

EDITORIALS

Opinions of Great Papers on Important Subjects.

Triumph of Forestry.

ACCORDING to United States Consul Tourgeot, of Bordeaux, the growth of the "pin maritime," or marine pine, in the Landes and adjoining departments of France, "undoubtedly marks the most remarkable achievement ever wrought by human agency in the modification of natural conditions of soil and climate for the benefit of mankind."

A century ago the region between the Gironde and the Pyrenees was in most of its extent "not only one of the most barren in the world, but apparently altogether hopeless of reclamation." Sand dunes were advancing from the sea at rates varying up to 200 feet a year, swallowing up fields, meadows, vineyards, houses, churches, villages, and leaving nothing but a gray desert. The old forests had been destroyed, and now nature was taking its revenge. There seemed no hope for the heart of France, when it occurred to Bremonetier, a native of the threatened region, that the devastation might be arrested by planting the "pin maritime."

The idea was submitted to Napoleon, who saw its value and ordered its execution. The result, says Consul Tourgeot, has been the greatest of his victories. "To-day the dark squadrons of the pin maritime are posted on thousands of sandy slopes, faithful guardians in the shelter of which the vineyards and wheat fields rest secure." They give not only protection, but profit. "Lumber, firewood, turpentine and all the by-products of resinous distillation are now produced in such abundance here as not only to prevent the need of importation, but to make southwest France a considerable and profitable exporter," even to the United States.

Meanwhile, by permitting the reckless destruction of our own much richer long-leafed pines, which formerly protected our coasts and which asked only to be let alone, we are bringing upon ourselves the same desolation that threatened France a century ago.—Milwaukee Free Press.

Our Bad College Spelling.

MUCH is said in the papers about college English. The people within and without college walls declare that students write badly. But there is a thing more fundamental than their poor English style; it is the matter of their spelling. Many college men, as proved by their essays, cannot spell. They frequently make the mistake of transforming writing into writing, and of dining into dining—an echo probably of the noise of a college dining room.

But poor spelling is not confined to college students. College professors are not free from the blame. A letter files before the writer in which the distinguished head of a most important department in an American college declares that a certain candidate, whom he has recommended, is "competant." A New England college professor has recently said that in making applications for a place in English several candidates wrote of the salary. Of course, also, a man may lack culture and spell correctly. Spelling is more or less a matter of an arbitrary bit of knowledge. But whatever may be the psychological relations of the art, the schools should teach boys and girls to spell. By incorrect spelling the higher ranges of learning are rendered less impressive.—Leslie's Weekly.

When Divorce Is Not an Evil.

WHOLESALE and reckless denunciation of divorce, so often heard from the clergy, is not in keeping with reason or with public policy. Divorce is not always an evil. Often it is a blessing.

The woman with a brute for a husband would be in sore straits, indeed, if there were no escape through the law from a union worse than death. The wife who found herself hopelessly bound to a drunken sot might well despair if she could find no relief in divorce laws.

In most States of the Union divorce is not so easy to procure as the ministers would intimate. Most State laws provide that there must be good and sufficient reasons before a husband and wife can be legally separated. Every

lawyer of experience knows that almost invariably when couples are divorced there are the very best of reasons why they should be. The inside history of unhappy marriages, as told in the private offices of attorneys, is something appalling. Even the ministers, who deal in theories often instead of actualities, would stand aghast at the revelation.

The indissoluble marriage of mismatched men and women would be an unnecessary hardship which the people, whose influence makes the laws, would not stand. Nor is it to be presumed that an indissoluble marriage law would make any difference in the matter of hasty marriages. The couple who embark on matrimony do not look forward to or take into consideration the matter of escape, should the tie become burdensome. The thought of divorce, like remorse, comes later.—Chicago Journal.

The Wonders of the Wireless.

THE time is coming when the ardent newsgatherer will go to a hilltop, rig up a small jointed pole, point it heavenward, and read the happenings of the world on a dial; when the curious man will thrust his wireless instrument into the azure and pick therefrom the dolings of the nations. But just at present Russia is objecting, and raising questions as to the legality of such measures on the part of the Japanese and British—particularly the British, who have a fondness for getting authentic news no matter to whom it belongs. Russia says the correspondent who purloins any wireless messages shall be treated as a spy. We pass up the question of just how she is to enforce her demands, seeing her navy is mostly in winter quarters for the war.

Everybody has an opinion about the woman who takes down the receiver on a "party line" and studies up on her neighbors. But here is another problem: Is it gentlemanly, according to international law, to speak over the heads of the censors, and, as the injured New York Times puts it, "cast dispatches on the uncovenanted air?"

Our own government does not feel called upon to settle this little question. The Department of State prefers to wait till some American citizen is involved before it decides on the justice of the Russian claims. But this simply means that public opinion will step in and determine whether it is a breach of neutrality for a man who has something to tell to say it through the atmosphere instead of by copper wire through a strictly guarded office. At present the London Times, whose correspondent is the person in evidence, prefers to speak of the three-mile limit and neutral waters. It contends, with British mildness, that if the British flag flies on the correspondent's ship, there can be no question that it is all right. In the cabinets of the governments there is pondering and palavering, and the result may be a joint note agreeing to the Russian contentions.—San Francisco Argonaut.

Politeness and Crime.

OUR language and vocabulary, with our growing slackness, are changing. We are carrying things (otherwise insupportable) with a laugh, and coining phrases for the purpose. As has been said, we are still sensitive to such coarse words as "thief" and "steal," but it is vain to deny among ourselves that certain unchallenged doings of to-day forcibly suggest those terms. So we save our face with an indulgent gayety not devoid of humor. We give a twist and a turn to the rapidly changing English language, and the ugly words disappear in the process. When a conductor steals a fare we jocularly remark that he is "knocking down on the company;" when we steal a ride from the same company and conductor we laughingly refer to our success in "beating the game;" when we bribe we merely "influence" or "square things;" when we are bribed we collect "assessments" or "rebates" or "commissions" or "retainers," and so on until we reach a grave definition of "honest graft," which would be more humorous if so many people did not feel that the term supplied them with a long-felt want. Now, these expressions and others like them may bear a strong resemblance to thieves' slang, but they merely reflect the language of a people unconsciously retreating to a lower moral level.—Everybody's Magazine.

POLITICS OF THE DAY

The Cost of Living.

There is no escape for the Republicans from the stand pat position on the tariff taken by them. They are compelled by events to contend that prosperity is widespread. But Secretary Shaw in opening the Republican campaign in Delaware under the auspices of the Wilmington Roosevelt Workingmen's Club, endeavored to make "labor" see that their welfare depended upon the success of the Republicans, whose policy had produced high prices and as he claimed correspondingly high wages and steady employment. Secretary Shaw is an adept at telling half-truths and then building thereon an argument to prove his contention. He said to the Wilmington workingman, "Universal and constant employment at reasonable wages, even in the face of high priced living expenses, is preferable to employment to only a portion of our people, though at the same wages and at much reduced living expenses."

Are the workingmen of Wilmington blessed with "Universal and constant employment" as Secretary Shaw would have them believe? The reports of the condition of the ship-building industry, car shops, woolen mills and some other industries which are carried on at Wilmington, do not by any means support the Shaw theory that employment is "universal and constant," but

tions. But if he is not satisfied, if he feels that the wages he is receiving do not allow him and his family to live in comfort because the cost of living has advanced more than wages have increased, then logically it is against his interest to stand pat and a change is necessary. As the Republicans declare against any change, the voter must turn to the party whose declarations and traditional policy is to reduce the tariff, that trusts cannot find shelter under it. Such a change in the fiscal policy of the United States is advocated by the Democrats. Not a radical change that would upset business and injure honest manufacturers, but the tariff so revised that the trusts that sell cheaper abroad than at home would be prevented from doing so any longer. What is the "Iowa idea" of a large faction of Republicans of Secretary Shaw's own State, but he and his partisans were able through the enormous power of patronage to defeat the revisionists and are now intent on cooking the statistics to prove their contention. The workingmen of the East must, therefore, like the farmer of the West, decide between the two.

Republican Leaders Exposed.

The Republican voter in Wisconsin must be getting a bad opinion of the leaders of both factions into which his party is split, if he believes the evidence produced by both sides to prove



The Trusts: "I'll miss you here, Philander; but I need you there."
—New York News.

rather that a great many men are idle and a number working on short time. That this is the condition of the manufacturing and railroad centers nearly everywhere is unfortunately true and no one should know it better than Secretary Shaw, who has all the government sources of information at his command.

But instead of telling the whole truth and nothing but the truth about the conditions that prevail for the American workman under the high priced trust era that Republican policies have produced, Secretary Shaw promises to furnish "well authenticated data, from the highest possible authority in the United States, showing that the average wages have increased in larger proportion than the average articles of ordinary household consumption."

Government statistics are notoriously unreliable when manufactured to suit partisan purposes and although the expert statisticians of the department of Commerce and Labor may prove that all of us are living in luxury, every one can judge of his own condition better than partisan figures can prove it to him.

There will doubtless be a great number of Roosevelt Workingmen's Clubs organized by the Republican politicians all over the country, but it will keep Secretary Shaw and other Republican spin-doctors busy explaining how, under present high trust prices, those of us with restricted incomes can make expenses come within what is received. The true test of prosperity is a comfortable living and the amount remaining after all the bills are paid for necessities, that can be expended for luxuries, or that can be saved for the proverbial rainy day. Each family can decide if they are satisfied with their present condition more certainly than expert's figures or the special pleading of Secretary Shaw can determine for them.

If the voter concludes that he is prosperous and is willing to continue to pay high prices and his own share of the enormous profits that the high tariff allows the trusts to plunder him of, he should vote the Republican ticket and thus support the standpoint of no change in present condi-

their opponents are utterly unreliable. This proof of the total political depravity of Postmaster General Payne, Chairman Balcock, Senators Spooner and Quarles is no news to those who have been long upon the watch tower and observed the trend of these leaders towards the corporations and combines. The common people are to them but sheep for the shearing and geese for the plucking. That the Republican voter of Wisconsin—and other States for that matter—have so long shut their eyes and voted the straight ticket has been a wonder to political observers. How many of these voters will "take to the woods" or cut the ticket, now their eyes are fully opened, remains to be seen, but there should be enough to bury the trust party in Wisconsin and elsewhere, beyond hope of resuscitation and a new deal be inaugurated.

Political Machines.

The strenuous young governor of Illinois, who has been defeated for re-nomination, has already commenced to punish those of his appointees who did not support him to the last ditch. He has demanded the resignation of 25 prominent Republican officials and hundreds more are to be decapitated. "Death to all traitors" is the motto of Governor Yates and it is said that Mr. Deneen, the nominee for governor, agrees with him, and will if successful exclude from participation in the patronage distribution all the partisans of Senator Cullom and Hopkins and the other members of the Congressional delegation that opposed the winning side. This strenuous exhibition of lack of brotherly love between the Illinois Republicans shows the mercenary machine that rules them, which was aided and strengthened by President Roosevelt when he appointed "Doc" Jameson naval officer. Such is Republican politics everywhere, a machine overthrown, another takes its place, all based on patronage and plunder.

Western raisers of cattle are complaining bitterly that they are getting less money a pound than they received a few years ago. Eastern buyers are wailing because their steaks and chops are still extravagant in cost.



Some idea of the many and diverse interests which the Supreme Court must consider may be formed from the business done on the last "opinion day" in May, before its adjournment until October, when it announced its decision in an exceptionally large number of important disputes. Three cases were decided, involving questions relating to the administration of criminal law in the Philippines. The constitutionality of the "oleo" law was next upheld. A dealer argued that oleomargarine which received its color from butter used as an ingredient should not be subject to the tax, and also that the rates under the present law were prohibitive and confiscatory. The court replied that the amount of the tax was a purely political function with which it could not deal. A concern against which a "fraud order" had been issued by the Postoffice Department had sought redress by bringing suit against the postmaster at Chicago in a case which finally reached the Supreme Court. The department, it was decided, was justified in its action. A man in a suburb of Kansas City had been released by the United States District Court from payment for certain street improvements which were declared unnecessary. The Supreme Court overruled this, deciding that the city authorities must be the sole judges of the necessity. Then there were cases involving homesteaders' titles in Iowa, licenses in Alaska, street railroad fares in Cleveland, State claims against a steam railroad in Indiana, and an electric-lighting franchise in Kentucky.

In its century of history the White House has seldom been the scene of a more interesting reception than that which was given in honor of the visiting Filipinos, who have been making a tour of the United States. The President and Mrs. Roosevelt entertained them at luncheon, after which the prominent people of the national government were invited in to meet them. With few exceptions, none of these visitors, and they are the leading men of the archipelago, had ever been in the United States before. Some of them had never before left the archipelago, for the Philippine Islanders are not great travelers. Most of the places to which they would naturally go are a long way off, and so those who are not prepared for a formidable journey stay at home. Americans going to the Philippine Islands have been profoundly interested in the strange contrasts which the Asiatic tropics present. These visiting Filipinos were equally interested in conditions here. They found the American summer about like their climate all the year round. Our warm and substantial buildings told to their observing eyes of the frosts of winter and of the absence of earthquakes. The railroad system of the United States amazed them. The multitude of our cities was almost confusing.

It has been announced by the Agriculture Department that its search for an enemy to destroy the cotton-boll weevil has been rewarded by the discovery in Guatemala of an ant which preys upon the insect. In Alta Vera Paz cotton appeared to thrive in a country infested with the weevils. Investigation showed that this was due to the ant, which gets its food from the nectaries of the cotton. This ant is equipped with powerful mandibles, and when it finds a weevil beetle on a plant at once seizes and kills it. It is an inveterate hunter after the pests, and several ants usually take their stand for this purpose on each stalk, so that a single colony protects a large field. It does not sting persons, as do many Guatemalan ants, and so far as known is harmless. An attempt will be made by the department to establish permanent colonies in Texas, where the weevil pest is worst, and for this purpose many thousands of the ants have been brought to this country.

For the first eleven months of the current fiscal year, ending May 31, there was an excess of government expenditures over receipts of \$52,265,392. This deficit is accounted for by the payments made on account of the Panama Canal and the loan to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company, amounting in all to \$54,900,000. After allowance is made for these items, however, there is still evidence of a marked change in the condition of the Treasury, for in the corresponding months of 1903 there was a surplus of receipts over expenditures amounting to \$38,948,616. Receipts both from customs and internal revenue have been smaller this year than last, and there has been an increase of expenditures on the navy and for pensions.

What has been called the "ginseng craze" has been so prevalent among farmers in many districts of the United States that the Department of Agriculture has considered it expedient to sound a note of warning. Previous to 1902 China imported from this country only one hundred and seventy-two thousand pounds of ginseng in four years—a quantity which could be raised on a single farm of seventy-five acres. "Let ginseng alone. It is a delusion and a snare."

IN A TIBET NURSERY.

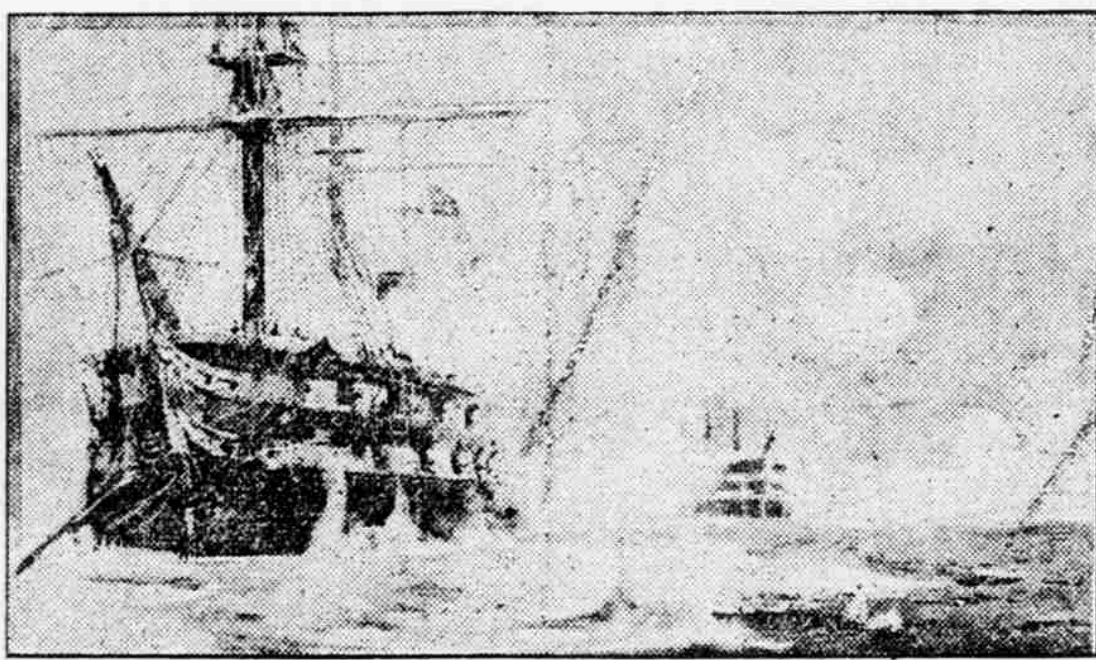
Rock-a-by-Babysm in the Forests of This Little-Known Country.

Our first meeting with the Sifans presented many ludicrous features, says a writer in Collier's Weekly. We were plunging through the gloom of the forest when our ears were assailed with a concourse of yells which echoed through the supernatural silence with ghostly weirdness. In this forbidding wilderness we had not looked for signs of human habitation, so hastily arranging ourselves in position we prepared ourselves for what seemed an inevitable hostile attack. Long and anxiously we awaited the onslaught of our supposed hidden assailants, when again the peace-disturbing sound echoed almost, it seemed, over our very heads. Glancing upward, the mystery was soon explained, for in the lower branches of the tree we could descry numerous small bundles, each too large for any ery and too small for a wind-fall.

Both my Kiangsi and Gharikauese escort, with their superstitious natures roused by these ghostlike sounds, visibly paled beneath their dusky skins, and gazed furtively round in order to seek means of escape from this enchanted spot. Even I was not a little puzzled and awed until, peering more closely, I became aware of the fact that the disturbing elements which had caused so much concern arose from the fact that we had unwittingly stumbled upon an aboriginal nursery, and that the weird and ghostlike sounds emanated from several hungry and lusty-lunged infants. Then the solemn stillness was broken by our hearty laughter, the Kiangsi and Gharikauese, as if to make amends for their credulous fears, making the woods ring with their forced guffaws.

The Sifa Tibetans, as we subsequently learned, place their children in skin cradles and hang these from the trees in the forests near to their villages, for two reasons—the first, from a belief that they will be in-

PROOF OF THE NECESSITY FOR IRONCLADS.



Helplessness of the Wooden Ships "Agamemnon" and "Sanspareil" Under the Shell-Fire of the Sebastopol Forts, 1854.

structed by the deities; the second, that their full existence may not be endangered by the abominable filth and squalor of the settled regions. Several times in the day they are visited by their mothers, who provide them with food and remain with them during the night, and in this forest home the child remains until it is 2 or 3 years old and has grown strong and healthy enough to stand the rigors of hardship and disease.

Mormon Missionaries.

According to the Mormon authorities, upward of two thousand missionaries are constantly in the field, most of them young men, and all under the supervision of experienced leaders and directed from headquarters established at central points. Hardly a week passes that the newspapers do not contain some item concerning this invasion: Mormon elders stoned in Ohio, a rich convert in New York, a new irrigated valley opened and settled in Wyoming, a strong new church organized in Illinois. Utah is, of course, under Mormon political control, but it

is not so generally known that the Mormons also control, or at least hold the balance of power, in Idaho, in Nevada, and possibly in Wyoming and Colorado, with a strong following in Arizona, Washington and other States, thus electing, or at least influencing, not a few United States Senators and representatives. Nor has the growth of the church been confined wholly to the United States. The Mormons are migrating in considerable numbers to the newly opened Alberta country in Canada, and they have taken up for irrigation considerable tracts of land in Mexico.—Century.

An Americanism.

A good way to find out how small the world is is to do something crooked and try to hide. To get an idea of the earth's immensity try to spread the news of a good deed all over it.—Baltimore American.

Biggs—My, but you have large ears! Diggs—Yes. All I lack is your brains to be a perfect donkey!—Chicago News.