

FREE PORTS BUILDERS OF COMMERCE

CONGRESS SHOULD GIVE THEM PREFERENCE IN APPROPRIATIONS.

By Peter Radford.

This nation is now entering upon an era of marine development. The wreckage of European commerce has drifted to our shores and the world war is making unprecedented demands for the products of farm and factory. In transportation facilities on land we lead the world but our port facilities are inadequate, and our flag is seldom seen in foreign ports. If our government would only divert the energy we have displayed in conquering the railroads to mastering the commerce of the sea, a foreign bottom would be unknown on the ocean's highways.

This article will be confined to a discussion of our ports for the products of the farm must pass over our wharves before reaching the water. We have in this nation 51 ports, of which 41 are on the Atlantic and 10 are on the Pacific Coast. The Sixty-second Congress appropriated over \$51,000,000 for improving our Rivers and Harbors and private enterprise levies a toll of approximately \$50,000,000 annually in wharfage and charges for which no tangible service is rendered. The latter item should be lifted off the backs of the farmer of this nation and this can be done by Congress directing its appropriations to ports that are free where vessels can tie up to a wharf and discharge her cargo free of any fee or charge.

A free port is progress. It takes out the unnecessary link in the chain of transactions in commerce which has for centuries laid a heavy hand upon commerce. No movement is so heavily laden with results or will more widely and equally distribute its benefits as that of a free port and none can be more easily and effectively secured.

THE VITAL PROBLEM OF AGRICULTURE

By Peter Radford.

There is no escaping the market problem and the highest development of agriculture will not be attained until it is solved, for a market is as necessary for the producer as land on which to grow his crop. Governmental and educational institutions have spent \$180,000,000 in the United States during the past ten years for improving soil production and improving seeds and plants, but very little attention and less money has been given to the marketing side of agriculture.

The problem is a monumental one and one which will never be solved until it gets within the grasp of a gigantic organization where master minds can concentrate the combined experience and wisdom of the age upon it. It is a problem which the farmers, merchants, bankers, editors and statesmen must unite in solving. The Farmers' Union stands for all there is in farming from the most scientific methods of seed selection to the most systematic and profitable plans of marketing, but does not believe in promoting one to the neglect of the other. We consider the work of farm demonstrators valuable and we ask that governmental and commercial agencies seeking to help us, continue to give us their assistance and advice, but we believe that their influence should be extended to the marketing side of our farm problems also.

We cannot hope to develop manufacturing by over-production of the factory; we cannot build up mercantile enterprises by the merchants loading their shelves with surplus goods and no more can we develop agriculture by glutting the market with a surplus of products.

DARIUS

The neigh of a horse made Darius King of Persia, the six contending powers for the throne agreeing among themselves that the one whose horse should neigh first should possess the kingdom. This ancient method of settling disputes among politicians could be revived with profit today. If our partisan factions and petty politicians could only settle their disputes by the neigh of a horse, the bark of a dog or the bray of a donkey, it would be a great blessing and would give our citizens a better opportunity to pursue the vocations of industry free from political strife.

Let those who pick political plums by raising rows and who flash swords dripping in the blood of industry understand that they cannot turn the public forum into a political arena and by a clash of personal aspirations still the hammer and stop the plow and that their quarrels must be settled in the back alleys of civilization.

WHEN WOMAN DECIDES.

Great Organizations Strongly Pro-Suffrage.

Unless there is a vote for women pending voting from each window the girls are nearly sure that the people of the house don't want votes for women. Sometimes, according to anti-suffrage statistics, 97% per cent of all the women in the United States who would vote if they could, sometimes it's 90 per cent, and just recently it's 88 per cent.

The only time suffrage was ever submitted to a referendum of women in the east was in the case of the stray vote in Massachusetts twenty-five years ago. Twenty-five times as many women voted for it as against it, yet the legislators said that so many women didn't vote at all that it was proof that the women didn't want the suffrage and deliberately refused to abide by the women's decision. Having been tricked in this way, it is small wonder that women say, "No, thank you," when the subject of a women's referendum is broached. When a majority of the men who vote on a question are for it that settles the question. But when women vote 25 to 1 in favor of woman suffrage the question is not settled at all. It is merely shoved back to those who vote next their way. This is not, however, the only reason why women won't waste time over a woman's referendum. There is no legal provision for making such a decision binding no matter which way it goes. If every woman in New York voted in favor of woman suffrage that effect would have the legal weight of two chicken feathers. If woman's vote on such a matter were legal there would be no woman struggling for the suffrage; she would already have it.

In this connection it is rather interesting to note that every time you get the general opinion of women concretely expressed, as through some great woman's organization, you find that organization going on record as overwhelmingly for suffrage.

In the United States alone the membership lists of the women's national organizations that demand suffrage total over 10,000,000. They include the United States contingent of the 7,000,000 women in the International Council of Women, the 237,000 women in the two orders of the Maccabees, the 112,000 women in the general Federation of Women's Clubs, the half million in the W. C. T. U., the woman contingent of the 3,000,000 members of the national Y. W. C. A., the 100,000 women in the Women's Trade Union League and hundreds of thousands of other women in other national organizations ranging in membership from 5,000 to 100,000. Even if these membership lists overlap to some extent, the net total of separate names runs into the millions.

So far as organized women can prove the case by numbers, they have done so by missing an overwhelming array of women in the line of march to the polls.

COLORADO COUNTERBLASTS.

State Went "Dry" Last November.

Anti-suffragists are pointing out that in behavior the wets won by a large majority at the last election, it is interesting to remember that Colorado is a prohibition state. It was so decided at the fall elections, November, 1914. It probably makes some confusion in the minds of those who do not know how prohibition works, because this law has not yet gone into effect. It will go into effect on Jan. 1 next.

It is quite usual to set a time in the future for prohibition laws to begin to take effect in order to give the people in the liquor business time to change their occupations. A measure in California for prohibition was defeated largely because of an unwise clause making prohibition immediate.

Colorado did not become "dry" all at once. It has been getting "drier" year by year. Local option had obtained very largely through the state before last year.

The election this spring has been very confusing to easterners, who have not understood the local situation. Colorado has the initiative and the referendum, and, on the basis of this, the liquor interests tried to force a vote for open saloons in Denver.

It was, according to the national anti-suffrage people, a piece of political lunacy. They say it is impossible for a local vote to interfere with a state-wide law.

The Denver election of this spring is to be set aside by the courts of Colorado as of no importance. But Colorado has also the recall of judicial decisions, and it is expected that the next move of the liquor men will be to try to pass a measure to set aside the decision of the courts.

It must not be forgotten that, while there is a larger percentage of Colorado women voting than of Colorado men, still there is actually a smaller number, since the men greatly outnumber the women. There are 116 men to every 100 women in the state.

THE COON GETS THE CORN

The above expression is now being heard in thousands of homes, offices and stores from happy men and women who have been relieved of the torture and suffering of painful, aching corns. Ask them to explain and they say, "If you have corns get a package of Rescor's Plasters from your dealer as we did and the Coon will get the corn." Sample free. Address, Racoon, LeRoy, N. Y.

SOCK AND BUSKIN.

Chemistry Explains Why It Produces More Intense Heat.

When the blacksmith desires the intense heat of which his forge is capable he invariably throws a little water upon the coal. The same course is pursued by the stoker who would get the utmost from his boiler.

And the poorer the quality of the coal the more imperative the necessity for wetting it. It seems paradoxical, for from the beginning all people everywhere have regarded water as the one reliable agency for extinguishing fire. Such, indeed, it really is if used in proper quantity, as experience has amply demonstrated. Chemistry explains the paradox very simply, however, when it informs us that water is composed of oxygen and hydrogen in the proportion of two to one. That is to say, in every molecule of the fluid there are two atoms of the former and one of the latter.

Now, oxygen is the chief agent in combustion. Oxidization is a synonym for burning. The rusting of iron, the corrosion of silver and the burning of wood are identical processes, all due to the agency of this powerful element which is so widely distributed through all nature. To feed oxygen to flames is to greatly intensify them therefore. This is exactly what is done, in fact, when they are fanned.

Hydrogen, on the other hand, is a gas which burns readily and with the most intense heat. Very evidently, if water is separated into its constituent elements, the oxygen and the hydrogen, no longer bound together, are able each to perform its natural functions. The former adds greatly to combustion, and the latter not only burns readily, but materially intensifies the heat.

This is precisely what occurs when a small quantity of water is added to the coal fed to the flames. There is not enough of the fluid to extinguish the fire. Instead the fire acts upon the water, dissolving the bonds which unite its component gases, thus setting the oxygen free to accelerate combustion and converting the hydrogen into fuel of tremendous heating power.—Boston Herald.

NEVER WASHED HERSELF.

Benevolent Old Lady (to little girl)—My little dear, do you wash your face and hands every morning?

"No, mum."

"Good gracious! That's perfectly dreadful. Do you wash your face in the middle of the day?"

"No, mum."

"Dear me! When do you wash yourself?"

"I never washes."

"Horrible! It is shocking how depraved the lower classes are. I must organize a society to see that children are properly washed. Tell me, little one, do you really never wash yourself?"

"No, mum. Mamma washes me every morning."—London Telegraph.

EXPERIMENTS WITH SAND.

A very interesting fact about the ordinary sand of the seashore is that a pint of dry sand and half a pint of water when mixed do not make a pint and a half, but a good deal less. If you fill a child's pail with dry sand from above the tide mark and then pour on it some water the mass of sand actually shrinks. The reason is that when the sand is dry there is air between its particles, but when the sand particles are wetted they adhere closely to each other; the air is driven out, and the water does not exactly take an equivalent space, but occupies less room than the air did, owing to the close clinging together of the wet particles.

EVOLUTION OF ADVERTISEMENT.

The word "advertisement," which meant special notice, was not used in our modern sense until about 1660. The term adopted was "advice." The fees were distinctly heavy, and a curious fact is that it does not seem to have occurred to the promoters to charge for space or the number of words. Important "advice" or those by important people seem simply to have been put in capital letters and allowed more space without regard to price.—From "A History of English Journalism," by J. B. Williams.

DID SOME GOOD.

A boy who had been instructed to switch to a certain track all dirt trains that came out of the cut let a long train of dump cars start by on the wrong track before he thought himself and pulled the switch. The train was split in two, and several of the cars were derailed.

"Why" the boy protested sadly when he was rebuked, "I saved half the train anyway!"—Youth's Companion.

WETTING THE COAL.

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Sign Boards on the Up-road

By Hamilton B. Williams

A wilderness is such because it has no pathways. The great mass of human life is a wilderness of aimless life; and few there be who find the road that leads to life.

This Fact Justifies Religion

Every religion is a road-maker of some sort. We think that the religion of Jesus leads to life. The business of the "friends of Jesus" is to demonstrate that His religion reacts on life in a valuable way bettering the disciple (learner) and giving his life a more dynamic influence in his area of activity.

It is absurd for a church to claim to be the voice of God if it stutters and murmurs and babbles when such questions as the industrial poverty, the rotten politics, the unfriendly social order come up. It is equally absurd to offer theological juggling of phrases to people who want to know how religion is a help in the stress of a grinding life. President Wilson, addressing a class of theological students sets forth a high function for the Christian ministry. What is applicable to the ministry is equally true for the people of the church.

Showing the Tracts of Life

President Wilson says the minister's business is to mediate between our spirits and our knowledge, guiding us through the intricate plan of the world and connect us with the purpose for which it is made. In short he who shows us how to relate ourselves with the God unseen and the man on the streets and with ourselves, is a true way-maker. When we leave a church sure that God is, that men belong to our interest, and that we ourselves should labor and learn and enlarge, we have stood on the highlands.

Something to "chaw" On

President Wilson goes on to say to the theological graduates that they must give people clear guidance. People want to know. They have a right to know what may be known. The President (then of Princeton), illustrates the condition of most minds in the following story:

"I heard a very pathetic story told the other day about a poor woman, a simple, uneducated woman, in one of our cities, who had by some accident got hold of one of Darwin's books—I don't know whether it was the 'Origin of Species' or not—and who had found, even to her unlettered mind, a great revelation in the book, a revelation of the processes of physical life and of the plan of physical existence. She told a friend that it had taken out of her in her expression—all the kick there was in her. She said: 'I don't find anything in the preaching that I hear. It listens good, but it is so soft. It doesn't seem to give me anything to chew on. It doesn't enable me to understand what happens to me every day any better than I understood it before. I've even put bread in my mouth and read that book and I don't see there was something doing on of which I was a part and it has taken all the life out of me.'"

"I believe that her experience is typical of the modern mental situation. We are restless because we are not aware of the plan and that there is something definite, something which we are related, even mere inexorable necessity, at least know that it is a 'kick,' that it is inevitable, the processes of the gods be ground out, and therefore, the whole operation is something to which we properly relate ourselves, choose, but must relate ourselves in some fashion whether or not. How arid, how how unsatisfying a thing, to know that it is an unending process to which we must submit! How necessary is salvation that our souls should be released from that! And who shall be them, who shall save us, who shall be able to find ourselves, not the minister of the Gospel? It is his if he be man enough to attempt it; man enough in knowledge, man enough in audacity and confidence of spirit, man enough in the notions he has made with eternal and everlasting which he knows to reside in human spirit."

People will do generally is seen to be the right and itable thing. If they are religious—if it is not of desire to be irreligious, religion has never been an appeal. Mr. Wilson says great masses busy with the day wait for some one to enter their souls for them. They will follow light. People will up if the way is cleared.

"What the minister has to do is to reveal God to reveal God to them in their spirits, reveal God to that thought and action, reveal the spiritual kingdom and by proclaiming in season and of season that there is no planation for anything that is first or last a spiritual revelation, and that man, called by bread alone, cannot live by scientific thought alone; that is not only starving but that knows that he is starving, that digestion of this dry that he takes into his mouth not possible unless it be colored by the living water of the spirit."

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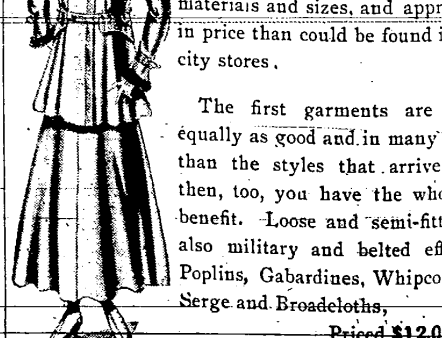
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