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The joys we expect are not

so bright, nor the troubles so

dark as we fancy they will be.

—Charles Reade.

WILL LANE BLUNDER?

Secretary Lane insists on further

investigation and delay of the

West Umatilla project, he

will blunder. What is more, he

will, in the very beginning, place

the new administration at a disadvantage

in Oregon.

The West Umatilla project has

already been investigated to death.

The original reclamation engineers

investigated and approved it. Director

Newell investigated and approved it.

The special board of army engineers

investigated and approved it. Secretary

Fisher investigated and approved it.

President Taft even set aside the

money from the reclamation fund by

which the project was to be

financed. The only hitch in the

whole past program was the failure

of Secretary Fisher in the last days

of his term to approve the contracts

with the private owners of land in

the proposed project.

There is not a reason in the

world for Secretary Lane to open up

the subject with a view to treating

West Umatilla as a new project.

There is not an excuse under, on or

above the earth why the work of

the Taft administration respecting

the project should be repudiated

and all the tedious and tiresome

preliminaries be begun all over

again. If Secretary Lane does it,

he will give "that tired feeling"

to a great many friends and supporters

of the Woodrow Wilson administration,

and place in the hands of its

enemies a club with which to

belabor the Wilson administration.

From the first, Oregon has been

cruelly discriminated against as to

reclamation. Oregon has contributed

\$9,500,000 to the reclamation fund,

and has received for reclamation

in return \$925,000.

How much more money does Secretary

Lane think Oregon should pay

into the fund to entitle her to at

least fair consideration?

CALL ON THE LANDLORDS

The publicity department of the

Portland Commercial club is

preparing to raise \$50,000 a

year for three years for publicity

purposes. The plan is to spend

\$30,000 a year the first two

years and have \$90,000 available

for publicity work during the Panama

exposition in 1915.

The organization has done a

splendid work. Its past record is

evidence of the future things it can do.

Unhappily, it has been largely

financed in the past by other than

those who were most benefited.

The heaviest contributors have been

merchants, manufacturers, and

others whose capital is in business

employing workers, paying salaries,

and otherwise distributing life

through the community.

The great landlords of Portland

have paid little. The large landed

estates have contributed practically

nothing. The men with large land

holdings have borne little, if any,

of the cost of this excellent public

enterprise.

Yet it is the landlords, the land

holders and the big estates that are

almost wholly benefited. It is

growth of population that causes

the value of a Portland lot to advance

from a few hundred dollars to

\$250,000. Many a lot in the business

district of Portland has passed

through such a change in value

and it was solely due to the increase

in the number of people and the

multiplication of the number of

buildings and businesses around it.

The whole effect of the publicity

work is to further advance these

values out of which landlords, land

holders and big Portland estates

have become so enormously prosperous.

For that reason, it is to that

class of citizens that the finance

committee of the publicity department

should turn for the greater

part of the contributions to the

exploitation fund. The personnel of

the finance committee is such that

the members should have large influence

with our large realty owners

and be able for once to secure

heavy contributions from them.

It is wrong to continue to depend

on the usual sources. Merchants,

as merchants, should not be expected

to carry any of this burden. The

growth of population in a sense

penalizes the merchants. It emboldens

the landlords to exact higher

rentals, a practice that has been

so much resorted to that many

merchants have been driven from

the more expensive thoroughfares

to more modest streets.

The removal of the Woodward

(Merchants) people in a case in point.

The growth of the population not only

drove them off a noted thoroughfare,

but also brought business competition.

Yet they were contributors

to the publicity fund while

many a landlord who was brought

heavily increased profits, contributed

nothing.

What is true of the merchants is

true of mill people, manufacturers,

and all employing businesses, whose

capital is employed for work and

workers.

As we go along, we should strive

for a larger and larger justice here

below. The landlord class gets

nearly the whole benefit of the

publicity work and those in the land-

lord class should cast their hats

into the ring and raise the fund.

NAME A SUCCESSOR

WITH all possible despatch,

the Washington government

should displace Henry Lane

Wilson as ambassador to Mexico.

If there were no other reason,

the doubts aroused by charges filed

by Luis Manuel Rojas are sufficient.

They are renewal with additions, of

direct charges made by the New

York World shortly after the assassination

of Madero and Saurez.

Indeed, representations in his own

behalf by Ambassador Wilson in his

request for reappointment to his position

are partial verification. Mr. Wilson,

who was hostile to Madero,

was on friendly terms with

Felix Diaz, and who was in frequent

conference with Huerta before

and after the murder of the president

of Mexico, believes that his

diplomatic attitude was of so

much assistance to the men who are

now in control of Mexico that the

best interests of the United States

demand his reappointment.

The fact that Mr. Wilson claims

to be in favor of the blood-stained

Mexican palace is ample reason for

the speedy appointment of his successor.

The republic of the United States

cannot afford to take chances on

retaining at Mexico City, an ambassador

who is charged directly with

contributing so powerfully to the

destruction of constitutional government

in a neighboring republic. Mr. Wilson's

claim that he is on such good

terms with the despots who

assassinated the first constitutionally

elected president and vice president

in a generation, is not a reason

for, but a reason against his

receiving a new commission.

President Woodrow Wilson's great

public statement to our southern

neighbors on this continent was a

masterpiece in its pacific effect

on the people of those nations.

President Wilson should now supplement

that statement by issuing a

commission to an ambassador to

Mexico who will be under no charge

of being a sympathizer and abettor

of government by assassination.

PLUCKY MONTENEGRO

It sounds ridiculous when little

Montenegro, with a population

considerably smaller than Portland,

bids defiance to a fleet

of warships representing five great

European powers.

But her position is, in reality, a

strong one. She insists that she

shall conquer and take possession

of Scutari, as the fruit of her five

months' siege, and the sacrifice of

probably 20,000 of her small army,

and the expenditure of her last

dollar. Until that is accomplished,

her Balkan allies will surely stand

by her, with nearly a million soldiers

at their disposal, and the good

will of three fourths of Europe be

behind them.

After Scutari is taken Montenegro

has security in hand for other

concessions in territory and commercial

privileges if she has eventually

yielded the city to the proposed

Albania for its capital. The boundaries

of the new Albania are not yet

finally settled, and there is a

chance for a give and take to

Montenegro's advantage, with Scutari

as a power in the game.

When King Nicholas yielded the

command-in-chief of the besieging

army to the Serbian general he

made an astute move, by dividing

the responsibility of pressing the

siege to the bitter end.

All the fleet can do is to block-

ade the little port. They have

neither soldiers to land nor the

powers ready to go that length—

and time is on the Montenegrins'

side.

RAILROAD BROTHERHOODS

A WRITER in the current

World's Work brings together

the figures which show the

membership, and describes the

workings, of the four principal rail-

road brotherhoods which constitute

95 per cent of the crews of the

nation's 60,000 locomotives and

2,000,000 coaches and cars.

Of the ties that bind these men

together those derived from their

common contributions of money are

the strongest.

The engineers, organized 50 years

ago, have insurance policies in force

for \$130,000,000. They have paid

\$24,000,000 to injured members

and to heirs.

The firemen have \$87,000,000 of

beneficiary certificates in force, and

disburse \$1,000,000 a year in injury

benefits.

The conductors' union has under-

written \$100,000,000 of insurance

and has disbursed \$14,000,000 in

benefits. It has paid \$1,500,000 in

monthly payments to aged and dis-

abled members. It has a reserve

fund of nearly \$2,000,000.

The trainmen have disbursed

\$23,000,000 in benefits and pay an

average insurance of \$2,350,000 a

year.

As a whole, these four organiza-

tions have underwritten half a bil-

lion dollars worth of insurance.

The cost of administration ranges

between 14 and 14 1/2 per cent. They

have paid out by means of this out-

fit, altogether \$100,000,000 in ben-

efits. Each brotherhood has a

separate strike fund of \$100,000

at the command of the chief, and

each has furthermore immediately

available resources of \$1,000,000

for strike expenses.

The history of these great bodies

shows that at least in the United

States, the sense of responsibility

is evolved from the control of great

resources, and great power. Hasty

or ill-considered action is hardly

possible when the immensity of the

machine operated by these men is

taken into account. A conjoint

membership of 300,000 trained and

reliable men spread over a whole

continent is an army too great to

be moved save through the studied

and concentrated action of its lead-

ers. While these creations of as-

sociated individuals are sensitive to

the very tips of their tentacles to in-

juries suffered by any individual in

their membership, yet redress rather

than resentment, will all but inevitably

inspire the movements of the great

corporate bodies.

organizing two years ago, has

brought out, by assisted passages,

410 wives and 1181 children to join