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### THE DOUBLE-FACED BASCALS!

In the closing days of the last congress leaders of the two parties proved by statistics: first, that the congress had been prudent and economical, and, second, that the congress had been heedless and extravagant. With the same supply of figures to draw from the republican spokesman and the democratic spokesman produced totals that varied almost \$100,000,000.

We have before us half a dozen statements of losses suffered by this country from ravages by bugs, from the sprightly grasshopper to the much exploited boll weevil, says the Saturday Evening Post. Four hundred millions of dollars is writ down as the sum stolen from us by the insects every year. And this does not include the hundreds of millions that may be calculated from the devastation of flies, mosquitoes and other small destroyers. Indeed, as we add together the extraordinary figures we get into the billions without hardly scraping an acquaintance with entomology. Before we realize what we are doing we exceed the producing power of our population and make the national debt look 30 and some odd cents.

When the trust capitalizations were rushing to their flood a few months ago, and millionaires were being made faster than automobiles, interesting totals were widely published. It was found that the new corporations had in bonds and stocks more figurative money than the world ever contained; that, literally, if their printed values had been cashed in, every penny on earth would have been used and hundreds of millions of new money would have been needed to balance the ledger.

A practical joker once replied to the question, Do figures lie? by asking the questioner to write very carefully 317 and then turn it upside down. We should not say that statistics are either false or productive of falsehood, but it must be admitted that they are wonderfully versatile. We might even do better than that and declare that figures do not lie, but they produce very contradictory conclusions when turned upside down by jokers and jugglers.

And, as a matter of fact, in these days of much figuring there is more safety in honest doubt than in half the statistical tables.

### THE NATIONAL BANKS.

The reports of the national banks to the controller of the currency showing the condition of these institutions at the close of business on June 9 constitute the most remarkable presentation that has been made by them at the close of any government fiscal year since the passage of the original national banking act.

On June 9 loans and discounts amounted to \$3,595,000,000, the highest mark that has yet been reached in national bank reports to the government. That amount is \$198,000,000 in excess of the volume of loans and discounts that was reported about one year ago, and it is nearly one billion dollars in excess of the volume of loans and discounts even so late as the mid-summer of 1900. It represents an increase in these items of resources of national banks practically 85 per cent since 1894.

A few years ago an increase of nearly \$200,000,000 in a single year in the money loaned by national banks would have caused general astonishment and perhaps some apprehension. Prior to 1897 it was very seldom that the increase in loans and discounts of these institutions, in a single year, exceeded \$150,000,000, and such increase never approximated \$200,000,000. Of late, however, such an expansion in a 10-month is passed by without surprise—for the public has seen national bank loans and discounts increase in that space of time \$325,000,000 in 1899, nearly \$335,000,000 in 1901 and \$285,000,000 in 1902.

But, if loans and discounts have expanded enormously, much more so have individual deposits. Of course, to some extent the increase in these deposits is probably due to the increase in loans and discounts, but that fact will not account for the increase of \$110,000,000 in deposits that has occurred since June, 1903, or for the increase of \$850,000,000 in deposits that has occurred since mid-summer of

1900. This is obvious from the fact that the specie holdings alone of national banks—most of it gold—have increased \$100,000,000 since a year ago and nearly \$200,000,000 since 1900; and from the further fact that the percentage of legal reserve to deposits on June 9 was 23.07.

As was to be expected from the recent rapid growth of these institutions, the aggregate capital of national banks has also increased. It now amounts to \$767,000,000—an increase of nearly \$24,000,000 in the last year and of nearly \$150,000,000 in 1900. This is accompanied by an increase of nearly \$40,000,000 in surplus and undivided profits, the aggregate of these items amounting to \$580,000,000 or more than 75 per cent of the total amount of the capital of national banks—a fact that should constitute an ample safeguard against losses.

### THE SINS OF WEALTH.

In his baccalaureate sermon last Sunday President Harris of Amherst college dwelt at some length on the shortcomings of the rich in these days. He pointed out that public office is "bought by money"—the inference being, of course, that it is the money of the rich with which the price is paid—and that legislation is shaped by corporations, "which give millions of dollars to carry elections." He declared that the fashionable society of our cities is the society of the wealthy. "The rich," he said, "vie with one another in the expensiveness of food, drinks, clothes and decorations. Their moral standards are low. Divorce does not read a rich man or woman out of fashionable society. They are the degenerates of the cities."

And then he proceeded in the regulation way to admit that there are exceptions, to show that not all the rich are necessarily vulgar and sensuous, but that many among them devote their means to art, education, philanthropy, religion and so on.

It is seriously to be questioned if pulpit teaching of that sort bears practical fruit, if indeed it makes any moral impression worth the effort that it costs, comments the New York Commercial. The Amherst graduating class of 1904 is composed of intelligent young fellows, of course, most of them sensible, with fairly well-trained minds, observant, ambitious; probably at least four-fifths of them hope to be rich some day—and it is much to be doubted if President Harris' parting discourse has changed the life plans of any one of them or in the slightest degree modified his aspirations or sharpened his moral point of view. They all know well enough that sin is no respecter of persons, that vice is quite as common among the poor as among the rich. To point out to them that lying, bribery, vulgarity and divorce are to be encountered among red-headed men would quicken and stir their moral sense quite as deeply as to tell them that these shortcomings attach to the wealthy. Men and women sin not because they are rich or red-headed or freckled or poor or because they are bicyclists or physicians or preachers or politicians or traders or teachers.

The causes of immortality lie much deeper than these incidents or conditions of life. The ideal baccalaureate sermon would be one that pictured the attractiveness and the power inherent in right living and that proved—as it could—that a moral, upright life plus riches is not only more attractive but a greater power for good in the world than a pure life plus poverty.

### AMERICAN IDEALISM.

Americans have the reputation of being the greatest money-makers of the world, says the Saturday Evening Post. They also are more and more coming to have the reputation of being the greatest money-givers. Among all these givers Mr. Carnegie is easily the prince. He has endowed research in the great institution at Washington bearing his name with \$10,000,000. He is also endowing learning in the form of thousands of libraries. He has subsidized recreation in the gift of two and a half millions to his native city in Scotland; and also heroism through the foundation of a five-million dollar fund. His entire benefactors exceed one hundred millions.

But Mr. Carnegie is not the only American who gives evidence that money-giving is a most important part of American character and life. Not a few men in America are giving not only 10 per cent of their income every year to benevolence, but also are in cases parting with one-third or one-half of their property for the equipping of philanthropic concerns and the endowing of philanthropic movements.

In a western city a physician recently declined to accept an inheritance of \$2,000,000, preferring that it should go to the next of kin rather than to himself. Home, friendship, associations are constantly causing professional and business men to decline offers looking toward a change of work which would mean an increase in salary.

Despite the struggle for wealth, evidences are numerous and strong that Americans are quite as much idealists as they are materialists.

And after all, Judge Parker didn't speak! How convenient that he should have been compelled to wire!

Anyhow, Mr. Bryan is still the best talker of the democratic bunch.

### CHINESE CATTLE QUEEN.

Arizona Maiden Going to China With Her Father's Ashes.

San Francisco Call: Miss Kee Kue, Chinese cattle queen of Arizona, is in town. She arrived unostentatiously and has taken up her abode in the Chinese quarter. As yet she has not shot out the lights of the district, nor has she attempted to decorate it with a carmine streak after the custom of cattle queens of 5-cent fiction. Miss Lee Kue is a most peaceable and refined cowgirl. She left her shooting irons at home near Phoenix, Ariz.

She is here on her way to China as an escort to the ashes of her father, who died several years ago, and must, according to custom, be buried in the Flowery Kingdom. While Lee Kue is thousands of years ahead of her own race, she still clings to some of its traditions. Therefore her father's last wish will be religiously carried out.

Since she was 15, Lee Kue has had full charge of her father's ranch, which brings an annual income of \$10,000. Every detail of its working was managed by her. With a staff of admiring cowboys she superintended the branding and the rounding up and she rode with her own herds into Phoenix.

Her life contrasted almost grotesquely with that of her sisters here and in China. While they seldom saw even the little corners of the world in which they lived, all Arizona was Lee Kue's to wander over. Her sisters covered their faces from the sight of men. Lee Kue goes forth among the sterner sex of her own land and of America, jokes with them, quarrels with them and bargains with them shrewdly. While her sisters toddle on their uncertain, pyramid feet, Lee Kue leaps into the saddle of a bucking mustang and rides with the best cattle puncher in Arizona.

Farming and horticulture are open books to the Chinese girl of 20. Most of the markets in Phoenix are provided with fruit and vegetables from her ranch. When the cattle were not occupying all her attention she would rise before dawn and drive a four-horse wagon loaded with produce into town.

Lee Kue is small and trim. Except for the frank, fearless look in her oblique eyes there is nothing in her appearance to distinguish her from the conventional Chinese girls cooped in arbors of lilies and occupying their time in wondering how the street below them looks. But the desert tan of Arizona is on Lee Kue's cheeks and now years of indoor life would never make them pale. She belongs to the strenuous life.

Though Miss Lee Kue is an heiress, she is not regarded in Chinatown as a matrimonial prize. She is so marvelously "new" that the eligibles fear her.

Marry a woman who rides astride like a "white devil" upon a prancing horse and no doubt has a Colt 45 coquettishly tucked away in her hip pocket? Not for Ah Kee! Not for Fat Sung! Not for any of the Beau Brummels of Chinatown!

On the other hand, the cattle queen would hardly care for them. If she brought Ah Kee or Fat Sung to Phoenix as her husband, his skin might promptly be perforated by some of Miss Lee Kue's narrow-minded admirers among the Alkali Ikees and Tucson Charlies.

When Lee Kue returns from China she will continue to manage the ranch. If she decides to take in a partner, he will not be led to the altar by his pig-tail. Lee Kue does not admire long hair on men. The fortunate husband will be "all samee white man."

### Some Quaint English Taxes.

Every now and again people are reminded in England of the existence of that queer, old-fashioned tax which requires people who keep male servants to pay a duty of \$4 a year for each of them. Lord Huntly, who enjoys the distinction of being the premier marquis of Scotland, has just been convicted in Huntingdonshire of keeping three male servants without the government license, granted on the payment of the statutory tax. He was fined \$100, besides costs, and was ordered to pay the duty at once, under threats of being penalized for contempt, if he did not comply with the direction of the court.

There are many of these odd taxes in England, many of them dating from old feudal times, and if one uses any sort of armorial bearings he is required to pay a duty of \$5 a year, while if these heraldic devices are painted on the panels of one's carriage or motor car it means at once an annual tax of \$10 more.

The taxes payable into the national treasury on the grant of nobility honors are also quite heavy. Thus on the letters patent granting the dignity of a duke a stamp duty of \$2,000 has to be paid. A marquis gets off with \$1,500, an earl with \$1,200, a viscount with \$1,000, a baron with \$750 and a baronet

with \$500. These are only the stamp duties, and have nothing to do with the fees to the College of Heralds, and to all sorts of other dignitaries and institutions which amount in each instance to at least twice, and sometimes three, times more.

Cannon and Williams.

John Sharp Williams found a telegraph message from Uncle Joe Cannon when he arrived in St. Louis. It read: "If they want to nominate you for vice president and you don't want it, wire me and I will send you my recipe. I got something that is a sure cure for such foolishness. Don't let 'em kid you."

The speaker and the house minority leader are great cronies. Both are great story tellers, and to find a good new story for the other causes the lucky man more pleasure than if he had won a pile of money.

"John, did you get any good stories while you were away?" asked the speaker, upon Williams' return from a southern trip.

"Yes, I got one."  
 "Tell it to me."  
 "Not for two days. Joe, you have got

# WORMS

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to be such a damn old gossip since you began to think that you are like Abe Lincoln that a man don't dare to tell a good story to you. With your telling it to Tom, Dick and Harry, a good story is spotted in about two hours after you get it. No, sir, I'll keep this one for two days."

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