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PORTLAND, SATURDAY, JULY 10, 1909.

# WORK FOR THE VETO PEN.

President Taft, it may be assumed, is doing all he thinks he can do to carry out the pledges of the Republican party and the purposes of the platform on which he was elected; yet if

Nebody misunderstood the platform of 1908 on the tariff, or the utterances of Mr. Taft thereon. There was general demand for tariff revision, because it was believed that many of the schedules were too high and ought to be reduced. The Republican platform declared unequivocally for revision, and for a special session of Congress immediately after the inauguration of the next President, for the purpose of effecting it. Tariff reduction was meant; nothing else. However, there is to be no reduction, but tariff advance, rather; which will have the effect of further obstruction of imports and consequent deficits of revenue, to be made up by direct taxation, in a most unequal way. This is distinct violation of the leading pledges on as distinct a violation of Mr. Taft's speech, of July 28, 1968, at Cincinnati, in which he said: "The tariff in a of such articles abroad and at home, including a reasonable profit to the American producer. The excess over that difference serves no useful purpose, but offers a temptation to those who would monopolize the production and sale of such articles in this country to profit by the excessive rate." What is this but an argument that the tariff ought to be reduced and a promise that it would be done? ground, moreover, on which the President, guided by true regard for pledges of party and candidate, might expected to veto this bill, whether it shall reach him in the form presented thus far, either by the House or enate. Should he do so he would vindicate his party and himself, and gain hay on the promise. the plaudits of the country besides.

income tax, inheritance tax, or other hay provision. It is not a rain like new taxes. It was assumed that tariff unto any that hay farmers have rerevision would increase the revenue from customs, and at the same time cheapen many commodities, by cutting down the extortionate profits of trusts and monopolies. This was what everysary to make up the loss of Republican objectors, when the schedules were houses will cast most of their votes against the bill which they helped to load up with these objectionable schedules. But this is old political or parti- like to vent themselves the same. san play in Congress, employed by one have presented opportunity for "putting opponents in the hole."

In his inaugural address, President Taft said: "In the making of a tariff bill the prime motive is taxation and the securing thereby of revenue"protection, observe; yet if sufficient revenue could not be obtained by such tariff, "and new kinds of taxation must be adopted. I should recommend a graduated inheritance tax as cor easy of collection." It seems to have escaped Mr. Taft's notice that taxes inheritances had already been adopted, as a method of raising revenue, by most of the states. Besides, the owners of great estates make violent opposition to a graduated inheritance tax, just as protected monopolies make objection to tariff reduc-

There would remain, however, the of constitutionality has been of the nomination, Mr. Taft said: my judgment an amendment to the Constitution for an income tax is not necessary. I believe that an income tax, when the protective system of shall not furnish income enough for of the Supreme Court will conform to | can railroads. the Constitution." The President since, apparently, has changed his mind on been favored with his reasons. Sena- force by the steamship owners, comtor Root and others have, however, been very insistent in their arguments against the constitutionality of income and the great estates and bondholding classes of the country are as much opposed to an income tax as to an inheritance tax, and prefer a corporation tax to either, since such tax may be thrown largely on the stockholders of the great corporations, leaving the bondholders exempt, and on the vast number of the smaller business corporations of the country.

These business corporations devoted to the multifarious interests of production and industry-or rather we should say the men who conduct themhave used their influence mainly for the Republican party heretofore. Great numbers of them are likely to be alienated from the Republican party by this unjust corporation tax. An come tax, such as Mr. Taft spoke for in his speech of acceptance, would be absolutely fair: a graduated inheritance tax, such as he commended in his inaugural address would be preferable to the corporation tax now pro- 123 consecutive trips in which it was a year ago yesterday. posed-even though that field (taxation of inheritances) has been so large-

cupied by the states.

#### NEWS AND NEWSPAPERS.

In La Follette's Weekly, of recent

date, a long article is devoted to the Associated Press, to criticism of its Subscription Rates-Invariably in Advance. management and methods, to remarks about its directors, to censure of its "conservatism," and to its alleged failure to represent and to exploit politics and politicians of the La Follette and Tom Johnson type. It is not alleged that the Associated Press shows any bias against this class of "reformers." The grievance is that it does not report constantly and at length they represent-themselves with it. In other words, the Associat-78 ed Press shows too much favor to the actual business interests of the country, and not enough to those who are contending for socialistic ideas, public ownership, initiative and referendum, and so-called "progressive" purposes in general. The Oregonian is singled out as one of the fifteen newspapers under management of directors of the Associated Press which "show solicitude for corporate and special interests and a critical attitude toward progressive measures."

All these fifteen newspapers are thoroughly independent, and in their political tendencies and affiliations are just about equally divided between the two main parties. Their resources are ample for all the purposes of independent journalism, and no one of them has any connection with or obsuch be his purpose, thus far he has ligation to "corporate or special in-been signally unsuccessful." But each one of them is sanely conducted. Hence its eminence and independence. The directors of the Associated Press represent the purposes and the policy of the organization. If they did not they would be set aside right soon.

But there is little disposition among members of the Associated Press to favor "progressive measures" of the kind advocated by such men as La Follette and Tom Johnson. If the members wanted this slush, if their readers demanded it, means surely would be taken to get it.

The Associated Press is but one of several news associations. There are many newspapers that claim to be well supplied by these other organizations, and these newspapers often criticise and censure the Associated Press. Yet most of them would take its report which the Republican party carried if they could get it, or afford to pay the country last year. Moreover, it is the cost of it. The Associated Press is the cost of it. The Associated Press is a rational and sane business enter-It gives the real news of the number of schedules exceeds the dif- fort on fads, futilities and follies. It world, but doesn't waste time and efference between the cost of production | can, however, do no more than furnish news in general outline. The more prominent newspapers that use its report collect news also from other sources—each newspaper to meet the wants of its own situation. The Oregonian, for example, collects far more news through its own direct efforts and resources than it receives through the Associated Press, and at much

## WRATHFUL RAIN.

Between the United States weather man and the prayer of Mr. Hofer. large quantity of hay lies rotting in the rain. The weather man predicted fair weather, and farmers mowed their prayers so changed the Almighty's There was nothing in the Republi-can platform about corporation tax, ruined a large part of next Winter's ceived aforetime; it is soggy, dismal, sunless, without precedent in this mid-

summer month For last Sunday the weather man foretold fair weather; it rained. For body had in mind. It is defeated by a Wednesday and Thursday he predicted combination of the protected interests, fair weather; the sun hardly peeped intrenched in both parties. The Dem- from behind the clouds. For yesterthe votes neces- day he bulletined fair weather; once more it rained. Every blade of wheat jumps to drink the heavenly fluid and under consideration; yet now, of cows see rich cream for their share, course, the Democrats of the two But the hay crop languishes; also cherries on the trees. Many hay farmers who trusted the weather man curse. Those who believe in prayer would

The moral of which is twofold: party and by another, as circumstances First, let no man plant faith too deep in government of the rain by bulletin second, let no man, so reprobate that he cannot stop rain with prayer, disjoint the usual arrangements of Divine Providence. "The hypocrites in heart heap up wrath." This is warning to the grain men when their harvest

# TRIUMPH OF STEAM.

The big Cunarder Mauretania has dipped 17 minutes off the trans-Atlantic record by arriving at Sandy Hook 4 days, 16 hours and 36 minutes from Daunt's Rock, England. This is about seven times as fast as the time made by the first steamer The trethat crossed the Atlantic. mendous bursts of speed that have been made by this great ocean fiyer have caused much speculation as to whether or not we are approaching Rudyard Kipling says, "brings the income tax, against which the ques- the limit of speed in big ocean liners. Already there is a tendency on the raised, but in his speech on acceptance | part of steamship companies to return "In to slower speed with larger and more magnificently equipped vessels. But, while the Mauretania and her sister ship, the Lusitania, have broken all records by many hours, and their percustoms and the internal revenue tax formances are little short of marvelous, an even more wonderful exhibigovernmental needs, can and should tion of applied power and high speed Let him be devised which under the decisions can be witnessed daily on our Ameri-

The ocean liner, once clear of the land, has a clear track all the time, subject; but the public has not Strictly observed regulations, put in pel the east and west-bound craft to keep in certain well-defined "lanes" which converge only as the voyage ends, and in which the possibility collision, even in thick weather, is very remote. Under such conditions, with a careful man on the bridge. the big ocean liners can race acriss the ocean at top speed from land to land, with only a minimum of risk of disaster. The high-speed railroad the corn is in the snock, that importrain is beset with dangers from the moment it leaves the yards, until its 3,161,000,000 bushels. journey ends, and the momentum reached by the fastest of these trains is so great that the slightest defect while the wheat crop is estimated at

in a rail or a misplaced switch means wholerale disaster. hours, recently established a record of made being those for yesterday, and

total operating time of 2214 hours.

space on our railroads.

CHAUTAUQUA. In his erratic way Elbert Hubbard says some very good things about the Chautauqua idea, in one of the July magazines. In his opinion it was a misfortune when Bishop Vincent, the founder of all the Chautauquas, retired from that work and devoted himself to other affairs. Hubbard thinks the Chautauqua in its original form was the most important educational idea that ever came into the world. The notion of uniting men, women and children in a common effort for their advancement was certainly unique and may have been valuable. The retirement of Dr. Vincent disrupted the Chautaugua organization and left each society to hoe its own row. Even without a head they seem to have prospered pretty well. The tabernacles of the societies rise all over the country and in every one of them at about this time of the year the voice of song ascends through the trees while the unmelodious lecturer does his best to interest the multitudes in science and art.

How many of them are interested it s hard to tell. One may guess at a hazard that nine-tenths of those who visit Chautauquas go for baseball and the delights of tent life spiced with the big "attractions" who come from afar with their wit and lightsome learning. For the humble teacher in the modest grove or tent, they care not a fig. Still, there is a remaining tenth of the attendants who seek something solid and enduring. Very likely they get what they seek, just as the others do. Even in the most diluted lecture there is something worth while said, and an earnest student will draw inspiration

from surprising sources sometimes. Chautauqua has brought intellectual refreshment to thousands of dwellings in town and country. Its rills of wis-dom run down every hillside and refresh parched lips which could never quaff from the genuine Pierian spring. There are some who say that the college of the future will borrow a good deal from the Chautauqua idea, inasmuch as it will lecture to old and young sitting on the same benches, and pay more attention to what its students learn than to what they know when they enter. This may be an idle dream, but it is a pretty one.

#### BLOODLESS STRIFE OF NATIONS. The weakest nations are the ones

that will fall behind in the present race for armaments. Thus far it is unfit—if we are to continue nature's evident meaning that the unfit are the

and Great Britain is bloodless, though steamer in the Pacific Ocean, and for grim and grinding. Still, it is more comfortable than war. Any method ance she afforded the only means of of modern living is better than war, communication between the settlefor war is the nearest approach to hell on earth that mankind ever feels. War inventions probably do not make war sufferings worse. It is no more the early history of Oregon and the horrible to die in a steel battleship Pacific Northwest, and it is fitting in than in a wooden Greek galley; no more terrible to die from a bullet than ored by so pretentious a succe a spear, nor in a distant gun duel than the new Beaver promises to be. a hand-to-hand battle. Neither Great Britain nor Germany will cry for quarter; they will keep on building ships and Germany will keep on hold-ing its army against that of France. days, as perhaps it always has been, is a matching of economic resources." The Nation that can support the strongest fighting force and repair its osses readiest is first. Southern strategy and bravery in the American Civil War went down before Northern economic forces, which, of course, were supplemented by fighting spirit in the Russia could not maintain an is the trade headquarters. army in Manchuria to match that of Japan. Had Russia held out longer, owever, Japan's supremacy might have waned, for the reasons now revealed in the results of Japanese over-

exertions. Let the rivals of Europe keep up their peaceful conflicts. They are better than bloody war and come to the same end-subsidence of the weakest. Except that war would be a benefit by drafting into the bloody ranks agitators and loafers who now sap the strength of their country with their false philosophy and their talk of social equality and their hate which, as state no defenders.'

Kipling describes this class of citizens as follows: Zens as follows:

They said, who has hate in the soul, who has envied his neighbor.

Let him arise and control both that man and his labor.

They said, who is eaten by sloth, whose unthrift has destroyed him.

He shall levy a tribute from all because none have employed him.

They said, who has toiled, who hath striven and garjered possession.

Let him be spoiled, he hath given full proof of transgression.

So far as armaments protect these citizens from bloody war, war would probably be better.

THE COMING PROSPERITY. Not even vexatious and unnecessary elays over tariff revision can check the rising wave of prosperity so long as we have before us such glowing prospects for the coming harvest. The Government report, which appeared Thursday, indicates a yield of corn and oats in excess of any previous crop ever harvested. Unless there is continued unfavorable weather before tant cereal will turn off more than promise to break all existing records with a yield of 963,000,000 bushels, 660,000,000 bushels, which is about the same as last year. Not only will The Mauretania's flight across the the aggregate amount of the three ocean is a wonderful performance, but cereals exceed any previous season's the daily trips of the fast trains between New York and Chicago are still than last-year's to make the total more remarkable. One of these value of the three crops more than trains, carrying an average of nine \$345,000,000 greater than the crop cars per day and making the trip from was worth a year ago, the price fig-New York to Chicago in eighteen ures on which these computations are

123 consecutive trips in which is late a total of but ten mintues in a however, begin to represent the di-This \$345,000,000 increase does not, The mileage covered during this rect, tangible benefits that will follow We shall see what the President period was 120,000. The train, weigh- in the wake of these big cereal crops. But it will not always be July.

dous weight of steel and iron was lower than it was a year ago. Oats hustled nearly one-third of the dis- are about 3 cents higher, and wheat tance across the American continent is nearly 20 cents per bushel higher, at a speed of more than a mile a min- But the corn yield is nearly 500,000,ute. The aeroplane is one of our 000 bushels greater than last year, modern miracles, but as an awe-in- and there is an indicated oats crop spiring spectacle of speed and power it is far outclassed by the big liners which are lowering ocean records and by the fast trains which annihilate take in all classes of capital and la-They mean a demand for thousands of cars which were idle on the sidetracks a year ago. Thousands and tens of thousands of additional men will be needed to harvest the crop

and to place in repair the added equipment necessary for moving this enormous tonnage, which is already beginning to move to market. Mere freight means greater earnings for the railroads, and the increased divi-dends earned will be distributed among thousands of stockholders, who In turn will pass the money along

Based on the new-crop prices for the three cereals mentioned, the per apita wealth of the entire population of the United States has been increased an average of more than \$4 as compared with the value of the three crops a year ago. In the Pacific Northwest the gain has been even more striking, for with a wheat crop about 15,000,000 bushels greater than last year, and the price more than 10 cents per bushel higher, there is a per capita increase of more than \$12 each from this single crop, with barley and oats adding proportionately to the increase. It is daily becoming more apparent that nothing short of a miracle can this year prevent this country from enjoying the greatest prosperity

It seems to be a very unsafe proeeding for the president of any of the peppery two-bit republics down in Banana-land to leave the job even for a trip to Europe. What happened to Castro when he departed for Europe is still fresh in our minds. We would also probably remember what happened to him had he remained at Now comes the news that Colombia is in the threes of a revolution which began revolving as soon as the vessel bearing President Reyes was hull-down on its way to Paris. President Reyes, like Castro, ridicules the idea that the upheaval is a serious affair, but at latest advices he had not ecured transportation for the return The position of a live ex-President in Paris has so many advan-. tages over that of a dead President at Colombia that President Reyes will probably follow the example of Castro and keep an ocean between himself and the position from which he has been discharged.

The Beaver and the Bear are the names selected for the new steamers which the Harriman interests are building for the Portland-San Francisco route. There is nothing particua process of peaceful elimination of the unfit—if we are to continue nature's either the beaver or the bear, but the names are appropriate when the route to be covered by the steamers is con-The strife now on between Germany sidered. The old Beaver was the first nearly a dozen years after her appearcommunication between the settlements strung along the coast from Alaska to California. The original Beaver played an important part in the early history of Oregon and the the extreme that she should be honored by so pretentious a successor as

It was through the prestige given by the wonderful timber along the Coast regions that the Pacific Northwest first became famous as a timber country. sum and substance of the whole | That the timber resources of the Pamatter is that there is a bloodless cific Northwest are by no means lim-strife in progress to determine which ited to that locality is now quite gencific Northwest are by no means limnation shall rule the waters of Europe. erally known, but \$2,000,000 timber Eventually it may break out in car- deals as far inland as the Cocur nage, but right now the building of ships is the method. War in these A single transaction in which 30,000 acres of timber was sold for \$2,250, 000 was reported on the St, Marie and St. Joseph Rivers, in Northern Idaho, this week. Practically all of the manufactured product from that region will find a market in the East, but a considerable portion of the money that it sells for will be spent in this city or in the territory for which this city

Has Hofer the nerve to go back to Salem and face his outraged neighbors whose cherries he caused to be split and hay to rot in the field by success of his supplications for rain? Just now Salem knows of a place frequently referred to in the Bible where Hofer's efforts are much more needed, and will be better appreciated.

King Solomon and Brigham Young must divide honors as matrimonial experts. One John Madson, said to be "aged" man, is wanted by police officials of many cities for the offense of marrying ten widows. He had fourteen more in his string when discovery stopped his career-

The O. R. & N. Co. should turn the location of that railroad bridge over to Mr. Clarno and Mr. Bernstein. They could, of course, pick out a site that would suit everybody; or, didn't, it would suit them; and the rest

Some of the cities that cannot have a rose carnival or a cherry fair might get up an annual land drawing. Spokane expects a hundred thousand visitors at the Spokane-Coeur d'Alene-Flathead "gamble" beginning next Thursday.

Fifty-five million bushels of wheat from the Pacific Northwest in year is worth while, when it will bring \$1 per bushel, or thereabouts. Look out for lively times in the Pacific Northwest the rest of the year, and longer. Ten Republicans got away from Mr.

into the breach if they were needed That is what the Democratic party has come to. Mayor Simon went down to the site of the garbage crematory and at once announced that a new crematory

Aldrich on his tariff bill, and he gleaned one lone Democrat. But there

were other Democrats ready to jump

After all, it is the man who owns it that makes Oregon fruit land worth five to ten hundred an acre. With some men it would rate at one-tenth

Yes, this is July, despite the weather.

of the figure.

# That Ought to Be Cleared Up.

New York Sun. It is two years and ten months since Mr. Taft, speaking on September 5, 196, in Bath, Me., opened the tariff question by advocating a "revision" of the Dingley schedules, and opened at the same time his campaign for the of, fice of President, to which he had good right to aspire.

ight to aspire. President Taft is developing an easy-going faculty of speechmaking which hay be good for him, his Administration and the country, or may be quite the reverse. His conservative friends, who deplore so much public talking, may nevertheless wish him to make just one speech dedicated to an ex-planation of what was really in his mind regarding the tariff from the Bath disclosure down to his record measure disclosure down to his recent message to Congress on the subject.

Did he or did he not intend such tariff schedules as the Senate has made

and a large annual immediate defi-ciency of money as the result? How does he reconcile his seemingly

conflicting utterances on an income tax and the need of an amendment to the Constitution? He at first publicly urged a death tax,

as an appendix to a new tariff law, as Roosevelt had urged it, and then privately advised the ways and means committee to add a corporation tax. Were both to be enacted? How much money annually did he estimate would result from both, and what did he think should be done with it?

Were tariff taxes, corporation taxes Were tariff taxes, corporation taxes and death taxes all needed for revenue? Is it quite the thing in order to promote his wish that his special detec-tives may "exercise supervisory con-trol" of state corporations as his predecessor urged, for the President to press such an inducement on Congress to vote a tax on the net income of those

orporations that is labeled an excise It can but be that a candid speech by President Taft, treating with judi-cial temper the foregoing observations, would be helpful to his conservative friends who prompted his triumph last November November.

#### EVOLUTION OF THE SCHOOLBOOK. Horrors and Comedy Besprinkled Old Arithmetics and Fifth Readers.

New York Evening Post.
First among the literary genres whose evolution another Brunetiere must trace, is the schoolbook. The critic's will be no dull task. No comedy can match the great body of first-grade arithmetics and fifth readers for humor and the unexpected. The editor of the Journal of Education has been rummaging through his shelves of antiques and is shocked at the horrors there. Every page in the arithmetics of a generation ago was sprinkled with ale and brandy; when the pupil added, he put 2 glasses of ale, 3 toddles, and 7 dippers of gin together, and his least common denominator was siways one that a bartender might use. Again, the minds of the old-time pedagogues ran to gore and slaughter, doubtless as a result of too much birch. Sometimes they shall be downered to the control of the co stuck to domestic tragedles, as in the following problems:

ollowing problems:

If 9 cats have killed 18 birds, how many us each killed?

If a cat divides 4 birds between 2 kitens, how many will each kitten have?

A skunk went into a barn, where he ound 3 mest; one had 7 eggs, another 8, ind another 2. From each nest he ate 2 eggs. How many did the skunk eat? More often, however, the writer's eyes

followed sterner events; thus: One hundred and nineteen persons died from drunkenness in New York, and 137 in Philadelphia. How many in both?

A man had 7 children; 2 of them were killed by the fall of a tree. How many had be left? ad be left?

Three-score and ten kings had their numbs and their great toes cut off and athered under the table of Adonlbezek low many thumbs and toes were under donibezek's table?

A person was 17 years of age 22 years nonce, and suppose he will be drowned 22 cars hence; pray, in what year of his age ill this happen?

A human body, if baked until ail the toisture is evaporated, is reduced in weight to 10. A body that weighs 100 pounds, hen living, weighs how much when baked?

# There Is Puzzle Here.

New York Sun The chief objects that Mr. Roosevelt had in view during his term of office were, first, the regulation by Congress of state corporations, which he endeavored to obtain under the interstate clause of the Constitution; next, heavier Federal taxation of the rich through "direct taxes," and, finally, the absorption into the National Treasury by death taxes of the bulk of great individual possessions. Is Taft aiming at dividual possessions. Is Taft aiming at the support to support the support the support to support the support the support to support the support the support to su first, the regulation by Congress the same results, through the opened door of a tariff so prohibitory of imports as not to provide enough revenue Mr. Roosevelt sought to control state corporations by the interstate com-merce route. Is Mr. Taft seeking the same result by the tariff route, which will make an opening for the imposition of other taxes?

# Perversity in Politics.

The Dalles Optimist.

It is too bad the way the Optimist and some others are acting on this political question, this one of a convention to nominate our Republican candidates! Or you can call it an assembly if you choose. Yes, it is too had—ac-cording to the Portland Journal! But whon the Journal appliands a Republi-can there is something wrong with him, and when it abuses him he is sure not on the wrong track-not on the Demo

# Alaskan Moonshine.

Ketchikan Miner. Up here in Alaska the moon rises in the south, and sets in the north. beams are liquid and they enamel the landscape with a porcelain loveliness. It casts a spell more potent than e'er did the magicians of the East. Under its wizardry the rocks turn to silver and the brown old mountains are conjured into giant pearls. True wealth exists in the mind, and whoever beholds an Alaskan moonlight is thrice

### hundred times a millionaire This Talesman Passed

Judge-You are a freeholder? Talesman-Yes, sir; I am. "Married or single?" 'Married three years last June.' "Have you formed or expressed any

"Not for three years, your honor."

## In a Dry County, Too Albany Democrat. "Where will I find a barroom?" asked

a stranger. "Just up the street," was the answer by some one who knew, and the man started for a blind pig. Because They Don't Try.

# Albany Democrat.

A one-armed man just went by riding a bicycle and leading a horse, and yet half the men with two arms have hard work getting along.

The "Drendnought" of America. Washington Star. Aiax defied the lightning, but in ese days the tariff statesman goes farther and defies the entire climate.

# Washington Herald. Oh, yes; and Dr. Ellot left the cook book off his list of good reading!

Woodburn Independent. Those who do not go on a Summer outing can just imagine it.

holder Gets a Square Deal. PORTLAND, Or., July 9.—(To the Editor.)—A few days ago The Oregonian chronicled the fact that Mayor Simon, at a meeting of the Water Simon, at a meeting of the Water whose sense of humor was not ruffled Board, had declared himself unfavorably impressed with the project for delivering city water to all Portland falling to declare goods of that value, delivering city water to all Portland consumers through meters and charging each consumer for the water actually consumed. I think that not Mayor Simon nor any other can bring fact or argument which will show any system other than the meter system Litt. They left the young folks honey meening and took the Kaiserin at meening and took the Kaiserin at system other than the meter system to be just, either to consumers or to

this injustice.

If one's lot is 50x100 feet one pays \$1 a month for irrigation under the flat rate system. It matters not that one's house covers three-fourths of one's lot, while the house of one's neighbor next door covers but one-fourth of his lot of equal size; each pay alike \$i a month for irrigation, al-though the other is irrigating three times as much ground as the one. It matters not that one may be satisfied with keeping the sprinkler going an hour each day, while one's neighbor keeps his sprinkler going seven hours each day; each pays \$1 a month just the same. The meter system would correct this inequality. It cannot be corrected other-wise than by the meter system. Limitation of hours for irrigation is

unfair and works great inconvenience. If one is willing to pay and does pay the prescribed charge for water con-sumed, one should be allowed to use as much as one pleases, when one pleases. The meter system would make this practicable. Nobody is going to \$1500, Mr. Blumauer turned over \$2300

waste water if everybody knows that all water used must be paid for.

There is no doubt that the present minimum meter charge—25 cents a month—is too low. Fifty cents a month would be entirely reasonable and would cause few if any protests, it may be that the meter rate above the minimum charge is also too low. If so, let it be raised. But let us have the meter system, which does not gouge one consumer while it lets his next-door neighbor gouge the city. the minimum charge is also too low. If so, let it be raised. But let us have the meter system, which does not gouge one consumer while it lets his next-door neighbor gouge the city. Let us not cling to the antiquated flat-rate system simply because we have had it for 49 years past and it would be bothersome to make. be bothersome to make a readjust-

ONE CONSUMER.

#### CHINESE PHEASANTS IN OREGON. First Introduced by the Late Judge O.

N. Denny Years Ago. FOREST GROVE, Or., July 8 .- (To the Editor.)—When were the first Chinese pheasants introduced into this state, the number and by whom?
C. L. LARGE.

By the late Judge O. N. Denny in 1880 or 1881. He was then United States Consul-General at Shanghal. There were about 29 pairs in the shipment. These were turned loose on the farm of Judge Denny's mother near Lebanon, Linn County, where they multiplied at a prodigious rate. Some months later Judge Denny sent 100 pairs to the Portland Rod & Gun Club to be shipped into various sections of the state. They arrived at the time of a blizzard, and, despite the best ef-forts of the club, about one-third of he precious birds died. Part of the "survivors" were let loose in the Willamette Valley, where they increased rapidly and part were sent to Protection Island, Puget Sound, where Protection Island, Puget Sound, where As it was Sunday morning when the they perished through lack of interest trunks were gone over the payment of by local sportsmen

# Unconsciously Created Slang.

Boston Transcript. who take a particular Those in discovering the origin of slang, in outing she expected she and her com-panions would "startle the pigeons from their perch." Naturally the older members of her family asked her where she heard such an expression. "It's in 'Paul Revere's Ride," she replied, surprised at the ignorance of her family in her tone. The family circle took it up then, almost unconsciously, passed it on, and now it circulates. In it we have a term synonymous with various flippant anticipations of good times filtered, it may be said, through mouth of a babe from one of our poets, Its uses will be many, and in strange places, before it is put on the retired

# "Where We Are At."

The Dalles Optimist.

Many newspapers in the state and number of clubs are now quite outspoken in their attitude against some of the fool laws on our statute books, such as the initiative and referendum, recall and Statement No. 1. are put down abroad as a set of cranks. Intelligent people know that we gave about the largest (proportional) Republican majority at the last election of any state in the Union. And then they look to the Senate and find that precious pair of Republican statesmen
—Bourne and Chamberlain! One a
blatant, demagogic Democrat, the other an ignorant mountebank without a

#### Economies in Wheat. Washington Herald.

Well, what are you growling about? You may get less doughnut for your nickel just at this time, but you get mere hole, do you not? Why be unreasonable?

#### The Master Stroke. New York Sun. Cheered for his agile feat and nimble

stunt
The bronzed ball player swells with honest pride;
The long and accurate throw, the wily bunt. The daring steal, the perilous headlong slide.

Each in the homage of the gladsome eye close to the public heart an hour has Piucked from the blinding sun the incred-ible fly.
Or fiery liner smoking from the bat.

Full oft the timely and prodigious whack. The multitude has jubilantly thrilled— The great, aerial fence-disdaining crack And home-run wallop when the bags were filled.

Lot where the catcher like a granite rock, Kinsman to courage and unknown to fear. With dauntiess front repels the iron shock And awful volleys of the cannoneer.

And unforgot the pitcher's mighty hour.
Whose fusiliade immortalized his name.
Held the dread sluggers helpless in his power,
And broke their proud hearts with a hitless game.

With feats like these our plaudits they ovoke, On the green diamond in a game of ball; These, and the incomparable master stroke And flash of genius that outshines them

Such as of old had made Olympus ring.
And vitalized the beauteous Phildian clay,
And given to Homer's harp another string.
The giorious unassisted triple play!

counter With Customs Officers. New York Sun, July 5, Sol Blumauer, described by Deputy Surveyor McKeon as a cheerful person, mooning and took the Kaiserin at

the city.

Under the flat rate system a family of two persons pays the same amount monthly for water as a family of 12 persons, although naturally the family of 12 will use six times as much water as the family of two. If the family of two is paying a fair rate the family of 12 is cheating the city. If the family of 12 is paying a fair rate the city is cheating the family of two. The meter system would correct this injustice.

If one's lot is 50x100 feet one pays \$1 a month for irrigation under the flat rate system. It matters not that

worth of dutlable stuff, which passensers are permutted to bring in.

Inspector Halloran went through the
trunks of the Blumauers very carefully
and surprised Mr. Blumauer very much
by teiling him that there would be
about \$800 duty on the things he had
failed to declare. Mr. Blumauer said
he was willing to pay the duty. He
was perturbed when he was told that
that would not be all that would be required of him, but that he would have
to appear before Collector Loeb and
make more explanations. The collector
listened to the cheerful remarks of Mr.
Blumauer, as did the United States District Attorney's office, and it was decided that Mr. Blumauer was not innocent enough to get away with the nocent enough to get away with the payment of the duty alone. The law allows the imposition of a maximum fine equal to the foreign value of goods that passengers bring in with intent to deceive the Government, and as the value of the Blumauer importation was \$1500 Mr. Blumauer importation was

by wireless, and later he confided in an inspector that he had sent several wireless messages. The purport of them, Mr. Blumauer said, was to in-form his daughter and his search form his daughter and his son-in-law of the nature of the laws in regard to the declaration of baggage and the

contents thereof.

Mr. Blumauer was one of the first persons on the pier when it was an-nounced that the liner was going to dock Saturday night even if she did not dock Saturday night even if she did not get in until after midnight. He was still smiling and told the friendly inspector that "everything was all right." The bride was among the first to land when the gangplank was put up at 11:45. The meeting between her and her father and mother was enthusiastic. The bridegroom's father was also on hand. The most skillful annualizar is hand. The most skillful appraiser in the port and one of the best inspectors were assigned to look over the three trunks of the bridegroom and bride, Bride and bridegroom were quite as cheerful as the radiant Mr. Blumauer himself. The declaration of the Litts was one of the most satisfactory documents, consisting of two carefully written pages, that has ever been ex-amined on a steamship pier. They did not omit anything of value and the to tal was \$1580. Father-in-law was on hand with the money to pay about \$806 duty if it had been then demanded. the duty was deferred.

# WELLMAN NEEDS MORE ECLAT. Therefore He Should Start Farther

New York Sun. We gather from the Tromsoe dispatch announcing the demolition of Mr. Wal-ter Wellman's airship house in Spitz-bergen last December that the airship itself escaped. Mr. Wellman no doubt has it with him in some safe place and in that event the disaster is not irreparable. A good strong airship house should easily be constructed in a short time, and then the voyage might begin again.

Spitzbergen seems to be a mighty windy spot, and who knows that Mr. Wellman's houses will not be blown away as fast as he builds them? Isn't it quieter at Tromsoe? And if so, why not make the start from there? We have had evidence of late to the effect that balloons, flying machines and the like do not launch well in a very high wind, and it seems to us that Mr. Wellwind, and it seems to us that Mr. Wellman should look for an initial point
where the conditions are more balmy.
He ought to try Tromsoc, or if things
are no better there, an even milder
starting point. As it appears to us the
important consideration with Mr. Wellman is to make a start, and the more
eclat attendant upon the ceremony the
more satisfactory to all concerned. At
Tromsoc, for example, the city fathers
might grace the occasion, with young
women to scatter flowers and freshly
ironed school children to sing trium. women to scatter flowers and meanly ironed school children to sing trium-

phant songs.

We are constrained to believe that no start will be made this year. Last December's storm, which we have just heard of, by the way, seems to have settled all that; but for next year, say, couldn't Mr. Welliers. couldn't Mr. Wellman arrange to spring his dash from some point further—much further—south, with multitudes to acclaim the sendoff, and with all the material of rescue ready on the spot! That would furnish amusement and instruction to write the property of the sendoff. struction to untold thousands of sym-pathetic folk, and it would possess the merit of involving a minimum of dan-ger to the intrepid explorer. This expedient is recommended, of course, on the assumption that Mr. Wellman's balloon is real and that if

# Mrs. Sent Gets Her Maiden Name, Ask

will fly if properly approached.

Chicago Dispatch. Mrs. Mary A. Seat told Judge Stough why she wanted a divorce from James A. Seat, whom she charged with non-support and desertion. Then she asked

that her maiden name be restored.
"What name is it?" asked the court.
"Ask," replied the plaintiff.
"I did ask," said the judge, severely.
"Well, I told Your Honor. My name

was Ask Judge Stough ordered the decree writ-en up. Judge Charles G. Neely, counsel or the defendant, shook hands with Judge Stough after court. "T'm surprised that you would un-Seat a lady," remarked Mr. Neely. "Well, she Asked me to," responded

# Judge Stough, and they were quite

Magna Charta Island Is Sold. London Dispatch, Magna Charta Island, in the River Thames, near Windsor, England, has been

sold to a purchaser who intends to use the island as a private residence. The name of the new owner is kept a pro-found secret and the story has already started that he is an American. Careful nquiries show no more warrant for this report. On Magna Charta Island stands a small Gothic cottage in which is the stone on which King John is said to have placed the great charter in order to attach his signature in the stone of the ston tach his signature in June, 1215.