



EDITORIALS



OPINIONS OF GREAT PAPERS ON IMPORTANT SUBJECTS

A Great Work Begun.

NOW that \$21,000,000 of the Federal Government's irrigation fund have been set aside for certain specified projects, it may be said that what is likely to prove to be the greatest internal improvement work ever undertaken by the Government of the United States is well started. It is difficult to appreciate the ultimate meaning of these great works. Many of the greatest civilizations of the past have flourished in arid countries, redeemed from the desert by the artificial application of water. The highest state of civilization reached by the aborigines of America was among those who practiced irrigation. Already in our own time, the richest agricultural regions in this country are those where irrigation is necessary and where the desert comes back to claim what it once held when the water no longer flows.

In most of the arid and semi-arid portions of the United States nature atones for the lack of rainfall by giving to the soil great fertility. It is well known that in years of extraordinary rainfall the semi-arid regions produce enormous crops. Under irrigation the crops are uniformly large, compared with what can be obtained in humid regions without irrigation. The fact is that the arid country is fertile because it is without much rain. The fertility has not been washed out of the soil by the pounding rains of countless ages. The result is that it is left for men to turn on the water and take from the arid regions, in the shape of vegetation, the fertility that has been lost in the humid regions. That is why the fertility of the irrigated country seems inexhaustible. There nature has stored her treasures for man to use; elsewhere they have been largely depleted by natural processes.

All of this explains why an acre under irrigation is worth so much more than one not irrigated. If the Government shall eventually redeem 100,000,000 acres of land it will be equivalent to the addition of several times as many acres of humid-region land to the national area. Think of how much room for population that means. And already the time has come when room for our increasing population is a problem worthy of national attention.—*Minneapolis Journal.*

Submarine Warfare.

THE frightful destruction which has lately befallen Russia on the sea resulted from the use of the torpedo or the submarine boat. Only three of her vessels which have been destroyed or put out of action were seriously injured above the water line. This fact has elicited from Senator Hale, one of our best naval experts, the declaration that the battleship is obsolete. He calls a halt on the further construction of these traveling sea forts, saying that the \$150,000,000 which we have already expended therefor is practically so much money thrown away. Hudson Maxim, the renowned inventor of instruments of destruction and defense, shows that there is much reason in the position taken by Senator Hale. He says, in the Review of Reviews:

"A battleship costs \$6,000,000, and may have 1,000 men on board, while the torpedo boat costs not more than one-fifth as much, and may not have one-fiftieth part as many men on board. In other words, fifty torpedo boats may be built and manned at no greater expense than a single battleship; consequently fifty torpedo boats may be destroyed with all on board, in order to sink a single battleship, and the loss be equal on both sides; while if two battleships be sunk by the sacrifice of fifty torpedo boats, the torpedo flotilla has won a decided victory. But it is probable that not more than ten torpedo boats on an average would be destroyed for every battleship sunk. This means that the present torpedo system is five times as efficient as the battleship."

There is no doubt that the Russian and Japanese war

has disclosed a new problem for the navy to solve, but nevertheless it has not yet proved the worthlessness of battleships. None of the Japanese big and heavy armored vessels have turned turtle or been put out of action. Russia has about fifty-four torpedo boats and at least four submarines, but she has done nothing with them. The Japanese are brave and daring. The Russians are timorous and sluggish. So a test under decisive circumstances has not yet been made. It would be highly rash and indiscreet to reconstruct the navies of the world along the lines demanded by Senator Hale before the effectiveness of torpedo and submarine fighting is given a thorough trial.—*Kansas City Journal.*

School Music.

FEW persons of adult age who have any real musical knowledge or ability can recall their school music with interest or pleasure. They remember that they sang sappy little songs about moonlight and dreams, but the airs, if they are remembered at all, are recalled only to be laughed at.

Mr. Daniel Gregory Mason, whose grandfather was really the founder of the study of music in the American public schools, and who has himself been closely identified with the teaching of music, has lately suggested, in the Outlook, both the virtues and the defects of the modern school music. His deductions and recommendations deserve careful study and thought.

The time is past when the utility of music in the schools can be questioned. Physically, mentally and spiritually it refreshes and enriches. It is both the most self-sufficient and the most general of the arts. Few persons are wholly lacking in knowledge or appreciation of it, and to those who have no other culture, music speaks intelligibly and sympathetically.

The trouble in the schools—and it is worth noting that it is also the trouble in the church hymnals—is the tendency to pay too much attention to the words, too little to the melody. If a song be about birds, animals, domestic life or patriotism, says Mr. Mason, it is considered good. The result is the adoption of a lot of silly, vapid music, because it happens to be set to edifying words.

The remedy lies in giving the children an opportunity to become familiar with music which is good enough to stand on its own feet. The folk-songs of many different nations, much church music and the simpler productions of the great composers—productions in which the melody is clear and dominating—might all be placed within reach of children in the public schools, to the displacement of much musical pap and the lasting happiness of several millions of young people. But this, in its particular aspects, is a matter for the supervisors of music, before whom it will be brought this summer by a committee of the National Educational Association.—*Youth's Companion.*

Demand for Farm Laborers.

THERE is no danger of the farmer passing from existence. He knows a good thing as well as his urban brother, and so does his boy. Improved methods of farming may continue to diminish the number of farm hands, but not even that fact will work to a discontinuance of the necessity for the farm laborer nor for the laborer in the harvest fields. The fact that Kansas farmers this early in the season are inviting farm hands to their corn and rye and wheat and alfalfa fields, with promise of good wages and board, is a strong argument against the blueness which so often attacks the American citizen when he imagines he sees an impounding of the farmer and the farmer's boy to the cities.—*Cincinnati Commercial-Tribune.*

AGUINALDO IN SECLUSION.

His Retirement Said to Be Due to Fear of Assassination.

Aguinaldo, the leader of the revolution in the Philippines, leads a life of practical retirement in Manila, writes William E. Curtis. He seldom leaves his home and is never seen upon the streets. If it is necessary for him to go to any other part of the town he always takes a closed carriage, and strangers who call upon him are very carefully inspected before they are allowed to see him. Occasionally he visits the old town of Cavite, about 18 miles from Manila, where his family have a plantation, and where his mother is living. She is said to be a woman of remarkable traits and strength of character and was his inspiration and chief adviser during the revolution.

Aguinaldo's seclusion is attributed to fear of assassination. During the insurrection he was guilty of acts of atrocious cruelty upon persons whose friends still survive and ordered several assassinations, particularly that of Gen. Luna, one of his rivals, who was a great favorite with the public and had many loyal and devoted admirers. There is also an impression among many of Aguinaldo's former associates that he profited financially during the insurrection, while they lost and forfeited everything they had. The Filipino is a revengeful and vindictive creature, and does not hesitate to take vengeance into his own hands. Hence Aguinaldo is supposed to be continually on his guard, and the police authorities would not be surprised any moment, even at this day, to learn of his assassination. When he was released from prison he was exceedingly nervous and apprehensive, and would have preferred to remain under the protection of the military. Since that time no notice has been taken of him. He has been treated like an ordinary na-

tive, and everything that might excite sympathy for or attract attention to him has been avoided. He has been invited to public functions like other prominent Filipinos, and when Gov. Taft gave a reception to the natives Aguinaldo was never overlooked. He seldom availed himself of these courtesies, however, and has avoided crowds and public demonstrations for the reasons I have given. The police have kept him under



EMILIO AGUINALDO.

semi-surveillance—that is, they have observed his movements and have known his whereabouts at all times. As long as he remains in the city he is not watched, but when he leaves Manila they make it a point to learn where he goes and who he communicates with. For a while after his release they watched him closely, but his conduct has been most exemplary. He has been tempted on several occasions. Conspirators have endeavored to interest him in their plots; San Miguel, Pilar, Ricarte and other "insurrectos" have tried to secure his

sympathy and co-operation, but he has never responded to their advances, and the secret service people say that he has allowed their letters to remain unanswered. He has scrupulously avoided doing anything that could excite suspicion, and is practically cut off from all his old friends and associates.

Suspense and Suspense.

A certain Congressman from a mountain district, says the New York Sun, is troubled with a weak, squeaky little voice which sometimes falls in the midst of what might otherwise be an eloquent peroration.

Recently, in addressing the House on a matter connected with the tariff, he exclaimed:

"Why, tariffs are like a pair of suspenders, sometimes tight and sometimes loose; but Uncle Sam needs them just the same, to keep up his—"

Here the Congressman's voice struck a high treble note, flared and stopped.

The House held its breath while he cleared his throat. The suspense, which seemed to last for fully a minute, was more painful to the auditors than to the orator, for everyone was wondering whether he would say "trousers" or "pants," and some were even hoping that he might say "pantaloons." Even "overalls" would be better than "pants," for "pants" is most unparliamentary.

But all fears were without foundation. He cleared his throat with the greatest care, and in a deathlike stillness resumed his oration where he had dropped it: "to keep up his running expenses—"

The words which followed were lost forever in a gale of laughter.

A Sainly Sentiment.

"And it's a law-abiding settlement is it?"

"You bet! Ain't been a lynchin' 'roun' here since a hurricane blowed the trees down, an' rope riz in price!"—*Atlanta Constitution.*

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

A CHOICE SELECTION OF INTERESTING ITEMS.

Comments and Criticisms Based Upon the Happenings of the Day—Historical and News Notes.

Credit is all well enough until the ill collector begins to come around.

The most magnificent thing Jay Gould ever did was to become the father of Helen.

The Japs are said to be using "human" bullets. This is one of the few humors of "civilized warfare."

Never strike a man until you are satisfied that he deserves it—and don't do it then unless you outclass him.

Elia Wheler Wilcox's latest poem says: "Whatever you do, keep sweet." This would be a nice motto for a lemon, wouldn't it?

The men say they have no desire to organize a fathers' congress. They get their innings while the mothers' congress is in session.

It would be like the beef trust to explain that the worry and expense of being investigated will necessitate another increase of prices.

The Rev. M. J. Savage in a recent sermon undertakes to tell "why more people do not go to church." He finds the principal reason to be that "they don't have to."

We would like to learn the Mormon methods of making a living. A man who can provide for five wives and 100 children under present prices is a financial wonder.

John D. Rockefeller began his business career by learning to milk a cow. A good many people would like to know whether that was when he learned to water things.

Doctors now assert that bedrooms are filled to the doors with murderous microbes and baleful bacilli. That's another excuse for your not going to bed until very late.

When Dr. Rainsford says to us laymen, "We ministers are no better morally than you," we laymen, instead of feeling elated, are liable, knowing each others' infirmities, to be decidedly depressed.

Somebody says that the Parisians furnish the gowns and the American women furnish the figures. When it takes three figures for a gown the American father at once becomes an active factor in the little epigram.

Wash a baby clean and dress him up real pretty and he will resist all advances with the most superlative crossness, but let him eat molasses, gingerbread and fool around the coal hod for half an hour, and he will nestle his dear little curly head close up to your clean shirt bosom and be just the cunningest little rascal in all the world.

The Victory, which bore Nelson's flag at Trafalgar, has been thoroughly repaired, and towed to her former moorings at Portsmouth, where she will be the flag ship of the naval commander-in-chief. The prediction is made that she will float for another half-century at least. It is 146 years since the Victory was launched at Chatham.

To exclude immigrants for illiteracy is unjust. Most of those people are illiterate because they lacked opportunity. Here they soon learn, and their children become as bright as any in our public schools. An illiterate man who is industrious and honest, makes a far better voter and citizen than some native born citizen who has education and a keen desire for grafts.

A dog in England has lately been honored by the receipt of an illuminated address, in which he is informed that he is the most successful collector for the Victoria Infirmary at Norwich, and is thanked by the board of managers. The dog is a 5-year-old fox-terrier, named Prince. He does not wear a cup or basket or carry one in his mouth, as do most mendicant dogs. When he receives a coin he goes unbidden and deposits it in a box kept for the purpose. During 1903 he collected more than 2,000 coins. One hopes that if illness or accident ever overtake Prince there may be a warm bed for him at the infirmary, with plenty of good sirloin steak and dog-biscuit.

Cuba has entered the third year of her independence and self-government and she has every reason to be proud of the record she has made. Apart from a rumor or two of rural riots that were greatly exaggerated and an exceptionally large amount of noise from the defeated party at the last elections, she has nothing to her discredit—and if such things are really discredits, what has our own country to say for itself? The best of it is that the Cubans appear to be in every way

contented and happy. Undoubtedly this could not be said had the United States seen fit to retain a closer hold over their government. With or without reason, suspicion and dislike would have taken root. Moreover, the last two years have taught the Cubans a vast deal more about the benefits of quiet and peaceful government than they could ever have learned in any other way. If they have been on extra good behavior for the sake of showing us what they could do, that does not detract at all from the value of the training they have gained. It is too early as yet to show by facts and figures what material benefit Cuba has gained from the reciprocity act which went into effect last December. The fact that the law was pending caused the Cuban sugar ready for exportation last fall to be held back in order to secure the benefit of the lower duties. As a result Cuba sent us during the first three months of this year goods to the value of \$23,000,000, as against \$12,000,000 in the corresponding months of 1903. At the same time our exports to Cuba increased from \$5,200,000 to \$6,500,000, the more important increases being in flour, cotton cloth, sewing machines, locomotives, lumber, leather and furniture. Beyond question our merchants can secure enlarged markets in Cuba if they but exert themselves to take advantage of the preference in their favor, while it is to be anticipated that Cuba's industrial and agricultural development will furnish proof that it has been greatly stimulated, even before the present year is out.

If any one thinks that the United States has a monopoly of all the energy and enterprise he should revise his opinions forthwith. The whole world is wide-awake, and every people is alert for opportunities for advancement. There are the Russians, for instance, whom we have been accustomed to regard as somewhat slow and behind the times. They have recently secured the services of Horace G. Burt, formerly president of the Union Pacific Railroad Company, to assist them in making the Siberian railroad as efficient as the transcontinental roads in the United States, where the problems of carrying trains across wide plains and over snow-capped mountains have been solved. Then there are the Spaniards, who are planning for closer trade relations with the Spanish-speaking peoples of South America. And the Germans are seeking outlets for their surplus population in countries which will buy the products of the German factories. The British are considering plans for a commercial federation of their colonies for the development of their resources and the preservation of the trade of the mother country. The French are developing their possessions in Northern Africa and undertaking the reclamation of the Sahara, as well as pushing their railroads across the Pyrenees into Northern Spain. And all these people are studying the Americans, that they may avoid our mistakes and profit by our successes. Within a few weeks the reports of two independent British commissions to this country have been made public. An official of the railway department of India, after a tour of the United States, reports that "the one idea in the minds of the American railway men is to 'get there.'" He thinks that this is the secret of American railway success. One of the members of a private commission to study the relation of the schools to American commercial success says that "The schools have not made the people what they are, but the people, being what they are, have made the schools." The "American peril," of which we hear much, is that the Americans shall grow complacent and satisfied with themselves, instead of keeping their place in the company of the other wide-awake peoples.

Health Up in the Arctic.

The advantages offered by the three months of arctic summer are so numerous that there have appeared recently several announcements of floating and permanent hospitals for patients suffering from incipient pulmonary affections and neurasthenic states, says American Medicine. It is proposed to erect a sanitarium on the shores of Lake Torne, in Lapland, a long and beautiful sheet of water at Wassijauve, near the end of the Ofote railroad. That railroad, it may be mentioned, has only one station in a distance of 121 miles. There is no human dwelling near the station, which is on the line between Sweden and Norway, and was erected solely for the requirements of the customs office. Except for a small settlement at Wassijauve, the only sign of human existence in the district is the occasional passage of a few Laplanders with their herds of reindeer. Already there has been installed at this spot a scientific station in a solidly built blockhouse containing seven rooms, and it is proposed to build the sanitarium in the same way.—*British Medical Journal.*

It's a smart baby that understands the baby talk its mother indulges in.

The wise man who has anything to say to a mule says it to his face.