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"O Death and Time, they chime and chime
Like bells at sunset falling
They end the song they fight the wrong
They set the old echoes calling
For Death and Time bring on the prime
In God's own chosen weather,
And we lie in the bosom of the Great Release
As close in the grass together."
—Robert Louis Stevenson

AS TO FOREST RESERVE.

The theory upon which the policy of forest reserves is based is sound and its application is proving ruinous and absurd. Of the total acreage of 60,215,400 in Oregon, 45,136,680 acres (one-fourth its area) has been reserved. Of 44,275,200 acres in Washington, 4,000,000 have been reserved, and somewhere more acres probably will be. It is expected that half the Area of Idaho will be reserved when present intentions of the government are carried out. At present one-third the area of that state is reserved.

The natural result of all this will be a reaction that will throw all these vast tracts open to settlement under a homestead law. Of course it will be many, many years before the entire area would be settled under a homestead act; but that is hardly any doubt but that it would be reclaimed by a homestead act and the slow processes of nature supplemented by wise irrigation laws at least as soon as it can be "reclaimed" and made fit for settlement under the forest reserve law no matter how ably administered it may be.

If the congressional delegations from the Northwest do not get together and stay together—publicly together and stay together—publicly, in something deep, and it will fall so hard their political solar plexuses will resolve into inconspicuous spots of nothingness.

Hundreds of actual homesteads—occupied and fruitful farms—have been cut out by these reservations, and isolated without hope, and hundreds of thousands of acres more are parts of the reserves now that would soon have been entered by actual settlers had they been left open for entry by the usual methods. There is no way of estimating the loss of population by diverting and stopping immigration; nor the pecuniary loss to the entire Northwest.

As administered, the system of reservation is a miserable failure, the same of hindering.

INDEPENDENT PACKING.

This scheme to induce Oregon, Washington and Idaho people to invest in the proposed independent packing house at Kansas City is a very meritorious one—from the standpoint of Kansas City and the great Southwest. But what would be far better besides being easier done if projected with the same energy and skill would be the building up of an independent packing house either in the Northwest, with Northwestern money and brains, or at some point to which the Northwest is directly tributary, which is frequently and inexpensively visited by Northwestern stockgrowers and shippers, and to which their stock is shipped.

The natural course of exportations cannot be diverted by subscribing for stock in institutions off those lines;

and if such investments are going to pay, they could be made to pay better if subscribed in ventures to which the stockholders would have a better chance to contribute the raw products, thus putting the whole arrangement upon a co-operative basis. There is no natural or business reasons why concert of effort cannot build up a great independent packing institution in the Northwest with Northwestern capital and patronage. Further, location (geographical and transportation), and the fact that it is at once the center and outlet of the stockraising industries of the Northwest, make Pendleton a logical location for such an industry.

Next Wednesday at the courthouse all interested may hear a detailed and authoritative statement of both sides of the railroad taxation question. Don't neglect this and other opportunities to get up on this issue, which has been a live and acid one in all the states for the past 20 years. The whole subject will, in some shape or other, go to a referendum vote in the comparatively near future, and if there is a taxpayer who can attend this meeting but does not because of carelessness, forgetfulness or neglect, he is a chump. If there is a taxpayer who could have attended, but has not, think of it when the time comes. He ought to be disgraced.

"PAP" DIDN'T LIKE IT.

George Ade had been for a visit to the old home at Lafayette, Ind., and returned to Chicago reading with Hosmer stories. One of them relates to a "street tale" recently told in that place. Many of the friends of the late Midway headed with the keeper of a cheap hotel, who consequently was at liberty to visit, without charge any of the exhibits. One morning after the fair had been running a few days a country boy appeared at the hotel and told the proprietor that he had a "pair" and brought a load of hay to town for the animals in his stable. He had the load upset

"Had yer breakfast?" inquired the landlord.
"Nope. We started fore sun-up."
The man insisted that the boy take breakfast right then. The boy did so and protested that he was afraid "pap" wouldn't like it. After breakfast the man said:
"Ever see Lulu, the wild girl?"
"Nope. Hain't been 't town since last fall."
"Better come and see her. Won't cost a cent."
"But 'pap' won't like it."
"Oh, never mind. It won't take long."

After they had visited Lulu they visited the two-headed boy. The Pendleton man, the switchback railway, the animal show, each time the boy warning the man that "pap" wouldn't like it, but each time being overruled by his generous guide. At last, toward sundown, the boy positively balked at going in to see the girl with the elephant foot, on the score that he was sure "pap" wouldn't like it.

"Well, by the way, where is your 'pap'?" asked the man.
"He's under the load of hay!"—New York Times.

Now that we are all through, dear," said Mrs. Newbly, I want to tell you a little secret. I prepared this dinner all by myself. What do you think of it? "Well, love," replied the great brute, "the watermelon was pretty fair."—Philadelphia Press.



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