

Mt. Scott Herald

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OLD H. C. L. IN ORIENT.

China is a backward nation, so its "working-classes" do not strike. But, being human, they get uneasy over the thing which disturbs us greatly, namely, the high cost of living. Chinese coolies, as we suppose, live chiefly on rice. The list of their price increases is brief, but it is sufficient. The dreadful tale is soon told that whereas the price of rice in 1913 was \$7.00 Mexican per picul (about 133 1-3 pounds), now it is \$9.20 per picul. And whereas at the former date a Mexican dollar was worth about half a gold dollar, today the two are nearly at a parity. And if that is not bad enough, one may search back in the market quotations and find that in 1719 rice sold in Shanghai for \$2 Mexican per picul. Whether we consider rice at 5 2-3 cents a pound or at a little less than 7 cents, or at the 1 1/2 cents it was two hundred years ago, the figure, compared with what we pay, seems a ridiculous one over which to be alarmed, says Hartford Courant. But other things than the absolute price have to be considered. In Japan, where wage rates rule higher than in China, a coolie gets 80 cents a day. The highest paid tallors get \$1.25 a day and bricklayers \$1.12 1/2. The average for labor there is 84 cents a day.

In the decalogue of thrift, put out by the American Bankers' association, is to keep a bank account, not carry extreme sums about the person or hide them away like a miser. There is a large measure of common sense in the advice thus given. There would be large protection to property and wealth if it was applied by the public. For weeks one can scarcely pick up a paper from any city without seeing stories of robberies where large sums of currency had been lost. It is folly to carry large sums on the person. The fact that it is carried is certain to become known. That means trouble, possible loss of life when robbery is tried. Put your money in a bank. Pay your bills by check, and protect yourself from attack.

The amount of work that is good for a man is not so hard to determine. If he has put himself into the job doing his—well, his best—with pep and enthusiasm, until he is so tired he wants to go home and chop some wood, eat supper, walk a few miles and then sleep soundly eight hours, he has probably done enough for one day.

An Australian has discovered a means of controlling light and sound waves in the air, and a British scientist has found out the problem of the ancient alchemists of how to transmute matter into gold. It looks just now as if everything were coming the British empire's way.

Owing to the high cost of living, an American heiress in Paris has petitioned the home courts to allow her \$32,000 a year from her father's estate to enable her to live adequately. It is heartrending to think how she will suffer when she begins to yearn to live luxuriously.

Official estimates place the cost of "other food, fruit, confectionery, etc." to the woman government worker at \$13 a year. This figure down to between 3 and 4 cents a day. And an ice cream soda costs 17 cents. It will at least be necessary to cut out the "etc."

If there were but one potato in the world, says an agricultural expert, a careful cultivator might produce 10,000,000 from it in ten years. Let's all get a potato and try it—something's got to be done to get 'em down to \$2.

Lady Astor didn't take her baby to parliament with her, as no doubt the little shaver, being the first baby to have a mother in the house of commons, would break up the session, with some pointed comments on the food shortage.

Among the mysteries of the hour is the manner in which Lenin and Trotsky have managed to go on collecting enough money from an impoverished people to make the risk of their positions worth while.

It is estimated that Alaska has forests enough to supply half the paper needed by the United States for all time. The next Alaska stampede may call for the woodman's ax, instead of the gold miner's implements.

PEACEFUL PROSPERITY.

Where shall the weary eye find rest in looking over public affairs in any part of the world? A favorable response comes at least from the outlying possessions of the United States. Little Porto Rico claims the floor to say that during the 20 years it has been under the flag of the United States it has steadily improved in all respects, that there is no unrest there and no occasion for it. Porto Rico is pleased, appreciates its good fortune and cheerfully hopes to deserve more of the same kind, says St. Louis Globe Democrat. Its trade is ten times what it was under Spanish rule, its schools beyond comparison are more efficient than formerly, its roads are far better and industries more profitable. Irrigation has been introduced and several millions spent in thus making crops certain. In a word, the teeming little island not only declines to join the army of discontent, but thankfully enjoys the blessings already bestowed, with an excellent prospect that they will continue. No suicidal strikes rip up the business of the island. Everybody seems satisfied with tranquil conditions and growing prosperity.

Problems of conduct usually begin with the phrase "Ought I." But there is another code than that which keeps just within the law. Nobody can say that a girl ought to give up her seat to a man, but when a young girl does sacrifice her seat to an elderly man it is a gracious thing. It makes the bystander think that it would be pleasant to know her. There is a great deal of this to see—little, almost unconscious acts of courtesy, perhaps no more than the holding of a door for an older person or a woman encumbered with parcels, says Milwaukee Journal. There are a great many such opportunities slighted, too. Ought persons to do these things? That is hardly the question. Say, rather, What nice persons they make themselves out when they do them.

An aviator who won five decorations for conspicuous bravery in the war and who commanded a squadron of planes that brought down a score of German machines on the front, is now washing windows for a living. It is not a step from the sublime to the ridiculous, but from the impressive to the tragic that this is the best reward the country can give its heroes.

The National Cloakmakers' association has decreed that in 1920 skirts must go higher until they are 10 inches from the floor. Whatever satisfaction some wearers and some gazers may extract from this announcement, it is a cruel blow to some women and means sorrow for onlookers who have a heart.

Turkey is very anxious for an American mandate. It does not want a guardianship of anything like its own stripe, for the brutal among nations are seldom good sports. The Turks look to American good nature and American leniency, probably, to get off easily from the consequences of their own acts.

The aviator who claimed that he had put down five German planes, forced another to descend, rescued a captured French officer and took a German prisoner has been dismissed. The bravery of self-made heroes is shown principally by their nerve in taking risks of being found out.

A New York newspaper headline announces that the hose was turned on the L. W. W. Look here, boys, they deserve death and all that, but the constitution prohibits cruel and unusual punishment, says Houston Post. Don't put water either on or in them.

Bosnian women refuse to wear the clothing sent to them from the United States. They insist on wearing trousers. Judging from the conversations one overhears on the street cars there are women nearer home who emulate the Bosnians.

The pen may be mightier than the sword, and it is also much busier now with all the German ex-leaders and generals rushing into print to clear their own skirts of blame about the war, and insist it was all the other fellow's fault.

Talk is not so cheap as you think it is. The actuary who ascertained that in the recent session of congress 13,862,800 words were uttered by members ought to have gone further and compared the words with the appropriations.

There is no great competition for the Hungarian throne. In fact, a throne is generally regarded as a style of furniture that represents a maximum of expense and a minimum of comfort.

It's an ill wind that blows nobody good. American strikes have flooded Welsh manufacturers of iron, steel and tinplate with orders.

TO SMILE OR NOT TO SMILE.

A writer in a New York paper having expressed a dislike for the habit of wearing a continuous smile, newspaper discussion has arisen over the subject. A general preference for smiles is indicated. One enthusiast insists that the smile should be cultivated, saying, "It is one of those things that will make life worth living and will make one bear up among the manifold ills and troubles that infest this sordid world around us." Each of these persons is right within limitations. To a good many people the perpetual smile, the "smile that does not rub off," is exceedingly irritating. They refuse to consider it expressive of the inward feeling of its wearer, for it is not truly human. In their belief, to be forever cheerful, and the smile must at times, at least, be an affectation, an outward pretense. Moreover, even if genuine it does not always harmonize with their own feelings, and habitual smilers are sometimes passed by on the other side with even more readiness than the gloomy citizen is avoided, says Indianapolis Star. On the other hand, a bright, sincere smile is likely to meet the common approval.

These are changing times. Many years ago men went from the buggy repair business into the bicycle business, says Memphis Commercial-Appeal. Later they went from the bicycle business into the automobile business, and now they are going from the automobile into the truck business, and after a while they will go from the truck business into the flying machine business. We note that one of our old-time railroad station agents has resigned his position to become the manager of a company which will do truck transportation in and out of Memphis. It is a great country for change and yet every change is an index of marvelous development.

The war department announces the military strength of the United States to be 19,000,000 men. The military weakness of the United States may be found in the orgy of vulture-like profiteering that the entire country revealed in when it faced a life-and-death crisis, says Houston Post. This nation needs a kindergarten course in "Money; Its Nature and Its Functions."

Like the accommodating chameleon, which changes its color to that of the fabric on which it is placed, the public daily has to readjust itself to new and strange conditions. It is to be hoped, however, that the public will not suffer the fate of the chameleon which "bit hisself" when placed on a piece of Scotch plaid.

Changing ships to oil burners is already in progress to the extent of a saving of 240,000,000 tons of coal a year. Straus show the direction of the wind. Men who throttle the life of the nation will ultimately find that the nation is not helpless.

The Herald, one year \$1.



Latest photograph of United States Senator Miles Poledevier who is a candidate for the Republican nomination for the Presidency.

HARVARD'S MAN OF MYSTERY



Wesley Holland, Harvard's "man of mystery," has all Cambridge puzzled. Neither vault doors, steel boxes nor ice walls have yet been able to hold Holland as a prisoner. He is an electrician at the university and astounded the students when he made his way out of a steel box which they had specially constructed for the demonstration.

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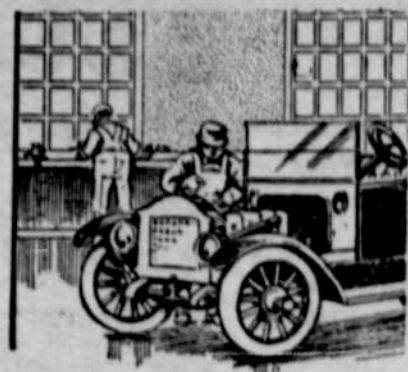
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