

Taft's Strong Presentation.

The president's Indianapolis speech on reciprocity is a strong presentation of his views. He reiterated much that he has said before, but was forceful and effective. It seems that a fair study of this question ought to convince people on both sides of it that the president is right when he says that no radical situations on either side of the line are going to be created by reciprocity with Canada. It seems reasonable to expect any changes that come to be gradual and that perhaps the biggest influence will be social and political.

As to the argument that Canadian reciprocity will injure the wheat grower, the president only reinforces what he and others have often said, that the price of wheat will not be determined as a result of reciprocity between these two countries, but that it will continue to be fixed at Liverpool on the basis, then as now, of the world's viable supply and demand. And diverting a few million bushels of Canadian wheat, that now goes abroad, to the United States, should, in his opinion, open up to us in Europe a still larger outlet for our grain and flour as well.

Certainly it would seem that so long as the United States produces so many times more in agriculture than Canada and will for years to come, if not always, there is no need to become unduly alarmed over the thought of reciprocity and by the time the scales are more evenly balanced—if such a time comes—the United States, if it was dissatisfied with the trade agreement, could cancel it, for that privilege is stipulated in the compact. It seems unnecessary to champion or oppose reciprocity to see this side of the question.

Canada's total field crops in 1910 came to \$25,806,600 less than they did in 1909. This shows that the Dominion farmers are making no forward strides that need alarm Americans, and yet, of course, we wish them success and not failure.

Love on the Mountain Peaks.

Mrs. Beatrice Farnham Otto, the Boston artist, has recently married John Otto, the hermit of Monument canyon on the lofty peak of Independence rock in the Rocky mountains and she is so altogether delighted with her blissful experience that she has decided to establish a colony up there for other women who will accept her invitation to come up and marry a rich hermit.

"The average society girl of the east is a frivolous doll," asserts Mrs. Otto. She urges her to turn her back on the dapper suitors of the eastern cities and do as she did—go up into lofty peaks of the snow-capped and sun-kissed mountains, pick out a rich hermit and make him her husband. It is at once the most novel and practical scheme that has been proposed. There is always something so ineffably pure and noble and yet invigorating and strong about the mountains and the mountain air. And hermits, ah, they are always such big, fine, manly fellows, with great chunky wallets and so open-heartedly generous, and the Rockies are just filled with these rich, philanthropic heroes. Truly, Mrs. Otto has employed her artistic temperament in a fine cause. How better could she benefit her kind than by establishing this colony on the summit of Independence rock?

One thing is even more certain than the rest—the eastern girl who goes up there and gets her a hermit will, in all human probability, never again be reproached with being a society doll. There is nothing in the environs of Independence rock, especially about the quarters of the average hermit, to inculcate the doll habit. Really, the more we conjure this thing in our minds, the more ideal it seems. It is just too clever for anything.

All aboard for Monument canyon, girls. "Come early and avoid the rush," as the man outside the main tent used to say.

Safe and Sane Profits.

The "safe and sane" way of celebrating the Fourth of July was more generally observed this year than ever.

Fewer lives were lost and fewer persons injured by or from the use of fireworks than on any Fourth in the history of the country, since records of casualties have been kept.

Therefore, the safe and sane Fourth pays. It pays in the most precious medium of human life and it pays in the medium of property, which, like life, is protected and conserved by the diminished use of explosives and the precautions that surround what use is made of them.

Undoubtedly it could be shown that if the spirit of patriotism is in any way affected by the changing tendency in our celebrations, it is on the side of a more enlightened, sober appreciation of what the day means, and, as this movement for less noise and more thought grows, so will our appreciation of the day grow. We have every thing to gain and nothing to lose by discarding the old for the new Fourth. Of course it will be a long time before all cities and states take effectual action to install the safe and sane idea, but so many already have done it as to promise comparatively early widespread success of the movement.

This movement has its ethical aspect, too. The old fashion of celebrating the Fourth has come to be largely a matter of selfishness and commercialism. Dealers in fireworks dangerous and otherwise, naturally wish to continue in the business, and persons who think only of their own selfish pleasures and not of others,

Lincoln's Water Troubles.

Not that from any desire to dwell upon the troubles of an esteemed neighbor, but because they may offer solace to our own troubled minds, we venture to call attention to the water situation in Lincoln as depicted by the Lincoln Journal as follows:

On Friday of this week a special meeting of the city council is to be held for the purpose of considering a request from some of the large consumers of water in the western part of the city to be allowed to secure an independent supply. The fact that such a project is under incubation is a challenge to every part of our municipal government. To submit to so serious loss to its own most cherished business would amount to an admission of failure in the administration of that business.

In another place the Journal says: Of course, the complaint of the large consumers that they are charged an excessive price for an inferior quality of water must be given attention.

And in still another place it says: To say it in a few words: The water system of Lincoln is inadequate to the city's needs in dry weather.

Remembering the strenuous efforts of our valiant Water board to cut off altogether the large consumers in South Omaha and other suburbs from supply through the Omaha plant, Lincoln's efforts to retain business, even though taxing its capacity, shines by way of contrast. All we can say is that Lincoln's water troubles are little ones beside Omaha's.

More Interest in the Lorimer Case.

According to Washington advices, many senators are showing a quickened interest in the Lorimer case. Announcement of their plan to attend the hearings before the committee from now on augurs rather well for a reliable verdict next time the evidence goes to the jury. If there were a disposition to whitewash again, the senators would scarcely go to the trouble of attending these meetings, where witnesses are piling up testimony day after day.

This decision on the part of senators hitherto indifferent has been announced since the return of the Kentucky primaries came in and in that may lie some personal significance. Senator Paynter was overwhelmingly swamped by Ollie James for renomination in that primary election, admittedly because Senator Paynter was a member of the original Lorimer whitewash committee. So it may be the handwriting on the wall that is convincing certain senators that it would be hazardous to repeat the feat of Belshazzar.

It is a great thing sometimes to hear from "home" on matters affecting one's personal fortunes if one happens to be a representative of a sovereign people at the seat of government. The sovereign people, obviously, have made up their minds a long time ago on the Lorimer question and appear to be in no mood to appreciate the funny side of it. If senators have waited for the Kentucky example to prick their consciences, it reflects no special credit upon them, but still it is better late than never in a case of this kind.

Getting it Straight.

Our old friend, Edgar Howard, thinks The Bee has not read quite right, his demand that the author of the Albert law be rewarded with a place on the supreme bench because of alleged threats by lawyers retained to fight the law that no one not opposed to it can expect to be elected a supreme judge this year. "To get it straight," Edgar comes clear over to The Bee's proposition that the judicial qualifications of the aspirant and his legal training and reputation for integrity should be the determining factors and not his known belief in or opposition to any particular law whose validity may come up for adjudication. But, irrespective of anyone's candidacy, "The Omaha white-slavers must not be permitted to pack the supreme court with judges of their own choosing," so we are admonished. "Long live the law."

That is exactly our sentiment, too, but really, Edgar, there is no call for alarm so far as the supreme court is concerned, for an accommodating judge on our district bench here has just pulled all the fangs out of the Albert law and relieved "the beneficiaries of the white-slavers" of all fear of it. This judge has found the place on which the test case was brought to be a nuisance as defined by the Albert law, but refuses to impose any penalties. All the judge says the law requires is that the beneficiaries cease doing business as a nuisance and desist until they happen to be caught again. The drastic penalties of closing the building for a year and selling off the furniture and fixtures under court order, this accommodating judge suspends altogether. If arrested and found guilty in the police court, the keeper of a disorderly house would at least be fined, but when convicted under the Albert law the only penalty is a promise to quit.

Never bother, then, Edgar, about the attitude of the supreme court on the Albert law. The district court judge who has tried the test case here has already put the fixings to it.

Which leads us to repeat what we have often said, that with a competent city law department there should be no occasion for the various branches of the city government like the Water board and the school board to hire separate and additional lawyers any

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SMILING REMARKS.

"Prof. McMurdie is very ingenious in twisting things around to illustrate his theories, it he not?"

"Yes, I believe he proposes to take the fact of the champagne troubles in France nearly overturning the government, to illustrate the curse of drink."—Baltimore American.

"A swollen fortune," said the energetic, but crude reformer, "is as bad as a sore finger on the body politic."

"Yes," replied Mr. Grower, "and like a sore finger, the oftener you hit it the more it seems to swell."—Washington Star.

"Last time I saw you, Miliken, you were the most cantankerous reformer in the country. Still on that lay?"

"No, I've reformed."—Chicago Tribune.

"Yes, Plinker used to be a small druggist and poor as poverty, but now he's manufacturing and selling a sure cure," said Towne.

"A sure cure for what?" asked Browne.

"Why, a sure cure for his poverty. I guess he's about all."—Catholic Standard and Times.

Mrs. Nured—Mary for dinner I think we'll have boiled mutton with caper sauce. Are there any capers in the house?

Mary—No, ma'am.

Mrs. Nured—Then go out in the garden and cut some.—Harvard Lampoon.

Mr. Henpeck—Are you the man who gave my wife a lot of impudence?

Mr. Scrapper—I reckon I am.

Mr. Henpeck—Shake, You're a hero.—Pathfinder.

"The capitalist your aviator friend was talking to you about his invention for a regular passenger air line, hurt the inventor's feelings very much."

"How so?"

"When the inventor was most enthusiastic about the great thing he expected to do, the capitalist told him to cut out the pipe dreams and come down to earth."—Baltimore American.

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