AT THE ANTIPODES

Result of New Experiments in Economics.

NEW ZEALAND IS THRIVING

But Merchant Visiting Portland Says It Is in Spite of Paternal Land and Labor Laws—Immigration at a Standstill.

"Wool is still the principal product of New Zealand, but there has been a slump on account of the low price," said F. J. Shelton, a merchant of Auckland and Gisborne, New Zealand, who arrived in the city last night on a tour of the United States and Canada, and is at the Portland. "On account of the drouth in Australia, we have been exporting sheep and beef to Sydney, which has never happened before in the history of the colony. Butter is also becoming one of the principal exports, the increase in this commodity having made up for the loss in the value of wool exported. We also export a great deal of beef, mutton, and especially lambs, to England, and Sir Richard Seddon says we are the butchers of the world. There is a good market for wheat and flax, and everything over there in the way of produce is looking up. We are also producing a little gold. The colony each year for the last six years has shown the largest surplus receipts over expenses of any of the British colonies."

"How does the compulsory arbitration law work?"

"The principle of arbitration is good as long as you can get independent judges. Our system is to have representatives of both sides and a Judge of the Supreme Court as president of the court. The manufacturers are not opposed to arbitration, but to the way in which the law is worked. Seddon himself has said to the workingmen that, if they rode the labor laws to death, they would have to look out. Since then there has been a decided change in the character of the decisions of the arbitration courts. Every trade union would bring the employers before the court, and, while the court would not give the union all it asked, it would always give it something. Arbitration has been a good thing for the manufacturers who are already there, because no more have gone in. Some factories have been closed, and others have been removed to Australia. Wages have gone up, but the price of commodities has gone up also, so that the workingmen, with their increased wages, are not as well off as they were 12 years ago. In one recent case of arbitration at one of the largest gold mines in the country, the employers shut down and let all the work under contract, with the result that the output has increased 25 per cent."

New Land Tax System.

"How does the colony get along with the new system of land taxation?"

"We have got used to the present system and are fairly well satisfied with it. There is a tax based on the government valuation of land, and an additional tax on all holdings over a certain amount, graduated according to the size of the holdings. Another law provides for the purchase by the government of large estates at a compulsory valuation fixed by court appraisers, and for their division into small tracts, which are leased to settlers for 999 years. New Zealand is a very good country, and is capable of carrying a large number of settlers on small tracts, rather than a few big settlers who would run the country on [illegible] The effect of the compulsory [illegible] has been that the owner has his money thrown on his hands to seek a new investment, and he cannot plan to make his home at a certain place and divide the land among his sons, as many men would wish. That law has caused more dissatisfaction than any other, because of the uncertainty it created among landholders. It has worked out satisfactorily for some sellers to the government, where there was a chance of corruption. As the settlers only get a freehold, their credit is restricted and there is no opening for investors to loan money on land. On account of the nature of the title, interest advanced, but the government met this difficulty by borrowing in England and lending to the settlers at current rates.

"It is not good policy to compel settlers to sell half their land. Why not encourage settlers to take up unimproved land instead of compelling old settlers to sell land that is already improved? The new settlers ought to be compelled to go out into the unsettled parts of the country for land, as others have done before them.

"Other measures adopted by the government are generally admitted to be useful if fairly administered. We have an old-age pension law for people aged 60 who have been in the colony a certain number of years, and have not accumulated enough for a living. It is a very useful measure, but if dull times should come, it would cost more than the colony can stand. It was estimated to cost not over £80,000 a year, but it already costs over £200,000 a year.

Seddon Has a Sure Thing.

"We have an election at the end of this month, and Sir Richard Seddon, who has already been Premier through three, if not four, Parliaments, will have a walkover, with a bigger majority than ever. The only hope the opposition has of ultimately winning is that Seddon's majority will be so big that it will break up of itself. The opposition in the last Parliament was so weak that it decided to have no organized opposition, so the individual members confined themselves to criticism of the government measures. Seddon's party is made up mainly of the workingmen in the towns, while the opposition consists of the farmers, landowners and manufacturers, who are opposed to him on account of the factory laws. While Seddon is given credit for the prosperity of the country, it is not due him, but to the farmers, who are his opponents, who have kept at work improving the land.

"What New Zealand wants now is an arrest of legislation, so that it may digest the laws it has. The government should give freehold titles, and give security to them, and should develop the crown and native lands. If the country were not the good country it is, the present extravagant administration would bust it. The population has increased very little indeed, and the last census was quite disappointing. There is practically no new immigration. The unions discourage immigration, because they want to monopolize all the work there is. The country is being developed by its own population. Still there is a big demand for land, and whenever any government land is put up, it is applied for three or four times. There is now an agitation for the basing of taxes on the unimproved value of land.

Surprised at Oregon.

"I was very agreeably surprised to see the country I traveled through in Oregon. I did not expect to see it as well settled, or as good a country, so far as I could judge from the train. I was in San Francisco six years ago, and notice a great change for the better from the style of buildings. The streets are clean and well kept, and the people look prosperous. Six years ago they were a seedy-looking crowd."

Mr. Shelton is traveling in company with A. McCosh Clark, a warehouseman of Auckland, who has formed a decided opinion as to the cause of the difficulty England had in subduing the Boers. He was formerly a volunteer soldier in England, and compares the old country style of soldiering with that practiced in the colonies.

"I saw the yeomanry tactics when I was in England during the Boer war, and the men were evidently just learning to ride. They only learned to ride as men do in the city, while the colonials are all rough riders. If British troops went out to New Zealand to fight the colonials, they would have the same difficulty as they had in South Africa; the colonials could harry them all day and then get away, for the British could only go at a walk, where the rough riders would go at full speed. Chamberlain is one of the best men in the home government, but he did not understand what was needed to fight the Boers. When Australia offered troops, he accepted the offer, but added infantry preferred. Within a month afterward he cabled for mounted infantry."

Mr. Shelton is going through Canada to Chicago and New York and London. Mr. Clark goes to Victoria and Vancouver, then to New York and England.

TO LOG BURNED TIMBER.

Great Area Must Be Cleared Before Decay.

Loggers are looking forward to a very busy Winter. There is a good demand for logs, and there will be more than usual put in the water this Winter. There will be about the same number of camps in operation as usual, but they will be kept running steadier than formerly, with no shutting down for small storms.

In addition to helping keep the market for logs supplied, many loggers are making calculations for getting into timber through which the fire passed last September as soon as possible. Some will accomplish this during the Winter and be ready to begin logging the burned timber next Summer, but it will take others all next Summer to complete building roads, etc.

Between the Cowlitz River and the Cascades there is 2,000,000,000 feet of burned timber tributary to the Columbia, which it is very desirable should be got out within the next two years. Some of this is among the best timber on the Coast. The quality of the lumber manufactured from this timber will not be affected within the next five years, but of course there will be a little more loss in waste than usual, but not a large percentage.

The burnt timber district will be a new district entirely, as far as logging goes. The largest portion of the burnt timber, at least 500,000,000 feet, is tributary to Washougal, some is tributary to the Coweeman and Kalama Rivers, and some to the Portland, Vancouver & Yakima Railroad. All who have timber in the burnt district are anxious to get access to it as soon as possible. When there is a good supply of logs cut this Winter, and a chance for the market being flooded and the price cut down, many will start operations to get into their burnt timber. As soon as the work of logging the burnt timber is begun, the work will be kept up there and all the burnt timber got out as soon as possible, so that there may be as little loss as possible from decay.

S. Benson has returned from his Eastern trip and is getting his logging camps in shape for the Winter's business. He will close one camp at Oak Point on account of the chute down which the logs are sent into the river being so long that in rainy weather the logs get up such speed going down the chute that they split to pieces when they strike the water. He has a lot of timber in the burnt district tributary to Washougal, and will soon be opening the way into it, and others will soon be starting logging roads into the large tract tributary to Washougal.

For the next few years a large proportion of the logs supplied to this market will be from one part or another of the burned-over district, as this timber must all be got out as soon as possible.

TAXES TOO HIGH.

A Voice From Washington County Against the Centennial.

HARRISON, Or., Nov. 2.—(To the Editor.)—I see in your issue of October 25, that the Hon. H. W. Corbett says, that unless the state Legislature will appropriate $500,000 to the Lewis and Clark Fair there will be no fair. If that be the case, I think it better there should be no fair; we are burdened with taxes as it is, and an appropriation of that amount means an additional tax of 14 mills. Now instead of a benefit to the state at large it would be a detriment. There has been a number of intended settlers scared out of the state as it is by our excessive taxes. Now, add 14 mills more and few would want to invest and settle.

And the $500,000 is only a beginning. Let the Legislature appropriate that sum, then comes an appropriation for the St. Louis Fair in 1904, then another appropriation for the fair in Japan.

As for all the benefit to be derived from these fairs to the state at large, I do not believe that it will pay for the investment.

In your editorial in the Sunday issue of October 26, you say that if the Astorian, Woodburn Independent and the Hillsboro Argus correctly represent the attitude of any considerable portion of the Legislature, then special session or no special session, the fair might as well be abandoned. I do not know whether the Hillsboro Argus represents the attitude of the Legislators or not, but I do know that it represents the attitude of at least four-fifths of the taxpayers of Washington County, and if it requires any such sum as $500,000 to make the fair a success, if left to the vote of the taxpayers of the state there would be no fair.

O. R. EDSON.

TO AMEND TAX LAW

County Officials Recommend Changes in System.

WANT LIGHTER PENALTIES

Some Favor Removal of Rebate of Three Per Cent—State Senator Sweek Seeks to Make the Law More Effective.

The tax law enacted by the last Legislature has worked well throughout the state. It has put into operation a highly effective method for assessment and collection of taxes. County officials universally acknowledge the efficiency of the law and the advantage of the new system over the old.

Some of them, however, think that amendments should be made in order to lessen the penalties for delinquency. Others think that the rebate of 3 per cent on taxes paid on or prior to March 15 should be removed, but this opinion is not widely shared. These changes, if carried out, would not alter the essential features of the law, only make it better.

Senator Alex Sweek, of Multnomah County, who had a leading part in framing the law, and who fathered it in the Legislature, has asked Assessors and County Judges throughout the state for suggestions as to how to make the operation of the law more effective. Mr. Sweek has received about a dozen written replies. None of the authors demands extensive alteration of the law. But a strong opinion prevails among them that the penalties for delinquency are too severe.

The penalties prescribed are 10 per cent of the delinquent taxes for the benefit of the county, and 12 per cent interest from the day the taxes become delinquent until they are paid, for "the benefit of the county or other public corporation which shall have an interest in any portion of such taxes." Delinquency begins with the first Monday in April; provided, "that if one-half of the taxes . . . be paid on or before the said first Monday of April, then the time for the payment of the remainder of such tax may be extended to and including the first Monday of October next following, but if the remaining one-half of such tax be not paid on or before the first Monday of October, then such remaining half shall be delinquent, and, besides the penalty, interest thereon shall be charged and collected at the rate of 12 per centum per annum from the first Monday of April preceding."

Proposed Changes in the Law.

The opinion is general that the tax laws should be improved so as to reach personal property more effectually. The Taxpayers' League of Portland is working on a bill to this end. Much personal property, such as merchandise and stocks of goods, is not reached by the Assessor. One improvement suggested is that such kinds of personal property be assessed whenever found, and another is that the taxes be paid when the assessment is made.

It is suggested that the time of delinquency be extended to April 15 and October 15 from the first Monday in those months. These dates would be more easily remembered by taxpayers, and would give Sheriffs more time for collection. As things are now, Sheriffs are hard rushed, and a large force of clerks has to be employed, thus entailing a big expense to the county.

Another proposal is that taxes be paid in full in October or November instead of in March and early April. But this would require extensive readjustment of the fiscal system of the state. The Sweek law goes as far as it can in this direction by permitting half of the taxes to be paid as late as the first Monday in November.

One writer proposes as a way toward raising assessments nearer to real valuations that minimum values be prescribed, and another that lands be assessed when sold. One Assessor laments that he has been unable to get hold of bank stock, and urges that something be done about it.

Senator Sweek on the Law.

Senator Sweek has not yet made up his mind what amendments he will propose, nor is he sure that he will propose any.

"I am trying to get as many suggestions as I can," he said yesterday, "and to ascertain just how effectively the tax system is working. If any changes are advisable they will probably be made in one or all of three directions—first toward reducing the penalty for delinquency, second toward reducing or abolishing the 3 per cent rebate, and third toward taxing kinds of personal property that now escape assessment.

"In other respects than these I do not see the need of any amendments. The object of the present new law is to force the prompt payment of taxes and to offer inducements therefor. I believe the statute has been highly successful in this respect. Delinquency is dealt with severely because this method seems to be the best and reasonable way of discouraging it."

Following are some of the opinions expressed:

How the Law Has Worked.

H. M. Palmer, County Judge of Polk—Extend time of delinquency to April 15 and October 15 for two reasons—first to give the Sheriff more time in the rush that occurs in April, second to make a date that taxpayers would more readily remember. I would suggest also reduction of the penalty to 6 per cent, and the rate of interest on delinquency to 6 per cent per annum, and would advise that the interest charge not date back as it does under the present law. I believe the law thus changed would still have the desired effect in the collection of taxes, and would avoid the appearance of extortion. However, the law is a great success now.

John Fulton, County Judge of Sherman—If the whole of the tax were paid at one time, taxpayers could more easily pay November 1 than April 1, for the reason that the greatest wealth producers of our state are grain, fruits, hops, etc., products that are marketed in the Fall. Money is easier at that time than at any other season.

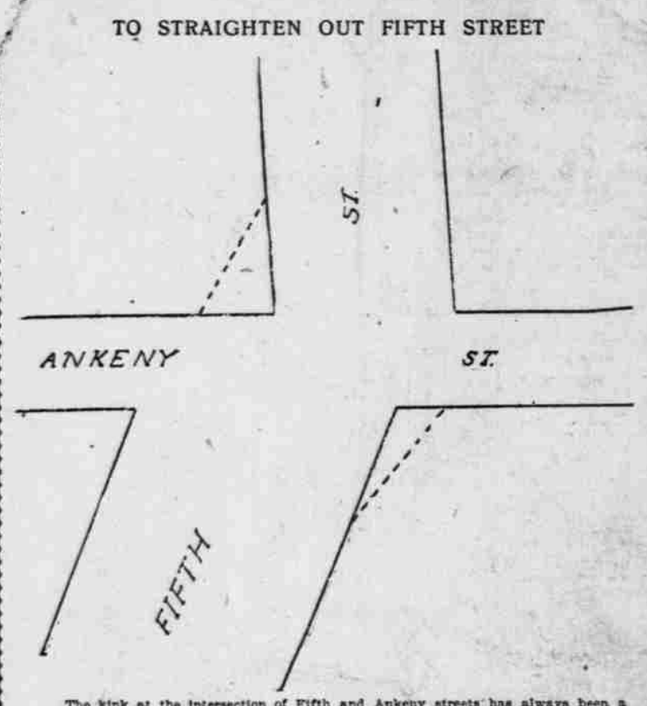
Ben Brown, Assessor of Union County—All state lands should be assessed whenever sold. Bank stock should be assessed to the respective banks where the institutions are located. If we assess to stockholders, they can transfer their holdings to Portland, Salem or other places and avoid taxation. All personal property should be assessed wherever located. I think that when there is nothing but personal property, the taxes should be paid when assessed, particularly on merchandise. Several times in this county owners of stocks of goods have sold and departed, and the purchaser has escaped payment of taxes because he was probably not in the county on March 1, and did not own the goods. I think precinct assessors would work an improvement. The apportionment of the state tax was a great improvement, and I hope will be the means of assessing property at market value. Farmers could pay much easier in the Fall than in April. I think that there should be a commission of not less than three members to appraise real estate, that their values should stand three years, that all property should be assessed at its market value, and that heavy penalties should be inflicted upon assessors who undervalue. There is no reason in assessing property at one-fourth of its real value.

C. W. Carnahan, Assessor of Clatsop County—Articles to be exempted should be enumerated, as there seems to be difference of opinion in regard to the intent of the law. It seems to me the intent is that people of limited means shall be exempt to the value of $300. As the household furniture of poor people commonly does not amount to half that value, I have always exempted other personal property. The $1 poll tax should be abolished. If possible, there should be a minimum valuation in assessing property. We have in this county 35,000 lots assessed at $1 each, while adjoining land is assessed at from $2 to $10 per acre.

H. R. Kincaid, County Judge of Lane—I am not sufficiently familiar with the subject to feel qualified to make suggestions for the improvement of the law.

J. E. Sibley, County Judge of Polk—First, do away with the 3 per cent rebate for early payment of taxes. I can see no good reason for paying a man to do his duty. Second, make the penalty for delinquency lighter; say 8 per cent penalty and 8 per cent interest. Third, in case the Sheriff fails to do his duty in the collection of delinquent taxes, give the County Court power to declare the office vacant and appoint a new Sheriff for the unexpired term. Fourth, give the County Court discretion to sell in any manner it thinks best any lands to which the county has acquired tax title. Fifth, compel school clerks to have amount of any special school levy in the hands of the County Clerk by the 1st of January, so that the clerk can make his extensions immediately after the county levy is made.

TO STRAIGHTEN OUT FIFTH STREET



The kink at the intersection of Fifth and Ankeny streets has always been a source of annoyance both to the street-car companies and the teamsters who have occasion to use that thoroughfare. The Fifth-Street Improvement Club will endeavor to have the matter of straightening the street brought up at the Council meeting Wednesday afternoon. To accomplish the work in question, two triangular plats of land will have to be cut from the two diagonal corner lots at the intersection. It is thought that the property-owners will not resist the work, as it will mean a material advance in value of abutting property.

RECENT ACCESSIONS.

New Books Received at the Library Association of Portland.

Following are the new books received at the Portland Library Association:

Allen, Grant—Story of the Plants.....581A425
*Andrews, Jane—Stories of My Four Friends J590.4A565s
*Arms, K. P.—Stepping to Road; Stepping Stones of Young Children J372.4A768
*Arnold, S. L.—Stepping Stones to Literature J428.6A768
Baedeker, Karl—Paris and Its Environs P914.436B133
*Balch, E. S.—Antarctica 913.9B174
*Baldwin, James—Old Stories of the East J220B181
*Beebe, M. B.—Four American Naval Heroes 923.5B414
Bower, W. F.—Specifications; a Practical System for Writing Specifications for Buildings.....692B786
*Burton, A. H.—Four American Patriots J923.2B974
*Cervantes Saavedra, Miguel de—El Ingenioso Hidalgo Don Quijote de la Mancha S863C419
*Clarke, M.—Stay of Caesar.....jBC128c
*Craik, G. M.—Bow-wow and Mew-mew jC885b
*Dole, J. H.—Crib and Fly; a Tale of Two Terriers jD663c
Emerton, J. H.—Common Spiders of the United States 595.4E53
*Francillon, R. E.—Gods and Heroes.....
.....J292F817
George, M. M.—Little Journeys to Alaska and Canada.....917.98G348
George, M. M.—Little Journeys to China and Japan.....915.1G348
George, M. M.—Little Journeys to Cuba and Puerto Rico.....917.29G348
George, M. M.—Little Journeys to Hawaii and the Philippine Islands.....
.....919.69G348
*Gillespie, William—Land of Sinim; or, China and Chinese Missions....275.1G478
*Haye, C. de la, and Blondel, J.—Nouveau Livre d'Eglise a l'Usage de Rome *264.02H417
*Holmes, O. W.—Grandmother's Story and Other Poems.....jS111H752
Howells, W. D.—Flight of Pony Baker.. .....jH859f
*Indiana—Public Instruction, Department of Literary Selections....370.8I39
Kingsley, N. F.—Four American Explorers 923.9K55
*Longfellow, H. W.—Paul Revere's Ride and Other Poems.....jS111L853p
*Martineau, Harriet—Crofton Boys.....
.....jM385c
Miller, Margaret—My Saturday Bird Class 598.2M649
Millhouse, John—New English and Italian Pronouncing Dictionary..R453.2M653
*Morley, M. W.—Flowers and Their Friends j580M864
*Mowry, W. A., and Mowry, A. M.—American Inventions and Inventors.
.....j608M936
Parker, Sir Gilbert—Donovan Pasha..P229d
*Payne, F. O.—Geographical Nature Studies 372.81P346
*Perez, Escrich, Enrique—El Frac Azul S863P4378
*Perez Escrich, Enrique—Los Matrimonios del Diablo, 4v.....S863P4378m
*Perez Galdos, Benito—Dona Perfecta.. .....S863P438
*Perry, F. M., and Beebe, Katherine—Four American Pioneers.....923.9P462
*Pratt, M. L.—America's Story for America's Children j973.1P916
*Ragozin, Mme. Z. A.—History of the World; Earliest Peoples.....j913R144
*Real Academia Espanola—Diccionario de la Lengua Castellana.....R463R288
*Snedden, G. S.—Docas, the Indian Boy of Santa Clara.....j970.18S671
*United States American Republics, Bureau of—Nomenclatura Comercial; Spanish, English, Portuguese.....
.....R428.2U58n
Wagner, Charles—The Simple Life; tr. from the French.....170W132
*Webster, Daniel—Speech in Reply to Hayne jS813W378s
Wells, H. G.—Sea Lady.....W545s
*Wilson, Mrs. L. L. (W.)—Nature Study in Elementary Schools.....372.3W749
*Wright, Mrs. J. (McN.)—Seaside and Wayside, No. 1.....j590W951
*Wright, Mrs. J. (McN.)—Seaside and Wayside, No. 2.....j590W951s
*Wright, Mrs. J. (McN.)—Seaside and Wayside, No. 3.....j590W951se
*Wright, Mrs. J. (McN.)—Seaside and Wayside, No. 4.....j590W951sea

*Gifts.

FINE PIANOS FOR RENT.

Just now Eilers Piano House is in specially favorable position to furnish fine brand new pianos for rent, for an evening, a week, or by the month.

No advance in prices in spite of increased cost of pianos and increased freight rates.

Ten cents a day will place a good piano in your parlor now. Why not have music in the home? See Eilers Piano House, 351 Washington street.

"Garland" Stoves and Ranges.
Awarded First Prize Paris, 1900, Buffalo, 1901.

Meier & Frank Company

Join our "Willamette" Sewing Machine Club—For full particulars see yesterday's Oregonian, or the salesman will explain it to you.

From Sunday's Oregonian

Important Store News Condensed—Great Bargains in Silk, Suits, Linens, Carpets, Ribbons, etc.

Exceptional values in Ladies' Coats, Costumes, Wraps, Suits, Waists, etc.
Greatest Silk Sale we ever held starts this morning, $1.50 values 97c yard.
Remnants of all kinds of Carpets below cost—Bring size of room.
5000 yards of Satin Ribbons in all colors—No. 9, 12, 16—9c yard.
Ladies' and Children's Winter Underwear, best grade, below cost.
1000 pairs of Ladies' $3.00 Shoes, new styles, at $1.95 a pair.
Men's $3.50 Shoes, all the best Fall styles, $2.88 a pair.
Thousands of yards of 50c and 60c Waist Flannels, 35c a yard.
25 great bargains in all kinds of good Soap.
See yesterday's Oregonian for particulars.

Meier & Frank Company

SMOKE NONUNION CIGARS

UNION MEN PATRONIZE SWEAT-SHOP GOODS.

Many of These Are Trust-Made—Dealers Fear Invasion of Retail Field.

The members of the labor organizations must hereafter inspect the brands of cigars which they smoke. It has been discovered that many brands do not bear the union label and these are the brands that are in particular demand by the laboring people. Among the brands is one which bears the name and the portrait of a well-known man. The cigar is called for pretty generally, and although it has not the blue label it finds a ready sale.

"We must keep it," said the cigar man, "because everybody demands it."

"Where are these cigars made?" was asked.

"In Philadelphia. You will probably remember the great fire there a short time ago when the manager could not give the names of the missing girls and could only place them by numbers?"

"Numbered them like convicts?"

"Just so, and that cigar is called for and we have to keep it because if we do not someone else will and we lose the trade. Look at the —— selling at two for a quarter, and who would think that these same cigars were rolled by little girls in New Orleans who earn probably enough to get their dresses."

"Why do you keep such stock?"

"We have to do it. We have to do it. People want these goods. They are willing to pay 15 cents for a cigar made by the girls in New Orleans, when they will not pay 10 cents for a good home-made cigar."

"But—"

"There are no buts about it. The people want those cigars and they must have them. It does not matter whether the cigars are made in the cigar sweatshops or not. Most of the 5-cent cigars come from the sweatshops, and if you will stand around here long enough you will see a great many people buying these nickel smokes."

"Would goods with the union label bring the same price, nickel or two for a quarter, as the supposed foreign cigars?"

"Oh, no; the cigar goes with the name. The more romantic the name the higher the price of the cigar. The tobacco or the rolling don't count. Have it rolled in New Orleans and call it Havana Fino, and you have a bargain over the counter."

"Is this due to the tobacco trust or are the sweatshops just an ordinary matter?"

"No," reflectively, "the sweatshops are out of the usual run, but they have made an appearance since the trust presented itself. What is the object of the trust? Well, here is my warning:

"'The enemy, if not already, will soon be in your city opening up retail stores. One of their favorite methods is to go to the landlord and lease your stores at a great deal higher figure than you are now paying, in order to drive you out of business. If your lease expires the first of May or a year from next May I would advise you to quietly get a new lease, covering three or five years, so that you may be able to counteract their efforts.'

"The communication was signed by the Cigar Dealers' Association of America, through William F. Crowley, secretary, and was dated from Chicago."

"Does that mean that the trust will crowd you out of business?" was asked the dealer.

"No, the trust will not reach us here, or at least not for several months. With the Dukes and the Ryans and the Cobbs and the Harrisses and the Paynes, it is now running, or trying to run, the jobbing trade of the East, and it is, according to my advices, trying to run a part of the retail trade. It will, unless strings are tightened, get all the jobbing trade, and in time come out West and draw us in the net."

"And make you sell the sweatshop cigars you spoke of?"

"We are selling them now and people seem to want them. They always call for special brands, and we have to give them what they ask for. No, that is not so," in answer to an interrogating look at a cigar passed to a customer, that cigar is anti-trust. You heard him call for it? Yes? Well, he knows a good cigar. He used to smoke some of my three-for-a-half imported up in Seattle and Tacoma and Spokane, but now he has got wise and he smokes anti-trust home-made cigars. Lord! That smoke was good to smell. Wish he had stayed here a while longer. Say, you wouldn't think that was a nickel trust cigar, would you?"

"No, I would not."

"Well, it wasn't. That cigar has a high-sounding and taking name. It is made by the sweatshop girls of New Orleans and it brings 25 cents for two. He calls for them every day."

GOOD HUNTING WEATHER

Six Parties Return From Vancouver With Big Strings of Ducks.

The first returns from the Sunday's shooting were brought in last evening by six parties which had been shooting along Columbia Slough. Most of them had their ducks with them on the car, and all had made big killings. The score for parties of four ran from 125 to 175. The party which shot at the Gertz place, near Vancouver ferry, had one of the largest strings, including a great number of mallards. All reported the ducks as very fine, and all were pleased with their luck, which slightly exceeded their expectations. The day had been rough, but the hunters were all dry and warm, having been prepared for a rough day, with rubber coats, pants, boots and hats, and heavy sweaters. It is probable that the same sort of shooting will be reported from points all the way down the river to Deer Island, when the hunters get in this morning. The hunters who shoot out on Columbia Slough have an advantage over all others on the river in having an electric railway to go and come on. Those who go down toward Kalama patronize the Astoria Railroad, but the gangs which shoot on Sauvie's Island have to go and come on a steamboat.

THE MONUMENTAL MISTAKE

Can the People of the Pacific Coast Save Themselves From It?

PORTLAND, Nov. 1.—(To the Editor.)—Now that Colombia has again marked up the price of her strip of mud into which French engineers have been for 20 years vainly emptying the savings long hoarded in French stockings, it would be a good time to again warn the President and others against a Panama Canal, or the butt end of one, which the French company offers for sale.

Senator Mitchell has well characterized this monumental mistake—the decision to purchase the Panama hole in the ground—as the blunder of the century.

Lewis M. Haupt, whose opinions are, by reason of his achievements as an engineer, entitled to outweigh those of the other members of the Canal Commission, has declared that if the Panama Company's rights and property could be secured gratis it would be wise to decline them and take the more northern route, and he shows good reasons why.

Quoting from one of The Oregonian editorials:

"The Panama route lies in the region of equatorial calms, which debar sailing vessels from access to Panama without great expense for towage, while the Nicaragua route lies in the region of the trade winds, which also contribute to the salubrity and comfort of this route. . . . Because of the difficulties of navigating the Bay of Panama, no sailing vessel entered or cleared there during the past year."

The entire editorial, which was a summary of Mr. Haupt's arguments, should be republished.

To the arguments made by Mr. Haupt and others I would add these:

First—Mr. Haupt being an engineer selected from among our 50,000 or more civilian engineers, while the Government's engineers were selected from among only a few score or hundred, his opinions should count for much more than that of a Government engineer.

Second—The movement toward sailing vessels will grow more rapid as coal and oil fuel increases in price, which increase is natural and can be assumed as certain. Many predict that in 50 years nine-tenths of ocean tonnage will be sail.

Third—If wave power were used for propulsion, as it should be and is pretty sure to be soon, steam vessels would practically disappear from the ocean in a few years—in all probability before the Panama Canal is completed. A sigh of regret 4000 miles long will then reach across the country, but alas, too late!

A demonstration of the great superiority of wave power over steam for propulsion could be made for $500; a mere trifle. Once made and indorsed by the Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade of the Pacific Coast, it would serve as a very loud warning against the Panama route and perhaps knock it out. This demonstration should be made immediately. I am willing to make it myself when one or more of your citizens stand ready to repay my outlay upon a decision of three other of your citizens that seagoing vessels should use wave power in place of steam. And there are other methods which may be better than mine, which mine would draw out.

The ocean is a vast field of free power, its waves being wind power stored up in condensed form. It is a great waste for vessels traveling over it to use fuel for power. A wave is a waterfall. Waves will soon be utilized, but not in time to put the isthmian canal in the right place, unless one or two Pacific Coast citizens act quickly, and so I come to tell you. Even should the demonstration spoken of fail to turn the authorities from Panama, it would, if successful, be worth millions of dollars to Portland, as can be shown, if desired; and if not successful I would be the only loser. S. N. STEWART.

TO SPEAK ON 1905 FAIR.

Mrs. J. B. Montgomery Will Address Portland Women.

Mrs. J. B. Montgomery, one of the Woman's Board of the World's Fair, will talk to the women of Portland on exposition matters at the Unitarian Chapel, on Tuesday evening, November 4, at 8 P. M. Mrs. Montgomery is very enthusiastic on the subject of the Lewis and Clark Centennial, and the position that Oregon should occupy at the World's Fair. There are also other details in connection with the advertising of the state which will be presented by Mrs. Montgomery. Governor and Mrs. Geer will be present on this occasion, and other prominent people out of Portland. The directors of the Lewis and Clark Fair are especially invited to attend.

Mrs. Montgomery will leave this week for New York, where she will attend a meeting of the Woman's Board of the World's Fair Commission, to be held at the home of Miss Helen Gould.

DOES THE PROPER THING.

O. R. & N. Makes Very Low Rate for the Irrigation Gathering.

In order that Eastern Oregon will be well represented at the irrigation meeting in Portland, November 17, the O. R. & N. has decided to make one fare for round trip. Tickets on sale November 17.

Merit wins, and this is the reason for the unequaled popularity of Hood's Sarsaparilla.

TO GO AFTER SETTLERS?

QUESTION OF AN IMMIGRATION BUREAU AGITATED.

Business Men Will Be Asked Their Views—Cost Would Be in the Neighborhood of $30,000.

The subject of an immigration bureau is agitating the minds of a number of gentlemen. Among them are Seneca Smith, Colonel Frank Drake, J. M. Moore, William Killingsworth, I. G. Davidson, A. L. Craig and R. B. Miller. This committee was named by President F. E. Beach, of the Board of Trade, about two weeks ago. It has held several meetings lately to resolve upon what to do, and has decided to call a conference with business men of the city.

The object before the committee is the creation of a bureau to distribute information about Oregon among people in the East who desire to locate homes in Oregon, and to receive them at Portland and guide them to suitable locations. Just now newcomers have nobody to direct them in their quest for homes. They come into the city, strangers in a strange land. To give them information that they require would be one of the important duties of the bureau.

Another duty would be that of working up sentiment in Eastern communities for immigration to Oregon. Several members of the committee feel that the Harriman Immigration Bureau will not cover the work on the lines which a bureau with headquarters at Portland could follow. It is pointed out that 60 per cent of the homeseekers who come to Portland go on toward Puget Sound on the Northern Pacific.

Plans have been discussed for organizing the bureau on lines similar to those on which the Oregon Immigration Bureau was conducted from 1887 to 1891. In the five years of its existence that bureau expended over $200,000. All this money was raised by public subscription. Ellis G. Hughes had a leading part in the work of this bureau. Not less than $30,000 would be required for a similar bureau now. Inasmuch as the merchants of Portland would be called upon to contribute largely to a fund of this kind, the committee will ask them for their views on the matter.

The subject is an outgrowth of that of an enlarged permanent exhibit. The need of such an exhibit is universally acknowledged. The Terminal Company has agreed to provide rooms in Union Depot for an exhibit. The plan under discussion now is that of carrying out together this project and that of the immigration bureau.

TWO MEN ROB A THIRD.

A. H. Ward Sees a Hold-Up—Victim Disappears—Two Men Arrested.

What looks like a hold-up case took place last night about 8 o'clock, on East Morrison street, near First, but the victim disappeared as soon as his captors released him, and his name is not known. A. H. Ward, one of the officers stationed at the Salvation Army Barracks, East Side, was walking up Morrison street when, in the rain and darkness, he saw two men pounce on a third one. The victim yelled, and his captors quickly dragged him to a dark corner on the opposite side of the street, where his struggles became fainter. Then the two hold-up men ran one way, and the victim ran in the opposite direction. Not wishing to be mixed up in the fray, Ward walked into a store and telephoned what he had seen to the police station. On coming out, he met Policeman Reising, to whom he related the occurrence.

"Would you know the hold-up men again, if you saw them?" asked the policeman, and Ward stated that he would. Just then a man happened to cross the street, and Ward said: "That looks like one of them." Reising got hold of the stranger, and turned him over to Policeman Wilson, who had arrived on the scene, the stranger giving his name as John Stewart. Reising then went in search of the second man, and arrested Paul J. Flanagan in a near-by saloon, on Ward's description.

Both Stewart and Flanagan were taken to the police station, where Ward stated that they resembled the men who had attacked the stranger. Both prisoners denied any knowledge of the affair, but got muddled up when they stated the time they had been in the neighborhood of East Morrison and First streets. They said they both lived on a scow on East Washington street. No money or valuables were found in their possession, and they were detained on suspicion, until the case against them can be inquired into.

In the meantime, the police wish that the man who was attacked will call at the police station and see if he can identify the prisoners.

SPECIAL FOR THIS WEEK

Owing to the backwardness of the season, and the fact that we have a large stock of high-grade shoes on hand that we must sell this Fall, we are going to make the following sweeping reductions for one week:

Men's $4.50 grade.....$3.95
Men's $4.00 grade.....$3.55
Men's $3.50 grade.....$3.15
Men's $3.00 grade.....$2.65
Men's $2.50 grade.....$2.15
Men's $2.00 grade.....$1.65
Women's $3.00 grade.....$2.35
Women's $2.50 grade.....$2.20
Women's $2.00 grade.....$1.70

Stockings free with each pair of Children's Red Schoolhouse shoes. They wear well. M. Billings, 229 Morrison.