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### TALKING ABOUT IT

The Great Conspiracy moves on apace. At first it was given out that there had been a dastardly plutocratic conspiracy to defeat Mr. Roosevelt's policies and prevent the poor man from naming his successor. In this conspiracy nearly all the leaders of the republican party were involved. There was, indeed, no end to the traitors in the party.

Now, however, there has been a change of face. It is still true that the plutocrats have subscribed \$5,000,000, but it is for the purpose of downing Mr. Roosevelt in a roundabout way. This fund, so we are now informed by the Roosevelt publicity bureau, is to be used apparently against the president, but is in reality to create a sentiment in his party in favor of a third term, in order that he may be defeated before the people. It is rather hard for those of us endowed with only a plain, ordinary, cornfield sort of a mind to follow the ramifications of the Great Conspiracy through this bewildering labyrinth.

Another story that comes from Washington is to the effect that the president has thrown down the gage of battle before Harriman merely as a political stroke. It said that at present Harriman represents the corporation in its most offensive form and that his system of high finance has come in for rather acute criticism, and that Roosevelt sees the advantage of an issue between himself and Harriman. The fact that Harriman has the better of the controversy is lost sight of, and already some of the newspapers are saying that in a fight between the president and the railroad king the people will not have much trouble in choosing a side. In short, the president is said to be deliberately playing politics.

The president and his friends are reported to be watching the result and calculating upon the effect. The situation would seem to justify an anecdote.

A farmer said to his negro servant: "Jim, have you fed the horses this morning?"  
"Yassir."  
"What did you feed 'em."  
"Hay."  
"Did you feed the cows?"  
"Yassir."  
"What did you feed 'em?"  
"Hay."  
"Did you feed the ducks?"  
"Yassir."  
"What did you feed 'em?"  
"Hay."  
"Did they eat it?"  
"Nawsir; dey didn't zackly eat it, but dey was talking about it when I lef'."

The people haven't exactly swallowed the Great Conspiracy; but they are certainly talking about it.—Memphis Commercial Appeal.

### COBBLER'S FUEL SECRET IS OUT

An Altoona, Pa., dispatch to the New York World says: "The remarkable secret for burning ashes with coal discovered by John Elmore, an Altoona cobbler, and which has excited attention almost the world over, is out. Almost every householder in Altoona is now using it with great saving in coal bills. Several well known chemists immediately after it was announced that Elmore had solved the problem of obtaining heat from ashes, set to work to try to discover the formula. They were successful, and here it is: Common salt, one pound; oxalic acid, two ounces; water, one gallon. Mix and moisten a mixture containing one part coal and three parts ashes and a better fuel than pure coal is obtained. The ashes of anthracite coal burn as readily as do these of bituminous. This mixture will, upon being placed upon

a burning fire, fuse into a coke-like mass and deposit but little residue. The chemical action of this compound is thus explained: When an aqueous solution of an alkaline salt, upon such as common salt, is mixed with coal ash the result is that a mild lye is formed which, when mixed with any combustible material, such as coal, and upon the application of heat gives off oxygen gas thus enabling rapid combustion. The addition of oxalic acid caused a chemical change of greater value than the first, for the reason that it results in the formation of a carbide, which in turn gives off acetylene gas, this adding to the intensity of the heat and facilitating complete combustion. It is possible upon moistening a small quantity of ashes without the addition of coal, to really detect the odor of acetylene gas, and if the treated ashes are placed upon a lighted fire they will fuse and burn to a fine powder. The compound is now being used in many large industrial and mercantile places here, and it is claimed for it that it has reduced the fuel item more than half. It has eliminated almost entirely the question of disposition of ashes, which has been considerable where great quantities of coal are consumed. Ellmore, who discovered the secret and focused attention upon the possibilities that lurked in ashes, claims that his patent will protect him in his secret. He says he has received an offer from the British government, provided he can demonstrate the practicability of his compound. While it is everywhere conceded that Ellmore has conferred a great boon upon humanity, it is feared that he will not derive any tangible benefits from his discovery, in view of the facts that hundreds of others have secured the same results, following his lead."

### LIKE ALL THE REST

"My only mistake," said Darius Green, "Lay right in constructing my flying machine.  
In the place of old rope, wooden framing and things  
Just covered with cotton and fastened with strings,  
I'll build one of steel in her frame, with the wings,  
Overlaid with sheet copper, and furnished with springs.  
Nonbreakable, stanch, scientific clear through,  
My airship of metal will now reach the blue."  
To test his machine, bright with polish and gilding,  
He went to the top of a very tall building.  
How did he come out? Well, how did you feel  
After taking your flier in copper and steel?  
—New York Times.

### HOW HE KNEW

One Sunday morning recently the pastor of a church in a town of western Massachusetts remarked to his wife, upon returning from service: "Mary, there was a stranger at service this morning."  
"What did he look like?" asked the wife.  
"I don't know," was the answer, "for I didn't see him."  
"Then how do you know he was a stranger?"  
"Because I found a dollar in the contribution box," replied the pastor.—Harper's Weekly.

### HOW BEES DIVIDE LABOR

My experiments have revealed the fact that the division of labor among bees is carried to a surprising extent, says Professor Gaston Bonnier.

Bees which are seeking for pollen or nectar do not carry it, but merely carry the news to the hive.

A number of bees are sent out to strip the flowers, a number carrying

pollen only, others nectar only, others again water only when water is needed. The number sent out is proportional to the number of flowers to be stripped, and by marking the bees with colored tale it was proved that each bee confined itself for the time being to one class of work.

The same bee might be seeking for flowers in the morning and collecting in the afternoon, but did not change the nature of its work without returning to the hive.

There seemed to be something in the nature of a working arrangement between bees of different hives, as when the work of clearing a certain area of flowers had once been commenced by a few bees from one hive these collectors were not interfered with by bees from other hives.—Louisville, Ky., Times.

### THE RUSTIC'S HYMN

Lord God of Nature, I give thanks to Thee,  
For all the boundless heavens stretching far;  
And for the earth that Thou hast given me,  
To shapen like a star.  
I thank Thee for the daybreak and the dark;  
I thank Thee for the green and spreading bough;  
And for the four great winds, and for the lark  
Who guides with song my plough.  
I thank Thee for the storm and cloud of white;  
I thank Thee for the field's exhaustless wealth;  
But most I thank Thee for the common light,  
Thy robe whose touch gives health!  
—Edward Wilbur Mason.

### JAMESTOWN

The Puritans are revered partly because they were so diligent in recording their good deeds. They were untiring keepers of records and diaries, their sermons were long, and were written down, and their town-meetings, dividing up budgets pitifully small, always made provision for keeping the town records. The cavaliers were less given to recording or to written analysis. Perhaps they were not so confident of their spelling. At least their records, their sermons, their expressions of zeal for God and country, are fewer. At a hundred New England society dinners every year, a hundred orators who boast of Puritan blood, taking their text from Cotton Mather or Governor Bradford's diary, assure us that the one thing that saves us yet is the thin stream of Puritan blood in the foreign ocean. A Jamestown exposition comes but once in three centuries; it is well to seize the occasion and to make the most of it.—Colliers Weekly.

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