

Our Motto: "SUUM CUIQUE."



(To Every Man His Own.)

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OUR POINT OF VIEW

MR. COAKER

WE commend to our readers the very fine article on the lumber camps by Mr. Coaker, the first part of which we published yesterday, but had no time to introduce to the public as we undertake to do now. Mr. Coaker believes in making himself acquainted through first hand knowledge with all that appertains to our Country's industries. For this purpose he went to the seal fishery last year, and now is visiting the lumber camps of the interior.

That he is a very keen observer any one at all acquainted with lumbering must admit, and whilst not subscribing to all that Mr. Coaker recommends, especially in relation to the beds, we must say that when it comes to making laws for the improvement of the lumbering and sealing conditions, Mr. Coaker by virtue of his personal observation and his keen insight must easily take first rank.

When Mr. Coaker brings in a sealing bill or a loggers' bill, he will be able to back up his recommendations by facts gained at first hand, and not by hearsay.

Mr. Coaker's regard for the welfare of his fellow men is true and sincere, and all that he has done for the toiler does not furnish half so convincing proof of his warmth of heart, as do the few tender and simple remarks about his old dumb friend Tom, the horse, alias Coaker.

MEXICO

YESTERDAY in our brief remarks on the contrasting conditions as obtaining in Europe and America we spoke of America as the land wherein the dove of peace, banished from Europe can find a happy retreat.

Whilst penning those few humble lines we were at the same time not unmindful of the fact that the fairest part of the western world is reeking with the blood of innocent citizens. Mexico is suffering the tortures of the "reign of terror." Inoffensive men are being slaughtered, and virgin ladies and innocent girlhood are being outraged with a barbarity that exceeds anything since the Congo atrocities.

The United States must shoulder much of the blame for the present conditions of affairs, though no doubt she acted with the best possible intentions in upsetting Huerta, who is generally recognized as the only man in Mexico who could handle the situation confronting the unhappy country. America sent arms to Mexico and warships to Vera Cruz, to resent a very trifling or imaginary insult. Those arms are now in the hands of savages, such as Villa, and are being used against the fair and innocent who refuse to subscribe to Villa's villany, or for no reason, other than to satisfy a savage lust.

The United States owes a duty to Mexico, but up to the present Wilson seems to have had concern only for the few United States citizens resident in the unhappy country. But now we are pleased to note the big hearted Republic is aroused as the sending of warships to Vera Cruz seems to indicate.

Can anybody assign to us a reason why the people of the United States have been so long indifferent to the outrages being committed by their next door neighbor, whilst at the same time they have been so moved by the alleged

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sufferings of Belgium. Why is it we have heard no great outcry against the crimes of the Mexican savages. A ruthless war is being waged against innocent women and defenceless priests, that reminds one of nothing more than the doings of the barbarous Aztecs. Why is it that all the sympathy goes to Belgium and the houseless Belgians, while there is none for the citizen of a nearby state.

The Belgians have a big powerful nation to see to their wants, but the poor Mexican must suffer and die without as much as wailing a sigh of pity from the hearts of those who seem to be melting with compassion for the Belgians, who are not suffering half as much.

We confess to being suspicious of the genuineness of such one sided pity, and we like best that pity which spreads out all round and lays the tender caressing hand on every aching brow without discrimination.

Potash From The Ocean

In New York last week 10,000 tons of American potash made from seaweed was sold at a price which was the same as that of the German potash salts during normal times. According to ex-Secretary of Agriculture Wilson, enough potash can be obtained from this source to obviate the necessity of importing this necessary ingredient of cotton fertilizers.

James H. Scott of Alaska, Seattle and London is the man who made the sale. Mr. Scott is one of a small group of Westerners who have embarked in the commercialization of kelp. He is also the man who started utilizing the waste of the great salmon fisheries of Alaska and turning it into marketable products.

Some years ago Mr. Scott became interested in kelp from hearing Mr. Wilson speak about it. He had seen a lot of it on his voyages from Seattle up the coast, and he got some of his friends interested. They found the supply of kelp had not been exaggerated by Mr. Wilson, and that once you got it, it was easy to convert into potash. The problem was to harvest it.

Three years Mr. Scott and his associates spent in devising a dredge and harvester. At the end of that time he was "broke," as he put it yesterday at the Imperial, but he had got what he wanted. As, however, the device cannot be patented, it is a secret.

"Some years ago Government investigators tackled the problem of obtaining potash at home," said Mr. Scott, "and since the beginning of the war the high price of German potash has made acute the necessity of producing potash in the United States. Considerable money and time have been spent by myself and a small group of men out on the Pacific Coast in perfecting a process for the commercial harvest and manufacture of what is known as 'giant-bladder' kelp, the heaviest and largest of all the Pacific Ocean seaweeds. This giant kelp, in its completed form, contains over 20 per cent of potash, as well as other substances valuable to fertilizer consumers."

"I have former Secretary Wilson for my authority when I say that the possible production of potash obtained exclusively from the Pacific Coast kelp beds could be made to exceed the total imports of potash from Germany."

"We have perfected a submarine kelp harvester, with a cutting device mounted between two pontoons, having one duplex horizontal cutter and two vertical duplex cutters, the propelling machinery being directly behind the cutting machine. This harvester cuts through the kelp groves a swath about sixteen feet wide, and from two to ten feet below the surface of the water. The kelp grows, as a rule, in water averaging from thirty to fifty feet in depth, but we have found that by cutting five feet below the water we are able to harvest 85 per cent of the total weight of the kelp."

"The plant, when cut, is automatically gathered from the water by a process I adopted from the method I used to employ when a boy in catching eels on the Long Island Shore, and by a simple device cut into six-inch lengths. The harvester, with the scoops attached, has a capacity of delivering 50 tons of wet kelp per hour. This is put through a process, and when dried produces five tons of material containing over 20 per cent potash."

"Contrary to the general opinion of agriculturists, nowhere in the world does kelp or any other kind of aquatic plant life contain within 30 per cent as much potash as is found in the kelp groves of the North Pacific."

"The bulk of the potash salts imported into the United States is known as 'Solonchak' which contains

average of 12 1-2 per cent of actual potash. Another grade, known as 'manure salts,' contains an average of 20 per cent potash. As far as the potash goes, this would be equal to that of kelp, but the cotton grower is interested in kelp not alone because of the content of potash. The remaining bulk, being vegetable matter, is valuable because it is a humus, carrying with it no land weeds or disturbing elements to plant life; and experience has proved that in a soil inclined to be heavy the absorption of moisture by kelp when it is applied has a marked tendency to lighten the soil and permit the air getting deeper into the ground."

"We have been operating for a year, but it has not been until the Panama Canal was opened that it has been possible to make shipments around to this side of the country at a profit. A consignment equal to five carloads of kelp will be delivered in New York, via the canal, within sixty days."

In addition to his kelp business, Mr. Scott is manager for the Fish Cannery's By-Products, Ltd., and, so far as the Pacific Coast is concerned, is the founder of the industry of turning salmon waste into profitable merchandise.

"Of course, on the Atlantic side of the country, the menhaden industry has been going for many years," he said, "but on the Pacific there was absolutely nothing done to utilize salmon waste. For years, ever since the start of the salmon industry out there, the heads and tails of salmon used in the factories were dumped by the thousand tons into the ocean, where they fouled the waters. To indicate the vast quantity of this waste, we handled 22,000 tons of it during the thirty days of our season last year. The canneries are located within a radius of 200 miles from Ketchikan, Alaska, and we send around to them boats that make collections every twenty-four hours."

"From this refuse we make fish oil, fish flour and fish meal, fish glue and animal charcoal. We only started this industry last year. Perhaps the reason why nobody ever did it before was because of the great distance and the lack of facilities. Our plant is located near Ketchikan, New York Times, March 12th."

"At Least You-- Have Pity"

"At least you--have pity."

At the Dominion Conference of the Canadian Vigilance Association held in the Metropolitan Church, Toronto, Thursday, March 4th, in connection with their campaign for a clean social and economic life, the members present took strong ground in reference to the enforcement of a minimum wage established by law, and equal pay for equal work for both sexes. Ist. Vice-President John H. Roberts, of Montreal, led the discussion.

Mrs. John Currie, Vice-President for Quebec and Dominion Superintendent of Moral Education of the W. C. T. U., related an incident of a girl who was only offered \$4 per week, and when inquiring as to how she could live on that wage, was asked, "Have you not a gentleman friend who will help you out with the additional money necessary?"

Mr. R. B. St. Clair, the secretary spoke of a recent complaint received from a Toronto mother whose 18-year-old daughter received but \$2.15 per week in a local candy factory where the obscene language allowed during the work time and noon hour went on without hindrance by the proprietor. He promised drastic action in this matter.

It is to be observed that this organization is the only social service

organization demanding in its constitution that the working men and women receive the full social value of the wealth they created. It is also in common with other similar organizations in demanding the suppression of sweatshop labor and other industrial and social wrongs.

The above is taken from a Canadian exchange, and what is true of Toronto or any other Canadian city, is true also of St. John's.

In this city are to be found employers, who are robbing the flesh and blood and sweat and toil of poor children who have to drudge from a Monday morning to a Saturday night for \$2.50. It is a crying, scandalous shame. It is a sin against human nature. There are young girls in stores in this city, whose positions are desperate, for how in Heaven's name can one live and dress and make the most of life, on twenty or thirty cents a week?

Moralists throw up their hands in consternation when virtue pays its price to poverty. The grandees are awe-stricken at the petty-thieving which is abroad, but nobody seems to regard the positions of those poor young people who are asked to sacrifice their lives and strength for paltry wages. I would like to ask some of those employers what their own annual living expenses come to? and how far \$2.50 a week would go to supporting their own daughters? Why I know one of them to have paid for a box of candy the same amount that her father gives to his shop girl for a week's long work. Is this justice or humanity? Are attitudes to church, or giving to collection boxes, or subscribing to charities going to outweigh the wrong done to the laborer, and who, so we are told, is worthy of his love?

We speak of "Man's Inhumanity to Man" and puzzle over its exact meaning, whilst its illustration is in our very midst. It is as much a crime for to rob the laborer of honest wage returns, as it is to rifle a till or pick a pocket. It is a criminal to take the toil and labor of a girl child, and give nothing—or comparatively nothing—in return.

Let the store keepers in St. John's put aside their contempt for the poor share who wins for them rich dividends, and do what is right and just.

Sorrowful and Sad

It is reported that the Kaiser Chief of the present milk and water government has grown a little sad since he has had time to digest the news of the F. P. U. securing a rise in the price of fat, and it is no wonder that friend Morris should feel "down and out," and in low spirits over the information. The neutral man, or if you like it better "the man on the fence" has a couple of questions to ask you just now. He can turn to Kaiser Morris and ask "What have you done for the Fishermen of the country? What have you done during your terms of office for the people of the country? Show some material, tangible good you have done? Is the country in as good a condition today as it was when you took over the reins of Government?"

Morris cannot return any satisfactory answers to those questions, and he knows now that it is absolutely useless to depend on "Bluff" any longer.

That game is up. It worked successfully and long, but like every movement of deceit its course is run, and the people will have none of it. It is a well-known fact now—and 'tis funny how things leak out—that our little Kaiser is completely at the mercy of his Executive body. Sir Edward who can be so might, and so stern and so loud with some poor applicant or peevish one, is one of the meekest little men alive at his council board.

When storms arise there, Sir Kaiser's tenor notes are never heard.

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