

The Commoner.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

Vol. 6. No. 21

Lincoln, Nebraska, June 8, 1906

Whole Number 281

CONTENTS

MR. BRYAN'S LETTER

MICHAEL DAVITT

THE EIGHT-HOUR BILL REPORTED

DISHONEST DOLLARS

INCREASE IN COST OF BUILDING

BARNES AND THE MUCK BRUSH

TREMENDOUS DISCLOSURE OF FACTS

HOW THE BEEF TRUST POISONS FOOD

MILES ON "EMBALMED BEEF"

COMMENT ON CURRENT TOPICS

HOME DEPARTMENT

WHETHER COMMON OR NOT

NEWS OF THE WEEK

PLAYING WITH FIRE

The appeal to commercialism made by those who are anxious to avoid rigid inspection of meats can not be effective. Meat packing is a great industry and stock raising is a great industry; but it would be better that every packing house in the land be closed, and better that the raising of cattle for food purposes be abandoned than that the men, women and children of America be fed upon poisoned food.

Those politicians who are temporizing upon this serious matter are playing with fire. Already the meat industry has suffered because thousands of people have ceased for a time to eat meat, driven from that food through the fear of poison. The only way to save the industry is by a system of inspection that will inspect. To establish this system the co-operation of state and municipal governments with the federal government will be necessary.

The beef trust, made bold by its "immunity bath," has vigorously fought proposed reforms in the matter of meat inspection. It is not strange that these men exaggerate their power and influence. They do have great influence with public officials, but they have never before faced the poisoned food issue. They will lose in their contest with the people on that issue.

FETCHING

The New York Evening Post says: "Its moral and political turpitude, however, is not in the least relieved by the court's decision. Perkins slyly took money belonging to widows and orphans, and applied it to a purpose which he had no reason to suppose they would approve, though he well knew that, if the gift of insurance money to the republican campaign fund were made public, it would cause a scandal of the first magnitude, and defeat its own end. Hence the secrecy observed, the round-about method of giving the money, and the arrangement to keep the sum off the accounts till after the election. This, the court now says, was not the act of a criminal. It was, at any rate, the act of a trickster."

The Post certainly has a fetching way of putting things.

APOLOGIZE TO GENERAL MILES

Charles P. Neill, commissioner of labor, and James B. Reynolds, sent to Packingtown as commissioners from the president, have reported that conditions are terrible, and that all manner of diseased meat is palmed off on the public.

Did not General Nelson A. Miles tell us something about "embalmed" beef soon after the Spanish-American war? If memory is not at fault General Miles was roundly denounced by republican newspapers as a "trouble breeder."



FOODSTUFFS FOR THE MILLIONS

EASTERN INDIA

Mr. Bryan's Twenty-First Letter

We have at last reached India—and what extremes are here! Southern India penetrates the Indian Ocean and is so near the Equator that the inhabitants swelter under the heat of a perpetual summer, while the rocky sentinels that guard the northern frontier are clad in the ice of an eternal winter. As might be expected in a land which has every altitude from sea level to nearly thirty thousand feet, one finds all varieties of vegetation, from the delicate fern of the tropics to the sturdy edelweiss that blossoms in the snow—from the grain and orchards of Agra, Oudh and the Punjab to the cotton, rice and fruits of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. The extremes are as noticeable among the people as in nature's realm. In learning there is a great gulf between the Hindu pundit and the ignorant ryot; there is a wide sea between the wealth of the native prince and the poverty of the masses; and there is a boundless ocean between the government and the people.

Eastern India is entered through Calcutta, a city of more than a million inhabitants which has been built up under British occupancy. It is the capital of the province of Bengal and the winter capital of British India. I say winter capital because the higher English officials have their headquarters at Simla, eight thousand feet up in the Himalayas, during eight months of the year. Calcutta is on the Hooghly river, one of the numerous mouths of the Ganges; and the Ganges, it may be added, is a little disappointing to one who has read about it from youth. Instead of being a large river, flowing down from

the Himalayas directly to the sea, it is neither of great length nor of great width, and it runs for hundreds of miles along the foot of the range and joins the Brahmaputra which comes from an opposite direction and apparently is much longer. The mouths of the joint stream form a delta like that of the Nile, which at the coast is something like two hundred miles wide.

Lacking the antiquity of the cities of the interior, Calcutta does not possess many things of interest to the tourist, no elaborate tombs, no massive mosques and few temples of importance, although all shades of religion are represented here. There is a very pretty Jain temple in the suburbs, and in the city there is a Hindu temple where goats are offered as a sacrifice, but the center of Hinduism is at Benares, while Agra, Delhi and Lucknow furnish the finest specimens of the taste of the Mohammedan rulers. There are at Calcutta some fine public buildings and less pretentious private blocks, some beautiful parks and a very extensive museum.

In this museum one can learn more of the various races of India, of their dress, implements and weapons, more of the animal and insect life, more of India's mineral wealth, more of her woods, stones and marbles, more of her agricultural products and manufactures than he can in weeks of travel. He sees here mounted specimens of bug and butterfly, bird, fish and beast. It is the very Mecca of the student and we saw a number of groups thus engaged. Among the insects there are several which illustrate the mimicry of nature to a marvelous degree. Some