

Facts About Trees.

The leaves of the trees are beginning to change their color, and it will not be long now until instead of the bright green the trees will delight the eye with all the varied hues of the rainbow. Speaking of the change of color of the leaves a prominent scientific gentleman said: "Probably not one person in a thousand knows why leaves change their color in the fall. The common old-fashioned idea is that all the red and golden glory we will soon see is caused by frosts. Such reasoning is a case of post hoc propter hoc. A true and scientific explanation of the causes of the coloring of leaves would necessitate a long and intricate discussion. Stated briefly and in popular language, these causes are these: The green matter in the tissue of a leaf is composed of two colors, red and blue. When the sap ceases to flow in the autumn, and the natural growth of the tree ceases, oxidation of the tissues takes place. Under certain conditions, the green of the leaf changes to red; under different conditions, it takes on a yellow or brown tint. This difference in color is due to the difference in the combination of the original constituents of the great tissues and to the varying conditions of climate, exposure and soil. A dry, cold climate produces more brilliant foliage than one that is damp and warm. This is the reason that our American autumns are so much more gorgeous than those of England. There are several things about leaves that even science cannot explain. For instance, why one of two trees growing side by side, of the same age and having the same exposure, should take on a brilliant red in the fall and the other should turn yellow, or why one branch of a tree should be highly colored and the rest of the tree have only a yellow or brown tint, are questions that are as impossible to answer as why one member of a family should be perfectly healthy and another sickly. The maples and oaks generally have the brightest colors."

Larned's Hallucinations.

Amos E. Larned, of New York, who was committed to an insane asylum last week, is an old and well known newspaper man, and has been a conspicuous figure in journalistic circles for many years.

For a long time he had charge of the New England branch of the Associated Press, and he was considered at one time a very bright member of the New York Press Club. At one time he was quite prominent in political circles, and was quite proud of that he was on intimate personal relation with the late Roscoe Conkling and many of that stamp. Mr. Larned was one of the famous "306" who stood out so valiantly for the nomination of General Grant for a third term. After the death of General Garfield President Arthur offered Mr. Larned the post of Consul General at Sydney, New South Wales, which he declined with thanks.

For the past four years Mr. Larned has been acting very strangely, and recently the conviction was forced upon his wife and family that his mind had become impaired, which led to the action taken last week. According to the statements of the witnesses Mr. Larned seems possessed of the idea that he is very wealthy, when in fact, he has nothing beyond what he earns with his pen. Dr. Shaw says that he imagines he is the inventor of a gas machine for heating houses, lighting cities and running engines and that he has sold 5,000,000 of these machines to the Long Island Railroad and 25,000,000 to the Central. He expects to get thousands of dollars daily for royalties, and he owns a pair of fine horses eighteen hands high.

Dr. Shaw says that with careful treatment Mr. Larned may recover. Dr. Madden adds that Mr. Larned told him the Federal authorities owed him \$1,000,000 for gas machinery and he could get whenever he went to Washington for it. He also says Mr. Larned has written many pages of prose and verse lately without point or meaning, and displays the symptoms of advanced mental decay. He leaves money and packages in cars wherever he may be, and his wife and daughters have to watch him carefully for fear he may do himself or them some harm.

Mr. Larned is in his fifty-eighth year. When his mind began to fail he left the Associated Press and went to the Evening Post as one of its editors. He left there after a short stay and has since been doing special work for various newspapers. His wife and family live at Prospect Place, Brooklyn.

Beat Her Own Record.

New York, September 23.—When the Cunard steamship Etruria reached Sandy Hook lightship at 10.30 yesterday morning her 567 passengers had the distinction of having made the quickest passage from Queenstown to the lightship ever recorded. The Etruria had covered the distance between the two ports in six days, two hours and fifty minutes, beating by five minutes her record of last June, which was a day and a half longer. The steamer ran several days after she had the time would doubtless have been much better. The greatest distance covered in any one day on this line was 400 miles.

Shot For Interfering.

WILKESBARRE, September 23.—Denis Gallagher, a constable of this city, arrested a young man for disorderly conduct last night and after locking him up he was beset by friends of the prisoner, who followed him for some distance. He drew his revolver and flourished it to keep the crowd at bay. Policeman Broadhead attempted to arrest the constable for flourishing the weapon, but he resisted. Thomas Ryan, of Syracuse, N. Y., a bystander, stepped up and grasped the excited man by the arms, but he broke away and turned and shot him in the neck. Gallagher then submitted to arrest without further trouble. Ryan died to-night in the city hospital.

Robert Garret's Condition.

BALTIMORE, September 23.—An intimate friend of Robert Garrett, who has just returned from a visit to the invalid's New Jersey home, says that Mr. Garrett's condition is alarming and that he would not be surprised to hear of his death at any time. "During the past six weeks the sick man has lost flesh rapidly. Those who remember his round and ruddy face would scarcely recognize the sunken, emaciated features. His beard serves to some extent to conceal the hollowness of his face. Mr. Garrett's mind does not wander as much as it did, says his friend, but his physical condition indicates that he is in a rapid decline. He will not likely ever leave the cottage near Ringwood, N. J., in which he has been confined since his removal from New York."

A Farmer Brutally Murdered.

INDIANAPOLIS, September 23.—On Thursday night William Magill, a Nebraska farmer, who was in Indianapolis attending the state fair, was knocked by two negroes and when found by the police was in an unconscious condition with his skull crushed. He lived until Friday morning, but nothing more was known about the murder than could be told by a small boy, who was standing in the door of a stairway, saw Magill pass, followed by two negroes, whom he heard them say the negro they were pursuing must be assaulted, then they would get a better chance. "Let me strike him," said one of the negroes, and he ran up to Magill striking him down with a powerful blow from brass knuckles.

A wealthy brother of Magill's on hearing of the murder, offered a reward for the murderers, and last evening George Qumag, and Hegman Munce, two young negroes were arrested for the crime. They do not deny their guilt, but declare they had no criminal intent.

St. Louis "Mining Promoters."

There is one class of men in this city who should be gotten rid of, if possible, and that is the class of mining promoters. These men are leeches, at once upon the mine owners and the public, and have done more than any others to bring mines and mining into disrepute. These are the men who boom worthless mines, and nearly all properties which have resulted in loss to St. Louis investors were handled and boomed by these men. To the mine owner they are perfect sharks, and rob both him and the public. Their mode of procedure is as follows: A mine owner comes to them with a request that they place his property at a certain price, offering a fair remuneration for his services. This the promoter will not accept, but says that if the owner will represent his property as being of a greater value, he (the promoter) will negotiate a sale, giving the owner the amount of his original valuation, and retaining the excess himself. Thus a mine, which would pay well upon the price at which the owner is willing to sell, falls to yield an adequate return upon the inflated value due to the manipulations of the promoter, and miners and mining are brought into disrepute, and the public robbed for the benefit of the broker. All honest miners are most anxious to get rid of this old man of the sea, who has fixed himself upon the mining trade, and it is to be hoped that the public will soon learn to treat these men with the neglect they deserve.—Globe-Democrat Interview.

Civil Courts on the Continent.

I was very much interested in the mode of procedure in civil trials in courts on the continent on the occasion of my visit to Europe. In England a trial is conducted very much like it is in America—the attorneys examine, cross examine and re-examine witnesses at length, and the judge has very little to say. On the Continent the witness is examined by the judge, who asks all the questions and the lawyers have nothing to say. Especially is this true in Germany, France and Austria. I was much interested in a trial that I witnessed at Paris. There were three judges on the bench, and one of them, as if endeavoring to bring out all the facts, interrogated a witness in a very searching manner. It looked odd to see the lawyers in the case sitting opposite the judges but saying nothing; I don't think the average American lawyer could have stood it. At the conclusion of the evidence the lawyers can address the court, and when the verdict is returned an appeal to a higher court if they want.—Globe-Democrat.

A Generous Collector.

Thomas Collier, the New London poet, has a passion for collecting. His book of autographs of poets and literary people from all parts of the world is very complete and he takes much pride in exhibiting it to callers. At one time he was interested in collecting coins. He had a valuable series near completion when he learned that a friend had a similar series even nearer the full number than his own, and, further, that the coins missing from his friend's collection were all in his own. Without hesitation he despoiled his series of the coins required to complete his friend's, and sent them to him. It was an act of generosity that only those can fully appreciate who have been possessed of the collecting mania. Said Collier, making light of it: "What a man I would have been to play the dog in the manger just for a few coins. It was better that one collection should be complete than that both should ever remain imperfect."—New York Sun.

REFUTATION OF THE ARGUMENTS OF A MODERN MALTHUS.

In Almost Every Country There is Food to Spare—Why Malthus' Doctrine is no Longer Plausible—The Earth's Food Producing Capabilities.

The current number of The Forum contains a sprightly article by Thomas W. Knox, entitled "Standing Room Only." It shows that several countries in the world contain so many people that they can scarcely walk about without jostling each other. For example, the statement is made that Java has 235 inhabitants to the square mile, Japan 234, Italy 246, Belgium 491, and the Netherlands 312. The author then states that there is hardly a country whose population is diminishing, while that of most countries is increasing with wonderful if not with alarming rapidity. This increase of population is largely due to the absence of wars and better sanitary conditions. Mr. Knox thinks that it is time to study the philosophy of Malthus, who held that population, unchecked, increased in geometrical ratio, while food can only be made to increase in arithmetical ratio. He also argues that checks on population are absolutely necessary, and claims advantages for war, pestilence, famine and pest of the destructive vices. He states that few of the countries in which there is "standing room only" can produce food enough for the inhabitants, and shows by official census tables that the number of these countries is increasing very rapidly. He predicts that our own will be added to the list of overpopulated countries in no very distant future. At present few of the original thirteen states produce food enough to supply all the inhabitants. The line that divides the states that do not produce food enough for the people from those that do is constantly moving farther west.

NO CAUSE FOR ALARM.

This modern Malthus has no cause for alarm. In almost every country in the world there is food enough and to spare. In nearly every land food producers are discouraged by overproduction. At one time farmers found no fault with prices, but complained because they could raise but little. Now they complain of low prices, and find fault because so much is produced. English papers state that there was never a time in the history of the country when a day's wages would purchase so much food. During last year sugar sold for a penny a pound, and many farmers used it as a condiment or food for cattle and pigs. Fresh herrings sold in London markets for a halfpenny each, and the poorest laborers ate white bread, oranges and bananas. During several months small fruits were so cheap that they commanded only a nominal price, and some farmers and gardeners used them to fertilize their land. One vessel brought 40,000 carcasses of frozen mutton from one of the Fildland islands, where it was bought for a penny a pound. Two steamship companies paid a penny a bushel for the privilege of carrying wheat in bags from America to English ports, so that the grain of civilization was cheaper in Liverpool than in Baltimore. The price of farm products is so low in Great Britain that the owners of several large estates declare that they can realize more from them as game preserves than as cultivated farms.

The truth is, the doctrine of Malthus is an exploded humbug. It was a plausible theory at the time he wrote, but the introduction of machinery on farms, the use of steam in agriculture, the improvement in breeds of animals, the utilization of products formerly wasted, the new methods of preserving fruits, vegetables, meat and fish, and last, but not least, the increased speed of vessels and the low rates for carrying all kinds of articles intended for food, have produced a revolution and destroyed the philosophy of the pessimist of the dinner table. We hear of coal famines and water famines, but there are no food famines anywhere, and there is no prospect of any.

FOOD PRODUCING CAPABILITIES.

We have hardly begun to test the food producing capabilities of the earth. A German traveler declares that Liberia is capable of producing grain enough to supply all western Europe with bread. An English authority states that wheat was worth but ten cents a bushel in the interior of Asiatic Turkey last year, and that many farmers did not find it profitable to harvest their fields. The island of Hayti is capable of producing enough yams and bananas to feed 30,000,000 people. Hardly any portion of Africa except the narrow valley of the Nile has been brought under cultivation. But an insignificant part of Australia has been devoted to the production of food. South America, in the opinion of Humboldt, is the grand division of the earth capable of producing the most food; still a large portion of it remains unexplored, and no good farming is done in the parts that have been longest settled. It could be made not only the granary but the stock yard for supplying Europe with food. Wild cattle are almost as plentiful there as rabbits are in Australia, and thousands of them are killed every year for their hides and tallow. Sheep are raised with scarcely any care, and pigs turned into the forests become fat on nuts and wild fruit. No believer in Malthusian philosophy ever visited South America.

By selecting breeds of animals that mature early, and constantly supplying them with suitable food, steers are made to weigh as much when they are thirty months old as they formerly did at twice that age. By the general introduction of the silo the beef and mutton production of this country could be doubled, even if no more land was devoted to raising fodder crops. Our countryman, Seth Green, originated the expression "water farming," and demonstrated that an acre of water was capable of producing as much food as an acre of land. Experiments show that German carp can be raised at about half the price of the cheapest meat, and the prospect is that most of our small lakes and artificial ponds will soon be utilized for the production of food the same as they are in China and Japan. Food producers everywhere are crying for more mouths to feed, so that they can get a better price for what they raise. But the prospect is that the cost of nearly every kind of food will continue to decline, even if the population of the earth is doubled.—Chicago Times.

The Law in Michigan.

Advance agents of theatrical companies have to be cautious how they bill Michigan towns. The law of the state is very particular as to the kind of pictures displayed, and reads: "No sign, picture, painting, or other representation of murder, assassination, stabbing, fighting, or any personal violence, or of the commission of any crime, shall be posted, under penalty of fine or imprisonment." Even the picture of Virginia is "no good."

A Shovel of Christ's Time.

A young woman of Boston was recently presented with a very valuable coin, a shovel of the time of Christ. She took it to a jeweler to have it mounted with pearls as a broochpin; and when she went for it was horrified to find that the jeweler had assured off all the sacred sanctuaries of ages, and the shovel shone as bright as a new nickel.

"It was all right to forgive your enemies, but if you can kick 'em first it comes easier than it will last longer."—Carl Dand.

AMERICAN LABOR IN PERIL.

KNIGHTS OF LABOR SECRETARY LITCHMAN FOR PROTECTION.

The Republican Party the True Friend of the Workingman—Democracy's False Promises of Low Prices and Good Wages—A Worker for Harrison.

Charles H. Litchman, general secretary of the Knights of Labor, expresses his views on the political contest in progress as follows, in a letter to Senator Quay, chairman of the Republican national committee:

My connection with the labor movement for the past fourteen years has made it necessary for me to be a close student of causes of labor depression, and of the needs of those who toil. While as a body a labor organization may refrain from active participation in politics, so much of what organized labor demands must be obtained through legislation that the individual member of the labor organization must act politically as in his judgment will best aid the aims and objects expressed in the principles of the organization he represents and whose success he desires.

In the gigantic political struggle now begun side issues count as nothing except to add or hinder one of the principal combatants in the political arena. However sincere may be the advocates of the measure to secure which these separate political organizations are formed, and whatever strength in votes may be shown at the polls, the fact remains that the candidates of either the Republican or of the Democratic party will be the next president of the United States. Therefore to him who has the good of his country and the welfare of her people at heart the necessity exists to choose to which of these two old party organizations shall be given his aid, either directly or indirectly, by voice or vote.

While it may be that neither party offers all that labor organizations desire, I believe that the Republican party, in adopting and advocating the American system of encouragement and protection to the labor and wages of our own land, is nearer the declarations and desires of organized labor than its free trade opponents, the Democratic party.

The conflict is between the American system, as represented by the Republican party, which would foster and encourage the labor of our own people and retain for them the market and wages of our own country, and the British system, as represented by the Democratic party, which would break down the barriers of protection and throw open our home market to the production of foreign factories and foreign labor, thus making idle our own toilers and reducing to a lower level the standard of American wages.

When the Knights of Labor and kindred organizations shall have obtained in foreign lands the same commanding position and influence enjoyed in the United States the inequality of wages will disappear, not by leveling our wages down but by leveling their wages up. It is far better to level up than to level down, as the larger the income the larger the power to consume.

While under free trade goods may be cheaper to the consumer in certain lines, the labor made idle in those lines must turn to other means of employment and thus by competition compel a lower rate of wages to those already employed therein.

The power of a workingman to consume depends upon what he receives for his labor. Unemployed, his power to consume, except in charity or in theft, ceases. I prefer that America should be a land of workers rather than a land of thieves and paupers.

What is true of the individual is equally true of the nation.

The primary elements of national wealth and national prosperity are production, distribution and consumption. Whatever affects the power of labor to consume affects the entire interests of the nation. Whatever lowers the wages of labor affects its power to consume. An "average reduction" of 7 per cent. on the cost of goods imported will not compensate American labor for the loss of 100 per cent. in wages in the lines affected, and of 10 to 50 per cent. in wages in the lines of employment by the substitution of the free trade for the protective system. I hold it to be far wiser statesmanship to build up and retain our home market by a system that protects American labor than to command a market in foreign lands secured by the wholesale degradation and pauperization of our own people.

Every dollar's worth of labor imported is by so much a reduction of home laborer's wages. This axiom is not offset by the declaration that there are more goods in the imported dollar's worth. The position of the protectionist is rather strengthened by such specious presentation of the matter, because the question is then instantly forced upon every intelligent man, How can American labor earn dollars if the industry in which he is experienced is transferred to foreign lands? The theory of protection advocated by the Republican party is the same as the underlying principle upon which all labor organizations are founded. A friend to organized labor that believes in organization as a means to enhance and maintain wages cannot consistently oppose a party that applies to all labor the same principle of protection from unfair competition that the individual trade organization gives to the single trade. Trade organizations to aid in advancing wages in their respective trades and the protective system demanded by the Republican party will secure for all the toilers in the land a similar fostering care.

That this is clearly understood by most of the thinking leaders of organized labor is proved by the declaration recently made in favor of the American system and a home market by the presiding officers of the organization representing the iron and the glass industries of the United States. There is no better organization of any one trade than the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers. There is no trade more thoroughly organized or better disciplined than that of the Window Glass Workers, nor one in which higher wages are paid. The warnings of the officers representing these trades against free trade are very significant and should be heeded.

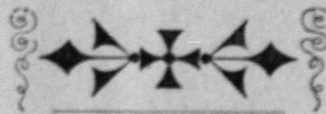
A careful consideration of all these facts convinces me that the present is a grave crisis in the political affairs of our country, and that I have no right to remain silent. My position as general secretary of the Knights of Labor has given me an intimate knowledge of the various phases of the labor question, and I do not hesitate to say that the triumph of the Democratic party, dominated by intolerance in the south and British free trade sentiment in the north, would be the most serious blow to organized labor it could possibly receive.

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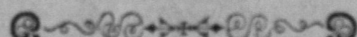
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