

THE MARVELOUS HUMAN MACHINE.

Langdon, Alberta, Canada, June 20.

I have just finished baling 100 tons of prairie hay for the Rocky Mountain markets. There is nothing interesting or strange about that fact, and this article is not an advertisement for baled hay. But running through the story of the task is another practical demonstration of the marvels of this wonderful human machine—the body.

I have hauled the entire shipment of hay by myself, from the baler to the cars. The work was performed in about 10 days, while four men were running the baler. I lifted the hundred tons of hay three and four times—a clean, clear, straightforward lift each time. It was lifted once from the ground to the wagon, once from the wagon to the car, and once from the car floor into the tiers in the car, one-third of the bales being lifted higher than my head. That is to say, in ten days I lifted a load aggregating 600,000 pounds in weight, and today I feel as rugged and fresh as the day I began. I have eaten three average meals per day and have averaged about seven hours' rest each night.

Think of this marvelous work, performed by a bundle of bone, muscle and tissue, weighing but 175 pounds.

And greater wonder still, one could go on performing the same kind and degree of manual labor for months, perhaps years, without suffering any depreciation of physical strength, if proper care were taken of this matchless machine, the body.

In the face of these facts, is it not strange that the human species deteriorate, decay, become decrepit, feeble, tottering and finally give up the struggle just when life should mean the most?

Every year gives us almost an entirely new body. Silently, stealthily, without noise or display, the human tissues are rebuilt, rejuvenated, renewed. Lungs, heart, liver, brain—all are renewed constantly. Bone and muscle and tendon are all formed anew while we sleep. Blood is invigorated, rekindled with the living fires of health and strength day by day and hour by hour. We receive a new lease on life every time we draw into our lungs the life-giving oxygen. We receive a pardon for our excesses, our suicidal errors, every time we lie down at night to rest and refresh ourselves. Yet in the face of these munificent gifts of Nature, we waste and destroy ourselves faster than all the alchemy of the universe can replenish our stores of vitality and strength. We throw away our lives, we waste our forces faster than the workshop of Nature, with all her matchless equipment, can rebuild our bodies.

With proper care, the human body should last, with all its faculties intact, for more than a century. If the excesses, the passions, wastes of every day life could be abolished, and men and women could live clean, normal, wholesome lives, eating, drinking and sleeping only as the bodily functions required these, and performing our labors in the proper time and within proper limits, where would be the reason for the decay of the body? Nature is doing so much to keep us on the earth, healthful, vigorous and strong, by rebuilding year by year every tissue in our bodies, that it seems criminal in us, to do so little to co-operate with her.

BERT HUFFMAN.

NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of *The Public* for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, June 27, 1911.

The British Coronation.

George V was crowned in Westminster Abbey on the 22nd, with the ceremonials that have come down from the time of Edward the Confessor. King George received the crown at 12:32 p. m., London time, and his consort, Queen May, received hers immediately afterward. Westminster Abbey was crowded with from 7,000 to 8,000 persons. Following a religious ceremony, the Archbishop of Canterbury proclaimed the presence of "the undoubted King of the Realm," east, south, west and north, accompanied by the Earl Marshal, the Lord Great Chamberlain and the Lord High Constable, the King meanwhile standing by his chair and turning to the four points of the compass as the proclamation was made at each. More elaborate religious ceremonies followed, all in accordance with the old time theory of the divinity of kings. Then came the oath, acknowledging the King's subordination to Parliamentary statutes and pledging him to the Protestant religion as established by law; whereupon, with the spoon used at English coronations since the twelfth century, the King kneeling, the Archbishop anointed him with oil. Long and varied archaic ceremonies followed, which culminated in the placing of the crown upon the King's head by the Archbishop and his being conducted to the throne. There he received in ancient form the homage of the archbishops and bishops, the Prince of Wales, the other princes, and the peers of the realm in the order of their rank. The coronation ceremonies being then over, the day which had opened with a royal procession through the streets of London closed at Buckingham palace with a royal dinner party.

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The British Imperial Conference.

Just previous to George V's coronation there met in London the first Imperial Conference of Premiers of the British Dominions. The Conference as the Assembly of Colonial Premiers had held five sessions, the first having been in 1887. At the meeting of 1907 the name was changed, and regular sessions four years apart were arranged for. The Premiers, guests of the English government during the Conference, and guests of the King for the coronation, were Andrew Fisher, Premier of the Commonwealth of Australia; Sir

Joseph Ward, Premier of the Dominion of New Zealand; Sir Wilfred Laurier, Premier of the Dominion of Canada; General Louis Botha, Premier of the Union of South Africa; and Sir Edward Morris, Premier of Newfoundland. The Premier of Great Britain, Mr. H. H. Asquith, was *ex officio* presiding officer of the councils. [See vol. x, p. 203.]

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The meetings of the Conference, which began on May 23, were not open to the public or the press. The Daily News assigned good reasons for this secrecy, saying: "The Conference is neither a propagandist meeting nor a Parliament. It is a gathering of picked administrators met to discuss with perfect frankness concrete matters interesting to the States which they represent." The press, however, reported proposals offered from the various Dominions, looking to closer and more equal federation between the various portions of the Empire, with less paternal care. Transference of the handling of their common affairs from the Secretary for the Colonies to the Foreign office or to an Imperial secretary, was advocated, but not pressed when objections on the score of convenience were advanced. The Premier of New Zealand was also reported as bringing forward a proposal for an Imperial parliament proportioned to populations, with an Imperial defence council of twelve, two from each of the six co-ordinate powers, Great Britain and Ireland being reckoned as only one factor among the six. The British Premier pointed out that this would destroy, first, the authority of the Home government in the conduct of foreign policy, diplomacy and war, and secondly, its responsibility to Parliament. The other Premiers also took stand against the super-powers of such a parliament and such a defense council, and Sir Joseph Ward withdrew his plan, stating that he realized that the problem "would require very careful consideration."

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At a luncheon given to the Premiers on May 27 at the Hotel Cecil, Mr. Lloyd George, who presided, made a speech on Imperial unity, in the course of which he said:

The conferring of self-government upon great communities in the Empire is the greatest of all the achievements of Liberalism. (Applause.) Our great statesmen in the past faced misrepresentation and obloquy, dared even political ruin, to confer freedom upon these great communities, and we see with pride how they have grown in strength, in influence, in power, and, above all, in the arts of self-government. They have added to the store of experience upon which humanity can draw in the settlement of its great problems, and as a party we feel that we can share in the triumphant vindication of democratic government which they present to the civilized world. (Hear, hear.) . . .

But we have another special interest as Liberals

in our self-governing Dominions. We study and watch with care, with admiration, with a spirit of emulation their bold social experiments. (Hear, hear.) It is an inspiration for us to see how the daring, the spirit of enterprise, the patient courage, which have transformed many a wilderness into a fertile province, are also inspiring the effort which is extricating humanity from the undergrowth of the social jungle in which it is tangled. In this land the growth is older and denser, the fibre is tougher and ranker. It is only with difficulty, with labor, with toil that we can cleave our way through it. But we are doing it slowly, laboriously, until I hope at last we shall cut a way for humanity to march through to the light. (Applause.)

This is an old country—not done with yet. (Applause.) The trade returns, the census returns, yes, and even the living issues we are fighting on the floor of the Mother of Parliaments, the House of Commons and the House of Lords, all prove that this country has not yet come to the end of its great career. (Hear, hear.) There are still chapters to be written which will thrill with nobler deeds than have yet been recorded even in the great past. The country which has founded the greatest Empire the world has ever seen means to prove that it can also rid itself of the social evils which are undermining its strength and dimming its lustre. (Applause.) The old country is not done with, but if we are not at the end of the greatness of Britain, these new Dominions are only at the beginning of their greatness. (Applause.)

The Prime Ministers who have honored us today with their presence now represent their millions. The day is not distant when either they or their successors will come over to the old country to represent their scores of millions. They have a great, and unlimited future before them. They may, and will, outgrow Britain in strength, population, power, position. But they will never outgrow their affection for the old country. (Applause.) There are shrines in Britain they can never forget. It is the land of Shakespeare, of Milton, of Burns; it is the land where generations of men and women dared death to fight for the freedom of the soul; and however they may grow, whatever their power and their influence, these things will draw them to the old country with an increasing attraction, an increasing affection, until we shall one day be indeed one people—one in purpose, one in ideals, one in devotion to the service of God and man. (Applause.)

In responding the Premier of Australia, Mr. Andrew Fisher, said:

We have found that the more we are allowed to manage our own affairs the more attached do the people of Australia become to the people of England and to the British crown. It is freedom which makes for safety.

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The Lords' Veto.

Parliament reassembled on the 26th, and in the House of Lords Lord Lansdowne gave notice of a series of amendments to the Lords' veto bill, providing for the exclusion of bills relating to Irish home rule, for joint sittings in case of disagree-