Uncle Nathan Talks of The "Nature Fakers"

(By John Jordan Douglass.)
Written for The News.

It is perhaps both proper and pardonable to preface "Uncle Nathan." In other words, he is sui genesis. Had he been a winged creature (there are as yet no signs of incipient wings upon his shoulders), he would doubtless have been called by scientists a rara avis. As it is, they will probably style him a genius.

He is neither Irish nor African, as are "Mr. Dooley" and "Uncle Remus" of well merited renown, but a pure-blooded American—a clodhopper with ideas of his own; with convictions and the courage of them.

Now, to come quickly to the point, Uncle Nathan is intensely interested in current history. Things of Roosevelt stripe, and strenuousness always arouse and arrest his attention. Like all good Americans he is a great believer in the "Big Stick"—when applied to the heads of the arrogant "nature fakirs" who, Mowgli-like, have lived and learned and learned to live no more in the jingle of the jingo. Especially has the old man been interested in the Roosevelt-Long controversy, or the long Roosevelt controversy, as it seems to be.

Coming suddenly upon the ancient sage the other day in the village, I produced a copy of a metropolitan daily and pretended to read the following headline:

"Nature Fakirs As Seen and Shot By Theodore Roosevelt."

Then I paused for the explosion. It was soon forthcoming.

"President Roosevelt an' the natur fakirs, hey!" he cried excitedly. "Gol-darn my gray mare if Teddy ain't a trump! I used ter think he warn't fit fer nothin' but ter be President, but I've changed my 'pinions some. He's busted the trust with his Big Stick, an' now he's goin' ter break the necks uv some uv them natur fakers. Good fer Teddy! You're the greates' natralist that ever graduwaited from the hippodrome an' the Yaller Stone Park!"

The old man paused to punch a hole in the sand with his hickory stick.

"Why, you can't fool him erbout nothin'," he continued with a ring of warm admiration in his voice. "He's a walkin' an' talkin' incyclopedyology on everything from ants ter Adam, from the Cardiff Giant ter cuttin' candies but his speshulty is b'ars an' babies. What he don't know erbout 'em ain't knowable.

"He's sot-up with b'ar cubs, sung to 'em an' rocked 'em ter sleep in the Rocky Mountings. He's treated the'r scalps an' skins. His 'T. R. Tea' allus puts 'em ter sleep an' makes 'em rest. He does the rest.

"Ef he warn't so young an' meddlesome I'd almos' b'leeve he wuz studyin' natur with Knowey in the Ark—he knows so much erbout the wolf and the carryboo an' the link. (Maybe he ca tell Billy Long whar ter look fer the missin' link!) He also knows erbout the moose an' the carryoat; an' they know erbout him. He knows whether the red squirrel has got the toothache er is jest gittin' fat——"

"What about Dr. Long?" I interrupted strategically.

"I wuz jest commin' ter him," said Uncle Nathan with a characteristic swing and sweep of the hickory stick. "Now Billy Long (beggin' the Solomon's pardon) is a artifishul nat'ralist; Teddy Roosevelt is a nat'ral artifishulist. Teddy goes out arter 'em in boots; Billy in books; Teddy goes gunnyin'; Billy goes moneyin'. They both git what they go arter. So let Teddy quit growlin' an' grinnin' an' slingin' big sticks uv type at Billy in Nobody's Magazine because Billy wants an Alaskan salmon ter jump over the Niagary Falls an' ter climb a greased pole backards, he's a kind-hearted wolf takin' children ter Sunday-school, an' bears flaggin' down the lightnin' express with ther blazin' eyes. Ef Billy wants 'em ter to it, let him make 'em do it. The animals ain't got no hard feelin's agin him fer it. Ef the public don't want ter set up nights an' hear Billy tell stories, let 'em go ter bed. In the langwidge uv the man that shot his neighbor's cow, 'he ain't a-meaning' uv no harm, jest a-wantin' uv a little fresh beef.'

"An' ez ter Billy Long's grievances, I'd him not cherish hard feelin's ergin' Teddy. Teddy has done hit in self-defence. What 'd Teddy say ef he sh'd meet a big Cinnerman b'ar out West an' thet b'ar sh'd step quickly out from behint a big bowlder an' say, 'Hands up!' An' Teddy sh'd look down into the coolin' hotness uv a Colt's revolver? Suppose thet b'ar sh'd say, 'Air ye lookin' fer me?' What'd Teddy say? He'd say 'No, siree; I'm lookin' fer the Beef Trust. Dee-lighted ter see you!' Then the b'ar 'd say, 'So long! Billy fer you!' An' that'd be a squar deal.

"No, sir! Teddy don't want Billy Long fer animal trainer an' teacher. He wants as trainers an' teachers John Burroughs who crawls out uv his burrow onct of twict a year ter set in the shade uv his flowers; Stewart Edward White, who writ the Blaze-faced Trail while off on a squirrel hunt; Teddy Remington (Did he invent the Remington rifle?) who paints injuns an' Mexican plugs; William Hornaday (bad name fer a natur lover), an' others.

"But in conklushon an' finalarily, ez the parsons say (I hope Dr. Long is short-winded) an' hour before they quit, the truth uv the whole matter is this: Here be natur fakirs an' natur breakers. Teddy Roosevelt an' Billy Long air not in the same class."

"Come back!" I called as Uncle Nathan broke away from me and darted into a nearby grocery store.

"So long!" he cried with a flourish of the hickory stick. "I'll tell you somethin' else some time."

Up with the lark to reap, and cease when it goes to sleep.—Theocritus.

All things are difficult before they are easy.—Latin.

Light may disclose a jewel, but it takes darkness to disclose a star.—Van Dyke.

SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE NOTES

Consul John H. Snodgrass, of Pretoria, sends the following items of interest concerning South Africa:

* * *

The Transvaal government is establishing a State Mines School at Johannesburg.

* * *

A spinning and weaving school for the education of Boer girls along that line has been established at Bloemfontein. The teachers were secured from England.

* * *

The Inhambane Oil Company, which has been prospecting near the border line of the Transvaal and Portuguese East Africa, has drilled 7 holes to the depths averaging 800 feet, without any material result. Showings of petroleum have been found at various times, but not in paying quantities; its specific gravity was 0.920.

* * *

The Premier Diamond Mine, in accordance with an agreement concluded with De Beers, will restrict its output by 18 per cent., the reduction thus effected being estimated at 30,000 carets per month. The yield of the Premier mine for the past year was 1,889,986 carats; during the later half of the year the rate was 186,000 carats per month.

* * *

The severe drought that existed in South Africa during January, together with the intense heat, has injured the corn crop to such an extent that instead of exporting this year, as was anticipated, it is quite likely that it will be necessary for the northern colonies to import corn during the coming winter months (midsummer in Northern Hemisphere).

* * *

The Gordon stope drill, of American manufacture, recently won the prize offered by the Chamber of Mines at Johannesburg, as the best all-round invention so far supplied the mines. It is believed to have solved the native labor problem here, as 1 Kaffir will be able to run the drill, and with it wil do the work of 5 natives. Thus were 125,000 are now employed it is thought their number may be reduced to 25,000.

Are Negroes as Black as They Used to be?

Ray Stannard Baker's article on "The Tragedy of the Mulatto" in the April American Magazine is extremely entertaining. It is full of points and stories.

"It is a curious problem, this of color," says Mr. Baker. "Several times, in different parts of the country, I have been told by both white and colored observers that negroes even without the admixture of white blood were gradually growing lighter—the effect of a cold climate, clothing and other causes. A tendency toward such a change, an adaptation to new environment, is certainly in accord with the best scientific beliefs, but whether a mere century or two in America has really operated to whiten the blackness of a thousand years of jungle life, must be left for the careful scientist to decide. It is certain that the darkest American negro is far superior to the native African negro."

Proved She Was White and Got $250,000.

In the April American Magazine Ray Stannard Baker, writing of "The Tragedy of the Mulatto," tells how difficult it often is to prove that a man has negro blood in his veins. "Another extraordinary case," he says, "is that of Mrs. Elsie Massey, just decided in Tipton county, Tennessee, after years of litigation, in which one side tried to prove that Mrs. Massey was a negro, the daughter of a cotton planter named 'Ed' Barrow, and a quadroon slave, and the other side tried to prove that she was of pure Caucasian blood. On June 13 last, a jury of white men finally declared that Mrs. Massey was white and she and her children inherit $250,000 worth of property."

Something on the Way.

The McJones family were moving to another town. Mr. McJones had gone ahead to get the new home in order and Mrs. McJones was to follow with the family's goods and chattels. When she was ready to start Mrs. McJones, remembering her scriptures, wired her husband as follows:

"Lares and Penates on board boat. Will arrive tomorrow morning."

But when the telegram got to the husband it was in these terms:

"Lard and peanuts on board boat. Will arrive tomorrow morning."—From Success Magazine.

WOMEN

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fied in ability and experience for this position. From his earliest youth Mr. Aycock has been one of the staunchest and most active democrats, giving largely of his means and time to the

The Argus is pleased to learn that Hon. Benjamin F. Aycock, of Wayne, will be a candidate for nomination for corporation commissioner before the democratic state convention. We know of no man within the boundaries of the state who is better qualisupport of the democratic principles and the election of democratic candidates.

He has served as senator from this senatorial district in the general assemblies of 1889, 1891, 1893, 1901 and 1907. Much legislation was enacted at these sessions of the general assembly of a highly important character to the people of the state, and Mr. Aycock was leader in most of the measures which have proved most beneficial. He was early one of the strongest and most active advocates of the establishment of the railroad commission. It was largely owing to his earnest and persistent advocacy that the railroad companies of the state which had long been exempt from taxation were placed on the tax list and caused to bear their share of the burden of taxation. He has been the constant and unremitting friend af all legislation looking to the improvement of the public school system of the state. He was an advocate for the establishment of the State Normal at Greensboro, and for many years served on the board of trustees of that institution, where his wise and valuable services were greatly appreciated. He advocated the establishment of the institution for the deaf at Morganton, which now stands at the head of institutions of its kind in the world.

In this generation at least we have had no senator wiser or more progressive, nor one who has so imprssed himself upon legislation. During his services in the senate no measure looking to the improvement of the condition of the people of the state has failed to receive his earnest and efficient support.

In 1896, he was nominated for state treasurer and made a most gallant fight for the state ticket, and went down with his associates under the fusion of that year.

Mr. Aycock is a man of wide experience, having engaged extensively in mercantile pursuits and in farming, is a most careful student of economicic and political questions, and withal one of the strongest and most convincing public speakers in the state. He is a man of the highest character and the most indomitable courage.

His nomination would be exceedingly gratifying to his thousands of friends throughout the state, and would add greatly to the strength of the state ticket.

The Argus moves that his nomination be made unanimous.—Goldsboro Argus.

CUT ABOUT 10 PER CENT

Rhode Island Cloth Manufacturers Announce Reduction.

Providence, R. I., March 25.—Notices of a reduction in wages were posted generally in the cotton mills of Rhode Island today. The amount of the reduction is not stated, but will, the mill owners say, be approximately 10 per cent. The wage cut will go into effect on April 6th. It will affect in the neighborhood of 25,000 operatives.

The B. B. & R. Knight Co. about two weeks ago announced a curtailment in their production of about 25 per cent. The new wage cut will also go into effect in their 12 mills. The officials of the Knight company stated today, however, that if by April 6th the conditions improve they will go back to the full time schedue. Otherwise they will be obliged to still continue with their curtailment.

The Slave Wife.

(Orison Swift Marden in "Success Magazine.")

A healthy mind must be an active mind. Vigor and strength cannot be built in man or woman by inaction or a life of indolence. There must be a purpose, a vigorous, strong aim in the life, or it will be nerveless, insipid, and stale.

Now, if the aim is personal pleasure, the mere gratification of our vanity or pride, the indulgence of our whims; if life is narrowed to the question of dress ,of eating and drinking, and selfish pleasure; if all larger, worthier interests have been shut out of it, how can there be growth or development for the individual?

There is a disease called arrested development, in which the stature of the adult remains that of a child—all physical growth and expansion stops. Arrested mental development is a form of disease from which many wives are suffering, and they have been condemned to that condition by the mistaken idea of husbands who think that they love them.

Thousands of our divorces are caused by the fact thatt he wife has stopped growing, and has not kept pace with her husband.

I believe in marriage, but I do not believe in that marriage which paralyzes self-development, strangles ambition, and discourages evolution and self-growth, which takes away the life-purpose. Nor is it necessary that the wife should work like a slave in order to grow. There is a certain class of men who go to the other extreme and make slaves of their wives—work them half to death. But physical drudgery does not develop power. The slave wife is as badly off as the doll wife.

The wife should neither be a drudge nor a dressed up doll; she should develop herself by self-effort, just as her husband develops himself. She should not put herself in a position where her inventiveness and resourcefulness and individuality, her talent, will be paralyzed by lack of motive.

Guzzler—"I once lived on water for ten days." O'Soaque—"Why didn't you take a fast toast?"

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Is on every wrapper of Doctor Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery because a full list of the ingredients composing it is printed there in plain English. Forty years of experience has proven its superior worth as a blood purifier and invigorating tonic for the cure of stomach disorders and all liver ils. It builds up the run-down system as no other tonic can in which alcohol is used. The active medicinal principles of native roots such as Golden Seal and Queen's root, Stone and Mandrake root, Bloodroot and Black Cherrybark are extracted and preserved by the use of chemically pure, triple-refined glycerine. Send to Dr. R. V. Pierce at Buffalo, N. Y., for *free* booklet which quotes extracts from well-recognized medical authorities such as Drs. Bartholow, King, Scudder, Coe, Ellingwood and a host of others, showing that these roots can be depended upon for their curative action in all weak states of the stomach, accompanied by indigestion or dyspepsia as well as in all bilious or liver complaints and in all "wasting diseases" where there is loss of flesh and gradual running down of the strength and system.

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Editors of West Texas

Stamford, Texas, March 25.—A meeting of the Central West Texas Press Association began here today with a good attendance. Mayor L. M. Buie welcomed the visitors in the opera house shortly after 9 o'clock this morning and President L. B. Shook responded for the association.

The program for the remainder of the day provided for a wide variety of papers and discussions relating not only to newspaper making but to questions of immigration and other topics of general interest.

IT DOES THE BUSINESS.

Mr. E. E .Chamberlain, of Clinton, Maine, says of Bucklen's Arnica Salve. "It does the business; I have used it for piles and it cured them. Used it for chapped hands and it cured them. Applied it to an old sore and it healed it without leaving a scar behind." 25c at Woodall & Sheppard's drug store.

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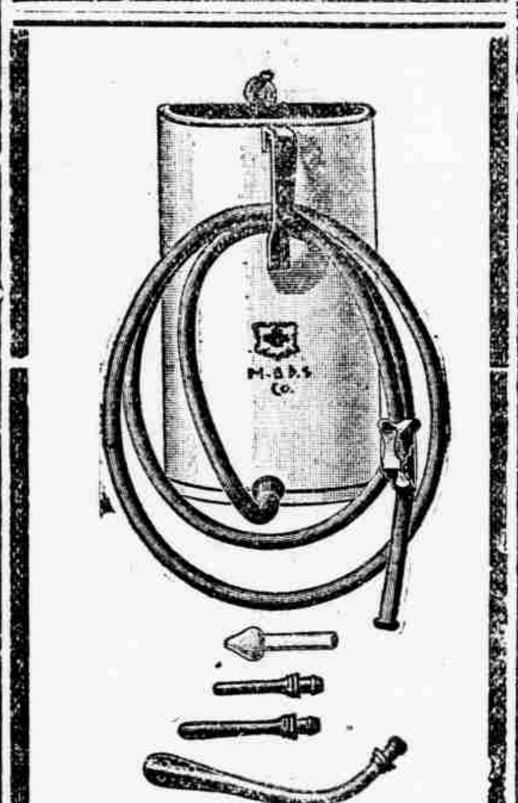

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MORE WATER

"And the name is to be"—asked the suave minister as he approached the font with the precious armful of fat and flounces.

"Augustus Phillip Ferdinand Codrington Chesterfield Livingston Snooks."

"Dear me." Turning to the sexton: "A little more water, Mr. Hawkins, if you please."

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