

outnumbers Buddhism on the Ganges. The Buddhists still hold Burma, Thibet and Ceylon, but even in these countries there is evidence of decline. Kandy, the capital city of Ceylon, has the distinction of guarding a "sacred tooth," thought by the ignorant to be one of the eye teeth of the Buddha. It is kept in a gold and jeweled casket enclosed in six larger ones and is an object of worship but the more intelligent Buddhists know that it is a fraud.

At Rangoon I found a Baptist school, conducted by Americans, with nearly nine hundred pupils, and learned of the gratifying success which has attended missionary work in Burma.

And yet, there is a Buddhist propaganda in Europe and America! In a review called Buddhism, published at Rangoon by the International Buddhist society, I read that Kaiser Wilhelm is "alarmed" at the progress that this religion is making in Germany, and I also read that our country offers a promising field for Buddhist missionaries.

As a religion of agnosticism, requiring belief in neither God nor immortality, nor in the morality taught by Christ, it may appeal to some who, like the Englishman whom I found in the monastery, have already rejected Christianity, but it is not likely to appeal to those who have had a religious experience. Those who emphasize good works, and fail to recognize the need of an inspiring faith behind the works, may take refuge in the teachings of Buddha from the more exacting requirements of the Nazarene, but no one is likely to be led astray who compares the altruism, the philanthropy and the benevolences of Christianity with the fruits of Buddhism. To live, even in poverty, upon the labors of others with a view to gaining thus an earlier entrance into blissful unconsciousness is not so unselfish, after all as to spend oneself in the service of his fellows and to convert life into an exhaustless fountain.

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PACKINGTOWN'S FOUL DEEDS

Representatives of the packers have complained to the president that "the market for American meats is being greatly affected by the agitation that has been started about the unhealthy condition of the stock yards throughout the country." It is said that Upton Sinclair's book, "The Jungle," is to blame for this agitation. The packers' representatives declare that the stock raisers will suffer more than the packers from the depression in trade consequent upon "the agitation by the muckrakers."

One way for the packers to relieve the situation is to prosecute for libel Upton Sinclair and the several other men who, after investigation, made serious statements concerning conditions in Packingtown.

These disclosures have rightly agitated the consumers of meat. If they are false the men responsible for them should be punished. If they are true the men who deal out diseased meat should be required to spend the rest of their lives behind the bars.

It is an old trick of monopolists to undertake to make it appear that the stock raisers or the farmers or the working men will suffer if the monopolist is required to conform to the law. And in all too many cases with respect to conditions affecting the pocketbooks of the people these pleas have been effective. But men may with more or less patience submit to robbery; with more or less patience they may yield to imposition, but they balk very promptly when it comes to poisoned food. It is not at all surprising that the meat consumption in America has suffered a marked decline since the publication of Mr. Sinclair's book. The wonder is that every man who has read that work or who has read any of the reports made by other investigators of conditions in Packingtown, has not become a vegetarian. The stories told of the crimes committed by greedy packers in the preparation of meat for the American people are almost unprintable. If these stories are true, then the members of the beef trust, in their mad chase for the dollar, are guilty of crimes compared with which their confessed violations of anti-trust laws sink into insignificance.

Washington dispatches say that President Roosevelt has sent a commission to investigate, and that he purposes to do something for the protection of the people. It is to be hoped that the president has investigated, and that he will move in a determined way for the purpose of bringing about prompt and actual relief. But we have had so many promises of this kind and so many boasts as to what the president will do, that we have about given up all hope that his

high-sounding words will ever be backed by effective deeds.

So far as concerns the alarm displayed by the packers with respect to the condition of the meat market, no one need lose any sleep. It would be better for that market to be entirely destroyed, better for the farmers to quit raising cattle, and for the packers to quit packing meat, than for the men, women and children of this land to be fed upon poisoned food.

The question now confronting us is not whether the meat markets are to be preserved, but whether the lives of the people are to be protected.

ALDRICH AND THE WHITE HOUSE

The Washington correspondent for the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, republican, sent to his newspaper, under date of May 23, the following dispatch:

"Senator Aldrich, the republican leader of the senate, was at the White House this afternoon, and talked with the president about the stage of public business, and reached a distinct understanding as to the future legislative program in congress. Four propositions were agreed upon.

"1. Statehood is to be decided, as Speaker Cannon insists that it shall be decided.

"2. The denaturalized alcohol bill is to be favorably reported and passed.

"3. The Philippine tariff bill is to be dropped for the session, and Mr. Lodge is not to make his motion to discharge his committee from consideration of the measure and bring the matter before the Senate.

"4. There is to be no canal legislation, but instead, the administration is to proceed as it has done thus far under the Spooner law, and direct its energies to the preparatory work of a lock canal, such as is now authorized by law."

On May 24 the senate passed the denaturalized alcohol bill. Evidently Mr. Aldrich is master in the senate, and, evidently, the harmonious relations established between Mr. Aldrich and the White House during the contest over the rate legislation are not to be disturbed.

Mr. Roosevelt might have obtained Senator Aldrich's permission to cause the arrest and prosecution of the Standard Oil officials for their many violations of the law, which violations were so graphically described in Mr. Garfield's far-famed report.

FRESH FROM WALL STREET

The Wall Street Journal is one of the leading financial publications. Referring to John D. Rockefeller's great fortune the Journal insists that it be protected, but adds:

"When, however, in the course of nature, Mr. Rockefeller dies, and his fortune is bequeathed to others, may not the government step in and take a portion of it? The nation may rightfully claim to be one of the natural heirs of every fortune. In other words, an inheritance tax, of even large proportions, seems to be from every point of view fair, and a beneficent way of preventing the too great growth of family fortunes such as might overshadow the power of the government itself. On the other hand, any legislation to limit the size of a man's fortune during his lifetime is setting bounds to beneficent ambition and enterprise."

It is strange to hear the editor of a Wall Street publication advocating an inheritance tax. Soon the Wall Street Journal may come to the point of advocating an income tax. And why not an income tax? If, when a man dies, the government may appoint itself one of his heirs, taking for its own use, "even large proportions" of his estate, with what reason will it be contended that the government may not, during a man's lifetime, require him to contribute for the support of the government in accordance with his income?

REVISE THE TEXT BOOK

Several weeks ago, Mr. Rainey of Illinois asserted, in a speech delivered in the house, that the watch manufacturers of the United States had one price for watches at home and a cheaper price abroad. Mr. Landis, republican, speaking in the house May 23, admitted that this is true and declared that the practice is in accord with good business methods, and that all countries sold their wares for a less price abroad than at home.

It will now be in order for the republican

national committee to correct its campaign text book. Several pages of the republican text book for 1904 were devoted to the effort to show that American goods were not sold abroad cheaper than at home. In one chapter an effort was made to show that the prices in the United States were really much lower than the prices in England. It was claimed that it was only "occasional sales" where the prices were lower abroad than at home.

In that text book, especial emphasis was laid on the report of the commission to the effect that "the great majority of the answers (to its inquiries) indicate that prices are no lower abroad than they are for domestic consumers, and a considerable number indicate that foreign prices are higher."

WILLIAM F. SWITZLER

The death of William F. Switzler at his home in Columbia, Mo., is a severe loss to the state with whose history he was so closely identified for nearly seventy years, and to the democratic party, in which organization he was for upwards of half a century a powerful and commanding figure. Colonel "Bill" Switzler, as his thousands of friends loved to call him, held the proud distinction of being the oldest editor in the United States, and the one with the record of longest continuous service. He founded the Columbia Statesman in 1841, and for more than sixty years was its editor. Although a "country weekly" it attained a national prominence through the force of its editor's ability. A man of high ideals, Colonel Switzler never ceased striving to achieve them. His upright, progressive career was an inspiration to the youth of his community, and the efforts he made to further the progress of Missouri's State University have been rewarded a thousand fold by that great school's influence upon the young men and young women of the state. Positive, but never dogmatic; studious, but not a recluse, Colonel Switzler was an upbuilding force in his day and generation. The history of his splendid career will be the better part of the history of the great state he loved and upon which his life reflected so much credit.

AN IMPERTINENT SUGGESTION

The Jones County (Iowa) Times is pursuing a course that will result in its becoming very much disliked in the camp of the "stand-patters." Referring to the proposition to remove the tariff on structural steel, lumber and other building material imported for the rebuilding of San Francisco, in order that the people of the stricken city may secure such material at the lowest possible cost, the Times says:

"If the claim made by our republican brethren is true, that the foreigner pays the tax, why not let the tariff on building material remain and donate the amount of the tax paid by the foreigners on such material to the sufferers of the stricken city?"

The Times has punctured the whole protective tariff theory by that one suggestion. If the foreigner pays the tax the removal of the tax will not help San Francisco. If the foreigner does not pay it, then the tax is an unjust burden upon the people. The Commoner ventures to predict that not one of the "stand-patter" organs in Iowa will dare oppose the humane suggestion made by the Jones County Times. They will have to content themselves with making faces at the Times and calling it the usual names.

WITH REPUBLICANS, TOO

Representative Dalzell declares that republican leaders will be glad to discuss the tariff question with democrats during the congressional campaign. Very well. The Webster County (Iowa) republican convention indorsed Governor Cummins for renomination and adopted a platform in which it is said: "We are convinced that an immediate revision of certain tariff schedules is necessary and that no alleged party expediency should cause delay in the work incident thereto."

It might be well for Mr. Dalzell and his associates to begin the discussion of this question with the members of their own party. Among the rank and file of republicans the tariff revision sentiment is growing, and Mr. Dalzell and other stand-patters will find that it will be necessary for them to discuss that question with republicans as well as with democrats during the coming congressional campaign.