

Mebane Leader

J. A. FOY, Editor and Owner

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CORRESPONDENCE

We wish correspondents in all the nearby post offices. Write at once.

Thursday, November 9, 1911

BREAKING THROUGH ITS CRISIS.

China is undergoing a state of evolution. From century bound despotism it is breaking its crisis and emerging to a liberal monarchy with strong republican tendencies. Red handed rebellion with its banners of flames and its streams of blood is sweeping like a tornado of wrath and ruin over the old tottering dynasty, the oldest it is claimed in existence, but in its sweep it is breaking down centuries of prejudice. Centuries back in its beginning, its forms and codes may have been suited to the conditions of its people, but material development, science and arts, have relegated it as a back number, and it to-day meets in no sense the demands of advanced ideas and civilization.

China is immense in area, and population, and once that vast mass of people are taught to utilize their strength and opportunities, they will become one of the worlds great powers to be reckoned with by the Arian race.

We remember an editorial remark made by Mr. Joe Caldwell in the Observer at the beginning of the Chinese-Japanese war which was aptly illustrated at the battle of Weihaiwei, when the Li Hung Chang administration were shooting clay cannon balls at the Japanese. He said China reminded him of an old big sea turtle turned on its back and so it was, a blundering senseless body. A revolution will do much to arouse the latent energies of this ancient people.

The public school system of this State is failing in one important feature when it neglects to add to its curriculum some treaties upon health, and sanitation, and this will be the case until there is diffused among the masses more general information bearing upon these matters.

But little is known of the very crudest elements of sanitation, and less of the ordinary rules of health. People go blundering along utterly ignorant of the simplest rules governing good health, oftentimes incurring acute, or chronic troubles that do permanent harm. If there is one thing that should be taught above any other, it is how to conserve unimpaired to old age the vital forces of the body. If strong, healthy men are worth anything to a nation, and they are its chief concern, then any information that would enable them to keep strong and healthy should be sought at any cost.

It seems that the Italians have just begun to awaken the Turks. If reports from Tripoli are true the Italian army of occupation is in a serious condition. Hordes of Arabs and Turks are constantly pressing in and narrowing the circle. Once those wild fanatical people are thoroughly aroused, it may in fact be difficult to assuage their appetite for human blood. They will come near waging a war of extermination.

The Durham play houses are giving the people hell this week. Both the Arcade and the Academy of Music will put on Dante Inferno. The weird ghostly pictures of the abode of the dam-

ed. These pictures will make a run of the State for the coming two weeks. If you have a friend who is using his mouth entirely too much. Send him down or up, or to some place where these pictures are on exhibition, that he may see where he is going too before long.

A LITTLE EFFACEMENT.

It won't hurt you a bit, to lose sight of self occasionally. Turn from the enchanting pageant of your own personality, and see if it is not possible to observe something else in the world worthy of your attention, your worship, your homage, your honor. It may be a little difficult to efface the ego, but it is worth while.

Supreme Court Justice, Charles E. Hughes of New York is being spoken of in strong terms as a possible presidential candidate to succeed Mr. Taft. Mr. Hughes is a very able man, and a seeming honest one, but he has never blazed in the lime light of popular sentiment as a justice that he did as Governor of New York. Mr. Hughes is however a good man.

Darraw is doing his best to make the trial of the McNamarras at Los Angeles a contest between capital and labor, concealing so far as possible the real issue of murder. It is to be hoped in the interest of justice, that he will not succeed. Labor conspires to blow up a man's business, killing twenty or more people and then excuses its self upon the grounds that it is fighting capital. We sympathize with labor in its every struggle, but cut throats and murderers does not come in that class.

ELECTIONS IN 14 STATES.

But Only Three Will Elect Governors November 7

(From the Philadelphia Ledger.)
Although the elections to be held in a number of States November 7 will be quiet, compared with the presidential struggle a year hence, interest is nevertheless, keen.

States which will elect governors or other State officers are Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Maryland, Kentucky, Mississippi, Louisiana and New Mexico. In other States justices of the Supreme Court, members of legislatures and mayors will be chosen. Several congressional vacancies are to be filled. While this is regarded as an off year national interest centres in Massachusetts, where the Democratic and Republican parties have named full State tickets. E. N. Foss, who was elected as Democratic governor last year, is a candidate for re-election. The Republican ticket is headed by L. A. Frothingham, present Republican Lieutenant Governor.

In New York State a new Assembly will be elected, as well as several judges of the Supreme Court and city and county officials.

New Mexico votes for the first time in its history as a State, for a full set of State officers, members of Congress and for a Supreme Court and other judges. It also will vote on a proposed amendment to make the Constitution more easily amendable. Ohio will vote for municipal officers and delegates to the constitutional convention. Pennsylvania elects mayors in nearly all cities.

Municipal officers also will be voted for, among other States, in Tennessee. Georgia will hold a primary to nominate a candidate to succeed Governor Hoke Smith, who becomes United States senator. Maryland, besides electing a governor, will choose a State Comptroller, Attorney-General, judge of the Court of Appeals, the full membership of the House of Delegates and half of the Senate. Arthur P. Gorman, Jr., is the choice of the Democrats for governor, while the Republicans have named Phillips Lee Goldborough.

New Jersey elects a legislature. Five parties, also in Rhode Island, where a full State ticket is to be elected, have nominated candidates. A legislature will also be chosen.

Mississippi will vote for State officers; in Kentucky a governor, Lieutenant-governor and railroad commissioners will be elected. Virginia will vote for legislative and county officers.

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POVERTY OF CHINA

Misery of the Millions That Are Always Hungry.

GRIM STRUGGLES FOR FOOD.

Horses, Donkeys, Mules and Camels When No Longer Fit For Work Are Turned Into Butcher's Meat—The Gleaners on the Sugar Wharfs.

Writing of the millions and millions of inland China, whose lives are spent face to face with starvation, Edward Alsworth Ross in the Century says:

"No natural resource is too trifling to be turned to account by the teeming population. The sea is raked and strained for edible plunder. Seaweed and kelp have a place in the larger. Great quantities of shellfish no bigger than one's finger nail are opened and made to yield a food that finds its way far inland. The fungus that springs up in the grass after a rain is eaten. Fried sweet potato vines furnish the poor man's table. The roadside ditches are bailed out for the sake of fishes no longer than one's finger. Great panniers of strawberries, half of them still green, are collected in the mountain ravines and offered in the markets. No weed or stalk escapes the bamboo rake of the autumnal fuel gatherer. The grass tufts on the rough slopes are dug up by the roots. The mickle reaps the grain close to the ground, for straw and chaff are needed to burn under the rice kettle. The leaves of the trees are a crop to be carefully gathered. One never sees a rotting stump or a mossy log. Bundles of brush carried miles on the human back heat the brick kiln and the potter's furnace. After the last trees have been taken the far and forbidding heights are scaled by lads with ax and mattock to cut down or dig up the seedlings that if left alone would reclothe the devastated ridges.

"The cuisine of China is one of the great toothsome cuisines of the world, but for the common people the stomach and not the palate decides what shall be food. The silkworms are eaten after the cocoon has been unwound from them. After their work is done horses, donkeys, mules and camels become butcher's meat. The cow or pig that has died a natural death is not discarded. In Canton dressed rats and cats are exposed for sale. Scenting a possible opening for a tannery, the governor of Hongkong once set on foot an inquiry as to what became of the skins of the innumerable pigs slaughtered in the colony. He learned that they were all made up as 'marine delicacy' and sold among the Chinese.

"Another time he was on the point of ordering the extermination of the many curs that infest the villages in the Kowloon district because they harassed the fish peddlers in the performance of their duties. He found just in time that such an act would interfere with the food of the people, something a British colonial governor must never do.

"Though the farmer thrifly combs his harvest field, every foot of the short stubble is gone over again by poor women and children, who are content if in a day's gleanings they can gather a handful of wheat heads to keep them alive on the morrow. On the Hongkong water front the path of the coolies carrying produce between warehouses and junk is lined with tattered women, most of them with a baby on the back. Where bags of beans or rice are in transit a dozen wait with basket and brush to sweep up the grains dropped from the sacks. On a wharf where crude sugar is being repacked about sixty women scarping the inside of the discarded sacks, while others run by the bearer, if his sack leaks a little, to catch the particles as they fall. When sugar is being unloaded a mob of gleaners swarm upon the lighter the moment the last sack leaves and eagerly scrape from the gangplank and the dock the sugar mixed with dirt that for two hours has been trampled into a muck by the bare feet of two-score coolies trotting back and forth across a dusty road.

"There are a number of miscellaneous facts that hint how close the masses live to the edge of subsistence. The brass cash, the most popular coin in China, is worth the twentieth of a cent; but, as this has been found too valuable to meet all the needs of the people, oblong bits of bamboo circulate in some provinces at the value of half a cash.

"Incredibly small are the portions prepared for sale by the huckster. Two cubic inches of bean curd, four walnuts, five peanuts, fifteen roasted beans, twenty melon seeds, make a portion. The melon vender's stand is decked out with wedges of insipid melon the size of two fingers. The householder leaves the butcher's stall with a morsel of pork, the pith of a sow and a strip of fish as big as a sardine, tied together with a blade of grass. Careful observers say that four-fifths of the conversation among common Chinese relates to food.

"Comfort is scarce as well as food. The city coolie sleeps on a plank in an airless kennel in a filthy lane with a block for a pillow and a quilt for a cover. When in a south China hospital the beds were provided with springs and mattresses, supplied by a philanthropic American, all the patients were found next morning sleeping on the floor. After being used to a board covered with a mat they could not get their proper slumber on a soft bed."

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