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PORTLAND, THURSDAY, FEB. 27, 1908.

WILD FIGURES EXAMINED.

Somebody, urging the new tax system proposed by initiative amendment, says the farming population of Oregon, numbering only 100,000, now pays about 60 per cent of the taxes, while the city population, numbering 560,000, pays only 40 per cent. Also, that an acre of land in the City of Portland has a land value of a strip of farming land, at $50 an acre, one mile wide, reaching from Portland to Corvallis—$3,200,000. All these figures, needless to say, are loose and unverifiable—in short, ridiculously in error.

For, first, the farming population of Oregon, instead of being less than one-sixth of the city population, is actually much in excess of it. Not less than two-thirds of the people of Oregon live in the country; not more than one-third in the cities. The estimated population of the state (550,000) is undoubtedly too large. But let that pass.

The assessed value of the property of the state is $580,000,000. That of Portland alone is one-third of the whole. Add that of other cities, and you will find at least another one-third. The result is that the figures purporting to show the assessed values of cities and of country, in comparison or contrast with each other, should be reversed;—that is to say, 60 per cent for the cities and 40 per cent for the country lands. Included in the latter are the vast bodies of timber lands, now assessed for the first time at something like their actual value, yet not high enough.

If there is any single acre in Portland that has a land value of $3,200,000, many residents of the city who have lived here a while, and are curious to know, would be glad to be told where it is. There is no one acre of land in Portland, with all buildings upon it—and you may select the most costly buildings in Portland—worth such a sum, or would fetch such a sum.

City property in Oregon is assessed at just about its actual value. It is especially so in Portland whose assessment alone is almost 40 per cent of that of the entire state. In most of the counties a fair assessment has been made of farm and timber lands. Gradually the counties have been coming up with their valuations; but there are still some laggards.

Not till within recent years, however, has there been anything like equitable adjustment of values between different parts of the state. Through all former times each county was keeping down its assessment for the purpose of shirking its proportion of the state tax. But the new method of the state tax has done away with this, and the counties have been bringing up their valuations and totals, till now there is little ground of complaint of inequality between the counties, or between city property and country lands. Our laws always were about right; but till recently local public opinion compelled the Assessors to construe them so as to make for each county a light state tax. That method never will be resumed, since the reason for it ceased some years ago. For the proposed change, through initiative amendment, no valid reason exists. It would introduce unequal and unjust taxation, which would bear with equal hardship on country and city property. No species of inequality or injustice can conduce to the general welfare, but must be injurious to all.

Property-owners on Young's River, near Astoria, have signed a contract for construction of a five-mile dike which will reclaim a large area of the richest land in Clatsop County. Another Astoria enterprise, reported in yesterday's Oregonian, was the organization of a company to reclaim several thousand acres of tideland above Tongue Point for warehouse and railroad terminal purposes. For the present, at least, there is an element of uncertainty regarding the profits of the Tongue Point scheme, but there is not the slightest degree of uncertainty about the profits that will be reaped from reclamation of the Young's Bay tidelands. The demand for railroad terminals has never been so extensive and far-reaching as the demand for dairy products, vegetables and other commodities that will be produced on the reclaimed tideland in record-breaking quantities.

INDEPENDENT WHEAT WAREHOUSES.

The decision of Judge Wolverton in the suit of the Northwest Warehouse Company against the O. R. & N. Co. will undoubtedly result in an improved system of warehousing and shipping grain at interior points. An O. R. & N. official, quoted in yesterday's Oregonian, explained what should be the attitude of the road when he said: "All wheat looks alike to us, and we will haul for one just as soon as for another." There has naturally been some difficulty in adhering to this policy so long as the control of the warehouses was in charge of large wheat operators who might naturally be expected to give preference to their own shipments over those of competing buyers.

By storing in these warehouses, the owner of the wheat has in a manner placed his grain in the charge of the warehousemen, and it was through recognition of the authority of the warehousemen over grain for which he had given receipt that the railroad company compelled intending shippers to order cars through the warehousemen. The decision of Judge Wolverton will have a tendency to encourage the building and operation of independent warehouses along the railroads. While it may be questionable where such a result will contribute to economy of handling the crop, it will relieve the railroad company of the charges of favoritism which quite naturally have cropped out in connection with the unsatisfactory car service of last year.

It will also place the independent buyer, aside from a possible increased cost for warehousing, on even terms with the warehousemen, who are now in the grain business. As the system of warehousing and shipping is exactly the same in both Puget Sound and Portland territory, the ruling of Judge Wolverton will have no effect on the distribution of wheat from the two ports.

OUR INLAND WATERWAYS.

The President has transmitted the preliminary report of the Inland Waterways Commission to Congress with a characteristic message which ought to awaken our legislators to the full importance of the subject and spur them on to take up the great task which the report outlines. The chances are, however, that nothing will be done. Congress delights more just now in frantic spouting for political effect than in plans for the National good. It will grant a dozen millions in pensions as a virtual bribe for votes, but when the question of improving the waterways of the country comes up the members are pinched with sudden penuriousness. The National Waterways Commission was appointed by the President about a year ago at the solicitation of a great many commercial bodies in the Valley of the Mississippi who had become impressed with the danger and folly of permitting the rivers of the country to degenerate into strings of sandbars interspersed with lagoons.

A commission of nine members was appointed, Mr. Gifford Pinchot being one of them. Senator Newlands, of Nevada, was also a member. The commission held a great many meetings and made investigations as thorough as their means permitted, but of course all that they did is merely preliminary to the real undertaking of inland waterway improvement. The task is so extensive that it staggers the imagination, and it will require the expenditure of a very large sum of money. But Americans are used to great tasks, though hitherto we have undertaken them blindly and without adequate forethought. Instead of conserving our National resources for the public we have handed them over to monopolies, as the President says in his message of transmission. Instead of using them with a prudent outlook on the future we have acted as if there were no such thing as a future and as if we owed no duty whatever to coming generations.

With our National resources we have acted much as the famous Mrs. Tubbs did with her legacy of $100. It was left to the good widow in the depth of Winter, when her woodpile was gone and her larder was empty; but, instead of spending the money for food and fuel, she gave $20 for a silk dress and the remaining $80 for a parlor organ. With our deposits of coal, petroleum and iron, as well as with our forests, we have been purchasing silk dresses and parlor organs, not for ourselves, but for our millionaire monopolists, and now, when the day of our dire necessity draws nigh, we are almost bereft of the very bases of prosperity. The President laments this premature exhaustion of the natural resources of the country. He bewails the fact that we have spent them like prodigals and must now either subsist on husks or go to foreign nations for supplies. But he omits to say that for many years we have put a premium on destruction by the prohibitive tariff which encouraged the exploitation of our own resources and kept out those from other countries.

The President and the commission unite in urging that the development of waterways with the attendant water power will tend to put off the evil day when we shall be without coal, iron or timber; but the repeal of some of the exorbitant Dingley rates and the admission of supplies from abroad would help materially toward the same desirable end. Still, the waterways ought to be developed, no matter if it costs a great deal to do it. The cost will be represented by the value of permanent improvements if the work is done scientifically. It may even show a profit immediately for it is estimated that the electric power produced will be worth more than the whole expense of improving the rivers and building the necessary dams and locks. It is the opinion of the President and the commission that this power should not be frittered away in grants to monopolists who would use it as a means of oppression, but that it should be preserved as public property and leased to private corporations for limited periods only. The commission justly makes a great deal of this electric power which river improvement will develop, and private interests seem to be aware also of its value, for there are already half a dozen grabs for a share of it awaiting the easy sanction of Congress.

Our navigable waterways are now under the management of four separate hierarchies of bureaucrats who naturally pull against each other as vigorously as possible and try their best to entangle each other in meshes of red tape. Of course nothing could ever be accomplished in the way of systematic improvements under such an arrangement. The President and commission unite in asking Congress to found a permanent body which shall have efficient control over the whole subject and co-ordinate the work of the separate bureaus. This is essential if anything worth while is to be done. That something must be done, and without much delay, is pretty clear to everybody who has taken time to study the subject of transportation. The railroads are inadequate to transport the products of the interior, and they cannot be made adequate without an expense many times greater than is required to make the waterways useful. Moreover, internal navigation is intimately allied with the subjects of irrigation, floods, soil preservation and climate, as well as the supply of cheap power for industry. It is time that our National neglect of these matters should cease. We have dwelt too long in a fool's paradise. We must now go to work systematically to husband what is left of our vast endowment in mine, soil, forest and river, or we shall be left utterly destitute in a very few years.

THE LAST BROWNSVILLE FLICKER.

After spending many months gathering evidence upon the Brownsville shooting affray, the Senate committee on military affairs has come to the conclusion that the accused negro soldiers were guilty and has so reported. This disposes of the vexatious business, one may hope, and shatters the glorious halo which Senator Foraker hoped to wear in his pose as champion of the colored race. He took up the cause of the dismissed soldiers for no other purpose than to win delegates in the South, where the Republican vote comes almost entirely from the negroes. Nor has he altogether missed his aim. Negro hostility to Taft, in consequence of the Brownsville affair, has produced a divided delegation to the National convention in Florida, and the same thing will probably happen in Georgia. Very likely there will be divided or contesting delegations from other Southern States. This is important because, although the vote of these states is negligible, still their delegations count in the convention the same as others, and it may very well turn out that the antipathy of the negroes to Taft, industriously stimulated by the devoted Mr. Foraker, may block his nomination and throw the ball to Hughes.

The attitude of the negroes in this matter is utterly unintelligent. Their adulation of Foraker is so senseless that it nauseates one. He has never done anything of value for them, and never would if he were to be President for a hundred years. His whole soul is wrapped up in the prosperity of the predatory interests and his only use for the negroes is to fool them. When they have pulled his chestnuts out of the fire he will give them the laugh which they deserve.

THE FUTURE MARKETS.

The recent upheaval in Wall street has been so generally, and perhaps correctly, charged to stock speculation that there have appeared in Congress an unusually large number of bills intended to put a stop to all buying of "futures." Passage of these bills would undoubtedly result in removing the gambling feature from the trading in the various commodities on which futures are now sold. But the result would be like one of those "successful" surgical operations which are always followed by the death of the patient. Buying and selling futures in wheat, corn, cotton and other agricultural products is a strictly legitimate business, for in no other way can the immense crops of this country be marketed to the best advantage.

If, in the process of marketing these crops, the legitimate transactions in futures afford opportunities for gamblers to buy and sell futures, it is hardly fair that the strictly legitimate business of this nature should be ruined in order to get rid of the men who buy and sell strictly for gambling purposes. The president of the National Cotton Ginners' and Planters' Association, whose title bears ample evidence of his commercial probity, says that prohibition of speculation in cotton futures would cost the Southern States $100,000,000 a year at least. Similar loss would be suffered by the producers of other agricultural products, now extensively handled through future selling and buying. Europe supplies the market for nearly all of the surplus from our agricultural products. It requires nearly three months for a steam cargo and five months for a sail cargo of wheat to reach Europe after it leaves Portland.

If there were no opportunity for the buyers of this wheat to deal in futures, they would not buy it until it reached their market. There are now afloat for Europe, from Portland and Puget Sound, approximately 15,000,000 bushels of wheat, which, on account of the heavy decline in prices, is worth about 10 cents per bushel less than when the foreign buyer bought it for "future" delivery. The foreign buyer of these cargoes has meanwhile sold them in parcels for "future" delivery to millers who are forced to look ahead and sell flour for "future" delivery. There is, of course, less opportunity for gambling speculation in these transactions than on the Chicago Board of Trade, but even there the making of contracts for future delivery or acceptance is a most necessary function in the handling of the large grain crop of the United States.

In cotton, the necessity for a "future" market is even more pronounced. No foreign or even domestic manufacturer of cotton goods could with safety accept a contract for goods to be shipped three to six months later, as is frequently necessary, unless he could buy cotton at a stated price for future delivery when he would need it. There is less demand for a stock market than for grain markets, but even the latter has its functions. There are 78,000 stockholders in the Pennsylvania Railroad, and among this large number it is but natural that there should be some who are always selling stock. The stock exchange offers facilities for the sale of such securities, both for immediate and future delivery, at much better prices than could be received if there was no regular market at which they could be listed.

It would be a source of great satisfaction if the professional gamblers could be driven out of both the stock and the grain markets, but none of the bills thus far introduced for suppression of the evil would harm the gamblers as much as they would harm the legitimate business interests and the producers.

Since it became known that at the coming general election the people would be called upon to vote for or against—to adopt or reject—nineteen bills and constitutional amendments, there have been many suggestions that a constitutional convention should be held for the purpose of revising the old constitution upon which so many patches have been placed. But those who entertain the convention idea must remember that Mr. U'Ren has anticipated this movement and has placed a barrier in the way of a convention movement. He had the people adopt an amendment to the section prescribing the manner in which the constitution may be amended, and particularly providing that no constitutional convention shall be held until the act calling a convention has been submitted to a vote of the people and has been approved by them. Those who would like to get rid of the initiative and referendum through a convention therefore have two battles to wage. They must first get the people to approve the calling of a convention and then get the people to approve a new constitution with the initiative and referendum left out. In other words, Mr. U'Ren has doubly safeguarded the people against themselves, for, under the old provisions, no constitution could become effective without the indorsement of the people.

A few more crimes such as that committed at Denver may have the effect of awakening the people to a realization that we have been too free in the admission of Old World offscourings. The "Black Hand," the "Red Flag" and other insignia of the undesirables who drift into this country have no place in America, and the increasing host which seems to be marching under these alien banners should be firmly but quietly told to move on. "Crimes such as that of last Sunday," said Father O'Ryan in his funeral sermon over the body of the assassinated priest, "are assaults on no mere individual; they are against you and me and all of us." The foreign murderers, who are increasingly bold in their operations, might do well to recall what happened in New Orleans a few years ago, when the Mafia overstepped the bounds and killed the Chief of Police.

It is reported from New York that a son of the inventor of the Maxim machine gun has perfected a "noiseless" firearm, by which it is possible for the operator to commit wholesale murder (in battle or elsewhere) without disclosing his presence. The possibilities for criminal work with such a fearful weapon are such that police officials are quite naturally demanding that the manufacture and disposal of it be safeguarded by law. In the hands of an officer it would prove a terribly effective weapon which should never be permitted to fall into the hands of a criminal. While we are withholding such a firearm from the criminal, it might be appropriate also to cut off his supply of any kind of firearms. With criminals and quick-tempered individuals deprived of revolvers and rifles, the country would be spared hundreds of tragedies.

In the interests of better service the streetcar company adopted a rule the other day that cars where they cross another track shall stop only at the near crossing. This innovation was announced and repeated by the Portland press, motormen called it out to waiting passengers and signs were posted at intersecting corners. And yet many people don't seem to understand, otherwise the company wouldn't pay money for advertising the change afresh. Which shows that you can't on the instant break a custom a quarter of a century old.

It is observed that Mr. Bryan commends the course and policy of President Roosevelt, in general; and yet a large section of Bryan's party (and others) say this course and policy have produced the panic and suspended industry. Now if Mr. Bryan should be elected and should continue the general course and policy which Roosevelt has pursued, should we have a happy country and general prosperity?

Mayor Lane was not on trial, we are told. Not before the jury, indeed; but before the tribunal of public opinion he certainly was. The woman got her deserts; but there cannot be one person in all Oregon who deems the conviction of the woman an exculpation of the man.

It is said that the Oregon Electric is carrying 500 passengers a day. The building of the new line must have stimulated travel or Mr. Harriman must be suffering a considerable loss of business. Perhaps a little of both.

Misfortunes never come singly—not even to poor old John D. A Spokane man has sued the Standard Oil Company for $27,350 because the octopus sold oil that had been adulterated.

"I beg your pardon, madam," said a man who accidentally ran with some violence against a woman in one of the corridors of the City Hall; "I am not Mayor Lane."

But, if you had re-elected Mayor Williams you wouldn't have had this Lane-Waymire affair. Wonderful things often are done in the name of reform.

After the decision in the Illinois Central controversy, we suppose Mrs. Harriman can't walk on the same side of the street with Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish.

It was not Mayor Lane who stopped gambling in Portland. It was Henry E. McGinn, who showed Sheriff Word how to do it.

To the long list of the eminently infamous there is now added the name of Guarnacio.

WASHINGTON'S ENGLISH.

He Wrote in an Honest, Homely Way, But Was Not a "Literary Feller."

Life.

The Rev. Dr. Robert S. MacArthur has been telling his class in "current events" that George Washington never wrote the classic "Farewell Address." "Washington was a man of no literary ability," says Dr. MacArthur. "There is no sort of doubt that Alexander Hamilton was the author of that document."

The late Robert G. Ingersoll once remarked that the character of Washington had so suffered in the hands of amiable biographers that it had come to resemble a steel engraving. But in recent years a process of restoration has been going on. The letters, so wofully mutilated by well-meaning editors, have been assembled in their original form, and the 14 volumes collected by Worthington Chauncey Ford disclose George Washington as he really was. There they are, in black and white—together with the "Farewell Address" as amended by its author, and the draft of it by Hamilton; and to say that the man who wrote them had no literary skill is, to say the least, a rather hazardous criticism.

Mr. Owen Wister, himself a writer of some reputation, has recently performed the service of sketching a full-length portrait of Washington, for which these very writings are his material. "His own idea and work," says Mr. Wister in a casual reference to the "Farewell Address," "though it benefited by the criticism of Hamilton." The author of this "Seven Ages of Washington" finds in the letters abundant evidence of the first President's command of written English. He notes that such gifted men as Jefferson and Hamilton, when they shook their heads solemnly over the writings of their chief, "fell dupe to a very human instinct—they wanted to find something which they could do better than he could, and they picked out his English style." From his papers, public and private, it is seen that they were quite mistaken. They "could spell words better than Washington, use words better they could not. No better prose than his was written, when he took time to it." A letter to Gates and one to Bryan Fairfax at the time of the infamous Conway Cabal are easily available specimens of Washington's employment of language that reaches "the highest level of expression and dignity."

The discerning reader of these and other letters will go no further to find proof of the same literary proficiency that is apparent in the "Farewell Address"; John Jay's testimony to its authorship—recently cited by a contributor to the Baltimore News—seems scarcely necessary.

After all, to have something to say, and to feel the necessity of saying it, is the first prerequisite of eloquent speech. When the important thing to be said is charged with the ardor of a great soul, the right words are seldom wanting.

"THE LONDON TIMES."

Some "Hitch" in the Proceedings of Sale and Transfer.

New York Herald Special.

Public curiosity as to the future of the Times newspaper has been revived by a statement by C. Arthur Pearson that while it is a fact that he has felt compelled to notify Messrs. Walter, chief proprietors of the journal, that he must withdraw from the arrangement which has been made with them, it is not a fact that he has withdrawn from negotiations with regard to the future of the Times.

The Daily Chronicle states that the original Pearson proposal, which is now withdrawn, was an elaborate scheme for the creation of a great newspaper trust by which not merely the Times but also the Standard, Evening Standard and Daily Express were to be controlled by one limited liability company.

That was the first outstanding feature of the scheme. The second was that C. Arthur Pearson was to be appointed manager for a period of 20 years. His emoluments, adding together his salary, director's fee and a percentage of the profits, were limited to a maximum of £10,000 ($50,000) per annum. The capital of the company was determined at £850,000 ($4,250,000).

On Friday last counsel were heard before the Court of Chancery in support of the opponents' scheme and it was apparently the force and cogency of their arguments, the Daily Chronicle says, that led Sir Arthur Pearson to withdraw his proposition and open new negotiations.

It is an open secret that Mr. Moberly Bell, manager of the Times, opposed the scheme. On the other hand, the Daily Graphic says this morning that the reason the arrangement has fallen through is that the Pearson offer has been outbid by an American syndicate for whom Mr. Bell is the prospective purchaser.

The Graphic adds that meantime there is ground for believing that a considerable section of the Times proprietors would be sympathetic toward a scheme of purchase which should be associated neither with the Pearson management, on the one hand, nor with the Americans, on the other. The ideal which this section has at heart is at once to preserve the paper for England and see it conducted not on behalf of any clique, but with due regard to the independence, fearlessness and dignity which are traditional with the Times.

Surprise in the Bryan Line.

Washington (D. C.) Herald.

A few days from now the regular subscribers to the Congressional Record will be surprised to read therein a speech by William Jennings Bryan. Probably they will wonder thereat, for Mr. Bryan has not been in Congress for lo, these many years. However, the peerless leader is not without facilities to obtain publicity in the journal of statesmanship. Whenever the Hon. "Billy" Sulzer, of New York, is on the job—and he is always right there with the goods—the silver-tongued one need have no fear; he can break into the Record as easily as he can get a "story" printed in the Commoner.

The other day Sulzer arose in the House, and, catching the Speaker's eye, said: "I ask leave to extend a speech by the Hon. William J. Bryan in the Record."

"Without objection, it is so ordered," said "Uncle Joe"; and because it was Sulzer, and because he has a new wife, and all the "boys" are partial to him, there wasn't a single dissenting voice. Bryan's speech will get in the Record, and the Democrats will probably use it under a frank—the Hon. "Billy" Sulzer's frank—as campaign material.

Offer Themselves as Living Targets.

Washington (D. C.) Dispatch in New York Sun.

Several days ago an article appeared in a newspaper announcing that the Navy Department wanted volunteers to remain in the turret of the monitor Florida when that ship is fired at some time within the next few months to demonstrate the explosive power of a new shell and the resisting strength of the turret armor. R. A. Tascoe, of Glen Ridge, N. J., and Daniel H. Mills, of 297 Berry avenue, Bellevue, Ky., have written to the Navy Department offering their services. The Department has written letters to these volunteers informing them that no human beings will be placed in the turret of the Florida during the test, but praising their courage and telling them that the Department would like to have them enlist in the Navy.

Eating Capacity Alone Stops Him.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Mrs. Clarence P. Monday, of Liberty, Mo., taking pity on a tramp who asked for food, seated him at the table and the knight of the road ate a quart of preserves, a pound of butter and a dozen or two of biscuits.

Fighis Truth in His Name.

Baltimore News.

Dam Li is the name of a Chinese laundryman in St. Joseph, Mo.

LAND GRANT SUIT IN SENATE.

Clear Statement of Purpose of the Fulton Resolution.

Washington Special to New York World, February 18.

The fact that the Department of Justice has made all preparations to begin a suit to enforce the terms of Government land grants in Oregon was brought out today when Senator Fulton, from the committee on judiciary, reported a resolution authorizing the Department to bring such suit and asked for its immediate adoption. The principal defendant is the Southern Pacific Railroad Company.

The resolution was generally discussed by Senators, the only objection urged against it being based on the idea that the Attorney-General already is empowered by law to do all that is sought by the resolution. Senator Fulton announced that the Department is ready to proceed and merely wants the authority of Congress to meet any possible question that may be raised against the legality of the proceeding.

Mr. Tillman explained that he had introduced the original resolution in view of what he had learned while on a visit to the Pacific Coast. He was satisfied the railroads are withholding from settlement lands worth millions of dollars.

The propriety and necessity of passing such a resolution was questioned by Mr. Foraker. Senator Nelson said the Supreme Court had decided that the forfeiture of such grants could be enforced either in the courts or by Congress.

"This resolution," he said, "is merely an expression that Congress prefers to have the court take action. Congress could only declare absolute forfeiture, but the Court of Equity could say to the railroads that if they proceeded to comply with the terms of the grant their grants would not be forfeited."

Senator Heyburn said the same condition referred to in the resolution exists in all land-grant states, although only Oregon is referred to in the resolution. For 40 years the railroads, he said, had refused to comply with the terms of these grants. The settler could not proceed against the railroads to force them to comply with the terms of their grants of land because the proceedings could only be brought by the Government which gave the grant.

"This question," he added, "involves millions of acres of lands worth hundreds of millions of dollars."

The resolution was placed on the calendar under objection by Senator Gallinger, who thought it could not be disposed of at once.

OREGON IS UNDER OBSERVATION.

The New Method Here Cited as a Cautionary Example.

"Leaping Before Looking," is the title of an editorial in the Boston Transcript. The paper is known for the moderation and breadth of its views. The article is devoted mainly to considerations on the use of the initiative and referendum in Oregon, where the theory and the method have been carried further than in any other of our states. Citing Oregon as an example, the Transcript remarks that the method proves of use chiefly among schemers and visionaries. After a statement of the features of the method, as presented in practice in Oregon, the Boston paper proceeds:

The state biennial elections in Oregon occur in June for the even years. Preparation is now making for that which is four months ahead. But the time has expired when measures under the terms of the initiative and referendum can be filed with the Secretary of State. There are 19 of them covering a variety of interests. To justify the responsibility that is thus placed upon the voters it must be assumed that all these matters will be thoroughly studied and digested in advance. The proposed measures are all of them important and some of them radical. For instance, there is a proposed constitutional amendment for a single tax as the sole method of raising future revenue by taxation. It provides for the exemption from taxation of all manufacturing establishments and all dwellings and makes the land carry all tax burdens.

This is placing the cart very much before the horse. A policy is proposed that whatever its merits or demerits is almost revolutionary in the extent to which it would make necessary a readjustment of property values, and this is submitted to the unassisted and uniformed judgment of the ordinary voter. It is plainly to be seen that this opens the way, not for an intelligent expression of popular will and judgment, but to the projection and possible adoption of special schemes under the subtle and skilful manipulation of their promoters. Under such conditions, legislation is largely a matter of leaping before looking.

Gold Camp History Repeats.

New York World.

In another twelvemonth it will be 60 years since the rush of the "Argonauts of '49."

There is no longer for the United States a wild Western frontier. The Pacific Coast is but four days from the Atlantic. Cities and towns dot the great American plains thickly and are present in the very mountains that once were nature's bar to exploring men. Yet in the news of today, like a page from the history of that far-past treasure-hunting period, is the story of the new gold camp of Rawhide, on the soil of Nevada.

The rush to Rawhide began in January. Already the town has more than 3500 people. There are four newspapers, including two dailies, which began publication this week. Three banks are doing business. Hotels in tents take guests in eight-hour shifts.

A touch of ultra-modern is in the circumstance that eight automobile lines connect Rawhide with the nearest cities. Otherwise this tale of a town growing by magic might be one of the '50s.

San Juan Haunts Him Still.

Washington (D. C.) Dispatch in New York World.

Charles K. Harris, composer of "After the Ball" and other ballads, was presented to the President and Mrs. Roosevelt at a reception at the White House. When Mr. Harris was brought up Mr. Forester, acting secretary to the President, whispered to Mr. Roosevelt, "man who wrote 'After the Ball.'"

"Mr. Harris," said the President, warmly, "I am de—I am charmed to see you. 'Sweet Marie' has long been one of my favorite so"—

"After the ball"! hissed Forester.

"The bands played 'After the Ball' as we descended San Juan Hill," said the President calmly. "And many of the bravest men in my regiment were often after the ball. Reciprocally," added Mr. Roosevelt, smiling his own illuminated smile, "the Spaniards constantly sent balls after my men, who never dodged them."

Alfonso's Horoscope 12 Years Old.

New York Press.

Repeated rumors concerning King Alfonso's death bring to mind his horoscope of 12 years ago. This was said to be almost as fortunate as Queen Victoria's. "Spain will become very prosperous under his reign, and he will live to be an old man. He will enjoy good health, but be liable to weakness of the stomach, liver and intestines; he will also have some kidney trouble if he does not lead a temperate life. He will marry early in life and will be very fortunate in his marriage. His wife will live to a good old age, but he will outlive her. She may bring him three children, only one of which may live. He will meet many accidents, particularly to the head and face, and is very likely to get a scar on his face that he will carry through life. His horoscope is fortunate for overcoming his enemies both in war and diplomacy."

Darky Razor in "Polite" Society.

New York Times.

Ex-Attorney-General William A. Barber, who represented South Carolina at the annual dinner of the Southern Society, told a story about one of the old negroes in that state who went into a cutlery shop to buy a razor. "Do you want a safety razor?" asked the clerk. The old darky thought a moment and then said politely: "No, sah; I wants dis one for social purposes."

VERSE

BY HARRY MURPHY.

THE WOOD.

How pleasant in the solitude
Of dusky wood to stray!
How soothing to the breast imbued
With care to lie where play

The tinkling waters; musing there
To sound of booming bee;
Breathing the fragrance—waiting air
In native liberty.

To him among these osier niches
A far and fading dream
The city's recent noise—its riches—
Its wrongs—its envies seem.

Ah! sweet, if time might ever flow
As flows the too brief hour,
And life this only duty know,—
To mar no tender flower.

ON THE SHORE.

I stand on the thundering shore,
Where from the mighty deep
With vast, interminable roar
The bursting billows sweep.

Alone, where stretches round
The majesty of Ocean!
Amid a universe of sound—
An eternity of motion!

Before this type of Time
What thoughts like oceans roll,
Awful, ineffable, sublime,
Over the voiceless soul!

O Grandeur! Vastness! Power!
I know ye—feel ye—now!
In this unutterable hour
An altered man I bow.

O God! a moment here,
An instant thus to know,
Requites for every fear and tear—
Were pay for a world of woe!

O MIGHTY POWER.

O Mighty Power! Where dost make Thy throne?
Art mansioned mid the icy air of drear
And silent polar realms; or on the waste
Of sultry sand where stalks the tawny tiger;
Or in some forest vast and dim and old?
Art Thou enthroned o'er brooding Summer seas;
Or on the lone and curtained mountain tops,
Where whirling tempests and fleet lightning have
Their birth? Or sittest Thou sublime among
The distant crowd of stars, beholding thence
Thy wondrous works? Vain thought! To mark Thy bounds
Who fillest all—who art Thyself—the Universe!

THE LONG-LOST DAYS.

How bright a glow
Doth mem'ry throw
Behind us!

O'er season fair
When never care
Could find us.

The long-lost days
When pictured ways
We wended;

A world the prize
Before young eyes
Suspended!

Ah! for an hour
To tread those flower-
Grown places!

Oh! days of yore
Might you restore
Lost faces!

A HUMBLE FRIEND.

O harp of mine, no mighty strain
May swell upon your strings;
For you the lofty flight were vain—
You may not mount on wings

Of ecstasy. The busy throng
Your rude and faltering rhyme
Will never heed; to raptured song
They'll turn of bards sublime.

But yet, O humble friend! To me
Your tones are passing dear—
How oft you made the moments flee
And drew the chastened tear!

Let others then out-sound the main,
Or bid Despair rejoice;
Let other harps a world enchain,
So you one breast may voice.

IN THE MAGAZINE SECTION OF THE SUNDAY OREGONIAN

TEACHING HOW TO MAKE DENATURED ALCOHOL.

The Government will begin at once the erection of a distillery at Washington and will take one student from each state and territory to learn the process.

FATHER OF THE AMERICAN SKYSCRAPER.

Personality of Daniel H. Burnham, who also plans cities. Architects of skyscrapers generally hate such structures.

RAILROADS THAT MOUNT CLOUDS AND GO TO SEA.

Latest triumphs in man's struggle to reach the earth's inaccessible places.

TO THE SUNNY SOUTH FOR TRAINING.

Five hundred ball players in the major leagues start next week on their serious work of preparation.

HOW TO VOTE ON THE PROPOSED FISH BILLS.

Arguments presenting all phases of the controversy between rival interests, together with advice to disinterested voters.

CUSTOMARY DEPARTMENTS AND FEATURES. ORDER EARLY FROM YOUR NEWSDEALERS.