



Editorial

Opinions of Great Papers on Important Subjects.

WHAT AILS THE ARMY?

AS was to have been expected, Adjutant General Ainsworth's suggestion that we must cut down the size of the army, raise soldiers' pay or else resort to conscription, has raised a storm of newspaper protest throughout the country. Perhaps General Ainsworth did not intend his mention of conscription to be taken seriously, but at any rate it has served his purpose by directing general attention to the serious state in which the army finds itself.

The army is 20,000 men short of its schedule, and officers are so few that this year's class at West Point is to be graduated six months before its time in order that some of the vacant commissions may be filled.

What the reason is for this condition has been often pointed out. The rate of pay for enlisted men has not been increased for over fifty years, and that for officers for thirty-seven; yet in that time not only has the cost of living increased greatly, but pay in all other occupations has risen.

It must not be forgotten that the army of the United States is on a different basis from the armies of European continental nations. There military service is a part of the citizen's duty. He is expected to devote two or three years to the army, and all citizens are alike in this respect. In the United States, however, the army is a body of men hired to do military service, just as cities hire street cleaners or policemen. It is in competition with every other form of employment, and in time of peace no patriotic feeling enters into the service.

This nation must pay enough to attract men to the army. If pay is inadequate, volunteers cannot be had. The remedy is obvious. Let Congress appropriate enough money out of the nation's enormous surplus to increase the pay of officers and enlisted men to the point of attractiveness. If this be done, recruiting stations will be overcrowded with applicants.—Chicago Journal.

LOWER CALIFORNIA WOULD BE USEFUL TO US.

WHERE the United States ready to buy new territory, probably it could at this time make no more valuable acquisition than the peninsula of Lower California. Aside from the value of the land itself, its possession would undoubtedly add much strength to any position which we might be forced to assume in relation to international politics on the Pacific, and would do much to augment our national muscles, which, as the President has frequently pointed out so clearly, must be ready for the regulation and defense of the Panama canal. A well-protected coaling station somewhere within striking distance of the Pacific mouth of the canal is a necessity which is recognized. Moreover, for strategic purposes in case of war that issued from Asiatic waters, the Gulf of California, narrow, 700 miles long, and partly fortified by batteries at Cape San Lucas, and at advantageous points on the eastern side of the peninsula, would be, in its function as a harbor and as a base for supply and coal-

ing depots, invaluable to our forces on the Pacific. Puget sound on the north is at present the most available refuge for a hard-pressed squadron, and is so far away from the canal as to render dubious the possibility of assistance coming from Atlantic waters. The suggestion of purchase is not new; many years ago it was discussed in Washington, but the rise of Asiatic powers and the canal project have more than doubled the desirability of the possession. The purposes of Mr. Root's visit to Mexico are not very well defined. That his excursion was prompted in part by the administration's interest in Lower California is not beyond reasonable belief.—Collier's Weekly.

RUSSIA'S REVENGE ON JAPAN.

JAPAN will do well to observe with keenly analytical eye the formation of the Russo-Japanese Commercial Company. This concern appears to be a Russian organization, and from what we gather of the meager details sent out, it is about to inaugurate a movement of infinitely more concern to the Land of the Plum Blossom than war.

It appears, among other things, that Siberian butter has long been shipped to Hamburg, repacked and re-shipped to Japan as a German production; so also with Russian sugar disguised as Austrian; likewise Russian liquors in a German wrapper. These near-food products, so it seems, find a ready market in the Mikado's kingdom—their relative cheapness appealing, especially, to the lower classes.

Having failed to best Japan in war, Russia perhaps thinks this is a much more subtle scheme; and so it is. Unless his majesty of Japan gets extremely busy and has his parliament enact some sort of a pure-food law with teeth in it, his people will find themselves face to face with a monster beside which Mars seems a pygmy. Strawberry jam manufactured of hayseed, pumpkin and aniline dyes is only a question of time; while formaldehyde and salicylic acid are both sure to play a profound part in the future progress of his empire.—Washington (D. C.) Herald.

TO SAVE THE BIRDS.

THE statisticians who foot up the loss to the country resulting from the killing of insect-destroying birds, and from our further neglect to intelligently protect and foster these winged scavengers of the air, put the gross sum at \$800,000,000 per year. We do not know upon what facts or what basis of computation this enormous total is reached; but if it is one-tenth part true it is a startling showing. The proposition of the federal government to set aside bird reservations and breeding grounds where our feathered friends might be protected in life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness seems to rest upon sound economical grounds. It is a measure of safety for ourselves as well as for the birds.—Philadelphia Record.

USES OF ADVERSITY.

Mr. Cheersome Finds Mitigating Circumstances in the Money Question.
"You know," said Mr. Cheersome to a New York Sun man, "a financial stringency or currency famine, or whatever you call it, is not wholly without its advantages. Not wholly. This last affair has helped us a heap."

"Now, there's Mrs. Cheersome, she says to me the other morning:
"Serenio, I've simply got to have some money. I've got to have a new dress and a new hat—I can't wear those things I've got another day; and I've got to have money for a lot of little things that I need right away."

"And then I say to her:
"Why, Lucy, haven't you been reading the papers lately? Don't you know how difficult it is at the present moment to get cash money, while at the same time people don't like to take checks? We've got the money, Lucy, but we haven't got it in such shape that we can use it. I suppose I could get money at our bank, but do you know I hate to ask them for it at just this time, you know, when everybody ought to be considerate, or I hate to ask for more than we really need."

"And you wouldn't want me to go into the market and bid for currency, would you? Pay 3 or 4 per cent for cash to spend for luxuries that we could edge along without for a little longer?"
"We can get together cash enough for our actual needs, but don't you suppose we can wait a little for those other things until things get back to normal? Which they are bound to do right soon?"

"And Mrs. Cheersome doesn't fully understand this money talk, but she knows there's something in it, and for the rest she trusts to me, and so we have been enabled in these last few weeks to avoid a number of expenditures that otherwise we should have been compelled to make."
"In fact, we have been through a period of economy, one of enforced economy, I know, but a period of economy nevertheless, in which we have saved money that we would have spent if we had had it in hand, with the result that instead of being the poorer for the financial stringency and the currency famine and so on we are now actually better off, and now, with confidence restored and the whole situation easier, when Mrs. Cheersome comes to me I shan't have to tell her how hard money is to get and all that, but I shall say to her simply, and I shall say it cheerfully:
"My dear, how much?"

When a man hears a rap on his back door he imagines all sorts of things, and hopes it may be something important, but his wife, more practical, says: "Oh, it is only the boy with the milk."

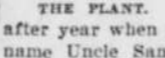


Value of Co-Operation.

Sir Horace Plunkett, member of the British house of parliament, who has been in this country recently, said in an address to agricultural students that there was "not a single county, not a parish, in Ireland where the farmers are not completely revolutionizing the entire business of farming by introducing co-operative methods." And it might be added that there is scarcely a farming district in the United States where more benefits cannot be realized by a closer co-operation of the farmers. The farmers are understanding each other better each year and are coming closer together in all matters which pertain to their mutual interests, but there are still greater possibilities ahead. Describing the 900 co-operative organizations of peasants in Ireland which he was instrumental in establishing for the purpose of competition with commercial industries, forcing out middlemen, compelling railroads to provide better facilities, and dictating more favorable legislation to parliament, done: "The first thing was to introduce a system of agricultural education which extended into every branch of the industry, teaching the farmer, for instance, to purchase everything he requires, implements and machinery, of the very best quality. They combined to consign in bulk and distribute their goods in the market. They combined to raise working capital for their operations. They combined to own breeding animals. They did just what you are doing here, brought science into farming by getting it into the schools. They had the same system of instruction and experimentation supplied by our government."

New Variety of Tobacco.

A new variety of tobacco, valuable for cigar wrapping, was first raised in Connecticut from seed brought from Florida and which originally came from Sumatra. After very careful and satisfactory tests results have proved beyond a doubt the value of this variety for growing commercially, together with the fact that the seed comes true to type year after year when saved under bog. The name Uncle Sam Sumatra was given to this variety. It is a cigar wrapper variety of tobacco and adapted for growing under shade in the cigar wrapper producing regions. The plants reach an average height of about eight feet at the time of maturity, and they bear an average of about twenty-six leaves before topping. The cured leaves will average about sixteen inches in width by twenty inches in length, although the size varies according to field and cultural conditions. The yield of the crops of this variety is high, being as much as 1,000 pounds of cured tobacco to the acre under favorable conditions. The percentage of the best grades of wrapper in these crops is correspondingly high.—Exchange.



THE PLANT.



THE LEAF.

Value of Beet Sugar Products.

Some idea of the magnitude of the beet sugar industry in the United States can be given by estimating the value of the beets sold by the growers to the factories and of the refined sugar placed on the market by the factories last year.

If we assume that the average price paid for beets in 1906 was \$5 per ton, the total value of the 4,236,112 tons of beets harvested is \$21,180,560. If we estimate the value of the sugar at 4½ cents per pound, the 967,224,000 pounds of sugar manufactured were worth \$43,525,080. Probably the assumed prices both for beets and for sugar may be a trifle below those actually received, but these figures are sufficiently accurate to indicate the magnitude of the industry.

Ripening Green Tomatoes.

Often when frost comes there are many tomatoes on the vines that are nearly full grown, but that have not yet ripened enough to send to market. I have picked such tomatoes and put them in a cool, dark place to ripen slowly and sent them to market when the supply had run low and prices run high, says a writer in New England Homestead. But for home use a better way is to pick the smaller ones from the vines and then hang up the branch in the cellar, darkening the windows and keeping the place cool. They will ripen slowly, and one may indulge in ripe tomatoes in January, when those grown in a greenhouse are not as large or any better flavor as selling at 25 cents a pound or more. Try it.

Wintering Cabbage.

One of the simplest ways of keeping cabbage is to store in an orchard or some sheltered place, often alongside a fence which has been made tight by a liberal use of straw. The cabbages are stored with their stems on and are placed head down and as close together as possible. Two or three tiers are often made, the heads of the second tier being placed between stems of the lower, and so on, the piles being made of any width and length desired. The whole is covered with leaves, salt grass hay or straw and a little soil, rails, brush or litter. Small unsalable heads when stored in this way in November will continue to develop during winter and frequently sell as well as any in February. Small quantities may be stored by plowing out two or three furrows ten or twelve inches deep on a well drained site and placing the heads with their stems up as close together as possible. Some prefer to lay them but one or two thick, while others will pile them up two to two and a half feet high, bringing them to a point. The pile is then covered with straw, salt grass hay or a thin layer of straw and then several inches of soil. They are stored before freezing, and when the soil covering them is frozen it may be covered with straw manure or any other litter to keep the soil frozen until the cabbages are needed for sale.

An Electric Incubator.

Electricity has been applied to incubation by Otto Schultz, an electrician of Strassburg, and is the result of three years of experimentation. The apparatus is made for 50, 100 or 200 eggs, and is designed to obviate the difficulties connected with the ordinary form of incubator. The manipulation of the apparatus is very simple, and its maintenance depends only upon an uninterrupted supply of electricity.

An automatic attachment keeps the temperature within one-tenth of a degree of the normal temperature of incubation. The degree of saturation of the air is kept in the same manner. Under ordinary conditions, ninety chicks can be counted on out of 100 eggs incubated. The quantity of electricity required is very small, for an incubator holding fifty eggs, ten to twenty watts being sufficient, depending upon the temperature of the outer air. For raising the chicks after they are hatched, an electric "mother" has been devised. The upper part is devoted to the freshly hatched chickens, while the lower part is arranged so that the chicks can run around on the ground and at the same time find heat and protection when they desire. The electric incubator has already proven very successful.

Test Seeds at Home.

The Department of Agriculture in order to aid farmers to determine for themselves without much trouble the germination value of seeds has issued a short bulletin on the subject. A very simple apparatus for sprouting seeds is described. It consists of a shallow basin in which is placed a small flat of porous clay. The seeds, after having been soaked, are laid between two sheets of moist blotting paper or flannel. A pane of glass covers the dish, which should be kept in a temperature of about 70 degrees. Atmosphere of an ordinary living room is suitable if the apparatus is left near a stove at night. Several kinds of seeds may be tested at once at a trifling cost. The bulletin cautions the farmer against extremes of heat or moisture.

Fertilizer Tests with Corn.

Fertilizer tests with corn in Virginia show clearly that plowing under green leguminous crops is a highly beneficial practice and that where this is followed only moderate amounts of fertilizer will be necessary to give increased yields. When vegetable matter is lacking, however, heavy applications of fertilizer seem advisable.—Andrew M. Soule.

Farm Cleanings.

There is no standard for judging the guinea fowl. They should, however, be of uniform shape, great activity and reasonably good producers of eggs. Their entire egg crop is produced in summer.

Bitter cream comes from keeping cream too long from cows that have been milked since early last spring. It is best to churn every few days, even though there is only a small churning on hand.

In setting out the new fruit trees be sure and leave plenty of space between them. You must make allowance for the growth of the years. Crowded trees interfere with one another and have their fruit bearing possibilities checked.

The potato storeroom must be dark, cool, well ventilated and dry. There should be a double floor beneath where large quantities are piled together. There should also be opportunities for ventilation at the walls, and at intervals through the pile.

A good condition powder, to be fed in limited quantities to the brood sow, is composed of a teaspoonful each of copperas, sulphur and a half cupful of oil meal. Give once each day for each sow weighing 250 pounds. It is needless to say that all tonics should be given only when the animal is out of condition.

EPIDEMIC OF GRIP IS SWEEPING COUNTRY

Tens of Thousands of Cases of This Pestiferous Disease Are Being Reported.

SUFFERERS IN MANY CITIES.

Business in Many Places Is Disorganized on Account of Prostrations from This Ailment.

An epidemic of the grippe seems to be sweeping over the country, and tens of thousands of people are suffering from the disease. Pittsburg reports the worst visitation in its history. The business of the city is disorganized on account of the large number of people who have been suddenly forced to remain absent from their places of employment. Factories and mills, offices and stores are affected seriously.

There is a notable uniformity in the symptoms of the present epidemic which appears to affect principally the bronchial passages. Bronchitis and pneumonia are its most common accompaniments, and it aggravates fully 56 per cent of the tuberculosis cases. Those most injuriously affected are persons who before the attack were badly run down in their general health. In their cases pneumonia quickly develops, while the heart, brain and other organs become affected.

In Philadelphia an epidemic of grippe is sweeping the city and whole families are prostrated by it. Pneumonia in many cases is followed close upon its heels, and last week many persons died of that disease. Doctors are scarcely able to keep up the demands made upon them: Baltimore, too, is experiencing an unusual amount of sickness.

Other cities where grippe has made its appearance are Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Denver, Milwaukee and New York, and reports from these places indicate that the health authorities fear that the outbreak is only at the beginning. Health Commissioner Evans, of Chicago, has issued a warning to the people, urging them to get plenty of fresh air and to exercise in the open as much as possible. Chicago knows the danger of grippe, for it has been frequently visited by the disease. In 1890 that city had 100,000 grippe sufferers and 112 deaths directly resulted. In 1899 over 300 persons died from the disease, and since the first appearance of the malady the city has paid a tribute of 2,208 lives.

In New York, where the disease is now gaining a strong foothold, sixty-eight deaths resulted last week and there are many cases scattered about the city.

Boston is the worst sufferer on the Atlantic seaboard. There are nearly 100,000 cases there and sixty deaths have resulted. Cincinnati has 2,000 cases and the disease seems to be epidemic in form.

The open winter is held responsible for the spread of the disease. Where it originated no one seems to know. It travels with wonderful rapidity. In 1889, when the grippe appeared in virtual form all over the country, it was tracked back to Europe and thence to Hong Kong in China. The germs of the present epidemic may have come from the same source.



The Washington State football eleven defeated that of St. Louis university by the score of 11 to 0, at Spokane, Wash.

The Coney Island Jockey Club announced that improvements in its plant now under way will cost at least \$100,000.

There will be half a dozen Smiths in the major leagues next season, the Americans having four players of this name and the Nationals two.

Cincinnati has asked for waivers of seventeen men. Provided all these players are turned back to the minors, the next manager of the Reds will have twenty-two athletes to aid him in capturing a second division berth.

The baseball critics seem inclined to the belief that the Boston got all the best of the big deal with New York. The Bean Eaters, it would seem, should occupy a higher place in the race than they have held for the past few years.

Tommy Ryan believes that the best fighters of to-day are to be found in the middleweight ranks. He has a poor opinion of the "beavies," they falling far below the standard of scrappers like Jeffries, Sharkey, Corbett, McCoy and Fitzsimmons in their active ring days.

Haskins, the intercollegiate champion, may be barred from representing the American team at the Olympic games. Haskins is not an American citizen. He was born in Australia and comes under the same ruling as that which affects Con Leahy and Dennis Murray, the two Irish athletes who wanted to represent America.

In order that they may be kept in active training for the Olympic games in England next summer, a movement is on foot that has for its object a visit of the best of the Canadian athletes to New York and Boston, where indoor meets would be held. If the scheme pans out, Tom Flanagan, John Flanagan's brother, will have charge of the party.



The girl with the blue-bead necklace nodded her head and then, taking the hairpins from her mouth and transferring them to her hair, said, "My, yes! We had a perfectly elegant time."

"Was Maud up there?" asked the girl with the art nouveau waist buckle.

"I should say not!" replied the girl with the blue beads. "What do you think! She went to him an' ast him to take her—as good as ast him. She says, 'You're a-goin' to take me, ain't you?' Sorter joshin' him, of course. She wouldn't have gone if he'd said 'Yes.' Oh, no! She'd have slapped his wrist for darlin' to take her serious. Now, what do you think of that? Ain't she the nervous thing? What do you think he says to her? 'You've got another guess comin', he says. 'I'm goin' to take Babe.' I think it was good enough for her. That's the way she is, though—always tryin' to butt in an' make trouble if she can. The nerve of her, astin' him if he wasn't goin' to take her! An' I told her myself the same mornin' that I was a-goin' to go with him. No, she wasn't there."

"I think he done just right," said the girl with the art nouveau waist buckle, approvingly. "Say, Babe, I think he's just grand."

"Sure; I think so, too," said the girl with the blue-bead necklace. "Ain't he the elegant dresser?"

"I sh'd say," said the girl with the art nouveau waist buckle, heartily. "If I had a feller like him—"

The girl with the blue-bead necklace stirred. "He ain't my feller," she said. "Just because he takes me out to a few places ain't no sign he's my feller. I don't know whether I'd have him for a steady comp'ny or not. But I do think he's grand. Ain't he got nice hands? Did you ever notice his hands?"

"Sure," said the other girl.

"Father don't like me goin' with him," confided the girl with the blue-bead necklace. "He don't like him because he wears good clothes and he thinks because his hands ain't all dirt that he don't work, an' he thinks that he don't get enough wages. Father make me tired. Walter'd look well handin' ribbons with hands like Jim Sloan's. I guess. An' as far as wages goes, Walter's makin' good, an' he'll get a raise Christmas, maybe. Look at

Mr. Ferguson. He started in at seven per, less'n six years ago. Anyway, I'd rather have a feller that had some style about him, even if he was drawin' out less money. Me an' him was out las' night, an' I tell you he's no cheap skate even if he ain't makin' more'n \$10. I was a-goin' to tell you about auther'n, but I guess I won't."

"Go on!" pleaded the girl with the art nouveau waist buckle. "Tell me, I won't tell nobody."

"Oh, it ain't nothin'," said the girl with the blue-bead necklace, "only if Miss Maud thinks that she can string Walter I can tell her what he told her. She's got another think comin'. Her name won't be Maud, it'll be Mud. I guess I'll spring that on her. I'll say: 'Hello, Mud, an' she'll say: 'My name ain't Mud, thank you, an' I'll say: 'Oh, ain't it? I thought it was, What'll you bet it ain't?'"

"I dast you to," giggled the girl with the art nouveau waist buckle. "But you tell me what you was a-goin' to tell me. Honest, I won't never tell."

The girl with the blue-bead necklace shook her head until the hairpins tumbled out again.

"I'll pinch you till you tell," said her friend.

The girl with the blue-bead necklace squealed. "Quit now, you mean thing!" she cried. "Say, guess what me an' Walter was a-lookin' at in the shop windows when we was out las' night. Cross your heart you won't tell?"

The girl with the art nouveau waist buckle crossed her heart and the girl with the blue-bead necklace bent to her and whispered:

"Diamond rings."—Chicago Daily News.

Costliest of All Fish.
The fish was no bigger than a silver dollar. Its color was bright gold, and it had a beautiful bushy golden tail.

"That," said the pet stock dealer, "is the finest aquarium fish in the world, a Chinese brush-tailed goldfish. It is handsome, healthy and long lived. A good brush-tailed goldfish," he concluded, "costs \$250 or \$300, and some fine specimens have sold for as much as \$700 apiece."

What has become of the old-fashioned man who said, when he wanted to abuse a town: "It is the jumping-off place?"