

A HARD-WORKED RULER.

NO EIGHT-HOUR LAW FOR KAISER
WILHELM OF GERMANY.

His Extraordinary Labors and Burdens—
An Accomplished Linguist and Scholar—
A Soldier, a Sailor, and a Statesman.—
He was Raised in a Bard School.

The Figaro gives in the following condensed form the most interesting chapter of a bright little volume just published in Paris, entitled 'Guillaume II. Intime,' by M. Maurice Ledet, which is bound, it says, to have a brilliant succes de curiosite.

The activity of the German Emperor is proverbial. He is never at rest. He has a horror of idleness, and its endurance is prodigious. In his immediate surrounding it is feared that his health may one day suffer from his constant efforts to examine personally into all the affairs of the empire. To rest his weary head he takes a great deal of physical exercise, and he excels in athletic accomplishments.

The Emperor arises at 5 o'clock in the morning. The moment he gets out of bed he takes a cold bath. His mother, who is the daughter of Queen Victoria, and consequently English by origin, taught him from his childhood to love cold water. After the bath he dresses rapidly, and at half-past 6 he takes breakfast.

Immediately after breakfast the Emperor goes to his official quarters, where heaps of letters and documents await him. The Emperor who attends himself to all these affairs, has so much to do in the line of reading documents and examining everything in detail that he has hardly an instant's rest. He rarely puts off the examination of any matter, attending to everything on the spot, even when to do so it is necessary to take two or three hours from his sleeping time.

The adjutants on duty are at their posts at half past 6. The Emperor discusses with them the movements of that day, and then he goes to see his children.

After that he goes to his own apartments, where he receives the reports of officials and confers with the functionaries of the grand master of the palace. He looks after all entertainments and solemnities, the programme and the opportunity of outings, the expenses to be incurred, &c.

In the same way during the morning he sees to the affairs of the imperial household, scans the accounts, authorizes the orders given by the grand marshal, in a word, looks into the matters of the domestic life of the castle.

In important cases he receives at 8 o'clock his Ministers and counsellors, the Prefect of Police, the Generals and high officials. All these persons give orally briefs of the reports which they present to him for his signature. He has made it a habit to wade through all the reports which come in during the day and to examine them thoroughly. He often says to the officials working with him: 'I know very well that I giving you a great deal of trouble, but I cannot help it. I am imposing a burden upon myself, for my conscience will never allow me to come to a decision precipitately.'

It often happens that the heads of departments present him with twenty documents for his signature. Each one of them is examined carefully, and out of the twenty papers it rarely happens that he signs more than three or four. As for the others, he wants additional details.

At 9 o'clock in the morning the Emperor has already accomplished a heavy piece of work. The weather and season permitting, he takes a ride in a carriage, which is followed by a long promenade on foot. If the weather is not suitable for that exercise, he goes horseback riding for three quarters of an hour.

The Emperor is a good swordsman, a good horseman and an excellent hunter. When on horseback he likes to encounter difficulties. He jumps not only hedges and ditches, but also hurdles with the greatest facility.

On the days of inspections, when he is obliged to be in the saddle for a considerable time, he omits the carriage ride. He often remains in the saddle five or six hours continuously.

At 11 o'clock the conferences and reports are again taken up. This is also the time for audiences. The officers of high rank and also the functionaries who have just been promoted are announced. He receives also the envoys and representatives of other States. Princes and grands seigneurs. William I. chats with each one of them for a few moments. At these receptions the Emperor displays toward his guests attentions that are quite original.

For example, he changes his uniform six or seven times. If the son of an artillery General comes to announce the death of his father the Emperor never fails to don the uniform of an artillery General in order to pay respect to the officer who died in his service. He appears in the uniforms of an artillery General, of a general of cavalry or of infantry, or even in the uniform of an Admiral, according to the rank of the person whom he receives.

If the Emperor receives representatives or military attaches of foreign countries, he wears the uniform of the foreigner that he receives, or at least the decorations of the country of that foreigner.

All this tiresome ceremony lasts until 2 o'clock in the afternoon. The Emperor then goes back to see his children, who are already at table, and he takes lunch with them. Then he sees the high officials, the generals and the ministers, and discusses with them the affairs of State. He visits the artists and poses for a portrait or a bust. He inspects the barracks and the offices of the public administration, and, if the weather permits, he closes the day with a long carriage ride.

At half past six he receives again the people who have any communications to make or who come to consult him in regard to military or political affairs. He takes up the detailed reports and papers that were presented to him in the morning, and, after having read them carefully, signs them. Then at seven o'clock he dines with his family.

When he rises from the table the Emperor passes a certain time with his children, who have devoted their day to studies or to bodily exercises. Then he returns to work. In the evening the Emperor lunches. Then, at about 10 o'clock, he partakes of a light repast and retires to his bedchamber. A little after ten o'clock he calls his servant, who assists him to undress. On a table placed beside his bed there are always pencils and paper, so that the sovereign may be able to write the ideas that come to him before going to sleep.

Such is the day's work of the Emperor in ordinary circumstances. In extraordinary circumstances William II. undertakes a still heavier task. One may easily imagine the additional labor that is imposed upon the Emperor by the visit of a king or a prince.

VALUABLE CROPS.

Where the People Only Work a Short Time Daily.

Coffee and tea both indigenous to Asia, but coffee thrives also on the opposite side of the world, so that a comparison of the places whence we obtain them would yield some curious contrasts. In Colombia, South America, for instance, the coffee crop is often gathered by children, who pick a hundred and fifty quarts a day, and get five cents for their work. In India and Ceylon, on the other hand, the tea crop is cultivated by families or coolies of both sexes and all ages, employed under contract at twelve cents a day. 'In addition,' writes Mr. William Mackenzie, the commissioner of the Ceylon government, who recently visited New York, 'the coolies receive lodgings, food and medical attendance.'

'The coffee plantations and the tea-gardens, however, the discipline is rather better than in the coffee plantations. For every twenty laborers there is an overseer, or 'canfany,' as he calls himself.

'He is a man who magnifies his office. All the coolies wear many-colored cotton garments, but the gangann is bound to wear a coat also—no matter how hot the weather is.

'Beside, the coat, the gangann insists on an umbrella. A brilliant red one makes him happiest, but if he cannot get that, a black or white one there must be. I have often met gangannies walking with their umbrellas open long after the sun had gone down, and when no light could possibly touch their dusky faces but that of the moon and the stars.

'It is only in field-work, of course, that the gangann commands. He assigns a laborer to each row of tea shrubs, to prune or pluck, or whatever the task may be.

'While they work they sing, sometimes a chorus in which they all take part, sometimes an impromptu duet—very clever in its way—in which the singers take up the simple events of their daily life. If the rice and curry are below standard, or the white manager has done an unpopular thing, then is the time to hear of it.

'About midday there is a halt. If it is in the gathering season, the pluckers examine their baskets and throw out the coarse leaves that may have crept in, and the baskets are weighed. With this operation, by the way, the work of the coolies ends. In China and Japan the tea is rolled by hand, but the teas of India and Ceylon are all prepared by improved machinery.

'At four o'clock the day's work is over. It is not easy to get the coolies to do any more, even when the crop is ripe and all hands are needed. Possibly the children on the Colombian plantation would be willing to pick coffee as long as the light lasted at the rate of a hundred and fifty quarts for five cents, but the hands on the India

and Ceylon tea plantations always 'know when they have enough.'

'Most of the coolies refuse to work more than four days in a week. They get their food and lodging in any event. Four days' work supplies their simple wants,—they can dress extravagantly on two dollars a year,—and their motto seems to be, 'No labor that isn't necessary.'

TRUTHFUL REPLY.

An Old Ladies Reply to Her Troublesome Visitors Questioning.

Dear old Mrs. Fortune had decided to take summer boarders. The prospect was a sore one, but what could she do? It had been a hard winter, they had not been paid for the last lot of lumber sold, and now it looked as if the oldest grandchild must go away to school without delay. So the grandmother advertised, and in due time came an answer. More than that; one day a carriage drove up to her gate, and two fashionably dressed ladies alighted.

'Are you Mrs. Fortune?' asked one of the ladies, pleasantly, yet with an apparent consciousness of her own importance. 'How lovely! And the place! How charming it is! We were taking a little driving trip, and as we had seen your advertisement, it occurred to us to stop and find out how things looked.'

'I'm almost sure Jennie would like it,' said the other, 'that is, if everything is as pleasant as it seems. Now what is the attitude of your place? How high is it?'

'I don't know,' returned the old lady, gently, 'I never heard. I could ask father, and send you a line.'

'Is your drinking water good?'

'Yes, indeed, it's excellent.'

'Well, we'll have a glass before we go, and test it. How about vegetables? Do you use them fresh from your own garden?'

The old lady stiffened a little. She knew questioning was quite legitimate, but it began to seem to her as if this trampled on her own domestic privacy.

'Father raises as good garden stuff as anybody round' she said, with dignity. 'You won't find no lack of it on our table.'

One of the ladies smiled archly.

'Oh, I know you country people,' she said. 'You have a way of cooking winter vegetables, and sending fresh ones to market. Cream, too! Do you give us cream?'

A little flush rose in grandmother's cheeks. Her intentions had never before been doubted; it was a situation with which she could not easily deal.

'I use cream in me cookin' said she, and I use it on the table. None of our family was ever considered nigh, and I hope I shan't be the first.'

Then the other lady, who had a somewhat sharp and strident voice, raised it in turn.

'Do the mosquitoes trouble you?'

Grandmother turned and looked at her. Perhaps in twenty years her keen blue eyes had not conveyed so much quiet sarcasm and revolt; but she answered with strict civility, and this was her reply:

'They do when they bite us!'

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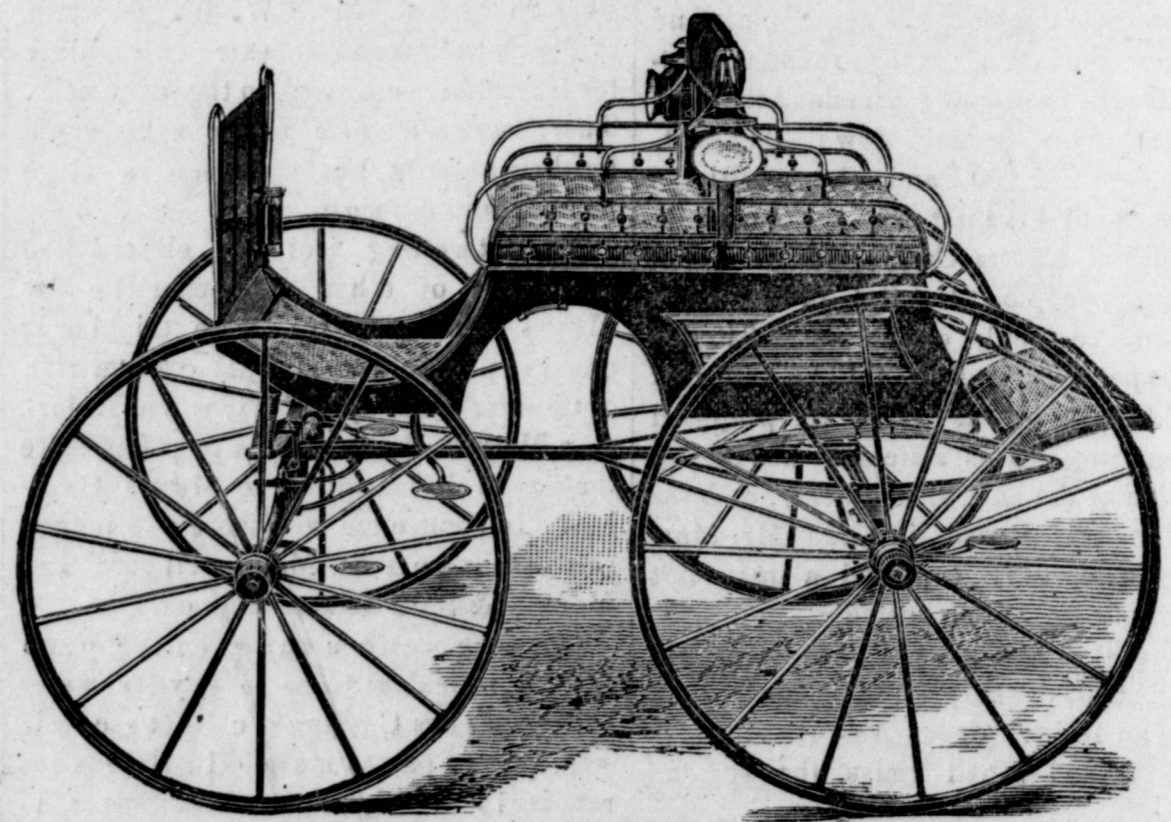
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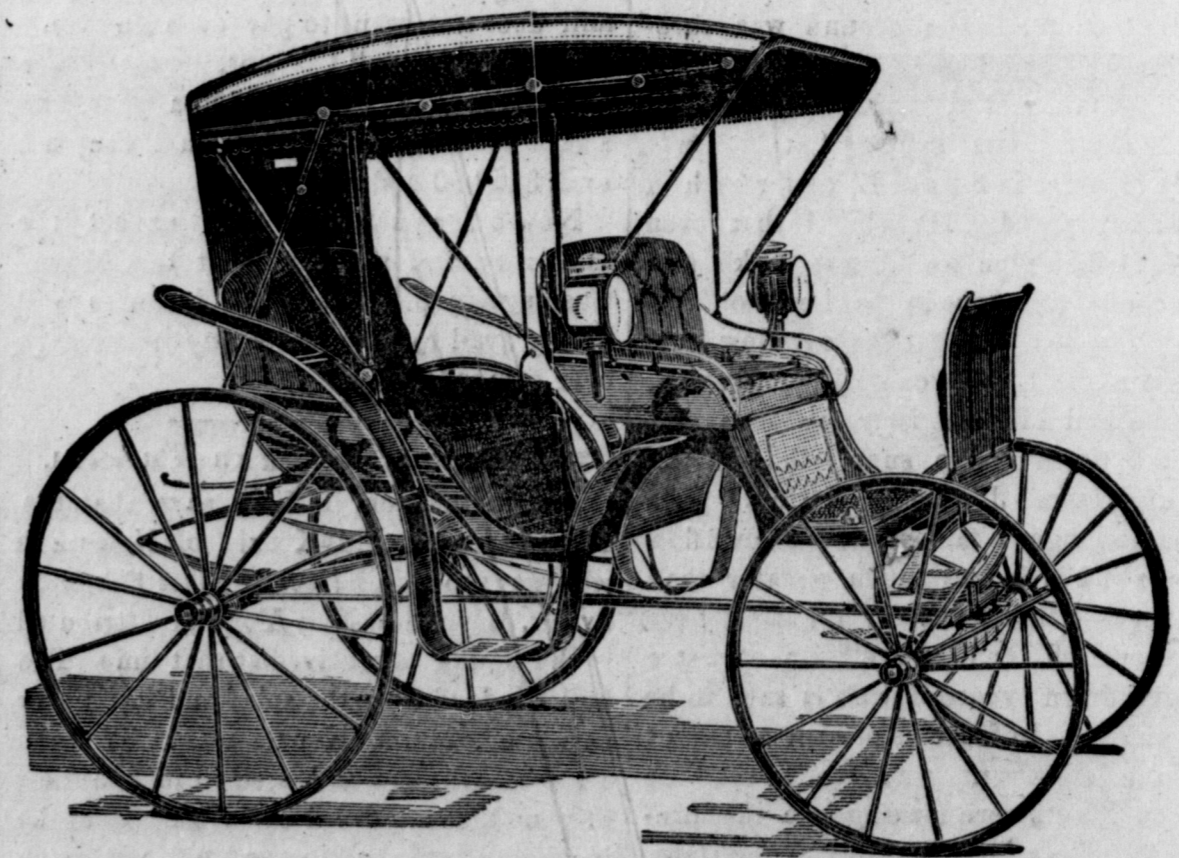
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