

# The Conservative.

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OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIOLOGICAL  
QUESTIONS.

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On Thursday, **ARBOR DAY ISSUE.** April 11th, 1901, THE CONSERVATIVE will issue a number devoted to arboriculture and forestry.

Arbor day comes this year on Monday, April 22nd, and it is intended to fill THE CONSERVATIVE of the 11th with instructive and interesting matter for its commemoration and practical observance.

Superintendents of schools and teachers in all the counties and school districts of the state should become readers of THE CONSERVATIVE because it is the only periodical in Nebraska making a specialty of tree-planting and forest conservation.

**RECANTING.** Many men prominent in the United States who formerly advocated high protective tariff duties are modifying their economic views. More men are beginning to understand that a tariff framed exclusively for protection affords no revenue; and that a tariff instituted exclusively for revenue gives only a little incidental protection if it gives any at all.

While American ironmasters are selling rails to the railroads of the United States at twenty-eight dollars a ton, and to those of Japan at twenty-one dollars and successfully competing with England for iron-bridge building in her colonies, they do not appear as very helpless infants. They do not really seem to need the power to tax exercised in their interests. And so there is quite a general recantation of the heresies of protection and quite a popular denunciation of all trade restrictions.

A part cannot be greater than the whole in economics any more than in

mathematics. A few people make things out of iron and steel and all people use them; the law should be favorable to all and not to the few—to the whole and not to a part.

A protective tariff interferes with only that trade which is mutually profitable, because unprofitable trade between nations as between individuals stops itself. Free trade does not compel anybody to trade anywhere, but free trade permits everybody to trade everywhere that they can find it profitable to trade and nobody will trade elsewhere than in a profitable market except by compulsion, under trade restrictions.

#### WEALTH.

The intellectual and moral character of a nation is either its greatest wealth or its most abject poverty. The intelligence and honesty of an individual determine his value to a community, his credit in bank and the social standing of his family. If Ireland was on a higher plane of mental development and abounding in schools teaching good morals, the poverty of the Irish people would become a story of the past. The lack of material wealth among a people is logically caused by the absence of mental and moral characteristics which, as human qualities, constitute the most desirable wealth of the modern world.

The personal qualities of a free man, his intellectual abilities and his established character for integrity, are the sources of his income. They establish his value. Upon them he relies for a living. He sells in the market, where services are demanded, his efforts at a higher price than is given for those of an ignorant and characterless man. The slave does not own his personal qualities and they are a subject of barter and exchange at the will of his master. But if the slave has good intellectual ability and a marked honesty and truthfulness he is sold or hired out, at bigger wages than are given for the ignorant and vicious. Personal qualities are therefore wealth; and personal capital in education, honesty and industry, draws larger dividends in the United States today than all the capital in all the corporations of the country, which represent merely material things. And upon the immaterial wealth of education and good morals the prosperity of this republic depends for conservation

and perpetuation. When America becomes bankrupt as to intellectual and moral capital it will be pauperized indeed; for material development and the accumulation of tangible wealth depend upon cultured brains and good hearts. Sometimes society mistakes material for mental wealth. Sometimes dollars are so multiplied and concentrated in a person that the careless observer, or the toady, recognizes in them great intellectual and moral forces. That is no doubt one of the reasons why Clark of Montana is sent to the United States senate, and possibly a cause of the return of Quay of Pennsylvania to the same body.

#### THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED.

Recent eructatory declaimers, endeavoring to create discontent among the American people, have been interpreting Jefferson, who held about seventy slaves, to have literally proclaimed the consent of the governed, including negro slaves, to be essential to government.

The same declaimers, however, support their brother in populism, Tillman, of South Carolina, in all his sayings and doings to the end that negroes, who are not slaves, in the southern states, shall be governed without their consent.

The same disturbers of contentment allege also that Washington, himself the largest slaveholder when the United States government was established, believed that "the consent of the governed" was extended to all men, bond and free alike.

How long before these vagarists will demand that the government of the jails and penitentiaries shall be based upon the consent of the governed? How long before they will proclaim that all births ought to depend upon the consent of the born?

#### LAWYERS.

The lawyers of the United States hold and exercise great power in the social, commercial, and political life of the country. They are as a rule men of intelligence and commendable character for integrity. If they lack any one essential element of fairness and justice it may possibly be found in the partiality they sometimes show for unworthy members of their own profession who have betrayed clients, cheated litigants and outraged confidence.