

The decay of French politeness has become a subject for passing concern on the part of the French themselves. It has been frequently remarked by visitors to France, who have alleged a change in French manners within the period of their recollection, says the Charleston News and Courier. The same phenomenon is something alleged of the weather in New England. Scientific meteorologists pooch pooh this. They declare it to be all out of the question for climate to be materially affected except by imperceptible processes requiring ages to show results. So as to politeness in France; some contend that the change is more apparent than real. Most of those taking part in the controversy insist or admit it to be a fact. These urge that the causes be identified and correctives applied. There is a disposition, of course, to attribute it to women, "especially elegant women whose ill-manners have no limit," as one expert submits. Is the matter worth serious consideration? Or, rather, should not the symptom be welcomed? Is not politeness itself a symptom of decay, like the beauty of old cathedrals, the mellowness of long-stored vintages, or the art of telling the truth? Man in a natural state is not remarkable for good manners and will lie cheerfully. That school which holds that the decadence of a people may be traced by observing its cultivation of the habit of telling the truth would probably reason that the diffusion of politeness is in the same way significant, if a less important barometer of falling physical and intellectual virility. A robust entity does not bother about etiquette.

Modern life is complicated. It is swift. We live at high tension. The sins of society people have become inured to them. Neurasthenia, one knows, is often the inevitable, though much-to-be-deprecated, result of going the pace, says the Cleveland Plain Dealer. But what is one to think of neurasthenia in the poultry yard? Comes a publication which devotes itself to poultry and other topics of the farm. In it a correspondent writes of the symptoms of one of his hens—listless, nervous, indifference to food and society. And the editor replies that the symptoms are those of a nervous disease, and he declares that the only cure for the hen is the rest cure in some quiet retreat, away from the feverish atmosphere of the poultry yard. This is a withering indictment of present-day civilization. A neuritic hen—think of that! A debutante of last season, no doubt, who should now be in the full feather of glorious youth a victim of nerves!

The form of Curtiss biplane which travels on the water and land as well as in the air is winning admiration at San Diego. The machine is a standard biplane equipped with bicycle wheels and a pontoon about three feet wide by twelve feet in length placed immediately beneath the aviator with its long axis at right angles to the planes. At the extremities of the lower plane are two small triangular copper tanks, whose function is to prevent the planes from cutting too deeply into the water. Mr. Curtiss seems to have thought of everything but a name for his novel craft. The suggestion that it be known as the hydroaeroplane shows closer acquaintance with the classics than with the habit of the American people to insist upon cutting long words short.

The February fire loss this year in the United States and Canada amounted to \$16,415,000. While a million more than the February loss last year and \$300,000 in excess of the February loss in 1909 this was five millions below the aggregate for last month, and somewhat below the average monthly loss during the twelve months last past. There is nothing alarming nor is there anything encouraging in the fire loss figures of the first two months of the present year. On account of a heavy loss in January, they are eight millions in excess of the total for the first two months of 1910, but half a million below that for the corresponding period of 1909.

Because a Chicago man insisted upon being a candidate for trustee of one of the large New York life insurance companies, the company has been obliged to spend about \$50,000 in having ballots and proxies printed in eleven different languages and mailing them in sealed envelopes to all parts of the world. He is the only candidate on the so-called policy holders' ticket, although 36 trustees are to be elected. It was a wise law which made provision for policy holders' tickets, but in this instance it has not been advantageous from a financial viewpoint, at least.

"Potentia," an international movement which tends to make all mankind as brothers and sisters, is the latest wrinkle among the highbrows. The dreamers of dreams continue to dream in spite of the prevalence of commercialism.

Now that we know the world to have been born at least 400,000,000 years ago. It is more than ever surprising how the frivolous blithering keeps up its perpetual giddy whirr.

FOR PUBLIC CONTROL

MAIL FOR REGULATION AS WELL AS PUBLICITY.

SAYS BOTH HERE TO STAY

Frank Recognition of Public Rights by the President of Western Union and Telephone Companies.

Public regulation of public service corporations has come to stay. It ought to have come and it ought to stay. That is the flat and unequivocal assertion of Theodore N. Vail, president of both the American Telephone and Telegraph company and the Western Union Telegraph company. It came in the form of his annual report to the seventy thousand stockholders of the two great corporations. Although Mr. Vail's advocacy of full publicity in connection with the affairs of such concerns was well understood, nobody in financial circles had anticipated so frank an avowal of full public rights in the shaping of their general conduct. It came consequently as a surprise, not only because of its novelty and squareness, but also on account of the unqualified acquiescence of a board of directors comprising such eminent and conservative financiers as Robert Winslow Kidder, Peabody & Co. and Henry L. Higginson of Boston, Henry P. Davison of J. P. Morgan & Co.; Senator W. Murray Crane, George F. Baer, T. Jefferson Coolidge Jr., Norman W. Harris, John I. Waterbury and others.

President Vail's declaration is heralded as the first recognition by those in high corporate authority of the justice of the demand that the public be regarded as virtual partners in all matters that pertain to the common welfare. He goes directly to the point.

"Public control or regulation of public service corporations by permanent commissions," he says, "has come and come to stay. Control, or regulation, to be effective means publicity; it means semi-public discussion and consideration before action; it means everything which is the opposite of and inconsistent with effective competition. Competition—aggressive, effective competition—means strife, industrial warfare; it means contention; it oftentimes means taking advantage of or resorting to any means that the conscience of the contestants or the degree of the enforcement of the laws will permit."

"Aggressive competition means duplication of plant and investment. The ultimate object of such competition is the possession of the field wholly or partially; therefore it means either ultimate combination on such basis and with such prices as will cover past losses, or it means loss of return on investment, and eventual loss of capital. However it results, all costs of aggressive, uncontrolled competition are eventually borne, directly or indirectly, by the public. Competition which is not aggressive, presupposes cooperative action, understandings, agreements, which result in general uniformity or harmony of action, which, in fact, is not competition but is combination, unstable, but for the time effective. When thoroughly understood it will be found that "control" will give more of the benefits and public advantages, which are expected to be obtained through such ownership, and will obtain them without the public burden of either the public officer-holder or public debt or operating deficit.

"When through a wise and judicious state control and regulation all the advantages without any of the disadvantages of state ownership are secured, state ownership is doomed."

"If Mr. Vail is right," says Harper's Weekly, "in a concise summing-up, then it seems pretty plain that we are entered upon a new era in both economics and politics. And it is high time we did it if evolution is to support revolution as an efficient force in the development of civilization."

Unreliable Physiognomy.

I am a profound disbeliever in physiognomy. Features are false witnesses. Stupidity frequently wears a mask of intelligence. I know business men who look like poets and poets who look like business men. Men of genius invariably look like idiots, and if you pick out the man who looks most eminent in a party you are sure to find he is a nobody. I always distrust men who look magnificent. Nature is a stinky creature. She seldom gives a man the double gift of being great and looking great. She took care to lame Byron and deform Pope and disfigure Johnson. But the crowning example of her jealous parsimony is Shakespeare. I have always been disappointed with Shakespeare's face. It does not live up to his poetry. It is dull, heavy and commonplace—Adventures in London.

Vegetable Fancy Work.

Little Mrs. Bride had almost everything to learn about housekeeping, but she was so enthusiastic in her interest that every one was glad to help her.

"I have some particularly fine asparagus," the marketman told her one day, and he displayed a bunch for her admiration. "Picked not three hours ago," he added.

Mrs. Bride looked at it with unfettered amazement.

"Does it grow like that?" she asked.

"I always supposed the cook braided the ends of it."—Youth's Companion.

Poor Green.

"Green's wife is a suffragette, isn't it?"

"Yes, and Green says he wouldn't mind that so much if she didn't always get on as though it is his fault she can't vote."

Neighboring Comment.

"What do you think of Mrs. Gamble's idea of keeping Lent conditions?"

"Laughing from my experience of her, I think it is in never returning anything she borrows."

SIXTY PERISH IN BIG MINE FIRE

Four Hundred Men Stampede in Race With Death.

EXITS SHUT OFF BY FLAMES.

Fire at Foot of Shaft of Pancoast Colliery, Near Scranton, Pa., Causes Explosion and Kills Mine With Smoke.

Scranton, Pa.—One of the most serious mine disasters which has ever visited this section of the mining country occurred at the little village of Throop, a short distance from this city, when the lives of between 50 and 60 men and boys were snuffed out.

Among those known to have perished are Joseph Evans, who was in charge of the United States mine rescue car; Isaac Daves, a fire boss, and Walter Knight, a foreman. Evans' death was the result of a defective oxygen-charged armor.

Charles Enzian, the noted expert in general charge of mine rescue work for the Federal government, was also overcome and is said to be in a critical condition tonight.

As rescuers entered the mine they stumbled over three bodies. One of these was Joseph Evans. He was seen to wrench his helmet from his head. It had evidently failed to work. Evans was carried to the open air as quickly as possible, but he had inhaled so much smoke and gas from the burning coal that he died within a few hours. Enzian's experience was similar to that of Evans.

Up to a late hour nearly two-score of bodies had been piled at the bottom of the shaft, but it was thought advisable not to bring them to the surface until the crowd had dwindled. A temporary morgue had been erected at the opening to the mine, and here were congregated hundreds of women and children, relatives of the men and boys who had been so suddenly snatched from them. Their grief was pitiful, children of tender years clinging to the skirts of their mothers, while older male members of the family sought to soften the anguish of the distracted mothers and sisters of the unfortunate men and boys.

None of the bodies recovered was mutilated, death doubtless having been caused by inhaling flames and gases.

To those familiar with the conditions in the Pancoast Colliery the finding of the bodies indicated that there was practically no hope for the other imprisoned miners. A great majority of the missing men and boys are foreigners, Foreman Walter Knight and Fire Boss Alfred Daves being two Americans who are thought to have perished.

AIMED AT THE CZAR

Resolutions in House to Abrogate the Treaty With Russia.

Washington, D. C.—Representative Sulzer, of New York, introduced in the House a joint resolution directing the President to terminate the treaty between the United States and Russia because of discrimination against American citizens of Jewish origin.

Makes 145 Fire Dead.

New York.—Death claimed the one hundred and forty-sixth victim of the Triangle Waist Company holocaust Friday, when 15-year-old Annie Miller succumbed to injuries received in jumping from the burning Astor Building. The girl died in St. Vincent's Hospital after being unconscious for more than two days.

Government Seizes Rifles.

Douglas, Ariz.—Two cases of Springfield rifles with bayonets, conveyed from a St. Louis firm to El Paso, and thence to this city, were confiscated by A. H. Thompson, special agent for the Department of Justice.

Campaign Publicity Bill.

Washington, D. C.—Representative McCall, of Massachusetts, reintroduced in the House a bill providing for the publicity of campaign contributions in congressional elections prior to the election. Mr. McCall's bill last year passed the House, but was amended in the Senate to provide publication after the election. As campaign publicity is one of the Democratic plans for the extra session, it is likely that the McCall bill will be laid aside and a similar bill introduced by a Democrat passed.

Eat Their Sick Hogs.

Salisbury, Pa.—Following an investigation by the State Department of Health the epidemic of typhoid fever at Isella is attributed to the consumption of cholera-tainted pork and to a contaminated water supply. During the last year 49 nearby hogs had cholera. Most of them were killed by the health authorities. Some foreigners, not liking to lose their hogs, butchered and ate the animals, as soon as they showed signs of illness.

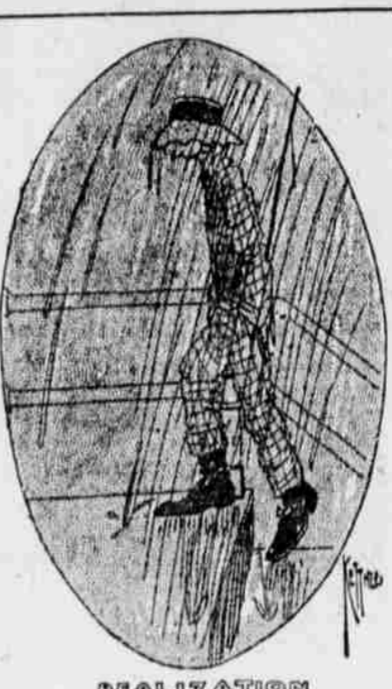
Last Pawnshop to Go.

Paterson, N. J.—The only remaining pawnshop in town is soon to be closed as the result of a reform movement.

LIFE'S DISAPPOINTMENTS



ANTICIPATION (Copyright, 1911)



REALIZATION

CRAIG LIPPINCOTT A SUICIDE!

Prominent Publisher Shoots Himself in Philadelphia—Ill Health as Motive.

Philadelphia.—Craig Lippincott, 64 years old, president of the publishing firm of the J. B. Lippincott Company, art patron, clubman and society man of prominence, shot and killed himself in his home, 218 West Rittenhouse Square.

The wound which killed Mr. Lippincott was self-inflicted. It was admitted in a formal statement made by officers of the publishing concern and confirmed by Coroner Ford in an interview.

The statement issued by the publishing house is as follows: "During a period of temporary aberration Craig Lippincott, president of the J. B. Lippincott Company, shot and killed himself at his residence in this city. The business of the publishing house will not be affected by Mr. Lippincott's death."

SOUGHT BY THE JAPS

12,700 Square Miles of Magdalena Bay Now For Sale.

Tacoma, Wash.—The practical completion of arrangements for the sale of the Flores-Hale estate, comprising 12,700 square miles on Magdalena Bay, on the peninsula of Lower California, was announced by Ezra P. Savage, ex-governor of Nebraska, who is one of the owners. The land is owned by a syndicate of Eastern men.

Swallowed Steel Points.

Ithaca, N. Y.—Surgeons removed 16 steel compass points from the stomach of Instructor T. J. Williams, who had placed the points in a capsule for safekeeping and then swallowed the capsule by mistake. He will probably recover.

Plans to Prevent Deadlocks.

Washington, D. C.—A bill providing for the election of United States Senators by a plurality vote of State Legislatures was introduced in the Senate by Senator Root, of New York. The purpose of the measure is to prevent deadlocks in elections.

Women to Wear Suspenders.

Philadelphia.—Dr. Moses Stearn, many times candidate for Mayor of Philadelphia, sees in the bare skirt the moral uplift of the human race, the physical betterment of womanhood and the reduced cost of living.

Full Time in Pittsburg Mills.

Pittsburg.—Orders have been issued this week in practically all of the wire and mill mills of the Pittsburg district to place those plants on full time, owing to the overcrowding of business for the spring season.

Another Hero Fund.

Stockholm, Sweden.—Andrew Carnegie has donated \$220,000 for a hero fund for Sweden. It is announced.

Pass Ohio Utilities Bill.

Columbus, O.—The House passed the Winters public utilities bill, under which the State Railroad Commission is given stock control over all public utilities, including steam and electric railways, and rate control over utilities, save those which get franchises from City Councils.

Woman Editor Dead.

Rockland, Mass.—Miss Hulda D. Lour, editor and proprietor of the Rockland Independent, died in the house where she was born 66 years ago. She was a sister of the late Congressman Eugene F. Loud, of California. Miss Loud was one of the first women in Massachusetts to exercise the cause of woman suffrage, and for several years she expounded her views on that question from the lecture platform.

Nearly Fed Child to Hogs.

Roxana, Del.—Falling into a slop barrel, a 2-year-old daughter of Benjamin Johnson was drowned. The child was playing in the yard at the time and her disappearance was not noticed for some time. The body was not found until the father went to the barrel to feed the hogs.

Last Pawnshop to Go.

Paterson, N. J.—The only remaining pawnshop in town is soon to be closed as the result of a reform movement.

TAFT'S MESSAGE TO CONGRESS

Reciprocity Only Question Taken Up by President—Considered it His Duty.

Washington, D. C.—The President sent to Congress his message asking the passage of the Canadian Reciprocity Agreement. The document is short and concerns itself only with the trade pact. Mr. Taft explains he thought his "utmost efforts" included calling the special session. He said: To the Senate and House of Representatives:

I transmitted to the Sixty-first Congress, on January 26 last, the text of the reciprocal trade agreement which had been negotiated under my direction by the Secretary of State with the representatives of the Dominion of Canada. This agreement was the consummation of earnest efforts extending over a period of nearly a year on the part of both governments to effect a trade arrangement which, supplementing as it did, the amicable settlement of various questions of a diplomatic and political character that had been reached would mutually promote commerce and would strengthen the friendly relations now existing.

The agreement, in its intent and in its terms, was purely economic and commercial. While the general subject was under discussion by the commissioners I felt assured that the sentiment of the people of the United States was such that they would welcome a measure which would result in the increase of trade on both sides of the boundary line, would open up the reserve productive resources of Canada to the great mass of our own consumers on advantageous conditions and at the same time offer a broader outlet for the excess products of our farms and many of our industries. Details regarding a negotiation of this kind necessarily could not be made public while the conferences were pending. When, however, the full text of the agreement, with the accompanying correspondence and data explaining both its purpose and its scope, became known to the people through the measure transmitted to Congress it was immediately apparent that the ripened fruits of the careful labors of the commissioners met with widespread approval. This approval has been strengthened by further consideration of the terms of the agreement in all their particulars. The volume of support which has developed shows that its broadly national scope is fully appreciated and is responsive to the popular will.

The House of Representatives of the Sixty-first Congress, after the full text of the arrangement with all the details to the different provisions had been before it as they were before the American people, passed a bill confirming the agreement as negotiated and as transmitted to Congress. This measure failed of action in the Senate.

In my transmitting message of the 26th of January I fully set forth the character of the agreement and emphasized its appropriateness and necessity as a response to the mutual needs of the people of the two countries, as well as its common advantages. I now lay that message and the reciprocal trade agreement as integrally part of the present message before the Sixty-second Congress, and again invite earnest attention to the considerations therein expressed.

I am constrained in deference to popular sentiment and with a realizing sense of my duty to the great masses of our people whose welfare is involved, to urge upon your consideration early action on this agreement. In concluding the negotiations, the representatives of the two countries bound themselves to use their utmost efforts to bring about the tariff changes provided for in the agreement by concurrent legislation at Washington and Ottawa. I have felt it my duty, therefore, not to acquiesce in relegation of action until the opening of the Congress in December, but to use my constitutional prerogative and convoke the Sixty-second Congress in extra session in order that there shall be no break of continuity in considering and acting upon this most important subject.

The White House, April 5, 1911. (Signed) WILLIAM H. TAFT.

Against Woman Mayor.

Hunnell, Kan.—After winning the mayoralty in a fair fight and with a heavy handicap, Mrs. Ella Wilson has been counted out and the certificate of election goes to her opponent, O. M. Akers, city clerk. Her prompt action in hiring an attorney to protect her interests, however, may cause a reversal of the procedure by which her successful vote was annulled. She has convinced the city attorney of the error.

Women to Wear Suspenders.

Philadelphia.—Dr. Moses Stearn, many times candidate for Mayor of Philadelphia, sees in the bare skirt the moral uplift of the human race, the physical betterment of womanhood and the reduced cost of living.

Full Time in Pittsburg Mills.

Pittsburg.—Orders have been issued this week in practically all of the wire and mill mills of the Pittsburg district to place those plants on full time, owing to the overcrowding of business for the spring season.

Another Hero Fund.

Stockholm, Sweden.—Andrew Carnegie has donated \$220,000 for a hero fund for Sweden. It is announced.

Pass Ohio Utilities Bill.

Columbus, O.—The House passed the Winters public utilities bill, under which the State Railroad Commission is given stock control over all public utilities, including steam and electric railways, and rate control over utilities, save those which get franchises from City Councils.

Woman Editor Dead.

Rockland, Mass.—Miss Hulda D. Lour, editor and proprietor of the Rockland Independent, died in the house where she was born 66 years ago. She was a sister of the late Congressman Eugene F. Loud, of California. Miss Loud was one of the first women in Massachusetts to exercise the cause of woman suffrage, and for several years she expounded her views on that question from the lecture platform.

WILLIAMS DYING HIS ARMY CRUSHED

American Leader's Band Fought Against Fearful Odds.

MACHINE GUNS DID THE WORK.

Frightfully Wounded, Former U. S. Soldier is Being Cared For in Army Hospital—Dream of Empire Over.

Mexicalca, Mexico.—Gen. Stanley Williams, most spectacular and bravest of all the Insurrecto leaders, whose bold assaults on Mexican Federal forces have made the western branch of the Mexican revolution bloody enough for any one, is dying.

Regardless of the fact that Williams is a deserter from the Ninth United States Infantry, and considering only that he is a brave man who is about to breathe his last, United States officials were the first to offer their services when he was brought in here fatally wounded from the bloody battlefield of the Mesa, five miles south of here.

Most remarkable of all is that the hospital in the Custom House, where Williams is now lying, is a regular army hospital. There his record of desertion has been forgotten, and he is being given every attention.

The Insurrecto commander, bravely wounded from a shell explosion. A piece of the shell tore his head horribly, and this is the wound which was diagnosed as fatal.

Meanwhile the other 20 survivors of Williams' force of 80 men, all of them more or less injured, are being treated in private hospitals in Mexicalca by Dr. W. B. Larkins, of this place, with what assistance he can get from across the water.

The battle of the Mesa was short and bloody. Williams marched on with his 80 men to attack Col. Miguel Mayot and his 500 men stationed about five miles south of here. At the first clash the little band of Insurrectos seemed to have the advantage, but when field pieces were brought up by the Federalists the slaughter of the attacking force was quick and terrible.

"Social Utopia" Fails.

Mexicalca, Mexico.—Gen. Stanley Williams, who was wounded Saturday in the spectacular assault where his little force of 80 men engaged the entire Eighth Battalion of the Mexican army, died Sunday in the improvised hospital established by the United States troops at Calisteca.

Together with the other dead brought from the battle field five miles away, the fallen chieftain was buried at night in the little graveyard at Mexicalca, just behind the breastworks.

"The war is over in Lower California. The dream of establishment of a socialistic utopia has evaporated."

This is the opinion of officers of the United States Army here, based on the defeat of General Williams.

A HUNDRED CONVICTS DEAD

Working in Mine When Explosion Snuffs Out Lives—Loss of Life Total 115.

Littleton, Ala.—Of the 115 miners who are believed to have met death in the explosion at the Banner mine of the Pratt Consolidated Coal Company, near here, less than half a dozen bodies have been recovered. The deadly black damp, due to the destruction of the ventilating fans by the explosion, was a menace to all who attempted to enter the workings and it may be several days before all the dead have been recovered.

The dead are: Eighty-five negro convicts. Twenty white convicts. Five free white men. Five bodies of negro convicts recovered.

It was shown by a checking of employes that 45 men escaped from the shaft after the explosion.

Clark McCormick, son of General Manager H. E. McCormick, of the Pratt Consolidated Coal Company, owners of the mine, made a dash into the workings and after returning to the surface said that the interior presented a scene of indescribable horror and that dead bodies surrounded him on all sides.

While no official statement has been made, it is believed the explosion was caused by safety powder ignited by a lamp and followed by dust.

"Hard Luck" Loan Fund.

New Orleans, La.—Through the efforts of Rev. G. H. Hines a loan fund has been established by the stewards of his church, the St. Charles Avenue Methodist Episcopal church, and money is loaned without interest to worthy men and women who are in financial trouble. "The pastor says: 'We have found that many men and women who have had what is usually termed bad luck can be saved from a heartbreaking failure by financial assistance.'"

National University Again.

Washington, D. C.—The establishment of the United States University in the National Capitol is provided for in a bill introduced by Senator Borah. It is proposed to furnish general training for the public service and an honorary George Washington degree in consideration of some distinguished services rendered by the Nation is authorized. The bill proposes an appropriation of \$1,000,000 annually for 10 years to establish the University and its maintenance.