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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 1902.

Nicaragua may prove Senator Hanna's last ditch. It is not dug yet, and he may "fall into it" before it is.

The senatorial bee in Oregon is in several bonnets, but only one senator is to be elected. Too bad, isn't it?

The official count determines that Mr. George E. Chamberlain is to be the next governor of Oregon by the small plurality of 256 votes.

If it takes a criminal to catch a criminal, there is plenty of virtue in those who have tried to catch the two escaping convicts, Tracy and Merrill.

The management of the state institutions under Governor Geer's administration may not be the best in the world, judging from what has happened at the penitentiary. The incompetent were put on guard there and the state pays the penalty. Good government costs less than bad government. Geer's government has cost a great deal. Why does he want to be senator?

We are told that Senator Hanna and ex-Governor Bushnell, of Ohio, have made up—settled their differences, both personal and political. And here we have additional evidence of another wet finger being stuck up to catch the first presidential wind for Mark Aurelius Hanna. Mr. Hanna, doubtless, expects to have a need for Mr. Bushnell in Ohio. Mr. Hanna is no dull and stupid man.

Mr. Bingham, lawyer, of Salem, is allowed \$900 for recovering \$9000 insurance money for the burning of a reform school building, the property of the state, near Salem. The attorney general was possessed of such ideas, although receiving \$3000 a year and certain extras for performing the legal business of the state, that he did not have the heart to insist upon the insurance companies reimbursing the state, so the duty had to be performed by another to the "bleeding" of the state to the tune of \$900 extra. The office of attorney-general is certainly a useless one—to all the people of Oregon, but one or two.

Pierpont Morgan is the next biggest man in England just now, next to King Edward, who values him as one of the appointed. J. Pier loaned Edward \$1,500,000 worth of tapestry to be used in the coronation ceremonies. Edward has had J. Pier. to dinner and there are to be other exchanges. Is there not a recognition of greatness on both sides? Here we have the chief sign of greatness, these exchanges of courtesies. It was Lowell, our own Yankee poet, who said: Great fleas have little fleas upon their backs to bite 'em, and little fleas have lesser fleas, and so ad infinitum. You can tell the size of a great man by observing the size of the fleas on his back. You can best observe the size of the whole people in this connection by considering that both Edward, king and potentate, and J. Pier, money lord and potentate of combine, are on the people's back and so ad infinitum.

Assessment and taxation in Umatilla county, in fact, in the whole state and nation, should be equal, that is equitable. One form of property should contribute an as high a valuation as the other. If A's property is assessed at 60 cents on the dollar it is robbery to value B's property for assessment purposes at 100 per

cent. On the other hand, it would be equitable if the property of both A and B was assessed on as low a valuation as 30 per cent. The crime of the assessor lies in assessing the same kind of property under different ownerships at a variety of valuations. It matters not how high or how low valuations are so long as they are equal. But the assessor must be a little more than human who can do justice under the existing system, of assessment and taxation. The fact of the matter is, we should tax nothing made by man. Only tax those values not made by man. In short, we should collect all public revenue out of, and in exact proportion to the revenue, which some men are privileged to collect from other men for permission to use that which no man made. If we did this we would tax only land value, and, in doing this, all men would be taxed equitably, but all land would not be taxed, as there would be any quantity of land under such a taxation system that would have no value that now has value. Only land that was monopolized would have value then, and thus would monopoly be made to carry the burden of government, as it should, to the relief of labor, of industry and enterprise.

MARK AWAIN, THEOLOGIST.

Mark Twain's truthful history of "The Innocents Abroad" has been excluded from Russia because of the petrifed facts contained therein concerning Adam's grave. The book was published more than 30 years ago, but the strenuous life of the Russian government has prevented careful examination of it until very recently. The book is excluded from Russia solely on account of Mr. Clemens' theological views as expressed in the story of Adams' grave.

It appears that Adam is a very important personage in the Russian church, which views with great displeasure anything tending to bring ridicule on his memory. The Russian church, of which the czar is the head, refuses to believe that Adam is buried where Mark Twain poured out his tears. It holds that Mark swam at the wrong place and that his account of the lacrymose proceedings is hermetical and calculated to weaken the faith of the believers in the official Russian version of Adam and his experiences, white-mormon and post-mortem.

The procurator of the Holy Russian Synod has decided that Mark had no license to wear at the place where he shed his tears and that the book may not be read by the faithful of Russian until the Adam's grave story is edited out. While we have never regarded Mr. Clemens as a professional exegete, we have the most profound respect for his theological views.

The Cuban senate has approved the bill fixing President Palma's salary at \$20,000 a year, and that of Senator Cayula at \$15,000.

Had Thought Four Times.—Before Mr. Mason made his speech he was asked to go to the White House, where President Roosevelt asked him to think twice before he "attacked" the party.

"I have thought four times," replied Mason, as he started for the capitol. He had done some thinking on American lines when he said: "I believe every community can form a government suited to its own needs. Why not give the Philippines a chance? We have listened to learned essays as to what would happen if we abandoned the Philippines. What do the people who read them know about it? I believe that we can bring peace by merely promising the Filipino independence. I do not know that I am right. Why not promise it and see?"

"The flag looks as glorious coming down as it does going up. I know it for I saw it hauled down in Cuba, and never did it seem so beautiful to me as when its lowering meant that the United States had resisted temptation and had been generous enough to help a sister republic start on its way."

Cuba, South Africa, etc., in the Philippines—will be free.

President Roosevelt does not intend to tour the country for the congressional candidates. Nothing of the kind. He will merely travel through the country, wave the flag a few times and shout for the "Honor of the Army."

Paul Kruger a Pauper.—Not content with the shameful part taken by the United States government in the crushing of the Boer republics, the imperialistic press of this country is damning old Paul Kruger for leaving his country and going to Europe, and is saying that he feathered his nest by taking several million dollars with him. This is a companion piece to the falsehood that Aguinaldo accepted and used for himself a 400,000 bribe from the Spanish government.

Paul Kruger went to Europe because he believed that he could do more good for his country in Europe than by remaining in South Africa. He did take several millions with him and has spent every cent of it for the benefit of the South Africa republic. He is now practically a pauper, dependent upon the generosity of his friends.

However, the imperialist hyenas care nothing for the facts. Having done all they could to help Great Britain crush two republics in South Africa, they will gladly deprecate their work by trying to prove that Kruger is a traitor and a thief.

Harriman Opposes it.—In a recent interview at Denver Harriman said that he is not in favor of public ownership of railroads. That is a distinct disappointment. The country has been under the impression that Mr. Harriman was a public spirited man who is working hard to get a grip on a large number of railroads so as to give them to the people of the United States and thus receive the plaudits of a grateful public.

Since Mr. Harriman has spoken we may expect J. P. Morgan and a few other owners of public transportation to come forward and say they also are opposed to public ownership of the taxing power. The people of this country are paying more taxes into the pockets of monopolists than they are paying into the national treasury. Mr. Harriman is a beneficiary of this system, and no wonder he objects to letting go.

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