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THE COMMONWEALTH

FARMERS

L. MILLS KITCHIN, Editor and Propristor.

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OUR PUBLIC FORUM Hon. Elihu Root - NE SARAY 41 On Woman's Sphere

The question of Woman Suffrage is an issue before the American people. Twelve states have adopted it, four more states vote upon it this fall and it is strongly urged that it become a platform demand of the national political parties. It is therefore the privilege and the duty of every voter to study carefully this subject. Hon. Elihu Root, in discussing this question before the constitutional convention of New York, recently said in part:

"I am opposed to the granting of suffrage to women, because I believe that it would be a loss to women, to all women and to every woman; and because I believe it would be an injury to the state, and to every man and The Bank a Financial Power House

every woman in the state. It would be useless to argue this if the right of suffrage were a natural right. If it were a natural right, then women should have it though the heavens fall. But if there be any one thing settled in the long discussion of this subject, it is that suffrage is not a natural right, but is simply a means of government, and the sole question to be discussed is whether government by the suffrage of men and women will be botter government than by the suffrage of men alone.

'Into my judgment, sir, there enters no element of the inferiority of woman. It is not that woman is inferior to man, but it is that woman is different from man; that in the distribution of powers, of capacities, of qualities, our Maker has created man adapted to the performance of certain functions in the economy of nature and society, and woman adapted to the performance of other functions.

"Woman rules today by the sweet and noble influences of her character. Put woman into the arena of conflict and she abandons these great weapons which control the world, and she takes into her hands, feeble and nerveless for strife, weapons with which she is unfamiliar and which she is unable to wield. Woman in strife becomes hard, harsh, unlovable, repulsive; as far removed from that gentle creature to whom we all owe allegiance and to whom we confess submission, as the heaven is removed from the earth.

"The whole science of government is the science of protecting life and liberty and the pursuit of happiness. In the divine distribution of powers, hold their products for a betetr mar-the duty and the right of protection rests with the male. It is so throughout ket price, etc. The banker in connature. It is so with men, and I, for one, will never consent to part with the divine right of protecting my wife, my daughter, the women whom I love, of livestock; the quality of the seed and the women whom I respect, exercising the birthright of man, and place that high duty in the weak and nerveless hands of those designed by God to be protected rather than to engage in the stern warfare of government. In my judgment, this whole movement arises from a false conception of the duty and of the right of both men and women.

The time will never come when the line of demarcation between the functions of the two sexes will be broken down. I believe it to be false philocophy; I believe that it is an attempt to turn backward upon the line of social development, and that if the step ever be taken, we go centuries backward on the march towards a higher, nobler and purer civilization, which must be found not in the confusion, but in the higher differentiation of the sexes."



SOUL MATERIAL HAS ENTERED THE BANK VAULTS OF THE NATION.

to the Community.

By Peter Radford.

One of the greatest opportunities in the business life of the nation lies in practical co-operation of the country banks with the farmer in building agriculture and the adventure is laden with greater possibilities than any forward movement now before the American public.

A few bankers have loaned money to farmers at a low rate of interest and ofttimes without compensation, to buy blooded livestock, build silos, fertilize the land, secure better seed. tributing toward improving the grade and the fertility of the soil, plants in the agricultural life of the community a fountain of profit, that, like Tennyson's brook, runs on and on forever. Community Progress a Bank Asset. The time was when money loaned on such a basis would severely test the sanity of the banker; such transactions would pain the directors like a blow in the face. A cashier who

would dare to cast bread upon waters that did not return buttered side up in time for annual dividends would have to give way to a more capable

Every citizen who desires to become capable in business should study banking, and every farmer who wants to see the business of agriculture properly financed should study diligently the financial systems of other industries. All other lines of industry have developed financial facilities adapted to their needs. We have all sorts of financial syndicates authorized by law or custom to deal in a certain line of securities, but in none of these financial channels will farm securities travel without a bonus in the way of an excessive rate of interest or heavy discounts.

The most powerful financial institutions in America are private banks and they are the most important to the financial life of industry. In no line of business does

honesty, efficiency and stability make more imperative demands than upon private bankers, whose greatest asset is the confidence of the buying public in his business judgment and integrity. Mr. Otto Kahn of Kuhn, Loeb & Company, when asked to state the relation of the private banker to the business of the nation, said in part:

OUR PUBLIC FORUM

Otto Kahn

On Financial Farm Loans

"One of the most important functions of the private banker is to be the instrument for providing the money needed for the efficient conduct and development of railroads and other industries. He does this by buying securities in bulk from those needing capital, for which purpose he usually associates himself with a large number of other financial houses, great and small, thus forming what is called a syndicate. Having in this way concluded the buying transaction he offers to the public the securities purchased by means of advertising, circularizing and through the facilities of the retail houses included in the syndicate, many of whom employ traveling salesmen. Of course the banker and the syndicate count on a reasonable profit for their services; on the other hand they run the risk of the securities, which they have definitely bought and paid for at a fixed price, remaining on their hands wholly, or in part, if the public, for one reason or another, should be inwitling to buy them. The selling of securities is a highly specialized trade. requiring much experience, organization, machinery and scrutiny. This is [one of the reasons why corporations do better in offering seer ities to the public through bankers than if they offered them direct. The willingaces of the public to buy depends upon their confidence in the integrity and the judgment of the banker who makes the offer, and a banker who attempts to mislead the public, or who is deficient in care or judgment, would very soon find himself without customers and, therefore, out of business. In many European countries, the functions of the private banker include the placing of bonds secured by farm mortgages. Ponds of this nature are issued in large quantities by mortgage banks who buy mortgages on farr and other. real estate and deposit them as security for their own bonds, which in their turn are sold to bankers. It is to be hoped that similar institutions will, in course of time, be created in America, thus placing the farming industry on a par with other important industries in facilities, to obtain capital."



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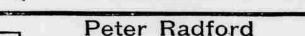
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Peter Radford **On Church and State**

The recent action of one of the leading churches of this nation, in annual convention, demanding that the laymen vote only for candidates for office whose views coincide with those of the clergy on one of the leading political issues, and direct and indirect efforts of other church organizations to interfere with the freedom of the ballot, make one of the greatest perils of this age, and present a problem that should receive thoughtful consideration of both lavmon Zons. Suckling babes may well squirm in their cradles

when ministers in convention assembled release the sive bankers, who made loans to hearts of men and grab them by the throat, for Christianity has broken down, religion has become a farce and the pulpit a failure. When the church substitutes force

for persuasion, command for conviction and coercion for reason, the sheriff had as well pass the sacrament, plain-clothes men take charge of the altar and policemen bury the dead, for why a church?

It is as dastardly a crime against government for a minister to undertake to deliver the votes of his parishioners to a candidate, as it is for a ward heeler to deliver a block of votes to a political boss, and both ought to be prosecuted, for the law should be no respecter of persons.

It is as objectionable for a convention of ministers to seek by canonical law to control the votes of church members as it would be for a convention of manufacturers to issue orders for their employees to vote for a certain candidate. Such conduct is offensive to decency, business morals and a crime against society. Any convention, whether composed of saints or sinners, rich or poor, white or black, that seeks to prostitute power and coerce conscience ought to be broken up by the police and its leaders arrested for

A crime by any other name is a crime just the same. An ecclesiastical robe cannot sanctify treason, authority to preach does not carry with it license to become a political ringster, or the right to teach us how to pray give a permit to tell us how to vote No man in joining the church should sacrifice his citizenship, forfeit his constitutional liberties or subordinate his duty to the state. The earth many times has been drenched with the blood of our forefathers fighting to throw off the ecclesiastical yoke from the state, and the suggestion of a return to these medieval conditions with their horror and their torture should not be tolerated for a moment.

Laws should be passed prohibiting any preacher, or combination of preachers, from delivering or attempting to deliver their membership or congregation to any candidate for office, and suitable legislation should be passed preserving the sanctity of the pulpit from political vandalism. It is as much a menace to church and state for a politician to occupy the pulpit as for a minister to preach a political sermon. He has no more right to preach his politics from the pulpit than a teacher has to teach his politics to his pupils. A preacher cannot make political trickery righteous by usage any more than he can make profanity respectable by practice. It is one of the ironies of fate that a preacher may become a scandal as well as a glory to civilization.



Ralph Peters On Railway Mail Pay

A controversy has been raging in the columns of the press between the railroads and the Federal Post Office Department over the question of proper compensation for handling the United States mails. Mr. Ralph Peters, Chairman of the Railway Mail Committee, when asked to state the railroad side of the controversy to the American farmer, said in part:

The railway mail pay question will be settled-and settled permanently and with justice to all concernedas soon as the American people realize that the whole subject, while seemingly complicated and technical, boils down to a few simple points of fair business dealing which no one need be a rate expert to understand.

"The first is that the Post Office Department weighs the mails, and readjusts the pay of the railroads, only once in four years. This compels the railroads to carry the increase in the mail tonnage during the intervening years without pay-manifestly an injustice in the case of a rapidly growing business. One consequence has been that last year the railroads carried fully half the parcel post for nothing.

"A second point is this: In addition to carrying the mails, the railroads are required to operate many traveling post offices for sorting and distributing the mails while in transit. But the Post Office Department pays for such post offices only where they occupy whole cars, and pays nothing in the many cases in which it merely requires the use of post office apartments in combination cars, although such apartments differ from the full railway post office cars only in size. More than 4,200 apartments of this | the church bells call the communicants character have been fitted up, and are maintained for the exclusive use of

man. This does not necessarily mean that the bankers are getting any better or that the milk of human kindnesss is being imbibed more freely by our financiers. It indicates that the bankers are getting wiser, becoming more able financiers and the banking industry more competent. The vision of the builder is crowding out the spirit of the pawnbroker. A light has been turned on a new world of investment and no usurer ever received as large returns on the investment as these progresuplift industry. The bankers have always been liberal city builders, but they are now building agriculture.

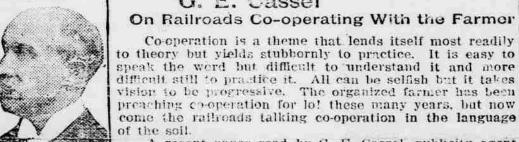
A Dollar With a Soul. It is refreshing in this strenuous

commercial life to find so many dollars with souls. When a dollar is approached to perform a task that does not directly yield the highest rate of interest, we usually hear the rustle of the eagle's wings as it soars upward; when a dollar is requested to return at the option of the borrower, it usually appeals to the Goddess of Liberty for its contractural rights; when a dollar is asked to expand in volume to suit the requirements of industry, it usually talks solemnly of its redeemer, but soul material has entered into the vaults of our banks and rate, time and volume have a new basis of reckoning in so far as the ability of some of the bankers permit them to co-operate in promoting the business of farming.

God Almighty's Noblemen.

These bankers are God Almighty's noblemen. Heaven lent earth the spirit of these men and the angels will help them roll in place the cornerstones of empires. They are not philanthropists; they are wise bankers. The spirit of the builder has given them a new vision, and wisdom has visited upon them busi-











of the Norfolk & Western railway, is so full of horse sense that we reproduce it in part and urge the farmers along that roadway to continued co-operation with the management of the road in all problems of mutual interest: "We are now dealing with two of the most gigantic occupations of menfarming and land transportation. They are the basis of pretty nearly all

wealth. When they fail the whole country fails. Therefore, how important it is that these two should fully understand each other, and work together not only for their own commercial advancement but for the prosperity of the nation. "The farmers and the railways are natural allies in all their interests It is difficult to conceive of greater service to the commonwealth than the

of firmly fixing in the minds of both the railways and the farmers that they are mutually dependent and that the prosperity of one depends on the pros perity of the other, but that suspicion and misunderstanding destroy the various interests of both. Many of the most progressive and far-sceing railways have fully recognized this relation and dependence.

"In the study of economic conditions in all branches of human endeavor from the birth of our nation down to within quite recent years, we are astenished at the utter lack of the co-operative principle-the 'work together' idea—and not only that, but extreme selfishness and purblind prejudice has more apparently dominated in the different branches of trade and other avenues of enterprise. This was a condition that government could not remedy No statute law, or even written constitution, can do more than safeguard those inalignable rights of the individual.

"The mutual advantages of co-operation and sympathetic understanding are many and varied for both the rallway and the farmer. The farmer is pecultarly dependent upon rapid and cheap transportation. His products are always comparatively bulky and "equently perishable. The railways give farmers a worldwide market for their products. An intelligent understanding of the fundamental improvement of railway transportation is essential to the prosperity of any agricultural community. Worldwide and nationwide markets are made possible only by regular and cheap transportation such as is offered by the railways.

"So the farmer may conclude that when he co-operates with the railroads, his most potent allies, he is doing good for himself and much good for his country

'While there're leaves in the forest and foam on the river,' The farmers and railways shall flourish forever."



R. C. Duff On Cotion As Contraband.

Hon. R. C. Duff, one of the highest authorities on International law in the notion and one of the most capable citizens in the United States, when asked to investigate the exporting of cotton and interpret the laws of nations on this subject for the American plowman, said in part:

"Article 28 of the Declaration of London reads as follows: 'The following may not be declared contraband of war: (1) raw cotton, wool, silk, etc.' Great () Britain is not only a signatory of the Declaration of London, but in fact called the conference and insisted upon the inclusion of raw cotton on the list of absolute

Under this declaration, which was subscribed to by all the non-contraband. maritime nations, we have a right absolutely to ship cotton, not only to neutral ports of Europe, but to Germany and Austria themselves. Humanity shudders at the thought of the death of the splendid Americans who went down on the Lusitania, but humanity would have more cause for shuddering if it could have presented to it in some similarly striking and dramatic way the woe, sorrow and suffering that will be occasioned to multiplied thousands of men, women and children in the Southern states as a result of cotton being forced down to flarvation prices.

"The reason why cotton do a not command 18 or 20 cents per pound is simply because Great Pritain has a naral strangle hold on our shipments and, therefore, on the world supply. England sends her ships of war out into the open seas, captures American cotton, no matter to whom the same may be destined, carries it into British ports, sets up prize courts of her own nomination, which prize courts, of course, are operating in her favor and which, under such circumstances, after whatever delay they elect to impose, assess the damages of the American shipper at whatever price they see lit and then, after having by such process 'bought' our cotton, she avails herself of the extraordinary high prices existing on the continent of Europe, produced in part by her diversion of our shipments, to resell it at a profit. The American shipper has no recourse except to the government. The acts of Great Britain referred to, according to the well-recognized principle of International law, constitute war against the United States. "This grievance is now of many months standing and the South is about to bring to market another great crop of cotton. Under such circumstances one would expect that our government, without prompting, would know perfactly well how to deal with acts on the part of the British government, amounting to warfare against our trade and country.

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POLITICAL PRAYER MEETINGS

It is a sad day for Christianity when together for a political prayer meet-

put bitterness into the lives of men;

stroy Christian influence in the com-

munity. The spirit actuating such

meetings is anarchistic, un-Christlike

and dangerous to both church and

ness foresight. The cackle of the hen, the low of kine and the rustle of growing crops echo in every bank vault in the nation and the shrewd banker knows that he can more effectively increase his deposits by putting blue blood in the veins of livestock; quality in the yield of the soil and value into

agricultural products, than by business handshakes, overdrafts and gaudy calendars.

Taking the community into partnership with the bank, opening up a ledger account with progress, making thrift and enterprise stockholders and prosperity of the country an the asset to the bank, put behind it stability far more desirable than a letterhead bearing the names of all the distinguished citizens of the community. The bank is the financial power house of the community and

11:4

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the Post Office Department. Failure to pay for them has been an especial | ing. Such gatherings mark the high hardship to the smaller roads on which the Department does not find it tide of religious political fanaticism, necessary to utilize whole cars.

"One last point: In thousands of instances (though not in all) the Post fan the flames of class hatred and de-Office Department requires the railroads to carry the mails back and forth between railroad stations and post offices, but pays them nothing for this extra service beyond the rates covering the rail transportation. The railroads have no choice but to perform this additional service gratis, or refuse to carry the mails at all.

state. "Now for the remedies the railroads ask: They do not ask to have the mails weighed daily, or to have each shipment weighed and paid for separately, as is done in the case of private shippers. They merely ask to have the mails weighed, and the pay of the railroads adjusted, at least once for a Syrainel Ankle. a year, instead of once in four years. They also ask that apartment post If you will get a bottle of Chamoffice cars be paid for, at reasonable rates, according to size. Lastly, they ask that the Post Office Department cease to require of them free messenger berlain's Liniment and observe the service between stations and post offices, and either relieve them of this directions given therewith faithservice or pay fairly for it. These are the reforms the railroads ask of Con- fully, you will recover in much less gress. They gladly lay these reforms before the public, confident that they time than is usually required. Obwill appeal to the common sense and fairness of American voters." tainable everywhere.

"It is not necessary for us to resort to war against Great Britain in retaliation. A simple, adequate and obvious remedy would be for the president to advise Great Britain that unless she versect? the law of nations as regards our foreign commerce, he will call on corgress to proof a resolution forbidding the exportation of arms and munitions of war to foreign countries."

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