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with the charges of commercial companies on property forming an unusually good risk.

But the forest service, guardian of the people's timber supply, has never been in a position to expend what many private owners consider a necessary amount. Under the appropriations of congress less than one cent per acre has been spent in protecting government forests.

The people of the west are vitally interested in the protection of timber on national forests, for the west must receive the great bulk of the benefit to be derived from these resources for all time. Not only is it provided that 25 per cent of the gross returns from the sale of national forest products go to the counties where forests are located, but all labor used in harvesting the crop must be furnished by the west. The money paid out for this purpose will be circulated locally, and this is from a financial standpoint by far the most important item.

During the past season it has been shown conclusively that fire protection of the forest service is equipped for only the ordinary year.

We believe the service has done exceptionally well with the funds at its disposal and is worthy of endorsement. It now remains with congress to say whether government timber shall be well or poorly protected, and if in the light of the past season's experience this body fails to provide the forest service with necessary funds, responsibility must rest squarely upon our congressmen and senators.

A FULL BENCH

TIME WILL TELL with what wisdom the president has selected supreme justices. It is widely believed that conscience has guided him in the choosing. It has been his privilege to name four of the nine members of the present court.

As a court it is the highest judicial tribunal in the world. It exercises greater powers than are vouchsafed to any other judicial body. With the constitution as its guide and itself as the sole interpreter in the last resort it can set aside laws that have been passed by congress and approved by the president. From its findings there is no appeal, and from its decrees there is no escape. In its sphere as one of the three coordinate branches of the government it is finally itself, a fact that makes of deep concern the question of what character are the nine men who constitute the body.

Tests of this issue, and of how the president has selected, will speedily appear in the weighty cases upon the consideration of which the court will quickly enter. These are the appeals involving the legality of the existence of the Standard Oil, the tobacco trust and the sugar trust corporations. These cases involve the whole question of the validity of so-called trust organizations, and have enormous significance to thousands of millions of money invested in industrial establishments in the United States.

Not since the Dred Scott decision has there been a case before the court upon which issues so momentous have hung. As these cases, the case of the validity of the initiative and referendum in Oregon and other appeals pass, one by one, before the tribunal the country will be able to form its opinion as to what has been the wisdom or unwisdom of W. H. Taft in selecting justices for the world's most exalted court. "By their fruits ye shall know them."

THE ALDRICH EXPOSURE

WE KNOW NOW what the tariff means. We understand why Nelson W. Aldrich entered the United States senate nearly 20 years ago as a poor man, and is now several times a millionaire. We have the evidence of how lawmaking in the United States has been reduced to a commercial basis, and how senators here and there have cleaned up princely fortunes by passing tariff laws.

As Senator Mr. Aldrich used his great power as chairman of the finance committee of the United States senate to enrich himself, his son and his associates in the rubber trust. The New York World has proven from the books of the trust that Senator Aldrich owns 340,000 shares of stock in the trust, and that he so owned it when the duty on rubber was increased from 30 to 35 per cent in the Payne-Aldrich tariff.

A reporter of the paper bought a share of stock in the corporation, and by his right as a shareholder demanded and was permitted an inspection of the company's books. At the top of one of the ledger pages was the name "Nelson W. Aldrich," and the entry below showed him to be the owner of 340,000 shares of stock in the Intercontinental Rubber company, known as the rubber trust.

It is history that the rubber schedule passed the house without change from the former duty, and that under Aldrich manipulation the senate increased the duty from 30 to 35 per cent. It is further history that Senator Aldrich in connection with the Guggenheims and Ryan organized the Intercontinental Rubber company of which Senator Aldrich's son became general manager. It is also of record that there was an immediate advance in the price of rubber, and that in the first three months the Intercontinental company paid a dividend of 18.2 per cent on preferred stock.

What does it mean when a senator of the United States manipulates legislation for the benefit of his own pocket book? What is the significance when this senator levies

a tax on every consumer of rubber in the United States for the profit of himself, his son and their associates? In its broad moral aspect, the offense of Senator Aldrich is more serious than that for which the late Senator Mitchell was convicted and condemned, for the man who legislates for his own personal profit is contaminating the very sources of representative government.

The honor of congress is the honor of the country, and that body owes it to itself to deal with Senator Aldrich. It owes it to the friends of protection to punish the latest crime against the protective system and the people of the country.

Meantime, rubber coats, rubber boots and shoes, garden hose, auto tires and every other article of rubber manufacture costs the consumer twice as much as it should.

THE FALSE HAIR MARKET

THE ANNEXATION of Korea by Japan has seriously contributed to lessen the cost of living to such American women as wear false hair—and it has been discreetly and obscurely hinted that some of them do supplement their natural hair with purchased hair. It appears that a considerable portion of this "boughten" hair comes from Korea, where hair grows luxuriantly and a large surplus is exported, at high prices. A few months ago the cheapest kind of Korean human hair sold in this country at 29 cents an ounce, better grades bringing up to 50 cents an ounce. But now, it is reported, the very best grades can be bought for 20 cents an ounce, and the least desirable bunches for 12 cents.

The reason of this slump in the hair market is that the Japanese, after subjugating Korea, required the male natives to wear only short hair, whereas before they wore it as long as it would grow, wound up in a topknot. In a single little town in northern Korea, a correspondent writes, ten barber shops have been opened since the Japanese edict was issued; and throughout the country hair is falling by bushels, bales, tons, to the profit and delight of women of Christian lands whose toilet could not be considered complete without a quantity of heathen hair.

THE GOOD ROADS CONVENTION

NOTABLE gathering of representative men from all quarters of Oregon was the annual convention of the Good Roads association. Notable as marking the development of the good roads movement from the stages of individual sentiment and conviction into the condition of a demand from every county in Oregon for practical legislation first, and then for the actual making of permanent roads.

The movement has now passed all its preliminary stages. Country dwellers, practicing every industry connected with the soil, were, for weary years in revolt against the losses, inconvenience and hardship resulting from the mud or dust covered tracks, mislaid roads. But their complaints took no practical shape because everybody's business was nobody's business. Not until action was taken by a group of Oregon men, who were willing to put both money and energy into the campaign, were real results achieved. To those men the satisfaction is justly due as they see the end for which they have striven in full sight.

The obstacles were many. The people of Oregon had to be reached in every county, to be informed what good roads would do for them—how to make good roads—how the money to pay for them could be found—how to so harmonize into system the good road work in every county that the state as well as the county might reap most benefit—how to remove the constitutional difficulty forbidding the counties to pledge their credit for funds to build the roads.

This convention shows that this work has been well and truly done. The next step forward is to adopt the bills that may be laid before the coming legislature to crystallize into legal form the suggestions that shall make permanent road building in Oregon a regular and fixed policy in every county in the state.

There may be difficulties in the path, some real, some but imaginary. Should such be developed as time moves on they will be met and overcome by the same force of the common purpose of the people as has served to pass at the recent election the constitutional amendment devolving on the counties the duty implied from the power granted them to procure the funds required.

Such bridges will be crossed when we come to them. Meanwhile the good roads movement will know no check.

STARVING WOMEN AND CHILDREN

THOUSANDS of people, mostly women and children, are said to be literally starving in the enormously rich city of Chicago. And thousands suffer torture throughout most of many days, too, from cold. They can procure neither sufficient food nor fuel. This is the case every winter in that city and in New York, but conditions are worse this winter in Chicago, on account of the prolonged strike, in consequence of which thousands of women and girl workers, and many men, too, who can never save anything out of the pitiful pittance they receive as wages, have had no employment at all.

Such a condition of affairs ought not to be necessary, ought not to be tolerated. Surely means to prevent it could be devised, if enough men

and women of brains, conscience, energy and courage would join in a crusade for industrial and economic reform, along practical as well as altruistic lines.

"We are facing a very serious time in this country," says Miss Ida Tarbell, who probably knows as much about the tariff and its effects as any other person in the United States, "on account of the increase in the cost of living without a corresponding increase in the wages of the poor man. The country is increasing very fast in wealth, but the poor people find it very hard to get along. This is contrary to democratic principles. If we want to avoid revolution we must find out the causes. One of the principal causes is that all our great American industries are being run in such a way that they are making a few men richer, while the necessities of life become dearer." Nearly everybody knows this is true.

Speaker Cannon is in favor of keeping the membership of the house down to the present number, 391, to do which it would be necessary to raise the number of people to be represented by one member to 235,223. It is by no means certain that Uncle Joe is not, for once at least, right. The membership of the house is so large as to be "unwieldy" now. But his proposition is not likely to prevail.

Representative Tammey is one of the "lame ducks" who was defeated for reelection last fall, on account of his adherence to Cannism, and it is rumored that he will be appointed governor of the Panama canal zone. In that capacity he might render very good service, for he is a man of much ability, and has apparently been really conscientious as well as industrious and influential in his service as a member of the house.

Too Many Ships on the Lakes.

From the Iron Trade Review. There are too many ships on the lakes. We have heard that cry since the early '80s, and like the cry of "wolf" when there was no wolf, have grown accustomed to it. But now for the first time it appears to be true. There are actually too many ships on the lakes for the business offering—and the business offering is the heaviest on record.

The situation has burst upon the trade with the suddenness and illumination of a flash of lightning. That there are too many ships on the lakes has been the theory of the timid for the last 30 years; today it is a condition. Like Othello, the promoter's occupation is gone.

It is interesting to inquire into the causes which have led to this surplus of ships. Three things have conspired to bring it about: the promoter, the big ship, and the unloading machine. The promoter of lake trade has not been inconsiderable in the past, and the business has attracted the attention of the promoter—particularly since the practice of bonding the vessel for half its cost was established.

It is a comparatively easy to promote a company for lake trade, with a large freighter, as the dividends ordinarily earned were higher than those paid in such legitimate enterprises as are open to the small investor.

Of course the situation is not serious. It is not a particularly alluring moment for the stockholder, whose share is tied up, but even for him it is not serious. He may skip a dividend, but he cannot lose the principal. The trade is a magnificent one, and is readily growing. The commodities moved are of great value. They will keep indefinitely, and are certain to increase in value as time goes on.

The business will eventually assimilate the ships already built, to which end it will be aided by the natural growth of the elements and the natural growth of the country. Ship building and ship owning will continue to be as they now are, two of the soundest enterprises of the lake country. At present they have overreached a bit, that's all.

Pittsburg Is Shaken Again.

Baltimore Evening Sun. Pittsburg is being shaken, startled by the report of how the wage earners live as it was over the memorable Pittsburg survey investigation of some months ago, when some of the "best workers" resented what Paul Kellogg and his co-workers did to them, but were compelled to admit that Kellogg's conclusions were true.

This time Mrs. Wood S. Worcester, a practical sociologist, working under the direction of the Associated Charities, of Pittsburg, submitted a report of her findings, in which she says that the bulk of the population of the city is made up of privations and their families of vitality because the cost of living is higher than in any other city in the country.

The average family has less food than is furnished the convict in a state prison. More than half the income is spent on food and the family has only half enough to eat.

No man of family here can live properly on less than \$3.50 a day, she says. The gravity of the living situation in Pittsburg is fully exposed in the comprehensive report which is based on average and not extreme cases.

She declares the convict is better off than the workingman; that the average family does not get nearly enough to eat to sustain life; that the common necessities are great extravagances and virtually impossibilities when the size of wages and the excessive high cost of living are taken into consideration.

Mrs. Worcester declared that the majority of families were not living, but barely existing; and that the rising generation, offspring of these poverty-stricken laboring men, are indelibly branded with low vitality and ill health. She made a plea for higher wages, a lower cost of living, declaring that when the labor union leader knows positively what it costs to live in a community he knows what wages his fellow public to support him in his demand for a living wage.

Progressive Oregon.

From the Newcastle (Pa.) Leader. Voters of Oregon, in the recent election, cast their ballots in remarkably sensible way. They voted upon no less than 27 initiative measures, and with only one or two exceptions they endorsed good measures and defeated the bad.

Oregon is the first state in the Union to adopt the initiative, the referendum, the recall, the direct primary and the direct election of United States senators. And it has also adopted a measure providing for the direct expression of its voters upon presidential preference.

Hereafter Oregon will express its views upon all the direct branches of the national party conventions are held.

Another excellent measure adopted by Oregon voters at their recent election is

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

Hurray for Jound old December, 1910; there are five paydays in it.

It seems paradoxical that upper Pullman berths should be lower.

There's plenty of time yet for the weather gods to manufacture a white Christmas.

If there could be 40 public docks, everybody could not be pleased with their location.

The woman with the really Christmas spirit will have some consideration for the "shop girls."

Not in many places could one find more comfortable agreeable winter weather than in Portland.

Let's all help to make up that \$10,000,000 and give the Red Cross stamp vendors a rest before Christmas.

No wonder Captain Peary is in ill humor; Dr. Cook is still making money out of the Pole discovery fable.

The happy woman this week will be the one who has her Christmas presents all bought. (On second thought, this is doubtful.)

The Detroit Free Press asks: "Why do we die?" Principally to add to the list of needless and foolish deaths and woundings.

Baker, or the government, was sensible in dropping the word "City." Every other "City" would do well to follow this example.

Only a few days left for sane and sensible people to do their Christmas shopping. But most such people have done it already.

Apparently the saloons of Oregon and the liquor traffic generally will be much more strictly regulated hereafter, as they should be.

Don't put Red Cross stamps on the Christmas cards and letters. If you do, they will go to the dead letter office. Put the Red Cross stamp on the back of the card.

Boston Globe: The president told Senator Lodge that he hopes he will be reelected. He's like Noah's friend, who said it would be a matter of time before the ark would be built.

In a round number the contiguous continental United States has a population of 92,000,000. A gain in 10 years of 21 per cent. Yet some people imagine that little Japan is coming across to fight us.

Professor Guy Carleton Lee says Portland and Seattle, and the Pacific coast, are growing too fast. But even the people don't think so, and the professor, who they don't, they couldn't help it. We couldn't stop the tide if we would.

December 13 in History—The Council of Trent

The Council of Trent, one of the most important ecclesiastical conventions ever held, was formally opened on December 13, 1545. It was summoned by the Roman Catholic church to stem the tide of the reformation and to keep the Christian church a united body. Its sittings extended over a period of sixteen years, through the reigns of four cardinals, commencing with Paul III, and ending with Pius IV.

The summoning of a general council had been ardently desired by the adherents both of the Roman Catholic and Reformed systems, partly from a desire to have such abuses as were complained of, removed, and partly from the hope of a reconciliation between the opposing faiths, through mutual concessions and an adjustment of the points in dispute by the decision of some authoritative assembly.

The regulation to convene such a meeting was first made by Clement VII, and was seconded, with all his influence, by the Emperor Charles V, but as councils of this character are apt to become very troublesome affairs, those whose power it was to assemble this council, put off doing so as long as possible, hoping that eventually the opposing factions might be brought together without it. Pope Paul II, however, found himself unable, with an appearance of propriety, to postpone longer a measure so earnestly desired, and he accordingly issued letters of convocation for a general ecclesiastical council, after much dispute the town of Trent in the Tyrol, was fixed on as the place of meeting of the assembly.

After the arrangements were completed the council opened on December 13, 1545. The permanent subjects of Charles V were dissatisfied. They claimed the place chosen for the meeting was unsuitable from its remote situation, and found various other objections, and finally declined to attend or recognize in any way the approaching council, which was accordingly held by the Emperor Charles V, but as councils of this character are apt to become very troublesome affairs, those whose power it was to assemble this council, put off doing so as long as possible, hoping that eventually the opposing factions might be brought together without it.

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