# The Oregonian.

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ty-fifth street, and C. H. Myers. On file at Charleston, S. C., in the Oregon ex-For sale in Washington, D. C., by the Ebbett ouse news stand.

For sale in Denver, Colo., by Hamilton & Kendrick, 906-912 Seventeenth street. TODAY'S WEATHER-Partly cloudy; wind

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER-Maximum tem erature, 44; minimum temperature, 36; pre

PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, JAN. 22.

#### PREPARING FOR 1803 AGAIN. When a man is confronted with the

ask of bolstering up a forlorn cause he is ant to indulge in strange and won derful reasoning. Two of Mr. J. J. Hill's points may serve as illustrations of a logician in the extreme throes of esperation. We need community of interests, says

Mr. Hill, in order to secure more railroad construction. "The business of the untry has outgrown the facilities on ost of the trunk lines, and that new facilities not now apparent will be necessary to relieve the situation," he says, "and the West must have the facilities or suffer for the want of them."

only be secured through the consolidation of rival lines is reduction in freight rates. A good many roads have recently announced cuts in rates and inrease in wages, for the express purose of disarming public opinion in its distrust of these mergers. Their sucsess can at best be partial. Eyes can occupied by dust and encased in wool, but not as a permanent and uniersal thing in this country at this time. The idea that monopolistic and comtition-destroying combinations rival railroads are necessary prelimiaries to the construction of competive railroads and the reduction of feight rates and passenger fares is enirely worthy of Mr. Hill's fertile brain nd exemplary temerity. A column or ought, perhaps, to be written to show its absurdity. But, owing to the latess of the hour and the crowded condiin of our columns, and as a further sark of respect to the late representative from Missouri whose name for the ment escapes us, we forbear. And ps it isn't necessary. The wind is moutherly at this season, and the Oreon farmer can tell a hawk from a

andsaw. We can tell Mr. Hill and Mr. Harrian what they are doing. In 1893 and for years succeeding, the water was ueezed out of the transcontinental Millions of capital were dironds. viped out of existence. Messrs. Hill nd Harriman, with their gigantic mergers, are building up just such another entious fabric for another hearteaking squeeze. The underwriters ind promoters are getting rich now. investing public will suffer then femory is only long enough to compe igorous protests and long addresses to he public in defense of the operations. History couldn't repeat itself if the burnt child would only dread the fire.

# WHERE WHEAT IS KING.

The growing importance of the Pacific withwest as a wheat-producing secwas well set forth in the figures inted in yesterday's Oregonian showig the wheat exports for December and re compiled by the Burean of Statics, show that for the closing month the year Oregon and Washington sported more than one-third of all the at shipped from the United States Naturally, this remarkable showing ald not be expected to maintain bughout the year, as some of the big Atlantic ports are heavier shippers arlier in the season. For the entire endar year, however, Oregon, Washton and Idaho exported over oneenth of all the wheat shipped from United States. The shipments for en or eight months of the calendar 1900, and as the 1901 crop was largely excess of that of 1900, it is almost a II be made in 1902.

In round numbers, the wheat exports ,000 bushels. Another 10,000,000 bushwere exported in the form of flour, wing a total of 35,000,000 bushels for single year. This is a large quantity out of this territory, and is er 15,000,000 bushels more than was ported from San Francisco durthe same period. Large as these res seem when compared with se of but a dozen years ago, they seem small compared with what be needed to show the crop of the d Washington farmers are not only easing the number of acres of wheat but they have improved their thods of farming to such an extent at the crop failures will never again k the hardship that they have in past. It is but natural to expecseasons will be less favorable than ers, but increased acreage and betfarming are a guarantee against more such years as have wrought

odical ruin in the past. Last year the greatest increase is id and acreage was in the States of nin this year. The extension of the

will develop a country which is said of The Oregonian has himself climbed from 5,006,000 to 10,000,000 bushels of wheat. This will more than offset the loss in acreage in the Willamette Valley, where farmers have been for a number of years gradually withdrawing from the wheat business and going into fruit, dairying and diversified farming. Heavy gains in acreage will also be made in Idaho, and in the Big Bend country in Washington, and, taking all of these sections into consideration, it does not seem unreasonable to expect within the next ten years a crop of from 65,000,000 to 75,000,000 bushels for the

hree states. Meanwhile California is steadily fall ing behind in the business of wheatgrowing, the farmers of that state, like those of the Willamette Valley, finding diversified farming more profitable. The California wheat crop has always had an effect on the world's markets entirely out of proportion to its importance, and now that the Pacific Northwest has distanced what formerly was one of the greatest wheat states in the world, crop conditions and movements in Oregon and Washington are almost certain to attract more attention than they have in the past.

A QUALIFIED RECOMMENDATION. Much of the Canal Commission's report is lifted bodily from its previous discussions. All that is new, beside the reversal of conclusion, is the showing made as to probable negotiations neces sary to perfect our claims and privileges from the Frenchmen and from Co ombia. The commission has evidently desired to epitomize its former arguments, to explain that the sole caus of its reversal is the reduced price of the Panama undertaking, and to elucidate the conditions under which we should have to proceed.

It is evident that everything possible has been done by the Panama people, Frenchmen and Pacific Mail, to facilitate our acceptance of their proposal They think a canal will be built, and they are willing, even anxious, to offer us a good bargain and all possible aid Therefore, in addition to cutting the price, they have prevailed upon Colombia to waive the prohibition and for feiture hitherto imposed upon offers to sell the canal; they have secured the consent of the receiver of the Panama Canal and the court under whose authority he is acting; and it is clearly to be inferred, also, that Colombia has already signified a willingness to grant such concessions as the commissioners say are indispensable preliminary condi-

The report is qualified in two ways The recommendation of Panama is distinctly conditioned upon due acquies cence in our desires by the Governmen of Colombia. Unless this acquiescence Another urgent necessity which can is vouchsafed. Nicaragua would be better. The disposition of the government where we wish to build is so "important a matter" that it "might control the action of the United States."

Another qualification upon which are disposed to rest much weight is not expressly stated by the commission though it is clearly recognized. Congress has asked the commissioners for the most "practicable" and "feasible" route, but not for the most advisable route. As things stand, they say, you can build at Panama in less time and at less cost. But in another part of their report they discuss the matter of advisability, in these terms:

The Panama route is an old highway of cos nerce, along which no considerable industria pment is likely to occur. During the action of a canal on the Nicaragua route, as relations will be established with Costa Rica and Nicaragus which would likely

This view of the canal has been mainpers of the commissioners. If they are convinced that the Panama Canal is cheaper and quicker to build, they can- has a large navy. Central America is worth the difference and Congress is not likely to be indifhanging over necessary concessions in Colombia and the difficulty we should have in maintaining sufficient forces in the deadly Panama climate are matters also likely to weigh with Congress. There has never been any doubt about necessary concessions from Nicaragua and Costa Rica. There is some doubt about Colombia, though it may be cleared up later. But it involves delay, of which the country has grown impatient. If the Panama people are shut out at last, even with the cheapest and shortest canal, it will serve them right. Their devious course will not commend them to the straightforward. Solomon or Shakespeare would have thrown them out of court long ago.

The Panama Canal is too far south, too far out of the way of commerce, too the year 1901. These figures, which far from the sphere of our influence and our business plans. It does not suit our

# purposes.

CUMULATIVELY REGRETTABLE. A letter in the New York Times has filled us with keen and manifold regret. The letter is from one John S. Gibbs, of New York, the burden of whose soul is the name of Captain William Clark, and the final "e" that isn't there. Mr. Gibbs has been pondering over curious and forgotten lore, and it would have been better had it still remained forgotten. He submits that General John J. Gibson (U. S. A.), in a magazine article (American Catholic Quarterly Review) published April, 1877, describing incidents in the campaign against tainty that an even better showing the Sioux, before and after Custer's defeat, goes on to describe a visit by the said General and author to "the farm the two states last year were 25,- famed Pompey's Pillar," where Captain Ciark passed by July 25, 1806. We

quote: I climbed up the not very steep ascent on the eastern side, and whilst resting on one of the ledges read over the names, which, in travelers' fashion, were roughly scribbled over the face of the soft sandstone, until I came

# WM. CLARKE,

to this:

My first thought was that some later visit had amused himself by inscribing the great explorer's name on this landmark, but an ex-amination of the more recent inscriptions showed all of them to be light-colored, whilst the lines of this one were of the same tint as the face of the brown sandstone upon which the writing was placed, and I remained satis-fied that I stood face to face with Captain Clarke's name inscribed nearly 70 years before. I continued the ascent, pondering over the different circumstances surrounding me in the centennial year of the country and those under which Captain Clarke climbed up when the Nation was but 31 years old and this whole region was one vast wilderness.

All of which is extremely interesting, and the General's patriotic sentiments chington and Idaho, and those states | do him credit. The only improvement undoubtedly show an increase we could suggest, but it is to be insisted on, is the elimination of the final "e" in T. Montgomery, a negro, who was for bia Southern Railroad, however, Captain Clark's inscription. The editor years body servant to Jefferson Davis, have read "to Manila."

the pillar and read the name. It is spelled CLARK, just as the explorer wrote it in the autographs which have been printed in The Oregonian and are familiar to its readers. Hence our regret takes these forms:

1. That General Gibson (U. S. A.) ever came to Pompey's Pillar. 2. That when he came there he could not read a plain inscription.

3. That he did not keep his remarkable discovery to himself. 4. That the American Gatholic Quarterly Review should have fathered his

5. That Mr. Gibbs did not select some more trustworthy source (there are

plenty) of orthographic authority. 6. That so amiable and accurate newspaper as the New York Times should have been imposed upon,

#### A RASELESS APPEAL.

The Oregonian is in receipt of a petition to the President to stop the shipment of horses and mules from United States ports for the augmentation of British military supplies. This petition is issued by the Chicago branch of the American Transvaal League. The authors of this petition assume that our Government is violating the neutrality laws. This assumption is without any foundation of fact. The situation in South Africa and the Philippines is nearly identical. By public proclamation issued by Lord Roberts, September 1, 1900, the Transvaal was declared British territory, as had been the Orange Free State at an earlier date. On September 12 President Kruger abandoned the Transvaal territory and fled Europe, where he is today. All the leading towns of the South African Republics, including their capitals, are in the hands of the British. Every mile of railway is in their hands. The Boers in the field are guerrillas. When they take prisoners they are obliged to release them because they hold no place where prisoners could be guarded and fed in security, as they were before the occupation of the Transvaal. The South African Republics are as much British territory through military annexation, despite the vexatious resistance of some 19,000 to 15,000 Boers, whose sole civil and military headquarters is in the saddie, as the Philippines are American terrritory by annexation, despite the vexatious resistance of guerrillas who ompel us to keep 40,000 men in arms

there today, During our Civil War neutrals sold freely to either belligerent, subject to the perils, of course, of capture and condemnation of all articles deemed contraband of war. At the worst the situation in South Africa is that of civil war, even as it is in the Philippines. Our Government buys nearly all its beef for support of our troops in the Philippines in Australia, and the agents of the British Government buy a large majority of its horses and mules for South Africa in the United States. The Australlans have a right to sell beef to either belligerent, and we have a right to sell horses and mules to either belligerent. The insurgent Filipinos have for a long time bought their supplies of arms and ammunition in Hong Kong, a League, 2.5 mills was a sufficient levy British port, and landed them wherever they could escape the observation of an advance-presumably substantialour cruisers. During our Civil War the British Island of Nassau was the headquarters of the Confederate blockaderunners. The British merchants sold the Confederates all kinds of supplies, arms, ammunition and clothing. If our vessels captured the blockade-runner we confiscated the vessel and cargo that was decided to be contraband of war.

The British merchants sold freely to the Confederates and took their risk of delivery. If England and France were tained at greater length in former pa- at war in South Africa, it would be more difficult to land her horses and In running down Thompson and his mules than it is today, because France not go on and say that they think as a have no navy, and the Philippine insurpolitical move the Americanization of gents have none, but the Boers during the whole war, until their lines of supbetween Panama and Nicaragua. They ply became contracted by the occupa very properly leave that with Congress; tion of the railways, bought army supplies of all sorts, and through the port ferent to that consideration. The doubts of Delagon Bay smuggled them into their own territory. The Boers could buy horses and mules to any extent tomorrow, provided they could pay for them; they do not buy them because they do not need them and because they probably could not get them de livered at any point in the Transvan where they could be utilized. The pe tition of the Chicago branch of the American Transvaai League is absurd

Suppose there was a London branch of an English Filipino League and it should issue an appeal to the British Government protesting against the purchase in Australian ports of all the beef for our American Army in the Philip pines, how should we receive that petition? Great Britain is slowly but surely reducing the Boer insurgents to subject tion, and we are slowly but surely ducing the Filipino insurgents to obedience. The Filipino insurgents buy of neutrals, subject to the risk of delivery, and so do the Boers. The fortune of war has made it very difficult for the insurgents in either case to make any deliveries, but this fact does not nullify the right of the United States or Great Britain to buy supplies of neutrals, which, under the present situation, in cur no risk of non-delivery. The horse dealers of the United States who sell horses to the agents of the British Government for South Africa have a clear right to sell horses to the agents of is as clear as the right of any German, French or Dutch merchant to sell military supplies to the English or the

President Roosevelt has startled the party politicians in Arizona by his appointment of B. F. Daniels to succeed Governor McCord as United States Marshal. Governor McCord was a close friend of President McKinley, a recess appointment that President Roosevelt was expected to indorse. Daniels, the new Marshal, has lately become a resident of Arizona, and was one of the Rough Riders who enlisted from Colorado to serve under Colonel Roosevelt. He is mentioned more than once with praise in the book "The Rough Ridera" The President continues to make Southern appointments purely with regard to improving the Federal service in that William F. Swan has beer section. nominated for Collector of Customs in the Pearl River district of Mississippi to succeed Henry C. Turley, "resigned." Henry C. Turley is Mr. Hanna's National committeeman for Mississippi. James Hill, Register of the Land Office at Jackson, and George E. Matthews, Receiver of Public Moneys, are both negroes and prominent leaders of the local Republican machine, and their retirement is viewed with anger and dismay by the office-holding negro element. Matthews is succeeded by Isaiah

and has acted with the Democrats in politics. He was the only negro member of the Mississippl Constitutional Convention, and not only supported in convention the new constitution, which largely disfranchises his race, but advocated its adoption before the people. Edgar S. Wilson, who has been appointed United States Marshal for the southern district of Mississippi, is a Gold Democrat. R. C. Lee, appointed United States District Attorney, was indorsed by both Republicans and Democrats. These appointments mean the destruction of the Hanna Republican machine in Mississippi for the manipulation of

delegates to the Republican National

Convention.

It is very interesting to have an official statement from the British Government of the attitude of Great Britain towards the United States in our war with Spain. Austria was put for ward as the nation which should take the lead in a European coalition against us. Through Austria Great Britain was sounded, but Great Britain refused. "This power" (Austria), says a British official, "was put forward as a sort of buffer in order to sound us, and France, Germany and Russia were behind her and only awaiting our assent formally to announce their own. We have never had reason to change that belief, which, in the case of France, amounts to moral certainty." In time of our Civil War France took a similar position of hostility toward us. She proposed and in sisted on direct interference in behalf of the Confederate States. Great Britain declined. But France went on in her hostile intentions, and took up her position in Mexico, from which she was told by the United States, as soon as our Civil War was over, to get out; and get out she did. Had Great Britain sup ported France at that time, the United States would have been dismembered Had she supported France and other European powers in 1898, there would have been a coalition of the powers of Europe in support of Spain and against the United States. It is edifying to find those cheap politicians of our country who forced us into the war with Spain now reviling Great Britain, who, alone, kept a European coalition from assault upon us.

The school tax, so far as it is neces sary to carry on the legitimate work of the schools, is a legitimate tax, payment of which is for the most part ungrudgingly made. In the increased estimat for expenditures, buildings for the adequate accommodation of pupils of the grammar grades, take the lead as a prime necessity. The schools in which children crowd each other for seats and air are a discredit to the public and to the Board of Directors, the members of which are the public's sorely tried, wholly unpaid servants. The seating capacity of the school buildings of the district is, we are told, now inadequate, and relief against the increase in the number of pupils that will appear at the schoolhouse doors at the beginning of the next school year is loudly de manded. It is proper that this requirement should be met. In the view of Mr. J. N. Teal, of the Taxpayers to cover this requirement and to provide in the teachers' salaries. Since a levy of 2.9 mills was ordered, these item of increased expenditure will probably be met acceptably and clamor in certain quarters will be stilled for a while. In the meantime, little tots between 4 and 6 years old will be left to the care of their mothers or sent to private kindergartees.

The police will breathe easier now that Bennett Thompson, the self-confessed Slavin road robber, is captured. mnanion Charles Wright Chief Mc-Lauchlan and Detectives Snow and Kerrigan have performed creditable work. The same detectives also arrested the notorious "Kid" West and H. F. Cantwell, January 13, who came into town heavily armed and afterward admitted that their intention was to commit highway robbery. Fortunately for the community, West and Cantwell were forced to leave this city before they had a chance to imitate Wade and Dalton.

The arbitration committee of the Na tional Civic Federation recently settled the differences between the Clothing Manufacturers' Association of New York City and its employes, thus preventing a strike involving from 40,000 to 55,000 garment-workers. A dispute between a Brooklyn shoe manufacturing firm and its employes has also been settled by the state mediator of indus trial disputes in favor of the employer

Bulgarian brigands, after much haggling, have agreed to accept the sum offered for Miss Stone's ransom. If all goes well, therefore, that much-advertised and very worthy woman will in due time come home and write a book brisiling with adventure and perhaps explaining, among other things, her failure to convert her swart captors from Mohammedanism to Christianity

General Miles really has the Presidential bee in his bonnet. The Washington correspondent of the Springfield Republican reports that in the Summer of 1900 General Miles called on Mr. Roosevelt, then Governor of New York, and invited him to accept the nomina either belligerent. Their right to do so tion for Vice-President on a Republican ticket to be headed with the name of Nelson A. Miles.

Mrs. Astor, the acknowledged leader of all that makes up New York society, has blue-penciled the list of the "400" and cut it down to 100. Whether morale of the list has been improved by the process is not stated.

Another trip is being arranged for an other President to another exposition. The expediency of such a visit is, in the light of recent events, doubtful, say the least. However, forewarned is forearmed.

Taylor-Street Church mourns in the death of Mrs. George T. Myers the loss of one of its most conscientious and loyal members, and the community one of its most useful and womanly women.

announced last week, fills several col-

umns in the Des Moines papers. It is

a dark blot on an otherwise creditable Mayor Low's troubles have begun al ready. Dr. Parkhurst writes to demand that the Mayor "brace his administra-

An article in yesterday's paper stated that Portland has no direct line of steamships to the Orient. It

### LAND-TAX INJUSTICE.

It would be a good thing all round if the land-tax question now under hot discussion in Lane County could be taken up in all parts of the state and threshed to a finish. No other phase of our public affairs is in such need of critical attention for there is none other, if we except the question involved in the taxing of intangible property, in which so much and so many kinds of fraud and injustice are involved. Our taxing system as it relates to lands and to other things, is a wretched patchwork of iliassorted and unassimilable features. It invites fraud, and, in truth, almost compels it at a dozen points; it puts a premium upon dishonesty; it oppresses integrity. In brief, it has the faults which proceed inevitably from a system founded upon a false and impossible theory and operated by elective officials seeking, under widely varying notions of discretion and authority to satisfy their constituents and to "save their counties" at the point where the dues of the State Government are reckoned.

In the case of Lane County, for example, if we may credit the Eugene Register's information, great infustice grows out of the fact that many tracts, worth in the market anywhere from \$5 to \$15 per acre, are classified as non-tillable and taxed on a low basis, the average assessment of such lands being something less than \$1 50 per acre; and in large part these so-called non-tillable lands are held for speculation. The fraud and the injury directly effected by this practice in assessment are plain to see. In proportion as the speculative and nonprogressive holder of undeveloped lands escapes from his just share in the burden of county support, the owners of property in other forms are injured, for it falls upon them to make good the sum lest through his evasion of duty. - And this is not the worst of it, for, as it was set forth in these columns vesterday, the settlement of the county and its ladustrial development are held back by a practice of assessment which aids the and speculator in his game of grab and puts a premium upon inertia. So much for the strictly local or county interest in this matter of land taxation.

But it is when it comes to the matter of providing for the State Government that the most serious violation of equity and justice is encountered. The state levies no direct tax upon property but requires from each county a contribution in proportion as the sum of its assessment roll is related to the sum of all the county assessment rolls. That is, if the aggregate of all the personal assessments of Tillamook County-the whole taxable property of the county-is found to be the one-hundredth part of all the taxable property of the state, Tillamook County will have to pay the one-hun dredth part of the sum required for state support. The assessment rolls of the several counties are used as the basis for this calculation; and this fact exmanifest plains the anxiety so in every county to "hold down" local assessment. A generally high assessment with a low tax rate is, so far as county taxation goes, precisely the same as a low assessment and a high tax rate: but it is quite another matter when it comes to the state tax, to the sum of which each county contributes proportionately as above set forth. Every County Assessor is, therefore, being wholly human in his relationships and motives and for the most part wishing to be reelected, trying to make personal assess ments low, so as to "save the county" in its relations to the State Treasury. . It is this motive-this wish to make the general assessment low, and so avoid a large requisition on state account-that has enforced the practice of assessing property everywhere at a fraction of its real or market value.

the efforts of boards of equalization they persist and flourish under the system. In general it may be said that the more efficlent and honest an Assessor is, the greater the amount his county will have to pay into the State Treasury. The financial interest of each county will commonly be best cared for by an Assessor so skilled in the sharp practice of his business as to make his assessment roll relatively ower than the rolls of the other countles There is, it must be admitted, a shameful sound in this remark, but we are dealing with facts.

How far the system in its practica workings departs from even justice may be traced by comparison of the practice in different counties in the matter of the land tax. Lane County, for example, returns in its report to the state 113,500 acres of tiliable lands, valued at \$1,151,264, or a fraction more than \$10 per acre. The same return gives 1,052,361 acres of lands classed as nontillable, valued at \$1,569,428, approximately \$1 50 per acre. Douglas County reports 95,188 acres of tillable lands, valued at \$606,436, or a little above 55 per acre. The same return gives 1,292,-383 acres of nontillable land, valued at \$1,200,140, or a little more than \$1 per acre. Lane and Douglas Counties are chosen for comparison, because they lie side by side and share almost precisely similar general conditions. Both front upon the sea and extend across the western division of the state. There are no differences in the character, situation or development of the two counties, which can by any stretch of reasoning be made to explain the difference between the two assessment exhibits. The true explanation, indeed, lies in the fact that one Assessor made the figures lower than the other. It is merely a matter of arbitrary practice, in which the Douglas Assessor "saved his county" better than the Lane Assessor; but we hasten, lest we do a worthy man injury with his constituents, to declare that no body could reasonably have expected a more "reduced" return.

But the injustice growing out of arbitrary differences between the assessments in Lane and Douglas Countles is as nothing when the returns from these two are contrasted with the return from Multnomah. We have seen that Lane reports a total acreage (all classifications) of 1,166,-954, valued at \$2,720,692, or less than \$2.50 per acre. Douglas reports a total acreage (all classifications) of 1,390,570, valued at \$1,936,579-approximately \$1 50 per acre. On the other hand, Multnomah, the smalless county in the state, reports under al classifications (excepting town lots) 198,238 acres, valued at \$5,641,740, or about \$28.00 per acre. Comparison of these figures with those of Lane and Douglas as above set forth show a discrepancy truly amaz-Some allowance, it is admitted, is due to the general proximity of lands in Multnomah County to the chief city in the state, but this consideration as a factor in the estimation of values is rather sen timental than actual. Lands 10 miles from Portland, especially if not near a line of railroad, are worth scarcely more than lands of the same general character in Lane and Douglas, Certainly they will not yield larger or more profitable crops, wards the door and tackles the next caller.

and their speculative value is small inmany a long-suffering owner will testify. The difference between the relatively low valuation in Lane and Dougias and the relatively high valuation in Multnomah is due not so much to intrinsic or speculative considerations as to the differing practice of the assessing officers of the two countles, Both are far too "easy" on the holders of so-called nontillable lands, but the Lane and Douglas Assessors pursue the principle almost to the point of exemption. The effect is to put upon Multnomah County, as compared with Lane, a disproportionate share of the burden of state support. It is a common jibe of the country press that the wealth of the cities-in other words. Portland since there is no other very considerable city in Oregon-evades taxation; but we believe it to be the fact that no other community pays even proportionately so large a tax bill as does that of Multne

in special point-which pay at a vastly higher rate than similar property in other countles. There is vast room for improvement along lines of reason and justice in the business of taxation here and elsewhere, Never in the history of the world, we believe, have all the people of any country felt that entire or even approximate justice was done in connection with the laying of taxes. If not in its presen forms, then in some other, we shall have this problem to deal with, to the end of time, for, as one of the world's

mah. There may be, and no doubt are

large classes of property which contrive

to cheat the taxgatherer; but, on the

other hand, there are large classes of

property-nontiliable lands being a case

### American Idea of a President.

Is not given to man."

wisest has declared, "to tax and to please

New York World, The President is reported to have declared his purpose to "stamp out" at once and forever all the agitation and contention that have arisen over the Schley case, and the Miles reprimand is understood to be his first step in this direc-

If that was the intention we cannot con gratulate him upon his method or upon the result, for he has only added fuel to flame that was lively enough already and injected into a debate that was not overcourteous an angry personal spirit that is, to say the least, unfortunate. But is not "stamping out" freedom of thought a rather new thing as a presi-

dential prerogative? Some months ago the German Kaiser's style was thought to be very comic in its extravagant self-assertion. From the German Kaiser, however, a presumption of the personal sacredness and suprem acy of the executive, a tone of all-powerful and dictatorial arrogance, a deciaraagreeable to him, are things not unnatur-

al. But such a tone is most repugnant to American ideas. The American conception of the Presient's position is that he is the executive of another will than his own; that he must not for one minute substitute his own will for and against the will of the people as defined by the law; that he is the head of the machinery created to en-force the law, and that if he proposes to substitute his personal purpose for any popular impulse or to smother or "stamp out" any popular instinct for justice, or for what the people believe to be justice, puts himself outside the duties of his

We are as free people, accustomed to declaring and holding opinions that many men in office would be glad to "stamp We cannot contemplate with patience an executive declaring to the most deserving, the most distinguished men of the Nation that they have no right to have opinions.

# Presidents and Public Opinion.

Kansas City Star. One of the hard questions for Presi-dent Roosevelt to decide will be the extent to which he should follow public opinion, His immediate predecessors held diver-gent views on this subject. Mr. Cleveland believed thoroughly in the dignity and independence of the Executive. He upheld this doctrine so tenaclously that it brought him into open conflict with Conthe theory that the President is elected course, upon such practice, and in spite of to carry out the will of the people. When of Americans was set upon war with Spain he determined to adopt the war policy. Yet he would not go to the limit of unalterably opposing any measure which he was convinced was thoroughly

> Undoubtedly under the republican form of government of the President is the rep-resentative of the people, elected to carry out their policies. In the long run they are to be trusted rather than any succession of dictators. If any Chief Magistrat goes counter to a deep and permanent cur-rent of thought and policy, his usefulness is largely at an end, and he will count for

# Jefferson's Estimate Was Imperfect.

Springfield Rep It is worth recalling that in Jefferson's own estimate of his work the Louisians Purchase had a subordinate place. For inscription on his tombstone he selected as the three most important services of his life, the authorship of the Declaration of Independence, the establishment of religious freedom in Virginia, and the founding of the University of Virginia. And any one needs to think long and well before saying that his estimate was wrong. The three achievements mentioned on Jefferson's tomostone stand for great ideas, and ideas are the greatest things under the sun. Moreover, the three each stood for freedom—the Declaration for po-litical freedom, the church legislation for religious freedom, the university for the very largest measure of educational freedom, and combined they were a trinity of blows struck at critical hours in history for the emancipation of all mankind. The estimate upon the tombstone can hardly be improved upon. The vast importance of the Louisiana purchase to the United States, however, might well be recwealth after Thomas Jefferson.

Expensive Empire Building. New York World, On Saturday next the Anglo-Boer was

will have been going on just two years and three months. And this is what it has cost Great Britain up to this time: Total deaths from all causes.... Total sent home as invalids.... Total expenditures to end of fis-64,330

...\$750,000,000 mile for the 163,500 square miles of the annexed South African territory, and more than one British soldler has been killed, maimed or invalided for every Boer soi-dier put in the field.

Perhaps this is not a price that "stag-gers humanity," but it is certainly one that staggers the British people.

#### The Roosevelt Way. Cleveland Piain-Dealer The Youth Who Applies-Mr. President

The President-Glad to see you. The Youth-I have called sir, to ask you

The President-That's very friendly, Run

The Youth-I have a petition here signed

by our member of Congress and one of our Senators—
The President—That's interesting. I used

to collect autographs myself. Don't forget to call.

The Youth—My father is—
The President—So glad to know it. Tell him to call, too.

Shakes hands and crowds the youth to-

# NOTE AND COMMENT.

One canal at a time, gentlemen.

The sun is still sojourning in our midst. Lipton's prayer is "give me this year

my yearly Shamrock." Oughtn't he to be Admiral Clark when

he attends the coronation? Phillips is not the first man who got

more corn and rye than he could carry. Ground hog day comes on Sunday this year. Perhaps the sagactous animal will refuse to work.

mecessary remark that he didn't break the bank at Monte Carlo. The festive black bass can see nothing heerful in the bulletins from the bedside

Charles M. Schwab rises to make the

of ex-President Cleveland. Costa Rica wants to go to war with the United States. Perhaps it thinks that is

the ensiest way to be annexed. Now the cruel war is over, the Port of Portland Commission may be expect-

ed to say nothing and dredge sand Being an Admiral, Prince Henry will be lucky if he gets out of this country

without butting into a court of inquiry. King Edward has set the style for velvet cuffs. But the British Hon has not been getting any of that kind of cuffs

lately.

Turkey will have to pay \$7000 for killing an American wheelman. If he was a scorcher, the payment ought to go the

The British War Office will not know whether or not its present course in the Transvaal is acceptable till Kipling expresses himself in another poem,

Of course the Kalser's brother will go to Milwaukee, just for the pleasure of being able to make himself understood with out the aid of an interpreter.

By his father's orders, the Crown Prince of Germany was confined for two weeks in his room at college as a punishment for insubordination. He probably put in the time singing "Hoch der Kai-Ber."

The future man is to have only four toes and to be taller than the man of this age, writes Professor Henry L. Bruner, of Butler University, who has doubtless been wearing pointed toed shoes till he has corns on his little toes, and wishes he were rid of them. He also states that man is going to get rid of his vermiform appendis, some of his floating ribs, and other things. In discussing these propositions J. K. Lumberkopf, the sage of Robinson's Hill, said yesterday that it would not improve the human race to be taller, except for persons who were gatherers of fruit. There is now a man in this city who is a sort of human flag pole, who is fit for nothing but to perambulate the streets sandwiched between two placards. It took so much gray matter to finish his spinal marrow that there was not enough left for a normal cerebrum and cerebellum. As for a few ribs, the vermiform appendix and several other superfluous organs, the sooner man is rid of them the better -they never will be missed. ting rid of the fifth toe, Professor Lumberkopf says that is a different proposition. Since shoes came into use, people have tortured their feet into all sorts of shapes, without in any marked particular modifying the shape of the feet of their offspring. The Chinese, for thousands of years, have compressed the feet of some of their women into a shapeless clump, totally destroying the natural form and the usefulness of the feet; but after all these years, such women continue to bear children with the original splay feet of the Chinese and the original number of toes. "I would as soon "that before the next ice age arrives man will have developed a fleece of wool like that of a sheep, and be born with skates When a man looks too on his feet." far into futurity he overdoes the busi-

#### Two Poems by William E. Channing. SLEEPY HOLLOW.

Here shalt thou pause to hear the funeral bell, Slow stealing o'er thy heart in this calm

Not with a throb of pain, a feverish knell-But in its kind and supplicating grace
It says, "Go, Pilgrim, on thy march! be more
Friend to the friendless than thou wast before."

Learn from the loved one's rest, serenity; Tomorrow that soft bell for thee sha And thou repose beneath the whispering tree, One tribute more to this submissive ground-Prison thy soul from malice—bar out pride— Nor these pale flowers nor this still field de-

Where a ne'er-setting sun illum Eternal; and the incessant watchfires burn Of unspent heliness and goodness clear— Forget man's littleness—deserve the best— God's mercy in thy thought and life confest

I dreamed a star from unknown skies Was shining on the narrow earth: Or was the beauty from her eyes The light that gave my spirit birth?

I dreamed the Spring caressed the flowers, And sunshine danced about the trees: Or was the light, its golden showers, That soft perfume, thy modesty? Across the sea thy beauty can To this far shore so darkly chill; But now a voice—how sweet! I hear, And those pure eyes—I see them still—

A richer hope and nobler traits,

#### To leave the spell in Liza's facel On the Death of a Lady.

Thomas Moore.

Sweet spirit: If thy airy sleep

Nor sees my tears nor hears my sighs,
Then will I weep, in anguish weep. Till the last heart's drop fills mine eyes

But if thy sainted soul can feel, And mingles in our misery; Then, then, my breaking heart I'll seal— Thou shalt not hear one sigh from me.

The beam of morn was on the stream, But sullen clouds the day deform; Like thee was that young Orient beam, Like death, alas, that sullen storm!

Thou wert not formed for living h So linked thy soul was with the sky; Yet, ah, we held thee all so dear, We thought thou wert not formed to die.

#### PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS Hook-Sillicus acts like a fool. Nye-Humph! That isn't acting.-Philadelphia Record. It is needless to say that things needless to

say constitute a large proportion of the things that are said. Puck. Whom It Pays. "It doesn't pay a man to go to law, does it?" "Well, yes, it pays a man, but that man's the lawyer."—Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.

Behindhand.—Snuffer—What you want to do for your cold is to take quinine. Sniffer—I'm sorry old man, but there are 147 curss ahead of yours.—Ohio State Journal.

Where the Fun Comes In.—"Yes, I enjoy my automobile immensely." "But I never see you out." "Oh, I haven't got that far yet. I am just learning to make my own repairs."—Life. A Difficult Text.-She-Oh, you should come

to St. Deman's; our dear rector is so inspiring He—Good preacher? She—Yes, and so original he is giving us an Advent series on the spirit ual life of our last four Mayors.—Brooklys