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I think sometimes in every heart a dream of perfect beauty dwells, sometimes there seem to come sweet promises, when over hills at sunset Heaven her cup of nectar spills, Or when some form a grace divine betrays in fragrant gardens or on crowded ways, Sometimes the tides within us seem to meet The blue tide rising from the sea, or sweet The melody of voice or violin Hath touched that silent chord that was within, And all is beauty and above all sense The soul discards its mortal measurements, —Clarence D. Blachly.

A POLITICAL PLAY.

Postmaster General Hitchcock's endorsement of the proposition of governmental ownership of telegraph lines is a political move pure and simple. It is a clever play to gain progressive support for Taft and should be so regarded.

The idea that the government should own and operate telegraph lines is good. The telegraph business like the telephone business is a natural monopoly. The government should either own such utilities or else closely supervise the rates charged and the service rendered. It does neither now.

But President Taft and Secretary Hitchcock can not qualify as desirable men to put through such a move as is proposed. Throughout his term President Taft has shown himself more keen in upholding established interests than in promoting the general welfare. If he favors governmental ownership of telegraph lines he should have made the fact known sooner. He did not need to wait until he was face to face with a campaign for reelection. His position just now calls to mind his past devotion to the progressive cause—when seeking office. He is strong for the public welfare when he is a candidate but he has not been known for zeal along this line at other times.

As for Postmaster General Hitchcock he also is showing strong and unwonted interest in the public welfare. Senator Bourne, who as chairman of the committee on postal affairs has dealt with Hitchcock at close hand made a good statement when he said:

"I am unable to understand the declaration alleged to have been made by Postmaster General Hitchcock in favor of government ownership of telegraph lines. When the advocates of an enlargement of our inadequate parcels post service asked for his views some time ago he objected to the enactment of a law establishing such a service and asked for an appropriation of \$100,000 which he could expend in experiments on a few rural routes and in a few cities. If we cannot enlarge a service we already have without spending \$100,000 experimenting, we are certainly in no position to undertake an entirely new service."

If Hitchcock is so eager to befriend the people why has he not favored the parcels post even though it is bitterly opposed by the express monopoly? He is quoted yesterday as favoring the parcels post provided the government indemnifies express companies for loss of business. But why should the government indemnify express companies? Is it up to the government to see that the express companies reap big profits even though they render no service? It is a strange pass if such is the case.

Why has not Hitchcock taken steps to get lower rates from railroads for the hauling of mail? It is a charge often heard that the government pays the railroads more than do the express companies and it is charged by some that the mail hauling rates exceed the rates for first class passenger travel. Here is a field where Hitchcock might well be busy.

The postmaster general's recommendation for government owned

telegraphs is an eleventh hour play to popularize the Taft administration. It should fall flat. What the people need is an administration that will uphold the common welfare at all times—not merely during campaign periods.

SAVE THE FLOOD WATERS.

It is extravagant for sure to allow the flood waters of the Umatilla river to flow unused to the sea. There is plenty of water in the ocean already and the water now flowing through this county is needed upon the thirsty acres adjoining the river. That water is needed upon the allotted lands of the reservation. Properly used on that land the flood waters now going to waste could serve to produce annual instead of biennial crops upon the reservation.

The water now flowing to waste is needed for lands lying below Pendleton between here and Echo. It is needed upon the desert section which comprises the West Extension. Any move that looks to conserving the flood waters of the river so as to make water available for irrigation purposes is a move in the right direction.

The West Extension project is such a move. Should the Extension be built the government will save and utilize water that now goes to waste and will be wasted each year in the absence of government action. The bulk of the flood waters can be conserved only through construction of an enormous reservoir at some place along the river. This is what will be done if the Extension is carried out. The Extension will mean the saving of the flood waters and it should interfere with the rights of no one.

A REFLECTION.

When the will of the late Justice Harlan was filed for probate his estate was found to be worth but \$13,000 and this consisted in part of life

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insurance. It is reported that Admiral Robley D. Evans left an estate valued at even less than that of Justice Harlan. A move is on to secure a pension for the widow of "Fighting Bob" in order to keep her from starving.

What sort of a system have we that it should create millionaires out of men who do but little work and that only for selfish ends while it leaves a great jurist and a renowned naval officer to die in comparative poverty.

AN ANNIVERSARY.

(Athena Press.)

The Press is twenty-five years old today, and it wishes its readers a happy and prosperous year for 1912. Reference to the files of the paper reveals that during the twenty-five years of its existence the paper has gone into the homes of its subscribers 52 weeks of each year, with the exception of one issue. The first week in July, 1889, the Press failed to appear, owing to a broken hand press. Irving McQuary was the editor at the time, and in explanation for its non-appearance, facetiously remarked in the following issue: "The editor was neither drunk nor had he absconded, but the old ratted, measly consumptive old Washington hand press had a stroke of paralysis in its deflicker connecting rod, with the result that the forecastle intermediate safety device became prostrated and collapsed,

and we were unable to issue the sheet last week. The type foundry at Portland was appealed to and new parts for the press arrived yesterday, and we are on time today." The present editor has published the Press since June 2, 1892—nineteen years and seven months. During that time, without a skip, the Press has gone into the homes of its readers every Friday for 1918 weeks. This is a long track to look back over, and when we see young people, now married and fathers and mothers themselves, whose births we chronicled, it is then we realize that we have been in the harness quite a spell—a longer time than any other editor in Eastern Oregon can recall to mind having continuous connection with one paper.

A POSITION OF ADVANTAGE.

"I think," said the eminent European diplomat, "that we will declare a tariff war."

"But think of our population!" "I am thinking of our people and aiming for their peace of mind. Our censored press can always assure them that the war is a success and they'll never be able to understand enough about the tariff to know the difference."—Washington Star.

New Zealand is preparing to spend millions of dollars in developing its water power resources.

We always thought that the devil invented the tariff.

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Two Old Maids

Anna—What do you think Mr. Eklund charged me for sewing on a pair of soles on my shoes?

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MUSIC

"THE BROKEN IDOL" and OTIS HARLAN as "DOC WHATT" A CURE FOR THE BLUES

Lively Company Seen in Whitney's Offering at the Herald Square Theatre, N. Y. City

One of the most important openings of the early Theatrical season took place at the Herald Square Theatre when B. C. Whitney presented "THE BROKEN IDOL." He had OTIS HARLAN to carry off most of the fun-producing work. To say that that clever actor carried out his contract might be sufficient, but he even did a little more than was expected of him. The "BROKEN IDOL" scored heavily. A big audience laughed at his antics, cheered his songs, and even grew enthusiastic over his whistling, which is not entirely new in New York.

Mr. Harlan received an ovation when he appeared on the stage dressed in the part of "Doc Whatt," which is perhaps in the name as good a description as anything could be of what he did on the stage. His song "ALABAMA" was greeted with great applause and he followed it with a dozen others that were invariably greeted with many encores.

"ALABAMA"

LYRIC BY HARRY WILLIAMS. MUSIC BY EGBERT VAN ALSTYNE

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NOTE—The saving of this music series provides an easy way of securing, without expense, a collection of song hits from the recent New York musical successes. One of these big song hits will appear each week.

