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Free not today, but be content, poor heart!
God's plans, like lilies, pure and white unfold.
We must not tear the close shut leaves apart;
Time will reveal the catyxes of gold.
And if, through patient toil, we reach the land,
Where tired feet, with sandals loose, may rest
When we shall clearly know and understand,
I think that we will say:
"God knew the best!"
—May Rhey Smith.

UMATILLA AND SICILY.

Now will we quit talking rotation of crops, deterioration of soil, and the weakening effect of wheat growing?

Will we accuse Umatilla county of being a shallow soil, of yielding her strength to the one crop system? Will we say anything further about the need of rest, of fertilization, of recuperation for a soil that is proved to be as everlasting as the everlasting hills themselves?

A chemical test of a quantity of Umatilla county soil taken from the heat belt near Weston, recently made by the late Prof. Henry, of the Smithsonian Institute of Washington, D. C., reveals the fact that this soil is of the same identical composition as that of Sicily, or a pure, unaltered volcanic ash, incapable of structure, incapable of being sapped of its strength, incapable of loss of soil force or energy, incapable of being weakened by the growth of crops, or by any continuous process of single crop production.

Sicily has produced wheat for 2000 years and she never produced a heavier crop than that of 1903. Her soil is self-recuperating volcanic ash that piles its own force, that yields nothing. It is simply pulverized and lized lava, and while it is not rich deep and black as the washed silt of the river bottoms of Europe, it is indestructible, and has an ess strength and vitality.

It has grown 2000 crops of wheat, barring a few seasons in which eruptions of Aetna prohibited the soil vitality seems as today as in the beginning.

The discovery that Umatilla county soil is of the same composition potency, means a jump of many years per acre in Umatilla county estate.

It means that fears for the deterioration of her soil may now be allayed, and that we can go back to a chemical analysis. You can't deny nature's proved unchangeable laws.

LABOR FOR PANAMA.

As important as the engineering and admitting of no sorry trite mathematical formula question that must soon come before the Panama Canal Commission is a continuous supply of labor.

Years is the limit set, in the mind, at least, for the completion of the great ditch, 20,000 laborers will have to be in constant attendance according to estimates of the commission.

Where is this army to be recruited, and how is its number to be increased?
A. Stephens, long familiar with climatic conditions of Panama, formerly a close student of the problems presented to

the French canal company, declares in a recent pamphlet that "no sensible person can spend a day, even an hour in the heat of the Culebra cut without coming to the conclusion that this is not a white man's job. No white laborer from the United States can or would endure it."

Dr. Stephens goes on to cite the experiences of the French excavators. According to the estimates the French lost about 50,000 laborers during their period of construction. Not only did the common diggers succumb, but the sudden deaths of men in higher places were continually causing enforced delays on the part of gangs of diggers.

Many are the expedients that have been advanced to relieve the difficulties of the labor problem in Panama.

Some have advocated the wholesale importation into the canal zone of negroes from the Southern States, others have declared that upon the working classes of Jamaica and other Caribbean islands, negroes and half-breeds all of them, rest the only hopes of the commission.

But to the first of these propositions it has been strongly objected by the South that taking away a great army of negroes for work on the canal would so alter the field of labor in the cotton belt that the cotton industry would suffer seriously.

Against the Jamaica suggestion it is maintained that there are not enough reliable laborers in any of the adjacent islands to fill the steady demand.

There remain, then, the Japanese or the coolies. On the Hawaiian sugar plantations, where climatic conditions are very nearly approximate those of Panama, the bulk of the heavy labor is done by Japanese. Hardy, inured to excessive heat in conjunction with constant humidity, ever willing to work according to the word of the overseers, these little brown fellows would seem especially fitted to endure the grueling tasks in the great ditch.

The close of the war will see thousands of them free to take employment. As to the coolie, well, he is at least a last resort. Prejudice may have to be put aside if it be that we can find no one else to wield the shovel in Panama.

CORRUPT PARTY POLITICS.

William Allen White, the well known Kansas writer, has the following to say touching the party system in this country:

"The entrance of the corporation into American politics has been followed by grafting, not only in offices but in laws.

"The corporation that desires special privileges contributes cash to the central committees of the two dominant parties, and if the party managers are honest, according to the rules of the game of politics, those contributions are the purchase price of desired privileges.

"If a corporation running a railroad wishes to maintain high rates it is no longer necessary to buy members of the legislature—at least, not in a well regulated state.

"But it is necessary to buy the party organization that controls the legislature; and this is done before the legislature is elected.

"The deed is recorded on the books of the state central committee, and if a member or group of members appear with a bill in the interest of the shippers, the chairman of the state committee makes it his business to see that the organization is against the bill.

"Similarly in the lower walks of politics, the county central committee protects the saloon keeper, and sim-

ilarly, in the higher walks, the national central committee tries the fat out of the great manufacturing corporations and protects them when tariffs are made; banking corporations are protected in the framing of currency laws, and shipbuilding corporations are promised laws to their liking.

"Through the party system as it has been organized for 25 years in America, apparently a general system of grafting has arisen, involving not only the offices but the laws of the country, and through this grafting system has arisen a group of persons having the power, but not the respectability, of the barons whom the English speaking people overthrew several hundred years ago. The party system is rotten to the core in America."

DECIDE WHAT YOU WILL DO.

An engineer who starts to build a bridge and then keeps finding better places to put his piers, and wondering whether he has selected the best location or not, will never get the bridge across the river. He must decide, then go ahead and build the bridge, no matter what obstacles he may strike. So it is with the builder of character, he must decide finally what he will do, and then make for his goal, refusing to look back or be moved from his course.

Tens of thousands of young people with good health, good education and good ability, are standing on the end of a bridge, at life's crossing. They hope they are on the right way, they think they are doing the right thing, and yet they do not dare to burn the bridge they have just crossed. They want a chance for retreat in case they have made a mistake. They can not bear the thought of cutting off all possibility of turning back. They lack the power to decide conclusively what course they will take.—O. S. Marden, in the August Success.

THE NORSEK NIGHTINGALE.

Tal me not, yu knocking fallers,
Life-ban only empty dream;
Dar ban plenty fun, ay tal you,
Ef yu try Yohn Yohanson's scheme.
Yohn ban just a section foreman
Working hard vay up on Soor;
He ban just his glad in morning
As van all his vork ban tru.

"Vork" say Yohn, "ban vat yu mak it,
Ef yu tank yone vork ban ard
Yu skol having plenty headaches,
Yes, yu bet yure life, old pard;
But ay always yerik my coat off,
Grab my shuvei and my pick,
And dis yob ant seem lak hard von.
Ef ay du it purty quick."

Yohn ban foreman over fallers,
He ant have to vork, yu see,
But yu bet he ant no loafer
And he yust digs, in by yee!
"Listen, Olaf," he skol tal me,
"Making living ant no trick,
And the hardest yob ban easy
—Ef yu only du it quick."

Let us den be op and yumping,
Always glad to plow tru drift;
Ven our vork ban done, den let us
Give some oder faller lift.
Den ay bet yu old St. Peter
He skol tank ye're purty slick;
Ve can go tru Gates, ay bet you,
Ef ve only du it quick.
—Milwaukee Sentinel.

The old saying that "one-half the world does not know what the other half is doing" does not hold good since the establishment of the rural free delivery and the adoption of the telephone in the rural districts.

Four hundred and twenty hens took part in an egg laying competition in Sydney, extending over 12 months. In all 68,572 eggs were laid, and the prize was won by a pen of Wyandottes with an average of 218 a hen.

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