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NO HALF-WAY MEASURES.

There is no fear of the United States government taking any half-way measures in the matter of settling the difficulty in Nicaragua. If marines are landed with the order to assist the insurgent army in defending its position, it must be because the administration at Washington is perfectly assured of the backing of congress even to the extent of removing Zelaya, and presiding at the establishment of another ruler.

And that step means the assuming of directory powers over the little Central American state. This is a departure for our nation, and can be warranted only by grim and urgent necessity. Something of the kind occurred in the case of Cuba. There was a precedent, and its following will make an end of the Zelaya tyranny, and mark the beginning of a better day for the people of his country.

The only mistake involved in the case of a protectorate for Cuba was that the strong arm of the United States was withdrawn. It would have been bet'er for the Cubans, for the Americans, and for the entire world, if that protectorate had been continued until such time as Cuba could have been made a part of the United States. But whatever mistake may have existed in that case is excused because of the pledge this country made before the beginning of the war with Spain.

In the case of Central America, the recent assembling of Latin American representatives in the City of Mexico, and their open declarations of hostility to the United States, make interference by Washington much in the nature of self defense. Every ambitious politician from Mexico to Brazil believes himself a possible dictator, and has hopes of winning his way to a president's chair—which immediately will become the throne of a gold-grabbing dictator. If the United States shall take hold, there will be an end of exploiting the Central American people in the interest of the soldiers of fortune. Naturally those disturbers are angry at the United States.

And since they are the sort of men the past has proven them, they are not to be trusted as hostile governments within striking distance of the Panama canal.

ON THE STREETS AT NIGHT.

Mrs. Adolph Simon has done a distinct service to the community in calling attention to the many children on the public streets at night. In her paper, recently read before the Utah State Congress of Mothers, Mrs. Simon touched upon a number of topics of vital interest, in connection with the question of juvenile life, and child labor. But in nothing did she raise a more important point than in directing attention to the children who are found on the streets at night in this city.

For corroboration, one has but to traverse the thoroughfares of Salt Lake from eight to eleven o'clock at night. A few boys and girls of tender years will be found even after the later-named hour. There are scores of them before.

And this is not due to Christmas excuses. It is not because they are busy by day, and in the season of hurried shopping are compelled to make their purchases at night. In far too many cases these children are found on the streets least frequented by shoppers. They gravitate to the quieter places, and yet seem unable to get away from the glare of the lamps in the city's center. Little groups of girls whose mothers should have them at home are too often seen grouped late at night with boys of their own or greater age, laughing, chatting, idling on the corners.

Older people have a duty to perform in that matter. They owe it to the younger people to throw about them such safeguard as good men and good women know is necessary. A thoughtful word of warning and suggestion has been spoken by a woman who has the interest of the children at heart. It should not fail of effectiveness.

FARM SCHOOL AT NEPHI.

Beginning at ten o'clock this morning a "farmers' and housekeepers' school" will be conducted through the week at Nephi. Professor John T. Caine begins the instruction today, and an admirable program has been arranged for both morning and afternoon of each day; and there will be entertaining and helpful lecturers in the evening. Governor Spry will attend the school and deliver an address on Wednesday, as will Secretary of State Tingey. President John A. Widtsoe of the Agricultural college, and Professor L. A. Merrill also will attend and deliver lectures.

The thing can not but be of the greatest help to the people of Juab county, and residents of the state from otherwhere, if they can come. These schools bring directly to the people the very best results of the Agricultural college achievements. The state pays for that school, and discoveries of the greatest value are explained to the pupils there. But a good many people can not go to the college. Therefore, the most accomplished men and women from the college go over the state, and give the older members of the community the benefit of the college work, the benefit of the latest information in farming and stock raising. No man depending on the land for his living can afford to miss this school. Every one who goes with a purpose to be benefited will be wiser and more capable all the rest of his life. That is certain.

In time it is to be hoped that these schools can be held in every county of the state; and we are sure, when the value of them is understood every county will welcome the coming.

WHAT WAS THE GOOD OF IT

Eighteen young men, at Madison Square Garden last Saturday night, completed the difficult task of riding more than twenty-six hundred miles in six days on a circular track. One team rode twenty-six hundred and sixty miles. Throughout the week, day and night, they have been watched by crowds of interested people—people who became frantically excited in their interest whenever there was an attempt of any rider to push the pace a little. It is all considered a wonderful thing, and the winners of the match will have plenty of money—for a day or two.

But what is the good of it all? Where has one of these riders added a farthing to the value of himself, or helped any one of the millions of his countrymen? He has proved the possession of great stamina, and that is all. But he certainly doesn't seem to have made much use of it.

There is some profit in Weston's walk across the continent. It was so distinctly a healthful employment that countless numbers have taken up t walking habit because of his example. There has been a better appreciation of the open air, a better understanding of the value of walking as an exercise, and an extension of life and strength to men of mature years who have found that if Weston can keep strong by walking, so can they.

But there is no health in the six-day ride on a circular bicycle track in an inclosed garden. These riders have simply bent their heads to the handlebars of their machines, and plugged along blindly, without one human or healthy thought or hope or sentiment, to the limit of the time they were contracted to fill. And when they quit, the whole incident is closed. Neither they nor any one else is better for it.

The six-day bicycle race is the last expression of foolish physical exercise.

COUNCILMAN HALL IS MISTAKEN.

Pardon if we suggest that Councilman Hall made a mistake in opposing the motion to light as many electric street lamps as Mr. Samuel Newhouse might find it proper to install in Exchange Place and Cactus street. But there is time to correct the error by reversing himself at the council meeting tonight.

Mr. Newhouse bought and paid for that land, laid out the streets, paved and guttered them and gave them to the city. The property represents a large money value, and it comes as a free gift to the whole community. And it comes in perfect condition, too.

It is now proposed that Mr. Newhouse will erect along these streets handsome posts adapted for electric lighting; and all he asks is that the city shall furnish the lights.

Mr. Hall, usually a careful and sagacious guardian of the city's interests, took the view that such a concession would make a bad precedent.

But any time you get a man to erect two eleven-story buildings in Salt Lake, donate two streets to the city—all paved and guttered and ready for use—you better break precedents, and encourage him. At least precedents should not stand in the way of so plain a benefit as this.

Of course, there are limits. Precedents are good things. But the whole city is so greatly gainer by the improvements in the district to be lighted, the property valuation of the whole city has been so greatly increased, the whole public cause has been so advantaged, that the city can well afford to light all the lamps the owner may want to erect.

We trust Mr. Hall and his friends may recede from their position.

SPOKANE SPEAKS NOBLY.

It is a thing to encourage—that movement of the Spokane Chamber of Commerce to put new energy into the country life commission, at least so far as it applies to the big northwest. Congress, you will remember, totally ignored the movement, and turned a rather broad and repellant back on the commission that President Roosevelt appointed, and that had secured so much of valuable data in its journeyings about the country.

The report of the commission, passed without even printing by congress, is in course of publication by the Spokane men, and will be distributed throughout the mountain region.

The subject is a very important one. Betterment of existence on the farm is necessary. It is in line with the general movement of men away from the consuming to the productive side of life. It is helpful to the general cause of increasing the area of productive land. And, because of these reasons, the report of the commission should have been printed by congress, and freely distributed to every citizen of the republic who could have been induced to confess an interest in it.

Utah commends the action of the men at Spokane, and hopes to walk side-by-side with the states of the west in achieving the needed reform.

BUT IT MIGHT BE WORSE.

Robinson Crusoe, you will remember, gathered encouragement from the fact that he was just as miserable and unfortunate as was possible; and that since this world is a world of mutations, he was bound presently to be happier.

Salt Lake's police are not so inefficient, at least, as those of San Francisco. In that devoted coast town a robber gentleman cleaned up a drug store on the evening of November twenty-seven. Last Saturday night he walked into the very same store and robbed it again.

He had consumed most of the intervening time killing the manager of a bath establishment, and emptying a number of cash registers along Market street, and didn't go home enough to give the police a chance to catch him. Also, he very inconsiderately neglected from day to day to tell the police what his hourly schedule was going to be.

Well, our police are not that bad, any way. In the light of what is doing in San Francisco, things might be worse.

Of course, they are bad enough, and we are going to hope that they will be better—even without that argument which Robinson Crusoe used. If the force here were as bad as possible, there would be a certainty of improvement, since this is a world of changes. But we look for better work on the part of the department, even before it sinks to the efficiency level of San Francisco.

WE DON'T BELIEVE IT.

One Mr. M. Hayes, described as "assistant secretary of agriculture," publishes the statement that he and some friends are going to establish a new magazine devoted to the better breeding of animals and plants. Which is a thing to be commended. And then the Hayes man is quoted as having said:

We have at least induced the public to believe the statement that a billion dollars can be added to our plant and animal products by scientific breeding. Another billion can be added by bringing more acres under cutivation and adding fertilizers.

The scientific fact, however, is that the billion added by breeding will be almost all profit, while the increase from more and better farming will cost nine hundred million of dollars.

The latter part of which we don't believe at all. If there were no more than one hundred million dollars' profit in any billion dollars invested in farming, then there wouldn't be any farms. And if the money invested in livestock interests were all profit, Mr. Harriman and Mr. Morgan and Mr. Ryan would have been found in that instead of railroads and insurance companies.

The interesting thing about farming is that money intelligently invested remains. It is added to the initial capital. Every dollar of improvement adds more than a dollar to the total. And every dollar employed in tilling and developing land grows with the growth of the grain.

Stock raising needs betterment, and it will pay for the labor and money invested in it. But it is a mistake for any man to decry the promising possibilities of agriculture.

MAKE THEM PAY IT BACK.

Attorney General Wickersham declares he will attempt to collect from the sugar trust every dollar that trust is proved to have fraudulently escaped paying at the custom house. And to that resolution the entire nation will say: "Amen!"

It seems perfectly certain the employes of the trust and the employes of the government can be convicted. The mass of evidence that has been secured against them is so convincing that there is little doubt many criminals will have to go to prison.

That fact can not be established without the basic conclusion that the trust has escaped payment of money due the government. And since the trust is solvent, the collection of that withheld cash should be by no means a difficult problem.

A CHRISTMAS VAMPIRE.

A fool there was, and he made a gift,
(Even as you or I.)
He bought it with taste and care and thrift
(For a lady his friends thought rather swift)
And when he gave it the lady sniffed.
(Even as you or I.)

Oh, the judgment and taste and time we waste
On the gifts at Chrismastide;
Which we give to the lady who isn't pleased
(And now we know she could never be pleased
And never satisfied.)

A fool there was, and he gave his cheque
(Even as you or I.)
For a necklace of pearls without a fleck)
And she never thanked him a single speck!
(Even as you or I.)

Oh, the chink we lose and the think we lose,
On the things we buy with pride,
To give to the lady who never is pleased,
(And now we know she can never be pleased
And never be satisfied).

The fool was fleeced to his last red cent,
(Even as you or I.)
She threw him aside, when his gold was spent,
(And nobody cared where the lady went),
And the fool gave way to loud lament,
(Even as you or I.)

And it wasn't the loss, and it wasn't the dross,
The reason that same fool cried:
It was coming to know that she never was pleased
(Seeing as last she could never be pleased
And never be satisfied.)
—Carolyn Wells, in December Smart Set.

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