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PORTLAND, FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 1910.

PROPERTY AND SOCIALISM.

A man at Tacoma, E. F. Baldwin, dissents from recent comment of The Oregonian on President Taft's speech against Socialism. The particular remark of this paper that displeases Mr. Baldwin was: "In its finality, Socialism supplants individual effort and enterprise with Government ownership and exploitation of the means of production and distribution and supplants even private ownership of the common comforts and possessions of life."

There are many kinds and conditions of socialistic ideas and they naturally are in frequent conflict with each other. Socialism is a vague, nebulous theory, poorly defined by so-called authorities on the subject. It aims at abolition of competition in industry and of private ownership of the means of production and distribution. It aims also at abolition of private property, since it wishes Government to appropriate all means of production and renewal of property. In such a status of society the only goods in private ownership would be surviving family relics and heirlooms. There would be no more fine cookstoves, rocking-chairs or automobiles as private property, because all citizens would be reduced to equal level of poverty.

"Collective ownership of everything that is collectively used" is a catch phrase of certain Socialists. But everything worth having belongs to a class of things that are collectively used. Land, bread, furniture, capital and all instrumentalities of production and distribution are collectively used, or would be in the Socialistic state. And when capital, land, food, and those instrumentalities were operated for public use, there would be no private property remaining, except the citizen's daily dole of cheap goods from the collective store. No man would be better off than another; everybody would be on one equal level of cheap articles and common living. No individual would possess productive capital, or land or machinery.

Nobody would engage in business for his own profit, for the state would carry on all business and absorb the proceeds while every person would be but an employe at wages fixed by the government. Every person, who by skill or intelligence, contributed more than the average product to the collective store, would be paid only the average wage and neither he nor his wife nor his children would benefit from his unusual efficiency. Not even would he draw "his share" in money, because there would be no money. Government, as producer and distributor of goods, would pay the workers in the products of their own hands. Any person who asserted right to higher reward than another—above the average—would be an enemy of the people. Right now he is a plutocrat and Socialists demand that he be pulled down. He would not be allowed to accumulate property for his own or his family's enrichment. He could not pile up store for his wife's or his children's comfort. For, then he would be a plutocrat; he would possess more than the average person.

Socialists of the radical type do not look to the "finality" of their scheme. They do not comprehend its purposes nor its consequences; they do not know what they want, only that they wish to "pull down" the man who makes more than the average wage or profit. They wish to have collective use of all capital, food, land and means of comfort. Loose thinking is a habit of this kind of Socialist theorizers. Their doctrine of social regeneration is the deadly enemy of independence and progress of the thrifty working man, because it is the friend and solace of the unthrifty.

THE LURE OF GOLD.

Another shipment of gold amounting to $450,000 has left Fairbanks, Alaska, for Seattle, making a total of $1,500,000 which has been started from the Tanana district since the opening of navigation on the Yukon. Estimates as to the output of the district this year run all the way from $2,500,000 to $8,000,000, with some optimistic Alaskans predicting even greater shipments from the district. Any figure between these two extremes would make a very good sum for a district that last year began showing signs of having "pinched out," and as most of the output fell into the hands of a comparatively few lucky individuals, much more will be heard of the fortunate few than will be heard of those who failed to make expenses. The world soon gets acquainted with the man who gains possession of $10,000,000, but it pays only slight attention to the million men who have difficulty in getting $10 each.

The lure of the mining district is such, however, that if there were only one lucky man who succeeded in securing a fortune, that individual piece of luck would be everything necessary to keep the unfortunate thousands who had failed from losing their faith in the great game. All of the gold that has ever come out of Alaska would not equal the value of one good crop of agricultural products in the three North Pacific States, and the same amount of energy and money that is expended on mining in Alaska if devoted to general industrial exploitation would make vastly greater returns. The lure of gold, however, has caused men to wander far and to suffer privation and even death in all lands and among nearly all peoples.

Flocking to every new district in Alaska can be found unlucky miners who have spent all of their lives since boyhood in the pursuit of the elusive "stake" that Nature gives up to the fortunate few. And yet the world welcomes the output of these mines and could not get along without them. It was the gold digger that led the vanguard of civilization on the western shores of the Nation, and in Alaska as in California and every other land, where the prospector has drifted the miner has blazed trails over which the farmer, the tradesman and the professional man have marched to success in many a new country. Incidentally the Alaskan gold discoveries have built a very fine city on the shores of Puget Sound, many miles from the place where the gold was taken from the ground.

HOTELS AND PROHIBITION.

First-class hotels are injured by prohibition perhaps more than any other kind of business. Keepers of high-grade hostelries know that use of liquors in their establishments attracts the trade that is willing to pay for their superior service. Not drunkenness does this, but temperate, reasonable use of liquors. For this reason hotel men have banded together to fight prohibition.

Hotels will continue to do business even if prohibition should carry the state election next November. But they would not keep up the quality of their service to present grade. Prohibitionists do not patronize the kind of hotels that spend money for fine service. They go to second-class establishments, where they can buy a meal or rent a bed at cheap price. Theirs is not the kind of trade that maintains the fine hotels of Portland or that makes profitable the business of the small-town hotel-keeper. Nor is theirs the kind of trade that makes profitable the best class of restaurant business.

No hotel nor restaurant of the first class can be maintained in any city or important town without sale of liquors. Hotel and restaurant-keepers know that by selling liquors they can attract the class of trade that pays for high-class service, and for fine furniture. This is a legitimate, orderly, decent class of trade. It is well enough, perhaps, that hotel men have taken the lead in fighting state-wide prohibition; they are immediately concerned, but so also are all citizens who like high-class service in hotels and the community name that goes with it.

Citizens are concerned in the prohibition question for other reasons, too. One of these reasons is the narrow, petty provincialism of prohibition. It would put Oregon in the class of fanatical, intolerant states, like Kansas and Maine. Another reason is the hypocrisy of prohibition enforcement. Still another is the sneaky, spying and prying that prohibition engenders. One more reason is the secret liquor trade—more injurious than the open kind—that goes on under prohibition. Again, prohibition imposes unjust restrictions upon personal conduct and private right.

Oregon should not be singled out among its thriving neighbors as a commonwealth of prohibition fanaticism, wrangling and intolerance.

OUR MOST EFFECTIVE ADVERTISING.

Detailed statistics on bank clearings as presented in the current number of the New York Financial Chronicle show the Pacific group of cities to lead all others in percentage of gains for the first five months of the year. Of the Pacific cities, Portland leads all others in its class among the big cities. In the Pacific group there were four cities with clearings in excess of $200,000,000 for the five months, and of these Portland showed 39.4 per cent gain, Los Angeles coming next with 26.7 per cent, San Francisco 22.6 per cent and Seattle 22 per cent. The average gain for the eighteen cities included in the group was 24.6 per cent. The "Wesetrn" cities, including Kansas City, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Denver, St. Joseph, etc., were next in point of gain to the Pacific group, with 18.8 per cent to their credit, but no city showed as large a percentage of gain as was reported by Portland.

The New England group made the poorest showing with a gain of 4.3 per cent, while the average for all American cities was 12.1 per cent. Portland's gain for the month of May was 36.5 per cent, thus showing the uniformity with which the gains have been piling up since the opening of the new year. This financial showing is in keeping with the remarkable gain made in building permits, postoffice receipts, real estate transfers and other features of the city's growth. For the first five months of the year but three cities—New York, Chicago and Philadelphia—have had a greater total than Portland in the value of building permits issued.

That Portland is in but small danger of losing her important place so near the head of the list is disclosed by the fact that while this city registered a very heavy gain for May, the three big Eastern cities all had decreases and most of the other cities remained about stationary. This city just at present is receiving through the figures for its bank clearings, building permits, etc., more effective advertising than has ever been accomplished in any other direction.

THE KAISER'S WEALTH.

With his income from the public of $22.50 a minute the Kaiser ought to feel reasonably secure from want in his declining years. We dare say he saves a goodly fraction of it, for he belongs to a thrifty stock which never has countenanced waste. In addition to what the country which he rules bestows upon him, Wilhelm enjoys the income from numerous quasi private estates which he would perhaps retain in the improbable contingency of losing his office. The private property of monarchs has not always been respected by revolutionists, but sometimes it has been, and the Kaiser might turn out to be one of the fortunate exceptions.

However, it is idle to speculate upon his treatment if there should be a social overturn in Germany, for no such event is likely to happen. The only cloud on the political horizon there is caused by the socialists, but even they have laid aside methods of violence and have learned to trust in the power of facts and argument. Their late demonstrations against a reactionary suffrage bill were entirely peaceable, and yet for all that they were rather effective. At any rate the bill did not escape defeat.

The German socialists receive much sympathy from men who do not agree with their economic tenets because the election laws treat them unjustly. In Germany it is property which votes, not men. The government adheres to the principle which Benjamin Franklin ridiculed in his story of the mule and the man. A certain Pennsylvanian could not vote under the old election laws of the state because he owned no property. Being industrious, he went to work and presently had money enough to buy a mule. Then the law accepted his vote. Franklin asked the pertinent question whether it was really the man or the mule who cast the ballot.

Not only do the German laws give property a heavy preponderance over intelligence in elections, but they also pay a great deal of respect to ancestry. When the privileges of the nobility and the capitalists are duly weighed, it is seen that the plain people are at a serious disadvantage at the polls and their rights are bound to suffer. This fact lies at the root of a great deal of the socialist agitation in Germany.

BANK RATE AGAIN DECLINES.

The Bank of England's official discount rate was reduced to three per cent yesterday, being the second reduction within the past ten days. With the rate again down to a reasonable figure it is apparent that the foreign financial market has at last steered clear of the many obstructions that seemed to confront it a few weeks ago.

One year ago the bank rate dropped to 2½ per cent in June, and even at that low rate, there was sufficient gold attracted to prevent any uneasiness, but with the maturing of a number of foreign credits in Autumn, the rate went up with a rush to 5 per cent. This figure drew gold from all parts of the world, and the rate again declined to 3 per cent, but in March was advanced to 4 per cent. It remained at that figure until June 2, when a 3½ per cent rate was announced. At that time the reserves of gold had accumulated so rapidly that the Bank of England held $30,000,000 more than it held when the rate was advanced to 4 per cent in March.

The holdings of the Bank of England at the end of May had reached the enormous total of $220,000,000, the largest held at a corresponding date since 1896. With such an accumulation of gold that had been poured in from all parts of the world, it is not at all surprising that the rate has declined to 3 per cent and it will not be surprising to note a further decline to 2½ per cent. The change is very satisfactory for American financiers, for with the balance of trade threatening to run heavily against us, it had already become neecssary for this country to ship large quantities of the yellow metal to England. This reduction in the bank rate will check the flow of gold and have a tendency to ease the strain in this country.

REFORMING LEGAL PROCEDURE.

Two important committees have lately been appointed to help forward the good work of reforming our judicial procedure. One of them was appointed by the American Bar Association, the other by the National Civic Federation. Both are composed of first-rate men and their recommendations will command attention. A statement of their joint purpose by Everett P. Wheeler emphasizes the point that they seek no modification of the law itself, but only of its administration. The trial of equity suits in the Federal courts is instanced as an excellent subject for reform. In these the procedure is as antiquated as it can be and everything is contrived apparently for the sake of delay and expense. The whole machinery is so cumbrous that it can hardly be made to work at all. Then, in ordinary lawsuits, there are the costs and delays arising from technicalities, the errors of lawyers, the meticulousness of judges. Legislation is sought by the committees to improve the administration of the law in all these departments.

There ought not to be any opposition to this progressive legislation, but it is too much to expect that everybody will favor it. Mr. Wheeler's remark that "it is to everybody's interest to have lawsuits quickly and cheaply disposed of" must be taken with a grain or two of salt. The lawyers who draw fees from dilatory proceedings may desire to have their opportunities curtailed, and they may not. Certainly, so far as their financial interest is concerned, the law's delays are a source of rich income to them. We ought not to hope that they will be unselfish enough to work against their own pockets. Few men are capable of such disinterestedness. If the law's procedure is ever reformed it will be done against the wishes and the more or less active opposition of a large fraction of the legal profession. What would become of the masters in chancery and their pickings, for example, if Federal equity suits were tried in a sensible way? The same question applies to a host of other parasites.

CORPORATION TAX DOUBT.

Validity of the corporation tax will not be decided by the Supreme Court of the United States, probably before six months hence. The court last week ordered the sixteen suits against the tax to be reargued in the next term of court, beginning in October. They were argued March 17-18, and it was supposed then that by this time the fate of this inequitable new tax would have been decided one way or the other.

It is understood that out of the nine members of the court the seven who endeavored to pass on the question disagreed so closely as to make a decision inadvisable without the full tribunal. Justice Moody has been incapacitated by sickness and Justice Hughes has notyet taken his seat in the court. Common report has it that the seven Justices stood 4 to 3, but on which side the majority was the report does not say. In such an important matter the Justices evidently believe that the decision should have the support of at least five of the members.

The delay is unfortunate, because it was supposed that the validity of the tax would be determined before the final day allowed for payment, June 30. About $500,000 has already been paid, and the total revenue expected from this source is $26,000,000. This money in the Treasury will await the uncertainty of the Supreme Court opinion, during a period when the Government will urgently need it.

But it is at least gratifying to know that this unjust tax is opposed in the Supreme Court. It may be that the influence of President Taft will secure an affirmative decision, but there is little room for doubt that the tax would fail in the Supreme Court without this influence. The tax discriminates most unfairly against corporation methods of doing business; as an excise it fails to meet the constitutional requirement of uniformity; as an income tax it encounters objections previously declared by the Supreme Court against tax on incomes; moreover, it extends the taxing power, and therefore the control of the General Government, over important instrumentalities of state government—corporations created by the states.

The corporation tax has alienated tens of thousands of President Taft's friends from his Administration. Aside from all legal questions and technicalities, this tax imposes burdens on business conducted under one form of ownership and omits business of persons and partnerships. It subjects one class of business to scrutiny of inner secrets and exempts others. Such a tax is wrong in principle and should be unconstitutional. One of the storms now raging about President Taft has come from this inequitable tax.

According to Washington (D. C.) dispatches, the return movement from Canada to the United States has set in, and with the irrigation development now under way in the Pacific Northwest, as well as in Montana, it is expected that the attractions of cheap land in Canada will be less alluring. In order to win back the best of the Americans who went over the line to Canada to develop land which is no better than millions of acres that are locked up in "reserves" in this country, it will be necessary to release some of this land and make it as accessible as that which is proving so attractive in Canada. The evidence of a return movement from Canada is still lacking, however, and it may be possible that it is confined to the "weaklings" who preferred to become homesick and leave a land of milk and honey unless the output was delivered to them on a golden platter.

Steamers rushing through the water at a fair rate of speed stir up a swell which causes small craft venturing near to toss about and frequently to capsize. In this respect the currents of air are not unlike those of the water. A Kansas aviator, while making an exhibition yesterday, was capsized by an air current caused by a flying railroad train. Boat-builders guard against accidents of this kind by shaping the hulls to meet such emergencies. Aerial navigation, however, has not yet reached a stage where it is possible to take such precautions. Eventually we may have great airships whose flight will create such currents that the small airships will be forced to give them a wide berth in passing. It is still too early to predict what may happen when some fool in the airboat starts to rocking it in order to frighten the timid passenger.

H. M. Adams, at present traffic chief of the North Bank Railroad, has been selected by the Gould interests to take charge of the traffic of the Western Pacific. Mr. Adams is one of a steadily growing number of expert railroaders who have risen from the ranks in Portland and who have climbed to high places in the service on some of the largest roads in the United States. The fine recognition of his talents which is shown in the offer of the new position is very pleasing to a wide circle of friends and business associates in this city; but Mr. Adams was so familiar with Portland territory and of all conditions affecting traffic in the Pacific Northwest that his departure will be regretted by all who have ever had any dealings with him. As a graduating school for high-grade railroad men, Portland is gaining quite a reputation.

The conscience-stricken Illinois bribetakers who "don't know why they took" the Lorimer money can easily be enlightened. They took it because it looked good to them and they felt sure they would never be found out. Now things appear in a different light and most of the poor wretches make a cowardly as well as a contemptible spectacle of themselves as they blubber out their tardy penitence.

It must be a comfort to the President to find that there is one town in the United States which would welcome the negro regiment. Fort Logan, Colorado, is the singular city. There is a good deal of make believe, no doubt, in Seattle's hysteria over the negro troops, but still race antagonism is real even when it is silly, and the authorities must reckon with it.

We hear of a number of pretty plays at the college commencements in Oregon, "Esmeralda" at Forest Grove and so on, but none of them seem to be staged out of doors. Why not? They do it in the East with beautiful effect and their sky, mountain backgrounds and climate do not offer half the inducements we have here.

If Portland entertains 100,000 Rose Festival visitors and each visitor spends $25 for his fun, the total amount left here will be very pretty to dream about. If it were all in silver dollars and each were the sixteenth of an inch thick and they were all in a cylindrical pile, it would be more than 13,000 feet high.

The National Association of Brewers, in session at Washington, declare themselves ready to work for true temperance. "True temperance" might mean stopping just short of capacity. The brewers are irresistible jokers.

That man living on Knott street who went home the other night and fired three shots in the air when he found an intruder working the affinity stunt overtime is very peaceable or very considerate.

Reformer Spreckels is now at work on an organization for the suppression of graft. Let us see, wasn't it Mr. Spreckels who hired Mr. Heney to scour San Francisco?

Pinchot and Jimmy Garfield had a conference at Mentor yesterday. The matter of paying for crepe was probably not one of the subjects discussed.

It has been nicely figured that Emperor William gets $22.50 a minute, which is very good pay for the job.

Just keep good-natured and move forward. A trolley car built for sixty has double capacity these nights.

Minister Crum can hardly be satisfied in Liberia. The Liberians are all "cullud folkses."

Everybody could not get a prize, but everybody can feel proud.

Did you get home last night, or was it this morning?

We love our goose eggs, but O you Beavers.

WATER POWER IN COLORADO.

"Interests" Don't Prefer Coal Energy, Yet Pinchot Talks "Trust."

Letter to New York Sun.

A year or two ago Mr. Pinchot began a sort of crusade to prevent citizens of the Far Western states from controlling the water power of the rivers of those states. In order to excite the prejudices and fears of the people, he asserted that "the interests" were trying to establish a water power trust. It seems to me that time has come to have attention called to the facts. As Colorado is one of the states whose water power "the interests" are trying to control, and as I have lived in Colorado 30 years I think that I can present the facts so that there can be no misunderstanding.

The power constantly wasted in the State of Colorado is enormous. With the Arkansas River flowing through the City of Pueblo, the power used for the steel works, smelters, street railroads and electric light plants is all obtained by burning coal. The City of Grand Junction, through which flow the waters of the Grand and Gunnison Rivers, uses coal for its power plants, and farmers along those streams who obtain by pumping the water to irrigate their orchards, use coal power to operate their pumps. Canyon City is located at the lower end of the Grand Canyon of the Arkansas River, and the City of Salida at the upper end of the canyon. The fall of the river between these two points is about 2000 feet, yet both cities burn coal for power, while the water power runs to waste. The same condition is true of the cities of Denver, Leadville, Cripple Creek, Colorado Springs, Montrose and other smaller towns. The reason is as well known to Pinchot and Garfield as to everyone else; coal is cheap and the coal mines are near at hand. The power companies all through Colorado prefer to use coal power. There are a number of water power plants in different parts of the state, but I think that without exception they are located on smaller streams in the mountains where transportation charges make coal cost from $5 to $10 a ton.

The large water power streams are as yet undeveloped, because the first cost of the water power plants is very great and capitalists cannot see any profit in making water-power plants compete with cheap coal. The time will come when the water power of the streams will be developed, but there is no one at present trying to do this, and there is plenty of time for Congress to change the classification of the lands if it so desires. It is not necessary for the President to do this in violation of law. Garfield and Pinchot know perfectly well that there is no water power trust and that there is no possibility of a monopoly of the water power when the large rivers of the state have within reasonable limits falls of from 4000 to 6000 feet each, so that the water can be used over and over again. They know that the real trouble is that capitalists cannot be induced to build water power plants.

The people ought to see that this whole crusade seems to have been undertaken in order to keep the public in a state of frenzy for some political purpose. Up to the present time their success in fooling the people has been phenomenal, but common sense ought to teach people that the "interests" do not want the water power. At least 95 per cent of the power used in Colorado is obtained by burning coal, and the coal could be saved if the water power were used. To encourage the development of the water power is therefore the wise policy.

H. W. REED.

Salt Lake City, May 27.

30.4c EGGS COST PUBLIC 38.1c.

Government Report on Food Margins Between Farmers and Consumers.

Washington Dispatch New York Herald.

What the farmer gets for his butter, eggs and chickens and the price which the consumer pays to the retailer for them in 75 cities of the United States are contained in a report sent by Mr. Wilson, Secretary of Agriculture, to Senator Lodge. The figures are the result of investigations made by the agents of the department in January.

The average price the farmer received for eggs, as ascertained by the Bureau of Statistics, was 28.9 cents, and for live chickens 11.1 cents. The following shows the general conclusion of the investigation of the department:

	Paid by Con-sumer.	Paid by Re-tailer.	Rec'd by Pro-ducer.
Fresh eggs	38.1	32	30.4
Dressed hens	23	18.1	15.3
Roosters	16.6	13	12.7
Chickens	23.6	18.7	17.5
Butter, cream, tub	36.5	31.8	....
Butter, prints	38.1	33.4	....
Butter, renovated	32.4	27.8	....
Milk, quart	8.5	6.7	4.5

The highest average price paid for milk was in the South Central States, where it cost the retailer 9.6 cents a quart and the producer was paid but 5 cents.

Western States paid the highest average price for butter, 37.9 cents, for which the dealer paid 32.9 cents. Eggs were highest in the North Atlantic States, where they sold at 42.5 cents, producer getting 35.1 cents, and lowest in South Central States, where they sold at 35.2 cents and brought the owners of the hens 27.1 cents.

Mr. Bryan, Gravedigger.

New York World.

When the late Governor Johnson, of Minnesota, was in the flesh, Mr. Bryan held him in high regard, tempered only by a gnawing fear that he might have some plutocratic friends.

Governor Harmon, of Ohio, is now conspicuous enough to merit and receive the same distinguished attention. Mr. Bryan looks with favor upon this great Democrat also, but he entertains a sickening doubt of his courage.

One of these days the painful discovery will be made at Lincoln, Neb., that Mayor Gaynor, although a great and good man, has his faults. Any other gentleman of Jeffersonian tendencies who chances to be elected to high office will be likely also to fall a few inches short of the Bryan standards.

In this fashion are the hopes of Democracy blighted as they bloom. The eagle eye of the Western kill-joy is upon them. Like death the reaper, he cuts them down; like the gravedigger, he gathers them in.

Comet Failed in 1664.

Philadelphia Ledger.

It seems that Pepys, in 1664, was as much disappointed as some of the people who are complaining today of Halley's comet, because, after all the free advertising it received, it failed to have a more brilliantly iridescent tail of poisonous cyanogen gas. Pepys writes in his diary for December 21, 1664, that he finally, after much waiting and watching, saw the comet, "which now, whether worn away or no, I know not, appears not with a tail, but only is larger and duller than any other star."

Superiority of the Irish.

Springfield Republican.

The question of self-government is quite as lively and important in Ireland as in Egypt. Yet the Colonel remains dumb concerning Irish home rule, notwithstanding that he dined yesterday with John Redmond and his Nationalist lieutenants. Does the Colonel think the Irish as incapable of home rule as the Egyptians?

Finds Many Things to Do.

St. Louis Globe Democrat.

It isn't that the Colonel does with his might what his hands find to do that stirs our interest so much as the fact that he finds so many things to do.

BEVERIDGE'S RHETORICAL GEMS.

"Could Any Speech Wing Higher, Fare Farther and Say Less?"

New York Sun.

Every now and then, and not so rarely at that, the weary eye glancing over the pages of the Congressional Record suddenly falls upon words of such poignant beauty as to cause a gasp of glad surprise. Noble, magnificent, swelling words, arranged in wonderful patterns—uninhabited by any meaning, to be sure—but flawless in their perfect beauty. And then, necessarily, one exclaims joyfully, "Ah! our Beveridge is at it again!"

So let us reverently contemplate the latest work of art from the proud lips of the Hon. Albert Jeremiah. Lest any flash of color or glint of glory escape, we present the sentences one by one, pearl by pearl, in isolated beauty—and the happy reader can consider them as he will, beginning at the beginning or at the end or in the middle, and finding equal delight and sense, whichever separate gem he first reviews:

It seems unfair that all one's days should be spent in combat and struggle.

Fate, after all, is a curious arranger of destinies.

Clotho, Lachesis and Atropos work out strange patterns in their spinning, weaving and severing.

No human being asked to be born, none ask to die.

Yet coming hither and going hence without our consent, one man is born with the advantage of wealth without having earned it and another is born to starving poverty without having deserved it.

But it is useless to question, impossible to explain.

It is a part of the insoluble mystery of human life and destiny.

It may be, after all, that the man who himself with hand and brain has personally earned everything in life, earned every mouthful of food and every thread of clothing, earned every honor and worked out every achievement—perhaps, after all, such a man's soul knows a rejoicing so deep and calm and real that his apparently more fortunate brother never possibly can know.

Could anything be grander! Could any speech wing higher, fare farther and say less! We confidently assert, no. In truth, here is clearly a case where it is useless to question, impossible to explain. We are glad rather to let the rushing waters sweep past, carrying us on their crest to the unavoidable truth—that the Beveridgian beauty is part of the insoluble mystery of human life.

CORPORATION TAX, STATE MENACE

Aims at Federal Supervision of All Intra-State Business.

New York Post.

Disappointing in a way as is the postponement of the corporation tax case, its enormous importance to the country dictates all prudence in reaching a decision. No action should have been taken by a weakened bench—there are but seven active judges now sitting as the Supreme Court. Few people yet realize just what the tax means. The unthinking rejoice at another slap at the corporations, another effort "to make them pay up as they ought to." The thoughtful discern what the Republican leaders are quite ready when pressed to admit—as President Taft has often done—that the income from the tax itself is of little importance; that the taxing of the corporations itself is a secondary purpose, the real object being to drive in an entering wedge which shall permit, within a few years, the Federal Government's taking oversight of business in the United States. Not merely interstate business, but all business is involved. Above all, the object is to break down state supervision of the corporations created by the states. When it is considered that the Nation broke in two over this question of state rights—involved, it is true, with one of human rights—the apathy of the country as a whole, and particularly of the South, as to the vital importance of the corporation tax, is much to be wondered at.

What Is a Democrat?

New York World.

At about this time, as the almanacs say, look out for definitions of a Democrat. In London, after reaching the extreme Tory doctrine that the Nationalist movement in Egypt should be stopped with fire and sword, Mr. Roosevelt exclaimed: "I am not only an American, but a radical—a real, not a mock democrat!"

On the same day Thomas E. Watson, of Georgia, long an extreme Populist, announced that he had discovered in his own person true Democracy. Henceforth he is to strive with all his might to "elevate the old Southern ideals of statesmanship" and to "place ante-bellum Democratic principles once more in the creed of the party."

After such an opening as this there is every prospect that the conundrum season of 1910 will be a brilliant one.

Palladium of Republicanism.

New York Sun.

The Republican is the best of all parties; it has saved everything worth saving, and there is no true goodness outside of it, and the protective tariff is the sole source of prosperity, but when the Republican party is divided against itself and prosperity means a larger drain upon the pocket of the wage earner and the salary owner who can tell what to expect of the weak and the wicked?

After all, we can't believe that the Republicans will care to stand upon even the best of tariffs. More likely they will depend upon the imputed righteousness which they will derive from a celebrated article of virtue which is to be reimported this month.

Fire Department Aeroplanes.

New York Sun.

Glenn Curtiss' idea of using the aeroplane for dropping chemicals on high buildings in flames to put out fire is the most fantastic we have heard from the aeronauts. If the swift-flying aeroplane could be stopped with a brake like an automobile, and, stationary in midair, pour out the extinguishing chemical, it would of course be indispensable to modern fire departments.

Cleaning a Razor Hone.

Indianapolis News.

A razor hone which has been spoiled by steel particles filling the pores can be made as good as new by washing in hydrochloric acid and then in water.

Concedes His Liking.

Springfield (Mass.) Union.

Latest reports from Washington indicate that Champ Clark is willing to concede that he would like to be Speaker of the House.

The American "Kid."

New York Sun.

Scene—Any public park in any American city.

The park is a babel of babies
Of varying nations and bloods,
All racial connections, all shades of complexions,
All styles and conditions of duds;
The place is a riot of races
That know where the stork's nest is hid;
Oh, every known breed from the Slav to the Swede—
But where's the American "kid"?

The park is a babel of babies—
The Gentile is here and the Jew;
Italian and Spanish and Irish and Danish,
The Turk and Armenian, too.
The place is a riot of races
Who will not from trouble be rid.
Such old-fashioned ways aren't "classy" these days—
But where's the American "kid"?

The park is a babel of babies,
And every babe in the place,
Or crying or crowing, is part of the growing,
The coming American race.
Hurrah for the many-tongued people
Who do as their forefathers did!
Our country will take all their babies and make
Each one an American "kid!"

LIFE'S SUNNY SIDE

The boys of a local day school applied to the town's education committee for an allowance of money toward the expenses of their cricket ground, and a small amount was, after some discussion, granted them. At once there came along a letter of thanks from the juvenile secretary, who cordially invited all the members of the committee, "with the exception of Mr. Smith, the provision dealer," to be present on the occasion of the first match.

"But why should poor Mr. Smith be left out?" the clerk solemnly inquired. "Has he done anything wrong?"

"Oh, no sir," was the uneasy reply. "But we'd rather he didn't come. You see, we made our pavilion out of old bacon boxes we borrowed from his back yard, and we're a bit afraid he might recognize them."—Tit-Bits.

* * *

When Brittenham, of the Twentieth police district, hears the cry of "Help!" ring out on that particular section of the night air incident to his beat, he naturally bends his footsteps toward "the big noise." The cry rang out late last night, and Brittenham bent his footsteps noiseward.

Just where the Market street bridge begins to keep pedestrians from dropping into the Schuylkill a hatless, coatless, shoeless individual, with a nose only a few shades less red than the danger lamp, was squirming about in the dust, shooting forth his arms and legs like a man in deep water for the first time in his life.

"Help! Help! I'm sinking for the third time."

"Britt" grabbed a handful of neck and yanked him to his feet. The man in need of assistance shivered a while, shook himself like a terrier fresh from a bath, and then pulled two dimes from his pocket.

"They're all I've got, pard," he told the copper, "but one of 'em's yours. You saved my life, and I'm grateful."

Britt, like a real hero, explained that bravery, like virtue, is its own reward, and the rescued man departed on his wabbling pins.—Philadelphia Times.

* * *

A man went into a druggist's shop and asked for something to cure a headache. The druggist held a bottle of hartshorn to his nose, and he was nearly overpowered by its pungency.

As soon as he recovered he began to rail at the druggist, and threatened to punch his head.

"But didn't it ease your headache?" asked the apothecary.

"Ease my headache!" gasped the man. "I haven't got any headache. It's my wife that's got the headache."—Tit-Bits.

* * *

A new boy had made his appearance in the schoolroom, and Miss Adair, the teacher, summoned him to her desk. "Do you expect to come to school here regularly?"

"Yes'm."

Where do you live? Are you in this district?"

"I guess so; I live down this street, about four blocks."

"What is your name"

"Martin Luther Hicks?"

"Martin Luther?" said the teacher. "I presume, Martin, you know for whom you were named?"

"Yes'm," answered the boy, brightening up. "I was named after me uncle on me mother's side. He keeps a liv'ry stable."—Youth's Companion.

* * *

"Mark Twain," said a magazine editor, "liked to tell, as an illustration of persistence and push, a story about a Sheepshead Bay race. He said that at the end of an important race a young man shouted so savagely, 'Hats off! hats off, there!' that everyone in hearing distance obeyed him and stood bareheaded. A moment later the young man hastened towards an elderly gentleman, shouting as he ran, 'You can put your hat on again now. It's all right.' Someone asked him later why he had made all the people take their hats off. 'Well,' he replied, 'I'd bet $50 with a bald-headed man, and I had to find him, hadn't I?'"

"The Devil's Dance."

New York Mail.

No larger problem awaits the conscience and sanity of the world than that of ending by limitation of armament the devil's dance of preparation which is drawing all the resources of the nations into its fatal whirl and is headed toward the goal of "Billions for defense, but not one cent for anything else."

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