

BEMIDJI DAILY PIONEER

PUBLISHED EVERY AFTERNOON EXCEPT SUNDAY
THE BEMIDJI PIONEER PUBLISHING CO.G. E. CARSON, President
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Telephone 922

Entered at the postoffice at Bemidji, Minnesota, as second-class matter,
under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.No attention paid to anonymous contributions. Writer's name must
be known to the editor, but not necessarily for publication. Communica-
tions for the Weekly Pioneer must reach this office not later than Tuesday
of each week to insure publication in the current issue.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

By Carrier	By Mail
One Year \$6.00	One Year \$5.00
Six Months 3.00	Six Months 2.50
Three Months 1.50	Three Months 1.25
One Month .55	
One Week .15	

THE WEEKLY PIONEER—Twelve pages, published every Thursday
and sent postage paid to any address for, in advance, \$2.00.

OFFICIAL COUNTY AND CITY PROCEEDINGS

ARE WE FACING MORAL BANKRUPTCY?

The great war has left multitudes of our people worn, nerve-racked, care-driven, anxious, and feeling that life will never be the same again. The old leisure is practically gone. In the rush for pleasure and money the old restraints that held youth back from vice have been weakened and the hedges of custom and tradition built by our fathers for the protection of character have been broken down. Even a careless reading of the newspapers, with their stories of strikes, riots, arrests, bomb throwing, flames kindled by incendiaries and the arrests of bolsheviks are most disturbing.

Our census indicates that our illiterate population is growing more rapidly than we are building schools and churches. The census reports now 11,500,000 people who cannot read or write, and yet about 100,000 school teachers and about 20,000 ministers, out of about 150,000, have within a brief time been starved out of their professions. A certain factory contains 1,181 foreign-born workers, speaking Polish, Italian, Spanish, Finnish, French Dutch, Serbian, Syrian, Japanese and Chinese. Five hundreds and thirteen of these foreigners cannot even read or write in their own language. But to these 11,000,000 reported as illiterate there must be added other millions who for one reason or another have never been able to analyze the problems of tariffs and taxation.

In an autocracy it is an easy task to educate the ruler; educate the czar or the kaiser, and the task is fulfilled. In a republic the task of educating the rulers means the higher education for every boy and girl.

It does not promise well for the next generation that 10,000,000 of the 20,000,000 of our youth under eighteen years of age never cross the threshold of any church—Protestant or Catholic, Gentile or Jew. Yet the Ten Commandments are as universal and unsectarian as the laws of gravity or the multiplication table.

If a boy is allowed to grow up without knowledge of the fundamental principles of wrong and right, has the state to disclaim all responsibility when it imprisons that boy, or possibly puts a rope around his neck and chokes him to death?

London, in 1916, with a population of over 7,000,000, had nine premeditated murders; Chicago, with one-third the population, had 105. If Chicago and London had had the same population, Chicago would have had 315 murders, against London's 9. New York, with approximately a population equal to London's, had six times more homicides, and has a larger number of homicides than the total population of 38,000,000 in England and Wales. During the three-year period between 1916 and 1918, Glasgow had 38 homicides; Philadelphia, 281. Los Angeles is only one-twentieth the size of London, and yet has more homicides than the English capital.

Immigration from Europe threatens to become an inundating flood. The commissioner of immigration tells us that 1,000,000 Poles and 260,000 Polish Jews, have applied for permission to come to the United States. The government of Italy is encouraging its men to seek work in our country, and it is believed that about four millions of Italians will, during this year, seek entrance. Once peace has been made with Russia, and the gates of exit have been thrown open, it is absolutely certain that the very first movement among many, many millions will be to seek permission to leave Russia and enter the United States. One of our great experts estimates the number of probable immigrants within the next fifteen months at a million and a half, with ten millions more seeking entrance. Left to themselves, this would mean an inundation of mud. But if intelligent and patriotic Americans bestir themselves and put our institutions to their full use, these millions of newcomers can be Americanized, assimilated and brought into full touch with our free institutions.

Immediately after the armistice several thousand American business men hurried to Great Britain and entered into enormous contracts for cotton and woolen goods. Some of these contracts were formal documents, and some represented informal letters. Having full confidence in the word and bond of Americans, English manufacturers produced the goods in accordance with the specifications. But during the past summer the goods dropped in value, and the Americans found it impossible to sell the goods at a profit, upon the basis of the price agreed upon. Many cabled that they must withdraw from their contracts. Meanwhile, British manufacturers have completed the goods according to specifications. The British Board of Trade has sent to the American Chamber of Commerce over twenty millions of dollars of contracts with Americans that have been repudiated. The bitterness of the British financial journals and trade papers is beyond all words.

These Americans, who repudiated their contracts, are breaking down the morals of the business world, and illustrate a low standard, which, before the war, did not even exist in business circles. The result is a condition approaching chaos. It is quite possible for Americans in a short time to throw away a reputation for fair play and honest dealing that was achieved by long time and the highest standards of honor in business.

COWS BREAK BUTTER RECORD

(By United Press)

Buffalo, Dec. 20.—A record for producing butter and milk never before attained has been made by five cows, on a yearly test, at the Pine Grove Farm, Elma, N. Y., a Buffalo suburb. Oliver Cabana, Jr., owner of the farm and owner of a million-dollar herd of Holsteins, has announced. The five cows have produced 100,000 pounds of milk and in excess of 5,000 pounds of butter during the test, according to Cabana. This would be an average of three pounds of butter per day. So far as

known, the record, which is unofficial, never before has been approached. The cow making the best butter average was Segis Fayne—Pierle, with 1,115 pounds of butter and 20,865 pounds of milk. As high as 24,000 pounds of milk was produced by one cow.

Unlucky Thirteen.

Nearly a dozen important streets in London have no houses numbered 13, evidently in deference to the popular superstition which regards that number as unlucky.

MEXICO NOW SEES NEW HOPE IN PRES. OBREGON

Weakness of Nation Is the Absence of Any Middle Class of People

By Ralph H. Turner
(United Press Correspondent.)

Washington, Dec. 20.—People become keenly philosophical in a country where revolutions have been featured throughout that country's history.

Every-day philosophy in Mexico, therefore—a philosophy which frequently is expressed by no more than a shrug of the shoulders—has been developed to the highest point. And yet even the Mexican, despite his feeling of indifference, is preparing today to begin life over again. He is going ahead in anticipation of a "new deal", believing that he and his children have greater cause for hope than at any time in the last ten years.

That spirit, with its varied manifestations, is the index to the social condition of Mexico today. It represents the thought of Mr. Average Man.

The whole population, with the exception of a few disgruntled politicians and military men, is sick of revolution; the country has been looted from one end to the other.

And so the Mexican makes ready for another start. People who flooded into Mexico City from the provinces, because the capital offered a greater degree of shelter from marauding rebels, are beginning now to retrace their steps. They are going back to the farm or the store. Exiles who were expelled by one or the other of the various regimes since the fall of Porfirio Diaz in 1910 are streaming home from New York and London, Paris and Madrid.

But the present is still the period of transition. Not until the new government finds its stride and turns its attention to a score of pressing domestic and international problems, at the same time obtaining financial and moral aid from abroad; will Mexican national life approach a state of well-being. In the meantime, the Mexican offers further proof—if such were needed—that human nature remains the same, no matter how many international boundaries are crossed. The Mexican goes to the movies (American movies), grumbles about the high cost of living, and loves his children.

In Mexico City, a thoroughly modern capital, he attends the theatre, stages an exuberant party with about the same regularity as an American did in the pre-amendment days and goes to the bull fight on Sunday afternoon. He is a devout Catholic, but has never heard of a "blue law." He probably spends his money more lavishly than an Anglo-Saxon, a person with a similar income. The cost of living, for a Mexican with a comfortable income, needn't vary much from what it costs in the United States. One thing just about balances another. He must pay more for a great many articles, because they are imported, but he can maintain a whole corps of servants for the same expenditure that one would involve from the Rio Grande north.

Vegetables, fruit and some kinds of the meats (the goat, especially the kid, is popular), cost less than in an American metropolis. Fuel is a minor item in Mexico City, because of the temperate climate. If the Mexican lives at a hotel, he may pay anywhere from \$2 to \$6 (United States currency) a day for his room, though he won't receive the modern accommodations that most Americans demand. House rents are high, as practically no building has been done during the revolutionary days. It is beginning now to revive.

One difficulty with life in Mexico City—the one that most Americans encounter—is the social condition that has overlooked any provision for the middle class. The "high class" Mexican generally limits his business activities to either owning property, and deriving the income therefrom, or playing some part in the management of the government. Both have been paying propositions in the past. The merchandising business and the operation of mines, oil properties and other resources is generally in the hands of foreigners. The poorer classes get along the best they can. Frequently their condition seems pitiful to an American. It is common for three or four people to live, sleep and eat in one room. The room doesn't have to be large one, either. Beans and corn are the chief articles of diet. The cotton garments, a sombrero and a pair of sandals are the principal forms of raiment worn by the people of the poorest class. How a Mexican clerk can live on one hundred pesos (\$50) a month, and present a good appearance, may seem beyond comprehension, but it is done. Almost the best in Mexican servants may be obtained for twenty or twenty-five pesos monthly.

As a result of the social structure, an American may have difficulty to avoid the alternatives of living either as an oil magnate or a day laborer. For instance, there are no "quick lunch" restaurants in Mexico City. Dinner, in the middle of the day, is an event which requires the fullest attention. Business houses close from 1 to 2, sometimes longer. The time is devoted largely to eating, and then to sleeping. After a full Mexican meal the siesta is almost indispensable and comes easily, as sleep comes to one who is drugged.

But there's another alibi for sleep besides the length of a Mexican meal. Mexico City is about 7,500 feet above sea level and the altitude has strange and varied effects. One requires more sleep, the doctors explain, because many of the organs of the body are forced to work overtime. Also, eggs must be boiled longer, if one takes them that way. "Fried, straight up," is not affected by the altitude. Consumption of alcoholic drinks is held to be extremely dangerous, because of the altitude's manipulations with the heart,

View of the "Mark Twain Rock"



This is the "Mark Twain Rock" on the west coast of Vancouver Island, British Columbia, so-called because of its remarkable resemblance to the great humorist.

although statistics show no loss in consumption for that reason.

The Mexican sense of humor is highly developed, particularly among the peon classes. There is the story, for instance, that involves Caruso, when the famous tenor visited Mexico City and sank in the bull ring. It was the largest place available and was thronged at every performance. The Mexicans of every social class having a keen appreciation of music, Caruso had finished "Carmen."

The tremendous applause was followed by a hush, when a peon, a bull fight fan as well as a music lover, arose in his seat and demanded loudly: "Otro toro!" (another bull).

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DAILY PIONEER

Holy Cities of the World.
Allahabad is the holy city of the Indian Mohammedans, Benares is the holy city of the Hindus, while Cuzco is that of the ancient Incas. Jerusalem is the holy city of the Jews and Christians. Mecca, Medina and Damascus have first place in the affections of the Mohammedans.

Lines to Be Remembered.
We should give as we would receive; cheerfully, quickly and without hesitation; for there is no grace in a benefit that sticks to the fingers—Seneca.

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