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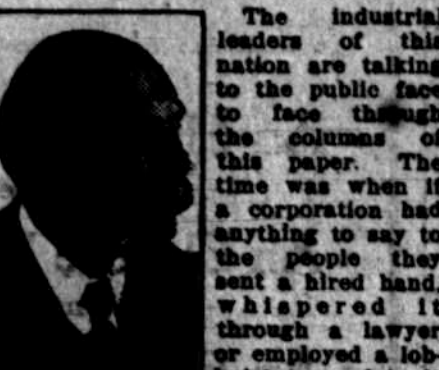
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OUR PUBLIC FORUM

E. P. RIPLEY.
On Relation of Railroads and People.



The industrial
leaders of this
nation are talking
to the public face
to face through the
columns of this
paper. The time
was when if a
corporation had
anything to say to
the people they
sent a hired hand,
whispered it
through a lawyer
or employed a lobby-
ist to explain it
to the legislature,
but the men who
know and the men
who do are now
talking over the fence to the man who
plows.

When the leading business men of
this nation get "back to the soil" with
their problems, strife and dissension
will disappear, for when men look
into each other's faces and smile
there is a better day coming.

Mr. E. P. Ripley, president of the
Santa Fe railroad, when asked to give
his views in reference to relations ex-
isting between the railroad and the
public, said in part:

"Frequently we hear statements to
the effect that these relations are im-
proving, that the era of railroad balt-
ing has passed and that public senti-
ment now favors treating the railroads
fairly. As yet this change in public
sentiment, if any such there be, is not
effective in results.

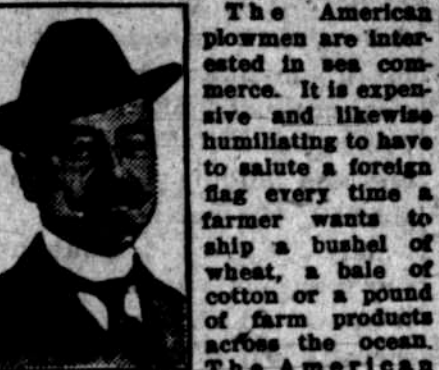
"It is true that in the legislatures
of the southwestern states during the
past winter there were fewer unrea-
sonable and unreasonable laws passed
than usual, but a consideration of the
hostile bills introduced shows that
there is still reason for much disquiet
even though they were defeated by
more or less of a majority.

"Moreover, the idea that the rail-
roads have been harshly treated does
not seem to prevail in the offices of
the state railroad commissions, which
seem to cherish a notion that their
business is not to act as an arbitrator
between the railroads and the people,
but which proceed on the theory that
the railroads are able to take care
of themselves and that their
duty is to act as attorney for the
people, even though in so doing they
deny justice to the railroads. It
requires no argument to demonstrate
that the railroads are entitled to jus-
tice equally with other citizens and
taxpayers. That they have not re-
ceived it and are not receiving it is
perfectly susceptible of proof. That
they have practically no recourse in
the courts has also been determined.

"The situation therefore is that the
people, through their representatives,
must elect whether the services of
the railroads shall be adequately com-
pensated or not; and it requires no
fortune teller or soothsayer to predict
that in the long run the service will
take the class that is paid for and no
better.

"The natural competition between
the railroads and the natural desire
to perform first-class service has heret-
ofore resulted in giving the public
much more than it was willing to pay
for. Continuation of this will be im-
possible and no laws, however drastic,
can long accomplish the impossible.

R. P. SCHWERIN.
On the Seamen's Bill.



The American
plowmen are interested
in sea commerce. It is ex-
pensive and likewise
humiliating to have to
salute a foreign
flag every time a
farmer wants to
ship a bushel of
wheat, a bale of
cotton or a pound
of farm products
across the ocean.

The American
farmer is entitled to the protection
of his flag in sending his products
across the sea, and congress should
give such encouragement to shipping
interests as is necessary to meet for-
eign competition in ocean commerce.
A recent bill known as the seamen's
bill became a law under the president's
signature and Mr. R. P. Schwerin, vice-
president of the Pacific Mail Steam-
ship company, when asked to define
this law and outline its effect upon
American steamship lines, said in
part:

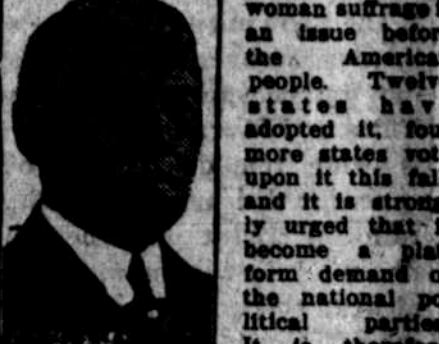
"The bill provides that no ship of
any nationality shall be permitted to
depart from any port of the United
States unless she has on board a
crew not less than seventy-five per
centum of which, in each department
thereof, is able to understand any or-
der given by the officers of such ves-
sel, nor unless forty per centum in
the first year, forty-five per centum
in the second year, fifty-five per centum
in the fourth year after the pas-
sage of this act, and, thereafter,
sixty-five per centum of her deck
crew, exclusive of licensed officers and
apprentices, are of a rating not less
than able seaman."

"The overseas trade of the world is
competitive; therefore, the original
cost of the ship and the operation of
the ship have to be reckoned with in
the keen competition of these rival
nations with one another. The Ori-
ental sailor is obedient and competent
and is the cheapest sailor in the world.
It is, therefore, manifestly clear that
if this law applied to all nationalities
in the transpacific traffic, all would
be on the same economic basis,
but it works a single hardship to all
the ships of the world, except the
Japanese and American ships, and
with the latter it works two hard-
ships. With the European, the cost
of constructing a ship is no higher
than the cost of constructing a Jap-
anese ship, but if they had to pro-
vide European crews, while the Jap-
anese operated with Japanese crews,
the condition of competition would be

such that they could not overcome
the handicap and they would be driven
out. But the American ship would
have to contend not only with the
tremendous increase of cost of wages
in the substitution of the European
crew for the Chinese crew, but also
the greater initial cost of the ship.
As the Japanese have now done away
with their European officers and
Japanese crews, all of whom speak a
common language, there is no diffi-
culty for them to comply with all the
conditions of the bill and continue
their Japanese crews with Oriental
wages.

"The law, therefore, instead of as-
sisting the American ship, adds an-
other heavy burden, while it places
none whatever upon the Japanese
ship, but on the contrary, it gives
to the Japanese the traffic of the Pa-
cific ocean, which the American ship
is forced to forego by act of congress
of the United States."

HON. ELIHU ROOT.
On Women's Suffrage.



The question of
woman suffrage is
an issue before
the American
people. Twelve
states have
adopted it, four
more states vote
upon it this fall,
and it is strug-
gly urged that it
become a plat-
form demand of
the national po-
litical parties.

It is therefore
the privilege and
the duty of every
voter to study carefully this subject.
Hon. Elihu Root, in discussing this
question before the constitutional con-
vention of New York, recently said in
part:

"I am opposed to the granting of
suffrage to women, because I believe
that it would be a loss to women,
to all women and to every woman; and
because I believe it would be an in-
jury to the state, and to every man
and every woman in the state. It
would be useless to argue this if the
right of suffrage were a natural right.
If it were a natural right, then women
should have it though the heavens fall.
But if there be any one thing settled
in the long discussion of this subject,
it is that suffrage is not a natural
right, but is simply a means of gov-
ernment, and the sole question to be
discussed is whether government by
the suffrage of men and women will
be better government than by the
suffrage of men alone.

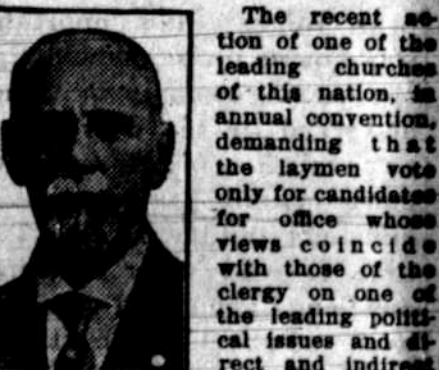
"Into my judgment, sir, there enters
no element of the inferiority of wom-
an. It is not that woman is inferior
to man, but it is that woman is dif-
ferent from man, that in the distri-
bution of powers, capacities, of ex-
ercises, our Maker has created man ad-
apted to the performance of certain func-
tions in the economy of nature and
society, and woman adapted to the
performance of other functions."

"Woman rules today by the sweet
and noble influence of her character.
Put woman into the arena of conflict
and she abandons these great won-
ders which control the world, and she
takes into her hands, feeble and
nervous for strife, weapons with
which she is unfamiliar and which
she is unable to wield. Woman in
strife becomes hard, harsh, unlovable,
repulsive; as far removed from that
gentle creature to whom we all owe
allegiance and to whom we confess
submission, as the heaven is removed
from the earth.

"The whole science of government
is the science of protecting life and
liberty and the pursuit of happiness.
In the divine distribution of powers,
the duty and the right of protection
rests with the male. It is so through-
out nature. It is so with men, and I,
for one, will never consent to part
with the divine right of protecting my
wife, my daughter, the women whom I
love, and the women whom I respect,
exercising the birthright of man, and
place that high duty in the weak and
nervous hands of those designed by
God to be protected rather than to
engage in the stern warfare of gov-
ernment. In my judgment, this whole
movement arises from a false concep-
tion of the duty and of the right of
both men and women.

"The time will never come when the
line of demarcation between the func-
tions of the two sexes will be broken
down. I believe it to be false philo-
sophy. I believe that it is an attempt
to turn backward upon the lines of
social development, and that if the
step ever be taken, we go centuries
backward on the march towards a
higher, a nobler and a purer civiliza-
tion, which must be found not in the
confusion, but in the higher differ-
entiation of the sexes."

PETER RADFORD.
On Church and State.



The recent ses-
sion of one of the
leading churches
of this nation, an
annual convention,
demanding that the
laymen vote only for
officers whose views
coincide with those of
the clergy on one of
the leading politi-
cal issues and di-
rect and indirect
efforts of other church
organizations to
interfere with the freedom of
the ballot, make one of the greatest perils
of this age, and present a problem that
should receive thoughtful consid-
eration of both laymen and citizens.

Suckling babes may well squirm
in their cradles when ministers in con-
vention assembled release the hearts
of men and grab them by the throat,
for Christianity has broken down, re-
ligion has become a farce and the
pulpit a failure. When the church
substitutes force for persuasion, com-
mand for conviction and coercion for
reason the sheriff had as well pass
the sacrament, plain-clothes men take
charge of the altar and policemen
bury the dead, for why a church?

It is no respecter of persons.
It is an objectionable for a conven-
tion of ministers to seek by ecclesiastical
law to control the votes of church
members as it would be for a con-
vention of manufacturers to issue or-
ders for their employees to vote for a
certain candidate. Such conduct is of-
fensive to decency, business morals
and a crime against society. Any
convention, whether composed of
saints or sinners, rich or poor, white
or black, that seeks to prostitute pow-
er and coerce consciences ought to be
broken up by the police and its lead-
ers arrested for treason.

A crime by any other name is a
crime just the same. An ecclesiastical
robe cannot sanctify treason, authority
to branch does not carry with it
license to become a political ringster.
No man has the right to tell us how to
vote. No man is to be allowed to sacri-
fice his citizenship, forfeit his con-
stitutional liberties or subordinate his
duty to state. The earth many times
has been drenched with the blood of
our forefathers, fighting to throw off
the ecclesiastical yoke from the state,
and the suggestion of a return to these
medieval conditions with their
torture and their torments should not
be tolerated for a moment.

Laws should be passed prohibiting
any preacher, or combination of
preachers, from delivering or attempt-
ing to deliver their membership or
congregation to any candidate for
office and suitable legislation should be
passed preserving the sanctity of the
pulpit from political vandalism. It is
as much a menace to church and state
as for a politician to occupy the pulpit
as for a minister to preach a political
sermon. He has no more right to
preach his politics from the pulpit
than a teacher has to teach his poli-
tics to his pupils. A preacher cannot
make political trickery righteous by
usage any more than he can make
profanity respectable by practice. It
is one of the ironies of fate that a
preacher may become a scandal as
well as a glory to civilization.

Making Tommy Attractive.

Ethel, the twelve-year-old daughter
of a family that resides in an up-town
apartment house, recently said to her
mother:

"Mother, I wish you'd wash Tom-
my's face."

Now Tommy was the son of the man
whose apartment adjoined theirs, and
mother was both alarmed and aston-
ished.

"The Mad!" she exclaimed. "Why,
he's a neighbor's child! I have nothing
to do with him."

"But I have," explained Ethel.
"We've become engaged, and I want
to kiss him."—Youth's Companion.

Feats About the Sun.

Scientists estimate the volume or
size of the sun at more than 1,000,000
times that of the earth; its mass at
more than 300,000 times and its den-
sity about 50 per cent more than water,
but they have not attempted to express
its weight in figures. They estimate
that the attraction of gravitation alone
at the surface of the sun is twenty-
seven times that of the earth, so that
a 200 pound man on the earth would
weigh more than 5,000 pounds at the
sun, provided he could stand the tem-
perature long enough to be weighed.

Bobwhite.

The male quail, or bobwhite, de-
serves honorable mention among gal-
linoaceous birds because he is particu-
larly good to his wife. He always
helps her to hatch her eggs and if any-
thing keeps her away will take the
whole duty on himself.

Disaster.

Knicker—Were you caught in the
storm without your umbrella? Bocker
—Worse still: I was caught without
any one else's umbrella.—New York
Sun.

A Great Military Feat.

Nonsa, in Corsica, is very proud of
the story of a great military feat per-
formed there long ago. It is told in
"Romantic Corsica," by George Ran-
wick.

The French in 1768 had subjugated
all the northern cape with the excep-
tion of the tower of Nonsa, which for
a considerable time sustained a close
siege. Attacking parties were driven
back by a fierce fire, but at last the
garrison agreed to surrender if allowed
to march out with all the honors
of war. This was conceded, and old
Captain Casella appeared, staggering
under a load of muskets and pistols.

"Why is the garrison so long in com-
ing out?" asked the French com-
mander.

"It is here, sir," replied Casella. "I
am the garrison."

"The oldest weather diary known to
be in existence was kept by a Lincoln-
shire parson, William Merie, close on
900 years ago. From 1387 to 1344 he
wrote it up, often day by day, in Lat-
in, and his manuscript, being on vel-
um, was somehow preserved and is
now in the Bodleian. Merie did not
trouble himself with the popular lore
about "skye influences," but stuck to
an accurate record of fact, in the spite
of at least of the modern meteorolo-
gists. And from his jottings it seems
that he had pretty much the same
kind of weather to deal with as folks
in his parish of Fribby experience now.
Contrary to theory, the changes of six
centuries have not reduced the number
of wet days in the year.—London
Chronicle.

Vanilla Beans.

The vanilla bean is the costliest bean
in the world. It flourishes in Mexico,
chiefly in Papantla and Minatitlan,
grows wild and is gathered and mar-
shaled by the natives. Just as they
come from the forests the beans sell at
\$10 per 1,000. After the beans are
dried and cured they are worth from
\$10 to \$11 a pound, according to qual-
ity. They are used by druggists and
confectioners and are an important
article of commerce.

THE AMERICAN RAVEN.

Found Now Only in Safe Retreats in
the Rocky Mountains.

The raven has gained little in the af-
fections of the people from his kindly
act of supplying Elijah, the prophet,
with food when hunger pressed him.
The raven is thought of as a bird of
ill omen wherever his black shadow
appears. He is the sinister bird, and he
cannot shake from his feathers his
evil name, though it be only in part de-
served.

How can any one be supposed to cul-
tivate affection for a bird of which a
great poet could write lines like these:
The end preying raven tolls
The sick man's passport in her pellow
beak

And in the shadow of the silent night
Doth shake contagion from her sable wing.
The raven is passing. Already it has
almost entirely disappeared from the
British islands. Formerly the Ameri-
can raven was fairly common in our
middle western country. In New Eng-
land and in the lower ranges of the
Allegheny mountains. Today it is only
occasionally to be seen in its ancient
haunts.

In the Rocky mountains, however,
where men are scarce, the raven is
holding its own. It builds its nest on
the edge of the ledges of the inaccessible
cliffs, and, sighting its foe from
afar, it keeps the distance in which lies
safety.

The raven is ugly in shape, as it is in
voice. Its sole beauty lies in the luster
of its feathers when the sun strikes
them full and fair. It is a bearded
bird, with high shoulders and certain
bumps and bumps here and there to
make its form seem utterly lost to
symmetry.

The bird is not altogether bad. It
robs the nests of other birds, and it is
in this trait of character which has lost it
caste and life in England. The game-
keeper shoots it on sight, and in recent
years, because of the growing scarcity,
the museum collectors have been hunt-
ing the raven in all places where it is
reported to have dared to show its
head.

The raven is the bird of books. It
has a larger place in literature perhaps
than all other birds combined. It is ex-
cept the eagle. Shakespeare mentions
it no less than fifty times. Milton did
not neglect it, and all the poets—an-
cient, medieval and modern—have con-
sidered the raven.

The American raven probably will be-
come in his Rocky mountain haunts for
years to come, but he is so far removed
from man's habitation that his pictur-
esqueness, his oddities, his graces
and his croakings virtually are lost to
the world.—Chicago Post.

JOKING RELATIVES.

Peculiar and Embarrassing Custom of
the Crow Indians.

The Crow Indians are divided into
thirteen clans. In former times the
number was probably greater. These
groups are called by nickname-like de-
signation, such as Whistling Waters.
They Bring Game Without Having
Killed It. Killed in Their Stomach, and
so forth. Every individual belongs to
his mother's clan, and it is considered
highly improper to marry a person of
one's own clan, since all the marriage-
able women of that group are reckoned
as belonging to the status of either
a mother or a sister.

Those individuals whose fathers be-
long to the same clan stand to each
other in a very special relation, which
for want of a better name may be called
the "joking relationship." They are
privileged to play pranks and practical
jokes on each other without giving of-
fense, says the Southern Farmer. More
particularly is it the function of one
of them to administer a stinging re-
buke when the other has transgressed
some rule of tribal morality or etiq-
uette.

In such a case the "joker" will bide
his time until some public occasion
arises. Then he will boldly come for-
ward and twit the culprit with his deed
in the face of the assembled throng
and to his utter discomfiture. Against
this punishment there is no redress,
for nothing said by a joking relative
can be resented. The only thing a
man can do is to wait for an offense
on the part of his denouncer and then
treat him to a dose of his own medi-
cine.

The Persian Crow's Beak.

There is a weapon known as the
crow's beak which was formerly much
in use among men of rank in Persia
and north India. It was a horseman's
weapon and consisted of a broad
curved dagger blade fixed at right
angles to a shaft, pickax fashion. The
shaft incloses a dagger, unscrewing at
the butt end. This concealed dagger is
a very common feature of Indian arms
and especially of the battleaxes of
Persia.

Not the Same.

On one occasion when "The Mikado"
was being rehearsed Gilbert called out
from the middle of the stalls. There is
a gentleman in the left group not
holding his fan correctly." The stage
manager appeared and explained.
"There is one gentleman," he said,
"who is absent through illness." "Ah,"
came the reply from the author in
grave, matter of fact tones, "that is
not the gentleman I am referring to."
—Dundee Advertiser.

A False Note.

"I hear you calling me," warbled
the daughter from the parlor.
"Yes," sang mother from the kitchen.
"I want you to come here and help me
with the die-a-bee."

And then a profound silence reigned.
—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Do all the good you can and make
as little fuss as possible about it.
—Charles Dickens

Tell Him He's Looking Fine and See
How It Cheers Him.

"By George, old man, you are looking
fine!"

Did you ever notice how you perk up,
no matter how poorly you were feeling
before, when some friend greets you in
that way?

According to the secretary of the
Colorado board of health, the human
system just naturally begins to come
up under the stimulus of such greet-
ings.

He declares it is an aid to health
and a help in preventing disease, and
to that end he advocates a "tell your
friends how well they look" movement.
"It is not only bad taste to talk of
your pains and ailments," says the
doctor, "but a reflection on your imbu-
ment and knowledge of sanitation
and good health. We are not far from
the time when the cause of illness will
have to be accounted for personally."

"In other words, nature is no longer
going to be blamed for sickness when
it is simply the result of ignorance, in-
difference or wrong ways of living."

Do you not think it worth giving the
doctor's idea a try?

We do! No more goes:

"By George, old man, you are looking
fine!"—Santa Fe New Mexican.

LITERARY FORGERIES.

Stuff With Which Vrain-Lucas Duped
An Aged Scientist.

The most remarkable literary forgery
on record was perpetrated in 1870 by
Michael Chasles, a French scientist
of European reputation. Chasles, who
was in his dotage, purchased within a
few years from one Vrain-Lucas no
fewer than 27,000 autographs. A. M.
Broadley tells the story in his "Chasles
on Autographs."

"Beginning with a supposed corre-
spondence between the youthful New-
ton and Pascal, Vrain-Lucas proceeded
to fabricate letters of Rabelais, Montes-
quieu and La Bruyere. Before he had
finished M. Chasles became the possessor
of letters in French, of Julius Cae-
sar, Cleopatra, Mary Magdalene and
even of Lazarus after his resurrec-
tion."

Vrain-Lucas was sentenced to two
years' imprisonment, and among other
forged manuscripts from his pen there
were produced in court letters from
Alexander the Great, Herod, Pompey,
Judas Iscariot, Nabpho, Pontius Pilate
and Joan of Arc.

Battery of the Cat.

The piercing wailing of the cat in
the night starts and exasperates us
beyond all bearing—not by its loud-
ness, but by a certain vicious, wild,
half terrifying, half infuriating note in
it that makes us spring to arms with
the bootjack or other substitute for
the boomerang, as the warwhoop of
our tribal enemies did a century or
centuries ago, says Dr. Woods Hutchin-
son.

One of Mark Twain's wise old fron-
tiermen had caught this note when he
explained to the tenderfoot that an-
imal speech had rules of composition
and grammar, just like human speech,
and that "the reason a cat rises so
ain't on account of the noise she
makes, but on account of the sickening
bad grammar she uses." And he was
right, for the grammar of scarp lifting
and the whole alphabet of battle, mur-
der and sudden death tangles and
screams in the rasping cry.



Black Silk
Stove Polish
Liquid
or
Paste
Does
Not Rub
Off, Lasts
4 Times as
Long as Others,
Saves Work.
Get a Can Today

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