

THE NEW FARMER: WINONA, MISS.

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GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP.

A Railroad President's Remedy for What He Calls Evils.

President Blackstone of the Chicago and Alton road has just given to his stockholders the most sensational annual report ever issued from a railroad office. His annual reports are famous for their fearlessness, but this one plainly shows the part the government has had in reducing railway values, and ends with a detailed proposition for the government to buy and operate all the railroads of the country. His arraignment of legislative action and his proposition for government control of the railroads is, in brief, as follows:

"It is idle to say the state governments are not responsible for the construction of too many railroads. They, and they only, have had absolute power to prevent the building of railroads. No railroad ever has been, or can be, constructed in the United States except by state or federal authority. It is no answer that the object in multiplying railroads has been to regulate rates or reduce them within reasonable limits. Reasonable rates cannot be secured by multiplying railroads without limit. * * * It is said we should not complain unless prepared to suggest a remedy. We will, therefore, suggest the ownership of railroads by the national government and the organization of a corps of railroad operators, who shall remain in the service during good behavior, and be in no greater degree under the influence of politicians and political parties than the army militant.

"The outlines of our suggestion may be stated as follows: The national government shall acquire the ownership of all the railroads in the United States which are now used for interstate traffic; such railroads to be acquired by the exercise of its right of eminent domain or by purchase under such limitations and rules as to price as congress may determine; payment therefor to be made by the issue of government bonds bearing interest at a rate not exceeding 3 per cent. per annum, said bonds to be redeemed by the annual application of a sinking fund equal in amount to 1 per cent. of the whole amount of such bonds issued, the annual interest and sinking fund to be paid from the net earnings of the railroads. The rates for transportation from year to year to be reduced so as to provide no more money than shall be needed for such payments."

President Blackstone is thoroughly in earnest. He says: "I mean all I have said, and more. I have shown that the government has practically confiscated hundreds of millions of railroad property, and that if things keep on as they have, another decade will see every railroad in hopeless bankruptcy."

The utterances above will indeed be news to the country. No one will suppose that it is in the interest of the people that President Blackstone makes the suggestion. With the watered stock that the railroads have, the price to be paid by the government will be double, and in some cases triple, what the roads originally cost; and the owners of the roads will be making big money to turn loose on the government.

To whiten and preserve the teeth take one ounce of borax and put it in three pints of boiling water; before it is quite cold add to it a teaspoonful of spirits of camphor; when cold put in a bottle and cork tightly. A tablespoonful is to be used daily in the same quantity of tepid water.

From Hinds County.

To the Editor of The New Farmer:

I will try to tell you what we are doing in these parts. The alliance is plodding along in a sort of slipshod way; it is not doing as much as it might. It is hard to have a full attendance in our sub-alliance meetings.

There has been some little discussion of the Constitutional Convention, but we are all in the dark. We would like to have some light on the subject. What is it for and what is its object? We cannot understand the why nor the wherefore of it. It seems to be a political trick of some sort to those that are in the dark, and we want information. It has been sprung on us without warning, and if the purpose is what I have heard it is, we don't want any Constitutional Convention in ours. Why what are you going to do with the negro if you cut him off from voting? You can't tax without representation. If you have property qualifications, what are you going to do with the white man who can not come up to that qualification? There are thousands of such, and they are good citizens too. What is so urgent for a Constitutional Convention? By answering this and giving us all the other information, you will confer a great favor upon us all.

W. J. Gough.

Bolton, Miss.

[It is useless to discuss the propriety of calling a convention. That question is settled. If the brethren will read THE NEW FARMER for the next six months they will see that there were abundant reasons for a convention, and such bodies as the State Alliance favored it.—Ed.]

Twenty-eight Bales of Cotton on Twelve Acres.

Mr. John P. Gray of Hampton county, North Carolina, shows how good farming can be made to pay by the results achieved last season on twelve acres of cotton. He has printed his process for working. He breaks the land with a 6 inch turning plow the latter part of February. It is then laid off in deep rows 5 feet apart. He puts down fifty bushels of green cotton seed to the acre and covers them lightly. On April 1 6,200 pounds of fertilizer are put down to the measured acre. Seed are dropped by hand 30 inches apart in hills; the ground is lightly plowed about May 1, and also on May 30, at which time the cotton seed meal, mixed with acid phosphate and kainit, is put in. On June 1 cotton is chopped out. On June 12 he "plows shallow" with sweep plow. No more plowing is allowed after July 30, as the cotton is then large enough to hide a mule. After the ground is broken all plowing is shallow. The following is the cost: Work, plowing and hoeing, \$96.80; cotton seed for manure, \$120.50; guano (600 pounds to the acre), \$79.20; cost of picking, \$190.50; total \$486. Mr. Gray gathed twenty-eight bales, weighing 505 pounds, and including bagging and ties, averaging net \$45—the twenty-eight making \$1260, and the net on the twelve acres being \$774.—Age-Herald.

Tribute of Respect.

Passed away Feb. 10, 1890, our brother, Ballou, aged 51 years. We feel that the alliance and community have lost one of its brightest members. He commanded the love and respect of all reasonable persons whose good fortune it was to know him. He was always cheerful and respectful, and few men are so universally liked by all who know them.

This alliance extends its heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family.

SHILOH ALLIANCE, No. 402.

Terry's art gallery is a credit to Winona and his work advertises him wherever it goes.

The Sealing of Letters.

How were letters sealed before the invention of gummed envelopes? The first seals consisted of a ring that was affixed to clay or bole, and later to chalk or creta astatica, a mixture of pitch, wax, and plaster. The use of wax did not begin to become general till the middle ages. Bees-wax, rendered yellow by time, was the first material used. Then came sealing-wax mixed with a white substance. Red wax began with Louis VI., in 1113, and green wax made its appearance about the year 1163. In the thirteenth century, yellow, brown, rose, black, and blue were added to the foregoing colors. Black wax is a rarity met with in the seals of the military religious orders. Under the First Empire people began to use wafers, which were brought from Italy by the soldiers and officers of the French Army. These wafers were cut with a punch out of a thin leaf made of flour. Finally, gummed envelopes gradually began to replace sealing-wax and wafers nearly everywhere.

The summum Bonum.

The largest question for every man is to determine what is his highest good; for what he will aim for is that which he considers the highest good to himself. If it be, in his mind, to glorify God and do his will, his course of life will be far different from what it would be if to his mind the most desirable thing were to get all the present enjoyment out of life that is attainable, without reference to duty to God or fellow man, or any future.

Belief lies at the bottom of this question. If one believes in his soul that this life is only a probation, a vestibule existence before the entrance door to a vast eternity, which must be this or that, just according to the deeds done in the body, he will logically judge that to spend all time and energy upon that which presently pleases, without reference to permanent good results, would not be the highest good to him. If, however, he verily believes that he is like the unthinking, irresponsible horse, that this world is all there is of life; or even if he thinks that it makes little difference what he does here, that his nature will not be materially changed by it anyhow, in that case he will consider that the highest good to himself will be to do nothing that costs an effort, to make the most of pleasure, and let the future take care of itself. These are the two courses, one of which, with modifications, every soul will take. Which course is yours, dear reader? Purposely we have left out collateral considerations, that the main question should confront us, without anything to divert attention. What is to you the summum bonum of life?

Whatever the life is, that the real heart belief is; for, in the very nature of the case, each will do what seems to him the best thing. If a piece of gold and a piece of silver and a piece of stone all lie within reach, and yet only one can possibly be secured, the gold would be taken; so we choose between the two courses just as we in our hearts believe is for our best; therefore your life you are now living is the best indication of what you really believe. This may be modified by many considerations; you may be blind, or deceived, or led into a course temporarily, which is not really according to your judgement upon the all important question as to what is the highest good; but the drift of your life shows your belief.

And this lesson needs to be taken home by each of us, What is my highest good? And am I reaching out for it sensibly and successfully?—Censer.

The Buffalo.

Those who studied geography some twenty or more years ago will remember the pictures and descriptions of the immense herds of buffalo that then roamed the plains. The geographer of the present day has to draw entirely on his imagination for his buffalo. There are not more than 600 left in the country, half of the number in the Yellowstone Park reservation; and now Senator Plumb and Representative Peters of Kansas want Congress to set aside the district on the Northern border of Texas known as No-Man's-Land, for the subsistence of the other 300 buffalo. The scheme will probably fail, as the district is wanted for settlement. Twenty years to come there will not be a buffalo in existence outside of a menagerie.—Memphis Avalanche.

Health Commandments

1. Thou shalt have no other food except at meal time.
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any pies or put into pastry the likeness of anything that is in the heavens above or in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not fall to eating it or trying to digest it. For the dyspepsia will be visited upon the children to the third and fourth generation of them that eat pie, and long life and vigor upon those that live prudently and keep the laws of health.
3. Remember thy bread to bake it well; for he will not be kept sound that eateth his bread as dough.
4. Thou shalt not indulge sorrow or borrow anxiety in vain.
5. Six days shalt thou wash and keep thyself clean, and on the seventh thou shalt take a great bath, thou and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy man servant, and thy maid servant, and the stranger within thy gates. For in six days man swears and gathers bacteria enough for disease; wherefore the Lord has blessed the bath tub and hallowed it.
6. Remember thy sitting-room and bed chamber to keep them ventilated, that thy days may be long in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.
7. Thou shalt not eat hot biscuit.
8. Thou shalt not eat thy meat fried.
9. Thou shalt not swallow thy food unchewed, or highly spiced, or just before hard work, or just after it.
10. Thou shalt not keep late hours in thy neighbor's house, nor with thy neighbor's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his cards, nor his glass, nor with anything that is thy neighbor's.—Ex.

Mr. Spurgeon saw on a weather-cock what he thought was a strange motto, "God is Love!" and asked his friend if he meant to imply that the Divine love could be as fickle as the wind. "No," said he, "this is what I mean: whichever way the wind blows, God is love, through the cold north wind, the biting east wind, still God is love, as much as when the warm, genial breezes refresh our fields and flocks."—The Messenger.

Origin of "Mind Your P's and Q's."

In ale-houses, in the olden time, when chalk-scores were marked upon the wall or behind the door of the tap room, it was customary to put the initials "P" and "Q" at the head of every man's account, to show the number of pints and quarts for which he was in arrears; and we may presume many a friendly rustic to have tapped his neighbor on the shoulder, when he was indulging too freely in his potations, and to have exclaimed as he pointed to the chalk-score, "Mind your P's and Q's, man! Mind your P's and Q's!"—Origin of Things Familiar.

"The best husbands I ever met," says the author of "John Halifax," "came out of a family where the mother, a most heroic and self-denying woman, laid down the absolute law, 'Girls first; not in any authority, but first to be thought of in protection and tenderness. Consequently the chivalrous care which those lads were taught to show to their sisters naturally extended itself to all women. They grew up true gentlemen—gentlemen generous, unexact, courteous of speech, and kind of heart."

Height of Great Sea Waves.

Carefully repeated experiments made by an experienced English navigator at Santander, on the north coast of Spain, showed the crest of the sea waves in a prolonged and heavy gale of wind to be 42 feet high; and allowing the same for the depth between the waves, would make a height of 84 feet from crest to base. The length from crest to crest was found to be 386 feet. Other estimates of the waves in the South Atlantic during great storms give a height of 50 feet for the crest and 400 for the length. In the North Sea the height of crest seldom exceeds 10 feet, and the length 150 feet.

If thou art not born again, all thy outward reformation is naught; thou hast shut the door, but the thief is still in the house.—Boston.

"Constant devotion to one particular line of business often proves superior to genius and art."—Cicero.

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