

The Oregonian

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PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 1909.

FORECAST OF THE CONSEQUENCE.

President Taft started with a proposition of an inheritance tax. He explained the principle that it is a duty on imports, and the excise taxes that we call internal revenue, did not supply sufficient resources for the treasury, then a tax on inheritances might be employed to make up the deficit. Apparently he was at that time unaware that the states, or the greater number of them, already had set in motion the inheritance tax, as a source of state revenues. But becoming later aware of this fact, he abandoned the suggestion of an inheritance tax and adopted a tax on corporations, for the United States, same as the rest of us, must do what he can, in circumstances as they develop. Now an income tax—a tax on incomes—is an ideal method of raising revenue. It requires those who are able to pay. Of course, however, like any other method of taxation it may be abused. In his letter of acceptance Mr. Taft said that if more revenue were necessary than the ordinary sources would supply, an income tax would be devised, which would not be open to objection on constitutional grounds, yet would furnish the additional revenue required. This opinion seems to have been reconsidered later and reversed. But we are not disposed to urge what is called "statesmanship" in these matters. The point of view changes, and the conclusion changes with it.

The President's thought then was a tax on inheritances. This, too, he has seen reason to abandon; and how his thought is a tax on corporations, for the United States, same as the rest of us, must do what he can, in circumstances as they develop. Now an income tax—a tax on incomes—is an ideal method of raising revenue. It requires those who are able to pay. Of course, however, like any other method of taxation it may be abused. In his letter of acceptance Mr. Taft said that if more revenue were necessary than the ordinary sources would supply, an income tax would be devised, which would not be open to objection on constitutional grounds, yet would furnish the additional revenue required. This opinion seems to have been reconsidered later and reversed. But we are not disposed to urge what is called "statesmanship" in these matters. The point of view changes, and the conclusion changes with it.

But it is said, in justification, that "our government is based on majority rule." Yes; but only when the actual will of the majority is ascertained, after deliberation. But this is a denial of the representative principle of government, nor even for cursory examination of a proposed measure; for the proposition for a "law" is started by some whimsical theorist or group of fact-mongers, who are in a hurry to respond with their erroneous notions, and no opportunity remains to amend, improve or correct it. That such a system will occasion frequent alarms, will "prove a promoter of commercial instability and a menace to business prosperity," is the most probable result. While the majority of the people should rule and will rule, there is grave reason for apprehension about the consequences of laws enacted upon a sudden by uninformed and fickle majorities. The result is a representative system; and neither the wit of man nor his experience through the ages has been able to divine a better, nor to supply a substitute.

Though The Oregonian does not expect the initiative referendum to be a success, it does expect considerable modification of them in time, because such modification will become absolutely necessary, to relieve the strain put on our system of government by fantastical use of the danger of the referendum. For example, the initiative might be restricted to bills which the Legislature, after debate and consideration, has refused to pass; and the referendum to particular classes of acts, to be carefully defined. The present situation, however, is not permanent. His opinion has more and more, that modification is necessary. The best way, probably would be through a constitutional convention; but further experience with the present harassing method may be necessary. The initiative itself may be used in tentative efforts for limitation of the evils to which it has given rise.

CLOSING THE OPEN DOOR. "The suggestion of aggression, of territorial aggrandizement, in the case of Japan so far as China is concerned, is as far from the truth as it is possible for anyone to go," says Prince Ito, in discussing the Far Eastern problem. Prince Ito also expresses the belief that China is better understood by Japan than by any other country in the world. "In any other country," he says, "the Japanese statesman who Japaned Korea, 'we have a common language and common customs and Japan has drawn from China the best of a civilization extending back 4000 years.' Prince Ito said something of a similar nature a few years ago, when he relieved Korea of any further participation in governing Korea. There is no questioning the belief that Japan has a better knowledge of the possibilities for exploitation in China than any other nation, but the rest of the world will not permit Japan to burden itself with the entire responsibility. Japan displayed great haste in getting into Manchuria in advance of any other nation after the settlement of the trouble with China, and the fact that she experienced in making the treaty of Nippon understand that the open door in China was not to be closed as soon as Japan was safely over the threshold. Neither the geographical location nor the Chinese and Japanese acquaintance between China and Japan should give the latter country any advantages in that rich trade field now on the eve of development in the Far East. The United States recently joined Great Britain and Austria-Hungary in notifying China that they would not recognize the preliminary agreement between Russia and China for the administration of the Russian railroad area

merce and Labor are endeavoring to induce the railroads to transport some of the penniless aliens now arriving in New York to localities where their services are needed. It is not alone in the big crops and urgent demand for labor that we have positive assurance of the return of good times. Further evidence is found in numerous strikes throughout the country. It is only when times are good and work is plentiful that men take the chance of loss that is 'always attendant on any strike. Now with war chests bursting with funds, quite a number of organizations are out for high wages. There is also an increasing number of professional lawmths to be found on the street corners expounding on the equality of man, division of wealth, etc. Even these nimble-tongued loafers find some picking and are often forced to actually work for a living. It is not that they are hard that their victims fail to supply the funds.

INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM.

An apologist for the abuses of the initiative writes: "No special elections have yet been necessary to undo the work or to correct the blunders that were made in voting on legislation at the regular election." Because all or nearly all the worst measures have been beaten; and it has been a hard fight will yet be necessary. Why, it may be asked, should the state be kept in continual turmoil and uproar, to hold a check upon this dangerous system, and often be engaged in a struggle to stand owners of property and quiet citizens generally had occasion for alarm when the effort was made to force the Henry George theory of property and system of taxation on the state? People grew tired of being forced to stand guard against the projects of fanatics and fanatics. Some of these projects will at one time or another inevitably slip through. The system encourages every theorist, dreamer, sophist, ignoramus, professor of fallacies, and chimerical ideas, to propose a "law," and people usually sign as the shortest way to get rid of the impotency. Then there must be a fight to beat it.

The referendum, though not so objectionable, is liable to similar abuse. It will suffice to mention the single instance of the attack on the State University, in the effort to starve it out of existence; which was defeated only by the heavy vote of the single County of Multnomah, whose steadiness and conservatism, and whose desire for only rational legislation, are the main forces that hold the state of the present day to any connection with its past, as against the multitudinous schemes of innovation that start up out of the new system, like weeds out of corn.

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in China. It was feared that this agreement, which was drafted at Peking, might enable Russia to extend its influence in Manchurian affairs to the prejudice of other nations which should have equal rights in the territory. The great difficulty encountered by the rest of the world whose interests are best served by the maintenance of the integrity of China, is in making either Russia or Japan understand that their geographical location does not entitle them to special and exclusive favors. Russia explicitly disclaimed its intentions of asking favoritism by accepting the Portsmouth treaty, in which "The Imperial Government of Russia declares that it has no territorial advantages or preferences of such nature as to impair the sovereignty of China, or which are incompatible with the principle of equal opportunity." And yet the recent Peking agreement, which brought forth the protest from the United States, intended to give Russia a preference in railroad operation in Manchuria, which eventually would have proved a serious matter for other countries seeking business in that field.

Russia has been caught in the act of trying to steal a march on the rest of the world and Japan seizes the opportunity to put forward claims of relationship for the purpose of securing the guardianship of the rich estate. Both Japan and Russia have had too good a head for the peace treaty was signed, and it is the duty of the rest of the powers to see that their rapacity is checked. The case of Korea is too recent for Prince Ito to convince the world that Japan has no desire for "territorial aggrandizement" in China. The Japanese press discloses an interest in China's future that bodes no good for the rest of the world and the open door.

SECRETARY WILSON'S WEAK DEFENSE.

After waiting until new crop wheat began pouring into the markets of the Southwest and even into Chicago by the train load, Secretary Wilson comes to the front with an alleged defense of his remarkable March crop report. Contrary to the figures shown by his report of July, he now asserts that there remained on hand in this country July 1 a total of 53,000,000 bushels of wheat which, of course, is of material aid in covering up the deficiency which otherwise would exist in our wheat supply. As more than a month has elapsed since the first of the new crop wheat appeared in the Southwest, and the high prices brought in on the market more rapidly than ever before, it is easy to show that the stocks are accumulating quite rapidly. In other words, his remarkably small carry-over has been merged with an unusually heavy movement, which has served to meet the demands of the millers and ease the strain on the situation.

At the time of the appearance of the March report, The Oregonian disclaimed knowledge of conditions in other parts of the country, but stated plainly that the figures of 9,900,000 bushels which Secretary Wilson showed in farmers' hands in Oregon, Washington and Idaho, were accepted at 99,000 bushels in excess of the actual stocks. For the reason that from no other locality in the United States is so large proportion of the wheat crop shipped out as from Oregon, Washington and Idaho, the crop figures are more favorable in these three states than in any other part of the country. Secretary Wilson gave the 1908 wheat crop of Oregon, Washington and Idaho at 53,267,000 bushels. Now, if he is sincere in his belief, silence much unfavorable criticism if he would take up this particular locality which supplies from one-fifth to one-sixth of all the wheat that is exported from the United States, and give us the details of which he accuses the other states. Figures on crop and carry-over stocks. From the 1908 crop there was shipped in the twelve months, ending June 30, 26,811,259 bushels. Seed and home consumption requirements took care of another 15,700,000 bushels, and there was left on hand July 1 about 1,000,000 bushels, making a grand total of 42,511,259 bushels. Deducting the 3,000,000 bushels carry-over from the 1907 crop, one finds the actual out-turn of 39,511,259 bushels, or 14,000,000 bushels less than the amount reported by Secretary Wilson. In the face of such indisputable facts as these, it is particularly absurd in a Government official to attempt to justify such work as his department has been guilty of, and to blame the other states for lack of confidence shown by the trade in these reports, both the September and July options advanced nearly a cent yesterday in the face of this latest and most bullish report that has yet come out of the office of Secretary Wilson.

THE FEDERATION OF EUROPE. The aspiration for a federated European visionary as it appears, possesses vitality enough to call together congresses and produce a constant outflow of literature. The latest federation congress was held at Rome in a blaze of enthusiasm, and an Italian of Spanish descent. This meeting abandoned the old notion of uniting the various nations under a constitution with a common army and treasury. Nothing of the sort, it is admitted, can be hoped for within a century or two. The new idea of federation looks for results outside of politics and government. A gradual union of the nations is being effected through the efforts of men of science, for example, whose work is common property in all countries. Each investigator depends upon every other and none of them ever thinks of making a secret of what he has discovered. There are also a dozen different international congresses which meet year after year, now in Switzerland, now in Germany or elsewhere, which meet for the purpose of discussing the interests of common interest.

Perhaps the most marked unifying influence of these numerous meetings is in the mutual acquaintance which they permit. Nations have a great variety of opposing interests, of course, but it is not these which interpose the chief difficulty to federation. The barriers of speech are higher and thicker than those of interest. What made it possible for the American colonies to overcome their conflicting trade and territorial ambitions and ultimately form a federal union was the supreme fact of their common language. If all Europe spoke the same tongue, it might in a few decades have a common government. Inasmuch as

the people speak a great many languages, they will be likely to pay taxes to numerous rulers for a long time to come. Still, we must not forget that in Switzerland people speaking Italian, German and French manage to dwell in harmony under the same free institutions. Federation has already made some important if not very conspicuous advances in Europe. The postal union is an example of common action which may be extended ultimately to many other fields. France, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy and Greece have a common coinage; and there are a great many other beginnings of this sort from which an enthusiast may perhaps extract more or less lively hopes. The spread of the metric system of weights and measures has done as much as anything else to bring the nations of the world together in recent years, if we except the overwhelming importance of international investments. When a man wishes to invest money in a foreign country he takes pains to learn all he can about its government and people. When his money is once locked up there, he becomes a friend to that country and is forever after opposed to making war upon it. Nothing promotes peace so strongly as bonds and loans. Commerce may in good time bring about the union for which logic strives in vain. Another silver cloud upon the horizon no bigger than a man's hand is the "international language." If held of popular fancy, it would help amazingly toward the establishment of permanent peace and concord. Esperanto is still amusing rather than important, but who shall say what its history is to be? It has a certain hold on the minds of people who read and speak it. Nations which are on the lookout for every advantage in trade compel their Consuls to learn Esperanto. We have not yet reached that point of wisdom, but we may venture to predict that the federation can, if they search diligently, find more grounds for hope than for discouragement. Their dream may come true some day, though they are likely to wait and watch a long time for it.

THE PROPOSED SUB-JAIL FOR THE EAST SIDE. The proposed sub-jail for the East Side would be fully as useful as the fifth wheel on a wagon, and it would cost the taxpayers of Portland a great many thousand dollars. It will also supply positions for a number of men whose salaries would cost the taxpayers of Portland more thousands of dollars. The idea is to take hold of popular fancy, it would help amazingly toward the establishment of permanent peace and concord. Esperanto is still amusing rather than important, but who shall say what its history is to be? It has a certain hold on the minds of people who read and speak it. Nations which are on the lookout for every advantage in trade compel their Consuls to learn Esperanto. We have not yet reached that point of wisdom, but we may venture to predict that the federation can, if they search diligently, find more grounds for hope than for discouragement. Their dream may come true some day, though they are likely to wait and watch a long time for it.

PIETY AND SAGACITY. It appears, as powerless to protect an American citizen of wealth from the invasion of his family circle by the foreigner with an empty title. Even good, long-headed, old John Wannamaker will be shocked at the suggestion that he should support the burden that follows an invasion of this character. His granddaughter, Fernanda, is to marry the son of Count Heeren, of Paris and Biarritz—an obscure son of an unknown father, whose chief claim, as far as known, is a title in prospect.

THE SENATORS FROM FLORIDA. The Senators from Florida insist most strenuously on protection for their state against the oranges and pineapples of Cuba, but quite as strenuously for free trade in hides and shoes and in the bright sun stands the incongruous figure of the half-naked and sandal-clad Indian, ignorant and poverty-stricken. Here the description of the Senator is well to be compared with the cathedral and hovels, Spain is largely medieval Europe, and Spanish-America, in a very considerable extent, Spain.

GROWTH RURAL FREE DELIVERY. Twenty years ago thought to be visionary, now costing \$25,000,000 yearly. Washington Post. Twenty years ago rural free mail delivery was regarded as visionary and impractical, an infelicitous dream, but the American people now annually pay \$25,000,000 for the service on 40,000 routes. In less than a double decade in the future, no doubt, there will be 100,000 routes, costing \$100,000,000.

THE PIONEER IN CONGRESS OF RURAL FREE DELIVERY was a man named Pickler, a native of Indiana and a Representative from South Dakota. His specialty was speeches and stunts, and he was known as a "plastic" to the prompting of good impulse as wax he loved to make speeches and stunts, and he failed to deliver the Hon. Pickler's vote for the repeal of the purchasing clause of the Sherman law he had introduced. He was a man of many talents and a man of many talents.

WE TRUST SEATTLE WILL NOT be touched in the least with envy and jealousy by the Portlanders who go over there shouting for a population of 500,000 in Portland in 1912. Both cities will be so big by 1912 that they can't house their population, and the countryman who were he could not see the town—there were so many houses.

THE FESTIVE GROCER will be off tomorrow for another long play day. What hilarious citizens these purveyors of the table commodities are! They have of late a habit of leaving their customers to shift for themselves, regardless of Summer visitors and the exigencies of the fruit-canning season!

MEN WHO TEACH SCHOOL, practice medicine and preach the gospel should marry before they enter upon the duties of their respective professions, good, sensible, earnest and vigilant women. No argument is needed to support this statement. Its wisdom is apparent on every hand.

IT SEEMS IMPROBABLE that Lieutenant Sutton committed suicide, and as he was killed by a bullet, and in the scuffle he was killed by discharge of his own revolver. All the testimony points to this conclusion.

THE INQUIRY NOW ON at Annapolis may not fix the blame for the death of young Sutton, but the disclosures it is bringing forth give the public an excellent idea as to why snobbery is so prevalent in some branches of the Army and Navy.

IT'S AN AWFUL pity to find the esteemed Tacoma newspapers running the Seattle way they do. We cannot but think they are misinformed about Seattle and her prospects.

THE PRESENCE OF 5000 PORTLANDERS at the Seattle fair yesterday reminded our Elliott Bay friends of the day when Seattle did not visit the Lewis and Clark fair.

THERE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN a number of other persons near the scene of Brackett's shooting, from whom explanations are due.

THE PRINEVILLE REVIEW says Harrison is playing a bluff game in the Deschutes Canyon. Mighty high bluffs there.

IF THE KAISER DIDN'T know that the Thames at London had lost 148 warships, he can now feel encouraged.

SPANISH AMERICA.

WITH Remarks on Mexico as a Type of the Whole. Mexico, says a reviewer in the New York Evening Post, is a puzzle of the present and a problem of the future. Of this greatest of the Latin-American republics, whose history for 40 years has been so unlike the ordinary course of Latin-American history, how much is Mexico and how much is Diaz? Distance from the equator seems to bring a greater measure of self-restraint and energy; Chili and Argentina in the southern hemisphere furnish a parallel progress of the Mexican people to be explained only in terms of Diaz and climate, or are there other factors of differentiation from the main bulk of Spanish-America? Much that C. Reginald Enos has to say in his "Mexico" implies no sharp distinction between the Mexicans and the neighbors to the south.

"Take the matter of language. Latin exuberance is the mark here as in Nicaragua or Peru. 'The Mexican is never at a loss for words.' The prefixing of superlatives is very noticeable in their ordinary language. This glory is generally 'immortal glory,' knowledge 'profound knowledge,' every friend of the speaker is his 'enlightened and patriotic,' and his intelligence becomes 'vast intelligence.' Our distinguished writer, a really beloved one, would be the customary reference to such a functionary, and 'an era of glorious progress' would be the only way of characterizing his career. A book or article or speech seems to show that the writer has made use of every word in the dictionary. In a dissertation upon any subject he seems called upon to begin from the very beginning of things, to create a del mundo—the beginning of the world, as the Spanish-American himself sarcastically says at times. 'How typically Spanish! And why? The word removed from our platform oratory with its 'unparalleled achievements' of the greatest to each other. The Mexican character, our author asserts, is that of a people in the making."

It is stamped on their physiognomy even. Let us turn over the pages of any book issued in Mexico and we shall find the same thing. The features of the face will generally be full of these, often pondering to the point of being morose, and at times verge upon the grotesque—we mean it in no offense to the idealism of the writer, but an idealism untempered by sobriety and practicality. The Mexican people, not dead, but evolving. The Mexicans are at the beginning, not in the middle, of a new era. The material of a vigorous and prolific race which may be called Spanish-America in the future regime of the civilized world.

At present it is still a somewhat halting civilization. The desire to raise themselves to the level of the European culture is a strong driving force among Spanish-Americans. "This feeling gives birth at times to a certain feverish spirit of construction, and is responsible for the existence of cities, ways, but no roads; electric light in streets without sewers, and pretentious-looking stucco buildings where solid construction has been supplied by Buenos Ayres, Lima, Santiago, Mexico—all bear witness to this tendency, in more or less degree. And under the rapid electric arc and striking of the street against the new white stucco wall of some costly hygienic institution, or art gallery, or governor's palace, gleams in the bright sun, stands the incongruous figure of the half-naked and sandal-clad Indian, ignorant and poverty-stricken." Here the description of the Senator is well to be compared with the cathedral and hovels, Spain is largely medieval Europe, and Spanish-America, in a very considerable extent, Spain.

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WANTS BAN ON FLY BREEDERS.

Writer Points Out Frequent Source of the Pest in Portland. PORTLAND, July 20.—(To the Editor.)—Professor Sweetser, of the department of bacteriology of the University of Oregon, delivered at Chautauque a few days ago an address in which he brought out the importance of eliminating the housefly by attacks on its breeding places. The fly breeds and multiplies in filth, so we are told, and sewers, etc. The filth, human excreta, decaying organic matter are not only hatching-places for these pests, but are feeding places, where filth, from these refuse heaps and rick of filth, their legs and bodies loaded with disease germs, and all abominations. Of course, the housefly, wherever it is possible, against their entrance into the home, but as Professor Sweetser and other bacteriologists are anxious to have them removed from these pests and safety from the diseases that they carry lie in the eradication of their breeding places.

People of this residence districts of this city have come to a perfect knowledge of these facts and order their homes and surroundings in accordance with the knowledge that they are able to do so. There is one point in this connection, however, that is beyond the reach of the householder, and of which they are unable to do anything, failed to take cognizance. There are houses being built in every section of the city upon which a crew of mechanics, numbering from three to twenty, are more or less constantly employed from two to three or four months. Toilet privileges for these men are provided by digging a shallow vault under the lot, usually close to the kitchen of the house on the adjoining lot, and inclosing it with a board screen. These shallow vaults, which are made of masonry and are very attractive swarms of flies, which breed and feed in and around the filth there deposited and spread out over the lot. In spite of the most vigilant care, some of these flies will get into the houses, on the tables, into the milk pails and upon other food. Health to the same effect would be taken by the health authorities to the end that these places may be daily disinfected by public health officers, and that if it will generally be full of these, often pondering to the point of being morose, and at times verge upon the grotesque—we mean it in no offense to the idealism of the writer, but an idealism untempered by sobriety and practicality. The Mexican people, not dead, but evolving. The Mexicans are at the beginning, not in the middle, of a new era. The material of a vigorous and prolific race which may be called Spanish-America in the future regime of the civilized world.

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