



Why We Should Give Thanks



confident and sanguine spirit is realized by the whole world; That we are glad to be friendly with all mankind, and reluctant ever to see that we have enemies; That our land and sea forces work in harmony and are splendid organizations. (This last is naturally a sailor's pardonable expression.)

Admiral of the Navy.

A GREAT cornucopia raining wealth—the old simile, indeed, seems to fit a description of the last year. Of a truth prosperity smiled; the earth bore in abundance, the sun of good times shone brilliantly.

Flurries in the stock market, like menacing clouds, sped across the national horizon. But they swept speedily out of sight, leaving no trail of the storm wreckage behind.

So great was the country's good fortune—in harvests of grain, in the output of mines and of manufacturing industries—that the President in his Thanksgiving proclamation uttered a warning:

"Much has been given us from on high, and much will be rightly expected of us in return. Into our care the ten talents have been intrusted, and we are to be pardoned neither if we squander and waste nor yet if we hide them in a napkin, for they must be fruitful in our hands."

"Ever throughout the ages, at all times and among all peoples, prosperity has been fraught with danger, and it behooves us to beseech the Giver of all things that we may not fall into love of ease and luxury; that we may not lose our sense of moral responsibility; that we may not forget our duty to God and to our neighbor."

Wealth so great that we should pray for guidance in its use—is this not cause for gratitude?

Secretary Wilson, of the Department of Agriculture, recently declared: "Unparalleled prosperity exists in this country. The wage earners are wonderfully well paid. The financiers of the East now understand the real source of wealth is the land, and they are borrowing funds from Western farmers who have earned so much money that they have bank accounts."

"Every sign points to a continuance of the marvelous prosperity of the country now enjoys. The position of the farmer is an enviable one—he is more independent than ever before in the history of the nation."

Taking agricultural wealth as an index, the increasing prosperity is amazing. Official estimates place the total value of farm products for the year at \$8,000,000,000, against \$6,794,000,000 in 1906. The increase in the value of cattle alone amounts to more than \$300,000,000. With all this as the basis of our national prosperity, why should not our thanksgiving be real; why should we be alarmed by passing clouds?

THANKSGIVING—thanksgiving for what we have received—for wealth, for health, for sunshine and rain, for bountiful harvests and the treasures generously given man from the earth. Thanksgiving more sincere than any thanksgiving offered before.

"During the year," declared President Roosevelt in his proclamation, "we have been free from famine, from pestilence, from war. We are at peace with all the rest of mankind. Our natural resources are at least as great as those of any other nation. We believe that in ability to develop and take advantage of these resources the average man of this nation stands at least as high as the average man of any other."

"Nowhere else in the world is there such an opportunity for a free people to develop to the fullest all its powers of body and mind and of that which stands above both body and mind—character."

Opportunity—this is what the country offers. And with it—character. No one will deny the development, the high altitude of integrity reached by American character.



Reports made to the statisticians of the Department of the Interior indicate a yield this year from staple crops of wheat, corn, oats, potatoes, hay, barley and tobacco of about \$5,000,000,000. The crops of 1906, when the theme of prosperity was on every tongue, aggregated in value \$4,900,000,000.

The wheat crop, it is estimated, will amount in value to \$954,500,000, the corn crop to \$1,500,000,000, cotton to \$752,900,000; oats, \$311,000,000; hay, \$755,000,000; potatoes, \$183,000,000; barley, \$151,300,000, and tobacco, \$51,778,000.

The wheat crop is slightly less than that of last year. The yield of spring wheat amounted to 216,000,000 bushels, against 242,372,000 for 1906. The total crop of 1907, according to expert statisticians, will amount to 625,567,000 bushels. This will mean a decline of about 6,000,000 bushels, the decrease being due to inclement weather and other unfavorable conditions; besides, the acreage was less. Dealers say the quality of the grain this year is superior to that of last year, and that higher prices will be realized.

If the annual wheat yield of the United States were equally divided, it would furnish one bushel to a bushel to every man, woman and child in the world.

Exports of flour from this country for the nine months ending with September amounted to 11,000,573 barrels, against 10,221,000 barrels for the same period in 1906.

Prices were better, flour selling at \$4.34 a barrel, against \$4.02 in 1906. So that more money was brought in from abroad for flour.

Whatever loss there may have been in the wheat crop was more than made up in the increase of the number and value of cattle. It is estimated that the increased value of cattle exceeds \$300,000,000.

The latest official estimate of the cattle in the country was made up to January, 1907. According to this, milch cows numbered 20,968,555, at an average value of \$31 a head, or a total farm value of \$645,496,590. The estimate of the previous year gave the number as 19,783,880, of an average value of \$29.44 a head, or a total farm value of \$582,788,592.

Other cattle numbered 51,565,731, with a total value of \$81,557,000 at the beginning of the year, comparing to a total number of 47,067,656, value \$746,171,709, a year before.

The number of swine increased from 52,400,000 to 54,800,000. In the production of coal the United States has taken first place in the world. Nowhere, it is said, except possibly China, are there such rich coal deposits. China's coal regions are, for the most part, well-nigh inaccessible. Within thirty-eight years the United States increased its share of the world's supply of coal from 14.32 per cent. to 38 per cent.

The product of the United States is nearly 50 per cent.

And for what do we need this tremendous importation? Why does not the output of our own mines suffice?

Because we are putting up buildings—steel structures, skyscrapers—from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from Maine to Texas. The country resounds with the clatter of pneumatic hammers. Business is booming; new buildings are required.

We are putting out an enormous quantity of railroad ties, and yet as busy as the furnaces are, they cannot nearly meet the extraordinary demand. We are building locomotives, bridges and steel vessels; everywhere there is a cry for iron and steel, and still more iron and steel. The iron and steel industries, panting and breathing, have only begun their Titanic work. There is no prospect of a let-up; the workmen in these industries are not only assured of work, but they get higher wages than they did several years ago.

And it all comes from the earth; truly, as Secretary Wilson remarked, therein lies the source of wealth. And the earth for years to come will respond to the carous of the farmer and miner and manufacturer as magically as the things which King Midas touched.

Petroleum year by year is bringing more wealth to the country. For the nine months ending September the exports were valued at \$2,763,063, an increase of more than \$2,000,000 over the same period last year. King Cotton promises an increased enrichment of \$90,000,000. Hard times? Could any one believe such predictions?

greater than that of Great Britain, double that of Germany and two and one-half times the output of all other countries combined. The value of the output of coal for 1906 was \$18,814,734, an increase over the previous year of nearly \$65,000,000.

Statistics of the coal and iron output are compiled usually a year or a year and a half late. The enormous output of 1906, it is said, will be surpassed by the output of the present year. Some statisticians say they believe the output of 1907 will show an increase over that of 1906 of 50,000,000 to 150,000,000 tons.

More amazing still is the consumption of iron ore in the United States. Not only do we mine more ore than any other nation, but unskilled, uneducated, we stretch out arms to other countries, and, in addition to the tremendous output in the United States, we eagerly consume hundreds of thousands of tons of imported material.

In the days when Commodore Vanderbilt was king of the financial world, Abraham Hewitt, the iron magnate, in a moment of optimism predicted that the annual output of iron in the United States would reach in time 10,000,000 tons. Men smiled; many laughed. What? 10,000,000 tons! they exclaimed. Wall street hinted that Mr. Hewitt was, perhaps, a little out of his head.

But in 1898 the production of pig iron amounted to 11,774,000 tons, and Mr. Hewitt's prediction was fulfilled.

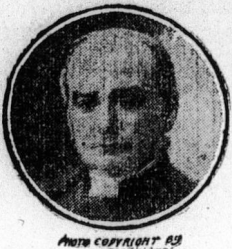
And during 1906 the production amounted to 23,307,300 tons—an amount equal to the output of Great Britain, Germany and France combined.

The value of the output during 1907, it is declared, will exceed in value \$700,000,000.

From India, Spain, Newfoundland, South America and New Caledonia ore is brought to this country. There were imported into the United States in 1904 about 65,000 tons of pig iron, valued at nearly \$10,000,000. The importation of ore during the present year, it is estimated, will double that of 1904.

During the nine months ending September, 1906, there were received at the port of Philadelphia, 200,000 tons, at Baltimore 200,000 tons and at New York 30,000 tons. Up to September, the present year, there were received at Philadelphia 60,000 tons, Baltimore 60,000 tons and New York 170,000 tons—more than three times the amount received the previous year.

Faith in God Still Lives



other events, or with public men. Has it ever occurred to you that this is the only day on which, as a nation, we acknowledge our dependence upon a Supreme Power, and express our thankfulness for its gifts?

And it ought not to be hard to recognize them, even though the year has brought to many people disaster and loss. We may well be thankful.

(a) For our wide and various territory, which makes famine in our land practically impossible, since, if there is sparseness at one end, there is plenty at the other. (b) And we ought to be no less thankful that that vast multitude which is pouring into various unoccupied portions of the country turns, as a rule, so promptly to industrious and productive tasks.

(c) Most of all, I think you may wisely remind those to whom you speak that national thankfulness pre-eminently becomes us, in view of the nation's wider relations to other peoples and the recognition of the eminent value of pacific methods of intercourse with them.

(d) And then, best of all, let us be thankful that faith in God still lives and throbs in the heart of all that is best in the land—a deepening sentiment of glad and grateful dependence.

Henry C. Potter.

Bishop of New York.

In the face of these figures—figures which plainly and unequivocally show the tremendous strides made this year, and which indicate still more tremendous strides to be made the coming year in the acquirement of wealth?

The recent financial squall, after all, was a flurry due to the questionable practices of stock speculators. There was a more urgent need of money in New York in 1902. Since that year hundreds of millions of wealth have been created; farmers have lifted mortgages off their farms and many sub-centers of capital have been created. In the West men of wealth have frowned upon frenzied finance, and the great backbone of national prosperity, the farming interests, has preserved its integrity.

"The real source of wealth lies in the land." Not long since farmers of the West were interested in an editorial, written by Albert Swalm, in which he said: "The butter and egg crop of the one state of Iowa is of greater value in dollars and cents than the entire output of silver in this country. Stop worrying about other things and think about your butter and eggs."

When one considers the marvelous increase of wealth of the nation and the bulging pocketbook of the farmer, he realizes that any spasmodic flurry of finance, after all, is but a mote in the national sunbeam of prosperity.

Women Are Becoming More Like Angels

WILL woman, in time, become a winged creature—more nearly resembling the angel she is supposed to be?

Dr. Charles L. Dana, a New York nerve specialist, declared recently that the arms of women are becoming mere anatomical vestiges—ancestral relics, like the vermiform appendix, and everywhere to be seen, and he predicted, perhaps, by wings, or fins. He has made the discovery that the arms of women, society women, especially, are failing and gradually losing their economic functions as members of the body.

I venture to advance, with some reservations, a theory that the arms of these modern women are becoming quasi-vestigial, like the appendix, the jejunum and the last molar tooth. If so, they will, in time, be of no use, and for a long time have enough of an arm to feed themselves and do up their hair.

many Signal Favours of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a Form of Government for their Safety and Happiness."

Now, THEREFORE, I do recommend and assign THURSDAY, the Twenty-sixth Day of November next, to be devoted by the People of these States, to the Service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, is, or that will be: That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks for his kind Care and Protection of the People of this Country; and previous to becoming a Nation; for the signal and manifold Mercies, and the favourable Interpositions of his Providence in the Course and Conclusion of the late and glorious War, for the great Degree of Tranquillity, Union and Plenty, which we have since enjoyed;—for the peaceable and happy manner in which we have been enabled to establish Constitutions of Government for our Safety and Happiness.

AND ALSO, that we may then all more humbly offering our Prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations, and beseech him to pardon our National and other Transgressions; to enable us all, whether in public or private Stations, to perform our several and relative Duties properly and punctually;—to render our national Government a Blessing to all the people, by constantly being a government of wise, just and Constitutional Laws, directly and faithfully obeyed;—to protect and guide all Sovereigns and nations (especially such as have shown kindness unto us) and to bless them with good Government, Peace and Concord;—to promote the Knowledge and Practice of true Religion and Virtue, and the increase of Science among them and us;—and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a Degree of temporal Prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

What England Would be Thankful For

IF ENGLAND were to establish a national thanksgiving, doubtless one of the most popular reasons for it would be the actual abolition of imprisonment for debt.

Consul F. W. Mahin, in a report from Nottingham, says that imprisonment for debt was nominally abolished in England many years ago, but, paradoxically, the actual number of cases of imprisonment has since annually increased—faster than the population. He says:

"Much more judicial option is possible than formerly was the case, and is exercised under the existing law. A debtor against whom judgment is rendered may be summarily required to pay before a given date on penalty of imprisonment. This power of committal resides in the judge of the court. Some judges exercise it much more freely than others. But it would seem that, on the whole, indulgence shown to delinquent debtors is steadily decreasing, for the cases of imprisonment in the country have decennially increased as follows under the existing law: In 1876, 4225; 1886, 5456; 1896, 8190; 1906, 11,838.

"Technically the imprisonment is for contempt of court. The judge orders the debtor to pay before a given day, failing which he may be jailed for contempt, not exceeding forty days, however, in any case, and he is released at once if he pays in the meantime."

How a Thanksgiving Proclamation is Issued

IT HAS been said that the only piece of pure literature ever officially issued from the White House is the annual Thanksgiving proclamation.

All other papers written by the President are business documents, the phraseology of which is often careless and occasionally slipshod, but this annual message to the people is always a painstakingly worded and graceful piece of composition.

Some time during the fall the attention of the President is called to the fact that he must issue such a proclamation. It is usually the duty of his secretary to inform him in advance of the necessity of bringing his mind to the consideration of such matters.

Of course, it is rather a bore, like all matters of mere routine, and so busy a man as the chief executive of the nation might be deemed excusable if he handed over the job to some subordinate, contenting himself with affixing his signature. But custom demands that the pious task shall be performed by the President himself, and Mr. Roosevelt, though radical enough in some ways, is a respecter of the sanctity of precedent.

WRITTEN AND REWRITTEN

When the President finds that such a proclamation has to be prepared, he devotes, for a time, his leisure moments to whipping his ideas into shape. He probably jots down his leading thoughts on paper.

Getting his ideas into shape, he summons one of the dozen stenographers who are always in attendance and dictates to him carefully the wording of the document. It is short—not more than 400 or 500 words—but daintily and tersely phrased.

This, however, is only a rough draft. It is copied in typewritten form by the stenographer with lines twice the ordinary distance apart (so as to be convenient for correction and interlineation), and in this shape is handed back to the President. He alters it a bit, perhaps modifying a sentence here and changing a word there, until it suits him, whereupon a fair copy is made, again submitted for correction, and finally sent over to the Department of State.

There the proclamation is engrossed on a great sheet of fine parchment by a clerk highly skilled in this kind of penmanship. It is a considerable task and occupies some days.

Thanksgiving Evening

by Frank M. Sweet

SLOW in the west the sun declines,
Unwatched by maid or mother;
The happy household, gathered close,
Think only of each other.

From far and near, from farm and town,
With joyous hearts and faces,
The absent ones have come again
To fill the old home places.

The dinner o'er, around the fire,
With not a loved one lacking,
The elders sit, the little folk
Their jokes and nuts are cracking.
The tender twilight fills the room—
Beneath its friendly cover
Sweet Mary's soft hand is deftly caught
By Ned, her cousin lover.

Dear three-year-old with loving thought
Slips from the children's room,
Aweary of their noisy games,
Seeks grandpa in the gloom.

Completed, the document is returned to the White House for approval, and is then sent back to the Department of State to be signed by the secretary of state and sealed with the great seal of the United States.

The seal, by the way, is a sort of federal fetich. It is the most sacred of all things that belong to the government, and no print of it is ever allowed to be given away or sold, though, of course, it is attached to all military and naval commissions and to various other executive documents.

It was made by a New York jeweler at a cost of \$10,000, and is kept in a beautiful rosewood box at the State Department. In order that it may be used for stamping the Thanksgiving proclamation a printed order to that effect must be signed by the President. The Department of State is the permanent depository

