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THE NEW FEUDALISM.

Indefinite postponement of the Shields and Adamson water-power bills by Congress means that for another session development of water power in the West has been blocked by the obstructive band of lobbyists of which Gifford Pinchot is the head and by the body of bureaucrats headed by Secretary of the Interior Lane. With the general dam bills go the bills for leasing water power on public land and for leasing the vast areas of land containing coal, oil and other minerals. Representatives of the West refuse their consent to the imposition of a perpetual feudal system on the Western states as a condition of consent from Congress to their development. Therefore an embargo is placed on use of the land in question, in the hope that the next Congress or some future Congress may be able to override Western opposition or that the West will be wearied into acceptance of a position of permanent inferiority to other states. It is a holdup by a band of fanatics and bureaucrats, nothing else.

The situation is forcibly set forth in a letter which has been addressed to Senator Chamberlain by Chester T. Kennan and which is published in another column of The Oregonian. A clique of lobbyists and of appointive officers is attempting to impose its will upon the elected Representatives of the people. The lobbyists represent nobody but themselves, for they have been repudiated by the organization which they profess to represent. The officials do not represent the people, for they are not elected by the people. Yet on the false pretense that by their policy alone can be public domain be saved from spoliation they have imposed their will on the majority of members of Congress.

This is not a party question. The leasing policy is supported both by the great body of Democrats and by the great body of Republicans. Representative Mann, leader of the Republicans in the House, is one of its most ardent advocates. So are Senator Morris and other Republican Senators. The opposition includes both Republicans and Democrats from the West and some Democrats from the South. Its support from the West comes from men like Senators Chamberlain and Lane, who are more concerned about party regularity than about the vital interests of their states, or from men like Senator Walsh, who represent states where the power sites have already passed into private ownership. Regardless of the attitude of these latter Senators, the question is sectional, for the East, South and Middle West are attempting to impose on the Far West a system to which they would not be subject and which they would passionately resist if the attempt were made to fasten it on them.

It is proposed to make the Secretary of the Interior, as the representative of the Government, the landlord over an area "greater than many kingdoms of Europe combined," comprising an average of 67 per cent of the area of each of the eleven states in question.

This is feudalism, abolished in Europe and in Japan, but to be revived in the twentieth century in the country which boasts itself the freest on earth.

It is landlordism, which has been the bulwark of aristocracy in every monarchy.

It is absentee landlordism, which was the curse of Ireland, for this huge estate would be administered from a distance of 2000 to 3000 miles.

It would make the Secretary of the Interior a greater landlord than the Czar, for his domain would exceed the huge personal holdings of the Russian autocrat.

It would make eleven states practically dependent on the policy of each successive Secretary for their prosperity. At his will they would either thrive or stagnate.

That official would wield greater power than any other man in the country below the President. On his will would depend the fortunes of thousands, either invested under lease or derived from industries which drew power or raw material from the public domain. He would collect and disburse a vast revenue, which would grow yearly, and he would employ an army of officials beside which that under command of the Postmaster-General would be insignificant.

If this system were once firmly established, the Secretary's army could be organized into a machine for its perpetuation, upon which each subordinate's job would hang. Only a political revolution could destroy it.

The Secretary's broad domain would be exempt from state taxation and from the operation of all state property laws, but the states would bear the burden of keeping the peace and of enforcing the criminal law.

In place of the right of taxation, a sop is offered to the states. One-half of the rental income from leases is to be paid to them, and the other half is to be expended in reclaiming arid land. Under this arrangement the state must spend its half on schools and roads, being treated like a schoolboy to whom a certain amount of spending money is doled out weekly with strict injunctions how it shall be used. For this mess of pottage the state would be expected to sell its birthright—its sovereignty over from 35 to 93 per cent of its area, its right to fix the amount of revenue to be collected from that area and to disburse as it willed that which it received through the grace of the Secretary. Upon the judgment of that official in fixing rent would be contingent the amount of revenue which the state would draw from this source. Perpetual tutelage would be the result.

This system has already been applied to the coal land of Alaska, and has failed to attract investors, for they are not eager to place themselves under its many restrictions and under the power of an official who is changed every four years. There was little opposition in that case, for Alaska is a territory, and conditions there are exceptional. In his grasp after more power and patronage, the Secretary now proposes to extend it to eleven sovereign states, where conditions are no different from those prevailing in the other states except that great areas of land are still owned by the Government. Although these states have been foremost in bringing corporations under effective public control, the cry of monopoly is raised to win the support of those who combine prejudice against corporations with ignorance of the facts.

Since the West must again wait for the right to develop its resources, it should put this time of waiting to good use. Its people should awake to the enormity of the wrong which it is proposed to do them. It should inform the people of other states of the facts. It should not rest supine while its freedom is demanded as the price of lifting the embargo on its development.

NEARLY FIVE TO ONE.

Forty-eight Representatives at Salem voted for the amended delinquent-tax publication bill. Ten members of the House voted against it. It is not possible that any measure having a taint of "graft"—as the insane Evening Journal says it has—could have commended itself to so great a majority. Few measures before the Legislature have received so overwhelming an indorsement. The tiresome iteration of the insane Journal against the bill doubtless caused many members who were indifferent or uninformed to investigate carefully and to vote according to their conviction of its merits. So much for the influence of a witless newspaper, gone utterly mad in its venomous purpose to befoul the profession and practice of newspaper-making in Oregon.

If it be conceded that a delinquent taxpayer ought to pay at all—and every sane person and every sane newspaper will agree that any effective plan to procure payment is laudable and even necessary—it must also be conceded that the machinery of tax collection should be devised to that end. Let all who suspect or fear—as a result of the furious tantrums of the Journal—understand what the revised Forbes bill does.

Ninety days after taxes are delinquent there shall be mailed a notice to the owner of his arrearage.

If payment has not been made within thirty days, the remaining delinquencies shall be advertised in one newspaper of general circulation in counties of less than 10,000 inhabitants or in two newspapers in larger counties. The rate of payment shall not be greater than the established commercial rate in any newspaper for similar matter.

If there shall be graft or collusion under this simple and proper arrangement, the law has been violated. The remedy therein ought to be in the hands of any citizen.

But of course it is an honest, meritorious and square-dealing measure. It provides a way to collect delinquent taxes. Evidently the insane Journal thinks they ought not to be collected.

THE SAME MEDICINE FOR ALL.

To line up the Southern Democrats in the House for his new revenue bill, Claud Kitchin, leader of the majority and Bryan pacifist, said to the Democratic caucus:

> You can tell your people that practically all of this tax will go north of Mason and Dixon's line. The preparedness agitation has its hotbed in such cities as New York. This bill levies a tax on those who have been clamoring for preparedness, and are benefiting because of preparedness appropriations.

Taking the Southern Democratic viewpoint that all appropriations are pork for somebody, Mr. Kitchin assumes that preparedness is asked only in order that fat contracts may go to Northern manufacturers, and he dismisses without a word the fact that it is for the defense of the whole country, South as well as North. Therefore, he says in effect: "The North asks for preparedness; then let the North pay for it."

Then why not apply the same principle all along the line? The South demands a public building at every crossroads, the dredging of every creek and the draining of flooded private land. Then why not let the South pay for them by means of special taxes on cotton, tobacco, rice and other Southern products? Oregon has voluntarily put that principle in part practice by paying part of the cost of river and harbor improvements. If it were extended to the South, there would be a sudden decline of interest in river improvement and Southern postoffices would worry along with rented quarters.

But the increased revenue provided by Mr. Kitchin's bill is not made necessary by preparedness. Absorption of the existing revenue in gratifying the appetite for pork, leaving insufficient sums for the Nation's first duty—its own defense—makes new taxes necessary. Abolish the pork barrels and eliminate the waste which prevails throughout the Government; then there will be plenty of money for defense without further imposts.

LANE CONTRADICTS DANIELS.

There is need that Secretary of the Navy Daniels and Secretary of the Interior Lane get together on the subject of oil land, for there is direct conflict between their statements in regard to the amount of oil available in naval oil reserves. If Mr. Lane's statements are correct, Mr. Daniels has been guilty of misrepresentation regarding the ability of the Navy to obtain oil for warships from the reserves.

In his annual report Mr. Daniels said in regard to the three naval petroleum reserves, two in California and one in Wyoming, that "the Navy has received no benefit and the Navy Department has been unable to take actual physical possession, except as to those parts upon which no oil has been discovered, no drilling in progress and no adverse claims appear, because litigation is pending in the Land Office over all these public lands which are claimed by individuals." He says that many of these claims are fraudulent, but that the Senate committee proposes to amend the general leasing bill by nullifying the Supreme Court decision which held the withdrawal order valid, "abolishing the naval petroleum reserves, dismissing all suits instituted and leasing or patenting outright to the claimants the lands claimed."

In the course of debate on the leasing bill, it was said that Mr. Lane had approved the Phelan amendment recognizing the equities of private claimants. In a letter to Senator Thomas, Mr. Lane denied that he favored this amendment and quoted from his last annual report the statement that he would not "assume to say what policy should be followed as to the naval reserve lands." He continued by quoting from a statement which he made to the press last July:

> There is no danger of the Navy's being short of oil, for there are nearly 2,000,000 acres of public oil lands now withdrawn. Included therein are two special naval reserves which are practically free from adverse claims. These contain approximately 130,000,000 barrels of oil, and more of this area can be withdrawn for the Navy at any time by the President whenever he decides to do so.

If Mr. Daniels' statement that the leasing bill would abolish the naval oil reserves is no more accurate than his statement in regard to interference of private claims with the Navy's ability to get oil from those reserves appears to be, in the light of Mr. Lane's statement, it is not worth much. Mr. Daniels says that when the three-year building programme is completed, the Navy will require 6,721,000 barrels of fuel oil annually during peace and about three times that amount in war. At that rate the 130,000,000 barrels which Mr. Lane says are now at its disposal would supply it throughout more than nineteen years of peace, and it can get as much more as the President chooses to reserve for its use. Mr. Daniels has only added to the already great accumulation of evidence that his statements are so frequently inaccurate as not to be credible without ample corroboration.

FAMILIAR QUOTATIONS.

Leaving the Bible and Shakespeare out of the reckoning, it must remain more or less a matter of dispute which authors have contributed most to the list of phrases that have become part of our every-day speech. In total number it is perhaps true that Pope leads all, but it is doubtful if any single poem contains more popular quotations than Young's "Night Thoughts," unless it be Gray's "Elegy." As to the decision between them, it must remain more or less a matter of opinion whether this quotation or that one is the more "popular." Young gave us, for example, "Tired Nature's sweet restorer, balmy sleep," and his "Night Thoughts" are a mine of quotations so familiar that many who use them do not stop to think who their author was. It was he who said that "procrastination is the thief of time," that "blessings brighten as they take their flight," that "none think the great unhappy but the great," and that "all may do what has by man been done." Best known of all, perhaps, is "at thirty man suspects himself a fool, knows it at forty and reforms his plan." He told us that we should "be wise today—'tis madness to defer," and that "pygmies are pygmies still, though perched on Alps." His declaration that "too low they build who build beneath the stars" has been echoed by many a minor poet, as has been also "man wants but little, nor that little long," which Goldsmith made, "man wants but little here below, nor wants that little long," without much improving on the original. He said that "a God all mercy is a God unjust" and "a man of pleasure is a man of pains," which, while not so well known as the others are, none the less the bases of many a philosophy. "Death loves a shining mark" has a particularly wide currency in the Western country because of a famous parody.

Gray's "Elegy," as has been said, is a mine of the same sort. It contains "the short and simple annals of the poor," "the paths of glory lead but to the grave," "full many a flower is born to blush unseen and waste its sweetness on the desert air," "some mute, inglorious Milton," "hands that the rod of empire might have swayed," "far from the madding crowd's ignoble strife," after which Thomas Hardy named a book, and "e'en in our ashes live their wonted fires." The most misquoted of all quotations is probably Gray's "noiseless tenor of their way," which people persist in calling the "even tenor of their way" to this day. Other almost equally well-known phrases from the same poem are "the applause of listening senates to command," "a youth to fortune and to fame unknown" and "to wade through slaughter to a throne." "Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise" is by the same author, but is from the ode "On a Distant Prospect of Eton College." It appears in Ecclesiastes in a different form. "He that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow," wrote the preacher—which is fully as pessimistic, although less rhythmical.

Pope, as has been said, has high rank among the makers of phrases that endure. His "Lo, the poor Indian" has given a designation to a race of people. It was he who said that "hope springs eternal in the human breast," that "the proper study of mankind is man," that "order is heaven's first law" and who gave us the famous triplet, "guide, philosopher and friend," and the phrase "when doctors disagree."

Benjamin Franklin was a famous phrase-maker for those who followed after him, but he adapted rather than originated—a fact that he did not try to conceal, for he has said in the introduction to one of his later almanacs that they "contain the wisdom of many ages and nations." He said, for example, that "God helps them that help themselves," which had been said by Algernon Sidney nearly a century before and which La Fontaine had put "help yourself and heaven will help you." "Diligence is the mother of good luck," said Poor Richard, and Dr. Johnson had said that "few things are impossible to diligence." "A penny saved is two pence clear" appears in Somerville as "a penny saved 's a penny got," and nearly everyone nowadays prefers to say "a penny saved is a penny earned," which is near enough for practical purposes if we only would put the precept into practice. "Holding one's nose to the grindstone" obtained popular currency from Franklin, but it was a phrase frequently used in one dress or another by others, among them Heywood, Lord Chesterfield and Burton, whose "Anthony of Melancholy" is another of the quotation storehouses of literature. And Chesterfield, by the way, who painstakingly wrote all his life in the hope of attaining literary immortality and ended by being famous only for the letters he wrote with no thought of their publication, was a maker of sayings on his own account. "Whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well" is one of Chesterfield's, and it will live a long time. "Style is the dress of thoughts," "dispatch is the soul of business" and "a chapter of accidents" are everyday sayings that we owe to the famous letters printed after his death.

These and a thousand other phrases are almost as current as the language itself. Yet we are not wholly an imitative people, either. We make phrases of our own to enrich our language. Only they have not yet been subjected to the test of time and we do not recognize them now. It would be interesting if we could peer into the future and glimpse what posterity finds we have said that is worth remembering.

BETTER RULE FOR ALASKA.

It is to be hoped that Congress will find time to adopt a joint resolution offered by Senator Pittman for an investigation of all Alaskan affairs. These affairs are divided among a host of departments and bureaus at Washington, each acting independently of the others. Few of the subordinate officials in the territory have authority to decide any question, no matter how urgent, and practically everything is referred to bureau and department chiefs at the capital, who have no first-hand information and no knowledge gained by personal observation of the facts upon which they must decide. The division of authority is carried to such an absurd extreme that brown bears are under the jurisdiction of one bureau and black bears under that of another.

Construction of Government railroads should hasten the settlement and development of Alaska. Unless these railroads are to be a drain on the territory, all of the laws must be amended in such manner as to stimulate development and thus to produce traffic. While civil government may be left to the territorial officials, there is great need of centralized control of public land and all natural resources. One body should have charge of coal, oil, other minerals, agriculture, forests, fisheries, game, together with the railroads, highways and waterways which are needed for development. The coal-land leasing law has failed to attract capital, and the reason for this failure should be ascertained as a guide to Congress in acting on pending legislation of the same kind.

It is impossible to govern and develop Alaska efficiently at long range. There is as great need of separate administration with broad powers as there was in the Philippines and Porto Rico. Congress has done better by these people of alien blood than by our own citizens who have undertaken the pioneer work of the Far North.

EDUCATION FOR A PURPOSE.

In support of a plan adopted by the General Education Board for establishment at Columbia University of "a school for the purpose of constructive work in the reorganization of elementary and secondary education," Dr. Simon Flexner has declared that the teaching of the classics has proved a failure. He does so in commending the purpose of the new school to work out suggested improvements in the curriculum "by cautious experimentation," but his strictures on the teaching of the classics have called forth a retort. He has cited the poor showing made at college entrance examinations, but W. V. McDuffie, of the Central High School at Springfield, Mass., replies with the far worse showing made in English and American history, English literature, advanced French and German, geometry, chemistry, biology, physics, mechanical drawing and other subjects.

This controversy seems to be beside the mark, for it is irrelevant to the purpose of education and to the manner in which it should be imparted. The purpose should have close relation to the character of the community and to the place which each pupil is destined to fill in that community. The curriculum should be adapted to carry out that purpose and should be constantly modified in the light of experience. The proposed school will do valuable service in providing experience. Some objection is raised to the use of pupils as subjects in a sort of educative laboratory test, but there is no valid reason to believe, in the light of the plans outlined, that the education they receive in the process will be inferior to that which they would have received at other schools, and it may prove far superior.

The plans for the school, as described in the Outlook, certainly promise education more closely related to actual conditions than the old classical course. That paper says:

> Modern languages are to be emphasized, while Greek and Latin as languages will not be taught. Science, industry and the domestic arts will be prominent; and music, drawing and art will have increased attention. Effort is to be made to connect the study of mathematics with its use; to make studies real to the pupils by means of charts and maps, by shop and laboratory, and thus to put the pupils into such contact with their environment as to give their school work a basis of reality. The school will "frankly discard that theory of education known as 'formal discipline,'" confining itself to those subjects "which are in themselves valuable."

The aim is to carry out the idea of Dr. Eliot, president emeritus of Harvard, that the most important part of education has always been the training of the senses, a branch of training which in the old days the farm boy got in the field and forest, in association with animals and in the use of tools, but which is now gone and has not been replaced with anything new. Drawing and music train the senses but are regarded as frills, though they are "important features in the outfit of every human being who means to be cultivated, efficient rationally and happy."

Dr. Flexner's modern school will not have any subject that does not "serve a purpose," not merely materialistic or commercial, for "intellectual and spiritual purposes are general and valid." The child will be taught not only to use his senses but to interpret what his senses acquire. He will begin to experiment with the objects with which he gets acquainted. In literature the school will establish a connection between its teaching and the child's spontaneous reading. Languages will be taught on the assumption that "they are valuable only in so far as they are practically mastered."

Such a system would combine the essentials of general and technical education. It would develop all the faculties of mind and sense and would train them to work together. Both primary education, such as all must have, and training of the senses would become actually the tools with which the child acquires the special education for a certain vocation in a technical school, and they would greatly aid his progress there.

This system seems as well adapted to conditions of life in America as is the old classical education to make a cultured gentleman of leisure out of the son of an English squire. Our mistake has consisted in transplanting the English system into an environment in which it supplies the needs of only a small minority, while the needs of the mass are neglected and they are compelled to waste precious years in acquiring knowledge which they promptly "scrap" upon going out into the working world. But the first requisite will be teachers trained to follow the new curriculum. Where are they to be found? Dr. Flexner may be called upon to provide them.

SCHEME TO PAY NATIONAL DEBTS.

A scheme is proposed by Henry Varnum, of Jacksonville, Fla., for extinguishing National indebtedness by issue of what he calls non-maturing bonds. He would have the bonds run for 100 years and he would pay 1 per cent of the principal with the interest each year, so that at the end of the century the debt would be extinct. His pamphlet on the subject is warped by prejudice, for he calls his scheme "a suggestion for emancipating the money-getters from the power of concentrated wealth" and he calls the owners of this wealth "the money-getters." But he relies for the sale of his new form of bonds upon "the common people" who will "contribute their savings," forgetting that these common people by saving and by lending their money at interest become "money-getters," and that thousands of the individual accumulations which constitute "concentrated wealth" have been made by the same kind of people in the same way. In his estimation, those who have already saved money are "a venal money power," while those who have yet to save it are "the common people."

The weak point about his scheme is that he has not sufficiently considered the necessity of finding buyers for his type of bond. The investor does not want his money to come back in annual driblets, too small for a separate investment; he wants it to come in a lump sum, large enough to buy another lot of securities. He cites the practice of insurance companies in selling policies which provide for annuities, but he overlooks the fact that in investing their funds these companies lend in large lump sums on mortgage or buy blocks of bonds, payable in a lump at a fixed time, and that they are organized for continuous operation in just that way, while the Government would be working to get out of debt and stay out. His judgment is warped by the prevalent opinion that accumulated wealth is an evil in itself; it is not; the evil consists in the manner of its use. His error is akin to that of the people who misquote the Bible as saying that "money is the root of all evil"; it does not say so. The words are: "the love of money is the root of all evil."

SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS.

Few persons realize—but it is only because they do not pause to think of it—the progress the world has made in practical science since Oregon was settled, or even since it attained the full measure of statehood. The dedication last week of the interstate bridge spanning the Columbia between Portland and Vancouver serves again to remind us how rapidly the world has moved within the past few years. Electrical transportation, the high-power transmission of electricity, concrete and steel buildings, most of the chemical industries, the telephone, the airbrake, the cream separator, the X-ray, the Deisel engine, automobiles, motion pictures, wireless telegraphy, the linotype machine and the electric furnace are only a few of the inventions that have been perfected within the lifetime of men now living. Only a few years ago the construction of a bridge across the Columbia of the completeness of the one just finished would have been a task of a great many years, and the cost would have been prohibitive. A great army of men would have been employed, and the approaches would have been made by the tedious pick-and-shovel process. The speed with which this work has gone on has excited no wonder even in the minds of the older inhabitants; so easily do we grow into the habit of taking everything as a matter of course.

It would be interesting, if it were practicable, to obtain a referendum of opinion upon the question which of the many inventions of recent years has been the most wonderful, or of the greatest service to mankind. In a poll taken a few years ago, wireless telegraphy received 97 per cent of all the votes, the aeroplane coming next, with 75 per cent; but in the light of subsequent developments it may be questioned that this would represent the opinion of today. The electric furnace has been modest in asserting its claims, because it is not well understood by laymen, but it may yet prove to be of the greatest service to man of all the inventions on the list, especially in view of the fact that through it alone has the fixation of nitrogen been made possible. In event of exhaustion of the natural nitrate beds of the world, it will be a highly important factor in the production of indispensable fertilizers, without which the food supply of the world would be seriously menaced. The electric furnace also has made aluminum cheap, and aluminum is an exceedingly useful metal. Discovery of a process for the preservation of sugar-producing plants also has an important bearing upon the world's future, since sugar is a food element that we cannot well do without. Formerly it was necessary to handle the entire crop during the brief time of harvest, which was becoming embarrassing from an economic point of view when the new process was happily developed.

The automobile illustrates the adage that familiarity breeds contempt. Few there are today who give it credit for all its achievements, social and industrial, direct and indirect. Its success depended upon the perfection of the internal combustion engine, which was not an accident, but the result of long and patient search. The automobile has built up many collateral arts. Its service in bringing about the betterment of roads has been truly amazing, and this has had a direct bearing upon improvement of relations between neighbors in the rural regions. The automobile and better roads have done more for rural education than any other factors since the public school system was first established. The automobile may be said, too, to have changed the manner of living of the civilized world. Those who now ride in their own motor cars, or employ the ubiquitous jitney, do not remember that only thirty years ago this year Alexander Winton took sixty days to go from Cleveland to New York by automobile, which was the first ambitious achievement of the motor road vehicle. The delay was due almost wholly to the wretched condition of the roads.

The induction motor is a comparatively recent invention that has played modestly a highly important part in the scheme of things. It made possible the abolition of line shafting and belting, saved energy, thereby making manufacturing less costly, and made work safer. The motion picture, which has revolutionized entertainment and popularized it, and which may have an effect upon our educational system that cannot now be fully estimated, was invented within a quarter century. Wireless telegraphy did not exist at the beginning of the present century. News of the naval battle of Santiago, in our war with Spain, was conveyed by fast steamers to the nearest cable station. Now the world would know the result of such an engagement a few minutes after it was over. The submarine has put war on a different plane. The aeroplane has created a new strategy, by making the surprise attack almost impossible.

The cream separator is a recent invention of high social significance, and with its collateral discovery, the Babcock test, has been of inestimable value to all who eat. We did not have reinforced concrete buildings when Oregon first became a state, or phonographs, or electric railways, or photo-engraving, or picture telegraphy, or color photography. There were no calculating machines, which have robbed bookkeeping of most of its terrors, and no dictagraphs to add refinements to the business of blackmail and crime-detecting. There were no typesetting machines, with their consequent multiplication of books and the writers of them—which is a blessing or not, according to the way we look upon it. The incandescent lamp and the steam turbine had not given or seen the light. There were no telephones. The photograph film had not been perfected, and radium and liquid air and smokeless powder were not even in the chrysalis stage.

All these have been achievements of a very few years. A few more years added to them would seem to sum up the most of the scientific inventions we employ in our present way of living. Telegraphy itself was in the experimental stage in 1844. The revolving printing press is a creation of the '40s. There were no typewriters until 1843, but the machine of that day was a clumsy affair and slow, and typewriting did not become common for many years afterward. There were no passenger elevators prior to the year that so many of our pioneers crossed the plains to Oregon. The reaper and mower, invented in the '40s, but not perfected until later, is one of the essentials of today. The crops necessary to feed the world to its present requirements could not be harvested under the primitive methods that once prevailed, and as a result most of our other enterprises would fall to the ground.

It has been a wonderful era, and the last third of a century has been the most wonderful of all. The last decade of the nineteenth century has never had its equal in the history of the world as a period of scientific achievement.

The medical side of universal training as a benefit to the people who adopt the system has been presented by the American Defense Society, which summarizes by giving three reasons why physicians should support the movement. One is that the thorough physical examination required would disclose every abnormality and call attention to the necessity for treatment, where this necessity exists. In the second place, military training in camp and field would teach the young man in the most practical way how to take care of his health. In the third place, the regular hours, plain food and open-air exercise of a well-disciplined camp would be in themselves the best kind of health measures. Special training for medical students for military service in case of war is also strongly advocated and several of the medical schools of the country already have voted to add lectures on this subject to their regular courses. In these the treatment of bullet wounds will play a relatively minor part and the "science of keeping men well" will take the lead.

Two alluring sources of potash, a large supply of which is requisite to the growing of our crops, have been discovered by the Federal Bureau of Mines in the manufacture of Portland cement and the smelting of pig iron, in which industries potash may become an important by-product. The output of pig iron in this country in 1916 was 39,000,000 tons, and it is estimated that something more than ten pounds of potash to the ton of ore could be saved in the form of potassium oxide, equal to twice the amount of potassium sulphate, or 400,000 tons. It is estimated that the total amount of potash, or potassium oxide, that was fed into the cement kilns of the country last year was 300,000 tons, a large part of which might have been recovered. The total normal consumption of the country being about 267,000 tons of potassium oxide a year, the importance of these two sources cannot easily be overestimated.

There is no doubt that when the time comes there will be plenty of men to defend the honor of the Nation on the battlefield, but a still more encouraging sign is the way property is coming to the rescue. It used to be said that it was easier to get men to risk their lives than their fortunes, but this year both will be joined, if necessary, in the patriotic outpouring.

The Chicago School Board's decision to require all pupils to salute the flag once a week and to renew their allegiance to the republic is a pleasing, and no doubt will prove a permanently valuable, innovation. It would not be a bad idea if the grown-ups would set apart a moment occasionally for considering the subject.

While we are preparing for eventualities, it would not be a bad idea for every citizen to ask himself what he can do to help if he should be needed—take stock of himself, as it were, and have the inventory ready for the call.

In the circumstances, Count von Bernstorff cannot be expected to worry much over the fact that the British have carefully arranged that he shall have no opportunity to see the sights while delayed at Halifax.

That California chief of police who says that women have the same rights as men to smoke and drink and go unescorted to public cafes is running a theory into the ground. Be practical, chief, be practical!

Action of the United States on the bone-dry provision of the postoffice appropriation bill ought to give J. Barleycorn at least a hint of his growing unpopularity.

It is the season when the seed catalogue looks as attractive as any picture book and when the text is as interesting as a novel.

Turkey says it will fight until the enemy has recognized its rights. The right to massacre Armenians, for example.

It is easier to talk about boycotting the potato than it is to get along without this highly nourishing vegetable.

Gleams Through the Mist

By Dean Collins.

SONG OF THE TONG.

(The Chinese Peace Society predicts that tong strife will not break out in the next few days, pending a conference of high officials of the warring tongs.—News item, Thursday, Feb. 15.)

Muse, strike the gong, let us sing a
sweet song now;
Song that shall swing and shall tingle
and dingle;
Sing a long song of the peace of the
tong now;
Sing in a jubilant, jovial jingle;
Muse, let us sing about Leong Jew
Hing,
Who announces the dove,
Coming down from above,
To spike all the gats and the Colts and
the skodas,
And hang olive branches upon the pagodas,
And still the warsongs of the turbulent tongs,
And bind up the war god in leg-irons
and thongs.

Oh, sing a small jingle that's scanty
in sense, now;
But long upon rhythmn that's rolling
and running,
On how Orientals and Orient gents,
now
Declare a short truce upon sociable
gunning.
Sing right along of the Suey Sing Tong,
And the bold Bing Kong Tong
And the Bow Leong Tong,
And Hip Sing and Hop Sing that used
to go scooting
Out into the streets to indulge in their
shooting,
And how they've abandoned those
desperate chances
To bask in the shade of the sweet
olive branches.*

(*Which same is no rhyme for scrupulous pote, but sounds pretty well, if read quickly.—Ed. Note.)

Let's sing "Hip, hooray!" for the Hop
Sing and Hip Sing;
And laud with loud lung the Bow
Leong in our song;
And the Suey Sing Tong with long
tongue and lithe lip sing;
Just so we sing some for the Suey,
Sing Tong;
And bang the strong gong for the big
Bing Kong Tong,
'Til the ding-a-dong-dong,
Ring along, swing along;
'Til the world waxes wild as the glad
news increases
That the tongs declare peace while they
pick up the pieces;
And Harmony now on her flute gently
toodles,
And safely we all may go back to our
noodles,
Without any fear that some foible of
Fate, or
Some turbulent tongman may shoot up
the waiter.

Doc David Starr Jordan is coming next
Tuesday,
To prattle of peace and of proud pacificism;
Oh, Muse, for Doc Jordan 'twill be a
glad news day,
To hear that the tongs have removed
the wide schism
That lay for so long betwixt tong and
'twixt tong!
We bet he will smile
A consid'rable while,
When he finds that at home here, in
old Portland, Or.,
The tongs that were warring have
shown War "what-for,"
The Hip Sing and Hop Sing and
Suey Sing Tong,
And bold Bing Kong Tong and the
Bow Leong Tong.
So let's close our song we have spun
out so long
With a hip and a whoop that shall
ring from the rock,
For the truculent tongs, and the Dove,
and the Doc.

"Sir," said the Courteous Office Boy. "Go on," I cried preparing for the worst, for I knew that the C. O. B. was still harping on the same tune that he had lugged into the office a week or more ago.

And without more ado he tuned his dulcimer and proved that my suspicion was well-founded.

For thus sang he: the C. O. B.

The Spring.

Jack and Jill went up the hill
A pail with water pure to fill;
They fell, and yet
They did it get!
The pail upset
And they were wet;
And, ah, the cause of all this thing
I will not hide—it was THE SPRING.

A small boy had a little gun
With which he frolicked, just for fun;
But he did not
Control its shot,
And so, I wot,
His sire grew hot.
What made this air-gun do this thing?
'Twas not to blame; it was THE
SPRING.

The baby has a little swing
in which it jumps like anything;
With gladsome cry,
His legs he'll try,
And bye and bye
He bounces high.
What makes his swing do this here
thing?
The principle, it is THE SPRING.

(And as we reached for a paperweight the C. O. B. folded his manuscript and fled down the corridor with a mocking laugh.)

BARD'S SPRING TWITTER.

"M. F.," heavily veiled, came into the circle of bards the other day with a poem for the Spring Twitter.

We believe that "M. F." is a lady, judging from the stationery, but we are not inclined to exclude ladies from the Twitter, remembering as we do how Sapho and Dorothea Felicia Hemans and Mrs. Browning and Eliza Cook sang.

"You brang this on yourself," said "M. F.," beginning to sing, "you asked for Spring poems."

And, inasmuch as the rules of the game—to make it brief—have been followed, we allow "M. F." to give the song in full.

I'm glad that, just a little while,
You plan to let us have a smile
With poets of the Spring.

We've grown so very tired, of late,
With all the wars and all the hate;
It's good to take a fling

At purely sentimental stuff
That oftimes meets a quick rebuff,
When we our offering bring.

Saner will be our sympathy,
If we awhile put by our dree,
And with the new earth sing.