

LIVE QUESTIONS.

A Series of Articles Contributed by Advanced Thinkers.

A FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION—SOME EVILS OF OUR PRESENT TAXING SYSTEM.

By Frederick M. Cruden, Public Librarian, St. Louis.

This would probably raise the total to \$100,000,000 (\$1,000,000,000), which would bear all expenses of the government and provide every child in the kingdom not only with free schooling, but with food and clothes enough to prolong his attendance to at least 16 years of age.

"Oh, but these poor people are lazy, thriftless and intemperate!" says Mr. Letalone. Are these dukes, then, such hard workers? Do they work so much harder than the coal miners and dock laborers or the clerks and seamstresses of England?

And what is their title to this land? I can best answer by telling a pertinent anecdote.

I have shown you that in Great Britain 98,000,000 people are the slaves of 5,000. Most of these slaves belong to 525 nobles, who, as Sir Anthony Absolute puts it, took "the estate with the live stock on it as it stands."

"The ownership of land in the south is the same pernicious thing it has come to be in every civilized country in the world." "Industrial slavery, a slavery more execrable in its exactions, more irresponsible in its machinations, than that other slavery which I once endured."

It was through the acknowledgment of the ownership of the soil that the Germans lost their political liberty. In a review of the change of the social conditions of Europe at the close of the tenth century Stubbs says: "The ideas of individual freedom and political rights have become so much bound up with the relations created by the possession of land as to be actually subservient to them."

Of course it could not be otherwise. Through a contest of centuries, including four revolutions, the political liberty of the old German tribes has been regained, but political without industrial liberty is hollow and self-destructive.

Some one may ask, "How does it happen that nobody perceived the injustice of this system and the evils produced by it till Henry George pointed them out?"

In so far as this is meant to cast discredit on the reform it has no pertinence. Some one has to take the initiative in every movement for progress and reform. But Henry George was not the first to point out the injustice of private ownership of land.

"The public good requires that every individual should be incited to employ his industry in increasing the public stock or to exert his talents in the public service by the certainty of a due regard. Whoever enjoys any revenue not proportioned to such industry or exertion of his own or of his ancestors is a freebooter, who has found means to cheat or to rob the public and more especially the indigent of that district in which he lives."

proportion to the industry of those who cultivate the soil. In respect of their industry, therefore, it is a taille, or progressive tax, of the most pernicious nature, and in respect of the land holder himself it is a premium given to idleness and inducement to refrain from any active employment and to withhold his talents, whatever they are, from the service of his country."

She Won Her Bet.

The efficiency of the employees of the Jacksonville postoffice was put to a severe test recently, when the distributing clerk came across a photograph with a postage stamp attached and the only direction on it as follows, says the Florida Times-Union: "Deliver to _____, Jacksonville, Fla."

Several of the employees were shown the picture, which was taken with a small camera, and which did not show the face of the person photographed very distinctly. One of the carriers named Walter G. Coleman, the general traveling agent of the F. C. and P. railway, was the person.

When he reached Mr. Coleman's office, that gentleman at once claimed the photograph as one of himself. A week ago or more, while walking along Bay street, he met a young lady with a kodak, who took a snap shot at him in front of the Gardner building.

Yellow Alaska Cedar.

The durability of this timber is forcibly illustrated by fallen trunks that are perfectly sound after lying in the damp woods for centuries. Soon after these trees fall they are overgrown with moss, in which seeds lodge and germinate and grow up into vigorous saplings, which stand in a row on the backs of their dead ancestors.

He Was a Bird.

Aid (charging furiously up)—General, the enemy has captured our left wing. What shall we do? The Commander—Fly with the other.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

There is so much sympathy in this country that very often the under dog becomes a dangerous, impudent cur.—Athens Globe.

Magnolia News.

MAGNOLIA, S. C., August 30.

This modest little town is getting in first class trim for the fall trade, and her live merchants have taken unusual pains and displayed great judgment in selecting a class and quality of merchandise that meet the demands of the most fastidious.

The weather for saving forage and picking cotton, at this writing, cannot be improved on, and good use is being made of it; but our enterprising ginners, Mr. S. Kilpatrick, in consequence of some additional work on his gin house, is not quite ready for the cotton yet, which is causing some muttering among the planters.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyles Miller have again favored us with the light of their smiling countenances.

Rev. Melvin McLeod is convalescing after several weeks illness, to the delight of his many friends and relatives.

Col. J. A. Rhame has been quite sick, but is much better.

To-morrow will, in all probability, say who our next senator will be. We hope the mantle will fall on McLaurin, but just now we don't feel exactly comfortable about it, as past experience teaches us that people don't act on their best judgment every time now-a-days, but prejudice and malice insatiably swallow up those higher impulses.

The American Queen.

Ian MacLaren has a new story titled "A Scotch Carnival" in the September number of "The American Queen." It is an account of a Scotch fair with farmers making their bargains, showmen exhibiting their shows, the fair playing his trade, worked into it is a charming story of a lover and his lass.

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PROF. WOODWARD'S LECTURE.

A Notable Address on the English Bible.

Prof. F. C. Woodward, President of the South Carolina College, delivered an able and scholarly, a notable, and eloquent lecture on the English Bible last night. He spoke to a large audience of the most cultured people of Sumter, who evinced the greatest interest and pleasure by the closest and most absorbed attention while he was speaking and the heartiest applause when he concluded after speaking for nearly an hour.

Prof. Woodward introduced his lecture by saying that he had been a resident of the State for sixteen years and this was his first visit to Sumter, but added that he had accepted the first invitation—had the invitation been extended earlier, he would have had the pleasure of addressing the people of Sumter before.

The speaker gave first a concise resume of the history of the English Bible from the earliest translation made in England to the Authorized Version which, after more than two hundred years of use, has come to be recognized as the English Bible of all time. He showed that the Bible is not a translation merely, the work of one man or set of men of one period, but rather the result of a thousand years of growth and development in which the very life and strength of the language is embodied.

Prof. Woodward is not only a master of the subject he discussed, but of the English language, and of this his lecture was the most conclusive proof. It has never been the good fortune, the pleasure of the people of this city to hear an able, and a more scholarly lecturer.

Prof. E. P. Moses will lecture to-night in the assembly hall of the Graded School, the lecture beginning at 8.30 o'clock. His subject will be "Tennyson." The public is invited to attend. Prof. E. S. Joyner, of the South Carolina College, will lecture to-morrow night at the same place.

THE TEACHERS INSTITUTE.

The Teachers of Sumter County Assemble in Large Numbers.

The Teachers Institute for the teachers of Sumter county was organized at 9.30 o'clock Monday morning in the Graded School with an enrollment of thirty five, and the regular institute work was promptly begun. Supt. W. S. Thomson, of the Rock Hill Graded Schools is the director of the institute and his assistants are Prof. E. P. Moses of Winthrop College and Mr. A. M. Rankin, Supt. of the Lancaster Graded Schools.

Mr. Thomson lectures on English Grammar, Prof. Moses on Reading and Spelling and Mr. Rankin on Arithmetic.

The exercises of the institute begin at 9.30 and continue until 12 o'clock each day. There are also lectures each night in the Graded School Assembly Hall.

The attendance at the institute is expected to be larger during the remainder of the week than it was Monday, as all of the teachers who have signified their intention to attend had not yet arrived.

The attendance of teachers at the Institute Tuesday was nearly fifty and a few others are still expected to arrive. The session was full of interest and the teachers present were greatly pleased with the practical and instructive character of the institute work. The attendance is said to be fully as large, if not larger, than any institute yet held by the gentlemen who are directing it, and great benefit is expected to result to the educational interests of the county from the institute.

The following teachers are attending the Institute: Mrs. J. J. Brunson, Mrs. Rosa McLeod, Mrs. Lizzie Player, Mrs. C. V. Spann, Mrs. L. E. Steinmeyer, Misses Alice Baker, Sarah A. Burkette, Julia Cuttino, Lizzie Cuttino, Rosa Dinkins, Willie Dinkins, Ulrica Dinkins, Miss Dinkins, Aleine DuRant, Sallie G. Ellis, Hannah B. Fraser, D. F. Gaillard, C. E. Lynn, Evie A. Mathis, Adele McLeod, Ella McLeod, Leila Shaw, Dora Michau, Lillian Moses, L. Ida Reames, Etta Lee Shaw, F. C. Sumter, Mamie Warren, Aodie Graham, Ura Wells, Maggie E. Myers, Agnes McCallum, Eva Smith, Messrs. J. N. M. Davis, G. W. Malone, L. D. Spann, Silas Mellett, S. M. McLeod, E. E. Fraser, Geo. L. Dickson, S. D. Cain, R. B. Cain and L. V. Brown.

Running Down a Lie.

The Daily Item received the following telegram from Manning this morning. Taking it on its face it is apparent that some one has been lying on Sheriff Bradham in hope of injuring Senator McLaurin in the primary to-morrow. The telegram is published to set Sheriff Bradham right in case he has been misrepresented in this community.

Manning, Aug. 30.—Sheriff Bradham denounces as false that he will support Evans. Says he is for McLaurin first and last.

LOUIS APPELT

September Ladies' Home Journal.

The September Ladies' Home Journal, in the variety, interest and timeliness of its articles, and in the beauty of its illustrations, is a notable number of that magazine. A spirited article by John F. Coyle, "When Henry Clay Said Farewell to the Senate," describes the most impressive and dramatic scene ever enacted in Congress, and another, by Clifford Howard, tells of "Destroyed a Million Dollars a Day," the task of the redemption division of our Treasury.

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An Old Subscriber.

We had the pleasure Saturday of seeing Mr. Alpheus Baker, of Mayesville. He is one of the original subscribers of the Watchman, his name having never been off the subscription book since the Sumter Watchman was established forty-seven years ago, and he is always a welcome visitor at this office when he is in the city.

Lost an Arm.

Mr. Tom Osteen, of the Privater neighborhood, fell off a wagon last Thursday afternoon, breaking one arm between the wrist and elbow. Both bones were shattered and the arm was so severely mangled that amputation was necessary. The arm was amputated just below the elbow.

Base Ball.

There was a farmer's picnic at Pocatigo Friday, given by the colored people of that neighborhood. The event of the day was a game of ball between a Sumter nine, managed by Paul R. Moses, and the Pocatigo club, F. C. Stoney, manager. The game was won by the Sumter team, score 14 to 10.

The council chamber on the second floor of the city hall building has been rented for use as an exchange. The quotations of the New York and Chicago exchanges will be posted regularly, and options on cotton, grain, etc., may be bought. Several members of the council were opposed to renting the council chamber, although it is seldom used, all meetings being held in the clerk and treasurer's office, but the majority ruled and the lease was executed.

The arrangements for opening the tobacco warehouse have been practically consummated by Stuckey & Co., and it will probably be ready for business early next month. It is to be hoped that the warehouse will be reopened with adequate financial support to conduct the business on a substantial basis. There is no concealing the fact, nor is there any use in denying that Sumter has lost trade by the failure to open the tobacco warehouse promptly at the beginning of the season.

Chief of Police Bradford captured two negroes Monday who have been systematically robbing the stores during the last few days. They are expert sneak thieves and worked together very cleverly. They would go into a store and while one engaged the attention of a clerk the other stole whatever goods came most handy. They got two pair of trousers from D. J. Chandler's clothing store that morning, and after they were captured two more pair were recovered, which were identified as the property of The Ducker & Bultman Co. The store of John Reid was also visited and a lot of caps appropriated. One of the negroes has been identified by Mr. Murat DeLorme as the man he caught a few nights ago in the attempt to enter the residence of Mrs. B. K. DeLorme.

The most recent information relative to the Ohio River & Charleston Railroad does not give much encouragement to those who hope for the early completion of the projected extension from Camden to this city. The Ohio River & Charleston railroad officials are treating with the South Carolina & Georgia railroad to conclude an agreement for close traffic arrangements between Camden and Charleston over the latter road. It is the purpose, it is said, to arrange a through freight and passenger schedule over the two roads from the terminus of the O. R. & C. at Marion, N. C., to Charleston. If this agreement be made and is found to serve all purposes for the Ohio River & Charleston, it is not probable that that system will incur the heavy outlay for building an independent line from Camden to Sumter and Charleston. It is a significant coincidence that none of the prominent officials of the O. R. & C. have stated that the road would be built through to Charleston from Camden, but that the assertions to that effect have come from other sources.

The Gaffney City Ledger states in the last issue that a prominent official of the Ohio River and Charleston Railroad has announced that the road will complete the extension to Spartanburg via Gaffney City from Blacksburg, on which work is now in progress, at once, and will then proceed to build the Camden and Sumter extension. When the two extensions have been completed the entire road will be mortgaged to raise money to build across the mountains from Marion, N. C.

What the Shakers of Mount Lebanon know more about than anybody else, is the use of herbs and how to be healthy. They have studied the power of food. They nearly all live to a ripe old age.

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Sumter, S. C., August 13, 1897.

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