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SONG OF THE SWORD.

Take up the sword for the splendid strife. Life is the battle that leads to life. Far on the hills are the bugles a-ringing. Far on the hills are the legions a-swinging. Take up the sword, with its blade a-gleam— The sword of the soul in the strife of dream! Take up the sword of the struggle and go. Love lifts the bugle and life hears it blow; Morning by morning, and night after night, The banners of beauty are borne in the light; Take up the sword and away to war, Till the gates be won and the strife is o'er. Take up the sword of the manifest will— Ho for the banner that beacons the hill, Ho for the struggle that wins to the rest Of doing one's noblest and battling one's best; Take up the sword, and the arm will grow strong With the strength of the trust and the sweet of the song! —Baltimore Sun.

GUARD THE COAL LANDS.

The news stories bearing upon the Alaska coal cases throw light upon Secretary Ballinger's attitude toward conservation and show how his ideas differ radically from those held by Pinchot and other true friends of conservation.

In Alaska there are coal deposits almost equal to those of Pennsylvania, according to the dispatches. Within the past few years people have been trying to get title to this land and some 700 claims are now before the department. When Garfield was secretary of the interior an investigation of these claims was made and it was found that many of the filings were made by "dummies." So they were recommended for cancellation.

But when Ballinger, who was formerly an attorney for one of the coal companies, became secretary he had the cases "clear listed" and took other steps to have them expedited. Then the quarrel arose between the interior department and the chief forester's office.

On one hand Pinchot and the forestry men and with them L. R. Glavis, chief of the field division for the general land office, stand for close scrutiny of entries upon coal lands with a view of protecting the interests of the public; upon the other hand Secretary Ballinger and his assistants favor a "policy of expedition."

In this controversy Secretary Ballinger is in the wrong. There is no need in changing the routine in order to rush the coal claims through the department. The coal has been in Alaska for many years and it will keep. It would be far better if it could be held by the government until congress passed a law providing for the development of the coal beds in the interest of the public. There is already too much of a monopolization of the coal and timber lands of the west. The public is now paying exorbitant prices for both lumber and coal because of this fact. If the filings on Alaska coal are allowed it will simply mean that much more area for the coal barons of the country. The entrymen will never develop the coal fields. They will sell their claims for a song just as entrymen on timber lands have been forced to do.

Should the Ballinger policy prevail with reference to the Alaska coal lands it will only be a few years until the same combination that owns the coal beds of this country will also own the Alaska coal. Then the Alaska mines will be developed when the barons get good and ready and in

the meantime the people of the west will pay the trust price for coal or do without it.

While the Alaska coal is still untaken the government should guard it with zealous care.

GIVE IT A TRIAL.

In an interview in this paper yesterday I. N. Poulton, a Kansas farmer, predicted that dry land alfalfa may be raised with success in this country.

He reaches that belief through having seen alfalfa grown with success in western Kansas where the rainfall is about the same as in eastern Oregon.

It would be worth while for the farmers of this county to give dry land alfalfa a good, honest trial. They have much to gain and nothing to lose by such action. If a variety of alfalfa can be raised along with wheat throughout eastern Oregon then it should be raised. By raising alfalfa farmers would secure an annual crop or several of them, instead of a biennial crop. They would also be producing a crop that would make possible the raising of more livestock than at present and the raising of livestock always means the enrichment of the soil. Furthermore a leguminous crop like alfalfa would restore the nitrogen that is taken away by the wheat and by increasing the humus in the soil would increase the moisture retaining capacity of the soil.

Then another significant point about dry land alfalfa is that it is a great drought resisting plant. A recent bulletin by the Kansas experiment station had the following: "Alfalfa starts slowly and it is rather difficult, especially in the more unfavorable locations, to get a stand, but when the plants are once established they are extremely hardy, surviving drought and hot winds more successfully than almost any other plant. During periods of extreme drought alfalfa does not grow much; sometimes only one cutting is produced in a season on the uplands in western Kansas, but the plant through its deep and extensive root system is able to get a sufficient supply of water to sustain life, and when rain comes it revives and grows anew."

Within a short time the farmers of this country will be doing their fall seeding. They will seed hundreds of thousands of acres of wheat. Why not get some dry land alfalfa seed from Kansas, or some other dry land section, and give that crop a good, thorough trial?

A GOOD DECISION.

As to the strictly legal merits of the case that has just been decided by Federal Judge Bean it is difficult for laymen to judge. But from a standpoint of public welfare the case was properly decided. It is well for eastern Oregon that the court has given the Hill forces a right to go ahead with their road. The building of the Hill road means the introduction of new blood into the railroad activities of the state. Furthermore it means that there will be competing lines into central Oregon for certainly the Harriman people will not allow Hill to have free sway in a territory that is naturally tributary to the Harriman system.

Umatilla county is a sportsman's paradise. There are few counties where a man may go out with an auto one week and chase a band of elk and then race with a bear the following week as Col. J. H. Raley did.

Twenty-five years ago there were people who said "Pendleton has reached its limit, I want no more of it." But those people didn't know and the croakers of today are as far from being right as were the grouchy ones of old.

The people of Oregon like Harriman very well. But oh, you Hill.

WHAT'S IN MCLURES.

Lieutenant Shackleton, whose remarkable Antarctic expedition discovered new lands and made the closest approach to the south pole yet achieved by man, begins his story of the expedition, entitled "Farthest South," in the September McClure's. President Emeritus Charles W. Elliot of Harvard describes the great success of the new Canadian labor legislation under the title of "The Best Way to Prevent Industrial Warfare." Sir Harry Johnston, the English scientist, gives "An Englishman's Impressions of American Rule in Cuba." George Kibbe Turner discusses "the current temperance question from a new standpoint in "Beer and the City Liquor Problem." Jesse Macy, on "The Efficiency of English Courts," and E. T. Brewster on "The Fly—the Disease of the House," contribute two interesting and notable articles. The fiction includes stories by Percival Gibbon, John Fleming Wilson and Kenneth Brown, and there are poems by Florence Wilkinson and Willa Sibert Cather.

The Male Graduate—I propose to girdle the earth. The Female Graduate—Why do you begin on such a big thing?

THE CONSOLER.

Time comes to grief as sleep to weariness. On silent sandies and with shadowy hair Sleep bends to sooth the fretful daytime care. And Time unto my grief shall do no less. But yet a little and his hands shall press Above the weeping eyes and close them there. Above the trembling lips, till all despair Lies like a sleeping child in his caress.

And when my sorrow wakes it will not be My sorrow any more, for I shall smile. Beholding it, to know it comforted; No sorrow, but a gentle memory That still may walk with me a little while. At twilight, or when April boughs are spread. —Theodosia Garrison in the Cosmopolitan.

LET THE PEOPLE NOMINATE.

(Post-Intelligencer.) The state senate will display wisdom if it passes the Campbell bill, providing for the nomination of supreme court judges by the direct primary system instead of by convention, as the legislature provided in an act at the regular session.

The arguments advanced by lawyers to secure a return to the convention system are not compelling and a serious mistake was made when it was sought to deprive the people of the right to select their judges directly if they so desired, as they have shown they do.

Admitting that in many instances lawyers may be better judges of the professional attainments of candidates for the supreme bench than laymen are, it must also be granted that the people collectively are better qualified to pass upon the important matter of character than are any small number of delegates. After all, character is of far greater importance in a member of the supreme bench than mere knowledge of the law, as some recent illustrations have only too forcibly shown.

The brilliant and successful advocate does not always make the best judge by any means; rather to the country. Nor is an extensive and minute knowledge of the law necessarily accompanied by a judicial temperament.

The broad question is this: The people have a right to select for themselves, both in the nomination and in the election, the men who are to serve them in the capacity of judges of the courts. To argue that they are not capable of an intelligent exercise of this right is necessarily to arraign the whole system of popular government. The attempt to deprive them of this right was an ethical mistake and a political blunder, which should be corrected speedily. If the American people are competent to select a national president they are competent to select a state judge.

THE UNITED STATES IN CUBA.

"The impartial traveler cannot but feel a sincere admiration for the results of American intervention in Cuba. Nowhere has the work of the Anglo-Saxon been better done or with happier results than during the five and a half years (1899-1902, 1906-1909) of American administration of Cuban affairs. Yellow fever has been absolutely eliminated, and other diseases abated or abolished, by sanitary improvements, supplies of pure water, the draining of swamps, and the isolation of hospitals. Macadamized roads make it possible to reach many places by automobile or carriage; railways (mainly constructed with British or Canadian capital) have been pushed on till all parts of the island are accessible from Havana.

American (and in some cases British) capital and energy have restored to efficiency the sugar, tobacco and cotton plantations of the bankrupt Spanish planters—some of whom are in the employ or in actual partnership with the newcomers; the cattle-raising industry of central Cuba is more flourishing than ever, the sponge fisheries of Batabano have been given new life; and a great impulse has been imparted to the cultivation of fruits and vegetables. The deposits of iron ore are being worked with a new vigor, springs of mineral water have been discovered or rediscovered, and an extended use (for illuminating purposes) is being made of the asphaltum deposits of central Cuba. The police force has been entirely organized, and crime of all kinds has diminished enormously." —McClure's Magazine.

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