

The Sentinel.

BY LEW. A. CATES.

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REACTION COMES.

The juvenile story book of the last few years has displayed a notable alteration in the character of boy heroes. Formerly it was the wonderfully smart and precocious boy who was exploited, the boy who amazed his elders and frequently flouted them, and who always made hair-breadth escapes from dangerous situations. This was a reaction from the child repression literature of a much earlier day, of which the key note was, "Children should be seen and not heard." The preternaturally smart and forthputting boy hero does not tend to foster parental reverence or respect for elders. Indeed, some of the comic pictures which have for their motive successful practical jokes played by naughty boys upon grown people, fathers, mothers or neighbors, often go so far as to give the average child the impression that "grown-ups" are naturally stupid. Much of the impertinence complained of in children is unquestionably due to pernicious forms of literature put forth for the especial delectation of the young.

Now another reaction is in progress. The parent and the schoolmaster and others with a realizing sense of the duty of obedience are writing the children's stories—that is, the stories which publishers appear to want—and the moral tone is much improved. Another encouraging fact is that the juvenile books are pitched upon a higher plane of intelligence. It is recognized that the child who has been in school long enough to get above the primary grades and sit down seriously to read, has passed beyond the stage where mere fairy tales delight, can comprehend something with instruction and meaning in it. It is noticed that boys and girls of ten years and upwards will very frequently skip the juvenile department of the public libraries and take out books from the adult department.

Consequently we are beginning to have a different type of boy hero. His ambition isn't so much to run off and fight Indians, or become a stage robber, or to surpass or humiliate his elders, but rather to look forward to emulate their success in business, professions or politics, and therefore to take good advice. On the other hand there is a more marked disposition among the elders to retain their own juvenility as long as possible and to enter into sympathetic relations with their youthful proteges.

STOCKS NOT BONDS.

Three important railroads are selling new issues of stock to their old stockholders, as the three transcontinental railroads did two years ago. New capital is needed for improvements made or contemplated, and the market seems to be more hospitable to stocks than to bonds. It is easier to get new partners in the ownership of these railroads than to borrow money on their mortgage security. This raises the question, only lightly discussed two years ago, what should be the price of new stock when old stock bears a high premium? The obvious price for new stock seems to be the par which is supposed to have been paid for old, giving the stockholders the advantage of whatever premium is paid in the market as a kind of extra dividend. But they who consider the shipper as well as the stockholder say that the large number of shares necessary to be issued

when stock is sold below the market price imposes an unnecessary burden upon shippers for dividends.

Railroads have been ready to listen to this argument because the management could get more money for its necessary operations for the same increased burden upon earnings by selling stock at a premium. We believe that was not done two years ago, because all stocks were down and the public had to be tempted to buy. But the last time the Pennsylvania railroad offered new stock it was at \$1.20, and this year both the New Haven and the Canadian Pacific are selling new stock readily at a premium. The Pennsylvania, taught by the narrow escape from failure of its new stock issue of 1903, is now offering a new issue to its stockholders at par while the old stock is selling for cash at \$1.40. The trouble is that unless the stock of a railroad is narrowly and closely held, the offer of new stock at a premium is an invitation to a bear raid which may defeat the sale or compel the company to pay tribute to bankers for underwriting it, as the Pennsylvania did in 1903.

THE FARMING INDUSTRY.

The Sentinel has previously expressed its want of sympathy with the fashionable railing at the farmers of the country for their inefficient and unprogressive methods. We have believed that this industry is as well conducted and has made as much progress as most other industries that had to be developed in a new country. This view is confirmed by statistics lately collected by the bureau of statistics to show the ratio of agricultural production to population in a series of decades, beginning after the civil war. In almost every case, the production per capita shows a large decrease, and in every case, the value shows an increase. It is to be remembered that the ratio is taken to the whole population, though a much smaller proportion of the whole is engaged in farming than forty years ago. The purpose of the compilation is to show that agriculture is keeping up the supply of food for the whole population. The exhibit favorable to the farmers is only incidental. For that reason it is far more valuable.

Going into details, cereals have increased about 25 per cent, cotton has doubled and hay, a very variable crop, exceeds 25 per cent increase on the average since the first decade. Animals show little increase, except horses, in spite of bicycles and motor cars, and even decrease in some cases, but the explanation is obvious. The statistics are given by numbers, and improvement in all cattle but horses is shown by increase of weight and yield of milk and wool rather than in numbers. By this standard, production of animals would show a large increase. The only decrease in cereals is susceptible of a like explanation. Rye has fallen off slightly, but barley has more than doubled. Here has been a transfer of industry. In all there has been such improvement of methods and application of intelligent industry to agriculture that the farmers alone probably produce twice as much per capita as they did immediately after the civil war.

There is one relic of barbarism that is being "eliminated" from this country. We refer to the rural or community store. While it is still a social center of some renown it has materially improved its conditions. Time was when the rural store was headquarters for professional loafers who contaminated tender youth by spinning vulgar stories, while profanity was mingled with smoke from pipes and amber fluid of the strongest type was directed toward inoffensive knot holes in the floor. The country store was an abomination unto the people, but it carried with it a lesson that suggested better things. The fact that men and boys gathered there was not indicative of a depraved desire for mingling with unwholesome companions, but it pointed to the absence of social equipment in the rural districts. In many places today debating societies, school and church enter-

tainments, grange gatherings and the like, afford old and young advantages of both intellectual and social qualities. But the wholesome recreation of the stimulating rivalry in spelling contests, which accorded rural communities elevating pastime in ye olden time has almost wholly disappeared in these latter days.

LITERARY WORK.

Ex-President Roosevelt receives for his African hunting stories a dollar a word. Rudyard Kipling is supposed to receive the highest prices paid any author of fiction. For the English and American serial rights of "Kim," he received \$25,000. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle hit one of the highest marks when he received sixty cents a word for the American serial rights of his latest "Sherlock Homes" stories. This compares amusingly with the rate of \$2 per thousand words—or one-fifth of a cent a word—received for his first and generally considered best stories.

High prices for literary work began practically with the great success of Sir Walter Scott. The compensation for his "Life of Bonaparte" averaged \$165 for each day of work spent upon it. Thackeray was offered \$1,000 for "Henry Esmond" and he jumped at the proposition. Both Dickens and Hugo made good money, but when Eugene Sue drew \$20,000 for his "Wandering Jew"—a novel of probably upwards of 500,000 words—the literary world gasped. Prices have risen steadily, with the increased success of publishers and the growth of magazines. No author, however, in all the history of literature, has ever made so much money for each actual word in a literary product as will Commander Peary. Dr. Johnson, it will be remembered, wrote his immortal "Rasselas" to pay the funeral expenses of his grandmother. Milton sold his "Paradise Lost" to a bookseller for \$25. Poe's "Raven" brought him the grateful sum of \$15.

THE SALVATION ARMY.

During a discussion between two guests at Hotel Oregon the other day one was overheard to remark, "What in blank has the Salvation Army accomplished?" It appears to The Sentinel that the Salvation army and kindred organizations need no defense but the record of their achievement. They continually accomplish good among persons not reached by either the churches or the civic charities. Society accepts the good gratefully, as it does that of the other agencies, without asking how or whence it comes. There is waste in every kind of labor for humanity through want of precise adaptation of means to end. Probably the churches always failed to reach much want and misery that might be alleviated because of their primary purpose of spiritual salvation. Certainly the civic charities have always fallen short in some cases because they could not make prominent that appeal to the spirit which is more potent with many than lessons in thrift or stimulus to self respect.

The Salvation army has made wonderful success because it comes between the higher spiritual and the practical civic agency with just that wise mingling of religion that does not repel without meaning to do so the ignorant and immoral and of helplessness that is comprehensible to the feeble and emotional. The old sentimental, indiscriminating charity, with all its waste and injury to self reliance, did reach some whom neither scientific charity nor religious appeal could rescue. The mission of the Salvation army is to organize this sentimentality so as to get the good in it without the evil.

If the republican party is to accomplish anything in the way of advanced legislation at the coming session of congress it will be necessary to get together. Factional alignment will only divide strength that will be required in the accomplishment of needed reforms. There is no disguising the fact that legislation in this country is largely the

product of party organization and party fealty. There is not a law upon the statute books of the nation that was placed there by insurgents. There has been enough crimination and recrimination and peace should now be declared. Speaker Cannon could render the republican party great service at this time by "coming down off of his high horse." He should be a pacifier rather than a disturbing element. Let us have peace.

'TWOULD BE A BOON.

An idolator of Shakespeare who regards the Baconian theory as both idiotic and heretical, declares that on whatever subject man has written, he can find it better done in Shakespeare. We do not find that Shakespeare has entered into any discussion of the woman's hat problem. But there is a scene in the "Taming of the Shrew" where Petruchio and Katherine have a quarrel on this subject. The usually mild Petruchio, to carry out his purpose of taming the virago Katherine, pretends that he has a temper worse than her own, and violently assails her cap.

"Why this was moulded on a porringer," he says; "A velvet dish—away with it, come let me have a bigger; off with that bauble; throw it under foot." "I'll have no bigger," answers Katherine. "This cap doth fit the time and gentlewomen wear such caps as these." If the hat of today had been in vogue in Shakespeare's time, he doubtless would have treated the hat question more exhaustively. As fashions did not change often in that time, the porringer shaped hat which was then in the height of fashion, probably remained in vogue for years, and as it closely fitted the head, did not shut out from playgoers the stage on which Shakespeare had his dramas presented.

A hat of this neat close fitting shape would be an inestimable boon to theatre managers and to clergymen of our day, since in churches as well as in theatres the removal of the hat is being insisted on. This hat question is a vexation and a snare both to preachers and players. Such a kind of headgear in these days of the enormous picture hat, and the deadly hat-pins required to keep it on the head, would be a boon to humanity, and an untold blessing to all who frequent public gatherings. If Petruchio had lived in the twentieth century he would not have ordered his Katherine to replace her small porringer like cap with a bigger one.

The Calapooia Poultry association evidently does not enjoy the widespread lack of appreciation for the cat's many admirable traits, and will, at its exhibition in January, give pussy a show in a one night's stand. It is well that this should be so. The most esthetic souls of all times have cherished the cat. Baudelaire, Von Scheffel, Poe, De Musset, Henry Irving and a host of other lovers of the beautiful come to mind in this connection. The silky feline of padded footfall and mysterious wanderings has ever appealed to the imagination, just as she has ever appealed to the sense of domestic comfort. If you have a cat exhibit it.

The Pacific coast states are third in the sectional wealth of the United States, the figures being taken at the close of business on April 28 last. The Pacific group is led by Nevada with a per capita of \$512.73; then follows California with \$386.10; Washington, \$296.23; Oregon, \$225.52; Utah, \$187.76; Idaho \$178.82; Arizona, \$135.29; and Alaska \$100.07.

The United States raised this year a wheat crop 8 per cent larger than 1908 and 10 per cent greater than the average for the preceding five years. This would seem sufficient to meet all requirements.

Indifference on the part of the individual in movements of public import can but have a bad effect upon all movements which are launched for community development. Indifference is criminal, Cottage Grove has reached a state in its career where it needs the energy of every

citizen to a furtherance of its material interests.

The monetary report of the government shows the per capita wealth of Oregon to be \$225.52. If this be true some one has \$225 belonging to The Sentinel

The death of Miss Laura Landess, daughter of one of Cottage Grove's best known citizens, comes as a deplorable loss to that family as well as a large circle of friends in the community. She was a loving and devoted daughter, and the family has the sympathy of all in their bereavement.

The Sentinel will be published on Thursday of next week in order to give advertisers the benefit of their Christmas announcements.

It begins to look as though something would be done in the not very distant future to stop the overflow and consequent destruction of property during occasional freshets. The county court will give the matter its early attention.

Give the fresh air fund a boost by purchasing Red Cross stamps. The cause is worthy.

Every citizen interested in promotion work should attend the Commercial club meeting Monday night.

If Cottage Grove contemplates paving its principal thoroughfare in the spring—and, of course, it does—why not start the ball rolling? Considerable time must necessarily be consumed in the preparation of plans, specifications and in advertising for bids and awarding contracts.

Europeans are liberal with their Christmas gifts to this country. On Wednesday 5165 sacks of mail arrived from across the Atlantic on one steamship, being the largest Christmas mail from that source in the history of the country.

Notice of Road District Meeting.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the taxpayers of road district No. 60 for Lane County, Oregon, will be held at the Residence of B. M. Hawley the 28th day of December, 1909, at the hour of 12 o'clock of said day.

The object of said meeting is for the purpose of submitting to the taxpayers of said road district the question of voting a levy of an additional tax upon the taxable property of said district for the purpose of improving the roads of said district.

This notice is signed by at least ten per cent of the taxpayers of said district.

B. M. Hawley.
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By F. J. Hard, Secretary and Manager.

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