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PORTLAND, MONDAY, SEPT. 13 1909.

LANDS AND LAND TAX IN ENGLAND

The land laws of the United Kingdom and the usages long followed under them are largely the offspring of the feudal system established by the Conqueror in the eleventh century. Though modified, to an extent, by time, they remain substantially as established by the system imported from the continent. During the many centuries that have since elapsed a continual struggle has gone on—the people, often assisted by lawyers and statesmen seeking to modify them, or to find out means of evading them; the great nobles or other aristocrats who were interested in them seeking to maintain or re-establish their stringency. Some of the roots of the English land system are traceable, indeed, to periods antedating the Norman Conquest; but on the whole, the results of the feudal system remain.

The history of the struggle during these many centuries shows that sometimes one party gained advantage, sometimes another; but, during the last sixty years the growing power of the middle classes and its effect on the land system have been more visible. Still, however, the laws are restrictive and oppressive to an extent not known elsewhere in Europe, and wholly unknown in America. The laws of the United Kingdom still allow a landowner by his deed or by his will to prevent his land from being sold or seized or lessened in size, either during his own life or for many years after his death. If the landowner does not avail himself of his power to make such deed or will, the law gives all his land, without diminution or change, and in one undivided estate to the landowner's next "heir." This is the law of primogeniture. Other laws allow the landowner, without selling any portion of his estate, to let portions for very long, long terms, from twenty-one up to 999 years, and to subject them to all kinds of covenants, which affect those portions for generations after the death of the ancestor, and after a change of all the circumstances under which the leases were made.

The evils of such a system are, of course, immense. Only a persistent quality of the British mind—excessive conservatism, witnessed nowhere else—could have permitted such a system, with its long train of consequences, to continue. While it is true some modifications have been obtained, the essential evils of the system continue; and they are aggravated by a series of usages which maintain additional abuses of the most unjust and oppressive kind.

The most striking of these are dwelt upon by a noted English author, Thorold Rogers, in his great book on "Work and Wages." After treating of the evils of primogeniture and of settlements, he deals with the unfairness which puts local taxation on the occupiers of the land, instead of putting it, in part at least, upon the owner. Here is the basis of the present contention in Parliament. The principle begins to grow, and it steadily gains ground, that the owner of the land owes the state something which he should pay directly; and it is proposed to enforce proper valuation of the land, with a view to compelling payment of a direct annual tax upon it, apart from the structures it may carry—to be paid directly by the owner himself. That is, the ground landlord, who has been making little or no contribution to the fund necessary for support of the state, is to be compelled to do so. It is an impressive commentary on customs and conditions existing in the United Kingdom that a proposal like this should be denounced as "revolutionary." With us, both the land and structures are assessed for taxation, every year, unearned increment, and all, and the owner must pay the tax—so much on the land, so much on the buildings. We have no problem, therefore, of unearned increment, such as exists in the United Kingdom.

A few of the figures as to landholdings, from the latest sources we have been able to consult, will suffice to give an idea of the conditions. The total area of England and Wales, after deducting the metropolitan area, is 37,243,800 acres. Sixty-six persons own 1,917,076 acres; less than 250 persons own 5,425,764 acres, or nearly one-sixth of the whole, and 710 persons own more than one-fourth of England and Wales. In Scotland the returns are still more startling. Twelve owners have nearly one-fourth of the whole area of Scotland, and nine-tenths of the country belong to less than 1700 persons. In Ireland, 744 persons hold 9,612,728 acres, or about one-half the whole island. But causes are now in operation which, in time, it is believed, will mitigate the severity of landlordism in Ireland. In 1903 a new land act went into effect whereby tenants, sub-tenants or others may purchase land and hold it as their own; and arrangements have been put in operation by the government to assist the buyers in making the purchase.

In the metropolitan districts of the United Kingdom the conditions are equally severe, or severer still. Ground rent is the abuse enforced by the agents of the landlords, without payment of taxes by the owners. In the cities, therefore, and especially in the great metropolis, rack-rent is pushed to a limit elsewhere unknown. The profits accrue wholly to the landlord; who now sets up a roar because he is to be required to pay a tax—though but a moderate one—on the ground value. The just thing, undoubtedly, is to separate the ground value from the building value, as we do. That the principle put forth in the bill now offered by the present government in the Commons will prevail is certain; though there may be delay. The Lords will obstruct it by every means in their power; and even Lord Rosebery, at Glasgow, last week, attacked it with most violent denunciation. But it will be necessary finally to pass the bill, in order to satisfy the people's sense of justice; for though even necessary reforms are very slow among a people so conservative, they must come at last.

AMPLE ROOM AND VERGE ENOUGH.

It seemed doubtful from the first whether two railroads would be built through Deschutes Canyon; it seems doubtful still. The main reason is that it doesn't appear to be good business. The powerful corporations contending there, it seems probable, will settle the contest in some way, and stop the waste of rival effort. For such it is.

The Hill people appear to have a clear advantage thus far, better hold on right of way, and more men at work. It is evident they intend to put their road through. The Harriman people may do the like; for the resources of both are great, and all claim there is room for more than one road.

But there is no wisdom in putting two roads through that narrow and deep canyon, for a distance of more than 100 miles. The country bordering on the canyon will furnish but little traffic. Any road must emerge from the canyon into the open country before it can get much business; and since the Hill people are going into and through Middle Oregon by this route, it clearly would be better if the Harriman people should take some other. Indeed, the latter are already at work upon a railroad into Middle Oregon from the Upper Willamette—a good route.

Doubtless the Hill road, building through Deschutes Canyon, will be pushed on to California. There remains plenty of room in Oregon, outside Deschutes Canyon, for all the effort of the Harriman lines.

IMMENSE BUSINESS.

It is certain and clear that revival and renewal of business, in all the main lines of human activity, is to bring greater results now for a time than ever heretofore in our history. Everything points that way.

The Iron Trade Review estimates the business of the United States Steel Corporation for the year 1910 at $1,000,000,000. It says that a keen observer of the operations of that corporation, who has exceptional opportunities for acquainting himself with its affairs, makes the prophecy. The paper says that such prophecy is in harmony with its own information, and, therefore, it indorses the assertion. Such business would be an increase of 32 per cent over the business of the best year the corporation has heretofore known.

The state of the iron industry of the United States has always afforded a forecast of general activity and industrial progress. They who use iron and steel, in great quantities, are doing things, we may be sure.

What does such a business as that of United States Steel indicate? When Congress, as the Brooklyn Eagle comments, "dealing with the affairs of the United States, comprising forty-six individual states and 80,000,000 of population, appropriated $1,000,000,000 for the various expenses the country stood aghast at its own magnitude. But here is a private corporation which, like all other corporations, is subject to the United States Government and its supervision, on a $1,000,000,000 yearly basis—one among many corporations. And yet this mammoth corporation was the leader in submitting to government supervision and the new theory of publicity. It conceals nothing and reveals everything as it marches on, the wonder of the business world." Its power consists in the fact that it holds the lead or primacy in a business that requires immense sums of money; and sources of ore and fuel supply must also be controlled. Hence competition is practically impossible.

This is the reason why The Oregonian cannot believe the manufacture of steel in the United States needs a protective tariff. It is in position to make enormous money, without calling for protection of "an infant industry."

AN ABOUNDING OPPORTUNITY.

The Summer is ended and the harvest is passing. Crops have been, in the main, satisfactory, and thus far have been saved in good condition. Farmers, upon the whole, are prosperous, commercial orchardists phenomenally so, and dairymen have had a good year, with demand and prices for their products steadily increasing. This means that tradespeople are facing a busy and profitable Winter and that business along all lines will bring substantial returns for intelligent endeavor.

There has never been, in the history of Oregon, a more steady demand than now for what is known as common labor. There is work to do yet in gardens, orchards and wood lots, that will call for this class of labor for several months to come, and in some lines throughout the entire Winter.

Upon this latter point a few words may not be amiss. Workingmen, we are told, are numerous; men out of jobs are standing about with the old plaint "No man hath hired us" upon their lips. This, if true, need not be. The demand for cheerful, steady laborers is, now at least, strong. But there is a large class of men who, when approached by the farmer, the orchardist or the dairyman in quest of help, assess their services at a value that is fictitious, in that it is more than (to use a commercial term) the traffic will bear. Many men will not listen to a proposition to hoe potatoes or cabbages, or do any simple work round the orchard or garden for less than $1.50 a day and board, or by the steady job than $30 a month. For this reason small farmers hire help only when they are compelled to have it, and overwork themselves, their wives and children in order to save for themselves from their investment in land, implements, seed, work, animals and labor.

One of the incomprehensible things about men of the shifting laboring class is, they too seldom realize that the steady farm hand, at a moderate wage, is the one common laborer of all others who is sure of a home and plenty of plain, wholesome food, without trenching upon his wages to pay for these necessary things. The product of his muscle is clear profit. His preparation for his work has cost him nothing. He can work for $25 a month and come out at the end of the year with $250 in the savings bank (unless he is an inordinate consumer of tobacco), have the usual holidays, a clean bed, wholesome food and a comfortable fire by which to spend his Winter evenings. All depends upon the man himself. He can be clean in his person and habits, obliging, respectful and industrious, and with these assets as his capital stock he can live a wholesome, simple life, and in a few years graduate from the farm home of his employer to the beginnings of a home of his own to which he will bring experience secured without cost to himself.

The opportunity is all round us. All that is necessary is for sober, intelligent, industrious, purposeful men to close with it.

JUDICIAL INDOLENCE IN OREGON.

The vacation abuse, among Judges of Oregon, caps the climax of judicial indolence. Here are the courts far in arrear of their business, and the Judges off, one after another or all together, on long vacations. The more judicial offices created the more idleness, the higher salary cost and yet no more work done. The Supreme Court and the Multnomah Circuit Court have done little or nothing all Summer. Even the Portland Justice Court has caught the do-nothing habit and each of its magistrates has had a "month off." Mind you, these vacations are idleness added to do-nothing. Saturdays, Sundays, holidays and two-thirds of workdays. What's the use of creating more judicial positions on the false theory that the new men will hurry up delayed business?

Whenever the job-creating Legislature meets it is dinned into the ears of the members that the judiciary is overworked and that there must be more Judges to transact the growing business. The Judges send this word to the Capitol and their lobbyists are always successful in defeating opponents who insist that Judges should devote more time and industry to their duties and that they should have quick knowledge of the law to decide questions promptly. The lobbyists even assume that there is some sanctity or excellence, hedging about a Judge, to make the go-to-work criticism impertinent.

The Legislature hearkened to the summonses from the judiciary last Winter as usual and created two new jobs in the Supreme Court and four in the Circuit Court, one of the latter in Multnomah. Supreme Court business was far in arrear. The new men were appointed; and now the vacations are more numerous and longer than ever and busfness is more in arrear than before. Same with the Multnomah Circuit Court. Offices, salaries and idleness are the main features of all public service.

All through August Judge Olson, of the Justice Court, was absent from duties which he assured the Legislature were working him almost to death. Now Judge Bell, his associate, is making out a month's vacation. Meanwhile an attorney appears in contempt. The Court's long, pleasant Summer may put it in the mood, however, of dealing gently with the offender. It is not credible that the court, in such patient, easy-going mood would treat anybody harshly.

Judges do not hand back to the taxpayers' treasury the unearned salaries. But they ought. Taxpayers need vacations too.

HIGH LIVING FOR OREGON'S ELITE.

The Oregon Commission at the Seattle Fair, to which two kind Legislatures gave $125,000 to spend, has $8000 left, with the show to run a month and more bills to pay. Expenses have been heavy, for this was other people's—the people's—money, which comes easy and departs on wings. It is said the members draw $10 a day pay, but that is a trifle, for good men are not to be obtained at laborer's wages. It is also said they charge the state sums ranging up to $1.50 for meals and up to $3 for rooms. Objection to these charges is puerile, for men must eat and men must sleep, and these commissioners, being the best of the royal Democratic regime, as differentiated from the common herd, are not to be fed on stewed prunes, nor are they expected to wrap their blankets about them when they lie down to pleasant dreams.

Yet old Uncle Alfalfa, up in "Hay Medder" township, and his like, who dig up the tax money in the Spring to provide for this kind of entertainment and show, have cause to ponder on the wherefore of things mundane. They began voting for John C. Fremont in '56 and have kept at it to date, with an occasional sidestep that knocked the party vote into chaos and opened the way for scattering the loaves and fishes into the hungry camps of the foxy minority. They begin to have a bad taste in the mouth, but too late for prevention. So they take it out in bad thoughts and worse language. They realize the error of the years that are passed, and maybe promise themselves to reform when election day shall come again. Perhaps they will and probably they will not, for human nature is just what it is.

From the present-day point of view the commissioners are doing what was expected of them. They are good men, of large experience, and are doing just as all commissioners do who can at will put their hands into the treasury and withdraw them filled. There was a little finesse, to be sure, in creating their jobs to make them responsible to nobody; yet that is the fault of the people at large, who were faithfully represented by their servants in the legislative body, and if their services seem costly, the body politic can console itself with the reflection of the boy who was born in the flat on the fourteenth story—"he came high, but they had to have him."

Let the Commission work it out, and when the money is gone that will be the end of it. But it is hardly fair to let the official stenographer—who is a lady—eat $50 worth in a month and limit the son of the Governor and the son of a State Senator to $25. There is nothing of record elsewhere to show that one of the gentler sex can eat more than an incipent lord of creation, and this looks like rank discrimination that should be condemned.

A WATER QUESTION AGAIN.

There are large numbers of vacant tracts in city and suburbs, held for speculation, whose value would be doubled at once by water mains, which the owners want the city to pay for out of its water fund. The charter now requires smaller mains to be paid for, in their passage through these vacant tracts, by the adjoining property—as sewers are paid for, and authorizes the Council to order payment of large mains by means of bonds. There is suggestion that a special election be called, for amendment of the charter, on this point, so the city may be required to pay for all mains out of the fund paid in by the whole body of consumers, or from proceeds of bonds.

Is this fair and just? Is it what the people desire? A little while ago there was much indignation against the practice of laying mains at the general expense, to double the value of vacant property held for speculation. The system now proposed was the very one that was in operation down to two years ago and discontinued by a decisive majority. Water consumers were unwilling to pay high rates for benefit of land speculators.

After the heavy expense for mains through vacant property was cut off, the water rates were reduced about one-third. Is the higher rate to be restored, that values of property held in tracts for speculation may be doubled up? The water consumers have spoken on this subject heretofore. Are they to speak again?

Down South, they are driving coaches and four-horse teams through the prohibition laws. In Tennessee an odorless drink called beerette, which leaves no trace of its presence in the breath, has made its appearance. Its intoxicating effects are described as tremendous if not deadly. In Georgia the practice obtains of putting "blind pigs" in the names of employed negroes, who serve the prison sentence at a stated compensation, while the real owners continue the business and pocket the profits. In some parts of Georgia there has been a revival of Ku Klux Klans, or night-riding groups, which deal strenuously with suspected operators of "blind tigers." These reports prompt the Springfield Republican to remark: "The prohibitory policy down that way is certainly proving productive of a vast amount of lawlessness."

Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, speaking for the British Empire, at Toronto, the other day, put the Englishman's view of naval armament in these pregnant sentences:

"Our supremacy at sea has been threatened in language that is unmistakable. We have arrived at a crisis in our history as an empire.

"The heart of the empire is absolutely dependent on the punctual and sure deliveries of water-borne food and raw material.

"It, therefore, becomes a matter of life and death to the British Empire to remain supreme at sea.

No Englishman will be disposed to dissent from this view. Energy, therefore, in naval construction will not be suffered to decline.

What's all this complaint about extravagance of the Oregon Commission at the Seattle Exposition, of fat jobs, high salaries and probable deficiency of the Legislative appropriation? Only the unexpected should occasion complaint or surprise. The Commission with its retinue is just like all other departments of the office-holding class in salary graft and official idleness. The Commission is doing so much better than was expected that it deserves admiration.

San Jose, Cal., furnishes an exact duplicate of a previous fatal automobile accident at that place. Electric car and motor car, both at high speed, coming together at right angles; point of meeting obscured by trees; collision; automobile and occupants crushed. It seems impossible for rational men to observe this simple precaution: When you approach a railway track, stop until you know the road is clear.

If the Milwaukee shall undertake to make the run from Chicago to Seattle in fifty-nine hours, as asserted, then we shall see the Union Pacific shake its puissant locks and "get up and dust" in equal time to Portland, San Francisco and Los Angeles. Stubbs undoubtedly stated correctly when he said the Union Pacific was prepared to make time with any of them.

Many are the reforms undertaken by the restless, progressive State of Kansas. Its latest forward move will be watched with interest, but no one seriously believes that schoolteachers by inculcating ethics can in one term, or a dozen, convert an active, healthy boy into an angel.

Peary, undoubtedly, has invited public disapproval by his attacks on Cook, as he will find when he reaches home. Evidently Peary does not believe Cook has been at the Pole. But he should have waited until all the records and facts were before him.

In the programmes for the eight weeks' journey of Taft we fail to note a single provision for the President's seeing a baseball game. Can't some committee arrange for a short respite from banquets and speeches on the tariff?

It may seem strange that Washington should have more than twice the number of census enumerators that is given to Oregon, but they may be necessary to catch the rapidly floating population of its chief city.

There probably will soon be a long story from Cook, to offset that of Peary. Cook will scarcely be able to wait till he gets his book out. He probably will "come through" in the newspapers.

One can only wonder how a policeman and his wife—his salary $90 a month—can ride round all night in a joy wagon, halting for refreshments at all the joy resorts. High finance, undoubtedly.

Late September is going to be a strenuous time for the United States. Only a virile, robust Nation like ours could stand the strain of welcoming Taft, Cook and Peary synchronously.

Some of the little people may "creep whiningly to school" today, but not many of them; for they have had a fine vacation and there will be novelty in the return to school.

There's one American whose discovery of the North Pole nobody would dare dispute. He's T. R., and nobody will ever question the number of lions he killed in Africa.

It is a healthy sign of the times that a young woman (Miss Ada McMurphy) received first and second prizes on biscuits at the recent Eugene fair.

Even the second-choice Hood River apples will be too expensive for consumption here. But there is Old Yamhill, where one can get a bite.

Opening of King's Heights is only a forerunner of the development of Portland's beautiful western hills for residence purposes.

Dr. Brougher will stay. Prayers, then, have been answered.

THE CHRISTIAN VIEW OF IT.

The Old Testament as Interpreted for Support of a Future Life.

PORTLAND, Sept. 12.—(To the Editor.)—"Future Life in the Old Testament" carries deeper interest to most readers of The Oregonian than the editor might at first suppose. In the discussion it should be remembered that what seems to be a lack of direct, emphatic declarations on the subject is not a presumption against the fact that the Old Testament teaches the doctrine, for the Old Testament is a political history, rather than a treatise on religion. Nor is it plain that the Jewish people of the present, as The Oregonian suggests, have any inside track on understanding the Hebrew scriptures above other scholars. Greatness is seldom inherited.

The old Hebrew authors were in the main statesmen and politicians—not deep thinkers like Plato, Guatama, Zoroaster or the Egyptian sages. They wrote about the state. The hymns of Moses, Miriam, Deborah, Asaph and David were National songs of thanksgiving, supplication and sorrow, not theological. The hymns of the Christian era are theological, many of them. The Hebrew hymns and songs were religious—deeply so, but not theological, not dogmatic. The Old Testament was to the Hebrews what Bancroft's History is to Americans—just history. Theology is only an incident to the Old Testament. The account of creation is given only, or chiefly, that the origin of the Hebrew race may be seen. If there had ever been a great Hebrew thinker, or philosopher (as there was not), we should now possess, doubtless, a treatise containing the distinct belief of Palestine on this great question. Therefore, the poverty of Old Testament teaching concerning another life should not be construed as sure proof that the writers were ignorant of it. Psalm xvi:10—"Thou wilt not leave my soul in sheoul, neither wilt thou suffer thine holy one to see corruption." Psalm xvii:15—"I shall be satisfied when I awake in thy likeness." Isaiah xxvi:19—"Thy dead men shall live; together with my dead body shall they arise." Daniel xii:2—"Many that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake; some to everlasting life and some to everlasting shame and contempt." While many passages quoted by theological writers have no bearing on the subject, these, by all fair interpretation, do. Any other interpretation is far-fetched and unwarranted.

But, chiefly, I think, the popular belief of the Hebrews on the subject may be seen in the following narratives: The translation of Enoch and Elijah; the story of the recall of Samuel by the Witch of Endor; the resuscitation of the widow's child, wherein it is said "his soul came back to him," and others similar show that the belief prevailed that death was not the end of existence. True, the kind of existence, its condition or duration, is not explained, but an after-death existence of some sort is certainly implied and acknowledged.

In the light of the foregoing statements we may conclude that the future life is taught in the Old Testament with about the same fulness as it is in the New.

C. E. CLINE.

The texts quoted cover a long period in the history of Jewish religious ideas, and possibly represent some change in the speculations, with progress of time. Most of the texts are, however, mistranslated, for support of later Christian conceptions. We have neither time nor space to go into details, but will quote on the texts cited from the Psalms in the Jewish Tribune of September 10:

Psalm xvi:10-11 does not refer to the future world. That psalm is ascribed to David—the same David to whom it is also ascribed "For in death there is no remembrance of thee (God), in the grave who shall praise thee" (Psalm vi:5), in which any idea of any kind of future life is absolutely denied. In the referred Psalm, David tells: "Therefore my heart is glad and my glory rejoiceth, my flesh also rests in hope: That thou wilt not leave my soul into the grave, thou wilt not suffer thy pious servant to see the pit (thou wilt not let me die yet. Instead) Thou wilt show me the path of life (where) in thy presence is fullness of joy, pleasures at thy right hand for evermore." (Psalm xvi:9-11.) This prayer is in perfect accord with "I shall not die but live and declare the words of the Lord. The Lord has chastened me sore; but hath not given me over unto death." (Psalm cxviii:17-18.) It is only a wish for life in this world and not in another world.

Neither do these verses hint at the future world, the translation quoted is erroneous. Here is the true one:

"Thou (God) guidest me with thy counsel, and it (the counsel) takes me unto (in Hebrew "after") glory. What is there in heaven that belongs to me? (It is another sphere in which I have no part), and on the earth I desire none with thee" (pure monotheism). This Psalm does not speak of any future world, and none of the above references gives any intimation of any belief in the future world.

HERE ARE SOME HARD PROBLEMS

What Is the Old Revelation, if the New Is to Be Set Up Against It?

The latest number of the Outlook contains an editorial, of which the following is the introductory paragraph:

Carlyle's cry, uttered more than once in great perplexity of mind and anguish of spirit, "If God would only speak again!" is repeated, generation after generation, by hosts of the most earnest men and women. It is the cry of the human spirit for light; for the assurance that the things it believes are true; for that immovable foundation of certainty which cannot be shaken, and will stand evident, tangible, and indisputably real among the mutations and uncertainties of life. In the thought of Carlyle when he uttered that cry there was a fundamental historical defect. He was accepting the direct Divine inspiration of great spirits in the past, but denying it in the present. He was permitting himself to be a victim of that illusion of time which makes the past beautiful by erasing its ugly features and the echo of it harmonious by eliminating its discords. If God has ever spoken in the world, he speaks today. It is incredible that, in a distant past, the human spirit should have been touched by inspiration, and that today that same spirit should be abandoned to merely human impulse and divination. If God has ever spoken, he is speaking today just as authoritatively through his modern prophets as he spoke through his ancient prophets.

Then there is not an exclusive revelation contained in the books of the Old and New Testaments. Then the books of the Old and New Testaments are not more authoritative, more surely inspired, than God's deliverances through his modern prophets. Now who are the modern prophets?

The question raises a doubt about the inerrancy of the ancient prophets. The Outlook professes to be a religious journal. Does it know what it is doing? It is preaching "infidelity." Who are the "great spirits" that now have the favor of "direct Divine inspiration?" If now there are none such, how under the definition could there ever have been any?

Initiative and Referendum.

GRANTS PASS, Or., Sept. 11.—(To the Editor.)—I desire to call your attention to the article "The Initiative and Referendum Is Not Constitutional," by D. C. Allen, published in the issue of August 27, 1909, page 148 vol. 69, Central Law Journal.

I consider this the ablest exposition of the invalidity of these "pest" laws that I have read, and it seems to me that it would be advisable to present the article to the readers of The Oregonian, as these law publications do not reach the masses.

You will be able to find the Central Law Journal in many of the law offices of your city. After reading it I will be pleased to have your views on the article.

W. C. HALE.

The article was published in full in The Oregonian, September 12.

BEST SELLERS FIFTY YEARS AGO.

Interesting Figures in the Sale of Famous Ante-Bellum Books.

More than half a century ago a Congressional discussion of international copyright moved Mr. Henry C. Carey to compile an exhaustive list of the "best sellers" of that day, together with some extremely interesting statistics relating to the returns of authorship in the middle of the 19th century. The Publishers' Weekly reprints Mr. Carey's figures with the idea that its readers will welcome the opportunity thus afforded to compare the popular taste reflected in the book trade of 1853 with the same reflection today. Even 56 years ago the facts led Mr. Carey to claim that "this country presents a market for books of almost every description unparalleled in the world." It is interesting to note that volumes of essays, of poetry and of travel are among the books which held the foremost place in popular favor two generations ago. The results of Mr. Carey's investigations were first given to the public in 1853 in a volume of "Letters on International Copyright." At that time, it seems, four of Thackeray's books were being sold in the United States to one in England, and the sale of Dickens' works had to be numbered "almost by millions of volumes." We learn, however, that our chief patronage was even then accorded to native productions, which outnumbered the foreign reprints "in the proportion of three to one." To quote Mr. Carey:

"Of all American authors, those of school-books excepted, there is no one of whose books so many have been circulated as those of Mr. Irving. Prior to the publication of the edition recently issued by Putnam, the sale had amounted to some hundreds of thousands, and yet of that edition, selling at $1.25 per volume, it has already amounted to 144,000 volumes. Of 'Uncle Tom,' the sale has amounted to 295,000 copies, partly in one, and partly in two volumes, and the total number of volumes amounts probably to about 450,000. . . . Of the sale of Mr. Preston's works, little is certainly known, but it cannot understand, have been less than 160,000 volumes. That of Mr. Bancroft's 'History' has already risen, certainly to 30,000 copies, and I am told it is considerably more, and yet even that is a sale, for such a work, entirely unprecedented.

"Of the works of Hawthorne, Longfellow, Bryant, Willis, Curtis, Sedgwick, Sigourney, and numerous others, the sale is exceedingly great, but, as not even an approximation to the true amount can be offered, I must leave it to you to judge of it by comparison with those of less popular authors above enumerated. In several of these cases, beautifully illustrated editions have been published, of which large numbers have been sold. Of Mr. Longfellow's volume there have been no less than ten editions."

* * *

Of the rates paid to successful authors by the magazines of that day, Mr. Carey says:

"I have now before me a statement from a single publisher, in which he says that to Messrs. Willis, Longfellow, Bryant and Alston his price was uniformly $50 for a poetical article, long or short—and his readers know that they were generally very short; in one case, only 14 lines. To numerous others it was from $25 to $40. In one case he has paid $25 per page for prose. To Mr. Cooper he paid $1800 for a novel, and $1000 for a series of naval biographies, the author retaining the copyright for separate publication, and in such case, if the work be good, its appearance in the magazine acts as the best of advertisements. To Mr. James he paid $1200 for a novel, leaving him also the copyright. For a single number of his journal he has paid to authors $1500. The total amount paid for original matter by two magazines—the selling price of which is $3 per annum—in ten years has exceeded $130,000, giving an average of $13,000 per annum. The Messrs. Harper inform me that the expenditure for literary and artistic labor required for their magazine is $2000 per month, or $24,000 a year."

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Further information about the sale of American books in America 50 years ago is set forth concisely by Mr. Carey in the following table:

	Price per Vol.	Vols.
Of the two works of Miss Warner, "Queechy," and the "Wide, Wide World," the price and sale have been	$ .88	104,000
"Fern Leaves," by Fanny Fern, in six months	1.25	45,000
"Reveries of a Bachelor," and books, by Ike Marvel	1.25	70,000
"Alderbrook," by Fanny Forrester, 3 vols.	.50	33,000
Northrup's "Twelve Years a Slave"	1.00	20,000
Novels of Mrs. Hentz, in three years	.63	95,000
"Major Jones' Courtship and Travels"	.50	31,000
Headley's "Napoleon and His Marshals," "Washington and His Generals," and other works	1.25	200,000
Stephens' "Travels in Egypt and Greece"	.87	80,000
Stephens' "Travels in Yucatan and Central America"	2.50	60,000
Kendall's "Expedition to Santa Fe"	1.25	40,000
Lynch's "Expedition to the Dead Sea," 8vo	3.00	15,000
"Western Scenes"	2.50	14,000
Young's "Science of Government"	1.00	12,000
Seward's "Life of John Quincy Adams"	1.00	50,000
Frost's "Pictorial History of the World," 3 vols.	2.50	65,000
Spark's "American Biography," 25 vols.	.75	100,000
"Encyclopedia Americana," 14 vols.	2.00	280,000
Griswold's "Poets and Prose Writers of America," 2 vols.	.75	300,000
Aiken's "Christian Minstrel," in two years	.62	40,000
Alexander on the Psalms, 3 vols.	1.17	10,000
Buist's "Flower-Garden Directory"	1.27	10,000
Cole on Fruit Trees	.50	18,000
Cole on Diseases of Domestic Animals	.50	34,000
Downing's "Landscape Gardening"	3.50	9,000
Downing's "Cottage Residences"	2.00	6,250
Downing's "Country Homes"	4.00	3,500
Mahan's Civil Engineering	3.00	7,500
Leslie's Cookery and Receipt Books	1.00	96,000
Guyot's Lectures on Earth and Man	1.00	6,000
Wood and Bache's Medical Dispensary	3.00	60,000
Dunglison's Medical Writings, in all 10 vols.	2.50	50,000
Webster's works, 6 vols.	2.00	46,800
Kent's commentaries, 4 vols.	3.38	84,000

POLITICAL SHORT COMMENT.

This talk of Senator La Follette and Colonel Bryan forming a political combination is all nonsense. Neither would consent to become the junior partner.—St. Paul Pioneer Press.

Governor Johnson says in effect that lecturing is not an easy stunt. Neither is campaigning, for that matter. Sometimes it is difficult to tell them apart.—Sioux City Journal.

The "Progressive Democrats" are getting busy in New York. Progressive Democrats are those who are endeavoring to ascertain just how long the Democratic party can stay out of office without starving to death.—Houston Post.

It is true, as Mr. Bryan says, that the only time the Democrats have elected a President in recent years was when tariff reform was the issue, but he should not overlook the fact that it was also the only time the party had a strong man as its candidate.—Kansas City Journal.

Mr. Pinchot is authority for the statement that President Taft intends to follow Mr. Roosevelt's policies. The impression has been steadily gaining ground that Mr. Taft has policies of his own that are just as disturbing as those of his predecessor and require all of his attention.—Brooklyn Eagle.

COOK, PEARY AND NORTH POLE

Newspaper Comment as to the Query: Who Was There First?

Prior Discovery Remains With Cook.

Brooklyn (N. Y.) Eagle.

The presumption of prior discovery must remain for the present with Dr. Cook. It is unfortunate and inevitable in view of the controversy raised over Dr. Cook's ascension of Mount McKinley that a certain amount of skepticism should prevail as to his later enterprise. In any controversy that may unfortunately develop Commander Peary will have the advantage of the companionship of D. B. McMillan, a man well versed in mathematics and physics, and he should provide a verification which, if not exactly indispensable, can hardly be considered superfluous.

Peary Expedition the More Valuable.

Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

For the honor of America, we trust that both men will easily prove the validity of their claims to having reached the Pole. If it is established that Dr. Cook preceded his rival, the older explorer must still be credited with a success no less stupendous, since it was achieved at almost the same time and on a thoroughly independent basis. That Dr. Cook built on Peary's experience in past journeys cannot be doubted. Nor must it be forgotten that the Peary expedition, because of its ampler equipment, must have returned the richer in permanent contributions to science. It is to be hoped, finally, that there may be generosity on all sides and ungrudging recognition of great deeds by whomsoever performed.

In the Air—So Pole Is Discovered.

Chicago Inter Ocean.

Should both Cook and Peary present sufficient proofs of having reached the Pole, the honor of the discovery would of course go to Cook, since he reached it before Peary started on his expedition. But should Cook's data fail to convince the scientific world, and should Peary return with ample proof, popular opinion would give the honor to Peary. . . . Even the principle of natural selection was announced by both Darwin and Wallace. The explanation of these coincidences seems to be that when the conditions of knowledge and society are ripe for certain discoveries these discoveries are in the air, as it were, and are quite likely to go to more than one discoverer. May not this have some bearing on Polar exploration?

Chief Credit Goes to Peary.

New York Globe.

Whether or not Peary or Cook was the first to plant feet on the top of the earth, it is clear that the chief credit for the discovery and the achievement must be given to Peary. It is his theory of approach that has won—it is his life work that is crowned. Dr. Cook acknowledges that he was a Peary imitator, that he was an humble follower of Peary methods and ideas. It is Peary who is the father of Arctic dog-sledging. It is Peary, against the view of Nansen and Abruzzi, who has stuck to the American or Western route. It is Peary who has contended that the dash should be begun in the late Winter, when the cold is the greatest and there is no light, rather than later.

Arguments for Both Cook and Peary.

New York Sun.

There is no one to whom the news should be more welcome and more gratifying than to Dr. Cook. We do not mean to imply that Peary must have recovered the brass tube and flag which the former explorer left at the Pole, but the fact that another expedition has attained the goal so soon after the first, lends to Dr. Cook's achievements a curious quality of acceptability. Moreover, there is nothing more improbable than that Peary should have attained the Pole and failed in some specific manner to have acquainted himself with the fact that Cook had been before him.

America Is First, the Rest Nowhere.

Louisville Courier-Journal.

There are honors enough to divide between Cook and Peary. It remains for the scientific world and the public at large to inspect their evidence and to pass upon their respective claims. The essential facts of the whole proposition are that beyond all cavil the goal has been reached; that the quest of nearly 400 years has come to a fruitful termination and that Americans have accomplished the tremendous task, the soul-harrowing journey, that once seemed hopeless and impossible. It is clearly a case of the United States first and the rest nowhere.

One Achievement Verifies the Other.

Washington (D. C.) Star.

In one sense it is fortunate that this supplementary "discovery" of the Pole should have occurred. It removes all doubt of the possibility of Cook's performance. The one achievement verifies the other, and doubtless each man's report will make its own particular contribution to the world's knowledge concerning the Polar region. In a field so vast and in a cause so great there is no room for petty personalities and unmanly jealousies. The world acclaims both Dr. Cook and Commander Peary for what each has done, regardless of the calendar.

Wait for Proof in Both Cases.

Chicago Record-Herald.

There can be, of course, but one original discovery, but the feat of reaching the Pole would give lasting renown to both explorers, and both belong to the United States. So far as National claims are concerned, this country can have no competitors. As for the doubts that have been cast by opposing partisans upon Cook in the first place and upon Peary in the second we can only say that they merely give an added interest to the rational demand for proof in both cases.

Question of Belief Up to Peary.

New York Tribune.

Whether Commander Peary will be ready to concede that he has been anticipated by another is a question which must already have arisen in thousands of minds, and he alone can answer it. The submission of all available data to scientific scrutiny by both men is imperative, and until that has been done the world is likely to reserve its judgment as to the final award of honors.

Truth Will Be Known Very Soon.

Chicago Daily Journal.

Why not wait until both explorers have made detailed statements and compared notes before crediting either of them with impossible statements? The truth will make itself known in due season, and the rumor distributors can avoid unpleasant later retractions by a little present common sense.

Cook Hailed as Actual Discoverer.

Philadelphia Inquirer.

Dr. Cook wins the prestige of actual discovery, but Lieutenant Peary is only just behind. Both have conquered the Arctic terrors—something that no one else has done—and America may be proud to do honor to its two hardy explorers.

Prineville Review.

A grapevine by wireless from Portland tells a pitiful and pathetic story. A man who as an infant drank a pint of tuberculous milk 37 years ago has just died of consumption, and another patient of 65 who did the same in 1866 has expired from an attack of acute cholera infantum.