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HOME OF WASHINGTON.

HOW WOMEN PAVED THE WAY FOR RESTORATION OF MT. VERNON

Historic Place is Now Exactly as it Looked During the Lifetime of Great Statesman-General—Thousands Visit it Annually.

The bell is tolling, the band playing "Nearer My God to Thee" and the passengers know, even before they raise their eyes to the fair sweep of Virginia's shore line, that the steamer is passing Mount Vernon. A pretty custom—the tolling of the bell and the playing of the fine old hymn. A hush falls on the crowded decks, and ope



WASHINGTON AND LAFAYETTE. From a Painting at Mount Vernon.

feels the thrill of patriotism stirring the hearts of the people.

But do the thousands who annually sail down the Potomac to visit the stately home of George Washington know that to a woman's initiative is due the restoration and preservation of the beautiful Mount Vernon of to-day? A way back in 1853 this home was in a rapidly deteriorating condition. John Augustine Washington, a son of General Washington's nephew, was the owner of the estate. The descendants of Washington evidently did not inherit the clear business sense of their illustrious ancestor, for in General Washington's time the farm yielded a handsome income. Now the fields were ly-



House in which Washington Lived.

The Kitchen as it was a Hundred Years Ago.



ing untilled and useless, and the house and outbuildings were showing signs of the passing of the years. The glory of that splendid home was departing.

A Woman's Work.

To the great credit of John Augustine Washington it is related that he refused absolutely to consider propositions advanced by private companies and individuals to purchase the estate, to be converted later into a pleasure resort. Think of the desecration—a vaudeville performance on that magnificent stretch of lawn, waiters bearing their burdens of food and drink through those stately halls, the daily uproar of irreverent crowds.

And then came Miss Ann Pamela Cunningham, of South Carolina. She visited Mount Vernon in 1853 and was shocked and grieved at the fate in store for the historic spot. She conceived the plan of rousing the women of her beloved southland to the true state of affairs and enlisting their cooperation in the raising of a fund of \$200,000, the price asked for the house, outbuildings, wharfage, garden and some two hundred acres of farmlands.

So she went to work, and it must be remembered that fifty years ago it took no small amount of bravery for a woman to inaugurate and carry on an undertaking of such magnitude. But after five years of effort the whole of the \$200,000 was in hand. It was found impracticable to confine the propaganda to the Southern States, so the North was invited to assist, which she did in generous measure.

At the close of 1858 the Mount Vernon estate was purchased and the title passed to the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union.

Freed from Taxation.

A charter was secured from the State of Virginia, granting exemption from taxation, the association in return binding itself to the task of restoring to its original condition and preserving

for future generations this home of General George Washington.

In this connection it is interesting to know that during the ten-day annual meet of the Board of Regents in the month of May a banquet is given to the Governor of Virginia. After the feast is ended and the toasts are drunk, the entire association conduct the Governor about the house and grounds, that he may know, by personal observation, that the pact entered into so long ago is being faithfully kept.

It is the custom of the ladies of the association to live at Mount Vernon during the yearly session. At this time the old home wears an air of unwonted gaiety. The kitchen gives out the most appetizing odors, and, stimulated to unusual activity by tales of the old days, the corp of Virginia servants are anxious to show their fitness for the honor of "servin' de ladies." Even the brick oven, a relic of colonial days, is called into use, the beautifully browned bread, pies and cakes attesting its superiority.

Thirty States Represented.

The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association is a most exclusive body. It is composed of a regent, who is president of the association, and a vice-regent from each of the States of the Union. Thirty States are now represented. The women are justly proud of the work that has been and is being accomplished, and so value their places in the council that it has become a custom for the office of vice-regent to descend from mother to daughter or other near relative. When a vacancy occurs in the council the Governor of the State is invited to nominate some prominent woman; but should the name not receive the favorable consideration of the regent and vice-regents no appointment is made until one acceptable to all is produced.

Miss Cunningham, the first regent, lived at Mount Vernon from 1868 to 1873, when she resigned on account of ill health. She died the following year. The present regent is Mrs. Justine Van Rensselaer Townsend, of New York.

During the Civil War, though in the very midst of the conflict, Mount Vernon escaped serious injury. This was mainly due to the heroism of Miss Tracy, the secretary of the association, who took up her abode at Mount Ver-

STEM INDUSTRIAL CRASH.

STANDARD OIL MAGNATE PREDICTS CRISIS AND SUGGESTS PALLIATIVE MEASURES.

Would Have Nation Begin Work of Vast Internal Improvements. Ex-Premier Meline of France Also Sounds Warning.

J. H. SHANNON.

That the land is the source of all real wealth, has been said by philosophers time out of mind, and now with the urban districts draining from the country much of the flower of its manhood the cry is going up from the lips of legions of wise men, "Back to the Land!" All manner of colonization projects are being devised and tried for the purpose of diverting foreign immigration from the cities to fields and to relieve the pressure of congestion in the over-grown centers. One



J. D. ROCKEFELLER AND HIS NEW VIG-

feature of the ominous flow of people to the cities is the phenomenal development of manufactures. There may come a time when manufactures will so overbalance agriculture that there will not be enough basic wealth produced to afford a profitable market for the factory-made goods. When the industrial situation shall become so unbalanced, a commercial crash of stupendous magnitude must ensue.

As He'll-less Babes.

Then the city-trained men who know not how to make bread out of the soil will clamor for work, curse the economic condition of the period, denounce the state, threaten the republic with all sorts of fantastic theories, and there will be acute friction between the few rich and the multitude of poor. Gradually men will drift back to the land and learn to make their living with the plow and reaper and a satisfactory equilibrium between agriculture and manufactures will once more be reached. Before this result is attained, there will be intense suffering. Families that are in comfortable circumstances will know the meaning of misery, and families now affluent will fall into beggary. All this is not a dream. Men of clearest vision see it coming.

Rockefeller's Prophecy of Panic.

It is what Mr. John D. Rockefeller sees when he predicts, as he did in a recent interview "an industrial crisis of world-wide extent and unprecedented severity."

Mr. Rockefeller says the crisis will be brought on by overproduction in all lines. The Standard Oil magnate

impends will be precipitated by overproduction of manufactured goods. He says "Consumption must have its bounds, and so with the consumption of manufactured articles. When a man has filled all his requirements in clothes and furniture a mere lowering of prices, which is all that mechanical improvements generally mean nowadays, can no longer attract him. Therefore, when the output is not restrained the market necessarily becomes choked."

Mr. Rockefeller is specific as to the time when the crash is to occur. It is likely that he errs in this, because predictions as to periods of depression and readjustment are seldom fulfilled as to dates. Crises as a rule come unexpected and the immediate reason is most apt to be due to over-expansion of credit, and overproduction of securities than to actual overproduction of goods; but when to the cause of over-expanded credits is added overproduction of manufactures and a lop-sided industrial system, recovering from the crash is more difficult.

Day of Distress Near.

The richest man in America is positive, however, that the crash will come about 1907—year after next—and so sure is he that the trouble is on its way, that he is already weaving a plan to provide work for those who will be thrown out of employment, and thus ameliorate the panic. He is certain that the number of men who will need help will be about 7,000,000, and when is added to those men the number of dependents, the total is appalling. Mr. Rockefeller thinks this vast army of unemployed should be set to work by the government on internal improvements, the building of new roads, improvement of old ones, dredging of streams, irrigating land, etc. He says:

Vast Plan of Construction.

"There is enough labor today needed on the public highways to employ all the idle or surplus labor for a century. The improvement of the roads, the dredging streams, and especially of the Mississippi, where annually millions of damage is done by the overflow, the irrigation of arid lands, the preservation of forests and the drainage of the swamps are the great public problems that should be occupying the public mind. Municipal, state and national laws should be enacted now for the building of roads, so that when the industrial storm comes it will not be too late to breast it."



JULES MELINE.

It makes no difference whether Mr. Rockefeller be right or wrong in his forecast of a gathering storm, his plan for the employment of surplus labor is a practical and profitable one and his enumeration of road building, river improvement, irrigation, forest preservation and swamp draining, as the truly great national problems, is philosophic. The work needs to be done, and eventually it must be done, if the United States is to progress. Waste is national loss—waste by flood and drought as well as waste by fire. Every acre of land should be made to pay. The government promotes research and experimentation in agriculture, with a view to increasing the effectiveness of tillage; there is no reason why it should not give countenance and support to reclamation of land and the enhancement of the fertility of land already under culture. It is the land—the farm, which is the pedestal of the republic.

There should be no effort to minimize the worth of manufactures—processes that work up the raw products of the earth into serviceable forms. The ores from which are obtained the metals of commerce are as much a product of the land as corn, wheat and cotton—not as primarily important, but quite as necessary to man in his present highly organized social state. It is difficult to draw the line between some of the basic manufactures and agriculture, for the iron furnaces and steel mills build the railroads and bridges which give farmers a short-cut to markets.

French Statesman Also Predicts Panic.

But the point is, that where manufactures develop out of proportion to the growth of agriculture, the world is being turned wrong side up. Mr. Meline in declaring that the overproduction of manufactures will lead to an industrial crash, says: "There is room for everyone under the sun, but on condition of sharing up the good things of the earth, instead of concentrating upon one department of activity."

THE TARIFF PROBLEM.

REVISION AND ANTI-REVISION SENTIMENTS IN WASHINGTON.

Speaker Cannon between Two Fires Question to be a Live One During the Next Session of Congress.

It is rather amusing to those who are on the inside of the political arena in Washington to observe the manner in which discussions of the tariff are conducted throughout the country. In an academic way the theories of the tariff are talked over. But to the men on whom the real work of revising the tariff would devolve there are very different considerations to influence them. They openly declare that the tariff ought to be revised, but they say the danger to business interests would be so great that they fear undertaking it. They insist that a struggle over the schedules would last six months, and that during that time the business interests would be suffering stagnation that would afflict the country very sorely.

This view is scouted by the revisionists as one that has no standing with men who believe in doing things. They claim that if such considerations are to prevail there never could be a revision of the tariff.

So Easy To Revise.

Not long ago the difficulties in agreeing upon changes in the Dingley

over the revision of the tariff. He declared that it would be an easy job,

As Simple as Can Be.

"What would you do with the tariff?" he was asked. "Why," he replied, "it's as simple as can be. All you have to do is to lower the tariff on woolen goods and to make a big reduction in the shoe schedules. Practically that would satisfy every one, and if you did no more the country would be pleased."

The Illinois representative was informed that he had been preceded by a member from Massachusetts who thought that all that would be necessary would be to put coal, hides and wool on the free list.

"Hides on the free list!" exclaimed the Illinois speaker. "Not while I have the strength to stay here to fight it."

"Now you see what an easy thing it is to revise the tariff," said the speaker.

"If I was God," again remarked the speaker in his quaint style, "I would make some changes in the tariff. I would put them into effect before anybody knew what they were to be made. Then there would be no unsettling of business and at least some people would be happy."

Question an Absorbing One.

What alarms so many prominent protectionists is what they claim is the danger of unsettling the business conditions of the country. The theoretical adjustment of the tariff according to the principles of protection



schedules were illustrated by representatives who called on Speaker Cannon. It happened that one day a prominent Massachusetts member called to impress the speaker with the easy manner in which the tariff might be revised.

"You see," declared the Massachusetts member, "we all make too much over the difficulties in revising the tariff. It would really be very simple. We would only have to put hides, wool and coal on the free list and the country would be practically satisfied. We might do more, but that would really be enough. There could be no difficulty in coming to an agreement on that—merely a matter of a few weeks."

The speaker listened intently as he always does listen to advice. But trailing on the heels of the Massachusetts member came a representative from Illinois who also wanted to revise the tariff. He started in the same as his predecessor. He thought there was altogether too much fuss made

is having very little effect on them. In fact the protectionists do not even care to discuss that phase of the question. A revision of the tariff with the declared purpose to simply lower the schedules they say would have the same effect on the country that they claim would follow an attack on the tariff principles by the free-traders. They claim that merchants would not buy goods when lower tariff rates might still further reduce the price they would have to pay. That conditions lasting six months they fear would upset all business conditions. They say it might mean panic.

But they are likely to have their views very forcibly contested by the tariff revisionists next winter. The revisionists—and the men who believe in the principles of reciprocity are banding together to give battle in the halls of Congress. The citadel is now distinctly in the control of the stand-paters and it is to be seen what power the revisionists will develop in contesting their ascendancy.

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OLD FASHIONED GARDEN AT MOUNT VERNON.

cles similar in design and construction, is generally understood. But every woman should know and remember that to the loyal, patriotic women of the land belongs the credit of saving from ruin and obliteration the fine old home of the Father of his country.

does not stand alone as a prophet of impending evil. Essentially the same prediction is made by Senator Jules Meline, once premier of France, and a man of keen perception, penetration and of broad understanding. This statesman says that the crisis which