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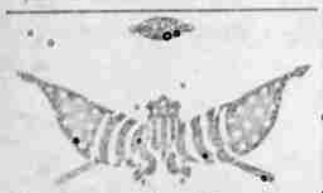

"My Country 'Tis of Thee, Sweet Land of Libertry."

Boycotting Foods to Bring Costs Down.

The attorney general of Ohio, discussing the cost of commodities, seems to think favorably of the boycott as a remedy for high prices. "If the prices are a result of combinations," he says, "we can break them up if evidence can be gathered; but if due to normal causes, then a club in the hands of the public would accomplish more than all the officials could accomplish.

"If the entire country should refrain for a time from eating meat, I believe that prices would tumble without further regulation."

He recommends the application of the same principle to other commodities, particularly in the form of the "meatless," "wheatless" and other "less" days familiar in the war.

No doubt it would work that way. And the public may be expected to boycott various lines of foodstuffs if it becomes necessary. But that remedy is surely uncalled for except as a last resort.

The "less" days of war-time were meant not as a club for profiteers but as a patriotic device for food-saving. Authorities agree that, generally speaking, there is enough food now. It is simply a question of getting it distributed at fair prices. The way to do it is not for consumers to go without the things they need, but for the purchasing public through its influence and officials through their public authority to make producers, manufacturers, middlemen and dealers go without their unjust profits.

Keeping the Unwanted Alien at Home.

The place to handle the immigration problem is in the countries from which the immigrants come, thinks Representative Nolen, of California. "Immigrants should not be allowed to board ships to come to our shore until their fitness is proved," he says.

Certainly it seems a reasonable statement. The establishment of immigration bureaus abroad, to which persons desiring to come to this country could make application, should work for the benefit of the immigrant and the welfare of his country, too.

Such a bureau could investigate these prospective immigrants, finding out their moral and political status, and determining whether they would be likely to be disturbers or would give and receive benefit from coming to the United States. Requirement for admittance should not be so high as to prohibit anyone from coming who, sees in America a land of fair opportunity. That would be to elim inate one of the factors which have made America great.

On the other hand, persons who did desire to come could be given a better understanding of conditions and possibilities. Fewer of them would come blinded by false ideas of freedom and wealth waiting only their arrival on American soil. A check could be put upon the luring of them here by illicit employment agencies and conscienceless steamship companies.

A stream which is foul at the source is a menace to humanity. The stream of immigration, like any other, must be clean to start with if it is not to breed disease.

The Square Deal in Kansas Reformatories.

Kansas has recently been the scene of an interesting demonstration of successful "square dealing" with reformatory inmates, and their "square" response.

The labor shortage in the Kansas harvest fields became so acute that the state board of administration of charitable, penal and other institutions determined to allow boys and young men from the state reformatory to go out as harvest hands. These youths, all under 25 years of age, were given the privilege of retaining all their earnings in the fields and of taking other jobs as fast as one was finished. The only request made of them was that they work honestly and faithfully and return to the reformatory when the harvest season was ended, or when the pressure for extra men was relieved.

Three hundred of them went out to harvesting jobs. It was announced not long ago that every one of them had returned quietly and voluntarily to the reformatory.

In Kansas, malefactors under 25 are not sent to prison for first offenses. Instead they are sent to the reformatory where they are taught farming or various trades and fitted to hold honorable positions among their fellow men. When their term of sentence is over they are placed in jobs for which they are qualified.

It is an enlightened system, one great proof of whose value is the way in which these boys returned to the institution after their period of freedom. Trust, respect and honest hope cure many human ills.

ANDREW CARNEGIE DIES SUDDENLY

(Continued from Page 1)

sible gift was a fund of $10,000,000 to aid education in Scottish Universities.

He carried out his pet idea of a Hero Commission, endowed in 1905 with $5,000,000 by which hundreds of men, women and children have been rewarded with Carnegie medals or pensions for acts of heroism in the rescue of imperilled persons. He later extended similar benefactions to several foreign countries.

He established the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, with a total fund of $15,000,000, which has taken up efficiency surveys of educational work, aided many institutions, and provided pensions for college professors. In 1911 he established his educational benevolence, so that his gifts to libraries, colleges, and other institutions should live after him, by establishing the Carnegie Corporation with a fund of $125,000,000.

One of his latest and greatest ideals was the abolition of war, a hope that he cherished in the face of international conflicts. He gave $10,000,000 toward an International Peace Fund, and built the Peace Palace at The Hague, which was dedicated in 1913. He gave $750,000 to the Bureau of American Republics at Washington.

His love of music moved him to equip hundreds of churches and libraries with pipe-organs. He may or may not have given any large sum to religious purposes.

One of his early gifts as far back as 1881, was the Carnegie Music Hall in New York, at a cost of $2,000,000. And as President of the New York Philharmonic Society he spent his money liberally in further aiding his ideals. He also liberally backed the Pittsburgh Orchestra.

To the Allied Engineers Societies he gave $2,000,000. His small gifts to colleges amounted to some $20,000,000. No man left at his death such an unique and such a scattered series of monuments to perpetuate his memory.

In the background of these fifteen years of philanthropy there is the familiar story of Scotch thrift, a little luck, and steel, which made such generosity possible.

Andrew was 12 when his father, a master weaver, was brought almost to destitution. The steam looms drove him out of business. The family numbered four, including "Andy" and his younger brother, William. The parents decided to emigrate to America, whence some relatives had preceded them with success. They settled at Allegheny City, Pa., across the river from Pittsburgh, in 1848. The father and Andrew found work in a cotton factory, the son as a bobbin boy. It was his first work. The salary was $1.20 a week. He was soon promoted, at a slight advance, to engineers assistant. He stoked the boilers and ran the engine in the factory cellar.

At 14 Carnegie emerged from the engine cellar and became a telegraph messenger. J. Douglas Reid, a Dunfermline man, who had come to America early, was head of the office and he made Andrew his protege. Telegraphy was then almost a new thing. Nobody ventured to read the dots and dashes by sound. They were all impressed on tape. Carnegie is said to have been the third operator in the United States to accomplish the feat of reading messages by sound alone. He practiced mornings before the regular operators came around.

"One day a death message signal came," he has related, "before the operators arrived. In those days the death messages were the most important messages we handled. I ventured to ink this one."

He did it correctly and delivered the telegram before the regular force was on duty at all. It won him promotion to the key and sounder. When the Pennsylvania railroad put up a telegraph wire of its own he became clerk under Divisional Superintendent Thomas A. Scott. His salary jumped to $25 a month. "Mr. Scott," he observed, "I was then receiving $125 a month, and I used to wonder what on earth he could do with so much money."

Andrew was sixteen when his father died, and he became at once the bread-winner of the family and a true capitalist. He had been told by his fellow-employes that ten shares of Adams Express stock could be had for $500, and it was a good investment. At a family council that night Carnegie's mother decided she would mortgage her little home for $500. The stock was bought, and it brought monthly dividends of one per cent.

"I can see that first check of ten dollars dividend money now," he said, when he became a retired ironmaster with millions. "It was something new to all of us, for none of us had ever received anything but from toil."

The next step toward independence and fortune came when T. T. Woodruff, the inventor of the sleeping car, approached him with a model of the invention. "He had not spoken to me a minute", Carnegie has since recalled, "before, like a flash, the whole range of its value burst upon me. 'Yes,' I said, 'that is something which this continent must have.'"

He consulted Scott, and the three invested for the manufacture of the cars. Carnegie, then earning $50 monthly had to borrow $200 on account of his installment of the capital, but later, when he sold out his interest to the Pullman Company he had received $10,000 for the venture.

Unwittingly following the lead of a man who was later to eclipse him in fortune building, Carnegie, at thirty years of age invested in oil. As one of the syndicate he bought up a vast tract of oil land. In a year, to the surprise of all the investors, it paid the astounding return of $1,000,000 in cash dividends upon a capital of $40,000.

But I am not here to tell you about Carnegie, the railroads were experimenting with cast iron bridges. Carnegie foresaw the demand for a factory that could turn out the iron parts, and he formed the Keystone Bridge Works. They built, as their first great work, a bridge over the Ohio river, with a span of 520 feet. Demand for similar structures became general and the Keystone works got the big orders and profits.

Carnegie then began to see that long rails must be given up for steel. On a visit to England in 1868, he discovered the great success being obtained there with the Bessemer process. Carnegie quietly bought a home and before the English makers were aware of the fact he had secured it to his wills.

The romance of his success was such that the immigrant boy of 1848 became some forty years later the world's leading producer of steel, a multi-millionaire himself, and had amassing a sense of other men into the same category. Many square miles of his wells surrounded Pittsburgh. He reached into Upper Michigan, 700 miles away, and acquired vast regions of ore land. He established railway and steamship lines to bring the ore to him. He boasted of the reduction in price of steel rails from $95 a ton down to $26. His critics claimed that even the lower figure was maintained only by the fact that he had monopolized the industry. A former secretary once divulged what was alleged to have been official correspondence to the effect that the Carnegie steel combination could sell rails at a profit as low as $12 a ton.

It was made certain that the grip which he had upon the steel situation made his elimination necessary if others in quest of wealth in steel were to realize the millions they saw going to him. He was, accordingly, bought out in 1901. The syndicate headed by J. P. Morgan, which desired to form the billion dollar United States Steel Corporation, paid $420,000,000 in their five per cent bonds for the Carnegie company's holdings.

"What a fool I was," Carnegie later said in a hearing before a Congressional Committee at Washington, "to sell out to the steel corporation for only $420,000,000. I have since learned from the inside that I could have received $100,000,000 more from Mr. Morgan if we had placed that value on our properties." Carnegie's personal share in these holdings netted him about $250,000,000. His first actual investment in iron had been $1,500 of borrowed money, 36 years before.

"The secret and method of my success is simple," he said. "I organized my business into departments. I put the best man I could find at the head of each department, held him responsible and judged him by results. I have started more than fifty men on the road to millionaires."

Carnegie's mother, to whom he repeatedly gave credit for all that he was, lived to be an octogenarian, and so devoted was he to her that he hesitated to marry. In 888, however, he married Louise Whitefield, of New York, by whom he had one child, a daughter Margaret, born in 1897 and now the wife of Ensign Boswell Miller, of New York.

Habit of Decision.

Most people who have succeeded in any direction of activity can trace the measure of their success to the habit of deciding things for themselves. One of the greatest temptations we have is to confide in others. By yielding to it we not only become a nuisance to our friends but keep on lowering our own powers of resistance.

The Main Point.

Eve had formed the bad habit of running away, so to impress her fully with the danger of so doing, her father took her on his knee and told her the story of Charlie Ross—how he was coaxed away from his yard one day by a man who proffered him some candy and he never came back to his parents. She listened intently, and at the close of the story she looked up and asked: "Well, did he get the candy?"

As to Shaving.

When it comes to shaving, we have the word of Pliny for it that Scipio Africanus was the first man who ever shaved everyday. Whether Mr. Africanus shaved himself or was shaved by a barber Pliny does not say, but it may be gathered from certain remarks of Talleyrand that this is an important point in any man's habits. Asked if Napoleon cut his own whiskers, the great French statesman replied: "Yes. One born to be a king has someone to shave him, but they who acquire kingdoms shave themselves."

Calendar Facts.

The month of January always begins on the same day of the week as October and the same is true of April and July. September and December. February, March and November also begin on the same day of the week. This, however, is only true in normal years of 365 days. A century can never begin on Wednesday, Friday or Saturday. Furthermore, the ordinary year ends on the same day of the week as that on which it begins.

Hears Only the Voice.

"A luck of understandin' kin be nighty comfortin'," said Uncle Eben. "De worse you talk to a mule de more he feels complimented by de attention he's receivin'."

Jack Scores.

The whims of will-makers are many and curious, but for the pure sarcasm commend us to the British sailor who requested his executors to pay his wife one shilling, wherewith to buy hazelnuts, as she had always preferred cracking nuts to mending his stockings.

Have the label, which stands for fair working conditions, put on your job printing. The Observer is one of the two shops in town observing union

By a Certain Blind Feet.

The little girl who inquired at a library for "The Four Horses in the Eucalyptus" had lots of company in that sort of blunder. A letter of Mrs. Thrale's, recently sold at auction, tells of her neighbor's maid coming with a request from her mistress for a loan of "Milk and Asparagus Lost."—Boston Transcript.

Hearn's Dislikes.

According to his Japanese widow, the erratic but brilliant American writer, Lafcadio Hearn, "disliked Bores, abuse of the weak, Prince Albert coats, the city of New York, and many other things." He was fond of the sea and swimming, "lonely cemeteries," ghost stories, Martinique and of beefsteak and plum pudding.

"Re-creation of Brian Kent" by Harold Bell Wright, just in, at Newlin Book & Stationery Co. 8-10-3t

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