

The Tillamook Headlight.

Fred C. Baker, Publisher.

Graft.

This peculiarly modern word has been invented to describe a peculiarly modern disease which threatens the ruin of the world by eating the very heart out of civilization, says, truthfully, American Farmer. It is found more or less everywhere, but has attacked our own country and Russia with especial virulence. Usually it is applied to official corruption but it by no means stops here. It permeates every branch of business, ruling the merchant as well as the manufacturer, the contractor as well as the promoter, the lawyer, the preacher and the captain of industry. A very comprehensive term in the word graft, embodying as it does greed, speculation, bribery, unlawful gain of all kind, the root of the evil being love of money. It was graft more than all things else that defeated Russia. This vice corrupted her administration, sapped her resources, demoralized her army and navy, and exposed the whole empire as a mass of festering sores. In this country it is not quite so bad, but bad enough. It was graft that caused those postal scandals last winter. It was graft that brought about the impeachment of a United States judge. Graft is at the bottom of the beef trust scandal, the Standard Oil robberies, the rebate rascalities and the criminal features of the big labor strikes. The labor leader frequently thrives by graft and the business firms they oppose indulge in the same game. Farmers suffer most from this insidious enemy of honesty and thrift, and they, of all classes of our people, should unite for its extermination. The swindling town ship trustees who pay school supply men unlawful prices for all sorts of goods are grafters from way back, and as this is a country office, farmers have to foot the bills. The graft microbe of this species is at work more or less in all the states, but has been especially active in Indiana of late. Scores of trustees are under suspicion or investigation for wasting the township funds and accepting bribes from school supply men. The latter are frequently no better than "green goods" dealers, lightning-rod and hay-fork peddlers and similar scoundrels who prey on farmers.

The saddest feature about the infamous business is its invasion of the judicial bench. Recently it was ascertained in Indiana that a number of the Circuit Court Judges, when called as specials to try cases on change of venue, had not hesitated to commit perjury in order to make five or ten dollars extra. The State allowed them \$1 a day while actually engaged, and in several instances they swore to three days, when they had only worked on one. The state auditor was compelled to disallow hundreds of dollars of these fraudulent bills, but the dishonest judges go on holding their offices and drawing their salaries. These are only a few samples, but if all the widespread operations of graft were made known it would take many volumes to describe its poisonous transactions. It is not battleships or more soldiers that we need, but an uprising against graft in all its forms. This country is in no danger from a foreign foe, but it is in the most deadly danger from the entrenched demon of graft. Japan has shown us—alas, that we had to go to pagan country to find out—that a nation may accomplish the greatest things both in war and peace with entire freedom from graft. There is no graft in the Japanese army or navy. Every dollar appropriated for the soldiers goes right to the spot intended. No officer has been getting rich by speculating in the supplies. Not a breath of scandal has been heard about the mighty host while engaged in the most terrible of wars and spending hundreds of millions of dollars. No embalmers, no dishonored, no charges of incompetency or dishonesty, no skulking, no pilfering. Is it any wonder that such a force as this should gain victory after victory over graft-ridden Russia? But it is our especial business to reform abuses at home and not hunt for evidences of vices in other countries. All the people can assist, of course, but it is upon the millions of honest farmers that we must depend to drive the money changes from the temple and the dishonest trustees, judges and other officials from office.

A Miser and a Man.

Russell Sage is dying at the age of ninety of senility and imbecility. He has devoted all the years of his long life to one object, and if success consists in attaining one's ambition, Russell Sage may be pronounced successful. He made a god of the dollar, labored incessantly to accumulate money, and on the eve of his enforced departure can show an enormous hoard of some hundreds of millions. But he has gained his money at the sacrifice of everything else. His only enjoyment for years has consisted in counting his gold, but even this was not without alloy, as it is the nature of the miser to live in dread of loss. Though too decrepit to leave his house, his mind still dwells on his roiling passion, and he grabs for the miserable pittance allowed him each week as a director in various corporations. The love of money has eaten out of his heart every human trait and made impossible all those things which are usually supposed to confer happiness.

Love, capacity for friendship, every kindly emotion, every humane desire, have long since died out. He trusts nobody, not even his confidential business agent, not one of those with whom he has acted in the past. The very wife of his bosom is an object of suspicion. Friendless, alone in his big mansion, he awaits his end, that most miserable of all ends that can come to any human being. One passion alone remains. His appetites are gone, his food has ceased to nourish him, he can take no pleasure in anything tangible or mental, but his avarice grows stronger with the lengthening years. It is a characteristic of this trait that it becomes stronger and stronger the more it is indulged. Like the green-eyed monster, it makes the meat it feeds on. A veritable Frankenstein, it eventually devours the one who has created and nursed it. It is a pitiable spectacle, from which we turn with disgust and loathing and, like one inoculated by a poisonous bite, we hasten to seek an antidote.

Here on the Pacific coast we find a man to contrast with this miser. His name is Burbank. Couple these two names, Sage and Burbank. And they are well worth the coupling. The one, as we have shown, has spent a long life for self alone in the most sordid of all pursuits. The other has lived for humanity. He has taught the agricultural world how to obtain great results by the application of science to cultivation. He has produced new fruits. He has discovered new flowers. Not an orchard, but will be enriched as the outcome of his work, not a garden that will not be more beautiful because of his discoveries. While Sage was hunting for a new dollar, Burbank has been searching for new berries, apples, plums and plants. He has shown us how to improve old species and create new ones. He gives us an edible cactus to feed man and animals in the desert, a blackberry without thorns, frost proof fruit trees, plums without pits, a fragrant dahlia, an improved prune and many other rare and valuable forms. Burbank has taught every farmer and gardener in the land the value of applied science and has enriched beyond measure the whole floral and vegetable worlds. Nor has he done all this for money or made money as the result of his magical processes. The financial benefit of his discoveries will not enure to him, but to mankind at large. In fact, he carries on his experimental work at a loss, and this reason it was found necessary to vote him a large annual appropriation from the Carnegie fund, established to aid in all kinds of original research. In this age of graft and greed it is well to emphasize the difference between types for the benefit of the rising generation. Which would you rather be, Russell Sage, dying of gangrenous greed, and leaving a vast hoard of gold, or Luther Burbank, laboring for the world in his enchanted gardens by the shores of the shores of the Pacific?—The American Farmer.

Another Dash for the Pole.

Lieutenant Commander Robert E. Peary started for the far North on July 4, in the steamer Roosevelt, which has been built expressly for Arctic exploration from plans suggested by Perry from his experience in former trips to the Northern regions. Peary's aim is to establish his headquarters at as high a latitude as he can reach with his ship, and then, seizing the most favorable time, which will probably be May or June next, make a dash for the pole with his dog sledges. This time he will attempt to get a base farther north than he had in previous expeditions, and thus be in a better position to reach the goal.

In the 300 years of Arctic exploration, in which such navigators as Hudson Cook, Sir John Franklin, Parry, Kane, Nares, De Long, Nansen and Abruzzi have figured, discoveries have been made which have enabled geographers to map the globe to latitude 86 degrees north, or four degrees from the pole. Abruzzi, an Italian, who attained the farthest point north reached by any explorer to the present day, went to within 237 statute miles of the pole in 1900. In Antarctic exploration the obstructions are far greater than they are in Arctic voyaging, fewer persons have participated in it, and the popular interest in it is much smaller. The nearest point in the south pole reached by anybody to this time was by Capt. Scott, a British navigator, who touched a spot within 670 miles of that pole in 1902.

What are the incentives for the attempts to discover the north pole? New light will be gained on the question of ocean currents and terrestrial magnetism. No doubt as to whether there is an open sea or a new island or continent around the earth's apex will be removed. The big blank spot on the maps of the higher Arctic regions will be filled up. The glory of succeeding where other explorers and countries for three centuries have failed will be attained. The successful explorer, whatever his nationality, will gain the world's plaudits. For his little hour of triumph he will be the largest personage on the planet.

An alliance of Gaul, Briton and Jap would be one of the strangest things under the sun until it forced an alliance of Teuton and Tartar, which would be stranger still.

German Food Adulteration.

Dr. H. Matties, of the University of Jena, Germany, is the director of a bureau for the examinations of foods. In a recent report he remarked on the indifference of the masses to a lack of purity and reliability in such articles, a state of things which is only too common in other lands as well. Dr. Matties examined over 500 samples in 1903 and 1,364 in 1904. These figures do not include milk, of which he looked at 116 samples.

It was found that apricots contained sulphurous acid; effervescent lemonades did not contain a trace of pure fruit juices; butter contained too little fat and too much water; so-called baking butter consists of oleomargarine; egg noodles contained no yolk of eggs, or at least only very small quantities; huckleberry juice was spoiled completely; raspberry juice was greatly diluted, and some samples contained glucose and coal tar dye stuffs; mincemeat contained sulphurous acid; ground mace contained flour, ground toasted bread, Bombay mace and nutmeg; marmalades were mixed with glucose and colored with coal tar dyes; milk was watered, skimmed and often very dirty; pepper contained lime, sand and a good deal of shell; sausages contained flour, boracic acid and coloring matter; and preserving salts contained sulphurous, boracic, flouric and benzoic acid.

Gen. Linievitch's present desire is to fight. A week hence he will probably want to lease Manchuria on the Sibirian limited.

As soon as Carrie Nation and her hatchet left Kansas on another of their national tours, Mr. Rockefeller telegraphed to start his pumps to pumping oil again.

The characterization of President Roosevelt as an international bully shows that Mr. Carnegie occasionally gets some very inferior material in his corner stones.

If Mr. Wallace will own up that he ran away from the isthmus because he was afraid of getting the yellow fever, all will be forgiven by an administration which has suffered something from men with yellow fever contracted near the equator.

It is announced that this year there will be no curtailment of output in the iron and steel mills of the Pittsburg district during the summer months. This will be an innovation. Always heretofore there has been a slackening of production for from four to eight weeks in the middle of the year at that center. This has been the case even when business activity was at its highest. But 1905 will be an exception to this rule. There will be no shutting down of the iron and steel mills this year, even for repairs of machinery.

According to the report of the Good Roads Commission the people of Illinois have spent approximately \$75,000,000 on their wagon roads during the last twenty five years and yet these roads are in little better condition now than they were twenty-five years ago. Obviously there has been a great waste, which is ascribed to the makeshift methods and a neglect of a scientific study of the road problem. The old Romans knew how to make roads "for keeps," and some of those constructed by them two thousand years ago, are still in good condition.

Not long ago an order was placed with one of the Carnegie mills in Pittsburg for enough steel ties to equip ten miles of track on the Bessemer and Lake Erie road, that runs from Pittsburg northward. It follows a test made for six months on a half mile section of that line. The Pennsylvania road has also ordered a few for experimental use near Emsworth. The New York Central Company already has a lot of them in service near Castleton, and others have been tried for months on the Lake Shore road. Some of these ties are said to have been in constant use for two years.

The supreme court of Mississippi has affirmed a sentence of life imprisonment upon a white man proved guilty of a criminal assault upon a black woman. The Memphis News-Scimitar concludes that this is the first in stance on record anywhere in the South, and certainly in the state of Mississippi, where a white man has gone to prison for such an offense. The fact that not a few men of the white race have been arraigned on such a charge only to be promptly acquitted, and the other fact that, because of the certainty in results of all such trials but a small percentage of such outrages are reported, make the action in Mississippi all the more interesting and important.

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