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PORTLAND, SATURDAY, JAN. 8, 1010.

PRESIDENT TAFT MUST DECIDE.

Mr. Gifford Pinchot poses before the country as the corypheus of all who desire to preserve the natural reof all the people. His ambition has been to bring it about, so that the combat would rage around himself and contribute to his glory. He stands for "conservation" of the public interests-for the public. No man is to have use of lands or waters or minerals henceforth, without payment of pernetual tax to the United States money paid in to go to the support of a great bureau in Washington and horde of officials all over the United States—yet not indeed all over the United States, but over those parts where there are still public lands and waters and minerals. the old parts these were appropriated long ago, and are to be left in undisturbed possession of those who occu-pied them, and who have developed them. This sort of thing has made Mr. Gifford Pinchot very rich. He rests on the wealth of his ancestors, and has become "a reformer." a whale, as Burke said, sporting in the ocean of bounty, and from his spiracles he blows out a torrent of brine against his origin. What Mr. Pinchot should do is to turn back to society all that his an-

cestors accumulated from it, and all he has inherited from it. He should sell all he has and give to the poor. The attack on Ballinger, Inspired by him, is based on the assumption complaint that arises from it. that Bailinger has construed the laws as they are and requires them to be observed; while Pinchot substitutes his own theories of conservation, unsupported by law and contrary to the whole practice and policy of the country hitherto, since the occupation and settlement of the country be gan. For ages the land and waters and woods of the Western country have been unused. In the Eastern parts of the continent they were appropriated and put to use long ago want our country developed; we desire the conversion of its natural resources to some use rather than let them run wild, as heretofore; we wish the Government to part with the lands and allow them to be utilized. and properties to be built up around water powers and coal mines subject to state regulation and to state taxation. Only so can there be any development. If the General Government is to be the proprietor. If the General and everything is to be tied up by red tape at Washington, supporting a horde of officials, then no progress will be possible. All the remaining resources, till the country is stripped bare, will go to the support of of-

This is the protest of the West. On this basis the West will stand by Ballinger, against Pinchot. We want things done in this country; and they who put up their plea for a fanciful "conservation" should not be allowed to substitute their own notions for the general laws. Ballinger is the right man in the right place, and either he or Pinchot had to go. Taft would not be President had Pinchot remained. This individual has what the people, before they knew the fine term n alomania, used to call the bighead. He is a theorizer; he has courted a kick down the steps that he might show his bruises. A week hence his name will know no mention

HARD CONDITIONS IN JAPAN.

It was known throughout the world that the peace between Japan and Russia, brought about by the inter vention of President Roosevelt, did of come a day too soon for Japan This gallant and rising nation had made an effort seldom equalled in all the history of the world. Her sacrifices had been prodigious; though she had gained great advantages over an antagonist much greate than herself, she needed peace. nation, perhaps, ever needed it more. Her great antagonist, all the world selleves, must have worn her out, had the war been continued much longer. Confirmation of this is supplied since the war by the difficulties of the in-dustrial and financial conditions ex-

isting in Japan. find in the Literary Digest, the well-known weekly of New York and andon, translations from several Japanese newspapers, which throw light on the situation developed in the country since the Russian War. While the war was raging the supreme effort necessary for it obscured consequences sure to follow so costly a war waged with a more powerful and more wealthy neighbor. Japan, however, couragebusly took the risks, and by her sacrifices saved her prestige and her chances for Otherwise Russia would have crowded her into her corner very But her burden of debt is exceedingly heavy for her shoulders. She waged the war mainly by borrow-We have this from the

newspaper Kokumin (Tokio): newspaper Kokumin (Tokio):

The present financial condition in Japan really resembles that of Groat Britain a generation ago, but since then the latter has made good all her debts. But the heavy debts of Japan are more than the malion can endure. It is true the Katsura government is engaged in formulaling mehanes for the rademption of the loans and is making every effort to improve the credit of the Empire on the European market. Meanwhile the people groan under heavy transition, and it is urged in some quarters that mage be lightened on the land, in order that agricultural and other activities may be encuraged and vivined. In our opinion such a course should never be taken. If the taxes are not paid in toil, the leans will fall in not paid in full, the learn will fall in sure and the foreign credit of Japan re-

Even more gloomy is the statement many years after this country ceases dents from overworked equipment

no period in her history has the finan-condition of Jann been so deprest as it present. Since the conclusion of peace Russia, five years ago, the finances of Empire have been going from had to be and not a single new industrial en-ries has been started. Most of the pop-ion are groaning under the increased a of commodities of life and are clamor-for a reduction in taxation. The men-apital keep their money idle and shrink i investing it in commercial enterprises, and Japan remain in such a state a few

But it is a hopeful country; it is Corea, Manchuria and China; and its statesmen endeavor to find encourage ment for their country by comparison with the exhausted condition British nation at the close of the Napoleonic wars-followed, however marvellous growth of England's commercial prosperity. Continuation of peace, for many years evidently is necessity for Japan.

THE SPECIAL MESSAGE.

The recommendations of prime imortance in President Taft's special message relate to the proposed com-merce court and the Federal incorpor-ation act, which he recommends. The minor recommendations, pertaining to the routine work of the Interstate merce Commission, are manifestly excellent. It would be a good plan, for example, to give the Commis authority to act upon exorbitant rates without waiting for complaint from shippers. Nor can any reasonable person object to placing freight class ifications under its supervision since classification is in reality rate-making. Mr. Taft argues soundly, also, in select through routes for their goods where two or more where two or more are available. This ought not to be left to the arbitrary dictation of the carriers.

Mr. Taft's severest critics can find

no just fault with the economic prop-ositions upon which he bases his recommendations. In discussing the causes which have made trusts profitable and possible he dmits any mention of the tariff, and to some persons this will appear inexcusable; but, in truth, we should have had trusts just the same as now without any tariff. The President recognizes the great corporations of the country as public agencies rather than mere private instruments and in the most satisfactory manner he asserts the right of the Government to regulate and control them. It is his zenl for the effective exercise of this right which leads him to advocate the establishment of the special commerce court. Outlined by himself, this proposed tribunal appears less objectionable than we have feared it might prove.

As Mr. Taft describes it, the new court would be nothing more terrible than a modified United States Circuit Courts Five of the judges now in office are to be assigned to do its business and when there is a lull in their work of hearing appeals from the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Chief Justice is to send them out upon circuit This varied employment might possibly save them from that complete entanglement in red tape which is the bane of special tri-

The new court would be nothing worse, perhaps, than a judicial branch of the Commission. After an order had been made by the administrative side for confirmation or rejection. Re-garded in this light, the commerce court, like all of Mr. Taft's speculative proposals, has great merit. The whole of his message reads more like a treatise on abstract political science than an executive document, though, possibly a lawyer's brief is what it most resembles. His reverent attitude toward the Supreme Court is proper enough, but in the greatest executive office on earth it rather surprises one. Still, it is naturally shake off the feeling that the Su-preme Court is about the sublimest affair in the universe. Probably as by early and late frosts. time elapses, Mr. Taft will realize more clearly the grandeur of his own

President Taft desires a National incorporation law for reasons which are rather elusive. In discussing the subject of "good" and "bad" trusts, the President follows pretty closely the opinion of the Circuit Court in the recent Standard Off decision. A combination in restraint of trade is obnoxious to the law, not when or be ause it restrains trade, but only when such restraint is its predominant pur-pose. If a National incorporation act altered this rule, it would certainly work grievous injury to the public. did not alter the rule. would it enlarge the freedom of combination which already exists? An attentive study of the message does not convince one that Mr. Taft has made his intent and the reasons which underlie it as clear as would be desirable.

GRANARY OF THE WORLD.

as compared with the same period in the preceding season. That the foreign markets have not been suffering decrease can be understood by refernce to the statistics on Russian shipments. The new season in the land of the Czar opens August I, and between that date and December 11 Broomhall reports shipments of 106,-365,000 bushels, a larger amount than has ever before been shipped in so the brief a period by any country Russian shipments compare with 33,-544,000 bushels for the same period in the preceding season, and 41,348,000 hushels for the corresponding period

In 1907. The Russian increase of 73,000,000 bushels over the shipments preceding year has not only offset the 7,000,000-bushel shortage in Ameri-an exports, but it has also made up for the shortage in the Argentine importance. Russia is such an enorus country that accurate figures on the size of the wheat crop have been difficult to secure. high prices of the past two years have esulted, however, in bringing offerings out of obscure districts that in the past have never figured in the ex-

port columns. already see the handwriting on the wall foretelling the end of his business, but with an almost illimitable duce this result.

of another journal of Tokio, the exporting before the European con-Hochi-thus: famine.

> BILLBOARDS. While the billboard ordinance, introduced by Councilman Ellis, might not do everything toward ridding Portland of the nuisance which now defaces the city, it might do something. It might prove to be the be ginning of better things. Biliboards are of doubtful utility as advertising agencies. Comparatively few people notice what is printed upon them and those who do are more than likely to be disgusted. The hideous blot upon the scenery lends more or less of its repulsiveness to the article advertised and the loss of possible customers must overbalance the gain in the long run. Billbeard advertising is nothing better than a bad habit. Dealers persist in practicing it, not because it brings them any particular benefit, but merely be-

cause they are accustomed to it From the point of view of the cit-izen and the traveler, billboards are an unqualified nulsance. What they need is not so much regulation as abatement. It would be a pity for the city to form the habit of drawing revenue from them, since a financial argument for retaining them would thus arise, which might prolong their undesirable existence. In the most progressive cities of the country, the definite purpose in taxing billboards is to cause them to disappear.

PUNK SOLDIERS.

Those New York soldiers who mutinled because they were ordered to march 15 miles must be beautiful specimens of the military caste. Doubtless their idea of warfare is to sit by a warm stove and play seven-They would perish with indigestion unless they had a ten-course din-ner every day and naturally they cannot sleep without feather beds. Their soft and pampered frames could hever endure to lie on the bare ground at night as the Scotch Highlanders do. Those hardy heroes sleep sweetly and dream, blissful dreams of home and mother with nothing over them but their plaids when the mercury is at zero and brush the frost crystals off their legs in the gray dawn with no thought that they have suffered any hardship.

Gibbon draws a picture of the Roman soldier's daily routine which would make these New York butter boys howl with fright. They had to march all day laden with their armor, heavy weapons, extra garments, cooking outfit and provisions. When night came there was no rest for them until they had built a fortified camp. Such soldiers as those amounted to something in a fight. But a man who mutinies rather than march 15 miles would probably run away at the first sight of the foe.

There are pienty of people who will at out and walk 15 miles just for fun. set out and walk 15 miles just for run. We know women who do it frequently and come home blooming like the Rose of Sharon. Away with such puny creatures as these men of New York. Are they the best that over-boastful state can produce?

THE PLACE FOR WALNUTS.

It may be questioned whether Mr. M. A. Baker, of McMinnville, is well branch, which now alone exists, it advised in preferring bottom land to would pass directly to the judicial the footbills for walnuts. His argument is that the tap root can pene-trate the soil with more freedom where the formation is alluvial. No tap root, Mr. Baker's reasoning possesses much cogency. It would be conclusive if we could eliminate the difficulty of early and late frosts. Mr. Baker is a man of tried experience and a trustworthy student of conditions, but he probably errs in ascribdifficult for the lawyer and judge to ling the injury which walnut trees suffered last Winter to the cold weather. The safer opinion is that it was caused

In the Spring of 1908 ansuntimely frost killed the foliage of young walnuts on the bottoms and compelled them to waste energy in making an entirely new start. They grew vigorall Summer, but Fall found them with a great length of soft, immature twigs, and the curtailed growing season did not permit them to ripen. They were then smitten by a succession of early frosts in the Fall of 1908, which frequently killed wood down to the surface of the

Thus the mischief was done before the extreme cold of the Winter of 1908-9 came on. We understand that walnut plantings situated 300 or 400 feet upward on the foothills escaped these ruinous frosts almost completely. If that is true, there can hardly be any question which situa-tion is the better.

LIMITATIONS OF THE INDIVIDUAL.

Investigation by a Coroner's of the fatal train wreck on the O. Wheat exports from the United & N. Wednesday was followed by the States (flour included) for the first arrest, on a charge of manslaughter, six months of the current cereal year of the engineer of one of the trains, show a decrease of 27,000,000 bushels. Testimony showed that the first train was passing through a "block" at slow speed, when a train running at high speed, and in defiance rom short supplies by reason of this of the danger signal shown at the entrance to the block, followed it into the block and crashed into the caboose of the first train, killing two men and injuring a number of others. The tragedy again discloses the de-pendence which must still be placed on the train operatives, as well as on the remarkable accident-preventing equipment with which most of the roads are now provided

Beyond a certain point, individual esponsibility holds as prominent a position in these matters as it did be ore the block signal, the air brake or any other safeguards were invent The block signal, flashing its red light, can warn the engineer that th block which he is approaching is already occupied by a train, but, being automatic and not human, it cannot number of other countries of less prevent the engineer from running past the danger signal and causing a wreck. From a financial standpoint the railroad is always the heaviest sufferer by these disasters, and for that reason alone the greatest possible care is exercised in the selection of men. It is a noticeable fact, frequently commented on, that railroad accidents in this country are always more numerous during periods of prosperity than when business is at low ebb. Two fac-

closely related, combine to proarea of good land yet to be developed in Russia and the Argentine, not to mention Western Canada, it will be there is the increased Hability of acci-With a traffic which is taxing the

and congested train movement, and WHERE TO LOOK FOR THE COMET also from the difficulty in securing a complete working force of as high a standard of efficiency as is possible when employment is scarce and good men plentiful. To this latter feature more than any other is due the excel-lent record made by the foreign rail-roads, where the death rate is so remarkably low. With the knowledge that there are hundreds of men fully as competent as himself awaiting his position, and the further knowledge that extreme difficulty would be ex-perienced in finding another position, the foreign railroad engineer takes no chances in running past signals or disobeying-orders.

The responsibility of the individual to the public is no greater in the case of the foreign engineer than it is with his American craftsman. As it affects his own particular welfare, however, there is a much greater incentive for the exercise of caution on the part of the foreigner than in the case of the American engineer

merce, the greatest commercial organleation in the New World, has refused to indorse any measures for the rehabilitation of the American merchant marine to which is attached a provision for a ship subsidy. At the same time the organization adopted resolutions "emphatically favoring the reha-bilitation of the American merchant marine." New York handles vastly more business with foreign ports than is handled by all other American ports combined, and for this reason her importers and exporters may be expected to know what is best for the encouragement of trade facilities with the rest of the world. No small portion of the credit for the anti-ship subsidy sentiment in the greatest city in the United States is due to the efforts of the New York Journal of Commerce, which, in season and out of season, has belabored the grafting scheme with telling blows. The more that is known about the ship subsidy the less it appeals to good American citizens.

What's this talk we hear about the decadence of English nobility? In the good old days when "might made right," opposition to the ruling classes was met with real resistance which added variety to life in an era when the nobility rode forth on ironsheathed chargers to harmoon the Some of this must have been of this kind handed down to Sir William Bull, mem-ber of the House of Commons for Hammersmith, a populous suburb of London. Taking objection to some interruptions made by one of the audi-once while he was delivering a speech Thursday, Sir William hustled down from the platform and engaged in a stand-up fight with the man who entered objection to his remarks. Press dispatches do not state whether it was "win, lose or draw." but the incident certainly proves that now, as well as "in days of old," some of "the knights are bold," when the common people get gay with them.

'The New Year's Eve Debauch, noted in nearly all our cities, is a subject of severe animadversion by the press of the United States. The Oregonian now and hereby gives notice hat if the like shall again occur in Portland the men and women claim-ing respectability may expect to see a full account of "the proceedings" all the various grill and banquet-rooms of Portland, with especial at-tention to the names of the women and of their behavior. The press of doubt this is often true, and since the the country can break this up and vigor of the wainut tree depends stop the disgrace; and it must and greatly on the development of the will. At proper time, lest this be tap root, Mr. Baker's reasoning postary forgotten, The Oregonian will give further notice

> his industry and common sense. without regard for inspectors and their deputies.

> Grant County, Kentucky, had its first legal execution in fifty years yesterday-a negro hanged for criminal assault on a white woman in November. But to do so the Circuit Judge had to make a bargain with a mob that justice would be speedy in action. It was.

"A soft answer turneth away rath," said President Taft in his wrath." Salt Lake sermon last September, when trying to pacify the Ballinger-Pinchot row, and he should added "but grievous words stir up anger."

Any pension plan for Government employes will have its disadvantages and objectionable features. The best plan of all embraces life insurance and the savings bank, with a little investment in land.

When Eastern folk think of taking up land under actual settlement laws, there is only one way—that of grubbing stumps and planting crops esident proprietor ought to have no claim.

Is the whole United States to take toll on the streams and lands and forests and minerals of the West? was one of the mistaken "conservation" ideas of Mr. Pinchot

The Kansas minister on trial for abducting a 16-year-old girl says she tempted him. The rascally reverend must be a descendant of Adam in the Zelaya imagines somebody has been

himself a big man and one of the world's foremost rulers. There is prospect of a Methuselahtic Marathon, for a 79-year-old sprinter in Eureks, Cal., has challenged Wes-

trying to assassinate him. He thinks

ton, the pedestrian. The cold weather wouldn't have have been so keen if the plumbers' bills and those of Santa Claus had not come in together.

prevailed this Winter in Oregon long enough. The right idea is now back Eastern quotations on hogs are crowding the Portland figure, and this

The Eastern idea of fine weather has

s not much of a hog country. Not Mr. Taft is still President, as Mr. Pinchot found out.

South of the Zenith, Soon Near

Planet Mars. FOREST GROVE, Or., Jan. 7 .- (To the Editor.)-In The Oregonian there ap peared recently a dispatch from Now York to the effect that Halley's comer was visible. It was stated that, fessor Eastman of Columbia University has been studying the comet without the use of a telescope. It is in the northeast, will be visible and will be plainly seen for several nights." There is certainly some mistake about

this. Perhaps some other body than Halley's comet is referred to in the dispatch from New York. While it is true that the path of the omet cannot be predicted with the same

degree of certainty as can that of the moon or the planets, for example; and its ephemeris as figured out by one observer does not exactly coincide with that made by another, yet the variance among The Rev. Father G. M. Searle, of New York, is a recognized authority among these observers. He has recently re-ported that the comet was seen on Christmas night with a six-inch telescope and that very soon an observer with a four-inch gless and good eyes would be-

heavens, a little south of the zenith at 8 o'clock. It is moving towards the west, and about January 15 will pass very close to the planet Mars, which may be readily ecognized by its red color. It should be looked for there by anyone possessing a small telescope. W. N. FERRIN.

LIST OF UNDESIRABLE JURYMEN. ommendations of Jury Commissioner of Chiengo Approved by Court.

St. Paul Pioneer Press. It is somewhat surprising to find good coming out of Chicago, but the Jury Commissioner of that city recently objected to the drawing of certain classes of citizens for jury duty, and his objections to them were approved by the court. The original list prepared by the Commissioner is as follows:

Actors, because they have no fixed abode. Laborers and foreign tailors, because, as rule, not of sufficient education. Bollermakers, because of defective hear-

onkeepers and bartenders, because of oir occupation.

Train despatchers and tower signal men, coause they are doing a greater service at teir regular positions.

Medical and theological students, because sy are exempt.

Peddiers, junk dealers and seavengers for ovious reasons.

The Commissioner also sought to exclude all those persons who in pursuit of their daily tasks habitually accept tips. This list would exclude waiters, porters, barbers, cabmen and the like, but the court decided that the objection of the Commissioner was not sound in such cases, and refused to bar men of that class from jury service. The list finally barred, however, is worthy of consideration by courts in all parts of the country. Most of the troubles arising from the operation of our system of judicial procedure in trial cases are based on the jury system and the difficulty, amounting at times to an apparent impossibility, of Commissioner also sought to ex at times to an apparent impossibility, of securing competent men for jury service. Certainly there would be less criticism of court findings if the jury system were put on a higher plane than at present.

Hindering Religious Progress,

Churchman.

Now that the church has almost emancipated itself from the dead hand of reformation art and reformation theology, there seems to be no reason why the principles of public worship should be tied down to the ideals of the 16th or the 17th century. Yet undoubtedly there is a mass of reasonable and unreasonable antiagonism to change to be overcome where the public worship of the church is concerned. Denominationalism by tiself is an obsta-Churchman. There's a lot of buncombe in this official inspection of milk business and each of the horde of officials smirks about it. Meanwhile the fond parent who wishes pure milk for a child will use diligence according to the measure of his industry and common sense, cause they are practiced by various Pro-testant bodies. The result is a loss of valuable spiritual experience, and, what is more, a practical hindrance to mis-sionary expansion, both at home and

A Representative Paper.

California (Los Angeles) Cultivator.
One of the up-to-date papers which come to our desk representing the great producing interests is the Weekly Oregonian published in Portland. While it is a newspaper, it gives particular attention to the farm interests of that state. The issue of December 16 contains a most complete review of addresses made at the annual meeting of the Oregon Dairy Association, also of addresses made at the meeting of the State Horticultural Society held in Portland on December 6 and 8. The extended quotations from these addresses, together with other farm news, are most creditable. are most creditable.

Thackeray's Dislike of Flattery.

Thackeray's Dislike of Flattery.

Westminster Gazette.

The Hon. Sir E. chandos Leigh says:
"I knew Thackeray pretty well. Thackeray perfectly abominated anything in the nature of flattery. I was with Thackeray one night when a man came up and for five minutes administered to the great novelist the most fulsome flattery. When the man had gone I said to Thackeray: 'Who is that?' Thackeray replied: 'He calls himself an artist, but I think he paints as much in 'butter' as he does in oils.'"

The Sweet Uses of Adversity.

Life. You can wear out your old clothes. You are not troubled with visitors. You are not persecuted to stand sponsor. Begging letter writers will let you alone. Impostors know it is use-less to try and bleed you. You can practice temperance. You are not fool-ishly flattered. You save many a debt and many a headache. Finally, if you have a true friend you'll find it out.

Incredible.

"What's the matter, old man?"
"Oh, I've got an awful cold." "Tough luck. I wish I knew how you ould cure it."

Have you do recipe for he?"
No. I don't know a thing that'll ake-you're a wodder. Have a drigk."

New York Evening Post.

It was not the limit of the amazing that Cook thought be had reached the pole. Depew thinks he can be re-

Divorce in Chicago.

Chicago Journal.

Just a little millionaire.

Just a little wife,
Mighty little happiness,
Awful lot of strife.

Just a little fee,
Then a little evidence
To a referee.

Just a little courriroom.

Just a whispered line.

Scratching of the judge's pen
And everything is fine.

HERE IS YOUR WORKINGMAN'S IDEAL!

w Zealand, Plunged Hendlong Into Debt, Is Being Stendily Abandoned for Better Fields by All Who Can Get Away - Work Scarce, Wagen Poor, Living High.

Eligene Guard.

K. Lusile Webb, whose home is in New lealand, is a student of the Eugene Bible inversity and intends to return to that country when his education is completed, laving heard political affairs of New Zeasand discussed frequently in America, and then very ignorantly. Mr. Webb recently rote to his friend. A. H. Gibson, a promisent resident of Wellington, New Zealand, prepare an article giving the real confilms there, for the information of the merican people through the press. Mr. these complied with the request and his tier follows: Eugene Guard

letter follows:

I am amused by the remarks of the professor who lectured lately in your parts on New Zealand, which he described as "the workingman's paradise," basing his conclusions on that misleading book issued by the New Zealand government, which has induced so many to seek these shores only to be bitterly disappointed. As one who has readed here over 30 years, has seen most phases of Colonial life, has prospered fairly well, and followed keenly the trend of political life. I have some authority in the statements I am making. If by a workingman's paradise is meant a country where by strenuous work, the worker, whether skilled or unskilled, can obtain a livelihood, then that ideal is obtained four-inch gless and good eyes would be able to make it out. It is, of course, slowly brightening, but Father Searle expresses the opinion that the comet will not be visible to the naked eye for some weeks yet, perhaps not till after it has passed the sun about the middle of March.

Its position now is high up in the heavens, a little south of the zenith at

Out of his £2 8 shillings a week a town laborer with a wife and four children will have to pay for rent 15 shillings per week; coal and fire wood 5 shillings; rillk and butter 4 shillings, 6 pence; vegetables and fruit, 5 shillings; groceries (including brend), 16 shillings; making a total of £2, 5 shillings and 6 pence, leaving the sum of 2 shillings and 6 pence for elothing, boots, shoes, train fares, doctor's fees, medicines, etc. This is no imaginary budget, but can be confirmed on reference to any union in the Do-

on reference to any union in the Dominion.

The skilled laborer is in a rather better
position, but here again the uncertainty
of continuous employment is a factor
mititating greatly against his being able
to make both ends meet. Carpenters
and joiners are at present (November,
1969) a drug in the market. Hundreds
have left for Australia, yet even now
the supply is much in excess of the demand. The same applies to bricklayers,
plasterers and others. No man in his
senses would advise any laboring man to
came to New Zealand just now. I have
met dozens of immigrants from the United Kingdom who have anathematized
the day they were deceived into believing
this country a workingman's paradise.

Now as to the chance of a man's get-

Now as to the chance of a man's get-Now as to the chance of a man's get-ting on the land in this country. With plenty of capital any man can buy land here at a price varying from £2 per acre for uncleared brush land in the way-backs to as much as £55 and even £90 per acre for cleared improved land near a township. With the limited capital of from £25 to £125 the immigrants (whose passages are partly or wholly paid by the government) have in hand on ar-rival, little can be done in the way of a township. With the limited capital of from £25 to £125 the immigrants (whose passages are partly or wholly paid by the government) have in hand on arrival, little can be done in the way of difficulty must be apparent to all.

acquiring land. All the best and avail-able land has been long ago taken up, What is left is either native land, and What is left is either native land, and therefore (so far) imalienable, private lands for sale at a price far in advance of their real value, or government land for selection in places so far removed from a market, so inaccessible, and of so poor a quality generally, as to be prastically useless. I except of course, the little patches of land bought periodically by the government from private owners, and leased or sold under the ballot system. These are generally of good quality. and leased or sold under the ballot sys-tem. These are generally of good quality. But their area, in comparison with the demand, is so limited that any one man's chance of acquiring a section is almost inappreciable. For 20 sections lately put may be the government under the ballot up by the government under the ballot system near Auckland there were 1230 applicants! Following upon a severe depression, luring which the late Premier (Sir Harry

Atkinson) placed the finances of the colony on a sound basis, came an unprecedented boom in land values. The government of which the late Premier Richard John Leddon, was head, had then Richard John Leddon, was head, had then a great opportunity of continuing Sin Harry Atkinson's policy of careful financing. Instead it plunged into wholesald borrowing. It boomed up land values to increase traction. In every possible way it sought to obtain money. While doubtless much of the borrowed money was needed to develop the resources of the country, much was wasted. Expensive brick postoffices replaced wooden structures which would have for years served avery purpose. Costly railway stations and railway offices were creeted regardless of expense. Railways were made in less of expense. Railways were breated regard-less of expense. Railways work made in response to political pressure which could never hope to pay working expenses. Of-fices were created and filled with polit-ical supporters (no less than 920 employes teal supporters (no less than 920 employes in the civil service have been lately retrenched by the Ward administration and £250,000 reduction thereby made in the estimates). The Budget just lessed (November II, 1800) by Sir Joseph Ward. Minister of Finance, bears on the face of it the reason for the dearness of living, the scarcity of employment, and the desporate needs of the government formoney. The increase of the public debt for the year is £4,84,631. From 1891 to 1990 the public debt increased from £23. 1909 the public debt increased from £38,-530,559 to no less than £70,005,584, an in-crease of £32,198,184, equal to 22 per cent! True, the Premier estimates the increase of the value of private and public lands at £148,812,257, or an increase in the same period of over 121 per cent. But as much of this value is purely speculative, depending entirely upon the recent exceptional prices for our produce, much may at any time house to be considered. at any time have to be written off.

Is it any wonder, then, that with the country mortgaged up to the eyes, its freeholds parted with, or practically so, and the great bulk of the revenue (which is raised through the customs and there-fore on the poorer people) required to pay interest on the national debt, employ-ment should be scarce and living dear? The wonder is that with such wildow financing the Dominion has not before

HIGH-WATER MARK FOR IMPORTS NEW YEAR'S EVE DEBAUCH. American Market More Attractive Than Ever to Foreign Producers.

Springfield (Mass.) Republican.
The country's foreign trade returns for ovember indicate that our business retival is in danger of being overdone. It as marched along so far in advance of exports and imports:

now being exported the November mer- of the newspaper reports, feel a sense chandles exports would have made a much more unfavorable comparison.

Imports, however, have become of unprecedented volume. They were last month over \$20,000,000 above the highest

previous record of the season, and some \$7,000,000 above the highest previous monthly record of any season. The usual tendency of the import trade volume is

Thus the American market has become more attractive than ever to foreign producers, and they are taking large advantage of the situation. The necessary result of these trade tendencies, if they persult of these trade tendencies, if they persult of these trade tendencies. sist, will be such a hardening of the American money market through gold ex-ports as to force commodity prices back into greater harmony with the European price level. A situation is presented calling for more conservatism in estimat ng the commercial possibilities of the

FINING LATE THEATERGOERS. The Cleveland Ordinance "Means Well." but It Probably Isn't "Good Luw."

From the Philadelphia Inquirer.
Cleveland has passed an ordinance fining any theater manager \$100 who permits a patron to take a seat while the curtain is up. Those who arrive after the first act has begun miss wait until the end of the act before taking the send of the act before the send of th the first act has begun miss wait until
the end of the act before taking their
seats or the house will be prosecuted.
We doubt if any substaytial good will
come from such an ordinance. The decilsons of courts in the East have uniformly been to the effect that a theater
is a private enterprise and not a public
institution and that the managers may
make such reasonable regulations as they
please for conducting it. Doubtless the
ordinance will be thrown out by the
courts, but the incident calls attention to
a growing evil. Most persons are very
selfish in taking their pleasures. They
forget how much their own conduct afselfish in taking their pleasures. They forget how much their own conduct affects others. Those who come in late at the theater or opera and compel persons giready spated to stand and give passageway are guilty of social misdemeanors. It took a long time to establish the custom of requiring women to remove their hats and it will probably take longer to make them prompt in attendance, but 'file a consummation devoutly to be wished. In the meantime, we might revert to the old time 'curtain raiser' to make the main play thoroughly raiser" to make the main play thoroughly

Poor Show Anyway.

Dallas Itemizer. There was some kind of a show at There was some kind of a show at the Woodman Hall last night. As they did not patronize the newspaper, we can safely conclude that their finances were at a low ebb and that the show was not of much account.

Stranger (in Drearyhurst)—Is there any place in this town where I can get something to drink? Uncle Walby Gost-Yes, sir, onless you're might blamed hard to please. There's four town pumps a sulphur well an half a dezen places where you kin git root beer.—Chicago Tribune.

It Is an Evil That Decent People Must Discountenance.

Chicago Record-Herald. Reports in all the newspapers indicates that the celebrations New Year's eve resulted in a competition in drunkenness the European recovery from trade depression as to place the United States at a disadvantage in maintaining such a trade balance as will exclude heavy exports of gold. This will appear from the following comparison of November merchandise charges, but we have no doubt whatever and in the violation of rules of conduct charges, but we have no doubt whatever that society itself must give zerious thought to its responsibility for the cua-tom that has grown up of late and for the scenes of unrestrained license. There are persons who have been led

Last month's merchandise exports have been two or three times exceeded at this or other seasons of the year; and but for the very high prices at which cotton is personal sname, and have withdrawn emselves forever from the competi-

> Naturally their influence is thrown very refinement and a proper self-respect simply cannot continue to give counta-nance to such displays if it is a fact that they have constituted an appre-ciable element in the crowds at these celebrations.

There was a time at the height of the bicycle craze when there was much discussion over the appearance of women in bloomers and knickerbockers. sult of the discussion was a return to ekirts. Only women with an unusual amount of bravado or with little to lose in the way of reputation showed themselves in the costumes against which the greatest objections were raised. But the facts in the case were of small importance compared with those that are pre-

sented now. We are told on good authority of young women in the most revolting stages of drunkenness, of the complete breating down of social barriers, of disgraceful exhibitions that suggest the worst coat-ures of the notorious French balls. All this must lead to severe condemna-tion, the imposition of a social ban and a very pronounced reaction. The cele-brations will be left exclusively to the to the regular coarse and the vulgar, to patrons of disreputable balls

Pointed Paragraphs.

A white Christmas maketh a glad A poor excuse is better than none—if

It works.

Too many eye-openers are apt to make a man see double.

Great minds that run in the same channel frequently collide. channel frequently collide.

The price of a woman's stunning gown may shock her husband.

Give married women a fighting chance and they'll do the rest.

Some local celebrities are famous and some others are notorious.

CURRENT SMALL CHANGE.

The psychological moment counts for much."
"That's right. Almost any town could be voted dry along about the first of January."—Louisville Courier-Journal
"These students frate Customer—See here! That student lamp you sold me a week ago is no good. Dealer—Beg pardon, sir I ought to have told you it was a college student lamp—Puck.

Puck.
"Uncle Joe" told T. P. O'Connor that he was descended from a line of sings. It seems to us, however, that 'Uncle Joe' is acting as though he were descended from a line of aces.—Houston Post Mrs. Neurich (entering studio)—You are the artist who paints miniature portains. It believe? De Auber—Yee, madam. Mrs. Neurich—Welt, what'll You charge for paints-ing a He-size miniature of my daughter?— Chicago Daily News.

Modern Philanthropist—My wortey friend, here is a ten-dollar bill which I will give you. Beggar (unnerved with foy)—dod bless y.—M. P.—Give you on January I next, on condition that you raise as thousand more between now and that time—Puck.