

THE DAILY SILVER BELT

THE SILVER BELT PUBLISHING CO

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Mr. Roosevelt's friends are getting anxious to hear some sort of noise from his corner of the vineyard. It is rather easy for the public to get used to not hearing anything from a private citizen, no matter how previously illustrious.

A North Carolina man has just been acquitted of murder on the plea of "confusional insanity." Acute symptoms apparent subsequent to the homicide, doubtless.

If Kermti really killed the biggest lion, he has more nerve than the average acquaintance of the former president.

Mr. Wilbur Wright has been tendered a series of Chatauqua engagements. Some one made a mistake concerning Mr. Wright. He is not a hot-air artist.

When a Tennessee court convicted eight of the Night Riders alleged to have been concerned in the lynching of Captain Rankin, a great wave of applause swept over the country. Well, the supreme court of the state has reversed those verdicts on two technicalities, and—

We fear congress fell hopelessly into the revision upward habit when it revised its own salary two or three years ago.

The governor of Louisiana has eighty-five colonels on his staff. On dress parade that outfit must resemble nothing quite so much as a South American revolutionary army.

An astronomer has discovered a comet with a tale 200,000,000 miles long. Some tales of woe and hard luck we have heard seemed even longer.

Mississippi thinks it has about \$1,000,000 coming to it from the Standard oil company, the same which it proposes to collect. That sort of business probably does not seem quite so funny to the Standard since Texas sand-bagged the Waters-Pierce concern out of a few millions on account.

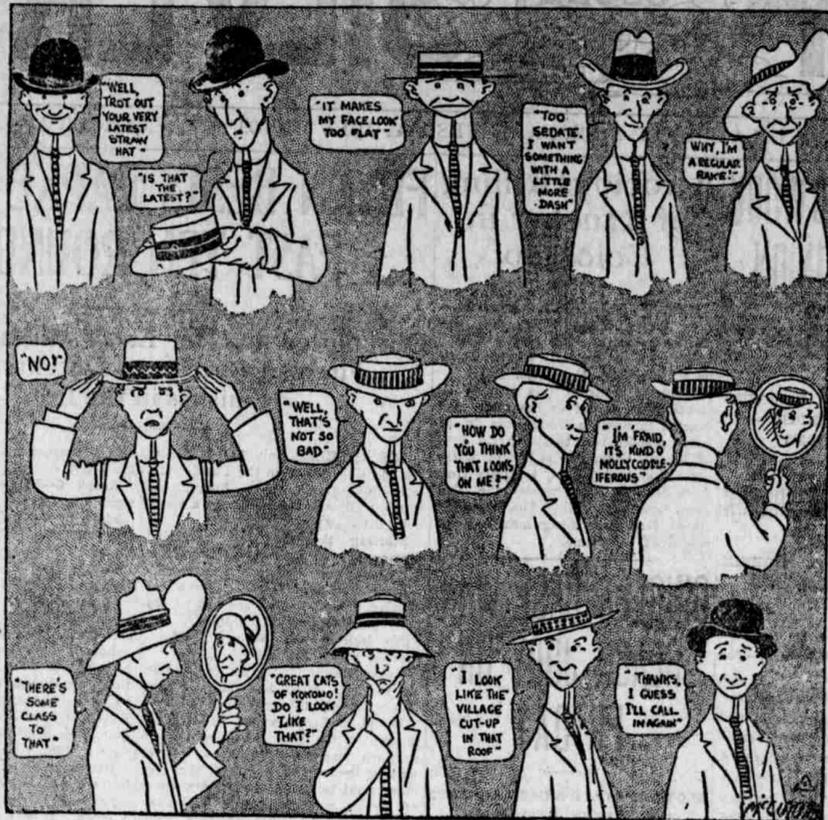
"Be glad that others have money, if you have not," advises the Reverend Dr. Aked. From which we infer that good Dr. Aked has money all right.

The records show that more than 138,000 round-trip tickets were sold from Bristol, Tenn., to Abingdon, Va., last year. The fact that Bristol is "dry" and Abingdon is "wet" probably had nothing whatever to do with it, however.

"It might perhaps be more honest to make the Constitution conform to the facts," says the New York Mail. Comparative degrees of honesty are admissible, if not absolutely essential, to the proper expression of thought nowadays, we suppose; especially political thought.

Leaders of the temperance reform movement in Nebraska claim to have assurance of most positive kind that William J. Bryan will come out definitely and unreservedly for county option in the near future, soon enough to be of great value to them in their plans for the approaching campaign.

THE NEW STRAW HAT.



—McCUTCHEON IN CHICAGO TRIBUNE.

ARBITRATORS, AWARD AND THE NEGRO

The award of the of the arbitration board created under the terms of the Erdman act for the purpose of considering the controversy between the white and negro firemen on the Georgia railroad, to state the case in its broader aspect, has been made, and it presents some curious and highly significant points. On the face of it the negro fireman wins on practically every contention set up against him; actually, his victory may prove to have been a Pyrrhic victory only, and tend largely to his undoing.

The board declined to agree that white firemen should have seniority over negroes, save on merit alone—the vital point in the case—but it did agree that the negro fireman should have a wage scale equalling the white scale. This appears to be fair enough. The negro has been taken care of legally and equitably. To have rendered any other decision would leave him out in the cold—apparently. As a matter of fact, however, it cleverly shifts responsibility for the negro entirely onto the shoulders of the Georgia railroad, and puts it up to that concern to say whether, at equal wages, the negro shall have the job that the white man wants.

The white firemen have declared that the real reason the railroad employs negro firemen in preference to white firemen is because the negro is to be had cheaper; that the road, pay being equal, would long ago have substituted white firemen for black of its own free will and accord. If that be so, the victory of the negro in this case becomes a grave menace to his future; and the white fireman has, by technically losing his case, really achieved a victory of far-reaching consequence. Will the Georgia railroad, in the face of this new wage agree-

ment, stand by the negro, notwithstanding the prejudice and dislike of his white associate on the engine? If so, the negro is all right, and will continue to fire engines indefinitely. But if the railroad finds the pressure too great, and its pocketbook no longer affected in the negro's favor, it may seek to clarify an uncomfortable situation by coming around to the white fireman's point of view.

The negro, in this last contingency, is apt to conclude, if he thinks about it to any great extent, that, no matter what happens, he cannot win. If he is to be permitted to perform certain service only on condition that he perform it cheaper than his white neighbor, and yet be denied the opportunity of doing it cheaper, where on earth does he get off, anyway? His last state will be worse than his first.

People who do not think that the negro problem is a real, sure-enough problem, don't have to proceed very far studying it along practical lines to discover that it is, really, several kinds of a problem. It seems to us that it might be a good idea, if the desire to give the southern negro a field of industrial endeavor exists seriously, to say that he shall follow certain avocations without interference from white labor or competition with it—for instance, firing engines, running barber shops, acting as butlers, or coachmen, or valets. There may be many reasons why this suggestion is impractical and out of the question. We confess they do not occur to us just now, however.

What is the ultimate fate of the negro? We do not know. He has a hard row to hoe, and if nobody will hoe it for him, and he is not to be allowed to hoe it for himself, we sometimes fear it will never be hoed at all. And yet we think it surely ought to be hoed after some sort of human fashion.

Of Passing Interest

City and Country Morals

Sociologists are beginning to doubt the once vaunted moral superiority of life in the country village over that in the city. It is the lack of rational amusement that leads to social degeneracy in small villages. The natural desire for diversion is thwarted. There is no outlook beyond the limited social life. This causes in part the drift to the cities of the younger and more enterprising village youth, leaving behind the less fit and decadent. Hence the deterioration of some villages, observed especially in New England, while towns and cities thrive and grow. In the cities temptations to the untrained or unwary are usually, even though not always, largely segregated. Opportunities for evil must be sought conscientiously and willfully. Again the city household need have no social contacts except those of its own choosing. There are good schools for the children and almost numberless places for innocent amusement and recreation. The stir of surrounding life stimulates the faculties. This is true of large cities as well as small. It is a fact that makes a bond between a farm and a town.

Personal Liberty of Employes

The ending of the Pittsburgh street car strike leaves for decision by arbitration the right of the employes to drink while wearing their uniforms, even when off duty. Whatever the decision of the arbitrators may be in the interest of industrial peace, it seems evident that in the abstract there is an element of peace on each side. The employes have to buy their uniforms, and inferentially they might

claim that this implies the right to wear their own clothes when and where they please. On the other hand their uniform is a kind of public notice of their occupation, which implies indirect discredit to the employer if it is conspicuously displayed in bar-rooms. These men might take a hint from the practice that obtains under normal circumstances among many officers of the army. They have to pay for their own equipment, but it is a badge of their honorable service, and their loyalty to their government. Consequently, when they choose to visit places where liquor is sold to the general public, they voluntarily don civilian clothing as is their privilege when not on duty or otherwise ordered. It would seem a suggestion in the way of welfare work that the Pittsburgh company do its share in establishing club rooms that would serve as an attractive and wholesome resort for the men. That is President Vreeland's solution of a similar condition in Manhattan.

The Children of Porto Rico.

One sequence of the temporary financial difficulties in the administration of Porto Rico that is peculiarly unfortunate is the return to the United States of a considerable number of school-teachers. The value of their work in uplifting the mental and moral status of the children of the native population is almost beyond description, and is best appreciated by American visitors to the island, who have observed at first hand its beneficial effect. It is not alone the English language and the "three R's" of elementary book learning that these patient pedagogues have taught. The end of Spanish misrule found these native chil-

ism. They were ignorant of the first rules of health; they were anemic, chiefly because in a land of riotous plenty their parents were too lazy to cultivate a variety of nutritious food, finding it easier to swing in hammocks and pluck their breakfast from the overhanging banana tree; and the charming innocence of their wholesome nudity was their only safeguard against degradation. This latter quality has not been by the careless touch of a higher and too imperative civilization. At the same time the stimulus of elementary education among the children has aroused the parents as a rule, to the voluntary manifestations of a certain amount of energy until then unknown. It would be a misfortune to these people almost tragic should this process of uplift be checked.

Philippine Vaccinators

It is possible that one of the tales of Kipling may have suggested to an American commander the present effective plan of vaccinating Negritos in the Philippines. Kipling's British officer cleverly enlisted on his side the authority of a native chief and made vaccinations popular. Similarly the American officer has placed Negrito chiefs in charge of the work. They are represented as delighted with the work and are allowing no unscarred members of the tribe to escape them. Smallpox has been prevalent in the mountains of Batnan and Zamboales, whence it was spreading to the lowlands. The vaccinating chiefs are accompanied by a physician to see that the work is properly done. They are as enthusiastic as children about their task, which they follow with inspections to see that the virus has taken. Every case of failure is persistently followed with revaccination.

HUMANISMS

The umbrella dealer has a lot put by for a rainy day.

A doctor of divinity should believe in the faith cure.

There is more or less moonshine in the astrology business.

The winner never has any feat to find with the referee's decision.

Even a cyclone cellar will not protect a man from a domestic tempest.

Don't forget that your wife enjoys a little honest praise now and then.

A graft by any other name is just as apt to land some men behind the bars.

When it comes to falling in love with a giddy girl, there is no fool like an old fool.

The wife of a dyspeptic man may not agree with him any more than her cooking does.

The average man will stand up for himself no matter how many people he has to sit on in order to do it.

It's as difficult for some people to draw their own conclusions as it is for them to extract their wisdom teeth.

Some men never think of earning a living until they accidentally get a good, hard jolt in the right spot.

SENATORIAL TARIFF REVISION

The soundest criticism of the senate's work in framing the dutiable schedules of the tariff bill is that offered by Senator La Follette—it practically ignores the vast economic changes which have occurred since the enactment of the Dingley law. All the old protectionists affirmed their disbelief in a tariff that promoted monopoly. They held to a faith in competition as an industrial regulation, maintaining that, although tariff duties might reduce, restrain or abolish foreign competition, they augmented domestic competition, thus protecting the consumer from exorbitant prices. But what has actually happened? Not only has foreign competition been practically eliminated by the high duties imposed on importations, but freedom from foreign competition has been taken advantage of for the formation of domestic combinations to eliminate home competition. Under the Dingley law industrial combination has rapidly advanced, until on January 1, 1908—we are using Senator La Follette's figures—it embraced 10,220 manufacturing plants, with a total capitalization in stocks and bonds of \$31,672,000,000. These combinations control prices to such an extent that competition plays but a limited role in regulating charges to the consumer.

Meanwhile, the processes of production have been greatly cheapened, the efficiency of labor enhanced, inventions have multiplied the economies of manufacture and displaced slower and costlier methods of hand labor, so that the result has been that we are now making commodities of all sorts at a lower labor cost than anywhere else in the world, and our competition has been felt in the markets of every industrial nation. In fact, foreigners can obtain what we produce in many instances at vastly lower prices than the American who bears the burden of tariff taxation, and yet, as Mr. La Follette says, "the consumer is not only denied the benefits of cheapened production, but is compelled to pay extravagant prices for inferior articles"—the precise consequence of monopoly the world over at every period of history.

Now the senate finance committee and the senate, under its guidance, has thrust aside these vital considerations as irrelevant. It has gone upon the theory that gigantic combinations need, as much as the small manufacturer of an earlier period, to be protected from the competition of foreign manufacturers with whose products they are actually able to compete in overseas markets. The cheapening of ad is alleged as an excuse for production abroad not permitting the consumer to derive any advantage from the like cheapening of production at home. All the great facts of domestic production are ignored, and only the possibility that importations may to some extent displace domestic manufactures is given any weight. To exclude these importations or to insure that the cost of making them shall allow the domestic manufacturer to charge a monopoly price for his output is substantially the object of the duties imposed in the senate revision. That excessive duties encourage monopoly, as President Taft has said, has been of no concern to the senatorial revisers.

The form of prosperity that arises out of the high privilege of oppressing the American people under the forms of law is not of enduring stability, nor is it likely to insure the continuance of the existing era of political good feeling.

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