

PAPERS BY THE PEOPLE

STRENGTH OF AMERICAN REPUBLICS.



ELIHU ROOT.

When President Monroe, coming to the aid of struggling Spanish America, made the audacious and gallant declaration that no part of the American continents must be deemed subject to colonization by any European power, he affirmed the proposition that all the American republics are competent to maintain throughout their territories governments answering to the demands of civilization, preserving order, enforcing law, doing justice and performing all international obligations.

To that proposition all of us stand committed. Its truth we all maintain. Every evidence in its support is a source of satisfaction to us. Every forward step in the path of progress by an American republic is a cause of joy to all of us. May every one of the sisterhood of American republics grow in prosperity and strength. May the independence, the freedom of the rights of the least and weakest be ever represented equally with the rights of the strongest, and may we all do our share toward the building up of a sound and enlightened public opinion of the Americans, which shall everywhere, upon both continents, mightily promote the reign of peace, of order and of justice in every American republic.

VALUE OF THE PANAMA CANAL.

By Governor Charles S. Deneen.



We are all aware that in recent years American diplomacy and American arms have secured for us a new position in the world. Toward the precise spot where the fortunes of war have given us a foothold the older nations have for many years been looking with longing eyes as to the Mecca of commercial enterprise—the markets of the East. In an effort to secure control of those markets much had already been accomplished by European nations while we were still engaged in the development of our internal resources, but barriers of a racial and political character have hitherto in a large measure neutralized their efforts.

A change has come over the scene in recent years, and now not only has Japan thrown off the lethargy of ages and sprung full armed into the same arena with the Western nations, but China herself is awakening from her long sleep and bids fair to open her doors to the products of the Western world and with her 400,000,000 inhabitants to furnish in the near future the greatest market still awaiting development. England, Germany, France, Russia, have all been impressed with the magnitude of the opportunity for commerce which is to come with the opening of the Oriental countries to the trade of the Occident. These countries have spared no pains to extend and strengthen their position along the lines which enable them to participate in its benefits. England especially, with her customary commercial foresight, has established a long line of what we may call points of commercial strategy, leading through the Mediterranean Sea and the Suez Canal to this new commercial El Dorado.

The opening of the Panama Canal is a movement on this continent the counterpart of the opening of the

Suez Canal in the old world. There the interposition of Africa formed a barrier to speedy communication between Western Europe, the British Isles and India and the East, just as South America interposes a barrier here. The removal of this barrier will give us command of the Pacific and make us masters commercially of that ocean, which is to become in the not distant future the theater of the greatest commerce in the world.

APPALLING STATE OF DOMESTIC LIFE.

By Rev. Madison C. Peters.



Of the decline of marriages, there can be no doubt. There are to-day about 4,000,000 men in the United States past 30 years who are not married, and the number is constantly on the increase.

Independent careers are becoming more and more impossible to the young men in our land; women are filling positions which men should occupy to make homes; the salaries of our young men, even in good positions, are low, good salaries running from \$12 to \$25 a week. How can a man support a wife on present-day salary?

Marriage is being effectually discouraged by the constantly and greatly increasing cost of living. Parents without fortunes support their daughters in luxury, and girls expect to be thus cared for after marriage. It costs more to sustain such a girl than the average man can earn. The inordinate passion for dress is a terrific impediment to marriage.

The domestic life in this country is in an appalling condition. Many a man has given up all the ambition for study, for self-denying service of his fellow-men, stifled the voice of his conscience when it demanded sacrifice and devoted himself to the one subject of gaining the wherewithal to keep sunshine in his home by unlimited indulgence of a fashion-pampered woman.

WOMEN AS BARGAIN HUNTERS.

By Della Austrian.



"There are two things vitally interesting to a woman," said a wise Englishwoman the other day. "One is a bargain and the other is love. A woman can't get along without hunting for bargains. It is not only in Bond street that women hunt for lovely hats, in Rue de la Paix for handsome jewels, and in State street for stunning frocks and hats. I've been all over the world and I've still to find the woman who fails to take interest in a bargain.

Women in most primitive countries are exceedingly fond of decoration. Take the Dinka women in Africa. They have a mania for iron rings. They wear them in their ears, on their arms and legs. The heavier they are the better. The Zulus are equally devoted to decoration. They wear a headdress that puts one in mind of a modern tiara, and almost starve themselves to become possessors of elaborate decorations, made of animals' teeth. Woman is woman the world over. Climate and occupations may change her interests and her coloring, but her inclinations are always the same. Much we hear of the civilized woman, the cultured woman, the product of this age and generation. For all that we are one in that, we are devoted to dress and enjoy bargain hunting as much as most men do betting on the races.

AGRICULTURAL

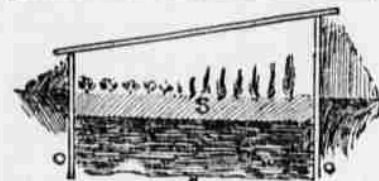


Rack for Fodder.

A plan for a good sheep rack for shredded fodder, so that stock can feed at pleasure in the barn yard or outdoors, consists of a long, narrow wire rack, as shown in Fig. 1. Set posts firmly in the ground, six or eight feet high above ground. The two rows of posts should be about five feet apart. The lower frame is a foot wide and two feet shorter than the upper frame, on posts one foot above ground. (The artists made bottom too wide, in the cut.) Spike two-inch scantling all around on top of both sets of posts. Drive in large-headed nails in these scantlings, those in the upper frame eight inches apart, and in the lower frame closer together, as you must have the same number of nails above and below. Get No. 14 wire and pass around these nails back and forth from top to bottom, clear around, and fasten. Fill this rack and top out like a rack, then cover with roof boards, or top out with straw. The frames must be made stout and solid. You can make a rack 100 feet long or over, and it will hold several tons if topped out well, says Ohio Farmer. We are told that it is a good way to put up shredded fodder that is not thoroughly cured. Fig. 2 shows how to make the

The Modern Hotbed.

To go without a hotbed on the farm is to miss many of the early luxuries in vegetables which might otherwise be had. To some the hotbed is a mystery more or less complicated, as a matter of fact, it is a simple thing, easily managed and not at all expensive. The simple hotbed is readily made by building a frame of inch lumber, sloping it to the front. The usual bed is twelve inches at the rear and six or eight inches in front. Or it may be made higher, so as not to necessitate the digging of a pit for the manure and soil. This is a matter of choice, largely. The bed may be made the length and width of a single sash, or arranged for several sashes which are usually three by six in dimensions. If the pit is dug, fill in with coarse horse manure and tram-



pie down hard. Over this put several inches of good garden soil, and then put on the sash and let the bed heat up. In a few days the intense heat will pass away and the seeds may then be sown. Of course, ventilation and water must be supplied to the seed bed, as well as to the plants after they are up, and in the cold spring protection must be given, which is readily done by having old bags or carpets to throw over the glass sash at night.

Trimming the Hedges.

If you have hedges trim them just as soon as the winter loosens its grip and the snow is off the bushes. This trimming should be just as close to the old wood as possible; but, in the case of evergreens, be sure to leave a bud or two of the new wood. If you shear any closer you will so remove the foliage as to leave a leafless blemish. There are no growing buds on these arborvitas and hemlocks below the joint that separates last year's wood from that of the previous year. You may cut as close as you please on deciduous hedges, such as hawthorn and buckthorn, and especially the locust or gleditschia. If you have blossoming hedges, such as the Tartarian honeysuckle, you must be careful not to cut off the blossom buds. Bear in mind that this first trimming is the only trimming of the year for evergreens. They must not be touched again with the shears until next spring. Deciduous hedges may be cut back two or three times every season.

New Variety Pole Bean.

This new variety will especially appeal to market gardeners, because of its inclination to yield largely and because it seems to have a crop whether



NOXALL POLE BEAN.

the season be good or bad. The pods are long, tender and of good size, and the variety is good either green when ripe, or as shelled. The quality is fair only with us in a single season's test, but we consider it worth general experimenting. In some sections beans are an exceedingly profitable crop, particularly if they are early sorts. The reader will bear in mind that as this is a new sort not yet generally tested, it is recommended in this department only for testing in small quantities. Like other new sorts it should prove its value on your own grounds.

Vitriol Rotted the Stump.

A correspondent states that he removed a troublesome tree stump from near his house in the following manner: With an inch auger he bored a hole in the center of the stump, ten inches deep, and put into it about one-half pound of oil of vitriol, and corked the hole up tight. In six months the whole stump and roots, extending through all their ramifications, were so rotted that they were easily eradicated.

There comes an evil day in postponing the work of ringing the bull.

THE VALIANT LOVER.

Shall I brood, and shall I grieve,
Wear my heart upon my sleeve,
At the ironies of Love?
Storm, and mourn the sweets thereof,
Since the bitter fates decree
Heart's-ease bourgeois not for me?

Nay; although we may not press,
She and I, in long caress
Lip to lip, nor hand in hand
Rave the summer-lilied land,
Still shall faith uplift my soul
High above the depths of dole!

Faith in her white constancy,
Though leagues part us like the sea;
Faith in ways that now diverge
In Love's time shall meet and merge;
Faith that life shall one day seem
Like a paradisaal dream!
—Woman's Home Companion.

THE BROKEN ENGAGEMENT.

BETTY sat by the window, looking across at me; I sat by the other window, looking across at her.

"Tell me what you have been doing," said I.

"Nothing," said Betty; "it has been very dull."

"Do you know Ethel Barry?" I ventured.

"To bow to," said Betty.

"It is a queer world," I announced.

"Ethel Barry has done something very ordinary?" questioned Betty.

"I heard that she was engaged to a fellow named Proctor—"

"A nice boy," interrupted Betty, "but a trifle—er—quick-tempered."

"And that she has broken it," I finished.

Betty leaned toward me with wide eyes.

"No?"

"Yes."

"I don't believe it."

"Her cousin, Charlie Robertson, told me."

"What has she done that for?" demanded Betty, offendedly.

"Who shall say? But he thinks—"

"What?"

"Some other woman—"

"Who?"

"How should I know? But it is a pity, because she was very much in love with him."

"She is a silly thing," said Betty.

"I thought you didn't know her."

"Any girl who breaks her engagement for a little thing is silly."

"How do you know it was a little thing?" I protested.

"She is the sort of person who would," said Betty. "Shall I make you some tea?"

Just then somebody knocked, and there entered a tall man who was very young and very good looking. I thought he flushed when Betty admitted him, and I know he scowled a little at me.

"George," she said, "this is Mr. Proctor."

We shook hands. I looked at Betty. There was more color in her cheeks than usual.

"How many lumps?" she questioned Proctor.

"One." And he nodded.

"You want two?" said Betty to me.

"Two." And I smiled. It was the first time Betty had ever done me the

honor to remember about the lumps. She always pretended to forget.

"You see, I've been making tea for George for a long time," she explained.

What we talked about is not important. Betty talked a great deal, and her voice had for me the caress of rose leaves. It seemed scarcely fair to Mr. Proctor.

At last, she said: "George and I

were going walking when you came, and now we will all go together."

Proctor pleaded another engagement.

"Really?" said Betty with her eyebrows up. "Of course it is with Miss Barry, and of course we really haven't any right to take you away from her. Well, if you will run off—"

She began putting pins through her hat.

"George," she said suddenly, "please button my glove; I can't get it buttoned myself." She put her hand in mine. I saw Proctor's lips tighten as I achieved the feat.

Then we all went out together. At the corner Proctor left us.

"You need not scold," said Betty, suddenly. "I had no idea he would go so far."

"You always like to play with fire," said I.

"But I didn't. I really didn't. He would come. And I had no idea. I'm so sorry; but it will be all right now. He will make it up."

"After the glove," I answered.

"It was hard, really," said Betty; "but it was better to be cruel and nip it in the bud."

"Better not to have sown the seed," said I.

"I hate people who preach," said Betty; "but I am sorry. I will hunt her up and be nice to her."

It was something like two weeks later. Betty was making tea.

"I see the cards are out for the Proctor-Barry wedding," said I. "Isn't it rather sudden?"

"Oh, they have been engaged a long time," laughed Betty. "I am to help dress the bride. How many lumps? You know I never can remember."

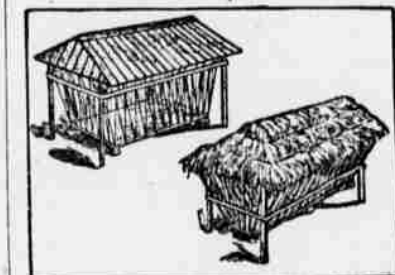
I looked at her. "It was cleverly done," said I.

"Let us go and watch the sunset," she answered, as she got up and began pulling pins out of her hat. Finally she turned from the mirror and smiled at me.

"Let me button your glove," I suggested.

"Thank you," she said, "they go on quite easily. I always button my gloves myself."—F. M. Smith, in Pittsburg Dispatch.

If a woman is wise she will inform her dressmaker that she needs her new dress at least a week before she actually does need it.



TWO CONVENIENT FODDER RACKS.

rack of rails, poles or scantling. After filling, it can be topped with straw, or thatched, as shown in cut. The roof in No. 1 can be raised up as high as desired by lengthening the posts.

Cost in Crop Raising.

The generation of agriculturists doubtless does not fully realize the difference between the efficiency of hand and machine labor. Here are two comparisons made by the United States Bureau of Labor:

To produce 100 bushels of barley it took 911.94 hours of labor seventy years ago; to-day, with the aid of machinery, it takes 9.04 hours.

To produce 100 bushels of oats it took 265 hours in 1830; by machinery it takes 28.39 hours.

Seventy years ago agriculture was impossible away from the Atlantic seaboard. Fifty years ago grain was harvested with the aid of the cradle and threshing was done with the flail. Within the last two decades not only the expense of labor, incidental to crop growing, has been minimized to a large extent but the process is still going on. Farming was drudgery; it is now an employment for the intelligent man.

Using Too Much Lime.

Experience has shown that too much lime is often used through the impression that it contains of itself considerable fertilizing value. If it is used with an idea of setting free some of the plant foods in the soil that is one thing, but if the idea is to use it largely for soil acidity then a little will often suffice. Especially on sandy soils is the lime overdone, for if used to correct soil acidity on such soils twenty-five bushels an acre of slaked lime is generally sufficient and on heavy soils double that quantity or seventy-five bushels at most is ample. It should be remembered that while the litmus paper test is generally reliable there are chemicals in the soil which has the same effect on the litmus paper as the acidity of the soil.

It is reported of an Iowa farmer that for some years his corn yielded on an average of sixty-five bushels per acre. He prided himself on his ability to select seed corn and get a good stand. He attended one of the seed corn gospel meetings and saw where he had not quite come up to the best method. It appealed to him and he selected the seed for eight acres as he had never done before and his eight acres yielded 128 bushels per acre. On the rest of the farm where only ordinary selection was employed he obtained sixty-five bushels per acre.