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SOIL CONSERVATION.

Secretary of Agriculture Wilson, in an address in New York yesterday, declared that proper conservation of the soil is the remedy for the cost of living problem. "We cannot afford to buy food of foreign countries," said the secretary, "and we must see to it that our western farms produce enough, not only for home consumption, but also to sell abroad and square up the balance of trade."

Secretary Wilson continues:

"The cost of living calls for careful inquiry into the causes that have operated to bring about conditions that are new to us as a people. We have had great abundance of food at prices that were lower than most other countries with which we compete in commerce and manufacturing. Compensation for skill and labor has been comparatively high in our country; but increased cost of living has become a disturbing factor that cannot be adjusted at present to the satisfaction of those concerned.

"The major part of our people in the east are being fed from the Mississippi valley, and the states of the south draw much from the same source. I am well satisfied that the soils of that valley are being subjected gradually to the same unwise treatment that so seriously reduced the soils east of the Alleghenies and south of the Ohio.

"The necessity for education of the farmer is impressed upon our people and steps are being taken in all our states and territories to this end.

"Sciences are being applied and research made into causes and results. Education is being extended into primary schools in many of our states. Federal and state governments are spending money freely for this purpose and students are multiplying. The results of research are being printed and a literature of the farm is growing.

"The states east of the Alleghenies are foremost in commerce, manufacturing, arts and sciences, wealth and influence. They have overlooked agriculture, permitting their soils to deteriorate and reaching out to the west for food products. The soil robber began his baleful practice there, and has gone westward until the light rainfall regions refused to yield profitably. The deteriorations of eastern soils would have been prevented long ago had there been no cheap rich soil in the Mississippi valley or had demand been closed up to supply.

"Western lands are dearer and have gone beyond the reach of poor people. The lands of the East and South are reduced in productive power, but they are cheap, they are convenient to good markets, they can be improved and they will be, but the methods by which a farm is improved are quite different from that by which it was reduced. Ignorance permitted the soil to become unproductive, the highest intelligence is required to bring back fertility.

"Importance of food will bring about a change in our economies, a revolution in our policies, which may be avoided by better farming and a comprehensive view of the situation by those who deal in big things, whether carrying, commerce manufacturing or finance.

"Our people are not grouped to advantage. Too many grew crops during the last half of the nineteenth century. Farming was a poor business during that period, and did not invite people. The abundance of meats and grains and low prices for them gave little encouragement to the young farmer to devote his life to agriculture. The farm went to the renter and poverty, because the renter rarely had the capital to maintain conditions that would keep up fertility. He had a short lease and no inducement to improve.

"Whoever rents land to be handled this way abandons his farm there and then. It becomes poorer every year until it ceases to yield profitably.

"Every state," the secretary added, "should organize to conserve the fertility of its soil."

The Sioux City Journal notes the disposition shown of late to pile obstacles in the path of the Republican president and the Reunblican congressional leaders and is moved to remark that a party cannot get along without an organization framed on the principle of concentrated responsibility, otherwise all the great men who conduct our politics and war and business are wrong in their management of affairs. The parallel between politics and war, says the Journal, is close. What, it asks, would be thought of a people who tried to conduct a successful war on the theory that present principles of military organization must be abandoned, and the campaign turned over to the various units free of direction from a central headquarters? The Journal says there is an analogy between politics and business, too, and asks what would be thought of a great department store or railway corporation conducted on the principle of independent responsibility in every department?

BRYAN'S CUSTOMARY MOOD.

Under the caption, "Will Mr. Bryan Never Wake Up?" the Chicago Inter-Ocean takes the former Democratic leader to task for receiving the news of Governor Hughes' appointment to the supreme bench in his "customary mood of resolute dissent." Bryan's statement that Governor Hughes is a friend of "corporations" is declared a flat misstatement of fact, but it is not Bryan's views, but the continual twaddle about "corporations" that the Inter-Ocean takes objections to. It says:

Will Mr. Bryan never wake up to the fact that we are living in 1910 and not in 1706? Times have changed in a century or two. The business of the country is done by corporations. If the corporations were all wiped out next Sunday there would be no business done on Monday. Corporations are today an industrial necessity. Any man who ever had a second thought knows this.

Every state in the union is full of corporations. They are not New York and New Jersey products exclusively. Even so virtuous a state as Nebraska and so model a town as Lincoln have their corporations. Iowa has them; so has Wisconsin; likewise Kansas; likewise all the rest.

The United States steel concern is a corporation. Standard Oil is a corporation. But so is So-and-So's hardware store, or steam laundry, or dry goods emporium, or grain elevator, or almost anything else you might name. Corporation is a broad term. It covers the whole range of modern enterprise.

Then what is the sense in this continued denunciation of corporations in general? A corporation is not bad because it is a corporation. It is bad, if bad at all, because it violates some law. The most extreme fanatic would not say that all individuals ought to be denounced because Mr. Morgan is an individual and Mr. Rockefeller is another. It is only when he comes to corporations that discrimination ceases and fury abounds.

Let's get down to clear thinking on this subject. Let us rid our minds of all the tommyrot that is hee-hawed at us from so many sides and see things as they are! If we can't, or if we don't, we might as well give up the idea of accomplishing anything.

A corporation that violates the law has no better friend than these universal slaverers at corporations. They confound the innocent with the guilty. The result is they help the latter and hurt the former. They create an atmosphere full of general hatreds, universal suspicions and chaotic thoughts and impulses. But they don't get anywhere. They don't punish anybody. They simply rattle like stones in a can and confuse everybody.

The way to treat corporations is to treat them on their merits and not on their mere name, which means nothing. A law-abiding corporation should be free from general slanders. A law-violating one should be prosecuted and punished for its offenses. The crime is in the offense and not in the fact of being a corporation.

It seems silly, the Inter-Ocean adds, to state these self-evident truths but how can an intelligent man help doing so occasionally when such bleatings and blitherings as Mr. Bryan's come in with every blast that blows?

There are few of the Iowa county seats that are not conducting some kind of a good roads campaign. The latest move of this kind to come to notice is the plan of the Seymour Commercial association of offering $150 in prizes for the building and maintenance of good roads in that vicinity. The campaign opens May 1 and ends August 1 and competent judges will inspect the roads at the beginning and completion of the work to note the improvement made. The prizes for building and maintaining the next one mile of road within a radius of six miles of Seymour will be divided as follows: First prize, $50; second prize, $35; third prize, $25; fourth prize, $20; fifth prize; $15, and sixth prize, $5. This plan has been tried in other counties with great success and there is no reason why the roads in this vicinity should not be greatly improved.

The Commercial association reiterates its call to the people for co-operation in the census taking. Circulars have been sent out asking all persons who have not been seen by the enumerators to telephone their names to the census supervisor or the Commercial association rooms, and a similar request is made to all those who know of instances where parties have not been seen by the enumerators. The census work will be over in a few days. It is not much to ask that the fullest co-operation be given the census supervisor and the enumerators in the few days remaining before the work is finished. The results will justify any effort the individual citizen may be called to put forth.

Des Moines is to have a "clean-up" day Saturday. An extra force of street cleaners will be put on the job, every man equipped with something from a feather duster to a wagon sweeper. The secretaries of the Commercial club and Greater Des Moines committee, representing more than 1,000 business concerns, will urge their members in factories and stores to get busy with brooms. The street car company, the water company, and the electric light and gas companies have issued clean-pu orders. Owners of new buildings practically completed, will rid the streets of the debris accumulated during the months of construction. When Ottumwa takes up its clean-up work this spring it should go at it in this same comprehensive manner. The city will do its part, but the citizens must do theirs.

A Chicago newspaper paragrapher doesn't think much of the suggestion that Roosevelt should fill Senator Depew's shoes. The colonel, he says, couldn't get into them with a shoe horn.

A Chicago paper in giving its approval to the appointment of Governor Hughes, says that Hughes has shown other reformers "how it is possible to correct abuses without desolating the land. He has shown how to drive out the rats without burning the barn."

Placing a stick of dynamite under the house is not recommended as a means of punishing a former lover who picks another bride. It litters up the premises too much.

Of Historical Interest

(Under this caption the Courier will publish biographical sketches of men who have figured in making the history of this country.)

James Monroe, fifth president of the United States, was born in Westmoreland county, Virginia, April 28, 1758, and died in New York, July 4, 1831. He was descended from a Scotch cavalier family ,studied for a short time at the college of William and Mary, which he left on the outbreak of the Revolutionary war to enlist in the Continental army, and in 1776 became a lieutenant in a Virginia regiment. He served in the campaign on the Hudson, taking part in the battles of Harlem Heights and White Plains. Accompanying Washington in his retreat through New Jersey, he distinguished himself at the battle of Trenton, where he was wounded. As major on the staff of Lord Stirling (William Alexander) he served in the campaigns of 1777-8, winning credit in the battles of Brandywine, Germantown and Monmouth. Having lost his rank in the line by becoming a staff officer, and failing in an attempt to raise a regiment which was authorized by the legislature of Virginia, he withdrew from the military service, made the acquaintance of Jefferson, and with him studied law, the two forming a life long intimacy.

During the subsequent invasions of Virginia he took an active part in organizing the militia for defense. He served in the congress of the federation from 1783 until 1786. He was elected to the legislature of Virginia after retiring in 1786 and in 1788 was chosen a member of the state convention called to act upon the ratification of the federal constitution, which he joined with Patrick Henry and others in opposing. In 1790 Monroe was elected to the United States senate, where he served until 1794. Notwithstanding his attitude taken toward Washington's administration, he was appointed minister to France to succeed Gouverneur Morris.

After a season of retirement, Monroe, in 1799, was elected governor of Virginia and served three years. In 1803 President Jefferson sent him as special envoy to France to act with Robert J. Livingston, the resident minister, in completing negotiations which resulted in the Louisiana purchase.

During the next seven years he served in the capacity of minister to Spain and England, then he returned to America where he found himself involved in a controversy with Jefferson, which luckily was only temporary. In 1810 he was again elected to the Virginia legislature, and in the following year became for the second time governor, but soon after was appointed secretary of state by President Madison. In this office he continued until his election to the presidency, during part of the time acting also as secretary of war. He served with energy and success in both departments, especially during the military operations of 1814-15.

In 1816 Monroe was elected president as the candidate of the Republican (previously Democratic-Republican) party, receiving 183 votes in the electoral college against 34 for Rufus King, candidate of the federalists. An extended personal visit and inspection of the military posts and resources helped along the era of good feeling which his administration later became known by. He became very popular with the people, especially by the acquisition of Florida from Spain in 1819, a sequel of the Seminole war. While the eight years of his administration were not marked by stirring events, they showed important results in sea board defense, strengthening of the army and navy, development of the country's resources, internal improvements, protection of commerce, and increased efficiency of the public service. During this period five states were admitted to the union: Mississippi, 1817; Illinois, 1818, Alabama, 1819; Maine, 1820, and Missouri, 1821.

The slave question at this time brought about the Missouri compromise, one of the chief political incidents in Monroe's administration. But perhaps the most important result of Monroe's administration is that which followed its expression of sympathy for South American republics, the promulgation of the Monroe doctrine.

His second term having expired, he retired to private life in 1825, and returned to his residence in Loudon county, Virginia, where he was justice of the peace, and performed his last public service as a member of the Virginia constitutional convention in 1829, and over which he presided until ill health compelled his resignation. He removed to New York a short time before his death, after which his body was taken to Richmond, Va., for burial.

Ulysses Simpson Grant, an American general, and eighteenth president of the United States, was born April 27, 1822, in a small two room cabin situated at Point Pleasant, a village in southern Ohio, about forty miles above Cincinnati. He died July 23, 1885, at Mt. McGregor, New York. Grant was considered a remarkable rider and teamster at a very young age. He was procured an appointment to West Point Military academy by his very ambitious father, where he proved to be a very good scholar in mathematics and fair in all branches of the work. After his graduation he served the office of second lieutenant at the Jefferson barracks situated at St. Louis. He was ordered to the present town of Natchitoches, La., in 1844, where he remained until the Mexican war in 1845. During the three years that followed he was in the thick of the fighting, serving with his regiment in every battle except Buena Vista. During the war he was promoted several times for gallantry and held several positions as regimental quartermaster, but was always able to be at the front in command of his regiment when any fighting was to be done.

After becoming disheartened at barrack life he resigned his captaincy at Fort Humbolt, Calif., and in the year 1854 he was again in the city of St. Louis, near where he was given between 60 and 80 acres of land by his uncle, upon which he lived for nearly four years. Despairing of making a success in St. Louis he moved to Galena, Ill., where his father had a branch office of his tannery in Covington, Kentucky. At a meeting of the town people for the organization of a company, Grant was made president of the meeting, and later was offered the captaincy, but refused, saying that he had been an officer in the regular army and was now fit to command a regiment. After marching to Mattoon he was made colonel by the officers in charge and later at Mexico, Mo., was made brigadier general by President Lincoln.

In February, 1862, after the capture of Fort Henry by Grant, a rapid march on Fort Donelson was made and after some delay the fort was captured only through superb fighting. It was at this juncture of his fighting career that he received the name of "Unconditional Surrender Grant." Grant figured largely in the winning of the battles of Shiloh, Corinth and Vicksburg, after which he was made commander of all the armies west of the Mississippi river, whereupon he immediately marched to Chattanooga, where, after many brilliant attacks he succeeded in rescuing Rosecrans and saving the day, which opened the way for the march of Sherman through Georgia. In 1864, upon receiving, first, the honor of lieutenant general in February and later, in March, was given command of all troops of the north, he put himself in opposition to the army of the south in command of Gen. Robert E. Lee. In the series of battles that followed after the defeats of the south and the surrender of Lee at Appamattox, April 9, 1865, he returned to Washington where many honors were bestowed upon him by the government and the citizens.

Upon the assassination of Lincoln, he being the next person of highest fame in the country, became the candidate of the Republican party and was elected to the presidency in 1868. He was re-elected in 1872, and during his two administrations did a great deal toward the reconstruction of the union. He was defeated when he ran for the office the third time and removed to New York, where he entered a busines career. He was unsuccessful in this enterprise through the rascality of his partner, and in 1884 he was duped of all his money. Soon after this business failure he began to fail rapidly in health, but during which time he wrote a most complete biography of his life which is now considered a marvel. The people of the world knew his faults and his weaknesses and mistakes, but they were all swallowed up in the loud ringing of his triumphs in war, as a man of purity and of candor and modesty. Although opposed to the cause of the south at the time of his death, the north and the south alike, mourned the death of this great person, who was a man of action, and his deeds were of the kind which mark epochs in history.

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THE EVENING STORY

MISS PRUE'S COLLEGE ATHLETE.

BY LAWRENCE ALFRED CLAY.

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It was said of Miss Prue Bailey that she was good-looking if she was old-fashioned. In her case they defined old-fashioned to mean that she had never been in love nor given a young man a chance to fall in love with her. She had a certain dignity that frightened them. She had a way of questioning them that startled them. The moment a young man had arrived at her mother's doorstep twice she asked of him what his profession was to be; what use he was making of his time; how he was to render himself useful to his fellowmen and thereby his country. If he was a dawdler she had him running in ten minutes; if he had graduated for the law or medicine or the army and navy she criticized his delay in getting to work.

Miss Prue held that men were not made for puppets, and that it rested with each one whether he should be governor of a great state or a bump on a log. Yes; she was very old-fashioned about that. She had a brother Fred, who was in college. She was sure that he was wasting half his time. He was uncertain as to a profession, and she was morally certain that it must end in his using a shovel and pick in a ditch or turning out to be a confidence man.

What they differed on most, however, was college athletics. Fred made football, rowing, boxing and swimming his excuses for being short in his studies. She said they should be eliminated. She pointed to great generals, poets, statesmen, lawyers, engineers and others who were not athletic, and then she pointed to John L. Sullivan, who was. The argument always ended one way. Fred got mad and banged out of the room with:

"Oh, hang it all, a girl doesn't understand, you know! I wish you were not so old-fashioned. We've got to have athletics or—or—"

"Oh there'd be no one to saw wood!" she would call after him.

When Scott Danforth, Fred's chum at college, caught sight of Miss Prue's photo, she lacked six months of being twenty. It was six months later when he saw the original. He threw out many hints, but Fred fought shy. Danforth was an athlete. He ranked high as a swimmer, runner and boxer. He was a nice chap with a nice family behind him, but if he came down to Shore Acres to pass a fortnight, there was Prue. She would go for the chum before he had been in the house a day. He was not a very glib talker and she would get the best of him on all counts and hurt his feelings.

However, the day came when Fred appeared with his friend. The family liked Danforth at once; he liked them in return. Miss Prue ,to leave the others out, liked him because he was big and strong and looked exactly as she had always pictured the discoverer of the north pole. There was no sentiment about it. He could stride over the ice, eat fat and stand 50 degrees below zero. For two days he was let alone, and Fred was feeling a great relief. Mr. Danforth had been trying to hop, skip and jump in the back yard to keep his muscles limbered up, when he was called into the house and asked:

"Mr. Danforth, do you go in for athletics at college?"

"Oh, by all means," he replied before Brother Fred could catch his eye.

"Then you want to be the champion swimmer of the world?"

"Well, hardly, Miss Bailey."

"Do you hope to run faster or kick higher than any other American?"

"Well, you know—you know—"

"Mr. Danforth, we have some able jurists in this country," continued the girl as Brother Fred said something about going fishing.

"Y-e-s."

"Did they box their way to the bench? We have some rather famous admirals and generals. Did they kick their way to those honorable positions?"

"N-o."

"We have some of the greatest financiers in the world. Did they first win prizes as runners or high jumpers?"

"I—I think not."

"Fred says you think of the law as a profession, but that you wait two years in Europe first. Won't that be losing two years out of your profession? Will seeing Europe help you to plead you cases at the bar? Will the art of boxing give your clients more confidence in you?"

"Then—then you do not approve of college athletics?" Mr. Danforth managed to ask, as the beads of perspiration stood on his forehead.

"For boys who may be ill or who wish to straighten a crooked spine."

There would have been more of it had not Fred carried his chum bodily from the room. When they were in the open air the latter said:

"Say, old man, I reel like a fool! Why, that sister of yours twisted me all around her finger."

"Oh, Prue's just old-fashioned, and you mustn't pay attention. She speaks right out, but she means all right."

Mr. Danforth was at once numbered with the list who had been run off. Hhffi(RgeoMYntsayoutth cmfwypypoy He was so scared that for the next three days he lived mostly on the outside of the house. Fred's sister was charming, but he saw by her eye that she hadn't said all she wanted to.

On a certain morning Miss Prue was going to invite the guest to walk with her to a piece of woodland in search of early flowers, but he had vanished with Fred.

She, therefore, took the jaunt by herself. A fair-sized river ran through the woods, and a few rods below there was a dam. Miss Prue had gathered a bouquet and was seated on a log when a couple of tramps turned in from the road and came to a halt and demanded her purse. She rose and screamed. A third tramp appeared She screamed louder. Then she was roughly seized and borne toward the river, and after fighting for a minute she fainted away.

When the girl opened her eyes again her brother Fred was wiping her face with a wet handkerchief and calling her name. She sat up in a dazed way and looked around for the tramps. Three old hats and two ragged coats lay on the ground, but there were no tramps to be seen.

"Now, then, you listen to me," said Fred as he sat down and chaffed her hand. "Scott and I were across the river fishing. We heard you yell."

"And you rushed to my assistance?" she queried.

"I rushed? Not any. I stood there with my mouth open. It was Scott who rushed. Say, the water is as cold as ice, but he never stopped even to kick off his shoes. I rush? Yes, I rushed upstream for a boat!"

"But you attacked the tramps when you did land?"

"I attack the tramps? Why there weren't any here to attack. Scott had chawed them to ribbons. Why, he had them yelling for mercy in fifty seconds."

"But you laid me on this bed of moss?"

"I laid. I laid nothing! I couldn't lift half of you. It was Scott. After licking the tramps he threw them into the river to go over the dam. And when I got here I sent him to the house to change his clothes. Look at me! Hear me! College athletics saved you, and by the great horn spoon if you don't fall in love with Scott Danforth and be new-fashioned I won't own you for a sister."

It doesn't make any difference just how long it took Miss Prue to see things in another light. When Scott Danforth took that trip to Europe she went along as Mrs. Danforth.

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ELDON.

F. U. Norton has been informed that his daughter Mrs. Edith Fenwick of New York is the mother of a daughter.

Rev. W. S. Gardner formerly pastor of the M. E. church passed through Eldon Monday.

Miss Cooper of Ottumwa met with the Missionary society Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Georgia Healey. A very pleasant time was had.

G. C. Taylor of Rock Island was in the city Wednesday on business. He owns a big farm west of Eldon.

Gene Harlan who is in the hospital at Keokuk is not recovering as rapidly as hoped for.

Miss Laura Charton, formerly of Eldon and now of Salt Lake, Utah, has written that she likes her new home splendid and that Mrs. Mayme Nicholson formerly Miss Mayme Kingrey of Eldon also lives in that city.

Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Hilles are on their way home from a visit to California.

EDDYVILLE.

Roxie McMahan went to Ottumwa today where she has secured a position in Phillips' dry goods store.

Andy Lauris, of Dudley, was in town today in his new automobile which he recently purchased.

Lottie, the daughter of Mrs. Lester, was called to Eddyville last night from Orion, Ia., to be at her mother's bedside.

Mrs. Yates of Ottumwa, was transacting business in Eddyville today.

The friends of Miss Statia Burch held a surprise party for her in honor of her thirteenth birthday. The evening was spent in playing games and all report a pleasant evening. Those present: Dorothy Shields, Maude Myers, Elsie Watkins, Hazel Dial, Flossie Rice, Mary Embling and Bertha Tennison.

Harry Briggs of New Lisbon, Ohio, is visiting this week at the Thomas Ewing home. He will also visit his cousin, Ed Briggs east of town.

Word has been received in Eddyville that Belle Walker and Lenard Sashet were married in Minneapolis today and have gone to Dixon, N. D. to make their future home. Both parties are well known in this vicinity and have a host of friend to wish them well in their new location.

Clarence Swan, who has been visiting in Eddyville the past week returned to his home in Madrid today.

The Sunday school class of Mr. Hankins gave him a very pleasant surprise on his birthday Tuesday April 26th. The boys met at the parsonage and from there went to the Hankins home where they spent a most enjoyable evening. He received a number of presents as a token of the esteem in which he is held. Those present were Lyle and Grant Crossen, Lloyd Parker, Chas. Lemon, Johnnie Hols, Edward Clark, Mason Kussart, Howard McClain, Paul Thayer, Boyd and Paul Hankins.

Mrs. Chitwood is quite seriously ill this week. John Ward is also quite sick.

Mrs. Thos. Richie of Cedar was in Eddyville today on business.

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Card of Thanks.

We wish to express our thanks to the people of Batavia, Iowa, for the kindness shown during the death of Omer Siman ,who was killed by a hand car April 22. Also to those who took part in the funeral services and for the beautiful floral offerings.

H. A. Canell, interpreter.

Chillicothe Banker Suicides.

Chillicothe, Mo., April 28—S. R. Nelson, vice president of a bank here, and former president of the Missouri State Banker's association, committed suicide today by drinking carbolic acid. It is said his accounts are correct.