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AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

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Again the blackbirds sing; the streams
Wake, laughing, from their winter dreams,
And tremble in the April showers
The tassels of the maple flowers.

—Whittier.

SALABLE COUNCILMAN

DOES IT EVER occur to the public that it is not always the special interests that are responsible for corruption in city councils? What about the councilman who insists on being bribed? What about the councilman who is in office, not for the honor, not to serve the dear people, not for the salary, but to thrive?

If a councilman insists on being bought, the corporation, firm or individual that wants aldermanic action sometimes has to buy. A corporation can be put out of business sometimes by edict of the council. If a franchise or concession is essential to its existence, the aldermanic body is master of the situation. It can put on the clamp and kill the business.

In such an emergency, nobody knows better how and when to force the issue than the councilman who is not in office for his health or for the honor. If one, or three or five councilmen of the "thrifty" sort hold out the itching palm at such a time, the franchise or concession seeker must either stand and deliver or go out of business. There is not the slightest doubt that exactly such cases have happened in the city of Portland.

It is a hold-up game, pure and simple. It is a process by which a corporation otherwise respectable is compelled to give up blackmail money in order to live. The initiative in the corrupting process in such cases is not the corporation but the councilman. It is thus the dishonesty of some councilman that is the beginning and main cause of many a case of corrupt transaction in public affairs.

It is a circumstance that deeply concerns the public of any city. With ten councilmen to be elected next June, it concerns the city of Portland. Many a special interest would rather have an honest than a dishonest councilman. All the people would rather have an honest than a dishonest councilman.

Nobody wants a puppet councilman who turns up a willing ear and holds out an itching palm to whispering agents of Big Business. With ten councilmen to select, the time is ripe in Portland to choose a body of free councilmen and deliver the city from such of its members as are puppets. The charges that some Portland councilmen are now making against other Portland councilmen are sign of how important is the subject and how urgent the need for action.

JOHN MITCHELL'S RESIGNATION

THE RESIGNATION of John Mitchell from the board of the civic federation was inevitable under the circumstances. "He could act on that board as spokesman for the mine workers," says the Scranton Tribune — Republican — a paper published in the heart of the anthracite district—"while acting in a capacity which gave him the ear of many who would not listen to the remarks of the accredited head of a labor union." And that paper adds he "had won more respect amongst friends and foes than any other."

But the New York Call, a Socialist organ, while praising Mr. Mitchell's decision heartily, regrets that he has so veered from the true "working class standpoint" as to "view our industrial system as a joint partnership between capital and labor." And the same paper says that "in decency and self respect" his former fellow workers could do no other than compel him to the decision when they "found that he stood for the master class rather than for the class from which he came." He tried, the Call says, to serve two masters and failed as all others must fail.

The Call also quotes a prominent mine-worker's statement that from now on "the conflict between the Socialists and militant unionists and the conservatives and civic federation supporters will become more intense than ever."

All will sympathize with a man who, while making a material sacrifice, to prove his devotion to a principle, parts at the same time with an arbitrational position wherein the man believed himself of essential use to the cause of labor as a whole. It may be that the time had come when the issue between the conservative on the one hand and the revolutionary and militant forces in the United Mineworkers' union on the other hand, had to be decided.

John Mitchell's record proves him to be an advocate of industrial peace. It is a matter of infinite regret if he is excluded from the position of influence in the councils of the union.

NEW JERSEY'S FAIR-WEIGHTS BILL

TOWARDS THE promotion of honesty in trading in New Jersey a new fair-weights bill has been introduced in and has passed the senate and, in all probability, has by this time passed the house. Its main provisions are the appointment of a state superintendent with assistant state superintendents, and inspectors in all important municipalities, smaller towns being grouped for a jointly selected officer.

The inspection force having been thus provided the punitive provisions follow. The possession or use of any weight or measure is made presumptive proof of ownership. Imperfect weights or measures must be corrected within four days of notice of faults found, under penalty of a fine of $25. It is a misdemeanor, punished criminally for any person to defraud another knowingly by the use of a false weight or measure, or by knowingly delivering less than the quantity he represents. The knowingly marking or stamping of false weights or measures is also made a misdemeanor. The changing of a weight or measure after stamping subjects the seller to a fine of $100.

This new law is said to be a vast improvement on the existing system, and may supply ideas or precedents to be followed in other municipalities.

NO MISTAKE

PREPAREDNESS IS half the battle in the campaign for shipping. Boston is up in arms over the wretched dock system in that city. Philadelphia cannot properly accommodate its own present shipping to say nothing of expected and desired increases, to follow from natural causes and the completion of the Panama canal.

In striking contrast is Baltimore with its new system of municipal docks. It has ample accommodations for present commerce, and claims to be second only to New York alone among the cities of the Atlantic coast. So thoroughly satisfied are the people with the experiment and so perfectly confident of a growing ocean commerce, that a new $10,000,000 bond issue is pending for ratification by the people for an extension of the present system.

"So well financed has been the first dock loan," says the Baltimore Star, "that the city piers, instead of being a burden upon the community, are self supporting, the rentals being sufficient to defray the interest on city stock and to create a sinking fund to retire it at maturity."

The story is the same as that in California, where the state owned docks of San Francisco have never cost the taxpayers a single penny. The testimony of all experts, the history of all experiments and the conclusions of sound judgment indicate that in her step for municipal docks, Portland has acted with wisdom and discretion. Preparedness is half the battle in the campaign for shipping.

DR. PEARSON'S LATEST GIFT

DR. PEARSON HAS attained his ambition. Having reached the great age of 91 and held through his long life the respect and veneration of his fellows, he will die poor. There is a streak of humor in his various announcements that bespeaks a cheerful soul. He plainly gets as much joy out of stripping himself of his money as others in amassing it. He certainly is a glorious spendthrift.

And his is fructifying money. His talents have gained other talents. Not merely in that his gifts have been usually conditional on other contributions being linked with his but that the colleges that he has assisted are those open chiefly to the working student, as distinguished from the playing student. His help has gone to efficiency in the class room rather than to the triumphs of the athletic field.

In the breadth of his benefactions Dr. Pearson has passed all local lines and boundaries. It has been enough that by investigation he satisfied himself that the institution was doing good work and could do better with more money in the treasury, and then his bountiful hand opened freely in its aid.

Nor has there been the taint of narrowness in his gifts. No one sect, no special brand of Christian has profited by his religious preferences, be they what they may, for few know with what, if any, division of the great Christian church Dr. Pearson is affiliated.

And, lastly, having laid out long years ago the track along which his life work should move, quietly and perseveringly he has kept to it. When the tale of his years is at last ended this man will have earned a translation, not an eclipse.

NATIONAL COAL LANDS

A SHORT announcement from Washington under date of March 30 discloses a radical change, if not an arbitrary one, in the methods of disposing of the coal lands of the nation by the government.

It is stated that all future sales of coal lands will be based on a per ton price, instead of $10 and $20 per acre. No intimation is given of the price per ton which is to be charged, but it is alleged that the price will range between $200 and $600 per acre.

President Taft has consistently urged that a new method of disposing of coal lands, namely by way of lease and royalty per ton, be substituted for the existing regulations for sale outright. In this the opponents of Mr. Ballinger, and all the members of the Ballinger investigating committee agree with the president. The president's recommendations reached congress at the beginning of the recent session, but no action was taken thereon. Legislation to this end will be again urged on congress at the earliest practicable moment, possibly at the special session.

The sale of coal land at so much per ton on the supposed coal deposits underlying partakes largely of the nature of a gamble, unless payment is to be periodically made, on the basis of the tonnage mined in the then preceding period. If payment is deferred until quantities mined are ascertained from time to time the transaction has most of the features of a royalty base. Of the two propositions the base seems so much the safer and more equitable, both to the lessor—the government—and to the leasing company or individual, that the motive for this hurried action in providing for sale in advance of legislation for leasing is impossible to divine.

THE SAME EVERYWHERE

UP IN WASHINGTON they are talking of an extra session of the legislature to straighten out the tangle in the road bills. The Spokane Spokesman-Review wants none of it and says:

> The failure to provide for state reapportionment and the hopeless tangle in which the state highways were left was not caused by lack of time allowed the recent legislature, but by deplorable lack of efficiency and public responsibility on the part of individual legislators. The cure does not consist in more sessions, but in legislators who are more determined to devote the time at their disposal to a strict attention to the business at hand and the best service of which they are capable in the interest of the people of the state.

It is a familiar note. Legislative impotency is everywhere. New York has had nearly three months of it in trying to elect a senator, and so has Iowa. The Illinois legislature was in labor five months last year, and at the end produced Lorimer, jackpot legislation and one of the biggest political scandals in history. It was followed by an extra session to do that which was left undone at the regular session.

One hundred and twenty years of experience has demonstrated that proxy legislation has defects that are incurable. City councils are everywhere under condemnation. Legislatures everywhere run amuck. All proxy bodies draw a contingent of puppet statesmen.

This is why the initiative and referendum have been brought forward as an adjunct in legislative processes. This is why governors everywhere have recommended the Oregon plan, why people everywhere are clamoring for it and why state after state is adopting it. Something had to be done, and the movement under Oregon's leadership is the product. The protests lifted against it are mere mole squeaks in the teeth of a political cyclone.

The refusal of the Washington supreme court to reverse the decision in the case of George L. Pepoon for the murder of his wife, evidences the justice of the cause that The Journal took up and pushed after Washington officialdom had refused to do its duty. It is, after all, newspaper publicity that is the best defense of the public and deadly foe of wrong, crime and vice. It was newspaper publicity in this case that whipped inert officials into the activity that brought a wife poisoner to justice.

The plan of Fire Chief Campbell for fire drills in the factories, and a uniform system of signals for fire drills in the schools, should be adopted. Nor should the provisions against an hour of peril end with these precautions. Every other device for safety should be applied by the city authorities so loss of lives may be minimized when the unexpected happens.

Governor Plaisted whipped the Democratic legislature of Maine into a reversal of its action on the income tax amendment, and yesterday that body voted its approval. It increases the number of ratifications to 27, and leaves the rejections at 11. Thirty four ratifications are required to make the amendment operative. An executive with nerve is a good thing for any state.

And they are campaigning for a public auditorium in San Francisco also. Anything San Francisco wants, Portland deserves. Portland without an auditorium and San Francisco with one, will send all the big coast conventions to the California city.

The aldermanic explosion yesterday was from the camp of Councilman Baker. Who will blow up today, who tomorrow and who next day? Mexican cannonading isn't in it with Portland.

If Farson & Company should secure award of the coming issue of Portland bridge bonds, would it take a $2000 argument to make the attorneys see the legality of the securities.

If, as is proposed in one state legislature, the sale of the hypodermic needle is to be prohibited, why not at least control the sale of the pistol? Is the revolver less to be dreaded than the syringe?

"Coin" Harvey, of free silver fame in the presidential campaign of 1896, is now an agitator for good roads in Arkansas. He is leading a movement for the construction of a turnpike from Monte Ne in the latter state to Muscogee, Oklahoma.

It is to be hoped that no Portland councilman will look upon the presentation of his record by other councilmen as slanderous.

The men, too, if small bore trousers be widely adopted, will want low steps on the streetcars.

Letters From the People

Bad Roads and Booms.

To the Editor of The Journal.—Owing to rains and the character of the soil and topography, Oregon is a state of mud roads, impassable to heavy traffic or travel, for more than half of each year.

In damage to traffic, the mud roads of Oregon cost its citizens every year a loss greater than the cost of building good roads, to say nothing of mud roads keeping progressive people from settling in the rural parts of the state.

It would have been money to this state if the governor had approved the $500,000 legislative appropriation, even if half of it had been grafted or wasted.

Far better get it started than wait two years or more for a start. It is too mossback to grow progressive.

Tink of Los Angeles county unanimously voting $3,500,000 in bonds to build 300 miles of up-to-date, scientific hard roads. Private parties in Los Angeles purchased 40,000 acres in the San Fernando valley, near Los Angeles city, and out of their private funds spent $500,000 constructing a 15-mile 200-foot wide parked boulevard, asphalt paved, just to improve and make attractive and salable their 40,000 acres. They have also spent over $1,000,000 grading and improving all the streets and roads in the tract.

Think of the state of California appropriating at the last legislature over $30,000,000 to build good roads in the counties of the state!

Remember that the natural roads are firm and passable for heavy traffic for over 11 months of the year, owing to the soil and lack of rainfall. Then look at the millions of dollars that the progressive people have appropriated to make these naturally good roads scientific modern roads, for the twentieth century automobile travel.

Contrast with this the mud roads of Oregon, impassable for heavy traffic the greater part of the year.

It would be a cheap and good investment, worth millions of dollars to this state, if the governor would call an extra session of the legislature, at a cost of $30,000 or $50,000 to the state, to pass a good roads act and appropriate several millions of dollars to build good roads. At the same time the legislature might adopt the recent California good roads act, providing for county and state bonds to complete the good roading of all of the roads in the state. "Oh, that might result a boom, and we Oregonians don't want a boom; we are opposed to booms," I hear someone say. In fact, I see such sentments expressed in your newspapers and voiced by your public bodies.

Well, that is because you do not know how to handle a boom. Southern California has been boomed to the limit. They have spent millions of dollars booming it all over the world. Southern California and Los Angeles are favorably known in every nation on the earth.

All boom values of the past are realized in actual values in southern California today, and still it goes. It has advanced the development and settlement of southern California more than half a century. Why? Because that live, wideawake people knew how to handle a boom.

They cooperated with all newcomers through the chamber of commerce and showed them how to realize.

A boom is like a high spirited span of horses. Its use depends on the driver. If he does not know how to drive, or if he turns it loose and stands by, to see it go, it will run away and smash up the outfit in a wreck. In the hands of a competent driver, it is a utilitarian thing of beauty and a joy forever.

A boom in Oregon? Not while you are blanketed with mud roads. Afraid of a boom? That is because you do not know how to handle it.

It would pay the citizens of Oregon to employ a half dozen of Los Angeles' best boomers, at a salary of $10,000 to $20,000 each per year, to come up here and start and handle a boom. They are not cheap men. You might not get them even at the above salaries. You certainly could not get them, handicapped with your mud roads.

Do you wonder that California has been getting seven out of every ten persons that have come to the Pacific coast in the past, whether tourist or settler?

They all came on account of the booming. They must have been satisfied with the booming information, for whether settler or tourist, they are all boomers of Los Angeles and southern California. I participated in the booming of southern California and Los Angeles from 1868 down to the present, and know whereof I write.

R. M. WIDNEY.

Who Wants a Baby Boy?

To the Editor of The Journal:—I read in one of our daily papers the other day about a mother who has decided to give her baby boy away. The mother was forced to work long hours in order to make a living. She left the baby with a friend for a time, but not being able to do this any longer, she is forced to either give her baby away or put it in a baby's home. She has decided upon the former. She has decided to give her baby away.

Think of it, my friends; a mother forced to give up her baby. There is nothing in the whole world so great as the love of a mother for her child. And yet we are continuing a system of society in which mothers, thousands of them are forced every year to give up their children. They are forced to go into the factory and work alongside their husbands in order to make a living. The children are often left at home alone or with older brothers or sisters. The care they get is such that thousands of them die every year because of the lack of a mother's care. The mother is forced to give up the home life and all the old time ideals that her forefathers once held so dear.

Why has this change in society been brought about? Do I hear an answer from the captains of industry? Does not old mother earth respond as readily to the hand of labor as of old? The government statistics tell us that with the new methods of production; with all the new machinery we are able to produce about twenty times as much as we could by the old methods, with the old hand tools. It seems to me that rather than sending the mother and often the children into the factory to help make a living for the family, the husband should be working only a half or a third as long as he used to.

In the old days there were no millionaires. There are thousands of them today. In the old days everybody had enough to eat, plenty of clothes to wear and a house over their heads. Today there are hundreds of thousands who are never well fed, who are always very poorly clad and who do not know what it is to own a home. Today 90 per cent of our people are renters. Millions of people are in poverty.

When the time comes that the mothers and the children are no longer forced into the factories because of the greed of a bunch of capitalists, then the mothers will not be forced to give away their babies.

FLOYD C. RAMP.

Same as in Oregon.

From the Spokane Spokesman-Review.

What the state of Washington needs is not an extra session, but legislators who will do the work that is before them at a regular session.

The failure to provide for state reappointment and the hopeless tangle in which the affairs of the state highways were left was not caused by lack of time allowed the recent legislature, but by a deplorable lack of efficiency and public responsibility on the part of individual legislators.

The cure does not consist in more sessions, but in legislators who are more determined to devote the time at their disposal to a strict attention to the business at hand and the best serivce of which they are capable in the interest of the people of the state.

Meanwhile it would be very sensible for the members of the last legislature to think less of an extra session, necessitating the expenditure of more time and money, and more of their duty as public servants, when next called upon to transact important business of the state.

Japan's English Alliance.

From the Washington Post.

How changed the situation upon the expiration of the treaty in 1915, the year the Panama canal is destined to unite the ocean, and Japan stands alone! With the supremacy of the Pacific as the stake, and with the far stronger fleet of the United States to cope with on one hand, and the all-powerful British fleet free to pursue its own plans, and with Russia in the rear, what chance would Japan stand on sea or land? Seeing, therefore, that her existence as a power depends on the renewal of the treaty with Great Britain, the wily Jap presses for a new agreement four years ahead of the expiration of the old.

Will Japan get a new lease to prestige and power? And if not, will she prepare to fight the battle of supremacy before the canal can be completed? Her eagerness for a prompt reply from Great Britain argues superficially that if the answer is not favorable the crisis in the Pacific shall not be long delayed. She must strike while her credit is still good, and while a protecting hand is still raised over her new possessions in Asia. Either that, or she wants to know the worst now, in order that she may have opportunity to curb her activities and sink back gracefully into the comparative political oblivion from which Great Britain raised her. The latter role is, after all, the one best suited to the traits and traditions of the little brown man, for the oriental is not prone to venture so far from home on a mission of conquest and sovereignty. Nor is Japan likely to begin now. Seeing that, even if successful, she would have but a few short years of triumph, and that at a ruinous cost, the result would only be to hasten her decline and fall.

Concerning the Colonel.

From the New York World.

Mr. Roosevelt is beginning to tell the truth about the Panama affair. In his address at the University of California he said:

"I am interested in the Panama canal because I started it. If I had followed traditional, conservative methods I would have submitted a dignified state paper of probably 200 pages to congress, and the debate on it would have been going on yet; but I took the canal zone and let congress debate, and while the debate goes on the canal does also."

Contrast this frank confession of lawlessness with the message to congress of December 15, 1908, in which Mr. Roosevelt said:

"The congress took the action it did after the most minute and exhaustive examination and discussion, and the executive carried out the direction of congress to the letter. Every act of this government, every act for which this government had the slightest responsibility, was in pursuance of the act of the congress here."

COMMENT AND NEWS IN BRIEF

SMALL CHANGE

Dr. Lowell says the planets are drying up. Many people are sorry they can't say the same of Dr. Lowell.

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So far, the press has not been furnished with a facsimile of the script that went up on Belshazzar Diaz's palace wall.

• •

If Uncle Sam had known what an Oregon spring is he would certainly have had those garden seeds out here a little earlier.

• •

In working on the high cost of living puzzle, why not figure in shelter and raiment? For them the money goes; mighty little for food.

• •

Grasshoppers threaten in Kansas, didst say? Then let William Allen White repeat by writing "What isn't the matter with Kansas?"

• •

If Diaz had been sapient to the system prevailing in American sportdom he might as well have had an all-star cabinet about him six months ago.

• •

It was the X-ray man who experted Jack Johnson's skull quantitatively, but the qualitative analysis made by Mr. Jeffries is the one that goes into the record.

• •

As Bill Nye would say, if he were alive today, "What has became of all of them there aviators that was ordered to the front down on the Rio Grande river?"

• •

If Mr. Sulloway still feels that everybody ought to draw a pension, why couldn't he so amend his bill as to pension the ex-Confederates, too. Doubtless many of them need the money.

• •

Bachelors probably wonder why, in the fashion notes, waists are always said to button "down" the front, or "down" the back, and never "up." Well, it's because they do button down. Ask any old benedict.

• •

By way of making his message to the special session entirely interesting, President Taft, instead of stating reasons why things should be done, might announce the steam roller's itinerary for the open season of 1911.

• •

Dr. Doty, health officer at New York, says meningitis as a rule comes to America on steamers from Greece. But nobody could make the people of Montana believe meningitis ever came from any place outside of Bitter Root valley.

• •

"Give me neither poverty nor riches," cried the wise man, centuries ago. Similarly, the householder who has only ground enough for a sweet pea row and a lettuce bed makes as much fuss when the lady asks him to spade it up as if it were a thousand acres. Really, an acre in the edge of town, or 40 out in the country, is about right.

OREGON SIDELIGHTS

Street paving has been resumed at Baker.

• •

Grants Pass is at work on the problem of a pure water supply.

• •

Klamath Falls takes pride in the appearance of her uniformed police force.

• •

Forest Grove expects a year of uncommon activity in the building of residences.

• •

The election, to decide whether Baker shall issue bonds for water and street improvements and a municipal lighting plant, will be held April 12.

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Mrs. Anna Campbell, a Baker pioneer of 1875, is dead. Her husband, Patrick Campbell, was once county judge and was a prominent business man.

• •

Amity Standard: Jake Moser, who recently purchased the Bashor place, has just completed the task of setting out 40,000 gooseberry cuttings.

• •

As a result of the establishing of the flouring mill industry at Astoria, which seems in prospect, Astorians hope to secure common point rates on grain.

• •

To assist in preparations for the centennial, it is proposed to organize at Astoria a society of 100 women, to be known as "The Daughters of Sacajawea."

• •

Ex-Governor T. T. Geer is to go to Astoria soon to gather data for a special article on the Astoria Centennial, for the June number of the Pacific Monthly.

• •

P. B. Harrison, a traction manager of Chicago, and a group of Roseburg men, have bought the Orville Martin ranch, 700 acres, near Canyonville, and will put 500 acres of it under irrigation.

• •

Roseburg Review: Roseburg already has about three miles of paved streets and this area will be doubled by the end of the present year. Several miles of cement sidewalks are also being built.

• •

Corvallis Times-Gazette: The water plugs throughout the city have been painted white. This has been done that the fire department might find it easy to locate the plugs at night. By this treatment the plugs also become more or less ornamental.

• •

An ancient and battered violin for which Theodore Renshaw of Grants Pass bartered a new $10 fiddle and an ax 40 years ago, has been shown at Eugene to be a genuine Guarnerius. Within the battered instrument was found this inscription: "Andreas Guarnerius fecit Cremona sub titulo Santa Teresia, 1670."

SEVEN FAMOUS BEAUX

Ward McAllister.

The United States has always been too matter of fact to pay much attention to the beau ideal and generally he has flourished here with little attempt made to record either his fads, foibles and fancies. When he did thrive, or was given any prominence, it has been as a social leader who was more of an adept at planning and conducting social affairs than for any personality which he himself exhibited.

One of the nearest approaches to the American "Beau Brummel" was Ward McAllister, who for many years was the recognized leader of New York city's exclusive set. Berry Wall was a little too much of a fop to have given prefience over McAllister in the chronicling of an American beau.

Ancestry had no doubt much to do with the position that Ward McAllister attained as the great American leader of society. He was a descendant on his mother's side from a French Huguenot family and his maternal grandmother was a niece of "Swamp Fox" Marion. His grandfather and father were both prominent citizens of Georgia, the former holding the district attorneyship of that state through appointment by President Washington.

Ward McAllister was born in Savannah, Ga., in 1827, and it was not until 1853 that he established himself in New York and began his conquest to become the most prominent figure in the fashionable world. Being a man of the highest social culture and refinement, his success was almost immediate. His hobby was getting up and managing balls and dinners. The summers he spent at Newport and his activity succeeded materially in making that resort the great social capital of the country during the warm months. In New York he established the famous dancing club known as "The Patriarchs," and at Newport he introduced the "Dytch Treats," otherwise called subscription picnics. Occasionally he would visit the Bahamas in the winter and traveled extensively abroad.

His publication of a book called "Society As I Found It" created much interest when it was issued and was widely circulated. In this book he notes that at the first ball he attended in New York, given by Mrs. John C. Stevens, he paid a thousand dollars for a fancy dress, which was the handsomest and richest at the ball.

The first of the famous "Patriarch" balls suggested by McAllister was given in the early winter of 1872. From its very birth this organization became a great social feature. In his book McAllister says: "You could but read the list of those who gave these balls, to see at a glance that they embraced not only the smart set, but the old Knickerbocker families as well." It was during this season that the famous "Mother Goose" ball was given at Delmonico's, all the features of which were planned and carried out by the social leader.

At one time, he relates, a lady asked him to secure for her daughter an introduction at one of these balls. He informed her that he would have to consult the powers that be, as he generally consulted them in all matters. "May I ask if you know any one in this great city, and whom do you know?" was the question put to the matron by McAllister. "This was enough," he says, "to set my fair visitor off." She began relating how her family went back to William the Conqueror. "My dear madame," he replied, "does it not satisfy any one to come into existence with the birth of one's country? In my opinion, four generations of gentlemen make as good and true a gentleman as forty." Her only reply was, "You are easily satisfied, sir."

Ward McAllister was a famous gourmet and a delightful story teller, and he became known all over the country for his chance remark that New York's smart set comprised only 400 persons, which was widely copied in the newspapers and was the origin of the term "The Four Hundred." He owed his social prestige most of all to perfect tact. He was a modern "Beau Brummel," not in his dress, for he was not conspicuously or overdressed and some time paraded Fifth avenue in such garments as revealed the signs of wear, nor was he always particular to be up to the style in the matter of his silk hats. But he knew exactly what to do, had perfect command of the small frivolities that make society talk, and had, after all, at heart that purpose of the true gentleman always, consideration for others and a constant remembrance of the weaknesses of human nature.

A man who can thus conduct himself must possess rather deep knowledge of human nature and it was undoubtedly this quality which brought to McAllister such influence in society as he possessed.

Next week—Seven Infamous Women.

Five Million Dollars for a Target

From the Atlanta Journal.

The ancient emperor who set a city afire that he might watch it burn is not without modern imitators. The United States battle ship, the Texas, which cost $5,000,000, was last week turned into a target and shot to pieces simply in order to demonstrate the power of modern steel projectiles.

The material in the Texas was comparatively new. Had it required a million or more dollars to reequip it in modern fashion that would certainly have been cheaper and wiser than blowing up $5,000,000 for a target. It could and should have been put to some purpose of value.

Yet two broadsides from the New Hampshire, which was steaming six miles away, turned the Texas into a mass of worthless junk. A ship for which the people of the United States paid five million dollars was used as a toy.

Under the most conservative management, the cost of a navy and an army and of war preparedness is heavy enough. Since Cleveland's administration our army bill has more than quadrupled. It is not to be denied that an adequate navy is all important, and no one can rightly begrudge money which, within reasonable bounds, is spent wisely for this purpose.

But when a five-million-dollar ship is blown to pieces in target practice, it would seem that the time has come for us to pause and consider the need of economy and efficiency in the administration of federal departments.

It was fine sport, no doubt, this shooting up of five million dollars, but it is the people who have to pay the fiddler.

Tanglefoot

By Miles Overholt

A MEXICAN TORTILLA.

"How's Jocxtoxcopotepetl now, anyway?" inquired one Mexican of another. (Jocxtoxcopotepetl is the name of a town. You pronounce it with the accent on the "W.")

"Booming," said the second Mexican. (You laugh right after the word "booming." The Mex refers to the booming of the guns and—oh, well that's the joke.)

ON THE LADDER'S ROUND.

My Uncle Hiram Banjostring lived
down at Turkey Ridge;
Perhaps you know his farmhouse—it is
just below the bridge.
Well, anyway, my uncle raises hogs
and stumps and boys.
And he has a hare-lipped woman for
the partner of his joys.
Now uncle's joys are simple things and
he's most always gay,
And he has money on the shelf to
cheer the rainy day.
One day I said to uncle: "Tell me how
success is reached."
Then he took a chew of home-made
twist, and this is what he
preached:

"Just keep your nerve and don't butt in,
Remember that—and try;
'Tis easy then for you to win—
And live until you die."

One day my Aunty Jemima (she was
Uncle Hiram's wife)
With a double-barreled shotgun threatened Uncle Hiram's life.
'Twas a sad and lonesome moment—I
was present, too, you know;
Though my visit wasn't ended, I decided I would go.
But my Aunt Jemima monkeyed with
the trigger now and then,
And I changed my sudden notion and I
took my seat again.
I was sitting next to uncle and he
whispered in my ear,
In a sort of husky undertone so aunty
couldn't hear:

"Just keep your nerve and don't butt in;
Remember that, my son;
Jemima's dealing and she will win,
She has the trumps—and gun."

I've lived some 30 years or more, and
uncle's living, too,
But Aunt Jemima left him; yep, she's
sleeping 'neath the dew.
But my Uncle Hiram whistles as he
did before she went,
And his eyes are bright as ever, but his
back is somewhat bent.
Though I haven't grabbed the ladder of
success up at the top,
I am plodding on my journey without
water, feed or stop;
But I think of Uncle Hiram as I struggle day by day,
And I take a firmer hand hold when I
think I hear him say:

"Just keep your nerve and don't butt in,
Keep that beneath your hat;
Take even steps and you will win—
It's an easy climb at that."

Concerning Portland.

From the Arlington Record.

Portland gained considerable prestige as a livestock market from the recent Fat Stock show held there. Not only was the show a great success but it broke former price records for stock. The sale of the champion steer for $403, or 25 cents a pound on foot, is the highest figure paid for beef in that market. Breeders in attendance were impressed as never before with the importance of this market and its future as a livestock center. Portland is also the highest market for cattle in the United States, quality and conditions being considered. Inside of five years, predicted a Montana stockman at the show, all the cattle in the northwest will go to Portland.

The Snake Liar

(Contributed to The Journal by Walt Mason, the famous Kansas poet. His prose-poems are a regular feature of this column in The Daily Journal).

Full soon, when Gentle Annie wakes, and verdure clothes the hill and glen, the man whose lies are all of snakes will come into his own again. From fragrant meadowlands he'll come, to tell of rattlesnakes that wore some forty rattles and a drum; he killed that snake and thirty more. The hoopsnake, spurred by nature's laws, will come forth from its dark abode, and take its tail between its jaws, and roll along the country road. The joint snake from its cavern flits, if you believe the liar's fake; he breaks it up in little bits, and each becomes another snake. When verude clothes the hill and glen, and summer breezes fan the sky, we'll have the same old yarns again, the same old snakes that never die. Invention in all other lines still marches with this busting age; the serpent liar never shines, nor brings new lies to earn his wage. Is there no gifted, earnest soul, the chains of age-long sloth to break, to knock old customs with a pole, and tell new lies about a snake?

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