

The New Age

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PAPERS BY THE PEOPLE

COAL MINERS ARE UNDERPAID.



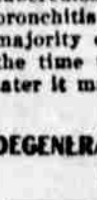
By Rev. Rufus A. White, of Chicago. The demand for better wages is just. Coal mining in the anthracite region is not only hard, but it is unusually dangerous. The bureau of mine inspection reports 4,370 men and boys killed in the last ten years. In 1901 437 were killed and 1,256 injured. These fatalities left 230 widows and 525 orphans. For every 110,000 tons of coal mined in the anthracite coal fields one man or boy is killed. Two are killed a day on the average for the working days of the miners and five injured. The killed and injured annually in the anthracite coal mines are said to be eight times as many as were killed and wounded during our war with Spain. It is more dangerous to mine coal than to shoot Spaniards. What are the miners paid for this kind of work? On an average about \$300 per year—the poorest paid labor, it is said, in the Northern States. It has been figured that at \$30 a month a family of five would have, after rent, medical bills and clothing were paid for, \$14 a month for food—less than 50 cents a day and not quite 10 cents a day for each person. How much meat at present prices will 10 cents a day buy? My sympathies are with the miners because before the strike was called President Mitchell agreed to submit the matter in dispute to an arbitration board. The reply of the operators was terse to the point of insult: "There is nothing to arbitrate." Mr. Baer condescended to inform the public as well as the miners that "The rights and interests of the laboring men would be protected and cared for, not by labor agitators, but by the Christian men to whom God, in his infinite wisdom, had given the control of the property interests of the country." President Baer tears a leaf from the mediaeval ages and reads it to the free Americans of the twentieth century. He talks like some resurrected baron of a mediaeval Rhenish castle. To name the Lord as a partner in the railroad and coal monopolies of Pennsylvania is a blasphemy which should not go unrebuked.

TUBERCULOSIS IS CURABLE.



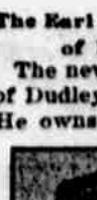
By Dr. H. A. Biggs, New York's Health Officer. Tuberculosis is infectious and communicable, but a tuberculosis patient may live in the same room, for days or years, with a healthy person without danger to the latter, if proper precautions are taken. The chief danger is from bacilli thrown out from the respiratory tract. In advanced cases as many as three thousand millions are thrown out in a single day. They are inhaled as dust, and lodge in different tracts in the system. If conditions are favorable to growth they multiply there. But the general insusceptibility to tuberculosis is very great. It is only at certain times and under certain conditions that a large proportion of persons are susceptible. Tuberculosis is absolutely preventable and its preventability is simply putting into effect simple rules of conduct. It is a question solely of scrupulous cleanliness in regard to expectoration and disinfection of surroundings which have once housed the disease. It is not only preventable, but curable. It is the most insidious of all diseases. A specialist may declare no indications of it whatever and in a few weeks it may be manifest to any one. When there is any question one examination is not enough. Where a cough continues for more than six or eight weeks, in a large majority of cases, there is back of that cough a tuberculous focus. When any one talks to you about chronic bronchitis and continued colds make up your mind that in a majority of cases a tuberculous focus is back of it. Then is the time to establish this fact, for then it is easily curable; later it may not be.

DEGENERACY OF NEW YORK'S FOUR HUNDRED.



By Henry Watterson, Editor Louisville Courier-Journal. The term "smart set" was adopted by society to serve itself from a more odious description. The distinguishing trait of the "smart set" is its moral abandon. It makes a business of defying and overleaping conventional restraints upon its pleasures and amusements. Being titled after a rule, and either rich in fact or getting money how it may, it sets itself above the law, both human and divine. Its women are equally depraved with its men. They know all the dirt the men know. They talk freely with the men of things forbidden the decent. The women of this smart set no longer pretend to recognize virtue, even as a female accomplishment. Innocence is a badge of delinquency, a sign of the crude and raw, a deformity, which, if tolerated at all, must carry some promise of amendment. In London and in Paris, and at Monte Carlo

IRELAND'S NEW VICEROY.



The Earl of Dudley Owns 36,000 Acres of Rich Land in England. The new viceroy of Ireland, the Earl of Dudley, is 56 years old and wealthy. He owns 36,000 acres in England, including tracts of rich mineral-bearing land, and he also has estates in Jamaica and is the master of immense iron works. The social graces which are his as the son of Georgia, Countess of Dudley, who has not yet lost her famous beauty, have been developed by travel all over the world. Best of all, in the present Lady Dudley, the earl has a countess whose good looks are nearly as renowned as those of her handsome mother-in-law, and who may be trusted to shine as mistress of the viceregal lodge at Dublin. Like most healthy young Englishmen of rank, Lord Dudley is fond of both sport and war. He is president of the ultra-fashionable Ranelagh Club—over the representatives of which the American polo players who went over this year won their first victory—and, as major of the Worcestershire Yeomanry, he saw hard service in the South African campaign. The earl's duties in Dublin will be mostly of a social nature, and it is well that he is wealthy, for his outlay in this regard will be enormous, reaching probably \$300,000 a year. London Dines at Noon. Except in certain circles, from the upper middle class or the lower upper classes upward, among whom the custom of evening dinner prevails, the respectable English custom is to serve dinner at noon, the evening meal ranging all the way from the workman's repast of tea with waffles, blotters, or jam, to the heavy supper of game and pastry for the rich. To this custom the restaurants cater, but to the

In the winter and at Trouville and Aix in the summer, they make life one unending debauch. The Four Hundred in America take their cue from the smart set in Europe. Behold them at the horse show in New York. Behold them at swill resorts. Their talk—that is, what can be heard—is of bonds, puts and calls, horses, scandals and dogs. The best society? Good Lord! It is true that we have come to a beautiful pass if simpering Johnnies and tough girls are to be accepted even by inference as the best society, while the good and virtuous of the land, even though quite able to pay their way at home and abroad, must be relegated to the middle class and dismissed as simple bourgeois. The "400" are rotten through and through. They have not one redeeming feature. All their ends are achieved by money, and largely by the unholy use of money. If one of them proposes to go into politics he expects to buy his way, and the rogues who have seats in Congress or foreign appointments to sell see that he pays the price. If one of them wants to marry a lord she expects to buy him, and the titled rascals who wish to recoup their broken fortunes see that she pays the price. Their influence is to the last degree corruptive. They hang on and retainers are only such as money will buy. Nine out of every ten of the fortunes behind them will not bear scrutiny. Most these unclean birds, of gaudy and therefore of conspicuous plumage, fly from gilded boughs, fouling the very air as they twitter their affectations of moral supremacy, and so one to shy a brick at them and say, "Scat, you devils!"

DANGER OF INSTITUTIONALISM.



By Rev. Bishop Henry C. Potter, of New York. There is danger in the tendency to institutionalism. Our danger lies not in physical deeds, but in social degradation and corruption, out of which comes ruin, which lies behind these physical matters. I would speak of institutionalism in this regard. On an island not half an hour's journey from New York are 4,000 insane persons under the care of the State, and these people have not been visited by any one but the State commissioner for the last four years. The force of the appalling fact is made plain when I say that alienists and insanity experts say that one of the most important matters in the treatment of the insane is that of environment. The menace of modern life is in the growth of the surrender of the care of the sick, the maimed, the imbecile, to institutional vigilance. When men come to be the care of the State in such vast numbers, it is impossible that there can be that note of personality considered the best medicine for the sick man and the insane man.

SHOULD WOMEN WORK? THEY MUST.



By Mrs. G. Alex-Tweedie, Chairman Int. Con. of Women. Most women work simply because they must. In using the term "work," I of course mean working for wages, for occupation and work fall at every girl's feet almost before she is out of the nursery. The house belongs to the woman, there she should reign supreme; but, alas, there are cases where there is no home, and then it is no use trying to shut the door on women's work. They are starving in thousands with it; they would starve in tens of thousands without. Whose fault is this? Certainly not theirs. It is no use to cry out against women "filling men's posts," "women working for low wages," "unskilled labor," and all the rest of it. We must go back farther than that, and discover the cause. It is not far to seek, and it originates with men. Fathers must learn to provide for their daughters, however modestly, and then this stream of women seeking employment without qualification will cease to exist. Do we not all know families in every walk of life, large families where the mother's health is impaired by the constant struggle to keep children tidy, to make them behave themselves, to feed them, and keep them well? Poor worn-out mothers, literally overpowered with the size of their families. Poor mothers whose health is torn to shreds in the endeavor to drag up their children. The boys are educated as well as means will allow—the daughters have more or less to go without. The father has never realized his responsibility until too late. He has not seen the accumulation of expenses gathering ahead. He has not begun little banking accounts for the daughters as they arrived, and only when too late he realizes the situation. He dies, perhaps the mother dies, too. There is nothing left, the boys can shift for themselves; there is always something for them to do; but the girls—what is to become of them? Girls from 10 to 25 years of age are left daily alone, unprotected, incompetent, and obliged to seek positions of unskilled labor. It is not the women's fault that they are unskilled. The fault lies with the father. It is not three girls' fault that they are ill-paid; it is the employer who trades on their helpless position. No, no; do not abuse women workers; abuse the men who leave them in such a position, with neither money, home nor education.

EARTHQUAKE'S STRANGE FREAK.



During an earthquake which recently wrought havoc in the Eastern Caucasus, causing a commotion that was felt from Tiflis to the Caspian Sea and from the Caucasus to the north of Persia, the town of Schemacha was practically ruined, every prominent building being either wholly or partly destroyed, including the Russian church, the roof and cupola of which were turned topsy turvy in a singular manner. Photographs were taken of the various ruined buildings, among which were seven mosques, soon after the disaster, and the accompanying picture was found to be the most curious and the most interesting of all. Why the upper part of the church was less able to bear the shock of the earthquake than the lower part is a problem which has not yet been solved.

He Wanted Action. A well-dressed man went into the telephone office of a southern Michigan town and wrote a message home for money. He then laid down a quarter and asked that it be sent as soon as possible. "Three cents more," said the agent. "Haven't got it," replied the man. "Can't send the message, then." "Well, said the fellow, "send it as far as you can for a quarter. I am a gambler, and I want action on my money, if it is only 25 cents." After saying all she wants is justice, a woman proceeds to kick if her photograph is a good likeness.

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THE SOONER THE BETTER. While the public at large may have temporarily lost sight of the merger suit, there is no doubt that the great financial interests are seriously disturbed over the outcome of the controversy. Involved in these cases is the whole question of the lengths to which combinations of capital may proceed in the development of business. The determination of how far the state may exercise supervision over franchises that have originally been granted by the public will be fraught with vital consequences. The possible results of either a drastic decision against or a radical decision in favor of the combine principle are matters which must necessarily be of great moment both to the corporations and the people. The Wall Street Journal evidently appreciates how much hangs on the outcome, for it remarks significantly: "We think that this case will prove to be something of a turning point in American railroad history, and that however it is decided the effect of its decision will be seen to a very notable extent in the railroad map of the future. A decision in favor of the Northern Securities company will, in our judgment, set on foot a demand for government purchase of railroads which is not unlikely to take a prominent place among the important political issues. A decision against the Northern Securities company will mean the indefinite postponement of many financial schemes, now under consideration, and will in all probability put a stop to the style of financing that has been so popular in the last two or three years. In the circumstances the sooner that a decision can be reached the better it will be for everybody." NEW YORK'S PROVINCIALISM. By all means the most important and sensational piece of news printed in the American press last Wednesday morning was the announcement of the withdrawal of Speaker Henderson as a candidate for re-election from the Third Iowa District. It is dramatic in its unexpectedness, inexplicable as to its motives and momentous as a cloudburst in the political campaign which is in progress. And yet the New York newspapers failed utterly to appreciate either its national or its news significance. Not one of them treated it as the matter of chief moment for the day, as it is likely to prove through the campaign. They were so busy putting "The Triumph of Devery," the "Murder of Nicholas Fish" and other matters of purely metropolitan interest in double column head lines that they had little time or ink to waste on the retirement of the second official of the nation. What did it matter to New York if Speaker Henderson upset the political calculations of the rest of the nation so long as Devery captured Sheehan's scalp. The provincialism of New York is so dense that it would scarcely be affected if the country west of Albany county were destroyed by an earthquake.—Chicago Record-Herald. The cruel war in Great Britain between the American and British tobacco concerns has been brought to an end through the amalgamation of the contending parties. Now they will probably figure up what the expense of the conflict has been and make the smokers foot the bills. According to the general counsel of the new Panama Canal company, the title to that property, which the United States wants, is perfect. Now, if this is so, and a few little matters can be fixed up with Colombia, all that remains is to get in and dig. According to the postmaster general, postoffice clerks may continue to deliver letters, but they are not free to "deliver the goods," as they were expected to do in the old days before civil service reform. Two young men in the East have found this a pretty good year for Haying, due to the fact that the Secretary of State has a couple of attractive daughters. Whatever else they may say about the next Democratic candidate for governor of New York, it looks as if he was to be a man who may be styled a Bird. General Sumner says that his operations in Mindanao are not war; but some of the sultans there may be inclined to think that they are a good deal like it.