

who came to see them go through their evolutions.

Occasionally a bee develops thieving propensities, and, instead of gathering his share of food from flowers, sneaks into the hive of some other swarm and steals its honey. If such solitary burglars are successful their community will likely develop into a robber army. When a bee army attacks a hive it always seeks out the enemies' queen and kills her. This ends the fight, for a hive becomes immediately disorganized and defenseless on the loss of its leader. After a hive has been looted and its queen slain its inmates usually join the marauding army and become themselves robbers. Sometimes, without any apparent cause, civil war breaks out in a hive. Among bees, as among men, this kind of war is always the fiercest and most deadly.

Perhaps the most wonderful of the bee's faculties is its gift for architecture. There are, according to mathematicians, three figures in which cells can be built without leaving any useless spaces, the equilateral triangle, the square, and the regular hexagon. The hexagon is most convenient and strongest; and it is in the shape of a regular hexagon that bees' cells are always built. It has been demonstrated that by making the bottoms of cells consist of three planes meeting in an angle, the exact magnitude of which has been ascertained by the mathematician Maclaurin, the greatest possible saving may be made of labor and material. The bees, as if acquainted with these principles of solid geometry, which are understood only by the ablest mathematicians, build their cells in three planes which meet in the exact angle designated by Maclaurin. There is no more marvelous example of instinct or intelligent skill in the animal kingdom.—S. O. D. in Chicago Tribune.

Our Panama Imbroglio

So it appears at last that, notwithstanding the vehement denials by the administration through its representatives, there has been very serious friction between our government and that of Panama. It appears, moreover, that the misunderstanding must have reached a particularly acute stage to call for the appointment of a mission to the isthmus headed by the secretary of war, and including committees of both houses of congress. Rumors to this effect were rife a few weeks ago. High officials of the Panama government openly declared that the new republic had been misled by false promises, and although these statements were promptly and emphatically challenged in Washington, their authors did not retract or in any way modify them. Now, there is no further attempt to disguise the existence of a bitter clash, and one may readily imagine its importance by considering the nature of the remedy the president has applied. It is only too evident that the situation is critical, indeed.

For our part, we have always thought that the establishment of the republic of Panama was much too sudden to be legitimate, and far too fruitful of coincidences to leave the United States free of the suspicion of complicity. And it was most unpleasantly significant that our forces were on hand when the so-called declaration of independence was proclaimed—on hand and under orders to permit no "interference" by Colombia. No one can explain, upon any theory involving our innocence in the premises, the facts that the alleged "revolution" occurred on the night of November 3, 1903, and that the new republic was "recognized" on the 6th, at a time when the government was represented by a self-appointed junta, composed of three persons, and when there was not the slightest visible evidence of popular support or even popular knowledge of the pretended upheaval. The patriot

fathers, in fact, were so poverty stricken in the matter of material that the junta, pressed for time, had to send to Washington as Panama's diplomatic representative a gentleman who was neither a native nor a citizen—in a word, M. Bunau-Varilla, a worthy French gentleman, whose only interest in the affair lay with the sale of the French company's rights, properties, junk, prospects, etc., to the United States.

Just here, we fancy, the core of Panama's discontent will be discovered, for M. Bunau-Varilla, hastening fondly to Washington—he reached here within ten days after the "revolution"—and finding a "treaty" already cut and dried, so expedited the formalities that the document was solemnly signed only two or three hours before the arrival of a genuine Panama committee which had been hurried hither to see to its proper and satisfactory formulation. This, in fact, is the genesis of the Panama complaint. Messrs. Boyd, Amador and Arosemena were duly authorized to look after the interests of their fellow-citizens, but M. Bunau-Varilla saw to it that a treaty which met the views of the United States government and the French company was finally executed before they could get here to interpose a protest or offer a suggestion. It will transpire, we think, that this treaty constitutes the grievance of real moment. Dr. Morales and Senor Obaldia both insist that it is not what the Panamanos had been promised or led to expect, and it is quite plain that the ill feeling springs from M. Bunau-Varilla's lightning-like diplomacy.

Of course, it is a mere incident in one sense, for the whole performance was so grotesque and so devoid of every quality of legitimacy it would be unreasonable to expect a single dignified feature at any stage of the transaction. To compress the obvious comment into an aphorism the episode would make a comic opera if it could be rescued from the realm of tragedy.—Washington Post.

Great Wealth in Wheat and Cotton
[Condensed by New York World from World's Work.]

On the Elk Valley Farm, in North Dakota, forty harvesters follow in line, each reaping a six-foot swath of wheat. The harvesting laborer begins the season in Oklahoma and works northward into Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota and even Canada. In the winter he works back south again in the lumber woods. He follows the seasons.

More than a million new harvesters are sold every year. They range from the ordinary three-horse kind to the California monster that heads, gathers and threshes a swath fourteen feet wide, leaving the grain bagged on one side and the straw bound on the other.

In many Kansas counties the "poor farms" have for lack of other use been turned into experiment stations. In Minnesota a professor of the agricultural college has added five bushels an acre to the apparent possible yield of the fields simply by improving the seed.

The United States raises one-fifth of the world's wheat.

A flood of 88,000,000 bushels of wheat every year flows into Minneapolis mills. One elevator has a capacity of 6,000,000 bushels. The city alone exports 5,000,000 barrels of flour.

Wellington, Kan., was 4,000 population and three banks. Three-fourths of the directors are wheat-growing farmers, and five-sixths of the deposits are wheat money. Kansas farm lands are worth \$40 to \$60 an acre, and in some counties there is practically no waste area.

Cotton is the world's chief manufacturing product. Iron and steel represent in their primary forms \$1,700,000,

000 per year in all the world. Cotton manufactures run to \$2,000,000,000 a year.

The United States raises three-fourths of the world's cotton supply. Twice the world's gold product last year would just about have paid for the cotton product of the south. Three-fourths of the capital stock of all the national banks in the country would amount to the same sum.

Cotton exports amounted to \$350,000,000 last year, and will be more this year. All other farm products together came to less than \$600,000,000.

For the last five crops the south has received nearly \$800,000,000 more than for the five preceding crops. For the crop of 1903 the planters received \$325,000,000 more than for that of 1898.

This excess alone for the single year 1903 would amount to \$20 for every inhabitant of the southern states, or \$100 for every family. For every family actually raising cotton it would mean a surplus of \$225.

Bank deposits in the south have within the last twelve months increased two and a half times as rapidly as in the rest of the country.

Says a member of the North Carolina board of agriculture: "I can take any farm in the state and pay for it with two crops of cotton."

Nearly two-thirds of the cotton farms and about five-eighths of the cotton acreage are cultivated by white farmers. More than half of the white farmers own their farms, and about one-fifth of the negroes. There are thus more than 100,000 negroes who farm cotton lands of their own.

Deal Jackson, a North Carolina negro planter, farms 2,000 acres of the best land in the state, and it is his own. His family runs nine ploughs.

The farmers used to realize only \$5,000,000 for their cottonseed. They now get \$100,000,000. The difference would be \$7 for each family in the country.

More cotton is now spun in southern than in northern mills.

Sixty per cent of our cotton still goes to European mills to be worked up.

Distantly Related

"And who are you, my dear?" asked Methuselah, as a little girl appeared at the door of his tent and wished him many happy returns of his latest birthday anniversary.

"Don't you know me, grandpa?" she said. "I'm the greatest granddaughter you've got."

Thereupon the old man took his little relative thirty-seven generations removed, upon his knee and told her she mustn't mind his forgetfulness—he couldn't possibly keep track of all of them.—Chicago Tribune.

It Was All Right

Two men went into a restaurant to get dinner. They ordered chicken and after it was served one of them started to carve. He gave his friend the smaller piece keeping the larger for himself. His friend complained, saying: "Now, if I had been serving that chicken, I would have given you the larger piece."

The other returned quickly, "Well haven't I got it?"—Philadelphia ledger.

Quick Recovery

Agonized Youth—Oh, Miss Griselda, don't tell me there is no hope for me! Miss Griselda—There is absolutely none poor boy. You mustn't think of it. Why didn't you fall in love with my sister Pamela? She is much better fitted for you than I am.


Same Youth—Why, I thought she was engaged to that prig of a Spoonamore! If it isn't asking too much, Miss Griselda, won't you please say a good word to her for me?—Chicago Tribune.

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