FARMING IN OREGON

Wheat Raising Costs 42 Cents a Bushel in Crook.

NOTHING IS GAINED BY HOLDING

Farmers Adopt the Diversified as the Best Method for Success—Reports From Other Counties.

PRINEVILLE, Or., Feb. 3.—Owing to our being so far from railroad and other means of transportation, wheatraising is somewhat limited, and the wheat grown in Crook county is for home consumption, which market is good. The cost of producing wheat is about as follows:

Plowing, per acre, $1 75; harrowing and drilling, $1 16; seed, 75 cents, or a cost of $3 66 per acre for seed and seeding; cutting, per acre, $1 25; threshing, 12½ cents; sacking, 5 cents (when used), which makes a cost of 42 cents to produce a bushel of wheat, allowing an average of 20 bushels per acre.

I find the average lands of this county have produced in the last six years 42 bushels for the highest yield, per acre, and 21 for the lowest, and made an average of over 30 bushels per acre for six years. These crops were raised on lands that were summer-fallowed, without irrigation. The average lands and crops raised by proper farming, I think, should be taken for a basis from which to make an estimate, but I find others that have not summer-fallowed and have only made an average of 12 bushels per acre, on equally as good lands; hence, I have placed the average at 20 bushels per acre. The latter method I can hardly recognize as farming, as it seems to me to only be a slow way to starvation. The farmer on this basis would have to receive 50 cents per bushel to be safe. Wheat has not been lower than 65 cents per bushel, which price was paid last season; 75 cents has been about the average price for the last six years. The farmers came out well last year; that is to say, the ones that had crops on summer-fallow lands.

There is nothing gained by holding, as the price of wheat changes but little in Crook county. Diversified farming is the only certain way to prosper on the farm, and, as most of our farmers have adopted this method of running their farming business, I attribute their success largely to this fact. J. H. GRAY.

NOTHING IN HOLDING.

Farmers Often Lose by Waiting for Higher Prices.

TANGENT, Or., Feb. 3.—(To the Editor.)—I have been asked to figure on the cost of raising a bushel of wheat, and submit the following. No one can figure on one bushel or one acre, and do the subject justice; so I will figure on 100 acres and fix the average at 25 bushels per acre:

Plowing 100 acres, at $1 25 per acre..	$125 00
Harrowing twice, at 25 cents acre...	25 00
Seeding, at 12½ cents acre............	12 50
Seed, 200 bushels, at 40 cents bushel..	80 00
Binding, 50 cents per acre............	50 00
Shocking, 15 cents per acre...........	15 00
Twine, 1½ pounds per acre, at 12½ cents pound	18 75
Threshing, 3 cents per bushel.........	75 00
Sacks, 750, at 4 cents each...........	30 00
Hauling to market, 2 cents bushel...	30 00
Storage, 4 cents bushel...............	60 00
Total for the 100 acres..............	$521 25

This, you will see, makes nearly 25 cents per bushel, and does not include interest on money invested in land and farming tools, or the boarding of the farmer and his team when not employed in the field, taxes or incidental expenses in keeping up the farm. Of course, this includes a year's work, and all other expense must be added to my figures.

In a season like 1899 there was heavy expense in reshocking and loss in grain wasted, and the farmer makes nothing on his year's work at the present time.

The farmer is often the loser by holding his wheat for higher prices. When grain is held for higher prices, there is extra storage of 3 cents per bushel, and insurance, if any is carried, must be added to the cost; that is, if the grain is held over the next season. Very few insure wheat in the warehouse.

There are very few farmers who are practicing diversified farming, but it is frequently spoken of. There are quite a few who are turning their attention to dairying and creameries, and skimming stations are becoming quite plentiful. J. H. SCOTT.

ON SUMMER-FALLOWED LAND.

Nearly All of Umatilla County's Wheat Grown in This Way.

PLEASANT VIEW, Or., Feb. 3.—Probably 90 per cent of the wheat grown in Umatilla county is on summer-fallowed land. Before the tumbleweed and other foreign growths had made their appearance here, wheat planting was begun any time after harvest, or even during harvest, finished up any time during the fall and winter, irrespective of moisture conditions. If there was not moisture enough to sprout the grain, all right; they were planted in the dirt and let come up when there was rain enough to bring them up.

It is different now. Probably not 30 per cent of the fallowed land is kept free enough of tumbleweeds to admit of being seeded during August or early September. Usually these weeds, if left to mature, cannot be removed till killed by frosts or other causes. Though a new crop of tumbleweeds may make its appearance after a good rain late in summer or early fall, they are able to do no damage then, as the first heavy frost annihilates them. Not so with the mustards, tarweed and China lettuce. The different varieties of mustard are autumn plants, and come up only in the fall. Tarweed and China lettuce will come up at any time there is moisture enough to sprout the seed. If wheat is sown before there is moisture enough to bring up these weeds, they will come up with the wheat and prove troublesome. This proved to be the case in the fall of 1898, because of there being no rain till November. Most of the grain of the county was sown before then, and, of course, the weeds and wheat came up together, and it is the consensus of opinion of the farmers here that had it not been for the freeze-out and consequent necessity of reseeding, requiring cultivation by seeder and harrow, which exterminated those weeds not already killed by the freeze, the majority of the crops in certain portions of the county would have been almost taken by weeds. The foregoing has been written in order that what follows may be more fully understood.

First, I will say that the item which appeared in a recent issue of The Oregonian, to the effect that the wheat of Umatilla county had such enormous growth as to require pasturing back, is misleading. True, there are some fields so forward as to need being cropped down by stock or otherwise retarded, but the number of such fields is inconsiderable. A few farmers, in different parts of the county, who had their fallow clean of weeds, began seeding just as soon as the surface and submoistures met after the midharvest rains. In less than a week the young plants were through the ground, and have made rapid growth ever since. This is all the wheat needing cutting back here.

One reason why there was not more grain sowed early is that it was feared that just what has happened would happen—the wheat would get too far along before spring. Even had it been generally desired to seed earlier, harvest, which begun two weeks later than usual, and was put back two more weeks by the unprecedented rainy harvest weather, was in the way. Then there were many fields from which the matured tumbleweeds had to be gotten. After about September 10 there was no rain till about the corresponding date in October. What grain was put in with the drill within 15 days after the last rain, came up all right; that which was put in after that time did not come up till after the October rains. Some was sown after the October rains. All is looking well.

Some fields, especially those nearer the mountains and in the vicinity of Weston, were replowed to destroy the heavy growth of wild oats, volunteer wheat and weeds, and followed immediately after with the seeding. All the crops spoken of are on fallowed land, and it will thus be seen that the crops of the county are in all stages, from that nearly knee high to that not yet covering the ground, the great majority being in no danger whatever of overgrowth, even should the weather have remained as "soft" as it was up to a short time ago, which it has not. For about a week there were nights of freezing, the ground not thawing out entirely during the last few days. Of course, as long as the ground is frozen, grain cannot grow. A. RUPPE.

JANUARY WEATHER.

The Weather Furnished to Portlanders by Our Local Forecaster.

The following statistics for the weather during January, with comparative tables for the same month in other years, is furnished by the weather office at Portland:

DATE.	Temperature.			Precipitation in inches and hundredths..	Character of weather for the day..
	Max....	Min.....	Mean...		
1..........	52	41	46	.18	Pt cloudy
2..........	49	41	45	.29	Cloudy
3..........	50	37	44	.12	Pt cloudy
4..........	48	40	44	.02	Cloudy
5..........	52	37	44	.02	Cloudy
6..........	54	43	48	.25	Cloudy
7..........	59	46	53	.29	Cloudy
8..........	48	41	44	.07	Pt cloudy
9..........	47	35	41	.27	Cloudy
10..........	48	42	45	.02	Cloudy
11..........	54	42	48	.52	Cloudy
12..........	56	53	54	.83	Cloudy
13..........	54	43	48	.33	Cloudy
14..........	47	38	42	**	Cloudy
15..........	49	36	42	.12	Cloudy
16..........	54	48	51	.34	Cloudy
17..........	61	53	57	.61	Pt cloudy
18..........	54	44	49	.07	Cloudy
19..........	52	42	47	.01	Clear
20..........	42	34	38	..	Cloudy
21..........	42	35	38	**	Cloudy
22..........	48	37	42	**	Cloudy
23..........	45	36	40	.62	Cloudy
24..........	42	30	36	..	Pt cloudy
25..........	46	33	40	..	Clear
26..........	44	28	36	..	Clear
27..........	48	28	38	..	Clear
28..........	44	37	40	..	Clear
29..........	45	35	40	**	Pt cloudy
30..........	47	37	42	**	Pt cloudy
31..........	47	31	39	..	Pt cloudy
Mean ..	49.3	38.8	43.9	4.58	

**Indicates trace of precipitation.

Summary.

Mean atmospheric pressure, 30.10; highest pressure, 30.49, on the 24th; lowest, 29.68, on the 5th.

Mean temperature, 44 deg.; highest temperature, 61 deg., on the 17th; lowest, 28 deg., on the 27th; greatest daily range of temperature, 20 deg., on the 27th; least daily range, 2 deg., on the 12th.

This table shows the mean temperature for January in the years given:

1871.......	1879.....38	1887.....42	1895.....37
1872.....38	1880.....42	1888.....39	1896.....43
1873.....45	1881.....35	1889.....38	1897.....39
1874.....43	1882.....40	1890.....32	1898.....39
1875.....39	1883.....38	1891.....42	1899.....41
1876.....40	1884.....40	1892.....40	1900.....44
1877.....42	1885.....37	1893.....34	1901.......
1878.....41	1886.....38	1894.....40	1902.......

Mean temperature for January for 29 years, 39 deg.

Average excess of daily mean temperature during month, 5 deg.; accumulated excess of daily mean temperature since January 1, 155 deg.; average daily excess since January 1, 5 deg.

Prevailing direction of wind, south; total movement of wind, 6279 miles; maximum velocity, 39 miles, south, on the 5th.

Total precipitation, 4.58 inches. Number of days with .01 inch or more of precipitation, 19.

The following table shows the total precipitation (in inches) for the month of January in the years given:

1871.. 7.60	1879.. 5.28	1887..12.31	1895.. 8.53
1872.. 6.56	1880..12.27	1888.. 8.57	1896.. 6.52
1873.. 5.49	1881.. 8.57	1889.. 4.78	1897.. 3.25
1874.. 9.49	1882.. 5.06	1890..11.13	1898.. 3.91
1875.. 4.49	1883..13.71	1891.. 3.62	1899.. 6.42
1876.. 4.80	1884.. 3.70	1892.. 4.79	1900.. 4.58
1877.. 2.75	1885.. 4.57	1893.. 2.12	1901.. ....
1878.. 6.67	1886.. 9.29	1894.. 9.65	1902.. ....

Average precipitation for January for 30 years, 6.79 inches.

Total deficiency in precipitation during month, 2.21 inches; total precipitation from September 1, 1899, to date, 22.29 inches; average precipitation from September 1 to date, 26.50 inches; total deficiency from September 1, 1899, to date, 2.11 inches; average precipitation for 24 wet seasons, 46.83 inches. Number of clear days, 5; partly cloudy days, 8; cloudy days, 18. Greatest precipitation in 24 hours, .95 inch, on the 12th and 13th.

STEEL AND WIRE PROFITS.

Over $12,000,000 the Past Year—Dividends on Common Stock.

Chicago—The board of directors of the American Steel & Wire Company have declared a dividend of 7 per cent on the common stock, payable out of the profits of the year 1899, in four quarterly installments, beginning on April 2, and ending on January 2, 1901. In connection with this announcement the balance sheet, as of December 31, 1899, was made public. It shows as the result for the company's operations during the year, a net profit of $12,162,529. There is deducted from this $2,100,000, which was paid out as dividends on the preferred stock. Only three payments of 1¾ per cent each were made on the preferred issue last year, leaving the fourth quarterly dividend of 1¾ per cent to be declared this month. This will call for a disbursement of $700,000 more. Subtracting the $2,100,000 and the $700,000, or $2,800,000, from the net profit of $12,162,529, the sum of $9,362,529 remains applicable to the common stock. If applied it would be equal to 18.7 per cent on the common stock of $50,000,000.

J. W. Gates, in commenting on the action of the board of directors in declaring a dividend on the common stock, said: "It has been determined by the board of directors to be the policy of the company to give the holders of the common stock the benefit of the earnings of the company, concurrently with the preferred stock, payable, however, during the succeeding years, after the dividends on the preferred stock have been paid, which is a requirement of the New Jersey law, under which the company is incorporated."

Mr. Gates said the outlook for 1900 was even better than in 1899. Yet this is one of those greedy concerns that has to be favored, at expense of the country, with protective tariff.

Money to Push Railroad Building.

Whatcom Reveille.

The Bellingham Bay & British Columbia railroad has given a trust deed to its property in Whatcom county to the Bank of California to secure the payment of $1,000,000 in first-mortgage bonds. The deed was executed in San Francisco on December 1, and was filed for record in the auditor's office in this county on January 23. The document is the most voluminous of any ever filed here, and it required $499 50 in revenue stamps. It is the purpose of the company to pay off an indebtedness of about $600,000 on the road, and the balance realized from the sale of the bonds to the Bank of California will be used in construction work. The instrument calls for the completion of 24 miles of additional road this year, on which will be issued in bonds $17,000 per mile. This extension is the one now under survey from Sumas to Boulder Creek.

INDIAN WAR VETERANS

REPORT OF SENATOR GALLINGER ON THEIR RELIEF BILL.

Strongly Favors Its Passage Through Congress—Recites Some of the Circumstances.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—The report of Senator Gallinger on Senator McBride's Indian war veteran bill contains a number of very interesting statements, and brings to light some facts that are not generally known. This bill, it will be recalled, provides not only for the survivors of the Indian wars of Oregon and Washington from 1851 to 1856, and the Cayuse war on the Pacific coast in 1847-48, but also for the survivors of the Florida and Georgia Seminole war of 1817-18; the Fevre Indian war in Illinois, in 1827; the Sac and Fox war of 1831; the Sabine wars of 1836 and 1837; the Florida Seminole wars from 1842 to 1858; the Texas and New Mexico wars of 1849; the California disturbances of 1851 and 1852; the Utah wars of 1850-62, and also the surviving widows of officers and enlisted men who served against the Indians in these wars, provided they have not remarried.

It has been estimated that the pension roll, should this bill pass, would be swelled to the extent of about $730,000 at this time, although the amount carried by this bill would decrease rapidly, owing to the great lapse of time since most of these wars occurred. For example, there are but five survivors of the Seminole war of 1817-18 and 120 widows. Of the Fevre war there are but 14 survivors and 107 widows. Two hundred and twenty-one veterans survive the Sabine war, with but 155 widows, and 144 survivors of the Cayuse war are now alive, and but 88 widows. The survivors of the Texas and New Mexico wars number up to 1448, with 899 widows and 476 survivors, and 230 widows of the California wars are yet alive. There are many more survivors and widows of the wars in Oregon and Washington than any of the other difficulties, and hence the Indian war veterans of those two states would derive the greatest benefit should Senator McBride's bill pass. There are 2300 survivors and 1340 widows of these latter wars.

It has been estimated that because the same person enlisted in different companies at different times during these Indian wars, there has been found to exist a great duplicity of names on the rolls, which will cut the total number of survivors down to about 4000 in all.

In its report on the bill the committee says:

"The last of these wars occurred 40 years ago, and the estimated age of the survivors is fixed at 65 years, while the estimated age of the Seminole survivors is 94 years. Of the inestimable services of these pioneer men and soldiers we deem it unnecessary to refer. History recognizes the results they have achieved. In the South and West they endured the greatest privations, sacrifices and sufferings. We owe to them largely, if not entirely, the acquisition of the vast empire of the Pacific Northwest.

"It having been the policy of the government and the uniform course of the legislation that service pensions should be granted at the expiration of 40 years following the wars for which such pensions have been granted, it will be seen that this period has now been reached as to all the wars mentioned in the present bill, while as to some over 77 years have elapsed since the war. Most of these old survivors are in needy circumstances, while all are in old age, and, as estimated by the commissioner of pensions, the average pensionable period cannot extend beyond about seven years hence. Many of these aged men were omitted from the act pensioning survivors of Indian wars between 1832 and 1842, and for this reason the present bill is the more just, since it includes all the survivors of the recognized Indian wars prior to 1856.

"The language of the bill has the approval of the interior department."

Puerto Rico and Statehood.

It will evidently be some time before Puerto Rico is admitted to the Union as a state, and the chances for its ever gaining this distinction are very remote, as viewed from the present standpoint. However, early as it is, there is already some speculation as to what would be the predominating political inclination of the people of the island. One gentleman who is well acquainted in the island, and who knows the general sentiment among its people, ventures the prediction that Puerto Rico would cast her electoral votes in the democratic column. While this prophet is a democrat, he yet assigns a number of plausible reasons for this prediction. "In the first place," he says, "little as those people know of political economy or politics, they are nevertheless free-traders, and if given the right to vote would cast their ballots for the party which favors that policy. They are free-traders because they desire that their products shall enter our markets without payment of duty, and they have nothing to protect, and they want our goods without the payment of high protective duties. Free trade would be profitable to them both going and coming. At present they may be said to be industrially worse off than before they became a part of our territory. Then they traded with Spain, but now their productive resources are at a standstill, barred as they are from our markets, and being compelled to pay high duties upon what is imported to them, and to a large extent they have lost trade with Spain. I cannot see how a tariff system is to be maintained between the United States and the island if it is to remain a part of our territory. After all, the whole system of protection and free trade is involved in this matter. Those Americans who will settle in the islands will be as much in favor of free trade as the natives themselves now are, without regard to what their past political affiliations may have been. That is one reason why Puerto Rico should make a democratic state."

This view of the case is all very well from one standpoint, and in one direction, but the argument is faulty. It is true that under existing circumstances, with the present tariff discriminating against Puerto Rico, the people would be free-traders, but if that island ever became a state, the very fact of its admission would do away with this tariff, and no more duty would be charged on goods to or from Puerto Rico than is now charged on goods from one state of the Union to another. There would, of course, be the duty on goods exported other than to the United States, and on goods imported from other countries, as is true of any state of the Union, but, further than that, there could be no tariff discrimination. That this present tariff is unjust is a debatable question, but, aside from those interests that would be affected by an abolishment of this tariff, the general sentiment seems to be in favor of giving free entry to Puerto Rican products.

Telegraph to Alaska.

The creation of the department of Alaska in the army and the increase in the force in that department has made it necessary to have some suitable and satisfactory telegraphic communication between that station and the states. Already the signal corps is working out a comprehensive plan for the establishment of such a line to Alaska. The fact that the troops are to be scattered over a vast expanse of territory also makes it imperative that there be some sort of speedy communication between the various posts, in order to make the military organization effective. Thus it will be necessary not only to construct a line to Alaska, but to have lines running all over that territory, and as the distances between points of importance are in many times great, it will necessitate a very extensive telegraphic system. The signal corps officers are now preparing maps, based upon the reports from military authorities, and the reports of the military exploring expeditions that have been working in Alaska for several seasons past, with a view to constructing these lines in localities where they are most needed. When it comes to constructing these lines, it is apparent that owing to the limited number of men in the signal corps, they will have to be put up largely by civilians under the direction of the signal corps. Such a system as is contemplated will require a large amount of money, and it is the intention of the department to call upon congress for an appropriation sufficiently large to meet the demands.

Graduation as Usual.

General Corbin, adjutant-general of the army, has put a quietus on the report that gained quite general circulation, to the effect that owing to the war in the Philippines, and the drain on the officers in the service, the senior class at the West Point military academy would be graduated earlier than usual this year, to provide more officers for actual duty in the islands, and in companies about the states that are short of officers. It was frequently claimed that the class would be graduated as early as February, and as a result of this rumor, many congressmen who have appointments to West Point this year have been frequently requested to make early appointments. Representative Moody received a number of these requests, and finally consulted General Corbin. General Corbin, in his reply, stated that, so far as he knew, it was not the intention to graduate the senior class of cadets at West Point earlier this year than usual. However, he said, if an early graduation should be decided upon, it would not require examinations of candidates for this year's appointments earlier than is prescribed by the regulations. In other words, the time of graduation of the senior class will have no effect whatever upon the class that enters the school next fall.

Government's Old Junk.

Every now and then the government seeks to unload itself of much old junk that has accumulated in the course of years, and which serves no other purpose than to lumber up government yards and occupy space that might better be devoted to more worthy objects. It has at last been concluded to clear up the grounds at Fort Stevens, Or., and to get rid of much of the old out-of-date armament that remains about that station. Lieutenant Bethel, at that post, has been authorized to sell three old 8-inch guns and carriages of cast-iron, 25 10-inch guns and carriages of like make, five 200-pound Parrott guns and carriages, 1900 solid shot of eight and 10-inch caliber, 4800 shells of the eight and 10-inch caliber, 125 hand spikes and a number of other old and obsolete engines of war, that, by the progress of the age, have been rendered valueless.

Lieutenant Bethel is also to sell a similar lot of rubbish at Fort Canby, Wash., including 8 and 10-inch guns and carriages and miscellaneous articles of cast-iron, wood and copper.

CARRIER PIGEONS IN WAR.

They Are Now Being Utilized by the British in South Africa.

Collier's Weekly.

The pigeon post established at Ladysmith and Durban for carrying war messages has been such a success that special appropriations for increasing that service will be recommended by the war office. A good deal of this success of the pigeon service is due to the skill and energy of Colonel Hassard, of the royal engineers, who has spent years in pigeon culture for just this sort of an emergency, and he has demonstrated the fitness of the birds for war purposes. Colonel Hassard, who was stationed at the Cape before hostilities broke out, systematically trained his pigeons for carrying messages across the rough, mountainous land, and his various pigeon posts were of the greatest value in keeping the home office apprised of the exact condition of the army.

Nearly every civilized government now has carrier pigeons, connected with both their war and navy departments. France has entered into pigeon culture more extensively than any other European power, and it is roughly estimated that there are 250,000 pigeons in that country trained for war emergencies. The main pigeon loft or training station is at Chalons, where several thousand birds are kept all the time. Every frontier post and fortress has smaller lofts, and three times a week regular communication is kept up between these places by means of the pigeons. This pigeon post in constant practice in times of peace would be of immediate service in times of war. The state protects the carriers, and any one caught shooting a pigeon of any kind in France is heavily fined. The pigeon service has been established in France since 1870.

The German war department owns about 10,000 pigeons, but they have a system of reserves, which they can call into service in times of war. The owners of private lofts have to register their carrier pigeons, and the war department knows exactly how many of the birds it can obtain at a moment's notice.

The Austrian government also relies largely upon private owners' pigeons for service in times of war. Every bird in the country has to be registered, and not one can be sold or sent out of the country without permission. Since 1875 a few thousand pigeons have been in regular service at the fortresses and frontier posts. Russia has a military pigeon system, which is maintained by the officers in the corps of engineers. Little is known about her system, except that lofts are scattered throughout the empire, including bleak Siberia. The intense cold of the winter months in the latter place seriously interferes with the success of the pigeon post and partly neutralizes the good effect of it. Italy's pigeon post was established in 1872, and Spain and Portugal inaugurated similar systems a few years later.

There are 1000 homing pigeons on the books of the British navy, and several times this number on the books of the army. In the past 10 years the United States army and navy departments have been interested in the carrier pigeons, and we have posts established at different points throughout the country. Their services have been useful chiefly in the navy, and experiments are being made constantly in communicating by this means between the shore and the ships. There is no system of registering homing-pigeons in private lofts, and in an emergency the government in need of more pigeons would have to depend upon the patriotism of the private owners for increasing its supply. That there would be plenty of volunteers no one doubts for a moment.

Ladysmith and Yorktown.

In discussing the retreat of General Buller's forces across the Tugela river, the London Times says:

> The most carefully planned and executed movement of the whole campaign has entirely failed, and it can hardly be necessary to dwell upon the extreme probability that we shall learn, a little sooner or later, of a catastrophe almost without precedent in our military history—a catastrophe, indeed, without a parallel except in the surrender at Yorktown.

The force surrendered by Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown to the combined armies of Washington and La Fayette, October 19, 1781, numbered 7247 soldiers and 840 seamen. It is difficult to estimate the size of the besieged force in Ladysmith, but at the present time it probably does not exceed 8000 in number, which would make it about the size of the army surrendered by Cornwallis. But Ladysmith may not surrender.

The Origin of "Sterling."

London Telegraph.

Sterling is derived from the name by which the dwellers in Eastern Germany were known in the 12th and 13th centuries—they were called Easterlings. The purity not only of their money was very famous, but that of their silver specially so, and coiners and silversmiths were fetched from those parts to improve the quality of our own manufactures.

THE BRITISH WAR OFFICE

CRITICISMS BY AN IMPORTANT JOURNAL OF LONDON.

Lord Lansdowne Utterly Fails to Grasp the Problems of the Hour, and Should Resign.

London Spectator.

In the present case, everything turns upon whether Lord Lansdowne has or has not proved equal to the task of managing the military affairs of the nation. If he has not proved equal to the task, no knowledge of his devotion to the interests of the country, of his desire to do the best, of his many fine qualities of heart and head, should have any weight. If he has shown incompetence, it is not to the interests of the nation that he should remain at his post.

How are we to judge of the competence or incompetence of a war minister? Must certainly not by asking whether the generals he appoints have or have not managed to do well in the field. To visit upon Lord Lansdowne the reverses suffered by our armies in South Africa would be the height of injustice. We should never dream of preferring against him any complaint based upon the fact that this or that general has not been successful. We base our statement that Lord Lansdowne has not proved himself well fitted to hold the post of secretary of state for war upon considerations far more general and essential.

Lord Lansdowne has been minister of war for nearly five years. During that time he has been supreme; and yet, during that time he has not given us an army which can by any possibility be called an effective fighting machine. No doubt, people will say that, even granted the hypothesis that the army is not an efficient fighting machine, it is very hard to make Lord Lansdowne bear the blame. We do not think so.

We have always argued in favor of keeping the civilian secretary of war really responsible for our land forces, and the real head of the army. And this is the system which prevails. But what does this fact import? It means that the office of secretary of state for war involves a tremendous burden, but that when a man accepts that burden he cannot say later that it is not his business to carry it. When a statesman is intrusted with the great, and as every patriotic man should consider it the noble, duty of being responsible for the military affairs of such a nation as ours, he should surely enter upon his duties with a keenness and an energy of no ordinary kind. He should say to himself:

"I have a great trust laid upon me, and to fulfill it properly, I must continually be considering whether I have done, and am doing, all that can be done to perfect the machine. It is true I have experts to help me and advise me, and on those experts I must lean in regard to many matters of detail, but it is my supreme duty to keep those experts up to the mark, to see that they do not become petrified by habit or dulled by prejudice, and to use my own common sense to correct their judgments. I must never be content to say that I am satisfied if they are, but must assure myself that they have good grounds for being satisfied, and that they are not merely giving themselves and me an 'easy time.' Not an expert myself, I must thus exercise a ceaseless vigilance over the experts, and compel them to use their reason and not trust to conventions and formulae. In a word, I must never be content with the notion that, when a thing seems rotten and absurd, I may allow it to go on, because it has gone on for the last 20 years without a breakdown, and because that people who ought to be better informed than I am do not seem to have noticed it. Again, I must never allow kindliness, or laziness, or dislike of a conflict to prevent me from purging the army of incompetence. I must be merciless in regard to inefficiency wherever I find it. Lastly, I must not hesitate to refuse to be any longer responsible for the army if I cannot persuade my colleagues to support in action what I consider really essential."

Can it be said that Lord Lansdowne has exercised his functions on these lines? We fear that he has—unconsciously, no doubt—regarded his duties rather as those of a figurehead chairman of a great charitable or ornamental corporation than as those of the minister on whom the efficiency of the army depends, and on whose exertions was staked the safety of the nation. He did his best, as far as he could, but he did not go into the work as a man does who who is determined to make a great business flourish or kill himself in the effort.

We will take an example of the way in which Lord Lansdowne appears to us to have erred in the carrying out of his duties. When, three years ago, there was a great public controversy in regard to army reform, two things were urged upon the war office—the provision for more artillery and of more mounted troops. At the time we ourselves wrote very strongly as to the question of artillery, and also as to the mounted troops. But having made our protest, we regret to say that we did not follow the matter up. We thought, most foolishly we now admit, that there must be some good reason which we as mere journalists did not know, which, however, had been put before Lord Lansdowne, and had convinced him that we did not need more artillery and more mounted troops.

At any rate, Lord Lansdowne did not listen to the demands for more guns and more horses, but rejected them. Events have proved that he was wrong. But that being so, we cannot see why the consequence should not follow as in the case of the head of a department in any well-managed business. We do not, of course, say this from any vindictive feeling, or because we want, as it were, to exact a forfeit for the blunder. We say it because Lord Lansdowne's management of the war office in the past deprives us of confidence in his action in the present and the future. If we thought that Lord Lansdowne, having made his blunder, would now throw himself into the work with tremendous energy and initiative, we should not for one moment dwell upon the past. But we cannot persuade ourselves that he will do anything of the kind. He will play the part he has always played, of a high-minded English gentleman—no mean part, we admit—but he will show none of the tiger, will show none of the tireless vigilance and the resource which are wanted now.

Of course, the war office keeps its greatest secrets, but just look at some of the recent examples of want of vigor and the energy that have lately been apparent.

The war office, it is stated, and has not been denied, had the option of buying 15,000 Basuto ponies at £15 apiece. They did not accept the offer; we suppose because the military advisers, having determined that this is to be an infantry war, are not going to spoil their "face" by admitting that ponies can be wanted. But surely Lord Lansdowne, if he had possessed any originality of mind, would have said: "Buy those ponies, whatever happens. You military experts may be right, and they may never be wanted; but if they are wanted they will be above price. I will at any rate effect this assurance against the failure of the infantry view."

Again, take the feebleness of the way in which the raising of the yeomanry force has been handled. It was quite right to delegate the raising of that force, but it was not right to withhold from the committee an absolutely free hand as to all the arrangements for that force.

Think, too, of the way in which valuable recruits are running to waste because the committee can only take men who are up to a fairly high standard. The government is quite right to exact that standard, but does it not stand to common sense that the war office should have said: "Enlist all likely men, even though they cannot pass, and we will give them six months' training at home. It may be that they may never be wanted, because the war will be over. But if the war is not over they will be invaluable."

As far as we can hear, Lord Lansdowne has given no such order, and hence some thousands of really valuable men are being lost, and lost for good and all—for men peremptorily rejected once as "not good enough" are never likely to seek reenlistment.

Of course, these two examples do not constitute the whole post-bellum against Lord Lansdowne. We merely cite them as examples of how utterly inadequate seems Lord Lansdowne's grasp on the military problems of the hour. His failure to get hold of, or even to explore, the great reserve of trained men in the country (and, we may add, to provide mobility for the volunteers) is a most serious matter, but of that our readers have, we fear, heard only too much in these columns.

We can only end our remarks on a most disagreeable theme by asserting once more that we have no vindictive or malicious feeling against Lord Lansdowne. As a liberal unionist of enlightenment and high character he naturally appeals to us strongly. We should only be too glad to be able to say that his tenure of the war office has been successful and carried on on right lines. But we can only say nothing of the kind, and we have, therefore, no choice but to adopt the thankless task of speaking out on the subject.

We do not, of course, suppose that our protest will have any practical effect. There is no more colossal humbug than the alleged power of the press in such matters. Unless Lord Lansdowne chooses himself to recognize that he is not the man for the post, and that he had better change his present office for some other, his position will not be shaken by our words. If he goes, it will be of his own free will. Nevertheless, we shall have at least the satisfaction of having spoken out, and perhaps of having done something to check that dangerous and deadening notion which is creeping into English public life—the notion that no man need fear any consequences of inefficiency in public affairs, provided only that his hands are clean.

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Southern Voices for Expansion.

New York Sun.

At the dinner of the American Asiatic Association, the Hon. John Lowndes McLaurin, of South Carolina, a democratic senator who prefers business to Bryanism, so far as the Philippines are concerned, thus contemptuously kicked away the bogie of imperialism:

> I will vote for the retention of those islands in some constitutional way, so as to control new markets and new commercial advantages. Nor am I to be deterred by the specter of imperialism, invoked by sentimentalists or designing politicians to frighten the weak and timid. If this be imperialism, let them make the most of it. Hailing from the South, as I do, I say, let all sections join hands in seizing this grand opportunity of extending our commerce, influence and civilization. With the opening of the Nicaragua canal and the construction of deep-water harbors along the Gulf, I believe the South will be able to underbid the world in supplying Asia with raw and manufactured cotton, and that one of the marvels of the new-born century will be the great tide of Southern products sweeping across the broad Pacific to millions of consumers in the Orient.

The South is led to favor expansion by what the moral philosophers call the unconscious utilitarianism of common sense. The unforgotten democratic instinct of expansion reinforces the clear demands of self-interest. The South must have the Asian markets. That is a fact that cannot be declaimed away.

Senator McLaurin's reference to designing politicians may be deemed personal by the present head medicine-man of the democratic party; but it contains an impressive warning to the makers of the next democratic national platform.

W. JENNINGS BRYAN, ACTOR

Within a Year the Barnstormer to Count Ties Back to Scattered Law Practice.

La Grande Chronicle.

The mills of the gods grind slowly in this democratic country of ours, and justice sometimes goes begging for her dues, but there is the same inevitableness in the course of affairs as in the fabled days of old. When Mr. Bryan, lawyer, sitting in his Lincoln office in the leisure moments that his clientage afforded him, decided that he would get the nomination from the Chicago convention by a pyrotechnic display of oratory, the fates and the American people remained unmoved. There is just enough of the stolid and the phlegmatic about the "average" American citizen to prevent his being carried off his feet by the stage tricks of professional barnstormers. The average citizen has a grim sense of humor which, added to a little native intelligence and a good deal of experience, enables him to see behind the mask of all stage-acting statesmen. He likes to be amused and entertained and instructed by actors and poets and theorists in their place, but when he casts his vote he asks what has the man done and what can he be trusted to do; above all he asks what can he be trusted not to do.

When Mr. Bryan burst upon the nation's view in the full radiance of his dazzling oratory, he had yet done nothing but make a few cheap speeches, as faulty in logic as they were insincere in sentiment. He had not then, nor has he yet, proved himself incapable of errors of statesmanship that would be calamitous. He had merely the boy's ambition to rule by dazzling, coupled with the actor's trick of producing effects. In his brief but unsuccessful term as an actor he had absorbed a few principles necessary to stage success, but inimical to statesmanship, and these he has been putting into practice ever since. They were glaringly in evidence when, affecting the uncouth, he bowed and smiled to the crowds from the rear platform of his car in 1896. His purpose in entering the army was so stagy that it smelt of paint. In his attack upon every advance movement of the administration in the matter of the Philippines, he has strutted pompously and appealed grandiloquently to conservatism. And now, as in the last act he rants against the corporations, you can hear the prompter behind the scenes.

But the audience is preparing to ring down the curtain upon this man who is neither actor nor statesman; and after another year and another election, Billy Bryan, barnstormer, may be seen counting the ties back to a scattered law practice.

The Essence of Bryanism.

New York Times, ind. dem.

It is preposterous for Mr. Bourke Cockran and other perplexed gentlemen casting about for political standing and recognition to argue that anti-imperialism or any other new issue can be forced to the front in the Bryan campaign, leaving free silver and socialism out of sight and out of the thoughts of the people in the far background. As the democratic candidate for the presidency this year, W. J. Bryan will profess and preach populist doctrines as the foundation principles of his candidacy. He will talk anti-imperialism more or less in order to give renegade sound-money democrats some decent pretext for supporting him. But that, like the anti-trust issue, will stand only in the relation of an outer adornment to the deep, structural articles of faith that constitute the essentials of Bryanism.

A Training School.

Chicago News.

Meeks—Stone always speaks well of everybody.

Weeks—Merely a force of habit.

Meeks—How so?

Weeks—He's a marble cutter, and his specialty is cutting epitaphs on gravestones.