

but also "political," quite in the original sense of political economy. The very name of the movement which in a way is a constructive reaction from the economic stimulus of a lessened purchasing power is significant. I refer, of course, to the conservation movement. The word conservation, although vague, stands for the diminishing of wastes. In the conservation movement, we have a return to the original purposes of "political economy." The items which make up the cost of living as represented by an average family budget suggest plainly the directions in which the prevention of wastes may prove most fruitful. In the attempt to reduce the absolute cost of living, society wages an eternal warfare against the destructive wastes of nations,¹⁵ which are preventable war, preventable ignorance, preventable sickness, whether physical, intellectual or moral, preventable death, preventable accidents to life and property, and preventable lack of opportunity which may delay or prevent the productivity of exceptional minds like those of Edison and Burbank, which exist in all degrees in certain proportions in the population. The latter waste is the greatest waste which society still permits. The public school system is an institution created to furnish equal opportunity for education, but it is probable that a system of vocational guidance for exceptional children, *i. e.*, above the average, would prove an extremely profitable policy for a nation to undertake on a large scale.

If we admit that in a population some are exceptional beyond others in intelligence, in foresight and in inventive capacity—and we know this to be true by the prevalence of idiots, insane persons, criminals and paupers, classes below the aver-

age—it follows that the larger the population of the same strain, the greater will be the number of exceptional minds above the average. It is self-evident that the national dividend of a better civilization is created by the exceptional minds of a nation for the higher utility of all. We reduce absolutely, not relatively, the cost of living when we discover a cheaper method of controlling the matter and the forces of the world. Thus, a natural tendency to progress¹⁶ is inherent in an increasing population, unless checked by the destructive wastes of nations. Nor can we overestimate the importance of ethical and hygienic standards in the study of political economy. Our measurements and standards of utility must be based on ethical and hygienic values rather than on conceptions of ophelimity or desirability.

By ethical standards, we mean to include among others the more enlightened conceptions of jurisprudence, and by hygienic standards the well-balanced judgments of enlightened medical and sanitary experts. But the guidance of present statistics of the cost of living supplemented by vital statistics is essential to a balanced judgment and the lack of accurate statistics on social and economic subjects is well known. Without measurements, our conclusions must be vague.

J. PEASE NORTON

NEW HAVEN, CONN.

PLANS FOR A GREATER UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

BETWEEN forty and fifty prominent citizens of all parts of the state of Montana met at Helena, December 23, and organized the Association for the Creation of a Greater University of Montana. This is to be brought about by the consolidation of the present iso-

¹⁵ Norton's "Economic Advisability of a National Department of Health," *Journal of American Medical Association*, August, 1906.

¹⁶ Norton's "Cause of Social Progress and the Rate of Interest," *Popular Science Monthly*, September, 1910.

lated institutions of higher learning, the university, the agricultural college, the normal school and the school of mines at some city which is desirably situated. The plan is supported by the proposed conversion of the plans and equipment that would otherwise be abandoned into a system of polytechnic high schools.

A comprehensive outline of the change sought to be effected is given in the constitution and by-laws of the association, organized at that time before the meeting of the board. This follows:

The name of the organization shall be "The Association for the Creation of a Greater University of Montana."

The purpose of this association shall be:

1. To consolidate the four higher educational institutions of the state in order to prevent the educational and financial waste brought about by the maintenance of separate and isolated institutions.

2. To establish, instead of the four institutions, a greater University of Montana to be situated in or near some city suitable by reason of its railroad connections, climate and water and health conditions to be a great seat of learning.

3. To work for the creation of a splendid system of polytechnic high schools which are at the present time so much needed; this to be brought about by means of (a) the utilization of all the present plants that would otherwise be abandoned, (b) the utilization of the military post at Fort Assiniboine if the government turns it over to the state; (c) the establishment of similar schools in other sections of the state as they may from time to time be needed.

4. To impress on the attention of philanthropic persons, especially men of great means, the desirability of aiding the development of the University of Montana, through the provision of buildings and endowments.

5. To arouse public sentiment in favor of education and to arouse the enthusiasm of the people to the unsurpassed educational possibilities of the great commonwealth of Montana.

The state board of education, after giving a hearing to the representatives of this resolution, unanimously adopted resolutions recommending that the legislature consolidate the institutions and pledging the members to do

all within their power to encompass the result sought.

THOMAS HARRISON MONTGOMERY

At the recent meeting of the American Society of Zoologists in Cleveland, Ohio, the following resolution was submitted by Dr. A. G. Mayer on behalf of the executive committee. The resolution was then approved by a rising vote of the society.

Never has a deeper sense of irreconcilable sorrow fallen upon us of this society than that following the announcement of the death of Thomas Harrison Montgomery on the nineteenth day of March, 1912, at the early age of thirty-nine years.

Other friends, leaders in science, have gone before, but they were full of years and the labor of their lives was as a story well nigh told; but with Montgomery the tasks that lay before him were those of the greater years of life, that period of intellectual fruition for the harvest of which his years of toil and training had been a preparation.

While thus but upon the threshold of his middle years, science lost him; but irreparable as these things be, it is as our friend we mourn him most.

No ordinary motives actuated him in his scientific work, for personal ambition never clouded his simple love for truth wherever truth might lead him.

It is to unselfish men such as he that great opportunities are entrusted, and the equipment and organization of the new Zoological Laboratory of the University of Pennsylvania was a task he had all but completed, and this will serve as a fitting monument to his ability as an executive.

On the scientific side, he was the author of nearly one hundred publications, and it would be impossible to write a text-book upon the rôle of the chromosomes in the determination of sex without referring to his crucial labors in this field.

It is seldom that we see a man even far advanced in years attain to the achievement he accomplished. Yet as our friend and our companion we mourn him most, for science will and must be advanced; but to us there ever will be but one Montgomery, the generous friend, sympathetic and simple, Montgomery the gentleman who loved us and whom we loved.

W. C. CURTIS,
Secretary