

# OUR GREAT COUNTRY

## UNCLE SAM'S WONDERFUL GROWTH AND PROSPERITY.

From a Nation of Farmers and Woodcutters to the Greatest Community on Earth. Some Telling Statistics and Comparisons. A Friendly Criticism.

In the current number of The North American Review Mr. Michael G. Mulhall, F. S. S., makes a study of those elements of power and wealth in the United States which, as he expresses it, have "enabled a community of woodcutters and farmers to become, in less than 100 years, the greatest nation in the world."

Mr. Mulhall, a native of Ireland, educated at the Irish college at Rome, has been of high repute for many years as a statistician. His experience in the study of the strength and resources of nations gives value to his present array of facts and figures, and to his emphatic declaration that "if we take a survey of mankind in ancient or modern times, as regards the physical, mechanical and intellectual force of nations, we find nothing to compare with the United States in this present year of 1895."

The units of power which he employs in his calculations are themselves interesting. The working power of an able-bodied male adult, he tells us, is 300 foot tons daily; that of a horse 3,000, while the standard of steam horsepower is 4,000. The foot ton is that amount of power which, if concentrated and applied, could raise a ton to the height of a foot. Taking this basis, Mr. Mulhall finds the working power of the United States to be approximately as follows at various dates:

Year	Millions of foot tons daily	Ft tons per man
1820	1,000	3,333
1840	1,400	4,667
1860	2,800	9,333
1880	4,500	15,000
1895	6,400	21,333

In this reckoning the working power per inhabitant is seen almost to have doubled since 1840, while the entire effective force of the American people is more than three times what it was in 1820. The most rapid growth, of course, is in steam power. The horsepower of steam is nearly twice as great this year as it was 15 years ago, taking together locomotive engines, steamboats and the fixed power of mines and factories, and nearly five times as great as that of 1860. To illustrate the energy of the United States he compares it with that of other nations:

Country	Millions of foot tons daily	Ft tons per man
U. S.	6,400	21,333
Great Britain	1,400	4,667
Germany	1,200	4,000
France	1,000	3,333
Austria	800	2,667
Italy	700	2,333
Spain	500	1,667

Here we see that the United States possess almost as much energy as Great Britain, Germany and France collectively, and that the ratio falling to each American is more than what two Frenchmen or Germans have at their disposal. Moreover, the military armaments which keep in forced idleness 4,000,000 men in Europe are happily unknown in the United States. It is not merely that European nations are deprived of the labor, skill and exertions of 4,000,000 men in the prime of life, they have also to set apart 1,000,000 workers of the agricultural and industrial classes to feed and clothe the standing armies and defray the cost of artillery, war vessels, etc. Thus the average of productive energy in France, Germany, England, etc., is much less than appears in the above statement.

Again, in the labor saving appliances of the United States he sees the perfecting of machinery; the reaping machine, for example, commonly used in the western states, "will cut and bind grain at the rate of 45 minutes per acre." An ordinary farmhand in the United States, says Mr. Mulhall, thanks to these mechanical appliances, raises as much grain as three hands do in England, four in France, five in Germany and six in Austria. Reducing all farm products to a grain standard by supplanting ten pounds of meat or two gallons of wine to be equal to a bushel, he finds the number of bushels of grain per hand raised in the United States to be 475; in the United Kingdom, 228; in France, 188; in Germany, 118; in Italy, 115; in Austria, 97.

Yet again he quotes Mr. Atkinson as showing that in America the labor of one man in 300 days in the year is equivalent to the production of 4,500 bushels of wheat, while that of three other men represents the cutting, thrashing, milling and transporting to market. Thus four men carry to the baker's flour for a thousand persons, at 12 ounces of bread daily for a year. "In other words, one man can feed 250, whereas in Europe one man feeds only 30 persons;" and little improvement in Europe can be expected, because so many people there consider that labor saving appliances are an evil, and that the more persons there are employed in doing any given work the better.

Passing to other matters, Mr. Mulhall declares that "the intellectual power of the great republic is in harmony with the industrial and mechanical." The census of 1890 showed that 87 percent of the total population over 10 years of age could read and write, and he asserts that "in the history of the human race no nation ever before possessed 41,000,000 instructed citizens."

The annual school expenditure in the United States is \$156,000,000, or \$2.40 per inhabitant, against \$48,000,000 and \$1.80 in Great Britain: \$31,000,000

and 80 cents in France; \$26,000,000 and 50 in Germany; \$12,000,000 and 30 in Austria and \$7,000,000 and 25 in Italy. Again, the letters per inhabitant carried yearly, according to the post-office returns, are 110 for the United States, 74 for Switzerland, 60 for Great Britain, 53 for Germany, 49 for Belgium, 40 for Holland, 39 for France, 24 for Austria and 16 for Italy.

The growth of wealth in this country seems to Mr. Mulhall still more marvelous than the growth of physical power. He finds the wealth of 1820 to be \$1,960,000,000, that of 1860 to be \$16,160,000,000 and that of 1890 to be \$65,037,000,000. And this last computation omits public lands. The number of dollars per inhabitant was \$205 in 1820, \$514 in 1860 and \$1,039 in 1890. Still, there are three countries in Europe that surpass us in this latter particular—namely, Great Britain with \$1,260 per head, France with \$1,130 and Holland with \$1,080. They, on the other hand, represent the accumulations of many generations, while ours is a new country.

The distributions of wealth in rural and urban communities and in different parts of the country also furnish Mr. Mulhall with interesting computations. Here, too, are some interesting conclusions, first in regard to railway lines and then in regard to houses:

The freight charge in 1890 averaged 93 cents per ton per 100 miles, which is less than half the charge customary in Europe (\$1.90), and this implies a saving in this respect alone of \$45,000,000 yearly to the American people, or 10 per cent on the original cost of constructing the lines. Another large item in the increment of wealth is houses, which represent an annual investment of \$12 per inhabitant of the whole Union during 30 years ending 1890. The annual average in Great Britain is \$5.50, and as economists recognize the outlay on houses to be a range of wealth it appears that the average accumulation in the United States is double what it is in the mother country. In effect, English statisticians estimate the ordinary accumulation in Great Britain at \$5, say, \$91 per head, whereas we have seen that the American average is \$41 per head.

The conclusion is that our country is now "by far the greatest productive power in the world," that the intellectual progress of the nation "is attended to in a more liberal manner than in Europe," and that the accumulation of wealth averages \$7,000,000 daily. "These simple facts tell us what a wonderful country has sprung up beyond the Atlantic in a single century, and furnish a scathing commentary on the books written by English travelers only 50 years ago." Englishmen now, according to Mr. Mulhall, have more correct views, while "the rest of mankind marks with wonder and admiration the onward march of the great republic." There is no doubt, at all events, of the sincere good will which this admirer of America has for us.—New York Sun.

### Mezzofanti's Memory.

Cardinal Mezzofanti had a memory little short of miraculous. Dr. Russell, his biographer, says that the cardinal spoke with the greatest ease 80 languages; that he spoke fairly well 9; that he used occasionally, but not with any fluency, 11 more; that he spoke imperfectly 8, and that he could read 11 more. Taking, in addition, the number of dialects he used, some so diverse from the mother tongue as to constitute a different language, Dr. Russell says that the cardinal was master of no less than 111 different languages and dialects. His German was so excellent that he was taken for a native of Germany, while his French and English were equally pure. Dr. Tholuck heard him converse in German, Arabic, Spanish, Flemish, English, Latin, Greek, Swedish and Portuguese at one of the pope's receptions, and afterward Mezzofanti gave him an original poem in Persian and left him to take a lesson in Cornish. He knew several of the American Indian languages and nearly all the dialects of India.

### Only His Buttons Left.

An instance of the great dissolving powers of sulphuric acid is furnished by an accident which recently occurred in the chemical factories at Mulhouse, Alsace. An operative was blown up into the air and fell into a trough filled about three feet deep with sulphuric acid, the temperature of which was found to be 91 degrees C. ten hours after the accident. The death of the man was only proved by the discovery of his caoutchouc respirator, muzzle, two porcelain buttons and other insoluble articles. Everything else had chemically combined with the acid.—London Engineer.

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THOUGH TORMENTED AND ROBBED, THE AMISHITES NEVER COMPLAIN.

Will Not Appear in Court—Are Devout, but Have No Congregational Worship. Their Little Settlement the Scene of Many Crimes.

The recent depredations and crimes in the Amish settlement a few miles northwest of Toledo have attracted the attention of the authorities of two or three counties, and have been a source of comment all over the state.

The Amish sect is a peculiar and exclusive class of people, who worship privately according to their own belief, and, no matter how great a grievance they may have against individual or corporation, it is one of their fundamental principles never, under any circumstances, to go into court.

They refuse to obey summonses and will not testify under any conditions. Should a member of a family be murdered the remaining members of that family or any of the sect, for that matter, will not enter complaint, nor will they testify, no matter how great pressure is brought to bear.

That section of country has during the last few months been the location of several mysterious crimes. Four masked men entered the house of one of them some three months ago, and by threats and horrible torture inflicted upon the man and his wife, as well as threats against the children, secured several thousand dollars and escaped. Although it was believed that the crime was committed by local parties, and that the family knew who the culprits were, they refused to make any complaint or give any information that would lead to the apprehension of the criminals.

These people seem to have an abundance of everything in the way of property and are excellent farmers, although they refuse to adopt any of the improved machinery in vogue in this age of the world. They continue to use the sickle, scythe, flail and the old-fashioned beam plows. Their harness, clothing, etc., are all hand made, and their general simplicity brings them into ridicule.

During the last few months two or three farmers, not connected with the Amish people, have mysteriously disappeared from the community. The people around that part of the state have become very suspicious of their sanctified appearances and creeds, and no little talk has been indulged in in the way of threats. They have been subjected to merciless torments. Their crops have been ruined, fences burned, utensils broken, stock stolen and many other indignities heaped upon them.

Joel Hands was only a few days ago taken from his home by several men dressed as White Caps and subjected to torture, one of his ears being cut off and the other slit. He never murmured or complained, but declares he will permit the matter to rest with his Maker. It has since been learned that a crowd of these White Caps took a man named Henry Anker out into the woods a few nights ago, and after tying him securely to a tree, flayed him nearly to death with whips.

One night last week several masked marauders went to the home of an Amish family named Menkler and subjected them to all sorts of indignities, made them prepare a meal, after which they ransacked the premises, carried away valuables and insulted the aged mother and three young daughters grossly.

The Amishites are professedly devout to an extreme, although they have no congregational worship of any sort. They never go to town or to the city unless it is for the purpose of disposing of their products or paying taxes. They never patronize any amusement or public gathering affair.

The more conservative of the outside world who have been carefully scrutinizing their conduct say that they are sincere in their eccentricities, and that a tough lot of citizens in a certain locality in northwestern Ohio for years noted for lawlessness take advantage of their persistent refusal to prosecute, and, by way of excuse, urge the stories that the Amish people are guilty of the crimes they themselves have committed. A searching investigation is to be instituted and efforts will be made to punish the guilty.—New York Recorder.

### A Clergyman's Bad Break.

A bad break in a curate's sermon is reported in The Church Times. After appealing to the old with "And you, old men, with your hoary head," he turned to the young men with the appeal, "And you, young men, with your blooming cheek." He tried to change the phrase, but it was too late.

### He Should Read Up.

A Connecticut lecturer says there are 90,000 feeble minded persons in this country, of whom not more than 6,500 are in proper custody. It is hardly possible that this statistician has given any recent attention to Illinois politics.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

### Those Towns Quarreling Again.

The new steamer St. Paul failed to make the speed expected of her. Her slow name is a fatal handicap.—Minneapolis Tribune.

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