

THE REVIEW

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W. T. LAMAY, Editor and Publisher.

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Peace With the Sword.

Mexico has deemed it necessary to look out with an official report in detail of the stories published in the newspapers about outrages alleged to have been committed upon the Yaqui Indians by Mexican authorities and alleged acts of retaliation on the part of the Indians. The report is very formidable, but rests for evidence upon the statements of managers of commercial enterprises in the districts where the Yaquis are supposed to hold forth in the usual manner for savages. These gentlemen deny that the Mexican authorities oppress the Indians and also deny the reported slaughter some months ago of 100 whites by the Indians. Specifically it is declared that only one murder was committed by the Yaquis in the nine months preceding the report, and the victim in this case lost his life by his own folly in traveling through the Yaqui country without a military escort.

There surely must be something doing in Rosora not good for the health of civilized man when the government in power finds it necessary to keep troops in the region and to furnish armed guards for every traveler across the country. Not long ago the Mexican authorities forcibly deported a large body of Yaquis to the southern interior. The crime of these Indians is like that of the Boers in South Africa. They want to live their own lives and not be pushed to the wall by outsiders who come into their territory to exploit the mines and get away with the wealth. They fight when meddled with, and the continued menace of armed troops stalking about is not the best sort of a pacifier of hot Indian blood. Extermination is the doom of the Yaqui, for it has long since been demonstrated that in this strait war between the white man and the Indian the child of the forest has no show.

Saving Niagara.

The report of the American members of the international waterways commission, which the president cited in his recent message to congress regarding the salvation of the falls of Niagara, takes the ground that if it is worth while to set aside valuable property anywhere for pleasure purposes the commercial value of Niagara as a source of water power is not too great to be sacrificed. The visitors to the falls every year number about 800,000. It is a safe bet that if the American people imagined the grand spectacle would have to the number of visitors would run up into the millions.

It is plain that the falls cannot be kept intact without the co-operation of Canada. And the friends of the project cannot get busy too soon, for at the very time the report referred to was in the hands of the American executive nearly a score of Canadian municipalities contiguous to Niagara river were urging their government to increase the distribution of water power of the falls to "the purchasable municipalities of Ontario."

Advertising pays if done right. The Review is the right medium.

Habit in Spelling.

One of the spelling reformers is reported to have said: "The first aim will be to segregate such chaos that everybody will spell to suit himself. After that point has been reached reform will be an easy task. Every one will be at sea and will gladly accept a simplified and improved system." Phonetic spelling is supposed to represent the pronunciation of the language, but it is well known that our language is not every where pronounced the same way, and there is no likelihood that it ever will be. Artemus Ward and Josh Billings used different ways of getting the vernacular down in its simplest elements. The work of stenographers is seldom alike, for each shorthand writer adopts an individual system of the stems, curves, dots, hooks, loops and their combinations. Chaos is found when shorthand writers attempt to read strings of notes and the same is almost certain to occur whenever the masses set out to imitate the spelling freaks.

Our English language is complicated in its spelling and pronunciation because it is made up of fragments taken from other tongues. The same is true of the Greek down to the present has been drawn upon to build up the English, and the fragments have been retained in a form to indicate their origin. These forms are fixed in the public mind, and it will be next to impossible to eradicate them even on the ground of simplicity. We are too much hurried to stop and think how to spell, and as a matter of fact, phonetic spelling to amount to anything in the way of securing uniformity with simplicity would be as arbitrary as our present method. If learning were easier for the few, as was the case in all civilized lands a century or so ago, and that few represented the least strenuous elements of their communities, a new form of spelling might get on as a "fad" if launched in the right way to appeal to human vanity. But with an education is well high universal among the common people, it may be taken for granted that the old folks are too much "set in their ways" to go to school again and take up "newfangled notions." To make a spelling reform really effective millions of youngsters would have to be drilled day after day and year after year, as their forefathers were the day of Webster's "Speller," when the spelling exercises had a large place in the work of a school day. If the leaders in education can inaugurate a hot footed campaign, side tracking meanwhile some other studies, radical changes can be made, and when the reform is carried to a finish people will wonder that it was not done before.

Regulating Life Insurance.

The action of the house judiciary committee in the matter of insurance regulation by congress may be final as far as the government control of the business in the states are concerned. The committee holds that insurance does not come under the provisions of the interstate commerce laws and that federal attempt to regulate it would invade and impair the power of the states. But this conclusion does not necessarily preclude the question of congressional interference in a moral way. It has been proposed that the government regulate and supervise insurance operations in the territories and in the District of Columbia. Any company which failed to take out a license to operate in the restricted field would be held to advertise its unwillingness to face the scrutiny of government inspection. Companies which could enjoy government approval would then have the advantage in the states over their unlicensed rivals.

Over 1,000,000 patriotic persons, chiefly school children, clipped in that \$25,000 which has preserved the house where Betty Ross wrought the very first American flag. The agitation for safeguarding this relic has been going on for 25 years, and the quaint little building in the wholesale district of Philadelphia became in consequence a shrine to attract pilgrims from all over the country.

The German miners of Westphalia showed that "blood is thicker than water" when they went provisions, money and appliances over the mountains to relieve the frightful mine horror in France. And this exhibition of universal kinship took place just when the rulers of France and Germany were snarling at each other over the pitiful Morocco business.

Paris now claims a population of 3,000,000. When the new Berlin census comes out with over 3,000,000 for France and Germany will be likely to appeal to "blood and iron" in disputing whether the old man is a bona fide Berliner or a strutting Frenchman, who should be counted in the gay town of parties vivous.

It must be galling to those scared insurance trustees who refunded those political contributions to the treasuries of the companies out of their private purses to learn from District Attorney Jerome that they did not have to give up the goods, for the law can't hurt them.

Russia's Liberal Wedge.

Enough of discussion among the people of Russia during the elections of the national assembly has leaked out to show that there is great dissatisfaction with the provisions for a parliament that is to exist and operate almost wholly to the will of the czar. The czar has not the autocrat voluntarily effaced himself and declared that no law in the empire should be enforceable "without the approval of the state duma." Recently he has taken the pith out of this promise by declaring in a new proclamation that the right of initiative and enforce laws during the intervals of the parliament is reserved to the crown. It appears that the assembly is to have no power of impeachment, that the czar's ministers will be responsible to the people's representatives and the czar may dissolve the chambers at will.

But Nicholas for some purpose of his own, no doubt, has left the control of Russia's purse in the hands of the assembly absolutely. In other lands this power has often worked as a savior of the people's liberties. It is a goodly sum set to trade upon, for monarchs are always in financial hot water. In the French revolution the people's demands were conceded little by little, because the government was on the verge of financial shipwreck, and the key to the treasure chest was in the hands of the monarch. England went through the same experience. She had a parliament for 300 years before the ministers of the king became responsible to the house of commons. And when the house of commons got control of the purse it exerted one privilege after another from the crown until it became, as now, all but omnipotent. At this moment the czar's government is hard put for money. Hundreds of millions will be needed to stave off national bankruptcy, and the money lenders of France, who have financed the czar in the past, refuse to do so longer unless their former loans and all new ones are ratified by a national assembly. These shrewd men see that it is only a question of time when the people will rule in Russia and are taking no chances on wholesale repudiation. This then is the entering wedge to complete popular power for Russian liberalism—the ability to cut off the czar's supplies. With a firm grip on the national purse the people's representatives can reduce the autocrat to the status of a mere figurehead, like the king of England.

The High Court of the Nation.

It is indicative of the conservative nature of the supreme court of the United States that the high tribunal has had but seven chief justices, not counting Rutledge, whose tenure was nominal, since its establishment under Washington's administration 117 years ago. Chief Justice Fuller, the present incumbent, with eighteen years of service, has exceeded the average by two years. Marshall served for thirty-four years, and Marshall and Taney together occupied the chief justiceship for sixty-three years from 1801 to 1864. A justice of the supreme court may hold office "during good behavior." The chief justice is paid a salary of \$13,000 and the associate justices draw \$12,500 a year. Several of the associate justices have made long records on the bench, among them Story and Field, who each served thirty-four years. McLean of Ohio and Wayne of Georgia each served thirty-two years. Bushrod Washington of Virginia served thirty-one years, and Harlan has a record of twenty-nine years. As a rule, the justices have remained in office until death. They cannot be compelled to retire except by impeachment.

The first census of the British empire, just completed, classified King Edward's 400,000,000 odd subjects by religions, as Hindus, Mohammedans, Christians, Buddhists, and so on. It is noticeable, however, that the native Britons are not classified according to their innumerable faiths in the census, for the reason apparently that they hold it inconvenient to have their particular religious belief spread on the record for "daws to peck at."

The late Mrs. A. D. T. Whitney's note books that appealed to girls, but books the boys read, too, for the nicest kind of girls figured in them, and healthy minded boys want to read books with wholesome merit, well behaved heroines. Mrs. Whitney's girls were not little prizes, neither "beach-bum maids," but sensible youngsters and fit models for anybody's sisters and cousins.

Tony Pastor, the old time vaudeville favorite, is to return to the stage and sing a few songs to celebrate the forty-first anniversary of his debut as a manager. He is possibly moved to melody also by reflecting on how much luckier it is in the age of Oslerism for a man over seventy to be a variety singer than a government clerk, for instance.

A father of seven in St. Louis suggests that the public spirited folks of that ambitious city might do a practical turn in the way of booming the population to a million by warring upon high rents and the high cost of living generally. Here is a hint, too, for anti-rent outside agitators.

Worry and Long Life.

One of the best which celebrated last St. Patrick's day was a mother of fourteen children, the first of whom may have been born close upon a century ago. This daughter of Erin is 117 years old and keeps the expects and intends to keep up celebrating for years to come. She accounts for her long life and good health on the ground that she always goes in for a good time, never worries and takes plenty of sleep. Those fourteen babies probably "jess grewed," like Topsy, and gave the mother more joy than anxiety during her long life. She worried one another, of course, but the oldest brood stood aloof and let them face their own trials and battles and get toughened at an age when brutes don't hurt much.

There is a point in this cheerful centenarian's philosophy of life which is very captivating to the present generation—that is, having a "good time." Another philosopher has said, "Life would be tolerable but for its pleasures," and this love of a good time is apt to end in a mad race for pleasures. Centenarians have come to that estate along ready strewn with cares, and as we look about upon our aged friends we find them, as a rule, much given to what old timers called "tewing." They may vex other people with their advice and fears, but they also vex themselves and live on in spite of it. These good souls think that they have something to live for, and they persist in living in order to finish their tasks. Life was always serious with them, but care didn't kill them just the same. It is the continuous pleasure seeker who puts in worry that wears the bearings. He frets before the picnic, during the picnic and after the picnic, and the after fretting is the most controlling of all. So it's all right to worry and to seek and find a good time at it, providing the worry has a wholesome end in view.

The Right Kind of Immigrants.

The majority of Americans agree with the sentiment of Commissioner Watchorn, who recently said: "We cannot have too much immigration of the right kind. We cannot have too little of the wrong kind." Immigration has made this country what it is today, and the blood of several nationalities that came over originally by immigrant ships courses in the veins of the most of us. It is not the quantity of the immigration to be feared, but the quality of the bulk of it. As the inspection system is now regulated at Ellis Island, where Commissioner Watchorn is on guard, there is little danger that undesirable immigrants will get in. Last year the steamship companies turned away 20,000 applicants for passage to the United States because they saw that they were the kind not wanted here and would have to be transported back gratis. It is said that three-fourths of the immigrants now admitted are between the ages of eighteen and forty-four, representing the youth and energy of the European peasantry—the spirit and muscle to carry forward the development already begun. Commissioner Watchorn reports that 70 per cent of the newcomers go straight to the agricultural states, 18 per cent drift into the mills of the east, and the remainder stay over for a season in New York and other Atlantic ports. The right place for the immigrants is where muscle is needed—that is, the interior districts of the country—and those who seek such environment from choice may safely be welcomed as the right kind.

Editor Francis, the new ambassador to Austria, is a fair sample of the aristocracy of brains, the only kind of aristocracy we care about booming in this country. Like his father, he began life's hustle setting type. As a diplomat he has followed in his father's footsteps, first as minister to Greece and now in the Austrian embassy. Family histories would repeat themselves oftener if the youngsters were more inclined to "go slow and learn to peddle."

A society stickler for the "proper thing" says that Americans must stop addressing gentlemen as "Mr." and go back to the old time stately-sounding "Esq." It took a long time to put "Esq." out of business, although it never was a good fit, and it will be next to impossible to suppress "Mr.," which is always on the tip of the tongue and is very democratic anyway.

Washington weather gave a continuous horrible example this year of what March can do in the way of making an early inauguration day miserable for all concerned out with the exception of the date of the object lesson to heads of congressmen and senators to urge the change of date proposition.

Hunting for the north pole in automobiles is just the thing. If there is a "big" standing "old" by its house" anywhere in the frozen north the auto will be sure to bump into it.

One of the greatest food selling firms in Russia has failed. Considering the way the government continues to cut down the army of consumers, this is scarcely surprising.

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