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PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 21, 1910.

A FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM.

A writer in the December Atlantic Monthly, Mr. William S. Rossiter, manifests great disturbance of mind over our increasing population. He sees in it the cause of many, if not all, our National troubles. The rising cost of living, the power of the public service corporations, the bitterness of the struggle between capital and labor, all seem to Mr. Rossiter to grow out of the dire fact that we already have too many people, from one point of view, and are likely before long to have a great many more. He reminds us of the pressure of population in India and China with the terrible economic consequences it has entailed, and predicts that we shall experience something of the same kind in this country before many years have passed. It is not the bare increase of our population which disturbs Mr. Rossiter so much as the tendency it exhibits to mass together in towns. This naturally deprives the land of its working force, while at the same time it multiplies the mouths to be fed, so that the United States presents the interesting phenomenon of an increasing demand for food with a relatively decreasing supply. Sometimes the decrease is not merely relative but absolute. Thus the number of head of neat cattle in the United States fell off more than 5,000,000 between the years 1890 and 1900. Still there are some people who wonder why beef is so high.

No doubt Mr. Rossiter has good ground for his worries, but after all when we face the facts of population squarely they do not seem to be so terrifying as they might. We have today, at the outside, some 30 people to the square mile of territory. This estimate stands when all our desert areas are left out of the reckoning. Compared with Belgium's 600 to the square mile this population does not seem excessive. It is not very dense even in comparison with Denmark's 180 or the 190 of France. Although Belgium has fully twenty times as dense a population as ours, with but a small proportion of the units engaged in agriculture, still she is far from suffering the economic ills which are rife in China and Hindostan. The standard of comfort in Belgium is relatively high. In Denmark it is higher than in the mining regions of the United States. So that if we give due regard to the facts of the case we must conclude that it is not the actual density of our population which threatens trouble, but its abnormal distribution.

Mr. Rossiter reminds us that at the time of the Revolution, when we had altogether only some 2,000,000 people, about 90 per cent of them were living on the land. Now, when we have more than 90,000,000 less than one-third of them live and work on farms. The change is startling even on its face, but it is much more startling when we examine it attentively. The reader has probably remarked that the only cheap fruit and vegetables which the city dweller ever obtains come from a ring about ten miles around the town. This is the distance which a farmer can haul his own produce and deliver it to city customers. In revolutionary days the towns were all small and the ring of land ten miles wide around each one had a large area compared with the area of the city at its center. Hence the inhabitants of the city were plentifully supplied with cheap fruits and vegetables just as they are still in villages and little towns. But now our cities are no longer small. Some of them are huge, and as they have grown the relative area of the ring of land from which comes cheap food has decreased for every one of them. Any boy in the grammar school can sit down with his slate and pencil and figure out how rapidly the ratio of this accessible ring to the city it encloses decreases as the city spreads out. It follows therefore from the very nature of space and time that the tendency of the price of food to city people must be upward unless some way is devised to widen out the ring from which farmers can bring or send in and deliver their own produce without the intervention of middlemen. If course the construction of good roads is one way of doing this, but there are others of more profound import.

It is plain, therefore, that the growth of big cities entails hardships upon their populations quite apart from the general consequences of our decaying agriculture. The two problems are totally different. Mr. Rossiter presents no solution for either one. Clearly one important way to widen the area of cheap food supply for the city is to provide cheap transportation from the farm to the customer. Germany saw this long ago, and with her usual good sense instituted the parcels post by which potatoes, eggs, poultry, fruit and so on go directly through the mail from the man who produces to the family which consumes. The problem of decadent agriculture is not so simple, though for us even the parcels post seems to present insuperable difficulties. For a generation, while we have seen its necessity, we have wrung our hands in helpless bafflement before it. To turn people back from the town to the country is far more difficult than to provide cheap transportation from farm to city household, though the two hang together. It is foolish to urge young men to take to farm life as long as they know that the middleman will take 43 per cent of the selling price of their produce. It is perhaps still more foolish to urge people to leave the lights, comfortable streets, conveniences and diversions of the city for the dreary solitude and muddy roads of the country. Most men, and nine out of every ten women, would far prefer to starve in town rather than grow fat in the country. It is just as well for the American people to understand that they are face to face with a dangerous problem and that something more efficient than idle catch words and waving of the star-spangled banner will be required to solve it.

COURTS AND CONTEMPT ACTIONS.

Two editors have fallen into contempt of court at Seattle. One of them has been sent to jail. The court had cited them for contempt because the judge had been scandalously attacked and his motives and good faith openly questioned for issuing an injunction on behalf of a street railway company in a bitter controversy between the corporation and its patrons. The court properly felt that it had been outraged and it applied its own remedy in summary fashion.

The Oregonian does not doubt that the provocation of the Seattle court was great, and the punishment merited. But it does not fail also to observe that the judge based his action on the incidental and technical fact that the editors had commented on a case while it was pending, and previous to a final decision, and not on the real offense against the judge, which was that he had been villainously and continuously lampooned and libeled and that a deliberate and undisguised effort had been made to influence his ultimate action.

In the narrow view of the Seattle court, any comment on any case in court, however proper, innocent, justifiable or even necessary, makes the writer, or the responsible head of the publication, liable to punishment. Of course this is all wrong and in practice is not observed either by courts or by newspapers.

But why could not this Seattle court have considered this aggravated case of abuse of the right of free speech on the broad ground of the merits of the statements or misstatements of the editors? Why did it rely for justification of its action on a mere technical rule that, if enforced or attempted to be enforced, in all cases would bring the courts into contempt and have the newspapers forever in trouble?

ALL IN GOOD TIME.

The Eugene Guard is getting impatient with what it fancies is the delay of the Oregon Electric in extending its line from Salem up the Willamette Valley and finds fault on that account with Mr. Hill, the City of Portland, the professional "boosters" and the people of Lane County. Mr. Hill says the great need of the country today is patience and the Eugene paper intimates that it is tired of that kind of "dope" and says railroads—better transportation facilities—will solve all industrial problems.

The people of Portland are accused of selfishly obstructing the building of more railroads because (so it is suggested) "Portland feels that we can be better drained of our business with the single road than if competing lines awoke new life and commercial activity." The solution offered is for the people of Lane County to build a railroad of their own 50 miles west to tide water—then "population would follow, industries would come and other railroads would hasten to reach a field where there was business to share."

During all the fruitful period of his great career, Mr. Hill has never justly earned the reproach of waiting for the traffic to develop before going after it. The people of Portland want to see this and other roads extended through the Valley and any intimation that they stand in the way is silly and untrue. No place has benefited more than Portland anywhere by the construction and extension of competing roads; and Portland relies on more complete development of the Hill plans of gridironing the Willamette Valley for the benefit of the whole state, which spells its own benefit.

Meanwhile let the Eugene paper curb its impatience and refrain from counseling Lane County to rash enterprises in paper railroad building. Mr. Hill will be there in good time with a real competing railroad.

MEXICO'S TROUBLE.

The Mexican situation is apparently becoming more serious than the light and airy censored reports of the government have admitted. General Navarro, one of the best fighters and most skilled strategists in the Mexican army, has been captured by the rebels, and a large force of troops are hemmed in by the same force that captured Navarro. For the past month there has been a strong similarity in the Mexican warfare to that which was carried on by the Boers and the British in South Africa. General Buller excused his frequent retreats from the Boers as part of a plan for "luring them on." One day prior to the receipt of the news of Navarro's capture, his "alleged inactivity" was explained in a telegram to the Mexican Consul at Laredo as due to his following "a strategic plan which would draw the enemy out into the open for an engagement rather than pursue the insurrectos into an impregnable stronghold."

This plan of waiting for the rebels to come into camp or to engage in battle at points selected for the convenience of the Mexican army will hardly be accepted by the rebels. A significant feature of the situation was the statement in Monday's dispatches from Mexico City that American trainmen had refused to serve on the Chihuahua Pacific Railroad, which had been taken in charge by the Mexican government. While Americans living along the Mexican border have never been strong admirers of the Mexican government, they have thus far taken no action that could be construed as favorable to the rebels. But warfare is expensive. It unsettles trade and it endangers lives. The United States is directly interested in both trade and lives in the turbulent land on our southern border. The revolt that has gained such headway is directed less against Diaz, for whom the grave is yawning, than it is against the system by which his successor will be chosen.

The rebels have already scored sufficient success to warrant the belief that they can make it impossible for the Diaz dynasty to name a successor to the present head of the wobbly government. They have also demonstrated a strength far in excess of anything with which the Mexican government has seen fit publicly to credit them. Unless one or the other of these contending forces can in the near future make a decisive showing of strength, some of the other powers that have trade interests which are suffering by the protracted squabble may feel called on to suggest a stay of proceedings.

THE SCHOOLS AND THEIR COST.

The financial and business interests of School District Number One have come to be of enormous proportions. The growth of the city in population of the home-building order is mirrored in the growth of the schools. That the Board of Education has wrestled faithfully and understandingly with this problem of growth is shown by the table of estimates and the record of building and purchases that have been submitted to public consideration. The levy asked for the maintenance and betterment of the schools is 1.7 mills higher than that of last year. It is for the taxpayers to decide whether or not the increase asked will be allowed, and if the estimates of the Board are to be cut, at what point the reduction can be made without detriment to the public school service.

The Oregonian is not prepared to pass on the expense account of the schools in detail, but if asked offhand to mention a point at which the expense could be reduced somewhat without loss to any educational interest, it would say, drop music from the curriculum. As taught, music is a farce, rendered by untrained voices without the saving grace of humor—a joke which even the teachers do not appreciate.

Yet The Oregonian would also say that the public schools are worth all they cost, and more; and it makes no objection, nor do the taxpayers object, to any expenditure for the schools based on proper considerations of efficiency, comfort, growth and utility. What the public wants from its schools is results in useful education and correct training.

UNHAPPY GOVERNMENT CLERKS.

There is great consternation in Washington over President Taft's proposal to extend the working day to 5 o'clock in the Government offices. At present the employes are released from toil at half past 4, and they naturally feel that another half hour of exhausting effort would be unendurable. Beginning at 9, these unfortunate wage slaves are obliged to put in six and a half hours of service to a thankless Government which now plans to reward their unremitting effort by adding another thirty minutes to their long and weary day.

It is impertinent to suggest at this point that there are wage slaves who go to work at 7 in the morning and never think of getting away until 5 or 6 at night. Indeed, they are glad of the chance to do so, since it means bread for the children and new gowns for the wife at home. The Government employes at Washington are built of a finer clay than the common person who toils for wages. They are the aristocracy of labor, if one may designate as "labor" the delicate and distinguished tasks which they perform.

The severe hardship which Mr. Taft's new rule will impose upon these unfortunates may be estimated by noting a few of its consequences. Many Government employes are now able to attend law lectures beginning at 4:50. If they are compelled to work till 5 how can they possibly go on with their legal studies? Think what a calamity it would be to the country to lose so many new lawyers. Others dwell in the suburbs and ride to Washington every morning to begin work. The new order would make them half an hour later in reaching home, and the consequence would be lawns unmown, chickens unfed and things in general going to the dogs. But the worst hardship would fall on the wretched baseball fans. If they had to work till 5 o'clock they would miss the best part of every game. Woe unutterable would be theirs. Naturally the Government's main purpose in hiring them is to give them a chance to see the baseball games, study law and so on. The work of the departments is a minor matter.

GIVE ACTUAL RESULTS.

Nothing succeeds like success. For the purpose of convincing the skeptical, results are infinitely preferable to expectations and promises. Various publicity agents scattered throughout the Pacific Northwest are learning that the great investing public, which has a critical eye on this new region, is less interested in promises of what can be done than it is in what actually has been done.

If the intending investor is to choose between a locality where he is assured he can make a profit of $500 per acre from fruit and another locality where he is given the name and address of a man who actually has made $500 per acre from fruit, he will choose the locality where performance, and not the promise, is in evidence. Oregon, Washington and Idaho can supply such an endless number of specific cases of alluring profits secured from all branches of agriculture that it is poor policy for any locality to elaborate on generalities and omit particulars of actual achievement, which, if necessary, could be fortified with affidavits.

The intending settler might learn of a dozen localities in Oregon where the opportunities for dairying were first-class, but nothing regarding these localities would be of a more convincing nature than the direct, positive statement that John D. Mickle, rural delivery route No. 1, Forest Grove, Oregon, had in the five months ending January, 1910, sold $636.30 worth of milk from nine cows. The man seeking a fruit farm would be interested in reading that S. Lindley, of Lebanon, Or., sold $490.75 worth of strawberries from 1 4-5 acres of land and $478 worth of melons from 1¼ acres; that W. A. Jones, of Salem, sold 7000 crates of peaches from seven acres of land.

It is no trouble to inform the intending buyer that he can produce $1615 worth of apples from three acres of land, but the statement is materially strengthened when he is informed that H. B. Herr, of Freewater, Or., actually cleared that sum from three acres of Rome Beauty apples. S. L. Bennett, of Rogue River, sold 700 boxes of Newtown Pippins from 1½ acres of orchard, and Al Trayer, of Milton, Or., sold $900 worth of prunes off one acre. S. E. McBee raised 89 tons of carrots on one acre and sold them at $7.50 per ton.

These specific cases are culled at random from current news items running through the daily and weekly press of the Pacific Northwest, and all of them can be substantiated in a manner that will leave no doubt whatever in the mind of the newcomer as to the opportunities and advantages of this country. The community that sticks the closest to this kind of advertising will get results that will be missed by those who deal in generalities and overlook the numerous specific cases which they could present.

For the first time since the opening of the present grain season, Russian shipments last week were smaller than on the corresponding week in the previous season, although shipments from the Danubian ports were about 1,000,000 bushels larger than for the same week last year. The American visible supply, which was already more than 14,000,000 bushels greater than on the same date a year ago, showed a further increase of 334,000 bushels yesterday, and quantities on passage were 6,000,000 bushels greater than last year. Unfortunately for those who have been awaiting a return to last year's prices, the decrease in Russian shipments was more than offset by an increase in the Argentine, and from this date forward the big southern country will show shipments of steadily increasing volume. Next month Australia will begin shipping new-crop wheat and again we reach the turn of the year with nothing approaching a world's crop shortage in sight and with prices more than 10 cents per bushel lower than last year.

Chicago commercial organizations and the labor unions are planning to join hands in a concerted movement to drive loan sharks out of business. This is a movement that should spread throughout the land. The great difficulty heretofore experienced in getting rid of these parasitical Shylocks has been the indifference of their victims, past and prospective. The security which the laboring man has to offer is not always of the best. This fact enables the harpies of the loan office to exact fearful toil for the accommodation which the borrower might not easily secure elsewhere. In Portland as in every large city, there are a number of these sleek, oily sharks who are growing wealthy by robbing the poor with their exorbitant interest rates. Numerous attempts have been made to curb the grasping operations of the gentry, but none have proved successful. Some patriot with the interest of the poor at heart should get a bill through the coming session of the Legislature.

The Oregon Conservation Association recommends the passage of a law appropriating $50,000 for the establishment of a state forestry service which will accomplish results in preventing and quenching forest fires. The project has much to commend it. Forestry conservation and protection as now carried on by the Government is somewhat farcical, and every year there is a heavy loss by fire. The big tracts of timber which have been purchased by syndicates are well patrolled and guarded by skilled rangers, but there are thousands of small holdings scattered through the state in which the danger of fire is greater than it is in the big tracts. Fire once started in these unguarded tracts is likely to run for miles and destroy immense amounts of valuable timber. Holders of this timber would, of course, be the heaviest losers, but the state as a whole is also a loser when so much tangible wealth is wiped out of existence.

The boilermakers' lockout in the shipyards of North England, which lasted three months and caused a loss of $5,000,000, has come to an end. Philip Snowden, Socialist member of Parliament, places the blame for all of the loss of money and attendant suffering on the radical element in the socialist ranks. Mr. Snowden's diagnosis of the case will hardly be questioned, for the shipyard lockout in North England in most of its features did not differ from similar troubles in various parts of the world that have brought trouble and loss on innocent workers who were unable to withstand the influence of the radicals who insisted on following the rule or ruin policy.

Just thirty years ago, when Henry Villard invaded the railroad field of the Pacific Northwest Portland had visions of a mighty city. But of the thousands who lived here then, who was so optimistic as to believe that the city would grow so large by 1911 that the expense of the public schools would reach the enormous sum of $2,000,000? That Portland would pay in salaries alone $900,000? Who now dare estimate the number of school children thirty years hence?

Is it ever right to lie? The teachers who marched the children out of the burning schoolhouse at Boise came very near to deceiving the poor little things. It was understood by the children to be merely a drill while in truth it was an escape from death. Would it have been better to tell the truth and shame the devil? We wonder.

North Yakima's reversion to candles for a night or two may have been a salutary experience. We have so many blessings nowadays that we do not appreciate them. We only learn what they are worth when we lose them. May North Yakima be improved and humbled by her two nights of tallow candles.

After more than a year of partial estrangement, South East Portland and the West Side are again on visiting terms. Let us hope it will be a long time before another dismantled bridge interrupts neighborly communication.

Those 3378 children of school age added to District No. 1 within twelve months account in part for the increased Portland tax levy for 1911

Clean the well. Probably an old hen that died of limberneck is at the bottom. Quit using the water and clean the well.

Why not start a guessing contest over the votes cast for Supreme Judge?

No school tax is too high that gets results, but the rub is in the getting.

There is only one day left in which to do your Christmas shopping early.

The Hawthorne bridge ceased to be a joke yesterday.

WHAT SINGLE TAXERS PLAN TO DO.

Graduated Land Value Tax Will Be Put Up to People.

PORTLAND, Or., Dec. 20.—(To the Editor.)—May I tell your correspondents that the one aim of the single taxers is to destroy land monopoly, and the one way to destroy land monopoly is to make it expensive for any one to own land that he is not using?

Oregon is now cursed by land monopoly, and Oregon has less people living on farms than it had 45 years ago. Mr. James J. Hill says our cities are "top heavy" and the "top heavy" cities are a direct result of land monopoly.

The single taxers will propose a graduated land tax in several counties. These tax laws will increase the taxes on every person or corporation that owns over $10,000 worth of land, and from $10,000 to $20,000 taxes will be increased about one mill, and from $20,000 to $30,000 they will be raised a little more and so on up to $100,000 worth of land is reached. Above that tax will be about 5 per cent which equals rent.

We believe that a graduated land tax will not hurt the small owner who has more dollars in improvements than he has dollars in land, and all his improvements will be exempted from taxes, so he will pay less than he does now.

I wish now to tell you what carried the tax amendment. You will remember that many things were said about single tax in 1908 that were not true and every falsehood that was told in that campaign has been made plain to the farmer and other voters that it was told to bolster up land monopoly. Most of the people since then have been studying the question of single tax vs. land monopoly. There has been a general dividing of those in favor of land monopoly on one side, and the single taxers on the other. Everybody must take his choice; it is either land monopoly or single tax; there can be no middle ground on this question.

Under the single tax, school houses will be built in places where land monopoly has torn them down.

The single tax makes land produce food, while land monopoly makes it produce weeds; let us remember Markham's lines that,

"The robber is robbed by his riches;
The tyrant is dragged by his chains;
The schemer is snared by his cunning.
The slayer lies dead by the slain."

So let us have a full, fair and truthful discussion of single tax vs. land monopoly, remembering always that Vancouver, B. C., right at our door, has the single tax and that any untruthful statements on either side will rebound and strike the teller.

H. D. WAGNON.

The Oregonian has not the slightest doubt that if the full purport of the county (single) tax amendment had been understood, it would have been overwhelmingly beaten, as single tax was beaten two years ago, and will be beaten again two years hence. Oregon is not, and will not be, a single tax state. Never. The people are all right, and will decide right any question put fully, clearly and fairly before them.

It is no wonder that the bearing and significance of the county (single) tax measure were wholly overlooked by press and the public alike, in the recent campaign. It was buried in the mass of other important problems to be solved through the initiative. The poll-tax trick achieved a preliminary triumph for the single tax propogandists; but they will find that they will get no farther.

It is interesting to hear now from Mr. Wagnon, who speaks by the card, what the single taxers are going to do. We heard nothing from him during the campaign, which shows that Wagnon possesses both caution and discretion. Now he bursts forth in his customary song about land monopoly, and tells us how the great landowners are to be put out of business, while the small home-owner is to be protected. But there are a hundred small owners to one large holder, and they are not likely to permit themselves to be offered as a sacrifice to the fantastic and costly effort of the have-nots to get at the haves. Hardly.

Where did Wagnon get his authority for the statement that Oregon has fewer people on farms than in 1865? From the ready resources of his limitless imagination, doubtless. Oregon had about 70,000 people in 1865. Now two agricultural counties of Oregon (Marion and Jackson) have more people than all Oregon had then. The population of the state is 672,000. Certainly from one-third to one-half live in the country. They will be heard from in numbers, too, when the grand Wagnon scheme of making them and other landowners pay all the taxes is put up to them.

Pointed Paragraphs.

Chicago News.

The loser never wastes his sympathy on the winner.

It's not a difficult matter to be as honest as policy is.

The world is full of misers—as the spendthrift looks at it.

According to a spinster, the dark ages are anywhere between 28 and 40.

A woman doesn't mind walking on a crowded street if she has a good carriage.

About the most expensive thing a man can do is to associate with cheap people.

A man with a family can live in the city on less than he can in the country—if he has to.

New Name for Chauffeurs.

New York Tribune.

To the Editor of the Tribune: Why call auto drivers chauffeurs? It is not an English word. It is hard to pronounce, hard to spell, hard to write, and when written or printed is not pleasing to the eye. Besides, the definition of the word shows it to be exceedingly inappropriate on a cold Winter's day. Why not call them "Jehus," a name associated with fast driving for hundreds of years?

"And the driving is like the driving of Jehu: for he driveth furiously."

TRIBUNE READER.

Reflections of a Bachelor.

New York Press.

We buy pleasure and it isn't; we build happiness, and it is.

Nobody could be a cynic if the world was peopled only by children.

Being in politics seems like hanging on to a liferaft in stormy midocean.

You can tell when a woman's complexion is touched up a bit by how conscious she acts that it is natural.

Mutual.

Catholic Standard and Times.

"Bridget," said Mrs. Grouchey, "I don't like the looks of that man who called to see you last night."

"Well, well," replied Bridget, "ain't it funny, ma'am? He said the same about you."

Milwaukee's Culture.

St. Louis Times.

Milwaukee has ordered that ballrooms in that city shall be equipped with cuspidors. Milwaukee's culture is vindicated by the fact that they were not called spittoons.

Not Infrequently.

Wall Street Journal.

Sometimes the right side of the market is the outside

COMMENT ON T. R'S. SPEECH.

Treated With Silence or Mild Satire by the Eastern Press.

Many of the Eastern dailies ignore in their editorial columns the speech of Colonel Roosevelt at New Haven, notably the New York Times, Tribune, World and Evening Post. It is so also with the influential papers of Philadelphia and Boston. The speech seems to have created scarcely a ripple of disturbance. Some of the comments of other papers follow:

Refused to Admit a Fact.

Chicago Inter-Ocean, Rep.

Mr. Roosevelt can go on being "radical" if he wishes, but the people he assumes to represent and to whom lies his only possible appeal have already entered judgment against him.

We doubt that there was a single man in his New Haven audience who didn't see it even though Mr. Roosevelt refused to admit it, and talked as if the fact did not exist.

A Fallen Champion.

New York Evening Sun, Rep.

Chastened words of a generally innocuous and glittering ambiguity were uttered in New Haven yesterday by a statesman lately conspicuous for a South African ferocity of declamation. There was mild hand clapping, some lines in the papers and the orator moved on—moved on even further into that glorious obscurity where dwell our fallen champions and whence, it is commonly asserted and not infrequently observed, they never come back.

Balancing Platitudes.

New York Commercial Advertiser.

Now, having thought about the recent election for five weeks, Colonel Roosevelt apparently goes back to his old way of balancing platitudes. He is for radicalism, but—. He is for conservatism, but—. The rights of man must be paramount, but the rights of corporations must be respected. And so on, and on, and on. It is needless to say that a great chill is likely to come to the real radicals as they study the evidence that the Colonel feels it necessary to return to his old attitude of friend-of-both-parties.

Elections Made an Impression.

Indianapolis News, Ind.

It is evident that the emphatic utterance of the American people at the polls on November 8 has made for the present, at least, a decided and wholesome impression on Mr. Roosevelt's mind. It is to be hoped that this impression will be permanent, and that hereafter his counsels will be wiser and less strident than they were in the interval between his return from Africa and the day of election. He has been a great and powerful force in American political life. He can continue to be helpful if he will use his great powers with the wisdom and dignity that should characterize one that has held the most exalted political office in the world.

Democratic Opportunity Promising.

Baltimore Evening Sun, Dem.

Theodore Roosevelt's talk proves that he is still the radical. It shows that he and President Taft are as far apart on what is perhaps the most perplexing issue before the American people today. It emphasizes the differences in the ranks of the Republican party and renders more problematical the course of that party in the next National campaign.

Mr. Taft said in his message that the time had come to stop legislating against corporations and to try out the laws we already have. Mr. Roosevelt on his Western trip advocated new laws. Mr. Taft showed by his elevation of Justice White to the Chief Justiceship of the Supreme Court, as by other acts of his, that he is in full sympathy with the conservative traditions of the Supreme Bench. Mr. Roosevelt indicated on his Western trip a desire to uproot those traditions, and last night confessed that he was of the same opinion still. There you have it.

All of which emphasizes the fact that the Democratic opportunity now existing is one of unusual promise.

REVIVAL OF THE MOUSTACHE.

Youth of the Land Starting Reform in Physiognomy.

Chicago Record-Herald.

If college boys really set the fashions, then the smooth face, which has had its own way for the last fifteen or twenty years, may as well get ready to "go." It is only a few weeks since the seniors out on the Midway made the mustache compulsory for their class and prescribed punishment for such as would not conform. And now the seventy members of the senior class in a Connecticut high school are petitioning their principal—who disapproves of labial fuzz as "distracting and demoralizing"—to allow the mustache to be made a senior institution.

It seems probable that the "business face"—the type predominant through America—might profit by a little softening. It is also likely that the opposite sex, if permitted to indulge in a plebiscite on the mustache, would favor its cultivation. The revival of the mustache might indeed lead to the revival of other hirsute adornments, thus heightening the desperation of the barbers, who are already up in arms against the safety razor; yet if the new movement presently gains any great headway in our institutions of learning it will sweep the country. The desire for a change of physiognomy appears to be in the air; even the people who draw the strong-jawed, smooth-shaven youths that advertise clothing must be about ready, in their secret hearts, for a change.

He Stood Corrected.

The Delineator.

A teacher in giving a lecture to the members of her junior hygienic class had cautioned them against eating anything hard, such as nuts, hard candy, etc. A small boy held up his hand.

"What is it, Sammie?" she inquired.

"Say, did you ever see any of these here candy jawbreakers?" he asked.

"Ye-es, I believe so," she hesitated, wonderingly.

"Well, Willie, here," indicating another boy in the class, "stood right in front of Gregorie's store yesterday and et five of them right down."

"Ate," corrected the teacher.

"Aw, was it eight? I was thinkin' it was only five."

Some Balm.

Louisville Courier-Journal.

"Duke, I'm sorry," said the millionaire, "but my daughter can't marry you."

"Then I have loved in vain?"

"Not wholly, Duke. Here's $50 for you."

Definitely Answered.

Syracuse Post-Standard.

Shall the colleges continue to play football? Answer by Yale: Harvard game, receipts $34,000; Pennsylvania game, $29,000; Brown game, $5000.

Always With Us.

Memphis Commercial Appeal.

The man who tells how many fish he caught in the Summer time is now telling how many ducks he shot last week.

Big Employer.

Washington Star.

It is remarkable that a mere myth like Santa Claus should have so many people working for him.

Life's Sunny Side

A certain Dr. Collins was once reading a very strenuous paper on total abstinence before a clerical club—so the story goes—when the entertainer went out to tell his wife how many she was to provide for at supper.

"What are they doing?" she asked, and was told the subject of the essay. "What shall I do?" she cried. "Here I have brandied peaches, and it is too late to change?"

"Make no change," said her husband. "It will be all right."

The essayist had the post of honor at the right of the lady of the house, and she presented him with a dish of the peaches. After a while she said to him, "Dr. Collins, won't you allow me to give you some more of these peaches?"

"Thank you," he replied. "They are excellent."

A little later she said: "Dr. Collins, may I not give you another peach?"

"No, I thank you," said he apologetically, "but I will take a little more of the gravy."—Harper's Magazine.

* * *

Booker Washington tells a story of an old negro theologian who explained how it was that the Egyptians were drowned in the Red Sea.

"You see," he said, "it was the middle ob Winter, and the children ob Israel crossed in de mornin', when de ice was nice and hard. But de Egyptians crossed at noon, when de sun had melted de ice, and they was drowned."

"That can't be true," said a young colored student, "for I've learnt from my geography that ice won't freeze so near the equator."

"Just what I expected," retorted the preacher. "There's always some of these larned young men tryin' to spile our theology. But I'd hev' you know that them times I'm talkin' of was before there was either jographies or 'quators."—Liverpool Post.

* * *

As every Southerner knows, elderly colored people rarely know how old they are, and almost invariably assume an age much greater than belongs to them. In an Atlanta family there is employed an old chap named Joshua Bolton, who has been with that family for more years than they can remember. In view therefore, of his advanced age, it was with surprise that his employer received one day an application for a few days off in order that the old fellow might, as he put it, "go up to de ole State of Virginny" to see his aunt.

"Your aunt must be pretty old," was the employer's comment.

"Yassir," said Joshua; "she's pretty ole now. I reckon she's about a hundred and ten years ole."

"One hundred and ten! But what on earth is she doing up in Virginia?"

"I don't jest know," explained Joshua, "but I understand she's up dere living wif her grandmother."—Harper's Weekly.

* * *

Toward the end of a performance of "The Green Bushes," Miss D. Barrington, who played Miami, was supposed to commit suicide by jumping into the river. When, however, she reached the usual eminence of rock, she found to her dismay that no mattress had been placed in the river for her to jump on, so down she came on the boards with a hard thud. Her confusion was intense, but it was increased tenfold when a voice from the gallery sang out in a rich brogue: "Och! be jabbers, the water's frozen!"—Tit-Bits.

* * *

Booker T. Washington, congratulated by a New York reporter on the success he has made of his life, said with a smile:

"I suppose I must be modest and declare that luck has had much to do with my progress, or otherwise I'll be in Senator Dash's shoes.

"Senator Dash, of Tallapoosa, prided himself on his rise from the bottom, for Senator Dash in his youth had worked with the colored men in the cotton fields.

"Boasting at a political meeting about his rise, the Senator singled out Uncle Calhoun Webster among his audience and said:

"'I see before me old Calhoun Webster, beside whom, in the broiling Southern sun, I toiled day after day. Now, ladies and gentlemen, I appeal to Uncle Calhoun. Tell us all, uncle, was I, or was I not a good man in the cotton fields?'

"'Yo' wuz a good man, Senatah,' the aged negro replied, 'yo' wuz a good man fo' a fack; but yo' sut'ny didn't work much.'"—Washington Star.

SENATORS BY POPULAR VOTE

Constitutional Amendment Favored by 35 Members.

New York World.

A constitutional amendment for the election of United States Senators by direct vote of the people is favored by 35 Senators, who have expressed their convictions. Of these, 22 are Republicans and 13 Democrats. They are Messrs. Bailey, Borah, Bourne, Bristow, Beveridge, Brown, Burkett, Chamberlain, Clapp, Crawford, Curtis, Dick, Dixon, Gore, James, Nelson, Newlands, Perkins, Percy, Purcell, Rayner, Smith of Michigan, Shively, Simmons, Smith of South Carolina, Stone, Stephenson, Taylor, Warner, Owen, Guggenheim, McCumber, La Follette, Nixon and Tillman.

Opposition to such an amendment has been declared by 12 Senators—nine Republicans and three Democrats. They are Messrs. Brandegee, Elkins, Frye, Fletcher, Heyburn, Johnston, Kean, Lodge, Dillingham and Money.

Non-committal opinions have been expressed by 16 Senators—11 Republicans and 5 Democrats. They are Messrs. Bacon, Burrows, Burton, Carter, Crane, Cullom, Foster, Flint, Martin, Paynter, Piles, Page, Scott, Smith of Maryland, Smoot and Warren.

More than a majority of the remaining 29 Senators who have not indicated their precise attitude is believed to favor a constitutional amendment.

But 63 affirmative votes are required to make the proposed legislation effective, two-thirds being required for a proposed amendment to the Constitution.

Oregon's Big Parsnip.

New York World.

Oregon boasts a parsnip which weighs twenty pounds. It will take more than kind words to butter that parsnip.

Another Thing to Do Early.

Chicago Tribune.

To the amateur Santa Clauses: "Do your fire insuring early."

The Christmas Goose.

Woman's Home Companion.

When comes the Yuletide season,
The Christmas goose we sing!
All laden down with juices brown,
A toothsome offering.

A Christmas goose—some argue—
Is every trusting child,
Who Santa Claus adores because
His socks with gifts are piled.

A Christmas goose—they'll tell you—
Well known to all is he!
Poor patient dad, whose purse must ade
To every charity.

A Christmas goose—not really—
Is mother, anxiously
At work with zest, so fearful lest
Forgotten some may be.

The Christmas goose—why, he's
The biggest googe, I fear,
Who naught will spend upon a friend—
Nor love nor sympathy will lend
On the best day of the year.

May Kelly, Portland.