

THE SAN FRANCISCO CALL

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ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
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PRACTICAL EDUCATION.

THE addresses and discussions during the recent meeting of the State Teachers' Association have covered the whole field of education, but have left its great problem unsolved. Industry is a habit of body and mind. Without that habit, education is of no value.

When a youth becomes a man at twenty-one he should be equipped for self-support, whether that be an immediate necessity or not. The question is, if his total nonage has been spent in school, is he so equipped. The answer is that he is not.

The school curriculum needs to be unloaded of matter that merely seems to occupy the time, and should be devoted to sound acquisition of the fundamentals of an education.

It is observed that in cities, where first-class trade or polytechnic schools are part of the public school system, with attendance optional and counting as part of the regular grades, nearly all pupils of both sexes known in the regular grades as careless, inattentive and indisposed to keep up with their classes.

A deeper insight into its cause suggests the better remedy of the polytechnic school, with its complete equipment for learning all of the leading trades and handicrafts, and the domestic, household arts.

Mr. John Swett, who modestly describes himself as a horticulturist when among school teachers, and a school teacher when among horticulturists, in his address to the State Teachers' Association on the teaching of agriculture in the schools, advised the optional course, by projecting nature study toward agriculture as an art.

Mr. Swett, who has supplemented a long and successful career as a school teacher by an equally successful career as a horticulturist, gave some good advice to farmers, that they give their boys colts to raise, or cattle, and their girls an interest in the poultry yard.

We are persuaded that if due attention be given to industrial education, the moral results will be more satisfactory than now. The nature that is in each child will have its diverse longings satisfied, and the country will get the full results that it has the right to expect from the education of its people.

Finally, The Call has to suggest that the valuable work of the school garden may be encouraged by the Agricultural Department, by the annual distribution of seeds to the schools, instead of wasting seed by the method now followed.

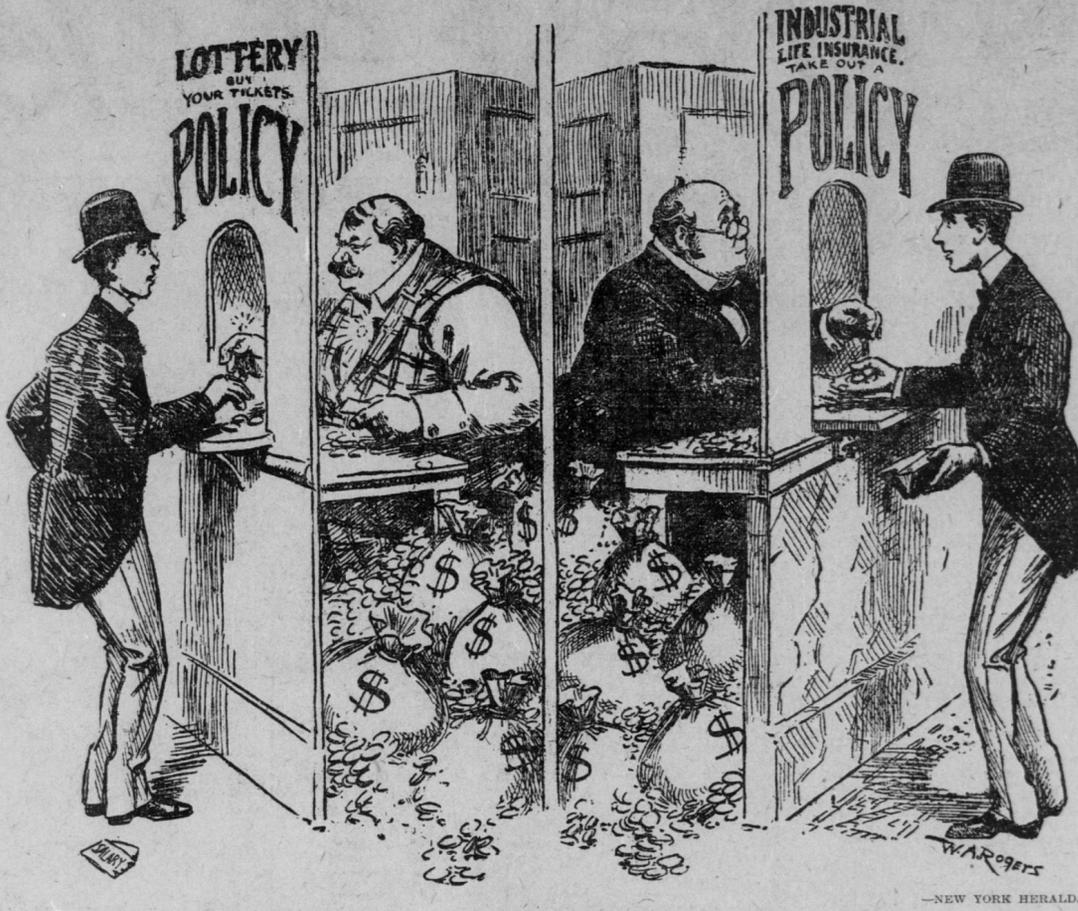
EXTENT OF NATIONAL IRRIGATION.

SECRETARY of the Interior Hitchcock's report shows a rapid progress of Government reclamation of arid lands. The extent of the plans which are now approved is so great that the figures will astonish many people. Already projects are sanctioned which when completed will reclaim 1,303,600 acres and the great sum of \$7,000,000 will be spent upon the irrigation works needed for this purpose.

Although Texas was not included in the terms of the original act, even she is now assured of being benefited by the Government's general plan. An act of last February gave her some aid, and now it is expected that she will get more, as President Roosevelt has advised it. Recently Secretary Hitchcock has approved the Rio Grande reclamation plan for Texas and New Mexico.

The work is so far forward that seventy-seven miles of main canals have been constructed, while distributing canals and ditches to the length of 240 miles and three and a half miles of tunnels are done. Though the first work is confined chiefly to where there is extreme aridity of climate, there will be a dozen or more States which will be largely helped by this assistance of the General Government.

SAME NAME--SAME GAME



ROOSEVELT IN THE RING

IT was a bout to decide the light-weight championship of Harvard. The heavy-weight and middle-weight championships had been awarded. The contest for the men under 140 pounds was on. Roosevelt, then a junior, had defeated seven men. A senior had as many victories to his credit. They were pitted against each other in the finals. The senior was quite a bit taller than Roosevelt, and his reach was longer. He also weighed more by six pounds, but Roosevelt was the quicker man on his feet, and knew more of the science of boxing.

awarded to the senior. In the third round the senior endeavored to pursue the same tactics, but with less success. The result of this round was a draw and an extra round had to be sparring. Here superior weight and longer reach began to tell, but Roosevelt boxed gamely to the end. Said his antagonist--now known by the pen name of "Niblick": "I can see him now as he came in fiercely to the attack. But I kept him off, taking no chances, and landing at long reach. I got the decision; but Roosevelt was far more scientific. Given good eyes he would have defeated me easily."

MODERN INSTANCES

SIR FRANCIS DRAKE was discovering the Pacific. "What a beautiful, calm place to float bonds!" he cried. Little realizing that Wall street would be invented afterward, he thought he had a good thing.

"I only wish," he cried, "that it was a whole bunch of automobiles!" Regretting that he could not wipe them all out the admiral climbed into the rigging and watched the battle. Elijah went up in his chariot of fire. "I guess something happened to the spark," he said as he flew by.

wealth it will almost be as if each returning daylight brings a record of progress that in our grandfathers' times took a decade to pile up.

NEW YORK'S MONEY MARKET.

THE recent flurry in New York, which sent call money up above 100 per cent, was not caused by any lack of money for legitimate daily business. The demand was caused by the necessities of speculation. It was a bull market for stocks, in anticipation of the January dividends, and margins had to be covered, even if the money cost above 100 per cent. Such a condition of the market has been almost always associated with a panic that became general.

Some papers have criticized the Secretary of the Treasury for not coming to the rescue by releasing treasury funds. Secretary Shaw is an experienced banker. He knows the difference between speculative distress and the stress of the regular business of the country, and so sees no necessity of opening the Federal Treasury to pay margins on stocks. Unless the matter spread, to the peril of the regular business of the country, the Secretary will let the speculators take care of themselves.

An interesting incident of the flurry was furnished by Russell Sage. He is in his 91st year, and had been for some time housed at home by illness. But when the market went kiting he could not resist the temptation to turn an honest penny. Leaving his bed he went to his downtown office and remained three hours, and during that time loaned \$30,000,000 at over 100 per cent. The history of finance furnishes no parallel to this. The old man, with every business faculty alert as ever, was not fatigued at all by the little job of lending on good collateral the trifle of \$30,000,000, but said that the experience did him good and he felt better. No doubt he materially relieved the street and at the same time helped himself.

Outside of New York the money market is in a normal condition and the business outlook is clear of clouds.

If there were no marriages until every intending benedict had a salary of at least \$1000 race suicide would be a regular cyclone.--Chicago Post.

The Pennsylvania Society of New York has celebrated the Benjamin Franklin anniversary a month in advance. There's nothing slow about Pennsylvania this year.--Boston Transcript.

LIFE'S A GALLOP!

BY A. J. WATERHOUSE.

LIFE'S a gallop! Cannot halt, E'en to rub your shins; If you do, why, you're at fault; Other fellow wins! Life's a gallop in a groove. See the shadows flit. Hey, you duffer! Get a move! Life's a gallop! Git!

Life's a gallop! What's the prize? Don't know that I've heard; But you bet the charger flies! "Hurry!" is the word. Got to hurry, or we'll lose Something fine, to wit-- Different men have different views-- Life's a gallop! Git!

MAKING MARRIED LIFE HAPPY

To the Editor of The Call.

Angela Morgan says in The Call under date of December 26 that a husband protests that she is not fair to the men in laying upon them the blame for lack of romance in married life.

I agree with the husband to a certain extent. I speak from experience and observation, but we must go farther back than married life. Most of the unhappiness in married life might be averted if the courtship is properly carried on. Mothers are responsible for nearly all of the tears and heartburnings of their daughters after marriage.

A sensible mother generally rears sensible daughters and will bring up her girls to work--that is, to understand thoroughly the ins and outs of housekeeping, and those duties must be performed and learned by actual experience. It is too common a custom of to-day for a mother to do the washing, ironing, cooking and every kind of household work that is absolutely necessary to make a happy home.

A man may admire his wife for her beauty, her accomplishments, her taste in dress and all that, but if she is not a good cook and housekeeper there will be dissatisfaction.

It is commonly said that one must reach a man's heart through his stomach. There is more truth than poetry in that assertion, but it is not because in that woman. But we will take, for instance, a clerk in the city or a farmer in the country, or any man that works for a living. He marries and settles down. His main object in life is to keep and those duties must be performed and learned by actual experience.

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FOREIGNERS IN THE LAND OF THE CZAR

IN RELATING an interview with a Russian official, in his article, "Russian Peasant Riots," in the January Everybody's, Ernest Poole says:

"The Chancellor smiled. 'Not long ago,' he replied, 'a gentleman came here with just such a letter. But meanwhile the Governor had received different orders from some one else in Petersburg. The gentleman did not see the peasants.' 'Let's get out of this,' I said, speaking low in English. 'Let's hire a sled and just begin looking as we did in those other villages. At least we can see something before we get expelled.' 'Unfortunately the Chancellor caught my meaning. 'If you try to see the peasants by yourselves,' he said, 'you will not only be watched by the police, but some at least of the peasants to whom you talk will be our guests. We have telephones to every village and in two hours at latest we shall know not only whom you have seen, but also what you yourselves have said. Meanwhile you will have been seized and thrown into a village jail, awaiting our orders.' He smiled grimly. 'Our village police are rough fellows. They would doubtless flog you both in jail before we could inform them who you were. Of course, we should be sorry for this and should reprimand them. But in the meantime you see you would have been flogged.'"

HOPE OF AMERICA.

An editorial in the January Century suggests that we are deteriorating in our demagogues, but points out grounds of hope for America's future:

It is to be feared that in the future the dangers from the demagogues in American politics is perhaps greater than ever. It sometimes looks as if we were deteriorating in the character of our demagogues, as if some even of our decent citizens were willing to advance the fortunes of politicians of more disreputable record, of more vindictiveness in their methods, of more loathsomeness and hypocrisy and of more evil influences, than have hitherto been able to make good men their dupes. In every community there is crying need of men, young and old, who will take a hand in civic concerns, not for the graft that is in them, not merely for the glory that is in them, but in a pure and patriotic spirit and with the love of and the reward of legitimate fame. Our institutions are making such men; two bright examples are now living and greatly honored among us--institutions to all. One of these men has been the President of our country, and one is now its President. The country that has found and used and honored such men is capable of producing more of the same fiber, and, in fact, is doing so before our eyes. In this is the hope of America.

LONGEVITY AND LIQUOR.

It has come to be generally recognized as a fact that the alcohol habit is one of the main factors in determining length of life. Figures furnished by insurance companies in England show that the average life of the total abstainer is nine years longer than that of the drinker, and one of our own concerns in the same line of business, the Equitable, has published a statement to the effect that the average rate among "moderate" consumers of liquor is 23 per cent higher than among teetotalers. Some of the companies on both sides of the water, indeed, put abstainers in a separate class among their policy-holders, making them a special allowance of 5 per cent or more on premiums.--Pearson's Magazine.

HONEST ENGINEER.

"Texas is one of the most moral States in the Union," said Ople Read, the lecturer. "Now don't laugh. An old Kansas man now living there told me so. No swearing there at all. Why, the only swearing I heard there was myself talking about railroad trains, and that wasn't real cussing--just justifiable criticism. Great train service they have in Texas! Cotton belt train came in on time in a little town on the line, and the Commercial Club was so pleased it raised a purse for the engineer. Honest man, honest, though, and he said, 'I can't take this money, friends; this is yesterday's train.'--Kansas City Journal.

JUST A COMMON LITTLE BOY.

Just a common little boy! Like to other boys, maybe; Comes and cuddles in the sleep hour, In my lap.

Yet I own, with arms around him, All the wealth of mother-joys; Like to mothers of all common little boys,-- Tom Watson's Magazine.

PICKINGS FROM PUCK.

The Ardent Elephant--Your beauty is skin deep, darling. Miss Hippo--Oh, you wicked fatterer!

A dead town, in the American sense, is a town where the streets are not all the time being torn up.

We read that civilization is killing art in Japan, but we don't believe a word of it. We know art. She is one of those sneaky females who will yell "Murder!" if a dish fails.

Madge--Why do you think she has passed the age of 30? Millicent--Because she invariably says "us girls."

We'd think a good deal better of some people if they didn't think so well of themselves as to make it unnecessary.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES.

POKER--H. V. W., City. In the game of poker, a straight always beats triplets or three of a kind.

EL PASO--A. O. S., City. This department has no information as to whether "Ben Thompson was Marshal of Texas." Suggest that you send a letter of inquiry to the office of the Governor of the Territory of Arizona.

CLAIM--O. S., City. If you have a claim against the Government of Columbia, South America, and are a citizen of Denmark, you would better lay the matter before the Consul of Denmark, who will give you advice as to the proper course to follow.

FIVE HUNDRED--M. W. H., Berkeley, Cal. In the game of five hundred if a player has no trump card but has the joker he is not required to play the joker if he cannot follow suit. If a card is led and the player has trump cards he cannot play the joker.

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ONE TOO MANY.

"You've been up against too many bars to-day, my man," said the kind-hearted Judge to the man charged with liquor.

"Yes, your Honor," was the reply, "but you must remember I didn't come to this one of my own free will."--Yonkers Statesman.

AS TO FAIRIES.

I wonder if the fairies sit on loadstools when they rest, and if, when they would sleep a bit, they like a mushroom best?--St. Nicholas.