

For
People Who
Think

Everything

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BY AL FAIRBROTHER

SUBSCRIPTION \$1.00 A YEAR, SINGLE COPY 5 CENTS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1916.

ON SALE AT THE NEWS STANDS AND ON TRAINS

ESTABLISHED MAY, 1902.

THE MAIL ORDER

All of Us Preach But Few Practice It.

THE Charlotte Observer explains that within a week it turned down with corn over two hundred dollars' worth of advertising from various out-of-town merchants who wanted to get mail orders for the Christmas trade. "By out of town merchants it means out of state merchants—and brings us back to the old proposition 'Trade At Home.'"

Possibly the Observer carried a clearer conscience by not inserting in its columns an invitation to people to send their money away from home—but we fear it did no good and lost the two hundred likely plunks.

For years in this white man's town we carried on a trade at home campaign. We wrote and we sent papers everywhere—thousands of them being paid for by merchants' associations and other organizations. We attended meetings at different points and pointed out why there should be a most vigorous campaign against the catalogue habit.

But it did no good. When we ascertained that even members of the trade at home organization had sent out of the state even for an automobile—we saw the folly of our way. It appears that the Almighty Dollar is the lodestone, and that if a bargain is offered elsewhere—Elsewhere gets the coin.

One enthusiastic man who had read our stuff telling why we should all be loyal and trade at home wrote us a letter to tell us we were on the right track. He is a citizen of means and altogether enterprising. But two weeks later he sent to Kalamazoo for a cook stove and said he saved seven dollars.

The only way to keep the trade at home—and that means in the South is for people to patronize the Southern concerns, and before we can patronize them we must have them.

Why couldn't the South—why couldn't North Carolina, have a big mail order house and use the slogan "The South To The South and The South For The South?" In other words there is a certain per centage of people who are going away from the home town to trade—and why not go after them?

And yet—what's the use? We talk and tell what we will do and never do it. It was only a few weeks ago that a Richmond man showed us that he could sell type and supplies as cheap as any concern in the world, that indeed he was agent for the big founders—we take our choice—and we could save freight and we could keep the money in the South to a certain extent. And we confessed that it was even so and then, to our shame we ordered a big lot of stuff from a Northern concern and never said "boo" to the home man.

We pass it up. Theoretically the trade at home slogan is all right—but we notice that most of all of us, even those of us who tell others what they ought to do forget our preachments.

For instance there is a half tone establishment in this state—charging perhaps a few cents more on a single cut—but most all, if not all, the newspapers preaching the theory of trading at home rush their orders to the north. Search us.

Helen Keller To Wed.

Persistent rumors that Helen Keller is to wed her secretary, Mr. Fagan, will not down. More than a week ago the report that a marriage license had been issued leaked out and got in the newspapers. While the announcement was declared by the parties interested to be wholly without foundation, it bobs up again in a Boston dispatch which says:

Despite the fact that denial of the engagement of Miss Helen Keller to Peter Fagan, a socialist worker, has been made by Miss Keller, Mrs. John A. Macy, her lifelong companion and teacher, and by Mr. Fagan himself, the friends of the three are still mystified and believe that the couple will be wed at some later date. Mrs. Macy has left Wenham for Lake Placid to regain her health. Miss Keller has departed for Alabama to spend the winter with her mother and other relatives and recover her health. Mr. Fagan is at Tampa, Fla., with a brother Socialist, who was announced as the minister who would perform the wedding ceremony. Mr. Fagan is no longer the secretary of Miss Keller, but their friends believe that when the present affair has blown over the couple will meet somewhere in the South and wed as they had first planned.

Rather out of the ordinary that the mere contemplation of a marriage approved on all sides should produce such disastrous effects as to make the whole family ill. Perhaps Miss Keller does not see why it is any body else's business.

ELECTORAL COLLEGE

Should Go, Says New York After Losing Out.

ND now much is being written on the proposed change in the constitution providing for the election of president of the United States by popular vote. We have referred from time to time to the agitation of this question, having its origin with the New York World, it appears, and being taken up by some of the thoughtless ones willing to follow the lead of that supposedly great democratic authority, and we are glad to note that our own objections are being sustained by the ablest of the southern newspapers finding their way to the editorial desk.

The Danville Register takes a fall out with the Richmond Journal for its too radical position along this line and proceeds to show that enterprising and progressive newspaper wherein and wherefore it would not do.

"Our very highly esteemed contemporary, the Richmond Journal, is apparently so devoted to the cause of equal suffrage," says the Register, "that it subordinates, if it do not ignore every other consideration entering into the agitation for the abolition of the electoral college and the substitution of a plan for the election of president by direct popular vote. The effect of the policy advocated by the Journal would be effectually wipe out State lines as any plan we could conceive of."

"The fundamental objection to the popular plan is that it would strip the several states of the last vestige of power secured to them in the constitution which they were so influential in framing. It is no argument to refer to that system as 'antiquated,' as the Journal miscalls it. Indeed, there is vastly more reason to call it 'time-honored,' instead of antiquated. If the present election plan be antiquated and should be discarded for that reason, then there is equal reason for discarding the whole constitution, which is equally antiquated. So much for that 'argument' against the present system, if epithet be accepted as arguement."

"But, other considerations aside, the real reason for the perpetuation of the existing plan is the safeguarding of the interests of the smaller states, the purpose which the framers of the constitution had in view. It is surprising also, that a southern newspaper and one published in the capital of the Confederacy itself should be found joining in the thoughtless clamor of New York newspapers for the change to the popular plan of electing presidents. Every Southern state would lose influence in the choice of a president if the dual system of having that official chosen by men representing the various states, plus other men representing the population of the various states be discarded. We are not surprised to find the New York World clamoring in a leading editorial, 'Abolish the Electoral College.' It is significant, too, that New York's clamor comes immediately after that populous state has been shorn of its dominating power in choosing a president. New York is no longer necessary in the election of a president. Nor is Pennsylvania, nor Indiana, nor Illinois. Abolish the electoral college and we yield to those four states almost absolute power to dictate the choice of a president."

"There are more small states than large ones, and as three-fourths of the whole number would have to ratify the suggested amendment to make it effective, we are the more hopeful that through a realization of the fact that the amendment would shear them of power, the greater number of states would stand unalterably opposed to the suggested plan."

We Hope Not.

The Charlotte Observer wonders "if the constitutional amendment of recent adoption will work to the embarrassment of the altogether progressive and constructive ideas of the people of Greensboro, who are planning to provide their city with a modern system of parks and playgrounds? The Chamber of Commerce of that city is framing a bit of local legislation by which it will be able to create a permanent park and playgrounds commission, which would be empowered to select sites and order bond elections for the purchasing of sites. In this, the people of Greensboro are both foresighted and forehanded. Charlotte and other towns that might entertain any hopes of providing for the future might find it profitable to follow Greensboro's example in this important direction."

It appears now that the Britt-Weaver contest will have to be taken to the Supreme court for final settlement. And in the meantime people are wondering why there should have been a contest.

The Salvation Army is planning on a large scale to take care of the war widows of England. Looks like the factories and counting rooms may be depended upon for that chore.

WALTER MURPHY



HON. WALTER MURPHY, of Salisbury, in the race with Hon. Gallatin Roberts, of Buncombe county, for speaker of the House of the North Carolina General Assembly. Mr. Murphy is one of the best known and most popular men in the state, with ability to fill acceptably any position to which he might aspire. As was mentioned last week, in presenting a picture of Mr. Roberts, the race promises to be of exceptional interest on account of the fine records of both gentlemen during their terms in public office. Correspondents are busy with forecasts, and each is betting on his favorite.

How To Bring Down Prices.

A man living at Seattle, Washington, has grown weary of the newspaper talk about the high cost of living, so he takes his pen in hand and offers what to him appears to be a simple solution of a great problem. In reviewing the situation with which the whole country is just now confronted, he is forced to the conclusion reached by other students of economic conditions that "Americans as a people are too pleasure loving, too luxurious. We must eat meat three times a day, heat our rooms to excess in the winter, load our bodies with woollens and furs, and buy whatever there is in the market to buy. As a race we are becoming weak and effeminate because we deny ourselves nothing. What a spectacle it is to see a strong man, his hands encased in thick woollen mitts, run shivering in the subway on a fine, bracing winter morning. The poor man is cold. Pity him, little children who play in the snow with shouts of delight!

"The price of meat," he admits, "is too high. Eat less of it, then," is his advice. "Eat it once a day instead of three times a day, or eat it only three or four times a week. You will be the healthier for your abstinence, and the price of meat will come down. The only ones who will suffer will be the meat packers, and the loss of a few thousands will be less to them than the loss of a dollar to you."

"The price of coal is high. Then go to the kitchen or to the living room for warmth and sleep in a cold room. You will save fuel, have a more robust body, and the price of coal will come down."

"The price of clothing is high. Then wear a neat sweater beneath your waistcoat, or a heavy set of underwear and a thick suit of clothes instead of an overcoat. You may make shift to get along thus one winter, and the next winter you may find the price of overcoats within your means."

"The legitimate exercise of the boycott is the only sensible way to lower the high cost of living. I believe the housewives of California have recently used the boycott, or have been talking about using it to lower the cost of living."

"Take this matter of the packers charging for the paper containers of hams on the same basis as they charge for the hams. Why eat pork products at all? An experienced butcher, farmer and handler of meat on the hoof informed me that the hog packs more disease than any other domestic animal used for food. Go into the Chicago hospitals and ask the doctors how many patients die of trichinosis, a disease caused by eating raw and partly cooked pork, and I think you will be surprised at the number of deaths from this cause. I do not consider the eating of ham and bacon to be as injurious as the eating of pork, but nevertheless, though ham and bacon are tasty eating, I do not consider these food products altogether healthful."

"The moral of this little homily is: Deny yourself, think less of your stomach and your bodily pleasures and comforts, and the high cost of living and many other problems will cease to trouble you."

Champ Clark claims to have solved the problem of the cost of high living. He says to buy some setting hens and eat more corn products. But b'gosh, where is a man to secure enough capital to buy a setting hen these days?

Colonel John Temple Graves continues to arrange the president's cabinet notwithstanding his statement that he is well enough pleased with the present one.

UNKNOWN INSANE

Are Those Quiet People Who Shock Communities.

HERE is hardly a community but has been at some time or other shocked by the commission of an act of violence on the part of some man or woman not known to be mentally unbalanced until too late to repair the damage. More often than not the mania is evidenced in a desire for self-destruction; sometimes in a determination to exterminate an entire family of which the afflicted one is a member, or to kill the object of his or her affections as a means of expressing the great love with which the over-burdened heart is surcharged.

Such cases have been among the hardest to handle by the regular courts of justice, where fear of establishing a dangerous precedent has deterred many a conscientious jurymen from leaning to the side of science rather than to the theory upon which the law was written that provides punishment for such crimes. But in criminology as in other defects of our present system progress is being made towards a solution by trying to get at the source of the trouble, on the good old proposition of prevention in small doses as against cures in wholesale lots. The New York Sun, discussing a movement now on foot to that end has the following:

"The recent fatal attack on a defenceless woman by an insane man brings to mind many instances of sudden and violent assaults, usually with fatal results, attempted by persons who were regarded as sane, or at least as eccentric. Last summer a flagrant example of this kind was published as having occurred in Chicago. A colored man suddenly became insane and after killing several neighbors locked himself in his house, resisting a large police force until he was himself killed by the policemen. Within the memory of many now living the wife of an eminent physician in this city suddenly became insane and shot her beautiful children and herself."

"To prevent such appalling incidents a movement is now on foot to establish bureaus of mental hygiene in various American cities."

"In a recent bulletin of the Department of Public Health in Philadelphia an outline is presented by Dr. J. Allen Jackson, chief resident physician of the Philadelphia Hospital for the Insane. Patients who have recovered sufficiently to become self-supporting and cared for at home are paroled after a trained social worker has investigated the home conditions. Such patients are kept under frequent observation, so that on the recurrence of the slightest disturbance of mental equilibrium they may be returned to the hospital. Trained physicians would seek out the mentally defective, just as sanitarians endeavor to detect contagious diseases. If such a bureau could be established in every one of the larger cities the care of the indigent insane would be improved, with diminished cost. Many suspicious cases would be placed under treatment before they menace the community. Aside from the protection against the unsuspected mentally deranged, there would be offered better opportunity for successful treatment and for returning of curable cases to their homes and occupations. The feeble minded especially demand constant supervision, because though seemingly harmless they may suddenly manifest violent derangement resulting in destruction of life and property."

Boarding Trinity Students.

Trinity College is about to inaugurate a co-operative boarding plan which has been worked out most successfully at Guilford College and at several of our county high schools. A few years ago an exhibit from Jamestown showed the possibility of a student's living under this system for less than five dollars a month, this including room and fuel and lights, which was cheaper than boarding at home.

With prevailing prices for everything that enters into the composition of a square meal it would, of course, be impossible to get anywhere near these figures at the present time. But above and beyond the cost of it there is something in the co-operative boarding idea that gives the touch of home life so much needed by the college student, and so we are inclined to think that this is a progressive step on the part of Trinity. If team work is good in other lines why not in housekeeping, even if there are servants to do the drudgery? It is a good discipline for the future family man, certainly if, as is claimed by some of the wise ones, that when woman gets into politics the man will go to the kitchen. But do not these same wise ones argue that woman's work in the kitchen is nothing, and did you ever see a bachelor man who wasn't fond of boasting of his culinary accomplishments. "Make coffee? Sure. Beat a woman any day."

Large gains reported at the Methodist conference would indicate that this part of the world, at least, is growing better.

EXPLORER'S FATE

Matter of Concern To Family and Friends

ANXIETY is being felt as to the safety of Dr. Edmund Otis Hovey, who headed the relief expedition sent out in July, 1915, to rescue the Crocker Land party that had spent two years in the north. He expected to return to New York in the fall of that same year, but owing to mishaps to the George B. Cluett, on which he sailed, he was obliged to winter in North Star Bay.

In June of this year a second relief ship, the Danmark, was sent to get Dr. Hovey, but from present indications it is feared the Danmark will not be able to get out of the ice this year. A cable message received by the trustees of the American Museum from Copenhagen on November 15 reported that the Danmark had been observed in Melville Bay, latitude 75; steamer had made only 150 miles northward. From this report it would appear that the steamer had made only 150 miles northward in seventeen days since previous messages reported her off Upernivik on August 3, 1916.

This report and her failure to arrive at Sydney or St. John's indicate that the ice conditions are severe and that the vessel has probably been delayed by ice on her southward voyage.

Trustees of the museum express confidence in the strength of the Danmark to stand out against the force of icebergs and other dangers in frozen seas, it being a staunch ship, well equipped for such delays. There is a feeling of uneasiness, however, that plans may have miscarried and those interested in Arctic exploration will await with eager interest any tidings of the missing party. The last news received was from the George B. Cluett, which left its winter quarters in North Star Bay the latter part of July and arrived at Battle Harbor, Labrador, on September 7. The Cluett brought out a letter from Dr. Hovey, dated July 10, 1916, saying he was in touch with Mr. Rasmussen; that the members of the Crocker Land expedition were well; that Mr. McMillan had returned to Etah on May 6, 1916, from his 1,500 mile journey to the westward, and that all were looking forward to the arrival of the second relief ship, the Danmark.

Why Cigars Are Banded.

Somebody, it seems, has gone into the newspapers with the suggestion that bands on cigars are a "nuisance," that they "tear the wrappers and inspire profanity," and wondering why they are necessary in any way. A New York manufacturer, in a letter to the Sun, makes reply—interesting in Greensboro and North Carolina, where the cigar making industry gives employment to so many expert workers.

"In the first place," says the writer, "an advance in the price of cigars, or reduction of the size, would probably be forced upon the cigar manufacturers owing to the fact that tobacco, labor, boxes, chemicals, labels and bands have all advanced materially. It is not true that the reason for the advance would be because of labels and bands having previously been made in Germany, as only about 10 per cent of the entire quantity of this material used in this country was ever imported from Germany. The price of the German article has always been considerably higher than that of American production, and we must admit the German quality was better."

"We must further take issue with you as regards the futility of banding and labelling cigars. This is not done for the purpose of making the package look 'gaudy.' Cigars, as well as any other article of individuality, are banded and labelled for identification, and the good will of well established quality brands runs into large figures."

"Some small dealers in Philadelphia are offering as high as 40 cents a thousand for bands of this brand which have been removed from cigars without breaking. As the bands carry no premium value, the fact that there is a price on the same shows in itself that boxes have been restuffed and that the manufacturer is protecting himself by banding."

The Dog's Friend.

When Jack London passed the dog lost a good friend. No man in the world could tell about a dog like London—and he knew their every trait. London had many friends in San Francisco, and it happened we were there the morning his death was announced and it created a profound impression. It was not until he passed, however, that the flowers went his way.

The Methodist minister is truly a soldier of the Cross. Here's hoping that all stations will be good stations and that everybody will be satisfied.