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PORTLAND, MONDAY, MAY 22, 1905.

ROOSEVELT AND CONGRESS.

We shall hear something during the next session of Congress about the Executive usurping the legislative functions of the Government; but in the present state of the public mind we scarcely know what the eminent statesmen in the Senate who no longer control the destinies of the Nation are going to do about it. The President asked for ratification of the Santo Domingo treaty, and the Senate failed to do it; but the United States is going ahead anyhow to collect the revenues of the bankrupt island republic. The President asked for efficient railroad rate legislation, and the House passed the Esch-Townsend bill; but the Senate parleyed for time, wanted to investigate, referred the question to a committee, and will defeat the whole Executive project if it dares; but the President is going to abolish secret rebates anyhow, and perhaps do more. The President saw that the protective tariff imposes, in some of its schedules, particular hardship on the consumer, and in others confers inordinate benefits on the manufacturer, and he ventured to suggest a revision. The standpatters went at once into a panic, and Congress did nothing. Now we are confronted by a deficit for the year of something like $30,000,000, and there must be either tariff revision or new revenue legislation, or both. Thus the President will have his way.

President Roosevelt asked Congress for Panama Canal legislation. He told the story of his request and Congress' failure to comply at his recent Iroquois banquet speech. The incident is thus reported in the Chicago Tribune:

> The President said: "I wanted Congress to give me power to remodel the commission. It did not do it." Then he paused, and, with an indescribable expression of amusement, which proved to be infectious throughout his audience, added, "I remodeled it, anyhow." He paused again, and, turning to Mr. Dickinson, to whom he was pointedly addressing this part of his remarks, he said in a stage whisper—"purely in the exercise of my executive functions." Only those who heard the President's speech could appreciate the full significance of his phrase, "I remodeled it anyhow." There was everything in the expression and comparatively little in the words, as they were modified by the subsequent and qualifying phrase, "purely in the exercise of my executive functions." It was a thoroughly Roosevelthian episode.

But the President is wise in his generation. He does not intend to ride roughshod over Congress. For example, the high protective stand-patters were in mighty agony when Secretary Taft announced that the Government would buy Panama Canal supplies, ships and machinery in the world's markets. The inevitable result of such a policy would have been a direct conflict between the Administration and Congress. Legislation in line with the good old-fashioned Government method of buying in the world's markets at a low price only when you can't buy at home at any price would doubtless have been enacted. So the Taft order will be carried out to the extent of buying for the present what must be had and giving Congress a chance to be heard later, if it desires. President Roosevelt is with the Secretary in the spirit and purpose of his order; but he is sagacious enough not to pick a quarrel with Congress. We shall see whether Congress will venture to pick a quarrel with him on this very tender subject.

But some gentlemen will complain loudly that President Roosevelt is proceeding on the theory that he is the whole United States Government. In a certain sense he is. By as much as the United States Senate has recently lost prestige and the National respect and confidence, by so much, and more, has President Roosevelt acquired it. The Roosevelt policy is to determine carefully what should be done, and to do it. The things Congress has not done it should have done, and Congress knows it. So does Roosevelt. He knows, too, that Congress must and will back him up, sooner or later, in all the important policies, foreign and domestic, he has formulated and in part executed. Thus he goes ahead—"purely in the exercise of his executive functions."

RECIPROCITY OR RETALIATION?

The speech of Secretary of the Treasury Leslie M. Shaw, at Cleveland, Saturday night, in many respects was so similar to the one he made at the banquet of the railway men at Washington the week previous, that it would seem to indicate that he desires to make it appear that the Administration had decided on a policy not at all friendly to reciprocity. In his speech before the railway men, the Secretary explained that the purpose of our tariff policy was to reserve for Americans "a large measure of the commerce incident to supplying the wants and needs of our own people." Our foreign commerce he patronizingly mentioned as "that which we yield to others." In his Cleveland speech, Saturday night, the Secretary said:

> I cannot believe that any country seriously considers imposing new and severe discriminations against the people of the United States. Such action would be most unfortunate from every point of view to both countries. Certain it is that the United States has done nothing and will do nothing to invite such a course.

Assuming that there might be a possibility of some adverse action on the part of other nations, the secretary outlines four methods by which the prospective discriminations might be offset. The first of these policies is nothing more or less than a continuation of the present high tariff. The second is a sarcastic "slam" at reciprocity. To quote the Secretary: "I think they call this reciprocity." The third is to reduce materially all tariff schedules, "leaving it to the magnanimity of others to emulate our example." The Secretary, "without expressing an opinion as to the merits of the proposition," gives it a hard blow by adding that "even the free-trade policy of Great Britain does not exempt her from discriminations by countries which adopt the discriminating policy."

The fourth policy, which in effect is one of retaliation, seems to strike the Secretary quite favorably. The amendment providing for this method of getting even with the foreigners has already been prepared and was read by the Secretary at Cleveland. In brief, it is a demand that we must be granted the same terms by foreign countries which they give to others, regardless of our own attitude on the tariff. This, in effect, is a refusal of reciprocity and a threat at retaliation, if we are not included in the "favored nation" class.

Theoretically we are in a position to enforce such a policy, but it is a question where we would be gainers by such action. Secretary Shaw seems to think that in "yielding to others," by which is meant the foreigners, we are conferring on them a special favor, and yet it is not clear that our people bought anything of which they were not in need, and which it was not to their advantage to purchase abroad. There is a considerable degree of common sense in the admonition, "when you are in Rome, do as the Romans do." The immediate cause of the present uneasiness over a change in trade conditions is the demand of Germany for a little fairer treatment in our commercial transactions with that country. It is quite clear that when we are trading with Germany we must do as the Germans do.

Germany is quite favorably impressed with reciprocity, so much so that she has concluded reciprocal treaties with seven other nations of Continental Europe, and a revised tariff between the interested countries goes into effect next March. Russia is one of the countries involved in the new reciprocity deal with Germany, and it is natural to expect that her grain and other exports will be admitted into Germany on much better terms than will those of the countries which refuse to enter into reciprocity with that country. Secretary Shaw thinks such discrimination "would be most unfortunate from every point of view to both countries," but it is not apparent where Germany would suffer by it. We are already forcing her to climb over a lofty tariff barrier in order to reach our markets, or, to be accurate, we are forcing our consumers to scale the barrier in order to get what they need from the Germans.

Tariff revision will be a very important question before the next Congress, and it is not reassuring to find the Secretary of the Treasury opposing a revision with reciprocal leanings. We are not a "hermit" nation, and so long as we are trading with the rest of the world, we must extend fair treatment if we expect it in return.

REDUCING RISK IN WHEAT TRADE.

Within sixty days, new-crop wheat from the Oregon and Washington fields will reach tidewater at Portland and Puget Sound, and for the first time in May, since inception of the business, not a single ship has been chartered for new-crop loading. Half a dozen years ago, exporters began in January, and even in November and December, to charter ships to carry away wheat that would not be available for six to ten months. This was a practice that had been in vogue for more than thirty years, and was established at a time when the world's supply of tonnage was so limited that shippers were forced to secure their supplies many months in advance. The increasing supply of tonnage, especially in vessels propelled by steam, is largely responsible for this radical change in the method of handling the grain business, and the change will certainly be welcomed.

In no other branch of the grain business does the element of chance enter to such a large extent as in that of "chartering to arrive," and unlucky ventures of this nature have ruined more Pacific Coast wheat operators than anything else in connection with the grain trade. With the abandonment of this at one time highly necessary form of "gambling" departs the opportunity of the farmers to "hold up" the exporter. The attenuated list of grain vessels en route offers no inducement for the farmer to hold his wheat, secure in the knowledge that the exporter must either pay a high price for the wheat or else pay demurrage on the ship he has chartered and cannot fill.

The few remaining operators who have not had their financial life ground out between the millstones of the farmer and the shipowner, as well as the new men who have entered the field, have solved the problem with the tramp steamer. In the old days, when we were dependent entirely on the sailing vessels for moving the grain crop, it required many months to assemble the fleet, which was necessarily drawn from all parts of the world. But the tramp steamer, regardless of wind and weather, can churn its way round the world so rapidly that it is always available on short notice, and as a freight regulator it is unequalled.

There will still be plenty of sailing vessels in the Pacific Coast grain trade, for in many respects they possess advantages over the steamer, but they will never again be chartered to arrive in such numbers or so far in advance as in the past. The wheat business, no matter how carefully it is conducted, not infrequently drifts dangerously close to the line of "gambling," and elimination of the necessity for speculating in ships lessens the hazard involved quite materially. In time it will also have a tendency to lessen the risk assumed by the farmer when he refuses a good price for his wheat for no other reason than that he believes that the exporter "must have it" to meet tonnage engagements.

THE FIRST OF JUNE.

The first of June is near at hand. It will mark the opening of the greatest Exposition ever held west of the Missouri River. It will be in some respects the most noteworthy day in the history of the Pacific Northwest. Many thousand visitors will behold for the first time the fruit of the long, earnest and expensive effort by the people of Oregon to assemble in one mighty display the industry, art, science, history and material achievements of one hundred years. The eyes of the whole world will be focused here. The Nation will be interested in knowing what has been done, and how well it is done, and especially if the widely-proclaimed announcement that the Fair is ready on time is true. It will be important, too, to show that the hopes and the pride of Portland, Oregon and the Northwest are all centered in the Fair, and that every citizen is, first of all, anxious and willing to contribute his share to insure its certain success. To that end every person in Portland who can possibly attend the Fair on the opening day should by all means do so. Leading men of the Nation will be here. They are to take part in the opening exercises. If it shall appear in the news reports sent to all parts of the United States and Canada, and even abroad, that there was in Portland a mighty outpouring of enthusiastic people, much good will have been done.

The First of June is a legal holiday. It should also be made a commercial holiday. Business houses should close. The city should be decorated throughout. Let all whistles be blown at noon. Everybody wear a rose. Let all go to the Fair, and hit the Trail in the afternoon.

GAINING SCHOOL LANDS.

In dispatches from Washington, published in Saturday's Oregonian, an official of the Land Department expressed the opinion, unofficially, that the State of Oregon will be permitted to select indemnity lands in lieu of the unsurveyed school sections in the new Wallowa forest reserve. If this should be the final decision of the department, Oregon will profit thereby to the extent of about $200,000, for it is estimated that there are 40,000 acres of unsurveyed school lands in the reserve.

The reason why indemnity lands should be allowed on unsurveyed school sections and not on surveyed sections is plain. The state secures its school lands through a grant from the Government, but title does not pass until the lands have been surveyed. The grant provides for selection of indemnity lands where any of the school sections have been disposed of. Now, if the Government withdraws from sale, entry or other disposition all its lands in a certain area, the withdrawal will include unsurveyed school sections, for the reason that the title still remains in the Government. Because of their location, these lands have no present market value, but if the state be permitted to select other lands in their stead, the lands selected will find ready sale at $5 an acre. In all the proposed reserves the surveyed sections have been bought up by persons who had advance information regarding the Government's plans, but the repeal of the lieu-land law will prevent their using these surveyed sections as base for the selection of lieu land. The unsurveyed sections were not bought, because the state sells no unsurveyed land. If the Secretary of the Interior should decide that the state may select indemnity lands for the school sections in the Wallowa reserve, his decision will be supported by good reason.

The State Commission and the Fair Corporation have different ideas about some phases of Exposition management; but the dispute is not serious. The commission thinks the corporation has gone ahead without consulting it fully and freely, and without referring certain matters to it for ratification or indorsement, or otherwise, as the law seems to provide; the corporation doesn't very well see how there can be two heads to one concern, and besides, it interprets the law differently, and is fortified in its position by an opinion of the state's Attorney-General. The controversy is in process of adjustment, and it will be adjusted, because everybody is anxious that it shall be. The commission regards the success of the Fair as paramount to every consideration as to how potent a voice any individual shall have in the management, and the corporation takes the same view. If any timorous citizen has been concerned for fear that this little teapot tempest will in any way jeopardize the complete success of the Exposition, he can be fully reassured that there is no danger.

The report that the Western Pacific, which the Gould interests are building to the Coast, will reach Portland and Puget Sound territory probably has much foundation in fact. The route, as outlined in a Boise dispatch in yesterday's Oregonian, would tap a very rich timber and agricultural belt in Central Oregon, and the country traversed would supply an enormous traffic as soon as the road was built. The appearance of Mr. Gould in this field would be hailed with genuine pleasure by all commercial interests in the Pacific Northwest. The record of George Gould as a railroad man is a good one, and he has never yet been bluffed or beaten out an any of his big projects. If the railroad magnates who have been juggling with our commercial interests for the past dozen years had possessed nerve of the Gould character, the railroad map of the Northwest would be a different affair from what it now is.

The correspondent who replied, in a communication yesterday, to The Oregonian's remarks on Judge Frazer's decision in the Taylor case, quite misunderstood what was said. The Oregonian did not at all assert that the color line should be drawn in theaters or anywhere else; nor did Judge Frazer so hold. He did declare in effect that a theater ticket is a license and that the proprietor may revoke it for any reason that seems to him sufficient. It would be quite as reasonable to say that he must not charge different prices for different seats as to say that he must not in any way classify his patrons. It is not with the theater-owner a matter of prejudice; it is self-protection and self-interest, and in line with the wishes and desires of his patrons. Furthermore, it is difficult to understand why any citizen, white or black, will insist on going where he is not wanted, and paying for it.

It is not every boxcar burglar that can get the British government to intercede in his behalf, and for that reason Mr. William Smith, a British subject, temporarily sojourning at Walla Walla, may feel quite flattered although not free. The Attorney-General of the State of Washington has informed British Consul Laidlaw that the trial and conviction of Mr. Smith was all in due form, and the only crooked thing in connection with it was Smith himself. If Mr. Smith has any desire to prolong the discussion, he might enter a complaint about the food served or the laundering of the napkins at the penitentiary. On release from the penitentiary Mr. Smith will undoubtedly confer a favor on the Washington authorities if he will return to the protection of the government to which he so successfully appealed for an investigation.

The Loomis-Bowen scandal seems to be fizzling out. Minister Bowen made serious charges against his predecessor in office, the present Assistant Secretary of State, and he has signally failed to make good. He makes the plea that he never intended to appear as the accuser of Mr. Loomis, but he forwarded to the department such rumors as he heard, in the course of his duty. This will hardly satisfy either the President or Secretary Taft, especially when there is good reason to believe that Bowen gave out at Caracas for newspaper publication the supposedly damaging revelations against Loomis. It would seem that Minister Bowen is a good man to have out of the diplomatic service.

The City of Seattle and the State of Washington differ regarding the legal status of that time-honored bunko game known as fortune-telling. The city collected a license of $50 from one of these seers who could not peer far enough into the future to see what he was going up against, and the state arrested him as a vagrant. After paying his fine, he demanded the return of his license fee, and it was refused. Seattle was apparently proceeding under the belief that it was legitimate to bunko a bunko man. If this incident is sufficiently advertised, there will be no overflow of the Portland bunko men to Seattle.

Because the members of the Eugene High School baseball team disobeyed rules laid down for them by the school authorities, they have been forbidden to participate in any more games this year. Some of the boys propose to play anyway, and one of the Eugene papers encourages them by saying that business men of the city are in sympathy with them. That's right, boys—defy the School Board, violate the rules, break your promises, and then, as you grow older, defy officers of the law, overturn government, have everything your own way. Damn authority, damn law, damn everything but your own free wills.

Johann Hoch, the murderer of numerous wives, says that he did not get a "square deal" in the courts. If his victims were alive, they would probably have the same complaint to make against Hoch. As the murderers of women and girls are invariably the most arrant cowards on earth, it is quite natural to read in the dispatches that Hoch spends the greater part of his time in weeping, his sobs being audible throughout the jail.

Hereafter all ice cream that contains less than 12 per cent of butter fat will be an adulterated article and will be under the ban of the law. Before the season gets further advanced the ice-cream consuming public would like to have the Food and Dairy Commissioner take a spin around the state and secure a few samples of ice cream for testing purposes. It would be worth while to know where the genuine article can be bought.

The Chicago Evening Post editorially comments on Mayor Williams' renomination, saying among other complimentary things:

> Judge Williams is now 82 years old, hale and hearty, serene in spite of bitter attacks, vigorous in mind and dignified in mien, a gentleman of the old school who will show to the Portland visitors this Summer the courtesy inbred in the statesman of 50 years ago.

It is announced that the normal schools will bring a mandamus suit to compel the Secretary of State to audit their claims for expenses of maintenance. This will at least serve to keep the people reminded of the fact that they are supporting at least one more normal than they have any use for.

The latest reports are that the hop crop in England promises a smaller yield than last year, which reports are encouraging the Oregon growers to expect better prices. While we don't wish English laborers any harm, we cannot help reflecting that it is an ill wind that blows nobody good.

Governor Folk, of Missouri, says that lawbreaking leads to anarchy, and he speaks truth if ever a man did. To the extent that any man intentionally violates the laws of his country he is an anarchist, for to that extent he has sought to overthrow government.

Dr. Lane ought not to lose his temper. But perhaps it can be forgiven on the ground of youthful indiscretion in getting into a controversy with a healthy antagonist 82 years old.

The direct-primary law is quite likely to insure a good attendance of politicians at farmers' meetings held within a year of the state primary election.

Queer Pose for Democrats.

Seattle News.

Portland is amid a city campaign and the stress which precedes the opening of the Exposition. There is a fair prospect that the veteran Republican, Mayor Williams, will be again the choice of the people. Democrats who clamor as a party faction for a closed town resemble that wolf which put on sheep's clothing.

OREGON OZONE.

There are no songs like the old songs
 Our fathers used to sing;
There are no joys like the old joys
 Our brothers used to bring;
There are no beaux like the old beaux
 Our sisters used to shake;
There are no pies like the old pies
 Our mothers used to make.

But we still have the same old topic of conversation—the weather—the same old weather. No matter what happens, the weather we have always with us. Now and then it changes, but it never passes away. At some places there is more weather than at others, but there is always weather somewhere. We can live without love and books and butchers' bills, but civilized man cannot live without weather. Some kind of weather is essential to human happiness. Let us believe in weather and quit slandering it, quit saying mean things about it when it is too busy doing good to stop and listen. Weather makes millions of blades of grass grow where none would grow without it. Weather sprinkles our lawns and dries up the mud puddles where our neighbors' dogs haved wallowed and made holes in our back yards. Weather puts ice in our coolers and paints the mint on the julep. Weather thaws out our chilblains and adds variety to our Sunday school picnics. Weather wets us and dries us, freezes us and fries us, tans us and dyes us, makes us thirsty and pours the healing lotion of living water. Weather does all these things for us, without charging a cent or taking our promissory notes—and then we turn around and talk about it! We ought to be ashamed of ourselves. Let us resolve from this time forward to quit talking about this oldest and most faithful friend of mankind—the weather.

He Was Full.

A young man in Haleyville, Ala., who wants a job at the Lewis and Clark Exposition, begins a second letter to one of the officials in this somewhat ambiguous manner:

"Dear Sir—I wrote you in regard to a position on the Fair ground. You were full at the time and said you would file my application."

When in Portland.

Are you feeling patriotic?
 Wear a rose!
Do you want to look exotic?
 Wear a rose!
If you care to be in fashion
(It has come to be a passion)
 Wear a rose!

Do you feel in sorry humor?
 Wear a rose!
Have you heard a horrid rumor?
 Wear a rose!
There is something in the blooming
That will free you of your glooming:
 Wear a rose!

Are you feeling mean and stingy?
 Wear a rose!
Is your soul a cellar dingy?
 Wear a rose!
There is something in its brightness
That will give your spirit lightness:
 Wear a rose!

Is your spirit gladly thrilling?
 Wear a rose!
Are you generous and willing?
 Wear a rose!
Be assured that love reposes
In the bosoms of the roses:
 Wear a rose!

"Hops Are Stronger" was the way a heading read in The Sunday Oregonian. "Anxious Reader" wants to know what effect this will have on the 1905 brew of lager.

The bathtub has scoleved the stage. In "Mrs. Battle's Bath," now running in New York—that is, the play is running, the bath being stationary—a dainty porcelain tub has the center of the stage. Actors now must carry almost as much luggage as an English army officer in heavy marching order.

After seeing the likeness of Theodore P. Shonts, one wonders whether it was the engineer's facial resemblance to Roosevelt or the fellow-feeling induced by the identity of front names that induced the President to appoint Mr. Shonts canal digger extraordinary.

When a miserable rejected lover, so-called, murders his sweetheart and then kills himself, one always feels that if he had begun at the other end of the job his deed would be fully justifiable.

If John L. Sullivan and Charley Mitchell manage to stand up against each other for two rounds at Tacoma, what is going to become of the celebrated Osler theory?

California has a permanent Promotion Committee. In Oregon this year every citizen is a promotion committee of one. Every time an Oregonian meets a stranger there is an official quorum present and the committee holds a meeting. The subject for discussion is "Oregon."

Mist and Spray.

Two towns there are in Oregon
 Whose names I can't resist;
Already they my heart have won,
 And one of them is Mist;
The other—well, it casts a spell,
 It sheds a rosy ray,
And when my soul is sick with dole
 I take a trip to Spray.

When I have dreams of shining streams
 And showery leagues of air,
I loose myself from bonds of pelf,
 Unleash the chains of care
And float on filmy wings away,
 By fairy fancies kissed,
To lave myself in silver Spray
 And bathe my soul in Mist.

I know not where these hamlets lie,
 Nor what may be their size;
In sooth, I only know that I
 Am thrilled with sweet surprise
When fancy calls—I break the thralls,
 I float afar, away,
Till I exist immersed in Mist
 Or merged in merry Spray!

ROBERTUS LOVE.

Baby's Finger Prints.

London Express.

The possibilities in finger-print identification recently led to a curious question being put to Dr. Francis Galton, the great finger-print expert, by the police authorities of a foreign state.

They had received information, they said, that a baby who was heir to a great title and estate was in danger of being kidnaped and held to ransom. Supposing this should happen, and the baby eventually be restored, would finger-prints taken before the abduction be sufficient to identify the baby and prove that he was not a changeling?

Dr. Galton's answer was that it is exceeding difficult to print from the fingers of young infants. From about 6 years of age and upward, however, there is no difficulty, and the prints would be sufficient for identification purposes.

Hale, Hearty and Active.

Tacoma Ledger.

Mayor Williams, of Portland, is hale, hearty and active at 82. This country has some grand old men, despite Dr. Osler's dictum.

GREAT TARIFF FIGHT IS SURE TO COME

Republican Standpatters and Progressives Facing a Struggle—Taft and Shaw as Leaders of the Respective Factions—The Canal Supply Incident.

Walter Wellman, in Chicago Record-Herald.

WASHINGTON, May 17.—Present indications are that the Republican party is to be split in twain on the tariff question, with a bitter struggle for supremacy between the standpatters on one side and the progressives on the other. Already two aspirants for the Republican Presidential nomination in 1908 are taking position as leaders respectively of the rival factions. A most interesting phase of the affair is that both of these aspirants and rivals are members of President Roosevelt's Cabinet, and that to this extent, at least, the Administration is divided as to the tariff. These clashing leaders are Secretary of War Taft, the progressive, and Secretary of the Treasury Shaw, the reactionary. It is an open secret that President Roosevelt's sympathies are with Secretary Taft. The President is a tariff reformer. He welcomes the episode which has precipitated another discussion of the tariff question—the action of the Panama Commission in deciding to go into the world's market and buy where it can buy cheapest, regardless of the home-market theories of the protectionists.

The political pot in Washington was today fairly boiling, and that purchase-in-the-cheapest-market policy of the canal commission supplied the caloric needed to keep things bubbling. Secretary Shaw was visibly ruffled. As one of the standpatters, as a Presidential aspirant who has through thick and thin thought it wise to stand by the historic policy of the party and to oppose the slightest modification in the interest of progress, he was seriously alarmed over what to him seemed a colossal blunder on the part of the Administration with which he is associated. Mr. Shaw shook his head and looked solemn when the canal order was mentioned in his presence.

* * *

"Don't take too much stock in the theory that President Roosevelt is responsible for this decision," said the Secretary of the Treasury to a newspaper man. "I warn you that if you do you will make a mistake."

When this admonition was reported to Secretary Taft later in the day, the recent sitter upon the lid laughed heartily. "I don't know who gave you your warning," he said, "but it will do no harm to tell you that the whole affair was thoroughly discussed by and in the presence of President Roosevelt, and the policy has his hearty approval. It would not have been adopted had he had objections to it. So far as responsibility for this great crime is concerned," added the rotund Secretary, "I am quite willing to assume all that myself."

Mr. Taft declined to say anything more, but at the White House his version of the episode was amply confirmed. President Roosevelt is as earnestly in favor of the policy adopted by the canal commission as Secretary Taft himself. The law commands the President to construct a ship canal across the American isthmus as cheaply as possible. To obey the law it may be necessary to buy some supplies and materials abroad. It will almost certainly be necessary to buy ships in foreign countries, and it is besides pretty well understood that President Roosevelt is not at all displeased at the turn of events bearing upon the tariff question. The deficit in the Treasury, the prospective trade squabble with Germany, and now the right of the Government to buy in the cheapest market have all synchronized in a focus of public attention upon the Dingley law and the economic policy of the near future.

Mr. Roosevelt smiles over the outlook. Things are coming his way. He hasn't felt so good since he killed that last bear out in Colorado.

* * *

Although the professional stand-patters and the protected interests and shipbuilders who are displeased at the canal policy are bearing down on the War Department with their protests and threatening to "raise hades" if the Commission persists in its programme, Secretary Taft appears to be altogether happy. He believes he is right and he doesn't care how loud the howls are from the galled jades. In point of fact, it is not probable Mr. Taft ever gave a moment's thought at the outset to the political phase of the purchase decision. Though generally regarded as a presidential aspirant, Mr. Taft is not thinking about politics at all. Apparently he doesn't care a rap whether he is or isn't made the nominee of his party three years hence. He is simply sawing wood. He is attending strictly to his business as one of the officers of the Government, and striving to do his best for the country. He was a little surprised when it was pointed out to him that this purchase-in-the-cheapest-market decision might stir up all the plans and all the great forces behind American politics, but he could not see that that should make the slightest difference in the decision. The Government should go ahead and buy where it could buy to best advantage, just the same. President Roosevelt agreed with him, and the thing was done. So far as Mr. Taft is concerned, if the beneficiaries of the protective system start in to ruin his Presidential prospects, and succeed in doing so, he will shed no tears. Mr. Taft stands by the decision despite that.

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With Mr. Shaw it is different. Mr. Shaw's notion is that if he can contrive to make the beneficiaries of protection realize that here in Washington he is their friend; that he is fighting their battles; that he is so devoted to their interests that he is willing to take all sorts of risks in their behalf, they may be grateful enough to turn in and use their mighty power in pushing him along the road to the White House. He has been working on that line for two or three years now, and he is at least consistent. It remains to be seen how well founded is his dependence upon the gratitude of the high-tariff beneficiaries.

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President Roosevelt told a number of his callers today that the decision in the canal purchase case was the only thing that could have been done. If any other determination had been reached the administration would have been open to severe criticism. Western men hold the view that events are conspiring to bring the tariff question to the front with a rush. Representative Davis, of Minnesota, talked tariff and rebate questions with the President today and unhesitatingly commended the President's position on rebates and his action in the canal purchases. "Congress will have to wrestle with this problem," said Mr. Davis, "and it will have a big thing on hand. It may open the door for revision of the tariff, both for increased revenues and for other purposes. There is a sentiment for tariff revision along certain lines, and this may afford the opportunity that has so long been sought."

ODD BITS OF NORTHWEST LIFE

Boosting the Matrimonial Game.

Albany Democrat.

There ought to be at least a dozen weddings in Albany within a month or two.

Mrs. Hink's Receiving Day.

Hockinson Corr. Vancouver Columbian.

Pete Hink was a caller at his mother's last Saturday and Sunday.

More Civic Improvement.

Empire Corr. North Bend Harbor.

Mrs. John Flanagan is beautifying her already beautiful home and yard by replacing the old fence with a fancy new one.

Providing a Long-Felt Want.

North Bend Harbor.

Mr. Johnson was engaged yesterday starting a cemetery for North Bend. It is a remarkable fact that the town is 3 years old and has never had a graveyard. So Mr. Johnson as undertaker buried a horse and started one. He makes the comment that if the bay had a board of health people would not leave their dead animals lying so near the city limits.

Keeping Up With Father Time.

Rainier Corr. St. Helens Mist.

Miles Sherin is noted for having the heaviest gold watch and chain on the Columbia River. Mr. Hunter, of Goble, is noted for having the biggest silver watch and chain in Columbia County. Now comes Mr. Swett, of Rainier, to the front. He has a watch on display in his window eight inches in diameter and a chain six feet long. It is worth seeing. The watch and chain are the largest in Oregon. That's two better.

The Cougar and the Waiting Moon.

Louisville Corr. Vancouver Columbian.

Last week, as Ralph Moon was down the country visiting his place near Blakerville his hound took the scent of something and started off in full cry, so Ralph cut cross lots knowing about where the dog ought to come out and he seated himself on a large boulder to await results. He had not been there long before he thought he heard his dog coming to him through the brush, so of course was not prepared to see a monstrous cougar step in view and that right close by. Ralph was not long in getting his cougar pistol in action, but only got one snap shot at it before it got out of his sight.

Champion Wrestler's Narrow Escape

Castle Rock Advocate.

Charles Smith, the ferocious wrestler, while crossing a foot log that is used as a means of transporting human beings from one side to the other of a small creek, "fell in" as he was about half way across, and found upon striking the water beneath it would not sustain his weight and consequently went to the bottom head foremost, striking in that position in the mud. Charles was quite frustrated for a moment or two in the act of releasing himself from that most agonizing attitude. We can imagine calling for help would not have been very agreeable either. He, realizing his time would last "quick" unless released, tried the half-Nelson wrestling hold on a nearby snag, and being the champion of the Northwest, was the superior, of course, and finally detached himself, stating to a few eye-witnesses that he did not prefer again any direct connection with mother earth.

Had Been Sailing on It.

A burly skipper and his mate entered a restaurant in Liverpool and demanded a "table-dotty" dinner. In a few minutes a waiter approached and with a great flourish placed two plates of thin, watery-looking fluid before the pair. "Hi! me lad, what's this stuff?" demanded the mariner, gazing in amazement at the decoction in front of him. "Soup, sir," replied the waiter. "Soup!" shouted the old sea dog. "Soup! By gum, Bill (turning to his mate), jest think o' that! 'Ere's you and me been sailin' on soup all our lives and never knowed it till now."

THE SOLDIERS OF THE SOUTH

New York Times.

On the 10th of May there was dedicated at Chester, S. C., a monument to the Confederate dead, and the address of dedication was delivered by a one-armed veteran of the Confederate army, who is now a Judge of a United States Court. That simple statement is very significant of the things that have happened and of those that have not happened in the 44 years since Judge Brawley, with six fellow-college graduates, marched from the town of Chester to join the Confederate ranks.

The address of Judge Brawley was a calm, thoughtful, clear statement of what he considers to have been the temper and character of the war movement in the South. It is remarkable from the fact that he puts aside, as not controlling, many of the motives that have been assigned to the Southern people. He believes in substance that the difference between the South and the North was one of radical sentiment on the two questions, more or less merged into one, of state rights and of slavery, and he holds that the settlement of those questions by the arbitrament of arms was, so far as can be known, inevitable. Of the unity of feeling in the South he bears unqualified testimony. He says:

"They commit an immense error who hold that what was once right is always right. That is true in the domain of morals, where the great primal obligations change not, but in institutions and government the fluxion of time and events necessitates successive readaptations to changes in environment."

The "readaptations" have been wonderfully rapid and substantial. A curious coincidence illustrates this fact. In the Charleston News and Courier, containing the address of Judge Brawley, there is a letter from a negro of Virginia on the occasion of the death of General Lee. After a touching tribute to General Lee, the writer says:

"I was born a slave. I know all the hardships that slavery entailed upon my race. I am no apologist for slavery. Thank God that that bondage that wronged and enfeebled both master and slave is gone, never to return, but deep down in my heart I thank the white man for my contact with him, for the Christian civilization that slavery brought to my race. The hand of God can be seen in it all."

He must be a pessimist indeed who can read such utterances from such representative men and "doubt of the republic."

College and Poverty.

Chicago Inter-Ocean.

A recent bulletin of the Massachusetts Labor Bureau shows that in Harvard, often called "a rich man's college," nearly 10 per cent of the young men, and nearly 11 per cent of the young women, are the children of people classed by statisticians as wage-earners.

In Boston University, the largest Methodist institution of New England, over 35 per cent of the students are the sons and daughters of wage-workers.

The record of Clark University is even more remarkable. This is devoted entirely to postgraduate and research work—that is, to the kind of study which must wait longest for monetary returns. Yet nearly 27 per cent of its students are from wage-working families.

Duty of Republicans.

Chehalis Bee-Nugget.

Portland has in addition to her World's Fair opening, a municipal campaign on at this time. At the primaries held a few days ago, Mayor Williams, the venerable jurist who has filled the position at the head of that city with credit to himself the past three years, received the Republican nomination, and Dr. Harry Lane the Democratic nomination. As Portland is a Republican city by an overwhelming majority, and as there is no good reason why Judge Williams should not succeed himself, there will be but little to it when it comes to a showdown at the election. It is up to Portland Republicans to support the Mayor for re-election.