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orncesses involved in manufacturing breech-loading ordnance.—
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STUDENTS OF AMERICAN HISTORY.

History reposes on authenticated facts as proved by living witnesses or written records. To gather and digest such materials demands critical and painstaking investigation carried on with as much freedom from prejudice as possible, by men qualified to see and accept the facts of politics, society, and religious life just as they really are. This task has been made difficult in our own country by the acrimony of party strife, the overwhelming mass of new materials and fresh discoveries launched upon us continually, and the innate tendency of a free and vivacious people to deal in exaggeration of former or passing events. In order to rescue the important facts of our own history from oblivion, to sift out facts from traditions, to arrange these facts under the discriminating eye of trained observation, and to teach aright the vital lessons that may be drawn from them, the American Historical Association was organized, which has just held its seventh annual meeting in the city of Washington, with a large array of distinguished names and a long series of extremely interesting papers and addresses.

The inaugural address prepared by the president. Hon. John Jay, LL.D., of New York City, was read in his absence by Hon. Wm. Wirt Henry, of Richmond, Va. He claimed that the national importance of the work done by the society, and its improved methods of study, had been properly recognized by its incorporation with the Smithsonian Institution, and the generous privileges accorded as to collecting materials, making exchanges and distributing reports. But he also lamented our being yet so far behind European students as to justify Professor Emerson's caustic remark that "history has been taught very badly in America, or rather, to be honest, it has hardly been taught at all." We are surprisingly forgetful of historic lessons, and too much importance cannot be attached to what is now being done by this association, and by such aids as those furnished by Harvard, Yale, Cornell, Columbia, and especially by the Johns Hopkins University, to give true historic expositions of the principles and policy of this republic as exhibited in congressional acts and judicial decisions. From these high sources the lessons go down to the common schools, so that everywhere the demand arises for new histories and historic primers, by means of which the young Americans shall be taught in a way at once correct and attractive the plain, homely facts of our government, the intelligent principles underlying not only the Magna Independence, the United States Constitution and its amendments, to which may wisely be added the local coloring supplied by the annals of their own immediate neighborhood. The surest way of preserving the American spirit in its purity and manly strength will be by the truthful and earnest teaching of American citizen who is not intelligent?" Nothing will more, were graphically described by the writer. certainly develop and control the growing brain power of history.

pendent power, with a vast territory, an intelligent studies like those espoused by this association. people, and a magnificent future of its own in a line of national development diverging more and more from VITAL STATISTICS OF JEWS IN THE UNITED STATES. that of this country. His protests against what he termed the extraordinary pretensions of the United to vital statistics of the Jews in the United States, part to bring Canada into the sisterhood of States till this country, most of the others had resided here for she could come in willingly, denying any spirit of con-fifteen years or over. The returns, therefore give a quest, and asserting that the boundaries of the two good idea of the position of the fixed Hebrew populacountries that marched side by side for 4,000 miles tion, and illustrate well the characteristics of the race must compel them to the closest relations of amity and as settled in the United States. commerce.

New material was adduced by Prof. Rand as to the New England settlements in Acadia. There had been two great migrations, one of 11,000 persons between 1760 and 1770, and another in 1784 of about 23,000 disbeen carried out at an earlier day of colonizing the Maritime Provinces from New England instead of dishould have retained our hold on them.

the germ of our body politic. This was controverted the richerones, reversing the ordinary course of things. by Dr. C. M. Andrews of Bryn Mawr, who held that line, Prof. Gross, of Harvard, made a plea for reform of study, little explored, but supplying many facts as to our own colonial period.

A lengthy and able account was given by Prof. Cohn of the formation of the French Constitution. The fate of Diedrich Flade, the most eminent victim of the witch persecution, who sacrificed himself to save others, was fully explained from records that had been lost for a century, but had now turned up and were in the possession of Cornell University. The connection between the liberal movement in Germany, led by Karl Follen, and the subsequent development of American freedom, was shown in an interesting paper by Prof. Francke, who explained how Follen, after having posed as a nihilist, was led by Lafayette's genial sympathy to the higher ground taken by our purest patriots. A sketch of Bismarck, the typical German, portrayed him as the fit product of a land of castles, whose conservatism is the outgrowth of the castle system; yet who detested bureaucracy and strongly admired sterling honesty, while consistently seeking the unity of the German empire.

In a paper on "Amendments to the United States Constitution," Mr. H. V. Ames, of the Harvard graduate school, stated that upward of 1,300 resolutions, containing over 1.700 propositions to amend the Constitution, had been offered down to the close of the Fiftieth Congress, in March, 1889. In summarizing, it was found that besides the fifteen amendments now a part of the Constitution, only four had been proposed by Congress to the States for ratification. The speaker said that nothing of strength had been added to the Constitution, except in the case of the reconstruction amendments, and these were carried only after a civil

The great land speculations in the Yazoo territory. now divided between Georgia and Alabama, were described by Dr. C. Haskins, of the University of Wisconsin, who showed that, among other results, the discussion of these frauds caused the first split in the Democratic party, and that the decision of the Supreme Court as to the claims arising from them originated the present interpretation of the law of public contracts. These claims were finally compromised by the act of 1814.

Miss Mary Tremain enjoys the distinction of being the first woman to lay a paper before the Historical Association, which was an interesting sketch of slavery in the District of Columbia. She stated the fact that slavery played no part originally in the choice of the seat of government. The capital was given to the South to win Southern votes, but there is no proof that Charta, but also the Bill of Rights, the Declaration of the surrounding influences made the government incapable of resisting the encroachments of the Southern system. It is certain, however, that the fear of endangering the Union did prevent Congress from legislating actively as to slavery in the District. The fault of Congress lay less in mistakes made than in remedies neglected for mistakes found already in existence. history to American children and youth in our schools The earliest movement for abolition in the District and colleges. We may wisely ponder President Harri-began in 1805, and the discussion was continued year son's significant question: "How shall one be a safe after year, through a great variety of phases which

Numerous other papers were read, and there was a of our country than the faithful and impartial lessons large attendance at every meeting; the remaining topics being mostly with regard to the best methods The papers immediately following President Jay's of teaching history, in its philosophical, economical, address were devoted to Canadian history. Dr. Bouri | political and other aspects, the organization of historinot, a member of the association, and clerk of the cal material, the co-operation of the several State his-Canadian House of Commons, claimed that the Do-torical societies, the importance of geography and minion of Canada is no longer a "province," as styled archæology to the student of history, and finally the by Secretary Blaine, but is rapidly becoming an inde-extent of governmental expenditures in behalf of

States, e. g., as to the lines of international boundary, has been issued by the superintendent of the late the fisheries, the Behring Sea, etc., seemed liable for a census. Circulars asking for census items were sent to moment to endanger the peace of the meeting. But a number of families, and returns were received from the right moment Senator Hoar arose and poured much 10,618 families, representing 60,630 individuals. Of the oil on the troubled waters, disclaiming any wish on our heads of these families, about 13 per cent were born in

Their excellent home sanitation is shown in the statistics of births and survival of children. Of children under five years the proportion is less among the Jews than among the other population of the country in the ratio of 9 to 13. But between the ages of five and banded soldiers and loyalists. Had the original idea fifteen it is greater, in the ratio of 29 to 23, indicating their success in averting infant and child mortality.

The social condition and comfortable position atrectly from the mother country, it is probable that we tained is shown by the fact that nearly two-thirds of the families keep one or more servants. Yet the poorer An idea prevails that the "village community" is families show a slightly lower death rate than that of

The occupations of 18.115 male members of these it was an imported notion gaining later recognition in families reveal the selection of employments. Eight the original State. Following in somewhat the same general classifications of occupations were made. The most intelligible way to express the results is in perin the study of English municipal history, a rich field centages; 80:1 per cent were engaged in commercial pursuits, 33.7 per cent in the wholesale and 46.4 in the retail branches; 11'4 per cent were engaged in the

which is exceedingly low.

more than that given by the general English and ized robbery. American life tables.

nervous systems.

show the smallest death rate.

them that the figures are not trusted by the census

The figures we have given can hardly rank even as a summary of the exhaustive tables contained in it. The of the leading authorities on these subjects.

THE AMERICAN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION.

Among the national societies that recently held their every part of the country and every department of Maine to Texas. The chief aim of this society is to England, and others more or less widely known. facilitate a free and unreserved interchange of opinions regarding the vitally important matters that naturally come before it for discussion. One of its peculiarities, in which it differs from most similar bodies, is its very so much sound advice we are sure some reader will be liberal system of prizes and fellowships, whereby it is benefited by its publication in these columns. The intended to stimulate the efforts of economists to per- editor regrets that he does not know to what paper to fect and elaborate their ideas on questions of the day. give the usual credit. Among topics thus treated are: "The Evils of Unreof the general public.

Department of Labor, led off in a series of practical creted floor will, in a great measure, do away with this there has been a constant elevation in the value of the will be kept closed more than in spring and summer. reports of the various bureaus and departments. Col. Very important are the floors, woodwork, walls, and Wright also analyzed in detail the work done in taking ceilings of a house. Their condition influences in a the census of 1890, and suggested the co-operation of greater degree than might be imagined the health of the States with the general government as a means of the family. There cannot be a doubt that papered account of the "Fruit Gardens of California." In the saving expense and as a course that might lead ulti- walls are not wholesome, that is, if the paper is of the Northern Citrus belt, 170 miles from the ocean, over mately to the establishment of a permanent census ordinary kind in use, which is highly absorbent. There 3,000 acres are now planted with orange and lemon bureau. After this introduction, special topics were is a paper made, I think, in England, called "sanitary trees. Originally famous for its mineral gold, the favortreated: e. g., "Street Railway Statistics;" "Statis- paper," which has a finely glazed surface, which may tics as a Means of Correcting Corporational Abuses," be scrubbed without injury to its texture or colors. bringing this region more prominently than ever to etc.

interest, being opened by Mr. T. J. Shearman, who wider than the ordinary wall paper, and as it is very weeks earlier than elsewhere in Southern California. claimed that this phrase was far more nearly correct strong and durable, does not cost more in the long run Oroville, whose name is suggestive of gold, lies in this than the popular one of "indirect taxation," meaning than ordinary wall paper, even if the first outlay is favored region, and has already produced navel and exactly the same thing. In nearly all nations a system more than that expended for the less expensive grades seedling oranges of unsurpassed qualities.

who are expected and even authorized to recover the For the past five years 2,062 deaths were reported. amount from some one else, with interest and profits This gives an annual death rate of only 7:11 per thou-, up to a certain limit. But no one can tell, under a there are always so many odors of food to absorb. sand, but little more than one half of the annual death system of this sort, what any one person contributes rate of the United States in general. This astonishing to the support of the government, nor what proportion work should rule, as neither is absorbent. The floors, figure is discussed in the bulletin, and the conclusion of what is paid goes into the public treasury and what | especially, should never be left in the natural state, reached is that there is every ground for trusting its to some private purse; only that it is surmised that and I should advise all builders of houses to have their accuracy. If the deaths for the year 1889 only are nine-tenths of the final tax is perverted; in other floors painted before living over them, where they are taken, a death rate of about 10 per thousand is given, words, that private property is forcibly taken for pri- to be carpeted or otherwise covered, and stained and vate uses, which every court in the civilized world varnished where the intention is to show a portion or The life tables naturally show great powers of sur- regards as robbery. And yet this same robbery has all the surface. These measures, renewed as wear nevival to old age. Thus out of 100,000 individuals there been so legalized that men who regard themselves as cessitates, will prevent your house attaining that peare of survivors at the age of 85 over 20,000 Jews, honest go into it intentionally and deliberately, mean-culiar smell which is associated with old boards almost against an average of about 4,000 general population ing to manage matters so that the whole burden of invariably, no matter how often or how vigorously by English life tables and nearly 7,000 by the Massa- maintaining the government shall be thrown upon the they have been scrubbed by the neatest housewife. chusetts five years' life tables. The above figures for consumer, while property is practically exempt. In Part of this smell, indeed all, is due to the decay of abthe Jews are based on the year 1899 only. For the five other words, the system makes the rich richer and the sorbed matters, which in some cases include disease years 1885-1839 the record is still more favorable. The poor poorer, and in addition its methods of operation germs. Paper may be varnished, however, and thus expectancy of life therefore is on the average much are such as to promote bribery and corruption, and rendered non-absorbent. higher, ranging for some ages up to thirty per cent force into existence a class of men who live by legal-

In causes of death the mortality from tubercular the real estate tax was concerned, it properly had two to live in houses of other people's building and ownerand scrofulous complaints is less relatively than from branches, the land tax and the city tax. In taxing ship. To insure healthy conditions in an old house, go diseases of the respiratory, digestive, circulatory, and city property there were four systems, (1) taxing the to work and do all possible cleaning with soap and land owner—the single tax idea; (2) taxing the house soda and water. Strip down all old papers from the Of different occupations, the commercial pursuits owner—the continental idea; (3) taxing the ground walls. Sometimes there will be found as many as six difowner, who is at the same time the land owner—the ferent layers of dilapidated paper of different colors and The marriage rate and birth rate appear to be less American system; and (4) taxing the occupier—the designs. To remove old paper, wet it all over with a for this class than for the average population. This English system. He explained the working of these coincides with the latest summary of rates in Europe. systems, claiming that, under existing conditions, the soak through, and in an hour or two it will be so loos-With prolonged residence in this country the death main burden is actually shifted on those least able to ened that one may peel off the layers with comparative rate; seems to tend to increase, and the birth rate to pay; whereas the tendency of the "land tax" is to ease. The walls should all be washed down with soda make the burden rest on one who is able to carry it, and water, and it will be well to add a little carbolic As regards the defective classes, deaf and dumb, namely, the land owner, instead of on the tenant, who is acid to insure the better purification of the apartment. blind, idiotic, etc., the returns indicate so few among presumably poorer than the owner. Of course, all this The ceilings, too, are very important, and should, if looked toward free trade and the single tax theories of possible, be painted, or at any rate thoroughly cleaned Henry George. There were not wanting those that and given a fine coat of tinted lime wash. The bulletin is only a preliminary one, but makes an stood ready to oppose such ideas; and in short, we do exceedingly interesting presentation of the subject, not see that this distinguished association has yet quite succeeded in "squaring the taxation circle."

compilation of the statistics was performed by Mr. A. paper on "A Syllabus of Political Economy," being taken up, planed, and relaid, blind-nailed, then painted S. King, chief of the Division of Vital Statistics. The mainly an argument for the recognition of public with two coats of paint. Old floors, having finished discussion of the results is by Dr. John S. Billings, one economy as a distinct, though related, science, run-their shrinking, will not again give any trouble by reaning parallel with private and social economics. He son of open seams to collect dirt and noxious subexplained his communication by a set of nine charts, stances. devised by him and submitted to the judgment of the association. Prof. S. N. Patten, of the University of anniversaries at Washington, D. C., was one organized | Pennsylvania, spoke on the "Educational Value of in 1885 for the special study of social and economic Political Economy." Other topics discussed were on problems. It has proved itself to be a popular and the "Municipal Ownership of Gas Works;" "Land last August, in 39 days reached Karaoul, 160 miles up highly useful body, having drawn into its membership Transfer Reform; " "The Growth and Economic the Yenissei, without accident. They remained there more than seven hundred individuals, representing Value of Building and Loan Associations;" and on "The Extension of the University System." Among business. This does not include the numerous branch those participating in the discussions were Professors associations that have been started all the way from Newcombe, Bemis, Dewey, McAlister, Moulton, of

Healthful Homes.

The following, from a source unknown to us, contains

A cemented floor under the whole area of a house is stricted Emigration;" "The Housing of the Poor in a sanitary necessity, because the "air in soils" is more Cities;" "State and Local Taxation;" "The Eco- or less impure at best. There is no excuse for building nomic Aspects of Patents;" "The Silver Question;" underground apartments in the country. They are "Factory Legislation," etc. These essays are to be never wholesome anywhere, and if families are compublished and widely distributed for the information, pelled by stringent reasons to live in the city, where basement dining rooms and underground kitchens are tion of no less an authority than Baron Nordenskiold. Hon. Francis A. Walker is president of the associathe rule, they should endeavor to have an upper sitting In a letter congratulating the promoters of the undertion; Prof. R. T. Ely, secretary; and Mr. Frederick B. room and live in it as much as possible. The very plac-Hawley, treasurer. A council for the management of ing of a house on any ground and living in it under the society was also chosen, including the names of ordinary circumstances causes suctions into its interior of impure soil air, because the air of the house is warmer Glancing over the reports of the discussions from day than the air beneath it, and this induces a rush of the to day, we find that Hon. C. D. Wright, of the U. S. cold air to the warmer house atmosphere. The conand timely papers on American statistics, claiming for difficulty, but not altogether. Ventilation of cellars our statisticians that their work equaled that of any must, therefore, be attended to, no matter how clean other country, as to quantity, although still falling and perfectly built they may be, in town or counbelow the standard as to quality, as compared with try. Annual lime whitewashing, an old custom, is decertain European efforts. But rapid progress is being cidedly a wholesome precaution, and every cellar should made in the scientific character of what is done, and thus be treated, especially in the autumn, as the cellar

This paper is probably as free from the objection the front. It is considered that fruit ripens in this The subject of "Crooked Taxation" elicited great named as any texture could be. This paper is much belt, protected by the foot hills of the Sierras, six

trades, while but half of one per cent were laborers, prevails according to which taxes are paid by persons of ordinary wall paper. Painted walls are the best for all living rooms, that is, sitting rooms and bed chambers. They are also best for dining rooms, where Stained and varnished woodwork or else painted wood-

As it is not the privilege of every one to move into a perfectly new house and do just as they please, one Prof. Seligman, of New York, showed that so far as must say a word to those who, unhappily, are obliged damp cloth from time to time, so that the water will

Loosely laid floors become a source of evil smells, and a hiding place for vermin and disease germs. Hence, it is well worth the expense to have new floors Prof. Folwell, of the University of Minnesota, read a tongued and grooved and blind-nailed, and old floors

Opening of Northeastern Siberia to Commerce.

A correspondent of the London Times says that two ships and a tug for river work, dispatched from London 19 days, and took 26 days to return. They were thus only 2 months and 23 days away from the London docks. At Karaoul they met the river expedition, which "returned safe to Yenisseisk a few days ago, and is now landing and warehousing there the valuable cargo sent out from England." The same correspondent points out that the real crux of the expedition lay in the 160 miles of estuary between Golcheka, at the mouth of the Yenissei, and Karaoul, at the head of the estuary, which the Russian government had assigned as the port of discharge.

It is unfortunate, says Nature, that Captain Wiggins was accidentally prevented from completing the work with which his name has been so intimately associated, but it was he who showed the way, and to him, more than to any one, belongs the honor of having provided this new outlet for British commerce. That it may become an outlet of the highest importance is the convictaking, he says: "I am persuaded that its success will once be regarded as an event rivaling in importance the return to Portugal of the first fleet loaded with merchandise from India. Siberia surpasses the North American continent as to the extent of cultivable soil. The Siberian forests are the largest in the world. Its mineral resources are immense, its climate, excepting the tundra, or swamps, and the northernmost forest region, healthy, and as favorable for culture of cereals as any part of Europe." He goes so far as to say that the future of Siberia may be "comparable to the stupendous development which we at present see in the New World."

The Oroville, California, Orange Groves.

In a recent SUPPLEMENT (No. 777) we published an able climate and early ripening of fruit grown there is