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POOR LAWS COMMISSION REPORT IS INTERESTING

Mass of Evidence Contained in Report Would Form a Classic on Poverty — Would Make Many Classifications of the Poor

LONDON, April 2.—There are those who are pessimistic enough to declare that we live in an age which, instead of being better, is in many respects worse than those that preceded it. I have always maintained that this theory is fallacious, that it is because our ideals have grown that we are apt to see the flaws all the more distinctly in the various systems which have always attempted for the betterment of the world. No man can read "Oliver Twist" without realizing that the old Poor Law as administered by Bumble was an iniquity which words fail to describe, but when Dickens, who was the greatest philanthropist of our time, and who, by his genius, did more to better conditions than anyone living, described the workhouse and its terrors, the country woke up to see that something was wrong, and much was done to ameliorate, but much remained to be done.

A great deal of the work that was undertaken then was only patching, and when we drew back the curtain and looked into the real state of the pauper, we became aware that we had only touched the fringe of the question.

Sitting Two Years

A commission, however, has been sitting for two years, and seldom has the report of a royal commission been received with such interest and approval as that on the Poor law, which has just been made public. The mass of evidence which has been collected on the subject forms a classic on poverty, but the significant thing about the report is that it deals a death blow to the Guardian, and Bumbledon is dead forever. The system was wrong; let it go.

The most important part of the new recommendations is the sub-division of the pauper class, the dealing with the deserving poor in such a manner as to retain their self-respect, and with the loafers and cadgers in such a way as to force them to work. The scheme was signed under two heads, the majority report. Among the names on the minority report was that of Mrs. Sidney Webb, who with her husband has worked for the amelioration of the Poor law for many years, and who is an expert on the subject. More attention will probably be paid to the signature of the minority owing to the fact that Mr. and Mrs. Webb had prepared a book embodying the differences that the minority suggested, which was published on the same day as the report of the commission, and therefore their practical and widespread knowledge will be given in concrete form.

Many Committees

The principal point in the report is the reclassification of the institutions. It recommends that children should be dealt with by the education authorities, the sick by the health authorities, the insane by the asylum committees, and cases of distress by distress committees, and so on. The chief authority would be the council, so that complete authority would be vested in that which is directly responsible to the ratepayers for expenditure. But the present workhouse is doomed, and for that we thank God. The far-reaching reforms which will be the result of the patient labor given by this commission, through the many months in which it has waded through the mass of evidence laid before it, will be the reward such as probably the labors of few committees have yet received. The fact that we are willing to classify and to discriminate between the quiet, patient man or woman who has drifted into the poorhouse through no fault of their own, who is dependent on the many for subsistence because it has been impossible that it should be otherwise, and the loafing tramp who has never chosen to do a day's work in his life, and who seeks the workhouse as his natural home, is in itself a step which we hail with thanksgiving.

Some of the recommendations, if carried into effect, will bring us into line with the German system, for instance that there should be new forms of insurance, to which the employer, the workman and the state should make contribution, that trades unions should be encouraged by subvention from the state to extend their methods of insurance against unemployment. These are germs of new development which may at last prove a solution of some of our greatest problems.

AMUSING INCIDENT

Happened in the Paris Lower Court—An Unfortunate Introduction

PARIS, April 3.—An amusing story is related of a recent incident in a Paris law court. A very eloquent lawyer was about to plead in an interesting case, and a judge of another tribunal had gone expressly to hear him, and was standing among the audience, when a neighbor happened to tread on his toes. "I beg your pardon, sir," politely exclaimed the rather awkward person, who was very plainly dressed. "You ought to be more careful," the judge replied hotly. "Do you know who I am," and he gave his name and his judicial rank. "And I am M. Briand," the other answered simply, much to the confusion of the irascible personage, whose mode of introducing himself to the minister of justice had been so very unfortunate.

WOULD PLACE MILK UNDER THE BAN

Most of the Concoction Sold in Paris Would Not Be Recognized by any Self-Respecting Cow

PARIS, April 2.—After prohibiting tea, coffee, and chocolate on the ground that they encourage gout, French hygienists have now placed their ban on milk. What is sold as such is said to be a concoction not to be recognized by any self-respecting cow. In the case of the genuine article—which is declared hardly to exist—even if the cow is not suffering from tuberculosis its milk is contaminated by the hands of a milkmaid. One specialist insists on the necessity of tooth brushes for cows, whose mouths are "veritable hotbeds of microbes." Following the example of Prof. Metchnikoff, the eminent biologist, many Frenchmen now refuse to eat fruit unless it has been cooked or washed in sterilized water. Toilet water is only considered safe after having been boiled two or three times, and the bath should be "purified by flame." Servants who wait at table should, it is urged, wear gloves, which are boiled after each meal and dried by hot air in order to avoid all risk of contamination for the guests, and they should, after washing their hands with soap and boiled water, cleanse them in alcohol. All animals must be banished from the house if hygiene is to be regarded. Even the canary is considered capable of communicating contagious diseases.

NEW STAMP ISSUES OF VALUE TO COLLECTORS

Gradually Being Put on Sale In Russia—Very Prettily Water Marked

LONDON, April 2.—Russia is gradually putting on sale a new issue of postage stamps of the highly artistic design which has always characterized Russian stamps. A stupid story has been circulating in certain papers that the new issue will bear the heads of various wearers of the imperial crown, including the present emperor.

Such a use of the imperial head is utterly inconceivable in Russia. Postage stamps are made to be defaced, and usually in a very rough and ready manner. No Russian would dream of subjecting the effigy of the czar to such usage as this. Even on the coins, hallowed by immemorial usage of the great nations of antiquity, Russia does not use the imperial head except on the pure gold and pure silver coins; the base silver and copper coins bear the Russian eagle only, and the Russian word for "head" in "heads and tails" is always "eagle."

The new stamp issues, of which several values are already on the market, are generally on a lighter ground than the old issues, but the colors are the same. The design is mainly heraldic and ornamental scroll work, a ribbon on the top bearing the inscription "Postage Stamp," and another at the bottom the value in words, with the figure indicating value dividing the words and standing out conveniently plain.

The stamp edging of the new issue has peculiar markings on it, and is prettily watered. Postmasters are trying to force the public even in St. Petersburg to accept the stamps without the edging, even when whole sheets are bought; presumably the new edgings have some value to the collecting world.

Will Enter Monastery

LONDON, April 2.—It is learned that the Grand Duke Dimitri Constantinovitch, who, born forty-nine years ago is the youngest son of the Grand Duke Constantine, brother of the Czar's grandfather, has formally decided to enter a monastery and become a monk.

He was at one time a great horse lover, and as president of the managing board, of imperial studs he did much to encourage breeders to improve the national breed of Russian horses without foreign admixtures.

This is the first picture received in this country showing the wedding of George Westinghouse, Jr., to Miss Violet Brocklebank. The wedding took place at the village church at Irton, Cumberland, near the County House of Sir Thomas Brocklebank.

V.NEU IN STATE OF EXCITEMENT

Strikers Take Matters in Their Own Hands—Burn Employer's Household Effects

PARIS April 2.—The region of Vineau, in Picardy, which obtained an unenviable notoriety about two years ago by reason of its jacqueries, or peasant disorders, is once more in a state of ferment. For the past three or four centuries it has been the centre of the lock and padlock industry, the modern development of which has done away with the old patriarchal relations existing between employers and employed, thanks in a large measure to the influence of revolutionary syndicates. When these peasant workers are dissatisfied with their masters their favorite pastime is to burn his factory and sack his house. This was the fate of the brothers Riquier at Fressenville.

The latest outbreak of this revolutionary spirit has occurred at Woincourt in the Somme, where a M. Pieffort has a cooper foundry. Because M. Pieffort refused to dismiss two non-union men, his house was attacked at ten o'clock at night by a large number of workmen who, at a given signal, laid siege to the house and quickly forced an entrance. M. Pieffort had only time to spring from his bed, seize his gun and make his way out at the back of his house to his factory, at the door of which he stood, determined to sell his life dearly. The assailants, however, contented themselves with pillaging the house, smashing the furniture and throwing the books and registers into the pond. Finally, they made a heap of the broken furniture inside the house, poured paraffin over it and set a light to the pile, though knowing that an old lady of 80 was on the floor overhead. Then they rushed away to attack the cottages of the two non-union men. Seven thousand men are now on strike, and they held an excited meeting in the neighboring village of Escarbotin. Cavalry and gendarmerie are patrolling the countryside, and it is feared that they may come into contact with the strikers.

Crusade Against Corsets

LONDON, April 2.—According to telegrams received from Bukarest, the Queen of Roumania has initiated a crusade against corsets by issuing a manifesto to the women and girls of Europe, appealing to them to boycott this injurious article of dress.

"Carmen Sylvia," appeals to women's vanity and common sense. She points out that the corset disfigures their natural beauty, besides inflicting serious injuries on their health. She appeals to mothers to instil their daughters with a profound dislike of the corset.

The manifesto will be circulated in large numbers in a dozen different languages.

VAST AMOUNT OF WORK PREPARING FOR PAGEANT

Mr. Lascelles, Master of Ceremonies, Outlines the Course of Procedure for Fulham Palace

LONDON, April 3.—A glimpse "behind the scenes" of the organization work necessary in preparing the great church pageant which is to take place in the grounds of Fulham palace on June 10 was given by Frank Lascelles, the master of the ceremonies. "My company," he said, "will comprise about 5,000 amateur actors and actresses. The Oxford pageant was the largest held in this country before. At Quebec last year I had nearly 5,000 people. But this one will, I think, establish a world's record. Counting the members of local committees and the 5,000 women who are making costumes, the number of people actively interested in the pageant is over 12,000."

Mr. Lascelles described how the 5,000 performers will be rehearsed. "In such a scene as that representing Augustine's arrival in Britain, leaders of groups will be chosen. Say there will be 500 or 600 actual performers. Fifteen of them will be group leaders heading parties of bishops, monks, courtiers and fishermen.

"It is these leaders that I shall first instruct, taking them to the ground and showing them the movements of their parties, their entrances and exits. Then they will return to their districts and instruct their followers. By this system I shall not need more than five rehearsals of the whole army of performers—two for perfecting concerted movements, and three dress rehearsals. Mistakes at rehearsals I shall be able to correct by shouting through a giant megaphone. At the actual performance I shall be perched, unseen by the audience, in a little box upon the top of the grand stand. At Quebec I controlled the entrances and exits of the hosts of players by means of forty-two telephones. In this case I shall probably need more. In the grand finale, which will take place after darkness has fallen, the whole of the 5,000 people will be massed together to sing the Te Deum, the scene being illuminated by thirty powerful searchlights. This should be a memorable spectacle."

Dressed As a Nun

LONDON, April 2. — The Grand Duchess Elizabeth, widow of the Grand Duke Sergius (assassinated in Moscow, 1905), sister of the Czarina, and the most beautiful woman in the Russian imperial family, now lives definitely in the religious home for women which she established near Moscow and dresses like a nun.

BEATIFICATION F JOAN OF ARC

To Take Place This Month—Picture of Maid Will be Unveiled When Decree is Issued

LONDON, April 2.—Five hundred years ago a peasant girl was burnt at Rouen, and a sigh of relief went up from the great lords and the soldiers in the ranks of the British Army. They had done to death one who was a witch and who possessed of a devil, had been able to carry out feats of arms and conquer the Burgundians and the British. A girl of mean origin, a peasant from a farm in Domremy, she was dead, and the difficulty was ended. Time adjusts the proportions of all events. When St. Paul stood before Galleo, there was the most important man, the gay Senator, whose wit and wisdom were quoted everywhere, or the fanatical prisoner, mean and despised. Where God had called, there foundations are laid that man can never destroy, and the words of the English soldier when the last spark flickered out of the stake on which Joan of Arc was burnt, was proved to be true. "We have burnt a Saint."

This month when English and French gather in Rome on Low Sunday, great ceremony of the beatification of Joan of Arc is to take place. For ten years she will be "the Blessed Joan of Arc," and by and by, if the church so decrees she will become Saint Joan. Over sixty French bishops will be present, and it is to be recollected that Joan's trial was an ecclesiastical one, and that it was before the Bishop of Beauvais that she was condemned. Many hundreds of laymen will travel to Rome for the ceremony. England will probably send a large representation of bishops, clergy and laymen. The old account of the trial will probably be read and a history of her life, and then the announcement will be made that henceforward the Holy Father has declared that the word "Beata" will be placed befroe her name. The picture of the maid will be placed on the altar, and when the decree has been read it will be unveiled. Blessed Joan, if she is still watching over France, must be mourning now more than she did for the binding tyranny of a foreign power.

WAR HORSE PROBLEM IS A SERIOUS ONE

LONDON, April 3.—A very serious problem is arising in the army with regard to the supply of horses for war. The falling off in breeding in this country has many years affected the military service, but this disadvantage has been intensified by the increase of motor traction which gives the war office a reduced number of horses to draw upon. Firms and omnibus companies who formerly registered thousands for war service at a fee can only offer hundreds now. Steps have been taken to ascertain the numbers available in this country, and from all sources it is now quite apparent that if the first and second line armies were mobilized England would be faced with one of the most pressing of military difficulties in the supply of horses to keep them in the field. A rough census of the animals available in England made with the assistance of the board of agriculture, masters of hounds, county authorities and the remount staff, shows that we have about 1,250,000 available horses of all kinds. Of these fewer than 200,000 are up to the cavalry standard. To place the expeditionary force of six regular divisions and one cavalry division in the field as a commencement, 70,000 horses would be necessary, and, in addition, 123,000 would be needed for the Territorial force.

A Serious Problem

At the present moment England has not in hand these 193,000 to commence a war with. The problem is much more serious than that of men, as an army is immobile and passive without remounts. As replacement during the first year of a war 400,000 other horses would be necessary. In these numbers the question of a supply from abroad arises. No adequate arrangements have been announced for such a supply, and the foreign market in the next war, it is stated, will be closed against England. At the present moment prices are 20 per cent higher than they were at the time of the Boer war. There will be a horse ring against the next nation which requires to drain the supply. That country can only be England, as the continental nations have enriched themselves from English stock. It is reported that there are some thousands fewer brood mares now in the country, and that the birth of foals has dropped by 10,000 a year.

All this, added to motor tractions is thinning the ranks of serviceable horses by many thousands, and the war office are unable to get upon their registers anything approaching the numbers necessary for war purposes. The regular army at present had, excluding India, about 31,000 horses on charge, or fewer than half the number required before the army could take the field. About 18,000 are required for artillery alone. Large numbers of the animals available are of poor quality, and the type is inferior to that selected for continental armies.

These are the two children of Mrs. Lewis Harcourt. Mrs. Harcourt is a prominent figure in London society.

"FUTURISM" THE NEW STRENUOUS PHILOSOPHY

The Doctrine for Strong Men—Will Glorify Aggressive Motion, Feverish Insomnia and Vigorous Action—Preach Destruction and Ideas That Kill

PARIS, April 2.—"Futurism" is the thing for those who are looking for a new strenuous philosophy. We have heard a great deal about the strenuous life. Now we have its religion and its dogma. M. Marinetti, a French-Italian poet, has founded "futurism" which is to be the doctrine of strong men. It will be that of plain men, too, for there is none of your subtle nonsense about it, such as Nietzche persisted in complicating his philosophy with, thereby putting off the strenuous young man in a hurry. For the latter, "Futurism" is the very thing. Its manifesto says: "The essential elements of our poetry are courage, audacity and rebellion. Literature having hitherto exalted pensive inaction, ecstasy and slumber, we will glorify aggressive motion, feverish insomnia, running, jumping, boxes on the ears, and fisticuffs. Is, by the way, feverish insomnia a good training for pugilists? The manifesto goes on to motoring. A racing car, with the pipes of its radiator like serpents with explosive breathing, is more beautiful than the Victory of Samothrace." Tastes differ, but one may point out that the portion of a motor which explodes is not usually the radiator. Futurism is expounded in a dozen more articles of faith. "Fighting only is beautiful. All masterpieces are aggressive. Let us look behind us no longer. Time and space are no more; they died yesterday. War is the sole hygiene of the world. We preach destruction, ideas that kill, and contempt for women. We will pull down all museums and libraries; we will fight moralism, feminism and all utilitarian cowardice. We will sing of arsenals, factories, railway stations, iron bridges, steamers, locomotives and aeroplanes.

"We launch this manifesto in Italy, because we want to rid Italy of her gangrene of professors, archaeologists, ciceroni and antiquarians. We will rid her of her innumerable museums which are so many cemeteries. Museums are fit for invalids, not for us the young strong futurists, so let fire burn in the books, and water flood the museums, and the glorious pictures be swamped. The oldest among us are just 30. We have ten years before us for fulfilling our task. When we are 40 let younger and more daring men than we be good enough to throw us into the waste-paper basket like old manuscripts." The manifesto is greatly abridged, because the futurists, whatever else they may be, are not pithy. Young and strenuous, M. Marinette writes like Walt Whitman gone mad. But Whitman sang, instead of telling us what he was going to sing. Why do not the futurists wire their poems about railway trains and aeroplanes, their sermons in steam engines and books in racing motor cars instead of telling us they mean to write them. The burning of museums recommended in the manifesto, reminds one of go-ahead young Romans today, whom nothing irritates so much as to be asked about the Arch of Constantine or the Borghese Palace, and who in reply point out the beauties of their street car service.

EXHIBITION OF AIR SHIPS AN INTERESTING AFFAIR

Wireless Telegraphy Will Be Used to Keep Frankfurt Acquainted With the Movements

LONDON, April, 2.—The international exhibition of airships, which will be opened at Frankfurt-on-Main, at the beginning of July, promises to be an unusually interesting affair. Both from Germany and foreign countries an extraordinary number of promises to take part have been received by the committee. Four immense halls will be built for the accommodation of motor balloons.

From the exhibition grounds dirigible airships will make excursions in all directions, taking passengers with them. Especially interesting, it is expected, will be the experiments with aeroplanes, as all systems will be represented. For the first time the public will be in a position to judge their relative merits.

It is believed that about $2,500 will be at the disposal of the committee for prizes.

In addition to most modern inventions there will be what is called the "retrospective" department where the inventions of former aviators, for example those of Lilienthal, Kress and others, will be exhibited. Wireless telegraphy will be largely used, also carrier pigeons for keeping Frankfurt acquainted with the movements of excursionists. There will also be an exhibition of ballon appliances and balloon motors.

MAXIM GORKI DOES NOT FEAR RUSSIAN ACTION

Accused of Holding Up to Ridicule the Orthodox Religion and Its Observance

PARIS, April 2.—The correspondent of Le Temps has had an interview with Maxim Gorki, who is staying at Capri. The Russian novelist denies the rumor published recently that he was implicated in the affair of Azeff, and that the Russian government had demanded his extradition. "I attribute the rumor," he said, "to the craze of certain journals for sensationalism, and the fact that in Russia I have many enemies who would gladly besmirch my character. The Russian government has instituted proceedings against me for certain things I wrote in a recently published novel, 'La Mere,' which has been translated into French. They accuse me of holding up to ridicule the Orthodox religion and certain of its observances.

"According to Russian law an offense of this kind is punishable by three years' imprisonment or exile to Siberia. In acting thus the authorities are simply making themselves ridiculous in the eyes of the world." As I am outside of Russia in a free country, the myrmidons of the czar cannot touch me, for mine, happily, is not an extraditable offence." The correspondent adds that Gorki seems very happy at Capri. He is popular with the people and he is beginning to speak the language. He has now rented a pretty villa in one of the neighboring hills, which commands a beautiful outlook towards Naples.

Mrs. Lewis Harcourt, niece of J. Pierpont Morgan, is taking a prominent part in London society. She recently gave a very brilliant reception at which some of the highest lights in the realm were present.

POLICE DOGS WILL STRIVE FOR PRIZES

Trial for World's Championship Will Take Place at Paris in April

PARIS, April 2.—The arrangements for the international contests for police dogs, which takes place at the Buffalo velodrome during April, are well in advance. The contests are being organized by the national school for training police dogs, and will be preceded by an exhibition. The first part of the programme will be one in which dogs trained for police purposes will be examined and as a result of this trial the title of world's champion will be awarded. The second part of the programme is concerned with ordinary watch dogs and dogs trained for special purposes apart from police work. There will also be a contest for sheep dogs. The animals presented will be obliged to collect about fifty sheep and drive them into a pen. The dog completing the task in the shortest space of time and to the satisfaction of the jury, will be the winner. In connection with the exhibition and the series of contests there is a most satisfactory list of prizes ranging from 500 francs to 50 francs. In addition a number of medals will be distributed. About sixty dogs are expected to take part.

Agent for Company

LONDON, April 2.—It is announced that the former Prussian Minister of Agriculture, Lieutenant General von Podbielski, a close personal friend of the Emperor, has accepted a salaried post as agent of the General Electric company. His duties will consist of organizing and conducting a propaganda in favor of the application of electricity to all branches of agriculture.

The company desire to bring about the general introduction of electric ploughs and reaping, sowing and threshing machines, as well as to persuade farmers to use electric light in their buildings.