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AGENTS FOR THE ENTERPRISE.

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THE COMING QUESTION.

The foreign immigration question has of late been demanding more than a passing notice from the American people, and the necessity for doing something to restrict the hordes of ignorant, lawless people that now flock to our shores has become apparent to every patriotic person. Yet to get the political parties who have the making of the laws, to take hold of the question, has so far proved in vain. On the subject The Dallas Chronicle has the following to say:

"The political conventions have met in nearly all the states, have formulated their platforms, and are ready to go before the people on the issues made. We have watched carefully the trend of opinion, yet neither in republican, democratic or populist platform, is the immigration question touched. Old parties and new are alike afraid of it. Afraid of it because they fear the foreign-born vote. Yet it is the most important question before the American people today. Beside it, the tariff policies fade into nothingness, and the silver craze becomes tame. In congress the matter has been touched upon lightly, a bill having been introduced to prevent immigrants landing who were not possessed of seventy-five dollars. The bill is ridiculous, but it serves to show that the importance of the question is being recognized, and that politicians approach the subject gingerly, timorous and trembling for fear of unforeseen results. We think it simply a fear born of selfishness and cowardice, a fear of the unknown.

The fire has been kindled and cannot be stamped out. Inside of four years it will be the one issue on which the battle for politic supremacy will be fought, and the party that first has the manliness to grasp the situation will be the party to win. The American people have no prejudice against the great mass of white foreigners, readily conceding that the Englishman, the German, the Frenchman; and in fact the great majority of civilized people are the peers of any nationality on earth. It is not the question of either the foreigner's birth place or intellectual standing. It is a question simply of the welfare of the working man now in this country regardless of nationality. If wages in this country are to be kept up, immigration must cease, and that soon. Every man seeks to better his condition, and as long as wages here are better than in Europe, that long the tide of immigration will set this way, until, like water, wages in this country and in Europe have reached a common level.

Some foreign-born voters would necessarily be lost by the party advocating this measure, but for one naturalized vote lost a hundred American ones would be gained. The intelligent foreigner would readily see that the measure was as much in his favor as that of the native, for if a man is to lose his job, what difference does it make whether he is run out by his own nationality or some other.

This country is growing, and growing rapidly, and though we have now nearly a million tramps, a few years would soon absorb them and set them to work were the influx of foreigners ready to take the work as fast as it is made, cut off. This policy is the legitimate conclusion, the final result of a protective tariff system. It belongs to the republican party to set the ball rolling, and when it does there will be such a political tidal wave as will sweep everything out of existence before it.

The opportunity is ripe. Which political party shall pluck the fruit?"

ELECTRICAL STORAGE.

The electrical storage battery and its possibilities is a theme that visionary people with but a limited knowledge of electrical science are fond of extolling, and their predictions as to its revolutionizing power of transmission is of the most exaggerated nature. It appears from the following from the Electric World that there will have to be some extraordinary development in the handling of electricity before it can be transmitted other than by wire, and the bright thought that we are to see electricity boxed up and shipped from Oregon City like flour or paper to all parts of the world is doomed to disappointment.

Occasionally we read, says the Electric World, in newspapers, predictions of the

possibilities of the coming storage battery, and some enthusiasts have even prophesied that when "perfected," ocean steamers will be propelled by this popularly misunderstood apparatus. While, of course, every one with an iota of electrical knowledge recognizes the absurdity of such a claim, yet an illustration of how absurd it is may be of interest, and to furnish this we will apply the necessary calculations to the case of the new Camarda Campana. The best transatlantic time of which we have a record made by this ship, whose displacement is 18,000 tons, was 5 days, 12 hours and 15 minutes, during which the average speed was 21 knots, corresponding to about 35,000 average horse power and a consumption of coal for the trip of about 2,700 tons. Assuming storage batteries of 50 pounds to the hourly horse power, the entire weight of batteries to do the same work, and allowing for no reserve, would be 76,750 tons of 2,240 pounds, or more than four times the displacement of the ship. To determine the weight per horse power that a storage battery should have to compete with steam in the case under consideration, we will assume that the entire weight of the boilers and machinery of the Campana is 3,700 tons, which is probably near the actual weight. Adding the coal consumption for a trip, 2,700 tons, we have 6,400 tons as the entire weight of the electrical plant. Assuming the weight of the electrical propelling machinery to be 1,500 tons, we have finally for the total weight of the battery 4,900 tons. With these data we find that the weight of a battery, allowing for no reserve, would have to be 3.16 pounds per hourly horse power. How small this is can be appreciated from the fact that a 150 ampere-hour cell would weigh on this basis only about 1 1/2 pounds, really about the weight of its lugs. A similar calculation would show the impossibility of storage batteries displacing locomotives, yet the writer knows of a company formed several years ago which spent several thousand dollars in attempting to perfect a battery for such a use. Much of the misconception in regard to the power of the storage battery must be ascribed to the sensational manner in which it was introduced to the public by a very great scientist, his statement in regard to holding "one million foot pounds of energy" in his hand not having lost its effect. The great value of the storage battery in its proper field, which is of vast extent, and as yet scarcely entered in this country, should be sufficient to satisfy its most sanguine friends. Only harm can come from making claims beyond its power to fulfill, and much harm in this way has been done, aside from the absurd instances we have here considered.

OREGON CITY'S ability to entertain was fully demonstrated this week and hereafter we should feel no hesitancy in offering the hospitality of the town to any organization that feels disposed to meet in our city. The natural attractions of Oregon City are such that it draws people from all parts to view its great falls, frowning bluffs, and immense factories; and we have only to invite them to get our pick of the many organizations that meet annually in this state. With our smooth, clean streets, large halls, and commodious church edifices, Oregon City can handle any crowd that may be assembled. In hotel accommodations we are a little short, but our hotels can care for any ordinary gathering in as good shape as is to be had in the state outside of Portland, and the nearness to Portland with the excellent transportation facilities between the two cities provides for any overflow there may be. Next May we are to have the G. A. R., Woman's Relief Corps, S. of V., and Ladies' Aid Society with us, and in June the Christian Endeavorers meet in our town. Oregon City is sure to give them a most cordial welcome and make their gathering a memorable one in their society history.

THE Seventh street railway franchise came up again in the city council Wednesday evening and was very properly laid over by that body for consideration at a special meeting to be held next Monday evening. In the first place its projectors appeared to be afraid to shoulder the responsibility, for it did not specify to whom the franchise was to be granted, the first clause stating that it was to be given to blank heirs and assigns. As a franchise to be legal must state to whom it is granted, so that the city has got some one to hold responsible, that clause would render the whole void. The attorney of the proposed company was present to speak in behalf of the ordinance, but his memory from some unknown cause was so feeble he could not remember who were the members of his company. In regard to street improvements and other matters it was as loosely drawn as the franchise of the East Side railway on Main street that has caused the city so much trouble. It is well that the council exercise all due precaution in such important matters as this, for the people of Oregon City do not care to be delivered bound hand and foot in order to get a street railway. They have had too much of this loose work already.

Those who are lamenting the scarcity of gold will be surprised to learn that the supply of that very precious metal has of late years considerably increased, and is likely to go on increasing. The world, we are told, produced more gold last year than ever it did before, and the product of the present year promises to be greater still. The worth of last year's gold output was \$155,522,000. This year it is estimated it will be \$175,000,000. When California and Australia were producing gold at what some believed to be an alarming rate, the total output was less than this. The indications are that there is no fear of there being a scarcity of gold or silver for many a long day to come.

THE village of St. Helens in Columbia county does not appear to be seriously set back by the hard times. Last fall the town put in water works and now they are putting in electric lights. Such energy deserves the success and prosperity it is sure to bring.

THE Weston Leader has suspended, the boys finding that these times are not so conducive to the longevity of newspapers at every little country cross roads as in the days of yore when five dollar pieces were as plentiful as nickels are now.

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

McMinnville is taking steps to organize a fire relief association, and of the advisability of the undertaking the Telephone-Register has the following to say: It is a well-known fact that the insurance business on this coast is all in the hands of a gigantic trust, but how many thousand dollars they take from the county annually and how small a percentage ever returns to the county is only known by those connected with this trust. There is enough money leaving this county each year through this trust to start a bank. Our present financial depression is largely due to this and other similar drains. Similar fire relief associations have been running very successfully for years in the middle states, at an average annual cost to the insured of from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per \$1,000.

Of the future outlook for the country the Pacific Builder of Portland has the following to say: With the labor conflict subdued, congress prorogued, a war raging in the Orient, crop prospects encouraging, and general business reviving there is a brightening future before our builders that heralds the dawn of a prosperous day. The tariff, that political microbe of business hemiplegia, has finally been formally diagnosed once more, the salves, ointments, irritants and poultices of practical politics have been applied here and there, and henceforth the patient public may be expected to rest easy and gradually recuperate. We are out of the hands of the congressional doctors for a spell and there is a flood of hope and feeling of relief on that account. The clouds are gradually rising and there is silver underneath. It is not exactly "free silver," but perhaps it is just as good.

The Forest Grove Times gets off the following pertinent hints to farmers: Wheat in a warehouse is worth about thirty cents a bushel and in a pig about fifty. It is better yet to consign it to a chicken. Oregon is the country for poultry, and we have a good market within our own borders.

The Boston Congregationalist has been informed that the immediate section of Chicago in which most of the rioting occurred during the recent strike is almost without churches, either Protestant or Catholic, and that few of those connected with the mob could have had any association with religious organizations. We are told that at several points outside of Chicago, where the rioting was the greatest, as at Spring Valley, there are few churches, if any, and those few are feebly supported. These communities, whose lawless uprisings shook the stability of government and threatened the peace of the whole nation, are composed of a people practically godless. The significance of a fact so ominous must not be overlooked at this time. Without the restraints and inspiration of Christian truth the ruin of the republic would be certain. Hitherto in the history of this nation the characters most to be relied on for integrity and loyalty to God have been trained in the country. From the rural districts and small villages and towns have come the best citizens of our great cities. No greater disaster could befall this land than to have its country churches fall into decay. The country church should be fostered in every way possible. But how to do that is a thing demanding the most careful planning. If Christianity plays so important a part in the maintaining of good order, and reports seem to verify that assertion, then the matter demands the attention of our statesmen and publicists.

On Chairman Wilson's desire for a rest the New York Tribune has the following: Chairman Wilson is going abroad. It is not surprising that he wants to get out of a country with a congress responsible for the tariff bill, whose fate is dependent on the will of the president. Mr. Wilson says that he feels fatigued. So do his fellow-citizens.

The Tomahawk, the leading democratic paper of Portland, gets off the following bit of advice to the people of Tillamook county: The Tillamook Headlight has discovered some curious facts concerning the sale of public lands in comparison with federal appropriations for the improvement of harbors of the country, which it does not understand. It shows that 1,100 timber and 400 pre-emption claims sold in the county, have brought to the national treasury \$530,000, while only \$10,000 has been given for improvements in return, and more than \$520,000 has been expended at Yaquina, Siuslaw and Coos Bay. Then it is shown that Tillamook county has twenty billion feet of lumber worth twenty million dollars. Still, the money received has been expended at other points. The Headlight fails to grasp the real situation. The key to the anomaly is—Binger, the wily rustling Binger, who represents the first district in congress. He is the greatest appropriation hustler of the coast—for points within his district. And here's the rub. Tillamook county is not within his district. Its congressman is the rose-colored paper-mache figure from Reppert, the Hon. W. R. Ellis. As an appropriation hustler, Mr. Ellis is to Mr. Hermann, as in the prize-ring, Mr. Bob Fitzsimmons is to Mr. Jim Corbett. He is out-clasped. Binger gets all, or very nearly all the money expended in Oregon. If Tillamook county will, at the next legislature, have itself placed in Mr. Hermann's district it will fare better.

On the question of the assessment of mortgages and notes the St. Helens Mist has the following to say: "If the next legislature would re-enact the mortgage-tax law, and then make the assessment roll the only evidence of such debt, the wealth of the state would all bear its pro-rata of taxation. If a non-assessment note was made non-collectable the assessor would have no trouble in finding notes and mortgages, neither would the tax-gatherer have any serious trouble in collecting. Until our tax laws are amended so as to tax every evidence of wealth, just so long will the people be subject to unfair and unequal discrimination in taxation. And just so long as there is no way to force a man to give in his money, notes and accounts correctly, there is urgent need of a law making such papers null and void unless they appear on the tax roll. Stringent measures is the only remedy for this evil."

On the prospective revival of business the Prairie Farmer of Chicago has the following to say: "Wholesale merchants and jobbing houses report an extraordinary demand from country buyers for all lines of

general merchandise. Many predict the largest volume of trade of any season during the past five years. Country merchants from the more western states report much of the crop news from those sections is exaggerated, and that, except in the extreme western portions of Kansas and Nebraska, farmers will be in pretty good condition. Farmers during the past fifteen months have not been liberal buyers, hence, they must now go to their merchants to stock up for the winter and next season. Collections are reported good, all of which goes to show that the business of the country is getting upon a good foundation again."

On the absorption by the trotting horse men of all the premiums and honors at the state fair, the Rural Northwest of Portland has the following sensible remarks to make: The Oregon state fair ought to be such an exhibition of agricultural and horticultural products of the state, and of its live stock, as would be a credit to the state. While the racing features have for some years been allowed to overshadow the legitimate features of the fair, the fruit growers and the stock breeders of the state cannot afford to let their departments be bare. The people of Oregon can with difficulty be made to appreciate what a poor opinion a stranger would form of the fruits and live stock of the state by witnessing such meager exhibits as were shown at the last state fair. The fruit growers and stock breeders of Oregon must learn to advertise, and a very necessary branch of advertising is that of making proper exhibits at fairs. If the stock breeders and fruit growers will only be as wide awake in looking after their interests in the fair as the trotting horse men are they will soon secure the recognition they deserve.

THE Chinese-Japanese war is still on but has not assumed a very belligerent attitude as yet. Each side is massing troops in Korea and it looks as though they may eventually do some fighting, but so far the only battles fought have been on paper, each side sending out startling reports of fierce battles and great slaughter, to be promptly contradicted. In the few engagements that they have actually had the Japanese appear to have had the advantage, especially on the water, they proving themselves good sailors and capable of handling their vessels of which they have several first-class modern warships. China has immense resources in men and means, but lacks skill and modern training, while Japan, though short in resources, makes up in pluck and training, and appears to have odds in her favor.

TWENTY-EIGHT thousand voters have left Kansas since the dry season set in. Never since the drought there in 1889 and once about 1898 has there been such a total failure of crops in that region.

A COUNTER EXPLANATION.

Mr. Cassidy Replies to Ex-Deputy Sheriff Hackett.

TO THE EDITOR: Your issue of August 10th contained a communication from myself in regard to the cost levied on the delinquent taxes of one S. E. New. I wish to say, that question in the first place was asked altogether for information. I did not intend it should bring me into any controversy or argument with Mr. Hackett, and especially as touching his honor; as I, and I believe all who know him, hold him in the highest esteem as being a gentleman and far above suspicion; but the case was explained just exactly as it was, and if there was a reform in the levying of costs why was not that reform in practice June 10th when Mr. New's taxes, costs and all included, were nearly as much as the tax? Mr. Hackett only smiled and allowed him to carry away near enough to pay up under the old method and more than enough to pay up under the new method. Now Mr. Hackett will say I have not the characteristics of a gentleman if I do not publicly retract. I have said nothing to retract and nothing to apologize for, I had only asked an honorable question without reflecting on the honor of Mr. Hackett or any one else; and if the characteristics of a gentleman can be lost by asking an honorable question then mine is gone.

C. S. CASSIDY.

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