

The River Press.

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HIGH COST OF LIVING.

There are those who are blind to any facts tending to prove that the protective tariff system of this country is not responsible for the increase in the price of living. The facts are present, however, and they cannot be evaded or waived by any amount of political juggling. They show that the cost of living is growing faster in other countries than in this, says the Kansas City Journal. The tariff is the one and only thing which prevents the effects of this increased cost from becoming as oppressive here as they are in other countries. England today is on the verge of socialism because the people have been rendered desperate by the narrowing margin between their incomes and their expenses, and in several million cases by absolute destitution due to lack of any employment whatever.

What would the workmen and people of moderate means in America do if the constantly rising price of foodstuffs, more onerous than the increased cost of clothing and other necessities of life, were not attended by steady and remunerative employment for all but an inconsequential fraction of the people? And what gives them employment at all if it is not the tariff system which protects the American workman in the protected industries from competition with the foreign laborer? And what keeps the workmen in the so-called unprotected industries at work but the steady employment of those engaged in the protected industries?

The price of wheat has risen in many European countries until bread is more than 60 per cent. higher than a year ago, while meat has advanced almost as much. England must import 90 per cent. of its food while America supplies not only its own people but those of many millions in other countries. The prosperity of the producer of foodstuffs is the spinal column of America's prosperity but without an economic system which provided a home market for the farmer's products there would be a great many more soup houses and Populists than they are today.

MONTANA'S PUBLICITY BUREAU

Governor Norris' recommendation to the legislature for an appropriation to carry on the work of Montana's publicity bureau should meet with speedy compliance. The good advertising work undertaken by Mr. Hall as commissioner of the bureau of agriculture, labor, industry and publicity is of inestimable value to the state. Unquestionably the failure of our legislative body in regular session to appropriate money for the year 1910 was the result of oversight, which will be remedied during the current meeting.

The enactment of a law designed to advertise Montana's rich resources and desirable homes waiting for settlers was one of the most salient and far-sighted actions of the eleventh legislative assembly. The service so far performed by the publicity bureau has amply repaid the investment, and the splendid results apparent after the first year emphasize the urgent necessity of a continuation of the good work.

We can conceive no investment of state moneys so calculated to insure speedy and profitable results as an appropriation for continuing that excellent publicity work which is bringing home-seekers to our state. For that reason we urge prompt and efficient action by the assembled members of the Montana legislature to the end that a vitally important branch of the state government may be maintained during the coming year.

The existence of Montana's publicity bureau made it possible to advertise to the world James J. Hill's splendid tribute to Montana products when he told President Taft that he had seen in agricultural hall the best exhibit of home-grown products ever assembled under one roof.

Montana cannot afford to hide her bountiful resources under a bushel basket. We want producers on every acre of tillable soil in this state. The way to get them is by advertising, and that is the province of our publicity bureau. The good work, so admirably started, must be continued. For that reason we again urge that the members of our legislature, assembled in special session, take prompt action that will make certain the efficient and sustained activity of Montana's publicity bureau.—Helena Independent.

Whitewash Better Than Paint.

Whitewash as used by the government, is prepared as follows: Take one-half bushel of unslacked lime, slake it with boiling water, cover during the process to keep in steam, strain the liquid through a fine sieve or strainer, and add to it a peck of salt previously dissolved by soaking in warm water, three pounds of rice boiled to a thin paste and stirred in

while hot, one-half bushel Spanish whiting and one pound clean glue, previously dissolved by soaking in cold water and then hanging over a slow fire in a small pot hung in a larger one filled with water. Add five gallons hot water to the mixture; stir well and let it stand for a few days, covered from dirt.

It should be applied hot, for which purpose it can be kept in a kettle or portable furnace. The east end of the White house at Washington is embellished by this brilliant whitewash. It is used by the government to whitewash lighthouses. A pint of this mixture, properly applied, will cover one square yard, and will be almost as serviceable as paint for wood, brick or stone, and is much cheaper than the cheapest paint.

Uncle Sam's Fighting Record.

Not counting the numerous Indian outbreaks that are not classed as wars, this country has spent about 30 per cent of the 120 years since 1789 in war. The United States has had six foreign wars and the greatest civil war known to history. The amount expended on American pensions has been greater than the amounts spent by some of the greatest nations on their armies. The year 1908 the United States disbursed in pensions the enormous sum of \$183,093,086, while the net cost of the British army and its operations for 1908-09 will amount to only \$138,800,000.

WORLD'S BANKNOTES.

Shape, Size and Color of Paper Money of the Nations.

The only paper money that is accepted practically all over the globe is not "money" at all, but the notes of the Bank of England. These notes are simply printed in black ink on Irish linen water lined paper, plain white, with ragged edges. The reason that a badly soiled or worn Bank of England note is rarely seen is that notes which in any way find their way back to the bank are immediately canceled and new ones are issued. The notes of the Banque de France are made of white water lined paper printed in black and white, with numerous mythological and allegorical pictures. They are in denominations of from 25 francs to 1,000 francs.

Bank of England notes are of a somewhat unhandy size—5 by 8 inches. South American currency resembles the bills of the United States, except that cinnamon brown and slate blue are the prevailing colors. German currency is printed in green and black, the notes being in denominations of from 5 to 1,000 marks. The 1,000 mark bills are printed on silk fiber paper. It takes an expert or a native to distinguish a Chinese bill from a laundry ticket if the bill is of low denomination or a firecracker label if for a large amount, the print being in red on white or yellow on red, with much gilt and gorgeous devices. Italian notes are all sizes, shapes and colors. The smallest bills, 5 and 10 lire, are printed on white paper in pink, blue and carmine inks.

The most striking paper currency in the world is the 100 ruble note of Russia, which is barred from top to bottom with all the colors of the rainbow blended as when a sun ray passes through a prism. In the center in bold relief is a finely executed vignette in black. The remainder of the engraving on the note is in dark and light brown ink.

The American practice of scattering strands of silk through the paper fiber as a protection against counterfeiting is unique.—Harper's Weekly.

POLAR PHENOMENA.

The Mirage and the Mock Sun of the Arctic Regions.

In the spring of 1900 I changed over to the steamer Corwin and sailed for the Arctic ocean to establish a trading station somewhere on the northern shores of Alaska. Although we went on a purely commercial venture, there was a good deal of talk about the pole during the seven months we spent in the almost continuous sunlight.

Dr. Cook relates instances of seeing mirages above the ice fields—mountains passing in solemn review and sometimes inverted and standing on their peaks—but he goes on to say that there were no forms of life. Mirage is a common sight even in lower latitudes than those mentioned by Dr. Cook. I have seen the spires and domes of well defined buildings, whole cities, in fact, appear above the horizon, sometimes lingering for several minutes, or again, with their towers reaching up higher and higher, attenuating apparently to a mere thread. The "mock sun" is a common phenomenon in the Bering sea. On the evening of June 2, 1900, perhaps 100 miles south of St. Lawrence island, about 9:30 o'clock and past sunset, the sun was visible as though half an hour high, but appearing as a much flattened oval. Then another sun more nearly round emerged from the horizon beneath the "goose egg," rising quite rapidly until it blended with the descending orb. Thereupon, instead of settling below the horizon, the light was quickly dissipated in the air. This phenomenon was probably due to the unequal density of several superimposed strata of air producing refraction of the sun's rays from below the horizon.—Captain Edwin Coffin of Ziegler Polar Expedition in National Magazine.

The River Press.

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RAILWAY CONDUCTORS.

The Many and Varied Duties They Have to Perform.

As a conductor he will probably begin in the freight service. His caboose will be a traveling office, and, more than that, it will carry all the gossip of the division up and down the line. It may be a homely little car, but it is just as sure to be a homelike place. From its elevated outlook he may command a good view of the train away ahead to the engine, and he will be supposed to know all the while that the brakemen are attending to their duties, that the train is in good order, particularly that there are no hot boxes smoking away and in imminent danger of setting fire to the train and the valuable contents. There is a deal of bookkeeping to be accomplished in that traveling office. The conductor will receive the waybills of the cars of his train and their contents, and he is held responsible for their safe deliveries to their destination or the junction points where they are to be delivered to other lines.

When he comes to the passenger service there will be still more bookkeeping to confront him, and he will have to be a man of good mental attainments to handle all the many, many varieties of local and through tickets, mileage books, passes and other forms of transportation contracts that come to him, to detect the good from the bad, to throw out the counterfeiters that are constantly being offered to him. He will have to carry quite a money account for cash affairs, and he knows the mistakes will have to be paid for out of his own pocket.

All that is only a phase of his business. He is responsible for the care and safe conduct of his train, equally responsible in the last respect with the engineer. He also receives and signs for the train orders, and he is required to keep in mind every detail of the train's progress over the line. He will have his own assortment of questions to answer at every stage of the journey, and he will be expected to maintain the discipline of the railroad upon its trains. That may mean in the one instance the ejection of a passenger who refuses to pay his fare—and still he must not involve the road in any big damage suit—or in another the subjugation of some gang of drunken loafers. The real wonder of it is that so many conductors come as near as they do to the Chesterfieldian standards.—Edward Hungerford in Outing Magazine.

Waiting For the Children.

An old woman hobbled up to the conductor of the train and said excitedly: "Vondt you to pleece holdt on yet, Meester Gonducktor, vile my two grandtkinder comes by the draln? I runs off midout dem undt dey is gomg so vast dey can, yes?"

The conductor looked impatiently at his watch, then at the woman's pathetic face. Then he consented to wait a little, as the train was on time.

Five minutes later two blue eyed, chubby cheeked children came on the run, rushed up to their grandmother, kissed her, helped her on the train with her birdcage and basket and then hurried away.

What the conductor thought is none of a refined person's business.—Chicago News.

Selling Baked Potatoes.

The baked potato merchant is a comparatively modern institution in the London streets, the first potato can having made its appearance, according to Henry Mayhew, about the year 1846. Fifteen years later, when Mayhew published his "London Labor and the London Poor," he estimated that there were 200 hot potato vendors in London, each selling on an average 300 halfpenny potatoes a day. "In cold weather," adds Mayhew, "the potatoes frequently are bought to warm the hands. Indeed, an eminent divine classed them in a public speech among the best of modern improvements as forming an excellent medium for diffusing warmth into the system by being held in the gloved hand.—London Chronicle.

Giving Him Her Trade.

There was a new clerk at the corner drug store.

"Will you please let me have a stamp?" smiled the woman.

The clerk laid one on the counter and took the money.

"I wish," said she, "that you would weigh this letter. Maybe it takes more than 2 cents." He weighed it.

"Only 2 cents, madam," he said. Then, taking the stamp up from the counter where she had left it lying, he added politely, "Allow me to put it on for you," and he did.

"You are so nice," said she, "that I'm going to begin to buy my postcards here too."—New York Press.

The Flying Idea.

The first man who got the theory of the flying machine right was no less a person than the painter Leonardo da Vinci. He pictured it as heavier than air, provided with wings and uplifted, in spite of its weight, by the rapid revolutions of a propeller. Leonardo had an idea that the propeller might be turned by clockwork or by setting a number of laboring men to turn a handle, but in that respect he was mistaken.—Fall Mail Gazette.

Logical.

"A disease should be attacked at its source." "Then if a man's disease is hereditary I suppose you'd doctor his father for it, eh?"—Exchange.

As the births of living creatures at first are ill shapen, so are all innovations, which are the births of time.—Racon.

A MERCHANT OF FEZ.

Description of His Rise and His Ignominious Fall.

The merchants of Fez are to be found all over Morocco. In due course All Mahmoud launches out into business on a large scale. He prospers exceedingly and presently purchases a black female slave to assist his wife in her duties. All Mahmoud takes a house in the Medina quarter of Fez, overlooking the pleasant olive groves. In course of time he buys two more slaves and is fairly set up as a householder.

When his first daughter is born there is great rejoicing. The baby is immediately stained all over its little body with henna and then smeared liberally with butter and wrapped in woolen cloths. On the seventh day these are removed, and the child is washed for the first time. When the girl has reached her first year her head is shaved, leaving a little tuft by which Mohammed could catch her up to heaven if he were so disposed. In her seventh year her hair has grown long again. She is then veiled, and her proud father sets about looking for a husband for her. It is still the custom to betroth children from infancy.

All Mahmoud prospers, and, save for a few domestic troubles, his life runs smoothly. In the evenings All will sit and smoke in the bosom of his family. On Thursdays and Saturdays he visits his friends. They pass the time in simple games of cards or in listening to the weird efforts of itinerant musicians. Our merchant gets stum as he approaches middle age. One day his world tumbles about him. Such is the uncertainty of fate in Morocco.

He was serving in his shop when the customer suddenly raised his voice and cried out that he was getting false weight. The accusation was terrible, and All vehemently protested his innocence. It was an arranged charge by an enemy of the merchant, who philosophically bowed his head with the saying: "Kismet! Mine enemy has found me, and the serpent requires milk." The arbitrators are called, and, having been bribed previously, they find Mahmoud guilty and sentence him to the usual punishment meted out to givers of false weights. He is dragged to the southern wall of the city, to a place where a tall gibbet is erected. By the irony of fate it is within sight of his own house. A rope is made fast to his right wrist and hoisted up until his toes can just touch the ground. Here he is left till sunset. The idlers jeer at him, and the gamins of the quarter pelt him with stones and refuse. At sundown his friends carry him home, a poor, bruised and senseless body. Broken and disgraced, thus ended his career as a respectable merchant.—Morocco Cor. London Graphic.

Oil Bathing.

Oil bathing is a regular institution among the Hindoos. An experienced masseur rubs the oil on his patrons, friends or relatives generally once a week. And it is a fact that moles, warts and such faults of the surface of the skin are very rare among them. The newborn infant gets the oil bath daily for forty days. The intervals are then gradually lengthened, but he will be considered a very naughty boy who during his school days tries to shirk the oil bath at least once a week. As a youngster he yells all the time he is being bathed. Perhaps it is good for his lungs. Anyhow, nobody thinks of finding fault with the nurse for the hallooing of her charge, and generally speaking it may be said that Indians have better lungs and better pectorals as compared to the body weight than the Europeans, and the feminine bust is decidedly fuller and more perfect.—C. N. Saldanha in Lancet.

How to Carry Books.

The Philadelphia free library permits patrons to take out six books at a time during certain months.

"If you are not going to wrap those books up let me show you how to carry them," said one of the assistants at the library recently.

Then the young woman slipped a cover of one book inside of a cover of one she placed on the top of it, building up a pile of six books in this fashion, and the man addressed, who was carrying the volumes home to please his wife, the reader of the family, found his difficulties were much lessened.—Philadelphia Press.

Too Much Like Work.

The happy mother of a seven-months-old baby, whose chief business seems to be making a noise in the world, was paying her sister a visit, and the other evening young Master Harry, aged seven years, was delegated to care for the baby while his elders were at dinner. So he wheeled it back and forth, forth and back, the length of the library, giving vent to his sentiments by singing, much to the amusement of the family:

"Gee whiz, I'm glad I'm free: No wedding bells for me!" —Ladies' Home Journal.

An Expensive Production.

"You were very lavish with the snowstorm in the third act." "Yes," explained the manager. "I bought that snow when white paper was not so high as it is now."—Kansas City Journal.

Domestic Note.

"Give the devil his due," he said. "I'm willing to," she snapped, "but you're in pretty good health, and he'll have to wait."—Atlanta Constitution.

Life without liberty is joyless, but life without joy may be great. The greatness of life is sacrifice.—Ouida.

BREAKFAST FRUIT.

The Best Said to Be Oranges, Grapes and Fresh Olives.

Of all breakfast fruits the orange is deservedly the most popular. It is a food that is distinctly health giving. Orange juice aids greatly in reducing the amount of putrefaction found in the intestines of nearly all persons who are submitted to clinical laboratory tests.

Grapes are another fruit that should always be eaten freely when obtainable. Apples are preferably eaten before retiring, and two are about twice as good as one. The apple habit, persisted in, often works rather surprising results with persons who are naturally listless. Lemons can hardly be eaten as a fruit, but lemonade is a valuable beverage. When used as a laxative fresh figs should form the dessert. When not obtainable the dried figs form a good substitute.

Of the value of bananas there seems some reasonable doubt. Many persons complain that they find them indigestible. They are quite likely to reach this conclusion if the banana be eaten frequently as the needless complement of an already hearty meal. On the other hand, there can be no doubt that the growing popularity of the fresh olive is fully deserved. It surely ranks with the orange and the grape and is, of course, much ahead of either in cases of sluggish intestines or constitutional thinness.—H. Irving Hancock in Good Housekeeping.

Parental Severity.

The children of two centuries ago fell on stern times, if one may believe that the spirit of family life was accurately expressed by an excellent mother of that day who said, without humorous intent, that her children "loved her as sinners dread death." There is little doubt that parental control at that date was as rigorous as this anecdote indicates. It is said that when Little Andrew Elliot, afterward lieutenant governor of New York, objected to bolled mutton his father, Sir Gilbert Elliot, frowned.

A Bushel of Cents.

It beats all what old questions reach some of the departments of government in Washington. Not long ago the treasury received a letter from a man who had made a bet asking "How many cents are there in a bushel?" The answer was not easy to offer. If the man had asked about pounds he might have received a definite answer. As it was, he got in reply a guess from a clerk that "roughly there is something like \$320, or 32,000 pennies."

Stove Lifters.

Customer—Do you keep stove lifters in here? Grocer's Clerk—Not the iron ones, madam. But we can give you a pint of kerosene.—Boston Transcript.

Ebony Repartee.

Mistab Cole—Whah you gwine at, hub? Mistab Dusky—I's gwine at whah I's gwine at—dat's whah I's gwine at! —Puck.

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