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Portland, Saturday, Dec. 17, 1910.

to this day an imposing following among the wage-earners in the cities and the farm laborers. With this in mind, it is perhaps possible to understand why the peers should prefer a genuine referendum to the uncontrolled dominion of the House of Commons, which represents above all the middle, or mercantile, order.

It will cost \$13,000,000 to fortify the Panama Canal. So the President tells the country. He recommends the expenditure for that purpose. But protest goes up in various parts of the country from "international peace" enthusiasts.

That is, the United States should put defense and control and sovereignty over the canal in hands of other powers. This country should not be free to use the interoceanic artery as its own needs and interests require. In great national crisis or extremity, the United States should be bound to put the canal to no use that the other powers, perhaps out of sympathy with this country or hostile to it, might deem "contrary to the public interest."

Let it be remembered that the chief reason for the canal is that it will give mobility to the military and the naval power of this country. As a "commercial proposition" the canal will be a failure. The United States would just as logically "oust" its own navy or its naval establishments at Brooklyn, Boston or Norfolk by international agreement.

The United States will not put itself in the position of having to ask permission of other nations as to what use it will make of the Panama Canal. It will determine the "square deal" for itself. It will not put other nations over itself in control or management of this big work, created out of American labor, American brains and American treasure.

Some comment has been occasioned by the interesting circumstances that it is the Conservative party in England which appears to be advocating the referendum. How to explain this anomaly has puzzled a number of our American newspapers. They remark that in this country it is the extreme radicals who wish to invoke the referendum while the conservatives shudder at it as a thing of evil.

ger has ferreted out bigger rascals in Alaska than Glavis, Garfield, Pinchot & Co. ever did. There is seen to have been a big tempest—the teapot variety.

Now it is rumored that Mr. Ballinger, after vindication, will retire to Mr. Tawney, who was made a lame duck in the recent upheaval in Minnesota, is to take his place. We shall all fervently pray that Messrs. Pinchot, Garfield, Glavis et al. have been disabused of the idea that the office is theirs as the people's caretakers, and that President Taft, in appointing Mr. Tawney over them will not be heaping insult upon injury.

The Government crop report which appeared Thursday is the final report for the season and as the wheat, oats, barley and similar grains have all been harvested and most of the corn is either husked or "shocked," the figures presented ought to have more value than any that have yet appeared regarding the 1910 crop.

The 1909 crop of the same cereals was 4,516,729,000 bushels and at prices ruling a year ago, that crop of 430,000,000 bushels less showed a total valuation of \$2,576,331,000. This big crop at smaller prices offers an excellent field for speculation as to which of the two crops was of the greatest value to the country as a whole.

Marjorie, the oldest daughter of George Gould, was married a few months ago to a plain American citizen, having previously been heralded abroad that she scorned a title bought with her father's gold. The fanfare of patriotic trumpets that proclaimed this event and this sentiment has scarcely died away and now comes the announcement that Miss Vivian, the second daughter of the Goulds, is going to marry an English baron more than twice her age—a veteran of the Boer and Matabele wars, a polo player and an enthusiastic hunter and racer.

Six months ago when T. R. was speaking platitudes in European universities, the cables carried the words in full for the front page. Now when he is doing the same stunt at home, he gets space the length of your pencil inconspicuously placed. After he came back, it seems he didn't come back.

Wants Told in Short Sentences of Words in Proper Rotation. Berlin Cor. New York Times. The scientific sensation of the hour in Germany is the talking dog, Don, a dark-brown setter belonging to a royal gamekeeper named Ebers at Thierhuthen, near Hamburg. Don promises to become as celebrated an attraction as the horse Clever Hans, number one in the zoological savants of Europe eight years ago with his alleged mathematical feats.

His alleged elocutionary powers came to light early this week as the result of reports from the United States that Alexander Graham Bell had succeeded in teaching a terrier to speak. It was declared that Germany not only possessed a talking dog, but a talking dog which had been talking for five years—in fact, ever since he was six months old.

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When disputes between milliners and hairdressers get into the justice courts of Vancouver or Seattle where women may serve as jurors, will spice and gaiety be added to local news stories?

What does Tawney, living in the middle of the continent, know of the "war scare" in England? For his mind if it becomes Governor of the canal zone.

What point did General Wood expect to gain by exposing our unprotected coast?

Do you know the woman who goes often suffer from her. Only yesterday, for instance, I met at an hotel an old friend whom I had not seen for months. We sat down on a sofa, which was a little withdrawn from the "madding crowd," and began an animated conversation. But just when we got interesting, the "woman who interrupts" spled us. Across the room she sauntered and settled herself between us.

Her way seems scattered with broken conversations, but she really cares. She hinders the work of the world, this "woman who interrupts."

Philippine women know how to win husbands. It is a common thing in the islands to see a girl, young and brown and strong, crushing rice with a heavy wooden mallet, while around her are some admiring swains, looking on, but never dreaming of offering to help. And the girl doesn't expect it. She pounds cheerfully away, and by and by her reward comes in a husband to work for.

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Life's Sunny Side
That jest about the name of Oyster Bay being changed to Blue Point is getting old now. But there is another story which pivots on the catchism which furnished the base for the first. Colonel Abe Gruber, who has the same fond affection for Colonel Roosevelt that a cat has for a bulging, was discussing the recent election, "Colonel Roosevelt's defeat was final," said Colonel Gruber. "He'll never come back."

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