

CHANGING NATURE'S PLAN.

Always Attended with Trouble, as the Paris Flood Shows.

What Julius Caesar said about Paris, in his "Commentaries on the Gallic War," is not without relevancy on the present disaster. The island on which the Palace of Justice now stands—was not a pretty incident of the city, as it is now. It then held the whole tribe of Paris. Nearby them, Caesar explained, were low lands described as palus perpetua, which may be translated as "everlasting swamp." It was evidently broad enough to carry all excess of water. But the modern river, rectified and walled in, has no such recourse when the water rises phenomenally. It simply rushes through Paris as best it can.

It is astonishing how much trouble the human race meets in attempting to limit the free expression of nature's own topographic purposes. These swamps were evidently what were needed for the periodic overflow of the stream, just as the hair pin loops of a river, flowing through a region in which the descent is very slow, prove a necessary "shock absorber." Through one of these, in the James River, the famous Dutch Gap was cut out first as a military measure, but long ago turned to the use of peaceful commerce. It reveals today nature's disapproval of any attempt at interference. To cut the ditch through the embankment and let the river resume its journey was not enough. If at once began to pound out another loop on the opposite bank of the stream, against which the water poured at it greatly accelerated pace, on emerging from the short cut. Government engineers were called in and at a huge expense they built a great stone break-water to protect the bank from the punishment which disturbed nature sought to inflict. In the Asheville region, by damming a mountain stream, a valley among the hills, very high above sea level, has been turned into a beautiful lake, the higher points of the land being allowed to remain as wooded hills; but no sooner had this been accomplished than men found that hill-tops as elevated by nature would not tolerate being backed with the water even of a restrained lake. It took different kinds of soil and vegetation to stand as an island, and nature insisted on making the readjustment.

Whenever, as in Paris, the natural means for the diffusion of flood waters is cut off, man must provide some substitute, or in times like this, suffer very severe penalties. That Caesar, nearly 2,000 years ago, observed with such accuracy these topographical conditions on the very spot where Paris now stands, shows how fundamental was the risk which men ran in founding a city there.

His Position.

"You have been with your firm for a long time?" said a man to his old schoolfellow.

"Yes," answered his friends, with a patient expression of countenance.

"What is your position?"

"I am an employee."

"Yes, but what do you do?"

"Well, I am a doer and the others are tellers. It's like this. When the gov-nor wants something done he tells the cashier, and the cashier tells the bookkeeper, and the bookkeeper tells the assistant bookkeeper, and the assistant bookkeeper tells the chief clerk and the chief clerk tells me."

"And what then?"

"Well, I haven't anybody to tell, so I have to do it."—Ladies' Home Journal.

TAX RETURNS FOR 1910.

OFFICE OF COUNTY AUDITOR SUMTER CO., SUMTER, S. C., Dec. 3, 1909.

Notice is hereby given that I will attend, in person or by deputy, at the following places on the days indicated, respectively, for the purpose of receiving returns of real estate, personal property, and poll taxes for the fiscal year commencing January 1st, 1910.

Tindalls, Tuesday, Jan. 4th.

Privateer, (Jenkins' store,) Wednesday, Jan. 5th.

Manchester, Levi's, Thursday, Jan. 6th.

Wedgewood, Friday, Jan. 7th.

Claremont Depot, Monday, Jan. 10th.

Hagood, Tuesday, Jan. 11th.

Remberts, Wednesday, Jan. 12th.

Dalzell, Thursday, Jan. 13th.

W. T. Brogdon's Store, Friday, Jan. 14th.

Mayesville, Tuesday, Jan. 18th.

Shiloh, Wednesday, Jan. 19th.

Norwood's X Roads, Thursday, Jan. 20th.

Oswego, Friday, Jan. 21st.

All persons whose duty it is to make returns should be prompt to meet me at these appointments. All returns must be made before Feb. 26th, 1910.

J. DIGGS WILDER, Auditor for Sumter Co.

1-2-8-1-21-10.

TRUSTS IN CANADA.

In Dominion Effects of High Duties Are Provided Against.

It is the fashion of our protective tariff statesmen to contend that excessive duties on imports have nothing to do with the formation of "trusts and combines," in spite of the obvious facts; but in Canada that effect of high duties is recognized in the tariff law itself and provided against. A bill has just been introduced in the Dominion Parliament by the government to make this provision more effective. Under the present Fielding tariff the governor-general in council may grant relief by a reduction or removal of duties when it is shown by judicial procedure that a combination in restraint of trade exists and enhances prices on account of protection against foreign competition.

Complaint has been made that this is ineffective on account of the difficulty and cost of the judicial proceedings necessary to obtain relief. The proposed bill provides a more expeditious and less expensive method. Any six persons may present their grievance before a high court judge, and if they make out a prima facie case, an investigation will be ordered by the court to be made by a board, consisting of one representative of the complainants, one of the alleged combination, and a third chosen by those two. If either party fails to act, the matter will be acted upon by the minister of labor, so far as necessary in constituting the board. The board is to have the powers of a court of record, and its findings are to be published in the official gazette and furnished to the public press. The relief will be afforded by a reduction or removal of duties if an enhancement of prices is found to be caused by a combination in restraint of trade, due to protection from foreign competition.

In addition to the loss of protection a penalty is provided for a continuance of the combination or "trusts," after the expiration of ten days from the publication of an adverse finding in the Canada Gazette, in the shape of a fine of \$1,000 for every day that it is continued. If this amendment should be adopted, as it is altogether likely to be, as a government measure to strengthen the tariff act there will be a prompt and effective way of dealing with trusts formed to raise prices under the shelter of protection against foreign competition is left free, the benefit of protection may be enjoyed, but when it is put under restraint by combination the protection may be taken away.—New York Journal.

Kangaroo Joe.

"Farming on the Murrumbidgee river, down Noo South Wales way," said the sailor, "I was pestered to death by kangaroos. Every moonlight night they'd come and eat my grain."

"Well, I put out some traps, and one night I landed a fine big kangaroo that I named Joe. Joe got to be quit a pet. He learned to eat out of my hand, and when the cold weather came on I rigged him up in one of my old sailor suits—blue blouse, flat hat and wide-legged trousers, all complete."

"The kangaroos, what had kept away all this time, turned up one evening, and just to see what would happen I fastened a big dinner bell around Joe's neck and let him loose."

"Clang! clang! clang!"

"Joe made for his friends like a fire engine. And in the moonlight he looked so weird in his loose suit, flying through the air with great, free leaps that the herd took to its heels with squeals of fright."

"Like the wind they made off, and Joe clanged after them. They never troubled my grain no more. In fact, I never seen them again but wunst. That was a morning two days later."

"I was eatin' breakfast, when past the house flew that whole herd of kangaroos, 100 or more, at a speed I never have saw equalled by man beast or motorcar. Their tongues lolled out, their eyes rolled and their bones fair stuck out of the skin. They was wrecks. Now and then they turned their haggard heads to look back, then tore on at a faster clip than before. And behind them, with his clang! clang! and his loose blue togs, came Sailor Joe."

"Well, the bunch disappeared in a grove of gum trees, and that was the last I ever heard of them. True, I did see in the paper the following spring that a mound of kangaroo skeletons had been found 800 miles north of my dugout, and the skeleton on top of the mound had a dinner bell around its neck. Could it have been Joe?"—Philadelphia Bulletin.

*Do you know that croup can be prevented? Give Chamberlain's Cough Remedy as soon as the child becomes hoarse or even after the croupy cough appears and it will prevent the attack. It is also a certain cure for croup and has never been known to fail. Sold by W. W. Sibert.

Successful and fortunate crime is called virtue.—Seneca.

EGYPTIAN COTTON IN ARIZONA.

Soil and Climate of the Territory Adapted to its Growing.

Washington, Feb. 21.—The soil and climate are adaptable to the successful growing of Egyptian cotton, according to the announcement of the bureau of Indian affairs of the accomplishment of its experimental station at Sacaton, near Phoenix, Ariz. The work has been carried on for the past two years by the Indian bureau in connection with the bureau of plant industry.

Several acres were planted and as the result of raising two crops there is now in the hands of the superintendent of the station 9,000 pounds of the long staple cotton, which will be shipped to the Indian bureau in New York for marketing.

Has President Taft's Hold On Public Confidence Been Weakened?

Now that the first year of President Taft's administration is drawing to a close, members of his party are asking themselves whether the President's record measures up to their expectations. A certain amount of disappointment exists, it seems, particularly in the West. This is indicated forcibly in the results of a poll of 3,037 Republican editors living west of the Alleghenies. The Chicago Tribune put to the editors the query: "If you could vote for President today, for whom would you cast your ballot?" No names of candidates were suggested. The editors voted thus: Roosevelt, 1,360; Taft, 1,093; LaFollette, 197; Hughes, 122; Cummins, 65; Pinchot, 30; Cannon, 14; Bryan, 40; scattering, 16.

The figures are remarkable, if not surprising. The actual President lags in popularity far behind his predecessor. The suggestiveness of the unfavorable vote is emphasized by the votes favoring Pinchot, LaFollette and Cummins, who are prominent exponents of policies opposed to those of President Taft. In two-thirds of the States it is Roosevelt, no Taft, who is endorsed. In the Lake group of States Roosevelt has 486 votes to Taft's 427; in the Prairie States, 617 to Taft's 475; on the Pacific Coast, 164 to Taft's 90. Only in the Mountain States does the President lead, with 66 votes against 64 for the ex-President. Even in Ohio Taft has but 19 votes more than Roosevelt.

Mr. Roosevelt gained in strength to the close of his administration. Why is President Taft's hold upon the public weaker and weaker as time goes on? What particular deficiencies has he shown? The reply, in brief, is that he has wobbled in regard to the tariff, has seemed disposed to secure "harmony" in the public land service by ignoring serious charges, has proposed centralizing legislation in regard to Federal incorporations of an alarming character, and generally has failed to exhibit the discretion, the judicial fairness and higher statesmanship expected of him.

Very unfavorable is the view taken of his Lincoln Day speech at the Republican Club, in which even Republican papers charge that he defended the Payne tariff like a stump speaker, not like a statesman. His effort to show that his party had not promised "downward revision" smacks of insincerity. Votes were not for the party by leading the public—particularly in the West—to believe that the tariff burden would be lightened. No popular enthusiasm could have been excited by an intimation that tariff revision was to be in the interest solely of the stand-patters. The New York Journal of Commerce finds the President's Lincoln Day argument for the Payne tariff "merely an echo of the pleas which Aldrich and Payne have been proclaiming ever since the tariff bill was enacted, and there has been sufficient exposure of the superficial character of the defense where it is not wholly fallacious." The New York Times deplores Mr. Taft's "using again the trumpery figures exposed in all their falseness long ago, and many times, to show that the new tariff is a revision downward." The Philadelphia North American confesses that two years ago it hailed Mr. Taft as "a great American," and "did not begin to yield to the fear that the President did not measure up to the requirements of his time until we read his speech of Saturday. It proved to be a good stump speech. It was partisan. It was a defense of the machinery and not an appeal to the principles of the party. It was a national proclamation utterly devoid of ideals. What is worse, it was a confession of probable party defeat in next November's election."

Quotations like these could be multiplied indefinitely. They all have this burden, that the President too narrowly conceives his relation to public interests, and fails to measure up to the demands of a situation which, while full of difficulties, is full of opportunities for a man of strength, wisdom and patriotism.—Baltimore Sun.

Investigation of the high cost of living makes food for thought abundant. — Washington Star.

CORRECTING A MISTAKE.

Mothers of Edgefield Did Not Send Wreath to Senator Tillman.

To the Editor of The State:

In your last week's issue you had a news item which I wish you to correct. I refer to the sending of a wreath of hyacinths and crepe to Senator Tillman. This is positively untrue so far as the mothers of Edgefield are concerned. If such a thing has been done it came from some irresponsible source.

The unwarranted use of the names of Edgefield's mothers is serious indeed. I hope the whole thing is a mistake. However, as the item has gone out, please follow it with the indignant denial of the Christian motherhood of Edgefield.

Mrs. W. L. Dunovant, Edgefield, Feb. 23, 1910.

The Edgefield correspondent of The State, in regard to the above communication, wires that he was misinformed in regard to it and regrets sending the State inaccurate information.

A Flood of Light On The Alaskan Situation.

The remarkable testimony given by Stephen Birch, managing director of the Guggenheim syndicate, before the Senate Committee on Territories must have opened the eyes of those who have minimized the importance of the disclosures in regard to Government lands in Alaska.

Time and again have those interested denied that the Guggenheims were backing the Cunningham claimants for Alaska coal lands. Mr. Birch admits that the Guggenheims had agreed to back the Cunningham claimants. Furthermore, he states that the Guggenheims were to put up but \$250,000 in money for half the lands, but were to build a railroad to transport the coal to tide-water. As the claimants were to pay the Government only a trifling sum for the lands, it was vehemently denied that they were of any great value. Mr. Birch states that the coal on the Cunningham lands alone is worth at the lowest estimate \$250,000,000, and that there is \$200,000,000 worth of coal in sight on the public lands in this one Alaska field alone.

Mr. Birch's testimony also reveals the working of "high finance." The Guggenheim syndicate, he says, was to put in only \$250,000 for a half interest, but the company was to be capitalized at \$55,000,000 at once. He also reveals the method by which claimants have been securing Government lands containing valuable copper deposits. Mr. Birch admits that entries were made by various officials and employees, patents to the lands obtained and then turned over to the company. The presumption is that Government lands of immense value have thus been secured for a song.

Mr. Ballinger is known to have been the attorney for the Cunningham interests. As soon as he resigned as Commissioner of the General Land Office he began, it is asserted, to press these claims. According to the testimony of Agent Louis R. Glavis, only the most vigorous protest prevented Ballinger's "clear listing" the claims when he was Commissioner. It is, at least, an unpleasant coincidence that Mr. Ballinger was appointed Secretary of the Interior, an official whose special duty is the protection of the public domain, and that the effort to push through the Cunningham claims was renewed so actively as soon as he got into office.

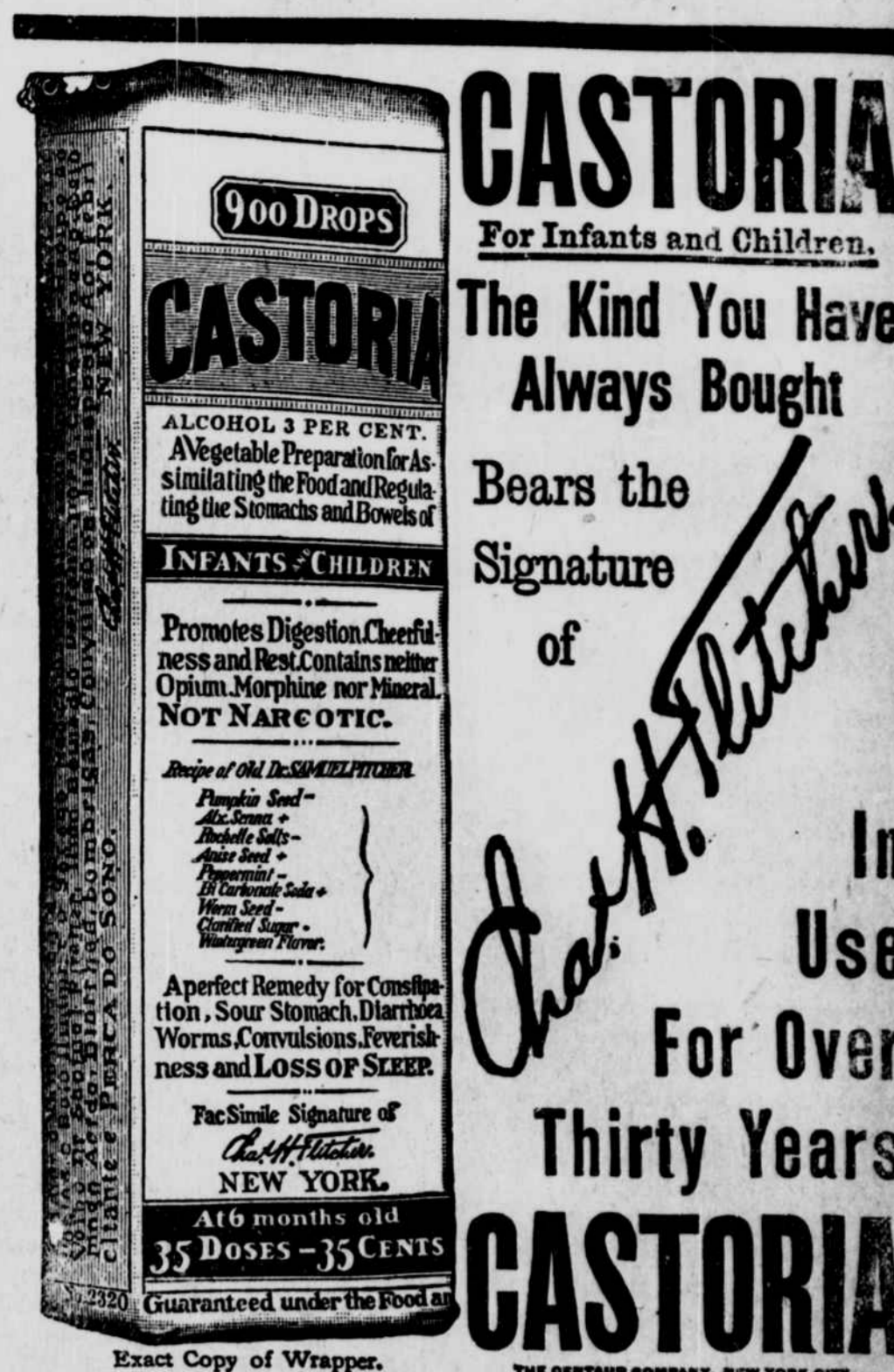
With Senator Simon Guggenheim, one of the members of the syndicate, in the United States Senate; with the former attorney for the Cunningham claimants Secretary of the Interior; with Mr. Ballinger's close friend, Fred Dennett, Commissioner of the General Land Office; with Senator Heyburn, who had partly promised to act counsel for Mr. Cunningham, in the Senate, and a sprinkling of Congressmen casting longing eyes toward Alaska, the Cunningham claimants were not likely to suffer for lack of friends at court.—Baltimore Sun.

*If troubled with indigestion, constipation, no appetite or feel bilious, give Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets a trial and you will be pleased with the result. These tablets invigorate the stomach and liver and strengthen the digestion. Sold by W. W. Sibert.

Any way, woman will never amount to much in politics until she gives up the idea that hiding her door key under the foot mat baffles burglars.

One hippopotamus more or less will never be missed by a tennis cabinet.—Brooklyn Eagle.

*A few minutes delay in treating some cases of croup, even the length of time it takes to go for a doctor often proves dangerous. The safest way is to keep Chamberlain's Cough Remedy in the house, and at the first indication of croup give the child a dose. Pleasant to take and always cures. Sold by W. W. Sibert.




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