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The Tillamook Headlight.
 Fred C. Baker, Publisher.

Imaginary American Perils.

The Toronto Globe, in commenting on Ambassador Bryce's remark on the power of wealth to corrupt politics, calls this the weakest point in democratic government; tells about wealthy capitalists buying their way into the national senate, wealthy lumbermen stealing national timber, wealthy railroad promoters bonding lines over which they had secured control, in order to pocket a large part of the proceeds, and adds that it "will be interesting to note how the United States comes out of the present struggle against such threatening dangers to the body politic."

This sort of talk has been heard in the United States as well as out of it often in the past few years. The Toronto paper will find that the number of wealthy who buy their way into the senate is fewer than it imagines. It will also find, if it looks over the returns as they come to hand, that the wealthy lumbermen who have been stealing the national timber are getting into trouble which will lead them into the penitentiary, and which has already led one or two of them into the grave. All of these persons are being hunted down as common malefactors, and their wealth will not save them from the punishment that the statutes decree for their crimes.

If anybody has any doubt about the outcome of all this conflict between wealth and honesty in business and politics let him follow the case of Harriman. The government is reaching out for that personage, and if it can prove that he has broken any law the punishment that will hit him will be exemplary enough to deter men in his calling from following his methods. The expressions of the legislatures of many of the states on the Harriman Roosevelt episode shows how the country stands on that issue. They show that the wealth of all of Harriman's railways stretching from the big western to the eastern ocean would not be sufficient to buy him a seat in the senate if he started out to purchase it. Canada is one of the poorest countries in the world and the United States is the wealthiest, but it is probable that the level of civic virtue not only in private life but in political station is as high in the United States as it is in Canada or anywhere else on the globe.

In a paper by Henry Laurens Call on "Concentration of Wealth," read at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Columbia university, the speaker declared that the modern corporation was responsible for the concentration of the wealth of the nation into a few hands. The corporation, he said was a monstrosity, and the wealth of Rockefeller and other enormously rich men is the product of this vicious institution. The remedy, according to Mr. Call, was the public ownership of public utilities. The law must correct the conditions brought about by the corporation. It should be made cooperative instead, as now, the instrument of private greed.

A novel and interesting decision was recently handed down by the supreme court of the state of Texas. The case was that of a lady who had sued the Fort Worth and Denver City Railway Company for damages on account of physical and mental suffering in being expelled from one of the defendant's passenger trains. The lady in question was a member of the Christian Science cult, and the attorney for the defendant endeavored to establish this fact during the trial, explaining that the plaintiff would not take medicine, and that it was her belief that she suffered only when she thought she suffered, and that it was only a question with her whether she suffered or did not, and that as a Christian Scientist "she lived in a spiritual plane above mental and physical sufferings; that it was an article of her faith that there was no such thing as mental or physical suffering and that she did not actually suffer." The court would not permit the attorney to bring out this point, and a verdict was given for the plaintiff. On appeal the supreme court reversed the decision, holding that it was an error not to allow the desired testimony to be introduced, since it was pertinent to the main and essential issue in the case, to wit, the mental and physical suffering of the plaintiff. This decision suggests a new line of cross examination in damages suits where the plaintiff is a believer in Christian Science.

many colossal engineering projects under way as are now going forward within the boundaries of the United States. Nor are the Panama canal and the irrigation works combined the largest in point of cost in money. It is stated on good authority that in New York city alone, outside of ordinary buildings and government appropriations, \$600,000,000 is called for by the large undertakings in charge of civil engineers. Two-thirds of this amount has been allotted to the improvement of transportation terminals, including the river tunnels to reach them. The city is building three bridges over East river at a cost of from \$15,000,000, to \$20,000,000 each. Sixteen tunnels are in progress under the broad waterways that surround New York comprising six tubes under the Hudson, eight under East river, and two under the Harlem. Twelve more tunnels are actively projected, and the day is near when Manhattan will be reached on all sides by unbroken land routes. In engineering the work at New York is far more difficult, as well as more costly, than any in sight at Panama or in the reclamation service.

Jacob H. Schiff, August Belmont, James J. Hill and others have recently predicted that a business convulsion of the 1873 and 1893 kind was close at hand. As these persons are prominent—Schiff and Belmont as bankers and Hill as a railroader—their utterance attracted some attention. Several newspapers have been making inquiries among business men in the leading trade centers on this subject, and the weight of opinion in all cases is that no serious check to the present prosperity is in sight. The New York Tribune has been getting expressions from Pittsburg, St. Louis and Chicago, and sums them up in this way: "Pittsburg expects some slackening, and welcome it, but scouts any real business depression. Men high in the steel trade say there can be no depression there this year or next. St. Louis is enjoying the greatest business prosperity in its history, and prospects are for more business this year than last. One of the great railroad equipment companies reports orders on its books for nearly 100,000 cars. Chicago is rejoicing over the republican victory in the recent municipal election, and reports business in every line booming, and on the increase." The same sort of a story is told by the inquiries which have been made in various trade centers by other newspapers.

A Woman is Not a Person.
 A most amusing incident recently occurred in St. Johns, New Brunswick, where a Miss Mabel French, after passing her examination with high honors, was denied permission to practice law in the Supreme Court because according to the "Act" only "Persons" were allowed to practice law, and "women were not persons"—"only men were persons."
 Soon after a woman was arrested for drunkenness, and on trial pleaded "not guilty," being "a woman" and "not a person"—therefore not amenable to the law. The magistrate found the law to read "that any person found drunk was liable to fine or imprisonment; and ruled that according to the decision of the Supreme Court "woman were not persons, and could not be imprisoned nor fined," so the prisoner was discharged.
 As a result the legislature promptly passed an "Act" designating woman as person." So Miss French was allowed her degree in law.
 But no study of woman's political progress can be just that does not take into account her rapid and enormous development in the faculty of organization, and in intelligent interest in public concerns. These are absolutely essential to the formation of democracy, to the wise and safe exercise of the suffrage; and it is precisely in these that the phenomenal record of the woman's movement is most clear.
 The strongest proof of woman's long inferiority is her lack of association; only in religious bodies was she allowed to organize; and the strongest proof of her rapid approach to equality is in the uncounted thousands who now gather together in Clubs and Societies of every description, charitable, reformatory, educational, social, political; and of all sizes, from the haughty of the "Ladies Literary" to the International Council Women, which in 1899 represented through its many constituent national organizations a membership of six million. In the next Quinquennial meeting of 1904 the National Councils joining had double in number, but the sum of their respective memberships is not at hand.—Charlotte Perkins Gilman in the May Woman's Home Companion.

Relief from Rheumatic Pains.
 Among the troubles that best man kind rheumatism is one of the most aggravating. "I suffered with it for over two years," says Mr. Roland Curry, a patrolman, of Key West, Fla. "Sometimes it settled in my knees and lamed me so I could hardly walk, at other times it would be in my feet and hands so I was incapacitated for duty. One night when I was in severe pain and lame from it my wife went to the drug store here and came back with a bottle of Chamberlain's Pain Balm. I was rubbed with it and found the pain had nearly gone during the night. I kept on using it for a little more than two weeks and found that it drove the rheumatism away. I have not had any trouble from that disease for over three months." For sale by Clough's Drug Store.

LAMARTINE'S PRESENT.
 How the French Author Got a Big Price For a Little Poem.
 Francois Buloz, the founder and editor of the famous French journal, La Revue des Deux Mondes, was by no means celebrated for his generosity to contributors. One day shortly after the publication of Lamartine's "Les Girondins," and while the literary world was ringing with the fame of its great author, Buloz called on him and asked him to write an article for his magazine. Lamartine consented, but stated that he could not have it ready for some weeks.
 Buloz, fearing that this was only an excuse and that he would never get the article, offered Lamartine an advance. It so happened that the author was in need of 4,000 francs at that time, and he so informed the editor, who at once handed over the money. Three months later he called Lamartine's attention to the fact that the contribution had not yet been received. It was toward the end of 1847, and the great author was devoting his entire time to politics.
 "While you are waiting for this article would you care for a little poem I have here?" he asked Buloz.
 He enthusiastically replied in the affirmative.
 Months later, when Lamartine had become minister of foreign affairs, Buloz again called upon him to remind him of the promised contribution.
 "But you see my position," answered the minister, "how busy I am!"
 Buloz frowned.
 "But, citizen minister, a certain amount of money was advanced, and the interests of my magazine do not permit me to!"
 "How much was it?"
 "Four thousand francs."
 Lamartine took this amount of money from the drawer and laid it upon his desk.
 The editor, however, looked somewhat embarrassed.
 "Well, what more can I do for you? You have your money."
 "The fact is, I owe you for a small poem."
 "Oh, that's not worth mentioning! I'll make you a present of it."
 Buloz drew himself up haughtily.
 "Citizen minister, La Revue des Deux Mondes does not accept presents. How much do I owe you?"
 "Oh, well, if you insist," answered Lamartine dryly as he took up the 4,000 francs and replaced them in his drawer, "we will call it square!"

ODD CUSTOMS.
 Every house must be decked with flowers on New Year's day in Japan.
 In Buenos Ayres the police alone have the right of whistling on the streets. Any other person whistling is at once arrested.
 In Ashanti many families are forbidden the use of certain meats. In like manner others are forbidden to wear clothes of a certain color.
 If a carriage upsets or injures another carriage in the streets of St. Petersburg or if a person is knocked down, the horses of the offending vehicle are seized and confiscated to the use of the fire brigade.
 It is the practice of the Ashantees and Fantees to bury one-third of the property of a dead man, converted into gold dust, under his head, and rifling the grave of an enemy is considered the proper action for a warrior.
 Clapping the hands in various ways is the polite method in central Africa of saying "Allow me," "I beg pardon," "Permit me to pass" and "Thanks." It is resorted to in respectful introduction and leave taking.
 Doves and Religion.
 "One thing I remarked and think worthy of notice is that ever since Noah's dove every religion seems to consider the pigeon as a sacred bird. For example, every mosque swarms with pigeons, and the same exists in most Italian market places. The Hindoo pundits and the old Assyrian empire also have them, while Catholics make it the emblem of the Holy Ghost."
 Lady Burton in her account of the Mohammedan mystery play of "Hasan and Hosseln" says:
 "Then comes the bier with Hosseln's corpse and his son sitting upon it sorrowing and embracing him and a beautiful white dove in the corner whose wings are dabbled with blood. The effect upon the excited crowd is awful."
 "—Life of Sir Richard F. Burton."

Where He Worshipped.
 As the new minister of the village was on his way to evening service he met a rising young man of the place whom he was anxious to have become an active member of the church.
 "Good evening, my young friend," he said solemnly. "Do you ever attend a place of worship?"
 "Yes, indeed, sir, regularly every Sunday night," replied the young fellow, with a smile. "I'm on my way to see her now."—Ladies' Home Journal.

The Mystic Number Five.
 Five is the great sacred Chinese number. There are five virtues, five colors (yellow, white, green, red and black), five household gods, five planets (Saturn, Venus, Jupiter, Mars and Mercury), five ranks of nobility, five tastes, five cardinal points (the middle, east, west, south and north respectively) and five tones.

He Had to Stay.
 "You venture into Wall street occasionally?" said the lamb.
 "My case," answered the magnate, "is different from yours. I don't dare venture out of it for fear of what they would do in my absence."—Washington Star.

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