

The World's Work

WALTER H. PAGE, EDITOR

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THE WORLD'S WORK

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The March of Events

THE fall begins hopefully. The harvest is big and the price of it high; and this means plenty for the largest economic group of our population.

The farmer, in fact, has hope of double good luck this year, as he had last year — both big crops and high prices. These do not come together under usual conditions; but the grain crops of Europe last year were small, and the outlook is that they will be small this year also. The value of this year's crop in the United States is estimated at eight billions of dollars — more than twice the value of the crop of 1904.

There is, too, an increasing amount of work for the skilled and for the unskilled. Even before the summer ended, practically all the mills of the Steel Corporation resumed operation with books full of orders, at only slightly reduced prices. The slump in steel manufacture seems past and thousands of workmen have gone back to work.

The railroads have already given employment to many thousands of men who had been laid off. The Illinois Central road, for instance, some time ago put 8,000 men to work on new construction and improvements. The Santa Fé took back 3,500 men who had been laid off from shops and road. The Pennsylvania Road reopened its big Eastern shops. Several railroads gave up plans for the reduction of wages, and for the further cutting of the lists of men at work. This in spite of the lessening of dividends.

Fourteen of the principal railroads, according to a computation by the *Wall Street Journal*, will pay about eighteen million dollars

less in dividends this year than they paid last year. They include the Pennsylvania, the New York Central, the Atchison, the Southern. This falling-off of course reflects the conditions of the first half of the year.

Men of conservative temperaments will not rush to the conclusion that the full tide of prosperity is come. But the panic is past. If we had had no panic, perhaps bumper crops this year might have brought another period of wild inflation. As it is, the bounty of the fields will restore the country to its normal state, chastened, let us hope, by the memories of 1907, and ready for a long, steady, sober march on safe roads.

Every panic and every depression brings benefits. They may be costly, but they are benefits nevertheless, such as the weeding out of ill-managed or superfluous or unsound concerns, and especially the checking of reckless expense and the discouragement of speculative methods. It is a flat and unpleasant commonplace, but it is true, that a too long period of very great prosperity does more harm to the character of many men and many communities than even bankruptcy does to others. Extravagant living and a speculative atmosphere are likely to be fatal if not to the generation that first indulges in them, then surely to the next generation. It is better to be poor than to be soft.

This Presidential election has no malign, hardly a depressing, influence on business; for there is nothing to scare the people about. Perhaps some time we may even bury the venerable superstition that a Presidential election must needs make a stagnant year.

the number of such consolidations; and no new order of things can go into effect without bringing antagonism into being. The list of men who must have felt slighted is very large.

Secondly, the mere magnitude of the organization made years ago, when combinations were new, brought down upon his head the first resentments, while the same things done later, in the ordinary course of business combinations, attracted no attention. Even if the things done then were much less liable to criticism than if done now, the judgments were more unfriendly and less impartially studied.

In the third place, the effect of these consolidations is in some respects similar to the effect of introducing labor-saving machinery. While they make possible great economies in production, so that the price of the product to consumers can be reduced at the same time that the wages of labor and the remuneration of capital can be increased, it nevertheless results for the time being in the displacement of certain individuals who had theretofore been profitably occupied. In the one case, the individuals displaced are the workmen whose labor is made unnecessary by the improved

machinery; in the other, it is the managers of the smaller plants whose services are rendered unnecessary by the improved organization. It is natural that in both cases the persons who are displaced should fail to appreciate the advantages of the change and should complain of their misfortunes.

It is, of course, too soon even to guess at what will be the final outcome of all the litigation now going on in the courts against many combinations of capital conducted as great corporations. That public opinion has been inflamed by both real and imaginary abuses is unquestioned, and no man can speak intelligently of the final outcome. Many people have based their judgment of Mr. Rockefeller not on definite knowledge of his conduct but upon their general opinions about combinations of capital and such subjects. For years he has been known all over the world as a genius at making money, but as a genius at equally efficient giving, the public knows next to nothing of him. How fundamental and far-reaching these plans are will not be demonstrated adequately for many years. For the end is not yet.

THE WHITE RACE IN THE TROPICS

A HABITABLE AREA OF TEN MILLION SQUARE MILES IN
SOUTH AMERICA AND AFRICA AWAITING DEVELOPMENT

BY

S. P. VERNER

THE star of empire has reached the Pacific on its westward way; now it must go southward. For the last twenty centuries we have seen the dominant peoples of the world gradually fill up the north temperate zones, and encroach upon the south temperate until in Argentina and South Africa they have achieved an effective occupation, and now they stand fretfully looking upon the vast, rich regions under the Southern Cross, ready to fill up the measure of their last opportunity. What shall we do with the tropics? That is the great question of the twentieth century.

Can we do anything with them? Let us examine the question in the light of history.

The inquiry is necessarily limited to the possibilities of the "white" race in the lands twenty degrees on each side of the equator. I include the Semitic races in this classification. That the Aryan race at one time built up a great civilization in a tropical land is shown in India. The present common Hindoo is no longer a type of what this race once was because of the intermingling and superimposition of the Malay and Hamitic types which, the one aboriginal, the other interpolated, have so vastly modified the whole population of the peninsula. But it is noteworthy that the builders of the ancient civilization of India, once so glorious, whose remains, in temple, shrine, palace, art, and literature, still compel

the wonder of modern beholders, were the Aryan peoples from the Araxes and the Aral plateau. It is sometimes imagined that the decadence of this civilization is evidence itself of the white man's unfitness for the land he conquered. The inference is a *non sequitur*. Indian civilization was originally builded by a white race and its resurrection is being achieved by a white race. That ancient civilization was complete in its kind, before decadence set in, and had lasted longer than the Roman Empire before it began to totter. Its decay was not due to climatic or geographical causes, but to social and economic forces, for if the climatic reason operated, why did it not prevent the development of that civilization in the first instance?

In what sense is this industrial conquest of vital moment to the American people? Clearly this: the nearest continental land masses to us are Europe, South America, and Africa. Our general relations to the European powers and peoples are already more or less clearly defined. We know with whom we have to deal, and the problems of our present and future relations with them are fairly well known. What these relations with the powers which may eventually develop in Africa and South America are going to be is one of the greatest questions of the future; how to provide for peace and mutual advantage with the nations which may develop there is a task of paramount importance to the American statesman of this and coming generations. What are the means by which these desirable ends are to be achieved?

First, by the means of a favorable tariff régime of reciprocity. Already the imports from these lands consist so largely of raw material, mostly non-dutiable, that this step in the right direction may be said to have been begun.

The all-effective means, however, of increasing commerce with these tropical regions, is the presence of efficient Americans resident there and actually engaged in business. This is the *modus operandi* of the European powers in South America, to the relative loss of American prestige. While various causes are commonly alleged for this — their advantageous banking and credit terms, their energetic advertising, their subsidized merchant marine — the really potent force is the man who lives in the territory to be assimilated. It is the resident German in South

America who is at the bottom of German commercial supremacy. Actual residents of these foreign countries with business, social, and sentimental connections with their home lands diffuse information about the products of their former country; they send orders themselves; they cause their neighbors to do so; they find business openings, land for sale, and all sorts of opportunities, which they describe to their countrymen, and which induce many to follow the pioneers. While boards of trade are blowing trumpets, and consuls are making reports, and diplomats are exchanging visits, these unheard individuals are going serenely on, unconsciously laying the foundations of international commerce and effecting the gradual transformation of the country that they occupy.

A man of the writer's acquaintance had twelve hundred dollars and a few months time. He went to the tropics, made large scientific collections, took photographs, studied local conditions, came home, cleared ten thousand dollars on his work, and was in demand for his knowledge, besides having a store of experiences to bequeath to his grandchildren.

One does not easily realize how much development is still possible in the tropics, development in which we can directly take part. In Africa, the tropical regions south of the Sahara and north of the Zambesi include about five million square miles, nearly all of which is capable of agricultural development. A curious coincidence is that tropical South America is of almost exactly similar extent, so that these two great tropical regions present a superficial area of ten million square miles, practically all of which is capable of productive exploitation. The total population of these regions is 115,000,000. This gives an average of about eleven persons per square mile. While it is true that these lands are not all equally desirable, the proportion of good land is higher than in any other equally large land-masses anywhere in the world. It is interesting to compare this density of population with that of other countries. In China, it is one hundred people per square mile; in the Russian Empire, twenty per square mile; in the United States, thirty; in France, two hundred; in Belgium, seven hundred. The two tropical regions containing the ten million square miles above mentioned could give to every man, woman, and child on the globe a five acre plot capable of producing everything

necessary for their comfortable support. It is clearly evident that those immense regions offer to the world opportunities not yet faintly dreamed of.

What these two vast tropical regions are capable of producing is shown by the following tables:

<i>Vegetable and Animal Products</i>									
2	billion dollars' worth of	rubber	gross a year						
1.5	"	"	"	"	cotton	"	"	"	
1.6	"	"	"	"	corn	"	"	"	
2	"	"	"	"	veg. oils	"	"	"	
.7	"	"	"	"	fruit	"	"	"	
3	"	"	"	"	timber	"	"	"	
	with re-forestation every fifty years								
2.5	billion dollars' worth of	cattle and horses							
13.3	billion dollars total per annum in	perennial							
	vegetable and animal products.								

<i>Mineral Products</i>									
400	million dollars' worth of	iron	for centuries						
100	"	"	"	"	silver	"	"	"	
200	"	"	"	"	gold	"	"	"	
700	"	"	"	"	copper	"	"	"	
850	"	"	"	"	coal	"	"	"	
400	"	"	"	"	min. oil	"	"	"	
2,650	"	"			total				

This gives a grand total of nearly sixteen billion dollars of possible annual production from resources known to exist, and confining the products only to the above articles. The output in the United States in such of the above articles as are here produced for the year 1907 was about five billion dollars. This shows that the estimate for the two tropical regions is conservative. As the rubber and vegetable oil products are peculiar to them, and as the mineral resources are almost untouched, the estimate (which was worked out in detail from reliable data before being summarized) is a safe minimum. The mineral and metal resources are probably many times greater than the known deposits above enumerated.

It remains to modify the theoretical capacity of those regions by the factor of the labor. The population of the tropics under consideration is about one hundred and fifteen million. The United States, with a slightly smaller population and one-third of the natural resources, produces vastly more than one-third of the above estimated annual product. To reduce the matter to figures, before correcting for minor errors, the average American,

man, woman, and child, produces about seventy-five dollars' worth of the great staples per annum. This, of course, is not the final average of the total productive capacity of the American, but simply his average production of the great staples.

At this rate the present population of the tropics could produce nine billions of the fifteen above mentioned. The comparison might be criticized for balancing many savage and barbarous races against the American working man. But, on the other hand:

(1) The kind of manual labor required to produce most of those staples is unskilled. The native African, for example, has already shown an aptitude for ordinary industries equal to that of his American cousin, and his capacity is constantly increasing. In South America the native population is not so hopeful, but the stream of migration has been setting in that direction and will continue to do so.

(2) It is only a matter of a comparatively short time before a steady stream of settlers will start toward those regions. The filling up of the other parts of the world; the tendency in America to restrict immigration; the rapid increase in the knowledge of the resources of the tropics and in the knowledge of how to live there; the extension of the means of communication and of transportation; the awakening of the great powers to the value of the opportunities they possess in the territories they control in Africa; and the increasing appreciation, by South American governments, of the fact that land is worthless without men to work it; all of these influences contribute to the southward movement which will be the characteristic economic fact of the twentieth century.

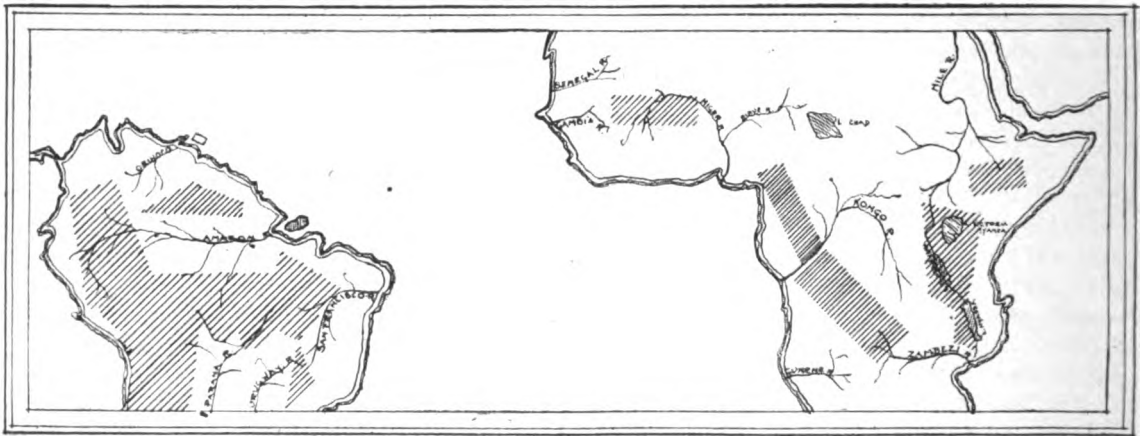
(3) It is very often true that an inferior race directed by individuals of a superior develops greater efficiency for a given task than where the manual labor and the executive supervision are performed by the same race. The qualification attaching to this statement is that this is true where there is effective organization, and the work to be accomplished is divided into large units. Under a system of individual settlement and many small industries, the higher the race of the lower class of labor the better. It is evident, however, that a vast amount of tropical development, especially during its preliminary stages, will be accomplished by great industrial concerns, with a hierarchical system of superintendence, giving to the labor at the bottom the benefit of

the most skilled direction and control. This will make the native labor in the tropics admirably adapted to the purposes in question.

(4) The other advantages offered by the use of the native labor include: Their adaptability to climatic conditions; their lack of tendency toward strikes, discontent, and organization for destructively selfish purposes; their interest in and love for the country of their origin, and their pride in its growth and development.

When all these things are considered, it appears that the labor *in situ* is far from being a negligible quantity; and that, supplemented by adequate directing talent, it is capable of playing a most important part in the progressive development of the tropical regions. Indeed, one may say that with three million capable,

Railway crosses the summits of the Chrystal Mountains, at an elevation of about three thousand feet. In the hottest month of the year I found those places delightfully cool, and the testimony of all the whites is that along those ridges the climate is practically temperate and salubrious. The white men pushed on, however, into the remoter interior regions, for various reasons, most of them sound. But they neglected this salubrious region. In general, this range of mountains borders the Congo Basin on the west for nearly a thousand miles, so that from settlements along the ridges or adjacent plateaus one may be in easy reach of all parts of the western half of the basin. Moreover, the soil in these upland valleys is excellent, and their natural resources sufficient.



THE WAITING TROPICS

The shaded area shows 3,200,000,000 acres of land habitable by the white races, with an average elevation of 3,400 feet and a mean annual temperature of 73° F.

progressive whites wisely distributed over the ten million square miles, as friendly directors and instructors of the existent population, that population will be capable of producing all of the nine billion dollars' worth of staple products per annum.

This brings us naturally to one of the main factors in the "how" of this great problem. The wise distribution of these additional white men is a matter of tremendous importance. Taking the matter up in detail, the way in which I advocate the placing of these soldiers of industry appears on the map, in its general outlines. At the same time, these sections must be known in considerable detail to facilitate the wise location of these white centres.

To illustrate the point, I take a concrete case. Between Matadi and Stanley Pool, the Congo

Probably most of the mineral wealth of West Central Africa will be found there. As many rivers run down these slopes toward the great inland streams, there is power and means of navigation both at hand. Here white settlers should be located, and a branch line of the Congo Railway should be built along this crest to serve their purposes. There ought to be an easy system of small land grants in such a region, and, in places, a few government farms, from which to send food to other parts of the country, and about which these colonies might group themselves. As the region will produce \$50 per acre in rubber, net, the colonists can soon build up not only self-supporting but money-making plantations over a territory as large and as healthy as California.

The "line of least (apparent) resistance" in the tropics, which has naturally been taken by pioneers, is by no means always the most healthful. Along the great rivers, off the tempting bays on the coast, is the way men get in; and they are confined to the proximity of these places until a means of rapid transit can be devised. In general, one may say that it is vitally important to build railways through the healthful regions as early as possible.

Many colonizing efforts have failed, but the causes of failure are clearly discernible. If all of the points here mentioned are embraced in the scheme, success is practically assured.

Besides the two already mentioned — a healthful region and means of rapid transit to it — a third requisite is adequate means of support until the enterprise is productively self-supporting.

It is on this rock, for example, that Liberian colonization schemes have split. Men go there with no means to live, expecting to pick up bread-fruit under the trees, and bananas from the woods, and are soon undeceived. A well-planned scheme involves the taking of food-supplies, barter-goods, tools, medicines, arms and ammunition, and seed, for a year ahead, or arrangements to procure these things on the field, with the money to pay for them. No colored man ought to leave America for Liberia with less than five hundred dollars in his pocket, and he ought also to have a definite offer of land which he knows to be good enough and properly located, before he goes. A properly organized company could take care of all these points in advance, and render the Negro emigration from this country to any part of Africa feasible and successful.

Then, too, men going there ought to be willing to live in the simple style necessary to keep their expenses within the limit of their capital until they are self-supporting. In the Congo the extravagance of the average white man is astounding. Champagne is the invariable order of the day for men getting a few hundred dollars per year, and the official usually lands in Antwerp after three years with enough money for a spree, when he must sign and go back.

It must be remembered with what Spartan simplicity the American pioneers built up their early homes, and laid the foundation of the present wealth and luxury of the country. They lived in huts, ate corn-bread, drank

water, wore homespun, and conquered an empire. The old principle of loving liberty better than comfort which the log-cabin exemplified is as sound as ever. The colonists ought to be encouraged to become land-owners, on however limited a scale; even when these settlers are agents for large commercial companies, the companies will find it beneficial to their interests in the end to encourage this development of the investing spirit. Ownership in land usually is the foundation of progress, and the strongest incentive to local patriotism.

In the details of actual operations, a large use of the most improved modern machinery is indicated. It is with reference to this point that many mistakes are made. One thinks without reflection that native labor is so cheap that much can be done more economically by hand. But the fact that the work to be done in these new lands is so enormously in excess of the available labor is in itself reason enough for the use of all the labor-saving devices possible. I saw an illustration to the point in the marine service at Leopoldville on Stanley Pool. The winch for drawing the steamers on the slips for purposes of repairs was elaborately provided with many long hand-levers for use by man-power. Perhaps as many as thirty men would be required several days to get the boat a few feet on shore. A steam winch would do the work in short order, and the labor of the men could be directed to what they alone could do — gathering rubber, where their time is worth a dollar a day each. This is the crux of the matter — put the manual labor where only manual labor can do the work required, and let whatever can be done by machinery be accomplished in that way. The field for the use of modern, improved machinery of all sorts in the future of the tropics is something so immense that we can hardly estimate the results from its application. For example, the magnificent water-powers in the valleys of the Amazon, San Francisco, Congo, Upper Nile, and Zambesi could run all the machinery in the world to-day, and have power left over. The development of invention has been such that by commencing with labor-saving devices in the beginning of an enterprise, the cost-units and profits can be more easily estimated and controlled than formerly. These devices will largely overcome many of the natural difficulties which exist. Each settlement ought to be planned on the basis of having an

ice-factory, saw-mill, automobiles, newspaper, telephones, electric lights, at least; and the general scheme ought to be so arranged as to embrace them. They will make life more attractive, labor more efficient, and the progress of the community very much more rapid.

The plan of local government ought to be so thoroughly understood in the commencement of the colony's existence as to minimize future misunderstandings. The questions of taxes, of land tenures, and the methods of land acquisition, of trade rights, of mining laws, ought to be enacted into a form fixed for a considerable number of years — not less than twenty — so that the colonists may know in advance what they have to expect, and arrange their plans accordingly. Large exploiting companies ought to have a contract with the government covering these points.

Training-schools for special study of tropical conditions, languages, and the methods of development most applicable ought to be part of the organization of our principal universities. Indeed a great international university in Cuba for this special purpose would be eminently in place. Similarly, training-schools for the native peoples are indicated. They ought to be intensely practical in aim and methods, teaching the way to work, the dignity of work, and the value of work. A savage, when emerging from his primitive condition, is very apt to look upon civilization as emancipation from work, and to try to attain to that false ideal.

Justice to settlers going from countries in which they enjoy a large measure of political freedom demands that the principle of local self-government shall be embodied in the scheme of government as early and as fully as possible. On this rock has many a colonial venture gone to pieces. Let the colonists be encouraged to govern themselves, and let the mother country occupy herself only with the relations of the colonies to external powers. It remains to take up in detail the exact situation in each of the great undeveloped tropical continents, but a concluding word here is pertinent in reference to the great possibilities of happiness for the "unemployed," the insufficiently employed, the relatively unhappy among us, in the vast fields to the southward. It is particularly because of their agricultural opportunities that these regions offer the means of comfort to many millions. An agricultural people has the most solid foundation for general social contentment. They are not so apt to respond to the sensitive influences of the market — at least not to the extent of real hunger and want. They can nearly always live and be free. To get the numbers who are all the time suffering from the disorder incident to our inchoate social conditions, especially in the great cities, to where they can both enjoy a measure of happiness themselves, and be instrumental in bringing into productive alignment the mighty plains, forests, hills, and valleys of the waiting tropics, is a task worthy of the highest effort of the patriot and the statesman.

A NEW KIND OF COUNTRY SCHOOL

SO CONDUCTED AS TO GIVE A WHOLLY NEW MEANING TO "EDUCATION"

BY

O. J. KERN

(SUPERINTENDENT OF WINNEBAGO COUNTY SCHOOLS, ROCKFORD, ILL.)

BESIDE a country road in Magnolia Township in Putnam County—the smallest in Illinois—stands the John Swaney Consolidated School, the finest of its kind in the state. For there a small group of people have had the knowledge and the faith to pay out generously their hard-earned dollars

that their children in the country may have the corresponding school advantages that the most favored city children have; not the same advantages, for they realize that the teaching which will best adapt a child to life in the country is not that given in the city schools.

The people who have built up this country