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BLIND WILL SEE OLD GLORY.

Hundreds of New York men, women and children, says the New York Evening Mail, are to see the American flag for the first time, when President Taft formally opens the big blind workers' exhibition in the Metropolitan opera house.

These people are not lacking in good citizenship. From infancy they have been blind, and while every one of them can describe the stars and stripes in words, they have never before been able to "see" it. A casually expressed wish from a blind man that he wished he could see the flag, made the exhibition committee think. Finally from Perkins Institute, South Boston, the school where Helen Keller studied, they learned that this school had succeeded in making a palpable flag which their own pupils had been able to "see."

In response to a request that they allow the blind of New York the opportunity to "see" the flag, the director answered that Perkins would send its complete collection for the blind, and would display them in such a way that every blind visitor to the exhibition would be able to study them and so "see" them with their fingers.

Of all the blind who have heard of the coming of the flag none has expressed deeper joy over the prospect of "seeing" it than the little sightless children in the public schools of New York.

INCOME TAX PROSPECTS.

According to Senator Norris Brown, who has kept in touch with legislators on the income tax question, the amendment is on the verge of adoption. Thirty states have ratified. Of the sixteen remaining, only four have definitely rejected, leaving twelve from which to obtain the five still necessary to adoption. Senator Brown is so certain the five will be forthcoming that he enters income taxes into his calculations for new revenue legislation.

The states refusing to ratify are West Virginia, Louisiana, Rhode Island and New Hampshire. The twelve from which five more ratifications must come are Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Utah, Vermont, Virginia and Wyoming.

One of the four that have rejected the amendment may be expected to reverse its action within two years. This is New Hampshire, whose hold-over senate direct primaries have not yet had time to rescue from the clutch of the Boston & Maine railroad. Of the twelve which have yet to act, in Minnesota the failure to ratify ere this must have been a mere oversight. New York is already half way across the line with favorable action in the senate, and the house may take favorable action this week. The New Jersey legislature has lately been eating out of Governor Wilson's hand, and may accept the income tax before it has had its fill.

That would make four of the five required. Which of the others may we hope will "come across." A study of the list suggests that Senator Brown may have blundered in thus early proposing to urge the immediate levying of an income tax to the end that "the argument that duties cannot be reduced or wiped out because we need the revenue will not longer be valid." Is it for any reason but to make a high sugar tariff necessary that Louisiana stands pat on the income tax? Or Utah and Wyoming but for wool, Florida for citrus fruit, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut for cotton, Pennsylvania and West Virginia for coal and iron? Obviously it is by no chance or accident these states are holding back. For that reason it cannot yet be said that the income tax is out of the woods.—Lincoln Journal.

MORE PENSIONS THREATENED.

In a recent address at Philadelphia Secretary McVeagh of the treasury department attacked the civil war pension. He declared that the enormous civil war pension list is not a credit to us, and that it never had a scientific basis, although a worthy motive gave it origin.

Secretary McVeagh declared that the civil war pension has long since lost its patriotic aspect, and has become a political list, costing the government about \$160,000,000 a year.

And right on top of this assault upon the civil war pension, Secretary McVeagh indulged in a plea for a civil pension list, so that aged employees of the government may be retired from the service upon pay and their places filled by younger material. He insisted that the establishment of a civil pension list is "absolutely necessary for the sake of the government."

Somehow when a high federal official gets to talking about service pensions, he forgets all about the old men and women who have to help pay the old men and women who have lived for years off the government.

If the government were in the habit of asking its employes to work for a pittance, one might find some excuse this continuous howl for service pensions for government employes.

But as a rule the rest of us must bend our backs all our lives to provide means with which to pay government employes good salaries during the period of their undoubted usefulness. Those who work for Uncle Sam, as a rule, get much more liberally paid than do those who have to work out their own salvation as employes of corporations and individuals. Their work is easy, plenty of help is always provided, their hours are short and their vacations numerous and long.

If he who works for a corporation or a private party most of his life is expected to save enough to enable him to help pay government employes pensions when they get old, it is not at all unreasonable to expect such government employes to be equally frugal, and the same degree of frugality must enable the government employes to save more money than he who works for some one else.

The man or woman who does not rely upon political favor, must, when his or her period of usefulness is past, have either saved up something for a rainy day, become an object of charity or struggle along as best he or she can under the handicap. Isn't it asking a little too much to ask he or she then be required to help pay a pension to some one who has for many years enjoyed lighter work and better pay.

This suggestion that the world owes a living to the men and women who grow old in the service of the government is growing so strong at Washington that unless the masses speedily organize a protest against it, old men and women who have never enjoyed the advantage of working for Uncle Sam at easy work, during short hours and at good pay that might provide a competence for old age, are surely going to be called upon in the near future to help pay them pensions.

There must be something wrong in the mental vision of the public official who can denounce the civil war pensions while still contending for a service pension for government employes. Old soldiers will perhaps find the explanation in the fact that Secretary McVeagh is a democrat. But that does not explain his service pension nonsense. Nothing could be more undemocratic. Democracy teaches equal rights for all and special privileges for none. If the day ever comes when men and women in all other walks of life, those who have to pay the taxes and the salaries of government employes, can be retired at a certain age upon a comfortable pension, then there will be some sense and justice in asking them to help pay the pensions of those who have always enjoyed good pay from Uncle Sam. But other old men and women have to look out for themselves. When they get old they are shunted upon the junk heap and nobody is worried about paying them pensions.

All over the country those who do not believe in building up a class of mendicants at public expense ought to take in hand this matter of making their protest known. If they don't do it, things are now shaping themselves so that when the civil war pension ceases another and bigger pension list will take its place.—Lincoln Star.

DOES NOT SOUND LIKE RECIPROCITY.

Another thing, while the American farmer is to submit to competition in wheat production with the Canadian farmer, the American miller is to be protected by a duty on Canadian flour to the extent of 50 cents a barrel. Is that fair? Does that sound like reciprocity? Why is the miller entitled to protection if the farmer is not? Canadian labor is as well paid and as intelligent as American labor. The Canadian miller will be obliged to pay

a duty on American made milling machinery, and that ought to be handicap enough against him if the American miller needs a handicap.

Not only is the American miller to be protected by a duty on flour, but the American packer is to be similarly protected by a duty on Canadian meats and packing house products to the extent of one and one-fourth cents a pound, but the farmer is to submit to free Canadian cattle and other live stock on foot. It is difficult to see how any farmer or any other man in the Northwestern and Middle Western States can see any justice in such a trade. While virgin lands were abundant and we could grow our wheat on \$15 or \$20 land, and while our ranges were available for the production of cheap beef and mutton, duties on Canadian products were of no benefit to the American farmer: First, because there was no market in this country for Canadian products; and second, because, practically speaking, Canada had nothing to sell.

Now, when, owing to the rapid increase in our population, the time has come when the farmer might be benefited by a Canadian Tariff, he is suddenly to be left unprotected against foreign competition.

Our soils have, to a large extent, been depleted of their native fertility; scarcely anywhere in this country are the farms as fertile as they have been in the past, and never has the importance of building them up been more necessary than it is now. With beef bringing somewhere near the price it ought to bring, an era of increasing our live stock, and through it the building up of our soils—the fertility of which we were compelled to sell when grain and beef sold below their actual worth—seemed about to be approaching. No sooner had this hopeful condition sprung into view than the farmer was told that all kinds of meat animals should come across the line from Canada without paying a duty—Farmer and Breeder.

ENGLAND SEES OUR FOOD COST.

London—Copies of a report on the cost of living in American cities, based on inquiries made in twenty-eight representative towns by officials of the British board of trade, were circulated in Parliament. The report of 533 pages covers the questions of working class housing, retail prices of commodities, and rates of wages in the United States, compiled for purposes of comparison with the conditions of workers in Great Britain and other countries.

The conclusions reached are: "The cost of food and rent combined is 52 per cent greater in the United States than in England and Wales, but these heavier relative charges on working class income have been accomplished with weekly wages which are as 230 to 100."

The report adds that this ratio of money earnings is more than two and one-fourth times as great as in England and Wales, and "makes possible a command of necessities, conveniences and minor luxuries of life that is both nominally and really greater than that enjoyed by the corresponding class in this country, although the effective margin in practice is curtailed by a scale of expenditure, to some extent necessary and to some extent voluntary, adopted in accordance with the different and higher standard of material comfort."

The report notes that although the habit of spending is greater in America than in England, and although the American is naturally more extravagant and great wastefulness often results, it is in fact that those who desire to exercise a strength of will and foresight can save more easily in the United States than in England because of the larger income.

In the matter of hours the skilled workers in the building trades in America have the advantage of about six hours weekly compared to the English, and the unskilled have an advantage of about three and three-quarters hours.

Connecticut Farmers Against Rabbits. Most assuredly the proposed protection of rabbits by imposing a tariff upon catches and by lessening the opening season will not be approved by farmers and fruit growers. Under present limitations rabbits have multiplied until they have become almost a plague.

Their principal offense is the gnawing of fruit trees, to which they are strongly addicted even when the ground is not snow-covered. So far as known they serve no useful purpose except as food; their pelts are next to valueless, bringing only a cent each and "slow sale" even at that price. Farmers bring the additional charge that rabbit hunters tear down and do not reconstruct their fences, and this complaint is founded upon facts.—Bridgeport Farmer.

Sympathetic Attitude. "I never enjoyed your chance for an education," said the reproachful father.

"Well," replied the flippant youth, "when it comes to that I don't believe I enjoy it myself."

OUR FIRST NEWSPAPER.

It was two hundred and seven years ago—April 24, 1704—that the first number of America's first newspaper, the Boston News Letter, made its bow to the public. Two earlier attempts had been made in the journalistic line—one in 1689 and one in 1690—but both attempts were suppressed by the Massachusetts government. The Boston News Letter, however, managed to weather the storm and successfully faced the battle and the breeze for seventy-two years.

This pioneer newspaper, in what is now the United States of America, was published by John Campbell, postmaster of Boston, who may fairly be called the father of the American press. It was printed sometimes on a single sheet of paper, foolscap size, and sometimes on a half sheet, with two columns on each side.

When the News Letter was fourteen years old Campbell enlarged it, in order, as he informed his readers, "to make the news newer and more acceptable." "This time twelvemonth," he says in his announcement, "we were thirteen months behind with the foreign news beyond Great Britain, and now less than five months; so that we have retrieved about eight months since January last," and he encourages his subscribers with the assurance that if they "will continue steady until January next, life permitting, they will be accommodated with all the news of Europe that is needful to be known in these parts."

It is just possible that the wonderful enterprise thus suddenly manifested by the proprietor of the News Letter may have been helped along some by the fact that he now had a competitor in the journalistic field in the shape of the Boston Gazette, published by William Brooks, the first number of which appeared in December, 1719, about the time that Campbell made his big announcement to the subscribers of the News Letter. The battle between the old pioneer and its rival was a strenuous one, but the newcomer at last bit the dust, leaving the News Letter in full possession of the field. After its seventy odd years of life our first newspaper met its end in 1776, with the British evacuation of Boston.

It may be said in passing that a complete file of this original American newspaper, the only one in existence, is preserved in the collection of the New York historical society.

When the old Boston News Letter went out of business, in Independence year, Massachusetts had seven newspapers, New Hampshire one, Rhode Island one, Connecticut three, Pennsylvania eight, New York three, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina two each, South Carolina three, and Georgia one; the total being thirty-three, all of them weekly publications.

When the Constitution went into operation, in 1789, there were printed each week in the entire United States 76,438 copies of newspapers—a circulation that is many times exceeded by that of the New York American alone.—Rev. Thomas Gregory.

THE MADERO FAMILY.

San Francisco Madero, father of the leader of the Mexican revolution says that no member of his family will be a candidate for office at the election which it is hoped will result from the insurrection. This is saying a great deal, for he has eight sons, all full grown, of whom the eldest, Francisco I, jr., started the revolt. This son was a candidate for the presidency against Diaz a year ago, but the Diaz machine has not permitted anybody but Diaz to aspire to that high office. Francisco, jr., retired to San Antonio last November and began to get ready for the present uprising.

The Madero family has good standing in Mexico. The grandfather of the present leader is estimated "by some to be worth \$50,000,000, made as a speculator in mining properties, and in cattle raising. He was for twenty years governor of a province. The father says: "We are fighting for principles and not for political rewards." In other words, they are fighting for fair elections and for a square deal. If they fail, they have been engaged in rank treason. If they win they will be heroes.

They appear to be holding out well against the regular troops and to have accomplished much in forcing the reorganization of the cabinet. They will be content, however, with nothing short of the complete surrender of the Diaz machine.—Boston Globe.

OMAHA WOULD PROFIT.

That ready American humor which King George's subjects find so hard to follow and understand did not miss the splendid opportunity offered by the case of Mr. Bryan and the city of Memphis. Close upon the heels of Mr. Bryan's refusal of an offer of \$12,000,000 to go to and live in Memphis comes a letter from the Omaha Commercial club, offering to let Memphis have Mayor "Jim" Dahlinger for

\$1,500,000. There must be many cities, towns and villages in the United States who could be induced to part with their superfluous statesmen if Memphis really means business. San Francisco would probably take \$1,000,000 for Mayor McCarthy, with 30 per cent off for cash. Albany would probably accept \$750,000 for William Barnes, jr., or might consent to a trade taking two thirds cash and the rest in Tennessee bosslets and wire pullers. Washington would gladly let William E. Lorimer go to Memphis at a nominal price and on a very liberal installment plan. We need only touch, of course, upon the possibilities connected with the persons of Mr. Charles F. Murphy and Mr. George B. Cox, whom their respective communities could afford to let Memphis have with a million dollar premium thrown in, and still make money.—New York Post.

WHERE GOLD ACCUMULATES

Russia Passes All Other Countries in Hoarding Up the Precious Metal.

In ten years Russia has added \$310,000,000 to its stock of gold, raising the total in the treasury to \$704,000,000. Even France has been passed in the contest of accumulation; in ten years the Bank of France has increased its supply of the metal by \$229,000,000, raising the total to \$478,000,000. One year ago Russia held less than France, but in the interval the former has gained \$66,000,000, while the latter has lost \$63,000,000. It may be learned with some surprise that Italy ranks third as an accumulator of gold since 1900, its stock having risen from \$77,000,000 to \$194,000,000, a gain of \$117,000,000. Germany has gained only a little over \$50,000,000, while the Bank of England's increase has averaged only \$3,000,000 per annum, or less than \$33,000,000 in all. Its gold supply today stands just under \$200,000,000, which is exceeded not only by Russia and France, but by Austria-Hungary, and is only \$5,000,000 above Germany's, and \$7,000,000 above Italy's stock. While, of course, it is little more than half the amount held by the New York clearing house banks alone, to say nothing of the billion odd dollars that is retained in the United States treasury. Twenty years ago France held only \$263,000,000, Germany \$138,000,000, England \$113,000,000 and Austria-Hungary the insignificant total of \$22,000,000, against \$227,000,000 today. At home, the New York clearing house banks and the treasury department have added \$782,841,275 to their holdings in ten years.

HOW TO WIN POPULARITY

Surest Method is to Be Interested in The People One Meets.

One of the surest methods of winning popularity is to be interested in the people one meets. Not a lip interest merely, but a deep, actual interest that takes one out of one's self and one's narrow circle and for the moment places one in the midst of another's sorrow or joy and lets one see life from her standpoint.

A girl who can listen sympathetically and with the real interest to the details of another girl's wardrobe and the list of her admirers has the germ of universal popularity already developed.

It may seem a trivial and tiresome matter and she may feel conscious all the time that she has far more interesting things to tell, but, whether or not she realizes it, she is laying the foundation stone of friendship. Hearts, after all, are very much alike, and each one has the craving for sympathy secretly planted in its depth.

But nothing irritates one more and turns one from another's personality so quickly as the simulated and insincere interest which, eventually, is always detected. The girl who says with deep emotion and with the soft pedal stop of apparent sympathy turned on, "My dear, how dreadful!" to the confidences of a sickening heart, and then hastens to break in with some trifling fact about herself or her social engagements, is not apt to win much affection, and certainly not any lasting love.

Meerschmum Getting Scarce.

The valuable material from which meerschmum pipes are made is continually getting scarcer and the large industry which has flourished in Vienna, Budapest, Nuremberg, Paris and in the Thuringian town of Ruhla seems endangered. The manufacture of meerschmum pipes is much more important than is generally supposed. The town of Ruhla alone has been exporting in round figures pipes to the value of about \$1,500,000 annually. The finest grade of meerschmum is found near Eski-Scheir, in Anatolia, Asia Minor, in a hollow, which in early days was a lake, in which the meerschmum was precipitated. Meerschmum is also found in other places, including Thebes, Egypt, the Bosnian Mountains in the neighborhood of Grubschitz, and Nuendorf in Moravia and in some sections of Spain and Portugal.

Tamed a Wild Swan.

A mild male Russian swan (the largest and handsomest species of the wild goose tribe) flew into a Los Angeles park three winters ago. After much cajoling I have trained him so that he will answer to the name I christened him, and when I call "Billy" he will run to me and will follow me like a dog.

I do much of my literary work in this park and Billy sits beside me and searches my various pockets for popcorn or crackers, and his disappointment is pathetic if perchance I meet him empty handed or rather empty pocketed. It was fully a year before Billy would allow me to approach within ten yards of him, but by degrees I have succeeded in winning his confidence and he now affords endless amusement to my friends and myself.—Strand.

ROYAL Baking Powder Economy

The manufacturers of Royal Baking Powder have always declined to produce a cheap baking powder at the sacrifice of quality. Royal Baking Powder is made from pure grape cream of tartar, and is the embodiment of all the excellence possible to be attained in the highest class baking powder. Royal Baking Powder costs only a fair price, and is more economical at its price than any other leavening agent, because of the superlative quality and absolute wholesomeness of the food it makes.

Mixtures made in imitation of baking powder, but containing alum, are frequently distributed from door to door, or given away in grocery stores. Such mixtures are dangerous to use in food. In England, France, Germany and some sections of the United States their sale is prohibited by law. Alum is a dangerous mineral acid, and all physicians condemn baking powders containing it.

The label of alum baking powders must show the ingredients.

READ THE LABEL

Would Chase Cats. The other night a New York man visited friends in a New Jersey town where police dogs help the local force in routing out burglars. These dogs are highly trained.

"In spite of that," said the man, "Max, which I believe is considered the best of them, cannot be trained to leave a cat alone. His job is to go around at night with a policeman and circle houses. If he finds a burglar at work he is trained to chase him out into the open, where the policeman can get at him. But if Max finds a cat on his trip around a house it is all off with his job. He chases that cat until pursuit is useless. I don't know what he would do if he caught a rat, because he is kept muzzled, but his nature tells him cats are to be worried and he annoys them all he can in spite of his training."

Royal Abness of Seventeen. The Archduchess Elizabeth Francisca, oldest unmarried granddaughter of the emperor of Austria, who made her debut at the first Viennese court ball of the season, did not present so picturesque a figure as her cousin, the Archduchess Elizabeth Mary, on a similar occasion.

Until her marriage with Prince Otto zu Windischgratz the Crown Prince Rudolph's daughter was abess of the order of St. Theresa and wore the velvet and ermine robes of her office at all state functions.

With these she carried a pastoral staff, studded with jewels, presented to the order by St. Wenceslaus, king of Bohemia, 690 years ago.

A miter of peculiar shape perched on the curly head of the seventeen-year-old archduchess gave a piquant finish to her appearance when she made her first public courtesy to her grandfather.—Fall Mail Gazette.

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