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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1914.

AN INDISPENSABLE REFORM.

While it may not be possible for us, with the limited and imperfect information available, and in the face of the conflicting reports, colored as they are in favor of this or that interest, to judge accurately as to the merits of any of the controversies in Mexico, or to say who, among the rival leaders there are actuated by patriotic motives and who are seeking the gratification of their own cupidities or their own ambition, one fact stands out clearly, namely, that there must be a radical change in the system of land tenure before Mexico will be at peace.

Missionaries may teach the people their catechisms, and school teachers may teach them their A. B. C.'s, but so long as those people are unable to dispose of their own labor, and to reap the fruits thereof, there will be no peace in Mexico save the peace that is due to the power of the mallet and the hammer, and we are witnessing across the ocean something of what the mallet has done for nations.

Inability to dispose of their labor and to enjoy its fruits means slavery, a slavery as real as that of the black before our civil war, and that is the condition in which the masses of the people of Mexico are today, and in which they will remain so long as the ownership of land is a monopoly in the hands of a small aristocracy.

We in the United States are sticklers for political liberty. There should be political liberty of the broadest kind. But political liberty without economic freedom is a hollow mockery. The ballot is a poor thing in the hands of a chattel. It is more important that the peon shall be able to own his few acres, his cabin, his garden, his cow and his chickens, that he shall be secure in the possession of them, and that he shall be taxed only in proper proportion to his earning capacity, than it is that he shall vote, that he shall go to school, or that he shall go to church. All of the latter things are highly desirable, and necessary, in their place, but they cannot create the superstructure of citizenship unless there is first the foundation of a real stake in the country, something tangible to live for, something to build upon, something to possess, something to transmit.

This need lies at the root of the situation in Mexico. Constitutions may be written, and revised, and torn up, and new constitutions may take their place. Governments, elective, dictatorial, bureaucratic or what not, may succeed each other, schools, churches and polling places may be established at every cross road, and it will all be futile. So long as the peon is unable to root himself in soil which is his own he will remain the restless, irresponsible, turbulent man that he is.

Diaz sought to maintain a government without the great essential, land ownership by the masses, and he was driven out. Madero, unable or unwilling to carry out his promises for this reform, had failed before murder cut short his life. Huerta attempted to set up a government without it, and he failed. It is the purpose of Carranza to ignore this imperative necessity, he will fail. And if, as some of his spokesmen say, Villa has broken with Carranza because of his determination to fight until he gets it, Villa, primitive barbarian though he is, is right, and he is showing greater statesmanship than any other man in Mexico.

BATTLES AND THE WEATHER.

Never before in the history of the world has there been such a cannonading as has been going on in France during the past few weeks. Day and night along a battle line which at times has extended two hundred miles, big guns and little guns have been discharging their missiles and fairly rending the air with their awful sound. And, for many days, with brief intervals, rain has been pouring down in torrents. Cause and effect? Surely those who believe that cannonading brings rain will point to France for complete justification of their belief.

We do not know when the idea that the concussion of heavy firing in great battles brought rain, but the opinion has been and is entertained by very many people. Naturally it must have originated since the use of gunpowder became prevalent, as, prior to that time men really did not make very much noise in this world. But, at any rate, this belief has become very common in modern times, and people have pointed to this battle and that, which were followed by rain, in proof of the theory. The fact that heavy rains have followed the great battles in France will clinch the thing in the minds of many people.

Scientific men say that there is absolutely no basis for the belief. They admit that it has rained after many great battles, but they assert—and, presumably, they have the records to prove the statement—that there have been many great battles which were not followed by rain within a time sufficiently brief to justify the belief that there was any connection between the two. Still further, they point to the fact that the efforts of

so-called rainmakers to cause rainfall by the discharge of great quantities of explosives, while these were sometimes followed by rain, were just as frequently followed by dry weather. It is also a fact that, while many experiments of this kind have been made on an elaborate scale, and while the work would have been continued if men with money to invest could have been convinced that the scheme was successful, these experiments have all been abandoned.

So far as the conditions in Europe are concerned, if one will forget all about theories on the subject, he will note that heavy rains in Central Europe in September are quite common, just as such rains are common in America and elsewhere. There is really no more reason for believing that the rains have been caused by the cannonading than that they have been caused by the declarations of war, or the flying of aeroplanes, or the smell of gasoline from the auto trucks. The rains followed all of them, and was as likely to be caused by one as by the other.

It is pretty generally accepted among men who have studied the records of these things ever since records were kept, and who have the very best possible means of information, that no disturbance of any kind that man has yet been able to create on this planet has any appreciable influence on the weather. It was believed rather generally that by planting or cutting down forests man could influence the rainfall. This idea has been exploded. The removal of a forest does influence what rainfall does to the country formerly covered by the forest, and that influence may extend for hundreds or thousands of miles along the course of a river, and he felt in the form of floods or low water, but the records show that the annual, and monthly and weekly rainfall remains unchanged. Periods of wet and dry weather follow each other as before. It is so with the breaking of sod and the cultivation of land, with the growing of crops and the drainage of marshes, and with everything else that has been done. The extremes and the means of rainfall and temperature remain as they were, and just as we become definitely convinced that the climate has changes for good, we are given a sample of "real old-fashioned weather" which knocks all our new theories into a cocked hat.

Man can change his immediate surroundings, and he can adapt himself to such weather as it pleases the power to send, but he cannot change it.

TWO WRONGS DO NOT MAKE RIGHT.

Yielding to the not unnatural anger caused by the irreparable damage done by German cannon to the architectural monuments of France and Belgium, an English commentator on the war suggests that there are in the museums and galleries of Berlin and other German cities very valuable works of art. These, being movable, should all be taken away, he thinks, to other countries after the war comes to the end he confidently expects.

As an adjustment of punishment to fit the crime, this suggestion has a certain charm, but the pleasure that would follow carrying it out—should opportunity occur, which is not yet quite certain to be the case—would not be permanent or of the noblest quality.

The stealing of art objects by victorious from defeated nations was once so general, was a "folkway" so widespread, that those who practiced that form of acquisition were hardly deserving of adverse criticism. They had the practically adequate justification of doing only what everybody else did. Times have changed, however, and glimmers of ordinary morality are beginning to appear even in those higher circles of sovereignty and diplomacy where they were formerly unknown and the higher expediency received never a thought. Preferable, therefore, to the Angry Briton's advice is some that comes from a Parisian source.

The vengeance of the allies, declares the Frenchman Herve, should take another form. When they enter Germany, instead of retributive destruction, there should be scrupulous protection of all buildings which for themselves or their contents are of more than national value. Then the monuments of Belgium and France, so far as they cannot be restored, should be replaced by others of like kind, using funds contributed for the purpose from all countries except one—Germany—her penalty being deprivation of the right to help.

M. Herve might well have left out the last detail of his plan, but otherwise it is an admirable one.

BIG CORN PRODUCTION.

According to a statement made by Thomas Cooper in charge of the field farm work at the A. C., North Dakota will this year show a yield of 14,000,000 bushels of mature corn. Compared with the corn yields of some of the states which are considered distinctively corn states, this is insignificant. But it is not by any means insignificant here. It is highly important, not only because of the direct cash returns to the farmers of the state this year from this particular crop, but because it is a demonstration of possibilities, the magnitude of which has just begun to dawn upon our people.

Every man whose experience in North Dakota dates back twenty years or more recalls the time when the raising of corn of any kind in this state was scouted as an absolute impossibility. Not even fodder corn was attempted because it was considered practically certain to be frozen before it had reached a stage where it was of any value for feed. Nobody had tried it, but everybody knew. In the very nature of things the feat was impossible, hence, why should it be tried?

A few farmers, who were believed to have more curiosity than good sense, experimented with "squaw" corn, planting little patches in their gardens, or in out-of-the-way places, and taking care of it in a half-hearted way. Sometimes the little ears would mature, and sometimes they would not. But when they did they would not be farmers in the fields. But all, wherever they work, were possessed of the scientific spirit which commands to "prove all things and hold fast that which is good."

HOT FIGHT BEING STAGED FOR SEAT

Medicine Lake and Plentywood Both Want Honors in Sheridan County.

Plentywood, Mont., Sept. 26.—If automobile owners of Sheridan county escape going through the country this fall without being liberally decorated with pennants they are lucky. There is a spirited county seat campaign on in Sheridan county this fall, and Plentywood and Medicine Lake, two towns 20 miles apart in the northeast corner, are lively rivals in the race.

Plentywood was designated as the temporary county seat when the county was organized nearly two years ago, and the business men of the present county seat do not propose to lose the county seat if such a thing is possible. As a result everyone in Plentywood has engaged in a campaign of boosting for his home town. Every man who owns an automobile is constantly canvassing the county, and every car carries a pennant reading, "For Plentywood, Permanent County Seat." Medicine Lake has followed suit and the automobiles ply-geared out of the town carry similar attractive advertising. Occasionally, in a friendly spirit, when the drivers of their cars are not watching out for the towns they are visiting these banners are exchanged. On one occasion this piece of mischief did not carry with it the fun it was intended, and as a result the Medicine Lake man who lost his banner is offering a \$50 reward for the arrest of the party who took it away from his car.

Engine Explodes.

Outlook, Mont., Sept. 26.—While Arthur Tutty and his crew of threshers were at lunch they left their engine running. In response to a terrific explosion the engine exploded, expecting to find themselves surrounded by German soldiers, but instead they saw the last pieces of their engine flying through the air after it had exploded. An engine from a neighbor came to a neighbor to finish the threshing.

Aged Man is Dead.

Outlook, Mont., Sept. 26.—J. Pettigill, aged 81, died at the home of his daughter on her farm near here. The remains were taken to their former home at Fairmount, N. D., for burial.

Wants Big Damages.

Chinook, Mont., Sept. 26.—As a result of the disbarment proceedings against Attorney O'Keefe of Chinook, O'Keefe has instituted an action for \$50,000 against a number of citizens of Chinook, alleging there was a conspiracy to injure his character.

Launch Stock Concern.

Glasgow, Mont., Sept. 26.—With a view to organizing a stock company, W. F. Day, president of the St. Paul Oil Gas Burner company, is co-operating with local business men. If the company is organized it is proposed to purchase a large number in North Dakota, and Glasgow will be the headquarters.

STABBED SERIOUSLY

Oakes Hospital Has Victim of Slashing Affray.

Oakes, N. D., Sept. 26.—J. H. West was brought to the Oakes hospital suffering from stabs received on the breast and on the back from a commotion in the case of altercation. The men are of the Rasmussen threshing crew near Glover. West is very weak from loss of blood, but will recover.

Deputy Sheriff Singleton was called to look after the stabbing artist, but has not been able to apprehend him.

F. B. SAPP MOVES.

Fargo, N. D., Sept. 26.—Rev. F. B. Sapp, who has been superintending mission work for the Disciples of Christ in North Dakota for the past year, has found the character of his work such that a removal to Minot making that city his headquarters, will be beneficial. Mr. Sapp expects to leave for their new home as soon as they can settle up their business matters here.

How some people delight in pouring ice water on your enthusiasm!

IN OUR SCHOOL

(By Paul West.) (Illustrated by Moser.) SATURDAY.

All the fellows went over to the Gipsy camp this morning to see if they were any stolen children there, for which we could get the reward. But they didn't look like the kind that had been stolen from anywhere, so we didn't ask any of them.

Andy Anderson went over to see the gipsy and he had learned from there a herd man, & the first bunch of gipsies he saw he led to it. The herd man had told him mabee when he

ourselves, & had a camp over in Lance Boggert's yard. Andy Anderson was cheap, he knowing that gipsy word whatever it means, & the first thing we did was to steal children, that being what they all do. George McLoughlin let us stole his little brother, who liked it, & then Gen Hicks came along & we'd we could steal her & make her a fine princess. Nobody would, though, you bet.

POOR FATTY.

Fatty Bellows was discovered setting on three back steps this afternoon crying sadly, looking at a stick of lickerish candy. When we saw why he was crying, Fatty said it was because he wanted to eat the lickerish. Then he was ast, why he didn't eat it, & he said if he did it would be gone & he wouldn't have it any more. Ex Brigham sed Fatty could get out of that by giving him the stick, & he said that was too much. Fatty at the hole thing in wun bite.

KLEVVOR ANDY.

Andy Anderson was seen looking round Jamison's blacksmith shop this aft., & when ast what he wanted he said he wanted to borrow an old engine wheel or sumthing like that to make a elektrick mashean. He red about it in a book & all he needed now to make wun was the wheel &

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WEDDING DELAYED THRO DISCOVERY

Jail Delivery at Minot Attempted by man Whose Marriage was Scheduled.

Minot, N. D., Sept. 26.—A jail delivery was nipped in the bud by Acting Chief of Police Carl Peterson and his men, hearing suspicious noises proceeding from the jail, the authorities went outside and caught four men in the act of prying the bars loose from one of the windows with a board.

John Yule, one of the ringleaders in the attempted jail delivery, who was serving a term for getting drunk, pleaded guilty before Police Magistrate John Lynch.

Yule claims that he bought a farm near Westby, Mont., on crop payments. He said he was about to be married and that he tried to break out of jail because he was anxious to have the ceremony performed.

O. H. Steverson, serving a term for disorderly conduct, pleaded not guilty to the charge of jail-breaking and his case was continued. The case of the other alleged would-be jail breakers will also be heard later.

Chief Peterson said today that if the men had been given half an hour more the season and ward on route have been emptied of its occupants, numbering about 25 men.

NEW HOLD-UP ORDER

They Now Tell Their Victims to "Hands Down."

Devis Lake, N. D., Sept. 26.—"Hands down" has been dropped from the vocabulary of the modern "stick-up" man. The proper salutation in requesting a victim to prepare himself to be relieved of loose change is "hands down" and not "hands over" as was the case in the way William Lisch of Taylors Falls, Wis., put it after having a little session with highwaymen on a freight train near Pleasant Lake, N. D., last night.

In company with three other men Lisch was riding in a car containing more wheat. They had completed the threshing season and were en route home when they were discovered by the gunmen. Here's where the "hands down" comes in.

Lining the men up the robbers ordered them to lean over and place their hands in the wheat. While the victims were making their profusious bow, emerging their hands in the golden grain, their bulging pockets were rifled and the fruit of their fall toll—all that was left, was collected by the visitors who appeared hard pressed for change. The evening offering totalled \$400.

Of the four men held up, Lisch was the only one who outguessed the gunmen. When he was paid off by the robbers, he slipped behind the straw stack and tucked his earnings into a pouch he carried around his neck, along with a little garlic and other household remedies. The gang is guaranteed to put any well regulated stick-up man off the scent.

MANY WITNESSES

North Dakota is Being Searched for Men Having Information.

Fargo, N. D., Sept. 26.—The United States marshal's entire force of deputies have been out serving subpoenas on witnesses wanted for the trial of S. P. Lesseyoung, charged with using the mails to defraud. The case will be tried in Minneapolis October 6, and is one that will attract great interest all over this section, as Lesseyoung is alleged to have defrauded in various ways a large number in North Dakota and neighboring states. Papers have already been served upon 22 witnesses in North Dakota.

The case had grown out of the operations of the Farmers General Service company, of which Lesseyoung was the promoter, and in fact, the "company." Lesseyoung represented to farmers that the company was in a position to save them money on supplies by cutting out the middleman, and could also, by reason of the large scale of its operations, sell their produce more advantageously. A large number bought stock in the concern, which was soon barred, however, from the use of the mails.

Warrants issued for various charges are held for Lesseyoung in a number of states, North Dakota among them. The local office is holding its warrant until the present case is disposed of.

NEW ROCKFORD CONVENTION CITY

Selected by the Congregationalists for Next Annual Gathering.

Williston, N. D., Sept. 26.—Rev. E. H. Stickney of Fargo was unanimously re-elected superintendent at the meeting of the Congregational conference yesterday afternoon. Rev. S. Hitchcock of Hope was elected registrar and M. B. Cassel of Hope, treasurer. E. R. Brownson of Williston was chosen moderator for next year.

New Rockford gets the next meeting of the conference. Rev. A. J. Taylor of Velva was made scribe and Rev. H. C. Vanauken of Crary assistant scribe for this session. Rev. W. K. Bloom will deliver the next annual sermon.

DIVIDE COUNTY

Plan Under Way to Create Three Counties Out of Morton.

Mandan, N. D., Sept. 26.—Following on the heels of the organization of Sioux county out of that part of the Standard Rock section, restoration in North Dakota, two more counties may soon be created.

Morton county, 82 miles north and south and 72 miles east and west, is the largest in North Dakota. It has been rapidly settled and two petitions have been filed with the county auditor asking that county division be placed on the ballot at the fall election.

Beaver county, composed of 28 townships in the northwestern part of the county, and Grant county, composed of 50 townships in the southwestern part of old Morton, are the subdivisions asked.

YOUNG LAD IS SHOT

Minot Boy Wounded Accidentally by Companion.

Minot, N. D., Sept. 26.—William Renz, aged 12, son of John Renz, a farmer living north of Minot, was shot through the fleshy part of the leg late yesterday by little Jerry Linha, son of Frank Linha, on the Linha farm north of Minot. Jerry was playing with a 22 caliber rifle at the time and he "didn't" know it was loaded. He pulled the trigger and the shot passed through the Renz lad's leg. Several companions were present at the time and they carried the boy to the farm house. He was taken to Minot and the wound was probed by a local physician, the bullet being removed.

NORTON OPPOSED

Again He Proposes War Revenue Measure.

Washington, Sept. 26.—In speaking in the house yesterday in opposition to the internal revenue tax bill, Congressman Norton of North Dakota urged that if reasonable economy such as existing conditions in the country and abroad warranted was practiced in government appropriations and expenditures, no legislation for additional sources of revenue would be necessary.

He suggested the reason why whiskey in the south was exempted from any additional tax would be interesting. The tax on gasoline was declared to be unjust and unreasonable and would impose a burden of from two to ten dollars a year on every family in the northwest using gasoline.

"Madame, do you think you can use your influence with your husband to induce him to support me in this campaign?" "I don't know, sir. I've never yet succeeded in inducing him to support me."

ROYAL BAKING POWDER Absolutely Pure Made from Grape Cream of Tartar NO ALUM

ARE PRAIRIE CHICKENS CHANGING HABITS; THEY PROTECT SELVES NOW

Devis Lake, N. D., Sept. 26.—That the festive prairie chicken which audubon enthusiasts for years have mourned as being exterminated, are experiencing an evolution by which they are able to protect themselves, is the opinion of Lake Region hunters this fall. "Wild as hawks" is the way the birds are classed this week, despite the fact there have been several bright warm days when the denizens of the meadow and field should have "held" under ordinary conditions. There are some very conservative hunters in this section of the state who are in favor of advancing the opening of the chicken season a week or more, that hunting could be in progress before the birds become extremely large and wild. In the opinion of Luther P. Dawson, deputy game warden for the Second judicial district, there is every indication that duck hunting will be excellent this fall. Already some excellent kills have been reported. Unlike the early season ducks of previous years, the birds this fall are of excellent types. Mallards, canvas backs, red heads with a few teal have made up most of the bags. The average man thinks housework is one continuous round of pleasure until his wife is ill and he tries to get his own breakfast.

RELIABLE HARDWARE A.B. Rheinhardt 1005 N. 3rd St. GRAND FORKS N. D.

AN EXTENSION OR EXTRA TELEPHONE LOCATED IN ANY PART OF THE HOUSE FOR 50¢ PER MONTH THE NORTHWESTERN TELEPHONE EXCHANGE COMPANY

PUT UP YOUR AWNINGS Grand Forks Tent & Awning Co. 211 N. 5th St., Grand Forks, N. D. Either Phone 1304L

Prophets of Profit WE believe the lean days are over. WE believe prosperity is here—the greatest boom times we have known in a generation. Every keen visioned man can see it. The armies of Europe fighting for military power have combined to make America the world's great commercial power. During the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1914, the United States imported \$1,892,000,000 worth of goods. A pretty good item for our own manufacturers to supply this year. In addition, our mills must double their exports to make up for the goods Europe cannot supply. The figures are dazzling—the profits stupendous. Are You Ready for Prosperity?