

## FREE PORTS BUILDERS OF COMMERCE

CONGRESS SHOULD GIVE THEM  
PREFERENCE IN APPROPRIATIONS.

By Peter Radford.

This nation is now entering upon an era of marine development. The wreckage of European commerce has drifted to our shores and the world war is making unprecedented demands for the products of farm and factory. In transportation facilities on land we lead the world but our port facilities are inadequate, and our flag is seldom seen in foreign ports. If our government would only divert the energy we have displayed in conquering the railroads to mastering the commerce of the sea, a foreign bottom would be unknown on the ocean's highways.

This article will be confined to a discussion of our ports for the products of the farm must pass over our wharfs before reaching the water. We have in this nation 51 ports, of which 41 are on the Atlantic and 10 are on the Pacific Coast. The Sixty-second Congress appropriated over \$51,000,000 for improving our Rivers and Harbors and private enterprise levies a toll of approximately \$50,000,000 annually in wharfage and charges for which no tangible service is rendered. The latter item should be lifted off the backs of the farmer of this nation and this can be done by Congress directing its appropriations to ports that are free where vessels can tie up to a wharf and discharge their cargo free of any fee or charge.

A free port is progress. It takes out the unnecessary link in the chain of transactions in commerce which has for centuries laid a heavy hand upon commerce. No movement is so heavily laden with results or will more widely and equally distribute its benefits as that of a free port and none can be more easily and effectively secured.

## THE VITAL PROBLEM OF AGRICULTURE

By Peter Radford.

There is no escaping the market problem and the highest development of agriculture will not be attained until it is solved, for a market is as necessary for the producer as land on which to grow his crop.

Governmental and educational institutions have spent \$180,000,000 in the United States during the past ten years for improving soil production and improving seeds and plants, but very little attention and less money has been given to the marketing side of agriculture.

The problem is a monumental one and one which will never be solved until it gets within the grasp of a gigantic organization where master minds can concentrate the combined experience and wisdom of the age upon it. It is a problem which the farmers, merchants, bankers, editors and statesmen must unite in solving.

The Farmers' Union stands for all there is in farming from the most scientific methods of seed selection to the most systematic and profitable plans of marketing, but does not believe in promoting one to the neglect of the other. We consider the work of farm demonstrators valuable and we ask that governmental and commercial agencies seeking to help us, continue to give us their assistance and advice, but we believe that their influence should be extended to the marketing side of our farm problems also.

We cannot hope to develop manufacturing by over-production of the factory; we cannot build up mercantile enterprises by the merchants loading their shelves with surplus goods and no more can we develop agriculture by glutting the market with a surplus of products.

## DARIUS

The neigh of a horse made Darius King of Persia, the six contending powers for the throne agreeing among themselves that the one whose horse should neigh first should possess the kingdom. This ancient method of settling disputes among politicians could be revived with profit today. If our partisan factions and petty politicians could only settle their dis-

putes by the neigh of a horse, the bark of a dog or the bray of a donkey, it would be a great blessing and would give our citizens a better opportunity to pursue the vocations of industry free from political strife.

Let those who pick political plums by raising rows and who flash swords dripping in the blood of industry understand that they cannot turn the public forum into a political arena and by a clash of personal aspirations still the hammer and stop the plow and that their quarrels must be settled in the back alleys of civilization.

## PRIMARY MEMORY.

It Produces Auditory, Kinesthetic and Visual After Images.

Although the term "primary memory" may be new to most of us, it is a phenomenon which we have all experienced and which frequently is of the greatest service to us. It is a thing which psychologists have carefully studied and about which they have learned much of interest.

Have you ever been interested in a book and then had your wife speak to you and not notice her? Of course you have. But also on some of these occasions your wife has wound up sharply with your name. That makes you take notice and scurry back into the mental atmosphere for what she has been saying, and usually you find it.

Now, when the words were spoken you paid no attention whatsoever, and if it had not been for that imperative calling of your name they would have escaped your mind forever. The words seemingly made no impression at the time of their being enunciated, but when your attention was called by the sound of your name what psychologists call "primary memory" stepped in and aided you. It seems as if some kind of mechanical impression must have been made on your sense of hearing in order for you to be able to recall your wife's words.

Science tells us that this primary memory effect is nothing but an auditory after image. There are several kinds of after images. One is known as the kinesthetic.

You experience this when you have taken off a tight hat and laid it on the table. In a moment you may reach up to take the hat again, thinking that it is still on your head. This is merely an after image, for it is on the table and not on your head.

Visual after images are quite common. If you happen to look at a bright light and then at a white wall you see a black image of the light on the wall. This image, as you close and open your eyes, gradually changes color till it disappears.

An easier test is to look at a green spot on a piece of white paper and then at a blank piece of white paper. A red spot will now be seen similar in shape and size to the green spot.

The explanation is that when looking at the green spot the green perceiving elements of the eye became fatigued on that part of the retina where the image fell. Now, on looking at a piece of white paper—which, of course, needs all the color perceiving elements of the eye, for white contains all colors—the green perceivers on the place in the retina do not act as well as the others. So the complement of green is seen.

For this very reason of fatigue a white house is not as white to you after looking at it awhile, for now all the perceiving elements are fatigued and do not act as strongly as before.—New York American.

## The Young Cliff Dweller.

A youngster whose experience of domestic arrangements was limited to the parental flat was permitted to visit country relatives. On the whole his report was favorable.

"But, say," he concluded, "they must be awful poor! They've got no heat and no janitor. They just build a bonfire themselves on some bricks in the corner of the room!"—Philadelphia Ledger.

## Metals of the Ancients.

Before iron was used copper was the principal ingredient in domestic utensils and weapons of war. Its alloy with tin, forming bronze, was the first metallic compound in use by mankind, and its alloy with zinc, forming brass, also has been long in use. These processes, of course, imply a certain degree of tempering.

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