# The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 1908.

## YESTERDAY'S ELECTION.

Chamberlain carries Multnomah County by a pronounced majority. Ellis, by a majority very much larger. It is irregular and wayward voting. Why electors wish to have a Democratic Senator and a Republican Representative is a problem at present beyond solution.

Though there are but meager returns from various parts of the state, it now appears probable that Chamberlain has received a plurality of the popular vote—though the plurality, if any, certainly will be small. The two Republican candidates for Congress will have very large pluralities, perhaps exceeding 25,000.

The Republican party of Oregon behaves as if it had made up its mind to do nothing rational any more. There is nothing at all consistent in its actions. Clearly it has no definite purpose—unless it is trying to die. For a long time it has been fumbling the sheets and babbling o'green fields.

To The Oregonian during years past it has been a matter of no little concern to witness this abandonment of their party by Republicans. But we are getting used to it; and if Oregon, through the meanness of Republican factionaries shall be claimed as a Democratic state now and hereafter, we shall try to stand it, with the rest.

But the vagary is unparalleled. It is without parallel because it is based on no principle. It grows merely out of the competition and strife of petty men, contending for their several selfish purposes.

In 1860 the Democratic party, in Oregon, as elsewhere, broke into fragments. But it was on a great question, of highest public and National concern—the question whether extension of slavery should be authorized and allowed. The Republican break-up in Oregon now is referable to no principle whatever, nor to any question of high public concern.

However, nothing has happened but what was foretold. The work of faction in the Republican party has been efficiently supported by the methods of disintegration supplied by freakish legislation, in the name of reform. But no party can be maintained, in any degree of efficiency, on these methods. They are useful only to a minority party, and will convert a majority into a minority fast enough. It may be just as well, however, that the Republican party should pass out. From the relics, materials may be obtainable for reorganization. But we suspect that the apostles of Initiative and Referendum and of Statement No. 1 will not be among the builders of the new temple.

Some may say that Oregon is still a Republican state; but it is only nominally so. A state that deliberately casts its vote for Democratic Governor and Senator is not a Republican state —even though a sort of mechanical habit of ballot-marking carries most of the other offices.

We shall be told, doubtless, that it is an uprising for Statement No. 1. But the candidates for the Legislature who refused Statement No. 1 are elected the same as others. Here is McArthur in Multnomah outrunning most, if not all, the rest.

The sure returns are too few to justify an attempt to state definite results. But with such returns as are thus far obtainable it does not appear that Cake's pluralities in the remainder of the state can be sufficient to overcome Chamberlain's considerable plurality in Multnomah.

## IT IS A BIG COUNTRY.

The talk from this time till the Presidential election will be that the party in power in Congress has been extravagant. The appropriation bill is an enormous thing. It exceeds one thousand millions of dollars. That is a mighty big sum of money. But what part of the country will admit that it has received too much?

The largest single item in the whole bill is the postoffice. To what part of the country have postal facilities been extended beyond the needs or wants of the people?

There is a big bill for public buildings. The clamor of the thousand towns and cities not provided for in this bill indicates that the public buildings do not yet equal the demand.

After the postoffice the Navy is the biggest thing. But we do not hear that anybody—that is, anybody who is anybody—wants a lesser Navy. Certainly, in our Pacific states, we want a larger one.

The Army. It is a costly branch of the service, because it costs four times more with us to maintain an army, regiment by regiment, than it costs in the countries of the Old World. But our Army is not numerous; it is but a shadow or skeleton, and could not be reduced unless we should abandon it entirely.

The pension roll calls for $150,000,000. We think there has been no voice in Congress for its reduction.

It is easy to talk about extravagance; but when you try to put your finger on the spot where the reduction should be made, or could be made, the effort pretty certainly will give you pause. Ours is a big country.

## WHAT FORESTRY HAS DONE.

The Department of Agriculture has issued a pamphlet bearing this title, which shows in brief space what has been done in other countries for preservation and renewal of forests. The exhibit may be taken as an indication or suggestion of what may be done and should be done in our own country.

In most countries of Europe the conditions and changes have been very much as we are finding them in our own country. First, the forests were so abundant as to be in the way, and were either neglected or destroyed. Then, as the borders of forests receded from places where wood was needed the forests began to be spared and protected. Next, the increasing need of wood led to the recognition of the forest as a crop which must be harvested, and, therefore, should be made to grow again. The last stage is that of systematic forestry, where the forest is safeguarded so as to yield a constant maximum year after year. We in the United States have passed through the first stages of this movement, and now are entering on the last. In Western Oregon we are still destroying timber, to get it out of the way of agriculture.

This pamphlet informs us that the German Empire has 35,000,000 acres of forest, of which the larger part is directly under the care of the state. Private persons have large holdings, but these are carefully administered also for preservation of the timber. Each state of the German federation administers its own forests, but Prussia and Saxony have been the most successful, and their management yields a handsome profit. Prussia has 7,000,000 acres, and no more wood is cut than the forest produces. The rate of production has been increasing for many years. In 1830 it was twenty cubic feet per acre. It has gradually increased until in 1904 it was sixty-five cubic feet per acre. Taking the whole empire, the production of timber in Germany since 1830 has increased more than threefold, and in fifty-four years the money return from an average acre of forest has increased sevenfold.

France imports annually $30,000,000 worth of wood. The state forests yield $1.75 per acre and cost 95 cents annually. The best managed state forests yield about forty cubic feet of timber annually, which is much below the German yield. But the destruction caused by floods and winds has been greatly decreased. However, the work of reforesting is still going on, and it is expected that $50,000,000 will be spent on it before it is complete. Austria is a large exporter of wood, but forestry is successfully practiced on 60 per cent of all the public forests and 82 per cent of the private forests. Hungary is also a large exporter, but the cut is regulated and is believed to be less than the wood actually produced. Russia has an immense extent of woodland, over which the government in recent years has begun to extend protection.

Italy, though a mountainous country, is poor in timber—after the ravages of thirty centuries; but the central government, since the unification of Italy, has been pushing as fast and as far as possible the work of reforestation. Yet much of the mountain land is wholly unproductive, and, indeed, beyond reclamation.

The history of forestry in old countries shows that we must attend to preservation and reproduction of forests in our own; and further, that private initiative and interest are not sufficient to prevent waste and destruction. In other words, government must use its authority with us, as in countries of the Old World, or we shall soon find our wood practically exhausted.

## THE ROSE FESTIVAL.

Somewhat arctic and less balmy than one could wish are the breezes which waft in the Rose Festival. Still they are breezes and in spite of their ungenerous frigidity here are the roses, fragrant, rare and everywhere. Hail to the robust roses which have overcome the inclemency of a tempestuous Spring. Hail to the brave-hearted Festival managers who have triumphed over cold weather and belated blooms and given us a gay show after all. Where did they get all these roses, such beautiful ones, too, and so big and fragrant? Can those astonishing men make roses? Are they magicians like Herrman, who could take roses and lilies by the bushel out of an old stovepipe hat?

Wherever they got them, here the roses are and here is the Festival in all the glory that was promised and a great deal more besides. Is not Oregon a wonderful state to be celebrating a rose festival with jollity and frolicsome parades, while poor Oklahoma and sorry old Texas are simply holding on to their skirts and weighting themselves down with boulders to keep from blowing away? Of course we condole with those unhappy states but at the same time we cannot help wondering why they do not abandon their cyclone-swept and tornado-devastated lands and come to Oregon, where the worst thing the wind ever does is to chill the roses a little.

## THE CHINESE BOYCOTT.

There is a difference between a brave fighter who engages in a contest for the purpose of righting a wrong, and a bully who seeks a quarrel in order that he may profit by his prowess, regardless of the merits of the contest. When Japan engaged in war with Russia, she won the plaudits of the world. The question at issue was so clearly defined, and Russia was so clearly in the wrong, that Japan was universally regarded as a benefactor to the entire civilized world. With right on her side, with the moral support of the rest of the world, and with enough of the heathen blood of fatalism in the veins of her soldiers to make them magnificent fighters, Japan won a great victory over Russia. The comparatively easy victory over China a decade before had given the Nippon fighters a thirst for more of the same. The victory over Russia, which for centuries had been a dominating force in the world, changed Japan from a pardonably proud victor to a boastful, swaggering bully, looking for trouble.

And now the trouble has been found, and it is of a nature which makes its removal by force of arms an impossibility. Japan invited the trouble by an illegal and unwarranted demand for release of the filibustering steamer Tatsu Maru, which had been seized in Chinese waters for violation of an international law, respected even by the most insignificant of the world's powers. China refused to release the vessel, and Japan, the swaggering bully of the Far East, by threats of war forced release of the vessel. Realizing the futility of an appeal to arms at this time, China began a campaign of reprisal which is now inflicting terrible punishment on Japan. The Flowery Kingdom, with its unnumbered millions of people, in spite of the small purchasing power per individual, is an enormous factor in the world's trade. The immense requirements of such a vast population have in the past enabled Japan, the nearest neighbor, to enjoy a trade of great proportions. Japanese wares being found throughout China in greater quantities than those of any other nation.

But today China has placed on Japanese goods throughout the empire the most effective boycott ever known. Through the Bankers and Merchants' Guild and the National Disgrace Society, this boycott has spread throughout the world wherever a Japanese has anything for sale that a Chinaman might wish to purchase. It has extended to the Pacific Coast, to Australia, India and the Straits Settlement, and the effect has become so serious that Japan is becoming very much alarmed, and has appealed to the Chinese government demanding that the boycott be lifted. Unfortunately for Japan, the boycott is not a government affair. The Chinese are displaying no violence, they are keeping strictly within their rights, and are accordingly immune from interference by the government. They will not handle Japanese goods and will not patronize Japanese vessels.

No such remarkable expression of national indignation has ever been recorded, and Japan, at last facing a problem in which force of arms, bullying and braggadocio can have no effect, is beginning to realize that some of the victories of peace are vastly more important than those of war. From a long-range view of the situation, it would seem that the bully of the Far East had reached his limitations, and was about to be brought up with a round turn by meek, docile and long-suffering China.

## THE LIVESTOCK SHOW.

No other single feature in connection with the Lewis and Clark Exposition attracted so much attention as the livestock show. The interest displayed in this feature of the great exposition was such that entries of all kinds of stock were made from every prominent stock-raising region in the country. This remarkable display of the best stock in the United States, was attracted by the heavy prizes which were offered, there being $40,000 in cash for the prize winners. It was thus possible to make each individual prize of proportions sufficient to warrant entries being made from remote points in the Union, and at no other point on the Pacific Coast has there been such an exhibition as brought Portland into prominence as a livestock center three years ago. The Portland Country Club and Livestock Association is a smaller enterprise than the Lewis and Clark Exposition, but in its special field it promises to outdistance the livestock feature of the fair that made Portland famous.

For the first Pacific National show that is to be given on the grounds of the organization in this city in September, cash prizes aggregating $40,000, the same amount that was hung up for the Lewis and Clark Fair, have been provided. When the magnitude of the livestock show at the former Exposition is considered, it will be understood that our own permanent livestock show is a much more important affair than anything of a similar nature ever undertaken on the Pacific Coast. This new enterprise will not only prove of inestimable value to the breeding industry of the Pacific Northwest, but it will eventually make of Portland a center for what promises to be the greatest stock region in the West. Oregon, Washington and Idaho are peculiarly adapted to the production of fine stock. Good water, life-giving air and an abundance of the best feed on earth made this country famous for its livestock long before the introduction of royal blood into the flocks and herds enabled breeders to secure the best possible results.

That this country has these natural advantages over other localities, has repeatedly been demonstrated by Oregon-bred animals winning prizes in competition with exactly the same strain of blood in animals reared in less favorable climatic conditions. This Pacific National show will be of exceptional value to Portland at this time, when the attention of livestock breeders all over the Coast has been drawn to this city by location here of the immense packing plant of Swift & Co. These annual exhibitions, with liberal prizes, will stimulate competition among breeders, and there will be a breaking up of the big herds of range cattle and horses, and better bred, higher-priced animals will be produced in greater numbers than ever, but on smaller farms.

Where ten stockmen are now turning off thousands of head of stock per year, there will be thousands of small farmers who are turning off a few animals each, and the number of these small holdings will in the aggregate be far greater than that of the big bands of inferior animals, which in the past have roamed at will over the Northwest.

## DEBATES BY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.

The High School Debating League, which was organized in this state during the past school year, promises to be of incalculable value as an educational institution. Some eighteen high schools of the state were members of the league and participated in a series of debates, which finally narrowed down to two competing teams, between which a championship debate was held last Friday night at Eugene, resulting in a victory for Lebanon. To have the honor of possessing the best debating team in the high schools of the state is a distinction well worth striving for, and yet its value is slight in comparison with the benefits derived from the work performed by the team in preparation for the winning contest. The championship can be attained by but one team; each and every student who participated in the discussions, even though a member of one of the first teams eliminated from the contest, has secured much of permanent and personal benefit that could scarcely have been attained in any other way.

The magnitude of the work of the Debating League may be readily seen. In the first year of its existence there were about eighteen teams participating in the debates. Next year there should be as many as thirty. Each school will be represented by three students, making ninety debaters in all. But, prior to selection of the teams, local contests will be held in which many students will take part, thus bringing two or three hundred young people upon the platform as debaters. All through the school year local debates will be held for the purpose of preparing the members of the teams for the final contest just before commencement.

If the work of the past year is a fair indication of the standard upon which the league is to be conducted, it is certain that the questions discussed will be well worth the time and attention devoted to them. In every instance, live public issues were chosen for consideration, thus adding general interest to the debates and increasing their value from an educational standpoint. A number of the questions submitted to the people this year under the initiative and referendum were selected as topics for debate and in this manner much information has been given to voters upon these important problems. In fact, the plan upon which the debates were conducted gives promise that the league will prove as valuable as a school of instruction to the people in general as it is to the students who directly participate in the work.

For the young people of our high schools to undertake to educate their parents upon public questions is not necessarily an assumption of superior knowledge or intellectual ability. It is merely an exercise of ordinary judgment in the collection and presentation of facts and arguments relative to problems confronting the citizens of the state from time to time. No one presumes that young people of 15 to 20 years of age possess, in general, knowledge that makes them leaders of public thought. But these young people have plenty of time to read and gather information. With the aid of the State Library Commission and the high school instructors, they bring together all the available data and arguments on both sides of questions to be debated. They spend weeks in this preparatory work. They condense the vast amount of material they have at hand and arrange it in logical order, so that the whole may be presented to an audience in eight addresses of about 15 minutes each, covering in all less than two hours of time. By their work the students not only make the facts and reasons their own, but they are in the best possible position to convey the information to others. Local pride and personal interest in the teams assures a large attendance at debates, and in the course of the year an immense number of people get the benefit of the work the students have done.

Hence, it may be repeated that the Debating League promises to be of great value as an educational institution. It will not only serve to develop power in public speaking, but will stimulate interest in public questions among our young people and furnish a practical means of disseminating information upon live issues.

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The American Visible yesterday showed a decrease of 1,254,000 bushels, and is now 27,000,000 bushels smaller than at a corresponding date last year. The unusually high prices which have prevailed throughout the entire crop season have resulted in a heavier movement of the cereal than for many years, and as the crop last year was much smaller than its predecessor, it is highly probable that the bins are already being scraped in some quarters. Not only was the Visible report of a bullish nature yesterday, but Quantities on Passage were slightly lower than for the preceding week and were more than 10,000,000 bushels smaller than for the same date last year. World's shipments were also much smaller than a year ago. Unless the American crop should mature early this year, there is a strong probability that the American Visible will shrink to very smal proportions within the next few weeks.

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The Oregon City Courier, a Democratic paper, opposed the land tax amendment. It said: "This much is certain: the public mind has not been prepared to act intelligently on such radical legislation and it would be an unfortunate circumstance should legislation of this character be enacted on the impulse of the moment." Isn't this an insult to the people—downright treason to them? As if there could be any subject upon which the people are not prepared to act intelligently or settle even without preparation? Distrust of the people is one of the saddest things of our time. Besides, the insinuation that such men as U'Ren, Bourne, Wagnon and Cridge are not absolutely safe advisers gives needless pain.

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The Illinois Central has just placed an order for 52,000 tons of steel rails, to cost $1,450,000. This is the largest rail contract let since the beginning of the financial stringency, and can hardly fail in having a good effect in restoring confidence in other lines of trade. The price reported paid for these rails would indicate that the steel trust has made no concessions, and that it still considers the old figure "reasonable." There will, of course, be a gradual resumption of buying of rails even at trust prices, but the return of activity in railroad building would be hastened if the trust would reduce prices on rails and structural steel.

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Orders issued by the Board of Health of the State of New York, that all persons milking cows whose milk is to be sold, must wear white duck overalls and jackets, has placed many of the milk producers, whose milk finds market in the cities, in a predicament. Much of the milking has been done by the wives and daughters of farmers, all of whom declare they will never don the overalls. The farmers think they cannot afford to dispense with the female help, and they are at a loss to know what to do. Too much foolery in such orders from Boards of Health.

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School will soon close for the year. Young people of industrious inclinations will soon be hunting employment during vacation. Three months of useful physical work in the open air, after nine months of mental effort in the school room, will go far toward building up a constitution able to stand another year of study. It will also help pay the expense of providing board and clothes, books and entertainments during the next school year. Vacation does not necessarily mean idleness.

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Mr. Bryan is going to return Mr. Ryan's $20,000 if he finds that Mr. Ryan gave that modest amount to the Nebraskan's campaign. Of course Mr. Bryan didn't know what his friends were doing to raise money for him. That is the reason he is so strenuous for publicity in all such matters. It is dangerous to have friends and supporters with money, and he wants them exposed.

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If the report that the Yaqui Indians have decided to lay down their arms and become peaceful citizens should prove true, a fruitful source for newspaper sensations will be cut off. The rebellion of these fiends has been going on for something more than a century, and during that time the loss of life has been greater than in any of the Indian wars on the American side of the line.

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In order to cultivate the "simple life," "simple life thoughts" and "purity in heart," a genius named Ander is going to start a colony in Mexico where men, women and children go about naked. Mr. Ander will be dressed just right to receive a nocturnal tar-and-feathers delegation.

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The Single Tax, the Recall and other vagaries may have been voted down, but the Fool Idea lives forever. Wait two years for the aforesaid F. I. to bob up serenely under the initiative.

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The man who "had it sized up exactly right" will be on hand bright and early today. But he didn't win any money to speak of.

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The bankers brought Uncle Joe Cannon through on the currency bill. Money talks a language Uncle Joe understands.

## BRYAN FAILS AS VOTE-GETTER

### His Poor Showing Along With Other Presidential Candidates Since '60.

New York World (Dem.).

Only three Democratic candidates for President since 1860 polled a smaller percentage of the total vote than did Mr. Bryan in 1900—McClellan, Greeley and Parker.

McClellan fell only one-half of 1 per cent below Bryan, and McClellan has always been regarded as a very badly-defeated candidate. Greeley was only 1½ per cent behind Bryan, and Greeley's campaign is popularly supposed to have been an utter fiasco.

The table of percentages tells its own story:

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|---|---|
| **1864—** | |
| Total vote | 4,024,892 |
| McClellan's vote | 1,808,725 |
| McClellan's per cent | 44.94 |
| **1868—** | |
| Total vote | 5,724,686 |
| Seymour's vote | 2,709,615 |
| Seymour's per cent | 47.33 |
| **1872—** | |
| Total vote | 6,467,265 |
| Greeley's vote | 2,834,079 |
| Greeley's per cent | 44 |
| **1876—** | |
| Total vote | 8,412,733 |
| Tilden's vote | 4,284,885 |
| Tilden's per cent | 50.93 |
| **1880—** | |
| Total vote | 9,209,404 |
| Hancock's vote | 4,442,035 |
| Hancock's per cent | 48.21 |
| **1884—** | |
| Total vote | 10,044,985 |
| Cleveland's vote | 4,911,017 |
| Cleveland's per cent | 48.89 |
| **1888—** | |
| Total vote | 11,380,960 |
| Cleveland's vote | 5,538,233 |
| Cleveland's per cent | 48.66 |
| **1892—** | |
| Total vote | 12,059,351 |
| Cleveland's vote | 5,556,918 |
| Cleveland's per cent | 46 |
| **1892—** | |
| Total vote | 12,059,351 |
| Democrat and Populist vote | 6,596,946 |
| Democrat and Populist per cent | 54.70 |
| **1896—** | |
| Total vote | 13,923,102 |
| Bryan's (Dem. and Pop.) | 6,502,925 |
| Bryan's (Dem. and Pop.) per cent | 46.70 |
| **1900—** | |
| Total vote | 13,959,653 |
| Bryan's (Dem. and Pop.) | 6,358,123 |
| Bryan's (Dem. and Pop.) per cent | 45.55 |
| **1904—** | |
| Total vote | 13,510,708 |
| Parker's vote | 5,077,971 |
| Parker's per cent | 37.77 |

Mr. Bryan's vote in 1896 and 1900 is compared with the combined Democratic and Populist vote in 1892, because Mr. Bryan had both the Democratic and Populist nominations, and because, in 1892, he was one of the Western Democrats who voted the Populist Presidential ticket.

On the basis of these percentages, it will be seen that Mr. Bryan is a great vote-getter only by comparison with Judge Parker.

### "Easy Come, Easy Go."

Baker City Herald.

Senator Bourne believes in doing the symmetrical thing in defeat when he offers the state committee $1000 immediately after the state convention had kicked him in the rear a couple of times. And the state convention did not instruct the committee not to accept the offer, if you will notice.

### Thirty-Inch Trout on a Sunday.

Goldendale Sentinel.

Sunday Dave Masters captured a 30-inch trout in the Big Klickitat that weighed over 13 pounds.

## JAPAN'S EXPOSITION IN 1912

### Argues That United States Ought to Have an Exhibit Worth While.

New York Sun.

For several reasons the United States can afford to be liberal, and cannot afford to be otherwise, in an appropriation for the Japanese international exhibition to be held in 1912. The original plan in Congress involved a modest appropriation of $200,000 or $250,000. After consideration the Senate passed a bill providing for an expenditure of $350,000. The House proposed $500,000, and pressure was exerted to extract even more. Last Tuesday the House approved an appropriation of $1,500,000, a far more fitting allowance.

Japan has been generous in its appropriations for expositions in this country and its displays at various fairs have added much to the interest of visitors. The Japanese exhibit at Chicago in 1893 was excellent, and the display at St. Louis in 1904 was elaborate. It will doubtless be helpful both to our social and economic interests for us to be well represented in Japan in 1912. There should be an imposing official display and an equally imposing commercial exhibit. Our most active trade competitors will be in evidence with their wares and merchandise, and this country should be well to the front in a showing of its products and resources.

The Island Empire is making elaborate preparations for the event and the exposition is projected on a $10,000,000 basis. The Aoyama parade ground, a 300-acre tract in the cty of Tokio, has been selected for the site, and 20 or more special buildings are to be erected for the purposes of the exposition. The affair is to be industrial rather than historical, and its special purpose will be to show to the world the economic achievements of Japan since Commodore Perry pushed its doors open in 1854. Fourteen years later, January 1, 1868, the Emperor recognized the fact that new conditions had been established. He issued an edict declaring the great importance of the matter of relations with foreign countries. A part of the edict reads thus: "Now that the changed condition of the country urges us to leave such a policy of seclusion we do hereby make proclamation that henceforth international intercourse upon the basis of international rules is opened, and both government and governed shall unite to achieve this our intention." This was one of the first steps taken by the Emperor after the "Restoration" of December, 1867, the beginning of modern Japan.

In 1872 Japan's commerce, export and import, only a little exceeded $20,000,000. By 1890 it had reached a total of nearly $70,000,000. Ten years later, in 1900, it reached $245,000,000. It is now approximately $450,000,000. The imports are about $345,000,000 a year, and our present share is about $40,000,000. For many reasons, commercial and otherwise, the proposed large scale expenditure for the Japanese international exposition deserves approval.

## CALIFORNIA'S CROP OUTLOOK

### All Fruits Above the Average and Growers Look for a Banner Year.

(From the Bulletin of Progress, Published by the California Promotion Committee.)

Conditions in California in all matters pertaining to material progress are excellent. The crop outlook continues to improve, and, with the single exception of prunes, which will be below the average, all fruits will reach a production above the average. Indications for peaches and apricots are that California will produce the largest crop in its history. Reports received by the California promotion committee from every fruit district in the state show that this will probably be the banner year.

Late rains did slight injury to cut hay in certain localities, but the great benefit of these rains to other crops greatly offset this damage. Grapes will make an especially abundant crop this year, and already preparations are being made to harvest them. The demand for labor in the agricultural districts of the state is increasing, and thousands of men and women can find steady employment.

The voting of $18,200,000 improvement bonds by San Francisco, together with the voting of road improvement bonds and school bonds in many parts of the state, indicate that there will be great demand for labor for public improvements during the coming year.

The movement for good roads in California has crystalized in the ninth semi-annual meeting of the counties committee of the California promotion committee, to be held in Santa Cruz, June 6 where ways and means will be devised to make this a great state movement.

Several large tracts of land have been purchased by syndicates for the purpose of subdivision into small farms, and these will be put on the market during the Summer, thus inducing many settlers to come to the state. The following summary shows California conditions from April 29 to May 28, inclusive:

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| San Francisco building permits | $ 2,767,615.00 |
| San Francisco building permits since the fire | 105,287,770.00 |
| Los Angeles building permits | 860,917.00 |
| Oakland building permits | 533,822.25 |
| San Francisco real estate sales, 530; value | 2,000,000.00 |
| San Francisco bank clearings | 134,998,212.98 |
| San Francisco bank clearings, May, 1907 | 188,228,389.02 |
| Los Angeles bank clearings | 44,554,484.00 |
| Oakland bank clearings | 6,995,944.00 |
| Sacramento bank clearings | 3,330,509.59 |
| Stockton bank clearings | 1,671,943.69 |
| Fresno bank clearings | 1,844,327.79 |
| San Jose bank clearings | 1,701,959.10 |
| San Diego bank clearings | 2,878,585.20 |
| San Francisco customs receipts | 687,457.03 |

### Rhyme in Poetry.

A. E. Aldington, in the Westminster Review, asks himself and the reader whether rhyme is indispensable in poetry and answers his own question in the negative. The arguments we get are not new. Among them is that venerable reason, the absence of rhyme from our early English versification. Apparently, like most things that live and grow, English literature seems to have begun to degenerate in its infancy. And there is another point to be made against rhyme. "How many poets are flawless in their rhymes?" Milton rightly insisted that rhyme was no necessary adjunct to good verse, in English. Mr. Aldington writes:

At random I take Mrs. Browning's "A Vision of Poets," "The Annus Mirabilis" of Dryden, perhaps the greatest master of versification, and "The Masque of Anarchy," by Shelley, and I ask the rhyme devotee to read these three poems carefully, and to put down all the bad rhymes he will find. I venture to surmise that the result will be a surprise, and if he extend his researches to almost every poet in the language he will find the same flaws and imperfections, if such they be. I would add as a corollary to this research the inquiry whether our admiration of "The Annus Mirabilis" would be increased or diminished if every rhyme were omitted, or every rhyme made perfect.

### Sugar-Loving Bees Loot a Store.

Baltimore News.

A swarm of bees, having scented sugar in the grocery store of Cox & McMillan in Columbus, Ind., took possession of the place, and all efforts to dislodge them were in vain.

### Shoes Imprison Pullman Car Traveler.

Kansas City Star.

George E. Smith, of Eldon, Mo., on a Pullman car got the shoes of R. Boylan, of St. Louis, by mistake, and, not having another pair, was forced to stay indoors until his property was forwarded, as Boylan's could not be worn.

### Merry Widow Hat Cuts Man's Eye.

Newark (N. J.) Dispatch.

The big hat of Miss Idylla Vyner gashed the eye of George H. Foster so severely on a streetcar, at Newark, N. J., that blood flowed freely, seeing which the woman came near fainting.

## THE SENATE IN PLAYFUL MOOD

### As the Session Drew to a Close Dignified Members Got Frisky.

From Washington Letter to the Philadelphia Press.

During the past few days the Senate has shown a disposition at times to be real jolly. Of course its merriment has been of a subdued order, and the slight departures from its usual decorum have been gently rebuked by the tapping of Vice-President Fairbanks' little ivory gavel. Saturday the Senate decided, or rather the steering committee decided, that no more business should be undertaken, and the time should be passed waiting on the House to dispose of certain conference reports.

The fun began when Mr. Aldrich, one of the veterans and the wheel horse of the majority side, began a mild senatorial filibuster. He called for the reading of the journal, then called up a lot of war claims and had the reports thereon read, something that would never occur except when time was to be killed. The ruddy face of the silver-headed Rhode Island Senator shone in good nature, and a broad smile was on his face as he made the necessary filibustering motions.

Senator Hale, perhaps the embodiment of Senatorial dignity, ordinarily, dropped in and seemed imbued with a spirit of fun as in audible tones to those about him he began making humorous remarks upon the proceedings. There was a tendency to mildly haze any Senator who proposed any new legislation. The man of Indian blood, Senator Owen of Oklahoma, offered a resolution of some sort. While he was on his feet, by some legerdemain the resolution was hurriedly referred to a committee.

"Have I not the floor?" inquired the surprised Senator.

"No, you were referred to the committee along with your resolution," answered Mr. Hale, and in the laugh that follows Mr. Owen takes his seat.

Later, Mr. Owen, discussing some matter, cries: "Now the Senator from New York, Mr. Depew, thinks—"

"Mr. President," cries "Our Chauncey," how does the gentleman know what I think?"

"Because I am a mind reader," merrily retorts he of the Indian blood.

The chamber is well nigh deserted. The clerk is droning along, reading some dry report on a bill never likely to be brought to a vote. Coteries of Senators have gone to favorite committee rooms, there to swap stories, discuss Fairbanks for the Vice-Presidency, or, maybe, to have a little luncheon. A half-dozen Senators are on the floor. The aged Teller of Colorado, whose silver beard and iron-gray locks, brushed straight back from his forehead, are known to all who have looked upon the Senate for the past 30 years, rises slowly, looks over the top of his glasses and says in the mournful voice of a religious pleader: "Mr. President, I am compelled to suggest the absence of a quorum."

Bells jangle in every corridor and committee room in the Senate wing of the Capitol and the members of the body come strolling in, some arm in arm, laughing as the last of a funny story is being told; some wiping their mouths as though they had just left the delights of the table; some saunter in with a bored look on their faces, while the nasal voice of the clerk monotonously calls: "Mr. Aldrich, Mr. Allison, Mr. Ankeny," and so on down the roll. Mr. Teller, scrouged down in his chair, his jaws moving as though chewing an imaginary cud of tobacco, glances over his spectacles at the truant Senators with a merry twinkle in his eye. Five minutes after the quorum has answered, there are six Senators in the chamber and the clerk is continuing his monotonous reading.

Night sessions have an exhilarating influence on the Senators. It is then that jokes are played. Carter of Montana is often the leader of the fun. He is apt to take the floor and make a mock serious speech on some bill, so full of sarcasm and wit as to convulse his colleagues. Senator Kean, who is the "watch dog" of the majority in seeing that no legislation objectionable to his side of the chamber comes up, relaxes his vigilance and wanders about the chamber, telling a story to this one or listening to the latest bon mot from that one, or, sometimes taking a seat at the Press Association's table, he will offer to assist the reporters in making a story of the night's proceedings.

Among the official clerks at the desk immediately below the Vice-President's dais is one who wields the pencil of a clever caricaturist. As the night proceeds some Senator, wearied with the hours, may assume an attitude of relaxed dignity. Perhaps he may nod and sometimes a Senator has been known to go fast asleep. The clerk's pencil in a few deft strokes takes off the tired statesman and the sheet of paper, with the caricature, is circulated among a few of the victim's friends. There is much tittering over the sketch, but the latter never reaches the Senator himself. Another Senator, perhaps it is Beveridge of Indiana, in one of the statesque poses he assumes while addressing the Senate, is caught by the artist and another caricature is sent about the chamber.

Sometimes one of these funny pictures reaches the grave, dignified gentleman who presides over the Senate. Even Jose himself unbends, if he does not nod, and a quiet smile passes over his face. He shakes his head deprecatingly at the irreverent clerk, and with an apologetic tap of his gavel he requests that "the Senate will be in order. There is too much audible conversation on the floor." There is a momentary pause in the buzz of conversation, Senators look up at the Vice-President with a smile and return to their story-telling.

### Raps Auto Tire Chains.

Indianapolis News.

Boston has taken a whack at the automobilists, following New York's example in excluding from its parks motor cars equipped with tire chains or metal-covered tires. The Metropolitan Park Commission of Boston has decided that the anti-skid devices on the heavy cars tear up the parkways faster than an army of men can repair them, and has decreed that from now on any chauffeur operating a machine with spiked, chained or studded wheels shall be mulcted to the tune of $20.

### Angry Bees Lead to Looter's Arrest.

Hartford (Conn.) Dispatch.

Richard Lane, who robbed a beehive at Winsted, Conn., was pursued by the bees, and the owner of the hive followed the trail and had Lane arrested.

### A FEW SQUIBS.

The Queen of England wore gems valued at $5,000,000 at the state ball in Buckingham Palace. Sounds as if her father came from Pittsburg.—Chicago Post.

"How long does a dream last" asks a Berlin scientist. One has lasted 12 years in Mr. Bryan's case, and he hasn't awakened yet.—Omaha Bee.

"Do you consider your nerve is sufficiently steady to fit you for an airship navigator?" "Well, I've been out in a canoe with a nervous fat girl."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"So the town has declined a library?" "Yes; but the grocery lyceum has written the philanthropist, volunteerin' to maintain a barrel if he'll furnish the codfish."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Nell—"She admits that she is terribly disappointed in her husband." Belle—"How is that?" Nell—"She married him to reform him, and now she finds he doesn't need it."—Philadelphia Record.

"Smoking may not hurt some people," said Mrs. Lapsling; "but it isn't good for a nervous man like my husband. You know it's the Nicodemus in tobacco that makes it so injurious."—Chicago Tribune.

Belle (awestruck)—"Mazie says she has so many callers every day in the year she hardly knows what to do with them." Nell (spitefully)—"Then I bet she's got a position as a telephone operator."—Baltimore American.

Mrs. Kidder—"I can't see why our landlord is so fussy about the rent of this flat. Does he think we're going to bilk him?" Mr. Kidder—"Well, he's in bad condition. His wife tells me that he is so nervous that the leased thing worries him."—Cleveland Leader.