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 Fred C. Baker, Publisher.

The Argument for Uniform Divorce Laws.

The need of a more uniform law regulating divorce in this country is plainly shown by Professor Felix Adler in the Woman's Home Companion for March. Professor Adler shows how the notable conference assembled at Washington last February marks the turning of the tide in this country away from the exaggerated freedom, or license, of divorce which has so widely prevailed, and a return to stricter views and to insistence on more conservative practice.

"The Congress on Uniform Divorce Laws is socially significant, because it marks the turning of the tide in favor of stricter legislation on the subject of divorce. Uniformity is aimed at, not for the sake of uniformity itself, but for the sake of the greater protection of the family, which such uniformity will furnish. It has been one of the favorite arguments of the adversaries of popular government that Democracy in the end must lead to social as well as political anarchy. The friends of popular government, on the other hand, have put their trust in what may be called the collective instinct of self-preservation of the masses.

"The Congress is important and interesting for another reason: It is an attempt to secure by moral suasion, by voluntary action on the part of the law-making bodies of the different states, a certain minimum of uniformity in legislation, of which many have believed that it can only be obtained by a national law. The tendency to employ the short-cut method of national legislation in matters hitherto left to the several states is visibly gaining headway among our people. Undoubtedly, if the difficulty of amending the Constitution had not stood in the way as an almost insurmountable obstacle, a national divorce law would long since have been enacted. And this difficulty, in one way or another, will surely be overcome, if the method of voluntary agreement which this Congress has undertaken to apply shall prove illusory. There are advantages and disadvantages on the side both of national and of state authority in matters of social legislation. Many of us are strongly inclined to prefer the slower method of working toward a gradual approximation of standards among the laws of the several states. Nevertheless, certain social needs are imperative; and if the states fail to agree, the scruples dictated by regard for the independent spheres of the different commonwealths will have to give way, and a way found to cut the hopeless tangle by means of the sword of congressional action."

Boers to Rule Transvaal.

The elections just held for the first parliament in the Transvaal under British sway has resulted in a victory for the Boers. The progressives, or British party, won 21 of the 69 seats in the chamber, while the hot volk, or Dutch party, gained 37 seats. The rest of the seats in the chamber will be held by 6 nationalists, 3 laborites and 2 independents. All of these minor groups are allied with the hot volk on the main issues, which gives the Boers a majority of 33 in the chamber.

There is a big mixture of elements in the parliament, but it is believed that legislation will be enacted which will not be antagonized very strongly by any group. The progressives are the English-speaking party, and comprise the mine owners and a majority of the merchants and the professional class. The laborites, the nationalists and the independents are also English-speaking people, most of them being British colonists, but they unite with the Dutch on the larger issues. Most of the Dutch party, or hot volk, are engaged in farming, as they were before the war of 1899-1902.

Premier Campbell-Bannerman is denounced by the Tories in England for giving to the Transvaal the sort of home rule which has put the Boers in control, but as they comprise a large majority of the population, the premier could not devise any sort of a fair scheme of representative government which would have prevented them from getting into the ascendant. As all elements of the population want prosperity, no harmful legislation against any important interest is likely to be attempted. Gold mining is by far the biggest single concern in the colony. It amounted to \$119,000,000 in the calendar year 1906, and will reach \$140,000,000 for 1907, according to the present outlook. Gen. Botha, the last of the Boer warriors to be reconstructed, is put at the head of the

ministry under the new dispensation, but peace is the true interest of Boers as well as British hereafter. As the Boers, under the new constitution, get many of the things for which they fought, they have a special incentive to accept the situation—Globe Democrat.

Railroads Rates Getting Cheaper.

In his minority report on the railroad rate law recently filed in the United States senate by Senator Elkins, of West Virginia, the senator makes the statement that the average passenger rate declined 16.14 per cent from 1870 to 1904 and that the decline in the average rate per mile per ton for freight during the same period was 58.71 per cent. The net saving to the shipper averaged 11.09 mills per ton mile. The passenger business of 1904 exceeded that of 1900 by more than 25 per cent, while the freight increase was 13.26 per cent. The increase in the wages of employes from 1900 to 1904 was from an average of \$567.25 to \$800.80, but owing to the more efficient organization the labor contributed by the average employe in the last-named year accomplished 23 per cent more in the movement of passengers and 74 per cent more in the movement of freight than in 1890.

In a comparison with railroad rates abroad the report says that the figures show that the American railways carry freight for rates that average but 57.14 per cent of the average charged in France, 62.30 per cent of that in Germany, 69.32 per cent of that in Austria, 61.20 per cent of that in Hungary, about 50 per cent of that in Italy, and about 90 per cent of that in European Russia. Since 1890 American rates have declined 19.15 per cent. French rates 13.64 per cent. German rates 8.96 per cent. Austrian rates 9.35 per cent and Hungarian rates 10.14 per cent.

Divorce and the Child.

Professor Felix Adler offers an incontrovertible argument in favor of the permanency of marriage in the WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION for March. He holds that a permanent home is necessary to insure the best development of the child, because it needs both parents in order that it may grow in the best possible manner, physically, mentally and morally. The gist of the matter is that those who have united to give life to a human being should stay united to cherish and develop that life. Dr. Adler adds:

"The divorce movement of late years has had an alarming growth, not only in the United States, but in almost every civilized country of the world. The causes which have contributed to this growth are numerous and complex, but undoubtedly one of the most active has been the spread of Democracy, or rather of that individualistic view of life of which Democracy is the political expression. To day, as never before, the individual is asserting his claims to the full enjoyment of life's opportunities; and while this movement has been productive of lasting benefits, it has also been coupled with a wide-spread disposition to resist the pressure of social obligations which interfere, however necessarily, with individual liberty or happiness. The conjugal tie and the duties of parenthood springing from it is of all human relations the one in respect to which the weight of social obligation is most directly felt; and it is at this point, therefore, that mutinous individualism has put forth its most determined struggles. The conjugal relation has a twofold aspect: It is a relation between the partners in marriage themselves, and a relation to offspring. A characteristic feature of militant individualism is that in the discussion of marriage, the former of these aspects preferentially emphasized, while the latter is more or less thrown into the shade. The right of married persons to obtain relief from a tie which is no longer pleasing is considered from the point of view of their own happiness; while the rights of the children as affected by divorce are treated with the most superficial attention.

"There is one other point to which, in conclusion, reference may be made: The attempt to amend the laws on the subject of divorce is helpful, inasmuch as it leads all those who are engaged in this enterprise to realize the ultimate inadequateness of any laws, however stringent, however wise, and to search for a deeper remedy than any which legislation can supply."

Do Not Crowd the Season.

The first warm days of spring bring with them a desire to get out and enjoy the exhilarating air and sunshine. Children that have been housed up all winter and brought out and you wonder where they all came from. The heavy winter clothing is thrown aside and many shed their flannels. Then a cold wave comes and people say that grip is epidemic. Colds at this season are even more dangerous than in mid-winter, as there is much more danger of pneumonia. Take Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, however, and you will have nothing to fear. It always cures, and we have never known a cold to result in pneumonia when it was used. It is pleasant and safe to take. Children like it. For sale by Clough's Drug Store.

In a speech in the senate Saturday Tillman of South Carolina referred to the democratic party in the northern states as "a shining example of word politicians—dirty, low creatures." The democrats of the north will consider the source.

It is stated that 9000 children die annually in New York city from the poison of impure milk. The new food law deals with a large subject.

In some of the big minstrel shows dummies are introduced to increase the numerical size of the company. There is still a chance for Senator Tillman.

The world progresses a little. The African cannibals have quit eating missionaries and show signs of conversion to an exclusive vegetarian diet.

The entombed miner lost but half a pound in weight during his fifteen days' imprisonment, and came out of it famous. It is a rare instance of the rest cure, though the method is not likely to be popular.

An English paper refers to the fact that the wealth of the United States is increasing ten times as fast as that of Great Britain, and the editor then takes a crack at free trade. That may be called close shooting.

Nineteen thousand women are stockholders in the Pennsylvania railroad, or 47 per cent of the whole number. The question of what constitutes a railroad should be pursued until thoroughly understood.

By cutting out passes the railroads can do more in the way of diminishing the lobby than all the governors and legislatures in the country. As a matter of fact the lobbyist rarely gets anything but a pass and a meal ticket.

An eastern Jersey cattle association is accused of swindling a farmer by selling him a cow as a three-year-old which proved to be full seven. Whereupon the Rural New York remarks:

The most remarkable Jersey cow That ever yet was born; With three years on her pedigree And seven years on her horn.

Rhode Island's governor suggests that George Washington has been surpassed both as a soldier and statesman. That depends on the point of view as to what constitutes genius. If anybody ever successfully bossed the job of starting a bigger thing than the United States, his name ought to be furnished so that discussion may proceed.

The agricultural colleges of the country are taking a lively interest in the "gasoline milkmaid," as the milking machine has been termed. She is in the same category with the flying machine so far as she remains fickle and unreliable. Inventors are busy, however, and parents of the next generation can regale their offspring with thrilling recitals of milking by hand on the old farm.


Ex-President Cleveland remarks in the course of a patriotic address, that the Fourth of July, "has degenerated to a revel of senseless noise and dangerous explosion, which bears in its train ferms of mishap and accident than lessons of good citizenship or pride of country." Casualty list of late have been so long as to suggest that the glorious Fourth might be the last straw.

Thomas A. Edison has reached his sixtieth year, and no man ever did more in the same length of time. He is still confident that by his electrical inventions he will eventually drive the horse-out of business. An increase of \$335,000,000 in the valuation of horses held in this country, as compared with one year ago, seems to indicate no remarkable progress in Mr. Edison's "driving-out" plans. It is a race between the auto and the horse, and the horse still ahead.

Senator Bailey will return to Washington like a giant refreshed with new wine for the verbal battles of that recriminating atmosphere. He will never be president, but the facility with which he can call everybody a liar who incurs his displeasures indicates that his vaulting ambition is not abandoned. If Bailey is not in training for the White House why does he indulge himself in the use of an epithet which nobody but the president can use with impunity? For ordinary men, use of the word "liar" is a dangerous habit to fall into. Yet we see Mr. Bailey, after taking the thorough course of training offered at Washington during the supplementary course of last summer, taking a post-graduate course in Texas.—American Farmer.

The auto milk wagon has arrived. Thiverton, Rhode Island, reports an enterprising dealer who has been delivering milk and cream in that vicinity for several months, by removing that part of the machine called the "tonneau" and fitting in a body suitable to carry milk cans and bottles. It is facetiously suggested, that this daryman, with the usual Yankee enterprises, will soon be driving his auto home to use its power in running a milking machine, a separator and a milk bottle. Killing two birds with one stone is a favorite device of progressive people, and autos can certainly be put to better use than merely to ride in for recreation. If they can be made to double teams, as suggested above, there is no reason why they should not in time become popular on farms instead, as now, objects of aversion. They should prove especially handy about dairies, where so many things can be done with light power machines, which ordinarily add to the drudgery and hard labor of the hand-workers.

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