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THE BEST SHADE TREES

A prize was offered by the American Genetic association for the largest shade tree in the United States. The contest brought photographs and descriptions of 337 trees from all parts of the country, and the prize was awarded to a sycamore at Worthington, Indiana, forty-two feet and three inches in circumference and 150 feet tall.

The Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture recommends the sycamore as, on the whole, the best shade tree to plant. It thrives from Maine to Florida and as far west as Kansas. It is a quick grower, attaining good size in ten years, and resists the attacks of insects and fungi and the effects of the smoke, dust and gases of cities better than most deciduous trees. And it averages in size larger than any other shade tree.

The contest brought out some interesting information as to other large shade trees. The largest elm reported is "The Great Elm," Wethersfield, Connecticut, 28 feet in circumference and about 100 feet tall, which is estimated to be 250 years old. A sassafras at Horsham, Pennsylvania, is 15 feet, 10 inches in circumference four feet from the ground. A white birch was found in Massachusetts with a girth of 12 feet, two inches; a pecan was found in Louisiana with a circumference of 19 feet, six inches, and a catalpa in Arkansas with a girth of 16 feet.

The tallest shade tree found is a yellow poplar in North Carolina, which is 198 feet high and has a circumference of 34 feet, six inches.

The relative sizes of the coniferous trees are fairly well established, the Big Tree of California being the largest in the world; but information on the size attained by deciduous trees in this country has been hitherto very incomplete.

RETROSPECTIVE WISDOM

The presidential year opens with one major nomination settled in the popular mind. The other is wholly in the realm of uncertainty. Four years ago both parties were groping for probabilities, says the Cleveland Plain-dealer.

Nineteen-twelve opened with President Taft and Senator La Follette the only avowed candidates for the Republican nomination. Col. Theodore Roosevelt and Justice Hughes were widely discussed as possibilities. The judge, not yet having made it clear that he would not consider the nomination, was deemed a "highly available dark horse." The Review of Reviews was trying to persuade the public, and perhaps itself, that the colonel would not do anything so undignified as entering a scramble for a presidential nomination.

"If the nomination should come to him in 1912," declared the Review of Reviews, "it will not be through anything else except a yielding to the will of the Republican party." Alas, how many preconceptions in politics had to be revised before the end of 1912!

On the Democratic side, Governors Harmon and Wilson and Speaker Clark led the discussions—probably about in the order named. Later, the order was exactly reversed. Party sentiment had as yet shown no decided preference for anyone in particular.

If the present year affords half the political surprises that came in the last presidential twelve months period, any opinion expressed now is likely to appear as ridiculous in review as the statement that Theodore Roosevelt would enter no undignified scramble for his party nomination.

The poor man who bewailed the prohibition law which permitted well stocked cellars only to the well to do now has the laugh on his wealthy neighbor who was so busy laying in a supply of 1916 dry goods that he forgot to lay in a supply of gasoline—and the price has raised.

Now comes Mrs. H. Ford with an urge to mothers to pray instead of spank. This will receive the enthusiastic endorsement of all the children, says the Macon News.

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SAVINGS DEPARTMENT

Prospective candidates are beginning to feel the campaign stir in their legs which makes them want to run for some office. The open season for campaign slogans is fairly on and again the hackneyed phrase "Lower Taxes" drips from pen and tongue of the candidate. Surely it is not necessary to remind the would-be public servants that there were more lower tax slogans than campaign cigars in use two years ago. The last legislature was elected on a "Lower Tax" platform regardless of party or sex and look at the record of this selfsame body of official spendthrifts. What the 1914 lower taxers promised, and what they did should stand as a horrible example for the 1916 candidate. "Lower taxes" is not only a bewhiskered joke but everyone has heard it. Even in these days the famous old "Why does a chicken cross the road?" gets a husky guffaw from the rear seats but "Lower Taxes" as a promise—well, it can't be done, and as a joke—it's no laughing matter.

When peace finally comes it is probable some serious questions will have to be settled, questions that now are scarce thought of. One of these is the lesson taught by Germany with regard to the division of food, so that every person has a minimum, and this regardless of financial condition. Then Germany, too, has set the example of the fixing of prices and the curbing of speculation in food stuffs. It is a long step toward socialism for it shows the government's power to regulate the daily affairs of its citizens, and demonstrates the beneficial results of so doing. When the war is over will not the Germans insist on the government continuing this paternalism, and will not the other nations insist on the same thing? The war is far from over yet, and before it is over who knows what examples will be set along the lines above indicated, and now many new ideas concerning the rights of man will have been evolved?

Bulgaria has given notice of an intended attack on the British and French at Salonika in the near future. Still this may be a bluff, for if she invades Greek territory she will drive Greece over to the allies. The Germans or Austrians might do this and the Greeks would perhaps stand for it; but they certainly will never consent to their enemy of a hundred years standing, crossing their borders with armed forces.

The progressives, in conference at Chicago, indicate their willingness to accept any progressive republican candidate for president, provided that his name is Theodore Roosevelt. Otherwise they will rally around Geo. W. Perkins' pork barrel and maintain a separate organization to the last.

More than 60 counties in Indiana have filed Fairbanks presidential petitions. This may surprise many folk—those who have forgotten that Indiana once elected Tom Marshall governor, says the Cleveland Press.

"Peace with honor" is the only kind of peace the Bull Moosers will accept from the G. O. P. That is just the way they are talking across the ocean and with the result that there isn't any brand of peace in sight yet.



HARD WORK

It's hard to keep smiling when troubles are piling their weight on your neck till it's sprained; it's hard to keep grinning when others are winning the prizes for which you have strained. It's hard to be cheery on days wet and dreary, when everything near you looks drowned; it's hard to be sunny when all of your money is sunk in a hole in the ground. It's hard to keep laughing when wearily quaffing the flagon of grief to the dregs, it's harder to frolic when you have the colic, or gout at the end of your legs. But how will it aid you, when woe has waylaid you, to rumble and grumble and swear? There's nothing that's healing in kicking the ceiling, or biting the rungs from a chair. It's hard to look pleasant when anguish is present, and yet it is strictly worth while; not all of your scowling and fussing and growling can show off your grit like a smile.

1915 State Fair Shows Profits of \$8208.08 Says Al Jones Report

The state fair board will hold its annual session tomorrow at which time the report of Secretary W. Al Jones will be submitted. The report shows that the 1915 state fair left a profit of \$8208.08 above expenses and this sum now remains to the credit of the state fair fund. The books were balanced at the end of the fiscal year December 1. From all sources the sum of \$450,588.19 was received by the fair board and the expenditures were \$418,151.25 while the balance received from the 1914 fair fund was \$5,982.14 making the present balance \$82,080.08.

side the fair grounds and says that the hard surface pavement put down this year was only a starter.

A total of \$13,000.30 was paid out in prize awards at the last fair and the largest warrant drawn by a single horse man was \$1000 paid to W. G. Durfee.

University of California Beaten by College Tossers

Corvallis, Or., Jan. 11.—The University of California basketball tossers, again defeated, are on their way back to Portland today. They met another Waterloo at the hands of the Oregon Aggies last night by a score of 2 to 17. The game was declared to be the most sensational seen here for years. At the end of the first half the Californians were in the lead 12 to 9, and playing like demons. Coach Stewart took his Aggies into their dressing room and inflicted a little mental punishment on them, after which they emerged and walloped the southerners.



A Galley o' Fun!

REVOLUTIONARY RESOLVES

(By the News Editor.)

I will not announce the death of King Menelik of Abyssinia more than four times.

I will use my influence to get the man fired who makes "Prison Gates Yawn" in a headline.

I will dash every "pretty romance" between a nurse and her wealthy charge unless it is certified to.

I will resign before permitting a cow to browse through this paper, rating dairymaids' purses containing one hundred and fifty dollars.

I will see to it that poor relatives who receive \$2,000,000 each from an unidentified aunt in England have to ship in and buy the paper to get their names into it.

I will not permit the "fair defendant" to be described as "beautiful," and then print a picture showing her to be a lemon.

I will crumple up and throw in the faces of the writers all stories of men finding \$500 pearls in oysters.

I will give space to the deaths of the "oldest Mason," the "oldest alumnus," and the "oldest survivor of the Mexican War" but one time each during the coming year.

I will take a course of training that I may be able to rub paste in the hair of every reporter who allows the victim to be killed by "some blunt instrument." It will take a ton of paste, but I'll get it somehow.

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LITTLE TALKS ON THRIFT

By S. W. STRAUS

President American Society for Thrift

"Save, young man, and become respectable and respectable."

"It is the quickest and surest way."

To find out whether these words are true or not, begin to save.

A thrifty man will find it not a hard road. Be sure of that.

You will never have anything unless you save something. You cannot eat your cake and have it, too.

The same might be said regarding this country and the waste of its natural resources. According to the scientific report of the United States Geological Survey, there is one-half as much coal wasted in America as is marketed. "With regard to petroleum," says the report, "the situation is a good deal more serious. Petroleum has been used for less than thirty years, and it is estimated that the supply will last about twenty-five or thirty years longer. If production is curtailed and waste stopped, it may last till the end of the century. In natural gas the waste is enormous. One hundred million cubic feet are estimated to be wasted into air every twenty-four hours. The gas supply will last about twenty-five years. Wherever we turn we encounter waste. Each individual, however, can help to counteract this thriftless spirit by being careful. Now, at the beginning of a new year, is an opportune time to resolve to become a saver of time, health and money."

A good way to create the saving

habit is to determine to save a dime every day—even a nickel or a cent, in the case of a very small pay envelope. Make almost any sacrifice to save the sum you have set out to save. Or another rather enticing form of thrift is to save every dime you get, or every nickel or every penny—no matter how many you get in a day. You will soon have a dollar, then ten dollars and finally it will get to be a hundred dollars and you will feel quite a capitalist. By this time you will have journeyed far on the way to save. A thrifty man will find it not a hard road. Be sure of that.

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