

(Continued from last week)

THE LAND OF THE NOONDAY SUN--MEXICO IN MIDWINTER.

(From Arena for June.)

BY JUSTICE WALTER CLARK, LL. D.

Returning to the main line at Acambaro, we proceed northward, crossing the Central at Celaya, the "caudal" town, and passing through Dolores, whose parish priest, Hidalgo, began the war of independence in 1810; then on past the town and hamlet, river and mountain, till we reach San Luis Potosi, three hundred and sixty-two miles from the capital. This is a city of over seventy thousand inhabitants and is the capital of the State of that name. It lies in midst of a great level fertile plain stretching away to mountains that are filled with silver and gold. It has many interesting buildings, the State capitol, the cathedral, the library and museum with one hundred thousand volumes, the State college, etc. Has several factories, and the street car lines run out to the neighboring villages. On a Sunday afternoon I was strolling through the streets of this of nearly seventy-five thousand people among whom I knew not a single human being, when on turning a corner I heard music which at once arrested attention. It was a well known hymn of Charles Wesley which had come across the deep waters and many a vanished year to be anthemed beneath the shadow of cathedral towers on the great central plains of Mexico. Could the voices be traced, there I should surely find friends and countrymen. As I proceeded the music floated out full and free, and, falling upon the quick fading twilight, "moothed the raven down of darkness till it smiled." I found the band of worshippers and their beloved leader, a Methodist missionary, who is devoting his life to the work which he has found to his hand in this great field. Only when straying in a foreign land does one know the strong bond of sympathy that lies in the accents of one's native tongue. The Protestant missions in Mexico are active and fairly successful. There is absolutely freedom of worship, and all religions are protected. There is no State church, in which respect, at least, Mexico is in advance of England, Scotland, France and many other countries.

The Tampico branch of the Mexican Central crossing the line of the National here goes down to Tampico. It is claimed by many that the scenery in the six thousand feet of descent to the tierra caliente over this line is more magnificent than between the capital and Vera Cruz. It is certainly very grand but it is entirely of a different kind. The descent to the coast is by terraces. In the first forty seven miles we fall fifteen hundred feet. Farther on, at the mouth of the great Tamasopo Canon, you seem to have gotten to the "jumping off place," for you can see the rails as they begin to bend downward. For seventeen miles you roll down by gravity, with every brake on to hold the train back, with the mountains rising on both hands thousands of feet above you, and between them the canon opens a thousand feet below you. At one point is the "Devil's Backbone," a great vein of rough granite extending up the mountain, and reminding one of the "Devil's Slide" in the Wahatch Valley on the Union Pacific. After passing out of the canon and while descending the mountain, our track so turns and winds that at one point six tracks are seen. At the mouth of the canon is the striking succession of waterfalls known as El Salto del Abra. Along here are the coffee groves, then a little lower we reach the "hot lands," the tierra caliente, and, rolling along the banks of the broad river Panuco, are soon at the Tampico. This is in appearance the least inviting town in the Republic. It is dirty and untidy, many of the houses are of wood (a very rare thing in Mexico), and rains are frequent. But six miles further down, at the mouth of the river, are the jetties, which have given the port already twenty six feet of water up to the wharves, and will give three or four feet more. This will make it the port of the country, for Vera Cruz cannot compete with this, and already a railroad is contemplated between the City of Mexico and Tampico. Near here I found an American who already, in January, was shipping tomatoes by the carload to Chicago and Cincinnati. From Tampico it is three hundred and twenty miles over the Mexican and Gulf Railway to Monterey. In building this railway some of the cross ties, cut in the adjacent forest, were of ebony, as on the Tehuantepec Railroad some of them are mahogany. Monterey is only some one hundred and sixty eight miles from the Rio Grande, and has a colony of several thousand Americans. The appreciation in our standard of value amounts to a protective tariff in favor of Mexico of the difference between our currency and theirs of over ninety per cent. As a consequence, instead of

shipping ores as formerly to the United States, large smelters have been put up here, and are doing a fine business. The "Saddle Back" Mountain, the Bishop's Palace, and other places are redolent with memories of the fighting days of half a century ago. It was here that Gen. Worth, instead of charging up the streets, with the frightful losses sustained by our other columns, hit upon the plan Marshal Lannes had adopted at the siege of Saragossa in 1810, and cut his way through house after house to the center (Piaz), and thus compelled a surrender.

Through a desire to visit the battlefield of Buena Vista, I turned back southward and ran down to Saltillo, seventy five miles through a most picturesque succession of mountain cliffs. Though the railroad runs near to the famous battlefield, there is no station there, and it was necessary to stop at Saltillo and go six miles out by private conveyance. The Mexican war began, as is well known, in a contest for the little strip of land between the Nueces and the Rio Grande, Mexico claiming the former river as a boundary, and the United States the latter. Texas declared her independence in 1835, and after several battles made it good by the victory of San Jacinto, in 1836, when Santa Anna, the President of Mexico, and commanding its armies, was captured. For ten years Texas was an independent nation, till she joined this country by treaty. The boundary question then became our quarrel. After winning the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, on this side of the Rio Grande, Gen. Taylor boldly advanced into Mexico and captured Monterey with the Mexican army defending it. He then proceeded to Saltillo, some two hundred and fifty miles south of the Rio Grande, when he was deprived of all his army, except less than five thousand volunteers, that they might be sent as reinforcements to Gen. Scott, who was to land at Vera Cruz to march on the capital. Suddenly Gen. Taylor was notified that Santa Anna with some twenty two thousand men was advancing upon him. That general had conceived the soldier like idea of falling upon Taylor's reduced army and after crushing it to hurry back and meet Scott. Though he failed to crush Taylor, he in fact got back and fought Scott with the same troops at Cerro Gordo, below Jalapa, and among the cannon taken by us at Contreras were two which had been captured from Taylor at Buena Vista. On hearing of the enemy's advance, Gen. Taylor, instead of waiting to be besieged in Saltillo, moved forward to a mountain pass—Angostura, or "the narrow," which is the Mexican name for the battle, while we give it the name of Buena Vista, from a hacienda, or cluster of farm buildings, in the rear of our lines, which is still standing. Thus during our late war nearly every battlefield had a different name given it by the opposing sides, and Waterloo, which is known by that name to the English, is known as Mont St. Jean to the French, and La Belle Alliance to the Germans. The accounts of battles, as well as their names, depend much upon the standpoint from which they are viewed. Had there been any doubt of Gen. Taylor's splendid ability as a soldier, his choice of a battlefield stands to this day a proof that he understood his profession. A deep "barranca" or gully running through the middle of the narrow plain makes it impossible to pass from one side to the other. On the left (facing south), running well out into the plain, is a long, very steep ridge, barring the passage except for a short distance between the end of the ridge and the "barranca." This ridge was crowned with artillery, and breastworks were thrown up. Here, if anywhere, his four thousand seven hundred volunteers could hold in check Santa Anna's twenty-two thousand. The conflict took place on Feb. 22 and 23, 1847. The only hope possible for the Mexicans was to break through our lines on the extreme left at the foot of the mountain, and to take us in the rear by a force passing through a gap some miles further on near Saltillo. Both attempts were made, and twice the battle seemed lost. Col. Bowles' Second Indiana, which was broken by the enemy's masses, in their flight ran squarely into the enemy's column, which having come through the pass, had taken us in reverse. One account says that it was the utter abandon of these fugitives in running into them, and which the Mexicans mistook for a most reckless charge, which put this flanking column in our rear to flight. However that may be, there was enough gallant fighting and bloodshed on both sides. The Americans had the decided advantage in position, and they held it by a close margin. Santa Anna hurried back to meet Gen. Scott coming up on the line from Vera Cruz. The fight at Buena Vista made Gen. Taylor President of the United States. He was a splendid soldier and a man of strong common sense, though his opponents called him

"an old frontier colonel," and it was said that in all his life he had never cast a ballot. The same battle made his second in command, Gen. Joseph H. Lane, later a candidate for Vice-President, and gave to Col. Jefferson Davis, Gen. Taylor's son-in-law, the prestige which carried him into the United States Senate, made him United States Secretary of War, and finally President of the Southern Confederacy; while Gen. Taylor's remark to the captain of a battery, "Give them a little more grape, Captain Bragg," started a popularity which ultimately in putting the latter in command of the Confederate army of the West, in which position his marked incapacity and defects enabled him to damage the Confederacy more than any general that ever was opposed to him. These are a very few of the things effected by holding these few rods of ground, a result which long swung evenly in the balance, and which might have been changed by some accident of slight import, for great events often depend on very small ones. The battle, which, from the numbers of Americans engaged, would have been of small importance a little over dozen years later, at the time created an immense sensation. Among the triumphal poetry written was that by Albert Pike, beginning:

"From the Rio Grande's waters to the icy lakes of Maine
Let all exult, for we have met the enemy again!
Beneath his stern old mountains we've met him
in his pride,
And rolled from Buena Vista back the battle's bloody tide."

(Continued next week)

THE GOLDBUG TRAP.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer. In one hundred and fifty Congressional districts, there will be nominated as many Democrats for Congress who will vote every time against the unlimited coinage of silver 16 to 1 or any other ratio. The leaders of the Democratic party invite the silver Democrats and Populists in these districts to vote for the goldbugs and help elect a Congress that will defeat free and unlimited coinage of silver. This is the dish set before the Populists and silver Republicans, and they are invited to partake freely.

Reader, now do you like the goldbug pill with a silver coating? Thank God the coating is so transparent that the deception is apparent, and none can be deceived. Nominate a Populist President straight and in every Congressional district there will be a nominee for Congress who will advocate free and unlimited coinage of silver on the stump and vote for it in Congress as well as that other greater reform, thus furnishing the money direct to the people at cost, enabling them to transact their business on a cash basis, saving them four thousand million dollars annually. Never in the history of parties was there concocted such a dastardly scheme to disorganize the only party that is in earnest in its advocacy of reform. If the Democratic party was honest in the advocacy of the remonetizing of silver, they would nominate a candidate in every district advocating this necessary reform.

When the announcement of the nomination of Bryan on a silver platform was received, the Democrats were jubilant and claimed the endorsement of all the Populists and silver Republicans.

Since we have pricked the bubble and exposed the inconsistency and hypocrisy of the thing they are not so sanguine. We will expose the inconsistency of this move, and you may expect good news from the Ninth Congressional district of North Carolina. JAMES MURDOCK.

ALLIANCE EXPERIMENT STATIONS.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer. METHOD, N. C.

Seeing a communication in THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER from Dr. Battle, Director of the Experiment Station, concerning the Alliance in North Carolina, and requesting to hear from individual Alliancemen, I thought I would express my opinion though THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER also.

Dr. Battle seems to want to encourage the farmers and Alliancemen to come in close contact with the Station and to know more of its workings, and to get the benefit that they ought to get from it, but don't know how to reach them. I can tell him. I think he ought to go among them more. How many common farmers have ever seen Dr. Battle on their farms, or have ever seen him at all, for that matter? I'll wager not many. Is the work of the Station so confining that he has not time to go among the farmers any more than he does? If it is, I think he ought to have an assistant, so that he would have some time to go among the farmers and get acquainted with them.

I know that some of the farmers have got a mighty poor opinion of doctors and professors, but they are not all so. I know of some who would be glad to have Dr. Battle or any of the professors connected with the Station to visit their little farms and tell or show them

something about farming that would be of benefit to them, and help them to make their farms more attractive and enable them to cultivate their land in a better manner, making more to the acre, thus giving them more time for piddling, as we call it, helping our wives to clean up about the yard and setting out flowers, fruit trees and such like. Some of us have not got time to make a respectable garden. We just plow it; our wives and children have the balance of the work to do, or it goes undone.

I presume that Dr. Battle and all the professors in connection with the Station are Alliancemen? If they are not, they ought to be. Anything that concerns the farmers as much as the Experiment Station does, and if it does the farmers as much good as it ought to, the officers of it must come in close contact with the farmers, and there is no better way, to my thinking, than for the officers to join the farmers' organization.

Dr. Battle wants the names of Alliancemen so that he can send them such bulletins as are issued by the Station. There has been names sent in by the Alliance lecturers, and not many of them ever received more than one bulletin, some of them not one; but I reckon some one else is to blame for that, not Dr. Battle, as I don't suppose he has anything to do with mailing bulletins. But who is to blame?

Hoping these remarks may not seem harsh to Dr. Battle or any of his assistants, I remain a well wisher to the Station and all of its workings and workers. J. R. MEDLIN.

(OFFICIAL) NATIONAL ALLIANCE DEMANDS.

Adopted at Washington, D. C., February 6, 1896.

WHEREAS, The Declaration of Independence, as a basis for a Republican form of Government that might be progressive and perpetual, states:

"That all men are created equal; that they are endowed with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the governed."

We hold, therefore, that to restore and preserve these rights under a Republican form of government, private monopolies of public necessities for speculative purposes, whether of the means of production, distribution or exchange, should be prohibited, and whenever any such public necessity or utility becomes a monopoly in private hands, the people of the municipality, state or union, as the case may be, should appropriate the same by right of eminent domain, paying a just value therefor, and operate them for, and in the interest of, the whole people.

FINANCE.

We demand a national currency, safe, sound and flexible; issued by the general government only; a full legal tender for all debts and receivable for all dues, and an equitable and efficient means of distribution of this currency, directly to the people, at the minimum of expense and without the intervention of banking corporations and in sufficient volume to transact the business of the country on a cash basis.

(a) We demand the free and unlimited coinage of silver and gold at the legal ratio of 16 to 1.

(b) We demand a graduated income tax.

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

(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.

(e) We demand that postal savings banks be established by the government for the safe deposit of savings of the people, and to facilitate exchange.

(f) We are unalterably opposed to the issue, by the United States, of interest bearing bonds, and demand the payment of all coin obligations of the United States, as provided by existing laws, in either gold or silver coin, at the option of the government and not at the option of the creditor.

TRANSPORTATION.

(a) The government shall purchase or construct and operate a sufficient mileage of railroads to effectually control all rates of transportation on a just and equitable basis.

(b) The telegraph and telephone, like the postoffice system, being a necessity for the transmission of intelligence, should be owned and operated by the government in the interest of the people.

LAND.

We demand that no land shall be held by corporations for speculative purposes or by railroads in excess of their needs as carriers, and all lands now owned by aliens should be reclaimed by the government and held for actual settlers only.

EXECUTION OF UNITED STATES SENATORS.

We demand the election of United States Senators by a direct vote of the people. That each State shall be divided into two districts of nearly equal voting population, and that Senators from each shall be elected by the people of the district.

DISTRICT LEGISLATION.

Relying upon the good, common sense of the American people, and believing that a majority of them, when uninfluenced by party prejudice, will vote right on all questions submitted to them on their merit; and, further, to effectually annihilate the pernicious lobby in legislation, we demand direct legislation by means of the initiative and referendum.

R. A. SOUTHWORTH, Sec'y-Treas. N. F. A. and I. U.

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