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PORTLAND, THURSDAY, JAN. 20, 1910.

THE TWADDLE ABOUT PRICES.

There is amusement in Congress The calamity of high prices is under debate in that body. A few years ago it was the calamity of low prices that worried the minority members. Now it is the calamity of high prices that worries them. They have now the same job lot of indignant eloquence against high prices to draw from for daily use that they had then for use against low prices; and "the maladministration of the Republican party"-as Fitzgerald, of New York, one of Tammany's men, expresses itis the cause now of the disorder, as it was then. The same cause, it seems, produces the most opposite effects.

Of course, all intelligent persons know that economic conditions are in perpetual flux; certainly never stationary during long periods. "The human ent" in these movements is the chief cause of the fluctuations. For the human view of things never can be fixed or stationary; and changing atti-tudes of mind from one time to another are the main cause of changing conditions in economic life. Rise and fall of prices is produced legitimately, in some degree, by less or greater supply, but the main cause of rise or fall of prices on a great scale is the movement of what men call the speculative spirit, which is subject to periods of elation and depression, and like the valor of Bob Acres, "comes and goes."

There is equal abundance of food, clothing and all necessaries of life now, when prices are high, as some years ago, when prices were low. The causes of the change are very complex, and opinions about the causes, one way or another, are of exceedingly small value. The fact is, the human spirit is unfathomable. It is, however, easier to discover why prices were abnormally low fifteen years ago than why they are unusually high now; for credit was destroyed by the silver agitation fifteen years ago, and most business is done on credit; and since credit and money must be interchangeable, the stock of money was as small as credit was low. Hence prices were low. But now credit is fully established, on the gold standard; there is increasing supply of gold; money is seeking investment and turning to new enterprises; real estate is rising high in values, and there is a general movement forward in an immense number and variety of industries. Prosperity brings high prices; yet prosperity itself is largely a product of the forces of human imagination.

But who would prefer an era of low prices to an era of high prices? Would you rather have the conditions of the ent time, with wheat at \$1.15 to \$1.20, or those of some years ago, when wheat sold at 30 cents a bushel. with corresponding depression of everything else? The consumers then, in truth, had the advantage of low prices, but nothing to buy with: for neither work nor wages nor credit was to be had, nor sale for real estate of luck, had to pinch and scratch to live, quite as much as the producer, or more. Even consumers, if they will reflect, will hardly want such era of low prices again.

Partisan speeches in Congress high prices are useless, but probably as harmless a way of spending its time as that body is likely to employ. prices were low, declamation would aunch its thunderbolts as flercely against low pricez: Perhaps as little mischief as Congress can do is to spend its days in twaddle of this de-

APPLES IN THE HOME MARKET.

The farmers of Eastern Multnomah have begun in earnest the task of ridding their orchard trees of San Jose scale and other pests that in late years have fastened upon them and up to the standard established by commercial orchardists, though much of it is of good size and fine coloring. this end they are spraying and prun-ing their trees and destroying those that are hopelessly diseased means that the criticism applied to the apples and Pears that were shown at the Grangers' Fair at Gresham last Fall will not follow the exhibit to be made at the same place the coming

There is no finer orchard land in the state (which is saying that there is none anywhere) than is found in the foothills and valleys of Multnomah and Clackamas Counties. All that is necessary to produce shipping fruit and show fruit and fruit for the local market that will stand the most critical test, is the application of modern intelligently, industriously and untiringly to the fruit industry.

What is wanted in this market in the way of apples is clean, shapely, medium-sized fruit that will net the grower \$1 a box. We want some show boxes, of course, enough to supply men of families who are able to pay fancy prices. But for the laboring people and those of small means an abundance of good apples

at a reasonable price is required. Farmers of Eastern Multnomah and Northeastern Clackamas are giving such attention to their orchards as will insure this result. There need be no fear of overproduction as long as there is a multitude of thrifty working men who are able and willing to pay \$1 or \$1.50 a box for apples for family consumption, yet who cannot find a supply for this modest demand in the home market. If that is not the case now, it will be a month hence. There is practically an apple famine in every working man's h beginning from the first to the middle

of March and continuing through the time known to perplexed housewives as the period "between hay and grass," that is until home-grown strawberries and gooseberries are in the market. Yet at this time many of the standard varieties of Winter

apples are at their best. The man who grows apples for this time of the year has no need to fear the bogie of overproduction. Everybody likes apples-cooked or un-cooked-and every one will eat them during the time mentioned if they can be had in full supply at moderate prices.

TAFT A PEACE-MAKER.

President Taft is a good peace-maker. That is, he is keeping down the row between "the regulars" and the insurgents." His message on 'conservation" was so drawn as not to contain radical suggestion either way. It was a study for compromise between extremes. The President soothes the insurgents by causing it to be known that he has no intention of giving ald to Cannon in the controversy over the rules of the House. Certainly it is not the President's busiess to take part in that affair.

There is no little insurgency which has no definite object. Some men want to be heard, and to "kick up a fuss" eems to them the readiest Others merely wish to find a vent for their spleen: There is always a class f men unwilling to follow in old ways, owever approved, and start opposiion, because their nature requires this sort of exercise. The rules of the House are not likely to be greatly changed-even if the Democrats carry he House next time, as very probably they will. Seven times in succession the Republicans have elected a majority of the Representatives. Such ontinuous success for a single party is one of the most surprising things in ur political history.

There will be much indifference among electors this year-more probiblly among Republicans than Democrats; and it will be a wonder if the Republicans do not lose the House.

CHARTER CHANGES NEEDED.

After thinking over the water-main trouble in Portland, a lot of persons who disagreed with Mayor Simon's diagnosis are coming round to see that that official was right in declaring new aws necessary. Present laws make new mains too costly and tardy and delay needed street pavements. Moreover, they work injustice between consumers and landowners.

The Oregonian believes with Mayor that the charter should amended and that unless changes shall be made in the charter the public will be highly dissatisfied with results. But it ought not to be necessary for things to continue as they are, to vindicate the correctness of the Mayor's judg-

The next regular election for remedyfing defects in the city's laws will be held this coming November. There will be abundant time to consider fully the changes that will be advisable The subject requires inquiry in other cities, preliminary to adoption of measures best suited to local needs. Mayor and the Council have evinced a desire to submit a plan acceptable to the public, and will be looked to for preparation of suitable. charter amendments.

CINCINNATI'S BILLBOARDS.

The Hon. John W. Peck, of Cincinnati, in closing a discussion of the billboard nuisance in "The American for January, says confidently that "there will be a day when the public will look back upon the billboard nuisance as a curiosity of the past." No doubt his words are prohotle, but the day of their fulfillment will be a long time coming unless people who care for the welfare of the cities where they dwell rouse themselves to vigorous and intelligent activity against this most impudent of all offenses against good taste and sound morality. It is of no particular use to sit on a sofa in the drawing-room and rall at billboards. Like every other evil, they will hold them own until they are brought to terms by a power superior to the one that profits by them. Such a power is in telligent public opinion acting through

Mr. Peck's article is chiefly interest ing for the discussion it contains of the new ordinances which Cincinnati has enacted to regulate billboards There are six of them and he concludes after careful consideration that all but one are certainly constitutional. The doubtful ordinance forbids billboards to be placed within fifteen feet of the street line or in front of the line of adjacent buildings. Since this regulation does not obviously safeguard the public health, safety or morals, Mr. Peck rather suspects that the courts may not uphold it. Mere offenses against good taste are probably not within the scope of the police power of a city. De minimis non curat lex The Constitution properly enough sets dollars above beauty. The City of Cincinnati has astutely placed each separate billboard regulation in an ordinance by itself, so that if any one of the six turns out to be unconstitutional, the others need not be involved in its doom. Of the five which Mr. Peck believes unquestionaly safe, the first lays down that billboards within the fire limits must be metal. The reason is obvious. It is folly to proscribe wooden buildings and at the same time permit long ar rays of inflammable billboards to stand wherever anybody chooses to erect them. They are more dangerous than most wooden structures, because they furnish retreats where hobos and bad boys loaf and build fires. The second and third ordinances limit the height of billboards to twelve feet, require two feet of open space below them and two feet clear between any pair, while the fourth requires six feet between the end of the board and the line of The height limit of twelve feet has been sustained by the New York courts. It allows sufficient area. to advertise any ordinary article, while it does not entirely hide the landscape from the wayfarer unless he stands near the billboard, which is something that nobody who cares for landscape

would ever do. One of the most irritating device connected with the nuisance is a tall and ugly figure of some sort towering far above the general line. Some per ple are always tempted to throw dynamite bombs at these horrors though of course, they never do it. Their possible recourse, if they have to pass one of them every day, is to commit suicide. For the benefit of the courts, which care little how things look, Mr. Peck adds the clincher that towering

is a windy city, so that this consideration will not smack too much of The space under the bllboards and between them enables the police to see what is going on in the vacant lots which they border. It is obviously a necessary precaution against immoral conduct. The open space at the end permits an officer to visit at his ease the hobos who may have congregated behind the bill-board. Without it the inspection might require a ladder and more of less delay in emergencies.

Finally, no licentious or obscen matter and no criminal act may be depicted on the billboards in Cincin In fact, nothing may be expose upon them until it has been submitted to the Superintendent of Police and licensed by him. When we add that billboards are excluded from the immediate vicinity of parks, squares and public buildings, it becomes apparent that Cincinnati has grappled earnest. ly with the nulsance and is in a fair way to abate it. The prime mover in the good work is the Business Men's Club, in which Mr. Peck is chairman of the legislative committee. Evidently Cincinnati has evolved to the stage where her men of affairs perceive the conomic value of decency. But after all that the law can do has been done, the billboards will continue as an eyesore and a public scandal. The only way to be rid of them for good and all Is to create a sentiment that will make them unprofitable. A day will come sooner or later when offensive advertisement of an article will injure its sale. In that blest time there will be no more billboards.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

Exports of agricultural products from the United States during the last ten years, according to the Bureau of Statistics, reached the prodigious total of \$9,000,000,000 (nine thousand millions, or nine billions of dolars). Cotton was the largest item in the group; breadstuffs next; meat and dairy products third.

Our exports of cotton steadily increase. In 1909 they reached the great total of \$417,000,000. There is decline, however, in our exportation of most kinds of foodstuffs-due to increasing consumption at home. The marked increases in agricultural exports,-comparing 1909 with 1899,were in these items:

Exported 1909. Over 1899. ... \$417,000,000 Cotton
Oil cake and oil cake meal
Cottonseed oil...
Fruits and nuts
Leaf tobacco... 26,000,000 21,000,000 17,000,000 31,000,000

We exported during ten years cotton ralued at \$3,651,000,000. Cotton still retains something of the dignity that doth hedge a king.

'It is shown that American wheat and flour go chiefly to Europe, Great Britain taking more than a third of each, while large quantities of flour go to Cuba and the other West Indies. Central America, Brazil, Japan and the Philippines. For American corn Great Britain is the largest purchaser, buying an amount equal to that bought by the Netherlands, Germany and Canada combined. American meats, while widely distributed, says the bureau, find their largest direct market in Great Britain, which country took in 1909 nine-tenths of the beef, over onehalf of the tallow, 85 per cent of the bacon and hams, and nearly 30 per cent of the lard, for which latter article Germany also affords a large mar-ket. Value of tobacco experted in 1909 was \$31,000,000, of which Europe took

over 80 per cent.
Of foodstuffs, our exports will steadily diminish with the roll of the years, —though our production will as steadily and even more rapidly in-Home consumption will take up the surplus, till, within the lifetime of many who read the reports of the present day, we shall have no foodstuffs for export. James J. Hill predicts that our next generation will be importers of wheat and flour. cotton will hold out, and again double up, as our chief agricultural product for export.

GAMBLING AND SPECULATING.

The Farmers' Educational and Cooperative Union, in session at Walla Walla, adopted a resolution protesting against "gambling in grain by milling and elevator interests," It is regrettable that the Farmers' Union is not more specific in its protest. If the resolution is aimed at the milling and elevator interests of the Pacific Northwest, it is hardly warranted by the facts. Considering the vast sums of money required to handle it, no other business ever followed on the Pacific Coast has been so productive of financial disaster as the grain business. This is due to the impossibility of eliminating the element of "chance" which is always present, and which must be accepted and considered by the most conservative of grain and

milling interests. Yet it is hardly fair to these in terests, that are forced to take long chances in order to move the crop, to accuse them of gambling, even though the extreme hazard may approach very close to what is known as gambling The advent of the tramp steamer in the past few years has lessened the "chance" which the grain dealers were formerly obliged to take in order to handle the crop, but the Pacific Northwest is still too far from the world's markets to enable the process of chartering a ship, buying the cargo floating it and selling it, to be anything other than a highly speculative transaction. Almost since the inception of the business, the exporter has been obliged to charter tonnage long before the dimensions of the crop hardled could even be approximately

gauged. Viewed from one standpoint, it might be said that, by chartering these ships the exporter was gambling that the crop would be large enough to fill As a matter of fact, he was merely making an effort to provide tonnage which, in all probability, would be needed to prevent a congestion when the wheat was ready for Until we reach that stage of internal development when there will be no surplus of grain for export, the great bulk of this surplus must move in the four or five months prior to February 1. It is during that period that the upplies of our competitors run down to low ebb; but with the new year ome supplies from Australia and the Argentine and a lessening demand for American grain. These things force American grain merchant handle an immense business in a shor space of time, and to'do this it is impossible to eliminate a highly specula-

tive element. It is questionable, however, whether the grain dealer who charters a ship billboards are dangerous to passers-by and buys a cargo for delivery or sale

ninety days hence is any more of gambler than the farmer who declines \$1 per bushel for his wheat, because he expects to sell it ninety days hence at a much higher figure. Both are "taking a chance" that wheat will be higher ninety days hence, and the farmer, with danger from fire, rats and other destructive agencies, is taking more of a chance than the ex-

PROBLEMS IN CONSERVATION

When this country enters thoroughly into the conservation business, it will not stop at keeping settlers out of the public domain, nor at preserving vast regions, now wilderness, against present use, as they say, for posterity The country will look to more fruitful methods of conserving energels even than those. It will try to save the 85 per cent waste of fuel that now consumes the coal and firewood store of the Nation with startling rapidity. It will seek to avail itself of the vast unused energy of tides and waves and winds. The heat of the sun, which is the source of most terrestrial vigor, may be made available for men's work through sun-engines. The subterranean fires that belch forth terrific power in voicanoes may be harnessed for similar purposes. So also with the miniature volcanoes in geysers. Perhaps we may gather a carload of radium, which, as Thomas A. Edison tells us in the Independent, "would have as much energy as all the millions of tons of coal mined in the United States in a year," and would last, perhaps, thousands of years.

If men are using up the latent en-ergies of coal and timber at rapid rate in these progressive times, there are many other sources of heat and power, some of them even more abundant. This does not mean that men should consume or waste the resources they are now drawing upon to perform their drudgery and give them comfort, but it does mean that alarmists who try to scare the Nation's lawmakers into enacting laws that will greatly curtail Western settlement and growth are looking only a short distance ahead. As to wastefulness of today's methods of combustion, Mr. Edison

Among the many problems which await solution in the future, one of the most important is to get the full value out of fuel. The wastefulness of our present methods of combustion is tremendous. A pound of coal has enough energy in it to carry itself around the world. We are only able to extract a small fraction of its heat and power; the greater part goes to waste. Our best steam engines use about 15 per cent of the energy of the coal they consume. With gas engines probably 20 to 25 per cent of the energy is utilized.

More wonderful feats have hear

More wonderful feats have been achieved by human ingenuity than that of saving fuel that wastes in smoke and heat radiation. Greater triumphs have been accomplished by the human intellect than invention of methods for utilizing energies of tides, winds and sunshine. Yet grand possi-bilities await solution of these latter problems of conservaton. Scientists and inventors, rather than agitators and statesmen, are destined to be the world's best conservationists.

Formal announcement has made of the engagement of Miss Marjorie Gould to Anthony J. Drexel. As Mr. Drexel is an American who has never been implicated in the kind of dirty scandals which have characterized most of the Gould marriages, George Gould, father of the young lady, should be congratulated on the young lady's choice. Mr. Drexel has never done anything more important than to inherit a fine old name and quite a few millions, but he is so far ahead of any of the heiress-hunting foreigners with whom Miss Gould's name has been connected that the match will probably be considered a good one.

The Christy divorce case has at last drifted into that class of domestic disords that have made the affairs of the yellow rich of Pittsburg and New York such salacious events. King "Booze, as usual, seems to have been the principal factor in bringing about the trouble. First, Mr. Christy found it necessary to sustain his artistic temperament by the frequent use of spirtuous liquor. Later in the game Mrs. Christy adopted the same tactics, and, according to the testimony now being presented, engaged the services of a chauffeur to aid her in decreasing the available supply of the stuff that dreams and divorces are made of.

President Shonts, of the New York Interborough Metropolitan Company, is a brave man, for he attempted to travel in one of his own subway cars, while the rush hours were on. pleasing to note that "after being crushed, battered and squeezed and carried two stations beyond his home station, Mr. Shonts denounced conditions as outrageous, and characterized his experience as "fierce." Streetcar magnates should stick to their automobiles.

Mrs. Julia Frances Corbett, widow of Elijah Corbett, whose passing, at her home in this city, January 17, the age of 80 years and 4 months, has been recorded, was a gentlewoman in the truest sense of that term. During her life of nearly half a century in this city she was active in benevolence, generous in sympathy, kindly in her daily intercourse with others. Living thus, she was beloved; passing, her memory is revered.

Coast Fork Grange, Patrons of Husbandry, has incorporated in a grave resolution, the belief that office-holders of the state "are becoming masters instead of servants." Clearly our good friends have learned from the katydids the art of saying an undisputed thing in a very solemn way

Artist Christy was too fond of his nodels and Mrs. Christy too fond of the cup that cheers and also inebriates. The artistic temperament again.

the Panama Canal will be a failure The French, it will be remembered, built the first Panama Canal. Hardware retailers do not wish conmers to buy goods at the cheapest places. But retailers like to buy them

find a high fiver for his airship.

The lesson of the Linnton 5-cen fare squabble is that the carline ought not to have been built on the county

The reformer's motto: If you don't know who did it, or what caused it, blame it on Ballinger Mr. Wemme need not look far to

WANTS OLD WATER-MAIN PLAN. H. B. Granthum Thinks He sees Ob-

H. B. Granthum Thinks He Sees Obstancies in the Way of Any Other.

PORTLAND, Jan. 13.—(To the Editor.)

—I am firm in my belief that the old law for laying water mains should be remacted, and that all mains should be paid for out of the water fund or from the proceeds of bonds, as outlined by T. B. Wilcox, in his article, "Abundant Supply of Pure Water," published in the New Year's issue of The Oregonian. I am very sorry that our honorable Mayor did not let the question go before the people and give us one more chance.

There are many arguments I could pro-There are many arguments I could produce in favor of the old system. But it is useless, however, to say more. The election has been called off. The situation is deplorable. In your editorial of January 17, "The Water Main Injustice." you plainly set forth the injustice of the present law. You also propose a compro-mise plan. But when you assert that all lot owners should pay equally as for six-inch main and that consumers or th city should pay whatever excess there may be, the meaning seems somewhat vague. Do you mean to apply the same principle laid down in your admirable editorial of December 31, 1909? "The People's Heritage." If so, then mains already in and paid for out of the water fund should be seized by the proper au-thorities, be assessed as for a six-incl main, and the money returned to the water fund from which it was taken and belongs. Then the Seattle plan would be in order. All could begin equal, and this muddle would be forever settled. All needed mains could be laid, and our hard-surface pavements extended. Water rates could be reduced one half, and per-haps more. If the Seattle plan will do all this for us, it should by all means be adopted as soon as possible.

H. B. GRANTHAM,

Lot owners in the older parts of the city have amply paid for their mains in high water rates through long period of years. The question whether they should be assessed for their mains now as preliminary to fair adjustment of the water trouble, hardly bears on the prob lem. As a matter of justice, suburbar speculators, distant from the heart of the city, ought to pay the whole cost of pipe extensions to their tracts. Only physical difficulties of defining benefited districts limits the practical application of this plan, hence the "compromise" mentioned in Mr. Grantham's letter. The old system of charging cost of suburban mains to water consumers was objectionable and was abolished by the electorate. The present system is unjust also and is obstructive, besides. Both systems have grown extremely unsatisfactory, owing to distant, suburban additions to the city, and the high cost of mains resulting therefrom. If equity has not been done n the past, this is no reason why i should not be done in the future.

PROBABLE ORIGIN OF THE ESKIMO Penry Inclined to Believe the Theor of Oriental Ancestry. Commander Robert E. Peary in February

Hampton's Magazine. The members of this little tribe inhabitng the Western coast of Greenland from Cape York to Etah are in many ways quite different from the Eskimos of Dan-ish Greenland, or those of any other Arc-tic territory. There are now between 220 and 230 in the tribe. They are savages but they are not savage; they are with out government, but they are not lawless; they are utterly uneducated according to our standard, yet they exhibit a remark-able degree of intelligence. In tempera-ment like children, with all a child's de-light in little things, they are nevertheless enduring as the most matured of civilized men and women, and the best of them are faithful unto death. Without religion and having no idea of God, they will share their last meal with anyone who is hungry, while the aged and the helpless among them are taken care of as a matter of course. They are healthy and pure-blooded; they have no vices, no intoxicants, no bad habits-not gambling. Altogether, they are a people unique upon the face of the earth. A friend of mine calls them philosophic

S years, and no more effective instrumen for Arctic work could be imagined that these plump, bronze-skinned, keen-eyed and black-maned children of nature. Their very limitations were their most valuable endowments for the purposes of my work. There is a theory, first advanced by Sir Clements Markham, president of the Royal Geographical Society of London that the Eskimos are the remnants of an ancient Siberian tribe, the Onkilon; that the last members of this tribe were driven out on the Arctic Ocean by the fleror waves of Tartar invasion in the Middle Ages, and that they found their way to the New Siberian Islands, thence east-ward over lands yet undiscovered to Grinnell Land and Greenland. I am inclined to believe in the truth of this theory for the following reasons:

Some of the Eskimos are of a distinctly Mongolian type, and they display many Oriental characteristics, such as mimi cry, ingenuity, and patience in mechanical duplication. There is a strong resemblance between their stone houses and semblance between their stone houses and the rulns of houses found in Siberia. The Eskimo girl brought home by Mrs. Peary, in 1894, was mistaken by Chinamen for one of their own people. It has been suggested that their invocation of the spirits of their dead may be a survival of Asiatic ancestor worship.

New York Mail. According to the president of the American Warehousemen's Association there were 1,500,000,000 eggs in cold storage in the United States on the first of last September, where were held to force higher prices. In other words, the monopolists are re-sponsible for a situation for which many persons have been disposed to

Philadelphia Inquirer.

Seeing a tramp hurrying away from a large house, a fellow professional asked him what luck he had met with. "It ain't wort' askin' there," was the reply. "I just 'ad a peep through the winder. It's a poverty-stricken 'ouse, mate. There was aschully two ladies playing on one planner!"

> Checrful Send-off. Boston Transcript.

The student volunteer movements more young missionaries. early is heed paid to the letter of King Bongoango to the American board: "The last consignment of missionaries sent me were old, tough and stringy.

Who Gets the Benefit? Indianapolis Star. Abolishment of the duty on hides is followed by higher shoes. It would be interesting to know who gets that elusive benefit; but at any rate the poor consumer can prove an allbi.

Boston Transcript.

Lawyer—What is your occupation?

Witness—I'm a piano finisher.

Lawyer—Be a little more definite, Do
ou polish them or move them?

Neat Job of Harvesting. Kansas City Times.

This week the harvester trust is cut-ing a 20-million-dollar melon, which you'll have to admit is a very neat job

DIRECT PRIMARY IN FLORIDA. Rensons of a Candidate for Withdraw ing From the Quest for

the Senatorship. New York Sun.

Among those who advocate direct rimaries no argument is more familis nor more popular than that which is contained in the declaration that the system enlists for public service the system enlists for public service men of a higher type and greater efficiency than the existing machinery. Interesting as a commentary upon this assertion is the public statement re-cently issued by the Hon. W. A. Blount of Pensacola, explaining his reasons for withdrawing this document we quote the following: I believe that no man not heretofore hold-ing public office and thereby largely known to the public has any chance of election without an extended personal canvass of the state, extending as far as possible into each hamlet and village. I have heen making such a canvass since the first of October, nearly three months.

At some length Mr. Blount then de-scribes the physical discomfort and actual lilness which resulted from the exertions of his canvass. Not only, he concludes, was it apparent that his continuing in this campaign might impair his health permanently, but it was equally evident that it might leave him unfit to perform the duties of the office which he sought.

office which he sought.

The second reason for his withdrawal which Mr. Blount gave seems to us even more valuable and pertinent to the present discussion:

the present discussion:

There is another reason, less tangible, but to me no less real; my repugnance to the personal solicitation of votes, either by a direct request of the voter or by an exhibition of myself to him for the sele purpose of a tacit solicitation. I foresaw hesitancy on my part to do this, but I thought that a short practice would make it a thing first endured and then embraced, but I find the disinclination growing greater day by day. Of course I would have strength enough to endure this during a campaign even though it were much more, onerous, but I do not feel that the prize is worth the constant self-humiliation and the total subversion of my habits of life and thought. Besides, even if I am elected; the same course, though to be lesser extent, would have to be continued by me to secure a re-election. While there are other men of a different mould and different modes of thoughts to whom politics might be a pleasure, to me it would be an unending pain.

Of Mr. Blount's qualifications for the

Of Mr. Blount's qualifications for the office he sought we know nothing. His reasons for withdrawing, however, strike us as peculiarly unlikely to appeal to a La Follette, a Stubbs, or any other equally characteristic product of the direct primary. Nevertheless we venture to suggest that there still remains a considerable element in the community for which they have some importance. If self-advertisement be the first essential for successful states-manship, Mr. Blount's withdrawal was a thing wholly desirable. If weight at Washington rather than noise in Fl ida is desirable, however, the incident seems less fortunate.

"TORY" AND "LIBERAL" CATHOLICS Phases of the Irish Catholic Question in English Politics.

Catholic Sentinel, Portland.
One of the by-products of the political fight now on in England is a little disagreement among the Catholics of that country. English Catholics, for the most part, seem to belong to the Conservative party, but there is a large Irish Catholic population in England and the Irish Cathpopulation in England and the Irish Cath-olics have found it to their interest to support the Liberals. Ordinary political differences are accentuated in the present contest by the education question. The Tory Catholics Insist that their alone can be relied on to deal fairly with the Catholic schools and they accuse the Irish Catholics of putting nationality be-fore religion. The Irish retort that the settlement which their party secured from the Liberals in 1906 was approved by the Catholic bishops at the time and would have proved satisfactory if the Lords had not thrown out the education bill.

The Catholic Herald, of Manchester, publishes a letter from "A Disgusted Catholic," who says it is time for the Herald to quit calling itself a Catholic paper, as it is "a mere Irish Home Rule hack," which is continually putting its politics before its religion. "English Catholics," he says, are about tired of this sort of thing, and have suffered enough A at the hands of the Irish emigrants in this hic country who are standing in the way of ists, Revolutionists and Radicals, to un dermine the constitution, to destroy the great safeguard of our Catholic schools— the House of Lords, and to injure the Conservative party, to which English Catholics belong."

Tory Catholics in many instances op-pose Home Rule not only on political grounds as Unionists, but because they are afraid the withdrawal of the Irish members from Westminster would leave Catholics practically without repres ognize the fact that since the time O'Connell the Irish representatives in the Commons have been a strong arm of de fense for English Catholic interests.

Danger of Vegetarianism.

Puck. cate one. A case in point: Hitherto cate one. far as the rest of us are concerned, we have considered vegetarians as harm less. If they wished to forego the de lights of a luscious piece of porterhouse why, naturally, that was their business We have been egregiously in error it has been discovered that vegetari ans are a serious menace to the

and prosperity of modern society.

This is the way: By abstaining from meat, not only do they injure the meat business directly, but by thus diminishing the incentive for killing cattle the cost of producing hides has increase and the disaster ultimately comes ho to us all in the shape of enhanced shoe bills.

Thus we may see how inextricably bound up together are the stomach and the pedal extremities, and it may be-come necessary to legislate against vegetarianism to keep the whole world from getting cold feet.

Chicago Record-Herald. "Mother," she said, with a little catch in her voice, "I'm beginning to be al-most afraid the Count wants me only because he thinks he can get a lot or father's money with me."
"My dear child, don'; worry about that. Your pa is enough of a business man to get him at the lowest possible man to get him at the lowest possible figure, and the title will be just as much yours if he marries you for money as it would be if he took you because he worshiped the ground you parlor with no thought of the kitchen.

The Confession.

Chicago Evening Post.
Why did I strike him-he who was my friend?
Why did I grapple with him there, and bend
Him back and back and back until his twisted spine
Gave curdling wrenches 'neath that grip of
mine?

walked on."

Ah, listen, I was shoveling the snow.

That blocks my sidewalk, where the people go

Upon their several ways. My hands were cold.

My toes were chilled, my shoes had tried to hold. A shoveirul of snow—And be came by
And stopped, and fixed me with his beaming eye
And epened on me with this sort of talk:
"What are you doing—shoveling off you
walk?"

The Only One. Kansar City Journal, guess that Adam, lucky wight, Was never harried Bout the better men Eve might Have married, SHIP SUBSIDY IN DISTRESS.

Bill May Encounter Heavy Wenther In Congress Washington Correspondence Chicago Ship subsidy legislation has been forced to take the hump the humps route in Congress. When the sussion

opened its advocates smillingly announced that all obstacles had been removed from its path, that the President would insist upon legislation, and that a comfortable majority was assured in both being a provided in the composition of the com sured in both houses.

Representative Humphrey of Washington emerged from the White House one day and told all the world a measure he had prepared had received the approval of the President, and he confidently predicted prompt Congressional action.

But these resents from the confidence of the confidence

sional action.

But these roseate dreams have been dispelled by the cold facts of the situation. The ship subsidy grab is in a parlous state. The Senate leaders have announced that they will not again place themselves in the position of passing a bill which will be rejected by the House. The House leaders have been counting noses, and they find the been counting noses, and they find the Insurgency against the measure too strong to be trifled with.

What to, do to save this piece of special interest legislation has become a hard hut to crack. The country may expect its supporters to have recourse to tricky and devious methods, and even their observance may result in fallure.

There was a meeting of the House committee on merchant marine and fisheries this morning, but it did nothing. The specter of insurgency hung over the session and paisled the hands of those who were prepared to turn a trick. Its potency will be realized when the makeup of the committee is considered.

For the express purpose of having a prompt report made upon a subsidy the committee last Summer men whose constituents might be ex-pected to approve the opening up of the public treasury for the benefit of a few shipbuilders and financial, railros and other interests.

The sole member of the Republican

wing of the committee who is fighting the subsidy is Representative Wilson of Chicago. He is formulating a line of attack which promises to make him a sharp thorne of antagonism.

At the meeting of the committee today ship subsidy was not mentioned.

It was such a quiet meeting as to cause one to doubt that a nefarious scheme was being nursed for display at a favorable moment.

When the meeting was over it was stated that Representative Humphrey of Washington would be given an op-portunity to "explain" his bill to the mmittee, probably on Thursday next. If the insurgent movement contin-If the insurgent movement contin-ues, and there is no reason to believe it will not, Mr. Humphrey will delay his explanation beyond next week. He will postpone his defense until every-

thing is auspicious. thing is auspicious.

The ship subsidy men realize they have too much to lose by another defeat, especially on the eve of a Congressional election. They would prefer to put off action until next session, when there will be better opportunity to secure the votes of members who have not been part in who have not been re-elected. In its present torn state leaders among the Republicans recognize it might be fatal to add this burden to those which now are weighing down the party.

The Humphrey bill does not increase the subsidy for first class vessels, but it doubles the compensation for those ships of 18 knots speed on their outward voyages to South America, the Philippines, Japan, China and Australiasis and gives a subtless of the control of the cont asia and gives a similar increase to vessels of 14 knots speed operating on

Men who had anything to do with theh bill evidently feared the expenditures under it would reach such an enormous amount as to cause public indignation, since there is a provise that the total expenditure in any one year shall not exceed estimated revenue or foreign mail service in that year The Postmaster-General, in his annual report, estimated the revenue derived from foreign mail to be \$8,585, 564. The expense of this service ag-gregated \$6,080,553, leaving a profit of \$2,505,010. Included in the expense was \$1,127,245 paid during the last fiscal year for carrying mail in American steamships under the provisions of the

act of March 3, 1891. That is to say, during the first year of the operation of the bill, if it became a law, the Government would pay out more than \$3,500,000, not to new ships, the addition of which to the merchant marine is dwelt upon at such length by the subsidy advocates, but to those now in service.

Pointed Paragraphs.

Another thing the automobile lacks s horse sense. How mushy a tender love letter sounds when read in court.

The world is full of tainted money but few mind the odor.

The under dog get a lot of sympathy—and that's about all.

Trouble is the most thorough teacher in the whole school of experience.

In the whole school of experience.

If a man doesn't grumble at home it may be a sign he isn't there.

Perhaps it's the popularity of popular songs that renders them unpopular.
The man who boasts of having money to burn will soon have ashes to

throw away. A woman doesn't object to hearing man praise another woman—if the

other woman is dead.
Occasionally a man gets in on the ground floor only to discover that the elevator isn't running.

If doctors ever go to heaven it must be awfully embarrassing for them when they encounter their ex-patients. It takes a woman with nerve to carry a \$10 purse with nothing in it but a safety pin and a dozen dry goods

Pen Points. Judge.

A new club—said to be an English importation—has been founded, in which members are known by number. As a matter of fact, there are many of such clubs in the United States. Possibly the most famous are at Sing Sing and Juliet.

It takes a lot of diplomacy to overcome the effects of a woman's mirror.

A cynic philosopher recently remarked that a sash on a pretty girl was worth two in the window. The successful lawyer puts off until

Judge.

Any actress will tell you that a puff in the newspapers is worth two in the hair.

Metamorphosed.

Madeline Bridges, in Fuck,
She loosened down her lovely hair.—
Her hair that was her own,
And bediee, girdle, flounce, and lace
To right and left were thrown.
In simplest gown of Ample fold
She wrapped her beauty rare—
Each jeweled trinklet cast aside,
And—oh, but she was fair!
Among the pillows of her lounge
She lay, to read and rest.
Pairsr than ever eyes of men.
Had seen her—at her best!

But when her maid, with timid knock, Brought in a card of white, She to her mirror flew and cried: "Oh, I em such a fright!" And then with corset, belt and stock, And combs, and all the game Of puffs and prinks she strove in haste To make herzelf that same!