

The Oregonian

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Portland, Wednesday, June 28, 1911.

PENALIZING ENTERPRISE.

The Secretary of the Interior rejects the Cunningham coal land claims because he is opposed to any policy of private exploitation of the public domain. Yet it is noteworthy that there has been no promotion of industry, no development of agriculture, no opening up of gold or silver or other mineral deposits, no manufacturing, no opening up of coal or other mineral lands, no peopling of great states, except through private enterprise. What part the Federal Government has played until very recent days in reclaiming the public domain from its primitive isolation has been by its primitive inducements to encourage private persons in tillage of the soil, digging gold, mining coal and hewing homes out of the great woods. Now everything is changed. It is a crime for a man to take up a timber claim with the ultimate purpose of selling it to some body, and if he does so he is liable to be prosecuted as an investor to buy and develop a coal quarry in Alaska or anywhere, he will be branded as a public malefactor, his claim will revert to the Government and his investment will be lost.

The Government is now a plan of utilizing its great power in order to perpetuate primitive stagnation through a bogus "conservation" that discourages private investment and rebukes personal initiative and thrift. The public domain is not for its cultivation or for the benefit of the few, but for the benefit of the many and for the benefit of the future. The Secretary of the Interior is a politician and dreamer who seeks to convince the public—and have seen their efforts crowned with a lamentable success—that the dedication of Alaska, and the remaining lands, forests, water power and mineral deposits, to the public domain, is a crime for a man to take up a timber claim with the ultimate purpose of selling it to some body, and if he does so he is liable to be prosecuted as an investor to buy and develop a coal quarry in Alaska or anywhere, he will be branded as a public malefactor, his claim will revert to the Government and his investment will be lost.

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would that it might be hastened in some way. Going fast are the blessed old days when little boys and girls were lured together in dirty, unventilated, miserably-warmed rooms to "study their lessons." The air was full of disease. The wretched light ruined their eyes. The habit of sitting all day on uncomfortable benches deformed their spines. Tuberculosis fastened on their lungs. More and more rapidly all this passes away. The country has begun to realize that its children are its most valuable possession, more valuable than cows or even pigs, and that it pays heavily to protect them from disease and deformity. The school is changing its place, where little boys and girls can go without injury to their health and sometimes it may be contrived that useful knowledge will be taught them. But even if that never happens, it is still a comfort to know that the school has a prelude to death.

GET SETTLERS STARTED RIGHT.

Publicity work done by railroads and commercial bodies has drawn thousands of settlers to Central Oregon but George Palmer Putnam, who will be strong points when he urges that this work should be followed up by starting the new settler right. The greatest setback to settlement of a new country is the sending out of adverse reports by the disappointed ones who come with the first flock. Mr. Putnam points out that the best way to prevent this is to establish an agricultural experiment station in Central Oregon in charge of experts who will analyze soil and advise settlers what to plant and what not to plant—have men at hand all the time to assist new settlers from the costly initial blunders of a new country. This has been done by the railroads in Montana with success.

The soil of Central Oregon is different from that of the Middle West whence most of the settlers come. The climate is different, the seedtime and harvest are different. The man who tries to run an Oregon farm exactly on the Illinois plan is doomed to failure until he learns the difference. It has cost the railroads and the public bodies of Oregon money to bring the settler to Oregon, and more money besides. If the settler fails through neglect to inform him how to start, for he will fall to produce tonnage for the railroad to haul and will become a "knocker" to scare away others.

There should be a state to establish a branch experiment station and it would pay the railroads to help.

More trouble for reciprocity. The rejection of the Root amendment by the Senate leaves the reciprocity bill as it came from the House and in fact as it was formulated under the President's direction. There are troubles and tempests around it, shoals and quicksands on its lee. Mr. Root's amendment was about as innocuous as any alteration can be. He proposed that the Canadian provinces must abolish their export duties on pulp wood before it should be admitted free to the United States. This was a substantial objection to it. Even Mr. Taft, who wants reciprocity exactly as he has formulated it or not at all, made only a formal protest. He feared the Root amendment not for its own sake, but for what it might open the way for what is comparatively harmless amendment has been definitely rejected, the path is clear for all sorts of less innocent projects. The Republican party no longer rules the Senate. A coalition between the insurgents and Democrats has gained the upper hand and their never is done must be by their consent.

The plan which they mean to begin with is to attach the farmers' free list and the wool revision to the reciprocity bill. These are Democratic measures and in the House they were admitted by a vote of 150 to 100. This is a method ought to suit the Senate also, but it does not. The insurgent Senators feel especially interested in the farmers' free list, while the Democrats care fully as much for the wool revision; and among them as the reciprocity bill is not yet passed, the picture is noticeable by their own words. It is in the air and the old order is changing. The progressives beat the conservatives in the Corvallis election Monday. As a sample, they alone until the tariff commission has reported upon it. As to the farmers' free list, the insurgent Senators feel that it would not be popular in the insurgent states without this concession to the farmers. The belief that the agreement favors the manufacturers at the expense of agriculture is very strong in the insurgent section, and it is expected that they will fight for compensating reductions. Knowing that Mr. Taft does not love them, they are unwilling to leave their fate in his hands and therefore seek to have off their own backs the wool revision, the threatened farmers' free list and a passing glimpse of the part which personal animosities sometimes play in forming National policies.

If the Senate decides to tack the free list and the wool revision to the reciprocity bill the composite measure must then go back to the House where it will probably be accepted without much hesitation. How it will fare in the hands of the President is another question. It would be keeping with his character to veto the whole, even though the very objection for which he summoned the special session would thus be sacrificed. This would rejoice the standpatters, while the insurgents would shed no tears over it. The only reason for the reciprocity of the Democrats, and the President might be satisfied to let the whole subject rest until the advent of a Democratic majority in the Senate. No doubt his favorite measure might fairly expect more kindly consideration than that environment that it has been receiving.

The true danger ahead of reciprocity then is that the agreement may be so loaded with other matters that the President will feel obliged to veto it. Since these impediments will be attached with the consent of the insurgents, they will be the blame for the failure of this great and progressive measure, if it fails. They understand well enough that the country would condemn their conduct, but they have a card up their sleeve which they think will win back the favor of the country. It is the rate making of new events. This is a general revision bill. The talk in favor of an overhauling of all the schedules without waiting for the tariff commission to report or for anything else grows daily more open in the Senate. No doubt the standpatters themselves would prefer the tariff and the old-fashioned tariff and to the deadly precision of the reciprocity bill. It is the difference between facing a rifle in the hands of Leatherstocking and a shotgun at forty rods.

The protected trusts smile blandly as the prospect of a general revision brightens for they are past masters of the delicate art of fishing in troubled waters. Thus we arrive at the amazing situation of a tacit coalition between the monopoly-hating insurgents and the monopoly-loving trusts. Misery makes the stranger a friend, and the political expediency. But what a fall from that state of immaculate righteousness in which the insurgents flapped their radiant wings and dared the universe to question their motives. Now their motives are very questionable indeed and their conduct seeks for apology. Mr. La Follette has gained a position of great power, almost the leadership, in the Senate. The first use he seems likely to make of it is to subordinate important public interests to his personal ambition. What worse did Mr. Aldrich ever do?

West Virginia Republicans are almost a unit for the renomination of President Taft, according to a canvass made by the Washington Post. Regulars and insurgents alike applaud the stand for reciprocity, and the regular stand for the protection of the trusts and his careful avoidance of trouble in Mexico. Melvin G. Sperry, of Clarksburg, sums up the opinion by saying: "The President has accomplished more with less noise than any man in the history of West Virginia, which has long been a doubtful state, gave Taft 53 per cent of its vote in 1908. That its Republicans are still loyal to him in spite of that Democratic landslide of 1910 is proof that he has gained strength with the party as with the whole people by his policies."

Erstwhile there was to be found in a school reader a learned explanation of "how a fly walks on the ceiling." In conjunction with this explanation, more besides, that the fly has wings, the delicate construction of his feet and the luminous glint of his big, bright eyes enlisted the admiration of pupils and the eloquence of teachers. Now we hear of how the fly walks on the food, and of the pestiferous germs that he leaves in his dainty tracks. Nothing is said about his rainbow-tinted wings nor his bright far-seeing eyes. Yet doubtless he is the same beautiful creature of yore. All depends upon the scientist who shows him up.

The rain of the past few days has been acceptable to all except to the relatively few farmers whose hay was down, but not yet cured or housed. Even these hope that the sun will shine in time to reduce their loss to the minimum. As for the nut-orchard and the bayberry, hop-growers and grainraisers throughout the Willamette Valley and in and out upon the plains and valleys of Eastern Oregon and Washington, and in the Rogue River and Umpqua Valleys find in it the needed assurance of good crops and garnered abundance.

He must have used his eyes to little purpose in scanning the wild roses of Oregon that make the brambles gay and fragrant in May and June who has not observed the "blueish tinge" that these roses take on as they get old. If there is anything especially desirable in a "blue rose" Nature ever generous, has given a strong enough hint of blue in the wild rose to satisfy any one who cherishes this whim.

This death of such a man as Fire Chief Cameron is a high price to pay for the lesson that oil tanks in the heart of the city are nuisances. If it is learned and heeded the sacrifice will not have been useless, but how much better it would be if Portland could be induced to apply the teachings of experience gained by other cities without waiting to go through the sad reality in every instance.

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If the Senate decides to tack the free list and the wool revision to the reciprocity bill the composite measure must then go back to the House where it will probably be accepted without much hesitation. How it will fare in the hands of the President is another question. It would be keeping with his character to veto the whole, even though the very objection for which he summoned the special session would thus be sacrificed. This would rejoice the standpatters, while the insurgents would shed no tears over it. The only reason for the reciprocity of the Democrats, and the President might be satisfied to let the whole subject rest until the advent of a Democratic majority in the Senate. No doubt his favorite measure might fairly expect more kindly consideration than that environment that it has been receiving.

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It is in the air and the old order is changing. The progressives beat the conservatives in the Corvallis election Monday. As a sample, they alone until the tariff commission has reported upon it. As to the farmers' free list, the insurgent Senators feel that it would not be popular in the insurgent states without this concession to the farmers. The belief that the agreement favors the manufacturers at the expense of agriculture is very strong in the insurgent section, and it is expected that they will fight for compensating reductions. Knowing that Mr. Taft does not love them, they are unwilling to leave their fate in his hands and therefore seek to have off their own backs the wool revision, the threatened farmers' free list and a passing glimpse of the part which personal animosities sometimes play in forming National policies.

If the Senate decides to tack the free list and the wool revision to the reciprocity bill the composite measure must then go back to the House where it will probably be accepted without much hesitation. How it will fare in the hands of the President is another question. It would be keeping with his character to veto the whole, even though the very objection for which he summoned the special session would thus be sacrificed. This would rejoice the standpatters, while the insurgents would shed no tears over it. The only reason for the reciprocity of the Democrats, and the President might be satisfied to let the whole subject rest until the advent of a Democratic majority in the Senate. No doubt his favorite measure might fairly expect more kindly consideration than that environment that it has been receiving.

The true danger ahead of reciprocity then is that the agreement may be so loaded with other matters that the President will feel obliged to veto it. Since these impediments will be attached with the consent of the insurgents, they will be the blame for the failure of this great and progressive measure, if it fails. They understand well enough that the country would condemn their conduct, but they have a card up their sleeve which they think will win back the favor of the country. It is the rate making of new events. This is a general revision bill. The talk in favor of an overhauling of all the schedules without waiting for the tariff commission to report or for anything else grows daily more open in the Senate. No doubt the standpatters themselves would prefer the tariff and the old-fashioned tariff and to the deadly precision of the reciprocity bill. It is the difference between facing a rifle in the hands of Leatherstocking and a shotgun at forty rods.

The protected trusts smile blandly as the prospect of a general revision brightens for they are past masters of the delicate art of fishing in troubled waters. Thus we arrive at the amazing situation of a tacit coalition between the monopoly-hating insurgents and the monopoly-loving trusts. Misery makes the stranger a friend, and the political expediency. But what a fall from that state of immaculate righteousness in which the insurgents flapped their radiant wings and dared the universe to question their motives. Now their motives are very questionable indeed and their conduct seeks for apology. Mr. La Follette has gained a position of great power, almost the leadership, in the Senate. The first use he seems likely to make of it is to subordinate important public interests to his personal ambition. What worse did Mr. Aldrich ever do?

West Virginia Republicans are almost a unit for the renomination of President Taft, according to a canvass made by the Washington Post. Regulars and insurgents alike applaud the stand for reciprocity, and the regular stand for the protection of the trusts and his careful avoidance of trouble in Mexico. Melvin G. Sperry, of Clarksburg, sums up the opinion by saying: "The President has accomplished more with less noise than any man in the history of West Virginia, which has long been a doubtful state, gave Taft 53 per cent of its vote in 1908. That its Republicans are still loyal to him in spite of that Democratic landslide of 1910 is proof that he has gained strength with the party as with the whole people by his policies."

Gleanings of the Day

Courtesy by mail across the Atlantic between a German girl and a German immigrant was followed by a recognition through photographs at the first meeting on the Baltimore pier and marriage the same day. Thus far once the reality was as good as the photograph. May experience confirm all the letters' had promised.

Governor Hadley, of Missouri, discovered a "strange, rambling plant" on his farm and examined it thoroughly. He has a beautiful case of poison ivy. It is not safe for politicians to examine strange, rambling plants, for they might prove poison to their ambitions. La Follette has been too friendly with a strange, rambling plant named Bourne, which is likely to prove his undoing as a Presidential possibility.

When accused of plans to dismember the British Empire, John Redmond, the Irish leader, retorts that Irishmen did much to build it up as did Englishmen, Scotchmen and Welshmen, and they are not prepared to surrender their share of it. With a few reminders of great Irish generals, statesmen, authors, poets, this ought to hold the Unionists for a while.

Having been forbidden to be a trust, the Standard Oil Company is studying how to be a near-trust and how near to being a trust the Supreme Court will allow it to be without being unreasonable.

When a man handles millions of dollars of corporation funds, as Cooke did at Cincinnati, for a salary of \$90 a month, the Big Four's combination of responsibility and remuneration would appear to have been rather injudicious—Indianapolis News. The friction between a \$100 salary and a \$100,000 responsibility is not a very happy one. A shortage of steel and steel produce fire.

Representative Redfield, of Brooklyn, says American manufacturers are abandoning protection as unnecessary and are turning their attention to more profitable lines of their plants, which protection has tended to retard. He adds: "The protective tariff has simply enabled the American manufacturer to sell at a profit what he would have had to sell at a loss if he had not had the tariff. He has relied on Government support rather than on his own management. Its effect has been to stimulate the development of plants until they are now so large that they cannot be sold abroad. In this condition the manufacturer no longer wants to pay the high price necessary for a market under a protective tariff. American labor, he said, was the cheapest in the world, since no other labor produced as much product in proportion to wages."

In other words, protection has enabled the manufacturer to make a profit on what would otherwise be a loss. They know they can do business on a profit without protection if they only reform their methods, but they fear to be forced to reform. They resemble the rich man's son who is ashamed of his dependence on "the old man," but dillies being turned loose on his own resources to make his own way. These long professions of manufacturers to protect to commerce of Congress against tariff reduction stand exposed not only as mendacious but as spendthrifts. It is time they were forced to practice the economy they admit they neglect.

The Louisville Courier-Journal takes a fall out of Senator Nelson in regard to his anti-reciprocity speech, but closes thus: "If President Taft's ambition is to be realized the only fault that will be found with the result will be found by persons who expect too much of reciprocity. Its effect will be good in many respects, and evil in none, but it will not create an era of free Irish potatoes. It will not cut the price of the fruit of the hen to such proportions that Americans can afford to emulate the example of the extravagant young lady from New York who used hard-boiled eggs to play tennis."

If Mexico should grant women suffrage and Medero should count them out, Senora Medero is apt to start a little revolution of her own.

The American financial experts will be able to teach Persia how to "trustify" her industries.

A fund of \$107,000 has been raised to erect a tower at Princeton University as a memorial to the late Grover Cleveland, the committee having started with a limit of \$100,000. Princeton honors Cleveland as its sage.

A new pocket map of Oregon has been published by Rand, McNally & Co., which will be found of great value to persons traveling about the state as well as for reference by others. It is corrected up to date and shows all new railroads, stations and postoffices. It has a complete index, which identifies county seats, money order, telegraph and express offices, as well as steamship landings, and shows population. County divisions are clearly shown by coloring.

Lightning set fire to the steeple of a church at Trenton, N. J., just as some commencement exercises began and put out all the lights. The audience lighted matches, everybody saw that everybody else was scared, and a panicky rush for the doors began. Principal R. W. Sweetland ordered the band to play "The Stars and Stripes," the music stopped, the panic and the audience helped the firemen to put out the fire.

Lieutenant-Governor Oglesby, of Illinois, must have been taking a few lessons from "Uncle Jove," and the instruction was successful in his case, also. John D. Spreckels says his father's opinion leaned a rival sugar refinery and what it did, adding that he was advised by counsel that it was not a violation of the Sherman anti-trust law. If a man selects his lawyer carefully, he can get legal advice how to commit almost any crime without violating the law. Lawyers act on the theory that it is better to evade, not to obey, and that their business is to advise men how to evade it.

Chicago burglars have taken to hauling away their plunder in drays. Four of them kept the kitchen in drays from the door of Max Kutcher's flavoring company concern, 1359 South Sangamon street, early in the morning, and while Kutcher watched their operations from an upper window, hauled away a safe containing \$125 and jewelry worth \$90. The flavoring extract man explained that his wife was sick and he feared to make a disturbance lest it might result fatally to her.

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