

IT IS TO LAUGH.

COUNCILMAN ZIMMERMAN'S solemn charge that some county officer, presumably Sheriff Word, was receiving graft from the proprietors of the Chinese fan games has provoked inextinguishable laughter in this community. The people of Portland have been getting quite wise in the past few years. They have learned to know when a public official is really doing his duty and when he is only making a pretense of doing it. There is none so innocent that he does not know the "opportunities" offered to Sheriff Word when he went into office. If he had consented to ignore the laws as they have been ignored, to have permitted a continuance of the policy of a wide-open town, he could have retired at the end of his term with a well lined wallet. In an enterprise of that sort the Chinese would have been a greasy incident and nothing more; the real stuff would have come from the white men who so largely profit by a wide-open town, and who expected to make enormous sums of money during the fair next year.

The people know these things and they realize that the only stumbling block in the way is, and has been, the sheriff. They know that he has tried to do his duty as he saw it, and that in doing so he has offended many beneficiaries of the graft, some of them friends, and during the campaign his hearty supporters. But in the prosecution of the duties which fell to him they know and the public knows that Word has recognized neither friend nor foe; that he has simply stood upon the law, without reference to who might be injured or benefited by its enforcement.

Knowing this they realize that the wide-open policy must have meant much to many people, altogether outside the amount of money openly contributed to the public funds. This money somebody must have got and rumor is not at all idle in indicating who they are. In cases of this kind very much more is known than can always be proven; indeed where the secret is in so many hands it is impossible to hide it. If an official wanted to be subsidized, if he wanted to make everything he could out of his office, so many officials in the past have plainly wanted to do, he would not worry very much about the petty larceny graft that would come to him from fan games. While he would not be above overlooking even that, he would go after the wholesale end of the graft and get into relations with the "big fellows" whose profits could not fail to be enormous, particularly next year, if the town were wide open and authorities in a properly sympathetic attitude, as they have been in the past.

Life is altogether too serious a matter to most people; it too often lacks the leaven of humor. This great truth Mr. Zimmerman undoubtedly realized when he sprang his fan game joke. It is, however, one of those cases in which if you laugh the world laughs with you and if you fail to laugh the world laughs at you. We feel assured that Mr. Zimmerman will hasten to get in an early laugh to avoid the second alternative.

MEN WHO QUIT WORKING.

A CHICAGO man, 70 years old, who has been in business there since his youth, and has amassed a comfortable fortune, on deciding to retire and spend his few remaining years in recreation, said: "I am not leaving because of any infirmity of body or mind. My brain is keener than it used to be and I am in the best of health. But I have worked long enough, and propose to enjoy life differently."

Here speaks a sensible young-old man. When he went to work in 1881 for Armour & Co. that firm employed 15 people; now it employs many thousands. For forty-three years this man has done his daily work, not becoming a multimillionaire, but gaining a competence, and rising gradually in business importance.

Some men would have spent their lives better, many worse. He did no great things, yet lived a clean, cheerful, comfortable life, until he is 70, and while yet young in everything but years, he says he will quit work, and let some other man do the work he has so long done, while he spends his closing years in traveling or other forms of recreation.

In this matter of quitting or continuing one's life work as long as the faculties last, every man must decide for himself: no one is a proper object of criticism if, like Russell Sage, he remains in the harness until he drops; yet we like to see an old or elderly and well-to-do man do as this Chicago man has done. It seems as if he were taking a better and more philosophical view of life, and getting more out of it, and contributing perhaps somewhat more to the happiness or benefit of others than if he kept digging away until he could work no longer.

A far greater proportion of men, we think, are doing this work than was formerly the case. One can find many of them in every considerable city, and several in most smaller towns. When a man has plenty, why strive for more? Why not quit and take life easy? But some men are so constituted that they are miserable if not at work, and each is entitled to enjoy life the best he can.

PUBLICITY FOR CAMPAIGN FUNDS.

MAY NOT the time come when complete publicity will be given to the expenses of a national campaign? Some states have laws requiring candidates for office to make a statement under oath of their campaign expenses, and it is believed that politics has become somewhat cleaner in consequence.

Of course, under our system of nominating and electing a president a good deal of money is required for legitimate expenses of a campaign. Literature is to be distributed in great quantities, hall-rent to be hired, speakers' expenses are often paid, and some of them are paid besides, canvassers of the voters must also be paid, and there may be other proper expenses. But it is the common opinion that a good deal of money has been used in past campaigns for improper and illegal purposes; and that certain heavy contributors to campaign funds expected to and did receive benefits in legislation or administration inimical to the interests of the people and the welfare of the republic. In brief, it is popularly supposed that a campaign fund is largely a sack of boodle. Perhaps this idea is to an extent erroneous. Possibly Mr. Cortes and Mr. Taggart are above resorting to any improper means; but if so, what good objection could

THE IRRIGATION SCHEME.

From the Jacksonville Sentinel.
The great irrigation lake which is to be treated in Bear creek valley, midway between Ashland and Talent, is quite certain to be the beginning of an irrigation system that will embrace the entire valley of Bear creek valley. From this lake a canal will be run along the base of the hills by Jacksonville and terminating in the Willow Springs district. Storage reservoirs would be constructed in the valleys of the various creeks that will be crossed, which

Include Wagner, Colman, Griffin, Jackson and Walker creeks, as well as in the larger gullies that would afford a reservoir supply of water with which to feed the canal during the latter part of the summer. This irrigation system will take a large sum of money to handle it, and even after the main reservoir is built in Bear creek it may be several years before the canal is extended so far as Jacksonville and the auxiliary reservoirs are constructed, but it is one of the factors in the development of the agricultural resources of this valley that is sure to come so soon as

they make to taking the public frankly into their confidence? There is a great deal of talk just now about the campaign contributions of certain capitalistic and in some instances monopolistic combinations, popularly called trusts. Hints and even assertions, and charges and counter charges, are being made, and the people have a right to know the truth of these matters, and to judge of the contributors' probable objects and purposes. If a trust or great railroad subscribes a large amount, then it will be well to watch just how that corporation is treated by the government, what if any favors it receives more than are accorded to one that did not contribute, or to the people generally.

Publicity is a partial remedy for many evils. Men who seek to do evil like to work in the dark. Might it not be well to have a federal law requiring the light to be turned on our political campaigns, and let us know just how much money is spent, what for, and where it comes from?

DUTY ON AND PRICE OF WHEAT.

The American farmers, who are this year receiving the highest average price that they have realized for their wheat since the early '90s, will be much pleased with the efforts of the Democrats to have the tariff on wheat removed.—Oregonian.

THE inference intended to be drawn from this remark is presumably that the duty on wheat benefits the farmer by increasing the price. Scarcely any high protection organ would state this directly, for it is too absurd a statement to make outright, but the hint is thus thrown out to have what effect it may in the minds of such farmers as do not stop to reason a little upon the proposition.

Of course the duty on wheat cannot increase the price, as long as the American farmers have a surplus of wheat to ship abroad, and do not import any. And even if the time should ever come when Americans import instead of export wheat, the interests of the consumer, who will far outnumber the wheat raisers, are entitled to consideration. While adding to the farmer's profit, if there were any truth in the theory, the poor man's loaf would necessarily be dearer.

It is well that farmers should receive a fair price for their products; it is well when they are prosperous—though it may be doubted if "dollar wheat" as a permanent thing would be beneficial to the country at large; but however that may be, the tariff has nothing to do with the price of wheat.

A voter may believe in the principle of protection, and in its reasonable application, intelligently and patriotically—though in operation the principle has been greatly abused; but the intelligence of the average farmer should not be affronted by even hinting to him that the high price of wheat is due to the duty on that cereal. It is a sham and a delusion, and farmers ought to be understood it.

HOW CONDITIONS BIAS THE JUDGMENT.

THE VIEWPOINT of a war correspondent must always be considered in weighing his news. In respect to broad, salient features this nicety of proportions is unnecessary, but when he commences to write of "horrible conditions in the commissariat," or "perfect organization of the quartermaster department," the reader should know where the newspaper man has fed. It will be noted that most of the corps with the Russian armies find the soldiers brave, accomplishing unprecedented feats and well provided on the field, while those partaking of Japanese subsistence duplicate the eulogies for their hosts. Occasionally some correspondent who has evidently not been properly pampered at the officers' mess finds the common soldier starving, neglected when wounded and ready for insubordination. A space-preserved writer then bursts forth with a harrowing statement of heartlessness among the officers, carousing and drinking champagne a few feet from a reeking car of mutilated men, and imposing wanton burdens upon the patient fighter.

War news from the orient, if preserved for a period and compared carefully, illustrates these fantasies of the writer. The student finds it necessary to judge slowly, and only after extensive reading. With all the world, which desires facts and the privilege of forming its own conclusions, the student years for the day when newspapers will instruct correspondents to report actual occurrences, and defer everything in the nature of opinions. Newspaper writers are but human, and are influenced by environment. Should a correspondent happen upon a scene of peculiar gruesomeness, where wounded seemed neglected, he is too prone to voice the impulse born there, without knowing the exigencies that may excuse the apparent neglect. So if he is made a good fellow by the commanders, natural gratitude will tinge his report of the hosts' work, and vice versa. Give us plain facts, with whatever sidelights possible, and let the unbiased reader judge.

ONE LEGAL TRICK THAT FAILED.

THERE is no limit to the audacity of criminal lawyers. In California, for example, a Chinaman is under sentence of death for murdering another Chinaman. But the murderer had some money, and hired a lawyer, who took a curious course to make a pretense of earning his fee. He went to an appellate court on the allegation that it did not affirmatively appear that the murdered man was a human being—that so far as the record showed he might have been a dog, or a sheep, or a cat.

On this piece of sharp practice the case has been carried to the supreme court of the United States, which, after gravely considering the lawyer's remarkable defense, upheld the conviction and affirmed the verdict and judgment. So unless the ingenious attorney can get a rehearing, or study up some new scheme, his client is doomed, though he will have lived a good many months longer than he ought to.

But while the courts in this case decided against a preposterous legal technicality, it may be as well for district attorneys after this, in drawing indictments for murder, to allege specifically that the victim was a genus homo, as well as to see that he goes through the formality of pleading.

land becomes more valuable and the needs of a large population make it necessary to force the productive capacity of the land to the greatest possible limit.

From the Chicago Tribune.
"I see Grover Cleveland is going to make only one political speech this year. Why is that?"
"Well, if Parker is elected he can't let his speech do it, and if Parker is defeated he can't let his speech do it, because he didn't make more speeches."

Small Change

Make it 200,000 next year. Probably Parker wouldn't preach. New York is yet slightly doubtful. Let us have peace—and pumpkin pie. Hello, Seattle, can you honestly beat it? Senator Mitchell is feeling a little tired.

Why, of course, the fair will be a success. Port Arthur seems to be in favor of a late fall. It won't seem so important a week from now.

O yes, the politicians are all the farmers' friends. Rake up the leaves. They are useful as a fertilizer.

Political astrology is one of the east-coast tricks on earth. President Roosevelt might have been somewhat more thankful.

Russia is another nation that apparently deserves no navy. An "accident" is usually a misnomer. Careless folly is a better term.

Evidently there will be no lack of Republican candidates for governor. That Baltic fleet appears to be a sort of naval orphan, with no place to go.

It must be a poor creature indeed who can find nothing to be thankful for. Ed Wright seems to be having a hard time electing Mead over in Washington.

Those figures, 150,000, may be a little too high just yet, but we will soon make them true.

Now that our genial friend, Senator Mitchell, has explained everything this side of Mars, let the band play.

O, what an old, stale sound that piece of political claptrap "protection to American labor and industry," has.

A lot of consumers are hard at work trying to fill a proper portion of their dinner pails with potatoes these days.

If we are to believe all the political predictions we read, we will have to add a lot of votes to the electoral college.

The president's Thanksgiving proclamation indicates that he has an idea of competing with Emperor William as a preacher.

Now, really, can a rather ordinary man earn \$75,000 or \$100,000 a year as railroad president? The answer is easy; he doesn't.

Could it be possible that Colonel Hofer was in anywise mistaken in 1898? If so, could it not be possible that he might in the slightest possible degree be mistaken in 1904?

A Philadelphia editor has been asked "What is love?" by a woman of that city. What a queer woman—to suppose that any editor knows the answer to this question better than a woman.

Oregon Sidelights

Football weather sure to come. New sawmill in Klamath Falls. Have you built any good roads? Everybody preparing for the fair. No frost on Oregon pumpkins—yet. Poultry show in Corvallis next week. Wheat hauling will continue till snow flies. Irrigan's new schoolhouse will soon be built. Country people are busy preparing for winter. Catholics will build school and church at Klamath Falls. Better apples than anywhere in Grant county, they claim. The prohibition campaign is warm over in Tillamook county. No state has a greater variety of fine products to show than Oregon. Rogue river apples are almost if not quite equal to the Hood River product. Jackson, Douglas and Josephine counties constitute very nearly an earthly paradise. The output of the salmon hatcheries will be much less than usual, or than is desirable. Having elder and straw, as well as pumpkins and other good things, Oregon will enjoy a genuine Thanksgiving. The Bank of Ashland of the heaviest taxpayer in Jackson county—\$25,608. A large list of citizens pay on \$2,000 or over. Corvallis Gazette: A dozen or more fish hides, each of which would be ample covering for an ox, were on the C. & E. express car yesterday. They were taken from baby whales, and were exceedingly tough. Ashland Tidings: Ashland people have expended or have contracted to expend during the current season \$25,000 in the construction of cement sidewalks. This is a record in the history of the city, and the display of apples grown in Klamath county which can be seen at the Promotion Clubrooms, we believe can hardly be equaled anywhere in Oregon. Nearly all of the fruits and vegetables have been grown on dry land, without irrigation.

A NON-SENSE.

From the Ashland Tidings.
A bald gerilla, occupying a seat in the chair car and apparently enjoying the rights of a first-class passenger, was the novel sight witnessed on the north-bound overland train Tuesday afternoon. Mr. Gerilla, who is but fifteen months old, was not traveling entirely alone, but was under the care of a Mrs. Wilson. He was clothed in an ample dress and a flowing veil enveloped his head, and he was quite this but as a satyrine face. In one of his hands or paws was clasped a tin cup from which he was drinking milk. The youngster was brought to this country from his native Africa when three months old, and despite the utmost care in his education, is already developing some of the treacherous instincts of his ancestors.

SAYS JOHN D. B. JR.

From the New York Herald.
"I suppose a very small majority of the people of the world think for themselves. I suppose there are few of us who form our opinions ourselves. I suppose that most of us are swayed by the opinions of others. I suppose we are Baptists or Presbyterians or whatever other denomination we happen to be, we would have to confess that it was all due to the influence of our parents. And so it is with reference to our political views. How many men take the time or the pains to give a thought to the political situation this year to determine which side it is best for them to stand for? I suppose most of us form our opinions, or, rather, have them formed for us by those to whom we look up and in whom we have confidence."
John D. Rockefeller, Jr., expressed these opinions last night in an hour's talk before members of the Young People's society of the Fifth avenue Baptist church, which includes nearly all his Bible class. "The Power of Personal Influence" was the subject of the address of the meeting.

Carlisle's Philippine View

From the Baltimore News.
In Mr. Carlisle's very able speech at Carnegie hall on Friday night, he made, in connection with the Philippine issue, one point which we hold to be of the most vital character. Speaking of the Democratic platform pledge to make the promise of Philippine independence at once, Mr. Carlisle, after giving as one reason for doing so the beneficial effect which he felt it would have upon the people of the islands, continued as follows: "The other reason is one which vitally affects our own people and to the world at large the predatory policy of expansion over the seas has been abandoned (applause) and that we have returned to the ideals of the fathers of the Republic and to the policy of the United States that has made us so great and so powerful among the nations of the earth. Such a promise, made in good faith, would be worth more to the people of this country than the possession of all the islands between the poles."

Republican advocates, who, like Secretary Taft, seek to belittle the difference between an attitude toward the Philippines and that of Judge Parker and the Democratic party on the one hand and that of President Roosevelt and the Republican party on the other are guilty of the very thing which they condemn. They are guilty of the same selfish course that has made us so great and so powerful among the nations of the earth. Such a promise, made in good faith, would be worth more to the people of this country than the possession of all the islands between the poles.

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Club Women Told to Pay Less Attention to Baking and Help Improve World.

Old fashioned mince pies and the "cookies like mother used to make" are doomed to extinction if the ladies of the National Federation of Women's clubs, is followed by the slumberers of England.

Hereafter the small boy will be reared on bakers' cookies. Crullers a day old from the grocery store will take the place of the hot, soft doughnuts fished from the sizzling lard on baking day. The spicy aroma from the kitchen will no longer make him long for the toothsome delicacies of the oven. Mother will be away, "living the larger life."

"Is it worth while," asks Mrs. Decker, "to wear out lives, and about the same time, to make a good thing more vital in life for us than bending over a rolling pin all day to fill little Johnny up with sugared cookies. Bakers' cookies are good enough for him."

The talk was given before 500 women at the new Masonic temple, 6733 Westworth avenue. Music and reception supplemented the program.

Speaking of women's duties in life, Mrs. Decker said they should look on the home as men do. They should not devote their hearts and minds to the petty details of the household. Household duties are necessary, but they are not life. There was something better than making embroidery, which should soon be relegated to the garret.

"The women who have worked for centuries in the culture of the soil have worked to establish juvenile courts, and advocated purity in politics," she said, "do they ever bother about custard pies? Haven't they something more of consequence to do than to make custard pies for their neighbors? Do they ever bore you by talking about Johnny and the time he had the measles? Do they tell you how long they kept him in the dark room, what they did to him, and how he came compared with Jane's attack?"

"Do they ever annoy you with a chronological account of the last servant girl's misdeeds?" No. The women's clubs are not to be such a narrow, selfish outlook.

The mission of women, the speaker declared, was to bring light into the world. They must "no longer be the women who sit around the house, and wait for their husbands to come home, and then they are the peers of sensible, wise men."

Carnegie's View

From the New York World.
Andrew Carnegie's attention was called to the fact that goods of American manufacture were frequently sold cheaper in the foreign markets than at home.

"There is no doubt," he answered, "that the tariff ought to be reformed, and there is no doubt that the Republicans will attend to that finally. I have advocated the reduction of the duty on steel rails, but I would not approve of any further reduction."

"If I were president I should revise the tariff. We should take the duties off such industries as do not need protection, and place them upon industries that do need it."

"Do you think the Philippines should have independence?" was asked. "Certainly I do. They ought to be free, and why not? The American people believe so, too. I don't think Roosevelt is quite right there and where he ought to be on that point."

"I stand by Root," I echo what he said, and why not? Independence would be a great blessing for the Philippines, but a still greater blessing for the American people. The Filipino will be free, no matter what party opposes it. The president needs watching on that point."

"Do you think there is danger in militarism?" "I think there is a great deal of danger in it, and I am decidedly opposed to it. I am opposed to the military spirit."

When informed that the president had directed the calling of another peace congress Mr. Carnegie said: "I am glad to see that the president is so anxious to take steps to the advisability of another gathering of that character at the present time. This is not a favorable moment, when two great nations are trying to destroy each other, for such a movement."

REGISTRATION

But the registration does show several things that are of consequence to the community. First of all, it puts an end to the gossip that New York is so absorbed by business or so indifferent of the result that many of the citizens who have the qualifications of voters have no intention of using the franchise. We have been told since the campaign began that many citizens are "too busy" to register, but there is no apathy or indifference, when of all the citizens qualified to vote if they register, only about 12,000, and that number is estimated, of the city's population of 1,000,000.

We are therefore going to have a very full vote, and recent non-partisan investigations, for they have been carried on jointly by the Republicans and the Democrats, have shown that the registration lists are of little importance to campaign managers.

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Registration in New York

Holland in Chicago Record-Herald.
Had all those who might lawfully register and so become qualified to vote done that the total registration of this city would have been almost exactly 700,000. A little more than 11,000 refused to register, provided the estimate of the increase in the city in population over 1900 is approximately correct. The estimate is based upon experience in that the city has increased at the rate of 2 per cent in each presidential term, so that it has been assumed that the population of New York city is not far from 1,000,000.

Almost everyone who is fond of analyzing pre-election figures and is accustomed to make canvasses based on actual count or estimate has been exploring by statistics the registration figures of this year. They are complete except that there is further registration possible just before election, for those whose qualifications for the suffrage are not until the eve of election. Formerly it was a favorite intellectual and political pastime for the mathematical minds of either party to search registration figures and to do so, if possible, the story that was concocted by them. The Col. George Bliss had an especial gift for work of this kind, rejoicing in it as some professors of pure mathematics are in that abstract duty. And Colonel Bliss was able to take the registration figures and induce from them a fairly accurate forecast of the voting in New York city.

But if Colonel Bliss were here today he would find great difficulty in making a forecast of that kind, since the conditions have changed greatly within the last 10 or 15 years. In his time New York city grew apparently almost in accordance with geometric rule, and there were not many changes in the districts where homes prevailed, so that the standards year after year were practically the same. The rapid development of rapid transit, the building of the Brooklyn bridges, and especially the mighty expansion of the business portion of the city—so that it is not confined as formerly, but reaches out here and there until it blocks Central park in the center and by the Harlem river upon the west side, although not upon the east—make it impracticable to do more than guess at the story that is in the registration figures.

Moreover, except to gratify the impulsive curiosity of the community and that natural yearning for a good forecast of an election, and in addition to serve the purpose of the campaign, the registration lists are of no great consequence whether the registration shows anything that may be welcomed by either party. We shall know soon enough what the result of the election will be, and the registration lists are of no great consequence whether the registration shows anything that may be welcomed by either party.

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