

The Weekly Chronicle.

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SECRETARY GAGE'S MISTAKE

It is the law, and has been the practice of former secretaries of the treasury, to require the deposit, in established United States sub-treasuries...

Secretary Gage has established a new practice. To bolster up the credit of the banks, and particularly one favored bank in New York city...

This has aroused a whirlwind of indignation, and will be made the subject of congressional investigation...

It is significant that a large part of the criticism comes from bankers and newspapers which reflect the views and wishes of bankers. The internal revenue receipts of the government amount to nearly \$1,000,000 daily...

One of the sharpest critics of this course of Secretary Gage is the Chicago Tribune, a journal which has been one of the staunchest supporters of the gold standard policy of the administration...

"It will be difficult to convince the public that it is necessary to aggregate in any one bank, for the purpose of distribution, the daily internal revenue collections of this great country...

"If one bank must be selected as the place of first deposit public sentiment will be adverse to the choice of any New York bank, for that would look as if the intention is to draw from all parts of the United States public money...

It does not wish to see the general government play the part of the 'god in the machine' to relieve distressed brokers. It prefers that the government should remain neutral. This preference is shared by the Tribune...

It believes it neither right nor expedient for the government to attempt to bolster up a sagging stock market by exhibiting gross favoritism to a particular bank. It is too big a contract. The government may be harmed more than the stock market is helped...

"If it were necessary, as it is not, to select some New York bank as the place of first deposit, the National City bank is the one of all others which a cautious secretary of the treasury who had his hand on the public pulse would not have chosen. It is not a popular bank even among bankers. It is the Standard Oil bank...

and Americans have no burning love for the Standard Oil Company or the men at the head of it. Had the secretary of the treasury consulted any outsiders before he acted they would have told him that not all things which are lawful unto him are expedient and that one of the most inexpedient things he could do was to favor the Rockefeller bank. The treasury should have no pets—least of all a pet bank. Such an institution is a stench in the nostrils of the people."

The secretary's action forms a most proper subject of congressional inquiry. In the first place, the right place for these collections is in the United States sub-treasuries, and the secretary has no right to employ the funds of the government to help out adventurous bankers who have over-loaned their deposits. In the second place, if the government is going into the paternal business of helping out incautious bankers, there should be no favoritism.—Spokesman-Review.

LEADER IN IRON PRODUCTION

In the year which has just ended the United States, in addition to breaking all other industrial and business records, made an immense gain in iron production. It is estimated that the country's output of pig iron in 1899 was in the neighborhood of 13,500,000 tons, which is a gain of about 2,500,000 tons over 1898, and an increase of nearly 4,000,000 over 1897. It is an increase of 5,000,000 tons since 1896, when the base money party was making a canvass which was disturbing all sorts of business throughout the country.

The United States is now far in the lead of Great Britain, and, of course, still farther ahead of Germany, which stands next to Great Britain on this roll. No estimate of the production of pig iron in either of those countries for 1899 is yet at hand, but it is probable, taking the gain of each in recent years, that England's production for 1899 will not be above 10,000,000 at the farthest, and it is likely to be nearer to the 9,000,000 mark. Germany's production may reach 8,000,000 tons, although this looks like a somewhat high estimate. Of all the pig iron produced in the world in the past year or two the United States furnished about a third part. The lead of this country over its principal competitors, too, has been broadening in recent years, and the tendency in the same direction is extremely likely to be kept up.

Iron holds an important place among the country's list of exports, though, of course, by far the larger portion of the increase in production is absorbed in the home trade. There are several reasons—the richness and extent of the deposits, their accessibility to the markets which the extension of the railroads has caused, and the improvement of the methods by which iron is treated and distributed—why the United States is in the ascendant in iron production. These reasons are continuous. The United States produces iron, taking the quality into the account, fully as cheap as the most favored countries of the Old World, and cheaper than some of them, and its advantage in this direction will grow as time passes and the mines of the rest of the countries tend toward exhaustion. This is the world's iron age. The country which can produce iron and coal in larger quantities and with greater cheapness than its competitors has an immense advantage over them in the race for industrial supremacy. This position is occupied by the United States.

Boston has had more business failures in the past two weeks than occurred there in many times that duration for years past. All this is due to the suspension of the big bank in that town early in December. The Boston suspensions will bring up the number and the liabilities of the failures for 1899 to higher figures than were looked for a month or two ago, but both will still be lower than in any previous year for more than a decade. But this affliction for Boston is probably near its end. The general business conditions in Boston and all over the country are unusually sound.

FACTS ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA.

Boer sympathizers lay stress upon the "trekking" tendency of the South African Dutch. Upon that natural characteristic of all pioneer peoples, the imagination has built a mass of wild fancy. The British become greedy land-grabbers, the Boer farmers have been robbed of their homes, and have taken flight from invading Huns and Vandals.

The Spokesman-Review says: The facts present a very different story. Property rights have been respected in Cape Colony and Natal, as they are always respected in all parts of the British empire. Indeed, if the British government has been at fault on that matter, it has faulted from a too severe regard for the rights of property.

The following estimate of the white population in South Africa, made by F. E. Garrett, of the Cape assembly, is revealing:

Table with 3 columns: Colony Name, English, Dutch.

It is seen from this table that 265,000 Boers prefer British government in Cape Colony, as compared with 80,000 Boers who prefer Kruger government in the Transvaal and 78,000 who prefer Boer government in the Orange Free State.

But note the difference. In Cape Colony 265,000 Boers have every political right that is enjoyed by the 194,000 English. They control the Cape legislature and make the laws. It is majority rule in the broadest and most liberal application. In the Transvaal, upon the opposing hand, the 80,000 Boers have divested the 123,000 English, Americans and Europeans of all rights and privileges of government. They will not permit the outlanders to become naturalized, vote, hold office or bear arms. Their constitution expressly prohibits Jews and Roman Catholics from holding office. The government is a bald travesty of republican principles and institutions.

GERMAN UNREST.

The emperor of Germany is a strong man, and has a powerful army completely at his control, else he might have a revolution on his hands. For William's political friend the Boers is not shared by the German people. They are at no more pains than is necessary to escape the charge of lese majeste to show their disgust with their ruler's conduct. They scarcely disguise their hatred of England, and their sympathy with the Boers. The German press, while necessarily cautious in its language, is almost unanimous in voicing the popular sentiment. There is great dissatisfaction, and much unrest, among the German people, over the rumored and apparent political and diplomatic commerce between William and Chamberlain and Salisbury. If the German people had their way, they would join Russia, and even their old enemy, France, in an anti-Anglo coalition. But in this instance William is wiser than his people. He, like the United States, has only the beginning of a navy, as compared with that of England, and England has no use for much of her navy in South African waters. Russia's objects are her own, and would not be ultimately beneficial to Germany; and Russia, too, is deficient in a great navy. As to France, she would be a weak and troublesome ally. So William and his counsellors may be unpopular just now, but they are probably wise.—Telegram

KILLED ON THE TRACK.

Laborer Falls Off the Train While Stealing a Ride. Early Sunday morning Coroner Butts received a message that a dead man had been found on the railroad track near Mosier. He left on the early morning train and later sent for Robertson to bring down a team and undertaker. Accordingly, in company with Wm. Michell, he left here at 7 o'clock, reaching there about 10:30. They found what seemed to be the body of a laborer, dreadfully mangled, lying between the tracks about 100 yards from the Mosier depot. The body had been severed in two places, the head and upper part lying about two feet from the main track. It was thought he must have been dragged about ninety feet.

The remains were brought to this city. In the evening two men called at the undertaker's and recognized it as the body of one Albert Dazelle, a man of about 45 years, who had been working with them on the portage road across the river, driving a team for the past three weeks. They came to the city Saturday, intending to beat their way to Portland, but he gave them to understand he would remain here awhile.

Saturday night he cashed checks at Ben Wilson's East End saloon to the amount of \$14 or \$15, and that was the last seen of him. He must have

SHEEP IN THE WOODS.

Captain Ormsby's Annual Report on the Cascade Reserve.

Capt. S. B. Ormsby, superintendent of the Cascade forest reserve, one of the largest of the government reserves in the United States, is now busily employed in writing his report to the interior department, regarding the grazing of sheep on the reserve. This is his third report on the subject since he was appointed superintendent, one being required by the department every year, and when asked about the work, yesterday, he said that he would probably wear out the subject, if the subject did not wear him out. The report will be a most voluminous affair, and will go into details regarding the grazing of sheep on the reserve; the effects on the growth of timber and underbrush; the effects on the rainfall, floods, etc., and a variety of other subjects. The writing of these reports, by the various superintendents of the reserves, is the direct result of the constant efforts of the scientists to exclude sheep from the reserves, from the fact that it is "supposed that when everything else gives out, they turn savagely on the pine."

The report will include a variety of subjects, and details, such as the number of sheep seeking the different reservations; duration of the grazing season; the locality, the extent and general course of ranging, the damage done to the forests on the reserves, which includes killing the undergrowth by browsing, trampling it out, and injuries to the standing timber; the diminishing of the water supply by trampling the ground so that the snow melts earlier in the spring and passes off in floods before needed in the valleys; the retention of the moisture from the rainfall, it being claimed by the enemies of the sheep that the trampling of the ground causes the water to flow away instead of being absorbed by the soil.

The methods pursued by the herders, whether or not they are in the habit of setting fires to increase the grazing for the following year, is another subject upon which a report is demanded; the question of leasing the ranges on the reserve, by the department, the restrictions and limitations which should be included in the lease, the charge per head of sheep allowed on the ranges and kindred information is to be given at length; statistics are to be given regarding the value of the sheep industry, the number of sheep on the reserve, the amount of the wool production, the value of the wool, the value of the sheep, the amount of capital invested in the industry, and a thousand and one other points, regarding the grazing and rearing of sheep on the forest reserves.

While Captain Ormsby did not say what his conclusions would be on the various points involved, it is not likely that he will agree with the scientist regarding the destructiveness of the sheep on the reserve, in view of the fact that the superintendent has long been a resident of Oregon, and for many years a breeder of sheep; in addition to that, he has travelled thousands of miles on the reserves, during the past three years, studying the questions involved; he has followed the sheep on the ranges for days, camping with the herders, and closely observing the actions of the sheep, the condition of the ground where they had passed, and after making these extended investigations, he appears to be more than ever imbued with the idea that the theories of the scientists are entirely wrong, as the practical knowledge gained by him on the ground combats the views of the scientists at the national capital. It might do for some Easterner, or some Mazama who climbed Mt. Hood some time, to believe that the sheep would get away with the entire reservation, mountains and all, but it is doubtful whether any one having any practical knowledge on the subject, would ever believe that the sheep would in any manner injure the forests on the reserve.—Salem Statesman.

CLAIMS AGAINST THE CITY.

J. W. Haworth, printing Electric Tel. & Power Co. lights Pease & Mays, mdsse W. A. Johnson, mdsse Mays & Crowe, mdsse James Heater, labor Arthur Seufert, ins. premium

"One Minute Cough Cure is the best remedy I ever used for coughs and colds. It is unequalled for whooping cough. Children all like it," writes H. N. Williams, Gentryville, Ind. Never fails. It is the only harmless remedy that gives immediate results. Cures coughs, colds, hoarseness, croup, pneumonia, bronchitis and all throat and lung troubles. Its early use prevents consumption.

Preserves Refined Paraffine Wax. In every household, it is clean, lustrous and odorless. It is the best for polishing wood, and is the best for preserving. It is the only one that will not stain or discolor.

GUARDIAN'S NOTICE.

In the county court of the State of Oregon, for Wasco county.

Now on this 8th day of December, 1899, the court docketed the guardian's petition for the appointment of a guardian of the person of said minors, and presented his petition, praying that he be appointed guardian of the person of said minors, and directing him to sell the real and personal estate of said minors, and to pay the proceeds to the said minors, or to their legal representatives.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed by the county court of the State of Oregon, for Wasco county, administrator of the estate of Anton Jerome, deceased, a person having claims against said estate, and is notified to present them in writing at the office in the Dalles, Or., within six months from the date hereof.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed by the county court of the State of Oregon, for Wasco county, administrator of the estate of Anton Jerome, deceased, a person having claims against said estate, and is notified to present them in writing at the office in the Dalles, Or., within six months from the date hereof.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

(Isolated Tract)—Public Land Sale. LAND OFFICE AT THE DALLES, OREGON.

Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of instructions from the commissioner of the general land office, under authority vested in him by section 2421, U. S. Rev. Stat., as amended, the tract of land approved February 25, 1899, will be offered to the public sale on the 15th day of February next, at 10 o'clock, a. m., at this office, the following tract of land, to-wit:

Table with 4 columns: DEPART FOR, TIME SCHEDULE, AMOUNT, and other details regarding land parcels.

For full particulars call on O. E. & N. U. agent The Dalles, or address: W. H. HURLEY, JR. Gen. Pas. Agt., Portland, O.

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