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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1901.

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Heat's Chicago American calls attention to the fact that a chrysanthemum, imported from Japan, may be developed to almost any size and color, according to the attention of the gardener. This is what intelligent control does for the flower. Suppose human beings could be treated likewise, either by themselves or by others, what a nation of self-supporting, self-governing people we could become?

The Wall street gamblers are said to die more frequently than other men. When the gratuity fund of the stock exchange was established it was calculated that the deaths would number about thirty per annum. It is now discovered that the estimate was far too low, there never in any year being as few as that number, while in the last two years they have averaged seventy-four deaths per year. The life is exciting, non-creative in character and therefore self-destructive. A thief cannot hope to live as long as a producer.

The New York chamber of commerce is in favor of local option and land value taxation and is using its influence to have the New York legislature pass an act putting the idea in force. If all the burden of government rested upon the land values which the community creates there would be equality of taxation and the money lender would have to invest his money in enterprise and industry in order to earn returns upon it, and not in mortgages only and bond issues, as is now the case. Local option in taxation, so that every incorporated town and every county could raise their revenues, for the purposes of government, as they see fit, is a need of the hour. If there were local option of taxation in Oregon every county in the state would not be encouraged to do every other county by under valuations in order that it might lessen the share of its contribution for state government. Under the present system the biggest perjuror and the most unconscientious profit the most from evasion and by hiding their property from the assessor.

The Chicago Times-Herald, which has been an ardent supporter of President McKinley and his administration, is severe in its criticisms of the president for the appointments of Justice McKenna's son to a military post in Porto Rico and the son of Justice Harlan as the attorney general of the island. These appointments, coming upon the eve of the hearing of the Porto Rico constitution-flag cases in the supreme court, in which both Justices Harlan and McKenna preside, are very indiscreet to say the least. The Times-Herald says: "It is incredible that the president should have harbored for a moment the idea of influencing the judgments of Justices McKenna and Harlan by favors to their sons. Nor can he have conceived that their appointments would suggest such a possibility of the thing itself probably blinded him to the inevitableness of the suggestion in the public mind. But the damage is done. Across the adumbrated mirror of the supreme court has passed the breath of suggestion of personal influence from the executive. Absolutely baseless we most firmly believe, but undeniable. It has already deprived Justice Harlan's son of the congratulations due his personal worth and legal fitness. It has discounted the decision of the court and prepared the way for the 'I Told You So's' of the disappointed. There seems only one way to rob the suspicion of its sting. Justice McKenna and Harlan should decline to sit longer in the island cases. Such action is not needed to exonerate them from any suggestion of personal impropriety in the premises, but it is

necessary to preserve the relation of the executive of the supreme court from the barest hint of reciprocating favors."

WHY AN OPEN RIVER?

Chairman Burton, in answering western members of congress, said that Columbia river improvements asked for were not of importance sufficient to warrant necessary outlays; that the commerce available did not warrant what Oregon, Washington and Idaho were desirous of obtaining. Appropriately, the history of commerce on the Great Lakes is just now pertinent. When the North Middle West states asked congress to improve the canal and locks at Sault Ste. Marie, giving an outlet for Lakes Superior and Michigan, the dominant men in congress said precisely what Chairman Burton said the other day when the river and harbor bill was up for consideration.

The late Senator C. K. Davis, of Minnesota, made it his business to violate information, and he pursued a persistent and systematic course of insistence that the necessary appropriation be made. Finally triumphant, the Great Lakes money was granted, and Senator Davis had achieved his first great victory over the conservative forces of the East. In the speech before the United States senate which finally convinced the members of the validity of the demand, Senator Davis said:

"Mr. President, grant this demand of the people of the Middle West and within a decade we will show you an empire developed far beyond the Great Lakes. Insert this clause in the bill, and the latent resources awaiting the hand of industry there will pour into your granaries and the iron mills, the various activities will be quickened, and the tonnage on the Great Lakes will increase, and will multiply many times. Even now, the tonnage exceeds that of the Suez canal. Give us the opportunity, and we will make the Suez canal appear in comparison like a millrace upon which small boys sail their toy ships."

By fact and figure, with persuasive eloquence, the senator from Minnesota overcame the objections hurled against his measure, and gained the day. As an earnest of Senator Davis' assertions and prophecies, read the figures for 1900, showing partially the Great Lakes tonnage: "The commerce of the Great Lakes for the last year of the century seems to show a larger tonnage movement than in any previous year. Chicago remains well in the lead as a receiving port for hard coal, a total of 678,094 tons having been unloaded on her docks. Milwaukee comes second with receipts of 476,502 tons, and then comes South Chicago and Duluth. In the neighborhood of two-thirds of the hard coal moved was sent from Buffalo. The shipments from that port aggregate 1,028,872 tons. The water transportation of soft coal presents a radically different condition. West Superior is at the head of the list of receiving ports with a record of 1,270,183 tons. Milwaukee comes second with 726,044 tons, and Duluth is a close third.

"By reason of the fall competition involved in the movement of flour by water presents an interesting feature. There have been transferred by lake carriers in the navigation season up to December 1 a total of 1,177,850 tons of flour. The heaviest shipments have been from Duluth, which sent out 331,449 tons, and from her sister port, West Superior, with a total of 322,500 tons. Of the entire shipment of flour 930,379 tons were unloaded at Buffalo.

"In the shipment of iron ore it would seem probable that two harbors will hold the year's record. Up to December 1 that port has shipped 3,952,236 tons, while Duluth had sent forward 3,570,797 tons and Escanaba 2,876,298 tons.

"Almost every port on the upper lakes this year has made heavy shipments of lumber. Duluth alone sending out 359,264,000 feet."

Here in the Columbia river basin is an opportunity for some congressman or senator to emulate the example of the late Senator Davis, make a name for himself and do for the people of this region that which will be a monument more enduring than one cut from the side of a granite mountain. Oregon, the state of the trio of commonwealths concerned which has the most at stake, should be the champion of Columbia river improvements. And some Oregon man should stand in the legislative halls and be the Davis who forces from the national treasury the money to make the Columbia the great produce thoroughfare which Nature intended it should be. Who is the man of the hour?
JOHN E. LATHROP.

CENTRALIZATION OF POWER.
Bishop Potter, of New York, in a recent address, said:
"Nobody who has followed the history of this republic can be insensible to the enormous change in the relation of the population of this land to its great business centers. Two leading cities of interior size in the state in which I live during the last decade have actually lost in population, and the community surrounding them have lost still more largely. The growth, on the other hand, of two or more large centers of population of America is enormous. There are startling facts in our history. In other words, the drift of the most active men and of the youth of the land for educational or other purposes is increasing to those

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