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TODAY'S WEATHER—Showers. Easterly winds.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 59 deg.; minimum temperature, 51 deg.; precipitation, 0.01 inch.

PORTLAND, MONDAY, OCTOBER 27.

A PROTEST WHICH PROTESTS TOO MUCH.

The agitation in Northeastern Oregon over the proposal to place the timbered parts of the Blue Mountain range under the "forest reserve" regulations proceeds, possibly, from lack of mutual understanding between the agents of the Interior Department and the people who conceive their interests to be menaced. The former have been over-hasty in the recommendation of specific lines for the proposed reserve, and the latter, through alarm and irritation, have fallen into angry and radical opposition when a more judicious and reasonable attitude might better have served all their legitimate interests. Therefore, through haste and folly on both sides, we have on hands not a rational consideration of the matter at issue, but a hot fight marked by much bitterness and tending toward a political settlement.

If it be true, as the spokesmen for Baker and Grant Counties declare, that the reserve proposals cover a wide area of settled country, in which important industries are established; that it threatens to destroy these industries without accomplishing any compensating good to the country; that it has been conceived in aid of a selfish and sordid interest, and that it will harm rather than help the permanent interests of the country, then a very great mistake has been made; and if the facts are sufficient to sustain the charge, there is not the slightest doubt that the Secretary of the Interior will order such changes in the project as will remedy its faults. The whole purpose of the forest reserve policy is to help the country; and in every instance where there has been a contest the department has exhibited not only a willingness but a most commendable anxiety to do the right thing. The course of the protest, therefore, should have been, not one of heated opposition to the forest reserve policy, but of civil demand for changes in the lines of the special project in hand.

There is that in the radical terms of the protest and in its hot-headed method which suggests that there is more behind it than appears on its face. It is common knowledge that there are factors in the contention in no wise related to the public interest, but, on the contrary, very devoted to private interests, opposed to any policy of conserving the forests of the Blue Mountain region which will stop their gainful projects. There are loggers and millmen who care not what becomes of the country after they shall be permitted to rob it of its timber; there are sheep and cattle rangers who would gladly "skin" the country for their own profit; there are land pirates who are anxious only for immediate and personal advantage. Of course, all such stand in opposition to anything and everything which looks to conservation of the native resources of the country, which through their operations are rapidly being exploited. And there are reasons to fear that some part at least of this furious energy of protest has its springs in these private and essentially vicious interests.

The Oregonian does not contend for the particular scheme which has been defined by the agents of the Interior Department. It may be that the limits of the proposed reserve have been too widely drawn; and it may be that some rights which ought to be respected have been unnecessarily and unwisely encroached upon in this particular plan. But to concede this much is by no means to condemn the whole project. If the plan is in fact too wide, then the thing to do is reasonably to amend it. It would seem that if the Baker and Grant County protest were prompted by right purpose, it would take this course; and there is reason to suspect its motives when it argues, not for a modified scheme of reservation, but for a complete overthrow of the whole project, which would leave the vandals free to wreak their worst.

The argument for Government conservation of the timber and water of the Blue Mountain region is not affected, but, on the contrary, it is emphasized, by the movement which seeks to defeat any and all projects of forest reserve, for by this movement it is made manifest that, as related to these interests, the "coyotes are at the corral." Left without protection, the Blue Mountains will literally be skinned. The trees will be cut down and carried to the Eastern market; the range will be eaten out; and with the destruction of both forests and grass roots the springs will go dry. The precipitation of the Winter storms, instead of being held in storage for the Summer supply of the streams which flow out of the mountain spurs, will rush down the bare mountain sides in torrents and be lost. The vivifying breasts of the mountains will dry up, and suffering generations of men will wonder and grieve at the folly which permitted this condition to be brought about.

Extension of the forest reserve regulations over the timbered regions of the Blue Mountains is, in the judgment of The Oregonian, one of the very important proposals of the time as related to the permanent interests of Oregon. The special project which has been defined and which is now under consideration may require revision; but it is founded upon a sound principle of action, and, no matter how opposed, it ought not to be abandoned. Indeed, the very energy of the opposition which it has called forth is suggestive of motives for its enforcement.

UNSATISFACTORY CONTRACTS.

The decision of Judge Burnett as to the strength of a hop contract presents this kind of speculation in a new light. Whether or not the decision will be sustained by a higher court, it has served to call the attention of numerous cheap speculators on these lines to the fact that loosely-drawn contracts, where the consideration is strictly nominal, are in their way two-edged swords. In past years, when the market went the other way, many of the contractors forfeited the $1 that they had paid for a few thousand dollars' worth of hops and gracefully or disgracefully withdrew, leaving the grower to dispose of his crop at a much lower figure than he had a right to expect that he would receive. If this kind of a retreat from an obligation was right for the buyer, it is certainly right for the seller. To the unprejudiced observer, however, it is not apparent that the violation of a contract is right in either case.

It is frequently said that if all men were honest, courts and lawyers would be obliged to go out of business. Certain it is that much hop contract litigation would be saved if there was more of a disposition among the parties interested to be honest and live up to their contracts, even though they were loser by the operation. If a man is honest in his intentions and has the financial stability to make good on a contract, the deposit of $1 should be just as binding and safe in a transaction as though it were $1000. If he is dishonest and has not sufficient financial standing to assure the carrying out of a contract, he should never be permitted to become a party to it. Some pretty good men have been in the business of hop contracting in this state for a number of years, and they have not always realized as handsomely on their contracts as they are doing this year. They have met their losses in the past, however, and it is hardly probable that the growers who have profited by their mistaken judgment will begrudge them the profits they are now making, much as the growers may regret that they were so unfortunate as to contract on a rising market.

The methods of speculation followed in the wheat pits of the country are subject to much criticism, generally being placed under the head of gambling, because the operation is to a considerable extent the selling of something which the seller at the time does not possess. The difference between the wheat operator who sells wheat which he does not possess, by means of a contract and margin operation, and the hopgrower who sells hops not yet grown, by the advance contract method, is not very great. As a safe financial proceeding wherein both buyer and seller are protected against the rascality, cupidity or misfortune of each other, the comparison is in favor of the wheat operator. He buys wheat for December delivery, agreeing to pay a certain price per bushel for it at that time, the seller, like the hopgrower, believing that the price offered will be all and perhaps more than wheat is worth next December. The wheat buyer's contract, however, requires a deposit of a margin of 3 cents per bushel, and the moment the market recedes to that extent he must make a further deposit to protect the seller, who has agreed to deliver the wheat.

If hopgrowers are not satisfied to sell their product at market prices when it is ready for market, or live up to their contracts for advance sale, they will do well to formulate a plan for operating in "futures," by which both buyer and seller can be protected.

THE IMMIGRATION MOVEMENT.

The State of Iowa, from which some of the most desirable immigration that reaches the Pacific Northwest is drawn, is organizing anew its forces for getting immigration from Europe. And we are organizing anew our forces for drawing Iowans to this Coast. In both cases it is recognition of the restless element in human nature and an effort to organize and direct it rather than leave it to run wild. It is better to invite those whose presence here would be desirable and to take some pains to arouse their interest in what we have that will be to their advantage than to wait for the inevitable overflow from the teeming provinces of the Old World. Then we would get what would be crowded out. Now we, in a considerable measure, exercise the power of choice, by presenting our attractions among those whose favor we court. The waves of European immigration break upon the populous Atlantic seaboard and roll inland with constantly decreasing energy. By the time they cross the Mississippi they are, to a large extent, Americanized, and comparatively little unassimilated citizenship rises over the Rocky Mountains. The Pacific Slope is fortunate in that so efficient a buffer or strainer stands between its many attractions and the large desires of European multitudes. We are pretty well protected by law against any large movement of Orientals.

The annual report of the Commissioner of Immigration shows that during the past fiscal year 78 immigrants arrived at the port of Portland, and that all but five, who were found to be paupers, were admitted. During the year preceding, but 33 immigrants entered at this port. At Port Townsend 2231 applied for admission and 29 were rejected. At this port the preceding year but 1658 immigrants landed. While the great majority, practically all, of the immigrants landing in Oregon and Washington were males, it is a matter worthy of note that out of 9870 who entered at the port of Honolulu during the last year 3371 were females. This port also showed a marked increase in the number of its immigrants over the previous year, when but 1774 were admitted. Only 27 of those applying at Honolulu were denied admission, and 26 of these were laborers under contract.

Of all immigrants landing in the United States last year, 1342 permanently located in Oregon, 5907 in Washington and 88 in Alaska. Oregon's new acquisition was comprised of 348 Scandinavians, 358 Germans, 191 Finns, 136 Japanese, 96 Chinese, 119 Italians, etc. Washington acquired 2419 Japanese, 1396 Scandinavians, 614 Germans, and smaller numbers of Finns, Chinese, etc. Those settling in Oregon included in their number 14 professional persons, 110 skilled laborers, 481 laborers, and 402 with no occupation, including women and children. Washington had 36 professional men, 703 skilled laborers, 2507 laborers and 1100 without occupation. In Idaho were 2 professionals, 31 skilled laborers, 93 laborers and 97 without occupation.

CAREY LAW OUTGROWN.

A point made in our Washington dispatches published yesterday morning should be kept in mind in all this irrigation agitation. Under the Carey law the Government gives the land to the state upon condition that it be reclaimed to productivity. The Washington Government deals entirely with the state authorities in this matter. The state arranges for reclamation as best it may, usually by contracting with men or companies for the construction of irrigation works. It might do the work itself, receiving the land as its pay, and it could then do as it might choose with the land. But it has not been deemed expedient for the state to do this. It is found more satisfactory to let the improvements out by contract, which, we believe, has been the universal practice under the Carey act. Instead of paying the contractor money from the state treasury, he is paid from sale of the land, and in order that he may be secured against loss he is given a lien against the land reclaimed for the cost of reclamation. This lien establishes the selling price of the land, for it is not required that more than the cost of reclamation shall be paid for it.

It is to be observed that the condition of the gift to the state is that the land shall be reclaimed. It follows that the plans for such reclamation must be satisfactory to the Washington authorities—it is so specified in the law. Of course, the state has no money for surveys and preparation of plans, so that work is done by the contractors, and the maps and drawings go forward for approval at Washington with the list of lands to be segregated. This step comes after the state signs the contract for irrigation. At this stage three of the four reclamation projects in Oregon under the Carey act now halt. About 170,000 acres are embraced in them. The one that has passed the Interior Department covers less than 2000 acres.

Another interesting feature of the Carey act is that it opens a way by which "any person, company of persons, or association," as well as corporations, may be protected in the reclamation of arid public land. If the Carey act or the Oregon statute accepting the donation under it should be repealed, there would be no provision of law under which a person of moderate means or a small association of settlers might be protected in the reclamation of desert land, except in 160-acre lots. Title to 160 acres will not warrant the extensive operations necessary to reclaim most of the arid land of Oregon. Repeal of the present law should be accompanied by a conservation of this admirable provision.

It may be remarked in passing that the Carey act had its birth in conditions that gave no protection to the builder of considerable irrigation works. If one chose to invest money getting water to a vacant district worthless without irrigation, he would find before the completion of his enterprise that the lands under the ditches would be homesteaded by people who would neither buy water nor build independent works. They blocked all progress. They were speculators demanding to be bought out by those who would use water and cultivate the soil. Men will not bury money in reclamation works under such conditions, and it was soon found that they would not be provided without some assurance that the capital invested would receive a measure of protection. Of course, it would not be good policy for the Government directly to guarantee anything in this direction, but it opened a way by which reasonable safeguards could be thrown around these enterprises when it passed the Carey act authorizing a lien upon the land reclaimed. This is largely self-adjusting, for if the lien be too great nobody will take the land, and it will lie unproductive, and there will be no money for the irrigation investment. Low-priced land will be quickly taken and cultivated, and the returns on the reclamation investment will be correspondingly quick and satisfactory.

The truth about the Carey law appears to be that it has been set aside by the new growth of sentiment for Government action in irrigation. It represented, in its passage, the theory, sound enough at the time, that "the arid lands are the states'." The Government was asked by the crazy Trans-Mississippi Congress to improve the land and let the states own it. This was out of the question. We must choose between Government aid with Government ownership, or state ownership without Government aid. The Carey law seemed necessary because Federal irrigation work was despaired of. But a few short years have seen the rise of the Federal irrigation movement and the enactment of the Maxwell law. It now becomes perfectly idle to suppose that the Federal Government will consent to spend the proceeds of its land sales in reclaiming arid lands and let the lands themselves be parceled out and administered under state auspices. The Maxwell era may be expected to put an end to the Carey regime, and the best that occupants already in the field can hope for is to get fair treatment of their vested rights.

The trustees of Tufts College have at length been impressed with an important idea—one that follows the plain dictates of common sense—and with true educational enterprise they proceeded to promulgate it as a rule of that institution. The time has come, they say, "when old artificial distinctions between students' code of morals and that which exists in the business and social world should be done away with." In other words, those manifestations of undergraduate spirits referred to by sympathetic people of the "boys will be boys" order as "pranks," and by those of a sterner sense of justice as "rowdyism," are discredited by the trustees of this college as unmannerly, rude and without excuse either in ethics or in practice. Plainly stated, a student who steals a sign, incites a riot or becomes a rioter, deserves and should receive the same punishment that befalls a nonscholastic mischief-breeder and perpetrator. These educational trustees, says the Pittsburg Dispatch, are to be congratulated upon having grasped an idea that has long been evident to the uncloistered common sense of the Nation, adding: "If their enlightenment should progress to the point of landing one or two overjoyous students in the workhouse, it would start the process that would very quickly convert the undergraduate mind to law-abiding theories." The old threat or prophecy of decline in attendance as the result of this bold announcement hangs over Tufts College. It is with some interest and not a little anxiety that the more thoughtful portion of the public await the issue.

The recent contract between the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul and the Union Pacific Railroads, by virtue of which the former line gets to the Pacific Coast on desirable terms, borrows from a modern practice among nations. The St. Paul is to have the use of Union Pacific tracks on as favorable terms as are enjoyed by the Chicago & Northwestern or any other railroad. This is a parallel of the "most-favored-nation" clause in international treaties. Moreover, the new railroad agreement is not for any definite period, but may be terminated by either party on reasonable notice. And, as in international affairs, breach of this contract would probably result in war. In fact, the avowed intention and ability of the St. Paul to invade Union Pacific territory was what brought about the arrangement by which the latter road consented to handle the transcontinental business of the former on satisfactory terms. The same underlying motives and principles regulate human affairs from bottom to top.

The number of days' work lost in strikes in the coal industry during the present year, as shown by Dr. David L. Day in the annual volume just issued on the mineral resources of the United States, is 20,000,000. This vast aggregation of idle days represents an enormous sum in wages lost, and a tremendous asset in individual and domestic suffering. Labor must reap a heavy reward through the settlement or adjustment now in progress if it comes out even on this year's work. Its champions, however, assure the public that it has gained substantially thereby, and point confidently to the future for verification of its claim. It may indeed be hoped that this assurance is well founded, since upon the prosperity of labor depends the general advancement of the country in the prime essentials, home-building and good citizenship.

"The definite abandonment by the Southern Pacific of the attempt to use oil as fuel for its locomotives is an important piece of news," sagely announces the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. Like many another piece of news that has been known to come from Seattle, it would be important if it were true. But in the face of the official statement from Southern Pacific headquarters in San Francisco to the effect that the company saved $40,000 in September by use of oil fuel, and that not only was there no intention to abandon oil, but coal-burning locomotives were to be changed to oil burners as fast as the work could be done, the long and able editorial based on the Post-Intelligencer's exclusive news loses something of its availability.

German professors are not likely to grow rich. Seven years ago 191 drew salaries of $250 or less, 87 went as high as $400, 74 up to $1000, 59 to $1500, and 27 to $2000. There were 14 that obtained between that sum and $2500, 15 as high as $4000, 7 up to $5000, and 4 above $5000. It is true that German professors are nominally paid small salaries, but learning is so highly respected that the German professor belongs to a very high social circle, and at every opportunity obtains official recognition and appointment from the government. Furthermore, living is cheaper than in America, and the German teacher is not obliged to indulge in personal extravagance to secure and maintain firm standing in the best of society.

Senator Spooner felicitates the Republican party because its skirts are clear of the strike difficulty, inasmuch as the Administration is powerless to cross state lines. Wonder what party the Senator supposes is in power in Pennsylvania.

John Mitchell.

Chicago Record-Herald.

Even those out of sympathy with the objects and policy of the United Mineworkers' Union cannot withhold from its president, John Mitchell, admiration for the candor, patience and singleness of purpose he has displayed during the prolonged coal strike. From the beginning he counseled moderation in the making of demands, and throughout he opposed anything like a resort to violence in enforcing them. He first sought to obviate the calling of a strike by negotiation, and has consistently advocated arbitration for its settlement. The miners overruled his judgment in declaring the strike, but throughout its continuance they have accorded to his leadership devoted and unfaltering support.

Although accused in certain quarters of all manner of motives and untrustworthiness in act and word, he has borne accusations, misrepresentation and taunts with such fine control of his temper as to win the confidence of the public for himself and the cause he represents. Seldom indeed has it happened that a labor leader's reputation has been enhanced through the conduct of a great strike where the temptation to abuse power seems irresistible.

John Mitchell appears to have avoided the rock of personal ambition and self-aggrandizement that has been the destruction of other leaders, and so he comes out of this struggle infinitely stronger in influence and reputation than when reluctantly he called upon 140,000 mineworkers to quit work.

Post Currency Needed.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

The object of the post check currency is to make the transmission of money in small amounts easier and safer than at present is the case. Bills of the small denominations would be issued with a blank space on the face for the name of the payee. The scheme also includes fractional currency printed in the same way. Instead of making a journey to the postoffice for a money order, or inclosing coin in his letter, with the possibility of its falling out or being stolen, the sender of money under the new system merely has to take a bill from his pocket-book, fill it out and inclose it, just as if it were a bank check. A large number of the leading manufacturers and business men of the country are in favor of the new form of currency. Its creation would injure no one, and would add to the facilities of trade for both seller and buyer. Congressmen should be asked to support it.

"God Give Us Men!"

J. G. Holland.

God give us men! A time like this demands
Strong hearts, great minds, true faith and ready hands—
Men whom the lust for office does not kill;
Men whom the spoil of office does not buy;
Men who possess opinions and a will;
Men who have honor, men who will not lie;
Men who can stand before a demagogue,
And damn his treacherous flatterings without winking;
Pure men, sun-crowned, who live above the fog
In public duty and in private thinking.

CENTENNIAL AND EXTRA SESSION

One Reason Now Invalid.

Salem Statesman.

One of the reasons urged for the calling of an extra session of the Legislature is dissipated by the opinion of the Attorney-General, concluding that the initiative and referendum amendment is now in full force and operative.

Every Reason for Successful Fair.

Heppner Times.

The directors of the Lewis and Clark Fair are now down to work in earnest and propose to make it an Exposition of which Oregon may well feel proud. There is no reason why it cannot be made a success, and the directors seem determined to make it such that it will be a big and permanent advertisement for Oregon.

To Escape the Referendum.

Forest Grove Times.

There is a very strong probability now that a special session of the Legislature will be called soon. It will consist of the member elected in June and holdovers, and will be called to act upon the Lewis and Clark Exposition appropriation, the initiative and referendum amendment and the flat salary proposition. It is thought that the Exposition appropriation may be held up by the referendum amendment, and it is desired to have it acted on at once, so that if appeal is taken to the people and the first appropriation is rejected, another may be made while the regular session is still in progress.

Flat Salaries and Icy Eyes.

Albany Democrat.

It is decidedly interesting to observe the manner in which Portland people have come to the front in favor of an extra session of the Legislature, now that it is ascertained that it would be the most effective way in which to secure a big appropriation for the Lewis and Clark Exposition, regardless of the enormous tax that would be foisted upon the people of the state. When it was only a question of flat salary Portland shrugged her shoulders and looked on with icy eyes. But now that there is something in sight for Portland herself she suddenly becomes a champion. Extra sessions as a rule are very unsatisfactory affairs. Instead of more legislation it is not certain but it would be a good thing for the country if there was less.

He Will Act Soon.

Oregon City Enterprise.

It begins now to look very much as though the Governor would be so importuned that he will convene the Legislature in extraordinary session before the time for the regular session. It has all along been considered the wish of the Governor to take such action, but he has delayed the matter until such time that a popular demand was made upon him. This evidently is coming, and with such force that the Executive will act very soon in the premises. There are, no doubt, many public matters demanding Legislative attention, which should be taken up at a time when they can be acted upon entirely free from the entanglements always existing when a Senatorial contest is on. The demand for a special session is made by the Taxpayers' League, of Portland, composed of some of the best citizens of that city.

A Strictly Portland Affair.

Jefferson Review.

When one remembers that a special could not now be held before December and that the regular session convenes in January, it will be seen that this argument is hardly tenable. As regards flat salaries, that is a matter which does not worry the Multnomah County members a little bit. They don't care a rap whether the salaries are flat or crooked, so long as they secure a $500,000 appropriation for their Exposition, and they figure that there is a much better chance of securing this at a special than a regular session. The Review cannot see a single good reason for calling a special session, while there are many reasons against it, one of the strongest being the many thousand dollars unnecessary expense. Governor Geer poses as a friend of the common people. If he is sincere in his assertions of friendship he will not impose on the taxpayers the additional burden of a special session.

No Extra Session Needed.

The Dalles Times-Mountaineer.

No matter when the Legislature is convened, the Senatorial problem is going to have an influence over that body. In the organization of both Houses, who shall be Speaker and President will bring the Senatorial contest into prominence. It cannot be eliminated. While there could be no vote at a special session, nevertheless the Senatorial question would be discussed and made a basis for trade and barter, therefore it would be the predominant feature. A law passed the middle of January providing the manner of procedure under the amended constitution would be as effectual as one passed in November, likewise an appropriation for the Fair and the enactment of the Portland charter in January will answer all purposes and meet all emergencies. Therefore, there is no extraordinary condition arising to demand the calling of a special session. The expense of $15,000 or $20,000, which it would cost, is needless. It would be a useless burden on the people.

Safety in Delay.

Cottage Grove Leader.

If the session is to be called for the purpose of enacting the flat salary law and completing the initiative and referendum law, well and good; we favor it. But if, as recently hinted in The Oregonian, it is for the purpose of plunging into the pockets of taxpayers to get the $500,000 for Portland, Lewis and Clark Fair before the people have time to think about what the state ought to do for this enterprise, we are "forninst" it. The people are not yet ready to jump right into this Portland scheme, without first knowing something about it, and how the money will be used. Maybe the state ought to give it, and perhaps will cheerfully do so when the proper time comes, but to trump up an extra session just now at the solicitation of a few Fair directors, without first giving the people a little compensation for this gift, in the way of reduction of exorbitant official salaries, or give them a fair shake in the initiative and referendum safety-valve of public expenditure, is asking too much of a long suffering and heavily taxed people. We believe the people will do the right thing, but we know that politicians cannot always be relied on.

Frankly Expressed Opposition.

Salem Capital-Journal.

In contrast with a lot of today newspapers and politicians, Hon. Jeff Myers has the courage of his convictions, and says he is opposed to a $500,000 appropriation. The Journal believes that a reasonable appropriation should be made, and spread over about four years to pay the taxes. In the meantime, there should be changes in the laws, so as to put about the same amount of money in the treasury that the Portland fellows propose to take out. The people have been corrupted by graft politicians and newspapers that stand in for what little pickings they can get from the political crib. But the time has come for the taxpayers to demand that something be done besides levy, levy, levy more taxes. A single blow struck by one public man in this direction would immortalize the individual, and we desire to thank the Hon. Jeff Myers for his sane opinion. He has had experience with several expositions, and knows what they are worth. Would that more men had the courage to express their honest opinions, instead of cowering before the edicts of the Portland bosses, who seem to think all they have to do is ask for what they want, and it will be handed out to them without any thought of returning a dollar to the people.

COST OF THE PANAMA CANAL.

Peter MacQueen in Leslie's Weekly.

At present the idea is to build a canal with locks, but I have no idea that this will ever be done. A sea-level canal is the only one that will finally be feasible. The tide at Panama is 18 feet; the tide at Colon is 18 inches. When our engineers get down into the Culebra cut they will doubtless, very reasonably, report that the locks and gates are great impediments. People here look upon a sea-level canal as a foregone conclusion. By sinking the Culebra cut 18 feet more than the present surveys call for, this result can be obtained. That means $50,000,000 at one clip. Before we have mastered the problems of health, rain, wind and tide, mountain cutting and level dredging, this isthmian ditch will probably cost $500,000,000.

The Colombian government is another question. I had several long conversations with Dr. Mutis-Durrand, the finest product of Colombian civilization, an able jurist, and ex-Governor of the Province of Panama. He opines that all parties in Colombia favor the canal, and favor giving America all reasonable concessions. But even this splendid, broad-gauge Colombian statesman hesitates about passing over to us the jurisdiction of Panama and Colon. Panama City is a Spanish community of 25,000 inhabitants—very charming in situation and romantic in history; but just as unsanitary as can be. As my genial friend, Captain Beers, of the Panama Railroad expressed it, "Between the heavy rains and the buzzards, the streets of Panama are as clean as a whistle."

These, then, are approximately some of the difficulties involved in the constructing of the canal:

First—Immense problems in sanitation.

Second—Great difficulties of climate to be overcome.

Third—Critical diplomatic relations with the Colombian government, which can only be overcome with great patience and toleration.

Fourth—The inevitable increase of expense above the original estimates of cost. The most careful financial observers assure me that the cost of this undertaking, with the expenses attached to its operation, will be to our Government about $12,000,000 a year, while the tariffs resulting from the world's trade will, on the same estimate, give us only $7,000,000, thus leaving a deficit of $5,000,000 a year.

Where Does Wilson Stand?

Spokane Spokesman-Review.

There are four avowed Senatorial candidates in this state, and three of them have declared their views on the railway commission question. Senator Turner, Democrat, is for an appointive commission, as also is Harold Preston, of Seattle. Mr. Ankeny, of Walla Walla, declares his opposition to a commission. The fourth candidate, John L. Wilson, remains silent. His newspaper, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, has repeatedly asserted its opposition to the commission plan of Governor McBride, but Wilson himself avoids all public declaration.

Why this continued silence? Has he made secret pledges to the railroad managers, and is he remaining mum to deceive the people? These are timely questions, and the voters have a right to ask them.

First, because they have a right to know the views of every candidate on questions of public interest and importance; and more especially of candidates for Congressional and Legislative places. Otherwise representative government would become a sham and a delusion.

Second, because the Republican Legislative candidates stand pledged to vote for Wilson for the Senate. Their instructions bind them to continue to vote for him so long as one member of the delegation stands by his side. Nothing short of the unanimous consent of the delegation can release them from this bond.

A vote for a Republican Legislative candidate will, therefore, be a vote for Wilson. But with Wilson silent on the railroad question, no voter can know whether his vote will be cast for the commission or against it. Only one thing is certain—that one side or the other will be deceived. Either Wilson will flimflam the friends and supporters of Governor McBride or he will double cross the railroad interests.

David B. Hill's Socialism.

Harper's Weekly.

Of what avail was it to ignore the demagogic platforms framed at Chicago and at Kansas City and scrupulously to avoid the utterance of Mr. Bryan's name, if the Democratic state convention of New York was to advocate an innovation incomparably more subversive of individual rights and of the social structure reared thereon than any which Mr. Bryan has propounded? Of what avail was it to condemn the constitutional amendment recommended by Mr. Roosevelt if in the same breath the democratic state convention of New York was to advocate an even more dangerous invasion of state rights? We say more dangerous because, while Mr. Roosevelt has proposed to give the Federal Government powers of control over the within-state business of corporations equal and concurrent with the powers already exercised by the states, Mr. Hill has gone much further and has proposed to give the Federal Government what no state has yet dreamed of acquiring—that is to say, the exclusive ownership and exploitation of commodities hitherto reserved for individuals. By his revolutionary proposal Mr. Hill may possibly gain a handful of Socialist votes in the City of New York, but he ought to lose the vote of every old-fashioned Democrat in the state who believes in the Jeffersonian doctrine of state rights, and who sees that the principle of the individual ownership and use of property lies at the core of our civilization.

A Danish Railway Incident.

New York Times.

Along the state railway in Denmark thundered the express. The birds ceased singing as it passed, and the cows cowered in the long grass with agitated horns. Calm and unmoved the gallant stoker stood beside the driver and gazed ahead. Suddenly, his cheek blanched, and he pointed with trembling finger down the line. The driver gasped. There was no possibility of stopping the train, and there in exquisite innocence of its danger squatted serenely upon the track a little chee-ild!

Realizing the situation in the lightning passage of a single second, the gallant stoker grasped the driver's hand in eternal farewell, and then, with a brief but soulful thought of his wife and three tender bairns (for which forgive him), he took a flying leap from the engine and dropped upon his feet. Gathering himself up, the noble fellow began immediately to run, and in a minute shot ahead of the engine, seized hold of the child and dragged it from danger just as the express "thundered" vehemently by. This is a true story, and the stoker has been promoted.

The Younger Tragedy.

Minneapolis Tribune.

Human justice was willing to say that the men caught in the toils in this state should go free after a quarter of a century of expiation behind prison walls—but what does the higher power say? It answers in its own way and in its own time. Who can fathom the stings of remorse that drove the suicide first to madness and then to self-destruction? "The mills of the gods grind slowly, but they grind exceeding fine." Here was a young man gifted by nature with more than ordinary ability and more than ordinary nerve. It is quite probable that he might have made his mark in any legitimate calling. But he fell into evil courses in his early youth. What were his temptations, what the palliation of his offenses, if any, man cannot judge. The laws and institutions of men did award him a certain measure of punishment, but Nemesis said it was not enough, and Nemesis added her grim finale to the tale. Is there any lesson to youth in the tragic story? Those who cannot read it between the lines must be blind indeed.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Open Sunday; blue Monday.

Are cable cars slot machines?

The Chinese quarter is now organized as Sing. Whoop Tong.

President Kilner says he will not retire. Well, where is he, anyway?

Slot machines are not a gambling device. There is no element of chance.

To be late for dinner is a social crime; to be late for theater is social distinction.

"The Wife" follows "Friends" at a local theater. Who says the stage is corrupt?

England is denying Ireland arms. It is presumed that Irish tongues can never be stopped.

Cooks and Winter clothes is hereby announced as the subject for conversation at tonight's concert.

Mr. Lord says Rev. Mr. Blackburn is all right. It is to be hoped this will cast no suspicion on the minister.

If the submarine boat soon to be tested in San Francisco proves successful, California politics will be more inscrutable than ever.

The woman talking loudest tonight during the soft passages will be presented with a silver-mounted megaphone. No entries after 10 o'clock.

For convenience of classification, the names of people injured on the streets may be left henceforward at all drug stores. The killed must be removed within 20 minutes and the Coroner notified.

During the recent illness of her venerable husband, Mrs. Russell Sage had a most strenuous time keeping him at home. Mr. Sage has an idea apparently that he can keep young by not giving himself time to get old. Mrs. Sage does not see it that way, but she declares she had her hands full keeping the aged financier quiet for a few days.

John Sargent, the American artist, beyond doubt the greatest portrait painter in the world, is going to Philadelphia this Winter to paint a portrait of William L. Elkins. The one he made of P. A. B. Widener, another Philadelphian, is a great success. Mr. Sargent speaks German, French, Italian and Spanish, and is besides a fine musician, his improvisations on the piano having won the praise of Madame Calve and the late Sir Arthur Sullivan.

Nikola Tesla, the student of electricity, was drawn for jury duty in New York City, but was excused from service because he is opposed to capital punishment and could not agree to a verdict of guilty when by so doing he would endanger a prisoner's life. Mr. Tesla does not agree with those who would return a verdict of guilty in a murder case while disbelieving in the death penalty, holding that they are not responsible for the law as it stands.

"Bill" Pritz, most famous of moonshiners, in the mountains of Western Pennsylvania, has decided to go on the vaudeville stage, having for years defied Government officers who endeavored to break up his business. For a long time he and a gang under his control made moonshine whisky in the Laurel Mountains, but finally he was wounded and captured in a raid. His term in jail has now been completed, and for a time he proposes to earn some money as a public attraction.

General Dewet, the sturdy Boer leader, carried his independence with him to London and showed it in marked fashion during his interview with Colonial Secretary Chamberlain. The latter addressed him as "Mr. Dewet," whereupon the warrior from South Africa corrected him by saying "General Dewet." Almost immediately afterward Mr. Chamberlain repeated the "Mr." and Dewet said sternly, "General or nothing." Then the suave Chamberlain followed Lord Kitchener's example and recognized the military status of his visitor.

A newspaper man, it is said, wrote recently to a New York advertisers' magazine, asking how much he ought to charge for space in his paper. In a few days the reply came. It was: "Charge all you can get." This recalls the venerable story of the country editor who wrote to all his subscribers asking them for advice as to how to run his paper. He received many replies, some short, most long. Only one man gave the editor really valuable counsel. This wise man sent in his reply on a postal card. It read: "Run it as you d——n please."

A Democratic canvasser called at the house of Susan B. Anthony, in Rochester, N. Y., and, referring to the list which he carried, asked if "S. B. Anthony" happened to be a Democrat. He was gravely answered in the affirmative. A few days later Miss Anthony received a postal urging "S. B. Anthony" to register. The veteran female suffragist sent the Democratic committee a letter in which she said: "In response to a notice of this kind in 1872 I did register, and later I voted. For this I was arrested, fined $100 and sent to jail. You will excuse me if I decline to repeat this experience."

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

"I am told that Mr. Perkasie has proposed to Miss Tenspot," said Miss Frocks. "Election bet?" asked Miss Bunting.—Harper's Bazar.

"Why is she mad at him?" "He didn't pretend when she introduced him to her son that he could hardly believe she was old enough to be the boy's mother."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Mrs. Justwed (house-hunting)—Oh! Charlie, here's the loveliest little linen closet. Janitor (interrupting)—Dat ain't no linen closet; dat's de dining-room.—Detroit Free Press.

Mrs. Dearborn—Have you a speaking acquaintance with that woman next door? Mrs. Wabash—A speaking acquaintance? I knew her so well that we don't speak at all.—Yonkers Statesman.

The musician was talking, and the real estate agent was buried in thought. "It's a symphony in A-flat," explained the musician. "First or second floor?" asked the real estate agent.—Chicago Evening Post.

"I see that at a Louisiana wedding six persons were killed." "I wonder if this can be one of those quiet home weddings that the society reporters are so frequently called upon to describe."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Customer—I think you should begin to charge me half price, Shears, there's so little to cut now. Barber—Other way on, sir, I fancy. We ought to charge double. Look at the trouble I have to find it!—Punch.

Wabash—I wonder what makes old Gotrox dress so shabbily? Monroe—His pride, my boy. Wabash—Why, how's that? Monroe—He's afraid his customers will mistake him for one of his clerks.—Chicago Daily News.

Miss Gushington—Mr. D'Auber was showing us some of his sketches in oil. I think his style is just cute, don't you? Mr. Knox—Oh, I wouldn't say "cute" exactly. Miss Gushington—No? Mr. Knox—No, I should say "artless."—Philadelphia Press.

"How do you like the new butler?" asked Mrs. Cumrox. "I guess he's all right," answered her husband. "If he makes other people feel as small as he does me, I guess there won't be any doubt about our guests being duly sensible of our general superiority."—Washington Star.