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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1914.

WEARING OF ROOSEVELT?

"The public," says Colonel Roosevelt, "is getting tired of me." Coupled with this statement the colonel says that the public is wearying of reforms and reformers. Is this quite true, and, if not, just what is the situation?

The fact seems to be that the capacity of the American public for thrills has been beyond its limit, and it fails to respond. A human being can remain keyed up beyond the normal for only a limited time. He may be thrilled by a daring feat. He may be thrilled several times in succession. But he cannot live forever in a state of thrill. He must give his nerves a rest. And, if he does not do this voluntarily, they will take a rest in spite of him.

Some real and some fictitious reformers have been thrilling the American public for a long time. The public responded, but it could not keep it up. It had to have a rest. Colonel Roosevelt is a very vigorous man, and he has not appreciated this, unless the appreciation has come recently. He kept the country standing on its tip toe for a long time. He would have shown wisdom had he quit a little earlier; but he did not, and the country simply settled down to stand in a natural position and rest its muscles for a while.

Roosevelt has been a disappointment to many people, not because he has been active, but because he has failed to make the most effective use of his wonderful equipment.

DOUBLE TAXATION.

Under our present system of taxation much of our property is compelled to bear a double share of taxation, or would be if the laws were enforced.

A piece of land is assessed at the prevailing rate of valuation, and a tax is imposed on that basis. It makes no difference whether the land is free from encumbrance or not. It is assessed at so much per acre, and the man in whose name the title stands is expected to pay the tax. The property may be mortgaged for half or two-thirds of its value. That makes no difference. It is not the owner's equity, but the value of the land which is taxed.

The man who holds the mortgage is expected to list it for taxation. Rather, he is required by law to do so—nobody expects that he is going to do it. If he does this almost unheard-of thing, he will pay a tax on the sum which he has invested in the property. One piece of property, therefore, is thus taxed twice, for there is but one value represented.

Again, a man may have around him a lot of personal property. It is assessed and he is taxed. He may have borrowed all the money with which he has bought this property, and he may not have paid any of it. Still, he is taxed just as if he had no indebtedness. Then the man who holds his notes is required to list them as credits, and to pay a tax on the amount. There is but a single value, but two taxes are paid.

Either credits, including real estate mortgages, ought not to be taxed, or there should be subtracted from the value of the property which one lists for taxation the amount of his indebtedness. The same property should not be compelled to pay taxes twice.

When the thing finally adjusts itself, the burden of nearly all this double taxation falls on the man who uses the actual property. The owner of real estate, of course, does not pay directly the tax levied against the mortgage on his property. That is done, when it is done at all, by the holder of the mortgage. But the farmer pays the tax, indirectly, in the form of interest. Money goes where it will bring its owner the best returns. When the earnings in one field are better than in another, money seeks investment there, and because of the scarcity thus created in the other fields, the men interested in them must bid higher in order to get money. If a man cannot get as much for his thousand dollars on a farm mortgage as on something else, he will buy something else. That which tends to diminish the desirability of a farm mortgage to the investor tends to advance the rate of interest. Hence, where farm mortgages are taxed, the farmer pays, first, the tax on his land, and then most of the tax on the mortgage running against that land. It is so with all sorts of credit taxation. The man who must have the money must pay a price which will make it worth the while of a lender to let him have it.

LEAVE THIS REASON OUT.

Chicago Herald: Among the reasons given for opposing a more efficient attention to the question of national defense is the statement that "even the victor at the end of the struggle will be in no condition to wage war."

There is little to substantiate such a statement. The victor at the end of any war usually has an immense body of highly trained soldiers on

hand—better than any other nation can boast. There may be financial difficulties, but there is always some way for a nation flushed with victory to meet these for a time.

This country was never in a better condition to wage war than at the end of our civil struggle. We then had the largest body of seasoned soldiers in the world and probably the most powerful navy, not excepting even England's. When we told Europe to leave Mexico alone we were in a better position to enforce the command than we had ever been before.

At the end of the present struggle in Europe practically every man will be a trained soldier. The victor will thus have an army at his disposal such as was never known in history.

And he may have a fleet vastly more efficient than at the beginning of the war—since in war due attention is paid to upbuilding of the navy.

This is said in no alarmist vein. We have no idea that any European nation is going to attack us at the end of the war or for years thereafter. It is said in the interests of accuracy and common sense. When we are considering the situation we might as well stick to the facts.

A DIFFICULT NEIGHBOR.

General Carranza appears to be a rather difficult neighbor. He takes the position that if the United States undertakes to use force to put a stop to the reckless shooting on the other side of the Mexican border, which has endangered the lives of American citizens on their own territory, that act will be a demonstration of hostility by the United States. Such an attitude is absurd. Yet it is in keeping with much that has gone before. For some unknown reason, Carranza has tried all along in a manner, if not actually hostile, at least uncordial and suspicious, toward the United States. He has been almost as difficult to deal with as Huerta, and if our government had been of a quarrelsome disposition we would have been in a fight with him long ago.

The United States has been kindly and tolerant in its dealings with all the Mexicans. It has endured much. It has taken things from Mexico which it would not have taken from a more powerful nation; and it has done so because of a realization of Mexico's weakened and disorganized conditions. Allowance has been made for the nation and its leaders.

Carranza appears to be incapable of appreciating this. He was ready to quarrel with us over the seizure of Vera Cruz, though it was made very clear that we had no intention of retaining the city or meddling with the government of the country. Our promises were most scrupulously carried out, and of our free will we withdrew our troops from the city, and there is not now an American soldier in Mexico. Our occupation of the city, while not intended for that purpose, undoubtedly hastened the retirement of Huerta from the country and the entrance of Carranza into the capital. It was not our fault if he could not maintain himself there.

Our voluntary retirement from Vera Cruz gave Carranza and his present associates a place of refuge where they found the capital getting too hot for them. Certainly the man has no legitimate ground of complaint against the United States. The fruits which Mr. Carpenter thinks will be handled in this way are not the citrus fruits, of which we are large producers ourselves, but such things as peaches, plums, and others of that class. When our season for these fruits is over the children's season is just beginning. From Santiago to New York, via the canal, the trip will consume two weeks, and with modern methods of cooling the fruit, properly packed, can be kept in prime condition. The chances appear to be good for the building up of a large trade in this one item.

If, after all that has come and gone, Carranza imagines that any attitude of wounded dignity will restrain our authorities from protecting our own citizens, our own territory, he mistakes greatly the temper of the American government and the American people. If the Mexicans must right among themselves, let them fight. Doubtless they must have it out. There may come a time when the United States will feel constrained to take a hand and attempt to bring about

some sort of order. But that time is not yet. We hope that it may never come. But the fighting must be done far enough from inhabited parts of the United States to make it safe for Americans to live in their own country and attend to their own business there. Carranza may be miffed, if he chooses to take it that way, but we hope that if the Mexican bands get to shooting across the border again, they will be given the contents of some of the guns which were recently shipped south for this purpose.

BEING PREPARED TO FIGHT.

There is always, in some quarters, anxiety concerning the alleged inability of the United States to defend itself and, incidentally, to attack other people, but the European war has stimulated interest in the subject, and a good deal of eloquence has been turned loose on it in congress. It is necessary, of course, to recognize the conditions in which we live, but that is exactly what is not done by those who regard the constant building of armament and perpetual preparation for war as things to which to look forward forever; who believe that each nation must always live in fear of being attacked unless it maintains such a strong armed force that attack would be hopeless. The present conditions, and the conditions which will doubtless exist for some time, necessitate some preparation for the use of force, but the history of civilization demonstrates that these conditions are but temporary, and that they soon be outgrown.

There has been a regular and orderly progress from the time when every individual had to look to his own defense and to the present, when few individuals give a thought to such a thing. The protection of the individual in his person and his property has been passed on to the state, and the ability of a man to fight has practically no influence on his safety. There are millions of men who, in all their lives, since the boyish scrambles of their school days, have never had occasion to strike a blow or make a defensive movement. That condition has been reached by gradual progress from the individualistic ages of long ago.

So it will prove in the history of nations. The present war to the contrary notwithstanding, the time is approaching when the nation will be as secure from attack as the individual is now, and common security will be reached through the common action of the peoples of the world.

SOUTH AMERICAN FRUITS.

A well known newspaper correspondent, Frank G. Carpenter, writing from Santiago, Chile, deals in an interesting manner of the possible development of one branch of trade with South America as a result of the opening of the Panama canal, the trade in fresh fruits in winter. As he points out, our winter season is the South American summer season. When the time for our northern fresh fruits is past, the time for southern fruit begins. And considerable attention is being given to this work in the south in anticipation of the development of a considerable trade with the United States as soon as transportation possibilities are right.

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In Our School

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

TUESDAY.

Christmas only 10 days off. TORP STEBBINS IS WERRIED. Torp Stebbins has got into another of those funny ways he gets, and this morning he sed he was wondering if it was worth while waiting so long for Christmas, 1-2 the time, Torp says, anything you wate for ain't so good

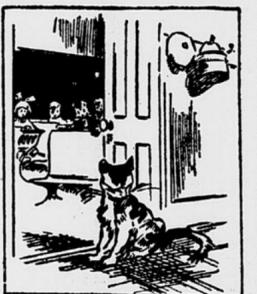


Andy Anderson and Bol Haynes sat no the Fence to Watch the Roof Catch Fire.

after all, like when he had the mumps. He wated to catch them from his litle brother, thinking he was going to get petted & taken care of the same as him, but when he reely got them what did he get? Nothing but blaim for being so careless!

All rite, Torp, go ahead & werry about it if you want to, but we ain't going to.

A PLEASUNT AFFARE SPOILED. Last nite on thare way hoam from the publick libery Andy Anderson & Bol Haynes sean sparks cumming out of Oald Griggys chimney, & set on the fence across the strete to watch the roof catch fier. It was pritty damp, but the roof would of cot all rite, only Stuffy Balch the constubal calm along & sean it, too, & toald Griggys, which spollt what would of been a verry nice fier. Werse



Ex Brigham Noticed it When Frances Came Out in the Hall.

than that, when he wanted to call the Hays-Can-&-Will Pler Department Griggys begged him not to, he saying he valued his oal howso & would ruther talk a chanst of its burning down than have thouse fellers come rownd & chop it all to peaces. So him & Stuffy put the sparks out themselves. The fellers thot that way was cheeted quite bad all rownd.

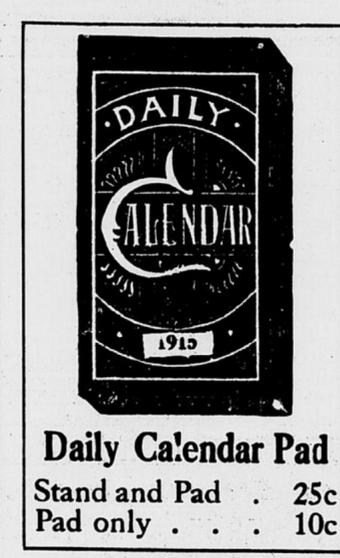
IT'S BEGINNING TO WORK. The imtashon mouse which Frances the school cat swallered yestiddy is beginning to work, the outside probly melting off by this time & the springs beginning to swell out a bit. Ex Brigham noticed it when Frances came out in the hall by the door of our room during spelling & set down to wash her face. She looked all rite for a while, but suddinly she glaised up kinder queer & thay was a funny look in her eyes, and she kind of gazed down at her stummick. Then she mooved a litle bit & stopped like she was scart of herself. The next thing she maid a jump for the seller stares,

Our Boyhood Days Ambition.

—By Webster.



Calendar Pads and Stands, 1915



Daily Calendar Pad
Stand and Pad . . . 25c
Pad only . . . 10c



Handy Calendar Pad and Stand
Stand and Pad . . \$1.00
Pads only . . . 50c



Perfection Pad and Stand
Stand and Pad . . 75c
Pad only . . . 35c



Standard Pad and Stand
Stand and Pad . . \$1.00
Pad only . . . 50c

ORDER TODAY while our stock is complete.
We can furnish pads for any style stand.

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Do Your Xmas Shopping by Mail.

BENNER & BEGG
"The Store Accommodating"

Mail Orders Receive Prompt Attention.

Store Open Evenings Till 9 O'clock
Eight More Shopping Days—Then Christmas

Make Your Gift Selections From This Desirable List

If undecided what to give "her" this Xmas, you can surely select something suitable and practical from the large assortment listed below. These articles have been selected at random from the stocks in each department, with special regard to their usefulness. Extra salespeople will help you make selections.

Ivory Novelties
Articles always desirable and our list includes Toilet Sets, Picture Frames, Manicuring Sets, Nail Files, Powder Boxes, Trays, Hatpin Holders, Clocks, Mirrors, Brushes, etc.

Ladies' Hand Bags
We have a fine assortment of the new styles, and have also placed on sale two special lots—one lot of values up to \$12.00 to sell at \$2.75; and the other lot, values to \$5.00 for . . . \$1.75

Neckwear
Why not a dainty collar in one of the late designs. Our line includes the smartest and up-to-the-minute styles in fancy tissues, nets, etc.—at all prices.

Bargain Basement Special
One Lot of Ladies Juliettes; Fur and Ribbon Trimmed; regular \$1.50 values. To sell at, per pair. . . \$1.29

Fancy Handkerchiefs
Fancy Ribbons
Dainty Party Slippers
Silk and Wool Mufflers
Long Kid Gloves
Gold Handled Umbrellas
Fancy White Aprons
Nobby Winter Shoes
Comfy Slippers
Silk Waists
Lingerie Waists
Bath Robes
Bath Robe Blankets
Suit Cases
Trunks
Novelty Belt Pins
Silk Kimonos
Sweater Coats
Small Rugs
Fancy Curtains
Comforters
Pillows
Shaving Sets
Silk Dresses Etc.

We Close at 6 O'clock Christmas Eve.

& we could here her running up oaver the cole bens. Pritty soon Blinky Hammond calm up & ast had annybody galve Frances anything to ete lally. Everybody sed no, that being the truth, she harving at the mouse of her own free will, say we.

EXTRY—Just before reesess Frances was sean cumming down the hall & going oaver the fence like she was thinking of sumthing. On Griggys the fence she stopped & looked at herself & kind of lissened. Mebbe the springs of the mouse are ticking. We hoap nothing seerious will hap-pin to Frances, as she is verry useful to us.

NOATS.
It's snowing. When Steve Hardy looked out the winder & sean it he cheared. Torp Stebbins almost bust out crying. When ast why, he sed: "Snow menes shuvvelling off the frunt part." Aint Torp queer?

While walking in the Adirondacks a young millionaire was given a lift by a driver on a lumber cart. "Got a cigarette?" asked the driver. "Sure," replied the young man, drawing from hispocket a gold cigarette case richly jewelled and dengraved. The fellow's eyes opened with astonishment. "Jiminy cracky!" he exclaimed. "What kind of cigarettes do they give that box with?"