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A NEW YEAR PLEDGE

As life is measured by what we put into the world, I shall make this year more valuable than any previous one by crowding more service into it.

The colonel has been making some speeches, ostensibly to the natives down in South America, but he took care to furnish the home newspapers with full and complete copies. They are the same kind of speeches that the colonel did not make when he was president.

A New Bedford dispatch says that one of the big cotton mills there has declared an extra cash dividend of \$400,000 and will increase its capital stock by twice that sum. It is exceedingly distressing to note how fast ruin is overtaking the cotton manufacturers, ever since the new tariff went into effect.

The supreme court has again endorsed the legal right of a state, through its railway commission, to fix all rates within the state upon its transportation systems. A decade hence we will be wondering who was the fellow who raised the point that a state couldn't attend to that which was peculiarly and directly its own business.

Utah physicians have been puzzled for several weeks over the case of a man who was pushed off a cliff near Ogden. The man has regained all of his physical faculties, but he has absolutely no memory and is incapable of recalling anything that happened prior to his injury. The doctors might find some other interesting material to work upon if they would take up cases of those republican congressmen who cannot recollect ever having said that the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill was a revision downward.

Secretary Daniels is likely to be accused of advising socialistic action by the government. Socialistic action is doing something that interferes with the profit-making system of private individuals. The government owns considerable land containing oil. Its navy uses oil-burning engines. Mr. Daniels says that the price of the oil used has doubled in the last two years. As a measure of protection against future extortion he recommends that the government develop oil wells on its own lands and get its supply there.

The Commoner Wishes
A MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a
HAPPY NEW YEAR
To Everyone, Everywhere
and Forever

At this season of the year, when gifts are making glad the hearts of children, and when the young people are remembering Him in whose honor Christmas day is celebrated, the older folks may find profit in considering the philosophy that the Savior brought into the world. He taught, not only that service is the measure of greatness, but that it is the measure of happiness as well. We enjoy life in proportion as we invest in it our energy, our thought and our sympathy—"where the treasure is there will the heart be also."

As money is of value only because it can be spent for something that is more desirable, so existence is of worth only because it can be expended for other things. "Whosoever will save life shall lose it; but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it." This is a maxim of universal application, demonstrated by history and capable of proof at any time by experience. The Great Teacher instructed the world by precept and enforced the precept by example; and yet, in spite of the great truth which He established, multitudes are still blind—still hoping to find satisfaction in pursuits which are wholly selfish. Some worship their bodies, spending their time collecting the most

palatable foods and the most stimulating drinks, ornamenting themselves with the most costly clothing and housing themselves in luxurious homes, only to find that they weaken and finally destroy the physical frame which they idolize. Others pay their homage to the mind, flattering it and fawning before it, as if it were a thing divine. Its sensations are more lasting, its delights more refined and it has a greater range of achievements, but it may be employed as selfishly as the body. If it is wrongly directed, it is far more potent for evil than muscle and bone, and it may lead one into the mires of doubt and into the solitudes of unbelief. He builds upon the sands who ignores the spiritual in man. The soul looks upward, as the flowers turn their faces to the orb of day; the conscious presence of the Creator is as necessary to the happiness of the human being as is the sunlight to the plant. To attune one's self to the infinite, it is necessary to conform to the law of the universe, and that law is service. To serve largely, one must, by the avoidance of all that will dissipate and destroy, husband his strength and make it available for the doing of the things that are worth while—the larger his capacity for service, and the more complete his willingness to serve, the more abundantly will be the fulfillment of the promise "It is more blessed to give than to receive." W. J. BRYAN.

Free Wool

Free wool at last! The country has waited for it a long while and it has been a weary wait. Under the guise of aiding the farmers, the beneficiaries of protection made overtures to the wool growers, who constitute but a small fraction of the agricultural population, and gave them a tariff on wool. Then they gave to the manufacturers of woolen goods a so-called compensatory duty which far more than offset the tax on wool. By the time the tax reached the consumer it became a grievous burden upon nearly all of the farmers of the nation and upon all who are not farmers. In campaigns the tariff on wool has been paraded as an evidence of the desire of protectionists to include the farmer within the benefits of the system and they have been only too successful in deluding a part of the rural vote, but deception can be practiced no longer.

Wool was the keystone of the protectionist arch, a fact well understood by the tariff barons. They have been quick to see that without the farmer vote "protection for protection's sake" would not be endured. Now that the farmer has been taken out from behind the bulwarks we may expect to hear from the agricultural classes a more vigorous protest against high import duties.

With free wool has come the lowest rate of duty that woolens have borne for a generation, and as soon as the old stocks are worked off the consumer may expect to secure a substantial advantage from the revision of Schedule K. The average duty on woolens under the Payne-Aldrich bill was about 89 per cent. The average duty under the Underwood-Simmons bill is about 27 per cent.

In the purchase of manufactured woolens the percentage of reduction in price may be less than some expect, because the price of the garment includes the cost of making, which is not reduced, as well as the cost of material; but it will be a substantial reduction and the total saving to the people will be very considerable. As a result of the cheapening of woolen goods it is probable that there will be an increase in the use of good woolens and a decrease in the use of shoddy substitutes. It is gratifying that the revision of the tariff has come at such a time and under such circumstances as to meet with the approval of a large majority of the people of the country. Where any great change in policy is made with a bare majority there is danger of a reaction—the parties aggrieved being more energetic in expressing disapproval than the parties benefited are in expressing approval—but in this case the country seems to be ripe for the revolutionary change which has taken place in the economic policy of the country, and indications give promise of permanence in the change. W. J. BRYAN.

THANKSGIVING

The amount that one has to be grateful for differs with different persons and with each individual it differs at different times, but in a country like ours there is enough at all times for every one to be grateful for to make Thanksgiving day welcome. It gives opportunity for the inward feeling, if not the outward expression, of gratitude. We are profuse in our thanks when an individual does us a favor; how then shall we adequately express our appreciation of the blessings which we enjoy through the operation of our government? And how shall we estimate those larger blessings that are ours because we are members of civilized society? And, to enter a still larger field, by what rule known to mathematics can we compute our obligation to our Heavenly Father, whose gifts outnumber and whose benevolences outweigh those that come to us from all other sources combined? We all have enough to meditate upon and to be thankful for, no matter how far our accomplishments fall short of our plans and hopes.

There are some men who claim that the world is not making any progress. In the 1908 campaign Mr. Bryan's proposal to guarantee the safety of deposits in banks was derided as a dreamer's vision and utterly impractical, dishonest, confiscatory and a few little things like that. The same proposition is now being debated at Washington in connection with the new currency bill, and nobody has removed any of his outer garments in the excitement of debate.

THE LITTLE DREAMS

The little dreams run gayly up
The golden shore of sleep;
Beyond them lies the slumber sea
Where waves are strong and deep.

And when the sun wilts redly down,
A flower of the heat,
The little dreams come forth to play
With timid, childlike feet.

They wander into babies' hearts
To make them stir and smile,
But you can never capture them—
They stay so brief a while!

Just when the sun wilts redly down,
Or when the snowdrops dawn
Comes dancing o'er the hazy hills
As fleetly as a faun.

The little dreams come out to play,
And then are gathered deep
Into the slumber ocean's arms
Beside the shore of sleep.

—New York Evening Sun.