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## BARIUM—BARITES.

The definitions in the dictionary are easy. You get from any work on metals or metallurgy all that it is necessary to know about barium and barites. But when human thought and human interest, and possibility of making gain out of barium and barites, are introduced as factors, then the trouble begins. Then those persons who happen to be in possession of lands that contain barium, and want to force everybody to pay higher prices for barites, "get busy" at once.

They come up from the states that possess the elemental clay, the states that are counted on usually for free trade and tariff reform, and insist on protection for barium and barites.

The tariff, as General Hancock said, is a local question.

Barium is a constituent, in many localities of rocks and clays. It is, as far as known, a primary substance; that is, barium is an irreducible metal of great weight, obtained as a silver-white powder, but it oxidizes quickly, and may be exhausted into gas at about the temperature that melts iron. It has its name from the Greek word that signifies weight or heaviness; for, compared with other substances as aluminum, it is heavy, though not so heavy as lead. Barium has a commercial quality; it is useful in the mechanical arts; the barites are abundant in the Carolinas, in Georgia, in Alabama and in Tennessee, and the people there want protection for the product. That is, they want to keep up the price, by keeping the foreign product out. This is the soul of protection.

Everywhere, and everlasting, man's opinions, and his political action, are controlled by the conditions of Nature, in the localities where he is placed. Our Southern states formerly were for free trade; and free trade is the ideal condition. Their cotton didn't need protection, because they could beat the world in production of cotton.

But as their production increased, and they saw profit in them, they began to insist on protection for sugar and rice and peanuts; and later on for manufactures of iron and cotton, as the chance or prospect of these manufactures grew. In barium, or barites, there is now prospect of profit, and our Southern brethren are before the tariff revision committee with inconsistent demand for increase of duties on these commodities, as to make them more costly to those who consume them, and more profitable to those who produce them. The item or incident is not of much importance in itself; its importance consists in its illustration of the whole subject of protection.

The barites have a growing commercial value from their increasing use in the mechanical arts. Importation of the barites is of considerable and growing volume. But our Southern states want it. It means another pull in the direction of protection for sugar, rice, oranges, pineapples, and peanuts; for iron, steel, coal and cotton goods, rapidly replacing Southern products; and now for barites, which a group of our Southern states can produce in quantities sufficient to control the markets of the world.

But the like of this means change in the alignment of political parties in the Southern states. "The nigger" now completely disenchanted in the South, is practically out of it. Politics in the Southern states practically will become business again. It is certain that the Southern states, for several decades to come, will grow towards "protection" more than the Northern. Indeed, the two parts of the country will gradually, yet surely, shift positions on this question; for the reason that Northern industry is far more advanced than Southern, and the latter is getting into the stage of growth through which the former has been passing, these many years.

## A MARVELOUS ARGUMENT.

The attempt to persecute Mr. Taft for his religious opinions in the Presidential campaign logically failed. The American people showed by their votes in what contempt they held this wretched piece of sectarian aversion, or reversion to an inferior type; but there seems to exist a slender minority who dissent from the popular verdict. Mr. Charles N. Smith belongs to this saintly band. In his letter to The Oregon, which is printed today, he takes the position that every citizen ought to investigate the religious convictions of candidates and exclude from office all who are guilty of heresy. "Mr. Smith does not use the word 'heresy,' but he means it just the same; and naturally a heretic is a person who disagrees with Mr. Smith's illuminated and inspired opinions. Thus if ever is."

But we are not about to rehash the disagreeable discussion over Mr. Taft's religious views or any other candidate's. The people have closed that foolish debate by their votes and closed it, we hope, forever. Our present more delightful mission is to call upon the hasty reader to pause and wonder at Mr. Smith's dialectical expertise. He is a prodigy of logic. It surprises us that with such resources of argument as he wields he is not general counsel for the Standard Oil

Company instead of a plain citizen of Portland. The Oregonian says that no voter has a right to meddle with the religious opinions of candidates for office. Mr. Smith replies that this puts us in the exact situation of Bloody Mary and Charles IX of St. Bartholomew's time. And why pray does it so? Because those whores made a man's religious opinions the sole and single ground for appointing him to office or rejecting him and stretching him on the rack. Candidly now, is not Senator, did you ever hear the heat of that? It is worthy of a place in the text books of logic as the best specimen of complete mental impotence that has ever been exhibited. What has plagued Mr. Smith's mind into this fearful confusion? Can it be his intolerance?

## THE CASES THE SAME.

Now it is admitted that the law cannot commit any member of the Legislature to vote in any particular way for Senator; and so it is said that the rule laid down in North Dakota cannot have application to conditions in Oregon, because the candidate in Oregon could "take the pledge," or not, just as he might see fit.

Yet it remains that such pledge was one that no elector, or body of electors, had a right to demand, and no candidate a right to give. It was contrary to the constitutional method, and, therefore, void.

But not satisfied with exaction of an illegal pledge, there is effort to clinch it in Oregon by initiative statute, which assumes to "instruct" members of the Legislature to vote in a certain way, or for certain candidates, for the Senate.

It is an attempt by state legislation to change the method of electing Senators prescribed by the Constitution of the United States. The whole proceeding is absolutely void. No member of the Legislature can lawfully commit himself, or permit himself to be committed by others, to such procedure. The Dakota case has direct bearing on the situation in Oregon. In principle the two are the same. The little difference in the detail is nothing.

## AN EXPLANATION OF MORSE.

Only a very irrational person could think of blaming Bowdoin College for the misdeeds of the convicted banker, Charles W. Morse. It would be just as sensible to charge the Presbyterian Church with the lapses of J. Thorburn Ross. Mr. Morse is a graduate of Bowdoin and Mr. Ross is a member of the Presbyterian Church, and there perhaps the greater ends, or there it would be undeniably were it not for the disquieting fact that most of the men who are caught in the predicament of Morse and Ross are both church members and college graduates.

To one Bowdoin man who pursues the slippery paths which have conducted Morse to a Federal prison

there are dozens who never depart from the straight and narrow way of rectitude. To one Presbyterian who transgresses the law of the land and induces imprisonment by lawyers' trickery there are thousands who do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with their God. Still Morse and Ross stare us in the face. They are ugly specters which will not down, and though comparatively rare, yet in absolute numbers there are enough of them to stir up profound and perplexing questions.

The important fact about such men is not that there are very few of them compared with the whole array of church members and college graduates. What disquiets one is the equally indisputable fact that nearly all of them do actually come from centers of learning like Bowdoin and from churches of the ancient dignity and moral splendor which belongs to the Presbyterians.

Aside from the portage railroad at Celilo, Oregon has never taken much

stock in business enterprises which were dependent for their success on political officials, under state or municipal control. The monthly deficit in that diminutive enterprise is already of sufficient proportions to cause some speculation as to whether it also might not have been omitted from the list of charitable institutions supported by the state.

There is solid comfort in knowing that there sits at least one Judge on the Federal bench, who acknowledges the full purport of the legal maxim that what a man does through his agent he does himself. Still, the contrary has been held by the highest authority, and Morse may have been thinking of his Wall-street colleagues. Paul Morton, when he told the court that he was too busy to know what his underlings were doing in the bank. Paul Morton was excused for breach of the anti-rebate law by President Roosevelt on precisely this ground, that he could not be expected to oversee his inferiors in the railroad office. The tendency has been strong in late years to punish underlings for corporate sins, if anybody was punished, and let major offenders go free. The doom of Morse will perhaps act as a wholesome check upon this wicked practice and help recall us to sounder morality and a more even-handed justice. That this imprisonment for fifteen years conveys a wholesome lesson to varumous bankers goes without saying. The wonder is that any of them should need it after all that has been seen and done.

## BAD YEAR FOR THEORIES.

This seems to be an off year for the Utopian theories of political dreamers at home and abroad. Government ownership, municipal ownership, bank guaranty sophistry and numerous other fads have been suddenly cast into the air, a common sense again seems to be at a slight premium. These remarks are, of course, in part suggested by the result of the recent election, but they are also prompted by incidents recorded in the news columns within the past few days.

Associated Press dispatches on Tuesday brought the news that government ownership of railroads in Belgium had proven such a disastrous experiment that the deficit through operation for the year would reach \$2,000,000, and it was deemed imperative that a big advance in both passenger and freight rates be made, although these rates are already higher than on other roads in Europe where the government had declined.

From Switzerland, a country which

got into the government ownership game ahead of other European countries, comes still more depressing report.

The confederation has invested \$40,000,000 (a tidy sum for a two-

four country like Switzerland) in railroads, and has already issued that amount of interest-bearing bonds.

Although the receipts of these roads have steadily increased since 1902, the cost of operation has increased so

much more rapidly in proportion that the deficit this year will be more than \$1,000,000.

In other words, Switzerland must bear the burden of interest charges on \$20,000,000, and in addition pay the deficit of more than \$1,000,000.

In our own country the most striking example of the disadvantages and impracticability of departing from private ownership is shown in the Cleveland (O.) street railway muddle. This case is of exceptional interest because it had been created by lawyers' trickery there are thousands who do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with their God. Still Morse and Ross stare us in the face. They are ugly specters which will not down, and though comparatively rare, yet in absolute numbers there are enough of them to stir up profound and perplexing questions.

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THE FARMERS' ELECTRIC LINE.

The farmers of Walla Walla and Columbia County have practically completed arrangements for construction of an electric line from Dayton, Wash., through Walla Walla to Pasco.

The proposed road will be forty-four miles long, and, as it will be graded by the stockholders and free right of way will be given, it should be one of the most economically constructed roads in the country.

In view of the reception not infrequently accorded the new roads which are part of a big system, it would seem that the private line owned by rich farmers is a much easier solution of the transportation problem than to have these branch roads built and operated by the "great companies." The Oregon electric line, which recently built out on the west side from Portland, was held up by property-owners for failure to give right of way, and is being litigated in the courts.

There is no fat or near.

There is neither here nor there.

In that "Chamber over the Gate"; Nor any long ago.

Oh, Absalom, my son.

The Chinese boycott against Japan continues to be a much more serious matter than Japan relishes. The Vice-royal gravity issue orders cautioning the Chinese against making use of the boycott, but the strength of the movement remains so great that there is more than a suspicion that they "wink the other eye" as soon as the order is issued. Japan's loss is trade through this boycott has already reached enormous proportions, and before the end comes the Mikado's men will undoubtedly wish that the Tatsu Maru had never engaged in its filibustering expedition against the Chinese.

One B. F. Jones, of Polk or Benton (little matter where), claiming to be a Republican, attempts a denunciatory criticism of The Oregonian, on Statement One, through a Bryan organ.

Oh, well! that is to be expected. Exposure of Jones, member of the Legislature two years ago, by The Oregonian, will account for everything. Let Jones speak. Let him continue to smell his particular. But the general nose will not mistake.

THE PAPER FOR THE NEWS.

First and Foremost. The Oregonian Is a Newspaper.

The Daily Astorian.

During the campaign just closed we

gave pretty close watch on the trend of political events, and to that end we read the daily papers rather carefully, and we may say that we got about everything concerning both sides from the columns of The Oregonian.

As when a legislature shall elect

United States Senator, the matter being specifically set forth in the Federal constitution, the people have no more legal right to interfere than they would regarding the salary which shall be paid him. The United States Senator is a creature of the people, and, as the aggregate, together with the representatives, whom the Constitution says the people shall choose, constitutes one of the co-ordinate branches of the Federal government.

For these reasons, which are conclusive, The Tribune, this paper does

not believe any law has been passed

by the state of Oregon which

but that any member of the next legislature can vote for any man he chooses for United States Senator without any opposition.

As to "people's pledges," or "pledges

and "sacred oaths," as though the thing

were of entire unconstitutionality, really does posses virtue.

Then why yet claim that it binds?

Legislators cannot sign away their

constitutional power and duty to select

every voter was presumed to

know the law. They all knew "pledges"

could not remain, yet they still

say "pledge," "obligation," "contract,"

and "sacred oath," as though the thing

were of entire unconstitutionality,

really does posses virtue.

If anyone has ever heard of

such a thing as "people's choice,"

he has heard of it in the

name of the Bryan-Chamberlain

campaign, and not in the name of

any other.

Everyone knew that until the Constitu-

tion was changed, the people of no

state had any right, legal or moral,

to choose a Senator, or to dictate to

the people of the several states shall choose

the representatives, it doesn't mean

that the people should

choose the Senator, or that the people

should choose the Senator, or that the people

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