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A GLIMPSE AT THE CAUSES OF RAILROAD SLAUGHTER IN AMERICA.

Notwithstanding the efforts of the railroad organs to decry investigations of the railroads, the sovereign people continue to hammer away at the manner in which their franchise beneficiaries discharge their obligations. The following article from the Atlanta Journal reveals the result in one detail of the investigation in that State:

Railroad Dilapidation in Detail.

The report of the expert track-walker, made to the railroad Commission, as to the condition of the roadbed of the Georgia Pacific branch of the Southern railroad between Atlanta and the State line at Tallapoosa, reveals a condition of affairs worse, perhaps, than that of the Georgia railroad.

It will be recalled that the commission, some time ago, employed a roadbed expert and civil engineer to make a thorough inspection of the Georgia railroad, which he did by covering every mile of the line on foot. When his report was filed with the railroad commission, two members of that body made a personal tour of inspection, confirming the report of the expert. The revelations as a whole more than justified the charges made some time previously by Hon. Bowdre Phinizy, and showed that the Georgia railroad was seriously in need of repairs in order to protect the lives and property of its patrons.

It was announced at the time that other investigations would be made in the same thorough and exhaustive manner.

The second, relating to the Georgia Pacific branch of the Southern has just been made public, and, as we have said, appears to reveal a condition even worse than that of the Georgia road.

The opening lines of this report are little short of appalling. "From Atlanta to Peyton," it says, "a distance of seven miles' the track has three hundred and ten bolts missing from the joints. Some of the joints have two bolts to the joint missing, all in one end of the plate." From this on the story of dilapidation is related, mile by mile—a story of rotten crossties, of spikes "that can be pulled out of the ties by hand," tie-bars missing from the switch, track out of surface and level, and scores of instances the technalities of which do not keep even the layman from seeing that the entire roadbed is a mantrap which the King of Terrors himself might have built and maintained for the love of slaughter.

It was alarming enough when it was first made known that the roadbed of the Georgia railroad was in so serious a condition. It was even whispered and perhaps in some quarters thoroughly understood that an investigation would show other roads in the State to be in a worse condition still, but this second report, supplementing the grueesome record of the first, has stirred the people of Georgia as they have rarely been aroused before.

There is nothing abstract or difficult to understand when the people of Georgia are told that they are every day riding over railroads which are a constant invitation to death and destruction. It is a concrete fact which comes immediately home to them. They realize that they are taking their lives in their hands every time they make a trip over one of these roadbeds on which "three hundred and ten bolts are missing in seven miles."

On the Georgia railroad, according to the Augusta Herald, the same engine jumped the track at the same switch two days in succession. These and similar accidents, and many much more serious are perfectly clear when we come to know the absolute inadequacy of the roadbeds and the entire lack of repair which prevails wherever an investigation has been made.

The toll of death which the railroads of this country exact of the people every year has presented us as the juggernaut of nations in the eyes of the world. The report of the inter-state railroad commission on railway accidents in the United States during the year ended June 30, 1907—and this, be it remembered, is compiled from the confessions of the railroads themselves—shows that five thousand people were killed, and seventy-six thousand injured, which was an increase of seven hundred and seventy-five killed and nine thousand five hundred and seventy-seven injured as compared with the previous year. The commission itself says, in giving out the report: "The number of passengers killed and injured in collisions and DERAILMENTS has increased to an alarming degree." The large total of 1905 is exceeded by seventeen per cent.

The South has contributed its full share to this harvest of death, and when we read of "three hundred and ten bolts missing" on the first seven miles of track of the Southern railroad running out of the capital of the State, we begin to understand why the inter-state commerce commission expresses the "alarm" which every citizen of Georgia shares to the utmost.

The Georgia railroad and the Southern railroad were each given ten days in which to replace those missing bolts, etc., and report again in thirty days. It was a wise and timely step.

But the investigation must not and will not stop here. Every railroad in the State will be inspected, we have no doubt, and placed, as speedily as possible, in a condition which will ensure a reasonable degree of safety to the patrons of the railroads of Georgia.

THE WILY MR. ROOSEVELT—ARE THE PEOPLE FINDING HIM OUT?

The Greensboro Record presents in the appended article a good diagnosis of the President's character. The Record is also right in its belief that he has played his game too often, and that he cannot succeed if he makes the race for re-election.

Mr. Roosevelt's Game.

If the papers are to be relied on President Roosevelt is playing a great game. It is being said openly and more board that his man Taft was put out as a blind and that Mr. Roosevelt is and has been working to bring about his own nomination; that at present he has checked the Hughes boom in New York and if everything works out as it now stands he will have the delegates almost solidly behind him. Notwithstanding all this talk, Mr. Roosevelt says nothing except to "rar up on his hind legs and cuss out those papers that have been charging him with saying certain things in his speeches which he says he never said about putting forty or fifty capitalists in jail. He is putting a lot of the papers in shape to become full-fledged members of his Ananias club. One thing he should remember, however, and that is that Federal officeholders are like the Georgia man's frogs; they make enough fuss for a car load. He should, therefore, not take all this cry as the voice of the people, for the average officeholder has "much big" voice; he is talking for effect—effect on his job. We know that Mr. Roosevelt has done many things that please the people; at the same time he has done many things that do not please them. He is like the bucket shop gambler; when he wins he tells it; when he loses he is never heard from. When Mr. Roosevelt makes a "bust" of something, when he sees he was on the wrong track, he closes up like an oyster, or what is better, goes off on another line, thus diverting attention from his mistakes. It may be that he can be elected, but somehow we have had it in our head that he cannot fool all the people all the time and that if he makes the race again he will find that he has made a big mistake. However, we are not holding any office.

TWO VIEWS OF THE TARIFF.

The Wilson Times (Democratic) says:

Democracy's Opportunity.

The clouds that have for many years hung over our chances for Democracy's success seem to have lifted to a certain extent and the light is dimly breaking through. The Republicans for several years have been, to use a slang phrase, "Playing in good luck," while the Democrats of the nation have been "playing in hard luck." Mr. Cleveland came into power following Harrison's administration on the wave of a panic and all the troubles it seems were charged up to his administration. The Republicans succeeded him and then followed several years of good times, with high prices, expansion, the Spanish war, and the reaction that always comes sooner or later, gave.

We do not mean to predict hard times or that there will be a considerable recession in values, but we do believe that the country is about ready to teach the Republicans a lesson for their extravagance and folly with which they have been guilty, and is ready to turn to the conservative doctrine of Democratic principles.

The tariff is undoubtedly the mother of trusts, and it has built on the trust system have been guaranteed by the tariff. When the beneficiaries under the tariff found they were producing more than the home market could supply, they at once began a system of elimination and absorption until huge trusts were created in every line of industry. These in turn begat the promotor, the stock jobber, overcapitalization, and speculation until the bubble which was constantly being inflated has burst.

The remedy is always at the root and there the medicine must be placed before a permanent cure can be made. It matters not how often the government prosecutes for violation of the Herman act or attempts to stop the combinations in restraint of trade, they will grow up like mushrooms in a soil that is peculiarly fitted for their growth. The tariffs is the foundation of the Republican party, hence no relief can come from that quarter, and Mr. Roosevelt is powerless, however honest he may appear in his desire for reforms.

A special telegram to the Raleigh News and Observer from Chapel Hill says:

Carolina Loses in Debate with Pennsylvania on the Tariff.

Carolina lost to Pennsylvania in the debate here to-night between the two institutions. Carolina's representatives were Messrs. P. M. Williams and T. W. Andrews. The Pennsylvania representatives were Messrs. F. W. Melvin and A. W. Smith.

The query debated read as follows: "Resolved that the tariff should not be reduced at the next session of Congress."

Carolina had the negative side of the question while Pennsylvania defended the affirmative. The debate was presided over by Judge James C. McRae and Messrs. W. K. Boyd, of Trinity College; E. P. Wharton, President of the Southern Life Insurance Company of Greensboro, and Mr. W. C. Jackson, principal of the graded schools at Greensboro acted as judges.

The feature of the debating was the rejoinder of Mr. Melvin, of Pennsylvania, which was practically unanswerable. The contest was spirited throughout but was conducted with the best of feelings on both sides. The judges consumed considerable time in making a decision and while not unanimous finally found in favor of Pennsylvania.

The Pennsylvania debaters took the attitude that the question is untimely in view of the present tight money market. It was urged that the country is verging on the edge of a panic and that an upheaval such as the tariff revision would still further complicate our present unfortunate financial situation.

In regard to tariff revision itself it was acknowledged that revision would be a good thing, but it was urged that in view of the present financial chaos prevailing and in view of this Congress meeting immediately after a presidential election that the present time is a most inexpedient moment. It was urged that the government is already engaged in a general house-cleaning in that it is bringing the corporations within the pale of the law. Necessity of currency reform and slighting other usiness which is on the present schedule of Congress would result in a hurried and unscientific tariff revision.

The affirmative took the other attitude that if the people of the United States wanted tariff revision let them put the matter before the people at the next presidential election and have a Congress representative of public opinion upon the tariff question, whereas the present Congress was elected upon the alternative of Rooseveltism or anti-Rooseveltism.

THE TANGLED WEB OF FINANCE.

"Oh, what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive," is a bit of philosophy which may be applied with peculiar force to that dishonest law andthat dishonest decision of the Supreme Court of the United States which inaugurated in this Union the curse of fiat money, viz: legal tender paper "money." A companion piece to the legal tender law and decision was the national banking law, of whose harmful effects, the New York Journal of Commerce speaks as follows:

This kind of indirect pressure to force under Federal jurisdiction what property belongs under State jurisdiction is especially objectionable. The taxing of the credit notes of State banks to give a monopoly of circulation to National banks was a questionable exercise of power, but the proper function of trust companies and savings banks are not banking functions at all, much less currency functions. Congress has no constitutional right to grant or to regulate them. Granting and regulating banking functions through Federal corporations was excused only on the ground that the primary object was to furnish a national currency which could only be effected through a system of banks, but trust and savings functions are not germane to that object, and to confer them upon National banks for the avowed purpose of crushing State banks and trust companies out of existence as such and forcing them by competition to reorganize under the National Bank Act would be going further in coercion of the kind than has ever yet been attempted. This particular suggestion in concrete form of Mr. Pruning is one upon which the President should reflect long and seriously before it is reflected in any recommendation of his. The Chicago man said it would be "popular." That is possible, but it would only make it the more dangerous. It would not be wise and it would not be constitutional.

THE IMMENSELY VALUABLE JEFFERSON DAVIS PAPERS.

We append an exceedingly interesting telegram from New Orleans to the Richmond Times-Dispatch concerning the Jefferson Davis papers now held in trust at the Howard Memorial Hall in New Orleans.

It occurs to us that the United Daughters of the Confederacy, having completed their pious work of erecting a monument to Mr. Davis in the capital of the Confederacy, could not better employ their remarkable capacity for doing things than starting a movement to secure the publication of such of these papers as Mr. Davis's heirs might consider fit for public knowledge. The cost, we imagine, would not go beyond their power to meet—a fixed sum, or a royalty, to the Davis heirs, and the cost of publication itself.

Following is the telegram:

New Orleans, Nov. 17.—Even should Mrs. Margaret Davis Hayes consent, upon her arrival in New Orleans, to ignore her mother's dying request and open the personal correspondence of President Jefferson Davis merely to gratify a passing whim of a passing generation, the task would be accomplished only with work of the most laborious character and would consume probably eighteen or twenty months. General Grant, General Thomas or Admiral Farragut really offered their services to the Confederacy, that fact will not be established by these papers. Researchers have pored over miles and miles of letters and documents, for the Jefferson Davis papers were filed without regard to either chronological or alphabetical order.

When the several freight cars containing the papers, letters, official documents and books embracing the official business of the Confederacy were sent by Mrs. Davis from Richmond, to the Howard Memorial Hall at the corner of Camp street and Howard Avenue, it was seen that there was not room in the main building of the museum and Col. J. A. Chalaron, the custodian, had the Jefferson Davis Annex erected. The annex is 25feet wide and one hundred feet long. It is provided with iron-bound exterior fireproof, and equipped with glass doors. The letters are arranged in packages, tied with coarse cord in pieces of linen. On each package Mr. Davis, while at Beauvoir, had written "Valuable Confederate Letters" and there is no other guide. The letters were placed in the annex just as they were received from Beauvoir.

Several books, in manuscript, give in detail the government business. Most of this work was transcribed by President Davis, but some is signed by various clerks. There are thousands of telegrams, yellow with age, received direct from the Southern Telegraph Co. and other sources, bearing on the progress and details of the war, the appointment and promotion of officers and orders and reports referring to battles and campaigns.

These thrilling topics make a fine volume of war history in themselves. All of the telegrams are necessarily in manuscript, purple ink being usually used, and have the names of the prominent characters of the Confederacy written below.

Three years ago the United States government desired to copy from a collection of 2,000 official papers of the Confederacy (a slight fraction of the total number) in order to complete certain records of the war. The War Department sent an officer to Colonel Chalaron and requested the necessary permission. This was granted, after Mrs. Davis had been consulted, the stipulation being made that the papers should be handled only through Colonel William Preston Johnston, then president of Tulane University and a personal friend of Mrs. Davis. The army officer spent more than a year getting copies of these 2,000 documents. These records have been published and are on file at Washington. In the letters, telegrams and other documents remaining, there is no doubt a great deal of important history, which sooner or later will be published.

In the Jefferson Davis Annex there are between 2,000 and 3,000 photographs and newspaper prints, together with many complete files of newspapers and clippings, all bearing directly on the Confederacy. The clippings refer pricipally to battles and campaigns.

The value of the Jefferson Davis collection is placed at $75,000. This includes the historic furniture, including the high table chair President Davis used when a baby, as well as his favorite "rocker." It is believed that Mrs. Hayes will eventually consent to publish the more important documents and correspondence, but it is known that she will preserve the private correspondence of her father as an heirloom.

EFFECT OF CENTRALIZATION OF OUR CURRENCY SYSTEM.

The Atlanta Journal contains the following enlightening article:

"Enlightenment" of Financial Situation.

ATLANTA, Ga., Nov. 15, 1907.

Editor Atlanta Journal:

If the enclosed item is made up of facts, is not your rather forcible editorial of last evening a trifle previous? In times like the present, should not our papers first learn all the facts before launching forth into unfamiliar fields? As a simple layman, I ask for justice and enlightenment.

Yours very truly,

F. E. KAY.

We take pleasure in replying to the communication of Mr. Kay, who encloses with his letter a clipping from the New York World in which certain New York bankers are quoted as saying that it is "absurd" to expect them to buy United States bonds for the purpose of increasing their circulation. We shall endeavor to give him the "enlightenment" he seeks in regard to the attitude of the New York bankers towards the country in general. In order to do this we must go far behind any isolated statement of the bankers as to the difficulty of securing government bonds as a basis of circulation, and review the situation in some detail.

When the New York banks found themselves in an embarrassing situation, largely through their own folly in participating in speculative ventures, their first step was to keep intact the currency then in their vaults. This included millions of dollars which did not belong to them nor to New York depositors, but to their correspondent banks throughout the south and west, which always keep large balances in New York.

A meeting of the Clearing House association was held and it was decided to issue clearing house certificates to prevent the outflow of currency. This step afforded immediate protection to their currency and went a long way towards averting anything like disaster.

Recognizing the danger which threatened the whole country, if the financial stringency were not relieved as speedily as possible, the United States treasury came to the rescue and deposited something like twenty-five millions of dollars in the New York banks. It was furthermore announced that the rigid rules of the treasury would be relaxed and that the government would accept not only government bonds, but approved state and municipal bonds as a basis of increased circulation.

This was done, not merely to save the New York banks from embarrassment, but it was done on the theory that New York is the financial capital of the whole country, and that the additional currency poured into New York would be distributed throughout the regular channels of business all over the country. It was done in order that the New York banks would not have an excuse for refusing loans or holding on to the deposits which the banks of the South and West had placed in the metropolis which the agricultural sections now needed to move the crops.

Did the New York banks carry out in good faith the implied obligation they were under to supply the country with currency?

They did not.

The mere issue of clearing house certificates greatly relieved the pressure that had been placed upon them. It was sufficient to justify them in at least withholding to the South and West the deposits which were now needed to move the crops and to relieve the tension which prevailed in the producing sections of the country.

But they held on to the money of the South and West.

The millions of dollars poured into the New York banks by the government for the express purpose of affording relief to the whole country were absorbed and retained by New York banks, which, instead of sending it out to the South and West, began lending it out at exhorbitant rates of interest to local speculators. They doubly failed in their duty. They were under a moral obligation not only to return to the South and West the deposits which had been placed with them but to use the government deposits for making loans to the agricultural sections. They neither made these loans nor would they return the deposits to the sections which had placed them.

Coincident with the action of the government in making these enormous deposits in New York, the treasury department announced, as we have said, that the rules of the department would be so far relaxed that the banks might issue out circulation on approved securities other than government bonds. The way was opened for issuing additional circulation amounting to two hundred and eighty-eight millions.

What was the response to this offer? According to the ammunition which our correspondent furnishes us, the response of all the national banks of the country has been to take out seventeen millions of additional circulation—where two hundred and eighty-eight millions were possible.

No loans are being made to the South and West with which to move the cotton and grain crops of the country. Stagnation and depression prevail at the very fountain of our economic life, because we cannot get the money with which to vitalize trade. The price of cotton is declining, in the face of the fact that the world needs the staple to-day more urgently than ever before, and if it could be sent to the markets of the world would bring back millions of dollars in gold, as a solid basis of enduring prosperity.

Nor is that all

Every steamer, of any importance, sailing into New York harbor of late, has been bringing millions of dollars of gold from Europe. The amount actually received has been more than fifty millions of dollars, and arrangements have been made for sixty millions, all told. How much of it is coming South? How much of it is going West? How much currency, based on this primary security, is finding its way into the channels of trade outside of New York?

Practically, not one dollar. The South and the West still famish. They not only cannot negotiate loans, but they cannot get their own money. The cotton crop which would redeem the situation, as it has always had to redeem it in every financial crisis of the country, lies congested in the fields. The day of redemption is postponed just so much longer, because the New York banks will not lend us money or let us have what is our own.

"Absurd" is it to ask the New York banks to take out additional circulation in order to supply the needs of the country? In answer we say that it is not merely absurd, it is criminal, that the city of New York, looked upon by the federal government as the financial trustee of the country—the mere fountain head of our money supply, should tie up the millions which have been poured in there by the treasury of the United States, by the capitals of Europe and supplemented by their own clearing house certificates, while they allow the South and West to languish for money with which to save the situation on a sound and permanent basis.

When so much has been done for New York, is it absurd to ask that New York do something for the benefit of the whole country, since every step has been taken with that end in view?

The financial institutions of New York find no difficulty in letting Mr. Harriman have two million seven hundred thousand dollars with which to buy up another railroad. They have no difficulty in supplying funds for other manipulators to play their same old game of high finance.

But they cannot even dole out a few scant millions to the South and West with which to move the crops, which are the true values, and on which wealth, in its final analysis, is based.

We repeat that it is a sorry return for the self-sacrifice of the whole country in coming whole heartedly to the relief of the great money center. It is bad faith, amounting to criminality, that New York should take the money intended for the relief of the whole country and use it for its own selfish ends—promoting speculative movements while legitimate trade and commerce is obstructed at the very fountain head.

We are glad to enlighten Mr. Kay. We would like to enlighten the people of this whole country on this new instance of selfish greed of which the financial capital is guilty.

Let the New York banks issue something more than a twentieth of the circulation which the treasury department has made possible, and then they can talk of "absurdity." Let them send back to the banks of the South and West some of the money which has been entrusted to them; let them make the loans which the government intended they should make; let them place in circulation throughout the country some of the millions for which all these measures of relief were primarily taken, and then let them talk about absurdities.

The government has done its full part by the New York banks. The time has come when the interests of the whole country demand that the deposits placed by the United States treasury in the metropolis should be withdrawn and placed with national banks throughout the country which will take out additional circulation and in every other way will afford to all the people the relief of which they stand in need.

Mr. Kay need not disturb himself as to the fullness and accuracy of our facts. No one expected the New York bankers, in the midst of their ghoulish revels, to make a candid statement of the facts. But the facts are known—to no one better than to the New York bankers. The whole country is becoming "enlightened," and the last thing desired by the cunning financiers who are profiting by our misfortunes is "justice."

We are not giving our unsupported testimony. We call special attention to the vigorous editorial from The Philadelphia North American reproduced on this page. This indignant protest is going up from all over the country, and it will continue to grow in volume and insistence until relief is afforded by the New York banks to the whole country, which is paying a heavy penalty for its patriotism.

A THANKSGIVING MESSAGE.

In the November number of the Circle Magazine Mr. Bryan writes as follows:

"What have we to be thankful for? For health? All do not enjoy this blessing; let those be thankful who, by inheritance or by their own care, have escaped a chronic or constitutional disease. For friends? No one need be without these, for nothing is easier to secure. The world is full of love and sympathy, upon which drafts can be made without limit by those who show themselves friendly. No one is so humble or obscure that he cannot attach to himself a circle of friends if he will but be a friend to others. The little acts of kindness that flow from an unselfish interest in humankind, and especially in neighbors, can not fail to win grateful appreciation. If one is alone in the world, it is usually because he repels friendship by his selfishness.

"It is for happiness that we should be thankful? That is largely in our keeping. Death may sadden for a time; sickness may discourage; calamities may cripple; misfortunes may overwhelm one; but still it may be asserted that whether one's life is happy or not depends more upon the man within than upon the circumstances without. With some, grinding poverty imparts to life a gloom that cannot entirely be dispelled, but it is scarcely more of a bar to happiness than idleness. Between the two extremes is the great middle class, whose members labor with hope, feed themselves with food convenient to them, and escape alike the despair of the destitute and the ennui that follows in the wake of luxury.

"But let us turn to those causes of thanksgiving which we share in common. Each individual must decide for himself whether he is more or less fortunate than those about him, and whether his good fortune or misfortune is due to himself alone or to others, but there are benefits which have come to all the members of this generation which are worthy to be enumerated."

After reciting the conveniences of modern life as enjoyed by the masses, and the value of comparison of our school, industrial, mining and manufacturing development with that of other nations, Mr. Bryan proceeds to say:

Our form of government gives us a third cause for special thanksgiving. It was fortunate that this experiment in self-government was reserved for a new continent and a new people. In older communities each generation is more or less hampered and restrained by existing institutions and by traditions. These are changed slowly and only with great effort. Every reform of any moment causes an upheaval in old countries because the crust of society has to be broken. Those, however, who settled in Plymouth Rock, at Jamestown, and at New Amsterdam found not only virgin soil for their plowshares, but a place where new ideas of government could be developed. Their very surroundings taught self-reliance and, too far from home to rely upon Europe for protection, they naturally began to assert their right to shape their own destiny. They recognized the inability of Europeans to understand the needs of the colonists, and saw that it was only a question of time when they fairs. It was natural, too, that, having shared together the hardships of pioneer life, they should rebel against artificial distinctions which had classified and stratified the society of the old world. Companionship in struggles and in dangers had given them practical lessons in the study of the science of government, and made it easy for them to accept the doctrine of equal rights.

Two Fundamental Principles of Government.

In the declaration of Independence and in the federal constitution, which gave legal expression to that declaration, two fundamental principles of government were enunciated and to these two principles we are largely indebted for the success which we have achieved in government. The first is the right of the people to rule, and the second the recognition of the advantage of local self government. The first dethrones the king and abolishes the theory of divine right in one or a few to exercise authority over the many; the second insures the intelligent administration of government by committing to each community the custody of its own affairs.

The right of the people to govern themselves seems to us so indisputable that we wonder how it could ever have been questioned, and yet for the establishment of this doctrine millions have given their lives. It is the vital point of difference between republics and arbitrary governments. There are but two theories of government: the theory of republics and democracies; namely, that a government is a thing created by the people for themselves and administered by them for the advancement of their own welfare, and the theory of monarchies and aristocracies; namely, that a government is a thing imposed upon the many by the few and administered by self-elected agents who maintain their position by the exercise of force and who assume to decide without appeal what is best for the ruled as well as for the rulers. The doctrine that "governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed" did not originate in this country, but it has found here its clearest statement, its strongest defense, and its largest application. It had been the boast of kings that popular governments lacked the unity necessary to give strength and were too slow in action to secure efficiency, but our nation has vindicated those who trusted the people, and justified the assertion made by the historian Bancroft about three-quarters of a century ago that a republic is, in truth, the strongest of governments, because, discarding the implements of terror, it dares to build its citadel in the hearts of men.

Experience has shown that our government, resting securely upon the will of the people, is able to repel attacks from abroad and to survive even civil war, and now we can watch with gratification the spread of our ideas of government as they march, triumphant, around the world. They are few countries with any degree of civilization which have not, to a greater or less degree, adopted our fundamental principles of government. In most of the countries of Europe constitutions have been secured, and the power of the monarchs is being more and more restricted. Within a decade the king of Denmark has conceded the right of the dominant party in parliament to name the ministry; within two years Austria and Sweden have made the popular branch of their governments even more popular, and within three months the house of commons of Great Britain has begun a movement for curtailing the power of the house of lords, while Russia is even now in the throes of a political revolution which has for its object the early establishment of a constitutional government in that unhappy land, where despotism is unquestionably making its last stand.

It is a cause for thanksgiving that we have so long enjoyed here the blessings of free government for which many are still contending with heroic effort and immense sacrifice, and with free speech, a free press, and freedom of conscience we are in a position to maintain the liberties which have come down to us from the fathers.

The dual character of our government has played an important part in its perpetuity—a more important part than many suppose. Centralization is the greatest foe that popular government has to encounter, for it is supported by arguments that are plausible. "Can you not trust the people of the nation?" asks the friend of centralization. "Are they not the same individuals who make the laws in the various states?" Yes; but the government is best when it is nearest the people, and the people can act most intelligently upon the questions about which they are the best informed. The people, through the framers of our constitution, wisely delegated to the federal government the powers necessary for the conduct of national affairs and, as wisely, reserved to the states and to themselves the right to control the affairs of the state and the community.

We can never be sufficiently thankful for the wisdom manifested by those who launched our nation upon its splendid career and laid the foundation for the success we have enjoyed. The governmental structure they framed will never be outgrown, for it is as well adapted to a nation of three hundred millions of people as it was to a nation of three millions—the general government welding the nation together into one harmonious whole, and the state and local governments guarding the home, the school, the property, the liberty, and the life of the citizen.

Our Religion.

The fourth special advantage is our religion. While this is shared by nearly all the countries of Europe, it has not yet been accepted by the vast populations of the east. It is gaining a foothold in Japan, China and India, but we can not yet count among its votaries one per cent. of the Orientals. Accustomed as we are to the Christian forms of worship, to the institutions of charity and mercy which Christianity had founded, and to the ideals introduced by the Man of Galilee, we are apt to under-estimate the influence which His religion hasc exerted upon American and European society. When its fruits are compared with the fruits of Mohammedanism, Hinduism Buddhism, and Confucianism, its great superiority is easily seen.

Mohammedanism degrades women, and is propagated by force; Christianity recognizes woman's rightful place as the companion and helpmate of man, and teaches the omnipotence of love.

Hinduism countenances the worship of gods made of wood, of brass and of stone; Christianity rests upon the belief in one God—the creator and preserver of all, to be worshipped in spirit and in truth.

Buddhism, a reformation of Hinduism, regards life as an affliction, the only escape from which is through absorption into the Great Spirit and the loss of individual identity; Christianity views life as a great opportunity, crowned by a higher existence which stretches through infinite ages.

Confucianism contains a code of morals which, if embodied in life, would make a man a negative quantity, harmless at best; Christianity purifies the heart, and makes life a living spring, pouring forth constantly of that which refreshes and invigorates. Justice is the highest virtue taught by Confucianism ,while Christianity adds to justice benevolence and compassion.

Christianity presents the highest conception of human life that the world has ever known. According to this conception, service is the measure of greatness, and this conception, must of necessity be victorious over those presented by other religions. This conception of life has led multitudes to consecrate themselves to the uplifting of their fellows; and, at home, and abroad, they have been content with a bare living, relying, for reward, upon the consciousness that they are contributing to the happiness and welfare of others and to the progress of the race.

The list above given by no means exhausts the reasons for thanksgiving, but more than enough has been said to show that Thanksgiving day deserves commemoration among us.

A word could be added about the nation's prosperity but for the fact that it might raise a question as to the cause some attribute it to an era of good crops, coupled with such an increase in the volume of money as to make prices remunerative while others attribute it to acts of legislation and to industrial policies.

But thanksgiving is of little value if our expressions of gratitude have no effect upon our own conduct. Appreciation of blessings is shown by acts rather than by words. If we regard citizenship as a priceless inheritance, we should resolve to transmit it, not only unimpaired but improved, to the rising generation; if our constitutional system has been a boon to us, it should be extended and amplified for the benefit of posterity; if the resources of our country have a value beyond computation, it behooves us to see to it that those resources are not squandered and that the bounties which the Creator intended for all shall not be monopolized by the cunning, the craft, and the avarice of a few; if our government gives to life, liberty and prosperity greater protection than any other government grants, we can not excuse ourselves if we fail to preserve it. In all its purity, for our children and our children's children; if in our religion we find a consolation, a life-plan, and a moral uplift, we can not but earnestly desire—that these shall be shared deeds—that these shall be shared by those about us and by those also who, though separated from us by seas, are bound to us by that primal tie that links each human being to every other.

SUGGESTIVE, BUT CYNICAL.

Norfolk Virginian.]

Contrary to the dictum of the philosophers the majority of mankind have a very accurate estimate of their own characters; but half the effort of their lives is expended in suppressing that consciousness, and the other half in presenting a false front to their fellows. Many men deceive themselves egregiously as to their own mental and physical attributes, but few are ignorant of their moral defects. As the dial records the passage of Time whether it would or no, so conscience takes note of every thought and act even though it is hardened to sin. Conscience is the ghost of the sins which it was not strong enough to prevent, and it is the sting of memory; and when it has become too atrophied to breed repentance it takes the deadly shape of unavailing remorse.

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