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PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 9, 1908.

SOLICITUDE FOR LABOR.

The effort to "capture the labor vote of the country," put forth by various, divers and sundry politicians, is scarcely less than an insult to the electors included in the designation—the labor vote. They who have knowledge, by contact, association and experience, with the working people of the country know that we have no more independent body of citizens. No other body of citizens votes more surely on independent judgment.

Under our system, balanced as it is by and through the experience of time, neither one side nor the other, in the conflict of interest between employers and employed—between wage-workers and wage-payers—can have its own way wholly, or go very far in that direction. Justice lies always in the balance of interests and claims of each and of both. None know it better than the wage-workers of the country. Therefore all their instructions tell them to keep clear of party politics, in their advocacy of the interests of labor. Every man, therefore, votes on his own judgment. Therefore it is that the special appeals of Mr. Bryan or of Mr. Taft, or for Mr. Bryan or Mr. Taft as a special "friend of labor," will be estimated at their value.

Greater part of the work of this kind is done by Mr. Bryan, or for him. There are large bodies of workingmen whom it does not please. Among them is the general brotherhood of railroad workers, employed in operation of the railroads of the country;—and here is the official organ of the brotherhood of painters, decorators and paper-hangers of America, in an editorial article written presumably by its editor, J. C. Skemp, saying:

> Most of us differ with Mr. Bryan in many things, consider him as unsound as he is uncertain, but usually credit him with being sincere. In previous campaigns he clung to theories which killed his chances for success, apparently preferring to be right than President. This time he has fallen short of what his best friends and greatest admirers expected. Mr. Bryan has done brave things for principle, done them regardless of consequences. It is disappointing to see him associate with professional politicians of shady reputations and worse records. It makes one fear that a desire to win has overcome the conscientious scrupulousness which hitherto distinguished him from many men in public life.

This idea is illustrated further by the remark that a man is known by the company he keeps, and "the only excuse that the all-powerful Mr. Bryan can offer for permitting Murphy, Mack, Connors, Sullivan, Stone, Francis and Taggart to remain in control of the Democratic machine in their respective states is a fear to arouse their enmity and a desire to profit by the influence which they are supposed to possess." Read further:

> The Republicans will have a majority in the Senate and be in a position to kill any measure of advantage to the common people which a Democratic House might enact. But there is little probability of their being called upon to kill radical legislation. The Democratic leaders in the North will see to it that "safe" men are nominated, a few radicals may creep in, but the majority will be trained to eat out of the hands of their masters.

It is a forecast absolutely correct, and the working people of the country know it as well as others. But the editorial doesn't end here. It remarks that the great strength of Mr. Bryan's party is in the South, and that the South will do nothing whatever to help labor reforms. Let us study this passage, to wit:

> Progressive legislation through the Democratic party is impossible as long as its enactment depends upon the representatives from the South. In no section of the United States—and few parts of Europe, outside of Russia—is there as little liberty and progress. Child labor is universally exploited, trades unions practically outlawed. Alabama, the state from which Mr. Bryan chose the permanent chairman of his convention, repealed a law regulating child labor and enacted a less stringent one in order to induce Northern capital to invest in the misery and the lives of the children of its working people. On its statute books is the most drastic antiboycott law ever enacted. The state leases its convicts to work in the iron mines of the steel trust. From this system, resulting in untold cruelty, corruption and crime, Alabama profits to the extent of $750,000 a year. Its chief city, Birmingham, with a Democratic Government, is furnishing prisoner strike-breakers to the mineowners, who are engaged in a desperate struggle with the United Mineworkers of America. For each ablebodied criminal the city receives $10 a month. Similar conditions exist in nearly every state of the South, which is still dominated by the men who in bygone days, too proud and too lazy to work, coined the lives and the liberty of chattel slaves into luxury and ease.

These are points that serve or should serve for enlightenment. In states that are strongly and surely for Bryan and his party, the demands of labor get no consideration. Only in the Northern States are they heard. Observe that Mr. Bryan and Mr. Gompers never go into the South to contend for "the rights of labor." Perhaps it is because they think labor fit only for "niggers." Yet no doubt the real reason is that the Southern States, the strength of the Bryan party, are resolved not to have any such doctrines on this subject as Bryan advocates in the North. What, then, can be expected for labor by a Bryan administration?

So great a factor are the working-people of the country in the activity and progress and welfare of the country that the only hope and safety of the country are in the working-people who can't be beguiled or misled by politicians.

Why is there a need for specially organized "Taft Republican Clubs"? Every town in the state has its Republican Club, or more than one, already. These clubs have their membership, their constitutions and their officers. Why should not meetings of these clubs be called and the work of this campaign be taken up by them without the organization of new clubs? Towns that have no Republican clubs already should organize, but not merely for the election of Taft. A Republican club needs no limitation to its field of effort short of election of every Republican candidate.

THE SALEM SCANDAL.

The dissensions in the family of Joseph Meyers, of Salem, as presented to the public in more or less sensational installments during the past month, are but variations of the same old slobbered tale that has been rehearsed all too often at the instigation of indiscreet heirs of uxorious and aged men of fortune throughout the generations. The folly of such dissension is only equaled by its futility. When an old man—the father of a family of adult sons and daughters—having been bereft by death of the wife of his youth and the mother of his children, becomes possessed of the desire to marry, his children are apt to rise in a revolt that is at least quite as natural as is the father's desire. This revolt is intensified in bitterness when the old man is wealthy and the woman whom he proposes to marry is relatively young—young enough, perhaps, to give promise of other heirs to the family estates. Expostulation in such a case has ever proved futile; attempts to spirit the aged lover away or to subject him to a chaperonage the office of which is to protect alike unsophisticated youth and doddering age from the wiles and snares of the tempter, are easily foiled by connivance of the astute party of the second part and aspersions against the sanity of the old man have invariably been almost universally disallowed by an unsympathetic court or matter-of-fact lunacy commission. The old man has his way, and eventually the relatively young wife has hers, leaving to the disgruntled heirs their labor for their pains.

Such marriages, and the family rumpus that they have raised, are incidents in the life of every community. Their history follows parallel lines without deviation except in minor details. Nine times out of ten the old man comes off victorious, though not infrequently the triumph is in the end a bitter one to him, since, having first estranged his children, it is likely to cloud his closing years by dependence upon the grudged bounty of his beneficiary.

The wonder in all of this is, not that the old man makes a fool of himself, since he is approached on his most defenseless and "easy" side, with flattery and caressing, but that his sons and daughters hope and strive by coercive means to counteract the spell under which he has fallen, and that, throwing family pride to the winds, they make the public the theater upon which they stage this ages-old domestic play.

It is the part of wisdom in such a case to acknowledge the power of "the whip hand" and smilingly stand aside, since by such means alone will the heirs be able to compete for their property rights against one whom they choose to consider an invader.

> For who ever heard of a marriage deterred
> Or even deferred
> By any contrivance so very absurd
> As scolding the "boy" and
> "Fighting his bird."

Such an attempt, with its manifold variations, is both useless and humiliating. Aggravating as the case may be and often is from the standpoint of the heirs, seeming acquiescence to the marriage is at once politic and decent.

SELLING FRUIT.

The opinion expressed by Mr. H. F. Davidson, of Hood River, that dealers in fruit lost money last year is undoubtedly correct, and it may be expected that their experience will make them a little cautious this year in loading up with supplies, though there is nothing in the industrial situation that warrants extra caution. The financial flurry came last year, just after fruit dealers had made their purchases, and they were compelled to unload at a loss. The reduced value of fruit was not due to any change in the supply of fruit, but was due to diminution of demand occasioned by inability of consumers to buy. The situation was an unusual one, affecting all markets, though the market for perishable goods, such as fruit, was probably affected more than that for most commodities.

Whether with good reason or not, a man who has lost on an investment will be slow to make the same kind of an investment again. Men who laid in a large supply of apples last year will buy this year only what they can see a certain market for. And yet, at somewhat reduced prices, there should be as active a demand for apples for consumption as ever before. While growers will probably not agree to such a statement, it is quite possible that the price of apples, like that of many other commodities, was excessive last year. Values in all lines were high. Though it would be gratifying if apple-growers could get as high prices every year as they did last season, such good fortune is not to be expected. On the contrary, it seems that prices will be lower than actual conditions justify—a misfortune which the producers must suffer unless they can find a way to stimulate demand.

THE UNPURCHASABLE VOTE.

The shallowness of the demagogue is seen in the fervid announcement by Mr. Bryan that, if he is elected, it will be by the unpurchased and unpurchasable vote of the country. Exactly the same thing will be true of Mr. Taft. Whoever shall be elected, his election will be by the unpurchased and unpurchasable vote of the country. But Mr. Bryan insinuates a thing that he dare not declare openly and manfully, that Republican leaders will buy votes. By indirection he tries to cast a reflection upon Mr. Taft—to create the impression that Taft is a corruptionist, yet not in all the history of Mr. Taft's public career has there been one word uttered against his integrity. That Taft is a high-minded man is indicated by the fact that he does not go about the country appealing to that class of people who can be caught by such sophistry as the cry "If I shall be elected it will be by the unpurchased and unpurchasable vote of the country."

Neither party will have a campaign fund large enough to make corruption possible, nor would there be vote-buying on either side in the National campaign if the money were available. Both times he ran for the Presidency Mr. Bryan was defeated by the unpurchased and unpurchasable voters of the country, just as he will be either elected or defeated in the coming election. There is no election, either in America or in any other country on earth, in which the honest opinion of the people is so fairly expressed as in the Presidential elections. The people of this country do not thank any man for voicing insinuations which convey to the people of other countries the impression that our National elections are bought and sold.

CLAIM-JUMPERS AND SETTLERS.

The special agents who have been sent into the Siletz country to investigate the troubles of claim-owners, squatters and jumpers, are on a delicate mission. The bona fide settler who goes into the forest primeval as it lies along the coast country, with the determination of winning a home from the wilderness, is entitled to all protection possible in retaining possession of his land. This protection might reasonably be extended to cover an occasional absence from the land, provided always that the settler temporarily abandons it for the purpose of securing funds with which to continue his improvements. Throughout the Lower Columbia counties, on both sides of the river, are hundreds of thrifty homes that were originally taken up by settlers in a manner not dissimilar from that followed by the Siletz settlers.

These original settlers, after devoting several months each year to clearing up their land and getting them under cultivation, would spend all or a portion of the fishing season on the river, earning money with which to continue improving the land on which they had settled. Others spent much time away from their claims working in logging camps and on farms, but at no time having any intention other than ultimately to make a permanent home on the farm they were gradually hewing out of the forest. These hard-working squatters or settlers in nearly all cases have proved good citizens, and their work in the aggregate has been of the highest importance in development of the lower river country. This class of workers has always had their claims in a certain degree of jeopardy from claim-jumpers, who would watch their chances, and, taking advantage of the temporary absence of the claim-owner, would "jump" the claim, and then endeavor to enlist assistance of the Government in preventing the original settler from regaining possession.

These claim-jumpers have been emboldened and encouraged by the presence in some localities of a number of bogus settlers who have filed on claims without the slightest intention of becoming actual settlers and have intended, by fraudulent methods, to secure title to the land for speculative purposes only. This class of settlers is no better than the claim-jumpers who endeavor to steal the claims of those who are acting in good faith, and it is regrettable that so many of them escape the penitentiary.

It will require careful investigation on the part of the special agents to enable them to separate the sheep from the goats in the remote districts which, in the past few years, have been overrun with land hunters. Wherever the good faith of the settler is shown, there will undoubtedly be a disposition to waive technicalities and perfect the title to the land, but small consideration should be given the sneaking claim-jumpers who attempt to deprive honest settlers of the land on which they are attempting to establish a home.

THE AMERICAN'S HANDICAP.

Mr. Harriman is reported to have purchased the Spreckels steamers Sierra, Sonoma and Ventura for the purpose of re-establishing a regular service to South American ports. These steamers are about the nearest to failures of any vessels that ever came into the Pacific. The original cost was far out of proportion to the value of the vessels, and they were so expensive to operate that they contributed largely to the final collapse and retirement of the Spreckels line to Australia. News dispatches say that Mr. Harriman drove a hard bargain in securing the vessels from Spreckels, but, if he paid anything above the junk value of white elephants he got far the worst of the bargain.

In his attempts to maintain a steamship service on the Pacific, in opposition to British, German, French, Japanese and other lines, Mr. Harriman is entitled to much credit, regardless of the opinion that may be held of the business judgment that might prompt such a course. No matter how small the price paid for the Spreckels steamers which he is reported to have bought, he is under a handicap so long as he operates them on either the South American or the Oriental or any other foreign route. The modern steamships built by foreign nations, for economy of operation and large carrying capacity, have an advantage over the Spreckels steamers that will run against the latter as long as the ships last. So long as our present idiotic navigation laws remain in force there is no relief for Mr. Harriman or any other man who might wish to buy good, economically operated ships at as low a price as they are available to foreigners.

The American transportation lines are nearly all in need of ships, and there has never been a previous period in the history of the country, when foreign shipowners could secure tonnage at as low rates as are quoted by the foreign shipyards. If our navigation laws had been framed for the purpose of encouraging instead of stifling trade, this would prove a golden opportunity for securing an American merchant marine that would enable our people to compete on even terms with the ships of other more enlightened nations.

Mr. Harriman displays considerable patriotism in keeping the American flag floating over the finest steamships on the Pacific, and, if the report of his purchase of the Spreckels "misfits" is true, he will have the largest American steamship fleet afloat, but they will be under a heavy handicap as dividend earners, so long as they must compete with ships that are built for about one-half the cost, and that can be operated much more economically.

The annual famine in China is already getting under way, and a vast region in which the rice crop was destroyed by the floods is expected to yield up its thousands of victims who will perish of starvation. It is a long-range view that Americans get of these annual tragedies, and for that reason they appear less distressing than they would if we were nearer the scene. It is somewhat paradoxical that thousands of these Chinese perish every year by reason of too much water, while in India, where the gaunt specter of famine is always stalking, the starvation death rate reaches high figures by reason of drought that destroys the crop. Equalization of these climatic conditions would save millions of lives, but possibly the one credited with full control of the matter does not regard the lives which are lost as of sufficient value to warrant the change that might save them.

The increase of 2,511,000 bushels in the American visible wheat supply yesterday was not only the largest increase reported this season, but the largest for any corresponding week in the past ten years. This, however, should not be taken as an excessively bearish feature, for the visible supply still falls short of that of last year at a corresponding date by nearly 30,000,000 bushels, and is, with but two exceptions, the smallest recorded at this date in ten years. That Europe has been a pretty free purchaser of early offerings is shown in world's shipments 3,500,000 bushels greater than for the first week in September last year, while quantities on passage are 4,000,000 bushels greater than a year ago at a corresponding date. The statistical position of the cereal is strong, but the coming Argentine crop is already "casting its shadow before."

Mr. Gompers would be in much better position to make a fight upon Mr. Cannon or any other particular candidate personally opposed by labor if he had not tried to deliver the whole labor vote to the Democratic party. Mr. Gompers wishes it understood that he is striving merely to promote the interests of labor, but it is noticeable that all his efforts are against Republican candidates. Surely there are places, particularly in the South, where Democratic candidates are antagonistic to the demands of labor. Why is not Mr. Gompers active there?

The Portland Councilman who recently went on a junketing trip to Puget Sound and confided to a Seattle reporter that he had not been outside the city limits of Portland for thirty years, by his confession offers some explanation for some of the shortcomings which are noticeable in municipal legislation. It is, of course, barely possible that Portland is the nearest to perfection of any city on the Pacific Coast, but even at that an occasional study of some of the other cities and of their methods of civic improvement might be of value.

Neither the upper nor the lower river fishermen are satisfied with the new laws regulating fishing. Nobody expected them to be. The laws were not enacted to satisfy them, but to protect salmon. The fishermen have demonstrated for years that they do not intend to be satisfied with any law that prevents them from exterminating salmon. There is no use trying to satisfy them, therefore, unless we are ready to abandon the fishing industry to destruction.

Use of a shotgun is a rather extreme measure for the protection of orchards and vineyards against petty thieves, and it can hardly be commended for general adoption. But it must be admitted that a woman who thus defends her property from destruction has considerable provocation. This much is certain, that those who do not wish to take chances with a gun can keep out of other people's vineyards.

Perhaps it might be well, from one point of view, for enlightenment of a class of Republicans in Oregon, who are continually voting for Democrats for highest offices, on the plea of non-partisanship, if Bryan should be elected. Then they would find out what Democratic non-partisanship means. And The Oregonian would have more reason than many to rejoice.

According to a story that comes from Reno, the seniors at a local school of mines have forbidden juniors and sophomores to appear upon the campus in company with co-eds except at purely social functions. If the juniors and sophomores have any gumption they will thump the heads of the first seniors who interfere with their affairs.

In the future those who apply for teachers' certificates will be required to pass a more extensive examination in English classics. This is a wise change in the standard of qualification for teaching. English composition and English literature have never received attention commensurate with their importance.

A rhymester says that the reason people leave the farm is that they do not want to stay. That may be the true reason now, but a few years ago, after a Democratic administration came into power, many people who wanted to stay on the farms left because the mortgage holders didn't want them to stay.

It has been ascertained by statisticians that Fourth of July celebrations this year cost 163 lives and resulted in 5632 injuries. That is not quite as bad a record as a battle with an invading army, but it is enough to show the sincerity of American patriotism.

Mr. Bryan protests against the increase in the number of public officers and employes. All those communities wishing to give up their rural mail delivery service will please notify Mr. Bryan at once of their hearty support of his protest.

It was reported yesterday from what seems to be an authoritative source that Columbia River salmon fishers are planning a celebration in honor of Fish Warden McAllister, and that they will burn the Washington fishery laws in effigy.

There is said to be an unwritten law which justifies the shooting of Mongolian pheasants at any time of the year in self-defense. No man is required to stand still and let a pheasant bite him, in season or out of season.

Five per cent municipal bonds are so attractive in San Francisco that an issue of $3,200,000 was heavily oversubscribed. This would indicate that the money market was again on easy street on the Pacific Coast.

FEDERAL PENSIONS DECREASE

List of Uncle Sam's Beneficiaries Now Smallest in 15 Years.

Washington (D. C.) Cor. Brooklyn Eagle.

There are fewer persons on the United States pension roll today than at any time for the past 15 years. The army of beneficiaries from the Government's bounty at last seems to be on the downward grade, in point of numbers. There are now only 951,687 left, and at the rate at which death is cutting into the ranks the total will have shrunk to 900,000 before another year.

The high-water mark in pensions was reached in 1904, when for a brief period there were more than 1,000,000 persons on the roll. The spectacle of this enormous number of persons drawing monthly checks from the Government frightened the Republican leaders for a while. So long as the army was kept within six figures it was found comparatively easy to defend the liberal pension policy. No mention will be found in the report of the Commissioner of Pensions of the fact that at one time more than 1,000,000 pensioners were on the roll. The figures are given for fiscal years only, and the high-water mark was touched in August. Before June 30 came around again the figures had gone back into the hundreds of thousands, so that so far as the official reports go, the highest point reached was 999,446.

The pension roll, prior to the present year, had been growing larger and larger with a regularity that attested the eagerness for business of the pension attorney. It assumed visible size after the Civil War, for in 1866 it numbered 126,000. From that time on its expansion was as steady and regular as J. Pierpont Morgan's income. In 1880 there were 250,000 pensioners; in 1890 there were 350,000; in 1900 there were 993,000.

* * *

The following table shows the upward climb of the list:

	No. of pensioners.		No. of pensioners.
1866	126,724	1888	452,557
1867	155,474	1889	489,725
1868	169,643	1890	537,944
1869	187,963	1891	676,150
1870	198,686	1892	876,068
1871	207,495	1893	966,012
1872	232,229	1894	969,544
1873	238,411	1965	970,524
1874	236,241	1896	970,678
1875	234,821	1897	976,014
1876	232,137	1898	993,714
1877	282,104	1899	991,519
1878	223,998	1900	993,529
1879	242,755	1901	997,735
1880	250,802	1902	999,416
1881	268,830	1908	996,545
1882	285,697	1904	994,762
1883	303,658	1905	998,441
1884	322,756	1906	985,971
1885	345,125	1907	967,371
1886	365,783	1908	951,687
1887	406,007		

Uncle Sam's generosity toward the maimed soldiers and sailors and their widows and dependents has cost the country a pretty penny. Since 1866 $3,600,000,000 have been paid out for pensions. This is nearly four times the amount of the interest-bearing public debt. In recent years the annual disbursements for pensions have been in the neighborhood of $140,000,000. This is more than the annual cost of the Navy, and is enough to build a fleet of 15 Dreadnought battleships.

Thousands of persons who draw pensions from this Government never spend a penny of it here. They live abroad. Congress has never attempted to require pensioners to pass their remaining days at home, although the amount paid to those residing in foreign lands aggregates nearly $1,000,000 a year. The following list shows how widely distributed are Uncle Sam's pensioners:

	No.	Amount.
Algeria	1	$ 85.47
Argentina	10	912.00
Australia	77	11,088.33
Austria-Hungary	35	5,040.62
Azores	4	564.00
Bahama	4	573.80
Barbados	1	96.00
Belgium	20	2,880.47
Bermuda	5	456.00
Bolivia	1	....
Brazil	6	894.00
Canada	2,573	367,510.30
Cape Verde Islands	1	144.00
Chile	9	2,466.00
China	18	2,507.37
Comoro Islands	1	150.00
Costa Rica	4	384.00
Cuba	57	8,216.07
Danish West Indes	3	636.00
Denmark	37	5,304.70
Dominican Republic	2	264.00
Dutch West Indies	2	210.00
England	386	53,918.60
Egypt	1	72.00
France	65	9,360.73
Germany	593	85,318.30
Greece	9	1,062.00
Guatemala	3	312.00
Haiti	1	90.00
Honduras	3	588.00
Hongkong	2	216.00
India	8	636.00
Ireland	482	69,376.30
Isle of Man	2	216.00
Isle of Pines	4	522.00
Italy	48	7,112.87
Jamaica	5	963.00
Japan	21	3,003.27
Corea	1	144.00
Liberia	11	1,827.53
Madeira	4	852.00
Malta	2	288.00
Mexico	164	23,508.44
Netherlands	8	1,218.00
Newfoundland	2	192.00
New Zealand	11	1,102.73
Nicaragua	2	242.07
Norway	62	8,760.47
Panama	11	876.00
Paraguay	1	....
Peru	8	956.34
Portugal	1	72.00
Russia	16	2,223.60
St. Helena	1	180.00
St. Martin	1	120.00
Samoa	1	96.00
Scotland	98	14,272.68
Seychelles Island	1	180.00
Siani	1	96.00
South Africa	5	722.40
Spain	1	120.00
Sweden	63	8,072.33
Switzerland	68	9,792.18
Turkey	13	1,409.00
United States of Colombia	1	....
Uruguay	3	624.00
Wales	24	8,260.73
Total	5,090	$724,434.10

* * *

There are now only two persons on the rolls as pensioners of the Revolutionary War. They are daughters of soldiers who fought with Washington and Lafayette, and were pensioned by special acts of Congress. They are Sarah C. Hurlbutt, aged 90, the daughter of Elijah Weeks, who served with the Massachusetts troops, and Phoebe M. Palmeter, aged 87, the daughter of Jonathan Wooley, of the New Hampshire troops. Mrs. Palmeter resides in Brookfield, N. Y.

The last surviving widow pensioner of the War of the Revolution was Esther S. Damon, of Plymouth Union, Vt., who died in November, 1906, aged 92. The last survivor of the War of the Revolution was Daniel F. Bakeman, who died in Freedom, Cattaraugus County, New York, on April 5, 1869, at the ripe old age of 109 years. There are more than 500 widows of the War of 1812 remaining on the pension roll.

Stands for Constitutional Salaries.

MARSHFIELD, Or., Sept. 5.—(To the Editor.)—"Wonderful is logic," are the concluding words of an editorial bearing the caption, "A Dip into Exact Science," in last Wednesday's Oregonian. These concluding words are, it seems to me, apropos of the conclusions of "W. M. R.," whose communication in the same issue is headed, "A Call for Flat Salaries."

After clearly showing that our state officials have been drawing unconstitutional salaries for a matter of 30 years, The Oregonian's correspondent says the people righteously voted down an amendment at the late election providing for flat salaries, because these same officials have been violating the constitution. The people will and should continue to defeat any proposed amendment until these officials cease to drawn down these unconstitutional salaries.

Truly, "wonderful is logic."

J. M. UPTON.

WALL STREET'S NEW GRAB GAME

Call for an Investigation Into a Recent Flurry in Stocks.

Baltimore News.

The apparent intention of the New York Stock Exchange to investigate the wild activity and feverish fluctuations which characterized a recent two-hour session of the market, when transactions exceeded the million mark in fewer than a dozen stocks, should be so thorough that when the verdict is rendered there will be no suspicion that the committee charged with getting at the bottom of the huge gamble was moved by motives other than to protect the reputation of the Stock Exchange for square dealing and to punish those who have brought the Wall-street market into disrepute.

The New York Stock Exchange is now face to face with one of the worst scandals in its history, and if it permits this sand-bagging game to pass without protest it will be accepted by a large part of the public as a confession that the stories of gigantic swindles perpetrated in the financial center of the world have not been idle dreams or the imaginations of harebrains. It is almost inconceivable that men wearing the mantle of respectable citizens should so far forget themselves in their greed for money as to endanger confidence at home and abroad, especially at a time when the stability of some of our institutions is questioned.

According to reports current, one of the leaders in the wild speculation referred to, finding himself short half a million shares of various stocks, threatened to throw into the hands of receivers a great railroad system which he controlled, and was prevented from doing so only by big interests turning over to him sufficient stock with which to make deliveries without severe loss. The fact that such a move on his part would endanger the fortunes of innocent investors or that it might delay the return of prosperous times, thus working hardships upon hundreds of thousands of toilers, probably never once appealed to the finer instincts of this man, if he really was possessed of instincts higher than those of the midnight marauder.

It will be a long time before Wall street recovers from the effects of this latest revelation, and it is the duty of every member of the Stock Exchange to aid the investigating committee in getting at the facts, that the guilty may be punished

UNCLE SAM SELLS MOST LUMBER.

German Review of Forest Resources and Importations by Countries.

United States Consular Report.

The following facts were taken by Vice-Consul James L. A. Burrell of Magdeburg, from a brochure by Dr. Ernst Friedrich, of the German Commercial High School at Leipzig:

The world's lumber trade amounts to $285,600,000 annually, of which the United States furnishes about 20 per cent, Austria-Hungary 19 per cent, Russia 16 per cent, Canada 13 per cent, Sweden 18 per cent, Finland 10 per cent, Norway 4 per cent, and Roumania also a small quantity.

The countries importing wood are those on the highest economical plane, which were themselves in earlier times densely wooded, but whose forests have been denuded to a greater or less extent to make room for agriculture, industry, etc. Only 4 per cent of the territory of Great Britain is covered with forests, and during the year 1906 that country imported lumber to the value of $135,561,750. Germany has still 26 per cent of its territory covered by forests, but imported in 1906 lumber valued at $61,285,000. Belgium and the Netherlands, that have but 8 per cent forest lands; Denmark, that has 7 per cent; France and Switzerland, with a small percentage of forest land, are compelled to import lumber.

Besides these countries, those lands lying on the dry western side of the subtropical zone lacking forests are forced to import wood. Egypt imports wood and coal to the value of about $16,660,000 annually; Algeria, Tunis, Spain, Portugal (3 per cent forest land), Italy, Greece (with 9 per cent forest land), the eastern part of Asia, British South Africa, the western parts of Chile and Peru, the Argentine Republic, and Australia, all poor in wood, are dependent upon import.

Three Heavyweight Republicans.

SELLWOOD, Or., Sept. 7.—(To the Editor.)—In this morning's Oregonian you say: "If Senator Bourne and Candidate Cake can be induced to stump all Oregon for Taft," etc. That is not the combination. It should be: Young, the brains; Bourne, the head; and Uhren or U'Ren, or whatever it is, the tail. That would be novel, unique and startling, a "Combination and a form indeed, that would appal the guilty and make mad the free."—I don't know that I am quoting quite correctly, but for that bunch it's near enough. The unique and novel part would be that the tail would have to do the talking, but it would make no difference with the result. Suppose you suggest it to the National and state Taft committee.

J. D. STEVENS.

Diamond and Gold in His Hoof.

Altoona (Pa.) Dispatch to New York Press.

This little mountain town comes to the front with a horse story which ranks in the first flight. He is a big roadster owned by George Coleman, a liveryman, and has a record hitched to a wagon. Several days ago the horse went lame, and Coleman called a veterinarian, who found that there was a large diamond stickpin fastened in the animal's foot above the hoof. There was a carat diamond in the pin. Two days afterward Coleman, while cleaning the dirt from the shoes of his diamond-studded horse, found a $5 gold piece firmly imbedded in a crack in the hoof. Coleman is a church member, and besides he has several witnesses to each remarkable find.

Last of Famous Coterie.

Kansas City Detpatch.

Judge Thomas H. Bacon, boyhood associate of Samuel L. Clemens, is dead in Hannibal, Mo., as a result of a bullet wound received when he was a soldier in the Confederate Army. He was personally acquainted with every member of the coterie of youths immortalized by Mark Twain in "Tom Sawyer" and "Huckleberry Finn."

Ostriches Trot to Sulkies.

Baltimore News.

Two ostriches, broken to sulkies and taught to trot, will be raced at the coming Mineola Fair, on Long Island. The ostriches have trotted a mile in little less than 2:30. They are called Fleetfoot and Fleetwing, and are driven to light sulkies built for them.

Turtle Eggs Hatched Per Mail.

Philadelphia Dispatch.

When a package containing turtle eggs, that had been sent by mail from the South, was opened at Morristown, Pa., it was found the eggs had hatched, and there were two little kicking turtles.

Traveler Samples Hotel Doorkeys.

Trenton (N. J.) Despatch.

William S. Harker, of Mullica Hill, N. J., has a large and unique collection of doorkeys. There are at least 500, nearly all from hotels where Mr. Harker has been stopping in his extensive travels over the world.

REGULATING LAKE FISHERIES.

Writer Ridicules a Recent Utterance of Dr. David Starr Jordan.

LAKEWOOD, O., Sept. 5.—(To the Editor.)—Being deeply interested in the business of the lake fisheries, especially so on Lake Erie, and well known here as such, a friend sends me from Portland a recent clipping from The Oregonian setting forth the views of Dr. D. S. Jordan, who is quoted as being "one of two members of an international committee to investigate the fishing waters of America."

This Dr. Jordan has previously been accused of "vaporing" to the public over a variety of subjects, ranging all the way from fur seals down to football ethics. In this clipping referred to he has been vaporing again. He says that his associate, the Canadian Commissioner, Dr. S. T. Bastudo, and himself are going to "formulate a new code of laws for Federal regulation of the fishing which we visited"—that is, for all the fisheries in the waters on the boundary (Canadian) line between the Atlantic and the Pacific.

The utter nonsense of such a statement made in this distinct manner may not be at first sight clear, but, to us here, facing the conditions which we understand a thousand times better than Dr. Jordan does, or any man like him can, with his brief survey of "the last three months," Dr. Jordan is simply "vaporing" again, just as his critics say he habitually does. He says he is giong to "frame a new code of laws," and if that code of laws pleases the Secretary of State, then they (the laws) will be made public, and pass into effect! This idea of such an idle statement as to what his mission means, and its result, passing unchallenged, prompts me to say:

First—No code of laws changing existing laws for fishing in Ohio, on the lake, or elsewhere within its civil dominion, can be framed by Dr. Jordan, unless the fish and game wardens of Ohio first consider it. Then, if they agree upon such a code, it must get the approval of the Governor of Ohio, and be, in turn, ratified by the State Legislature.

Second—This procedure in Ohio must be followed in exact order by similar action in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Washington. Think, for a moment, of the time and labor, intelligent, profound and patient understanding which must be employed to get up such an agreement on our side alone, and before we can even hint at this "code of laws" which we are to offer to the consideration of Canada!

Third—Then, when we have so submitted this "new code of laws" to the Dominion authorities, if they make the least change in them, we must go all over this same long road again with our game and fish wardens, Governors and Legislatures.

Therefore, in order that The Oregonian may not take up this statement of Dr. Jordan seriously, and that the real and serious difficulties in the path of any sensible readjustment of our international fishing laws and regulations may be understood, as we understand them so well over here, I address this to the readers of The Oregonian.

Twelve years ago a similar commission, joint Anglo-American, was put to work on this same question above cited. It was headed by Dr. Richard Rathbun, of the United States Fish Commission, and Captain Walker, for the Dominion. These gentlemen labored two long years. They gathered statements, compiled statistics, and presumably traversed the entire field. What became of their efforts? Nothing, absolutely nothing. The reports made by these men were all quietly buried in the pigeonholes of the State Department at Washington, D. C. Why? Because they were utterly valueless unless passed upon by the state game and fish wardens, Governors and Legislatures before submission to the Secretary of State.

No man of Dr. Jordan's caliber can perform this task. Nothing will ever be heard more from him of the least sense in the premises, and until he does something in this way, and succeeds, will he submit that "new code of Federal laws" to govern the subjects at issue in international waters on this continent to the Secretary of State.

HENRY WOOD.

KILLING ELK OUT OF SEASON

Loud Call for Deputy Warden to Enforce the Law Near Seaside, Or.

SEASIDE, Or., Sept. 7.—(To the Editor.)—A storm of indignation has been sweeping over this section of the state during the past six weeks, caused by the wanton destruction of game and fish.

The Necanicum River has been frequently dynamited, and thousands of trout killed. In the Elk Creek country the carcasses of three elk, from which not one pound of meat was taken, lie rotting today. These elk were killed for their teeth, killed out of season, by some vandal who needed the price of the teeth, and who cared nothing for the law—a dead letter in this vicinity, there being no officer to enforce it.

Last week a man from Gearhart killed a fine bull elk in the vicinity of Union Peak. He "kicked" at having to give a quarter of a dollar to have the carcass hauled to town. A Deputy Game Warden, it is alleged, told this hunter to be careful or he would get into trouble in killing elk out of season.

The nearest Game Warden is located in Astoria. For the good he can do in this section he might just as well be in h—l. By the time he reaches the scene of slaughter the trail is cold.

An appeal was made to Governor Chamberlain to have a special deputy appointed to patrol these mountains and enforce the law. The matter was turned over to Warden McAllister, who regretted his inability to do anything, the state being too poor to pay a man for such services. Mr. McAllister, I am told, offered to appoint a man Water Bailiff, without pay, such man being allowed one-third of all fines he was instrumental in securing. When it was learned that the Bailiff must serve his one-third of all jail sentences, there was not a candidate in sight.

During the past year 16 elk in the Nehalem, Necanicum and Elk Creek mountains, have been killed out of season. This will continue so long as Oregon is too poor to appoint fearless, trusty men to enforce the laws. A man holding that position has no sinecure. He is liable to get "bumped" at any time, and must be constantly on the move. No poor man can afford to accept one of these offices. No rich man will accept—so the slaughter goes merrily on, everybody's business being nobody's business.

TOM CRAWFORD.

Last Chief of Pottawattomies.

Detroit (Mich.) Despatch.

David Frotch, aged 90 years, the last chief of the Pottawattomie Indians, is dead at the Indian settlement, Menominee, Mich. He was the son of No-Sah-Maquant, and signed the treaty with the United States Government ceding the tribal lands near the southern shores of Lake Michigan to the white settlers after the Black Hawk War in 1833.

Fined for Looking at Gambling.

New York Dispatch.

Five well-dressed young men were arraigned in New York charged with playing "craps" on the street. They all claimed to have been looking at the game. "You are fined 25 cents each," said the Magistrate. "If you use the city's streets you must pay for the privilege."