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MERELY DUST.

The Universe is very vast.
And we are very small—
Mere Microcosmic Dust, broadcast.
Upon a little ball!

We rise in clouds and sink again.
Or singly sink and rise.
To settle, flin, grain by grain.
What time Fate's zephyr gies.

The giant suns go whirling past
Nor see such specks at all—
Mere Microcosmic dust, broadcast.
Upon a little ball!
—Gerald Rutledge.

A BIG DECISION.

That was a sweeping decision rendered by Judge Wolverton in the Southern Pacific land grant case. The case is remarkable for the vast amount of property at stake and because of the issues involved. The main point involved has to do with whether or not a great corporation to which land has been granted by the government for certain purposes must abide by the terms of the grant. The Southern Pacific was given 2,500,000 acres of land in western Oregon on condition that the land be sold to settlers at prices not to exceed \$2.50 per acre. The land was sold for higher prices and so the government brought suit to recover title to the land. Judge Wolverton sustains the government's suit at every point and unless the supreme court reverses his decision the railroad company will lose property valued at about \$75,000,000. Whether the government or private purchasers of the land will be chiefly benefited does not seem clear from the published reports of the decision. It may be taken for granted however that the rights of purchasers will be fully respected. Since the grant required the railroad company to sell the land at \$2.50 per acre it would seem that purchasers are now entitled to the difference between the sum of \$2.50 per acre and the prices they paid the company for the land.

However the main point of interest about Judge Wolverton's decision is the fact that the government has won out in a suit against great corporation. There has been a growing impression of late years that big corporations are not amenable to the law and Judge Wolverton's decision shows this impression is not well founded with respects to Oregon.

WHERE TROUBLE ARISES.

The evil consequences that follow the practice of making the tariff a political issue are shown to an extent in the present business situation.

"The volume of trade is less than a year ago and many enterprises are held in suspense pending more favorable general conditions says Henry Claws, the financial critic. Uncertainty regarding the supreme court decisions and the tariff are largely responsible for this state of affairs. Concerning the tariff there is perhaps more apprehension than is warranted. The three schedules most likely to be affected—cotton wool and steel—have not yet been attacked, and both parties show a disposition to handle them cautiously, if not to postpone action altogether until the next Presidential campaign. The tariff, it must be remembered, always furnishes exceptional material for political agitation, and practical politicians may easily consider it good tactics to put public opinion to sleep by effecting moderate changes at this session of Congress and taking up the tariff question more earnestly after the sentiment of the country has been tested by another national election. Present indications point to this congress sitting well into the summer. In the steel trade relatively few orders are being received for the reason that big buyers are economizing and deferring purchases as far as possible. Some

of the railroads are reporting large declines in gross earnings, which they are seeking to offset by rigid economies in every direction. In the textile trades dullness still prevails. Many cotton mills are suffering a diminution of profits owing to high cost of production, as well as to the impossibility of securing satisfactory prices for their product. Consumers are economizing, while distributors seem bent on carrying light stocks and confining their operations to those of a hand-to-mouth character. The brightest element in the business outlook is the crop situation. All advices received concerning wheat and cotton are of a very satisfactory nature. Acreage is large, condition of the soil good and plants generally are promising."

As far as the tariff is concerned there is no reason why it should be a disturber of business. If this country had a tariff commission and made changes in the tariff on a businesslike basis—giving ample notice in advance to both producer and consumer—no trouble would result. But people may be pardoned for moving cautiously when the making of tariff schedules is placed in the hands of men who are moving more with an eye to political advantages rather than to the commercial and industrial welfare of the country.

SOMEBODY DID IT.

When the building of the Los Angeles Times was dynamited the whole country was horrified. Scores of innocent people were killed in that damnable outrage and the deed accomplished no good. The crime worked grave injury to the cause of organized labor for the natural inference drawn was that labor unionists had done the work.

If the men who committed the deed or who are responsible for the crime have been caught then the law has no punishment too severe for them. Whether or not the McNamara's are guilty is a matter for a court and a jury to determine. Press reports indicate there is damaging evidence against them and it is also apparent that the two men will have ample funds and ample legal talent for their defence. It is only to be hoped now that when the trial is held the guilt or the innocence of the men will be thoroughly proven so there can be no question about the matter.

Outrages like the dynamiting of the Los Angeles Times constitute anarchy in the worst form and there is no reason for anarchy in this republic.

Organized labor should not rally to the defense of the McNamara's. Neither should organized capital offer money for the trapping of the men who dynamited the Los Angeles Times. The enforcement of law rests with the government and after the crime was committed the case became one of the government versus murderers. The capital versus labor fight should be kept out of the trial.

John P. (Jerry) Rusk is a very popular and aggressive sort of citizen and he made good as speaker of the house of representatives. If he should decide to run for congress from this district he will be a factor with whom other aspirants will do well to reckon.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY SKETCH.
Bartow Sumter Weeks, the New York lawyer and patron saint of amateur athletes, is fifty years old today. He first saw the light on April 25, 1861, in Round Hill, Conn. When

quite a "shaver," to use Mr. Weeks' words, his parents moved to New York, and it was in the public schools of that city that he was educated.

Weeks graduated from the College of the City of New York, then he took a post graduate course in law at Columbia University. He has been prominently identified with many prominent patriotic and athletic associations in the country. He has been commander-in-chief of the Sons of Veterans of the United States and president of the National Amateur Athletic Union.

Col. Weeks is prominent in the councils of the democratic party. In 1898 he was candidate for state senator of the democratic ticket, but was defeated. Col. Weeks is also one of the most prominent lawyers in the country. He is not regarded strictly as a corporation lawyer, but much of his work has been done for the great firms of the country which are regarded as influential corporations at least.

Col. Weeks is a man of rather commanding appearance, although he does not measure up to the physical proportions that one would expect under the circumstances. Perhaps there is no man in the country who has done more for amateur athletics than he has done. He is always ready to foster some meet and help finance some contest among youngsters who have more ambition and ability than prowess.

He is also greatly interested in charitable enterprises.


APRIL 25 IN HISTORY.

68—St. Mark, the Evangelist, died at Alexandria.

1284—Edward VII, born at Caernarvon and styled "the Prince of Wales," the first to receive that appellation.

1520—Ferdinand Magellan, the Portuguese navigator, killed in one of the Philippine Islands, fighting for

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the king and country who had become his ally.

1576—Treaty between Holland and Zealand, being the first two provinces that united for their liberty.

1775—The Baltimoreans received the news of the battle of Lexington and immediately seized upon the provincial magazine containing 1500 stands of arms, etc.

1781—Battle of Camden in which the Americans were defeated.

British under Arnold and Phillips entered Petersburg, Va.

1804—Mr. Livingstone, American minister to France, requested that he be recalled.

Grande Ronde Apple Orchards
on the INSTALLMENT plan.
Talk with the Pendleton people who have visited these tracts.
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SALE DATES
May 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28 and 29.
June 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 16, 17, 21, 22, 28, 29 and 30.
July 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 19, 20, 26, 27, and 28.
August 3, 4, 5, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 28, 29 and 30.
September 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7.
Stop-overs within limits in either direction. Final return limit October 31st. One way through California \$15.00 additional.
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