

NORTH SHORE NEWS-LETTER

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MORAL ISSUES IN THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN.

The struggle for political supremacy at the present time is notably a moral campaign. Party lines are almost lost when one views the moral note which characterizes all the Party issues.

Apart from personal criticisms and styles of address one might substitute the main idea of a Taft speech for that of Bryan or for that matter of any of the other candidates. By the constituency he represents Mr. Chafin, the Prohibition candidate, might be expected to preach more of morals than other party leaders but there is in every one of them the same note for a better regard for law and order than has hitherto prevailed in politics and government.

As a nation we have been in greater danger of disruption through political and civic vice than from any other cause. "Graft" is a coined word which represents a frightful amount of public theft which in turn has corrupted the popular conscience and has made law a thing only to be enforced upon the weak and undefended.

Now the demand is not only for better laws but for a more righteous enforcement of the letter of the law and a better regard for its spirit.

This higher moral note is the key to every great campaign speech yet delivered and is the very test of the men not only as the candidates for office but also for the direction of the campaign within the respective party lines.

NORTH SHORE TRANSPORTATION

We have been so long accustomed to prompt and convenient service on the Chicago & North-Western that a sudden change falls upon us with almost as great a shock as the suspension of the telephone to the citizens of Paris.

It is certainly not a pleasant thing to find oneself compelled to walk through a long and inconvenient circuit of badly paved street in order to get your train after you have already timed yourself for it at the station.

Thousands of men and women have been this week subject to this most difficult process, which in some cases amounted almost to disaster. People who are aged or weak found themselves exhausted almost to the point of breakdown before they reached their train and strong men mopped their faces and tried hard to suppress their indignation as they walked hardly knowing whither, only keeping in the line formed all the way from Wells St. station to Jefferson on the west side.

The writer was one of the crowds who sought the 5:10 p. m. for Highland Park Tuesday. It happened that he had business at S. Jefferson St. near Madison in the afternoon and made his way from that point to Wells St. only to find a line of railroad men directing the passengers to cross the river and take train on the other side. This meant walking back by another route to the point left half an hour previously. Then, when baked with the heat the train was at length reached the 5:10 had either gone long ago or had been merged into the general mixup trains stopping at every station on the line.

Such, however, are among the possible emergencies that may occur any day.

The traveling public are dependent upon colossal machinery which may at any time "balk" or fail, and not even the ablest and richest of directors and specialists can adjust the trouble by a snap of the finger.

The Northwestern people worked night and day to meet this trouble and probably many of them sweated more even than the most wearied and tired out passenger.

It is a good thing that just as we forget the "worse storm we ever witnessed" in the midst of the sunshine so when all things are adjusted and go smoothly again we shall smile and say we of the North Shore have the best transportation in the country.

Our Outlook

Telephone Famine.—The city of Paris has been practically in the dumps for the past week for want of the telephone. Had any one prophesied 50 years ago that so simple and entirely new an instrument would become a necessity to business he would have been held insane. But here is a great city whose commercial interests are "held up" because a fire destroyed the telephone plant. The fire also partly destroyed the telegraph wires and those two things are causing immense damage to the multitudinous business activities in France itself and between France and foreign countries and the resultant financial loss will be tremendous.

Grandfather Dowle, father of the once famous John Alexander Elljah, John Baptist, Dowle died at White Lake, Mich., on Sept. 22. He lived to the age of 83.

Cholera Plague.—The spread of the dread cholera in Russia, Germany and the Philippines is creating much alarm all over the world. Our own government is on the alert, but medical experts deny that there is any need of alarm here. Commissioner Evans says: "We used to have the cholera here—away back in 1873 was our last case—but it has been absent so long that it has passed, for most of the present medical generation, into the limbo of tradition. What would we do? I don't know that I could block out our campaign offhand, but I assure you we would get exceedingly busy."

As a matter of fact, Chicago stands in a lot more danger from measles than it does from Asiatic cholera; the plague ravaging St. Petersburg. Our national system of defense against the invasion of that plague is highly scientific and thorough. I doubt very much if it ever gets any nearer to us than Ellis Island.

The Rev. John R. Crosser, pastor of Kenwood Evangelical Church, Chicago, is engaged as pastor of the American church at Berlin, Germany.

Mrs. Potter Palmer has leased the house at 12 Carleton terrace, London, for the winter season. Carleton terrace is in the very heart of the aristocratic quarters and is not far from the Albert memorial.

Swiss Dangers.—Two children were gathering edelweiss near Silvaplana, Switzerland, when they both fell over a deep waterfall. The boy was killed, but his sister managed to catch hold of some bushes, and was eventually rescued. A young peasant who was carrying a heavy burden slung round his shoulders over a wooden mountain bridge. He got to the middle of the bridge when it crashed into the ravine 1,200 feet below, the timber being worm-eaten. The young man felt the bridge going, clutched one of the supports as he fell, and found himself suspended in mid-air. The cord attached to his burden tightened round his neck, and the danger of falling into the ravine was increased by that of being strangled. For half an hour he hung between life and death, un-

able to move or cry. Fortunately a dairymaid had heard the crash and hurried to the spot. She succeeded in getting near enough to the man to the cord, and he was then able to clamber back to safety.

The Age Test of Value.—A good deal has been said about the age when a man's worth for service or business ends and the suggestion of grim humor is to shoot men of fifty or thereabouts.

It is certainly true that this is the young man's age, but every young man of to-day is interested in the fact that the years from 25 to 35 are no longer than any other years, and that this is a very short period of fortune's favor.

It is noticeable, however, that the line is not so narrowly drawn as it was a few years ago. Even where rules of great concerns like railway companies have fixed the limit there is an inclination not to inquire too closely the meaning of gray hairs or bald heads. The value of experience is being placed in the scale against the greater activity of youthful vigor and knowledge is counting for something when employers talk of changes in their staff of workers.

There is something in what Hollis W. Field says in the Chicago Tribune: "The proposition exists that thousands of elderly men of good brains can do thousands of things better than the young man who hasn't experience of the world—if they would do it! But they won't, as a rule."

"The old man in the position of employe or seeking employment needs to take inventory of himself in all humility. He may know many things, but he should determine how much of this knowledge is up to date. If he knows that forty years ago it was the custom to walk a mile to a man's office in order to seepak to him, he should recognize that this knowledge is worthless to-day when there is a modern telephone line between the two offices."

"When the old man learns that mere years do not entitle him to especial dignity and consideration; that adaptability and a showing in results are essential, regardless of his age; then the idea of the old man will not be so generally distasteful in business as it is now."

But the evolution has already commenced. Old men are adapting themselves to new conditions. It is not always a youth who is most spry and agile in presence of new demands. In every sphere, especially in those demanding brains and executive ability, the experience of years is again an asset of great value in the business and professional world.

Farwell Remembers Moody.—Mr. J. V. Farwell did not leave the world without a testimony of his regard for the work of his old friend and co-worker, Dwight L. Moody. He leaves the sum of \$50,000 as a trust fund and directs that "the income from this fund shall be used perpetually to pay the actual living expenses of men who shall be selected and sent out by the Moody Bible institute for the purpose of holding union evangelical meetings within the United States of America, and who shall be known as Moody evangelists and shall be chosen for their aptness and zeal in leading men to accept Christ as a personal Savior. "I do this because I desire to perpetuate the name of Moody in connection with the work he loved so well in his life time and so that, though he be dead, he may yet speak and induce men, in answer to gospel truth, to say, as Paul said, 'Lord, what will thou have me to do?'"

A. P. Pitt, trustee and member of the executive committee of Moody Bible institute, was surprised when he learned that the institute was recipient of a fund bequeathed by Mr. Farwell.

"I have known that Mr. Farwell and Mr. Moody long were friends," Mr. Pitt said. "They had been friends since 1857, when Mr. Farwell came to Chicago. In the early sixties Mr. Farwell helped Mr. Moody a great deal in Christian work, not only financially, but Mr. Farwell was superintendent of the large Sunday school at North Market street at that time. Mr. Moody showed his great esteem and appreciation of the help of Mr. Farwell later in naming the auditorium of the Y. M. C. A. Farwell hall. The hall was known by that name until the new Y. M. C. A. building was built."

Harmful Drinking.—The habit of drinking, especially in the summer months, is not alone evil because of the use of intoxicants. The common habit is to "drink something," and very often without any regard to actual quench thirsting.

The London Lancet, a very influential medical journal, is something of an alarmist in treating of popular dangers, but it does not say too much of drinking habit, when it says:

"The thirsty person who cannot satisfy his thirst unless the beverage contains what is in reality a drug has really acquired an unhealthy habit or, to put it plainly, a disease. Yet what else is the alcohol of the various alcoholic beverages, the caffeine of tea and coffee, the glucosid or quinin bitters, or even the ginger of ginger-beer or of ginger-ale, the aromatic oil of the liqueur, the carbonic-acid gas in soda-water, the citric acid of the lemon, and so on, but a drug? All these when consumed clearly convey something into the organism over and above water itself; they can not quench thirst in the sense that water does. Plain water has become a rare beverage

nowadays and it is a pity that it is so. We are inclined to think that the prejudice against the drinking of plain water has arisen from a mistaken idea of the public mind that plain water is 'insects,' or 'with spirits,' or 'with things, or in which necessary disease organisms are occasions of a stimulant of relieves fatigue, and satisfying a thirst pure water is all that is needed."

Public Schools Criticized.—A very able article which appears in the American Review written by Colonel Larned in which he reveals a lamentable failure of public schools. He claims that the general effectiveness of public schools be so well gauged as at the government academies at West Point and Annapolis, since they are drawn from every district of every State and Territory in the Union, and largely from the class of our citizens children to the primary and high schools supported by the State. Analyzing the results of this year's entrance examination at West Point as a measure of our public-school efficiency, Colonel Larned reveals a most depressing condition of affairs. Out of 314 who took the examination, 209 or 66 per cent, failed in one or more subjects; 209, or 66 per cent, failed in two or more subjects, while 26, or 8 per cent, failed in everything. The subjects in which candidates are examined are: elementary algebra through quadratics; plane geometry, English grammar, English literature and composition (very elementary), United States history (high school), general history (high school), geography (descriptive, common school). The minimum mark allowed in any subject is 6 out of a possible 100.

The Defects of the Local.—"The weakness of the school system here demonstrated is by means a function of locality or peculiarity to the younger and more sparsely settled regions. It is universal. An inspection of the table of failures by States shows that New York had 20 failures out of 37 candidates; Pennsylvania, 11 out of 17; Massachusetts, 10 out of 22; New Jersey, 5 out of 8; Illinois, 10 out of 12; while Iowa had but 4 out of 8; Tennessee, 1 out of 5; Kansas, 6 out of 9; Nebraska, 1 out of 5. The number of mental failures in some cases is greater for the reason given above that these figures show only failures to enter, and out of those who partly failed mentally, some were allowed to enter."

Colonel Larned's Conclusion.—Thirty per cent. of physical deficiency in our youth is a condition of our civilization which must give concern, more especially in view of the increasing tendency of population to urban centers. What are we going to do about it? Does education have anything to do with it, and if so, what does an educational system amount to that shows this percentage of deficiency in its output? If education is concerned with the development alone, it is fair to ask: If 16,596,503 boys and girls, taught in our public schools at a cost of \$7,966,472, average no better in intelligence and attainments than is evidenced in the foregoing, does the result justify the outlay and ten or more years of apprenticeship of youth if demanded?

Cardinal Gibbons making a tour of Ireland and being welcomed everywhere in that country with great enthusiasm and expressions of loyalty.

Mr. William J. Bryan was arrested at Providence, R. I., together with his companions for exceeding in an automobile on Sept. 9. The Democratic candidate is evidently making too fast a run for the White House.

Blind Roller Skaters.—The students at the Missouri school for the blind have taken to the roller-skating craze and have insisted on Sept. 8, M. Green moving all the furniture from the gymnasium, which they have turned into a rink.

Half of the latter students, both men and women, spent several hours each day skating about the gymnasium, and it is hard to believe that they are blind. The fact that they skate without accident or collision is due to their remarkably developed sense of hearing.

Arena Bulls Kill 5.—Lisbon, Portugal, Sept. 21.—Twenty-two bulls escaped from the arena at Moita to-day and ran amuck through a crowd that was assembling to witness a bull fight. Five persons were killed and some twenty were wounded. Troops were summoned and shot the animals to death.

The Wright Airship Disaster.—Most people will share in the feeling of sympathy and regret at the disastrous and fatal failure of Mr. Wright's airship.

On the other hand it will have the effect of caution to many who were in a hurry to assume that we had mastered the art of flying.

cross the ocean in an airship in 48 hours and go round the world in a few days.

But meantime it is well to reflect that we are as yet only at the beginning of the conquest of the air.

A telegram sent 350 miles distant in Africa cost 25 cents, which is at least 15 cents cheaper than it could be sent in the United States. So says Frank G. Carpenter in his communication of Aug. 8 to the Chicago Tribune.

King Solomon's gold mines, which have been located in Africa, are now under prospect with a view to secure gold, as it is believed that the mines were never fully worked.

My hopes now lie in the re-creation of Chaldea. As I stood there surveying the remains of what was a superb irrigation system, I felt like the Prophet Ezekiel when he gazed upon the valley of dry bones. Here were dry bones in empty water courses and abandoned canals. I longed to call them to life, to clothe them with flesh and blood, to make this land smile again with fruits of the earth. My hopes, my ambitions, and my work are bound up with the re-creation of Chaldea." So says Sir Wm. Willcocks, an eminent English engineer, who is engaged by the Turkish government to irrigate a million and a quarter acres at a cost of \$40,000,000.

The wearing of earrings is revived in London. According to a cable from that city, many women are wearing earrings with jewels whose hues best go with the color of the dress being worn, but diamonds, of course, are the favorite stones. Pearls are the next in demand, and there is almost a craze for black pearls.

Diligence is the mother of good luck.

If thou faint in the day of adversity thy strength is small.

A good face is a good recommendation; this is only secured by goodness of heart.

Continuous efforts to do better work always results in making a better man.

Adversity is a great teacher, it either makes or breaks a man. Those who have passed through the school of adversity without losing their individuality are candidates for renewed prosperity.

We lead but one life here on earth. We must make that beautiful. And to do this, health and elasticity of mind are needful; and whatever endangers or impedes these must be avoided.—H. W. Longfellow.



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