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Please attend to this at once. And, again, if anyone owes us we would appreciate it if they would pay up at once, as we need money very much.

## HOME RULE FOR IRELAND.

On Thursday, April 8, Gladstone made the greatest effort of his life in the English Commons, in introducing his much-talked-of measure for home-rule in Ireland. Throughout his long speech, of over three hours, the old statesman maintained himself well. He freely confessed that coercion had been a failure, and quoted in favor of home-rule in Ireland the example of Austria and Hungary and Sweden and Norway, as well as the futile attempts to govern the colonies by laws passed in England that had proved failures. His proposition is to establish for Ireland an upper house of parliament to consist of the twenty-eight Irish peers now in parliament and of seventy-five members to be elected every ten years, in all 103 members. The lower house to have 206 members, elected by the people, each elector to have a holding worth £25, or \$125; members of parliament to have an annual income of £200, or \$1,000.

The Irish are to have no voice in the parliament of Great Britain, as they will rule Ireland at home, and should not make laws for England and Scotland. Ireland is to furnish one-tenth of the national income and of the imperial expenses. The land question seems to be left for future consideration. His address was received with enthusiasm, more especially from the Parnellites. The occasion was one of the most memorable in all English history. Tens of thousands thronged the streets and welcomed the Premier with such cheering as London never heard. He was overcome with the magnitude of his greetings in the streets and in the Commons. Many members to secure their seats took possession before daylight and remained there all day. When he concluded Mr. Trevelyan, who has recently resigned from the ministry, because he differs from the views of Mr. Gladstone, rose and explained his reasons for resigning as he did. He utterly disbelieved in home-rule for Ireland and would prefer "complete separation of Ireland from Great Britain," as "we should then know the worst at once." He asked: "How long will it be before Irish contributions to the Imperial Exchequer will be denounced and reprobated as English tribute?"

Parnell followed by accepting the proposed act as in the main considerate and satisfactory, but it contained blots that his side would do their best to remove. One was paying Irish tribute to the imperial treasury; the upper house too, was to contain a portion not amenable to the popular vote, who would have power to obstruct necessary legislation. With all its defects he believed it would be accepted as satisfactory by the Irish people.

This bill proposes to pacify Ireland, but as Mr. Trevelyan says, it will not be long before the Irish will resent having to carry a portion of the national debt and to pay a fifteenth of the imperial expenditures. Mr. Parnell sanctions that view of the matter by his objections. If the object is to induce Ireland to become loyal and attached in sympathy and sentiment to English rule and dynasty, it is very uncertain if it can be accomplished. The Irish are not disposed to be brothers-in-unity with the English people, though many of them live in England and find employment in her workshops and mines and factories.

## THE STATE TAX COMMISSION REPORT.

The commissioners appointed by the State to revise the tax laws and prepare a bill for the next Legislature to consider, have made their report and submit a bill that covers the whole question and shows wise consideration of the subject.

This commission consisted of Wm. Herrou, of Salem, a farmer and warehouseman; Henry Failing, of Portland, banker and merchant; J. Nasburg, of Coos Bay; C. J. Smith, comptroller of the O. R. & N. Co.; R. S. Strahn, of Albany, a lawyer; S. Hughes, of Forest Grove, a merchant; Wm. Hall, of Grant

county, stock-man and miner. They all agree on the main features of the bill reported. Mr. Strahn dissents from some of its features. He objects to the taxation of gross receipts of railroads as giving no certain income to the State on such property. He also dissents from the proposed deduction of debts from amount of credits held by the tax payer in which we think the majority will be found with him. Mr. Strahn does not accept the views of the others that lands are only assessed at one-third to one-half their actual value. He doubts if the discrepancy is so great as thus stated.

The bill reported provides that the county courts are to divide their respective counties into convenient districts at the February term 1888, and the county assessors shall nominate and with the assent of the county courts appoint deputy assessors for the several districts, who shall be residents thereof and have resided for two years previous in that county. The county assessor shall assess his own district and consolidate the county assessment in one book.

All property shall be listed and assessed at the hour of 6 A. M. on the morning of the first day of April of each year.

Property exempt from the taxation is that belonging to the United States and to this State; public and co-operate property of counties, towns, etc. The personal property of literary, charitable and educational institutions, and real estate exclusively occupied for such uses only. Houses for public worship and not to exceed one acre of ground; burial grounds and structures thereon; public libraries and property connected therewith; property of Indians not citizens, except land purchased by them; personal property of those who by age, infirmity or poverty are not able to pay taxes.

Deduction for indebtedness can only apply on credits held by the person assessed that he would pay taxes on. A heavy fine is imposed on anyone making false returns of indebtedness to be deducted. (This provision is manifestly unjust and calculated to favor those who do a credit business only. It works unfairly, because a man who borrows and owns real estate has as bona fide a debt to pay as anyone else, and the chances are that he is more certainly a debtor than others. It is unfair that one man should be absolved from paying taxes while another is compelled to pay under similar fact of being a debtor). In relation to mortgages a provision is made that the full cash value of land mortgaged shall be ascertained and apportioned between the owner and the mortgagee in proportion to their interests. Full provision is made relating to mortgages and to all payments to be credited on account of same.

Assessors shall leave schedules, in blank, with all taxpayers, and assist him, if necessary, in making his return. When the list is made it shall be verified and subscribed. Assessors shall commence work on the first day of April and complete same by the 15th of May ensuing.

Property shall be assessed at its true and full value in money; not what it would sell for at forced sale, but each piece or article shall be valued by itself, at the sum the assessor believes it to be fairly worth. The value of land shall be first found and then the value of improvements shall be added. Value of crops ascertained and stated.

If persons refuse to list their property or swear to their returns, assessor shall note the fact and ascertain amount of property and value of it and assess same at double such valuation. Assessors must complete their books by the second Monday in June and return to the county clerk. County assessors shall have five dollars a day, and deputies four dollars for time necessarily spent.

Railroad companies shall pay two per cent. taxes on their gross earnings. On or before the first day of October of each year.

If taxes are not paid within thirty days after same are due, a penalty of ten per cent. shall be added. (This is unreasonable). Real property of railroads shall be taxed same as in case of individuals.

Very full provisions are made for the assessing and taxing of banks, so that no evasion, as heretofore charged, is hardly possible if this bill becomes a law. Every school clerk shall certify to the county clerk of his county the number of mills voted by the voters of his district, county clerks shall prepare a list of all legal tax payers in their counties and description of property returned by each one. Road districts shall be taxed and collections made by the county treasurer, who is to be tax collector under the proposed law. The receipts given shall cover State tax, county levy,

State school tax, road tax and school district levy, which will greatly simplify and improve the system of collection.

A State board of equalization shall consist of one member from each judicial district. The several county judges and commissioners shall constitute county boards of equalization. The system laid down provides a very competent scheme for correcting errors and securing correct returns in all cases. This measure, with perhaps a few changes, should become a law. So soon as the legislative meddler has a chance at it he will strive to tear it to tatters. It is the work of competent men, practical and versed in the various ways of business, who devoted their individual attention to this work from the fourth of January to the twentieth of February, a longer time than an Oregon Legislature sets. It will not be possible for any Legislature to devote the same attention to this subject and it is to be hoped that the members elect will immediately take up this important question and study all its bearings as laid down in this bill. The measure is of the greatest importance. The State has outgrown the crudities of its early legislation and has become so much more important and rich in all that makes powerful communities that new and strong legislation must be furnished to suit the necessities of the time.

## LATE KEEPING FRUITS.

Some discussion has passed through the Oregon press of late as to the keeping of late winter fruits. Owing to the low freights late apples were received via San Francisco from the Chicago market and sold at Portland. Later a car load was expected to arrive via the Northern Pacific. The point to all this is the important fact that Oregon apples are not very late keepers. The same varieties will keep longer East of the Rocky Mountains than this side of the Cascade range. We are asked why this should be so and there seem to be two very plausible reasons for the fact. One is that our fall and winter seasons are so much more temperate and mild that fruit feels the effect and sooner decays than East of the Rocky Mountains where the cold is steady and fruit has to be kept in cellars or houses constructed for the purpose and made especially to withstand the severe winters. If good houses were constructed here to keep the best of late winter fruit in a temperature that should be cool and equable, not responding to every change of the atmosphere, apples would keep much more reliably than they now do.

Mr. Mark Levy informs us that the only late keeping apple he handles with satisfaction is the yellow Newtown pippin. The greenings do not please epicures of the Pacific and the yellow Newtown pippin has to do extensive duty. At the East they have the Ben Davis apple, that is very excellent and a late keeper. We have never heard of this apple being successfully grown here and the fruit growers should immediately test it in every locality to determine its reliability as a bearing and late keeping fruit. If it can thrive here as in New York State we must propagate and fruit it largely.

In old times we used to make something of the wine-sap, but of late years it is said to have run out. The probability is that this variety has degenerated because allowed to grow too thickly on the trees. Overbearing will damage the tree and greatly injure the fruit. If the young fruit is carefully trimmed, wine-saps will grow large and be luscious to the taste and will bear good crops every year. Any tree will bear all it can reasonably ripen and give a flavor and character to, without any off years. Many other varieties suffer from over-bearing and the care is simply to thin the fruit so as to leave only what it can actually ripen of good size and flavor.

The pound pear is a fruit that is far from being justly appreciated. We occasionally take a lunch in Portland and relish greatly one of these mammoth pears when well baked. They are as tender as a baked Bartlett and as good. Indeed they are a genuine luxury, not one in four that grow them take good care of them to keep them for winter—or rather for late spring use. Oregon should ship East a hundred car loads of pound pears every spring and they should bring a good price. We must learn to take care of what we have and make the most of things we possess and grow things successfully. If orchardists will give their views expression in our columns they will do something towards furthering the best interests in our region and State. Let us have a free discussion by all means of this fruit question and call out what each one knows of late keeping varieties. It is very important that this section should improve its opportunities and first we must know what our opportunities are.

## The Apiary.

## BEE NOTES FOR APRIL.

BY E. Y. CHASE.

## Propagation of Bees.

What is the best method of increasing stock? There are two ways in which this may be done, the most common is to let nature alone and bees will divide themselves, or swarm; and the other by dividing them artificially. Before discussing the relative merits of these two methods, it will be well to consider how the little fellows work, when left to their own sweet wills. As stated in a former essay, "bees in many respects act very much as human beings would under similar circumstances; but in the case of finding a new home for young ones they act exactly the reverse, for when young folks want to begin housekeeping, they strike out and find new quarters, leaving the old folks at home, but in the case of bees, it is the old folks that migrate, leaving the young ones at the old homestead. Thus the swarm consists of the old queen and old bees, in fact nearly all that are able to fly. They go because the old hive has become filled up with brood, bees and honey. Before leaving however they make ample preparations, that the young ones may have all they need to continue housekeeping, a bundance of drones or male bees, plenty of worker brood, with numerous queen cells, some of which will produce a young queen within a very few days. When the young queen is born the first thing she does is to stretch her long legs, look around and hunt up some open cell of honey upon which she makes a square meal. She then marches round and makes it her business to destroy the unborn queen in every queen cell she can find, however the bees will sometimes protect a number of them and from these are produced later young queens that lead the after swarms, so that about eight days after the first swarm left, another will come forth, and then perhaps another, all the time the bees in a tumult with a bad attack of swarming fever, during which they gather but little honey and the owner suffers serious loss, thereafter swarms not being able to gather enough honey to keep them through the winter.

The young queen leaves the hive to meet the drone the first time when she is about five days old and continues to go out daily until she becomes fertile and does not settle down to business and lay eggs till she is about ten days old. Young are produced twenty-one or two days after. The hive has been without a renewed supply of worker for at least thirty-one days, all the time losing in working force.

Now this fuss and loss all takes place during the best honey flow, and careful observations have made it apparent that if swarming can be prevented and all hands kept busy at work the result in honey product is more than doubled. To accomplish this result the intelligent bee man resorts to artificial division.

There are various ways in which this is managed by different operators. Space forbids the enumerations of them all, though many possess points of excellence. I have tried various ways, but the one described here has given me the best results. The time to divide is as early in the spring as young fertile queens can be obtained, then take from one or more populous colonies three or more frames containing brood just hatching, replacing them in the old hive by frames of foundation, well wired. Place the frames of hatching brood in a small hive, having first put the young queen upon one of them; cover with a cloth and set the small hive in a warm place. This is called a nucleus hive; in about two weeks take out the combs, bees and all, place them in a larger hive, give them more frames containing sealed brood, not forgetting also to give them plenty of honey, as the young bees require much feed and do not forage till two weeks old. In three or four weeks we will have a splendid swarm of young, vigorous bees. We have also accomplished another thing, we have depleted the old hive, and given the queen so much room to deposit the eggs that they do not get the swarming fever, but work right along gathering honey.

With all the care that can be used the method of introducing queens into hives containing old bees is very wasteful of queens, as the old fellows are apt to worry and kill them, while young bees will always treat them kindly. It is a great aggravation as well as serious loss of time and money to take the trouble of procuring a fine Italian queen and some bright morning find her carried out dead.

This method is not an absolute pre-

ventive of swarming, for when working for box honey they will often swarm in spite of us. If the nursery lamp is used almost any number of young queens may be raised and the number of new colonies rapidly increased, and that too, with a very good crop of honey. Last season by these means I increased my stock from ten to fifty good strong colonies, all of which wintered well, and also yielded a large surplus of honey.

Almost every dealer in bee supplies can furnish at moderate cost these small colonies with a tested Italian queen, and in the long run this will prove by far the cheapest and best way to Italianize, and at the same time in a good season, give any amount of increase that may be desired. The excess of honey obtained by this method will more than pay for the expense incurred.

## Telegraphic News.

Morrison's new tariff bill is short and not what many expected. It proposes to place on the free list lumber, and many wooden manufactures such as hubs, spokes, etc., also hemp, flax, fish and wool. The duty on woolen goods will be reduced, also sugar. It is designed to please the South and we hope it may. It is thought he cannot carry the house for wool on the free list.

In Southern California two men, Reter Heminie and his son, who had just killed a man in a land quarrel, were taken from jail and hung by neighbors.

At Brooklyn N. Y. 1880 railroad hands settled differences and returned to their work.

W. E. Mitchell, of Batesburg S. C. found a rough stone that seems to be a diamond worth \$100,000.

Another building (put up by Buddensick who built many such shams in New York) recently fell, fatally injuring some inmates. Buddensick is serving a sentence as a penalty for such work and has a life penalty.

Gladstone is in a very tight place and will hardly carry the Commons. The people hold meetings and condemn his policy for Irish home rule and land laws.

Caleb W. West is appointed Governor of Utah Territory.

Jay Gould says they are surprised at the weakness of the Knights of Labor, for they prove not to have near the strength and influence railroad men anticipated.

Trains are now run on the Gould roads by guards of military and the riots, finding they have now to fight the whole nation will have to subside.

On the arrival at Mazatlan, Mexico, of a steamer supposed to bring 600 Chinese, a terrible riot broke out, only quelled by the military.

Gen. Crook refuses to surrender the Apaches to the U. S. civil authorities, and no doubt Arizona justice would visit swift vengeance on them if he could do so.

It is reported that one-third of all the lady physicians in England have broken down in the health of the brain and had to be sent to the asylum. This is probably a false statement given out to frighten women from the study of medicine. At least such is not the case in this country.

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