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COMING TO ITS SENSES.

Careful readers of the Oregonian have no doubt been surprised of late to note that that paper has been going after the trusts with a hot stick and advocating the abolishing of tariff duties on all articles controlled by trusts, after having for thirty years or more preached loud and long for the policy which has enabled trusts to be formed and exist.

And now to see the Oregonian advocate an income tax will be even a greater surprise. The only explanation that can be offered is that the Oregonian is coming to its senses, and is beginning to see the fallacies of the theories it has supported in the past and the truthfulness of those it has opposed. Only a short time ago it was denouncing the income tax, proposed by the democrats, as being a tax on a tax on a tax, and enterprise, now it says: Controller Roberts, of New York state in his annual report, points out that not 3 per cent of the personal property domiciled in the state is on the tax lists; that while the state attempts to tax all personal property equally with reality, it only succeeds in taxing 3 per cent of it—a great wrong to taxpayers whose personal property is invisible and inconceivable compared with rich men who own vast amounts of personal property that is practically invisible, non-discoverable, evasive and portable property. Mr. Roberts thinks the only practical remedy for this intolerable situation is to abolish the personal property tax and substitute in its place a tax on the tax lists; that while the state attempts to tax all personal property equally with reality, it only succeeds in taxing 3 per cent of it—a great wrong to taxpayers whose personal property is invisible and inconceivable compared with rich men who own vast amounts of personal property that is practically invisible, non-discoverable, evasive and portable property. Mr. Roberts thinks the only practical remedy for this intolerable situation is to abolish the personal property tax and substitute in its place a tax on the tax lists; that while the state attempts to tax all personal property equally with reality, it only succeeds in taxing 3 per cent of it—a great wrong to taxpayers whose personal property is invisible and inconceivable compared with rich men who own vast amounts of personal property that is practically invisible, non-discoverable, evasive and portable property.

Mr. Roberts points out that the burden of public expenditures in New York is rapidly increasing. It amounted for the state government in 1850 to \$1.30 per capita; in 1860, to \$1.90 per capita; in 1870, to \$2.15 per capita; and in 1887, population being estimated at \$4.45—the per capita increase within seven years past being about four times what it was in the thirty years from 1850 to 1880. This increase corresponds almost exactly with the increase in the number of commissions and departments created since 1850. The unequal and utterly impracticable system of taxation in New York distributes this burden of outrageous public extravagance unfairly among the people. The farmer class, and the industrial, mining and mercantile classes, are equally exposed to taxation, while the capitalist, by putting his wealth into bonds, can escape taxation altogether. It is a fact nevertheless, an evil that cannot be cured or met by any of the present methods we employ. It is as necessary to abolish the present system of taxation, as it is to abolish slavery. It is as necessary to abolish the present system of taxation, as it is to abolish slavery. It is as necessary to abolish the present system of taxation, as it is to abolish slavery.

Whether his proposition to place in the hands of a commission to be appointed by the governor the selection of books will be more advantageous than the old plan of leaving it to the different superintendents is a question which time alone will tell. That there has been an abuse in the past, and that the American Book Company has been paid too much for its books, is undeniable; but will a commission do less harm to the people than have the superintendents? It is a question. Should the governor appoint on the commission men scrupulously honest and above bribery, no doubt the abuse would be remedied; but it is hardly to be denied that the American Book Company was instrumental in the election of the present governor; and may not that concern expect favors at his hands? However, Governor Geer has demonstrated qualities that would indicate that he could not be corrupted, and until he has been proven otherwise, it is fair to give him the benefit of the doubt. He may have confidence in his honesty. At all events, any commission he may appoint cannot make matters much worse than they are now, hence there can be little cause to regret if the Daley bill should become law. It promises to be the breaking down of the influence of the American Book Company in the public schools, and to give the people text-books at a more reasonable price, and that is all that is desired.

THE TEXT-BOOK QUESTION.

Senator Daley, of Polk county, has devoted much time to preparing the voluminous bill which he introduced in the senate, the prime object of which was to prevent the abuse that has been practiced in the selection of text-books for use in public schools at an exorbitant price, but he led his bill down with a lot of riders relating to diplomas, certificates, etc., so that it was viewed with suspicion, as being a "trick" bill. In consequence he has determined to revise his bill and make a separate one for his text-book scheme.

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YOU ARE RIGHT.

There should be no "open door" for commission in Oregon. A republican legislature that would shield will be the commission bills, and if people have to bear burdens for want of commissions to regulate railroads and public affairs, they will ask for the old system—Baker City Republican.

Yes, the republican legislature should kill commission bills, and nearly all the commissions, for it is a republican legislature that added these useless appendages upon the state. But is the present legislature composed of such stuff as will stand up before the hungry army of office seekers, "republican" and true who fought through the campaign last June for the party? and they shall there be no more new offices and commissions created? It takes a pretty firm man to deny his party bed-fellows the privilege of feeding at the public crib.

A good many bills have been introduced in the legislature that save of jobs and an attempt to provide employment for favorites at the expense of the public, but the most wholesale of all is the bill to create a commission to investigate the business of manufacturing flax fiber in the penitentiary by the employment of convict labor. The efforts of these ladies in demonstrating that an excellent quality of flax straw can be grown in Oregon and that it can be converted into goods that certainly deserve much credit, but it is not desirable that their business, which has proven unsuccessful financially, be saddled upon the state at the expense of the taxpayers. If they have been unable to conduct the business successfully, let the management of ladies who charged no salary for their services, it cannot be expected the state could make it profitable. The legislature

PROTECTION AND TRUSTS.

Under the workings of a protective tariff trusts have been fostered and petted until it is now a deplorable fact that nearly all the large manufacturing industries have combined for the purpose of keeping up prices, and the purchaser, when he goes into the markets for the purpose of placing large orders for manufactured goods, finds there is no competition, that the prices are the same at all factories, and it is as if dealing with only one firm. So perfect has been the combination, and the trusts that the consumer can either pay the prices they demand or let their goods alone. This would probably not be objectionable if manufacturers in the combine were only demanding a reasonable profit, but they are demanding more. They are, as it were, demanding "all the tariff will stand." We find them selling abroad at prices greatly below those asked at home, and entering into competition with manufacturers whom they seek protection from by the workings of a protective tariff.

The abuse has grown to such an extent that even strong advocates of the protective theory in the past, now that the interests which support them are being affected, are demanding the repeal of the system which makes trusts possible. Many staunch republican journals are even raising their voices against the trusts and acknowledging the contention of the democrats, that protection should be removed from such industries as have gone into trusts for the purpose of limiting the production of goods, and the trusts called at the White House and assured the president that, in their opinion it would be suicidal for the administration to use its influence to shield Egan from the punishment which his offense deserves—Oregonian.

Public sentiment may yet force the president to withdraw his support from Egan, but circumstances do not at this time warrant the assertions above. While President McKinley seems prone to ride on the wave of public sentiment, although its course should lead direct to the infernal regions, he is not yet ready to break the hypocritical ties that bind them to the trusts. The ties that bind them to the trusts are not so easily broken as they seem to be.

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IN HIS TRUE LIGHT.

"Where does Prof. Ackerman stand with reference to the American Book Company?" was a question asked the voters of Oregon last June. The answer was presumed to be that he was not a tool of that concern, for they elected him superintendent of public instruction, but had they believed he was in the pay of that concern, they would have voted otherwise, because there are few conscientious voters in the state who are willing to put a servant of the American Book Company at the head of our educational system.

His opposition to the Daley bill, senate bill No. 3, the intent of which is to break down influence of the American Book Company and to systemize the school laws of Oregon. His opposition to the Daley bill, senate bill No. 3, the intent of which is to break down influence of the American Book Company and to systemize the school laws of Oregon. His opposition to the Daley bill, senate bill No. 3, the intent of which is to break down influence of the American Book Company and to systemize the school laws of Oregon.

He desired to defeat the bill in order that he could better serve his master, the American Book Company. The bill takes the selection of text books entirely out of the hands of the superintendent of public instruction, since it provides that the governor shall appoint the commission whose duty shall be to select the books. Had this provision been different, had the appointing power been vested in the state superintendent, probably Ackerman would have shown no hostility to the bill, for then he could have served his master. But he did not, and in order to give the book trust another lease of life in Oregon, he must kill senate bill No. 3 by misrepresentation, even though he should resort to a lie to do it. Ackerman has now been stripped of his sheep's clothing. He is a wolf, and the wolf that he is is disclosed.

BUT WILL THEY?

There is apparently a dead-lock in Washington on the senatorial election, similar to those we see in Oregon, and in consequence the people of that state are suffering the evil effects that always attend a bitter senatorial fight in the legislature; everything else is made secondary to the acquisition of a few men who have a desire to represent the state in the upper house of congress; legislation of a necessary nature is neglected, and trades of all kinds become possible. The Walla Walla Union, a staunch republican paper, is at the trifling of this going on at Olympia, and says: "The most serious feature, according to the director of Washington, is that the interior of Luzon is a ferment. Native officers have been murdered, and no effort made to punish the criminals."

The Oregon Legislature. The Curtis Fish Hatcheries Bill Passes the House. SALEM, Jan. 24.—The feature of the forenoon session in the house was a fight over the Curtis bill appropriating \$25,000 for construction and equipment of fish hatcheries. Curtis and Young pleaded eloquently for the appropriation, while Whitney, representing the interest of the farmers as opposed to the proposition. So much feinting was aroused over the discussion that a call of the house was demanded, and a quarter of an hour was lost gathering in absentees. The bill finally passed by a vote of 34 to 22, four members being on the verge of desertion.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

That Paris peace treaty still sleeps in the hands of the senate. Its friends seem slow to force a vote on the proposition to ratify or reject it. A sensible act of the legislature would be to place the treaty before a direct vote on the proposition. The old fee system is worn out and is productive of no good. Egan, the tool, the boss companion in incompetency, and the boss friend of Alger, must go; but it is unfair to throw him out and so long as the chief competence is retained at the head of the war department. However it may improve the service some to get one blackguard out.

It would be as just to give the Grande Ronde sugar beet farmers a bounty on their beets as it would be to give the Ashland college \$15,000 for its support as a normal school. Neither, however, has a just claim upon the people of Oregon to be made burdens to the taxpayers. The Salem Journal is after the legislature with a sharp stick for not performing its duties in regard to the state treasury. It charges that hundreds of thousands of public money have laid idly in the treasury, at least reports so showed, while the state has paid large sums for interest on unpaid warrants.

THE BALABAC MASSACRE.

Spanish Officers Were Murdered and Stores and Homes Looted. LABUAN, Island of Labanon, British Borneo, Jan. 24.—The steamer Labuan has arrived here from the island of Balabac, 30 miles south of the island of Palawan, Philippine islands, now from Palawan as previously cabled. The murder of Spanish officers, which was reported, occurred at Balabac. The Labuan brought 65 women and children here. They had been robbed of everything, but otherwise not ill-treated. The Zulu assteward of the Balabac in killing Spanish officers. The Spaniards, Palawan, which was reported, occurred at Balabac. The Labuan brought 65 women and children here. They had been robbed of everything, but otherwise not ill-treated. The Zulu assteward of the Balabac in killing Spanish officers.

TROUBLE IS FEASIBLE.

Philippine May Force a Fight at Manila. WASHINGTON, Jan. 24.—Senator Lopez, secretary to Aguinaldo, the Washington representative of Aguinaldo, called at the state department this afternoon and lodged with the chief clerk a communication which, according to common expectation, marked a critical stage in the Philippine question. This is the third attempt made by the Filipino representatives to secure official recognition from the United States government. Advice from Manila which have reached the war department are far from reassuring. It is understood that the insurgents are about to force the issue, and if this should be so, the result cannot be foreseen.

GRINDING OUR LAWS.

Oregon Legislature Making Additions to the Budget. SALEM, Jan. 25.—In the senate this morning bills were passed as follows: By Yeas, to authorize the construction and maintenance of floodgates on Douglas and other sloughs, Douglas county; by Haines, to require justices of the peace to submit complaints to the district attorney, except for murder, arson, robbery, grand larceny, before fees may be collected; by Sellings to provide a trust fund in Multnomah county; by Kuykendall, to authorize the Eugene divinity school to confer theological and biblical degrees; by Smith, to amend the act passed in 1900, to amend the act passed in 1900, to amend the act passed in 1900, to amend the act passed in 1900.

SET UP SHOP FOR HIMSELF.

Aguinaldo Publicly Proclaims the Philippine Republic. CHICAGO, Jan. 24.—A special to the Tribune from Washington says: The government has been notified that Aguinaldo took a decisive step and publicly proclaimed the republic of the Philippines in the ceremonial place at Malolos, and the world that he is disclosed.

Rebels Were Beaten. Ecuador Army Defeats the Revolutionists at San Ancasco. NEW YORK, Jan. 25.—The latest dispatches from the Herald's correspondent at Guayaquil reports that a sanguinary battle took place yesterday between the revolutionists and the government forces at San Ancasco. The fighting was desperate all day, the advantage remaining finally with the government's army. The losses on both sides were heavy. More than 400 men were killed, and 300 were wounded. Four hundred insurgents were taken prisoners. The rest of the rebels fled towards the province of Bolivar, hotly pursued by the victorious troops of President Alfaro.

A crisis is imminent. An outbreak in the Philippines expected. CHICAGO, Jan. 25.—A special to the Tribune from Washington says: It can no longer be denied that considerable alarm is felt in administration circles over the situation at Manila and Ilo, and the latest advice are not of a reassuring character. General Otis is of the belief that the insurgents are about to force the issue, and if this should occur the result cannot be predicted further than that the Americans will be victorious in the end.

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The Days of the Clearance Sale.

ARE FAST DRAWING TO A CLOSE. And you should make hay while the sun shines. These rare bargains that we have been presenting you are not to be sneezed at. Don't think because we are having a few pleasant days that we are going to have spring at once. One bright day does not make spring-time any more than one swallow makes a summer time. We have offered you a full line of seasonable and serviceable goods. You have shown your appreciation as our fixtures will testify.

We will add a couple of Lines to make the List Complete.

Infants' Long Coats

All \$3.00 Coats	\$1.97
" 3.25 "	2.13
" 3.50 "	2.37
" 3.75 "	2.50
" 4.00 "	2.69
" 4.50 "	2.97
" 5.00 "	3.30
" 5.50 "	3.57

Children's Jackets

All \$4.50 Jackets	\$2.50
" 5.00 "	2.75
" 5.50 "	3.00
" 6.00 "	3.25
" 6.50 "	3.50
" 7.00 "	3.75

Ladies' Jackets

Kersey Jackets, \$5.00 to close	3.75
Astrichan Jackets, \$7.50 to close	5.00
" 12.50 to close	7.50
Boncle " 14.00 to close	10.00
Beaver " 15.00 to close	9.50
Broadcloth " elegantly trimmed, \$15.00 to close	10.00
Broadcloth Jacket, handsomely braided, \$20 to close	13.25

Misses' Jackets

Beaver Jackets, \$5.00 to close	\$3.75
Heavy Armure Jackets, \$6.00 to close	4.25
Brown and Black Boncle Jackets, \$7.00 to close	4.50
Blue and Black Boncle Jackets, \$7.50 to close	5.25
Cloth Jacket, braided, \$10.00 to close	6.25
Tan Cloth Jacket, braided, \$10.50 to close	6.25

Ladies' Shirt Waists

Ladies' colored silk shirt waists, former price \$6.50 to close	\$3.65
Ladies' black silk and satin shirt waists, former price \$7.50 to close	\$4.00

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PEASE & MAYS.

States to do everything possible. Secretary Hay replied that General Otis had been instructed to give immediate attention to the matter, but this government has made no promise to obtain the release of the prisoners. It is the growing belief that they will be able to obtain the release of the prisoners only by force.

Improved Train Service. Elegant new Pullman palace sleepers between Portland and Chicago have been placed in service via the O. R. & N. Oregon Short Line, Union Pacific and Chicago & Northwestern Railroads daily every day in the year. Cars are of the very latest pattern, in fact being the most improved up-to-date sleeping cars turned out by the Pullman Company. These new palaces will leave Portland on the evening fast train of the O. R. & N. arriving at Chicago the morning of the fourth day and running through without change via Granger and Omaha. Millions giving away.

It is certainly gratifying to the public to know of one concern in the land who are not afraid to be generous to the needy and suffering. The proprietors of Dr. King's New Discovery for consumption, Coughs and Colds, have given away over ten millions trial bottles of this great medicine; and have the satisfaction of knowing it has absolutely cured thousands of helpless cases. Asthma, bronchitis, hoarseness and all diseases of the throat, chest and lungs are surely cured by it. Call on Blakeley & Houghton, drugists, and get a free trial bottle. Regular size 25 cents a box. Cure guaranteed. Sold by Blakeley & Houghton, drugists.

A CRISIS IS IMMINENT.

An outbreak in the Philippines expected. CHICAGO, Jan. 25.—A special to the Tribune from Washington says: It can no longer be denied that considerable alarm is felt in administration circles over the situation at Manila and Ilo, and the latest advice are not of a reassuring character. General Otis is of the belief that the insurgents are about to force the issue, and if this should occur the result cannot be predicted further than that the Americans will be victorious in the end.

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