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**Bismarck's Place in the Library Movement**

The need of a public library in this city has been editorially commented on in the Tribune heretofore. The people of every city and town—yes, and village, should have access to a library. A public library is an educational necessity, because very few people can afford to have a library of their own. Other cities in North Dakota have recognized the fact. Bismarck is the only city in the state with a population of over 2,000 which does not have a public library. Of the sixteen towns having a population between 1,000 and 2,000, ten have public libraries. They are Beach, Enderlin, Kenmare, Langdon, Lidgerwood, Lisbon, Mayville, Oakes, Park River and Rugby. The towns which do not have public libraries are: Bismarck, Bottineau, Cooperstown, Ellendale, Hankinson, Hillsboro, Lakota and Larimore. Bismarck should not belong to this latter class.

The preliminary examination of the alleged jobbing swindlers illustrates the extent to which business is based on confidence. And the amount of business is proof of general honesty.

**Church Unity and the Rural Community**

One of the signs of the times which is most inspiring is the growing spirit of co-operation among the churches. Even the most conservative leaders are recognizing the fact that a rural community can support well only one church. The fact that so much Home Mission money has been spent by various denominations in maintaining two or more churches in small villages has again and again been deplored.

A score of the leading denominations in the country have united their forces to correct this evil. Just now their representatives are making a survey of several important states where the rural problem is most acute. South Dakota was first visited, then North Dakota, Montana, Colorado, etc. One of these visitors is in Bismarck today and will address interested audiences without a question. The ideas which he will bring are not at all novel. There is a widespread feeling, especially among laymen that the churches can and ought to correct the tendency to overchurch small communities, that a basis of doctrine and of worship sufficiently broad to unite all denominations can be formulated. When this is done a new era will dawn for religion in the country; ministers will be better supported, churches will be better equipped, the standard of the ministry will be much higher and the church will become more and more a social center. The time has passed when a church should exist only to agitate certain ecclesiastical questions. It should enter deeply into the social, intellectual and spiritual life of the people. It should be the meeting place for old and young. Thus it will become an important factor in keeping our young people on the farm.

When the church at large awakes to the possibilities of the rural church it will discover that what we once despised or held as of little importance has become as vital to the life of the state as the city church.

It is explained that the Chicago surgeon's device is not to tell when one is hungry, but when one really needs food. But every owner of one would deem it as unreliable as a woman's watch and the repair bill would be entirely too heavy.

**Immigration and the Farm Labor Problem**

The circumstance that Judge Amidon was compelled to order the deportation of two Austrian laborers who had been brought into this state by a farmer in violation of the federal immigration laws has been deplored by a number of papers. The scarcity of farm laborers in this state within recent years has been a cause for considerable concern to the farmers; and the temptation to bring in alien laborers, if it can be done without much trouble, is no doubt hard to resist.

The view is commonly held that immigration will solve this labor problem. But it is entirely erroneous. It is the seasonal nature of this kind of employment that is the real cause of the scarcity. When harvesting and threshing are over thousands of laborers are compelled to leave the state. They go to the cities and their stay there unites them for farm work, for when the laborer has remained in the city for any considerable length of time he can no longer endure loneliness and isolation of rural life. He must be where he can hear the roar of the city and where humanity ebbs and flows around him.

The farm labor problem can only be solved by a system of farming that will assure the laborer permanent employment the year around. The farmer must adopt the system of farming in vogue in Denmark and Ireland, where more time is devoted to the raising of live stock and to dairying than to the production of small grains.

It is futile to bring in foreign laborers, when they are compelled to leave the state after working a few months. And restriction on immigration is only fair as a means of protection for the native workers. The problem of unemployment in the cities and industrial centers is becoming exceedingly serious.

Immigration is constantly adding to the army of unemployed. It may seem cruel and harsh to deny admission to the foreigner who is seeking freedom from tyranny and oppression, but there is a limit to our capacity to assimilate this tremendous inpour of foreigners. There is a danger that our civilization may be submerged like the civilization of Rome was, by the invasion of barbarians. And as long as there is a convenient outlet for the discontented, tyranny will sit securely and safely on the throne. Bottle up that outlet and revolution will quickly usher in democracy.

The Oregonians who have appealed to the President to protect them from wild geese overlooked the fact that the President is kept busy with the wild geese in Congress.

**Everybody's Affair**

If there is one subject, above all others, in which the whole world is interested, it is obviously the means by which men and women can make themselves better and happier.

The other day a correspondent, whose handwriting indicated culture and studiousness, wrote to The St. Louis Times, asking for advice as to how peace of mind might be obtained. The letter was signed, "A Doubter."

The letter was published, and immediately answers, or suggestions, from other correspondents began to arrive. A very large number of responses were made; and the variety in tone and advice indicated that all sorts and conditions of men and women were encountering the same difficulties in life which hedged about "A Doubter."

There ought to be something hopeful in this general interest in a subject which is not usually discussed in public by individuals most deeply interested in it.

Casual students of life might easily be led to believe that the most important thing in most people's lives is money-making, or the gaining of power and influence.

Doubtless most people are striving for money and influence; but it is possible that most people make the mistake of believing that money and influence are usually desired for themselves alone, and not as a lever with which to roll the obstructions which lie in the road to the soul's best development.

Seemingly it is a typical frame of mind that seeks spiritual growth and moral betterment; and as long as this is true, there need be little fear that the race will not move upward, even during those periods when surface indications all point to sordid aims and selfish ideals.—Fargo Forum.

Arrangements are under way to import large quantities of beef from Argentina and Australia. American consumers can thus promise themselves a plentiful supply—if they don't mind paying the same old prices.

**Playground at Wilton**

The Wilton News contained the following editorial:

"Playgrounds for the children of our cities and towns are being advocated all over the country and as time goes on the importance of a healthful resort for young people is being recognized.

Even in Wilton there is room for an argument in favor of a place where our youth may have a place to play.

This has been demonstrated during the past few weeks by the skating pond which S. R. Livergood has put in operation for the benefit of the boys and girls.

The pond has been crowded morning, noon and night, and we venture to say that Mr. Livergood will have the everlasting friendship of the Wilton boys and girls, and he should have, for it was no small task to undertake. The young people of Wilton have had more real, solid enjoyment out of this skating rink than you or I can imagine. Besides, it has been a means of keeping them out in the open air, away from environments which boys and girls are likely to encounter. If they have nothing particularly to do during the play hours, we congratulate Mr. Livergood for his public spirited enterprise.

It would be interesting to know whether the Italian duke who married an American woman thirty years his senior insisted on more or less money on account of the disparity in ages.

**Policy of Denunciation**

Bans on specific amusements and practices by ecclesiastical, or even civil, authorities do not appear to accomplish the desired results. There seems to be a natural perversity in human beings that makes them eager to do things that are forbidden, except where such things are so palpably injurious to society that enlightened self-interest joins in the crusade against them. But where amusements or practices are superficially harmless and have any attractive features, the average person stubbornly resists attempts of authority to suppress them. Even the motives of the authorities are impugned, as Macaulay slandered the Puritans by suggesting that they hated bear-baiting, not so much because it gave pain to the bear, but because it gave pleasure to the spectators.

In spite of resolutions, sermons of denunciation and ecclesiastical proscriptions, the latter largely follows its own sweet will as to popular amusements. This fact is finally impressing the most thoughtful churchmen and other methods of dealing with what all believe to be injurious to spiritual conditions in the churches are being considered. One of the leading churches of America at each quadrennial general conference wrestles with the language of its rules proscribing certain specific amusements. It is generally admitted that the language was unfortunately adopted, forty years ago, a general condemnation of reading such literature and engaging in such diversions as could not be done to the glory of God being far preferable to a catalogue of forbidden things. But the specific catalogue cannot be abandoned without the world being misled into thinking the church has revoked its disapproval of the amusements under the specific ban and impliedly approved them. So the rule has withstood all attacks upon it and will likely remain unaltered.

But the futility of emphasizing the prohibition is appealing to the leading clergymen and editors of the denomination. A new course is being generally pursued, one of construction. Instead of seeking to deprive the young people of certain amusements, the

new policy seems to get them interested in beneficial activities. The theory is that "thou-shalt-nots" accomplish little. The idle brain is still the devil's workshop. The profound psychology of the Nazarene's statement, "As he thinketh in his heart, so is he," is being more generally recognized. By changing the current of thought, quickening new aspirations and arousing new interests it is hoped to fill the lives of the young with joyous activities. Then they will abandon amusements on which they fling as frowned, not because of the proscriptions, but because they no longer have pleasure in them. Students of human nature will expect much good from such a constructive policy unless a lack of wisdom is shown in devising the new activities. These activities must give a chance for the exercise of the normal qualities of healthy young people.

A plot to loot San Francisco's treasury by means of ordinary burglar's tools must look like course work to some of the old-time graft experts.

**Argues for the Boys**

Gov. George Hodges of Kansas, speaking at the annual convention of the Southwestern Lumbermen's association in Kansas City, on the topic, "Father and Son," declared: "For all the money spent to improve our wheat, our cattle, and our business industries, hardly a dollar is laid aside to assist the boy who has been handicapped for want of proper parental care.

"Our country is money mad. In our efforts to accumulate wealth we neglect the duties we owe our future citizens, the small boys."

The Now Haven is now attracting favorable attention as the country's leading advocate of safe and sane railroading.

**Long Lives of Famous Pioneers**

The death of Lord Strathcona, at the age of 93, takes away another of the great pioneers in modern railroad development on this side of the water who have lived lives long beyond the three-score and ten of the Psalmist. As a matter of fact, the great Canadian railroad builder was but one of a rather large group of men whose lives were so full of intense occupation with many details and business worries of all kinds that they would almost inevitably be expected to be short-lived. Yet, most of them have emphatically contradicted the popular impression.

Occasionally the death at a comparatively early age of a railroad financier seems to indicate the danger of business men wearing themselves out before their time. Lord Strathcona's colleagues and rivals, however, would probably have rusted out from insufficient occupation much sooner than they actually were out from stress of business. They were men with a wide variety of interests and of great intellectual capacity, and, barring accident, such men always achieve long life.

Possibly the trusts may be regulated so that the good ones will be distinguished by the possession of a license card.

**The White House Conference**

Particulars of the conference held at the White House recently are meagre. Necessarily, the matter in hand was confidential. It may have covered several important points of our existing foreign relations. Peace treaties, the Japanese contention, the situation in Mexico, may all have been discussed. And then again interest may have centered in one thing. Which thing is anybody's guess.

But more important maybe than particulars is the fact that the conference was held, and at the President's invitation. That alone shows that something is ripe, or ripening, and that the President is getting in touch more intimately with those concerned, as he is with a national duty.

Some complaint has been made that the President and Mr. Bryan seem indisposed to confer with anybody about foreign affairs, and particularly Mexican affairs. Why so close-mouthed? Why a monopoly? Why a restraint of news? At least Congress should be consulted. If war is on the card Congress must be consulted. A declaration of war comes from that body.

Whatever the grounds for the complaint, last night's meeting will mitigate the complaint. The President, who in a large measure is his own foreign minister, has broken the monopoly, and an important committee of the Senate now shares with him some, at least, of the information by which he has charted his course.

If the public believes that "something is going to happen" with regard to Mexico, it is justified by the fact that it has been a long time since something did happen. When the President took office he found Mexico in turmoil and a large American force on the border ready for action. Five months went by before John Lind was sent on a special mission. Since then six months have gone by, and Mr. Lind remains at Vera Cruz, visiting American warships.

As for President Huerta, he is still on deck, professing confidence in his ability to put down the bandits, exposing and impugning conspirators against his government, meeting and joking with Mr. O'Shaughnessy, and expressing admiration for the American people.

As for the "constitutionalists," while they are making progress, they must make a good deal more before they can be called as masters of the situation. They are far from being in striking distance of Mexico City, and much rough country lies between.

All this is gathered from the surface. What may lie underneath the public is not advised of. Probably something of importance does. Both the President and Mr. Eryan must guard against a too free publicity. They may have other sources of information than Mr. Lind, Mr. O'Shaughnessy and Prof. Hale, and it so must protect them by silence. But the public is curious—mighty curious.—Washington Star.

E. E. Morris, who has been mentioned as a possible candidate for county auditor the coming campaign, says he has decided not to enter the race. He says he appreciates the solicitation of his friends in their desire for him to become a candidate, but circumstances prevent his accepting.

The doghouse's method of celebrating a holiday may sometimes be disappointing, but it is far less expensive than that of our old friend, Santa Claus.

**To the Fellow Who'll Take My Place**

Here is a toast I want to drink to a fellow I'll never know—  
 To the fellow who's going to take my place when its time for me to go,  
 I've wondered what kind of a chap he'll be, and I've wished I could take his hand,  
 Just to whisper, "I wish you well, old man," in a way that he'd understand.  
 I'd like to give him the cheering word that I've longed to hear;  
 I'd like to give him the warm hand clasp when never a friend seems near.  
 I've learned my knowledge by sheer hard work, and I wish I could pass it on  
 To the fellow who'll come to take my place some day when I am gone.  
 Will he see all the sad mistakes I've made and note all the battles lost?  
 Will he ever guess of the tears they caused or the heartaches which they cost?  
 Will he gaze through the failures and fruitless toil to the underlying plan,  
 And catch a glimpse of the real intent and the heart of the vanquished man?  
 I dare to hope he may pause one day as he toils as I have wrought,  
 And gain some strength for his weary task from the battles which I have fought.  
 But I've only the task itself to leave with the cares for him to face,  
 And never a cheering word may speak to the fellow who'll take my place.  
 Then here's to your health, old chap; I drink as a bridegroom to his bride;  
 I leave an unfinished task for you, but God knows how I tried.  
 I've dreamed my dreams as all men do, but never a one came true,  
 And my prayer today is that all the dreams may be realized by you,  
 And we'll some day in the great unknown—out in the realms of space;  
 You'll know my clasp as I take your hand and you'll remain your true face.  
 Then all your failures will be success in the light of the new found dawn—  
 So I'm drinking your health, old chap, who'll take my place when I am gone.  
 —Author Unknown.

The number of conferences Japan causes to be held will be gratifying to that nation's sense of pride.

Without desiring to seem too aggressive, Japan makes it clear from time to time that all is not forgotten.

The good-times prophet is not only pleasant to hear, but the chances are always strongly in favor of his being correct.

The number of prisoners that Huerta insists on making must materially increase the expense of running his government.

Radism is now encountering the current of skepticism which always sets in after the discovery of a new cure.

By making three speeches in Illinois Theodore Roosevelt may tempt a certain prominent standpatter to decide to drink and draw cards.

The suit for damages brought by French dancing masters against clergymen will not check pulpit discussion of modern dances in this country.

If the American authors who are filling positions in the foreign diplomatic service do their whole duty there will be about seventy-five romances dedicated to President Wilson next year.

While the composer who is charged with accepting money from divers persons to set poetry to music and publish the same may have violated the law, he was in a sense a public benefactor.

Senator Ashurst of Arizona would have Congress appropriate \$350,000 to build a barbed wire fence along the Mexican border. But he overlooked the cost of a plant to charge it with electricity.

The high prices of telephone and telegraph stock following the announcement of the proposed voluntary dissolution did not mean an increase in value. It signified an effort of bears to get out of their trap.

The county court of Jackson county has announced that it will finance the fourth trial of Dr. Hyde, so this popular Kansas City attraction will not have to depend on private subscriptions, as had been feared.

A provision permitting the proposed interstate trade commission to exempt corporations from specific requirements of law might at some future time raise the question as to the administrative test of good and bad trusts.

Gov. Glynn of New York has issued a new declaration of independence of the Wilson administration and of Tammany Hall. It is wonderful how a few drinks of power will transform the mildest and most docile lieutenant governor into a son of thunder.

The racial classification of a Filipino is worrying a Missouri marriage license clerk. The Oklahoma constitution recognizes only two races, white and colored. The colored includes every person of African descent of any degree of blood, everybody else being white. It was with the idea that the law controls the matter that a New Zealand laundryman recently sought to amend the factory act by inserting the proviso that for the purposes of that act "a Chinaman shall be deemed to be a girl under 18 years of age."

**Just for Greens**

**WONDERS OF NEW YORK.**  
 The report that a newspaper man of fered August Belmont \$50,000 for a horse isn't at all unreasonable. We know of newspaper men doing even more remarkable things. For instance, there was the young fellow who was found busily engaged in picking cherries from an electric light pole to feed to a lavender monkey with an American flag for a tail. Strange things happen in the profession, especially around New York.—Birmingham News.

**A PLEASANT FUNERAL.**  
 Dry Creek, Cor. Larime Buzzard. A very pleasant funeral was had Thursday afternoon when the mortal remains of a secret service agent from Washington were dropped over the cliff south of town in the presence of a large concourse of Dry Creek citizens.

**A SALE BILL OF 1844.**  
 The Bee, published at Knox City, Mo. prints the following:  
 At this season of the year, when auction sales are a matter of interest in many sections, the readers of this department will be interested in the following notice of an article which was held in Pike county, Mo., sixty-seven years ago:

"State of Missouri, county of Pike, to whom it may concern: The undersigned will on Tuesday, Sept. 29, 1844, sell at public outcry for cash on the premises where Coon creek crosses the Missouri road the following chattels: Six yoke of oxen, with yokes and chains two wagons, with beds; three nigger benches, four buck niggers, three nigger boys, two prairie plows, twenty-five steel traps, one barrel pickled cabbage, one hog-head tobacco, one lot of nigger shoes, one spinning wheel, one loom, mink and skunk skins and a lot of other articles. Am gwine to California. Free headache apples and hard cider."

**THOSE SWEET LIARS.**  
 Miss Rowland says: A modern youth's perfect frankness and insouciance sometimes makes a girl yearn for those sweet, old-fashioned liars who used to tell such beautiful, flattering fairy tales.

**EASILY EXPLAINED.**  
 New York Times, Mr. Barnes entered his garage one morning and found his chauffeur taking his case instead of doing some work he had been asked to do. "Joe, how is it?" asked Mr. Barnes severely, "that I never find you at work when I come out here?"  
 "Well, sir," replied Joe seriously, "I guess it's on account of those rubber heels you're wearing now."

**THE LIMIT.**  
 Cincinnati Enquirer: Gabe—is Grubber a hospitable man?  
 Steve—Should say not. Why he won't even entertain an idea.

**WANTED—SHOVELER.**  
 Bridgeport, Conn., Jan. 31.—The following apparently bona fide "want ad" appeared in the Bridgeport Telegram and has caused much mirth here today:  
 "Wanted—A young, well educated man, must be strictly sober and good-looking, to shovel snow off my wife's grave. A colored man preferred, on account of deep mourning. Steady work. To the right party if there is plenty of snow.—Wm. Lundberg."

**SOME WOMAN.**  
 No matter what a man may be there is some woman who will think him all right.

**NOTHING LACKING.**  
 A Valley City newly married woman shortly after starting with her husband said, "I am afraid I have left something out, and it is not very good." The husband, who always liked the kind of pie "mother made" eagerly grabbed the pie and started to eat it and shortly was heard to remark "Gee, there is nothing you could have left out to make it taste like this, it is something you put in."

**GET BUSY.**  
 Editor Lidner of the Wibaux Pioneer says:  
 "Work is the best preventive of and cure for worry. It is the little man that finds time hanging heavily on his hands, that gives him over to complaints and worry. Naturally, just because he is idle he takes a jaundiced view of life and thinks everything is going to the bad. Not so with the busy man, the man who is doing something to help the world in which he lives. He is busy to fret and the knowledge that he is contributing to the common good helps him to laugh with joy rather than with disappointment."

**PLACID NATURE.**  
 "Did you ever see a smile on the mouth of a river?" asks a contemporary. "No, brother, nor a frown on the brow of a hill."

**AND VERY FAR.**  
 "They tell me that woman is a gossip. Do you think she is reliable?"  
 "I know that whatever she says goes."

**USE ENGINES.**  
 An exchange suggests: Every once in awhile it is reported in the papers that some one has had a valuable, blooded horse, cow, hog, sheep or dog, killed by the collision of the animal with a railroad engine. It seems that the engine has established a strong record for good blood. The mere crossing of any kind of an animal with an engine makes the animal a valuable blooded one. From these reports and the general belief of the people in the case of awards for the animals thus treated, it ought to follow that the placing of a good steam engine on the farm would increase the value of the stock and give them a much higher standard of breeding.

**FRESH AND NEW.**  
 Someone has said widowers make the most fascinating lovers—probably because their tender sentiments have been kept in cold storage for so long that they seem perfectly fresh and new.

**THE WORDS THAT COUNT.**  
 A man doesn't mind letting his wife have the last word—even the first, for the matter of that; it's all those that come in between that harrow his soul and drive him to distraction.