

CONDITION OF THE LABORING CLASSES IN MEXICO.

Scientific American.

The discontent following the recent years of business depression has caused us to look about with a view of drawing comparisons with the social and commercial conditions of other nations and especially of those whose natural advantages, climatic, physical or political, are in some respects similar to our own. We have involuntarily turned our eyes to Canada and Mexico, and especially toward the latter, owing to the fact that silver has been made a standard of value in that country, and because during the campaign of 1896 many allusions were made by political speakers in various parts of the country, to the great prosperity of this neighboring republic. With a view of ascertaining the true condition of affairs as touching the civilization and social and commercial conditions of Mexico, Mr. Theodore C. Knauff made an extensive trip through this country. The question so often asked was, "Why is it that the Mexican people, with his sixty days a year, is making more than the American farmer with all his knowledge and invested capital?"

Mr. Knauff explains how little content the ordinary citizen of the United States has of the extent of or the natural and physical conditions which prevail in Mexico. The condition of our people concerning our southern neighbor is almost incomprehensible. A map of Mexico proportioned on a scale of the United States of the same scale extends from Maine to Mexico is sixteen times the size of the New York state. Sonora equals Ohio combined, Chihuahua Pennsylvania and New York combined. Mexico's mountain system consists of the Andes, and divides into two ranges, leaving in the middle a high flat table land from 8,000 feet above the level of the sea to many volcanic peaks of an altitude of 18,000 feet. The highest peak is 7,469 feet above sea level, 1,200 feet higher than Mount Washington. Its inhabitants are few and the great dryness of the air. The population of the country is about 12,500,000. Mr. Knauff states that two-thirds of the population have never slept in a bed of worn stockings, and that they are obliged to live at less expense per diem than the meanest farm hand in any of the inhabitants wear a coat of arms, with a hole at the top through which the head is inserted. This garment forms at the same time the Mexican's coat, hat, and even his shoes. The feet are usually bare or clothed in domestic sandals. The work is a kind of cotton shawl over the shoulders, called a "The Mexican farm laborers are inferior to those of the slaves of our Southern states. They have but one opening, no buttons and dirt floors. When wishing to go to bed, they simply unroll themselves, without removing their feet, and go to sleep. The wages are low and are given in kind himself a house. He has nothing to do with his head. The people who live in the houses are mud walls or banana walls, and that will shed a shade of large shape in a and baked in ers, one on method of consumption a substantial a long time, any reason, to become a church and plaza are a settlement can become shops in the cities, largely conducted by merchants. It is to see a man working a machine in the streets. In the cities the most worn, the age, piece, and greatly over and bowels, dispel colds, constipation and try a box of Hood's Sarsaparilla.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.

WAR, D. C., Dec. 27, 1897.

The outlook for the ratification of the treaty for the annexation of Hawaii by the senate is believed in Washington to have materially improved during the last week, notwithstanding the increased efforts of the lobbyists to aid the sentiment against annexation. The public reason for this is given as the belief of a number of senators who have heretofore been indifferent toward the annexation that the acquisition of a big slice of China by Germany and the probable acquisition of Chinese territory by England, France and Russia has changed the situation and made it almost an absolute necessity that this country should own Hawaii, in order to protect its interest in the Pacific. A reason given privately is that some of the senators who had themselves placed in the doubtful list merely did so to increase their chances for obtaining desired patronage, and that having succeeded they have informed the president of their willingness to vote for annexation. There is still another reason, too. Prominent democrats in various sections of the country have been arguing with the democratic senators for the purpose of convincing them that in view of the previous attitude of the party toward the acquisition of territory by the government, not to mention the present popularity of annexation, it would be a grave mistake to have the democratic party charged with the responsibility of defeating annexation, and it is said, that some of them have been convinced.

Hon. John W. Foster, ex-secretary of state, and special U. S. seal commissioner about expressed the prevailing official opinion of the award of \$464,000, made by the Behring sea claims commission in favor of the owners of British vessels seized by the U. S. for alleged illegal sealing in Behring sea, when he said: "There is no occasion for surprise in it. President Cleveland having officially declared that \$425,000 was a just and equitable sum to be paid in settlement of these claims, and having appointed as the American commissioner to adjudicate the claims a close personal and political friend, it could hardly be expected that the latter would strenuously contend for an award of the lesser amount." As soon as congress reassembles it will be asked by the president to appropriate the money to pay these claims. Pension Commissioner Evans doesn't intend that his recommendation for the printing of the pension roll shall be forgotten. He will have a bill providing therefor introduced in both house and senate and will use all influence he can command to have it made a law. There is no reasonable argument against printing the roll in order that everybody may know just who, in their neighborhood are drawing pensions, and how much they are drawing. The pensioner who objects to this publication is liable to be accused of being ashamed to have it known that he draws a pension. While China would unquestionably be more than glad to have the U. S. become her ally and call a halt upon the apparent determination of the great European powers to divide China among themselves, it can be stated upon the highest official authority that China has not asked the U. S. to become such; and it can be further stated that the request if made, would be utterly useless, as President McKinley has knitting to attend to much nearer home than China that furnishes him all the trouble he cares to undergo. Close friends of the president say that while he does not endorse all of the financial recommendations of Secretary Gage, he will stand by him regardless of the consequences should the silver republicans attempt to make a fight upon Secretary Gage in the senate. On the other hand, friends of the silver republicans say that they stood by their party in the last election virtually in defiance of the known wishes of a large majority of their constituents, to whom they stated that President McKinley was a good and earnest friend of bimetalism and that the declaration in favor of international bimetalism in the republican platform was meant to be carried out, and that in the face of those statements for them to remain silent while Secretary Gage continually takes the gold standard and the gold standard alone, will be equivalent to committing political suicide and that self-preservation will force them to protest. So the matter stands at present. The more conservative men in the party are trying to prevent anything like a break between the administration and the silver republicans, and the chances favor their success.

To Cure Constipation Forever. Take Cascaria Candy Cathartic. No. 25. If C. C. C. fail to cure, druggists refund money.

AGAINST MIXING FLOUR.

Commercial Review. The business of adulterating flour with any foreign substance whatever has received several stragling blows during the past month. Georgia's house has passed a bill requiring the words "mixed flour" to be branded on each package containing a blend of wheat flour and cornmeal, as well as the figures showing the percentage of each. The bill is to become a law March 1st, 1898. The flour committee of the New York produce exchange has decided that flour containing any foreign substance shall not be graded, and that packages containing such flour shall not receive the brand of the exchange. A bill has also been prepared by the Chicago board of trade for passage at the present congress, which proposes a tax of \$500 for the mixer, and a penalty ranging from a \$1,000 to \$5,000 to be laid on the mixer who has not formally paid the \$500 special tax. All mixed flour must be so stamped or branded, and a special tax of 2 cents for each 10 pounds or fraction thereof is to be paid for such flour sold or removed for consumption or use. Heavy penalties also attach to the importation of any mixed flour. Well, when all that machinery gets in motion, it would seem as if flourmixing or adulterating would be a very unpopular business!

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Dr. Flowers, in The New Time, gives it as his opinion that an autograph note, breathing the honest wishes of the heart, the genuine outgushing of the soul, should take the place of costly presents between grown friends at Christmas. If one has money to spend at this season, it should go, he thinks toward brightening the homes of poor and unfortunate.

WAR NOT PROBABLE.

BY CHANCELER.

There is no confirmation of the report that Great Britain intends to make a stand, by itself or in alliance with Japan, against the dismemberment of China. Nor is any confirmation likely to be had, despite the opinion of British naval experts, about the duty of England and as to the decisive results of the intervention. It must be remembered in discussing this subject that an affront to Russia and Germany in Asia is also an affront to them in Europe, and that besides, the far eastern question is a near eastern question which war between Great Britain and Russia would reopen, much to British disadvantage. The chief strategy of Downing street is directed always toward keeping the world's peace. England, with its own food supply dependent upon open lines of sea trade, with its empire vulnerable because widely spread, and with a disaffected India on its hands, cannot afford to throw down the gage of battle to any first-class power. Least of all can it afford to do so on behalf of China, which has deliberately cast itself into the arms of Russia. Granted that the British are greedy for new lands and it still remains true that, after their experience with India, they are not eager to acquire old ones where a large population, wedded to alien ways, would have to be governed. For the sake of trade England might annex territory of that character, but even in such case it would not weigh the prize against the risk of a European war. Besides all this, there is enough of China to go around. Russia can be served. Germany can have her share, France and Japan can be provided for and all be satisfied without the need of quarreling. Save in the case of Japan what one particularly wants is what no other power covets. England has no use for Manchuria and Corea, but she has use for the Province of Canton, which neither of the other powers want. France would like the region bordering her Indo-Chinese possessions in the south. There is no one to object to this nor to Germany's absorption of Shantung—no one, we say, but Japan, which is not strong enough when isolated to control events. Barring the accidents that lead to war it looks as if the whole trouble would soon end in a peaceful policy of give and take, from the benefits of which even Japan might not be exempted. As we said the other day, Japan, as a growing power, is not one to be prudently alienated; for, if it were that country would be apt to take advantage of the European war when it comes to ally itself with the side most favorable to it and that would count heavily against the other side. Quite likely the European compromise will be to let Japan keep the Shantung promontory and possibly regain the island of Saghalien, which Russia got many years ago by a slight-of-hand process that irritates the Tokio cabinet to this day. Should such an offer be made we can well believe that Japan would accept it and flatter itself at having obtained peace with honor.

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STATE AND COUNTY ELECTIONS IN OREGON THIS YEAR.

AS HAS HAPPENED BEFORE THE LOWEST BIDDERS ON SEVERAL OF THE MAIL ROUTES IN THIS PART OF OREGON ARE PARTIES FROM OTHER STATES. Some of them evidently knew but little about the routes as several of the bidders are much below the actual cost of carrying the mail over the routes on schedule time.

Literary.

(ORIGINAL AND SELECTED.)

Doubt springs from the mind; faith is the daughter of the soul. Be discreet in all things and so render it unnecessary to be mysterious about any.

When desperate ills demand a speedy cure, distrust is cowardice, and prudence folly. The doubts of an honest man contain more moral truth than the profession of faith of people under a worldly yoke.

Ignorance says Ajax is a painless evil; so I should think is dirt considering the merry faces that go along with it. A good disposition is more valuable than gold; for the latter is the gift of fortune, but the former is the dower of nature.

Duty does not consist in suffering every thing, but in suffering everything for duty. Sometimes, indeed it is our duty not to suffer. Through every rift of discovery, some seeming anomaly drops out of the darkness, and falls as a golden link in the great chain of order.

Life often seems like a long shipwreck of which the debris are friendship, glory and love. The chances of existence are strewn with them. So grasping is dishonesty that it is no respecter of persons; it will cheat friends as well as foes; and were it possible even God himself.

As health lies in labor, and there is no royal road to it but through toil, so there is no republican road to safety, but in constant distrust. True dispatch is a rich thing; for time is the measure of business, as money is of wares, and business is fought at a dear hand where there is small dispatch.

Thirsting for the gold fountain of the fable, from how many streams have we turned away, weary and in disgust. Ah! what seals for a paradise I bore in my heart of which birds of prey have robbed me. The weak sinews become strong by their conflict with difficulties. Hope is born in the long night of watching and tears. Faith visits us in defeat and disappointment, amid the consciousness of earthly frailty and the tumbling tombstones of mortality.

Duty is a power which rises with us in the morning and goes to rest with us at night. It is co-extensive with the action of our intelligence. It is the shadow which cleaves to us, go where we will, and which only leaves us when we leave the light of life. Though a man have all other perfections and wants of discretion, he will be of no great consequence in the world; but if he has this single talent of perfection, and but a common share of others, he may do what he pleases in his particular station of life.

Discourtesy does not spring merely from one bad quality but from several—from foolish vanity, from ignorance of what is due to others, from indolence, from stupidity, from distraction of thought, from contempt of others, from jealousy. Nothing sinks a young man into low company, both of men and women, so surely as timidity and diffidence of himself. If he thinks that he shall not, he may depend on it he will not, please. But with proper endeavors to please, and a degree of persuasion that he shall, it is almost certain that he will.

We mortals, men and women, devour many a disappointment between breakfast and dinner-time; keep back the tears and look a little pale about the lips and in answer to inquires say, "Oh nothing!" Pride helps us and pride is not a bad thing, when it only urges us to hide our own hurts—not to hurt others.

Can't Eat Hood's Sarsaparilla. This is the complaint of thousands at this season. They have no appetite; food does not relish. They need the toning up of the stomach and digestive organs, which a course of Hood's Sarsaparilla will give them. It also purifies and enriches the blood, cures that distress after eating and internal misery only a dyspeptic can know, creates an appetite, overcomes that tired feeling and builds up and sustains the whole physical system. It so promptly and efficiently relieves dyspeptic symptoms and cures nervous headaches, that it seems to have almost a magic touch.

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