

The San Francisco Call

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THE FINANCIAL PROBLEM.

WHILE the country is humming with sounds of prosperity and most of the people are talking of even better days to come, there are heard here and there voices of warning.

The men who utter them are not pessimists or calamity howlers, but conservative business men, who have seen many a boom collapse and have weathered many a financial storm. They speak with a wisdom gathered from a large experience when they urge upon the American people the importance of straightening out our financial system at once before the coming of the days of stringency that are inevitably approaching.

One of the latest of these warnings comes from Mr. Vanderlip of the National City Bank in New York. He says a danger menaces this country from "the movement to aggregate industrial establishments into single great corporate units and to convert the evidence of ownership into corporate securities which have entered actively into the stream of financial operations." That is one of the evils of trusts to which but little attention has been given by any expert financiers. Mr. Vanderlip asserts that to keep up the prices of these vast quantities of new stocks that have been put upon the market it has been already found necessary to make large borrowings.

He then goes on to say: "Is it not well to ask, What of the future? If a hundred-million-dollar importation of gold can serve as a basis for an expansion of so many millions of deposits and loans, what will an exportation of one hundred millions mean? Will not the answer lead us to ponder on the probable effect of future gold movements? Does our foreign commerce give promise of a trade balance great enough again to induce gold to flow in this direction?"

At the present time our financial system is such that any sudden pressure upon New York can be met only by relief granted through the United States Treasury. Up to this time that relief has been ample and sanguine optimists doubtless sincerely believe it will always be so. Those who are in a position to know, are, however, more than doubtful on the subject, and some of them do not hesitate to assert positively that should such an emergency come as Mr. Vanderlip forecasts, the Treasury would not be able to save Wall street from a stringency that would affect industry all over the country.

A summary of the annual report of Treasurer Roberts is by no means encouraging when the figures are considered in the light of past experience and present needs. The report shows that the available cash balance in the Treasury was at its highest July 1, 1902, and has steadily decreased ever since. At that time it amounted to \$362,187,361. By October 1 it had declined to \$221,253,394, and, owing to the large measures for the relief of the money market, it was reduced by November 1 to \$206,421,870. Of this sum \$146,885,012 was in national banks.

It will be noted that all of the available cash balance on the beginning of this month was in the hands of the banks with the exception of about \$60,000,000. An Eastern authority says that the sum "is regarded as little if any more than a fair working balance. On a pinch this balance might be reduced with safety to \$30,000,000 or \$40,000,000, but no Secretary of the department likes to see it fall much below \$50,000,000. If the department were now on returns to the market through deposits in the banks all current surplus revenue collections, it cannot be fairly asked to do more."

It thus appears that the Government has about reached the limit of aid it can be reasonably expected to give to Wall street, and such being the case it is certainly high time for Congress to set about the task of providing the country with a rational and safe banking and currency system. It would be foolish to wait for the storm to strike us before we prepare for it. Currency reform will be the chief duty resting upon Congress at the coming session.

Count Boni de Castellane has been thrown out of the French Chamber of Deputies. If the French people have patience to control themselves and to abandon Count Boni to his manifest destiny they will have the pleasure of seeing him roll in the mud.

Hawaii is having all sorts of trouble because of the dishonesty of her public officials. Our new territorial neighbor will soon reach that stage in civilization where she will look upon this as one of the amenities of American political life.

Austria is making strenuous endeavors to prevent the emigration of her people to the United States. If it will be any encouragement, let her know that we share heartily in approval of her efforts.

THE PHILIPPINE FAMINE.

THE famine conditions in the Philippines were to have been expected, and should call upon the American people for as prompt relief as can be extended. Reading the reports of military operations, there is sufficient to convince any one that production and war could not flourish together. Official reports show that one-sixth of the able-bodied natives were destroyed by war. Add to this the 100,000 that have died of cholera and there is a net destruction of over 600,000 human beings.

The archipelago has been beset by a considerable portion of its able-bodied men, and those that are left are not inspired by the havoc that has been wrought among them. On the 26th of last December General Bell made an official report of his work and his further intentions. In that report he said: "I take so large a command for the purpose of thoroughly searching each ravine, valley and mountain peak for insurgents and for food, expecting to destroy everything I find outside of towns. All able-bodied men will be killed or captured. Old men, women and children will be sent to towns. This movement begins January 1, by which time I hope to have all food supply in the towns. Everything will then be thoroughly searched and devastated. Swinging back to the right the same treatment will be given."

The towns were turned into reconcentrado camps. A regular army officer, describing one of these, says: "Now this spot of black sogginess is a reconcentrado pen, with a dead line outside, beyond which every living thing is shot. The corpse-like stench is wafted in and, combined with some lovely municipal odors besides, makes it decidedly unpleasant here. Upon arrival I found thirty cases of smallpox and average fresh ones of five a day, which practically have to be turned out to die. At nightfall clouds of huge vampire bats softly swirl out on their orgies over the dead. It seems away out of the world, without a sight of the sea—in fact, more like a suburb of hell."

Of course, it goes without saying that such widespread military devastation of the country, such destruction of rice, involving even the seed for a new crop if the men were alive to plant it, and such destruction of the productive power of the people, must cause a general food famine, such as is now following the cholera.

Statistics of the reconcentration camps and of the mortality in them appear not to have been kept. The only report we have seen is by Colonel Wagner, made last May, in which he says 11,000 people were confined in a space a half mile long by a third of a mile wide, and 8600 in a space a third of a mile square, and that measles and pneumonia prevailed among the children.

The Army and Navy Journal reports another camp in a walled churchyard, with nipa shacks for shelter, in which the people "squat all day about the walls, only varying these attitudes for eating and sleeping. A large part of them had a pinched and hungry look, and some thirty or forty are suffering from all stages of beriberi, and a number have malaria and dysentery, and there are not sufficient medical supplies. When they are taken sick they are liable to die, as far as their health may depend upon proper medical attendance. All of the prisoners had a more or less cowed appearance, and seemed ready to dodge upon the approach of an American."

In the coming of famine only the expected has happened. Our military reduction of the country has not so complete that not only is production destroyed, but the small stock of tropical energy which is in the people has been stamped out by the hard fortunes of war.

It is evident that outside of Manila the cholera has raged unchecked and has ceased mainly for lack of material to feed upon.

It is probable that no land in modern times has been as completely dismantled of its energies and the means of life as the Philippines. American philanthropy may well feel charged with the responsibility of doing its utmost to repair the ruin that has been made, by feeding and sheltering the people. The roofs that sheltered millions have been burned and the dolers of their condition are multiplied by the rainy season, in which families whose male members have been slain by the sword or pestilence are exposed to the pitiless storms. We sent special commissioners to India to report on the famine in a British colony, and followed them with shipments of food. Charitable organizations should get true reports of the war and famine smitten people of the Philippines, to stir our people to an effort commensurate with the emergency.

A New York anarchist has won fame by punching the nose of another anarchist who abused the United States, but all the same the law stepped in and fined him for doing it.

A JUVENILE COURT.

LAST year The Call commented upon the institution, in many Eastern cities, of a special court to take jurisdiction of juvenile offenders. The pity of it is that such a court should be necessary, and that it should stand as a sign of increasing incorrigibility among the young. The cause of this is a profound infirmity at the very spring of national life. On one hand we have the problem of child labor, and on the other of juvenile subordination to discipline that is increased by idleness. Just where the line is to be drawn no one is wise enough to say.

As our population has ebbed from the country and a larger percentage appears every year in cities, the percentage of juvenile incorrigibility has increased. On the farm there is always light and proper occupation for the young as soon as they are able to discharge easy duties. They are in contact with nature and are kept out of the ways of vice. Their attendance upon school is more easily procured and they are more constantly under home admonition than when upon the streets of a great city. But in the cities the situation is discouraging. When the trespasses of children are treated as if committed at a responsible age, and therefore criminal, the moral destruction of youth is appalling. Therefore the juvenile court has been devised. Under the old system of treating them as criminals it is known that fifty per cent were lost, that proportion of them becoming permanently criminal.

Under the new system only fifteen per cent are lost and eighty-five per cent are saved to good citizenship. The Judge of the juvenile court is less a judge than a father to those brought before him. He should be a man peculiarly fitted for his duty, and with a keen knowledge of the nature of children. The court is given jurisdiction of two classes, the "delinquent" and "dependent." A delinquent is a child under sixteen who violates any law or ordinance. A dependent is a child who solicits alms, is without a home, or in whose home there is parental depravity.

A bill to establish such courts in this State, in cities having over 100,000 population, has been prepared by Judge Sloss, for the civic department of the California Club, and its passage will be urged upon the Legislature at its next session. It provides that one of the

Superior Judges shall be assigned to the juvenile court by the presiding Judge. All juvenile cases shall be kept out of the Police Court, and be taken to this special Judge, and his court shall have protective power over them, to put them in the keeping of proper individuals or organizations, and his care shall follow them into such assignment to procure their proper treatment and training, and fit them for honorable self-support and good citizenship.

The purpose of the bill and the kind of administration it proposes to establish are stated in its last section, which says: "This act shall be liberally construed, that its true purpose may be fulfilled, to wit: That the care and discipline of these children may approach as nearly as possible to that given by good parents; and that, whenever possible, the child shall be placed in an approved family home, where it may become a real member, by adoption or otherwise."

The bill should pass and every effort be made to administer it in its intended spirit. It will greatly relieve the pressure on the State reform schools, which are overcrowded with juvenile offenders, and, unfortunately, are too much included in the spoils of politics.

When our local band of counterfeiters started out to make a little "easy" money they evidently forgot that there is an antipodal difference between fact and fiction and that it is at least more sanitary to be out of jail than in.

PROFITS OF FORESTRY.

FROM various European states where comprehensive forestry is practiced The Call has from time to time cited official reports of profitable results. The story has been virtually the same whether drawn from the experience of half-frozen Norway or of sunny France. In every instance careful forest preservation has resulted not only in protecting the woods and conserving the slender mountain streams that form the rivers, but in yielding a good commercial profit as well. Let it be supposed that such results are possible only in compact and highly developed countries like those of Europe, we now direct attention to results obtained in India, where forestry is carried on upon a vast scale and where the problem of conservation is more difficult than it would be anywhere in the United States.

In his work on "The Indian Empire," published in 1882, Dr. W. W. Hunter says: "Up to twenty years ago the destruction of forests by timber cutters, by charcoal burners and above all by nomadic cultivation, was allowed to go on everywhere unchecked. The extension of tillage was considered the chief care of the Government, and no regard was paid to the improvident waste of the woods and jungle on all sides; but as the pressure of population on the soil became greater and the construction of railways increased the demand for fuel the question of forest preservation forced itself into notice. It was recognized that the inheritance of future generations was being recklessly sacrificed. The importance of forests as affecting the general meteorology of a country was also being taught by bitter experience in Europe. On many grounds, therefore, it became necessary to preserve what remained of the forests of India and to repair the mischief of previous neglect, even at considerable expense."

With but little change that passage would apply to California about as well as to India. In this new country as in that old one the waste of the woods has been going swiftly on. The experience of Europe has a lesson for us as well as for them. Let us note how they have dealt with it.

Dr. Hunter tells us that as soon as the need of protection was recognized the Indian Government set at once about providing it. Something more than 6,000,000 acres of existing forest were reserved from settlement and additions were made to the area year by year, so that by 1882 the reservations amounted to more than 12,000,000 acres. Competent experts in forestry were brought from Europe and schools for instruction in forestry were established.

Of the results we are told: "In 1872 the total forest revenue was £477,000, as compared with an expenditure of £295,000, thus showing a surplus of £182,000. By 1878 the revenue had increased to £664,102. The forest exports of that year included teak, valued at £406,652; lac and lac dye, £362,008; caoutchouc, £80,381, and gums £183,685." Dr. Hunter adds: "These figures fail to exhibit the true workings of the Forest Department, which is gradually winning back for India the fee simple of her forest wealth when it was on the point of being squandered beyond the possibility of redemption."

Such is the teaching of India. It is for California to heed the lesson and profit by it. We are now squandering a richer forest inheritance than India ever had, and unless we put a stop to the waste we shall ere long find ourselves obliged to repair it at an enormous cost.

The newly elected member of the local Board of Public Works is making something of a stir by his discovery that the city is being systematically robbed by scheming contractors. He may take what satisfaction there may be in the thought that he is no better informed than the rest of us.

An apostle of the Mormon church is planning to win a seat in the United States Senate as a representative of Utah. Is it possible that he belongs to that very numerous class which, in policy and politics, achieves distinction by persisting longer than the rest of us in stupidity?

It is announced that a little army of Nome malefactors is beating our way in search for a field for plunder. Under these circumstances it would seem to be an act of gross injustice not to give our local police a word of warning to look after themselves.

Late cablegrams indicate that the doughty troops of Venezuela have captured an insurgent general. We are still trembling in anticipation to know if the unfortunate man had any following other than that imagined in the press dispatches.

Some of our citizens are expressing an opinion, through an official channel, that a new county hospital is not an emergency. Perhaps they have confounded our public hospital with the municipal pound.

General Miles has reached the conclusion that the forts of San Francisco are not what they ought to be. Perhaps the general might find it convenient to take a day off and suggest what our defenses may be made.

General Corbin has discovered "an immeasurable gulf between practice and theory in war." The general has evidently been paying some attention to British army reports from South Africa.

PARDEE WILL HAVE DISPOSAL OFFICES OF MANY SALARIED OFFICERS.

GOVERNOR-ELECT GEORGE C. PARDEE will enter upon his duties as chief executive of this State on Monday, January 5, 1903. On that day the Legislature will convene and the Senate may organize immediately. The incoming Governor will have many important appointments to make.

The Legislature at its last session amended the act relating to appointive power of the Governor. The act as amended reads:

Section 1. Section one thousand of the Political Code is hereby amended to read as follows: "1000. Whenever an office, the appointment to which is vested in the Governor and Senate, or in the Legislature, either becomes vacant or the term of the incumbent of which expires during the recess of the Legislature, the Governor has power to appoint a person to such office, but the person so appointed can only hold the office until the adjournment of the next session of the Legislature."

The foregoing act was approved March 13, 1901. Appointments to the Board of State Harbor Commissioners must be confirmed by the Senate. If the names of John C. Kirkpatrick and John D. Mackenzie, appointed by Governor Gage, should not be sent to the Senate for confirmation, or, being sent in, the Senate should decline to confirm, their terms would expire on the adjournment of the Legislature, and Governor Pardee would have power to fill the vacancies.

The law does not require confirmation of Bank Commissioners. The terms of A. W. Barrett and Bernard D. Murphy will expire next month. It is common political gossip that Governor Gage will appoint Daniel Keane and Guy Barham as successors of Barrett and Murphy.

The following official list of appointive State officers shows the date of appointment and the expiration of term of every commissioner, director and examiner:

Table listing various State officers, their names, terms, and expiration dates. Includes Bank Commissioners, State Board of Agriculture, State Board of Horticulture, State Board of Pharmacy, State Harbor Commissioners, State Prison Directors, and various other commissions and boards.

PERSONAL MENTION.

returned last evening and is at the Palace. L. McIntosh, a prominent resident of Chico, registered at the Grand yesterday. Paul Dunphy left last evening for Spokane to accept a responsible position with a mercantile house. Captain J. E. Hansen of the Alaska Commercial Company is down from the frozen north and is at the Occidental. Mayor Hinchliffe of Paterson, N. J., is at the Palace. During his stay in the city he will be entertained by Judge W. F. Lawlor. Passenger Traffic Manager E. O. McCormick and Freight Traffic Manager William Sproule of the Southern Pacific left last evening for Los Angeles. They expect to be away for several days.

A CHANCE TO SMILE.

When the undertaker is sent for he generally comes to grief—Philadelphia Record. As James Russell Lowell said, "There's a deal of solid kicking in the meekest looking mule."—Youth's Companion. Prunes stuffed with apricots. Townsend's Townsend's California glace fruit and candies, 50c a pound, in artistic free-etched boxes, nice present for Eastern friends. Press Clipping Bureau (Allen's), 220 California street. Telephone Main 1942. Special information supplied daily by business houses and public men by the Press Clipping Bureau (Allen's), 220 California street. Telephone Main 1942.