

# THE WEST

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING

FLORENCE, LANE COUNTY, OREGON

**W. H. WEATHERSON**  
Editor and Proprietor.

## RED-HANDED VANITY.

For the past ten years a feminine crusade has been waged throughout this country on behalf of the feathered inhabitants of the air and against the barbarous customs which demand the bright-lined plumage of these innocent creatures to add elegance to a garment or to trim a hat or bonnet. Earnest and intelligent women have realized that unless the wanton destruction now in progress is checked the time will come when bird songs will no longer cheer the solemn forests or gladden the hills and dells, and the hunted remnant of the feathered race will succumb to the ravages of its natural enemies and become extinct upon the face of the earth.

This is neither a mere theory, nor yet the result of speculation, but the unavoidable deduction drawn from statistics gathered from the professional bird-hunters, and the markets which they supply, in all the large cities of the world. Enormous as the figures of feathered consumption are, the demand continues unequal to the supply, and every year rare varieties of birds with beautiful plumage are growing scarcer and the price of their skins advancing until such a premium is now set upon certain species that the professional hunter finds it well worth his while to penetrate the wildest forests of the tropics and to incur extraordinary risks in the knowledge that his game will yield him a rich reward to compensate for all the exposure and fatigue which he undergoes in securing it. Indeed, the ranks of his profession are swelling in number, for it is well understood that a skilled bird hunter can earn, in a short season's work, an income equal to that of the average bank cashier and considerably in advance of the army or naval officer of medium rank, with a life of adventure and travel and long periods of leisure, for it is in the nesting time of the various regions he traverses that his expeditions are most profitable, as the shy victim whose plumage is very nearly worth its weight in gold is most conveniently slain when hovering above the tiny nestlings, and the parental instinct makes them easy targets for his gun.

The whole human race, in one way or another, in a measure depends upon the slaughter of inferior life for its support, its comfort, or its protection. From time immemorial humanity has been obliged to wage war upon the lesser—or superior—grades of animal life for self-preservation alone. Utilizing these dead enemies for added comfort and a better sustenance was probably in the outset an accident.

In the earlier centuries of the world's history no distinction was made as to meat and man, and our ancestors of the stone age dined with equal relish upon beast and man; but the advancing tide of civilization brought them a nicer discrimination. The slaughter of animal creation has gone on through all the ages, but the ends have generally justified the act, for food, clothing, shelter, light and fuel were thereby obtained, with various substances of use in the arts and manufactures. But wanton slaughter has very nearly gone out of fashion, and some wise or beneficent purpose now usually directs the sportsman's aim.

It has remained for woman—gentle, tender-hearted woman—to instigate the taking of life purely and solely for the purpose of self-adornment, and to make the wearing of "a dead thing on her bonnet" a matter of prevailing feminine mode. Indeed, to those who are initiated into the mysteries of hat trimmings the wearing of the body of a single dead bird is a comparatively innocent act, for it takes not one, but ten dead birds to furnish a single airy bunch of delicate feathers known in fashionable parlance as an egret. It is the woman who calls for feather trimming on her bores and her opera cloaks; and it is woman—sensitive, thoughtful woman—who sometimes enters the ballroom with a garniture of humming birds on her gown. It is the mothers of our race who aid and abet and encourage and support this terrible annual slaughter of the innocent little parents of another race, and thereby

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cause the slow death from exposure and frost and trapper of those orphaned broods whose lamentations rise from millions of down-lined nests, whose little builders, with a shot through the breast, are carelessly tossed into the sportsman's bag.

There is another form of wanton destruction of animal life which obtains in the heart of civilization and which has provoked frequent and bitter protest. This is the custom of trap-shooting, in which multitudes of pigeons, lured in captivity and adding to their natural meekness and innocence a perfect trust in the hand of man which has fed and nurtured them, are taken to club grounds and released in the presence of a set of gay spectators to serve as targets for the city sportsman's aim. Vanity lies at the root of this practice, just as it is vanity which directs the killing of birds to decorate bonnets, but the sportsman trap-shooter has several points in his favor over the woman of fashion. To begin with, the murder which is committed in the practice and exercise of a nice skill with the gun, is a little less detestable than the vanity which kills for the mere purpose of self-adornment. Again, the pigeon is a bird which breeds with extraordinary fecundity and which few has natural enemies, so that it is difficult to see just where its propagation would stop, were it not for this annual slaughter. Moreover, care is usually exercised not to place breeding birds in traps. And while the pigeon is the type of all that is innocent and guileless, it is a grain-eating bird, and cannot be counted as an intimate friend and helper of man, like a very large proportion of the insectivorous birds which are gathered for the milliners. Decidedly, the sportsman has the best of it, and the public can sympathize, in a degree, with the man's club which recently answered the indignant protest of its lady friends against the practice of trap-shooting and their threat to place a social boycott upon its members by passing a resolution debarring from the clubhouse and grounds any woman who should the weaker wear a bird or wing or cigarette on her bonnet.

There has been much and bitter agitation for the amelioration of both these abuses, and this agitation has been especially energetic upon this coast during the past year. But it is observable that the wearing of birds and feathers was never more fashionable than now in California, and that new organizations for trap-shooting are constantly being formed.

## THE HICKS 1898 ALMANAC & PAPER.

We are informed that the 1898 almanac of Prof. I. R. Hicks is now ready, and judging from its past history, it will not be many weeks in finding its way into houses and offices all over America. It is much larger and finer than any previous issue. It contains 116 pages, is splendidly printed and illustrated on fine book paper, having the finest portrait ever given of Prof. Hicks. It can no longer be denied that the publications of Prof. Hicks have become a necessity to the family and commercial life of this country. His journal, "Word and Work," aside from its storm, weather and astronomical features, has taken rank with the best literary, scientific and family magazines of the age. Do not believe hearsay and reports. See the Hicks almanac and paper for yourself. You will then know why they are so popular. They are educators of the millions, and unrivaled safeguards to property and human life. It is a matter of simple record that Prof. Hicks has foretold for many years all great storms, floods, droughts and tornadoes, even the recent terrible drought over all the country. The almanac alone is 25 cents a copy. The paper is \$1.00 a year with the almanac as a premium. Send to WORD AND WORK PUB. CO., 2201 Locust St., St. Louis, Mo.

## FICTION'S TREATMENT OF THE RICH.

A grievance that has been treated very injudiciously in many works of fiction is the relation of the rich to the poor. Absolutely false ideas as to how the rich get their wealth, and what they do with it when they get it, have been persistently floated by novelists, for (as for the journalist) a millionaire is always fair game. It is not worth while to expend any sympathy upon the millionaires in this matter, as they can struggle along under a considerable weight of vituperation; but the rest of us cannot afford to be continually in a false attitude towards wealth. Hatred or envy of the rich is not a pleasant companion for our leisure hours, and the poorer we are the less pleasant company it is likely to be. It interferes with our working to the best advantage, and cuts us off from opportunities of accumulating the very wealth that might ease our pains.—"Droch" in November Ladies' Home Journal.

## THE SUGAR PROBLEM.

**Oregonian:**  
The fact that France, Austria and Germany are considering the joint abolition of sugar bounties is of considerable interest to this country, and has a bearing upon the effort to establish the sugar-beet industry in the United States, as well as upon the general plan of making the United States independent of foreign countries as to its sugar supply.

We are now deriving large revenue from sugar importations. The income from this source in 1895 was \$15,000,000, and 1896 \$30,000,000. It was one of the avowed purposes of the Dingley law to increase this amount still more, perhaps to a point maintained before the McKinley law's experiment in free sugar and bounties, when we collected as much as \$60,000,000 a year in sugar duties.

But the avowed policy of the republican party is to bring the sugar production of the United States up to the point where it will suffice for the home demand, thereby "saving to our people the sum of \$100,000,000 annually paid to foreign countries for sugar." It is obvious that large revenue from sugar and home production of sugar cannot exist together. As fast as we increase our sugar output, a transfer must be made of taxation to other things. Every dollar lost by duties foregone upon failing sugar importations must be obtained in some way by customs duties, internal revenue, or other form of taxation.

Under the operations of the Dingley law, this expense to revenue by sugar development is likely to be increased. The advocates of the beet-sugar industry secured a duty of \$1 65¢ per 100 pounds upon those sugars which comprise the bulk of our importations, and also the addition of a countervailing duty to offset the export bounties paid by the European beet-sugar countries. This put the rate of duty upon raw sugars from 80 to 95 per cent. ad valorem. As Mr. Edwin F. Atkins points out in his article in the Forum, this is a tremendous tax, amounting, on the basis of average consumption, to more than \$87,000,000 a year, the government drawing a direct revenue from its sugar customs taxes of approximately \$50,000,000 a year. But if beet sugar is to be produced in this country to an extent sufficient to supply our needs, and foreign-grown sugars are to be excluded, how is the \$50,000,000 of revenue, which will then be lost, to be re-collected?

Further complication is given the matter by the fact that the production of sugar beets in Europe, except for government aid, has been unprofitable. The world's supply of sugar on August 1st, 1894, was 1,087,000 tons; that in 1895 was that surplus on hand. On August 1st, 1897, the surplus had risen to 1,881,000 tons, the increase last year being 254,000 tons. But for the bounty paid, this excess would before now have brought about bankruptcy to those in the business in several European countries, a fate only at present prevented by the fear the various governments have of the political effect, which, through a repeal of the bounty, a general collapse of this industry would have upon millions of their people. This is why we hear talk of abolition of European sugar bounties. The governments interested seem to have realized at length the absurdity of contributing from their treasuries so that consumers in England and the United States may enjoy sugar at less than cost.

No settlement of this question is worth considering at all which fails to recognize the fact that the beet sugar industry is certain to go ahead in this country. The facts and figures are being used to show that we cannot afford to grow our own sugar when we can buy it below cost, and that the government will suffer serious embarrassment if it foregoes its revenues from sugar. Such contentions come to nothing, because our sugar-beet industry continues to thrive and increase, under all sorts of tariffs. When the Wilson law repealed the bounty, and when Europe increased its bounties to its sugar-producers, our beet-sugar factories kept on multiplying. Right in California, in the face of free importations of the Hawaiian product under the unjust reciprocity arrangement, acreage increased and new factories went up everywhere. As for revenue, the treasury is assured of troubles enough, if the present scale of expenditures continue. One new burden, more or less, will not cut much figure in the general difficulty.

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## WASHINGTON LETTER.

FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.

WASH., D. C., Nov. 22nd, 1897.

Those senators who asserted while the debate was under way which resulted in the rejection of the arbitration treaty, negotiated by the Cleveland administration and endorsed by the present administration, with Great Britain, that they favored arbitration, but opposed that particular treaty because of objections they specified, will shortly be given an opportunity to show whether they meant what they said or were merely talking for its effect upon their influential constituents who favored arbitration and opposed their votes against the ratification of the treaty. Another arbitration treaty has been negotiated, and special pains have been taken in drawing its provisions to meet the objections raised by senators, in executive session, to the old one. It will be sent to the senate as early in the session as may be deemed advisable by President McKinley, probably as soon as the treaty for the annexation of Hawaii is disposed of.

There is much doubt about what financial recommendations will be made in the president's message to congress. It will probably depend largely upon the advice given the president by prominent members of his party in congress. This doubt does not arise from any clashing of financial views between the president and members of the cabinet. They are all practically of one mind as to what financial legislation they would like to see put through congress, but there are grave differences of opinion among them as to the advisability of making recommendations which haven't even a remote chance of being enacted. The weight of sentiment among republican senators and representatives will probably determine just how far presidential recommendations will go.

Although a strong supporter of the administration and of the St. Louis platform, Representative Dooliver, of Iowa, is not a supporter of Secretary Gage's scheme of issuing gold bonds to retire the greenbacks. He doesn't attack the bond scheme directly, but when a man used language like the following, which is his, there is no doubt where he stands: "There is throughout the country a considerable fear that attempt to introduce a new system of finance in the present state of politics in congress might result in the mere exhibition of the infirmities of our present system, grossly exaggerated by the zeal of the reformers, without attaining any substantial result. I find very many people who are anxious to see the defects of our present system corrected, but who feel that we ought to avoid exposing our monetary system to a scheme of unfinished surgery. It would seem reasonable that a coherent plan could be devised to relieve the country of defects in finance which everybody admits, without bringing in troublesome questions as to which no possible agreement is at present in sight."

The new Spanish ministry may not succeed in whipping the Cubans into submission any better than the old ministry did, and it may not really be any more friendly to the U. S. but it has become apparent in Washington its repeated concessions to the U. S. are having a very decided effect in lessening the sentiment for interference by this government. Men may question the sincerity of the concessions as much as they please but so long as Spain concedes everything, or even makes a pretense of conceding everything asked by this government, it will be difficult for this government to justify itself, in the eyes of other governments, in any hostile action toward Spain. In diplomacy, the new ministry has shown itself vastly superior to the ministry it succeeded, but the trouble in Cuba is hardly likely to be settled by diplomacy, unless preceded by some decisive Spanish victories in battle.

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## Literary.

(ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.)

A delicate thought is a flower of the mind.

Most confidence has still most cause to doubt.

Come what may, time and the hour run through the roughest day.

Those that are loudest in their threats are the weakest in the execution of them.

It makes a great difference in the force of a sentence whether a man be behind it or no.

If temperance prevails, then education can prevail; if temperance fails then education must fail.

When death, the great reconciler has come, it is never our tenderness that we repent of but our severity.

Fully to understand a grand and beautiful thought requires, perhaps, as much time as to conceive it.

When we advance a little into life, we find that the tongue of man creates nearly all the mischief in the world.

The use of traveling is to regulate imagination by reality, and, instead of thinking how things may be, to see them as they are.

Wit must grow like fingers. If it be taken from others it is like plums stuck on blackthorns; there they are for a while but they come to nothing.

The way of truth is like a great road. It is not difficult to know it. The evil is only that men will not seek it. Do you go home and search for it.

We are not only pleased but turned by a feather. The history of man is a calendar of straws. If the nose of Cleopatra had been shorter, said Pascal, in his brilliant way, Antony might have helped the world.

Temperance to be a virtue must be free and not forced. Virtue may be defended, as vice may be withstood, by a statute, but no virtue is or can be created by a law, any more than by a battering ram can a temple or an obelisk be reared.

Earnest men never think in vain though their thoughts may be errors.

Good thoughts are blessed guests, and should be heartily welcomed, well fed, and much sought after. Like rose leaves, they give a sweet smell if laid up in the jar of memory.

The responsibility of tolerance lies with those who have the wider vision.

Temperance puts wood on the fire, meal in the barrel, flour in the tub, money in the purse, credit in the country, contentment in the house, clothes on the back and vigor in the body.

A man who enters the theatre is immediately struck with the view of so great a multitude, participating in one common amusement, and experiences, from their very aspect, a superior sensibility or disposition of being affected with every sentiment which he shares with his fellow creatures.

It is a fearful fact to think of, that in every heart there is some secret spring that would be weak at the touch of temptation, and that is liable to be assailed. Fearful and yet salutary to think of, for the thought may serve to keep our moral nature braced. It warns us that we can never stand at ease, or lie down in the field of life, without sentinels of watchfulness, and campfires of prayer.

Riches may enable us to confer favors; but to confer them with propriety and with grace, requires a something which riches cannot give; even trifles may be so bestowed as to cease to be trifles.

The citizens of Megara offered the freedom of their city to Alexander; such an offer excited a smile in the countenance of him who had conquered the world; but he received this tribute of their respect with complacency on being informed that they had never offered it to any but to Hercules and himself.

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