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Portland, Thursday, April 20, 1905. THE SURE WAY TO VINDICATION. For many reasons it is desirable that the charges alleged in the indictments pending in the United States Court at Portland should be cleared up and disposed of as quickly as possible.

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W. J. BRYAN ON PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT.

Mr. Bryan, in his Jefferson banquet speech at Chicago, and in the article he has just published in the widely circulated pages of Public Opinion, has favored the Nation with his ideas about President Roosevelt. He has suggested the questions which he thinks the President has to meet, but the curious fact is that he starts his article with the query, "Has the President the courage to be a reformer?"

The reformer must be prepared, according to Mr. Bryan, to deal with imperialism, the labor question, and the money question—some time or other. Adroitly he postpones them now. The recent election has carried conviction to every mind, except those of Mr. Bryan and his followers, that as to imperialism, little more than the usual money question—two of his reservations—the Nation is conclusively with the President and against his mentor.

He names the railroad question, the trusts and the tariff. In the first he speaks as his ideal a "really effective rate measure." Is this all? Mind, the question is not whether we shall see such a measure passed, but whether the President has courage to press it. Does any reasonable man doubt that?

What an all-covering word is the trust in Mr. Bryan's vocabulary! Like charity, it covers a multitude of sins. Sometimes monopoly, always robbery, invariably oppression, its adherents are "trust-busters" and the remedy for all its evils is "extirpation." Either an executioner than a reformer, is required by Mr. Bryan's gospel. What an old-style Calvinist, what a dyed-in-the-wool prohibitionist, is wasted in this advocate of the idol he has set up and calls reform. "Thorough" is his motto, death and destruction his battle-cry.

Further, the cases ought to be tried to a result in order that the Senator and Representatives may again feel at liberty to take their seats in Congress at the first opportunity. Till these cases are tried out they cannot, because any defects that might be found on technical points in present indictments might be expected to bring another grand jury on the scene; indictments holding over would still keep the members out of their seats in Congress, and they would remain without the vindication to which respect for their integrity and position entitles them.

On these cases there has been a great haze of trumpets, all over the land. What the great public wants, and what the people of Oregon especially want, is presentation of the testimony in full on which these accusations are made. It doesn't matter much in what special form it may come—whether through technical pleadings of one kind or another. What is wanted is the evidence which the prosecution professes to have. No doubt the accused are anxious to have it laid in full before the country, so that their own vindication may be sure and complete; and doubtless, after some further skirmishing with Mr. Heney, so as to get the proper points on his quality as a fighter, they will be ready to withdraw plea in abatement, objections by demurrer and motions to quash, and renew the declaration that they want early trial on the merits, challenge the prosecution to "come on with its bears," and calmly await the vindication sure to come to innocent, honorable and worthy men.

to be able to run, catch, throw, swing a club and "boiler." Baseball appeals naturally to the American boy, just as the doll appeals to the European child.

Baseball retains its hold because it is a mainly sport, and, though it is in the hands of professionals, has been kept remarkably clean. As played today, the game requires strength, endurance, strategy, nimbleness, esprit de corps and the fighting spirit. To cover any infield position well requires the use of many muscles than any other form of athletics.

In the uncertainties of the game lie its chief drawing power. Much as a man may like a sport, he wouldn't care to see forty or fifty exhibitions of it in five months, unless the result of a contest were involved in doubt. With only two players out of the eighteen changed, little novelty in the personnel presents itself to a spectator who attends on successive days.

The County Court is asked to oil the Linnton road. The petition is backed by important taxpayers who think the expense justified in order that this beautiful driveway may be made as attractive as possible.

The Canadian government is at last considering the question of establishing a lifesaving station on the west coast of Vancouver Island. It would appear that if such a station were established on the west coast, it would be a most desirable one.

Clatsop County has secured possession of the tollroad between Seaside and Elk Creek, and orders have been issued to repair the bridges and place the road in good condition for the summer travel.

Lord Mayor Dunne, of Chicago, has written his own epitaph: "Here lies the body of EDWARD F. DUNNE. He died a poor man, but was the father of municipal ownership and of children."

Big Diamond by Post. According to the new London paper, The Evening Standard, the great Cullinan diamond, valued at over £500,000, was recently sent by registered post from South Africa to London for three shillings.

The Ways of Maine. Thomas W. Lawson tells of a friend who had taken a trip up to the Maine woods for a day's hunting. The hunter's time being limited, he wished to crowd as many hours into a day as was possible, so he ordered the hunter the little backwoods hotel to call him at 4:30 in the morning.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Rejestyevsky may be delaying to get the latest scores. The little Indianapolis newboys who sold "extrys" with an account of the fatal panic in which the newbies had themselves been a few minutes before are typical members of their profession.

Columbus was a humbug, says an Eastern paper, in the light of recent discoveries. Spain believes him something worse than a mere humbug, an out-and-out bunco man.

Eastern magazines lead us to believe that when an artist produces a picture that won't do for anything else, he labels it "Easter" and sells it to the editors for use as a cover design or a frontispiece.

It cost \$22,000, it is said, to produce the Nan Patterson trial. Now that the empire comes again and cries aloud "Play Ball!"

Portland stuttered a little at the start. Chinatown is to be cleaned up or cleaned out. Referring to Portland's justly famous "Golden Singers," the New York Evening Sun says: "Talk about discrimination! Are the fair-haired women being crowded by the brunettes, that is, is it necessary to make the possession of locks of a carry hue a ground for special treatment?"

Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria has issued an edict prohibiting girls and young women attending the public schools from wearing corsets. No wonder the disappointed girls that the pupils affected and their female relatives are in a storm of rebellion against such an order, even if it is based on a desire to promote their health.

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WEST COAST LAND GRABBERS.

How They Have Fraudulently Acquired Millions of Acres in Oregon and California. From an article by Bailey Millard in Everybody's Magazine for May.

John A. Benson was a man of hypnotic power. It was not long before a nod of his head or a wave of his hand meant more in the land offices than many a ream-long petition, with every word and phrase made up in a close study of the law. He knew what he could do and what he could not do. During all his gigantic operations in the West for the past 24 years, in which over 5,000,000 acres have been tied up as the result of his pernicious activities, he has never really been within the grip of the law.

Benson took out contracts to the amount of \$100,000 for the land, which he would not know a solar compass if he saw one. So readily did the officials fall in with Benson's schemes that they accepted bonds of surveyors from mere clerks, medical students, car conductors and others, wholly without worldly goods. Rarely was an oath of office required. Surveyors of 17 or 18 years of age were appointed for whole seasons the field work of the Benson gang was the merest sham.

Benson soon became a rich man and enlarged the field of his usefulness from year to year. His operations were over Oregon, Nevada, Utah and Arizona. It was in California, however, that he exerted his baneful activities to their utmost. It was there, too, that his voice was loudest. If he had to make a statement, it was a "stunning statement." One asks what school of law this comes from. We never suspected before that the Sun was read by quite serious persons.

Jefferson and the Canal. Seattle's "Under World." From a letter to M. de Roy, Paris, disseminates British money surveys. Shocked to see and pained beyond expression, to see in Seattle papers a terrible description of the "under world district" of that city, visited on Monday night, by the revisitors, under direction of Dr. Chapman.

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