The Santiam News.

VOL. XII. SCIO, LINN COUNTY, OREGON, DECEMBER 11, 1908. NO. 25.

Aunt Diana

The Sunshine of the Family

A QUIET, natural home story, this, but full of character and interest for those who delight in domestic details of life. A young girl takes charge of a large family in a motherly fashion that wins regard, and the incidents are all oleasing and consistent.

This serial will greatly please home readers, and its influence cannot help but benefit and ennoble the mind and the purer impulses of the heart.

CHAPTER I.

There are conflicts in most lives—real hand-to-hand combats, that have to be fought, not with any fleshly weapons, but with the inner forces of the being—battles wherein the victory is not always to the strong, where the young and the weak and the little ones may be found abiding nearest to the standards.

Such a conflict had come to Alison Merle, breaking up the surface of her smooth outer life, and revealing possible shoals and quicksands, in which many of her brightest hopes might be wrecked.

"It is hard. I do not know that even if Aunt Di think it right I shall ever have the heart to do it," murmured Alison, talking to herself in her agitation, after the manner of older folk. "I have just rooted myself in this dear place, and the soil suits me. I could not flourish anywhere else; and," finished Alison, with a quaint little smile, "sickly plants are worth nothing."

To any ordinary spectator the interior of that little room would have presented a picture of perfect serenity and absolute comfort. Even the young creature comfortably seated in a chair by the window, with an open letter and a cluster of deep red roses lying among the folds of her white gown, presented no disturbing image, though the cheek had lost its wonted fresh color, and the dark, dreamy eyes had a look of doubt that was almost pain in them.

Two years ago—she had been sixteen then, and, oh, how discontented and ill and unhappy she had been. It was not only the loss of her mother, it was her own incapacity for responsibility, her morbid dislike to her surroundings, that had fretted all her fine color away. Change of air would do her good, and then Aunt Diana had come down upon them with the freshness of a moorland breeze.

"You must give your eldest girl to me, Ainslie," she had said to Alison's father; "she wants care and cherishing more than Miss Leigh has time to give her." And, of course, Aunt Diana had her way.

Instead of the whir of machinery—for her father's sawmills were just behind their house—Alison had now only to listen to the soft flow of the river that glided below the green lawns and shrubberies of Moss-side; instead of waking up in the morning to look across the dusty shrubs and trees to the vast wood piles and masses of unsawn timber, that seemed endlessly between her and the blue sky, Alison's eyes had now the finest prospect; one shaded garden seemed to run into another, and when the willows were thinned or bare in winter time, what a view of the river and green meadows on the opposite side!

The moral surroundings were almost as much changed. Instead of Miss Leigh's dry method of instruction, Aunt Diana had placed within her reach many a pleasant short cut to knowledge, had suggested all sorts of enviable accomplishments; money was not stinted where Alison's talents could be turned to account.

In this pleasant but bracing atmosphere Alison had thriven and grown. She was still a tall, slim girl, somewhat youthful in look, but with plenty of warm life and energy about her; and though the dark eyes had still their old trick of dreaming, they seemed to dream more happily, and the shadow did not lie so deep in them—not, at least, until the June afternoon, when Alison sat sighing and visibly disturbed with her lap full of roses. It was evident at last that she found her thoughts too painful, for after another half hour's intense brooding she suddenly jumped up from her seat, scattering the flowers where they lay unheeded on the Indian matting, and walked abruptly to the door. She had dropped her letters, too; but she went back and picked them up, not replacing them in their envelopes, and then she went out into the passage.

A dark oak staircase led into a little square hall, fitted up with bookcases like a library, with a harmonium on one side; a glass door opened into a conservatory, through which one passed into the garden.

Alison turned the handle of a door just opposite the staircase, and stood for a moment hesitating on the threshold.

What a pleasant room that was, half studio and half drawing room, full of cross lights, and artistically littered with an odd jumble of medieval and modern furniture—oak chairs and cabinets, basketwork longes, tiny tea tables, fit for Liliputian princesses, and hanging cupboards of quaint old china that gave warm coloring to the whole. Alison's eyes were still fixed on a lady who stood with her back toward her, painting at an easel.

"Well, child, what now?" The voice was nicely modulated, clear and musical, but the manner slightly abrupt.

Alison came forward at once and inspected the picture. "It is very pretty, Aunt Di," she said, forgetting her own worries in a moment. "It is one of your best. I think I see what you mean, but to me it is all beautiful; that old man—a pensioner, is he not? and that poor, tired sheep, that seems to have dropped down by the way, left behind by the flock, is so suggestive of the title, 'Noontide Rest.'"

"That is what I intended. You are an intelligent child, Allie; both the man and the sheep must be old; it is not for young creatures to rest at noontide; my old pensioner has already borne the burden and heat of the day."

"Of course, I see what you mean, Aunt Di."

"My parable is not hard to read," replied Miss Carrington, with a smile, but as Alison studied the picture with increased interest and admiration, a pair of shrewd, kindly eyes were studying the girl's face.

"Go and put yourself in that easy chair opposite, and tell me all about it," she said at last, rousing her by a good-humored little push. "I must finish this branch if I am to enjoy my night's rest, but I can listen to any amount of lettered woes," with a suggestive glance at Alison's hand.

"Oh, Aunt Di, how do you find out things so?" stammered Alison; then, as though used to obedience, she moved to the chair that was always reserved for Miss Carrington's visitors, whom she was wont to entertain after a fashion of her own.

"I wonder how long I am to have patience," observed Miss Carrington, painting on industriously, as Alison sat with drooping head, looking at her letters, without offering to read them. "I am quite sure those are Rudel's straggling characters; that boy's handwriting is a disgrace to the family; it has put him out of my will forever; fancy one's nephew being such a sorry scribe."

"Rudel does write badly," returned Alison, with a faint little smile, "but I like his letters better than Missie's; there is one from Miss Leigh, too; do you admire her handwriting, Aunt Di?"

"No; it is too thin and angular," returned Miss Carrington, severely; "it wants freedom and breadth; it reminds me too much of Miss Leigh herself."

"I do not think we are any of us very fond of her," interrupted Alison. "I know she fidgets father dreadfully, and Roger, too, though he is so good to her."

"Roger is good to everyone but himself," responded Miss Carrington; "but even he, with all his good nature, has owned to me that Miss Leigh has a very trying manner. You see, Alison, fussy people make poor companions. Miss Leigh has never leisure for anything but her own worries; she is too overweighted for cheerful conversation; if she could forget Poppie's misdemeanors, and Missie's pertness, and Rudel's roughness, and the servants' failures for about half an hour at a time, I could quite fancy Miss Leigh a pleasing companion; but now let me hear her letter."

"It is dreadfully long," sighed Alison, as she reluctantly obeyed. It was evident that she wished Miss Carrington to read the letters for herself, but Aunt Diana held a different opinion.

"My dear Alison," it began, "I am afraid that my weekly account will be little more cheering than the last; indeed, I am arriving slowly at the conviction that, unless some change be made in the household arrangements, I shall be compelled, however reluctantly, to resign my post."

"Humph! that looks bad," from Miss Carrington.

"I have done all I can in representing to your father the mischief that must result from his injudicious treatment of Mabel; she is becoming so thoroughly spoiled, so entirely her own mistress, that no amount of reasoning has any effect upon her. I do not wish to lay any undue stress on her behavior to myself; but her treatment of Mr. Roger, and the bad example that she sets to Poppie, not to mention the constant bickering that is always going on beween her and Rudel, are quite destroying the harmony of the household. You may imagine, my dear Alison, how trying all this is to a person of my sensitive temperament.

"I always said it was a black day for us when Miss Carrington took you away from The Holms. With all due deference to your aunt's benevolence and good feelings, I can not help thinking that a daughter's place is with her widowed father. Of course, you will talk the matter over with your aunt, and perhaps you may be able to assist me to some solution of our difficulties.

"PATIENCE LEIGH."

"Patience has changed to impatience," muttered Miss Carrington, grimly. "Sensitive people never own to being out of temper, but I should have said myself that there was a spice of ill-temper in that letter. Poor Miss Leigh is decidedly ruffled."

"She never could manage Missie; I always knew that," returned Alison, sorrowfully.

"And how old is Mabel, or Missie, as you call her?"

"Sixteen last birthday, Aunt Diana."

"Humph! there is not a more troublesome age."

"Aunt Di, I have something very serious to say. These letters came two or three days ago, and I have been thinking about them ever since. I do believe Miss Leigh is right in what she says, and that I am shirking my duty."

"Since when?" a little dryly.

"Since I got quite well and strong and happy, about a year ago," returned Alison, answering most literally. "I ought to have gone back then, and not have stopped on here quietly, taking the good of everything, and enjoying myself just as though I had no duties, and no place in life. It is all my fault if Missie is getting the upper hand, and making every one uncomfortable. I ought to go home to father and Roger."

There was no immediate answer to this, but in another moment Miss Carrington had walked to her slowly, and then, standing beside her, her hand stroked the girl's hair with a mute caressing gesture. "Do not cry about it, Allie," she said presently; but her own voice was not quite so clear as usual. "It is not a thing to be decided in a hurry; we must look at it all around; impulse is never a sure guide. No one is quite their own mistress, even at eighteen, and I am afraid you will have to ask my leave, unless you prefer running away."

"Oh, will you let me go, Aunt Di?" with a sudden start of joy, as though the knots that her conscience had tied were suddenly cut through in a most unexpected way.

"My dear, if it be right I will help you to go," was the expressive but somewhat curt answer to this; but as she spoke, Miss Carrington's hands pressed the girl's head a little heavily.

"Now," she continued, with a visible effort, "we must put all these troublesome things away for the present; there is the dressing bell, and we have only time to get ready for dinner, and you know it is our evening at Fernleigh, and we shall have to be cheerful for Mr. Moore's sake."

CHAPTER II.

An hour and a half later Miss Carrington and her niece were walking quickly down one of the garden paths until they came to a little gate set in the hedge; unlatching it, they passed into a neighboring garden, and then turned their faces in the direction of a low white house, with a veranda running all round it, and roses in profusion running over it. As they did so, the notes of a violin, evidently played by a practiced hand, reached them. Miss Carrington's face brightened, and, making a gesture to her companion to move softly, she stepped up to a window and looked through it. The room, if it were a drawing room, was almost as heterogeneously furnished as her own, but it bore the character of a library. Two of the walls were lined with bookcases; a grand piano and a harmonious occupied some of the space; there was a round table littered with books, and a superfluity of easy chairs in every stage of comfort, arranged more with a view to ease than appearance. A nearer inspection would have pointed out certain bachelor arrangements—some costly Turkish pipes; a pair of pistols, splendidly mounted; some silver cups and tankards, with various inscriptions on them, all engraved with the name of Greville Moore, and purporting to be certain prizes in the half-mile race, the high jump, throwing the cricket ball and other feats of prowess, performed by some youthful athlete.

An elderly man, with a long white beard and mustache, in a black velvet coat, sat with his back to the light, playing the violin. His face, seen in repose, was clear cut and handsome, in spite of the deep lines that time and perhaps many cares had traced upon it; but his eyes were cast down, as though in deep meditation, an habitual action, for Mr. Moore had been blind half his life.

He was playing from memory an exquisite fugue from Bach. The thin, somewhat wrinkled hand handled the bow with a precision, a delicacy, a masterly knowledge, that seemed surprising in his situation. Apparently he was lost himself in enjoyment of the sweet sounds that he had conjured up in his darkness, for a smile played round his lips as the harmony widened and vibrated, and his foot softly moved as though in unison. In a moment the fugue was ended and the bow lowered.

"Is that you, Sunny? Little witch, why have you stolen a march on the blind man? Of course, you have flown through the window."

"Aunt Diana set me the example," retruned Alison, demurely. "How do you do again, Mr. Moore?"

"Oh, nicely, nicely; time always passes quickly with me in my own special world. Have you given your aunt her favorite chair? How does the picture progress, Miss Diana? Sunny tells me it is one of your best."

"Would you have me praise my own work?" returned Miss Carrington, brightly. "I must leave you to Alison's criticism. I hope to do something good before I die, and if I do not succeed, well, my life will have been happier for the trying."

(To be continued.)

Drugs and the Brain.

Most people believe that drugs affect the brain. Yet this apparently is not so, according to physicians. Drugs no more affect the brain than does insanity—that is, not at all!—except alcohol, which does injure the brain, though not at all on account of its mental efferts, but for the very different reason that alcohol has a chemical affinity for the albumen and fats of the tissues. By this chemical action it slowly alters and damages brain itssue, but this result in no wise differs from similar alterations produced by alcohol in the tissues of the liver and of the kidneys. Tobacco is a powerful poison, and yet no autopsies can show the yeast difference between the brain of a lifelong smoker and that of one who never lit a cigar. Likewise, the brain of an opium fiend is indistinguishable from any other brain, and so on for the rest. Drugs do affect the mind and will power, but not the brain substance itself.

MESSAGE IN BRIEF

Chief Points in Roosevelt's Recommendations to Congress.

The following are the chief points brought out in the message of the president to the second session of the sixtieth congress:

The financial standing of the nation at the present time is excellent, and the financial management of the nation's interests by the government during the last seven years has shown the most satisfactory results. But our currency system is imperfect, and it is earnestly to be hoped that the currency commission will be able to propose a thoroughly good system which will do away with the existing defects.

As regards the great corporations engaged in interstate business, and especially the railroads, I can only repeat what I have already again and again said in my messages to the congress. I believe that under the interstate clause of the constitution the United States has complete and paramount right to control all agencies of interstate commerce, and I believe that the national government alone can exercise this right with wisdom and effectiveness so as both to secure justice from, and to do justice to, the great corporations, which are the most important factors in modern business.

The railways of the country should be put completely under the interstate commerce commission and removed from the domain of the anti-trust law. The power of the commission should be made thoroughgoing, so that it could exercise complete supervision and control over the issue of securities as well as over the raising and lowering of rates. As regards rates, at least, this power should be summary. The power to investigate the financial operations and accounts of the railways has been one of the most valuable features in recent legislation. Power to make combinations and traffic agreements should be explicitly conferred upon the railroads, the permission of the commission being first gained and the combination or agreement being published in all its details.

Rates must be made as low as is compatible with giving proper returns to all the employes of the railroad, from the highest to the lowest, and proper returns to the shareholders; but they must not, for instance, be reduced in such fashion as to necessitate a cut in the wages of the employes or the abolition of the proper and legitimate profits of honest shareholders.

Telegraph and telephone companies engaged in interstate business should be put under the jurisdiction of the interstate commerce commission.

Interstate commerce is now chiefly conducted by railroads; and the great corporation has supplanted the mass of small partnerships or individuals. The proposal to make the national government supreme over, and therefore to give it complete control over, the railroads and other instruments of interstate commerce is merely a proposal to carry out to the letter one of the prime purposes, if not the prime purpose, for which the constitution was founded.

There are many matters affecting labor and the status of the wage-worker to which I should like to draw your attention, but an exhaustive discussion of the problem in all its aspects is not now necessary.

The congress should without further delay pass a model employers' liability law for the District of Columbia. The employers' liability act recently declared unconstitutional, on account of apparently including in its provisions employes engaged in intrastate commerce as well as those engaged in interstate commerce, has been held by the local courts to be still in effect so far as its provisions apply to the District of Columbia. There should be no ambiguity on this point. If there is any doubt on the subject, the law should be re-enacted with special reference to the District of Columbia.

I most earnestly urge upon the congress the duty of increasing the totally inadequate salaries now given to our judges. On the whole there is no body of public servants who do as valuable work, nor whose moneyed reward is so inadequate, compared to their work. Beginning with the supreme court, the judges should have their salaries doubled. It is not befitting the dignity of the nation that its most honored public servants should be paid sums so small compared to what they would earn in private life that the performance of public service by them implies an exceedingly heavy pecuniary sacrifice.

It is earnestly to be desired that some method should be devised for doing away with the long delays which now obtain in the administration of justice, and which operate with peculiar severity against persons of small means, and favor only the very criminals whom it is most desirable to punish. These long delays in the final decisions of cases make in the aggregate a crying evil, and a remedy should be devised. Much of this intolerable delay is due to improper regard paid to technicalities which are a mere hindrance to justice. In some noted recent cases this over-regard for technicalities has resulted in a striking denial of justice, and flagrant wrong to the body politic.

Real damage has been done by the manifold and conflicting interpretations of the interstate commerce law. Control over the great corporations doing interstate business can be effective only if it is vested with full power in an administration department, a branch of the federal executive, carrying out a federal law; it can never be effective if a divided responsibility is left in both the states and the nation; it can never be effective if left in the hands of the courts to be decided by law suits.

If there is any one duty which more than another we owe it to our children and our children's children to perform at once, it is to save the forests of this country, for they constitute the first and most important element in the conservation of the natural resources of the country. There are, of course, two kinds of natural resources. One is the kind which can only be used as part of a process of exhaustion; this is true of mines, natural oil and gas wells, and the like. The other, and of course, ultimately by far the most important, includes the resources which can be improved in the process of wise use—the soil, the rivers, and the forests come under this head. Any really civilized nation will so use all of these three great national assets that the nation will have their benefit in the future.

All serious students of the question are aware of the great damage that has been done in the Mediterranean countries of Europe, Asia and Africa by deforestation. The similar damage that has been done in eastern Asia is less well known.

The lesson of deforestation in China is a lesson which mankind should have learned many times already from what has occurred in other places. Denudation leaves naked soil; then gullying cuts down to the bare rocks; and meanwhile the rock waste buries the bottom lands. When the soil is gone, men must go; and the process does not take long.

What has happened in northern China, what has happened in central Asia, in Palestine, in north Africa, in parts of the Mediterranean countries of Europe, will surely happen in our country if we do not exercise that wise forethought which should be one of the chief marks of any people calling itself civilized. Nothing should be permitted to stand in the way of the preservation of the forests, and it is criminal to permit individuals to purchase a little gain for themselves through the destruction of forests when this destruction is fatal to the well-being of the whole country in the future.

Action should be begun forthwith during the present session of the congress, for the improvement of our inland waterways—action which will result in giving us not only navigable but navigated rivers. We have spent hundreds of millions of dollars upon these waterways, yet the traffic on nearly all of them is steadily declining. This condition is the direct result of the absence of any comprehensive and far-seeing plan of waterway improvement. Obviously we cannot continue thus to expend the revenues of the government without return. It is poor business to spend money for inland navigation unless we get it.

Inquiry into the condition of the Mississippi and its principal tributaries reveals very many instances of the utter waste caused by the methods which have hitherto obtained for the so-called "improvement" of navigation. A striking instance is supplied by the "improvement" of the Ohio, which, begun in 1824, was continued under a single plan for half a century. In 1875 a new plan was adopted, and followed for a quarter of a century. In 1902 still a different plan was adopted, and has since been pursued at a rate which only promises a navigable river in from 20 to 103 years.

Such shortsighted, vacillating and futile methods are accompanied by decreasing water borne commerce and increasing traffic congestion on land, by increasing floods and by the waste of public money. The remedy lies in abandoning the methods which have so signally failed and adopting new ones in keeping with the needs and demands of our people.

I urge that all our national parks adjacent to national forests be placed completely under the control of the forest service of the agricultural department, instead of leaving them as they now are, under the interior department and policed by the army. The congress should provide for superintendents with adequate corps of first-class civilian scouts or rangers, and, further, place the road construction under the superintendent, instead of leaving it with the war department. Such a change in park management would result in economy and avoid the difficulties of administration which now arise from having the responsibility of care and protection divided between different departments.

I had occasion in my message of May 4, 1906, to urge the passage of some law putting alcohol, used in the arts, industries, and manufactures, upon the free list; that is, to provide for the withdrawal free of tax of alcohol which is to be denatured for those purposes. The law of June 7, 1906, and its amendment of March 2, 1907, accomplished what was desired in that respect, and the use of denatured alcohol, as intended, is making a fair degree of progress and is entitled to further encouragement and support from congress.

The pure food legislation has already worked a benefit difficult to overestimate.

It has been my purpose from the beginning of my administration to take the Indian service completely out of the atmosphere of political activity, and there has been steady progress toward that end. The last remaining stronghold of politics in that service was the agency system, which has seen its best days and was gradually falling to pieces from natural or purely evolutionary causes, but, like all such survivals, was decaying slowly in its later stages.

I again renew my recommendation for postal savings banks, for depositing savings with the security of the government behind them. The object is to encourage thrift and economy in the wage-earner and person of moderate means. In 14 states the deposits in savings banks as reported to the comptroller of currency amounts to \$3,590,245,402, or 98.4 per cent of the entire deposits, while in the remaining 32 states there were only \$70,308,543, or 1.6 per cent, showing conclusively that there are many localities in the United States where sufficient opportunity is not given to the people to deposit their savings. The result is that money is kept in hiding and unemployed. It is believed that in the aggregate vast sums of money would be brought into circulation through the instrumentality of the postal savings banks.

In my last annual message I commended the postmaster general's recommendation for an extension of the parcel post on the rural routes. The establishment of the local parcel post on rural routes would be to the mutual benefit of the farmer and the country storekeeper, and it is desirable that the routes, serving more than 15,000,000 people, should be utilized to the fullest practicable extent. An amendment was proposed in the senate last session, at the suggestion of the postmaster general, providing that, for the purpose of ascertaining the practicability of establishing a special local parcel post system on the rural routes throughout the United States, the postmaster general be authorized and directed to experiment and report to the congress the result of such experiment by establishing a special local parcel post system on rural routes in not to exceed four counties in the United States for packages of fourth class matter originating on a rural route or at the distributing postoffice for delivery by rural carriers. It would seem only proper that such an experiment should be tried in order to demonstrate the practicability of the proposition, especially as the postmaster general estimates that the revenue derived from the operation of such a system on all the rural routes would amount to many million dollars.

The share that the national government should take in the broad work of education has not received the attention and the care it rightly deserves. The immediate responsibility for the support and improvement of our educational systems and institutions rests and should always rest with the people of the several states acting through their state and local governments, but the nation has an opportunity in educational work which must not be lost, and a duty which should no longer be neglected.

I strongly urge that the request of the director of the census in connection with the decennial work so soon to be begun, be complied with and that the appointments to the census force be placed under the civil service law, waiving the geographical requirements as requested by the director of the census. The supervisors and enumerators should not be appointed under the civil service law, for the reasons given by the director. I commend to the congress the careful consideration of the admirable report of the director of the census, and I trust that his recommendations will be adopted and immediate action thereon taken.

It is highly advisable that there should be intelligent action on the part of the nation on the question of preserving the health of the country. Through the practical extermination in San Francisco of disease-bearing rodents our country has thus far escaped the bubonic plague. This is but one of the many achievements of American health officers, and it shows what can be accomplished with a better organization than at present exists.

The dangers to public health from food adulteration and from many other sources, such as the menace to the physical, mental and moral development of children from child labor, should be met and overcome. There are numerous diseases which are now known to be preventable which are, nevertheless, not prevented. The recent international congress on tuberculosis has made us painfully aware of the inadequacy of American public health legislation. I therefore urgently recommend the passage of a bill which shall authorize a redistribution of the bureaus which shall best accomplish this end.

I recommend that legislation be enacted placing under the jurisdiction of the department of commerce and labor the government printing office.

All soldiers' homes should be placed under the complete jurisdiction and control of the war department.

Economy and sound business policy require that all existing independent bureaus and commissions should be placed under the jurisdiction of appropriate executive departments. It is unwise from every standpoint, and results only in mischief, to have any executive work done save by the purely executive bodies, under the control of the president; and each such executive body should be under the immediate supervision of a cabinet minister.

I advocate the immediate admission of New Mexico and Arizona as states. This should be done at the present session of the congress. The people of the two territories have made it evident by their votes that they will not come in as one state. The only alternative is to admit them as two, and I trust this will be done without delay.

I call the attention of the congress to the importance of the problem of the fisheries in the interstate waters. On the Great Lakes we are now, under the very wise treaty of April 11 of this year, endeavoring to come to an international agreement for the preservation and satisfactory use of the fisheries of these waters, which cannot otherwise be achieved.

But the problem is quite as pressing in the interstate waters of the United States. The salmon fisheries of the Columbia river are now but a fraction of what they were 25 years ago, and what they would be now if the United States government had taken complete charge of them by intervening between Oregon and Washington. During these 25 years the fishermen of each state have naturally tried to take all they could get, and the two legislatures have never been able to agree on joint action of any kind adequate in degree for the protection of the fisheries. At the moment the fishing on the Oregon side is practically closed, while there is no limit on the Washington side of any kind, and no one can tell what the courts will decide as to the very statutes under which this action and nonaction result. Meanwhile very few salmon reach the spawning grounds, and probably four years hence the fisheries will amount to nothing; and this comes from a struggle between the associated, or gill-net fishermen on the one hand, and the owners of the fishing wheels up the river.

The federal statute regulating interstate traffic in game should be extended to include fish. New federal fish hatcheries should be established. The administration of the Alaska fur seal service should be vested in the bureau of fisheries.

This nation's foreign policy is based on the theory that right must be done between nations precisely as between individuals, and in our actions for the last 10 years we have in this matter proven our faith by our deeds. We have behaved, and are behaving, toward other nations as in private life an honorable man would behave toward his fellows.

The work on the Panama canal is being done with a speed, efficiency and entire devotion to duty, which makes it a model for all work of the kind. No task of such magnitude has ever before been undertaken by any nation, and no task of the kind has ever before been better performed. The men on the isthmus, from Colonel Goethals and his fellow commissioners through the entire list of employes who are faithfully doing their duty, have won their right to the ungrudging respect and gratitude of the American people.

I again recommend the extension of the ocean mail act of 1891 so that satisfactory American ocean mail lines to South Africa, Asia, the Philippines and Australasia may be established. The creation of such steamship lines should be the natural corollary of the voyage of the battle fleet. It should precede the opening of the Panama canal. Even under favorable conditions several years must elapse before such lines can be put into operation. Accordingly I urge that the congress act promptly where foresight already shows that action sooner or later will be inevitable.

I call particular attention to the territory of Hawaii. The importance of those islands is apparent, and the need of improving their condition and developing their resources is urgent. In recent years industrial conditions upon the islands have radically changed. The importation of coolie labor has practically ceased, and there is now developing such a diversity in agricultural products as to make possible a change in the land conditions of the territory, so that an opportunity may be given to the small land owner similar to that on the mainland. To aid these changes, the national government must provide the necessary harbor improvements on each island, so that the agricultural products can be carried to the markets of the world. The coastwise shipping laws should be amended to meet the special needs of the islands, and the alien contract labor law should be so modified in its application to Hawaii as to enable American and European labor to be brought thither.

Real progress toward self-government is being made in the Philippine islands. The gathering of a Philippine legislative body and Philippine assembly marks a process absolutely new in Asia, not only as regards Asiatic colonies of European powers, but as regards Asiatic possessions of other Asiatic powers; and, indeed, always excepting the striking and wonderful example offered by the great empire of Japan, it opens an entirely new departure when compared with anything which has happened among Asiatic powers which are their own masters. Hitherto this Philippine legislature has acted with moderation and self-restraint, and has seemed in practical fashion to realize the eternal truth that there must always be government, and that the only way in which any body of individuals can escape the necessity of being governed by outsiders is to show that they are able to restrain themselves, to keep down wrongdoing and disorder. The Filipino people, through their officials, are therefore making real steps in the direction of self-government.

I again recommend that American citizenship be conferred upon the people of Porto Rico.

In Cuba our occupancy will cease in about two months' time. The Cubans have in orderly manner elected their own governmental authorities, and the island will be turned over to them. Our occupation on this occasion has lasted a little over two years, and Cuba has thriven and prospered under it. Our earnest hope and one desire is that the people of the island shall now govern themselves with justice, so that peace and order may be secure. We will gladly help them to this end; but I would solemnly warn them to remember the great truth that the only way a people can permanently avoid being governed from without is to show that they both

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