

Home and Farm Magazine Section Editorial Page

Suggestions From Our Associate Editors, Allowing For an Interchange of Views, Written by Men of Experience on Topics With Which They Are Fully Acquainted—Hints Along Lines of Progressive Farm Thought.

TO ADVERTISERS.

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AMERICA'S GAIN.

IN EUROPE today are some of the most skilled mechanics in the world. Forced by the demands of war, thousands of prosperous businesses have been abandoned while owners and employes take up arms. Many will never return. Those that go back after war's gruelling struggle may find ruins where once splendid factories had stood; they may find the savings of a lifetime swept away, the business that generations had built up destroyed. Ashes will replace many a workshop.

The higher class workman of the continent or of England is a thinking man. A very little thought leads to a most certain conclusion. It is folly for a man to live in a country where at a moment's notice the hand of steel may show beneath the velvet glove of diplomacy and a spark set the nation on fire. In spite of patriotism that demands he support the land of his birth, man's first duty is to his family when patriotism means blind obedience to a call to the front over a cause in which the worker is not concerned. The petty differences of kings have little in common with the man who must enforce the will of his emperor.

As in previous wars, when the present conflict is over, thousands of highly educated men, skilled in many trades as yet not practiced extensively in this country, will flock to America. They are not undesirable citizens, but the best that the lands can give. They are not the pauper laboring class, but men of knowledge and of skill. They will not hinder the growth of trades unionism, but will be a valuable asset to the better class of workmen in this country. And this result is a certain one. Who cares to see the labor of years destroyed, his own life placed in hazard, over the jealousies of governments? The workman will seek a land where there are no entangling foreign alliances, a land which will be the commercial leader of the world if the war continues until European industries are laid waste.

America is the logical place.

FICTION A FACT.

LET HIM who thinks the dreamers have little influence on the world consider the life of John P. Holland, who died in Newark, N. J., recently, at the age of 72. Born in Ireland, Mr. Holland was a school master in this country when the Monitor and the Merrimac fought their epochal battle. This historic event and the reading of Jules Verne's "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea" led him to investigate the possibility of submarine navigation. After five years of experiments he evolved plans for a boat which he felt sure would solve the problem.

Two boats were actually constructed to be used by the Irish revolutionists against Great Britain, but they came to nothing. But he clung to his idea and in 1875, after nearly fifteen years of study and experiment, he submitted his plans to the United States navy department. The naval engineers reported them practical, but doubted if any one would risk his life in such a craft. So the department refused to go further.

Undismayed by the decision, Mr. Holland retired to his shop and for eighteen years more continued working at his plan and perfecting it, until in 1893 Congress made an appropriation of \$200,000, and the first real Holland submarine was constructed. Because of criticism and interference by the

naval engineers, Mr. Holland withdrew his plans and built a boat himself. It was so successful that the United States purchased it outright directly after the Spanish war.

Jules Verne's remarkable dream has come true and the nations today are fighting under the water as well as on it and in the air above it. The dreamers always come first, and then come the practical men who put the foundations under the dreams. After the submarine, the airship and the wireless, it would seem that little is left in the realm of the marvelous, but it is likely that we are still on the surface and that there are depths to be plumbed of which we have as yet little conception.

NEGLECTED SOUTH AMERICA.

THE Department of Commerce has issued a statement showing that exporters in the United States have neglected South America. They have built up a large business with other North American countries, but opportunities in the southern continent have been surrendered to Europe.

Trade of the United States with other American countries in the fiscal year ending June 30 last aggregated \$1,303,000,000, and constituted 30 per cent of the entire commerce handled by domestic ports. Of this new world commerce, \$956,000,000 was with North America and \$347,000,000 with South America.

Our imports from North American countries, valued at \$427,000,000, were chiefly from Canada, Cuba, Mexico, the Central American states and the British West Indies. Our exports to countries of the northern continent, aggregating \$529,000,000, went principally to Canada, Cuba, Central America and Mexico. Our balance of trade with these countries was \$102,000,000.

The United States supplies a larger proportion of the leading countries of North America than any other nation, and in the case of Canada, Central America and Cuba, more than all others parts of the world combined.

But in sharp contrast with our high position in North American markets is this country's low rank among nations selling goods in South America. During the last fiscal year our imports from there aggregated \$223,000,000 and our exports to South America totaled only \$124,000,000, the balance of trade against us being \$99,000,000. In the case of such important countries as Argentine, Brazil and Chile, only about 15 per cent of their imports were from the United States, as compared with 14 per cent two years ago.

American manufacturers are told that Argentine imports large quantities of goods of the class produced in the United States, but Great Britain and Germany have supplied the bulk of them. France has sold Argentine five times as many automobiles, Germany twenty times as many iron beams and three times as much cotton goods, and England twenty-five times as much coal and twice as much machinery as has the United States.

Americans are told that a great opportunity awaits them in the South American field. The figures bear out the statement that the field has been neglected.

USELESS LABOR.

"ONE HALF of the work of the world is either useless or positively harmful, because it is unnecessary," said a recent noted speaker at the Oregon Agricultural College. "It is the mission of learning so to direct labor that its product shall be community betterment. Learning means more than training the eye and the hand to do the task skillfully; it means supplying the desire to do the thing that produces useful commodities.

"There is a useless toil as well as a useful labor. The pyramids were built not for the good of the people, but to perpetuate the memory of those who never did anything worth while to perpetuate it for themselves. There is no dignity in such labor, or in any other that serves no good purpose nor allows time for the laborer to lift his head into the light of the natural and social world around

him. The labor that slants the brow and bows the shoulders has no dignity.

"Modern as well as ancient times witness this form of folly. An eastern potentate had a canal dug to his doors merely that he might have fresh fish for breakfast. The manufacture of harmful luxuries and of the gim-cracks and gew-gaws of fashion represents toil that is useless. The modern freak of fashion that paraded herself in a two-million dollar gown loaded with spangles and other trimmings strutted in products of useless toil. All labor that ministers to the idle fancies of the idle rich is but labor in vain."

THE HARVESTER DECISION.

IN ITS DECISION that the International Harvester Company, known as the "harvester trust," is a monopoly in restraint of trade, the United States District Court at St. Paul, Minn., specifically states that there is no limit to the growth of a business in the eye of the law so long as growth is not the result of combination of business rivals.

The judges concede that the big corporation has done good, but find that the Sherman anti-trust act was violated when certain competing concerns ceased to compete and began to co-operate with the result that the trust controls over 85 per cent of the trade in agricultural implements. Had the five companies which formed the International been small and their combination been essential to enable them to compete with large corporations, their uniting would not have been in restraint of trade, but in furtherance of it. The companies, however, were the largest manufacturers of implements.

Under the court's decision, receivers are to be appointed unless the \$140,000,000 corporation dissolves itself into at least three independent concerns within ninety days. The only alternative is an appeal to the United States Supreme Court, and this will be taken, of course.

IMPUDENT.

THE SULTAN OF TURKEY demands that all ships passing through the Dardanelles shall dismantle their wireless apparatus and leave it on the shore. This may be a happy plan for the collection of wireless instruments, but it will not please ship captains, some of whom are sent forth by rather particular nations. Turkey may mess around until it gets its neck wrung.

In the parable in the Bible, the husbandmen asked permission to prune, cultivate and work with an unfruitful vine a few more seasons. When it did not produce after that, it was dug out and destroyed. This is correct agricultural practice. If the tree or seed does not produce abundantly, it is right to give it a fair trial and then to cast it aside. If the cow fails to measure up to profitable production, she should be sent to the block. If the hog does not prove a money-maker, send him to the butcher. Give everything a show to make good; if it does not do it, replace it with something which will.

Visitors to the Owosso sugar beet farm in Michigan find 350 houses for the employes, all on the farm and all just alike. They have their own school, church and post-office. Two of the largest peppermint distilleries in the world extract the essence from the mint grown on 1,000 acres, and besides there are 540 acres of sugar beets, 100 acres of cabbages, 100 of alfalfa, forty of wheat, 200 of corn, ten of carrots, 130 of barley, twenty of bluetop turnips, seven of horseradish, 500 of hay, 1,000 of pasturage, and stock to carry on the work of this immense farm.

One of the most valuable factors in the growth of farm communities is the inter-urban line. Vast networks of electric roads are spreading over the Northwest and are bringing prosperity in their wake. Easy communication with centers of trade is essential to the successful farmer and the electric railway furnishes this.