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TODAY.

I know not how or why or when
The curtains dark will part
for me,
To pass me through from now
to then
To distant shores man may
not see.
But this I know, as my days
bring
The varied tasks for me to do,
My duty is to work and sing,
And thank God He permits
me to.

I may not know just how or
why
My lot is cast in humble
place;
Nor fully understand why I
Am not a leader in life's
race,
But this I know and under-
stand;
Each task that's given me to
do,
That task I'll do with willing
hand,
And thank God He permits
me to.

I need not know the how or
why;
'Tis best I do not know the
when,
Else I might falter when the
sky
Is dark with doubts and fears
of men.
I only need to know my task
Is fitted for my hands to do;
And for the doing strength I'll
ask,
And thank God He permits
me to.

—Selected.

A DISREPUTABLE TRICK.

Those who have been fighting the West Extension have resorted to questionable methods on many occasions. From start to finish they have been striving to filmflam upper river waterusers and make them pull chestnuts out of the fire for Dr. Coe and his cohorts.

But when Senator J. N. Burgess sent to the president of the United States a communication which he signed as president of the Umatilla River Waterusers' association he went over the line and resorted to flagrant dishonesty. He deserves more than the "call down" he received from Secretary Fisher.

If the false signature was intentionally used then Mr. Burgess stands guilty of a piece of skullduggery that borders on the criminal. He should hang his head in shame for he has been caught trying to deceive the president through using the name of an organization to which he had no right whatever; an organization that is not opposing the West Extension but which on the other hand is imploring the government to carry out the extension.

No doubt Mr. Burgess will plead that the thing was inadvertently done. But those who believe him may stand on their heads. At least it was not through inadvertence that those who fight the West Extension adopted a name so similar to the name of the Umatilla River Waterusers' association that even well informed local people have been confused. It was manifestly an attempt to deceive people and it worked for a time. But the thing was overdone and the reaction has come in the form of Secretary Fisher's letter.

This whole thing is disreputable at the very best. Burgess knew about the Umatilla River Waterusers' association and so did the other men who have been leading the guerrilla fight against the extension. Burgess knew the settlers of the Umatilla project

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were all members of the association and furthermore he knew well they favored the extension. When he and his friends formed an organization and adopted a name almost identical with that of the west end organization they resorted to sharp practice. It was a piece of shady business but it was no worse than some other stunts this same Mr. Burgess has pulled off. He is the same man who recently bunkoed many members of the Pendleton Commercial club into signing a paper which they misunderstood and which action they repudiated when they learned the facts. He has a reputation for underhanded methods and that reputation is getting no better fast.

Burgess is getting exactly what is coming to him. He was playing with fire and he deserved to get burned.

A CHANCE FOR ALDERMAN.

State Superintendent Alderman has a scheme to revolutionize educational work in Oregon by the introduction of the study of agriculture. It is a worthy ambition without doubt.

But if the state superintendent wants to do some real and original good he should revolutionize the system under which the county school superintendents are created.

The present plan of obtaining county superintendents is a joke. It places a premium on politics and bars efficiency. It places incompetent and untrained men in office and keeps real educators out. As a result of the system the rural schools are the same as without supervision and hundreds of thousands of dollars are spent under such conditions that the people cannot hope to get value received for the money.

Under the present plan in Oregon a county school superintendent is a clerk when at home and a politician when abroad. His chief pursuits consist in keeping his office open, attending annual conventions held at a distance and in lobbying with his fellow county superintendents, with the state superintendent at their head, for schemes to further increase the graft.

If there is to be a betterment of the school system of this state the first step should consist in taking the county superintendent out of politics. Have the county superintendent employed by a board of directors, just as the city superintendents are employed. Under such a system good men could be secured and they could be required to give service in order to hold their jobs. At the present time the superintendent must be elected from within Umatilla county, regardless of whether or not there are competent men in the county who want the place. Such a plan elevates fossils and bars modern school men from the game. It is a silly and expensive system.

What Oregon's educational system needs more than anything else just now is free trade in county school superintendents. They have been "in and in" bred so long that the stock is becoming degenerate.

THE JUGGLER SLIPPED.

J. N. Burgess has been a juggler in politics as well as in irrigation affairs. When he was president of the state woolgrowers' association he made a speech at Heppner in which he urged its substance that the woolgrowers work to get members of the legislature to break the statement No. 1 pledges they had made their constituents. When he started to run for senator Burgess refused to take statement No. 1. Later on in the campaign he came into the statement corral, took the pledge and sought the support of the progressive element. After his election he turned his back upon the progressives and throughout the session was hand in glove with Jay Bowerman and the assemblyites.

Mr. Burgess is a star performer but when he juggled with the name of the Umatilla River Waterusers' association and tried to deceive President Taft he strained himself. He has been called down and called hard.

When a man writes something for publication upon an important question and refuses to sign his name it is a pretty good sign there is something wrong either with the man or with what he has to say.

La Follette has carried the war into the enemy's country and seems to be faring very well.

SELF-RESPECT AND THE TIP.

The president of the Commercial Travelers' National League celebrates the new year by announcing that his organization will combat the practice of giving tips to employees of hotels, restaurants, barber-shops and Pullman cars. He rightly declares that the old-time fashion of gifts from the rich patron to the poor servant is out of place in these modern days and that under an arrangement made in consonance with the democratic spirit the various forms of personal service will tend to become less menial.

This is an important phase of the matter. It is desirable that the traveler should save himself from imposition, but it is even more important

that the country should free itself from the growing plague of ingenious and impudent parasites. The youth who concentrates the best thought of his formative years on a constant study of the best methods for extracting dimes and quarters from people to whom he has rendered no real equivalent is not preparing himself to become a desirable citizen. The older man who is compelled to adopt a similar line is not likely to preserve the self-respect which we like to think of as the native dower of the American. If our friend, Mr. Sudden Rich, will only take a hint from the commercial travelers the general morale of our national life may presently be improved.—Chicago Record-Herald.

HER MAJESTY.

It may be difficult to tell what is a woman's age, but unquestionably this is it. Men's colleges into which women have made their way have had to drive them out again in order to give the men a chance at graduation honors. From the pulpit and the bar down to the coal mine and the iron furnace women are doing what used to be regarded as man's work. The literature of the day is overwhelmingly feminist in its character, and very much of it is the work of women. Men are being told things about women that it was not deemed proper for their fathers to know, and as for themselves, they are being shown up without remorse.

Within a few days illustrations of the feminist revolution, physically and intellectually, have become public. Man is destined to lose even his physical superiority. The superintendent of a hospital in Boston, where 3000 babies are born annually, says: "We have noticed that girl babies are getting taller and that they are appearing in this world lately with more real vitality than formerly. The boy babies continue on the average, both in weight and height."—Philadelphia Record.

THE VANISHING BOUNDARY.

"Poor old Alf!" sighed Mrs. MacJones, as the form of her husband vanished down the road. "He's growin' shockin' bald!"

"Yes, I've noticed it," assented her neighbor. "Ever since his last illness he's been molting' as you might say. I hope he ain't worryin' over it, Mrs. MacJones."

"Well, it does bother him a bit," she admitted.

"And well it might," said her neighbor. "When my old man lost his hair, he felt the cold somethin' terrible."

"Oh, it ain't the cold that worries Alf," replied Mrs. MacJones. "It's the bother he has when he's washin' himself. If he doesn't kee his hat on poor dear, he can't tell where his face finishes."

WASTED.

"I should think," said the woman of the house, "you would have too much self-respect to make your living by begging."

"Lady," protested Rufon Wratz, straightening himself up "self-respect is wot ails me! I wouldn't do this fur no other man on earth."—Chicago Tribune.

\$4,000,000 HOME TO POOR PROSPECTORS

Will of W. S. Stratton, Providing for Luxury of Aged Poor, Carried Out by Trustees.

Denver.—The dream of W. S. Stratton, the carpenter who became a multimillionaire through the ownership of the famous Independence mine at Cripple Creek, Colo., is about to come true. That means that the broken down prospectors of El Paso county and other aged poor will have a \$4,000,000 home in which they will live like aristocrats. Not only will they have all the comforts, but most of the luxuries of life, and they will be treated as guests, not as mere "inmates."

"I want to leave my fortune for the founding of a home where the aged poor will not have to work but will be waited on," said the aged mine owner before he died, nine years ago. He expressed that wish in his will, and the provisions of that instrument will be carried out with more attention to the spirit than to the letter.

Judge John E. Little of the county court of El Paso county, through which the \$15,000,000 Stratton estate was administered, says: "The estate has been turned over to the trustees provided for in the will and a site something like 3000 acres in extent has been purchased.

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The buildings will cost \$3,000,000 or \$5,000,000. We know of course, that Mr. Stratton, who had experienced all the hardships and privations of the prospector, intended to provide a place where the man who did not strike it rich could end his days in dignity and ease. However the home will be ladke enough to accommodate not only the poor prospectors of El Paso county, but aged poor from all parts of Colorado.

"The trustees are planning to do even more. They will establish trade and industrial schools for the poor youth of the state. A good deal of attention will be paid to farming. The technical schools will also train boys for electrical and mechanical engineering. Employment will be found for some of these students on the interurban electric railway system which is part of the Stratton estate. The home will be the only one of its kind on earth—the only place where a man who has fought and failed can live as well as the one who has fought and won."

In 1850 only one woman worked for wages to every 10 men; now the ratio is about one to four.

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