

THE AGE OF ALUMINIUM

The World Shall Shine with New Luster.

TWENTIETH CENTURY PROPHECY.

Professor Ridpath Foresees Great Things Secretary Noble on the Development of the West—Secretary Foster and H. Walter Webb on Railway Speed—Shall We Have a New White House?

Among the greatest changes which the fifth Columbian year will discover will be the substitution of aluminium for iron and of sound for sight in the work of learning. These things civilization demands and will find in the Twentieth century. Both of these substitutions imply a striking change in the relations of man to the laws of his environment.

The progress of the human race has been marked and recorded at every stage by the use of materials found in the earth. The present civilization of the world is founded on iron. For nearly 3,000 years iron has been the most important material substance in the arts of life. We live in an age of iron. The whole present fabric is built almost exclusively on this coarse, strong metal. The age of iron marks the first emergence of mankind into the conscious state. Before the epoch of national consciousness there had been two ages of stone. Barbarism has always had stone for its substance and symbol. In the intermediate stages of man life the race advanced to copper and then to bronze. The age of copper came and then a longer age of bronze. Finally came the age of iron. It has been the age of battle and power and conquest. Civilization has caught her hue and quality from that material substance to which she has owed her preservation.

We are not to suppose that the age of iron will last forever. Nothing lasts forever. All things obey the law of evolution and transformation. Just as stone and bronze have given place to iron, so shall iron give place to aluminium. The people will not call it aluminium or aluminum, but alum—for short. There will be an age of alum surpassing all the previous ages of man's development. The age of power and conquest shall yield to an age of glory and enlightenment, and of that age aluminium will be the shining symbol. That beautiful, universal and everlasting metal, constituting as it does so large a part of the earth's surface and body, will bear up the whole stupendous edifice of knowledge and progress which shall rise around our descendants in the closing decade of the Twentieth century.

The world shall shine with the new luster of its principal metal. All things shall become whiter than silver. All the exterior aspects of life shall be brightened to brightness. The houses and cities of men, built of aluminium, shall flash in the rising sun with surpassing brilliancy. All spirals and walls, all gateways and porches, all bridges and temples, all moving machinery and faroff battlements shall blaze with a splendor befitting the new dawn of the ages to come.

The second great change from the fourth to the fifth Columbian year will be the substitution of sound for sight. It will be the restoration of the human ear to its rightful office as the organ of enlightenment and learning. The sound wave is to be substituted for the light wave as the vehicle of all our best ideas and intercourse. The ear is to take the place of the eye for the interest and instruction of mankind. A most unnatural thing has happened in human development. The life of all ages has been instructed by sound.

All mothers, from the mother bird to the mother woman, teach their offspring by sound, by utterance. But instead of continuing this natural process of instruction to the complete development of the mind an abnormal method has been substituted. The youth at a certain age is led into a world of science and there dismissed to acquire if he can the painful use of meaningless hieroglyphics. There he must study with the eyes, learning the sense of crooked marks which can at most signify no more than words. Alas, how much of energy and life and thought have been wasted in the instruction of the mind by characters and symbols! How the eyes of mankind have been dimmed and eclipsed and the faculties overtaxed by this unnatural process of learning!

Man begins his acquirement of knowledge with words, and he ends with words. But an unnatural civilization has taught him to walk the greater part of his intellectual journey by means of arbitrary systems of writing and printing. The fifth Columbian year will see him untaught—a hard thing withal—and taught on nature's plan of utterance. Nature teaches by sound only. Artificiality writes a scroll. Nature's book is a book of words. Man's book is still a book of signs and symbols. Nature's book utters itself to the ear, and man's book blinds the eyes and overheats the imagination. Nature's method is to teach by the ear and to save the sight for the discovery of place and beauty.

The fifth centennial of our discoverer will bring us the sound book in some form, and with that the intellectual equipage of mankind will begin to be restored. The use of the eyes for the offices of learning in place of the stronger ear has destroyed the equilibrium of the human mind. That equilibrium must be restored. The mental diseases and unrest of our race are largely attributable to the overexertment of the faculties through ages of seeing.

The age of hearing is to come with the Twentieth century. That age will restore the balance. Memory, almost obliterated, will come again. The perceptions will cool. The imagination will become calm, and the eye itself will recover from the injuries of overstrain and regain its power and luster. Man will see once more as the eagle sees and will know Shakespeare by heart. He will remember ear has destroyed the equilibrium of the human mind. That equilibrium must be restored. The mental diseases and unrest of our race are largely attributable to the overexertment of the faculties through ages of seeing.

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deed wonderful. Here runs a ditch skirted by a hedge. On one side is the desert, a barren plain, only sagebrush and cactus growing out of its parched soil, on the other side waving fields of alfalfa, grain, vegetables and other crops, rich and luxuriant. The alfalfa produces three crops in a year and is splendid food for sheep and cattle. It needs no prophetic eye to see this region all subjected to irrigation and one of the greatest agricultural countries in the world. With agriculture and mining manufacturing will follow. The market will constantly move nearer instead of getting farther away.

"Vast sections of our country, now inhabited only by coyotes and roaming red skins, will become the seat of the empire of a hundred years hence. I have no fear that America will grow too big. This republic is not going to get so large that it will fall to pieces of its own weight, nor will the people, widely separated by distance, suffer from lack of heterogeneousness or common sympathy.

"Notwithstanding wonderful things at this day to me in the far west is the likeness of the people there to the people of the Atlantic seaboard. They are with us in thought, speech, in feeling, in aspirations, in patriotism. Indeed they have more patriotism than we seem to have farther north. The warmer appears the love of the United States, the more eager our citizens to float the stars and stripes. Up in Montana near the British line I found American citizens who kept their flags flying day and night, so anxious were they to advertise their country and their loyalty to it.

"Notwithstanding the vastness of our area and the immense distances between our far eastern and our far western possessions, every truly national thought appears to be known in one place as quickly as in the other. What some of us have happily called thought waves go over this country with astonishing rapidity. The habits of the people are substantially the same—the forms of speech, the idioms, even the slang. We are indeed one.

"If this is true now with our present methods of communication, how much truer will it be 100 years hence, when to the mail and the telegraph, the railway and the steamship, are added postal telegraphy, electric railways, long distance and short distance telephoning as cheap and common as post routes, and heaven only knows what inventions besides for facilitating and cheapening communication and transportation? Go into the patent office, which is a part of this great work, and see what has been done in 100 years. With that before him no man dare set a limit as to what may be done in the next 100 years.

"As our country grows in both area and population the means of communication will become more and more perfect, and lower forms and farther away will be as near to Massachusetts, New York and Ohio in thought and sympathy as people of adjoining states or communities are to each other. But for these means of quick, cheap and easy communication, preserving heterogeneousness among the people and maintaining sympathy and understanding between them, the future of this great republic would not be as bright as it is.

"A hundred years hence these United States will be an empire such as the world never before saw, and such as will exist nowhere else upon the globe. In my opinion, the richest part of it, and a section fully as populous as the east, will be in the region beyond the Mississippi."

Vice President Webb on Railway Development. It is not easy to make any positive predictions about the increase in railway speed, or at least to put a limit upon the possibility of swift travel in the next century, yet it is safe to make some approximate suggestions based upon judgments that come from the experience of today.

A few years ago an express speed of thirty-five miles an hour was regarded as fast travel. Today there are a number of trains which make regular runs of between forty and fifty miles an hour, and there is one train running from New York to Buffalo on the New York Central, a distance of 444 miles, at an average speed of about fifty-three miles an hour. This same train has made the run once at an average of less than a mile a minute, and it frequently attains a speed of as much as seventy or seventy-five miles an hour.

This experience, which is comparatively recent, has convinced me that we are still far from the limit of what may be expected by travelers in the Twentieth century. I expect to see even before the Twentieth century trains running regularly at an average of sixty miles an hour, and I have no doubt at all that early in the next century there will be a number of trains on some of the greater roads which will make time will call for as much as 100 miles an hour. I have no doubt that a traveler early in the next century will be able to get his breakfast in New York and his evening dinner in Chicago.

We have already learned how to construct locomotives which are capable of making ninety miles and more an hour, and we have learned how best to utilize their enormous powers. Given the perfect locomotive—and we have very nearly secured the perfect machine of this sort—we need only two or three other conditions. There must be a perfectly constructed track and roadbed. It must have inappreciable grades and very slight curves. It must be so made as to be elastic and yet withstand easily the strain caused by high speed. Then we must have a perfect signal system. That I am sure will be developed.

The block system of today is sufficiently thorough to make the high rates of speed attained by trains on my own road, for instance, possible. There should be no grade crossings—these eat up time dreadfully sometimes—and passenger cars must be light, but very strong, and the number of them limited to a high speed train. We need the best coal and of course highly trained employees. With these conditions—and they are sure to be obtained early in the next century—I feel safe in saying that regularly scheduled daily trains running 100 miles an hour will be advertised by many of the railway companies.

The question of safety and of popularity will be no more considered than are the same questions when a person enters an ordinary express train of the present time. With the conditions that I have described above, a train running 100 miles an hour is just as safe as one running forty. In either case if an accident happens it is likely to prove disastrous. The tendency of the time is toward rapid travel, and it has already been discovered that these fastest trains are not an experiment, but are put on the roads in response to a public demand.

H. WALTER WEBB.

Secretary Charles Foster on the Uses of Electricity.

[From Our Washington Correspondent.] Secretary Foster, of the treasury department, looks to see the people of the United States traveling at the rate of a hundred miles an hour a hundred years hence by means of electrical railways. "While traveling in the west a few months ago," said the secretary, "I read in a newspaper the

advertisement of the company which has projected an electric railway from Chicago to St. Louis. As I understand it, they are going ahead in a businesslike way, making contracts for construction, having passed through the experimental stage and reached the plane of reality and commercial certainty. Their expectation is to make the journey from Chicago to St. Louis in two hours and a half at the rate of a hundred miles an hour.

"It occurred to me then that these men must know what they are about, and that if a hundred miles an hour can be realized with safety and economy in this century it is not too much to say that 50 per cent. greater speed, or possibly 100 per cent., will be reached a hundred years hence. Still, to be conservative and within the limits of the probable, I will estimate that in the year 1992 it will be a common thing to travel from New York to Chicago in seven or eight hours.

"I remember also reading a short time ago in one of Walter Wellman's letters that Thomas A. Edison, the greatest genius of this century, says electricity is terrestrial magnetism, and that the universe is full of it. According to Edison, the present system of producing electricity by friction is very expensive compared with what may be done by simple processes. Edison believes electricity may be pumped out of the earth, or the sea, or the air, just as water is pumped out of a stream, the only thing necessary being to find the form of pump that will do the trick.

"This, I understand, Edison is now looking for and experimenting with. He may estimate his future accomplishment by what he has already done he will succeed in finding the pump that will extract electricity or terrestrial magnetism, or whatever it is, from the earth at a cost so low as to make electricity the universal power. Imagine the revolution that will come in all civilization processes, and how one succeeds in doing this. Given electricity at one-tenth the present cost, and electrical power will become universal. Steam and all other sorts of power will be displaced, and with invention stimulated, as it will be, by the extraordinary cheapness of the new power, what we do not expect in the way of rapid transit, household conveniences, electrical carriages to take the place of horses, elevators in business and private houses, and all sorts of machinery?

"If this theory of Edison proves to be correct, and the electrical experts are not mistaken in their plans for rapid travel, the next hundred years will develop changes more stupendous than have been shown by the last hundred, in which pretty nearly every useful thing there is in the world has been invented. I cannot rid myself of the belief that we are on the eve of an industrial revolution as a result of electrical research and experiment, and I take much heart from the reflection that the people of the United States are likely to be the first to feel the good effect of the new dispensation—are, in fact, as is their wont, to lead the nations on to a more perfect and perhaps as yet undreamed of civilization."

Elijah W. Halford on the White House of the Future.

[From Our Washington Correspondent.] "In the executive mansion of a hundred years hence," said President Halford, private secretary, Elijah W. Halford, "I think I can see the present building as the central part. There is no doubt that this building will soon have to be enlarged. There is not room enough in it for the family and the office of the president and for the social entertainments and public levees which tradition requires the president to give. But I do not think the people will ever consent to the destruction of this house. Too many memories cling about it; too many of the great men and great events of the country's history have been associated with it.

"Since I have been here I have often wondered at the skill with which our forefathers built this mansion. A hundred years have passed since its foundations were started—the cornerstone of the White House was laid a century ago the 14th day of October—and it is a good, serviceable and comfortable house still. Its only deficiency is in the matter of room. It is stately, elegant, impressive. In its enlargement I think some such plan as that suggested by the late Mrs. Harrison will be followed—preservation of the present structure and throwing out of wings on either side. That would give room for the living apartments of the president's family, for the public offices and for the ceremonial or social functions which must take place in the president's house.

"The White House of the future will, therefore, in my opinion, be simply the White House of the present enlarged. I do not believe it will ever be found desirable to separate the president's residence from his office. My four years' experience here has convinced me, moreover, that in the future the private secretary to the president and his family should also be provided with living apartments in the executive mansion. The president of the United States finds it necessary to work nearly all the time, and when he works he wants his private secretary close at hand. This means the night as well as the day.

"Probably more than half the evenings of the last four years I have spent in my office, busy either with my own work or standing ready to assist the president. To do this I have had to leave my own home night after night, often at such inconvenience. The private secretary should have his home in a part of the executive mansion set apart for his use, and this necessity should be recognized in the enlargement of the house and should be made a part of the law under which the mansion is re-created.

"A hundred years hence I think the president of the United States will have much less concern with his duties than he has now, though the country will be twice as great and the government correspondingly larger, for long before that time presidents will cease to give personal consideration to a myriad of matters which now consume their time and their energies. The president of the future will not, in my opinion, pay any attention to minor appointments.

"Every government post, aside from cabinet ministers, foreign ministers and a few bureau officers and perhaps a score or so of the most important administrative offices, will be filled by heads of departments without so much as consultation with the president. Under the present system four members of the president's time is taken with these minor appointments. He is perplexed, annoyed, worn out by them. His energies are so sapped that it is only by tremendous sacrifice of comfort and strength that he is able to give thought and study to the important and serious matters of state demanding his attention.

"Mr. Blaine said to me a year or two ago that he believed the day was soon coming when a president would not permit himself to be bothered about postmasters and collectors and consult any more than a railway president would spend his time hiring brakemen and track repairs. My observation in the White House has been that some such change in administrative methods is not only desirable, but absolutely necessary in the near future."

FROM SUBURBAN POINTS.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE OF NEIGHBORING TOWNS.

Blizzard Weather Has No Effect Upon "Tribune" Reporters, Who Face the Storm and Gather News in Drifton, Jeddo, Upper Lehigh and Eckley.

Special and regular correspondence from the surrounding towns is solicited by the TRIBUNE. All writers will please send their names to this office with communications intended for publication, in order that the editor may know from whom the correspondence comes.

DRIFTON ITEMS.

Mrs. William McTague was on the sick list last week.

The whole force of D. S. & S. employees were on duty yesterday.

James McCarty was on a business trip to Wilkes-Barre on Friday.

D. J. Kennedy, one of the blacksmiths at No. 2 shop, was ill last week.

Miss Josie Lockman, of Hazleton, was here among friends yesterday.

The collieries were idle one day last week on account of severe weather.

Petitions for and against the new county are being circulated through town.

Mrs. Cornelius Boner and son Michael were visiting relatives here last week.

Miss Katie O'Donnell spent a few days among Beaver Meadow friends last week.

Mrs. Daniel Gallagher, of Stockton, was the guest of Mrs. John Burns yesterday.

John Dagon, who had his foot blown off with a dunnell some time ago, resumed work last week.

Miss Annie O'Donnell, one of our highly respected young ladies, was lying seriously ill last week.

Before another week elapses, it is said, more motive power will be added to the D. S. & S. force.

Several of our young men attended the "Nabob" at Hazleton opera house on Thursday evening.

A sleighing party consisting of two sleighs left here last week and enjoyed a pleasant trip to Beaver Meadow and vicinity.

John Lickwer, the Hungarian who was robbed and beaten a week ago, left on Thursday for the old country. He will carry home with him the marks of his adventure with the robbers.

Many of our residents have surveyed and formed an opinion concerning the electric road which is to reach here sometime. To please the people of town it should be in running order before July 4.

The new vein of coal which has been located in the vicinity of Buck Mountain is said to be a very valuable find. Rumor has it that as soon as the weather opens a branch of the D. S. & S. will be extended in that direction and the product will be brought to Eckley, where it will be prepared for market.

Two of our young men, who swing the shovel in the mines for a living, claim they have solved the problem of perpetual motion. The apparatus has no resemblance to a political machine, but to show the public what it is like it will be given a trial in opposition to the many machines which will be in use tomorrow.

JEDDO NEWS.

It came on Saturday—pay day.

Patrick Sharp is the happiest man in town. A fine child.

Peter D. Gallagher spent Saturday evening in Hazleton on business.

A sleighing party of the borough people had a pleasant time one night last week.

School Director Timoney attended a meeting of the board at Hazleton on Saturday evening.

James Gallagher and John McGinnis, of Letimer, were in town one evening last week on business.

Walter Hincetrack has resigned his position and moved to Cross addition, Freeland. It is said he has accepted a position under Cox & Bros. & Co.

St. Valentine's day was not observed this year as formerly. The many lovely tokens that our young people expected did not come. Disappointment is not a pleasant thing. Is it girls?

A new drama in three acts is under consideration by our actors. It is entitled, "Christopher Columbus." The cast is rather strong for amateurs and the costumes too expensive, though the play is interesting and well written.

There is quite a contest going on in this vicinity between the opponents and friends of the new county. A petition has been in circulation for the scheme, but up to date has not been very successful. Of course there are no property holders in town or the opposition would be more active. Nevertheless this does not prevent a higher tax rate being levied on occupation, etc., and as this is already too high the majority of the people believe in letting well enough alone. On the other hand, those who believe in the scheme are a few who are fired with political ambition and can see a slim hanging from a branch of the new county which they may be able to pluck at no distant day. They are not particular who pays the taxes as long as there is a chance for them to feed at the public crib. But the company officials have not spoken on the subject yet, and as it will concern them more than anyone else we believe when they do speak it will settle the matter, as a boss traveling through the works with a petition in hand generally has effect on the stoutest hearts.

SCIENTIFIC WAIFS.

The sun, according to observations by Professor Bass, of the Dudley observatory, has a velocity of twenty-six miles per second.

The utilization of aluminium is steadily extending. A microscope now made from this metal weighs only 21 pounds 10½ ounces as against 71 pounds 13 ounces when made in brass.

Dr. Murray, of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, estimates the mean height of the land of the globe to be 1,900 feet above sea level. Humboldt's estimate placed the same level at only 1,000 feet.

It is somewhat singular that notwithstanding the great advances made in chemistry and metallurgy no other more satisfactory silver alloy has as yet been discovered for coinage and other purposes than the alloy used 800 years ago.

The "koniscope" or dust testing instrument which is now being placed on the market is intended for estimating in an easy and simple manner the amount of pollution of air in rooms lighted with gas, and also for use generally in sanitary inspections.

If your faith is below par, read Paul. If you are getting lazy, watch James. If there is no song in your heart, listen to David.

If you are getting sordid, spend a while with Isaiah. If you are just a little strong headed, go and see Moses.

If you are getting weak kneed, take a look at Elijah. If you are impatient, sit down quietly and have a talk with Job.

If you feel chilly, get the beloved disciple to put his arms around you.

If you are losing sight of the future, climb up to Revelation and get a glimpse of the promised land.—Boston Gazette.

It is hinted that several of our residents will

leave town on the quiet to attend the inauguration of Cleveland on March 4.

Politics are very quiet, and it is said both tickets will be cut unmercifully. Spare the knife and save the man, boys.

ECKLEY CLIPPINGS.

Politicians were numerous in town yesterday. John Ward, of Freeland, spent yesterday in town.

Frank McHugh, Jr., is able to be around again.

John McCann, of Highland, was in town yesterday.

Rev. Father Brehony was in Philadelphia on Thursday.

Patrick Brogan, of Freeland, was in town yesterday.

Miss Ella Hahey, of Jeddo, spent a few days here last week.

Hugh Moran, of Hazleton, took in the sights here yesterday.

Neal McKinley, of Park Place, took in the fair Saturday evening.

Condy O'Donnell, of Drifton, drove through town yesterday morning.

Matthew Murphy, who was injured at No. 2 slope, is slowly recovering.

Misses Rosina and Annie O'Donnell, of Freeland, were out yesterday in town.

Miss Mary A. Harvey called on friends and relatives at Hazleton on Thursday.

Miss Fannie Gallagher, of Stockton has accepted a position at A. H. Vanauker's.

Tomorrow is election day, and let all good Democrats cast their ballots as straight as it is made.

John McCauley won a handsome clock at the fair on Saturday, and Samuel Davis won an album.

Wm. Logan has accepted a position as fire man at No. 6, and has taken up his residence here again.

Misses Carey and Shovlin, of Freeland, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Dominic Kelly for a few days last week.

The funeral of the late Daniel Comerford, of Hazle Brook, took place on Friday and was attended by St. Mary's T. A. B. Cadet Society of which he was a member.

Patrick Toy, who lost his eyesight in the mines here a few years ago, has returned home from Philadelphia, where he had been learning carpet weaving for the past six months. Mr. Toy will commence at once to weave carpet at his residence here.

The fair here was well attended on Saturday evening, and among the many valuable articles that were chanced off was the handsome parlor lamp, presented to the fair by St. Mary's T. A. B. Society. It was won by Miss Mary A. Harvey. The cake walk which to come off last Saturday evening has been postponed until next Saturday evening. The fair will be open on Wednesday and Saturday nights of this week.

MARY ANN.

WAYSIDE GLEANINGS.

The town of Leicle, in Washington, has been renamed Leavenworth.

All portraits of Columbus in a beard or ruff are branded as frauds by Mr. John C. Van Dyke in The Century.

The oldest horticultural association in Europe is the Royal Society of Agriculture and Botany, of Ghent, established in the year 1808.

A very extensive industry in Russia consists of the manufacture of wooden spoons, which are made to the number of 30,000,000 annually.

A portrait of the well known Unitarian divine, Dr. Bartol, of Boston, painted by his daughter, has been presented to the American Unitarian association.

A man in Maine has found a petition to parliament written in 1643. It is written in ink on handmade paper, and the brass pin stuck into the paper is doubtless older than the petition.

The New York chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution are now raising funds to procure a statue of Washington to be sent to France in recognition of the gift from France of Lafayette's statue.

The Printers' Journal says the art of paper making has reached the point where it is possible to cut down a growing tree and convert it into paper suitable for printing purposes within the short space of twenty-four hours.

The Fayette City (Pa.) News contains the following unique advertisement: "J. G. Sanforth, undertaker, eighteen years' experience. In that time I have buried over 2,000 persons. My motto is 'Live and Let Live.' Good goods and low prices to every one."

North Carolina proposes that its monument to its Confederate dead shall be of ninety-six granite blocks, one for each county, and that on it shall be a bronze statue of Henry Wyatt, the first Confederate killed in the state service. The monument will be erected at Raleigh.

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