

TENSAS GAZETTE.

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INVENTION AND INDUSTRY AT THE SOUTH.

Despite the fact that the people of the South were but little engaged in scientific or mechanical pursuits, and that their intellectual energies have for the most part been absorbed with other thoughts, yet many notable inventions and contributions to science have been made by Southern men. Cyrus H. McCormick, a native of Rockbridge county, Va., and the inventor of various agricultural implements, among them his famous reaper, received the thanks of the French Academy of Sciences for having done more for the cause of agriculture than any other man living. "Owing to Mr. McCormick's invention," said William H. Seward in 1860, "the line of civilization moves westward thirty miles each year." Richard J. Gatling, of Hertford county, N. C., devised various machines and the "Gatling gun," now an arm of the United States service and adopted by foreign governments as well. Both McCormick and Gatling moved west—the former to Chicago and the latter to St. Louis—the country districts of Virginia and North Carolina affording them poor fields for their endeavors. Henry J. Rogers, a Baltimorean, was the practical adviser and assistant of Morse in the construction of the first telegraph line in the United States, which was built in 1844 between Washington and Baltimore. He was the superintendent of it and many improvements in it, and was the inventor of several telegraphic instruments. Rogers also devised the first system of pyrotechnic signals in the United States and the only means of flags that was adopted by the navy in 1848. The author of international fog signals was Samuel P. Griffin, of Georgia; and the inventor of the first complete system of ciphers used by the Associated Press was Dr. Alexander Jones, of North Carolina. The name of Maury stands above that of every other southerner, if not of every American, in his contributions to science. Maury's writings demonstrated that meteorology could be raised to the certainty of a science, and Humboldt credited him with being its founder.—Popular Science Monthly.

A RECORD OF SUICIDE.

Americans do not kill themselves in as great numbers as the melancholy Danes or Saxons, but the suicide record for the last year, 4436 killed, shows that we are by no means idle. It indicates an abnormal increase over the previous year, in which probably hard times and the financial situation had no little part.

It is to the credit of "the weaker sex" that it furnished only a small proportion of the suicides, 858, or less than 20 per cent, while the male victims numbered 3578. No sufficient explanation has been given of this difference; but it may be due to feminine weakness and dislike of violence, and the further fact that woman seldom has to face the financial difficulties of life, and usually has some one to look to for support.

Another fact which was noted last year is that the doctors lead all professions in the number of suicides. This seems now to be well established, and can probably be traced to the fact that doctors see so much of death that they lose all horror of it, and that their profession shows them how they can evade this world easily and painlessly.

The suicides still show great ignorance and brutality in the manner of taking their own lives, and has inflicted a great deal of unnecessary suffering. The papers published some months ago letters from

leading physicians on this subject, giving their views as to the easiest and least painful way of killing themselves, and several methods were suggested which made death almost pleasant. These suggestions, however, were apparently not for practical use, for none of those who left the world last year utilized these hints at suicide. On the other hand, 1599 tried the violent pistol route, 1208 relieved their woes by means of poisons, most of them utilizing the more severe poisons like arsenic; 641 tried hanging, 391 drowning (this a favorite mode of exit with women), 372 cut their throats, 86 jumped before locomotives, 48 stashed themselves to death, 16 sought death by the flames, 10 by starving and 3 by the fire-sledge method of blowing themselves up with dynamite. In suicides, as in nearly everything else, 1893 was a record breaker.—Times Democrat.

Says the Richland Beacon News of Jan. 6: Col. Hiram R. Lott was in Rayville last week attending the Levee Board. The Colonel's views upon the Lieutenant Governor question coincide with ours with one or two exceptions. Col. Lott is of the opinion that it is a trick of his opponents to get him to allow himself installed as Lieutenant Governor and then declare the office of State Senator from his district vacant and elect a man in his stead. Then, upon the reassembling of the Senate, elect another member president pro tempore. This would throw him entirely out. Our opinion is that he has no right to act permanently as Lieutenant Governor; that the position of Lieutenant Governor is merely nominal except during the session of the General Assembly, and then the president pro tempore is ex officio Lieutenant Governor. That he has nothing to do except to act as one of the Pardoning Board, and we very much question that point, inasmuch as he is not really Lieutenant Governor, having never been elected by the popular vote of the people as such. We do not think it requires any further qualifying than that of being president pro tempore. He could not hold two offices of honor and profit at one time, consequently he is only Lieutenant Governor as the term implies, pro tempore. If Col. Lott were to go, as some intend he should do, to Baton Rouge and suffer himself to be installed as Lieutenant Governor, leaving his district entirely, then it would be a question as to whether the office of senator was vacant ipso facto.

EFFECT OF TOBACCO ON DEVELOPEMENT.

Another man has been making a careful set of observations and experiments to determine the effect of tobacco on the development of "the human frame." This time it is Dr. J. Seaver, and the subjects of his observations were 187 college boys the four years of their course. The observations are on the growth in weight, height, chest girth and lung capacity of "non-users," "irregular users" and "habitual users" of tobacco. Expressed in the form of percentages, in weight the non-user increased 10.4 per cent more than the regular user, and 6.6 per cent more than the occasional user. In the growth of height the non-user increased 24 per cent more than the user, and 14 per cent more than the occasional user. In the growth of the chest girth the non-user has an advantage over the regular user of 26.7 per cent, and over the occasional user of 23 per cent, but in lung capacity the growth is in favor of the non-user by 77.5 per cent when compared with the regular user, and 49.5 per cent when compared with the irregular user.

RICHEST FAMILIES IN AMERICA.

The Astors and the Vanderbilts Control Between Them Hundreds of Millions.

A careful estimate of the wealth of the Astors puts it at \$200,000,000 and this makes the family the richest in the United States. What is more, the wealth of the Astors is in such shape that it cannot but increase, for the reason that it is gilt-edged New York City real estate, some of which, according to the Washington Star, has within the past ten years increased in value 700 per cent, and is still appreciating. The policy of the Astors has always been to buy real estate on the lines along which New York City is now extending and hold it for a rise, rarely selling, however, but building and renting instead. The result is that the Astors properties are in valuable lands, in brick, iron, stone and mortar, instead of in fluctuating stocks and bonds, the fixed value of which is always uncertain. As a family the Vanderbilts stand next to the Astors in the matter of wealth, and their riches must be considered in the aggregate and in common, since their individual fortunes are pooled, so to speak. You will often see Cornelius Vanderbilt, the present head of the house, quoted as being worth \$200,000,000. Of course he is not worth any such amount. Cornelius has most of the Vanderbilt millions, but those who know say that he is personally not worth above \$80,000,000, if as much.

It must be remembered that the late William H. Vanderbilt had a large family to divide his millions among and so the shares in the end were not so large as some people thought them. Besides there is a disposition on the part of the calculators who love big figures to give the Vanderbilts credit for owning outright their great railroad system, when, as a matter of fact, thousands of stockholders share in the ownership.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE.

Washington, Jan. 12.—The Democratic members of the ways and means committee considered the internal revenue bill today. The meeting was a spirited one, many unexpected motions being made, so that at one time the friends of the income tax feared that they were defeated.

At the outset of the meeting Mr. Tarsney moved that the question as to whether the internal revenue features were to be reported in an independent bill should be referred to a Democratic caucus.

This brought on an animated discussion. When the vote taken the Tarsney motion prevailed by a vote of 6 to 5.

Mr. Bynum furnished the surprise of the meeting by moving to reconsider the entire revenue bill, as practically agreed on at a meeting sometime ago. This motion also prevailed by a vote of 6 to 5. Mr. Bynum voted with the opponents of an income tax. The affirmative vote was cast by Messrs. Wilson, Breckinridge, Bynum, Cockran, Stevens and Montgomery; the negative vote by Messrs. McMullin, Bryan, Whiting, Tarsney and Turner.

A question then arose as to where this left the bill, whether the Tarsney resolution sent the whole question to a caucus or whether the Bynum resolution left anything to submit to a caucus. After some discussion as to the status, a vote was again taken on the internal revenue features, and they were agreed to as previously decided upon.

The Democrats who are opposing the income tax proposition, led by Chairman Wilson, then forced a

direct vote upon the question of submitting all the internal revenue features to the House as a separate measure. A motion to so report the internal revenue bill was agreed to by a vote of 6 to 5.

The question of a caucus was still in doubt, owing to the various motions which had intervened since the Tarsney proposition had first carried, but it was finally agreed, informally, that if a caucus to consider the income tax should be called by any members outside of the ways and means committee, and the caucus sentiment on a vote should be for the incorporation of the internal revenue features as part of the Wilson bill, any member of the committee so disposed could make the motion on the floor of the House to so include it.

RIVER AND HARBOR WORK IN LOUISIANA.

Special to the Times-Democrat.

Washington, Jan. 12.—The remarks of Mr. E. S. Stoddard before the recent waterways convention in New Orleans are deemed by the older members of the Louisiana delegation to be wholly unjust. He is reported as saying that Louisiana had been slighted by the general government; that she had not received her just and legitimate share of rivers and harbors appropriations; that this failure is due to the inability of the Louisiana Congressmen to accomplish anything for the State under the present system of time-serving politics, and other remarks of like tenor.

Mr. Blanchard, whose attention was called to the speech, said, "I judge that Mr. Stoddard, whom I do not know, is badly posted as to what has been accomplished for Louisiana waterways. Why, only in the last rivers and harbors bill \$10,000,000 was secured for the lower Mississippi, to be expended in four years. Nearly or quite one-half of this sum is being expended within the State of Louisiana in channel work and levee construction.

"The Federal government is expending approximately \$800,000 a year in Louisiana for levees to restrain the floods of the great river, and about that much more in the two States above us—Mississippi and Arkansas. No such expenditures for river and harbor work has ever been authorized anywhere else in the United States in the whole history of the government. Besides this, the Federal government deepened the South Pass of the Mississippi river from eight to thirty feet at a cost of five million of dollars, and made New Orleans the finest harbor in North America after the Golden Gate.

"Appropriations of from \$30,000 to \$200,000 have been secured on every rivers and harbors bill for years past for work needed along the city front of New Orleans. Large appropriations for the work at the mouth of Red river aggregating about one million of dollars have been secured, besides hundreds of thousands of dollars for that river above the mouth; also for the opening of the Plaquemine, for the improvement of the mouth of the Calcasieu, for the Ouachita and its tributaries and other interior streams of the State. Indeed, no State in the Union has fared as well in this respect as Louisiana has, and that fact is recognized fully here.

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