

REPUBLICAN VENTRILOQUISM



The Living Death



One of the Lepers in the Leper Colony in America, a Pole, is rather a clever carpenter and made this windmill with only a hatchet and saw at Blackwell Island, N. Y.

By Norman.
Leprosy has been the dread plague of the ages. Almost with the beginning of history the awful disease takes its unique place as the one most hopeless of all known afflictions. It is not only the most hopeless, but the most revolting and worst of all it alone of all dread diseases forces the afflicted one to meet his fate single handed and without the assistance of friends. Lepers in America are treated quite as well as in other countries, but at best it is disgraceful. Leprosy is so seldom met with in the United States that the conditions are not generally known. At present there are in this country two places for the care of the leper. One in New York and another in Louisiana. New York's leper colony consists of only four members at the present writing. Three Chinese and one Pole. It is located on Blackwell's Island. The Louisiana colony has about 19 lepers. There are not in the entire United States more than 20 known cases, although it is estimated that there are many more unknown in the slum districts of our great cities. The Hawaiian Islands have many and they are as far as possible centered upon Leper Island. The conditions here are awful. The lepers are for the most part supported by charity. The hovels in which they live are unsanitary and tend to aggravate the disease. Leper Island was made famous by the late Father Damien, who of his own volition went to the lepers as a missionary to help and cheer them. Holland has three homes for the leper. Two are supported by church and one by the government. According to the last report, the government hospital for lepers had three men, 42 women, four boys and two girls. The home affords separate quarters for the male and female patients. Also other quar-

ters for the married inmates, for they are allowed to intermarry. So far as known, there is no cure for the leper. Many men have devoted their lives to the study of it, but without finding a remedy. It is generally conceded that it is not contagious or hereditary, and it is a fact that it is far less prevalent than in former ages. Suppose a doctor were to say to you, as they said to Early in Washington, "You are a leper!" Do you know what would happen to you? You would be hounded worse than the greatest criminal that ever lived. Your life would be more miserable than that of the greatest sinner in King Sing. You would be shunned and cast aside like a Judas. For in the whole United States there is not a fit place for a leper to go. New York has four lepers. She takes good care of them. They live well and have small comforts. But to place an American where these four lepers live and to ask him to hunk with them would be a cruelty greater than the affliction that bears him down. For three Chinese and a Pole make up New York's leper colony. They all sleep in one room; they all eat together; they all share one end of a storehouse. Death would be welcome to a person used to ordinary companionship rather than life in the leper house on Blackwell's Island. Leprosy is not such an awesome thing as to justify this condition. The lepers on Blackwell's Island prove that it is pitiable; it is sad but it is not dangerous to others, if ordinary caution is observed. In fact, Joe, the Pole on Blackwell's Island, walks all over the place and no visitor unless he were told, could distinguish Joe from an employe. He is one of the strongest men on the island. He does all sorts of carpentry work; he fixes roads and keeps the doctors' tennis courts in trim condition. Yet Joe is waiting for his time to come, as he knows it must. The fear that the layman has for leprosy is scoffed at on Blackwell's Island. There is a leper who is in personal association with them all day long, but he would be surprised if anyone were to tell him that he was leper. The doctors go to see them every day and think no more of it than they do when they treat cases of the simplest skin troubles. They do not touch the patients when it can be avoided; that is all. For practically the only danger of infection is when one has an open cut and the cut comes in contact with the leper's diseased skin. There is no high wall about them; not even a low fence runs them in. To be a leper in this country is to be cast among aliens, without the tender care of women nurses, without the comfort the average man is used to. It is to be herded among men who can scarcely speak English; to be cast off from one's human companions and made to live with orientals. Get any other disease that ever plagued man, and a humanitarian world protects you; get any other affliction that makes men, and nurses and medicine and cleanliness are at your service. Get leprosy, and you are cast away, for there are only two places in the United States where provision is made for lepers—New York and Louisiana. Early was cast off to dwell on the banks of the Potomac, in a tent, alone, as if he did not have a soul in his body, as if he had committed some terrible crime which rendered him unfit for association with his fellow beings. Mrs. Wardell was hounded from spot to spot with not a foot of ground on which she could breathe rationally. Not long ago a man was chased from town to town, and kept the doctors' tennis courts in trim condition. Yet Joe is waiting for his time to come, as he knows it must. If he were accused, until finally he fled from the exposure. In all the land, New York is kinder, yet stick on him who may get the disease, for a life with three Chinese and a Pole is all that is before him, and the disease runs too slowly to take him out of his misery before the awfulness of his surroundings makes life a hell on earth. As there is no known cure for leprosy, no particular treatment is given to them, except cleanliness, plenty of fresh air, good food and sunlight. Salves are administered to lessen the awful pain they sometimes suffer, but this is done by the patient himself, for all are able to move about. The popular idea of leprosy is that the fingers and toes drop off, but that is an infrequent form of the disease. Some of the lepers on Blackwell's Island suffer that way. In the old days they wore hoods and gowns and carried clappers to warn persons to flee from them, but Joe has not even a particular kind of cap to distinguish him from the others on the island. Story books are full of awful tales of leprosy and they have fostered a false impression, but no story could exaggerate the suffering of the present day leper in America. Centuries ago they were sent to wander in the woods; to blow a horn when they wanted food, and in some parts of Europe they sat with beggars. But what is that compared with their treatment of today, when they have not even that standing? Well might we ask, how about ourselves? Three Chinese and a Pole would be one's only companions if Blackwell's Island were the asylum. Louisiana is as bad. No sunshine would brighten your sky, no hopeful face would help you along your rocky road. You would be worse than any prisoner.

CITIZENS THROUGHOUT STATE REJOICE AT RECENT RAINFALL

Wasco's Hills Are Green and Farmers Prepare for Plowing. Josephine's Streams Rise and Placer Mining Will Start Soon. Grants Pass, Or., Oct. 17.—The wet season has opened early, and in real earnest in Southern Oregon, assuring an early beginning of placer mining operations. The rains have been unusually heavy for the past week. The Rogue, Applegate and Umpqua rivers have risen rapidly, fed by the many smaller mountain streams, and as most of the hydraulic mines derive their water supply from these streams, it seems certain that many of the surface diggers will be busy at work by the close of October, or early November, at latest. This will give them a full month more than is generally accorded in one season. During the summer the managers and owners of the hydraulic properties have been busy making improvements, and the winter will open with many of the properties in shape for more extensive operations than ever before. There will be several new hydraulic mines ready for business. These have been developed and equipped this past summer. They are located for the greater part on lower Rogue River, on Paradise and Half Moon bars. The Dalles, Or., Oct. 17.—The rainfall during the last few days has been of inestimable value to the farmer in this locality. There had been no rain for over a month, and the moisture has started the forage in pasture lands and placed plow lands in good condition for cultivating. Farmers throughout Wasco county have had to delay plowing until a rainfall. The 34 of an inch of precipitation has been most welcome to every one, the farmer, the orchardist and the stockman alike. The hill country around The Dalles that looked like it would produce "nothing but sage brush and jack rabbits" is as green as it usually is in May. The self-sown wild grass seed has sprouted, and this will make good fall and winter pasture for the thousands of cattle and sheep that are roaming the hills in this locality and across the river on the Klickitat.

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ANTI-STARVATION WORKERS BARRED

Chicago Police Fear Disorder If Agitation Is Permitted. (United Press Leased Wire.) Chicago, Oct. 17.—Chief of Police Shippy tonight issued orders for the

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PEARL HARBOR TO BE GRAND NAVAL BASE

(Heart News by Longest Leased Wire.) San Francisco, Oct. 17.—Pearl Harbor near Honolulu, will be one of the finest naval bases to be found anywhere when we get through with it, said Rear Admiral R. C. Holyday, chief of the construction of yards and the arrival from Hawaii on the liner Siberia. He has his headquarters at Washington, D. C. and went to Hawaii a few weeks ago to inspect Pearl Harbor and its approaches. "I only wanted to satisfy myself as to local conditions at Pearl Harbor and do not expect to be there again for some time," added Admiral Holyday. "It will be necessary to dredge 5,000,000 cubic yards of earth, and bids for this work are to be opened December 1. Bids for the construction of 100,000 tons of steel and wharves and everything necessary to complete the station will be built. The naval station is to be finished in all its branches about January, 1912. It has been many years since there has been such a demand for hay in southern Grant as there is today, says the Long Creek Ranger. Many of the stockmen made arrangements early in the summer for their winter's supply, while others who waited longer found it hard to secure winter feed.

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