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**Whither Are We Drifting?**

When the New York Mutual Life Insurance company fixed the salary of Frederick Winston, its president, at \$30,000 a year in the '70s a universal outcry was made in the American press against this exhibition of reckless extravagance with the money that should go to widows and orphans and policyholders. The salary of presidents of the United States from Washington to Grant was \$15,000 a year and when congress raised the salary of President Grant for the second term to \$50,000 a year this act was bitterly denounced by the opposition press.

When the New York Life Insurance company a few years ago raised the salary of John A. McCall, its president, to \$100,000 a year it was supposed that the high-water mark in American salaries had been reached. Three hundred dollars a day seemed a princely income at the close of the nineteenth century. But in the opening days of the twentieth century, with its colossal combinations of capital and industry, all former records have been broken and eclipsed.

It was announced three months ago that Pres Schwab at the head of the steel trust would receive a salary of \$1,000,000 a year. Within the past few days this report has been corrected by the announcement that Mr. Schwab's salary is to be only \$800,000 a year. This reduction of \$200,000 a year has taken the edge off the staggering disclosure, but for all that it has left a vivid impression upon the minds of the people that causes serious misgivings for the future. Fabulous fortunes will doubtless be forged by the steel-makers' syndicate, but the example set cannot fail to be pernicious.

We naturally institute comparisons between the salaries paid by individual employers and great corporations. William McKinley as president of the United States receives a salary of \$145 a day, while the president of the steel corporation receives \$2,300 per day, and the nine members of the United States supreme court receive only an aggregate of \$90,000 per annum.

Without indulging in further invidious comparisons it is pertinent in this connection to point out the demoralizing effect produced by the regal salaries that are being paid by our leading corporations to officers and attorneys.

Not many years ago George W. McCreary resigned his position as United States circuit court judge to accept the general attorneyship of the Santa Fe road. Asked why he had given up a life position for a place as corporation counsel he replied:

"I could not afford to do otherwise on account of my family. I would like to have continued on the bench, but could not afford to reject an appointment that guarantees me \$25,000 a year when the position I hold only pays \$6,000 a year."

So one of the most incorruptible and fearless judges that ever served in that section was lost to the public service. And the case of Judge McCreary is not an isolated one. Few men of high standing at the bar can afford to serve the state or the nation when great corporations are willing to pay salaries many times larger than the state and the nation deems sufficient for its public men.

With the multiplication of trusts and corporate combinations, which set the pace for men of executive ability and talent, the contrast between public employment and corporate employment is becoming more marked and the gap between the pay of skilled mechanics employed in the various branches of industry and the favored few who control their operations is growing constantly wider.

The question is naturally forced upon us: Can the taxpayers of the country keep peace with the monarchs of industry by raising the salaries of public officers to correspond with those of corporate managers, or are the affairs of the country to be abandoned to the control of third, fourth and even fifth class men, while the

corporations absorb those of superior ability? Must public officers in the future be a badge of inferiority rather than a badge of honor? Must men who desire to gratify their ambition in public life relinquish all hope of maintaining a social position equal to that occupied by the adorned attaches of millionaire syndicates?

**Insanity is Catching.**

All human beings imagine themselves, thanks to our natural blissful condition of egotism, remarks the New York Journal, to be highly important separate individuals. We think that we are born independent of all other men and women, and that each of us can map out his little life in his own way. As a matter of fact, we are simply drops in a big cistern, and we take on, in spite of ourselves, the characteristics of the drops next to us. Take a drop of pure water and throw it into the ocean, it becomes salt. Throw the same drop into a cesspool, and it becomes foul. Human beings, in spite of themselves and without any exception, absorb the characteristics of those around them. These very commonplace remarks are suggested by the case of Dr. George A. Shurtleff.

This unfortunate physician was for years superintendent of the Stockton insane asylum in California. He was looked upon as a man of extraordinary mental power, a great expert in insanity. He is now dying of dementia in the asylum which he used to control. There is not the slightest question that mental disease was bred in him by constant association with those mentally afflicted. The climax in his misfortune was caused by his failure to cure his adopted daughter of insanity. When he discovered that her case was hopeless, his mind gave way—and he will spend the rest of his life as a hopeless lunatic. If a man can be thus afflicted by a repulsive disease which can have no possible attraction for him, think how powerful and how fatal must be the effects of association with vices and afflictions that attract us. If a strong-minded physician cannot associate with the insane without himself becoming insane, what chance has a young man or a young woman or a young child, left to associate with others morally deranged? Every man or woman who is responsible for the care of young people should find a lesson in the affliction of this insanity expert. Every man and woman, bearing in mind the fact that the brain absorbs impressions, constantly, and is constantly changing its complexion, should resolve to avoid such companionship and surroundings as they would not willingly imitate. In the old proverbs there is often much scientific wisdom, and this is true of the saying: "Tell me thy company, and I will tell thee what thou art."

The grip of the office holder on the nation's provender has long been a source of wonder to the disinterested and of envy to the fellows outside the breastworks. "Few die and none resign" is an adage containing more truth than poetry, and the passing years add to its strength. A cabinet officer, quoted by the New York Times, who recently decided to retrench somewhat in his department by dropping expensive bureau clerks, soon discovered that he was up against the official grip. The tenacious hold of his intended victims so excited his admiration that he abandoned his economical policy. We have heard of members of the Oregon delegation running up against this official grip in Washington City, with the result that they had to knock down to it like good little boys, thus showing that the servants are bigger toads in the political pond than their superiors. The number of men who hang on to government jobs that are no longer useful or necessary is quite large, and, perhaps, the only way to get rid of this official grip is to hope that the grip will get hold of them and make a clean. But Washington City is not the only place where the official grip is in vogue, for Oregon has a large number of persons who have had a good grip on the political pie counter for years.

The military authorities at Manila are disposed to make the punishment fit the crime in the case of officers found guilty of fraud in the commissary and quartermaster departments. Three of the convicted men, all of them in the volunteer

service, have been given a dishonorable dismissal from the army and sentenced to imprisonment. There is no doubt that these offenders deserve the punishment. When the frauds were first reported there was some exaggeration as to their extent, the investigation having shown that only a few men were involved and it is noteworthy that no regular officer is connected with them, or at any rate no charge has been made against a regular officer. It does not appear that the government has suffered any great loss from these frauds, which consisted of the sale of quartermaster and commissary supplies to private individuals, but the crime is not to be measured by the amount of the government's loss and evidently the military authorities at Manila have not been influenced by that consideration. The investigation, which was promptly instituted when the frauds were reported to General MacArthur, has been thorough and there has been shown a determination to "let no guilty man escape."

It is reported that there are four aspirants for governor in the republican party. Is that all? But who's the fortunate one to be on the slate? Perhaps we should have said slates, for it appears that the Simon faction will endeavor to smash the Mitchell slate and the latter will try and put its foot through the Simon slate, which in all probability it will succeed in doing.

Bishop Chavasse, of Liverpool, says that one of the greatest evils of the day is loafing, and that if there were to be a new commandment it should be, "Thou shalt not loaf." But what a long list of new commandments there would be if one and the other could add to them.

**State Grange Platform.**

ALBANY, May 31.—The State Grange adjourned at 12 o'clock last night. Old members pronounced it the best session in the history of the Grange. The following resolutions passed show the position of the organization upon prominent questions before the public:

We are in favor of free rural delivery.  
We are in favor of postal savings banks.  
We are strongly in favor of the Grout bill, as passed by the lower house of Congress, and urge our Senators and Representatives to do all in their power for its early passage.  
We are in favor of a pure-food and drug bill.

We are in favor of laws, both National and state, to be referred to a direct vote of the people.

We are in favor of electing United States Senators by direct vote of the people.

We are in favor of electing the President of the United States by a direct vote of the people; also the Supreme Judges of the United States.

We are in favor of the United States building, owning and operating the Nicaragua Canal.

We are opposed to trusts, subsidies to merchant marine; also to the appropriations of large sums of money for the building of reservoirs and irrigating canals in the arid lands of the West.

We are in favor of the enactment of the initiative and referendum manner of enacting laws, and pledge ourselves to work to create an interest and endeavor to have the amendment carried at the coming election.

Resolved, That this State Grange ask the Regents of the Oregon Agricultural College to provide the means and sufficient assistance to enable the members of the experiment station, staff and professors of the college to establish a farmers' reading course on the Cornell plan.

Resolved, That our representatives and Senators in Congress be urged to cast their votes and influence in securing the passage at the next session of Congress of the bill known as the "Grout oleomargarine bill."

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to confer with State School Superintendent Ackerman in selecting a suitable course in agriculture for the public schools.

Resolved, That the Board of Regents of the State Agriculture College be requested to set aside a sufficient sum of money from the funds of the institution to provide for the preparation by the members of the station staff of leaflets for use in public schools.

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**Short Personal Stories.**

Paul Kruger smokes almost incessantly and for many years drank amazing quantities of beer daily, but only on one occasion did he ever taste alcohol. That was at Bloemfontein after the signing of an alliance with the Orange Free State. On that occasion Oom Paul took off a bumper of champagne, and he liked it so well that he has never tasted it since.

George S. Mansfield, a wealthy farmer and dairyman of Salem Center, N.Y., owns one of the finest herds of Jersey cows in that rich agricultural district. He is well known in Danbury, which is his market place. Mansfield rode into town the other morning. His mount was one of his cows. He pulled up in front of the hotel, and left the cow at the curb, where, though unbitched, it stood quietly. "I've been riding around on it all spring in preference to a horse," exclaimed Mansfield. "I came over from Salem, nine miles, in less than an hour." When he remounted the cow trotted off briskly, shying at a passing trolley car like a proper saddle animal. Crows gathered to watch the strange sight, but neither Mansfield nor the cow heeded the attention they attracted.

Last week Rev. W. E. Karns, pastor of the Methodist church of Jersey Shore, Pa., announced that he would pay a cash bonus to everyone who went to church last Sunday. As it was rumored that he might give each person \$20 there was a large congregation present. At the close of the service a sealed envelope was handed to each person containing 1 cent and the following admonition: "This is your talent. Don't wrap it in a napkin, but use it. Your love for the success of the cause will determine your efforts. Harness up this talent and make it pull in others." Mr. Karns explained that he expected each penny to be invested so that it would bring a return of from \$3 to \$10.

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