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THE DAILY TELEGRAPH
THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH
THE EVENING TIMES

New Brunswick's Independent newspapers.
These newspapers advocate British connection.
Honesty in public life.
Measures for the material progress and moral advancement of our Great Dominion.
No graft.
No deals.
"The Thistle, the Shamrock, the Rose and the Maple Leaf forever."

Semi-Weekly Telegraph
and The News

ST. JOHN, N. B., DECEMBER 3, 1910.

THE PUBLIC INTEREST—FIRST

Our moral pace-makers today strike so much at bad personal habits that we are apt to overlook or to forget the need for a civic conscience or for civic patriotism. A recent writer draws a distinction between vice and sin. Vice is applied to practices that harm one's self; sin, to conduct that harms another. They are from different roots and call for different treatment. Social development, by constantly opening new doors to wrongdoing, calls into being new species of sin. Rude law recognizes three kinds of stealing; the law of today, seventeen kinds. By the time it is abreast of our present needs it will discriminate perhaps thirty kinds. There are hundreds of men who would scorn to steal from their friends, but who would consider the day lost if they did not exact undue tribute from the public. "Score while you're in," is their motto, and the unopposed sinner makes his way upward into sunshine. He climbs into the band wagon and his triumphant lawlessness becomes a matter of course. It is entering business to steal a railway franchise or to advance the cost of a public utility to the highest possible point that dividends may be paid on watered stock.

Enterprises that succeed in this way, by disregarding the public interest, and in other sinister ways by dulling the public conscience, are of more hurt than a first rank national calamity. The successful violator of the rules of the game hurts more than a failure of the fisheries, a drought, the bob weevil or the brown tail moth. These calamities lessen our comforts, but they do not leave us less civilized. The American city is becoming a menace to state and nation; because as it grows more powerful it is becoming less capable of self-government. The maladministration of municipal affairs in the large cities has long since become a national scandal, and the opening up of its rottenness has depressed all who love democratic institutions. Prof. Giddings, of Columbia University, said a short time ago: "We are witnessing today, beyond question, the decay—perhaps not permanent, but at any rate the decay—of republican institutions. No man in his right mind can deny it."

Such cities, like decaying spots on ripe fruit, tend to corrupt the whole body politic. Their condition is due in no small part to the fact that a man will lightly undertake a public business, without the slightest intention of devoting to it the time, attention, or ability, that he would to his own private interests. And not only that, but worse still, he has no civic conscience, and he looks upon this public trust as a means of personal honor or private aggrandizement. As the city grows populous and rich, the administration of its interests affords increased opportunity for the corrupt use of money. There is now in St. John an increasing number of officials whose moral character is absolutely incorruptible, for those who accept office for the public good, not those who seek it for private gain. We have too many public servants who consider their own interests rather than the interests of those who elected them. And we go on actually paying such men to represent us, in spite of their repeated betrayal of the taxpayers.

THE TRAITORS

Some of the people in Canada still consider it good politics to accuse others of disloyalty. There may be disloyal individuals, but there is no disloyal party, and even no disloyal group of dimensions sufficient to warrant serious attention.

Sir Richard Cartwright, whose wit age has not diminished, has been devoting some attention to the Conservative speakers who have been intimating that the Laurier government is disloyal. He re-

minds them that Sir John Macdonald had among his colleagues several who signed the annexation manifesto, and who not only threatened rebellion but actually took up arms against the British government. Cartwright, who was one of the rebels of 1837, is a case in point. Having glanced back over some history which is rather awkward from the standpoint of his opponents Sir Richard said:

"I do not know that I thought very much the worse of them for that. However, when a party can swallow, as the Conservatives did successively, three or four cabinet ministers who had signed an annexation manifesto, it hardly becomes them to hurl promiscuous taunts of disloyalty."

The Conservative leader in the Senate, Senator Loughheed, who spoke on the same occasion, has come to the conclusion that it is about time the parties ceased to hurl charges of disloyalty at each other. He said:

"What Canada needed was a national spirit, and this must be based on a spirit of unity, which could not be established until these charges of disloyalty were no more heard of."

Some of Mr. Borden's followers might learn considerable guiding wisdom from these leaders in the Senate. "Patriotism," said a great man with a characteristic exaggeration, "is that last refuge of a scoundrel." He had in mind the sort of man who flings broadcast accusations of disloyalty for the purpose of covering up his weaknesses and sins of himself and his associates. Canada has seen a great deal of that sort of thing. The guidance of Sir Richard Cartwright and Senator Loughheed should have some influence in promoting a return to political sanity in this respect.

THE POETS

The vagrancies in English speaking countries contain a deal of verse of one sort or another, but most of it lacks fire, and cadence, and power. In another column today there is reprinted from the December Scribner's a poem called "The Vision of Casdmon," which is worth reading, so far as it is above the mean level of the verses one encounters in these days, if he be an average reader.

Mr. Kipling's muse has been almost idle of late. Alfred Noyes has been writing some moving verses, and has given England a new voice. This has been done, too, in another key, by Newbold, whose ballads, particularly those reviving England's great sea captains and the spirit that carried the flag to victory on every ocean, are characterized by a rare lift and swing.

The world has been too quiet and too commercial of late to produce many poets of outstanding power. In a period when a nation is deeply moved, as in some long national crisis, there arises singers whose appeal is strong. Had the war that shook part of Asia a few years ago been fought on this side of the world, we might have expected an incident some stirring poetry, but of that titanic struggle we of the West felt but little. No one seems able to say precisely and with finality what poetry is, or what constitutes good poetry. There are a hundred definitions, but no one conclusive. Sutton's verses in Scribner's tend to suggest that the subjects for poetry worth while are many if the writer can but have the vision. A little while ago a great educationist said that in the public schools they do not pay enough attention to poetry, and that, assuredly, is true. Most of the men of our time whose public school days lie back across forty years will still remember more clearly than anything else, and with no less pleasure, some of the finer poems which they learned at that time, perhaps none too eagerly. They have forgotten much, but some of the songs remain.

They still argue as to whether or not Wolfe said, before the battle on the Plains of Abraham, that he had rather be the author of Gray's Elegy than take Quebec. If he didn't say it he ought to have done so. If he said it he thereby gave proof that he was more than a soldier. Whoever said it voiced a truth of deep meaning.

RURAL ONTARIO AND THE TARIFF

It takes a wise man to foresee the results of any particular policy or legislation, and wisdom is not always at hand when required by a state or people. The statesman might well be appalled if he could realize that he probably never can lay a tax without effects on industry, health, character, morals and religion which he cannot foresee and cannot control. When he has decided and acted it remains only to take the consequences; for these consequences will enter into the web of life that the people are weaving and must endure. That web contains all the follies and errors, just as well as all the wisdom and achievements of the past. The Methuen treaty caused Englishmen to drink port instead of claret for a hundred and fifty years, to the great increase of gout and drunkenness. The state got the revenue, and the people the gout.

In the same way it was never foreseen by the statesman who introduced protection into Canada that it was going to depopulate the rural districts of the provinces. In giving hothouse development to some industries it was never the intention of well-meaning statesmen that others still more useful should be blasted. But such is the startling picture of the depopulation and impoverishment of rural Ontario, drawn by Mr. Waldron, of Toronto, in an address before the Canadian Club, some days ago. A decrease in the rural population of the province of 80,000 in twenty years, a rural birthrate scarcely exceeding the death rate, an urban increase of nearly half a million, an impoverishment of the country made plain by unprepared buildings and fences, neglected orchards, ill-cultivated lands, land turned to pasture and in effect abandoned, the disappearance of the farm laborers and the dwellings, the fall in land values, and the fact that farm production has not responded to an extended period of high prices—these were the conditions depicted by Mr. Waldron. And

in the main, if not wholly, he claimed the causes to be economic, with protection and the exclusion of the farmer from the markets of the United States as the principal.

No one can deny the force of the evidence of depopulation and impoverishment furnished by the official reports of the province. There has been an exodus from the land, an exodus of farmers. While it would be folly to assert that all the evils of this condition are due to protection, yet it must bear a heavy share of the blame. There are other world forces, known to all economists, which are operating to swell the population of cities; at the expense of rural communities, and these forces will continue to operate; but protection has increased the cost of labor on the farm, the cost of the implements of his craft and husbandry, and exploited the farmer most unjustly at the expense of the urban dweller. All its promises to him have been as false as diabolical, and to judge from the present demonstration on his part against some of the inequalities of the tariff, he has found it out.

There is no question but our rural communities have suffered by the exclusion of the farmer from the United States market, and the migration noted here is one for economic relief. The fact of this exodus from rural Canada should have much influence on the reciprocity negotiations.

MEN WHO WILL NOT WORK

For those men who want work but cannot find it there will be ready sympathy, but it is probable that unless the seeker after work is fastidious he does not often seek in vain. There are some men who are willing to work, but who through illness or physical disability are unable to do so, and for these, too, the community must make allowance.

Unfortunately, there is another class, composed of men who are quite able to work but who are determined to live without doing so; and St. John today is encouraging too large a number of these. Some of them neglect their families, and some of them are supported by helpless and hard-working women. In many cases these men are arrested from time to time for vagrancy or drunkenness, and the weary magistrate fines them or sends them to jail for a short term. It must have become clear long ago that the machinery employed by the city and the province generally to deal with such cases is worse than ineffective. It is quite useless to send men of this sort to jail, or to compel them to pay a fine, which means to compel their relatives to pay it. Some sort of a prison farm is needed, by means of which they could be compelled to work, any money they earned to be turned over to those dependent upon them, or, if they have no dependents, the money to be given to the prisoner himself at the end of the term. There are today in St. John too many candidates ripe for such employment, and if it is not found for them, and thrust upon them, they never will do anything useful but will continue to prey upon the charitable and helpless in the community.

SETTLERS AND THE LAND

British Columbia needs settlers, as New Brunswick does, and it has not very much treeless land. The Victoria Colonist says that while some people have proposed that the government should clear the land and then give it to the settlers, a surer way would be for the government not only to clear it but to build houses and barns and provide horses and cattle also. "But speaking seriously," says the Colonist, "it is absurd to suggest that the government can engage in a policy of land clearing and then give the cleared land away to settlers."

Such a plan would not be practicable in our day at least, though it is difficult to tell what may happen along that line in years to come. What the government might do in New Brunswick, for example, is to survey and classify carefully all of the land owned by the Crown, and to ask private persons holding large areas of land to do likewise. For while a great deal of the now untitled land in New Brunswick will long remain in timber, there is a great deal yet uncleared that is really not suited for timber growing and that is suited for agriculture. Also there are many farms either abandoned or only partially tilled, for sale at low prices.

Next summer, if not before, trains will be running over the Transcontinental in New Brunswick, but as yet no definite step has been taken to classify the land through which the railway runs. For at least a mile and a half each side of the track throughout the 256 miles in New Brunswick the land should be given up for settlement, or for some use other than timber alone. Power was taken under the Public Domain Act some years ago by the government to carry out such survey and classification, but no attempt has yet been made to carry that act into effect. The fact that the railroad is so soon to be operated makes it imperative that action along these lines be taken.

MR. BORDEN'S DILEMMA

"Steering north by south" is the Manitoba Free Press' pithy description of Mr. L. R. Borden's floundering in regard to the naval question. The Free Press examines the Conservative leader's Ottawa speech with penetration, and leaves its readers wondering whether they must question his intelligence or his honesty—or both.

The speech which Mr. Borden made in support of his resolution the day before yesterday, says the Manitoba journal, is an extraordinary achievement in the art of steering north by south. It is a speech designed to suit both the divergent factions which assail the Canadian navy policy—both those who hold that Canada should "bring immediate and effective aid to the mother country," and those who hold that the government of this country should consult the people before deciding on any naval policy. "The basis of the Conservative naval proposals was to bring immediate and effective aid to

the mother country and the Empire as a whole," said Mr. Borden, in one part of that speech. In that utterance the jingoes who decry the Canadian navy as a "tin pot" affair, because it does not provide on a great scale for battleships and armored cruisers to take their place in the line of battle in the North Sea, are catered to.

In another part of his speech Mr. Borden protests that Dr. Beland, M. P., misrepresents the Conservative naval proposals by quoting the Conservative resolution of last session in its original form, instead of in its finally revised edition, "which said," as Mr. Borden pointed out the day before yesterday, "that the payment of regular or periodical contributions to the Imperial treasury for naval and military purposes would not, as far as Canada is concerned, be the most satisfactory solution of the question of defense." In yet another portion of the same speech, addressing himself to the minister of marine, Mr. Borden "disclaimed" the statement attributed to him by that gentleman that Canada should send warships to Great Britain. In these utterances people who are not jingoes will find themselves catered to.

But the most magnificent feat in Mr. Borden's great attempt to construct a bridge between the jingoes and the Monks and Bourneases, on which to take up his stand in a straddling attitude, is in that portion of his speech in which he sets forth what would be done if a Conservative government were in power. The government, he said, should ascertain "whether the conditions which face the Empire at this time in respect of naval defense are grave or not." Continuing, Mr. Borden said:

"If we were in power, we would endeavor to find that out, to get a plain, unvarnished answer to that question; and if, the answer to that question based upon the report of the government of the mother country, and on the naval experts of admiralty were such—and I think it would be such—as to demand instant and effective action by this country, then I would appeal to parliament for immediate and effective aid I would appeal to the people of this country."

Here we have a policy outlined which would take some considerable time to work out. It would mean the throwing overboard of the policy of "immediate and effective aid." Moreover, Mr. Borden, with his talk about getting "a plain unvarnished answer to that question," knows perfectly well that within the past few months both the Prime Minister of Great Britain and the Secretary for the Navy have demonstrated conclusively that never before in history has Great Britain's naval supremacy been so overwhelming as it is at the present time. The facts are before the world. What, then, would follow upon the obtaining of a "plain, unvarnished answer" to that effect? For an answer to this question Mr. Borden's speech is to be searched in vain.

On the other hand, supposing that a Conservative government, with Mr. Borden at its head, were to find itself in power, and the "plain, unvarnished answer" were to be, that there was need of "immediate and effective aid" by Canada. Mr. Borden has provided for that contingency a way out. Another portion of Mr. Borden's speech makes it plain that "immediate and effective aid" would be out of the question. He says:

"If Canada and the other dominions of the Empire are to take their part as nations of this Empire in the defence of the Empire as a whole, shall it be that we contributing to defence of that whole Empire shall have absolutely as citizens of this country no voice whatever in the councils of the Empire relating to the choice of peace and war throughout the Empire. I do not think that would be a tolerable condition. I do not think the people of Canada would for a moment submit to such a condition."

That is to say, as a preliminary to Canada taking part in the naval defence of the Empire, the Empire must first be reconstructed. Here we have the climax of the performance of Mr. Facing-every-way. The reconstruction of the Imperial system which Mr. Borden declares must be regarded as an essential condition precedent to Canada's taking part in the naval defence of the Empire, is not a thing which could be brought about in a few months, or even in a few years. Meanwhile, Mr. Borden proclaims, Canada could not think of taking part in "the defence of the Empire as a whole." Such a thing is not to be thought of, Mr. Borden says: "I do not think it would be a tolerable condition."

EXCISE AND PROTECTION

Dr. Johnson defines excise as "a hateful tax levied upon commodities and adjudged not by the common judges of property but by wretches hired by those to whom excise is paid." Today this form of tax seems so old that the memory of man runseth not to the contrary, but it was comparatively new in England in the days of Johnson. In 1143 it was first imposed on all intoxicating drinks and beer and later on a long list of articles of food and clothing. Today excise duties are paid in England on many things, beer wine, spirits, tobacco, dogs, railway tickets, armorial bearings, etc. The derivation of the word implies that excise is something cut off from the price for the benefit of the state. This tax, which Johnson hated, Burns, through convivial days and nights, collected, and local testimony of the period says, that while "in everything else he was a perfect gentleman, when he met with anything seizable he was no better than any other gauger."

Men are not grown any more in love with taxes than was Dr. Johnson, but they have come to regard them more as a matter of course. In the early days in England, as in classic times, they were never paid by the freeman as they were considered derogatory and a badge of a servile position. The freeman might give his services to the state, might risk his life for it, but would regard it as an insult to have to pay taxes. When occasion came for the freeman to contribute to some common cause, the contributions were called donations, or

were given some name to indicate their voluntary character. When these voluntary contributions had been so repeatedly called for that their payment became customary, the element of compulsion was introduced. Like the innovation of excise in the days of Johnson, excise has established itself, and become an institution because it was by the state and for the state. But protection never can, because it is a tax taken from one section of the people for the benefit of another. It is immoral in principle. It is often imposed through the influence of those to whom the tax is paid, and by dark methods of secret bargains that will soon seem as far away as the decrees of Caesar Augustus.

It has maintained a tortuous, dark and troubled course of the organized political activity of those for whom the tax is paid, and because of the fact that the classes from whom it is extorted have had to betake themselves to the stern necessity of making a living for themselves and families, leaving politics to the politicians. They have not had time to protect themselves against the others. They have had to dig and bake, and sleep, and wed, and die, so not laws could they keep an eye of eternal vigilance on the despoilers. But in the present popular outcry against the petty larceny of special interests we have a clear indication that this wrong will never be effectively buttressed with arguments from the antiquity of the abuse. As clearly as a lowering sky indicates foul weather do present tendencies indicate that the industry or trade that seeks to get from others without giving an equivalent will be deprived of special privilege. In all the changes of the centuries through which the people have passed one thing has stood unchanged—the will of men to abolish one by one the tenures that have interfered with their free development.

ADVERTISING A CITY

St. John, some of whose citizens are discussing the best means of advertising its resources and opportunities, may find suggestions in these paragraphs from the Vancouver World:

"The secretary of the Fort Worth, Texas, Chamber of Commerce, in a preliminary report of an investigation to ascertain how much money is annually spent in municipal advertising by cities of the United States, says that Buffalo and Parkersburg (W. Va.), spend each \$1,000,000; that Poughkeepsie, Memphis and Portland (Me.), spend each \$500,000; that Houston, Texas, spends \$350,000; Des Moines \$300,000, and Huntington (W. Va.), \$250,000. This is interesting, but it would be still more interesting to know how they spend the money, for it is the manner, and not the amount that counts in municipal, as well as other advertising. The easiest thing in the world is to spend money; the art is in spending it so as to get results and make real progress. And it is an art worth learning, for publicity of the right sort is the locomotive that moves a business or a city to the front."

"It is the same with a city as with an individual. Before advertising there must be something to advertise. No amount of publicity will draw business to a manufacturing or a mercantile establishment which has not something worth while to offer. But just as in modern days a business cannot be made to succeed without advertising, neither can the advantages of a city be known without some means of publicity being employed. This, just as in private business, should be judicious. It is not the amount a man spends in advertising which tells, but the manner in which it is spent. The idea of having a publicity agent seems to work well for large cities. Smaller places can scarcely afford to pay for a man to devote his time wholly to this work, and yet it is not so certain that it would not pay even a small city."

NOTE AND COMMENT

"Protectionism as a policy," says the Conservative Montreal Gazette, "is not as strongly upheld as it once was." This from the senior Conservative journal in Canada may be thought significant.

In Truro recently the price of light and power was reduced by the Nova Scotia Public Utilities Commission. In Montreal one finds the Gazette complimenting the Quebec Public Utilities Commission upon orders just issued increasing the safety of street cars, by providing more effective equipment and requiring the fenders to be replaced by wheel guards. Thus, astonishing as it may appear, these commissions in other provinces seem, on occasion, to take action in the interest of the public. In New Brunswick we have not yet begun.

THE MARITIME
WINTER FAIR

The close of entries for the Amherst Winter Fair of 1910 indicate a record breaking show. In beef cattle there are 131 head entered, dairy cattle 86, sheep 265, ewine 138, live poultry 1,311, and dressed 206. Over 40 collections of apples will be shown and the seed display will be large.

The show opens on Monday evening, 5th December, on which occasion Hon. J. D. Hazen has been invited to deliver an address. Very cheap fares have been arranged over the I. C. R., covering the whole period of the show, from 5 to 9 December.

Col. H. M. Campbell, Apohaqui (N. B.), is this year president and a new exhibitor will be James A. Teller, who has lately bought a large property near Sussex and who brings with him from Paris (Ont.), not only a considerable number of choice sheep but also the reputation of being one of the leading sheep breeders of Canada.

Addresses by leading agricultural authorities will be given in the auditorium each evening during the show.

Fill a bottle with hot water, place the splinter over the mouth, press tightly; the suction will loosen it, and it will be an easy matter to remove it.

CASTORIA
For Infants and Children.
The Kind You Have Always Bought
Bears the Signature of
Dr. H. H. Kitchin
In Use For Over Thirty Years
CASTORIA
THE CENTAUR COMPANY, NEW YORK CITY.

900 DROPS
Vegetable Preparation for Assuaging the Food and Regulating the Stomach and Bowels of
INFANTS CHILDREN
Promotes Digestion, Cheerfulness and Rest. Contains neither Opium, Morphine nor Mineral. **NOT NARCOTIC.**
A Perfect Remedy for Constipation, Sour Stomach, Diarrhoea, Worms, Convulsions, Feverishness and Loss of Sleep.
Facsimile Signature of
Dr. H. H. Kitchin
NEW YORK.
At 6 months old
35 Doses—35 CENTS
EXACT COPY OF WRAPPER.

FAMOUS GEMS OF PROSE
WHAT BOSTON IS
By Daniel Webster

From a speech in Faneuil hall, Boston, May 22, 1832.

AND now what is Boston? What is the character of Boston? What are the essential elements of her prosperity? Why she is nearly unrivalled on the face of the earth for her important efforts in behalf of and extensive benefits for her own citizens, and for the improvement of mankind. What will you say, which perhaps you all know, when you are informed that the amount of public taxes in this city, for the purpose of education alone, amounts to one-quarter of the whole tax laid by the public authorities? Where do you find that elsewhere? Where do you find another Boston in this respect? Where do you find one-quarter of the whole tax paid by individuals, flowing from the public, devoted to education, in addition to the very great amounts paid to the teachers of private schools? Nowhere else that I know of.

The city of Boston pays more than two hundred thousand dollars a year for the support of religious instruction and public worship. Where do you find that elsewhere? Tell me the place, the city, the spot, the country, the world over, where so great an amount in proportion to the population is paid for religious instruction. That is Boston. This principle, which we inherited from our ancestors, we cultivate. We seek to educate the people. We seek to improve men's moral and religious condition. In short, we seek to work upon mind as well as on matter. And in working on mind it enlarges the human intellect and the human heart. We know when we work upon materials immortal and imperishable that they will bear the impress which we place upon them through endless ages to come. If we work upon marble it will perish; if we work upon brass time will efface it; if we rear temples they will crumble to the dust. But if we work upon men's immortal minds, if we imbue them with high principles, with the just fear of God and love of their fellow-men, we engrave on those tablets something which no time can efface and which will brighten to all eternity.

And, my friends, that charity which asketh not her own, that charity which endureth all things, beareth all things, hopeth all things, is not more conspicuously exhibited in any part of the globe than among our own people. The personal attendance on the poor, the bounties of all those who have the means to promote the happiness of the necessitous and administer to their welfare, are just themes of praise. And above all that let me say, and let it be known to those who wish to know, what Boston has been, what Boston is, what Boston will be, what Boston has done and will do—let me say to those that Boston has given within the last twenty-five years between five and six millions of dollars for educational, religious and charitable purposes throughout the United States and throughout the world.

THE NEW RAILWAY.
(Manitoba Free Press.)
When so much is said and written about the progress of railway construction in the west, similar developments in other parts of Canada are not likely to be appreciated. Official announcement is made that four sections, comprising 164 miles, of the National Transcontinental Railway, from Moncton (N. B.), westward, are practically complete. The new highway from ocean to ocean will soon be a real factor in transportation.

NOT SUFFICIENT.
(Catholic Standard and Times.)
"Here's an account of another hunter lost in the woods," said Wise. "Every hunter should carry a pocket compass." "Why," asked Dumley, "how would that help him?" "Help to get him out, of course. The needle of the compass always points to the north—" "Ah! but suppose he wants to go to the east, west or south?"

THE EXILE FROM HOME.
The valley's red and gold today,
And torches sign to me
From hilltops where my fancies play
And where I long to be.
By imagery, my journey lies
Through country ways, and down
Forgotten paths in autumn guise,
And stubble fields of brown.
Through silent woods my fancy strays—
Soft-carpeted with red,
And fringed with gold the Autumn lays—
More splendid overhead.
Then out upon the travelled road,
To pause and hear afar
The cracking of the harvest load
Where tardy garners are.
To be alone for long, and gaze
Upon the village bies,
And watch it live these golden days
In Autumn peace and rest!
Each cherished spot, each boyhood track,
Each hill and flaming tree,
Is whispering today "Come back—
Come home again, with me."
—John D. Wells in Buffalo News.

Uncle Walt
The Poet Philosopher

When I was digging ditches, I used to long for riches, I thought that I'd be happy if I had coin to burn; I saw the wealthy speeding along the road unheeding; they blew in more for stogies than I knew how to earn. When I was loading gravel, I longed and longed to travel, to scoot in palace coaches, or sail across the sea; I said: "I have to labor like thunder while my neighbor, is blowing in his bundle, as busy as a bee." And now with wealth I'm loaded; alas! it seems corroded; it doesn't seem to glitter the way it ought to do; my life is soft and easy, but I am fat and wheezy, I spend my days in yawning, and I am tired and blue. It's tiresome to be wealthy; your legs; I wish that I could travel back to the days of gravel, when I could eat a bushel of good old ham and eggs!

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WALT MASON.