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WE FIGHT THE BATTLE OF THE PLAIN PEOPLE

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## GOOD BASED ON ILL

The Prince of Monaco has devoted years of his life and much money to the study of oceanography. He has taken many deep-sea soundings and has also made meteorological researches in the higher atmosphere. He has created a museum at Monaco which illustrates the importance of the vast subject and his work has been highly commended by scientific bodies.

The Prince is the ruler of Monaco and in his territory is situated the celebrated Monte Carlo casino with its world-famous gambling rooms. The fortune of the Prince is based on the revenues derived from the gambling instinct of man scientifically exploited. The system employed at Monte Carlo is such that the bank is bound to win in the vast majority of cases. The rich who have been made poor, the poor who have lost their little all, the gambling wrecks and the suicides all tell the same story of humanity sacrificed to build up the fortune of the prince.

The scientific work of the prince of Monaco is good and in the interest of the public. His gambling hell is bad and has ruined many men. In the summing up of his career it may be said that his good work was founded on an evil fortune and in his life work was for evil rather than for good.

## THE SCHOOLS OF FRANCE

Clemenceau, premier of France, is ousting many female teachers in the schools and is replacing them with men. This has nothing to do with the socialistic doctrine that women should not be allowed to usurp men's positions. Clemenceau rather is fighting the socialists in their influence over the schools.

Just as we have a separate school question in Canada, so the French republic had a religious school question a few years ago. Priests and nuns were at the head of many educational institutions and they taught many royalist, anti-republican and Roman Catholic religious views of life. The authorities acted vigorously and expelled many of the religious teaching orders and handed the teaching of the young over to lay teachers.

The authorities have found that by this action they jumped from the frying pan into the fire; for many of the lay teachers, especially among the women, are straight socialists and have been inculcating their views in the minds of the pupils. They have been getting the parents to subscribe for "L'Humanite" and "La Guerre Sociale," and other French socialist papers. From the activities of these teachers France is rapidly becoming permeated with socialistic doctrines. Clemenceau, therefore, is acting with characteristic energy and is ousting the socialist teachers in the same manner that he ousted the religious teachers.

## PENNY CABLES

Sir Henniker Heaton is endeavoring to bring about a two-cent cable rate. The charge between England and America is now twenty-four cents and Sir Henniker wants to reduce the price to one-twelfth of the amount.

Sir Henniker pertinently asks whether electricity was given to us for the benefit of a small body of shareholders or for the benefit of humanity at large.

Sir Henniker's scheme may appear to be utopian but his ideas in the past have proved successful. He has been the father, first of British and then of Imperial penny postage. His ideas and plans for the reduction of postal rates were regarded as chimerical when first broached. His ideas with regard to penny cable service are now being treated with great respect.

The proprietors of the cable companies are alone objecting. They see in the innovation a loss of dividends. This will be a sad loss for them but a pleasant prospect for those who use the cables.

If Sir Henniker is spared for a few years we may expect to see his present campaign completed and crowned with success to the benefit of the people and to the strengthening of the ties of imperial unity.

Try a want ad. in THE OBSERVER. It will fill your want every time.

## ON THE VALUE OF SERVICES

A celebrated doctor in a recent interview declared that no stated sum could be set down as the correct fee for the physician as the services of a doctor, leading as they do with the saving of human life, were not measurable in the terms of mere money. They were, in fact, invaluable.

We frequently hear the value of various services set forth in glowing languages by those who render them and the services are always set forth as beyond compute. Thus the farmer, who tills the soil and produces the necessities of life, considers his services to be invaluable. Upon his labors depends the production of the necessities of life and without him man would starve. The railroad owners who transport the products of the farm to the gigantic cities can also claim that without the use of their properties a great number of city dwellers would starve. The railway employees can also say that their work is necessary for the carrying of food to the cities and their services are also invaluable. The builder of houses can also claim to render an invaluable service to humanity as he builds houses which are necessary to protect humanity from the cold and from death by freezing.

All services are more or less necessary to humanity but frequently those services which are less necessary receive more financial remuneration than those services which are more necessary.

## THE REWARDING OF DOCTORS

The doctor quoted above was looking at the question of the fee for medical attendance, not from the viewpoint of the patient, but from that of the doctor. He was laying down the basic principle of charging what the traffic would bear. In professional life at present there are no stated fees for services and the doctor or lawyer can charge as much as he pleases. This principle is bad and works injustices as the rich may employ the best doctors for small ailments and the poor will have to put up with the most unskilled surgeons for serious illnesses. The hospitals are a partial remedy for this state of affairs but hospitals do not get at the root of the matter.

We do not allow railroads to charge all the traffic will bear and we should not allow doctors to charge excessive fees for attending the rich at the expense of their attendance upon the poor.

The Chinese pay their doctors while they are well and cease to pay the doctors as soon as they fall ill. The code of Hammurabi, who founded the first Babylonian kingdom some two thousand years before Christ, fixed certain definite fees for certain definite operations. Thus if the doctor operated for tumor over the eye and was successful he received ten shekels. If, however, the patient died the doctor had his hands cut off.

The tendency of the modern thought is that doctors should be made state servants at a fixed salary, to attend the bed-sides of the rich and poor alike in their illnesses.

## Suffragettes in W. C. T. U.

At the close of the afternoon session of the Ontario W. C. T. U., at Barrie on Wednesday last, the following resolution was unanimously passed with an impressive spectacular demonstration:

"Resolved, that we as patriotic Christian women, realizing the importance of the ballot for our sex do hereby promise to exercise our own franchise powers on all occasions where possible, and to encourage other women to do likewise, so that the election of the best men in municipal and other contests may be secured and the liquor curse banished from our homes."

As the resolution was presented ladies representing every country where suffrage had made progress marched to the platform carrying the national flag of the people they voiced that read a statement of the rights that had been gained for women in public life.

Don't lay away the things you don't need. Sell 'em. Put a little ad. in THE OBSERVER. Somebody else wants them.

## CHEAP STEEL RAILS

The Dominion Iron and Steel Company recently sold 9,000 tons of steel rails to an Indian railroad at a price considerably lower than the price charged to Canadian railroads. Every since this fact has become known a discussion has been going on in the press as to the economic morality of such an act. As far as the Company is concerned the maxim guiding their conduct evidently is "we sell our goods at whatever price we can get."

The question is one for the Canadian public to seriously consider. Steel rails are highly protected and the people of Canada pay a bonus to the Company for the manufacture of the steel itself. The rails are sold to the Canadian railroads at high prices and the railroads, to pay the high cost of the rails, have to charge high prices for freight and passenger service. The Dominion Iron and Steel Company thus makes a good thing out of the Canadian public and the Canadians if there is any reduction to be made in the price of steel rails should assuredly get the benefit.

From the point of view of the Indians the time will soon come when the importation of cheap rails will be considered as detrimental to home industries. India, one day, will be producing steel rails and the importation of rails below cost will disorganize the Indian steel trade. When the day comes India will enact an anti-dumping clause and discussions like the present will become impossible.

## Westward Ho!

The November number of this Magazine presents that variety of subjects which makes its contents so piquant. The fiction ranges over nearly all the themes with which it is ever interestedly concerned; and the style of the contributions is of the most commendable order.

The explanation of John Reedham is a serial story by Annie S. Swan which notwithstanding its sadness and sorrow, is fraught with rapt interest; and each new transition of it is more and more thrilling until its final culmination. Patrick Vaux gives another of his rapid sketches of the arts and intrigues of war, under the title "Where the Eagle Flies Seaward," and the prowess of those who ride the main is illumined by the perfidy which the author shows often to exist among recreants there. "She Tested Him" forms the subject of a variegated domestic story by Mrs. J. H. Skinner; "Fox and Hound," by L. Harward; and "A Guilty Conscience," by H. A. Black. All of these are high in their class and sure to be appreciated.

The number is particularly strong in articles. Bonnycastle Dale is fresh as usual in his description "Following game with camera, rod and gun." Captain G. Godson Godson takes us on a tour in an automobile through the Transvaal, the Free State and Cape Colony; and his fine photographs enhance the value and interest of his descriptions. Under the head of "Potential Canada" there are three articles: one on "High River, Alberta," another on "Summerland, B. C.," another on "Calgary, Alta.," and another on "The Nechaco Valley." All these are intensely interesting as exemplifications of Potential Canada. The whole number is, in fact, essentially Canadian in the higher sense of an enlarged horizon.

## The Family Tree

"Young man," said the farmer, "I must say you've done a heap o' talkin' about yer family tree. Anybody would think you owned a whole timber yard. Come out into the lane a minute."

The youth in golf clothes accompanied him.

Pausing by a weeping willow. The farmer said:

"I want you to take particular notice of that tree."

"What for?"

"That's our family tree. That's what has heightened our ideals and stimulated our energies. That has furnished switches for four or five generations of us."

## THE BRITISH IN INDIA

India presents at present a continuous interest for the student of history. The country is rife with new ideas and ideals. The Indians are no longer content with the old order of things. There is a continual agitation for a new form of government wherein the native will be predominant.

The British in India have changed their methods. Formerly, before the government had become systemized, the British Commissioner in the outlying districts was a small autocrat. His word went with the natives, for his orders were backed up by the British soldiery. Up to the present, the Eastern nations have been ruled autocratically and the Indians, sharing in the ideals of the East, were contented and happy under the autocratic local rule of the Britisher in command of his district who ruled with a more or less even handed justice.

The system of the English, however, has become crystallized and bureaucratized. With the coming of the telegraph and the railroad the central authority at Calcutta or Simla could keep in touch with all portions of the empire and be the directing force. The result has been that the subordinate commanders no longer act independently but live at the end of a telegraph wire and act only in accordance with the messages that come from head quarters.

The British system has departed from the personal ideals of the East. The British officials live amid official files and spend their time to a great extent writing official reports. They no longer go about the country handing out decisions based upon a rough common sense justice. The Indians, therefore, have ceased to look to the officials for ready justice. The bureaucratized system of Indian government is breeding discontent in the heart of the natives. This discontent, combined with the new ideas of popular government which are spreading in the East, makes a condition of affairs hard for the British officials to grapple with.

## REELFOOT LAKE

Reelfoot Lake, in Tennessee, has been the location of night riding troubles. Captain Rankin has been lynched and Governor Patterson has offered ten thousand dollars reward for the capture of the guilty night raiders.

Tennessee is a wild place and justice is apt to be rough. It appears that Reelfoot Lake, a lake thirty-five miles long and by six wide, until a few years ago was a free body of water and any person who so desired could fish in its waters. A few years ago Captain Rankin induced the state legislature to give him a monopoly of the fishing rights of the lake. He thereupon built a dock and exacted tribute from all who fished in the lake. The fishermen became provoked and as a result Captain Rankin departed this life in the usual manner of the undesirable citizens of the South.

Had Captain Rankin been an ordinary citizen nothing would have been thought of the matter. A negro was lynched two years ago and the incident passed unnoticed. A Methodist Minister was assassinated in a neighboring county and Governor Patterson pardoned the assassin. The highest reward ever offered before in Tennessee for the apprehension of a murderer was two hundred dollars.

This Captain Rankin, however, appears to have been a particular favorite of the government of Tennessee. Hence the ten thousand dollar reward and the great activity on the part of the state officials.

It has been heralded to the world that Tennessee is awaking to her duties with regard to the protection of life. We doubt if this be the case. Tennessee officials are rather giving an example of the danger of murdering a man who happens to be a particular friend of the governor.

"Johnnie, I will give you a quarter if you can get me a lock of your sister's hair."

"Gimme four bits an' I'll git you de whole bunch. I know where she hangs it nights."

## NATIONAL IDEALS

Ruskin says that living at the public expense is not a disgrace except when done on a scale. Ruskin was a revolutionary philosopher of his day but in this particular he struck a good idea.

The tramp, the beggar, the prisoner, the pauper, the almshouse, all these are looked down upon as belonging to the lowest orders in the social scale. The duke, the lord, the idle bond holder, the sleek office holder with little to do and big pay, these are looked up to as worthy of admiration.

There have been religious leaders who have endeavored to teach humanity that the only true method of winning success and fame is to serve. He who can best serve the need of humanity is the individual most worthy of praise. There have been certain names great in history because the bearers thereof have served their fellowmen with great ability and gave to humanity their inestimable services. As long as we hold up to humanity the idea that the idle life is useless and that he who has much should spend his money in the interests of his fellowmen we need not worry over the ultimate salvation of our country. But should the ideal be maintained that the possession of money is the thing most to be desired, then we will see a period of retrograde morals in the Dominion.

The idea of riches, which is merely the idea that certain men should have the right of living by the work of others should not be allowed to dominate our national life.

Two laborers in their shirt sleeves entered an aristocratic Italian cafe in Rome and sat down and ordered drinks. They were arrested by the police but later dismissed by a police magistrate. The socialists will read the laborers a lesson from this incident on the inequality of position and the prohibitionists will read the workers a lesson on the folly of ordering drinks.

The Shaw of Persia, having been frightened by the greatness of the revolutionary feeling in his country, is going to give his people a democratic constitution. The majority of the people generally get what they want if they want it bad enough.

The Appeal to Reason, the Socialist paper of Kansas, offered President Roosevelt three dollars a word for a list of all the trusts he has busted. It has received no answer yet and is now offering him a dollar and a half a word for a list of the trusts he half busted.

The nations of the world spend eight billion seven hundred and fifty million dollars annually to keep up their military equipment. Did the nations turn this energy in humanitarian purposes, slums and poverty would disappear.

Hon. Mr. Brodeur, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, says that he is not going to retire from office but is going to stick to his post and rehabilitate his department. This decision of Mr. Brodeur will be welcomed by every right thinking Canadian.

A wreck occurred on the East state railway in which a carload of peanut shells were scattered over the ground. The peanut shells were on their way to a factory to be used in the preparation of a breakfast food.

Antwerp in Belgium has voted to spend twenty thousand dollars in feeding the out of works. This is a far better method of spending money than spending it on the pomp of kings.

Six hundred million dollars is spent annually in the United States for advertising. And the Standard Oil Company gets a lot of free advertising it does not like.

Teacher—"Now, Johnny, what was Washington's farewell address?"  
Johnny—"Heaven."

## CRISP COMMENTARY

The women of Chicago have started a picture postcard campaign against sweatshops.

Richard Croker is coming to America for a visit. Dick went away a discredited boss and returns an English gentleman.

Great Britain has launched her sixth Dreadnaught. This fact may explain some of the German Kaiser's recent extreme friendship for the British.

The Dominion Iron and Steel Co have an order from New South Wales for eighteen thousand tons of steel rails. Canada will yet be proud of her Sydney rolling mills.

Her Singer, German Socialist, wants the Kaiser to be tried for treason. Her Singer, German Socialist, is very likely to be tried for lese majeste.

The nations, after all, are not going to fight over the near Eastern question. War is an ugly thing when a nation engages in it itself.

The world is advancing into ever newer and more complex organizations. And the great masses of the people are taking an interest in the former movement.

The Canadian people will soon be insisting that elections shall be free from corruption. Until that time comes Canada will not be ruled in the interests of the people.

The United States tariff is to be amended by its friends. This means that the tariff will be changed in those items alone which cannot possibly hurt anybody's pocket.

Taft is going to Georgia to exercise. He succeeded in reducing his portly dimensions once by eating dog-biscuit. This time he evidently intends to take a different course of treatment.

E. S. Clouston, manager of the Bank of Montreal, has been created a baronet. Poor old Morgan of New York, born in a democracy, must be content to go through life as Mr. J. P.

The German Reichstag has been criticizing the Kaiser for telling how much he liked the English. The Germans are still a warlike people and do not like the idea of their ruler making friends with an enemy when they were not looking.

The majority of people want to do right. Many gloomy moralists think they have discovered a new doctrine when they come to this conclusion. St. Paul over eighteen hundred years ago discovered that the spirit was willing but the flesh weak.

Fort Hamilton, where the Hains-Annis scandal originated, is to be stripped of its staff of officers and its large military band. The American military authorities evidently believe that where social amenities are abused the accompaniments thereof should be removed.

The imprisonment of the suffragettes in Holloway jail, London, is having some effect as the authorities are now allowing the female prisoners of that institution warm water to wash with. The reflex action of a good deed sometimes brings about unsuspected results.

Six Philadelphia doctors have been dismissed from a hospital staff because they would not get up for eight o'clock breakfast. Being on their own hook now they will have to get up like a fireman answering a fire alarm every time the two o'clock night bell rings.