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three tea jackets. "Nos. 1 and 2 to be common-sense jackets for mother to work in, and not over-trimmed by any means. No. 3, for best, such as the one seen in the drawing room." There was no doubt a generous response from the faithful, which means that "mother" has a supply of the articles designated sufficient to keep her in working and drawing-room "tea jackets" for the hundred years she confidently expects to need clothes.

MR. GAGE ON BANK NOTES.

Men in the city do business with checks. Men in the country do business with cash in hand. The present national banking law make it a matter of far greater difficulty for the country merchant to get notes for his business than for the city merchant to get a credit at the bank against which he may draw his checks. This is the substance of the argument set out in a paper by Secretary Gage, a synopsis of which is elsewhere printed. Its discussion of the great value of suggestiveness, but its demands cannot be granted, and there is good reason to believe that to grant them would be unwise and unsafe.

It is perfectly true that the popular prejudice against banks is unreasonable, and that fair-minded men of ordinary mental acumen are fast coming to see it. Those who regard ruin of the banks as a preliminary of prosperity are who formerly upheld banks as the promoters of panic being to understand that, as Mr. Gage points out, in his paper, that bank deposits and bank notes are alike forms of credit material, and susceptible in a limited sense of definition as currency. There is no galling the contention that the interests of the country districts will be served by liberal banking laws, so that the ease with which the country bank can supply notes to its customers may approximate the ease with which the city bank issues a deposit credit to the city merchant.

But there is a flaw in Mr. Gage's reasoning, and his illustration of three men, one wishing a deposit credit, the other a certificate of deposit and the third notes, supposes things to be equivalent which are not. The third man, not after bank notes, strictly speaking. He is after any kind of currency, and he is just as likely to get government paper, gold and silver, as he is to get bank notes. Not only that, but the government has an attitude toward the third transaction different from its attitude toward the first and second. Government will do very little to help the first man collect his check against the deposit credit. It will try to give the second man a fair deal, but the bank's assets are not in case it fails. But the third man it undertakes to protect absolutely. Nobody shall issue money or currency that is not to be absolutely good at all times and places.

Why should government guarantee bank notes and require security against their issue, any more than guarantee deposit credits or certificates of deposit? That is not the point. The point is that the government does it. The bank notes are not a national bank note, but an argument not lightly to be set aside by theoretical considerations in favor of "more scientific" systems. Mr. Gage cites the state bank notes, and many of those systems were sound and efficacious. But others were not. State bank notes are, in fact, almost proverbial for uncertain values. This need not have been the case, but it was the case. It need not be the case again, but it might be. On any system of national banking, other than deposit securities, there is an element of risk. Some banks will fail, some notes will be uncollectible, unless the solvent banks are required to redeem the notes of the insolvent, an arrangement both expensive and unjust.

Advocates of banking on assets talk about the superior European method based on experience. Now what is the European method? There is none. That is, there are many. The perfect European bank note system is like the collection current during the whole rainy season, would not have been between him and the forces coming to his support. But it is probable that General White was under positive instructions from the war office at home; and there is every reason to believe that the war office had no conception of the extent of Boer preparations, of the strength of the forces of the two Boer states, or the magnitude of the effort that it would be necessary to put forth in order to meet them.

THE REGENERATION OF PUERTO RICO.

The nature and scope of the "white man's burden," as taken up in the island of Puerto Rico, is plainly set out in the reports made public by the war department showing the progress made in relief work in the island. In an estimated population of 2,182,926 there were, within two months, a daily average of 21,987 malarial cases. The worst area contained a population of about 250,000, and in it not a wagon road is found, of any description, over which food can be transported. Of this population, 200,000 must be fed or they will starve. So utterly irresponsible are they that if not fed the more able-bodied among them will tramp to the cities, leaving the weak to die. Their work will be left undone and their future will be hopeless.

While every effort known to civilization is being made to arouse these thritless, inert, irresponsible creatures to a sense of their duty to themselves and their obligations to each other, the methods of Spanish rule, ingrained in their very natures, are slow to yield to enlightened treatment, and their habituation on the basis of responsible citizenship will be a process of growth difficult to hasten—hard even to inaugurate. Relief measures are being conducted on a systematic basis, and with all possible encouragement to self-reliance, but supplies are asked on the basis of full two months' further requirement. The estimates call for 2000 tons of food in addition to that already issued, making the total issued 20,122,788 pounds. In dealing with the indig-

gent, able-bodied men have been required to work for the food they receive, a task by no means easy of accomplishment. There are horse markets and energy, however, much public work has been done through this means, in the way of clearing roads and cleaning towns.

The task to which the government has set itself in dealing with these people is a tremendous one. It may be said to outrank missionary effort, in the generally accepted view, which that term designates, since it is much more difficult to induce an indolent, filthy people to accept the present gospel of work and cleanliness than to induce a superstitious or imaginative people to accept a new plan of future salvation. Having, however, put its hand to the plow, the United States government will not turn back, and some time—two or three generations hence, perhaps—it will be able to point to a work of regeneration in Puerto Rico that has proved moderately satisfactory, and a justly merited theory of expansion worked out in the first of its insular possessions, from a standpoint of humanity—as even now it is justified upon a political basis.

THE HEROISM OF SCIENCE.

The absolute devotion that a man filled with his spirit can upon occasion give to science is witnessed in the recent death of Lisbeth Dr. Camara Pestana, of the bacteriological institute of Philadelphia. His death is regarded as the severest blow that the institute has sustained since its organization, while the manner of it has given or in due time will give to the world important facts in regard to the bubonic plague and its alleviation, if not its cure. Working in the dissecting room in a hospital at Lisbon upon the body of a victim of the plague brought from the East, Dr. Pestana, momentarily dropped his hand to his side, and in so doing the sharp point of the instrument held touched his body, inflicting a slight wound. A moment before it had been probing the lymphatics of the victim of the deadly scourge, and the virus was upon the point. It just penetrated the cuticle and the thinnest drop of blood made the scientist aware of the damage that had been done.

The gravity of the situation was not recognized, and every possible precaution was taken to prevent the germ of the disease from becoming active in his system, but without avail. Within twenty-four hours incubation had taken place, and the brave spirit of the scientist rose to meet and make the most of the situation. He himself gave directions for his removal to the wing of the hospital to which virulent contagious diseases were assigned, and once there he called two students to his assistance and watched minutely reported his own case. As the symptoms of the disease developed he analyzed and discussed them to his two attendants (whom he had previously instructed in precautions for their own protection) and explained to them the treatment that would relieve the pain of the patient. So matters proceeded, the disease progressing rapidly in defiance of remedial agencies, and the certainty of death came. During all not one thought of himself appeared to cloud his purpose of leaving the fullest possible record of experience in battling the scourge. He vividly described to his two attendants his symptoms and sensations, making his condition and sufferings the theme of a lecture upon the progress and treatment of the disease. Lying upon the little, plain cot in the big, empty hospital room, wholly without furnishing save a little table beside the bed, he completed his immolation upon the altar of science without a murmur or complaint.

A more complete abnegation of self for the benefit of science has never been recorded in medical annals. A thorough post mortem, conducted also under his injunction and direction, completed the sacrifice that he made, and the results, together with his memoranda of the symptoms and progress of the disease, will, when summarized, be sent to the Pasteur Institute in Paris, where they will be formulated and published for the benefit of science and of humanity. The heroism of such a death supposes that with which death is met in the sudden onset or prolonged excitement of the battle-field. The deliberation with which a man stricken by the scourge and with a full knowledge of its power approaches the inevitable makes a draft upon courage that few natures can honor without protest; and when courage of this quality is joined to zeal for knowledge the benefits of which will accrue solely to science and to humanity, it reaches a point in exaltation that can only be contemplated with awe.

AN ECENTRIC MARKET.

The great change in the demand for mules and horses, caused by the wars in South Africa and the Philippines, is recorded not alone in the market quotations of city papers, but in the local paragraphs of country weeklies in all stockgrowing regions. The frequent announcement that on a stated day a horsebuyer will be at such and such a place in Eastern or Southern Oregon, "to purchase sound and well-broken animals, of solid color, weighing from 950 to 1100 pounds," indicates that the shrewd middleman is on the alert to get between the producer and the government, with a view to a good return for his time and labor in selecting animals and getting them to the point of availability for the army's representative. The advance in price of horses is so great as to bring out the statement in some papers that "growers who have agreed to accept \$80 to \$40 per head would be glad to break their contracts at a penalty of \$10 to \$15," or that "farmers who sold good horses at \$60 to \$75 per animal would be glad to buy them back at an advance."

The changes in the mule market are similar to those in the horse market, though the advance is not so pronounced, because the price of mules had not shown such deep depression. The government of the United States is reported to have purchased more than 16,000 mules in 1899, at an average price of \$100, and the British government has been buying so freely that in the St. Louis market, in spite of enormous receipts, the price ranges from \$75 to \$150 for animals from 15 to 16½ hands in height, with the bulk of sales, between \$85 and \$105. Exceptionally good animals bring from \$150 to \$200 per head. The great war demand has resulted in a steady increase in the price of the United States and the country papers of Oregon have many notices of sales of mules at good figures, though this state is not specially noted for mulebreeding.

BIGOTRY OF THE BOER.

No Priests in the Transvaal for Dead or Dying. "Any Roman Catholic who may stray into the ranks of the Boer volunteers," writes Sidney O'Brien, an Irishman of Washington, in a letter to the Detroit Free Press, "should leave all trace of his religion behind, wear no scapular or beads and forget his religion, even at moments of death or suffering, or should he unfortunately betray his religion, although fighting for the Boers, they will hang him to the nearest tree."

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The vile, dirty little scum, McDaniel, says the comments of the newspapers, have caused him much "mental anguish." Only because he fears the punishment that his crime deserves. So dirty a dog as an Irishman has no moral sensibilities. Diversified farming must be the warranty of the Oregon farmer.—Albany Democrat. This is a better shout than "16 to 1," and an indication that the Democrat's insanity may prove to be not entirely hopeless.

country or constitution should be upheld that will try to crush Roman Catholicism. Is this right in a land of freedom?"

MULTNOMAH'S ASSESSMENT.

A Plain and Fair Statement as to Real Estate Values. Among our citizens of very best judgment is ex-Mayor Goldsmith. Herewith The Oregonian reprints, with intent of special commendation, some extracts from his statement, printed yesterday, about real estate in Portland:

Everybody is afraid to invest in real estate because of the tax, which is numerous instances is equal to confiscation. The assessor has been severely criticized for the low assessment of town lots in 1899 as against 1898, on the ground that property was worth not less in 1899 than in 1898. This is true enough, but the assessment of 1898 of town lots was much too high. In fact, ever since 1888, when the depreciation took place, the assessment of town lots was much too high, and it took the assessor just about six years to find out that his assessment of town lots and improvements was too high, and to place the assessment of town lots on a small area, of the most favorably located properties, was much too high, and more than the properties could be sold for. Finally, in 1899, he came out with a reasonable assessment on town lots and improvements thereon, but left the assessment on merchandise about the same—about \$2,000,000—while he reduced the assessment of town lots and improvements to about \$21,000,000; of merchandise, \$2,400,000; money, \$527,000. Now, everybody knows that the assessment of \$2,000,000 on merchandise is ridiculously low, so everybody has been afraid to go out to the world that this large city, the center of a big jobbing trade, claimed to do over \$100,000,000 business a year, had only \$2,000,000 of merchandise, which is, I believe, at least over \$10,000,000. The money on deposit in the national banks alone is over \$7,000,000, leaving out the large banks not national banks, and yet money is assessed in 1899 at \$527,000.

Again, he says, truly, that there has grown up a system of extravagance in estate, county and city administration, the burden of which falls on real estate; and, as it cannot escape this burden, it is depressed in value. This excess of expenditure grows up under conditions based on the motto, so generally prevalent some years ago, that real estate in Portland was worth two, three or four times what it actually is worth, or ever was worth. It is an error that was common in Western cities. Yet it is the hardest thing in the world to induce those entrusted with administration to reduce the system.

During the craze for creation of "public utilities," a heavy debt was created, and the interest account is large. This is another great factor in the depression of real estate. The Oregonian fully agrees with Mr. Goldsmith in his statement that "the assessment is not to blame for what is called his arbitrary reduction. It reduced itself, as far as town lots are concerned, and had reduced itself ever since 1888, when the unreasonable assessments were kept up till 1899."

Senator Hoar asserts that "the blaze of empire is offered by Satan for the temptation of our ambitious people." Here is a strange mixture. It is an obsolete theological figment, compounded of milk-soppy and namby-pamby—of the kind that our people are so fond of. If they are not, they will soon be as emaciated as Senator Hoar.

Every new bit of evidence that England befriended us in the Spanish war is the signal for an outburst of Anglophobia on the part of the anti. Show them a man that stood by the United States when it needed a friend; and that is all they need to know. He is the object of their scorn and rage, from that time on.

Registration of voters is not so rapid as it ought to be. The time to register is now. Three months hence there will be a great press. Go to your county courthouse, or go to a notary public, and register. You can vote unless you register, and the sooner you attend to it the better.

Bryan's political opponents seem to be descending to manufacture of campaign material based on utterances he never uttered. This is an indefensible form of partisan chicanery. Besides, it's superfluous. Nothing can be invented more absurd than what he has really said.

It is certain that conditions about Ladysmith and Colenso are becoming very tense. Within the next few days there will be some terrible fighting. If the British succeed, there may be a possibility of the war being ended, the war may have indefinite prolongation.

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Oregon's Prosperity Widely Advertised.

Harford Courant. A week ago today The Portland Oregonian, a journal that would be a credit to any state of this Union, celebrated the close of the most prosperous year Oregon has yet known by publishing a special edition (60 pages) with one of the largest and finest illustrated supplements ever issued from an American newspaper office.

It is our contemporary's belief that Oregon now has a population of about 425,000. She did not receive many immigrants last year, but those who came to her were just the best mind—native-born Americans from the Middle West and a sprinkling of Yankee, home-makers with plenty of money in their pockets. All her towns are growing steadily and healthily, and all of them are practicing a strict economy in their civic affairs.

The people outside the towns were never better off than now, if as well off. Last year's yield of the Oregon farms, ranging from the Middle West and a sprinkling of Yankee, home-makers with plenty of money in their pockets. All her towns are growing steadily and healthily, and all of them are practicing a strict economy in their civic affairs.

Portland had its share of the general prosperity. It will soon have 100,000 inhabitants at the rate it is growing. Its commerce in 12 months was \$1,200,000. Its jobbing trade reached \$100,000,000—a gain of 25 per cent from the year before. Its bank clearings were \$1,200,000,000. December 2 its savings banks had individual deposits aggregating \$7,878,787. The state's output of manufactured products, all kinds, is estimated at over \$50,000,000. The yield of gold was \$2,285,000; of silver, \$130,140; of coal, \$25,143. The fisheries did business last year to the extent of \$2,445,155.

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