

THE SPRINGFIELD NEWS

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The postoffice department should amend its recently-announced rule that fowls and animals may be shipped by parcels post by making it applicable only to geese and elephants—which are said to live to the age of one hundred years.

Under the caption "Footprints of Pioneer Days," the Cottage Grove Sentinel is printing each week interesting reminiscences of the early settlers in that part of the valley, the data being furnished by the men and women who made the early-day footprints.

"What has the special session of congress done?" asks the publicity bureau of the democratic national committee in its weekly sheet issued for the use of democratic editors.

Maybe the d. e.'s don't know, so we will say that the special session as a starter passed within a few days number of very necessary appropriation bills which its predecessor, the democratic congress, haggled over for many months, much to the embarrassment of the democratic administration.

"Good Skinning Will Give Better Hides" is the headline over an article in the Weekly News Letter, a publication of advisory character issued by our paternal government at Washington, D. C.

Lacking time to read the article, but jumping to conclusions, we would say that its writer is mistaken. The great majority of Americans (those whom W. J. B. used to so fondly term "the plain people") have been frequently and very efficiently skinned during several years past, and they are still being skinned—and if it keeps up much longer they won't have any hide left, good or bad.

The Wall Street Journal—evidently an unprejudiced authority—says:

"Since 1899 the United States has produced over 7,700,000 automobiles. Half of these were manufactured since the end of 1915. Manufacturers propose to put out over 2,000,000 cars valued at \$1,500,000,000, in 1920. Some think the horse is doomed to the fate of the Great Auk, or at the best, a cage in the Bronx Zoo. But on the contrary horses are on the increase. There are 21,534,000 in the country now, and of their poor relations, the mules, there are 4,925,000, and the total value is \$2,800,000,000. The equine family was never more numerous, or valuable. In Europe, the American horse is more popular than tourists, for they are going over by thousands, and in 11 months added \$5,000,000 to our export trade. The horse holds a place in our life which no mechanical invention can supplant."

JAPAN'S PROBLEM

"A mighty catastrophe confronts Japan and her elder statesmen know it," writes Wm. Dudley Pelley in Sunset Magazine. "It is the catastrophe of democracy sweeping over the world, kicking kings off their thrones, cleaning the houses of nations of diamonds and coronets and royal purple. It is a spirit imbuing peoples to think for themselves, and if it gets into Japan the whole fabric of the empire will crumble. She's directly in the path of the steam roller and these damnable Christians with their irresponsible ideas about every man being as good as every other man in the sight of his God and that peoples can govern themselves without any direction from royal bigwigs, are firing the old boiler at the rate of a mile a minute. The only way to stop it is to kill the hand at the throttle and the other hands manipulating the coal into the firebox.

"Japan is not Christian. She is pagan in Christian clothes. Christianity hasn't yet reached her heart. It may have taken a world war to make

Christianity touch our own hearts, but Japan has felt little of it. And so she fails in her policy with the Koreans because she knows nothing of the milk of human kindness when dealing with a weaker people. And there's the devil to pay!"

A MISFIT SUGGESTION

[American Economist]

Naturally all the foreign countries which are debtors to the United States for loans amounting to \$10,000,000,000 are in favor of paying their debts in commodities rather than in coin. No one can blame them for wanting to square accounts in trade rather than cash. But is the United States to keep right on playing fairy godmother to all creation? Having loaned billions of our money to the war-stricken nations of the rest of the world, must we now cancel the debts by taking from our debtors vast quantities of things which we do not need because we are making them for ourselves? That seems to be what our foreign friends and many of our domestic free-traders are trying to induce us to do. There is something that looks like a concerted effort, a sort of propaganda, to bring about the surrender of our own market to foreigners in order that the foreigners may discharge their financial obligation by sending us manufactured products. Think of it! Ten billion dollars worth of goods which we don't need, in return for ten billion dollars loaned to foreign countries! A beautiful scheme for the foreign debtors. Fun for the boys, but death to the frogs: European boys, American frogs.

A rather peculiar feature of this goods-for-money propaganda is seen in the fact that it is being urged by the British. A country that has abandoned free-trade and taken up the protective policy is asking this country to abandon protection and take up free-trade! That would be a picnic for Great Britain. Yet it is seriously advocated by British business men; also by a good many American free-traders, notably Secretary Redfield, of the department of commerce, who not long ago appeared in print with the proposition that it was alike our duty and interest to continue to finance Europe by letting Europe pay its debts in goods. Truly a remarkable proposition to emanate from an American cabinet officer. But it is easily explained. Mr. Redfield is—well, he is Mr. Redfield. One can hardly imagine a member of the British ministry of today advocating a policy that would open British markets to the low-priced competition of the whole world and thus paralyze British industry and labor. Great Britain will make no such mistake. Her government has abandoned free-trade and adopted protection.

But it would be a good thing for the industries and business of the United Kingdom if the United States could be persuaded to step into the free-trade trap. The latest expression along this line is that of a prominent British merchant, G. C. Hans Hamilton, member of a London firm (with a branch in Chicago), who writes to the Tribune urging lower duties that will enable Europe to sell goods in this country and thus be enabled to pay off all loans granted by the United States. Payment, he says, can only be made if the United States is ready to buy liberally the products of Europe. If the United States is not willing to do this, says the London man, she must be ready to write off her loans to Europe and content herself with her domestic trade and some trade with countries less affected by the war. The gentleman does not explain how we are to compete with foreign producers for trade in such countries if we need a tariff to protect our own market from the competition of Europe. Surely if Europe or the Orient can undersell us in our own market they can undersell us

in other markets.

The London proponent of free-trade in this country, who thinks, as Josh Billings did, that the best place to have a boil is on some other fellow, argues that the adoption of free-trade or a materially lower tariff couldn't be undertaken at a more favorable moment because we can produce steel, coal and oil at a lower production cost than anywhere in Europe; also, because of our surplus of foodstuffs for export. But he entirely overlooks a great body of diversified industries in which several millions of highly-paid workers are employed—industries which, at the present rate of wages, could not possibly compete in our own market with the products of far cheaper labor in other countries, and in the absence of protective duties would have either to make a heavy cut in wages or else go out of business. The industries named—steel, coal and oil—might survive a low tariff or no tariff system, though it is by no means certain that all of them could long stand up against the unrestricted competition of the rest of the world.

But, in any event, these are relatively crude industries. It is in the higher lines of finished production that tariff duties are needed to maintain our high wage rates and our high standard of living. To abolish or materially reduce the tariff below the protective point would mean ruin to a great multitude of manufacturers and workers. Not all the needs of twenty Europes could justify so monstrous a sacrifice.

The closing suggestion of the London framer of an American economic policy that would put Europe on its feet and the United States on its back is that protective duties might have to be retained against such countries as Japan, where the cost of labor is much below the rates paid in Europe and the United States. What's that? Protective duties against one nation, and free-trade for the products of all other nations? Does this London "economist" want to plunge us into another war? That is what would surely happen if we imposed upon the exports of Japan a tariff higher than that on equivalent exports of other countries. It is a ridiculous suggestion, quite on a par with the rest of the London man's budget of tariff mistakes. Whatever tariff we have, it must be the same for all countries.

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If protective as against Japan, it must be protective against European nations. The London free-trade propagandist is out of his place. His tariff ideas are a misfit so far as this country is concerned.

Every ship looks romantic except the ship we are in.—Emerson.

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