

Herbert Spencer on the American Situation.

Says Herbert Spencer to the London correspondent of the Courier-Journal:

"Since I began to write there has been a clear reaction against individual liberty. We are certainly tending toward State Socialism, which will be a worse form of tyranny than that of any government now recognized in civilization."

"And after State Socialism, what?"

"Military despotism. At present the State is absorbing the individual activity of men. It is intermeddling in all manner of ways in what should be private enterprise. Gradually the State will usurp the functions of private enterprise to such an extent that the people will one day awake to it; but it will be long before they make an effective resistance. I cannot but think that the struggle will be severe—something terrible to contemplate; but I do not begin to set a date for the catastrophe, or to anticipate its horrors. The progress of the doctrine of evolution throughout the world is unquestionable, but at the same time I cannot say that I see any movement in the direction of my own views, politically. Since I began to write there has been, as I said before, a clear reaction against individual liberty."

"Do you not think that we may escape this catastrophe in America?"

"No. The American imagines that he enjoys the advantages of liberty, but the fact is that there is elsewhere, in the civilized world, the State is steadily and rapidly absorbing the individual's freedom of action. The American has the form of self sovereignty, but he does not have it in reality. It is difficult to foresee what will be the outcome of American progress, but I do not think that your republic will escape the consequence of the general struggle. The fact is, few men have any true appreciation of liberty. It was in your own country that a gentleman said to me: 'If the majority told me what to eat, I would obey.' Now, he thought he was a free man; he thought that he appreciated liberty. But such an attitude is an admission of dependence upon authority. Subservience to a majority in personal concerns is as bad as subservience to a king, and there can be no worse depot than the majority. Just in the same way that men have now come to resist the dictation of the State (be it one man or the majority of men) in respect to their religious beliefs; so, when they fully understand liberty, will they come to resist such dictation, even of the million as of the one, in matters of private concern."

"On the question of reform. What is your idea of the greatest reform we stand in need of to day, political, educational, or what?"

"The great reform needed is to insist everywhere and always that each man shall take the consequences of his own nature; shall have without deduction all the benefits of his own nature and actions, and take all the evils of his own nature and actions, and shall neither saddle these evils on other people, nor be defrauded by other people of the benefits. This is the law which should be insisted on, not only in the conduct of individuals to one another, but also in the conduct of the State to individuals. One of the noncommittants of the disregard of that fundamental principle is seen in your admiration for 'smart' men. A smart man is, by the very conception of him, a man who does not regard conscientiously the claims of others—who endeavors to obtain from them some of the legitimate results of their activities which should remain with them, and which in an indirect way he filches from them. In fact, in a society in which there was a complete recognition and enforcement of the principle specified, there would be no place for 'smart' men."

"Are not what are called the 'poor classes' better educated and better clothed to-day than they were before?"

"They may be better educated in a sense—know more of grammar, history, geography, etc., but they are not educated in the least of all matters that concern society."

"It has been said that this is partly due to the fact that the preacher and the church have not done their duty."

"Well, the church insists upon all forms expressive of religious subordination, and disregards

the essential principles which the creed enunciates. At the same time that they are having here weeks of prayer and early services and reading their Bibles before breakfast, they are countenancing, and participating in, filibustering expeditions all over the world and appropriating the lands of other people. That is to say they are disregarding the essential principles of their religion, while they profess anxiety to propagate them."

"What man, the preacher, the author or editor, is going to help our people most?"

"Teaching does little. The discipline of life does everything. There is nothing to do but to insist upon the carrying on of life in a thoroughly honest, conscientious way, and reprobating everything that does not conform to a high standard of conduct. But I do not see much hope for a change in this direction while your material development is going on at so great a rate. In a society like yours ambition inevitably takes the direction of acquiring wealth, and the struggle for this brings inevitable evils. So long as you have the American continent to subdue and people, I do not suppose you will change much in your ethical standards."

The Ocala Demands.

A number of our readers have requested that we publish the Ocala (Alliance) demands in full. Here they are:

1. We demand the abolition of national banks.

2. We demand that the government shall establish subtreasuries or depositories in the several States, which shall loan money direct to the people at a low rate of interest, not to exceed two per cent. per annum, on non-perishable farm products, and also upon real estate, with proper limitations upon the quantity of land and amount of money.

3. We demand that the amount of the circulating medium be speedily increased to not less than \$50 per capita.

4. That we demand that congress shall pass such laws as will effectually prevent the dealing in futures of all agricultural and mechanical productions; providing a stringent system of procedure in trials that will secure the prompt conviction, and imposing such penalties as shall secure the most perfect compliance with the law.

5. We condemn the silver bill recently passed by congress, and demand in lieu thereof the free and unlimited coinage of silver.

6. We demand the passage of laws prohibiting alien ownership of land, and that congress take prompt action to devise some plan to obtain all lands now owned by aliens and foreign syndicates; and that all lands now held by railroads and other corporations in excess of such as is actually used and needed by them be reclaimed by the government, and held for actual settlers only.

7. Believing in the doctrine of equal rights to all and special privileges to none, we demand—

a. That our national legislation shall be so framed in the future as not to build up one industry at the expense of another.

b. We further demand a removal of the existing heavy tariff tax from the necessities of life, that the poor of our land must have.

c. We further demand a just and equitable system of graduated tax on incomes.

d. We believe that the money of the country should be kept as much as possible in the hands of the people, and hence we demand that all national and State revenues shall be limited to the necessary expenses of the government economically and honestly administered.

8. We demand the most rigid, honest and just state and national governmental control and supervision of the means of public communication and transportation, and if this control and supervision does not remove the abuse now existing, we demand the government ownership of such means of communication and transportation.

9. We demand that the congress of the United States submit an amendment to the constitution providing for the election of United States Senators by direct vote of the people of each State.

New rector—"I find the work in this parish very interesting indeed."

Miss A.—"I should think you might; there are ten unmarried girls to every man in the congregation."—Life.

SINGING SHAD.

Queer Fish that are Said to Serenade Residents of Cape May.

[Baltimore American]

The singing shad has been seen and heard in Lower Delaware bay this spring. It hasn't been seen in large quantities, of course, for the appearance of this odd fish in these waters is a rare occurrence. But few of the singing shad have enchanted the fishermen since the season began. They come from the South, and only when the wind has died down and the water is quiet can they be heard. They come in schools, emitting musical notes as they swim along. The sounds they make are soft and something like those of an aeolian harp. It is hard to express or rather imitate, on paper, the melody they sing. It runs something like this: "Wee ho, he hi do de; weeho, die di dum."

This sound cannot be made with any effect, except when the shad travel in schools. The singing of a single shad is too feeble to be heard above the ripple of the water. This year has been the first, probably for a decade, that the singing shad has favored the fishermen of Delaware Bay. Capt. Arnold, one of the oldest and most truthful of South Jersey fishermen, said the other day that he had heard the singing shad a number of times in his piscatorial career. "They are rare, of course, so far north as this. Even when they do come only old fishers are apt to hear and distinguish them. We know about them and are more or less on the lookout for their occasional arrival. They really belong off the coast of Bolivia and Chili. There they are quite common. All sorts of fairy tales are related about them by South American fishermen. The singing shad also breeds in Japanese waters. The fishermen of Japan are delighted when they strike a school of singing shad. They follow them up reverently, because they believe the fish are inspired. They throw them food and never catch or eat them."

The singing shad is different from the common-back or roe shad. It is not so large and there is a slight difference in the formation of the mouth. Only an expert fisherman can tell when he has caught one of the finny songsters. Old fishermen regard the musical shad as prizes and do not send them to market unless they are paid a very high price for them. It is estimated that they travel in schools of about 500. Their singing is pleasant at first, but soon grows monotonous, owing to the fact that it is a constant repetition of the same few sounds. Whether many of these peculiar fish ever go up the Delaware or move on to New York and mingle with the plain every day Hudson river shad is not known. They lose their identity when they get in with other fish and it is doubtful if they ever sing alone.

The New Discovery.

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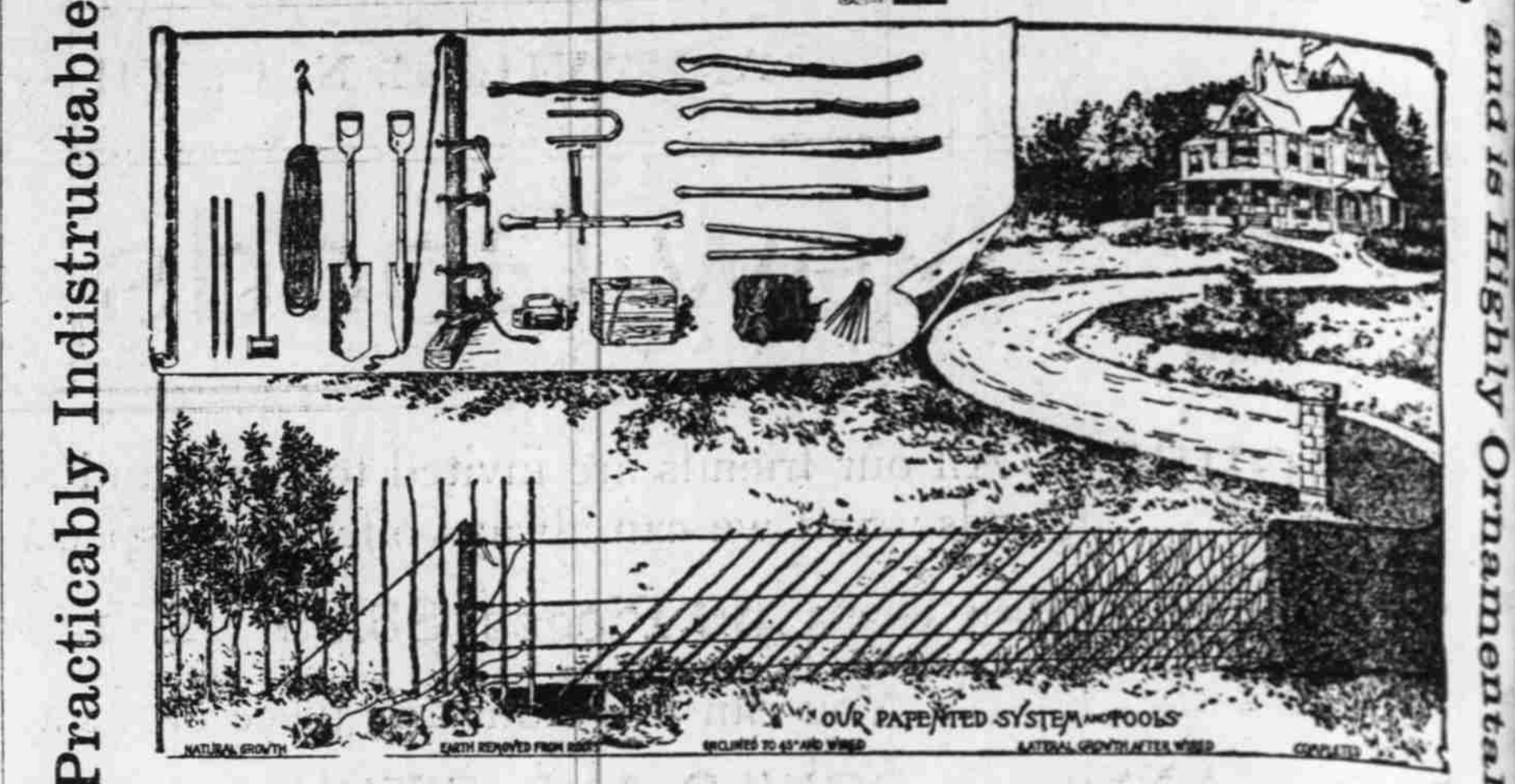
Ed. Bergeron, General Dealer, Lauzon, Levis, Quebec, writes: "I have used August Flower with the best possible results for Dyspepsia."

C. A. Barrington, Engineer and General Smith, Sydney, Australia, writes: "August Flower has effected a complete cure in my case. It acted like a miracle."

Geo. Gates, Corinth, Miss., writes: "I consider your August Flower the best remedy in the world for Dyspepsia. I was almost dead with that disease, but used several bottles of August Flower, and now consider myself a well man. I sincerely recommend this medicine to suffering humanity the world over."

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