

COOS BAY TIMES

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THE CHINESE FAMINE.

Two American missionaries, Dr. Samuel Cochran and Rev. E. C. Lobenstein, the one a graduate of Princeton and the other of Yale, both now Presbyterian missionaries of the city of Hwayuan, Anhui Province, have given some valuable details of the famine which is now raging through Central China.

Dr. Cochran says that he has recently been through many districts of Central China, and in parts of this region, including his own neighborhood, there have been four bad years out of the last five, and one of these was the great famine of 1906-7. All reserves of grain were exhausted. The country is one great plain formed by alluvial deposits from the Hwai and Yellow rivers. These flow between flood banks which are filled nearly every summer. The resulting flood is not deep, being in most places not more than a foot or two, but it kills the growing crops. Last year there was a tremendous downpour of rain, something that might well be called a cloudburst in this country, upwards of 16 inches of rain being precipitated in 48 hours. The whole plain was covered, the crops destroyed and much of the wheat harvested in June was swept away or ruined. By this time, Dr. Cochran writes on February 9, supplies are nearly exhausted and people are daily dying of starvation in large numbers everywhere. The worst of the distress has only just begun and it must go on steadily increasing until the wheat harvest in June. Everywhere one goes in the streets one sees men and women desperate with hunger, who clutch at one's clothes, refusing to let go and persistently following anyone who seems likely to be able to give a single cash (one-tenth of 1 Mexican cent).

In Dr. Cochran's one district of Hwayuan he says that he is prepared to give some kind of relief to 18 wards out of a total of 38. Within these wards he declares there should be upwards of 80,000 to 100,000 people who are in dire need. In the neighboring district of Mencheng there are said to be 200,000 people starving. In Haichow, which was the center of the flood, the distress is even worse. Quite 500,000 people in these districts are in imminent danger of death. At least five other districts are affected in the province of Anhui alone, and conditions are nearly as bad in the neighboring province of Kiangsu. Altogether there cannot be less than 5,000,000 people who are starving.

To feed these people until June can be done for the nominal sum of \$3 apiece, Mexican. One dollar and a half of American currency would support a human being for more than 100 days. It does not seem much, but the aggregate required is probably not less than \$7,000,000 to \$8,000,000, and all that the missionaries, plus the Chinese government, are able so far to command is about \$1,000,000 in gold, which means, unless relief is afforded, that a population four or five times that of the

State of Oregon will inevitably die within the next three months. No more powerful appeal for aid might be made than the recounting of these simple facts.

PROGRESSIVE CITIES PROTEST.

(From Eugene Guard) DOWN at Medford the city administration is taking the right course with reference to railroad franchises. It considers that when a franchise is granted for a certain period and the company fails to build within the time specified the franchise is null and void. The city that pursues the Medford policy will be protecting the city from speculators who gobble up franchises on Eugene streets that are being renewed from time to time when they ought to be annulled. It is very apparent that they are held for speculative purposes. Eugene streets ought to be held for the people and not for corporations as a means of their enrichment.

WITH THE TOAST AND TEA

GOOD EVENING

Purge out of every heart the lurking grudge. Give us grace and strength to forbear and to persevere. Offenders, give us the grace to accept and to forgive offenders. Forgetful ourselves, help us to bear cheerfully the forgetfulness of others. Give us courage and safety and the quiet mind. Spare us to our friends, soften us to our enemies. Bless us, if it may be, in all our innocent endeavors. If it may not, give us the strength to encounter that which is to come, that we be brave in peril, constant in tribulation, temperate in wrath, and in all changes of fortune. loyal and loving one to another. —Robert Louis Stevenson.

IS IT WORTH WHILE?

Is it worth while that we jostle a brother. Bearing his load on the rough road of life? Is it worth while that we jeer at each other. In blackness of heart—that we war to the knife? God pity us all in our pitiful strife! God pity us all as we jostle each other; God pardon us all for the triumphs we feel When a fellow goes down; poor heart-broken brother, Pierced to the heart—words are keener than steel, And mightier far for woe or for weal. Were it not well in this brief little journey, On over the isthmus, down into the tide, We give him a fish instead of a serpent, Ere folding the hands to be and abide, For ever and aye, in dust at his side? Look at the roses saluting each other; Look at the herds all at peace on the plain; Man, and man only, makes war on his brother, And dotes in his heart on his peril and pain, Shamed by the brutes that go down on the plain. Is it worth while that we battle to humble Some poor fellow-traveler down into the dust? God pity us all! Time too soon will us tumble, All men together, like leaves in a gust; All of us humbled down into the dust. —JOAQUIN MILLER

Anyhow, the Mexican war scare is not likely to drive very many Coos Bay people under the bed.

There is more catarrh in this section of the country than all to her disease put together, and until the last few years was supposed to be incurable. For a great many years a doctor is contented to treat the local disease and prescribed local remedies, and by constantly filling the system with local treatment, pronounced it to be incurable. Science has proven catarrh to be a constitutional disease and therefore requires constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio, is a purely constitutional cure on the market. It is taken in doses from 10 drops to a teaspoonful. It acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. They offer one hundred dollars for any case it fails to cure. Send for circulars and testimonials. Address: F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, Ohio. Sold by Druggists, 75c.

OBSERVATIONS.

It's a beautiful world, and, after all, It don't take money to buy The song of the bird and the blush of the rose, and the blue of the bending sky. The beautiful world that we never thought— In our rush and our worry and fright— Was half so fair as it really is, With it's lit and its love and its light!

NOTHING pays better than kindness. A man may spend his money, and in proportion as he expends it he reduces his principal; but kindness is entirely different, for in proportion as you spend kindness your principal increases. Kindness is an attractive thing. It brings around you many persons who think kind thoughts of you and say kind words for you; and this subtle, potent influence of having a lot of friends help you by their actions and their words is so very valuable that it is surprising so many self-seeking people know so little of its value. People are glad to recognize kindness in an individual. No man can act the part if he is not sincere. He must cultivate kindness if he has little of it in his makeup. He must take an inventory of his qualities, and in the weeds of mean impulses are crowding out the delicate flowers of kindness, he should pull up those weeds and give the flowers a chance to grow. Lincoln said: "You can catch more flies with a drop of honey than with a gallon of vinegar." Lincoln was an exceptionally kind man, and his examples of kindness have been of great value to millions of people. One of the things he said was: "When they lay me away, let it be said of me that as I traveled along life's road I always have endeavored to pull up the thistle and plant the rose in its stead." Life at best is short, and the only things we really get out of it are health and happiness. Money cannot buy these. But kindness can.

The Kansas City Star informs its readers that "the average citizen has only one chance in 24,000 to live to be 100 years old." But some chronic Coos Bay grouches will be sure to regard that as more of a blessing than otherwise and I don't know but they are right.

In this latter day struggle for wealth power and greatness of all degrees, the beautiful repose and simplicity that characterized our distinguished fore-parents has been trampled under foot.

However this may be contentment seems to have been lost in the evolution of the passing years, and no reward has been offered worthy a consistent search for it, more's the pity.

But the men, women or children who have caught a glimmering shadow of it are a continual feast to their friends, who wonder why that home is so delightful to visit; why the beauty of the faces of its inmates is so elusive; why the atmosphere is so reposeful and uplifting that all their cares and woes betake themselves to the background of forgetfulness while they are enjoying their hospitality. Certainly it is not wealth or palatial surroundings, for the home is guileless of either, perhaps, but the hidden secret is contentment and repose, and this no man can buy. It is something that comes from within and requires the most vigorous cultivation that enlightened mentality can give it.

After carefully weighing the balance the fancied desires of this "hurry up" age and seeing how little happiness they create for others, look within and find for yourselves contentment with that which may be earned on six days of the week and rest on the seventh.

Devote it to the enjoyment of nature and the arts. Fill it with the music of gladness, the sunshine of life, the white lights of truth, the brightness of hope, the tenderness of charity and the strength of faith, and marvel not at the result of the discovery, for lo! it is the kingdom of heaven within you.

WHEN TO SPRAY.

The proper time to spray fruit-trees can be determined only by watching the fruit-buds and weather. The first application should be made before the first rain after the blossom-buds have been exposed, but before they have opened; the second, after two-thirds of the petals have fallen, being sure to get the mixture on ahead of the point and the third about two weeks later.

DO YOU KNOW POSITIVELY THAT YOU CANNOT USE ELECTRIC POWER TO ADVANTAGE? As one man said recently, "Nowadays you can do almost everything with electricity." He referred, of course, to anything requiring mechanical force to make it operative. In your business and in your home, there is bound to be work that electricity can perform better than it is done now—and usually more economically. We have a department in our organization which specializes in showing people how to use electric service. If you suspect that electric power can be made useful to you, call in our New Business Department representatives, and explain your needs. Our men will be glad to take all the time necessary to make an investigation, go over the proposition with you carefully, and to submit authoritative advice, plans and estimates. There will be no fancied grievance on our part should you decide not to make the installation.

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