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WOODROW WILSON.

Take my word for it, if you
had seen but one day of war,
you would pray to Almighty
God that you might never see
such a thing again.—Wellington.

THE SHEETED DEAD

THE beautiful flower of Ellhu Root's presidential expectations has been nipped by an unkindly frost. The late New York elections have left nothing of its charm and fragrance but a melancholy memory. It now becomes necessary for the reactionary sorcerers to evoke another spirit from the vasty deep where political ghosts wander and wail. Nothing but some spectral shade seems to find any favor with the party managers. Their eyes are in the backs of their heads and their expectations depend upon a propaganda of despair. Should they choose a living man for a candidate they fear that he might encourage the forward movement of the American people. He might tolerate a living idea or two. He might give some encouragement to those fundamental reforms which the nation needs to cure its maladies.

The reactionary managers have no patience with scientific reforms and cures. They have a magic charm which they depend upon to meet every occasion. "Back to the Hanna Tariff" is their cry. Are the people starving? Give them a tariff bone to gnaw upon. It is a mouldy old bone, bare of meat and smelling vilely. But they trust that it may be used to fool the people once more at least. Anything to bring the wailing specters back into office.

Since Ellhu Root has resumed his place among the shades there is some talk of performing an incantation to evoke the ghost of the nomination. This was shade from Illinois may be expected soon to begin to "aqueak and gibber" in orthodox party tones. The workmen will be told sepulchral how to get "full dinner pails" by emptying their pockets into the hands of the tariff barons. It is a pretty game but it may be played once too often.

THE BLACK WATCH

THE charge of the Light Brigade at Balaklava is dwarfed in substance though not in spirit by the charge of the Black Watch at Loos during the present war.

At Balaklava there were six hundred who "rode boldly and well." At Loos there were four thousand who entered the jaws of death. Out of this four thousand only five hundred returned. Out of the four thousand killed and tartaned men in the full flower of strength only five hundred, some of them mutilated for life, came back. Of such incidents as these is war made up.

The Black Watch is one of Scotland's famous regiments. Its real war history began at the battle of Fontenoy and but few regiments in the British army excel it in the number and character of its battle honors. To serve in the regiment is a distinction in itself. Yet on its flag there is one stain. In 1743 a large portion of the regiment mutinied and fled to the north. They were surrounded and the ringleaders were seized and put to death.

The regiment was first organized by the Earl of Athole in 1688. At first it was employed as a police force in the highlands. In 1740 it was taken into the regular army, forming the forty-second regiment of the line.

know that they will never come back and that their dead bodies are to serve as a bridge over which their fellow infantry is to cross the enemy's line.
Such is the glory of war, but what a false glory it often is.

S. O. S.

WITH American cruisers hurrying from various points to lend assistance, with wireless snapping out calls for aid to help navigate three of our F submarines from Honolulu to San Francisco, with this visible evidence that one class of our war divers could neither fight nor run nor even float in heavy weather, the wonder naturally runs on why would or could we do with such so-called fighting craft against such under-sea terrors as a foreign foe could place against us.

In the 'S. O. S. drama now being played on the Pacific ocean, something seems to tell us, as Mr. Jiggs would say, that there is an occasional weak spot in the American navy that needs strengthening.

WISER NOW

OUT near the Multnomah poor farm, there is an eight thousand dollar parcel of land that the city of Portland owns. It was bought for a detention home for women, but the city commission very properly declines to appropriate \$30,000 to build the home. Commissioners Daly, Bigelow and Baker refusing to expend the money for that purpose.

The Journal urged the commission not to buy the land. Commissioners Daly and Bigelow opposed the purchase. In view of the present situation in which the city has the costly parcel of land on its hands without use for it, the wisdom of the protest against the purchase is self evident.

There was another reason. The land was assessed at only \$2750, and its purchase at \$3000 was manifestly more than it was worth. It is wholly unlikely that the city could now convert it into anything near \$3000 in cash, even to the owner from whom it was so jauntily and generously bought.

There is a third and excellent reason why the purchase should not have been made. There are already many privately conducted homes for the rescue and salvage of the fallen. The privately conducted homes are more economically and successfully maintained. The city could render such aid to the fallen as it desires to vouchsafe by cooperation with the private homes at but a fraction of the cost of a public home.

Public homes require infinite and endless salaries, keepers, superintendents, matrons, nurses, doctors, helpers, orderlies, assistants, near assistants and gentlemen and ladies in waiting ad infinitum.

Whenever the proposition of a public home is broached, the professional parasites, leeches and ticks scent blood and at once get ready to insert their bills and begin to suck.

CHURCH ADVERTISING

WHY not church advertising? It was advocated by Rev. Edwin A. Rumball before the annual conference of the Unitarian church for the Middle States and Canada. He said the system had been employed last year, and the fact that it is again urged indicates that the results must have more than justified the outlay.

This is a publicity era. The things that are kept in the public view draw the crowds. The activity that is most in the public mind is swiftly advancing. The business that nobody ever hears of is usually on the toboggan.

Salvation has nothing to hide. It has no occasion to shrink from publicity. It can advertise without breaking the laws against impure or dishonest advertising.

It is not improbable that in the plan of Rev. Rumball, the church could find an effective and valuable means of extending its earthly kingdom.

SAFER SCHOOLHOUSES.

FIRE MARSHAL STEVENS made some remarks at the library on Thursday night which deserve attention. A meeting had been called by our indefatigable friend, Mrs. Sharp, to take up the general subject of safety in the schoolhouses. Mr. Stevens, who was the first speaker, touched upon the blame he had incurred by failing to sanction meetings in assembly rooms. He explained that he had not forbidden these meetings, since he had no power to do so, but he had refused to recommend them, conditions being what they are. He went on to specify some of these conditions, such as the wooden wells down which everybody must pass to escape from the upper stories. These wells, situated in the center of the building, contain the common stairways and in a fire would naturally fill immediately with flame and smoke, preventing all exit.

Mr. Stevens also remarked upon the absence of proper fire escapes on the outside of the buildings. He intimated that with such fire escapes the schoolhouses would be much safer for evening meetings and also for the children in the daytime. It is rather a disagreeable thought that numbers of

Portland children are receiving their education in firetraps which may any day yield up one of those tragedies which are so common in the United States. That we have been favored thus far gives ground for thankfulness, but who can say how long the school will continue? Fireproof schoolhouses are somewhat expensive, but so are furnaces. We believe that upon the whole Portland taxpayers would prefer to go down into their pockets and pay for modern buildings rather than follow their little ones to untimely graves. In any case the exclusion of parent-teacher meetings does not make the schoolhouses any safer for the children.

THE HELIG STRIKE

WHEN a theatre is filled with people who have paid their money to see a performance, and when the stage hands walk out on a strike and the people in the audience have nothing to do but go home, unionism harms itself, not the people. It makes enemies that unionism need not and ought not to have.

Fair play is universally applauded. The opposite is universally condemned. The theatre audience at the Helig is an innocent third party. The blow struck by the Theatrical Federation fell partly on these innocent bystanders, and nowhere will that style of economic warfare find favor.

The process is so unreasonable that ultimately it will be punishable. The trend of legal decision is already such that the traveling theatrical company, which was not the slightest concerned in the local disputes, would not have far to go to bring action for damages. Unionism is the only protection workers have. In times of great labor supply the wage scale would descend below the survival point, but for unionism.

For that reason, the cause of unionism ought to be protected against the kind of action which imprudent and unwise union men precipitated in the Helig strike. It is such foolish performances that give the enemies of union labor the stoutest club with which to belabor the cause of unionism.

PAYING THE PENALTY

GIVEN a sentence of three to seven years in the penitentiary for arson, former Fireman Keeney suffers the penalty all must sooner or later pay for faithlessness to a trust. It was not during his career as a fireman that he operated with the arson gang, but recency to his public obligation in that activity created a habit of faithlessness, and in his second enlistment he failed to make good as a fire lieutenant. The conductor and motorman of the runaway street car on Eleventh street have been discharged. They disobeyed company orders in leaving their car unattended, and the accident resulted. They, too, are paying the price of faithlessness to a trust.

And so it runs through life. No important career was ever built on recency to duty. Fidelity to every obligation is the stepping stone to success. In contrast with Keeney is the public example of Fire Marshal Stevens. No influence or personal sacrifice has been able to dissuade him from his duty as he has seen it. His faithfulness to all the obligations of his position has given him a leadership that commands the respect and confidence of a great city.

It will be a regret if his powers take him out of the fire department into other walks. There is no richer personal or public asset than complete and unhesitating devotion to the obligations of every trust, no matter how small that obligation be.

WELLINGTON KOO

THE new Chinese minister to the United States is an exceptionally bright young man. If all accounts are true, he is only 30 years old and looks younger, but his acquisitions are amazing. We can remember nobody except Winifred Stoner, who has accomplished more booklearnin' in so brief a period.

The new minister, Dr. Wellington Koo, by name, is a mandarin, a class of Chinamen addicted by hereditary taste to scholarship, and he outshines all his contemporaries not only in the traditional lore of the mandarins but in the knowledge of the west. He finished off his education at Columbia university, taking special work under Professor Edward Taylor, whose writings on our constitutional history have made such a stir.

Dr. Koo comes to the United States with many American sympathies and it is expected that he will use all his faculties to cement friendship between his country and ours. China feels rather lost in the tide of current events. If the allies come out victorious in the war she may fall a prey to Japan. Should the Germans win they are quite as much to be dreaded. The unhappy country does not feel quite ready just yet to give up her national existence and she looks to her old time friend, the United States, for sympathy and comfort. It has been our policy in the past to protect as well as we might the integrity of China. There is nothing to be gained, as far as we are concerned, and a great deal to be lost by untoward fortunes for our plaid old friend across the Pacific.

WILL THE BIG FART DO ANY GOOD?

Rev. David M. Steele, D. D., to Philadelphia Ledger.

THERE are three general things, above others, that impress you most at the Panama-Pacific exposition. The first is that all exhibits are of things contemporaneous rather than historical. No long story is told here of how things used to be done, but only the story of what is being done today. This show is celebrating live events, not glorifying past memories. It is not boasting even of recent achievement, but only of present. It is this that makes it of chief moment to the world; not to the world of yesterday, but to the world of today. Here are on display the latest products of all kinds of human ingenuity—and only the present mode and vogue of all of these.

And that first point merges into this second; the fact that this exhibition is meant to represent the results of the past decade only, in the material progress of civilization. Under the rules, every exhibit that is entered in hope of an award for merit must be a product or a process of the last 10 years. What have you done since the world's fair at St. Louis? That is the challenge every exhibitor must meet. And the answer is in wireless telegraphy, in radium, the automobile, aeroplanes, high tension currents, transcontinental telephony, the conquest of the soil, university extension, selective breeding, sanitation, safety devices, social service.

And thirdly, the illumination is a great main feature. A few lines for the poor farmer. I have to go to a neighbor's house. Especially do I believe this to be true of the farm homes. Yet no class of people in this country receive so little consideration as our farmers. It is the responsibility of a farmer to get even a small loan except at an exorbitant rate of interest, though the security he gives is second to none. The responsibility of a farmer to get even a small loan except at an exorbitant rate of interest, though the security he gives is second to none.

What is a world's fair for, anyway? To attempt an answer to this question is the difference between description and discussion, between mere superficial observation and some closer scrutiny, between enjoyment of a spectacle and that kind of analysis that asks its reason for existence and inquires whether or not there is justification for its cost of creation. For the cost of this is no wise inconsiderable. The whole thing at San Francisco is commonly spoken of boastfully as the "hundred million dollar show." I suppose it is all that—and more—depending, of course, on how you begin to count and where you are content to stop. A conservative estimate of the total expenditure for the production puts the figure at \$30,000,000, including, of course, all the foreign as well as other buildings, the exhibits they contain, the amusement concessions and the cost of installation of all things in the eleven palaces, in which alone there are more than fifty miles of aisles dividing the departments. To see these it is estimated that 10,000,000 "admissions" will be ground in through the turning wheels of the ten gate stiles before they close finally.

What is it all for? And does it pay? It has been a matter of civic pride on San Francisco's part that no financial aid has been asked of the national government, this being the first case of this kind on record. But where can the return possibly come from? And, if it does not come at all, is the claim justified that the vast educational value of this exposition will more than offset the cost? This is the point most frequently emphasized. This, therefore, is the point that demands some critique. It is here there come out many illustrations of our propensity as a people. Are we right or wrong in estimating everything by mass, in trying to learn by crowd pedagogy and in our hope of gaining social, moral and all other kinds of uplift by the conventional method?

"Seventy thousand exhibits?" Yes. Well and good, if any one could, or if every one did, look at one upon an average out of a thousand. The unpleasant fact is that it is not the palaces at all containing these that are most patronized, but what even the bootblack at the St. Francis hotel had enough discernment to describe to me as "that lousy zone."

Here troop the people, the millions, the myriads, day after day, to the sound of the flippant frivolity of the Barker and the tout and in sight of side-shows that are crude beyond all credence.

"The tower of Jewels!" Also shouts the advertiser. "It is 535 feet high, hung with 100,000 crystal prism novelties, a greater single work of art than all the art works of Greece put together." That is true, if one is content to supercede entirely the quality of abiding endurance in the particle by the temporary effulgence for the moment of a tout ensemble. I am not. That is the crowning effect of our people in all their passing of judgment. They leave out entirely the element of time. Grasping so eagerly for the thing that is ephemeral, they shout: "Look! We have attained. We have arrived." When, as a matter of fact, on the morrow, all the things that they possessed today are as the snows of yesterday. The heightening of standards? By beholding what they mistake for reality in tawdry imitation? This is what they do in worshipping displays of things that are but reproductions, if one likes paste diamonds, tinseled trappings, papier mache statuary, stucco structures, in twentieth-century, near-medieval architecture; if he finds enjoyment in opera bouffe entertainment and edification in the fictitious and unreal, then, of course, here is the most for his money. But, if this is all, well, then, is it cheap or dear at the price?

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Letters from the People

(Communications sent to The Journal for publication in this department should be written on only one side of the paper, should not be longer than 100 words, and should be accompanied by the name and address of the writer. If the writer desires that his name be published, he should so state.)

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Militarism and Farm Loans. Corvallis, Or., Nov. 8.—To the Editor of The Journal—I must say some of your editorials are, to use a slang expression, just about it.

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PERTINENT COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE.

Greece is evidently not feeling very Spartan these days.
What seems to hurt Britain most is Secretary Lansing's assertion that her blockade is not a blockade.
A Salem printer has fallen heir to a share in an Isle of Man estate valued at \$50,000.

The war ought to have settled one question by this time. Whether rain can be made by stirring off explosives.
Another thing to be thankful for is the fact that the war has not settled the question of whether or not it is better to be a surgeon or a soldier.

Among other misfortunes, Illinois is to have a session of its legislature. Save some of your sympathy for Illinois.
That Kansas cyclone reminds one of other days when something was happening most of the time in the Sunflower state.

If you didn't see the babies at the land show, the dogs there today might interest you. Everyone to his own taste, as the saying goes.

It is said \$11,000,000 was behind a plot to restore Huerta to the dictatorship of Mexico. The question arises whether it was Mexican shipbuilders or real money.

A Detroit girl, killed by one lover, married another and is now suing the first for \$50,000. The husband just knows that he is about \$5000 short of filling the bill.

COMMENT OF THE PRESS OF OREGON

PENDLETON EAST OREGONIAN: There is no chance for coarseness or vulgarity in the announcement of the O.W.R. & N. company will spend \$500,000 placing heavier steel on its line in eastern Oregon. The question arises whether it was Mexican shipbuilders or real money.
A Detroit girl, killed by one lover, married another and is now suing the first for \$50,000. The husband just knows that he is about \$5000 short of filling the bill.

LA GRANDE OBSERVER: Optimism prevails in the La Grande railroad yards and it is the kind that is not a better "front" for the day. The announcement is but one more indication of the prosperity generally at hand throughout the United States. It is a sign that the railroad and they anticipate heavier business. Their chief worry these days is over a probable car shortage when the wheat moves. In western Oregon the wheat and car shortage is a thing of the past. This spirit was shown here recently by Judge Lovett, head of the Union Pacific system. The same sentiments are expressed by nearly all men well informed on conditions.

WESTON LEADER: It was with a pardonable degree of pride that this old-time burg celebrated Weston's birthday, as the town carries larger stocks of goods than it has for many years. It is a fact that the town has been a busy place since the war. Even in pioneer days when it was a lively frontier town and the hub of several stage routes, it could not have made so good a showing. Commerce is now being in a number of lines that were formerly "dead ones" and the result is seen in bright and handsome shops and stores, prepared to meet every community need. The population is increasing and houses are at a premium. One property owner who had much trouble in filling his house a year ago, is now showing a better "front" for the day. The town has been a busy place since the war. Even in pioneer days when it was a lively frontier town and the hub of several stage routes, it could not have made so good a showing. 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