

REV. JENKIN LLOYD JONES. Few men think with more force and fewer still express their thoughts with more lucidity and terseness than Rev. Mr. Jones of All Souls church, Chicago. The following is one of his recent utterances and is commended by THE CONSERVATIVE to all of its thoughtful and patriotic readers:

"Many are asking every day, 'What is militarism, anyhow?' It is the incorporation into modern statecraft of the primitive dictum that 'might makes right.' It is the trusting of national power and prosperity to the keeping of standing armies. It is the assumption that the physical arm of the state is its measurement in the councils of the world. It is a new exaltation of the soldier, a fresh apotheosis of the warrior. It is subordination of the arts of peace to the triumphs of battle, the application of modern engineering and scientific physics to the art of destruction. It is reducing killing to an exact science and hiding the atrocities of legal and national murder behind the high-sounding words and highly polished instruments of precision that represent the activities of the arsenal, the fortress and the battleship of today. More than this, it is a revival of the cheapest heroism, the heroism represented by physical bravery, the love of parade, the glitter of gold lace and the inspiration of martial music."

PENSIONS AND EVANS. The Grand Army of the Republic has now developed such an inordinate voracity for pensions and jobs in offices that the present commissioner of pensions, Hon. Henry Clay Evans, of Tennessee, finds himself incapable of giving it satiety.

"A dozen years ago The Evening Post said of the Grand Army of the Republic that 'it is no longer a benevolent institution working for unselfish ends; it has become a machine for the procuring of pensions and offices.' The truth of this characterization has become more clear during the interval, and is now put beyond the possibility of dispute by the raid which this machine has organized upon a thoroughly efficient commissioner of pensions, simply because he has enforced the laws. The New York department of the organization has been holding its annual encampment at Syracuse this week, and it adopted a resolution yesterday declaring that 'it is the sense of this department that the administration of the pension department by H. Clay Evans meets the emphatic disapprobation of this department and of every veteran who is entitled to a pension under the law, and we ask that he be removed and the office filled by a man who will administer the pension law according to the intent of the framers of the law, the congress that passed it, and the

president who signed it.' This action by the largest department of the Grand Army in the nation is not a hasty or ill-considered performance. It is plainly only part of a carefully planned scheme by the managers of the organization, as similar resolutions have recently been adopted by other bodies of the order. The Grand Army evidently means to drive Commissioner Evans out of office.

"There is absolutely no excuse for this assault. Commissioner Evans is warmly in sympathy with all just claims of the old soldiers, and he has administered the pension law with fairness alike to the deserving applicant and to the government. But such fairness has of course compelled him often to reject claims which were neither meritorious nor justified by the law. The consequence is that he has incurred the enmity of the pension attorneys, who have grown rich upon the laxity of administration which has prevailed in the pension bureau in the past. These attorneys have organized a 'combine' to secure the removal of Mr. Evans, and they are going to 'work the Grand Army for all it is worth.' They hope to play upon the dread of offending 'the Grand Army vote' which most politicians feel, and there is real danger that their raid may succeed. All citizens who believe in an honest administration of the pension laws should come to the support of an excellent official in this emergency."

IT RAINS! An observer and friend of the Third Nebraska regiment was along with that collection of game and patriotic volunteers before they sailed for Cuba and at their camp either in Georgia or Florida when an order came from the commanding general to break camp and move.

Immediately Lieutenant-Colonel Vifquain, a tried and trained soldier, began the work which obedience to the order required. But after some time Vifquain noticed that there was no stir about the tent of Col. William Jennings Bryan. Therefore the lieutenant-colonel courteously, and with due regard to his superior experience and rank in the world of war, called upon Colonel Bryan and with some fear and much desire for more military science and discipline inquired:

"Colonel Bryan, why are you not carrying out the order to break camp?"

Whereupon with soldierly sagacity and with most patriotic sincerity Colonel Bryan replied:

"It is raining!"

And now while orders are out by that potent commander, General Opinion, that the nonsense of another battle for sixteen-to-one must not be indulged and that the fusion forces must break camp. "It is raining!" It rains facts and figures which drown out all the fancies in finance which appeared so gaily in "The First Battle."

TREE FREEZING.

BROWNVILLE, Neb., May 25, 1899.

MY DEAR MR. MORTON:

I herewith hand you a copy of a letter received from Professor Swezey, our state meteorologist. You will observe his theory is in harmony with mine, given you when last we met, viz: That the February (1899) freeze did the damage.

Possibly it may be of interest to your readers to publish the letter in THE CONSERVATIVE.

My theory—if any be possible—of the vagary in injury—adjoining plants, with seeming same conditions, one killed and the other not injured, I find only consolation by reference to Biblical record. See Matthew, chapter 24, verses 40 and 41.

Yours sincerely,
ROB'T W. FURNAS.

HON. ROB'T. W. FURNAS,
Brownville, Nebraska.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 16th is at hand and I am sorry to learn that the loss in your vineyard and orchard is so serious, although as you say, you are not a solitary sufferer.

I do not know, however, that the winter killing is very surprising. It seems to me that there has been a combination of conditions that does not often repeat itself.

In the first place the period of two cold weeks in February was one of excessive cold. It was the coldest February on record, and the coldest month with four exceptions, viz:

	Mean temp.
January, 1886.....	9.9
January, 1888.....	10.6
January, 1881.....	10.8
January, 1883.....	11.2
February, 1899.....	12.1

The minimum temperatures ran below zero nearly every night for two weeks, falling as low as from 25 to 35 below zero in the southeastern part of the state and 47 below in the western.

In the second place the low temperature was not, as sometimes happens, of brief duration, but continued almost without intermission for nearly two weeks.

Again it occurred while the ground was generally barren of snow so that no protection was furnished the soil from the accumulating effect of the low temperature.

Finally I presume that the rather dry condition with which the spring opened has tended to aggravate the evil.

I do not know how to account for the different effect upon plants growing near each other. I realize, however, that the sum total of climatic conditions which determine the life or death of a plant is a complicated matter and that we ordinarily grasp only the more prominent factor of the problem.

Very truly yours,
G. D. SWEZEY.