

THE RICHMOND PALLADIUM

AND SUN-TELEGRAM.

Published and owned by the PALLADIUM PRINTING CO. Issued 7 days each week, evenings and Sunday morning. Office—Corner North 9th and A streets. Home Phone 1121. RICHMOND, INDIANA.

Rudolph G. Leeds—Managing Editor. Charles M. Morgan—Business Manager. G. Owen Kahn—News Editor.

SUBSCRIPTION TERMS. In Richmond \$5.00 per year (in advance) or 10c per week. MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

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RURAL ROUTES. One year, in advance \$2.00
Six months, in advance 1.25
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Address changed as often as desired; both new and old addresses must be given.

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Entered at Richmond, Indiana, post-office as second class mail matter.

THE 'SCUTCHEON CLEARED.'

Colonel Orran Perry has rendered a great service to the good name of Indiana. He has lately written and collected a book entitled "Indiana in the Mexican War," which clears forever the stigma which has attached itself to the war record of our soldiers in that struggle.

In brief the situation was that Hoosier soldiers were accused of cowardice on the field of battle, that they had the position that was the key to the whole engagement of Buena Vista and at the crucial part of the battle—they retreated. For many years this opinion has been so current that Indians were forced to blush when the subject was mentioned. Indeed the reputation was so bad that we find Morton referring to it in a speech he made on the return of the soldiers from the civil war. In Mr. Foulke's life of the war governor there appears this significant statement:

"At the commencement of the struggle the reputation of the Hoosiers had been a little under par. They had been ashamed of Indiana, and when they had spoken of their nativity they had made it convenient to be born in Kentucky. But now these men were all born in Indiana. They had been born again."

What then has Col. Perry done?

An extract will show. "I wish to give the people of Indiana a few facts in order to vindicate the Second Indiana from unmerited disgrace. They began the battle of the 23d in as fine a style as anybody of troops on earth could, and fought as bravely until 11 o'clock, when they retreated in confusion and a part of them could not be afterward rallied. They mustered on the field much less than 400 men and were opposed at the time they gave way, to at least 4,000 Mexican troops and exposed to the fire of one of the enemy's batteries at the same time. This state of things would not have justified them in retreating, nor was it the reason they did so."

"They were manfully maintaining their ground against all the immense odds and Brigadier General Lane had ordered the battery on their right to take an advanced position with a view to bringing the regiment closer to the enemy that their fire might be more effective before his aid-camp had time to return from delivering the order to advance the battery and while he was still waiting for his return in order to give the necessary order for advancing the troops, they gave way on the right and in a few minutes the whole line was in full retreat. This unfortunate circumstance was very near losing us the victory and costing the lives of the whole army, for it has since been ascertained that Santa Anna had given orders to take no prisoners and it has covered the state with disgrace. This odium must be removed and the establishment of one fact is sufficient to do it."

"They were ordered to retreat by their Colonel."

And who was this officer? he was none other than Col. W. A. Bowles. This man was far from being a model officer as his subsequent actions at the time of the civil war showed. He later became a major-general in the "Sons of Liberty," and was arrested and condemned for conspiracy against the government in the sixties at Morton's instigation. Of his conduct under fire it is said: "He dismounted as soon as the firing commenced and endeavored to shield himself by staying immediately in the rear of his troops, with his horse between him and the enemy's battery, and while his men were fighting as bravely as ever men fought, and no one thinking of retreating, he gave the order to 'Cease firing and retreat.'

Hence it comes that it has never been rightly understood why it was that Indiana apparently showed grave cowardice on the field of Buena Vista.

Indiana owes a debt of gratitude to Col. Orran Perry for his valuable work of compilation. Too often it is that adjutants-general of the states are in no way fitted for their office.

Col. Perry not only has a brilliant war record but he is fitted in every way for the position he occupies. It is a commentary on his qualifications that in addition to the successful performance of his actual duties he should have recognized the need of the work of keeping the war records of Indiana. His "Indiana in the Mexican War" has more than local interest. It is valuable to the future historian of that period of our history. It may not be generally known, but the Mexican war is the one thing of which there is the least knowledge in all our national life.

But beside this, the most important result is the clearing of the good names of those valiant Hoosier boys who fought ten to one against the Mexicans, although handicapped with an incompetent and cowardly officer who subsequently became little short of a traitor to the flag.

CANNED SERMONS.

Where will modern labor saving devices end?

A New York syndicate is offering to furnish "sermon service" for the modest figure of \$10 per year to clergymen who run out of things to say.

Not only that, but these goods are "warranted strictly up to date, containing allusions to current affairs and matters of national interest."

"No patron need fear the accusation of plagiarism," state the enterprising sermon merchants, "because the service will be given to only one clergyman in each town."

The sermons are mailed in New York every Friday morning in plain, sealed envelopes. They are evangelical in tone. They enable the clergyman to get along with fewer homiletic books and magazines and the terms put this unique service within the reach of the poorest ministers. We shall not furnish our service to more than one minister in any given city or town."

The opening paragraphs of the circular to the clergymen are as follows: "Dear Brother:

"Though the quality of pulpit work demanded these days is much higher than that of a generation or two ago, the time for study and preparation has been markedly cut off by the increase of business and routine parish work which the times have thrust upon the minister."

"We believe that hasty and piecemeal sort of preparation has a great deal to do with the acknowledged diminishing interest and attendance at the church services. The pulpit is the minister's throne; if he is weak and slipshod there he weakens his power all the way around. We believe that many ministers get ill or nervously incapacitated by the worry and strain of the situation—more here than elsewhere."

"All this is possible of remedy. We are in a position to help. We prepare every week a new and original sermon which we offer for the small consideration of 25 cents to the harassed and hard-driven pastor of the average church. These sermons are from twelve to fifteen minutes long. They are printed in large type-writer type, so that the minister has no labor of copying. The price is payable in advance. We shall be pleased to answer inquiries, especially if accompanied by stamp."

A great rush to enter this scheme is hard to believe, and yet on the average would it matter much? Even the ministers themselves confess to the dull mediocrity of the average sermon. The church papers, which are the trade journals of the profession, announce the fact brazenly.

One of the most refreshing of the incidents contained in the life of Benjamin Franklin, is his defense of a preacher in the Philadelphia of his time, who had a splendid delivery and who was held in high esteem until it was discovered that his sermons were those of a celebrated divine who had lived some years before him in England. Up to this time the man had spoken to crowded houses and many people confessed to the power of his sermons. When he was unmasked Franklin was the only one in the province who did not jeer at him. Franklin insisted that he "would far rather hear a good, though borrowed sermon, than a sermon that was original and bad."

The value of a sermon is in the amount of good it does and who can doubt that if a sermon is by a man of the stamp of Phillips Brooks, Henry Ward Beecher, or Spurgeon or Robertson of England, that the gain of the congregation would be much greater.

THE RETURNING PROSPERITY.

The papers from all over the country are bearing the good tidings of better times. If indications are to be relied on, it looks as if we were on the verge of one of the greatest eras of prosperity which has yet been seen.

And there is no good reason why this should not be. The large increase in railroad stocks may be due sometimes to manipulation of speculators, but the increase in industrials can hardly be laid to that door. The two coming in conjunction is a hopeful

sign indeed. It is a sign of actual investment.

Already U. S. Steel, American Car Foundry, Pressed Steel Car, and many other stocks show a strong advance over the October panic of last year, indicating a healthy condition throughout the industrial world, which is utterly different from the fitful and unhealthy palpitations of the market caused by pure manipulation. J. Pierpont Morgan (whose utterance is always conservative and a safe barometer of trade), has assured the country that a dividend on Steel (common) is about to be declared.

Amalgamated Copper which sold at 41 this time last year is now up in the eighties and nineties. Standard railroad securities are now being invested in heavily. Witness St. Paul common, 148 a day or so ago, last year 96; Union Pacific, 178½, last year par; Reading, 138, last year 80.

Nor is the stock market the only barometer—take any great daily newspaper and compare the help wanted columns and the situations wanted—not only last year with this year, but even with the weeks preceding the election.

There is something doing now!

NEW YORK SENATORS.

Who will New York elect to the senatorship?

New York has done well in the last election, with Hughes in the governor's chair and Roosevelt still in the white house, with a Taft to follow who had the support of the Empire state, it looks well for that state's political awakening.

Hughes put the bosses to confusion—but to what extent? Do they still hang on to the senatorship?

It is to be hoped that the moral awakening extends that far. It is to be hoped that the state which has sent to the Senate DeWitt Clinton, William H. Seward, Roscoe Conkling—men who stood above their fellows—will forget the party bosses and leave such men as Thomas Collier Platt at home.

It is encouraging in looking over the names of Elihu Root, Joseph Choate and Theodore Roosevelt mentioned as material for the senate from that state.

"With any of these men as the choice New York would stand well indeed—and what a contrast to the past! There is hope that the bosses have lost their grip in that neck of the woods."

The resolution which was voted down in the German Reichstag asking that Williams refrain from entering into the discussion of international questions coming on the heels of the flurry caused by the suppressed interview with the German emperor which William Bayard Hale obtained for the Century Magazine is interesting.

Apparently our friend the Kaiser, has cause to be likened to our strenuous Theodore Roosevelt. Talk about muzzling either one! What is the use in being Hohenlohe and emperor when you can't get into the game yourself?

LET US ROOF THE STATE AND BE HAPPY LUNIES ALL

Editor Palladium:

I note with sad interest an item in one of the papers with large head lines "POPULATION," in which it set forth the cheerful information that the population of Easthaven is now the largest in the history of the institution; that the recently erected buildings are almost full. Would it not be in harmony with the present hedonic ways of the world to call a mass meeting of jubiles over this great increase of our population; or would it be better to root the state and all join in a happy-go-lucky lunate commonwealth?

Verily, verily. "When it is evening, ye say, it will be fair weather, for the heaven is red. And in the morning, it will be foul weather today; for the heaven is red and lowering. Ye know how to discern the face of the heaven, but ye cannot discern the signs of the times."

How long O Lord, how long, before the people will learn that the human body is not a machine, that can be run like an automobile with a wild-eyed demoniacal chauffeur-decent; that it is not a mechanism-physical contraption, into which at ones sweet will and pleasure and with perfect immunity, may be taken alcoholics, nicotine, "the flesh-pots of Egypt," and all sorts of epidemic abominations.

When will they stop to think and reason as to the causes of insanity?

How many thousand years must yet roll by, ere they refer to "a volume of ancient and forgotten lore" and read therein and realize that the human body is the temple of God, and any man desile this temple, he will be destroyed; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

J. P. Durst lost a valuable colt by drowning last week. This at first glance might seem a misfortune, yet on reflection if one is an optimist he will realize that it's a fine thing to have enough water out on the "Staked Plains" to drown a horse.

What is said to be the largest projectile ever manufactured was made at the Krupp works for the Czar's government. It weighed 2,600 pounds, was made for a gun which was placed in the fortifications at Kronstadt.

An African camel can carry 350 pounds. The load for a donkey must not exceed 150 pounds, while a mule can carry up to 230 pounds.

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