

sound to the ears of the schoolmaster like oracular wisdom.

A striking illustration of this was presented by one of the speakers at the meeting of the Department of Superintendence of the National Educational Association, recently held in Chicago. Hon. James H. Eckels, a well known banker, in a strained and pitiable effort to present an apology for the possessors of swollen fortunes, finding that he was making but little headway in getting the sympathetic attention of his audience, halted in his rambling remarks, struck an attitude, waved his arms, and with all the impressiveness of tone which he could command heaved out the following: "To an honest man there—is—no—such—thing—as—dishonesty!" Then he made the usual conventional pause, which invites the endorsement of applause. And he got it, albeit it was neither hearty nor general; but the score or more who applauded were evidently impressed by the solemn profundity of the phraseology, for it would be a serious reflection on their intelligence to assume that they applauded the statement on its merit.

"To the honest man there is no such thing as dishonesty." What does it mean? It must be interpreted either objectively or subjectively. Does it mean that to a man who is honest there is no such objective fact or quality as dishonesty; that is, that he shuts his eyes to dishonesty and regards it as non-existent? If so, then this oracular utterance means that the honest man is a fool, a babe in the woods, an ostrich with head hidden, denying the existence of danger or evil.

The only other interpretation is the subjective: that there is no such thing as dishonesty to (attaching to, pertaining to or in) an honest man. O, wonderful wise man to discover the profound truth, the awe-inspiring, soul-uplifting fact that an honest man is not dishonest, and to phrase the grand conception in such form and utter it with such gusto as to win the plaudits of two dozen school superintendents! Selah.

Similar proverbs can be spun off by the yard when you get the swing of it: To the well man there is no such thing as sickness. To the fat man there is no such thing as leanness. To the homely man there is no such thing as beauty. Turn them end-for-end and they are just as good and the suckers will bite as quickly when you are fishing for applause. To the dishonest man there is no such thing as honesty, to the white man no such thing as black, to the black no such thing as white, etc.

+ + +

WASTING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

For The Public.

It is said that "just now the genius of our people is for the development of the resources of the country. We are using government energy and money to conserve the forests, to build irrigation dams and to do a variety of other things that help to promote the amazing prosperity which the country is enjoying." No country on the face of the earth is so prolific of natural resources as ours. The most magnificent and extensive forests stretch from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the Lakes to the Gulf. Vast deposits of coal abound. Immense deposits of iron are found

in various States. Oil and gas are prolific in many places. Of the precious metals, it is said that we have only fairly begun to scratch the surface of the possibilities of their development. Nor has agriculture been behind the procession. It has gone forward with leaps and bounds. In fact, railroad development has not kept pace with the increase of agricultural products sufficiently to handle them well and expeditiously. All signs point to a continuance of the great prosperity our nation has enjoyed the past few years. It is wise, however, for a nation to frequently take an inventory and find out "where it is at."

The foregoing sentiments are those of the optimist. Those who have made a study of that national problem—the wasting of our natural resources—are alarmed when contemplating its effects upon the future.

James J. Hill, President of the Great Northern Railroad, in addressing the farmers and business men of Minnesota at the State fair last September, sounded a note of warning. Among other things he said: "The highest conception of a nation is that of a trustee for posterity. The savage is content with wresting from nature the simple necessities of life. But the modern idea of duty is conservatism of the old and modeling of the new, in order that posterity may have a fairer dwelling place and thus transmit the onward impulse. The ideal of the prudent, loving, careful head of every family is the true ideal for a nation of rational men. The people of the United States, as far as any perhaps, have meant to follow this pattern. It is worth while to consider how far they have been successful, and where they have failed."

Going into statistics from the immigration records of the past four years, and estimating the yearly increase at 750,000 a year, together with the excess of the birth rate over death rate at fifteen per cent. every decade, "our population will show these totals: in 1910, 95,248,895; in 1920, 117,036,229; in 1930, 142,091,663; in 1940, 170,091,663; in 1950, 204,041,223." Mr. Hill says: "The startling quality of these figures is the magnitude of our problem. It is not even a problem of to-morrow, but of to-day." He further says: "Within forty-four years we shall have to meet the wants of more than two hundred million people. In less than twenty years from this moment the United States will have one hundred and thirty million people. No nation in history was ever confronted with a sterner question than this certain prospect set before us." Of our potential resources he says: "The forest, once a rich heritage, is rapidly disappearing. Its product is valuable, not as a food, but for shelter and as an accessory in the production of wealth. Its fate is interesting here rather in the role of an example. For we have done with our forests already what we are doing just as successfully with the remainder of our national capital. Except for the areas on the Pacific coast, the forest as a source of wealth is rapidly disappearing. Within twenty years perhaps we shall have nowhere east of the Rocky Mountains a timber product worth recording, and shall then be compelled to begin in earnest that slow process of reforesting."

He goes on to say that in coal a century will exhaust the available supply, and in iron that forty

years will see the end. Of agriculture he says we have been exhausting the soil, and we must by a better fertilization and intensive farming make an acre yield more, at the same time by fertilization keeping up the strength of the soil. Mr. Hill's warning, in short, is that we should not be misled by the popular fallacy of increasing wealth, when the American people are using up their assets by digging out of the ground that which can never be put back, allowing the exhaustion of the soil to continue until it will scarcely produce half of what it formerly did. Our wheat fields in the days of virgin fertility produced from twenty-five to forty bushels per acre; to-day the average is twelve. The farms of the Atlantic coast have lost in fertility and market value because we have neglected the study of thoroughgoing agriculture, such as is practiced in Europe, except in Russia and possibly Turkey. To sum it up, we as a nation must husband our resources. The soil is ultimately our great source of wealth. Already we are nearly to the point when with the rapidly increasing population all our food products will be needed at home. Not only that, but better methods of fertilization and intensive farming must be used. The true basis of national wealth, then, must be the annual product beyond what is required to keep our natural assets undiminished.

The most urgent present problem demanding the attention of the American people is the preservation of our forests. The forests originally covered 699,500,000 acres, or over thirty-five per cent. of the surface of our country, and formed the richest arboreal supply the world ever knew. In regard to the exhaustion of coal and iron, possibly Mr. Hill may be pessimistic, but he is certainly very conservative in what he says of our forests.

In regard to the white pine timber of the North, R. L. McCormick, President of the Mississippi Valley Association, in 1902 estimated that in ten years it would disappear as a factor in the lumber trade. About the same time Mr. R. A. Long, at a meeting of the Southern Lumber Manufacturers' Association, estimated that in about thirteen years from that date the yellow leaf pine lumber of the South would be exhausted. It is noticeable that we are drawing our lumber supply largely from the Pacific coast. A decade or more ago notes of warning were sounded and measures introduced in Congress to stay the tragedy of our forests, but too many rich juicy plums were in sight for the "special interests." One of the bills offered was to put lumber on the free list. The "merger" responded by raising the tariff from one dollar a thousand to two dollars a thousand on lumber. As the lower tariff kept Canadian lumber out of the United States, the raise in the tariff put so much velvet into the pockets of lumber barons. It would be only a temporary expedient now to put lumber on the free list, as Canada's forests are rapidly being exhausted, and that country is taking steps to protect her forests, as her timber in a few years will be needed at home. No doubt the resolution of Congressman Miller will reveal the fact that there is a lumber trust, as the holdings of timber lands are largely in the hands of syndicates and corporations.*

*When this article was written Congress was still in session, and Ethan Allen Hitchcock was Secretary of the Interior. On March 4 Mr. Hitchcock was succeeded by James R. Garfield (p. 1,167).

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It must be apparent to any one familiar with the facts in regard to the rapidly diminishing forests, that the tendency of prices is upward because the demand is increasing and the supply of lumber is decreasing. Three things of a temporary benefit should be done at once: The breaking up of the lumber trust, the removal of the tariff on lumber, and such a reduction of freight rates as will place lumber in the lowest classified freight rates.

The most important thing, however, is to provide that enough forest lands to supply lumber, not only for present needs, but also for future generations, shall be owned and regulated by the government. The Forestry department created a few years ago for the purpose of building up and conserving the forests has accomplished wonders when everything is taken into consideration. One hundred and seven million acres of land is now reserved and is under the management of this department. The area should be increased at least three times. The friends of forestry have been extremely modest in their requests thus far and have only asked for lands unfit for agricultural purposes, and which cover mountain tops and are at the heads of streams. Any one familiar with irrigation knows that successful irrigation in the arid districts requires that the mountains be covered with timber in order to hold the moisture and secure an even flow of water in summer time when water is needed for use. Where mountains have been denuded erosions of the soil have occurred, and the washing of the silt has caused immense destruction on the lower lands; also the little streams on denuded mountains dry up in the summer at the time they are needed for irrigation purposes. So irrigation and forestry go together. A few days ago came reports of thousands of people being driven from their homes along the Ohio river by rains and high water. These floods are due to the short-sighted folly of allowing the timber to be cut off the mountain tops, from which come the little tributary streams that form the Ohio river. A forest-crowned range of mountains holds and absorbs the rainfall, and prevents sudden river uprisings. A bill is now pending in Congress to create a forest reserve in the White Mountains and along the summit of the lower Appalachian range. The denuding of the summit of the Appalachian range has been the cause of millions of dollars' worth of damage already, as the timber is being cut clean, and erosion of top mountain soil has caused tons of silt to cover up and spoil valuable farms on lower lands. This bill has been repeatedly urged by the President and the friends of forestry. It has passed the Senate, and has a majority in favor of its passage in the House, but through the pig-headedness of the Speaker of the House the bill seems to be doomed for this session. It is said that a few months more will see the summit largely stripped of its timber and the damage done will be beyond calculation.

The failure to repeal the Stone and Timber act, which has been repeatedly urged year after year, has in the last five years caused a loss of one hundred million dollars to the government. Valuable timber lands worth one hundred dollars an acre have passed out of the hands of the government at two dollars and one-half per acre. Says Secretary Hitchcock: "If the hundred million dollars which have been lost

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to the government under the above showing were at hand a score or more of enormous irrigation projects could be immediately constructed, reclaiming from two million to three million acres of desert land, and enormous areas of eastern forest reserve created through the purchase of mountain timber lands east of the "Mississippi." The National Board of Trade, Gifford Pinchot, Chief of the Bureau of Forestry, Frederick H. Newell, Chief Engineer of the Reclamation Service, W. A. Richards, Commissioner of the Land Office, and many others, recommended the repeal of the Timber and Stone act, and the substitution of a rational forest policy of selling only the stumpage from the public timber lands, retaining the lands for future timber growth. They have also recommended the radical amendment of the commutation clause of the Homestead act, and a like amendment of the Desert Land act, in such manner as to require actual residence and improvement under both of the latter named laws, amounting to their practical repeal. It is needless to state that "special privileges," intrenched and upheld by the "merger" in the House and Senate, is largely responsible for this deplorable state of affairs. These lands, instead of going into the hands of bona-fide settlers, have been gobbled up by syndicates for a song. To further throw dust into the eyes of the people the corporation press, aided by their hirelings in Congress, are making onslaughts on Mr. Hitchcock, the Secretary of the Interior, pretending he is an obstructionist, a reactionary, and hindrance to development, when the real facts are just to the contrary. An assault on Hitchcock is an assault on the Administration. To the credit of Hitchcock, several hundred thousand acres of valuable public lands have been restored to the government, and a still larger amount could have been restored but for the obstructions of the "special interests."

If the timber lands in the hands of syndicates and private individuals were used and regulated and conserved according to the teachings of forestry, namely, to cut, say, one-thirtieth of the standing timber each year, piling the underbrush and burning it at proper seasons, then a younger growth of timber is continually coming on, and the same ground is not exhausted of a continuous lumber and timber supply. It is an established fact that this is fairly remunerative to forest land owners. According to the forestry bureau a small per cent. of timber land owners are following this conservative lumbering; but with nearly all timber land owners all available trees for lumber are cut down, and the tree tops scattered on the ground—a fire comes along and the destruction of the forest is complete. The reason is that greater immediate profits accrue to timber owners if they get all available timber off the ground at once.

It is probably conservative to state that only one-third enough land is under the management of the Forestry department. There should be at least three times as much more forest lands in the hands of the government to supervise and handle for the interests and protection of the public. It would be considered drastic in America to pass laws compelling owners of forest lands to conserve, and not destroy their forests. European countries centuries ago were obliged to take drastic steps to preserve their forests and protect them as efficiently as possible. The only

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alternative for our country seems to be to create a large enough forest reserve to anticipate present and future lumber supplies for our people. Until that is done and in working order, cheap lumber is probably an iridescent dream.

It is to be hoped that an earnest effort will be made by our government to conserve the economic resources of the nation. The great activity of the President and his able assistants in the Interior, Agricultural and other departments are forces, not only for the present protection of our national resources, but for the economic conservation of a future and greater nation. It is plainly evident that the government should have reserved the coal, oil and mineral deposits from the beginning, and all the forests at the head waters of the streams, and enough of other forest land to have supplied and furnished a continual supply of lumber and merchantable timber for all future contingencies. Only a few years ago the government owned the iron ore lands that the great Northern Railway recently leased to the United States Steel Corporation for one hundred and fifty million dollars. This sum, large as it is, is insignificant compared to the value of coal lands and timber lands and other natural resources that have passed into the hands of syndicates and corporations for a mere song. We had far-sighted men years ago who saw this and predicted the outcome. "Special interests," backed by our traitor Senators and Representatives in the "merger" combine in Congress, were too strong, and prevented remedial legislation to check the steals.

The preservation of our forests is not a fad nor a fancy. It is a necessity. "Common sense," says Dr. Edward Everett Hale, "In forestry means that the forestry question should be put upon a business basis. In order to make a large immediate profit forests are destroyed; they should be cut with some reference to the future; in other words, they should be cropped. All the governments of Europe rely largely upon the forest lands for revenue. A similar condition should and could be brought about in this country." American land monopoly is being fostered by our present system of loose land laws. Homestead Commutation and the Desert Land act, supposed to encourage settlement, are largely used for land grabbing. The President has urged the repeal and modification of these acts to encourage bona-fide settlers.

Mr. Roosevelt in an address at Raleigh, N. C., October 20th, 1905, said: "One of the most obvious duties which our generation owes to the generations that are to come after us is to preserve the existing forests. The prime difference between civilized and uncivilized peoples is that with civilized peoples each generation works not only for its own well-being, but for the well-being of the generations yet unborn, and if we permit the national resources of this land to be destroyed so that we hand over to our children a heritage diminished in value, we thereby prove our unfitness to stand in the forefront of civilized peoples. One of the greatest of these heritages is our forest wealth." If he who causes two blades of grass to grow where only one grew before is a friend to humanity, likewise he who is instrumental, directly or indirectly, in destroying our natural resources, is an enemy of mankind. This problem now rests with

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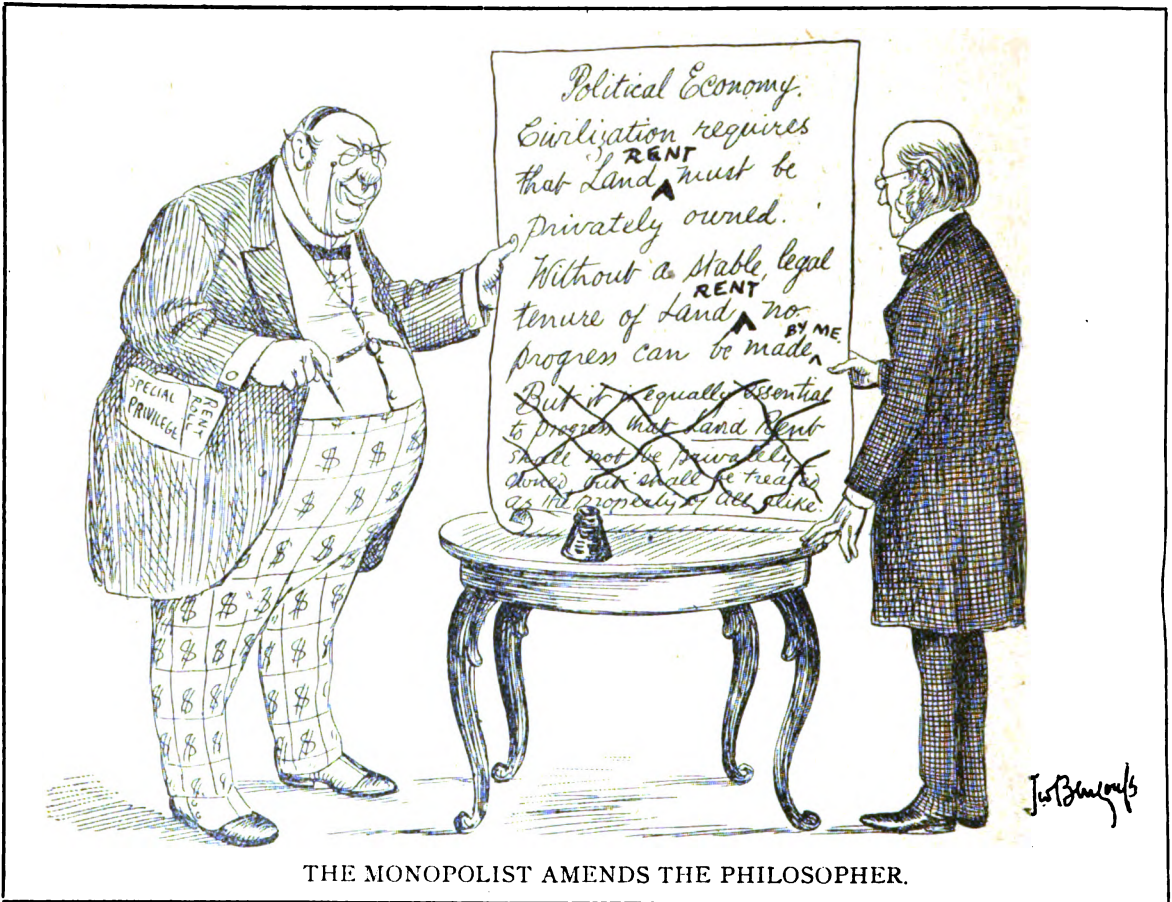
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The style of the book is as free from all the trammels of convention as the cyclone.

ANGELINE LOESCH.

THE NATIONAL IDEALS OF AMERICA.

Liberty, Union and Democracy. By Barrett Wendell. Published by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. 1906. Price \$1.25 net.

This book is the product of lectures given before the Lowell Institute in 1905 on the National Ideals of America. In spite of immigration, in spite of absorbing material activity, in spite of all outward appearances, there is an abiding and virile and distinctive American nationality. Of that nationality, moreover, the distinctive American trait—an inheritance from our Puritan forefathers—is idealism. Beneath all our egoism, all our commercialism, and through all our blunders we steadfastly abide by certain great ideals. These ideals are different from those of all other nations. Though other peoples use the same names for their ideals, nevertheless the meaning we read into the same words, is uniquely our own.

In the order of their historic development and of their conquering sway, are these three dominating and enduring ideals to which the Americans have clung and for which they have struggled—Liberty, Union and Democracy. For the preservation of their liberties the separate colonies fought the Revolution. For the maintenance of that liberty they formed the Union of the States. Because of sincerely differing beliefs about the sovereignty in