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WINNING THE BATTLE.

Tuberculosis is one of the most appalling calamities which threaten the health and happiness of the world. Of late years it has been definitely fought as the great white plague. Earnest men and women have waged earnest and intelligent warfare against its dread ravages. So much has been written and told of its contagious character and its spread—so thoroughly and loudly has the alarm bell been rung—that the popular impression has been, and largely remains today, that despite the enlightenment and the efforts of those engaged in the noble crusade for its extermination, but little real progress was being made. Nor is this a fair statement of the case. There has been a relief that the disease was spreading.

The facts, not only fail to justify any such conclusions but they show the exact opposite. There has been a marked decline in the headway that consumption is making, due to the new methods and measures of prevention as well as cure.

Figures just made public by a government investigator are full of hope. There is a long hard battle to fight against this terrible malady, but if it is pushed with the same intelligent zeal by the next generation that it has been by the past, there is the strongest possible ground to anticipate its practical extinction.

TAFT IN NEBRASKA.

As more and more counties in northern Nebraska are heard from, it becomes more and more apparent that Secretary Taft holds a bigger place in the hearts of all the people than any other man looming up in the presidential race. A straw vote of the Cumming county republican central committee showed that Taft was practically the unanimous choice, though in that county as in Madison the matter of choosing delegates to the congressional convention will be left with the party at large.

It is interesting to note that in the straw ballot taken by the Chicago Tribune, Secretary Taft is far and away in the lead among republicans all over the nation, with Governor Hughes of New York as an unquestioned second in the race. It is shown in this ballot that La Follette, Foraker, Knox and others have no chance whatever of the nomination and that they are potential candidates only in so far as they unite their strength for somebody else. The prevailing belief among informed republicans now, however, is that Secretary Taft will be nominated very early in the game—probably on the first, second or third ballot.

More and more the country is coming to appreciate the fact that Secretary Taft is a big, broad-gauged statesman of wide experience in statecraft and of mind large enough to safely and progressively steer the governmental ship. His long training on the bench has given him that logic in judgment which renders him all the more desirable.

There is no longer any question but that the rank and file of republicanism in Nebraska, as throughout the country, are enthusiastically in favor of Secretary Taft as the leader of next fall's presidential race.

A MISSING PANIC.

That this country is on a good solid foundation in its business affairs is demonstrated beyond peradventure by the onward and steady course of events during the past ninety days.

Three months ago a dark cloud threatened depression and business paralysis hovered over the land, spreading from New York City west and south until it had covered the length and breadth of the republic "as the waters cover the sea." Some folks were determined that we were going to have a full fledged panic—all wool and a yard wide—and did their best to make their prophecies come true.

The American people as a whole, however, are sane, sensible and hopeful. They had good crops, good prices, busy factories, good wages, undeveloped resources, brain and brawn, and they utterly refused to become frightened and stay in that mood. The result everybody knows. For a few weeks they didn't fling as much money in their pockets as usual but they kept right on tending to business day by day and sawing wood—until the clouds have gone again, there is plenty of corn and the sun continues to shine over a prosperous nation.

Will Allen White in his Emporia, Kansas, Gazette thus sweeps the strings of his lyre and chants the dirge of the panic that was, but didn't.

"There came to this country a wop-per-jawed panicle with foam on its whiskers and blood on its horns, and things for a season looked rather voluble and people wore placards; but they were not to be feared, for they found their highest expression in giving, to destroy all the comfort of reading."

joking; the country was side tracked, its axles were smoking, the panic was on it and chewing it raw. Where now is that panicle that witted our collars, and made our old hair perpendicular stand? The banks are all loaded with all kinds of dollars, they're dishing out wealth as a grocer does sand; the panic grew tired of its useless endeavor, the country jogs on just as smoothly as ever; the people won't scare at a bogie—no, never!—till one comes along that is not made of straw."

THE THAW VERDICT.

While many people may have expected that Harry Kendall Thaw would go free and not pay his life in penalty for killing Stanford White, there is nevertheless one very dangerous feature in connection with his acquittal.

The jury set Thaw free on the ground that he did not know the nature of his act at the time he killed the architect. And if that ruling is to prevail in all murder cases in the future, it will apparently only be necessary to prove that the murderer did not realize the seriousness of his offense when he shot. The question naturally arises, "To what extent does any murderer realize the nature or seriousness of his crime at the time he kills?"

Indeed, it may be argued that no murders would be done at all if the slayers realized at the moment of acting the exact nature of their deeds. And so, to a certain extent, the following out of the Thaw jury's point of view would set practically all murderers free.

Perhaps Higgins did not realize when he shot the Copples the exact nature of his crime. Perhaps Neigenfied did not know, at the moment of his act, the nature of his murder in Pierce county. Who is to say that any murderer, at the moment he kills, realizes just exactly what he is doing?

It was not the belief that Thaw was insane that really set him free. It was the jury's sympathy for Thaw and his wife that prompted them to acquit. In other words, they justified the homicide on the grounds that Stanford White's crime justified the killing.

Perhaps any jury would have felt the same way about it. Certain it is that human sympathy went out to Harry Thaw and particularly to his wife a year ago when she told her pitiful story. But if it is reasoned that such an offense as White's justifies murder, then let it be put down in the statutes alongside self-defense as a reasonable basis for killing another.

If it was the "unwritten law" that served to free Thaw, then let us write the unwritten law and make it apply to all.

The jury used the theory that Thaw was insane at the time of the murder, merely as an excuse for freeing him. And there lies in their explanation a dangerous precedent.

A GOOD RICH MAN.

There has been so much written and said the last few years about "predatory wealth" that many very well disposed and kindly people have become seized with the idea that every man who has gained largely of this world's goods is of necessity a rascal and a thief.

Against this kind of social doctrine The News most vigorously protests. It has within it the seeds of class hatred and social ruin. It is a false assumption based upon totally wrong premises that lead only to despair.

A man's worth depends not upon money or the lack of money. Character is now and ever must be the keystone to real value. "It is not in our stars but in ourselves that we are underlings."

There are some dishonest rich and there are some dishonest poor. The dishonest are always the bane of national and neighborhood life. They receive and deserve merited condemnation and should be promptly punished.

There are, however, a great many honest men, both among the rich and the poor, who do a great deal of lasting good. Among wealthy men of this class was Morris K. Jessup who recently died in New York City. He was worth probably fifty million of dollars and yet—even in these strenuous days when suspicion is rife and accusation easy—he was not known for what he had, but for what he gave. He was a man of affairs, president of the New York Chamber of Commerce, but no stock jobbing operation ever was mixed up with his name. He gave away great sums of money to assist in religious work, education, art and science but his name was never blazoned before the public. He was a quiet kindly, self-poised gentleman, doing good constantly through a thousand different channels. As a close friend said of him: "He was intensely interested in promoting the morals of Jesus Christ, the dignity of labor and the advantages of democracy."

It is a pleasure to call attention to Morris K. Jessup—the millionaire many times over, yet the lover of his kind, whose hands and heart were always clean and whose daily life found its highest expression in giving, to destroy all the comfort of reading."

plete refutation of the too popular idea that great wealth and personal righteousness are incompatible.

THE PROPOSAL OF THE JAPS.

The Japanese government is willing to settle the trouble with the United States by giving its verbal promise to restrict coolie immigration to this country. The Japs may be wise as serpents but we are not yet convinced that they are harmless as doves. In fact, the history of the past five years and their aggressive military preparedness at present both argue very positively against it.

Such a proposition, therefore, coming at this time, will most certainly not be pleasing to the Pacific coast states. It is hardly probable that it will meet with favor from the national administration. There are two reasons for this, each of them legitimate and weighty.

From a political standpoint no such uncertain and compromising settlement of a vexed question like this could be taken without imperiling the electoral votes of California, Washington and Oregon. The president rings clear and true in all his utterances regarding national honor. He does not hesitate to reiterate whenever occasion calls for it, that a just war is far preferable to an unworthy and ignoble peace.

Moreover, neither the president or his able secretary of war are going to be caught napping and swallow any kind of bait thrown out by the Japs however attractive it may look.

America should and will be courteous and desire peace from its utmost soul with the people across the Pacific as well as all the nations of the world. All the more because it seeks the continued good will of the Nipponese. It will not be content with mere verbal assurances. This government is alive to recent history. It remembers the midnight attack made by the Japanese at Port Arthur which began hostilities before war was declared. With Japan it will ask that any contract be made in such unequivocal terms that there can be no ambiguity nor room for misunderstanding. These terms will be signed by both nations "in the presence of witnesses" and their conditions made known to all the world.

There will be no chance for dodging. No sly game will work. Diplomacy with America must be free from all duplicity. The Roosevelt administration stands for a square deal not only at home but wherever the United States does business. If Japan is equally determined to be just and frank and to conceal nothing up its sleeve there will be amity and peace between us.

Meantime, Admiral Evans' battle ships are steadily making their way into Pacific waters and the United States is not only strong in the power of its own self respect but while intent on pursuing peace, alert to all possible dangers.

A REMARKABLE ENTERPRISE.

Of the many great undertakings by men of wealth and energy no one is more exceptional in its inception and construction than the railroad which has been built south from Miami, Florida, across the coral reefs with Key West as its objective terminus.

A writer in Everybody's gives a very vivid account of this masterful attempt to build a railroad through long stretches of swamp and miles upon miles of sea. It is almost beyond the comprehension of the ordinary man to understand what modern engineering can accomplish.

This railroad is built out among the Florida "Keys" which are little sections of land with miles of the ocean between them. Already thirteen miles of the Atlantic have been bridged and nineteen more of submerged swamp.

It is without question the greatest engineering feat of modern times. It was begun three years ago and its present terminus is Knights Key, and there is still thirty-two miles more of this "railroad in the sea" to build before Key West—the extreme southern-most point of Florida—is reached.

Between some of the keys the track lengths out for so many miles on the concrete viaduct that land is lost to sight and the traveler sees nothing but the blue sky above him and the blue waters of the Atlantic on either side of him. To build this stretch of sea railroad thousands of men were quartered for months at a time in boats. A transportation system capable of caring for 5,000 men far from the main land had to be furnished. The ninety-two miles of track built tell a story of hardship, determination, toil and disaster. But the work has been massively done and is a monument to the ability of the American engineer to plan and achieve success in the face of almost insurmountable obstacles.

The man who conceived this project is Henry M. Flagler, the multi-millionaire, who during the past twenty years has spent \$30,000,000 in establishing a chain of the most magnificent winter resorts to be found in the country. Mr. Flagler, although an old man—now seventy-eight years of age—conversant and successful as he is with Florida enterprises, is equally convinced of the coming greatness of this enterprise.

He has had ever since Cuba became independent of Spanish rule and practically under the protection of the United States.

Havana is the point he has in mind to reach and his ultimate purpose is a through rail route from New York. Huge ferries will operate between Key West and Havana and the time to make a trip from New York to Havana will be less than forty-eight hours. Twenty million dollars have already been expended in this gigantic work and more is needed. It will not for some years begin to pay the interest on the investment. But when direct communication is established with Havana, with the growing trade to and from Cuba, both passenger and freight traffic on this strange sea line of railroad promises to be immense and the returns will be large.

This railroad over the Florida Keys only demonstrates anew what men with great visions, indomitable will and splendid courage can do with great wealth. There are "captains of industry" who deserve much appreciation for the beneficence of their plans and purposes. Henry M. Flagler is one of them.

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ace to good government whenever and by whoever they are manifested.

Men have given their votes through sympathy to men whom they were perfectly aware were incompetent to fill the position to which their votes helped to elect them; men have paid personal obligations by their vote; men have voted for men whom they knew to be utterly unworthy because above them was a party name which they held dear. The result of these various phases of dereliction has been found in continuous failures, scandals and disappointments wherever they have prevailed.

It is this kind and quality of voting which has weakened courts, put cheap men often on guard in responsible positions and brought discredit, oftentimes, on local self government.

Happily, the large army of voters in this country are getting a better view point from which to judge their public duties. Henry Ward Beecher said "the cure for democracy is more democracy." The truth of this is evidenced in the rising tide of popular opinion as this inestimable privilege of casting a ballot.

The honest and intelligent voter—and that means the large majority of American men—are coming to see very clearly that what is most needed in the public affairs of the country is clean and efficient service.

They recognize that there are naturally wide differences of opinion, among a free and progressive people, as to the best methods and policies to be pursued in the settlement of great problems. It is for this reason that men ally themselves under different party banners, hoping and battling for the triumphs of those ideas which they believe in.

But there has been a notable improvement in the personnel of party leaders. It is a tribute to the voters of the nation that the man most likely to be the republican candidate for the presidency is not only big of body, large of brain and sound on basic principles of government, but he is of stainless integrity and admirable habits. The same holds true of the man who is quite certain to again for the third time lead the democratic hosts to defeat. For, however numerous and striking may be his political fallacies, as a kindly high minded gentleman of unimpeachable personal character the orator-editor of Lincoln is a fine specimen of American manhood. In William H. Taft and W. J. Bryan is found the type of leaders which the American voters today are demanding. They can be duplicated as far as character is concerned many times.

It augurs well for the republic that never before in its history were the people calling for such a high class of men to represent them in public life. That the patriotic purpose of the voters turns so strongly toward the men who hold honest and efficient public service above all other considerations is in itself a complete and overwhelming answer to the question which superficial observers and shallow pessimists raise.

America is making good, democracy is triumphing and in the more discriminating demands of the voter and his eagerness to promote the general welfare is found the incontestable proof.

TAFT FOREMOST.

There is no doubt that Governor Hughes of New York greatly strengthened himself before the country in his speech given in New York a few days ago in which for the first time he broke the silence which has hedged him about since he became the chief executive of the Empire state.

In that speech he declared himself on national questions. He avowed his hearty and cordial approval of the republican party's achievements during the administration now coming to a close; spoke highly of the good work that President Roosevelt has done; and set himself down as a true advocate of fair play, deploring destructive legislation enacted in passion or the spirit of class hatred, and pleading for calm and sane investigation, unaffected by popular clamor, as the only logical and the only safe basis for any lawmaking, if this country's constructive progress and sound balance is to be preserved.

Governor Hughes' utterances will have weight not alone because of his clear ringing tones, couched in sane and well poised sentences, but as well because he was manly enough to speak courteously of all other candidates, pleading for party harmony above all else as essential to success in contending for great national policies which the republican party so pre-eminently stands for and the modest, straightforward assurance that his candidacy for the presidency must stand on its own merits and would not be accompanied by mere by-plays actuated by self seeking.

There is no longer any question but that Hughes will be recognized as excellent material for the presidency. But there is no reason why he should be preferred to Secretary Taft. All the qualifications for the presidency which Hughes has are possessed by Taft. In honesty of purpose, in unstained public careers, both men occupy a similar unchallenged position.

There is no use denying that in days that are past men have by hundreds been tremendously swayed by considerations which on the one hand were purely personal and selfish and on the other by a partisan spirit which was responsible for it was

favor of the war secretary. Mr. Hughes' record as attorney and as a governor of New York is a record of courage, ability and achievement, but further than this his political environment has not led him. On the other hand, Secretary Taft has had a long and unusually familiar experience with almost every public question of importance. No other man, save Elihu B. Root, has such a close personal acquaintance with the departments at Washington; no other American is so conversant with our colonial possessions and foreign affairs.

Hughes is not known to the people outside of New York and is a stranger to many of them; Taft belongs to the entire country and the world and is immensely likeable. The one is provincial, the other is cosmopolitan in a world sense.

Hughes is a splendid type of public man and New York has every reason to feel proud of him—but he is lacking in personal experience and has had no test whatever in national affairs. Taft, on the contrary, has a wider acquaintance among the world's rulers and diplomats, and a more thorough knowledge of the nation's problems and needs than any other man mentioned as a successor of Theodore Roosevelt.

It grows more and more evident that Taft is the people's favorite. They honor such men as Hughes and others mentioned but way in the forefront, with an unequalled record, transcendent ability, an affable personality, pledged to progressive policies in a firm, sane, able manner, stands William H. Taft, a man who is no man's man, a clean citizen and a patriot, whom The News confidently believes will be named to carry the banner of republicanism to victory next November and prove another of America's great presidents.

THE PEOPLE WANT TAFT.

After reading President Roosevelt's late special message, it is difficult to see how any person in sympathy with the progress that has been made by the republican party under this administration could fail to hope for the nomination and election of William Howard Taft as the Roosevelt successor. After reading that message, it is difficult to see how anybody who desires to see the president's policies continued, could consistently fight for the nomination of any other man than the man whom the president has shown the country to be his choice.

President Roosevelt has never had confidence in La Follette. He has always felt that same suspicion in the Wisconsin fire-eater's sincerity that has discredited La Follette everywhere. For La Follette has been a persistent and everlasting office-seeker. He is first for La Follette and after that he is for whatever doctrine he thinks the public will applaud the most loudly.

President Roosevelt has never had confidence in La Follette. He has made it clear to the people of this country that a great mistake would be made were La Follette to be even thought of for the presidency. He has made it still clearer that the man in whom the people can place their confidence is Secretary of War W. H. Taft.

And it is not surprising that people who endorsed the president's recent message should see consistency now in lending their utmost support to the man whom the president most desires to continue the work that Roosevelt has begun.

The people want William Howard Taft for President because he is an American through and through. The people want Taft because when he is called upon to face a public question or a public duty, he does not ask, "Will it pay me politically to do this, or not to do that?" but, on the contrary his guiding thought is "What shall I do with this question, or this duty in the best interest of my country?" Finding for himself the answer to that self-sacrificing patriotic question, he acts accordingly.

The people want Taft because he has successfully performed every public duty which has been intrusted to his charge, since that day in January, 1881, when he received his first public appointment, as assistant prosecuting attorney for Cincinnati, O.

The people want Taft because of his successful organization of the Philippine civil commission; his administration of the islands and his adaptation thereto of American forms of government; his missions in those islands to various divisions of natives and their pacification; his vigorous upholding of the flag and the submission thereto of the insurgents; his support of American education for the people of all ranks, classes, conditions and creeds; his fearless advocacy then and since and now the rights of the Filipinos to equal treatment under our laws.

The people want Taft because they realize that the success of his mission to the Vatican regarding our purchase of the friars' lands in the Philippines, is all the evidence required to prove that he possesses diplomatic ability of the highest order—such diplomatic ability, strengthened by experience as will be needed by whoever shall be president of this great nation of ours, in the years of international anxiety and American responsibility which are

but recently, revolution threatened our great trade and investment interests in Cuba, he hurried down there and by diplomacy and candor averted the catastrophe, inducing the malcontents on both sides to accept provisional government at American hands; under which government the island is peaceful and prosperous.

The people want Taft because though vigorously urged by President Roosevelt to accept a seat for life on the bench of the Supreme Court of the United States—the most highly respected judicial body in the world—he remained true to his promise to the people of the Philippines that he would not leave them until civil government was firmly established.

The people want Taft because when the need arose, mainly in the interest of speedy construction of the American Panama canal, he accepted the great office of secretary of war, and by personal visits to Panama by the cutting of "red tape," by care in letting contracts and buying supplies he is pushing the work to expected completion at a considerably earlier date than appeared possible before the work came under his charge.

The people want Taft because he is a man in every sense of the word; a man whose word is his bond; a man who impresses his virile manhood upon other men; a man whose work is never done while there is any of his country's work to do; a man whose watchword is duty; a man whose simple creed is "My God, my country, my party, and my neighbor"; a man who is a true husband, a good father and a patriotic citizen; a man who is loved by all who know him, feared by all who oppose his righteous acts, and praised by all who have watched and studied his work.

AROUND TOWN.

Now for a week of stock company heroes. Why is it that girls always like the looks of an actor so much better than a civilian who is just as good looking?

Was there ever a groundhog day when the ground hog didn't see his shadow?

Is there anybody present who didn't predict the Thaw verdict? Everybody you met, after it was over, seemed to have forecasted it.

No sooner had there come an end to Thaw in New York before Norfolk's Thaw began.

The girls who are losing their nerve on the leap year proposition ought to brace up and act like men.

Have you told the committee yet how many Y. M. C. A. delegates you'll entertain? Get busy. It's up to you.

Frank Brink murdered Bessie Newton at Ponca only a year ago yesterday. And it does seem as if he's been out of the insane asylum for a year and a half.

You can't look at the big audiences greeting every performance of the stock company at the Auditorium this week without realizing that the people want to be amused most of the time.

Wonder if that Thaw jury would feel badly about it if they realized how much grief they caused The Norfolk News in trying to catch outgoing trains with their verdict.

A Y. M. C. A. building in Norfolk, with its gymnasium and baths and other accessories, would be one of the finest institutions and one of the most potent in forming wholesome young manhood, that this city could get hold of.

ATCHISON GLOBE SIGHTS.

Great men and tramps get more for nothing than any other class of people.

A woman who is too good to children is as culpable as the man who is not good enough.

When a young woman asks a young man to let her sew on a button, the world holds its breath.

About the most disagreeable fellow on earth is the man who is always trying to get an office, but never gets it.

It never surprises a man to be admired, but no man ever lives long enough to know why people dislike him.

"I am either becoming an imbecile," a citizen said today, "or my business becomes more exasperating every day."

The average woman's experience with financial matters has been such that she is usually more than half in favor of her daughter marrying for money.

\$100 Reward, \$100. The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical profession. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers that they offer one hundred dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials.

Address: F. J. CHENEY & CO., To