with a vigor and resoluteness that would often have netted a much richer return in their own home county. Go into the small towns of Virginia, planted in the heart of a splendid country, and look about for the young men laboring to build up the district. You will not find them. They are far away, pouring out their strength to build up Texas or California or Oklahoma or Oregon.

This enormous economic waste must be stopped. This terrible drain upon the strength of the State must be put an end to. It must be the task of all leaders of thought in Virginia, in the schools, on the rostrum, in the press, to stamp upon the minds of the rising generation that not merely their duty, but their material interests demand that they stay at home; to drill into their being the simple and vital fact that no State in the Union has greater opportunities to offer them than those that lie ready and ripe at their own doors.

It is a crying and burning shame that thousands upon thousands of Virginia's youth should be whistled away to help enrich distant communities. Instead of indifferently dismissing an army of misguided rainbow-hunters to scatter over the country, Virginia must jealously guard and conserve this great well-spring of future strength, as one of her most prized and precious possessions. Not only this: she must also invite and summon from less richly-favored territory the new vitality which she needs and to which her splendid endowment so fully entitles her. Here is a task far above the narrow circuit of petty politics, humdrum office-holding and small-bore stump oratory. Here is a vast public service calling for the whole labors of real statesmen and publicists who feel that they are men with a mission.

THE VICTORS AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

Nothing could have been more impressive than the swiftness, resolute sureness and saneness with which the Young Turks have reasserted their mastery of the government. Upon the deadly fighting before the palace hung the fate, for a long while at least, of constitutionalism in Turkey. A defeat meant that all the structure of reform which the Committee of Union and Progress has been heroically building would collapse like a house of cards. How far the Sultan was primarily responsible for the initial uprising is a matter which, with characteristic moderation, they have left for the Parliament to determine. His attitude toward it, at any rate, was made apparent; and if the liberal union leaders conceived their influence to be all for the cause of reform, they have doubtless had their eyes opened. In the moment of victory the Young Turks conduct themselves with the sanity, self-control and calm purpose which have characterized them all along. There is no "flush" of triumph, no outburst of swollen ambitions, no vindictiveness. The treacherous violation of the white flag by the palace troops on Saturday they disdain to punish. Their earlier demand for the restoration of their own Cabinet, overthrown in the uprising of April 13, they quietly waive. The case of Abdul will be passed upon through orderly process. "The future of Turkey and the fate of the Sultan," says the Napoleon of Turkey, Enver Bey, "is not for us, but for the national assembly to settle."

The Young Turks emerge from the revolution stronger than they went into it. Doubtless some of their moderation and desire for a quiet and prompt straightening of the chaotic situation is due to a fear of European intervention. As to the Sultan, his titular headship of the empire is plainly safe. As a political tyrant he may have forfeited both his crown and his head, but it is quite another matter with the Caliph of Islam. The Parliament, four-fifths Mohammedan, will hardly deal with him with anything like ruthlessness. Nor would the army tolerate great rigors; and the Young Turks are nothing without the army. Abdul has a hold on the people, as the acclaim which greeted him on the streets the other day made plain. Yet as long as he lives he will be a menace to liberal government in Turkey, and his immunity now almost certainly foreshadows another test of military strength some time hereafter.

AS TO CONDEMNING MATERIALS FOR ROADS.

A letter from a Halifax county gentleman, printed elsewhere this morning, gives quite a different picture of road-building methods in his district from that presented by another correspondent last week. The earlier letter informed us that road superintendents were stripping off the gray top soil from valuable farm lands, to use as material in construction, damaging them to the extent of $40 an acre and two years' unproductiveness, and compensating injured owners to the tune of just $15 an acre. The injustice of such a procedure, as well as its economic unwisdom, was manifest. But our present correspondent, who appears to speak from experience and knowledge, asserts tersely enough that in such statements our previous authority "is mistaken." We trust that he is. Upon the issue in accuracy here raised, we shall not further seek to pass, other than to say that the burden of probability seems to be with "Halifax" rather than with Mr. Henderson. People who sell property to the government do not usually suffer loss thereby.

As we remarked before, condemnation is doubtless as reasonable and necessary for securing road materials as for obtaining a right of way. But the right must be exercised both fairly and wisely, and the damages fixed, as between the land owner and the county, so as to do the least possible injustice to either. Some dissatisfaction, one way or the other, we suppose is inevitable. We take it to be a safe rule that the award for soil stripped from farm lands should not be determined simply by the market price of soil, if such there be, but should take into consideration the actual cost and loss incident to restoring the stripped land to the original status. If the price so estimated is prohibitive, which may or may not be the case, the county can and should import its material from a distance.

PLAYS THAT TEACH.

Contrary to a popular impression, there is no conflict between entertainment and instruction, at least with men. Every healthy male mind is acquisitive: it eagerly wants to know. It would find nothing more entertaining than that which informs it and gives it new thoughts, provided only that this pabulum is presented in vivid and illuminating form. There are relatively few minds which do not really prefer a bright and picturesque sidelight on life as it is being lived all around them to a string of so-so dialogue and forty short skirts. Everything depends upon the way in which the sidelight is reflected.

The novel, in its highest estate, can be a tremendous educational force, and so can the stage. Of these two, the stage has the advantage, because the eye takes in more readily than the brain. Hence it is quite encouraging to note a sort of impulse upon the part of our dramatists of late to turn their pens to some of the problems of the everyday life about them, social, political and industrial. Huge combinations of capital are beginning to attract them as likely dramatic material; so are the hardships of the laboring man; a great church's attitude toward its tenement property; how municipal graft is buttressed; and so on. Miss Jane Addams, writing in a Chicago religious publication, makes a list of contemporary plays whose titles, she says, might be easily translated into proper headings for sociological lectures. A part of this list follows:

1. "The Battle" might be called "The Need for Model Tenements."
2. "The Melting-Pot," "The Value of Immigration."
3. "The Easiest Way," "The Intrenchments of the Social Evil."
4. "The Strong People," "A Strike and Its Unfair Suppression."
5. "The Man of the Hour," "An Effort to Combat Municipal Corruption."
6. "The Lion and the Mouse," "The Ruthless Methods of Big Business."
7. "The Dawn of To-morrow," "Optimism as a Rectifier of Social Wrongs."

These are all good and instructive themes for plays, and like ones may be indefinitely multiplied. It is a simple fact that there is an untold mine of excellent dramatic material in the presidential messages the last seven years. But moral teachings are even better than political or industrial teachings like most of the above. Moreover—and there can be no question of this—they have a wider, surer and more permanent dramatic appeal than any other themes under the sun. Playwrights can do no better, from the standpoint of either service or their own pockets, than devote their powers to such simple and abiding theses as these:

Being good is worth while.
Men must love one another.

Do not vent the day's stored up bad temper on your wife just because you know it is safe.

When any operator so deports himself as to hoist the price of Sally Lunn, he may rest assured that we will never speak to him again.

Mr. Roosevelt having slaughtered the wildbeeste and the Thompson's gazelle, we take it that the 200 porters therewith proceeded to port.

Anyway, the Turkish stew eliminated Cipriano from the front page.

Is there a Sultana in Constantinople? Or is that only the name of a fruit-cracker?

Probably Richmond is the only city in the world which gathers in pennants absolutely without the use of pop-bottles.

Well, it would be something to see Senator Aldrich retiring for once.

The Great Hunt has begun. Five dollars.

Persia, however, can expect little attention from the telegraph editor until all is considerably quieter along the Bosphorus.

"The tariff is a joke," says John W. Gates, as though he had discovered something. What in the world else are a lot of jokers expected to make?

Wheat King Patten, taking a little vacation, is accused of breaking the game laws of New Mexico. Doubtless he will be able to convince the wardens, however, that it was all the fault of the law of supply and demand.

It is evident that some Young Turks are convinced that the best Sultans are never live Sultans.

A New York woman has read the Bible through 23 times. Well, we doubt if there is any State in the Union in which Bible reading is more wholly commendable.

On gloomy days we sometimes think that the tariff will never be honestly revised until we board the train for Washington and do it ourselves.

All through the Middle West, spring poets are getting ready their annual parodies on The May Queen.

Mr. Patten's idea seems to be that it is a very cosy corner.

We take it that no true woman can qualify for an old age pension without stomping on her tenderest pride.

It all depends on the point of view. Some think it is the power of Allah managing things in Turkey. Some think it is the rifles of the Third Army Corps.

SHIP SUBSIDY LESSON.

Last Year Was Bad One for Merchant Marine.

There is a lesson for our ship subsidy advocates in the record of foreign ocean shipping in 1908, a year of general business depression. The reports of the North German Lloyd and the Cunard Companies, which we furnished to our readers yesterday, showed a heavy deficit for the former on the year's business and a failure of the latter to earn a dividend. These are the two great lines most commonly quoted as receiving subsidies from their governments, but they appear to derive little financial advantage from them. The German subsidy is only for a mail service to the East, which has proved unprofitable, and the English subvention for fast mail steamers fitted for naval service is of no material benefit financially to the company. All the great ocean lines suffered heavily last year, and many vessels were laid up most of the time.

The reports of all the lines show that they had the strongest incentive for getting business wherever it could be found with a chance of profit, and none of them failed to seek every opportunity for it. It is a necessary policy if they are to keep up the competition for which there is no escape on the ocean and avoid bankruptcy. All the European companies depend largely upon the trade of the United States, and they compete for it sharply. They never discriminate against it for the benefit of the trade of their own countries, for that would not be "business," and they are forced to operate on business principles if they are to live.

If this shipping costs so much less for construction in Great Britain and Germany than similar vessels would cost in the United States, and if it costs so much less to operate them under the British and German colors than it would under the American flag, as the subsidy advocates argue, how much would it cost the United States government, as a partner with American ship-owners, to give the latter a profit in the ocean competition? If only a moderate subsidy was allowed, what would happen to the shipping in a year like 1908? There was certainly no lack of shipping for ocean transportation last year, and it was refusing no traffic that it could get with any chance of profit in it. Our trade got the full benefit of low rates and our capital was not greatly involved in the losses.

Whatever reason there may be for aspiring for a merchant marine for display on the seas, there is nothing more certain than that, after all its cost to build and to maintain, it would be of no advantage to our foreign trade, which does not lack means of cheap transportation, and if sustained by subsidies, it would be a costly luxury for the government, which our revenue at a time like this could hardly afford. It would be a heavy tax added to all the other burdens loaded upon the country by mistaken policies. The direction in which we should work for a merchant marine is that of less cost for securing and maintaining it, and not added cost to all other business for supporting it.—New York Journal of Commerce.

Borrowed Jingles.

USELESS GRIEFS.

A hundred years ago or more, men wrung their hands and walked the floor, and worried over this or that, and thought their cares would squash them flat. Where are these worried beings now? The bearded goat and festive cow eat grass above their moldered bones and jaybirds call in strident tones. And where the ills they worried o'er? Forgotten all, forevermore. Gone all the sorrow and the woe that lived a hundred year ago! The grief that makes you scream to-day, like other griefs, will pass away; and when you've cashed your little string, and jaybirds o'er your bosom sing, the stranger, pausing there to view the marble works that cover you, will think upon the uselessness of human worry and distress. So let the worry business slide; live while you live, and when you've died the folks will say around your bier: "He made a hit while he was here!"—Walt Mason. (Copyright, 1909, by George Matthew Adams.)

MERELY JOKING.

Prudence and Imprudence.

"Queer case about that boat-rocker."
"As to how?"
"When we resuscitated him we found that he still had his winter flannels on."—Pittsburg Post.

Making Sure.

The Bride: "I want you to send me some coffee, please."
The Grocer: "Yes, ma'am. Ground?"
The Bride: "No, third floor, front."—Woman's Home Companion.

Caution.

Miss Porkenlard: "Well, papa, here we are in Europe, at last."
Mr. Porkenlard: "Yes, and now see here, Clara, I don't want you throwin' yourself away on them cheap counts or dooks; you just hold your horses till we run across some king in reduced circumstances."—Boston Transcript.

Ornithological Note.

"I worked in a milliner's shop for ten years and I thought I knew a lot," said a woman in a South Orange Avenue car. "But I'm densely ignorant. Last Sunday Mr. Tholigy took us driving over the mountain. He pointed out twenty-five kinds of birds and I didn't know the name of one of them."—Newark News.

Couldn't Stand Everything.

The Clown: "What is that dreadful groaning in the museum?"
The Acrobat: "The sword swallower got a toothbrush bristle down his throat."—Washington Herald.

SHOTS FROM THE GALLERY.

THE ministers of a West Virginia town have decided that women must take off their hats in church. At last a plan has been devised that will be sure to fill the pews.—Philadelphia North American.

* * *

John Mitchell said in his lecture at Yale that strikes are rare. True. The season is young. The teams will improve from this on.—New York Telegram.

* * *

When a bride has to roll up her sleeves and learn the art of cooking corned beef and cabbage the honeymoon has set.—Chicago News.

* * *

Every time Mohammedans feel an uplift it seems that they go out and massacre a few Christians.—Detroit Free Press.

* * *

Though Castro did not succeed in stealing home, he has made a record as a short-stop.—Philadelphia Press.

THE NEGRO GOING NORTH.

Thus Will South's Problem Be Solved, Says This Theorist.

The Picayune has for years held and proclaimed that the only solution of the negro race question in the Southern States of the Union is in their dispersion and distribution throughout the various States of the Union, and this is to be accomplished not by any exertion of physical force, but through the processes of migration and social gravitation inherent in human nature and influenced by existing conditions. . . .

The more the negroes are educated, the more they demand social relations with the whites, which can be got only in Northern States, and there they not only enjoy political equality, but in many communities hold the balance of political power and are able to control elections. The educated negroes will steadily gravitate northward in constantly increasing numbers.

But while the migrations of the negroes northward will relieve the South of its dangerous conditions of congestion, there will be excited a corresponding current of white population southward. That such a shifting of the white population of the Northern States has not only set in, but has already reached large proportions, is known to all who have kept themselves informed of what is going on. The extensive and prosperous colonies of Northern settlers in Louisiana have already become important factors in the life and business of the State. Farmers from the wheat and apple belts of the Middle West and Northern States are growing rice and oranges in Louisiana, while the Northern colonies on the Illinois Central Railroad, a few score of miles from New Orleans, are controlling the Chicago markets with fresh strawberries and early vegetables. It is not merely the Northern immigrants who settle in Southern cities that are noted in this connection, but of far more importance are those who have moved into the rich agricultural regions of the South and are building up homes and making its hitherto unoccupied lands blossom with the rose in all its beauty and loveliness.

The negro is going. Not in vast multitudes to overflow the Northern States, but to mingle with the inhabitants, and find room without congestion among the 50,000,000 of the whites of the Northern States. So will be solved the race problem, by the conditions and forces of human nature and physical and social conditions.—New Orleans Picayune.

PATTEN'S CORNER.

Apparent That His Calculations Went Wrong in Wheat Boom.

But before Patten "lit out," as they say in those parts, the "boom" was crumbling and the market was tumbling, and word went out that he started on a tour of inspection to verify his calculations about the wheat supply. The bears got on the rampage and the bulls on the run, and the price that was justified and accounted for kept on going to pieces. However the bull leader may have come out financially, there were heavy losses among the followers whom he had deserted. There was miscalculation somewhere, and if Patten believed all that he said about shortage he must have done some of the miscalculating.

Secretary Wilson, of the Agricultural Department, is as positive in his assertions as was the unnerved speculator. He insists that there is no shortage. The crop that is not yet entirely disposed of was larger by 31,000,000 bushels than that which preceded it, and consumption has not been greater this year than last. He is sure that 143,000,000 bushels was still near where it was grown on the 1st of March, and those who think there is a scarcity are "simply being imposed upon by the gang of ringsters in Chicago." There is probably some miscalculation on that side, too. Our stock of wheat is only a part of a world supply. There has been a shrinkage of the general surplus and prices have been high in Europe.

Patten's astuteness or sincerity may reasonably be questioned, and it is apparent that his calculations went wrong, either consciously for purposes of deception or unconsciously for lack of as much wisdom as he claimed, but he was figuring and operating on a condition that was not hidden. There was a reason for higher prices than usual and for an advance, as the remnant of the last crop was marketed. Like Sully in the cotton market three years or so ago, he was too sanguine and cocksure and probably overreached himself. How much he was hurt in the "slump" is a secret that he has carried to Bartlett's ranch, but it would be a cause for gratification if every speculator who seeks to wrench a swift profit from the needs of others should come to grief.—New York Journal of Commerce.

The Courts of Europe

By La Marquise de Fontenoy.

American Girls Married to Austrians Are Social Outcasts.

NO one will be disposed to blame Oliver Iselin for hesitating about giving his sanction to the engagement of his daughter Nora to young Count Ferdinand Colloredo-Mansfeld, for he knows full well that it is a matrimonial alliance that cannot offer to her the same social advantages which she enjoys in New York, where every door is open to her, and where her position is unexceptionable.

The Iselins are an old family, who before coming to New York, considerably over a hundred years ago, played an important role in Switzerland, where one of them in particular, Isaac Iselin, obtained celebrity in the seventeenth century as an iconoclast in proving conclusively William Tell to have been a myth. But the Iselins have never put forward any pretensions to nobility.

Now, although Miss Nora Iselin, visiting Austria before her marriage, would be not only regarded as abundantly qualified for presentation at court as an American, and would be welcomed at court balls as a distinguished and very charming foreigner, yet the moment that she marries Count Ferdinand Colloredo-Mansfeld, she loses her American birthright and nationality, becomes an Austrian, and as such subject to all the laws of that empire, as well as to the extremely strict regulations which prevail as to presentation at court. In the case of the wives of Austrian and Hungarian nobles, no matter what their former nationality or the land of their birth, a certain number of exclusively noble forbears, male and female, are indispensable to presentation. So stringent are these rules that the fact of a grandmother or great-grandmother having belonged to the bourgeoisie is enough to disqualify from presentation, even if all the other ancestors and ancestresses are noble. It is for this reason that Countess Lazio Szechenyi has never been presented at court at Vienna since her marriage, and it is for a similar reason that Miss Nora Iselin, if she marries Count Ferdinand Colloredo-Mannsfeld will find the doors of the court of Vienna closed against her.

Now, to be at Vienna and barred from court is more disagreeable than an analogous drawback would be in any other monarchical capital of Europe. People can and do live their entire existences in England, moving in the very best society, without ever being presented or going to court. It is the same at Rome. But in Austria it is different. The so-called Hofgeselschaft, or court society, forms the Grand Monde at Vienna. It constitutes a sort of close corporation, in which everybody knows one another intimately; in which nine-tenths of the people are related to one another, and which, just owing to this, is altogether free from pose and affectation, since none pretend to be any richer or any higher than they really are. If you belong to that set Vienna is the most charming and delightful capital in the world. If you are excluded therefrom, owing to being barred from court through failure to fill ancestral qualifications, you are out of everything, and life at Vienna under the circumstances becomes intolerable, especially for a high-spirited woman who has never been subjected to any such humiliations in the land of her birth.

Not a single American woman married to an Austrian noble will be found figuring at the court of Vienna, and although Count Anton Heussenstamm is a titular chamberlain of the Emperor, yet his American wife has never been presented since her marriage, although she is one of the Carrolls of Maryland, that is to say, a daughter of one of the most historic houses of the United States.

The Almanach de Gotha for the current year, by the by, tends to still further increase the mystery which prevails with regard to the wife of Prince Joseph Colloredo-Mannsfeld, the head of the family. He married her in 1903, and at the time it was announced that she was a member of the Scottish ducal house of Graham, of which the Duke of Montrose is the chief. It was on that understanding that the agnates of the Colloredo-Mannsfeld family gave their consent to the match, which was necessary in order to render it legal. When she arrived in Austria not long after her marriage in Paris, and there was a question about her presentation at court, she was called upon to satisfy the rules and regulations with regard to her ancestral qualifications for presentation. It then developed that she was not a Miss Graham, but that she was the daughter of a Belgian of the name of De Jonquet, settled in England, and the widow of John Graham, of the ducal house of Graham. It was as such that she figures in the Almanach de Gotha for 1904. She failed to fulfil the requirements of the court of Vienna, and was accordingly barred therefrom.

The relatives of the prince thereupon continued further investigations concerning her. On the strength of these they submitted a demand to the Austrian tribunals for the annulment of the marriage, and for its declaration as invalid on the ground that their consent, necessary for its legalization, had been obtained by fraudulent representations. But as the prince declined to be a party to the suit, being extremely fond of his wife, the application was nonsuited.

In the following issues of the Almanach de Gotha all reference to John Graham disappeared, possibly because it had been ascertained that there had never been anybody of that name connected with the Dukes of Montrose who had married Mlle. Jonquet. The "De" before the "Jonquet" likewise vanished from the Almanach de Gotha, probably because it was found that father Jonquet was a tradesman in a small way, without any nobiliary attributes.

In this year's issue of the Almanach de Gotha the name of John Graham, however, reappears as the first husband of the princess, but is followed by an intimation to the effect that his marriage had been annulled, though when and how and where are not stated. It is asserted by her friends and acquaintances that he is an American millionaire instead of a Scotchman. In fact, it is all rather mysterious, and accounts for the rigid boycott which the remainder of the Colloredo-Mannsfeld family observe with regard to the princess, their example being followed by all of the Austrian great world.

It is owing to this that the princess, who is a woman of remarkable beauty and fascination, and who has on several occasions visited New York with her husband, makes her home almost wholly in France.

The prince, who was formerly attached to the Austrian embassy at Paris, where indeed he met his wife, is a son of the former minister of agriculture at Vienna, while his grandfather, whom he succeeded some fourteen years ago, was famous for his miserly proclivities, thanks to which he amassed an enormous fortune, a considerable portion of which has been lost by the present prince in unfortunate speculations. The prince has no children, and the heir to his honors is his only brother, Count Jerome Colloredo-Mannsfeld, who is a captain of the imperial navy, and was until quite recently naval attache of the Austrian embassy at Tokyo. Next to him in the line of succession come the father and older brother of the fiance of Miss Nora Iselin.

The family, which is a very ancient one, is an offshoot of the house of Waldsee of Swabia, a member of which received permission to build the Castle of Colloredo, on the Austrian sea coast, in 1302, and took his name therefrom. Their title of count dates from 1711, and their title of prince from the reign of Empress Maria Theresa. The name of Mannsfeld comes to them through the marriage of Prince Francis Colloredo with Marie, heiress and daughter of the last Prince Mannsfeld, in the middle of the eighteenth century.

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Whiskey Now Used.

Much has been said against the use of whiskey, but the fact remains that it is an excellent medicine for debility, rheumatism and catarrhal conditions. To a half-pint of good whiskey add one ounce of compound fluid balmwort and one ounce of compound syrup sarsaparilla. Shake and take a tablespoonful three to six times daily.

This is used extensively wherever known. Any druggist can mix it.

STATE PRESS

Eliot and Ogden.

We think there is all the differences in the world between Dr. Eliot and Mr. Ogden as educational visitors. Here and there the views of Dr. Eliot may not coincide with our own, but we recognize in him a man who has earned the right to be considered a specialist in education; a man who is not a faddist, but a sincere philosopher; a man who stands for culture more than he stands for coin; a man who, with all his learning, experience and wisdom, refrains from any unpleasant or impertinent suggestion, either by word of mouth or by the method of his coming among us. We feel that there is a great deal our people can learn about education from Dr. Eliot; we do not feel that Mr. Ogden is qualified to instruct the South along that line.

This elaboration of the Landmark's views is given because the paper has wrestled long with the Ogden problem and reached the conclusion, with reluctance, that the movement is part of a great plan to direct educational activity from the point of view of a few financial magnates who do not understand or properly consider local questions. The "Ogden movement" is allied with the general education board; and it was suggested, when that board received its last contribution of $32,000,000 from Mr. Rockefeller, that it might be able to say what educational institutions should survive or perish and practically "determine the character of American education" (quotation from an editorial in the Outlook, formerly noticed in our columns).—Norfolk Landmark.

Of Consequence.

According to reports from Norfolk the tax books in the office of the city treasurer show that all told not more than 5,400 poll taxes for 1908 have been paid. About 5,200 poll taxes had been paid up to December 7, 1908, and since that time something like 200 voters have qualified, most of these having paid since the inauguration of the local option campaign. There are at least 5,000 delinquent poll taxes for the year 1906 and 1907, which must be paid in order to qualify to vote in any elections held after the second Tuesday in June this year.

That appears to us to be a deplorable condition. But not so to advocates of the poll-tax requirement. They say "It's of no consequence."—Newport News Times-Herald.

Politics and Schools.

The remark credited to our State Superintendent of Instruction, that there is no politics in the Virginia school system, is not to be accepted unreservedly. At least it is subject to some qualification. We should not like to be the Republican, no matter what his attainments or experience, who has dependence for a livelihood on the success of his application to the State board for appointment to a district superintendency or an inspectorship.—Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

A Word from Wise.

The idea is abroad, and rapidly expanding, that no one or two or dozen men can do all the thinking for the Democratic party, and that no one or two or dozen men shall dictate Democratic policies. If we go into this campaign either be-Manned or be-Tuckered, platformless, we'll wager our hope of some day wearing wings that the Ninth Congressional District will roll up a Republican majority that will touch elbows with a dozen thousand.—Wise News.

Carelessness.

That mistake made by a drug clerk in Richmond a few days ago in substituting poison for quinine and which resulted fatally is about as deplorable as anything we can imagine, and is a lesson to be heeded. The unfortunate man will suffer the ordeal of a trial, and in all probability punishment will be meted out. It is rarely, however, that we read of such mistakes, and it is well not to be too hasty in condemnation. When we consider the number of deaths resulting daily through carelessness in different ways, and no steps taken to convict or punish the offenders, it certainly is very apparent that the demand for justice does not meet with a square deal.—Tidewater Democrat.

Voice of the People

Roads in Halifax.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—In your issue of Tuesday, April 20, 1909, I find published a letter from Frank Henderson, of Houston, Va., also an editorial comment upon his letter. As these publications are calculated to do our county and our section a great injustice, I have been requested to answer them, and I have consented to do so, although I am averse to entering into newspaper discussions.

I take it that Mr. Henderson complains first, of the law authorizing the road authorities take soil and other material for road purposes, and secondly, of the manner in which the road authorities are exercising their rights under the law. Let us consider firstly the law.

Article XIV., Section 1, of the Constitution of the United States, and Article I., Section 11, of the Constitution of Virginia, both provide that no person shall be deprived of his property without due process of law. The statute authorizing the taking of soil for road purposes will be found in Section 944a, Code of Virginia. Since the adoption of our last amended Constitution I have noticed what might be termed a fashionable saying: "It is unconstitutional." While I do not intend to enter into a prolix argument as to the constitutionality of this law, it might be well to consider the life and history of our present statute. I have not all of the legislative enactments to refer to, but if you will examine the Code of Virginia, 1819, Vol. II., page 235, you will find this provision, viz.: Every surveyor of roads . . . may take stone or wood for that purpose—i. e., for the purpose of repairing roads—from any adjoining lands.

It will be observed that under this section the road surveyor could only take stone or wood, but the Virginia Code of 1849, at page 272, Section 32, provides that the surveyor of any road may take from any convenient lands so much wood, stone, gravel or earth as may be necessary to be used in constructing or repairing such road, and the marginal reference to the above quoted section of the Code of 1849 shows that the statute found in the Code of 1819 was amended in 1834. The same statute will be found in the Code of 1860 at page 303, and in the Code of 1873, at page 506, and in the Code of 1887, at page 290, Section 986.

Now I have referred to the constitutional provision that no person shall be deprived of his property without due process of law, and the question arises, Has our statute met with that requirement?

If you will look to the law you will find that every protection is given the land-owner, and the only objection to the statute is that it does not sufficiently protect the public, and amendments are needed for that purpose.

As to the land-owners' lands being taken without just compensation, the proposition is absolutely absurd. I have been in this State a little longer than Mr. Henderson, and having taken some interest in the roads, I know something of what compensation land-owners ask and get for their land and soil. To give you an idea of that I will cite two instances in which I acted as a commissioner or viewer to assess land damages for a proposed change or changes in roads.

In the first instance, a man had bought a tract of land lying on a public road at the price of $6 per acre. The public road was so bad and had for years been so bad that the public was forced to turn out and drive over this land. The purchaser of this land declared his purpose to inclose this land over which the public had been driving, although he did not propose to cultivate it, and, therefore, it became necessary to condemn it for road purposes. I and the other viewers viewed the land proposed to be taken, with the owner, and after measuring and ascertaining the amount of land proposed to be taken, the next thing was to fix the damages. We asked the land-owner what he expected, but he would fix no value on the land. We realized that whenever the county got anything from an individual it was expected to pay more than anybody else and more than it was worth, and the universal rule was for the county to pay an exorbitant price; therefore we knew that we had to fix a high valuation. Therefore we allowed that man $25 per acre for the land actually taken, although he had only paid $6 per acre for the entire tract, and the land proposed to be taken was along the public road and had been used for road purposes for years, and the taking of this land would not injure the residue of the tract. He demurred to this and said he expected at least $50 per acre; he excepted to our report, and by hook and by crook did get his $50 per acre. As to the second instance, a change was proposed in a public road which would necessitate the taking of about one-half acre of land and would cut off about one acre of wood land from the west of the tract. The land-owner had originally paid $5 an acre for this land. Though I was opposed to allowing so much, the viewers allowed that man $38 for that half-acre. The land-owner excepted to our report and another set of viewers was appointed, and they allowed him either $62.50 or $75 for that half-acre of land. I do not remember which. The land-owner excepted to that report and said he wanted $100 for the land, which cost him $2.50, and the board of supervisors abandoned the proposed road. These may be exceptional cases, and I am frank to admit that the last case cited above was an exceptional case in which the land-owner demanded a grossly excessive price, but I hazard the assertion that in every case in which the land-owner demands it, he receives more than the actual value of the soil taken for road purposes, and in no case is he asked or expected to take less than its value.

Mr. Henderson speaks of the road people fixing an arbitrary price of $15 per acre for the best tobacco lands, but in this he is mistaken.

There are two classes of people in this county—one class is begging for better roads. I have heard of a section of this county in which, when the road superintendent came to build roads, the farmers would meet him in a spirit of fairness and judgment and say to him that he could take their soil at a fair price, which was agreed upon by the land-owner, and the average price was about $15 per acre. Those farmers go farther; they realize that the principal cost of building an earth or gray soil road is hauling the soil, so they authorize the road superintendent to take the soil most convenient to the road, and again they go further, they lend their teams and wagons free of charge to the county to help build the roads in their neighborhood.

Now, the other class is clamoring for good roads, but they say, as Mr. Henderson says, that it is an outrage for the road authorities to take any road material from the adjacent lands. I have heard good men undertake to maintain this position, but it is untenable. The proposition is as well established as is our government, that the rights of the individual are subordinate to the rights of the public, and wherever the public interests require it, with few exceptions, private property may be taken for public uses upon compensating the individual for his property. Were it otherwise there would be no railroads, no highways, no anything of a public nature.

Mr. Henderson speaks of so-called permanent roads. I should like for Mr. Henderson to tell us how to build permanent roads. We have tried our gray soil roads, which cost from $800 to $1,000 a mile, and they last about fifteen or twenty years, and can be repaired at little cost, while a macadam road would cost $5,000 a mile and not last half as long; and in Mr. Henderson's district, in which he has 150 miles of public roads and a road fund of $3,000 a year, I should like to see him solve the problem of good roads and macadamizing.

In conclusion, Mr. Henderson says the law ought to be repealed. No, not repealed, but amended. As it is the road people take the material which the public is obliged to have. Then this land-owner goes to his neighboring justice and has him appoint three of his neighbors to go there and assess the damages, and I have seen them thrust their hands into the pocket of the public in a manner which was shocking to good conscience. The amendment which we need is a provision authorizing a condemnation of the property and fixing the compensation to be paid before the property is ever taken; then the public can exercise some discretion and refuse to take the property if the land-owners value it too high. As it is, the public is at the mercy of the land-owners; not the land-owners at the mercy of the public.

HALIFAX.

Halifax county, April 22.

Mr. Lee's Interview.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—While I do not see a way of now correcting it, nor do I care very much about it, I desire to call your attention to the injustice done me in the reputed interview from Irvington in your yesterday's issue.

I had every reason to believe that my prepaid reply to your telegram would be published as sent, without embellishment, along with your wired query. In your constructing such an interview would appear a desire to put me at enmity with Mr. Tucker, who has been my lifelong personal friend, but whom I could not support this time.

The language you ascribe to me is not my words or sentiments.

Yours truly,
W. McDONALD LEE.

[In response to an inquiry whether he would be a candidate for reappointment as Commissioner of Fisheries, Mr. Lee replied:

(Copy.)
Irvington, Va., April 15, 1909.
Times-Dispatch,
Richmond, Va.:

If Tucker should win, I am not a candidate. The remoteness of his winning, however, constrains me to deny the rumor.

W. McDONALD LEE.

Do Children Need Alcohol?

Ask your doctor how often he prescribes an alcoholic stimulant for children. He will probably say, "Very, very rarely." Ask him how often he prescribes a tonic for them. He will probably answer, "Very, very frequently." Then ask him about Ayer's non-alcoholic Sarsaparilla as a tonic for the young. J. C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass.

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