

### Uncle Silas' Says.

Gertrude, last night I overheard you and mother planning for the entertainment of your school mate, Miss Parker, who you have invited to your home as your guest. You are expecting her to come tomorrow evening, and have planned to send our hired man to meet her at the railway station and bring her out in our auto. Now dear I don't like to interfere with your personal affairs and what I say is merely by way of suggestion. Don't send for her, but go yourself to meet and greet her. I know you have yet much to do to get the house in order to entertain her as you wish to do, but you had better hire a woman to do the work than to do it yourself and have to send a strange man to meet your friend. You can run the auto as well as the man, and there is no good reason why you should not go. Now, just put yourself in your friend's place. Have you not gone to a house where your company was expected, and yet felt a vague uneasiness that you were somehow in the way? Did you not wonder why you were invited when evidently you were not particularly wanted? And if you have, did you not wish with all your might and main that someone had warned you to refuse the invitation, and that something—anything—would give you an excuse to go? Yet possible your hostess was really glad to have you, to a certain extent, anyhow, and simply had not the knack of showing it in the thousand and one little ways which mean so much more than the loudest and most demonstrative words. For example she should have made it a point of being at the station to meet you, even though it meant quite a considerable inconvenience to herself. There is nothing quite so dampening to one's enthusiasm as to arrive at a strange railway station, or even a familiar one, and find no one to welcome you. It puts a chill on the visit the very first thing, which increases by leaps and bounds as you drive to the house. Perhaps the warmth of your reception there may dispell the first impression, but it would make a vast difference if your hostess had gone herself to bring you to her home. It would have had a gracious warmth to the hospitality and make you feel at once that you are really welcome.

Uncle Bill, one of the commonest expressions in use is that "every man has a right to his opinion." That may be true, but I, for one, don't form an opinion that is not founded upon facts. There is a wide difference, you understand, between knowledge and prejudice. While practical men have given us our civilization today, and through their having knowledge of their various callings, and by their inventions give promise to much greater things, along come the impracticable people with merely opinions of how things ought to be done. With the world too busy (or I should say so mentally lazy) to think out its own problems, there are people who make it their business to think of them and to work them out theoretically. However, college professors, lawyers, economists and such people have little, if any, practical knowledge of production and business, its changes and needs. They only have opinions of such things, but are the ones who are leading the masses and making regulations for both business and production. Regulating all the activities of the individual, the lawmakers are crippling him as a man would be who should be thrown overboard with his hands tied. Theoretical opinions have been a curse to the world. They allowed our great evil war, and men having opinions instead of knowledge of our industrial life become leaders of the multitude. Opinions blind people, create and foster race prejudice, bring on war, cause false doctrines to be preached and are responsible for most of the evils of the world. The great scheme of life can be understood if studied right, and the cause of things made plain; but not until people do study life in its original way will we ever have an industrial system that will give to the wage earner a fair portion of the net profits of his labor. The high prices for American products and an increased demand caused by the European war have brought great prosperity to all industries receiving such orders, and, side by side with such a condition is the farming industry of the Eastern States, where the prices of their products are so low as to cause many owners to leave their farms and engage in other business. In the meantime the college highbrows are howling about the drift of the population from country to city, expressing "opinions" as to the causes, and suggesting silly remedies.

Amos, do you know that your Uncle Bill mortgaged his farm for the money to buy the automobile which he brought from town last week? Well, he did, and by my advice, too. You see, his horses don't amount to much and he would have to buy others, and so I suggested to him that he sell all of his horses except two of the best and buy an auto suitable for the road and farm work, too. Well he got the kind of machine I recommended and I feel sure that he has not made a mistake in the matter. Like myself, he don't intend to use his auto for pleasure only, although he can get a great deal of enjoyment out of it and will be able to send his children to school in it in bad weather, which he could not do so easily with a lumbering team. Furthermore, he will save money in many ways by substituting an auto for horses. He can do the hauling with it and make quick delivery of his produce, which would be impossible with the team, and, if his car is adapted to farm work, as well as it is to the road, he can run all of his machinery with it, can plow, reap, mow and cultivate with it for one half the cost for feed for horses to do the same work. It is the opinion of most farmers that their cars saved end earned them enough to pay off the mortgage they gave for the money to buy their autos in about three years. It is the experience of many who thought they were taking a chance when they made their purcha-

ses. Besides this, they have had all the pleasure of the use of the car, and the mortgage, which many look upon with so much alarm, has been paid off and the farmer had his cake and his penny, too, namely, his auto and his unencumbered land. A mortgage is not so bad a thing, provided the money is used to buy something useful. Many men have property and want autos either for their health or their business, which they feel too poor to buy, putting a mortgage on their property they can easily purchase that which they desire, yet they hesitate because the mortgage seems to them a sort of debt. But it isn't a debt in reality, because the money is used in the purchase of something that will earn far more than it costs and still be in good serviceable condition long after it has been paid for. Therefore, your Uncle Bill has not made himself poorer by buying the auto, but on the contrary, he will make money by it, I am quite sure, by getting rid of at least six deadhead horses and getting his work done at less than half the cost of their feed.

Mother, I like your selection of new furniture and furnishings for the spare bedroom. They are really artistic, harmonious and in good taste. I presume that Gertrude's schoolmate guest will be pleased with it but if she fails to make suggest improvements I shall miss my guess. If by some misfortune, we do not possess inherent "good taste," we can always borrow from others—a sort of getting even with fate. Not altogether, however, for we in turn may be blest with some qualities, bestowed by a kind providence, which are lacking in others, and these gifts may "pass on"; thus keeping up the good work. But how can one be sure whether or not he or she possess "good taste;" not so much good taste in general as in home beautifying? Some women live always, apparently, oblivious in their inartistic surroundings. Some do not take a serious minded attitude toward their homes. There are women who go around with unseeing eyes, and there are others who never acquire the weeding out habit. There is hope, however, for them all. Knowledge is theirs for the reading and awakening. But the women who are self-satisfied and think she knows it all—well, she is hopeless. Then there is the woman who is sentimentally attached to freak furnishings. She, too, will have to experience a change of opinion before she can be convinced of her bad taste; and then, if so convinced, apparently, it will be very much against her inclinations. An honest criticism is good for us all, isn't it mother? But to be effective it must be both honest and kind. I shall be curious to hear the criticism of Gertrude's guest, and will form my opinion of her mentality and "good taste" accordingly.

Uncle Bill, there is much in the newspapers just now about our unpreparedness for military defense, and the Rooseveltists and Bryanites have locked horns over the proposition. The former wants us to put a war chip on our shoulders, strut around and dare somebody to knock it off, while the other chaps would have us come the ostrich hiding stunt to the world by sticking our heads in the sand. Now, to my understanding, neither of them is right. While we don't want to fight anybody, we won't be cuffed around and not try to defend ourselves. It seems to me that it would be idiotic, when nearly all the world is at war, not to get ourselves in shape for successful defense if some of those European roughnecks should take a notion to punish us for our persistent neutrality. The middle-of-the-road advocates want us to put our army and navy in shape for defense, not aggression, but the question is, what constitutes defense, pure and simple? Where does one end and the other begin? Granting that a war for defense is justifiable, should such a war be continued when it in any way becomes a war of aggression? England, France and Germany all say to themselves, and want the world to believe, that they are fighting a defensive war, and yet each one has been an aggressor from the very beginning. France invades Alsace and Lorraine; Germany invades France and England attacks all the outlying German possessions. Looking at the subject fairly and squarely, does it not seem to be true that aggression is the very essence of all so-called "successful war"? So it appears that preparedness for military defense must be preparedness for military aggression or it is worthless. In view of this, it hardly seems fair to urge upon our people that a war of defense is good, while one of aggression is bad, and it is, therefore, necessary to prepare for defensive war; without telling them the rest of the story, that in carrying out this plan they will have to engage in aggressive warfare. Some of the peace-at-any-price people contend that it is too much trouble to distinguish between an aggressive and a defensive war, and, therefore, war of any description should be proscribed. Rot! If the roughnecks jump on us we mustn't fight back, because that would be aggressive? And we mustn't get ready to defend ourselves, because they may construe it as a challenge to fight, Bah! Take it from me, Uncle Bill, we're not going to sit down and "await the salvation of the Lord" without doing our best in advance to ward off a threatening danger. If we are prepared to put up a stiff fight those European butchers will be entirely satisfied with our neutrality; otherwise, they'll do something mean to draw us into the fight while we are wholly unprepared for defense.

Farmers are beginning to let up on their everlasting distrust of each other and to co-operate in a neighborly manner whenever their interests are mutual, and, as a result, they are, in a larger degree than ever before, enjoying their legitimate share of the profits growing out of the production. Farm co-operation is growing at a rapid rate all over the United States. In Wisconsin there are over 1500 successful farmers' co-operative associations. More than 600 of these are operating cheese factories and creameries, so are engaged in the

marketing of grain, fruit, and live stock. Over 200 handle insurance, and there are many associations that own and operate country telephones. Individuals cannot successfully buck against the organized business world, success lies only in union of effort, in honest and vigorous co-operation.

Amos, that Jenkins boy, who is only about half-witted, but aspires to be a lawyer, is the coarsest mannered kid I ever saw. I am glad you are not like him in any respect. I know you would feel like cuffing him if you could hear now insolently he talks to his parents. When in conversation with others he talks about all the time, only of himself—what wonderful things he has done, is doing and is going to do—and when one tries to tell him something, he will break right into the middle of a sentence to tell something about himself. Now, good manners rise from consideration for others, they evidence "that no man liveth by himself." So little a thing as not interrupting another person in conversation is our acceptance of every one's right to that same privilege for ourselves of being heard. That green boy, overcome by his own saphedness, makes himself heard loudly and listening little, he sat down not merely as deficient in training, but as lacking in common sense. And anyone whom the music of his talk is so delightful to himself that he cannot bear to listen to any other voice has no definite conception of important things. The other day I saw a young girl, 18 or 19 perhaps, listening quietly and attentively while her father, a very old man, and rather childish in some things, told me a story she had often heard him tell. One sees so much of inattention and smirking at father's and mother's hobbies that the girl's respectful silence was pleasant for me to see. I credit that little lady with far more than good training—with the right kind of heart. Good manners mean much in estimating the value of a person; they bespeak the true man and the true woman.

### CALLS THE BLUFF ON THE COAST ROAD.

Have Been Building the Road on "Hot Air" for Five Years.

Some of the newspapers are again proclaiming great things that the Portland and West Coast Railroad Co. is going to do, and last week published long articles. This is the railroad that wanted a franchise through Tillamook City about five years ago, and now the people of Newport have called the bluff, as will be seen from an editorial which appeared in the Sheridan Sun:

The many unfulfilled promises of the Portland and West Coast Railroad and Navigation Co. has caused the company to be looked upon as a standing joke among those who expected some evidence of its proclaimed intentions to become known sometime before the end of earthly things. For five years or more this company has been building a railroad line from McMinnville to the coast by way of Sheridan and Willamina, using hot air for a right of way, grades, cuts, ballast, steel rails and rolling stock. With this wighty material it slid into Newport about two years ago and made that pleasure resort the coast terminus, after securing a franchise and putting up a reputed bond to begin actual work within a year. The actual work failed to materialize long ago, and now the Lincoln county citizens have called the bluff. At a meeting held at Newport last week the citizens prepared a tempting bait for the West Coast people and it is now up to them to swallow it or to seek seclusion. The juicy morsel is wrapped up in the following proposition: "As we practically have no adequate facilities for transportation either passengers or commodities of any kind, we therefore ask your company to build a railroad running over your right of way, beginning at Newport and thence following the course of your survey northward to a terminus in Portland. As an inducement for such an immediate undertaking would you consider a bonus of not to exceed One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) to be raised by us, this money to be placed in escrow until such a time as you shall have completed and placed in regular operation the first fifteen miles of road out of Newport, the construction of said road to begin not later than sixty days after the acceptance of this proposal?" As the estimated cost of construction of this long proposed road is placed at \$200,000 per mile it is seen that Newport and Lincoln county will build five miles of the road in the event their bluff is accepted and they make it good. Actions speak louder than words, and The Sun awaits with genuine interest the time when Sheridan will be called upon for the third time to extend the franchise of this road.

### Why Cows Give More Milk Than They Used To.

A contributor to the current issue of the Farm and Fireside explains as follows why cows give more milk than they used to:

"Cattle used to be bred chiefly for work. Therefore, the cows did not give much milk. Breeds improve the thing for which they are selected.

"In 1790 the work cows of Germany gave an average of a pint and a half a day. Interest in milk increased and by 1800 the average yield was a quart and a half. Breeding went on milkward, and in 1810 the German cows averaged two quarts of milk each day. In 1820 three, in 1830 four—and there the gain stopped for thirty years. But in 1860 the production had increased to six quarts and by 1880 to eight.

"Thief" is a good short word, so suitable for headlining, but it is noticed that headliners are chary of it.

Mr Bryan offers to go to Europe as a peace emissary at his own expense; and at that isn't it too expensive?

When everybody is throwing stones at a public man even the timid can do it; but oughtn't they to be ashamed of themselves?

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