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PORTLAND, SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 1909.

THE GREATEST FACT OF HISTORY.

In the Jewish Tribune (Portland) we have an article by Dr. Frederick Cohn, Rabbi Temple Israel, Omaha, bearing the title, "Why I Am a Jew." He begins by saying: "I am a Jew first of all because I was born one." It is a sufficient reason; there could be no better reason. What one of us can be other than that which our race, our ancestry, our education, our environment, have made us? Rabbi Cohn thus proceeds:

All students of history know that Judaism is the mother-faith, that Christianity and Mohammedanism are the two daughter-religions, the one born about 1900, the other about 1500 years ago. Leaving now Mohammedanism out of account, as not of immediate interest, and considering only Christianity, the dominant religion—it must be frankly stated that, in my view, Christianity is but imperfect Judaism, Judaism as adopted and adapted by the heathen world, Judaism with a vast mass of pagan elements mingled and incorporated with it. Christianity is actually and historically a mixture of Judaism ("Hebraism" Matthew Arnold called it) and Hellenism, the latter being, roughly, the ideas and the practices of the Greco-Roman world, that highly interesting, yet pagan civilization that was widespread over the ancient world just before, during and after the Roman Empire.

A world of historical truth here; and yet some modification of Jewish particularism was necessary, for the growth of a world-wide religion. Upon this necessity Christianity and Mahometanism have grown, and they, too, as well as the development of the rationalistic spirit, have been instruments in the progress or change of the religion of Israel, or rather of its adaptions to the conditions of the newer or modern world. Judaism, as the religion of a race, is too exclusive for a world religion; hence its great offshoots, whose growth so much exceeds that of the parent stock.

It is not so much the barrier of religion that separates the Jews from other peoples. It is the racial and social barriers which the Jews see fit to maintain—of which their religion is a part. This exclusiveness suits the genius of the race; it is the basis of its life; it has come down from the most ancient times; and because all can't be Jews, the Jewish religion, admirably as its ethical content is, and adaptable as the kernel of its spiritual idea is to propagation of other religions, has failed to conquer the world in itself or by itself, yet has done so through its offshoots. But isn't it honor enough for Israel to be, even if indirectly, the greatest force of all times? It is the chiefest fact of human history.

THESE ARE COMMONPLACES.

Charles Bonaparte, father of the Bonapartes known to history through the extraordinary intellectual energy of one of his descendants, seems not to have been a man of much account himself. But Letitia Ramolino, mother of the race of Bonapartes known to history, was a woman of extraordinary judgment and force—though she didn't know it or realize it. When her son was master of Europe, and other sons, through the extraordinary genius of one, and daughters who were persons of the most commonplace and vulgar description, occupied half the thrones of Europe, Madame Letitia's head was not turned. She remained the exemplar and embodiment of good judgment and common sense. She always said, in effect, "Boys and girls, this isn't the regular and natural and lasting thing. You would better have an eye to the future, and lay up something while you can." Madame Mere herself, therefore, was prudent. She had a small fortune left after all was over; and the house in which she lived at Rome during her last years, and where she died, now bears an inscription that reminds the traveler.

All this is extraordinary, yet within the range of experience that nobody can question. For it came in the regular course of history—nothing miraculous about it—nothing outside the regular course of history, as presented in preceding times—say in the lives of Alexander, of Caesar and of Charlemagne; and in smaller degree in the lives of persons of less celebrity than these, yet still distinguished. These results come about through the mysterious movement of the general mind, in which special talents of the higher or highest order, find their opportunity. But Madame Letitia, from the beginning to the end of the drama, was not deceived by it.

The example is on a mighty historical scale, and possibly may be repeated on an equal scale or greater, in some future age; for human conditions are in continual flux and undergoing sincessant change. The great historian Gibbon, after his comprehensive survey of human history before his time, and the production of his Immortal Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, said there never would be another great upheaval and change, or another great leader and conqueror. Gibbon died at the age of fifty-seven, but had he lived to the Psalmist's three-score-and-ten he would have seen Europe at the feet of Napoleon.

But this wasn't the thought at the outset of these remarks. We all take interest in great things, but most of us live on the lower plane of practical life. The prudence of Madame Letitia is a lesson to all ages. They who suddenly come into small fortunes, by the miracle of opportunity, are as likely to have their heads turned as those who attempt a Moscow campaign. Katharine Clemmons Gould isn't through with it yet. Possibly Harry Lane is; but his career has not been very distinguished. Yet it has been more so than anybody who has known him from his beginning ever could have supposed. There is, indeed, room for all ambitions, high and low; yet there is a lot of luck about it; and for the larger number, for the immense majority, prudence and judgment are the only guides. In private life they are all in all; and in public life there are mighty few who haven't found that "A habitation giddy and unsure Hath he who buildeth on the vulgar heart."

PRINTING ALL THE NEWS.

The Oregonian feels constrained, in reply to its very earnest correspondent at Linnton who thinks the press is not doing its duty in printing the details of the Gould scandal, to retell the old story about the young women who rebuked the famous Dr. Johnson for putting so many nasty words in his dictionary. "Ah, my dears," replied the doctor, "I see that you have been looking them up."

Of course no one need read the Gould story, or the Thaw story, or any other like it, unless he or she chooses. But it is there to read, if any one desires, and it ought to be there, in the opinion of The Oregonian.

The growing power and influence of the press of the country, to which the Linnton correspondent refers, are based on its impartial and complete publication day by day of every phase and detail of all matters of current interest and importance. Is there a lesson in the Gould scandal for your son or daughter? We think so. Is any one benefited by keeping from public knowledge the manner of living of the idle and profligate rich? Would the Goulds and their kind keep the tale from the papers if they could? And, if they could, would they be encouraged to go into greater excesses and wilder dissipations? It is certain that such people are restrained, if at all, only by the danger or fear of exposure.

But if The Oregonian, or any paper, is to be a mere censor, and to exclude from public view or knowledge all happenings it deems bad for its readers to know about, and to print only those things which it feels are good, what a mighty power indeed it would assume. It cannot undertake the task, for it would run counter at once to the conflicting judgments and opinions of all its readers as to what is good and what is bad. What it can do, or undertake to do, is to chronicle faithfully all occurrences of moment or interest, keeping in mind certain recognized limitations of decency and propriety. It can see nothing indecent or improper, for example, in printing the accounts of Mrs. Gould's expenditures in dress and in the amount, variety and extravagance of her purchases; and especially this is a sort of news that every woman in the land wishes to see, and in the circumstances has a right to see.

Further, the extent of the circulation of a newspaper, and therefore of its opportunity to serve the public, depends on the variety and fullness of its publication of all the news that is fit to print. Should The Oregonian subside into the condition of a meager and dull newspaper, very few people would wish to read it, and it would have no sufficient resources for obtainment and publication of the greatest news.

HAYWOOD AND HIS CIGARETTES.

Twelve people attended the lecture of W. D. Haywood at Davenport, Wash., Thursday night, and the Socialist who so narrowly escaped the noose in the Steunenberg murder case proceeded to get gloriously drunk after the lecture was over, later being arrested for cigarette smoking.

To people familiar with Davenport, Wash., and its surroundings, it is not at all difficult to understand why any preacher of the Haywood doctrines should fail to attract a larger audience than a dozen people. Davenport is in the heart of the rich Big Bend farming country, which makes rich men out of all the poor men who go there and work hard and save their money. Naturally, these men who have toiled for years to accumulate a competence do not take kindly to the theory that they should divide it with some cigarette-smoking loafer who has drifted through life with nothing to his credit except his ability to stir up trouble.

The twelve men who attended the Haywood lecture were probably strangers in the city.

HANDICAP THAT HURTS.

In the midst of our rejoicing over the completion of the North Bank Railroad, the deepening of the bar and the assurance that the pilotage and towage service at the entrance of the river will be satisfactorily handled by the Port of Portland, it will not do to overlook the fact that, both in cost and efficiency of labor, Puget Sound has a decided advantage over Portland. Prior to completion of the North Bank Railroad and the recent agreement by which the Hill and Harirman forces have equal facilities for reaching Puget Sound, this handicap was less noticeable than it will be during the coming season. Under the old regime the O. R. & N. pulled hard for Portland because this was the only port to which it could haul wheat for export. The Hill lines, on the other hand, did everything in their power to stop as much of the wheat as possible at Tacoma, and neither the exactions and poor returns of Portland labor nor other disabilities which afflicted our port could prevent some of the wheat from being loaded at Portland.

The railroads now have a greater interest than ever in handling all of the wheat possible at this port, and will do what they can to avoid hauling it past Portland. The exporters who handle this wheat, however, have a loud voice in the matter. The rates on grain are exactly the same from interior points both to Portland and to Puget Sound, and it is optional with the buyer or shipper whether the wheat shall be hauled to Portland or to the Puget Sound ports. If the shipper demands that the wheat be delivered at Puget Sound, the railroads must take it there. Two of the largest wheat exporters on the Pacific Coast, in closing up their season's business a few days ago, made the unpleasant discovery that it had cost them a fraction over 10 cents per ton more to handle grain at Portland last season than it had cost at Tacoma, the difference being traceable directly to labor, which at Puget Sound cost less and showed greater efficiency.

The large floating population and abundance of idle men on Puget Sound in a measure explains why the employers of waterfront labor secure all of the help they need at lower rates than are paid at Portland. It does not explain, however, why a given number of men at Tacoma can handle from 5000 to 6000 sacks more grain per day than the same number working under identically similar circumstances can handle them in Portland. This is a matter which concerns waterfront labor itself, for many of the grainhandlers, stevedores and longshoremen have permanent homes in this city and are in degree as much interested as any others in keeping the business here.

The Pacific Northwest now gives promise of a large grain yield, and there will be more than the usual amount for export. It would be well, before this grain begins moving, to make an effort to equalize this differential which now exists between Puget Sound ports and Portland in both cost and efficiency of labor. Failing to do this, Portland will lose much of the prestige gained by the work of the Port of Portland and by the coming of increased railroad facilities.

FINANCIERS AND WAR.

J. Ogden Armour is back from Europe with the very optimistic report that "the business outlook both in America and Europe never was so bright as today." On this point, Mr. Armour seems to be in line with most of our distinguished commercial authorities who have returned from abroad, but his report on the outlook for war will not be taken with the same credence. He is quite positive that there will be no war, because the big financiers of the country will not permit it.

The whole world would like to believe that the interests of the great financiers would force them to take a united stand against war, but we are forced to remember that it is the financiers of the world who are providing the enormous and ever-increasing sums consumed in preparing for war.

If the financiers are so all-powerful, they could effect an enormous economic saving by calling a halt on the prodigal wastefulness now going on in the purchase of battleships.

AMERICA'S VAST WEALTH.

The American Bankers' Association, in a report recently issued, presents some financial figures which tend to disprove the generally accepted belief that we are a nation of spendthrifts and are not as a rule inclined to save our money. They also show that E. H. Harriman was speaking with a full knowledge of the subject when, in indignantly denying that he was going to Europe for a loan, he said that he could raise the money in this country in fifteen minutes without leaving his office. For, while we talk about the remarkable thrift and enormous savings of France, which is not infrequently termed the world's banker, the Bankers' Association reminds us that the wealth of our own country is nearly three times as great as that of France, and the greater part of it is in plain sight.

To quote the figures, the visible savings of the American people reach the enormous total of $9,466,411,488, and they are growing more rapidly than those of any other people. The savings bank deposits form the largest single item of this vast total, with $3,660,553,945 laid by for a rainy day, while deposits in the savings departments of state banks, trust companies and National banks swell this total to $5,560,837,016. The assets of the life insurance companies show $3,159,581,074, and in the building and loan associations there is a total of $745,993,398. It will be noted that this almost incomprehensible aum represents the savings of those who are sometimes misnamed the common people. Our millionaires and multi-millionaires do not place their millions in savings banks, life insurance policies and building and loan associations, and their part of the National wealth will be found mostly in stocks and bonds, which in the aggregate probably equals the total represented by the people's savings.

It is quite probable that the invisible savings of the American people are much smaller proportionately than those of the French or any other European nation. The teapot and the stocking seldom come into use as receptacles for money, except during panics, and even then the hoards do not remain long in hiding. In France the contrary seems to be the favorite practice, for nearly all of the big loans that have made that country famous in the financial world have been made without appreciable effect on the visible supply of money in the country. The thrifty American seems to keep his money working all the time, while with the Frenchman it remains in hiding until a big loan which strikes popular fancy is offered, and it is coaxed out of hiding to the astonishment of the world, which never seems to get accustomed to the French habits of thrift and the methods by which a never-failing supply is available if the inducements are satisfactory.

LOOTING THE FRENCH TREASURY.

According to cable advices the Parliamentary investigating committee, which has been probing the naval scandals in France, has made "an astounding exposure of the deplorable condition of the fleet for which France has spent $700,000,000 since 1899." The report finds that inefficiency and red tape have caused French naval construction to cost 25 per cent more than English or German, that some of the newest battleships were equipped with guns of 1885 model instead of that of 1902, as the specifications call for, that neither the guns nor the ammunition for the ships to be completed in 1911 will be ready before 1914, and that there is not a drydock in France capable of accommodating the vessels when they are completed.

This report shows the French navy to be strictly in keeping with the French merchant marine. The shipbuilders and shipowners who got a strangle-hold on the French treasury about a dozen years ago succeeded so easily in wringing out vast subsidies for construction and operation of a merchant marine that there has since been a remarkable incentive for anyone who is at all interested in shipping to mulct the generous government on every turn. With such an exhibition of graft, pure and simple, ever before them as it is presented by the French merchant marine, drawing a tremendous subsidy for which no service is rendered in return, it is not surprising that there should be plenty of scandal in connection with naval construction in the French yards.

The French government pays the shipowner a subsidy sufficient to cover all of the operating expense of the ships while they are engaged almost exclusively in carrying freight for other nations. The proceeding is indefensible, for by no conceivable way can France profit by the transaction. British and German vessels still carry the greater part of the French traffic, for, in order to secure the maximum subsidy which is paid on a mileage basis, the ships must not be bothered with handling freight at low rates on short routes. But it sets up an illustration of governmental stupidity, and the men in charge of French naval affairs, noting the ease with which the shipowners are robbing the French taxpayers, are naturally tempted to follow suit.

The French as a people do not enjoy being robbed any more than others, and now that this exposure has been made in the navy they may carry the matter a little farther and endeavor to learn what they have received for the enormous sums paid out for ship subsidies. When they make the discovery the fresh-water patriots of the American Merchant Marine League at Cleveland will no longer hold France and her ship subsidy system before us as an example to be followed by an enlightened nation.

Speaking of the failure of the jury to agree in the Calhoun case at San Francisco (ten for acquittal, two for conviction), The Oregonian gave the reason that the Supervisors who had "held up" the defendant and made him pay an enormous sum of money were to go free. The Hillsboro Independent says:

> The Supervisors were probably all The Oregonian says, and more, but little harm could have resulted were it not for the horde of franchise and illegal privilege seekers eager to pay the price asked. Both were equally guilty and both should be punished.

The last remark is perfectly true. But the Supervisors had been promised immunity; and no jury would convict the man whom they had robbed. The Supervisors were public officials. They had taken the oath to protect the interests of the city. Yet they used their position for robbery, for their own advantage, and then were to go free. What can it be expected that a jury will do in a case of this kind? It cannot be supposed the defendant was "eager" to pay the great price demanded. The passenger on the road, compelled by robbers, delivers "eagerly,"—on compulsion. There could have been no objection to sending all the parties to the penitentiary.

American aristocracy, mingling with the foreign nobility, continues to prove to the Old World that at least a portion of the American people are fools. Bachelors in Paris gave a ball to their lady friends Thursday night, in which the women appeared as birds and insects. Mrs. Hugh Tevis and her sister, Miss Baxter, appeared as bees, George Gould's daughter as a butterfly, and Mrs. Bache, an American, as a chanticleer. The men wore colored evening dress. Cable advices do not say what the men represented, but as "Jimmy" Hyde is one of the most prominent of the American bachelors in Paris, they probably represented monkeys. The strain on their intellect necessary to play the part of the simian would be merely nominal.

Mr. Harriman is to build 1600 miles of railroad into Mexico, and for this purpose a $75,000,000 corporation has been formed. It is perhaps needless to mention that there are no obstacles, such as power sites, irrigation schemes of doubtful value, or anything else which will force the railroad king to elevate his line 100 feet higher than the best grades obtainable. Not only will no hold-ups be attempted, but the Mexican government has made liberal concessions in order to secure the building of the line.

The Sigel horror moves the New York Times to say, "Let men teach the Chinese." Yes, if they are to be taught at all. And modern artillery is the stuff to do it with. The powder cart will beat all hymnbooks and all Biblical exegesis. The military expedition of the powers to Pekin did more to Christianize and civilize the Chinaman than all other missionary influences together.

Mrs. Howard Gould gets a divorce with $36,000 per year alimony. Probably she can manage to live in a humble way on this meager sum, and indulge in an occasional cocktail, too. But there cannot be so much high-flying as formerly. Tradespeople will adjust their dealings with her on the basis of the new limit. Many a package will go C. O. D.

The remarkable growth of our nearest Washington neighbor, Clark County, is shown in the statement that there are 6411 children of school age in the county. Figures of this character are indicative of a growth that can be found only in regions of remarkable prosperity.

Now the Mayor announces that the City Water Department has been mismanaged. By the end of his hilarious two terms, which comes next week, the Mayor will doubtless be prepared to admit that about everything in his administration has been wrong or belated.

The Water Board has exonerated its employes for their mistake in turning Willamette water into the city mains. It ought now to make things easy somehow for the doctors who predicted plague. Amnesty should follow all round.

Over in Montana doctors are looking for an arm to graft on a patient. It would be unfortunate if the new arm should come from one of the numerous species that let not the left hand know what the right hand doeth.

Hofer's prayer for rain in the Willamette Valley seems to be answered. But when it begins to rain in Oregon it never knows when to quit. Probably Hofer will have to pray the Lord not to overdo it.

In Seattle a dairyman saved a house and its inmates with milk as a fire extinguisher. If water had been kept out of the milk by health officers, perhaps several lives would have been lost.

Mayor Lane's charge of attempted bribery has fallen flat. Another infamous effort to blacken the virtue of the administration has failed.

Let us hope Dr. Brougher will not neglect to call attention of our Baptist visitors to the excellent quality of Bull Run water.

Kate Gould gets $36,000 a year alimony. It cost her $40,000 for gowns. Does the judge expect her to go barefoot—and more?

Not even the hot weather at the East has expedited a conclusion of the tariff squabble.

Wasn't Mayor Lane elected on a pledge to prevent sewer scandals?

GEORGE BURNHAM FOSTER.

Something About the Man Who is Making a Stir in Religious Circles at Chicago.

George Burnham Foster, of Chicago, Baptist by religious profession, Unitarian preacher, and instructor in the history and philosophy of religion at the University of Chicago, has no settled pastorate, but preaches or lectures at times in halls, or in Unitarian pulpits. In the Baptist church there are no "higher ecclesiastical authorities," but each congregation is a law unto itself. It is hard to say, therefore, how a man situated as Foster is can be "disciplined," for Baptists do not have "heresy" trials. Probably Foster will withdraw from the denomination.

But what does Dr. Foster teach? Short telegraphic statements about his preaching have come at intervals; and last Sunday he delivered a sermon in a Unitarian church in Chicago. Among other things he said were these:

"Modern man no longer believes in the modern dogma of the trinity. He may think he does, but he probably does not. The teaching of the trinity is so rhetorically involved by modern churches that Christ himself would not understand it if he were on earth today. There is no blasphemy in this statement. Jesus did not have the opportunity of obtaining an education along the lines of theology and science which is accorded to many of the leading minds of today.

"Though we reject the trinity, we believe in the Heavenly Father. We believe in the filial relation between the human spirit and the eternal spirit.

"Modern man does not believe in miracles. We do not believe in the church dogma of the divinity of Christ. We do not deny it, but you can't get us to affirm it."

All reformers, he said, had been persecuted by their contemporaries, and in St. Paul's time Christians were believed by those who still held to the tenets of Judaism to be nihilists and agnostics. This treatment has been accorded to all the master minds and their followers in the past centuries, and Jesus himself was persecuted as a heretic, and crucified.

Reformers, he said, should not be too much troubled when they are held up to ridicule and persecution. He blamed not the individual, but the system which binds men's minds to the narrow paths of ritual teaching.

Jesus Christ was a great leader and a great reformer, according to Dr. Foster, but not the greatest reformer. He taught the people of his day simple truths in a simple way, but his great sympathy for men was what drew them to him, not profound knowledge of the laws of science and nature.

"I do not think that Jesus had the knowledge acquired by modern astronomy," continued Dr. Foster. "If he did, he did not preach it to the people, and they would not have understood its truths had he done so.

"The followers of Christ believed that they were possessed of devils when sickness overcame them. Christ drove the demons out of bodies of the sick.

"Modern man does not, cannot, will not adopt such views. I do not think that anyone today would resort to the healing of the sick by driving out devils.

"We believe in the Man of Galilee because experience has taught us that nowhere else do we find a son of man whose beauty of inward life is so glorious.

"We do not believe in the blood atonement for sins. We do not believe in that dogma of the substitution of sacrifice or that Christ died on the cross for restitution to the Almighty Father.

"We know that within us is the spirit of self-sacrifice which every moment of our lives atones for the sins we have committed."

Baptists say that if Dr. Foster wishes to quit the Baptist church and become an apostle of rationalism no Baptist will think of denying the privilege; but "he ought to return to the Baptist position or go to his own place." This is altogether right and reasonable. "The theistic argument," it is said, "by which he means the argument of a personal God, he declares has ever been dangerous to religion; in other words, Christians are idolaters, like other pagans, who make their gods, the main difference being that the pagan makes his ideal into wood, stone, silver or gold, while the Christian is content to let his god remain in the realm of his imagination."

The Turtle's Cunning.

London Globe.

Although not credited with any high degree of intelligence, the turtle, when about to deposit its eggs, exhibits considerable cunning.

It scoops out a hole, as if to prepare a repository for its eggs, but in order to delude the birds and other enemies the turtle throws the sand again into the hole, leaving the surface rough, and waddles off to another spot, where it repeats the process. Sometimes this is done three times, and eventually the eggs are laid in an excavation within a few yards of the sham nest, the surface being smoothed and flattened down.

When hunting for the eggs the Queensland blacks probe the sand in the vicinity of one of the sham nests, and are usually successful.

All Chinese Look Alike.

New York Sun.

In the Sigel case the nationality of the suspect renders the search for him particularly difficult. The Sicilians are close-mouthed about wrongdoers of their own race, but they are free and frank in comparison with the Chinese. Moreover, the "Americanized" Chinese relapses into native clothing, habit and appearance with remarkable facility. The man for whom the police are looking seems to have been astute enough to "work" the philanthropic missionaries successfully for a number of years. It need not be believed that he is so stupid as to assist the authorities in their chase for him.

Rheumatism Cured By Fasting.

Buffalo, N. Y., Dispatch.

Andrew Ford, of Rochester, N. Y., a sufferer for years with rheumatism, says he has been cured by fasting 32 days. He has had not a thing to eat, he says, in this period, and feels no desire to eat. His weight has been reduced 35 pounds.

Nothing Wonderful.

Brooklyn Eagle.

Professor Miller, of Dayton, thinks he can photograph sound. Of course. Excellent pictures have been made of Bryan, Tillman and Senator Jeff Davis in the act of delivering speeches.

Jellyfish and Starfish.

Chicago Inter-Ocean.

If Professor Foster's adherents are "jellyfish," as characterized by the Rev. Johnston Myers, we presume that Professor Foster is a starfish.

The Fourth in Africa.

Washington Star.

All the materials are on hand for a rousing Fourth of July celebration among Americans in Africa.

TAFT HAS A "BIG STICK" FOR CORPORATIONS

Two-Per-Cent Tax Scheme Has an Obnoxious Publicity and Detective Feature That Appears to Be Effort of Government to Get Firm Grip on All Private Business.

Washington Cor. Chicago Inter-Ocean.

Every corporate enterprise in the United States, whether it be a transcontinental railroad or a country creamery, an international steel trust or a village light plant—stands tonight under the shadow of a Presidential demand for complete Governmental control. But the Nation seems to have learned of the dangers of this project, and the plans to stampede Congress into its hurried acceptance of the Presidential programme are halting.

The members of the Senate finance committee met this afternoon and tonight with the President and the members of his Cabinet at the White House, to put the finishing touches on the President's corporation tax project. The one feature of that tax from which the President refuses to recede is the Government supervision of corporations.

There is no objection to a tax on corporations. Every one seems to admit that there is a need for an increase in Government revenues, and that the corporations should help to pay it.

But the objection to the present proposal is not the tax, but the fact that under the cloak of that tax the Federal authorities are seeking to secure the power of life and death over every corporation from Maine to California, no matter what its size, its business or its purpose. They demand a tax which will convert the tax-collecting authorities into a National detective bureau to play the sleuth upon corporate undertakings.

They ask that the internal revenue bureau of the Treasury Department shall have the right to pry into every detail of every business transaction of corporations. They seek to put into the keeping of Government clerks—at $1200 and $1500 a year—every corporation secret.

It is not to be a question between legitimate and illegitimate business. It will not be a case of probing fraud and crime. Every corporation—with no pretext save that of collecting a tax on its net earnings—must put its books and business at the disposal of Government inspectors.

* * *

The menace of such a demand, the danger of such a power, seems to have awakened the Nation. Already, from the East, vigorous protests have been coming to the ears of Congress. And the West is being heard from. So far the fact that the plan has not assumed final concrete form seems to have held back much of the storm. But when the project is couched in the terms in which President Taft seeks to have it placed in the tariff bill the members of Congress believe their constituents will be heard from in decisive tones.

Enough, however, has already become public property to make patent the dangers which the plan has both for the Nation and the corporations. Centralizing in the National authorities a power over the corporations of the states, it will make amenable to Washington authorities thousands of corporations which so far have been dealt with only by the states and the municipalities—corporations in whom the Nation has little interest and will under the new law have no real interest except as a source of taxation.

But that is just the point. There is no plan to stop with the taxation. The taxation might be achieved in a number of other ways that would not involve supervision—by a dividend tax, by a capital stock tax. But President Taft wants a tax which will require detective supervision—not that the Nation may collect a larger tax, but that it may secure with the tax the enormous power of control over these undertakings.

* * *

That this is a menace to the sovereign powers of the states is but one phase of the complicated problem. That it threatens to place in the National Government a temptation to despotic sway over the business and industrial world will also cause trouble in the Senate's discussions.

But there is another point—held far more vital to the individual corporations than either of these. That is the fact that their business plans, their industrial projects, their trade methods, their lists of customers, their commercial routes, their reaching out for new markets, must be laid bare to the Federal authorities. Publicity is the keynote of the plan, and, while it is not policy to publish these secrets, the Government inspectors, according to present plans, are to be given access to them.

The fingers of this National detective bureau will be upon the books of every incorporated undertaking. It will have at its disposal the books of these mammoth concerns—it will have at its mercy the accounts of the smallest corporations of the smallest village of every state. The clerks of the internal revenue collector at Peoria will have access to the books and the plans of the smallest incorporated grocery of that district, as well as the largest corporation. It is not necessary to dwell upon the temptations which such a range of power will be.

And the strangest feature of all this, the point which is causing the greatest discussion just now, is the fact that all of this is being brought in merely as an incident of a tariff revsion.

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By this proposal is sought power unprecedented in the Nation's history, yet it is being sought as if it were the most trifling detail of Governmental function. Questions of constitutional power, grave doubts of fundamental law, seem scarcely to be considered, although there is every prospect now that these would thoroughly be threshed long before the proposal is written into the statute.

All of this far outshadows the present tariff debate on the unfinished schedules, and puts off into the realms of uncertain augury all predictions of its close.

President Taft's corporation tax message, although it saved the Aldrich plans on the income tax from certain defeat—has started a lot of trouble. And the debate over the corporation tax will eat up more time than half of the rest of the bill together.

When the Taft message came into the Senate, everybody sat up and listened as though they heard in it the sweet strains of "Home, Sweet Home." They had visions of a steam roller passage of the bill and all that Mr. Taft wanted, and then scurrying off to Summer resorts and Chautauquas. But it was not to be.

When they read the message a second time they began to awaken, and by the time they had studied it a bit, there was trouble in the air.

Backed by Senator Aldrich and Speaker Cannon, the President thought the bill would jump through with a rush. But this was just what killed the plan with the "insurgts." And even the most fervent followers of Cannon and Aldrich began to get worried. A corporation tax wasn't such a bad thing, but the plans for Government supervision and control, the indiscriminate burden upon stockholders, large and small, all served to start discussion.

Then, too, there was just a little bit too much of careless boasting from people who possess the ear of the President, that the occupant of the White House had "put one over on Congress."

They thought it a splendid joke that he should slip into a tariff bill the very bit of legislation that Theodore Roosevelt struggled in vain through six years of belligerent White House dragooning to secure.

GETTING READY FOR THE FOURTH

Growing Sentiment in Favor of Prohibiting Dangerous Explosives.

Utica (N. Y.) Press.

The State Health Department is getting ready for the Fourth of July. Besides the ordinary incidents and injuries to fingers, arms, legs, eyes, etc., there is usually an epidemic of tetanus following the noisy and unsafe and unsanitary celebration of the Nation's birthday. There is an antitoxin which is very valuable in such cases and health officers have usually been supplied with it in advance, so as to have it on hand when the emergency occurs. A recent bulletin to health officers all over the state says that if they have any antitoxin dated in 1908 they should retain it, but those dated previous to that year should not be relied on and a requisition made on headquarters for a new supply. It is held to be possible to avert and avoid the serious consequences of tetanus if taken in time. This is a very thoughtful and proper precaution on the part of the authorities, but it does not go to the root of the matter.

The best way to prevent tetanus following Fourth-of-July accidents is not to lay in a stock of any kind of antitoxin, but to prevent the use of explosives within cities and villages, and then there will be no accidents of this sort to make trouble. More than that, there will be no lacerated hands, blind eyes, amputated arms or legs as the result of premature or misdirected explosions of gunpowder in any form. Utica a year ago took steps in this direction and only allowed the sale of these explosives last Summer because the merchants had laid in their stocks and it would be a hardship to deprive them of the opportunity to make disposal. With a year's notice it is not now at all necessary to have any such troubles in this city, and there can, and there doubtless will be, a safe and sane excuse or apology for these practices which invariably result in casualties. Very many cities are taking up this matter and putting the cannon, torpedoes and firecrackers out of business, and before very long they will be everywhere dangers of the past.

John Paul Jones' Log Found.

Boston Dispatch to New York Tribune.

Quite by accident there has just been discovered among relics left by the late Trastus Perry Jewel, a Laconia, N. H., lawyer, scholar, and collector, the log of John Paul Jones' ship, the Ranger, the first vessel of the American Navy.

The find is one of the greatest historic value. Ex-Senator Chandler has taken steps to secure it for the archives of the Navy Department.

The beginning of the log appears to be in the handwriting of Paul Jones himself, and shows that before he went to France he made several trips to clear the northern Atlantic of British privateersmen and to do a little privateering himself. Lieutenant Elijah Hall, of the Ranger, in the log, gives a graphic description of the remarkable Ranger.

A Will That Baffles Lawyers.

Kansas City Star.

"I hereby declare that I want Christ Hillhouse to have all my property." This will, written with a pencil, was filed for probate in Kansas City, Kans., and the judge holds that it is entirely valid. A lawyer would have taken three sheets of foolscap paper to say that, and to leave enough loopholes in the document to give the heirs a chance to prove that the testator was not of "sound mind and disposing memory."

Walking Trip of a 71-Year-Old.

Hartford, Conn., Dispatch.

On a diet of a quarter of a pound of peanut butter and a half pound of crackers, George H. Ward, 71 years old, walked from his home, in Middletown, Conn., to New York City in 46½ hours.

LIVELY CHAFF, THIS IS.

So We Give a Friend a Chance to Blow It About.

HOOD RIVER, Or., June 24.—(To the Editor.)—You print a devil-of-a-good paper, and to the devil you will go if you don't repent. His works you do. You are prostituting your talents in his cause. You are an anti-Christ. Everything that is ridiculously foolish and "away back" in skepticism you print as though it were a new discovery of great importance. It makes you look like 30 cents to Christian people. If it were not for the literary excellence of your editorials we should set you down as an ignoramus. The fact that you are not an ignoramus makes your sin all the more grievous. "If the light that is in you be darkness, how great is that darkness!"

In selecting replies to any of your infidel gushes you pick out the wishy-washy scribblings of novitiates, who are floundering in the shallows of theological and philosophical waters, and who stir up the mud of stagnant pools of thought. These incubrations you present to your intelligent readers as though they were the best Christian people can present. These are "tricks that are vain," and readily seen through by men of intelligence.

It is amazing that you can be so hostile to Christianity when it is the only thing that can do us any good. We may have many excellent things in this life. Our lives may be sweetened with The Morning Oregonian, too, but alas! everything fails us at last! "The grass withereth and the flower thereof falleth away, but the word of God endureth forever." Even The Morning Oregonian will lose its power to charm and "flatter the dull, cold ear of death." Then what will you do? To sneer at Christ and mutter as you gasp your life away, saying "myth," will not help you nor comfort nor edify your friends.

Take another tack, mate; you will reach the port of rest and eternal life only by being a disciple of Christ.

JAMES DAVISON.

"Under Present Conditions."

PORTLAND, Or., June 25.—(To the Editor.)—In a late number of The Oregonian, appeared the following: "It is said that the hog, at $8 a hundred, is a great mortgage-lifter. But it is probable that the hog at $2 a hundred will lift more mortgages than at $8 a hundred. The reason is that the $8 per hundred means all sorts of extravagance among those who promote him."

Raising and selling hogs under present conditions at $2 a hundred, would lift no mortgages, but would speedily ruin any farmer who attempted it. A farmer is as well entitled to a reasonable compensation on his investment as a merchant or even a publisher of a newspaper. The many costly business houses, yes, even the building occupied by The Oregonian, show profits such as no farmer has ever realized. The assertion that $8 per hundred means all sorts of extravagance among the farmers may possibly apply to a few, but is unjust and false as far as the majority is concerned.

THOMAS PAULSEN.

Mr. Paulsen misunderstands. The paragraph in The Oregonian was directed against the general extravagance; not against the hog at $8 a hundred.

Says a Pitcher Isn't a Ballplayer.

Everybody's.

Once I asked Mathewson why, generally, pitchers cannot bat well. "Because a pitcher is not a ballplayer," answered this unerring young man swiftly. This is largely true, even though epigrammatic. Pitching is an art as subtle as fencing. The pitcher is a specialist. Above all he is a pitcher. He may be, in addition, a ballplayer, but he may not be. If he is not, he has to be made into one—for pitchers do not grow on every tree.