

A Course of Study for Senator Carlisle.

The New Nation. Senator Carlisle, in a little talk he is reported to have had with some of the Cincinnati conference delegates about government ownership of the railroads, telegraphs and other things, said that the government had never succeeded in conducting a business profitably. Does Mr. Carlisle mean to say that the light-houses are not paying institutions? Will he not admit that, in proportion to their cost, they save more property to the people of this country, by preventing wrecks and encouraging commerce, than does any other single business involving the same expenditure of money? Does he not call this conducting business at a profit?

Does Mr. Carlisle mean to say that the people do not conduct the post-office department at vast profit to themselves? Will he hesitate to admit that the gain to this country from our cheap postage system in facilitating business intercourse pays at least 10,000 per cent profit on the cost of the service? There are, in fact, no businesses managed so profitably as those which the people manage for themselves, and in proportion as the principle of the conduct of the business of the people, by the people, for the people, through the people's agencies, shall be extended, the people will begin to grow wealthy.

It is quite true government does not salt down the profits of the light-house and post-office services in its strong boxes. It would have no business to do so would be the embezzlement of funds by an agent which belong to the principal, that is to say, to the people. The government is the agent of the nation, as a whole, in the businesses it conducts, and the profits go, as they should, directly to the nation as a whole. Wherever a government seeks to make a profit for itself, as distinguished from the people it serves, out of any business which it conducts, it is acting on a radically wrong principle.

When the people of the United States, through their government, assume the management of the telegraphs and railroads of the country, it is to be hoped that they will not be such fools as to try to make a profit out of themselves in any such way as this, but will make the most profit possible for themselves, by the reduction of rates to the lowest point that is consistent with the bare meeting of fixed charges.

Statements of the old school, like Mr. Carlisle, have got to do some thinking before they are competent to discuss this growing issue of public instead of private conduct of industry. If these gentlemen are going to have anything to say in the politics of the next ten years, they could not put in their time better than in studying up this subject.

The New Party and the Nationalists. The New Nation welcomes the people's party into the field of national politics. In the name of God and humanity its banner was set up to the tunes of the doxology and "America." We count it most auspicious that religious and patriotic feeling should have been in so marked a degree the keynotes of the Cincinnati conference. Religion and patriotism, when mixed, make strong medicine.

The result of this conference was a triumph of its rank and file against faint-hearted or unfaithful leaders, of whom the greater part would fain have prevented any decisive action.

The advent of the people's party means not only the overthrow of one or both of the existing parties, but the political death of a whole crop of demagogues, whose trade it has been to keep the people apart, and take the bribes of the politicians. These were the sort of midwives in spite of whom the new party got itself born. The platform was about big enough to get born on, and that was enough for the emergency. It can be enlarged and improved later on.

The attitude of interest and sympathy in and with nationalism which was developed on the part of the organization assembled at Cincinnati, offers the largest opportunity yet presented in the history of our movement to commend it to the masses of the country. If we fail to make the utmost possible advantage of it, we shall make a fatal mistake.

We do not believe that the nationalist is, as organizations, should turn themselves into campaign clubs. The platform stand for more advanced principles than any party is likely at once to take up, and it would be unwise policy for them as clubs to engage in any line of work which would compromise the completeness of their doctrines. But individually, and as citizens, we hope and believe that nationalists generally will be found in sympathy with the new party—New Nation.

Old party papers are enemies of the people. To support them is to give "aid and comfort" to the enemy. To return them, discard them entirely. Give your support to your friends, the labor press. What claim has the subsidized tools of monopoly on you, anyhow? Have they not led you astray, and do they offer anything to better your conditions? Throw them aside, they are wedded to their idols.—Baltimore Tribune.

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ROUGH LIFE IN CALIFORNIA

Who Was Shot Last Week?

In The Century for June are reminiscences of the pioneer life by old miners from which we take this incident: In 1851 Moklumne Hill was one of the worst camps in California. "Who was shot last week?" was the first question asked by the miners when they came in from the river or the surrounding diggings on Saturday nights or Sundays to gamble or get supplies. It was very seldom that the answer was, "No one."

Men made desperate by drink or losses at the gambling table would race up and down the thoroughfares, in single file, as boys play the game of "follow my leader," each imitating the actions of the foremost. Selecting some particular letter in a sign they would fire in turn, regardless of everything but the accuracy of the aim. Then they would quarrel over it as though they were boys playing a game of marbles, while every shot was likely to kill or wound some unfortunate person.

The gambling tents were large and contained not only gaming tables but billiard tables. At one of these I was once playing billiards with a man named H. A few feet from us, raised upon a platform made for the purpose, were seated three Mexican musicians, playing guitars; for these places were always well supplied with instrumental music. The evening seldom passed without disputes, and pistols were quickly drawn to settle quarrels. Upon any outbreak men would rush from all parts of the room, struggling to get as near as possible to the scene of action and often they paid the penalty for their curiosity by being accidentally shot. While H. and I were engaged in our game, we could hear the monotonous appeal of the dealers. "Make your game, gentlemen, make your game. Red wins and black loses." Suddenly bang, bang, bang went the pistols in a distant part of the tent. The usual rush followed. Bang, bang, again, and this time the guitar dropped from the hands of one of the offending musicians, who fell forward to the ground with a bullet through his neck. His friends promptly undertook to carry him past us to the open air. Our table was so near the side of the tent that only one person at a time could go between it and the canvas. H. was standing in the way, just in the act of striking the ball with his cue, when one of the persons carrying the wounded man touched him with the request that he moved to one side. He turned and saw the Mexican being supported by the legs and arms, the blood flowing from his neck; then with the coolest indifference he said, "Hold on, hold on, boys, till I make this shot," then, resuming his former position, he deliberately finished his shot.

Color of Eyes and Hair. All the children in school in Prussia, numbering 4,000,000, on a certain day were examined, and the color of their eyes and hair carefully registered. It was found that 42.97 per cent. had blue eyes and 24.31 per cent. brown, while no less than 72 per cent. had blonde hair, 26 per cent. brown, and only 1.21 per cent. black hair. Only 8.53 per cent. again, are of brunette complexion. In Bavaria the light-haired proportion is much smaller, and the savans, therefore, consider that the dark complexion comes from the South, which is in accordance with the general belief. In Southern Asia any color but black for the hair may be said to be absolutely unknown, and light-colored eyes though not unknown, are extremely rare.

Kilkenny Cats. During the rebellion which occurred in Ireland in 1798, or it may be in 1803, Kilkenny was garrisoned by a troop of Hessian soldiers, who amused themselves in barracks by tying two cats together by their tails and throwing them across a clothes line to fight. The officers, hearing of this cruel practice, resolved to stop it. As he entered the room one of the troopers, seizing a sword cut the tails in two as the animals hung across the line. The two cats escaped, minus their tails, through the open window, and when the officer inquired the meaning of the two bleeding tails being left in the room, he was coolly told that two cats had been fighting, and had devoured each other all but the tails.—Notes and Queries.

Queen Victoria and the Bible. It was a noble and beautiful answer of the Queen—the monarch of a free people, reigning more by love than law, because seeking to reign in the fear of God—it was a noble answer she gave to an African prince who sent an assemblage with costly presents and asked her in return to tell him the secret of England's greatness and England's glory, and the beloved Queen sent him not the number of her feet, nor the number of her armies, nor the account of her boundless merchandise, nor the details of her inexhaustible wealth. She did not, like Hezekiah in an evil hour, show the ambassador her diamonds and her rich ornaments, but, handing him a beautifully bound copy of the Bible, she said: "Tell the Prince that this is the secret of England's greatness."

She Left Them. The Lewiston Journal says that a nervous woman was on board a Maine Central train the other day, on her way to Auburn. At every station she jumped up and asked, "Is this Auburn?" although the newsboy had assured her often that she should be notified when that place was reached. At last the place was reached, and as it happened, the newsboy was near at hand. "Is this Auburn?" she inquired the anxious passenger. "Yes, ma'am," answered the newsboy, "unless you wish to take them with you."

The boy looked several volumes at him, and slammed the door as she went out.

SCIENCE AND PROGRESS.

SUBJECTS THAT WILL BE OF INTEREST TO THE CURIOUS.

Vagaries of the Magnetic Needle—Telephony Between Paris and London—Edison's Latest—Latest Phases of Electricity.

Vagaries of the Magnetic Needle.

The old saying, "True as the needle to the pole," is quite misleading, because three people in five who use it are thinking of the north pole, while the fact is that the termini of the earth's axis are not coincident with the magnetic poles. It was of great importance to navigators in northern latitudes to determine the exact position of the north magnetic pole in order to make the needle a perfectly trustworthy guide. One day nearly sixty years ago, while the famous polar traveler, Sir John Ross, was sledging over the icy hummocks north of this continent, he found a place on the western shore of Boothia Felix, where the dipping-needle wholly lost its directive power and stood within one minute of the vertical. This discovery enabled Greeley, at Lady Franklin Bay, when he found his needle pointing nearly southwest, to determine the true north by a few minutes' calculation. The position of the south magnetic pole has also been approximately determined, and not a sea captain sails the ocean to-day who is not greatly indebted to these discoveries. These magnetic poles slowly move back and forth across the polar area. They have probably changed their position since they were found, and scientific men a while ago were urging the importance of sending out expeditions to relocate them.—Goldwaite's Geographical Magazine.

Telephony Between Paris and London.

The work of connecting Paris with London by means of a telephone line will mark an important feature in telephony. This means of communication has hitherto been mainly confined to land telephony, which has assumed considerable proportions, and especially as regards long-distance telephony, as, for instance, between Paris and Brussels, Paris and Marseilles, and quite recently by the establishment of communication between Manchester and Birmingham and London. The Paris London line is, however, a new departure. From London to Dover this line will be carried overhead, from Dover to near Calais the line will consist of submarine cable, and from Calais to Paris it will be run overhead in the same manner as from London to Dover. At present several hundred men are actively engaged in erecting this line, which is intended to put into operation on the 15th of April. The telephone transmitters, receivers and accessories in pairs will at first be erected at the Bourse, but as soon as the Telephonic Exchange in the Rue Gutenberg is completed they will be removed to that establishment. It is proposed to keep the line open for communication both day and night throughout the seven days of each week. This work of course, necessitates Sunday work in both cities, and it will not be very agreeable to London telephonists. The charge for using the telephone has not been fixed, but it is believed that it will not be less than 16s for five minutes' conversation.

Latest Phases of Electricity.

It would hardly be supposed that the firely and the glowworm could give points to the electrician in the matter of illumination. The fitful light of the one and the modest glow of the other do not appear to excel in any respect the brilliancy of the arc-light or the brightness of the incandescent lamp. Prof. Langley has shown, however, that our best sources of light are surpassed by nature in one very important respect; the production of light unaccompanied by heat. Of the energy supplied by gas and oil for lighting purposes much more than 99 per cent is given out of heat. Even in the electric arc-light the waste is 90 per cent and in the incandescent lamp 94 per cent. The insect world is much more economical. The most careful measures made with the most delicate bolometer fail to show any sensible heat in the light of the fire-fly. There is no reason why nature should not be successfully imitated in this respect, and Prof. Hertz hopes to make a practical application of his discovery in a method of obtaining better results than we now do from our present ordinary means in getting electrical vibrations similar in every respect to those of greater wave length. By modifying his original apparatus he has some prospect of producing waves so much shorter that all of them will be luminous; in other words, of developing a new source of light without heat. The result, if successful, will be an entirely new method of illumination differing as widely from the electric lights as they do from gas and lamp light, and surpassing them all in economy and comfort.—Robert W. Prentiss, in the Chautauquan for June.

Edison's Latest.

Thomas A. Edison in Globe-Democrat: I am at work on an invention which I may now say will be success, and which, while its commercial value will be very limited, may recommend itself to my friends as something curious. It is not yet complete, but I am vain enough to believe it will surprise you. I hope to be able to combine the phonograph and the camera, and not only reproduce the sounds accompanying an event, but the actions of those taking part as well. For instance, if Pat should be singing this invention will put her full length picture upon canvas so that the expression of her face and pose of her body can be seen while listening to the song she has sung. The eye will be pleased as well as the ear. The invention has demonstrated its practicability at a price high, I produced the ring, the two principals, the crowd about them, the intensely interested expression of all, the sound

of blows, the cheers of encouragement and the howls of disappointment. My idea is that a man, sitting in his library at home, may be able to see reproduced upon his wall the business of the stage as well as the lines of the actor.

Ancient Roman Roads.

Writing in the Manchester, N. H., Mirror and American, on ancient Roman roads, John Gilmer Speed says:

In laying out a highway the old Roman engineers seemed to practice a plan which would seem very strange to us. Whether or not they made a preliminary survey for the purpose of observing the topographical features of the country the records do not speak, but it is manifest to my mind that they did not. They knew whither they wished to go. Standing at the starting point, some landmark in the proper direction would be selected, and the road located on an absolutely straight line to that point. Then a trench was dug the entire length until some kind of solid foundation was found. When a foundation of solid rock was found the lowest course of masonry was omitted. This masonry consisted of three courses, each about 12 inches thick. The lowest course was of large flat stones, put in with reference to bearing, the interstices filled with sprays and the whole grouted with cement. The second course was of concrete—that is, small stones mixed with cement mortar, and the surface of this was smoothed very carefully. On top of this the third course was laid, and this consisted of polygonal blocks fitted with the utmost nicety. These roadways were from 16 feet wide from curb to curb, and beyond the curbing on each side of the road was a foot pavement 2 feet wide. The stone of which these roads were built was usually of volcanic origin and very hard and black in color. Notwithstanding the substantial character of these roads, the utmost weight, which each class of vehicle was permitted to carry was regulated by law, and these laws were strictly enforced.

Paper Belts.

The most unlimited use to which paper pulp is put proves this to be one of the most valuable, and at the same time cheapest and easily worked, of American products.

In one form or another it has been adapted to the manufacture of a variety of utensils for household use, and applied to mechanical and industrial products with equally good results.

As a substitute for iron, metal and wood it has proved a success, and in many cases, superior to either of these, being lighter, equally strong and durable.

It has been found an excellent substitute for iron in the manufacture of car wheels, and for the driving wheels of locomotives. Pulleys are made of it that are pronounced superior to those of either wood or iron. In the manufacture of rails, tubs and other household utensils it is extensively used. But there is one use to which it has been put that is more surprising than any of the others. We refer to its use for belting.

For some time one of the largest paper manufacturing establishments in this country has been turning out paper belts that are declared superior in many respects to either leather or gum.

A Novel Invention.

A novel electric watch lighter is being manufactured in England. It resembles an enlarged open-face watch case, and has in its rim a minute incandescent lamp and reflector. On placing the watch in the case and pressing a small stud the face of the watch is brilliantly lighted. A dry battery supplies the current, and may be placed in a closet, with a flexible conducting cord leading from it to the head of the bed or stand on which the watch is placed. The pater-familias is thus enabled to retire for the night in the serene consciousness that the wakefulness of his spouse is likely to lead to no more disastrous consequences than the touching of the button, handy to his pillow, which controls the battery, and which causes the light to be thrown on the face of the watch at any moment when the time of night is desired. The battery will last for this purpose for years, and no chemicals are required.—Philadelphia Press.

A Novel Fly Screen.

It amuses me to see the weary clerk or assistant carrying home window-screens on warm evenings, or taking advantage of the new patent and securing sections of frames to adjust and put together at his leisure and at the expense of his fingers and thumbs. Window-screens are not really necessary at all, and in many instances they keep flies in as well as keep them out. In our house we burned the frame on our last screen-door some years ago, and have had the full benefit of the unobstructed breeze every ensuing summer. A little canphor placed in every window-sill will keep out flies except in the kitchen, where the temptation is stronger and the remedy of necessity a little more stringent. But a little canphor sprinkled on the cook stove now and again will drive out the pests and keep them out, while it will also neutralize the unpleasant smell of cooking.—Globe-Democrat.

Walking on the Water.

Mr. C. W. Oldreive lately succeeded in walking on the water of the Hudson River, from Albany to New York, a distance of about 130 miles, for a wage of \$100. His average progress was twenty-four miles a day, and he always went with the tide. The shoes he wore were made of cork, lined with brass. They are five feet long and a foot wide. Each is arched, with a space in the center for the foot. On the bottom are three discs, arranged that when the shoe moves forward they are pressed up against the bottom, and when the shoe is at rest they hang downwards, like paddle-wheel buckets.

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