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Portland, Tuesday, January 30, 1900.

WHERE REDUCTIONS SHOULD BE MADE.

When Arthur Young was studying the resources and prosperity of France, at the time when the whole country was up in arms against the ancient regime and wonders were expected of the states-general, he met a peasant woman at Mars-la-Tours who told him of a vague something that was to be done by some great folks for poor people, and added: "But God send us better times, for the taxes and the feudal dues crush us."

Taxes and the dues which are paid to officials are crushing the taxpayers of Multnomah county. Fear of high taxation causes inventories of all classes, oppresses the enterprises already established here, and keeps real estate values at nil. It is not surprising that the estimate of expenditures for 1900 just announced by the county commissioners should include an item of \$1800 for the recorder's office above fees, another for \$3000 for the office of clerk of the county court, and a third of \$3500 for the circuit clerk. These offices are being run at a loss under the salary system and are in need of inadequate fees for work done in the county. Between July 1, 1895, and December 1, 1895, the three offices cost the county nearly \$24,500 over and above receipts of fees.

It would be a telling blow to officialism and official extravagance to abolish the offices of clerk of the circuit court, clerk of the county court and recorder of conveyances, and create the office of county clerk, thus restoring the conditions of affairs that prevailed prior to July, 1888. There is no earthly need of the three offices. One officer, a county clerk, can attend to all the work at an expense of less than \$20,000 a year. The three offices have cost since July 1, 1895, an average of nearly \$31,000 a year. Here is an excellent opportunity to save nearly \$11,000 a year.

One method of economy in county government is to reduce all unnecessary expense; another is to abolish all useless offices. If one officer can do all the work of the county court, the circuit court and the recorder's department, there is no valid excuse for three clerical officers, each of whom is paid a larger salary than any judicial officer in the state, be he justice of the supreme court, circuit judge or county judge. A saving of \$11,000 a year is not to be despised, and the Multnomah delegation in the next legislature should lead the opportunity to give the taxpayers even this small relief. "God send us better times, for the taxes crush us."

THE FARMERS' CONGRESS. A notable meeting of farmers is fore-shadowed in the arrangements made for the farmers' congress that will be held in Salem on the 7th and 8th of February under the auspices of the State Agricultural Society. Judging from the names that appear in connection with it, the conference will be literally one of men who know what they are talking about. These will, no doubt, be ably assisted by women who have taught themselves to give the latter know in regard to the finer but by no means the minor details of agriculture—pomology, horticulture, poultry-raising and dairying—while in the beautiful realm of floriculture women will clearly prove, if opportunity offers, that they reign supreme—sovereigns by "divine right."

The diversified features which Oregon agriculture has assumed in recent years are shown in the announcement of the subject to be discussed, and upon the occasion mentioned. The old-fashioned wheats of a third of a century ago, could be precipitated bodily and mentally upon the scene without interfering knowledge of the evolution that has been going on in the domain of agriculture, would be astonished when one man, well qualified to speak from experience, arose to discuss "The Outlook for Hops in Oregon," and another, "Soiling and Its Advantages in Dairying," another, "The Poultry Industry," and yet another, "Horticulture for Oregon." The greatest surprise, however, would come when the general freight agent of a great interstate railway system arose and presented the solution of the problem that was the despair of pioneer agriculturists of the state under the head of "Transportation of Oregon Products."

Champions of Oregon, who were state-builders in the foundation-laying era, will readily recognize in the announcement of this congress and its programme the progress made along agricultural lines in the state in recent years. Handicapped as these sturdy farmer folk of the early days were by a restricted market—practically, it may be said, no market at all—for the perishable products of a diversified agriculture, and not having come into the knowledge of the modern and modern fruitdrying, they were compelled to depend upon what as the only product that could make the slow transit around the Horn to Eastern and foreign markets without injury. A quickly glutted local market soon put an end to attempts at fruit-raising and dairying for profit, while poultry-raising, except to supply the demand created by the annual campeeting in the neigh-

borhood or district, which consisted in feeding the multitude on eggs and chickens, without money and without price, for a week or ten days, was unknown so far as an attempt to produce a surplus in that line was concerned. Our people generally are too much inclined to underrate and to criticize the efforts that have been made from year to year to improve Oregon agriculture. In fact, of late, intelligently directed, will show that substantial progress has been made toward diversified farming. The advance has been slow, but the conditions furnished by a sparse population, inadequate transportation facilities and prohibitive freight rates, were not conducive to rapid growth. And, when added to these deterrents we remember that the inertia of long isolation had settled upon the people of many of our mountainous districts, and had to be overcome by the subtle powers of growth, we may well cease to wonder that progress has been slow, and, indeed, we are likely to decide that it has been as rapid as could reasonably have been expected.

Be this as it may, evidences of substantial advancement in agricultural lines are now met and recognized by observant people of all classes, and the elements of the real prosperity and future greatness of the state. The topics to be discussed at the farmers' congress next week indicate something of the widened range of agricultural interests in Oregon in recent years, and their discussion will, no doubt, furnish gratifying proof of the assumption that Oregon farmers are working with their brains as well as with their hands in their ancient and honorable vocation.

EMERGENCY CIRCULATION. It is worth while remarking, parenthetically, that with all the currency schemes pending before congress, the problem of emergency circulation for relief of spasmodic stringency has been neglected, and of all the proposals of amendment to the banking laws none touches so seriously the lack of ready relief. In view of the prominence the subject assumed in 1893, when emergency circulation for rural districts, corresponding to clearing-house certificates in New York city, would have afforded great relief and mitigated the distresses of the panic. These things are out of mind now, but they will be bitterly recalled the next time panic strikes us.

Controlled Dawes proposed a plan, interesting enough in itself, but impractical, of the declared programme of congress. His idea was that, instead of granting banks full issues of notes to par of bonds, this fraction between 90 and 100 per cent should be made an emergency circulation, subject to a tax sufficient to retire it when emergencies were past. This scheme is now outside the pale of profitable discussion, for the simple reason that congress is going to permit full issue to par of bonds comprehensively. The act will be just, moreover, and the proposal of Mr. Dawes falls short of justice to that extent.

The most celebrated plan for emergency circulation is that of Mr. Theodore Gilman, a banker. His scheme has received several noteworthy commendations, notably the opposition of Professor Johnson, of the university of Pennsylvania, whose antagonism to gold causes is uniform enough to create a presumption in favor of everything he attacks. Mr. Gilman advocates the legal creation of clearing-house associations, in every state, which shall be authorized to issue emergency clearing-house currency, guaranteed by the association, and parceled out by it among local banks needing it, on deposit of "commercial security properly indorsed. Under this plan, in 1893, a bank at Albany, for example, could send its security assets to Portland and receive in exchange circulating notes at a certain fraction of the security value. The currency so calculated would support the expense of the machinery for this operation and send the notes to redemption as soon as the crisis had passed.

We have never seen any consideration advanced against the plan advocated by ex-United States Senator Corbett, of Oregon. Mr. Corbett proposes a new 2 per cent bond, which banks can buy and deposit in the treasury in exchange for emergency circulation. This 2 per cent per annum on the bonds acquired in this way will cease for the time the bonds are on deposit with the treasury, thus operating precisely like a tax of 2 per cent per annum on the circulation. These bonds and notes would be promptly interchangeable, and the arrangement would introduce into our currency system a device of instant availability in refreshing contrast to the cumbersome, expensive and inadequate methods now in vogue. It is practically possible that an emergency circulation will some time have to form part of our currency system. When all proposals are considered, Mr. Corbett's is as likely as any to be adopted.

"PUERTO," NOT "PORTO" RICO. The senate has not lived up to its old traditions of scholarship in its decision to oppose the government's order establishing Puerto Rico as the recognized form of our new West Indian possession. There is no more reason for spelling it Porto Rico than there is for spelling Manila with two 's'. Porto is Portuguese, and Puerto is Spanish. Puerto Rico is Spanish for Rich Harbor. There is no such thing as Porto Rico, and there is no reason why accuracy should not be observed in every case as in others. As the government's commission originally pointed out, to spell "Porto Rico" is to commit an error of great bulk, philological, geographical, historical and grammatical. The hybrid phrase, "Porto Rico," made out of a Portuguese substantive and a Spanish adjective, is as such an absurdity as "Newport." Instead of "Newport" the spelling "Porto Rico" consistent with the rule for spelling geographic names laid down by the United States board of geographic names, appointed by President Harrison in 1890 to secure uniformity of spelling in the departments. In its bulletin of May, 1891, the board lays down the rule that "geographical names in countries that use Roman characters should be rendered in the form adopted by the country having jurisdiction, except where there are English equivalents already in use." Under this rule we may say "Marseilles" instead of "Marille," "Antwerp" instead of "Anvers," and "Laghorn" instead of "Livorno," but we cannot say "Porto Rico" instead of "Puerto Rico." The spelling of "Oporto," the name of a port in Portugal, cannot properly control the spelling of

the Spanish name of an island so well known as Puerto Rico. Webster and the "Standard" give "Puerto" Rico, and Webster is an authority. The "Century" gives "Porto" Rico, but the Century also says to pronounce Schley "Schia." The English uniformly use the spelling "Puerto," and the maps used by the United States and those printed by Rand, McNally & Co. uniformly use the form. The senate should reverse its decision, and perhaps it will.

LADYSMITH. Whether the reported determination of Lord Roberts to abandon further efforts to relieve Ladysmith be authentic or not, such a decision would be absolutely sound from a military point of view, for if the three months that have been wasted in the vain effort to relieve Ladysmith had been employed in pushing straight against the line of the Orange river, Ladysmith would probably have been relieved, but in any event would be in no greater military extremity than it is today. Grant bluntly compared the conduct of the Union armies before he took supreme command, in March, 1864, and the behavior of a balky team; when one horse moved the other stood still, and no progress was made. Sir George White, from a purely military standpoint, had no business to allow himself to be cooped up in Ladysmith with a river behind him and a most important railroad bridge exposed to capture by the enemy. His occupation of Ladysmith after his defeat at Glencoe and Dundee was as great a blunder as the retreat of Pemberton's beaten army into Vicksburg against the soldier protest of General Joseph E. Johnston. Grant had but 44,000 men when he caught Pemberton with his army strung out between Vicksburg and Jackson, but when Grant found that Pemberton had withdrawn into Vicksburg he obtained 40,000 reinforcements from St. Louis and Memphis, and with 75,000 men intrenched against him Pemberton could not get out of Vicksburg and General Joe Johnston, who had but 30,000 men, could not hope to accomplish his relief by attacking Grant's rear.

The result was that not only Vicksburg surrendered with over 30,000 prisoners, but the efforts of the 30,000 men under Johnston to relieve Vicksburg between May 20 and July 1 paralyzed the Confederate campaign in Tennessee. If, as Joe Johnston says, Jeff Davis had abandoned Vicksburg promptly to its fate and allowed him to reinforce Bragg at Tullahoma, in Tennessee, with 30,000 men, by sheer force of numerical superiority Rosecrans would have been defeated, and Nashville, Memphis and even Louisville would only have been saved by Grant's raising the siege of Vicksburg and coming to the rescue. This is the view of Longstreet, who urged this plan, with the indorsement of Lee, upon Jeff Davis, May 10, 1863. It is three months since Sir George White was cooped up in Ladysmith, and his resistance thus far is exactly what he could have delivered if there had not been an army of 35,000 men directed on the enemy's forces from Natal. For the lack of the 35,000 men wasted in a hopeless movement against the intrenched line of the Tugela in Natal, the movement against the line of the Orange river collapsed into a state of military paralysis. It was Grant's "balky team" over again. Methuen, French and Gatacre were too weak to make any serious impression on the enemy's lines, and Buller's army of 35,000 infantry utterly lacked the mobility necessary to conduct a successful flanking movement against an entrenched line mounted with machine guns as well armed as rifles and artillery as itself. The result has been that, for lack of military concentration, nothing has been accomplished by an English army of 100,000 men in South Africa. Lord Roberts sees that, while public sentiment dictated the relief of Ladysmith via Estcourt, the only sound military method of relief is a powerful counter stroke on the line of the Orange river. That was the decision that a sound soldier would have made at the moment the Boers captured the railroad bridge at Colenso, occupied and intrenched the line of the Tugela river.

If Ladysmith had been left to its fate October 27, the line of the Orange river could have been attacked by at least 50,000 men by the 1st of December, and that assault would probably have been sufficient to recall the Free State contingent from Natal and practically to relieve Ladysmith. Of course, the British war office dreaded the political effect of letting go their grip of Natal, but their failure on the Orange river to prevent the enemy from transferring the war to Cape Colony has given the enemy twice as many recruits as he could have obtained in Natal. If Lord Roberts has abandoned Ladysmith to its fate, he has made a sound military decision, for the attempt to relieve Ladysmith after the Boers destroyed the railway bridge at Colenso, and fortified the line of the Tugela river was not war. It was a political blunder maddened at the thought of the surrender of an English army of 8000 men.

One of the most shocking events in urban life was witnessed in Astoria Saturday afternoon in the mangling and death of a boy of 6 years by being run over by a street-car. For the credit of those who control and direct electric cars, it may be said that they are among the most careful and responsible men in the ranks of labor. Yet with all the alertness and vigilance that the motorman can command, he cannot at all times insure the public against accident. When, as in this instance, a child runs directly across the

track of a moving car, or attempts to board or leave a moving car, fatality or maiming worse than fatality results, the motorman may be justly acquitted of blame, even while the horror-stricken public turns its face shudderingly from the spectacle. A lapse in prudence on the part of the victim is more often the cause of such disaster than inattention to duty on the part of the man who controls the movement of the car. The lesson is for individuals, and he who runs may read.

The importance of the Pacific coast trade with the Orient within the next five years, and its immensity thereafter, cannot be at this time overestimated. For this reason even the enlarged and constantly enlarging views of J. J. Hill, president of the Great Northern railway, as published yesterday, in regard to this traffic, cannot be considered extravagant. Whether he will build five ships of the largest type in ocean service each year for the next five years, and put them all in carrying trade between Atlantic and North Pacific ports may be doubted, but his general estimate of the importance of this trade is fully indorsed by the present outlook in that direction. Skill in working the Asiatic markets in the interests of the grain, coal, iron, lumber and fruit supply of the great Northwest must precede to some extent and constantly accompany the freight movement thither. This skill American traders should not be slow to acquire. With a ton of 250 per cent in our trade with China and Japan during the last ten years, as shown by reports of the agricultural department, and conditions for the growth of this trade constantly expanding through familiarity with its requirements, there is little reason to doubt that the first decade of the next century will be greatly in excess of the large gains of the last ten years. The sagacious man sees this opportunity and goes forward to secure it. With a ton of 250 per cent in our trade with China and Japan during the last ten years, as shown by reports of the agricultural department, and conditions for the growth of this trade constantly expanding through familiarity with its requirements, there is little reason to doubt that the first decade of the next century will be greatly in excess of the large gains of the last ten years. The sagacious man sees this opportunity and goes forward to secure it. With a ton of 250 per cent in our trade with China and Japan during the last ten years, as shown by reports of the agricultural department, and conditions for the growth of this trade constantly expanding through familiarity with its requirements, there is little reason to doubt that the first decade of the next century will be greatly in excess of the large gains of the last ten years. The sagacious man sees this opportunity and goes forward to secure it.

Barb-wire is now sold to Americans at \$4 1/2 a hundred pounds; to Canadians at \$3 25, and to Europeans at \$2 20. The same proportions hold true as to wire nails. Our exports of these products are so great that foreigners are being driven out of the business. It is the protective tariff that enables manufacturers to "work" the market in this way. A trust controls the output, makes the American consumer pay an excessive price, and at their expense gives cheap products to foreigners. This whole business would be smashed quickly, if the demo-populist party would abandon its fatuous course on money and other questions.

The Philadelphia Press calculates that the 2 per cent refunding bonds contemplated in the senate reform bill would certainly go to 112, and might reach 117 1/2. Long-term bonds are valuable, and will gain in value whenever the time draws on for redemption of other outstanding issues. In 1904, for example, when a little less than \$100,000,000 of the 5 per cents of 1875 are to be retired, the rush for the new 2s, if issued, would be precipitate. This consideration is urged by some as an argument against the refunding scheme, but it is such only from that point of view.

The departure of residents on Germany's Samoan holdings for the island taken by the United States is not only a fine international joke on Germany, but a disturbing phenomenon for the anti. Is it possible this country, whose dastardly purposes and unholly institutions they never cease to bewail, can supply in a dependency a better government than Germany's?

wealthy, but long before his compensation was changed from a "subsidy" to "mail pay" rival lines had grown up, without any aid from public funds and had become strong enough to demand a share of the mail contracts, on the ground that they could give a service equal to that of the subsidized line. The payment of subsidies was ended here on a considerable scale 45 years ago, and at one time it appeared as if our support of the Collins line had been the means of backing up a British movement to support Cunard more liberally. But although Collins received from Washington probably more than the cost of his ships, his line eventually disappeared from the seas, and the nearest British shipping has continued to grow, outside of the subsidized lines, until a comparatively insignificant proportion of the whole is now in the hands of the government. The country which depends alone upon governmental aid in the shape of shipping subsidies is likely to find itself in the end a companion in misery of France. All that the shipping subsidies have done is to ask that they be placed on an equality with their foreign rivals. Then the outcome may be looked forward to with confidence. The only duty of profit of the government will be in the direction of a merchant marine, no one doubts.

REPUBLICAN CRITICISM. The gentlemen who lie awake nights bemoaning the condition of the country in some sort of conspiracy with certain banks to enrich them at the expense of the rest of the country would get some information, if they were disposed to learn things, from a statement given out by Assistant Secretary Vanderlip showing that the profit on government deposits to banks is very small where the banks bought the bonds directly from the government. So far as the matter of profit goes it does not matter whether the bonds were bought just for, for this purpose, or not; they are worth their present price. The treasury endeavor to avoid depositing funds with the banks that bought bonds for the purpose of securing these deposits; its purpose was to secure, not a change, but an increase of interest on what it owned available for commercial uses, and the assistant secretary is satisfied that this has been practically accomplished. His statement shows profits as low as 1 per cent on government bonds, and of losses of several city banks. Several banks have given up their deposits, sold their bonds and employed the proceeds in their usual business, which is a more profitable investment. Small profit found in government deposits.

It was a common declaration of the greenbackers in the days of their activity that the nation's banks got interest on what they owned as well as on what was owed to them, but the decreasing circulation of these banks over a range of years proves how little excuse there is for this in the relations of the banks to the treasury. There is not a sufficient profit in circulation at the present prices of government bonds to secure from the banks as much circulation as the business of the country requires. Instead of being a great favor to the banks to deposit public funds with them upon a bond security, the profit is so moderate that it has been repeatedly declined. The myth that the treasury is in a position to avoid benefits upon certain banks dies hard, but the spread of knowledge may be trusted to exterminate it in the course of time.

Medicine Taken With Wry Face. J. Sterling Morton's "Conservative." When men get sick they take medicine that is sometimes exceedingly nauseating. When the country is sick and shakes with fever and ague, the medicine is harsh and vague, and communism has given it, and there seems to be danger of a collapse of the entire financial system, many thoughtful voters who do not believe in McKinley's tariff, take medicine which will be rather than aid in forcing the money-falder of Bryanarchy upon the country.

President McKinley has faults and lacks individual courage when questions of right and wrong are decided. As a dose of conscience, instead of being turned over to Hanna, Elkins and Quay for solution. But it is better to have the gold standard with McKinley than the free and unlimited quantity of silver at 16 to 1 without McKinley.

The Atlantic Monthly for February presents a variety of readable articles, most of them having the literary flavor which is distinctive of this magazine. Herbert Putnam contributes a paper on "The Literary Congress." James Ford Rhodes writes on "History," and Daniel Deane Bruff writes of "The Loss of Personality," and Charles L. Smith discusses "The American College in the Twentieth Century." A very brisk and readable paper is "Journalism as a Basis for Literature," by Harriet Waters Preston reviews some recent books on Italy, and there is an adequate review of Stephen Phillips' "Paolo and Francesca." Charles F. Johnson writes of "Science in Philanthropy," and Rollin Lynde Hart has an important paper on Mormonism and its tendencies. Zitkala-Sa begins the story of "The School Days of an Indian Girl," and William James Stillman contributes the second installment of his autobiography. The verse and the fiction in the number are of the usual high order.

No Compulsion About It. New York Tribune. The Transvaal is not to be diplomatically recognized simply because of sympathy with it in this war, nor is such recognition to be withheld simply because of lack of sympathy with it. The Transvaal is a Great Britain. Either of such courses would be in violation of the true spirit of neutrality. Recognition of sovereignty is to be given on the ground of fitness and necessity, and on no other. Such recognition is a very different thing from recognition of belligerency, for a belligerent is by no means necessarily a sovereign. And even if a state be undeniably sovereign, it will remain optional with another state whether it will enter into diplomatic relations with it. Any state has a right to send a diplomatic representative to another, but the latter is under no compulsion to receive him.

It Would Be Embarrassing. Kansas City Star. What a joke it would be if Oom Paul had actually appealed for an American protectorate as is rumored. Of course, the United States could not assume any jurisdiction in the Transvaal without insisting upon rights for Uitlanders, such as conform to American ideas of liberty. It would be the democratic in-horn statesmen say to that?

The Harvest Time. Philadelphia North American. "Not waiting our English cousins any harm," said Calvesby, "but with so many of the lords and dukes rushing off to the war, it looks as though untitled but honest Americans might have some show in the matrimonial market."

The Poet's Choice. Philadelphia Record. "I don't care for your poem, The Song of the Lark," said the poet's neighbor. The poet sighed wearily. "To tell the truth," he replied, "I myself much prefer the lay of the hen."

Greatest Aid to Civilization. Chicago Record. "What do you consider the most leveling and civilizing influence of the present age?" "The bath tub,"

named in the coming state republican convention. The people will therefore come as near to voting for a United States senator as it is possible to get under the constitution.

MYTH THAT DIES HARD. Conspiracy Between Banks and Treasury That Does Not Exist. New York Journal of Commerce. The gentlemen who lie awake nights bemoaning the condition of the country in some sort of conspiracy with certain banks to enrich them at the expense of the rest of the country would get some information, if they were disposed to learn things, from a statement given out by Assistant Secretary Vanderlip showing that the profit on government deposits to banks is very small where the banks bought the bonds directly from the government. So far as the matter of profit goes it does not matter whether the bonds were bought just for, for this purpose, or not; they are worth their present price. The treasury endeavor to avoid depositing funds with the banks that bought bonds for the purpose of securing these deposits; its purpose was to secure, not a change, but an increase of interest on what it owned available for commercial uses, and the assistant secretary is satisfied that this has been practically accomplished. His statement shows profits as low as 1 per cent on government bonds, and of losses of several city banks. Several banks have given up their deposits, sold their bonds and employed the proceeds in their usual business, which is a more profitable investment. Small profit found in government deposits.

Opposition to the Administration on West Indian Trade. The New York Press is an intense republican and an extreme protectionist newspaper. Until free trade in the products of our new possessions was broached, it was devotedly attached to the McKinley administration. But since then it has taken to criticism, which has been growing in intensity. Its columns are full of articles and editorials which are a contribution to the political discussion of the time.

The substitution of a small ad valorem duty on Puerto Rican sugar and tobacco for the existing specific duty and the proposed abolition of all duty would help the Puerto Rican exports to the United States in the Dingley bill hearings that are now being held. This development is the lowest that will yield protection. As we have repeatedly pointed out, the only way in which the tariff can be helped without harming us is by developing her coffee trade. This development is the lowest that will yield protection. As we have repeatedly pointed out, the only way in which the tariff can be helped without harming us is by developing her coffee trade. This development is the lowest that will yield protection. As we have repeatedly pointed out, the only way in which the tariff can be helped without harming us is by developing her coffee trade.

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The humiliation of the British empire will be complete when the Boer states dictate peace at London, require the withdrawal of the British from Africa, and compel the payment of an indemnity to cover the expenses of the war and loss of life caused by the war to the Boer states.

Those interested in the subsidy discussion should not lose sight of the two fundamental principles on which advocacy of the scheme is based. 1. There is so much profit in shipping that it is not live without government subsidies. 2. There is so little profit in shipping that it can't live without government subsidies.

A Russo-Japanese alliance should be popular at St. Petersburg. It is this is the only way in which the Russians can get their way. Their wily diplomacy will achieve what their arms are unequal to.

SUBSIDIES IN FRANCE. Vast Expenditures Made Without Substantial Results. Iron Age. In view of the interest which is now being taken in the development of American shipping, it is worth while to consider a recent report by a parliamentary committee appointed to study the merchant marine of that country. After having been in session for more than 18 months, the committee is of the opinion that the present condition of the French mercantile marine is a critical one, and that its continued failure to compete successfully with other countries, especially in the east of Asia, is due to a great extent to the disastrous commercial, military and political results.

The report of a governmental commission, based on an investigation lasting for a year and a half, might be expected to contain suggestions of a wider interest than for France alone. About all that it does contain, however, is a proposition to amend certain sections of an act of 1892, which provides for an increase in the rate of bounties now paid (1) for ship construction and (2) for navigation. During 15 years the French government has paid bounties of \$24,000,000, and bounties for shipping amounted to \$8,400,000, or a total of \$32,400,000. This is in France to the postal subsidies paid by the government in a recent year, according to the international bureau of universal postal union, at \$4,965,000. It would seem that such expenditure should be returned in the shape of an enlarged shipping trade, even if only a forced growth. This would indicate that the expenditure of money for subsidies will not, alone build up a great shipping trade, nor maintain the relative importance of such a trade where it already exists, against active competition. While the liberal subsidies which in the past have been paid by Great Britain may have stimulated commercial progress more or less, such payments alone could not have been the cause of the present high standard of the British power. The expenditures in behalf of the Cunard line, counting from 1840, have been very great, rendering its founder

wealthy, but long before his compensation was changed from a "subsidy" to "mail pay" rival lines had grown up, without any aid from public funds and had become strong enough to demand a share of the mail contracts, on the ground that they could give a service equal to that of the subsidized line. The payment of subsidies was ended here on a considerable scale 45 years ago, and at one time it appeared as if our support of the Collins line had been the means of backing up a British movement to support Cunard more liberally. But although Collins received from Washington probably more than the cost of his ships, his line eventually disappeared from the seas, and the nearest British shipping has continued to grow, outside of the subsidized lines, until a comparatively insignificant proportion of the whole is now in the hands of the government. The country which depends alone upon governmental aid in the shape of shipping subsidies is likely to find itself in the end a companion in misery of France. All that the shipping subsidies have done is to ask that they be placed on an equality with their foreign rivals. Then the outcome may be looked forward to with confidence. The only duty of profit of the government will be in the direction of a merchant marine, no one doubts.

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It was a common declaration of the greenbackers in the days of their activity that the nation's banks got interest on what they owned as well as on what was owed to them, but the decreasing circulation of these banks over a range of years proves how little excuse there is for this in the relations of the banks to the treasury. There is not a sufficient profit in circulation at the present prices of government bonds to secure from the banks as much circulation as the business of the country requires. Instead of being a great favor to the banks to deposit public funds with them upon a bond security, the profit is so moderate that it has been repeatedly declined. The myth that the treasury is in a position to avoid benefits upon certain banks dies hard, but the spread of knowledge may be trusted to exterminate it in the course of time.

Medicine Taken With Wry Face. J. Sterling Morton's "Conservative." When men get sick they take medicine that is sometimes exceedingly nauseating. When the country is sick and shakes with fever and ague, the medicine is harsh and vague, and communism has given it, and there seems to be danger of a collapse of the entire financial system, many thoughtful voters who do not believe in McKinley's tariff, take medicine which will be rather than aid in forcing the money-falder of Bryanarchy upon the country.

President McKinley has faults and lacks individual courage when questions of right and wrong are decided. As a dose of conscience, instead of being turned over to Hanna, Elkins and Quay for solution. But it is better to have the gold standard with McKinley than the free and unlimited quantity of silver at 16 to 1 without McKinley.

The Atlantic Monthly for February presents a variety of readable articles, most of them having the literary flavor which is distinctive of this magazine. Herbert Putnam contributes a paper on "The Literary Congress." James Ford Rhodes writes on "History," and Daniel Deane Bruff writes of "The Loss of Personality," and Charles L. Smith discusses "The American College in the Twentieth Century." A very brisk and readable paper is "Journalism as a Basis for Literature," by Harriet Waters Preston reviews some recent books on Italy, and there is an adequate review of Stephen Phillips' "Paolo and Francesca." Charles F. Johnson writes of "Science in Philanthropy," and Rollin Lynde Hart has an important paper on Mormonism and its tendencies. Zitkala-Sa begins the story of "The School Days of an Indian Girl," and William James Stillman contributes the second installment of his autobiography. The verse and the fiction in the number are of the usual high order.

No Compulsion About It. New York Tribune. The Transvaal is not to be diplomatically recognized simply because of sympathy with it in this war, nor is such recognition to be withheld simply because of lack of sympathy with it. The Transvaal is a Great Britain. Either of such courses would be in violation of the true spirit of neutrality. Recognition of sovereignty is to be given on the ground of fitness and necessity, and on no other. Such recognition is a very different thing from recognition of belligerency, for a belligerent is by no means necessarily a sovereign. And even if a state be undeniably sovereign, it will remain optional with another state whether it will enter into diplomatic relations with it. Any state has a right to send a diplomatic representative to another, but the latter is under no compulsion to receive him.

It Would Be Embarrassing. Kansas City Star. What a joke it would be if Oom Paul had actually appealed for an American protectorate as is rumored. Of course, the United States could not assume any jurisdiction in the Transvaal without insisting upon rights for Uitlanders, such as conform to American ideas of liberty. It would be the democratic in-horn statesmen say to that?

The Harvest Time. Philadelphia North American. "Not waiting our English cousins any harm," said Calvesby, "but with so many of the lords and dukes rushing off to the war, it looks as though untitled but honest Americans might have some show in the matrimonial market."

The Poet's Choice. Philadelphia Record. "I don't care for your poem, The Song of the Lark," said the poet's neighbor. The poet sighed wearily. "To tell the truth," he replied, "I myself much prefer the lay of the hen."

Greatest Aid to Civilization. Chicago Record. "What do you consider the most leveling and civilizing influence of the present age?" "The bath tub,"

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Possibly Bryan is making money as assiduously because money talks. When the money market reaches the bottom, the bottom is likely to drop out. Even the prospect of being fought by both parties does not appear to worry the trust magnates. Senator Pettigrew was a laborer at the age of 21. It is astonishing how swiftly some men decline. Chicago is wondering what has become of her winter. Isn't it possible that it escaped down the drainage canal? When a fast young man gets away from other people's money, he usually finds that he is not so fast as he thought he was. It is noteworthy that the pro-Boer agitators did not begin to howl until the Boers seemed to be getting the worst of it. The cutting of ice in Chicago has been prohibited by ordinance. But Chicagoans will continue to cut ice when they go abroad. When Buller repeated Sheridan's famous sentence, "Come on boys; we're going back," it is not likely that it created much enthusiasm. Senator Tillman has given notice that he is going to make a speech. His consideration will undoubtedly be appreciated by the absentees. Real estate agents say that good dwellings, centrally located, are very much in demand in Portland, as the city's population more than keeps pace with the increase of dwelling-houses. A prominent agent said yesterday that he has charge of a certain house, which stood empty for many months, as no one seemed to care about renting it. The other morning, however, a man appeared in the office and said: "Well, I guess I'll take that house." He held the rent and was given the key. That afternoon a second man appeared and said: "Guess I'll take that house," but was informed that he was just a few hours too late. Toward evening a third man came along, and, pulling out his purse, said: "Guess we'll take that house," and he was surprised to learn that two others had been of the same mind. Thousands of the seagulls which have been seeking shelter in the harbor here from the heavy weather at the coast have evidently tired of fighting the scraps thrown over from steamers, as yesterday they were visiting an Italian vegetable garden out on the Section Line road. The gardeners were busy plowing, and the gulls were busy exploring the newly turned furrows and taking care of the worms, bugs, etc., turned up by the plow. The gardeners did not molest them, looking upon them as friends, who would rid their ground of many insect pests. Earthworms, or angleworms, as they are commonly called, are not found everywhere, and cannot live in some places east of the mountains, where the soil is charged with alkali. A citizen who used to live in a section of that kind says the worms there used to have to import angleworms from the Willamette valley when they wanted to go fishing for trout. There is some complaint about the unusually high tax levy in Portland, which, for all purposes, aggregates 36 mills, 4 1/2 of which is levied by the taxpayers of school district No. 1. This is, however, a light tax, compared to that in school district No. 25, where a school tax of 40 mills was levied, bringing the total tax up to 61 1/2 mills. In school district No. 25, a school tax of 30 mills was levied, making the total tax amount to 41 1/2 mills. In school district No. 44 a school tax of 16 mills was levied, bringing the total tax up to 32 1/2 mills. In district No. 2, where a 40-mill school tax was levied, a new schoolhouse has been built, and the people have decided to pay for it in three years, and get out of debt. It is understood that in districts of Multnomah county outside of Portland, residents who have children to send to school are allowed to vote at school meetings, and thus it is possible to levy a tax for school purposes, which would not be considered in this city, where only taxpayers are allowed to vote at school meetings. That Portland has a warm welcome to offer the Bostonians tonight goes without saying. Between their last visit and this one the company has fortunately made the customary long gap, and the members of their party have been less than a year ago has not begun to fade. While added interest attaches to new opera, amusement-lovers cling with unwonted tenacity to the favorite old productions of Barnabee and his associates. There will be new artists among the principals, and Portland may be reluctant to accept them in place of those better known, whose capacity to entertain has been thoroughly tested and never found wanting. Foretold and never found wanting. The performances of the Bostonians always leaves a good taste in one's mouth. Whatever may be the opera, one is certain to hear presented not only in its best musical sense, with every detail of costume and scene, but he is equally certain of being for the time in a genial atmosphere; of listening to singers and actors who have good stage breeding. Nor is he apt to miss a certain buoyancy that marks in the hands of the Bostonians the presentation of modern light opera, and the most of their plaudits and characteristics are development. The Bostonians have been noted with this organization, hence the certainty with which lovers of combined music and comedy look forward to an evening of delight. No wonder, then, that the Bostonians are ever welcome. They ought to include the Pacific coast in every annual tour.

The Man Without the Hoe. Springfield Republican. The music of a minor key drags the melody. The plaintive strains which sometimes sob, now swell. The north wind shrieks; the elements are fierce. December—let it be said—has its best form of life. He sits up late and wanders. He is incessant toil, death—left for children walls. God pity him, and pity all the slaves. Of fears of condemnation. Give, O give to the old a man standing, weak, And impotent, and chants his