



WAGON SENSE

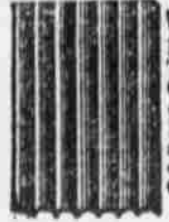
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together with some miscellaneous notes upon Europe, conclude the European letters reproduced.

In Mr. Bryan's new volume are published several speeches which will be read and reread with interest. The religious element runs strongly all through the addresses. In each there are sentences and paragraphs worth quotation.—**Walter Williams** in Columbia (Mo.) Herald.

The Romanoff Dynasty

The Romanoff dynasty of czars, of which the present emperor of Russia is a member, has ruled the empire since 1613, when Michael Feodorovitch Romanoff was elected czar by an assembly of representatives, following a national uprising. The previous rulers, the descendants of Ivan IIL, who threw off the yoke of the Mongols in 1462, became extinct about 1592, and the country had been torn by wars among the nobles and by popular risings against them. It was as the champion of the last of these risings that the Romanoff dynasty came into power.

The steady growth of the Russian empire began about that time. Michael purchased peace from the Poles

and devoted himself to strengthening the empire, but under his son the territory given the Poles was recovered, and his grandson conquered the Cossacks and fought the first successful war with the Turks. Another grandson of Michael, Peter the Great, is considered in many respects the real founder of the empire as a modern power. It was he who introduced into the semi-Oriental customs of the Russians of his day the Occidental customs which have been so fruitful a source of trouble ever since. Under Peter the empire wrested territory from the Turks, Poland and Sweden, and the internal administration of the government, as well as its foreign policy, was placed practically on the footing it now occupies.

The next period of rapid development in Russia came under Catherine II. (1762-96), who ascended the throne after causing the murder of her husband, Peter III. She furthered the spread of western civilization in the empire, enacted laws favorable to the development of commerce and industry, and introduced administrative changes. She was the guiding spirit in the spoliation of Poland, and fought the Turks in two successful wars. Her son, Paul I., carried on a constant fight with his aristocracy, and established the censorship of the press and the secret police system. He was preparing to make war on England when he was assassinated by conspirators.

Alexander I., who assumed power in 1801, was a lover of peace, and abolished serfdom in the Baltic provinces. It was he who fought Napoleon, and led him into the disastrous invasion of Russia. The latter years of his reign were less liberal, and his son carried on a reactionary policy. His grandson, Alexander II., however, proved the most liberal of Russia's rulers, and, while prosecuting the expansion of the empire in all directions, instituted many internal reforms. He abolished the secret police, and was said to be about to propose marked changes in the form of government when he was assassinated in 1881.

His son, Alexander III., took as advisers the extreme reactionaries and autocrats. He was succeeded in 1894 by Nicholas II., the chief feature of whose reign has been the development of Asiatic Russia.—**New York Tribune.**

Wages at Fall River

The manufacturers of Fall River have made their statement showing, apparently, that they cannot run their mills without reducing the pay of their operatives 12 per cent. The reply of the Textile Council, representing the operatives, is that employees in the cotton mills cannot live upon wages so reduced.

The operatives go into details. "Previous to the reduction in November, 1903," they say, "a weaver operating eight print cloth looms, producing five and one-half cuts per loom per week, received \$9.58 per week. Under the proposed reduction a weaver operating 12 looms, if he or she could produce five and one-half cuts per loom per week on the 12 looms, which experience has proven they cannot, it is very evident that he would be receiving less than \$7.50 per week, or equal to a reduction in wages in 13 months of over \$2 per week, and operating four more looms."

But this is not a matter of technicalities, of variations in mechanical requirements. It is a matter of living. Can men earning \$7.50 a week feed and clothe and house their families as the people of Massachusetts wish their citizens to be fed and clothed and housed? Does not such a condition of existence look to degeneration?

Better bid farewell to the cotton industry altogether than to retain it at such a cost.—**Boston Post.**

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