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The Bicycle in Peace and War.

The bicycle as a toy is less in evidence this year than it has been for several summers past. Those who rode the wheel because everybody was riding and those who rode for pleasure simply, and not for business or for exercise, are falling out of line. On the other hand the wheel is becoming more and more an implement for business. Errand boys, and many other persons whose business makes it necessary for them to move frequently from place to place, find the wheel a great convenience and a valuable time saver. It is coming more and more into use too among working-men, many of whom find that it saves them quite a long walk, and practically lengthens considerably the noon hour and the time that remains to them after the day's work is done. The bicycle appears to be gaining recognition too as an addition to the machinery of modern warfare. Recent experiments in connection with military manoeuvres in England are said to be regarded as fully demonstrating its utility. The English people are not hasty in adopting innovations, and this appears to be as true in respect to methods of warfare as in respect to the methods of industry. Major General Sir Frederick Maurice believed that the bicycle would prove a valuable acquisition for the army. The gentlemen of the War Office did not concur in this opinion but permitted Sir Frederick to experiment by organizing a volunteer bicycle corps. At the first test the evolutions of the Cyclist Corps did not achieve a distinct success, and the War Office felt confirmed in its opinion. General Maurice was not discouraged however, and another trial with a body of 1300 cyclists at Aldershot is said to indicate so complete a success that many observers, including some professed military critics, predict that the cyclist is to be the mounted infantryman of the future. The 1,300 cyclists, we are told, carrying kit, rifle and ammunition, left Aldershot at 8 in the morning, and reached Bagshot in perfect order, with intervals and space preserved, in better time than cavalry make on the same journey. They were inspected by General Buller and then marched and counter-marched, moved double quick, covering 12 miles in 56 minutes, and put through all the evolutions that would have been required of them in actual warfare. The number of punctured tires was remarkably small, and there was surprisingly little confusion. It would seem quite absurd to suppose that, in manoeuvring in a rough country, the bicycle could at all take the place of the horse, but for the purpose of rapid movement in a country where good roads are available, it cannot be doubted that the cyclist would be at a great advantage over the foot-soldier.

Prosperity and Contentment.

Professor Mahaffy of Trinity College, Dublin, is said to have given great offence to the Irish Nationalists by a recent after-dinner speech. The professor seems to have spoken in a post-prandial vein, and probably without intending to be taken too seriously, but there was at least enough truth mingled with the wit to cause its point to be felt rather keenly in certain quarters. Responding to a toast on the prosperity of Ireland, Professor Mahaffy is reported as saying that, whatever prosperity came to Ireland, they must not expect that contentment would be a sign of it. Contentment was not a proof of prosperity in Ireland, he said, and gave the following two instances. In the first place, there were an immense number of idle people loafing about Dublin. No country unless it was enormously prosperous could support the working people and those that did not work. There is another great class in Ireland that has proved the enormous wealth of the country, namely, a class of imposters. There is no country where imposters have flourished more thoroughly than in Ireland. The profession is so widespread that nearly everybody is an imposter. According to a writer in a newspaper, who admits that he himself is a leading member of the profession, it is useless to deny it, but he would say that if he thought he was an imposter he would have long since taken to politics. The Irish Nationalists attacked this statement angrily as an insult to the Irish members of parliament.

Leon Czolgosz who shot President McKinley is said to have been born in Detroit twenty-eight years ago. His parents were Russian Poles.

As to his personal appearance and history the following account is given: He is dark complexioned, with an intelligent and rather pleasing face. His features are straight and regular. He dresses with neatness. He is not a suspicious looking person. Czolgosz's parents came to United States about thirty-five years ago. Czolgosz received some education in the common schools of Detroit, but left school and went to work when a boy as a blacksmith's apprentice. Later he went to Cleveland, where he worked for a while, and then went to Chicago. While in Chicago he became interested in the Socialistic movement. He read all the Socialistic literature that he could lay his hands on, and finally began to take part in Socialistic meetings. In time he became fairly well known in Chicago, Cleveland and Detroit not only as a Socialist, but as an Anarchist of the most bitter type. After returning to Cleveland from Chicago he went to work in the wire mills in Newburg, a suburb of Cleveland. He was working there up to the day he started for Buffalo, a week before his attempt upon the President's life. Czolgosz is said to deny that he had any accomplices or that there was any plot against the President's life, but confesses to having been strongly influenced by the noted Anarchist writer and speaker Emma Goldman, and seems to say that an impassioned address of hers bitterly denunciatory of all rulers, which he heard not long since, was at least a part of the inspiration of his crime. Emma Goldman has been arrested in Chicago and is being held for trial.

Russian Methods.

Facts revealed through the recent publication of a British Blue Book on China and through other sources form a commentary on Russian methods of diplomacy not flattering to that country. The more clearly Russia's ways of doing business in the East are understood, the more evident it must become to the people of the United States how little dependence is to be placed on Russian professions of friendship when the interests of that power are concerned. It becomes evident too that the interests of the United States in the East are connected not with those of Russia but with those of Great Britain—that is to say they are not territorial but commercial. What Britain and America desire is not Chinese territory but unrestricted trade with China to the advantage of all. The records contained in the Blue Book mentioned above go to show that while the Russian government was giving the British Minister at St. Petersburg the most satisfactory assurances of the temporary nature of Russia's occupancy of Manchuria, she was secretly negotiating with China for the possession of Manchuria as conquered territory. The exception of Niu Chwang, which was to remain Chinese and a treaty port, was rather nominal than real, since the application of the Russian customs system to the Province almost completely destroyed the value of Niu-Chwang as a treaty port. The Blue Book also gives the history of the seizure by Russia of the Taku-Pekin Railway, owned and operated by the British and Chinese Corporation, showing that the Russia authorities adopted arbitrary and high-handed methods in the matter, against the protests of the owners of the railway. In this connection there is published a report from Mr. Kinder, chief engineer of the road, declaring that the Russians while occupying the premises at Tientsin had deliberately broken open the safes of the Company and seized the contents, including title-deeds to the property. The railway offices were learned, but the facts presented by Mr. Kinder clearly indicated that the safes had been broken before the fire, and that by means of tools which only foreign experts could make use of. It is also charged that the rolling stock of the road—or at least a part of it—was repainted by the Russians in the colors of the Siberian Railway. This latter charge the Russian authorities denied, but they seem to have made no defence whatever to the charge of breaking the safes and seizing the railway material at Niu-Chwang.

President McKinley on Reciprocity.

The attempt upon the life of the Chief Magistrate of the United States engrossed the attention of the world to such a degree that most other events seemed for the time being comparatively insignificant, and among other matters a speech delivered by the President himself at Buffalo, just the day before

he was stricken down, has doubtless received much less attention than it would have done under other circumstances. In the course of his speech Mr. McKinley discussed the relation of the prosperity of his country to foreign commerce, and strongly advocated the principle of reciprocity in trade. "We must not repose in fancied security that we can forever sell everything and buy little or nothing," said the President.

"If such a thing were possible it would not be best for us or for those with whom we deal. We should take from our customers such of their products as we can use without harm to our industries and labor. Reciprocity is the natural outgrowth of our wonderful industrial development under the domestic policy now firmly established. What we produce beyond our domestic consumption must have vent abroad. The excess must be relieved through a foreign outlet and we must sell everywhere we can, and buy wherever the buying will enlarge our sales and production and thereby make a greater demand for home labor. The period of exclusiveness is past. The expansion of our trade and commerce is the pressing problem. Commercial wars are unprofitable. A policy of good will and friendly trade relations will prevent reprisals. Reciprocity treaties are in harmony with the spirit of the times; measures of retaliation are not."

These utterances will be generally recognized as broad and statesmanlike in character, and if they can be interpreted as representing the attitude and policy of the United States toward other countries they might be expected, among other results, to lead to larger measures of reciprocal trade between the United States and Canada. If the relations of the executive to the legislative functions of Government were in the United States what they are in Great Britain or in Canada, the late President's words would be fairly interpreted as indicating an actual policy. But as it is the views presented may be more in the sphere of the ideal than of practical politics. They indicate what were Mr. McKinley's views, possibly they represent the views of his cabinet. Hardly anyone will venture to say that they represent the United States.

President Roosevelt.

The United States and the World at large are to be congratulated that the man upon whom the duties of the Chief Magistracy now devolve, is a man who by his character, attainments, and the record he has made for himself, is recognized as no unworthy successor to the departed President. Mr. Roosevelt is comparatively a young man—being in his forty-third year. He comes of an old and wealthy Dutch family of New York State, and his starting out in life was with all the advantages which inherited wealth and social standing afford. He is a man of versatile power, strong and earnest, a man of action as well as of thought. He was in public life as member of the New York State Legislature at the age of twenty-three, and his ability soon won him a position of leadership. Not only as a politician but as a man of letters and a soldier Mr. Roosevelt has achieved distinction. He is a man of much vital strength and nervous energy, endowed with courage and intellectual power, cherishing high ideals as to standards of conduct in public life, and as Police Commissioner in New York and afterwards as Governor of the State, working strenuously for purity in the administration of affairs. He is a man who in the Presidential chair as elsewhere may be expected to think and act for himself. If he shall err in that connection it will probably be in paying too little rather than too much heed to the counsels of his advisers. His public policy will doubtless be independent in character, but in a general way his views and his action will probably be found to be in harmony with those of the late President. Mr. Roosevelt is entitled, we presume, to be regarded, as many of his predecessors in office have been, as in the full sense of the word a Christian president. What his personal religious beliefs and professions are we do not know, but an address of his delivered not long since before the American and Foreign Bible Society—a part of which was quoted in these columns—indicated a profound respect and veneration for the Bible as affording the highest principles for the guidance of life and the development of character. Mr. Roosevelt will enter upon his presidential career with the general good will not only of his own countrymen but of the whole English-speaking world.