The Heppner Gazette

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 1901.

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

In these times there is an increasing tendency to turn to the government for every reform. It is through the state that a democracy naturally chooses to find expression. The old notion of a federal government of limited powers belonged to the last century; it has no place in this. it seems but yesterday when Southern statesmen opposed government appropriations for expositions on the ground of their unconstitutionality. A little later internal improvements by federal agency were similarly cried down. All that is past. New Orleans, Charleston, St. Louis, have asked government aid for expositions, as well as Chicago, Omaha and Buffalo. No one thinks of raising the constitutional point against them now. The subsidy bill is opposed as a matter of policy, not as unconstitutional, as it would have been a decade ago. Greatly to the sorrow of the few strict constructionists that are left, the modern notion appears to be that anything can be done under the constitution. Senator Mallory of Florida disclosed in a public speech that senators had said to him in conversation that the constitution was "practically a dead letter." An extreme statement; the constitution lives, but no one doubts that it is more elastic than it ever was before, that the spirit of the times is to adapt constitutional interpretation to events, not to force events to conform to the constitution.

This faith in and dependency upon government, which has swept away old ideals, inevitably leads to growth of paternalism; but, fortunately, the paternalism of our day and generation seeks not the impossible, but the practicable. The tendency is not toward "smashing the rich," but toward making wealth help lift up the "submerged tenth;" not to ask the state to do everything, but to do some things never before regarded as a part of the state's duty. One might predict that the people of this country will insist that wealth shall have full protection, but that it shall bear a greater part of the burden of taxation; and that a part, at least of the revenue thus raised shall be used in discharging another obligation of the state in giving protection to its disabled or superannuated industrial workers. The German parliament recently passed an act of the utmost importance known as the disability and old-age insurance law. In Great Britain a similar agitation has for some time been a burning issue. It is due next in this country. There are liberal pensions for all who serve the state in army or navy. But the serious business of nations in these times is industrialism, not war. Fighting men are well nigh obsolete; the system is mediaeval. But workingmen are the backbone of every nation; they are the army that makes a modern nation great and powerful. Why should not members of the industrial army have old-age pensions? Germany's answer is that they shall; and by the German plan, which Ambassador White has recently explained in a report to his government, every wage-earner who has completed his sixteenth year is enrolled under a compulsory pension law which ensures him against want in his old age. It is a curious fact that this idea came from Bismarck, the most effective of all the imperialists of the last century. who declared in the preamble of his plan, "that old age insurance that every man who has served the state faithfully throughout [illegible] life and fallen a victim to poverty in old [illegible] might claim a support from the [illegible] not as a charity, but as a right."

In his really noteworthy speech in the senate, Mr. Towne of Minnesota said: "'Scratch a Russian and you will find a Tartar,' I often think as you take the veneer off our modern civilization you will find underneath it the cave man, violent, voracious, cruel." The country only smiled when Mr. Towne applied this to the ruthlessness of American rule in the Philippines. We even fail to let our indignation rise to a very high pitch over the outrages which "civilized" soldiers are committing in China, where western armies are showing themselves to be as bad as the Boxers, where the Christian nations do not profit much in contrast with Oriental pagans. The veneer is rubbed off and the "cave man" is rampant in China; but we do not care much about it. And as for the "cave woman" from out of the west, this apostle of the aboriginal idea that when you do not like a thing you should grab up a club and smash it, she is only a passing joke. The American people, in short, decline to be thrown off their balance by new and most powerful combinations of wealth, by difficulties and regrettable occurrences in the Philippines, by the excrescence of civilized savagery in China, by Mrs. Nation's picturesque performances in Kansas, or by anything else. We have serious business in hand, and we are attending seriously to it, without excitement, nervousness or forebodings—Collier's Weekly

SUPPRESSED A FREE PRESS.

Inasmuch as Gen. MacArthur has banished an American citizen from the Philippines and sent him home as a prisoner, it is interesting to know the breadth and depth of this man's offending, and we are indebted to Senator Teller for information upon the subject. The facts furnished by Mr. Teller will be found in the Congressional Record of February 5, at page 2132. The offender is George T. Rice. He was editor of the Daily Bulletin, a maritime trade paper at Manila. In one of the issues of the Bulletin he criticised the manifest neglect of the captain of the port, an American naval lieutenant, with reference to pilotage and mooring regulations.

The criticism was fair and well tempered, but because of it Mr. Rice was forbidden permission in future to enter the office of the captain of the port. Let it be noted in passing that the whole affair related to civil concerns. The only military element in it was the naval commission held by the offended captain of the port. Mr. Rice's retort to his unwarranted exclusion from an official source of maritime news was a statement in the Bulletin of the circumstances and an admonition that he would not be deterred from telling his readers the truth about the maladministration of the office of captain of the port. An ex-parte military investigation was then made by Inspector General Mills, a personal friend of the captain of the port, who exonerated the captain of the port and contradicted the editor and the merchants from whom he had obtained his incriminating information. Upon Inspector Mills' recommendation Mr. Rice was thereupon thrown into jail and subsequently shipped to the United States as a prisoner.

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The order of banishment, signed by Gen. MacArthur, described Rice as a "dangerous incendiary and a menace to the military situation." There appears to have been nothing to justify this characterization beyond the circumstances recited above. Senator Teller has done well in bringing the case to the attention of the country. It serves to reveal the autocratic methods of our military authorities in Manila, and to suggest the possibilities of tyranny which are embodied in Mr. McKinley's policy of "benevolent assimilation."—Louis Post's paper, "The Public."

A PROSPEROUS TRUST.

The par value of a share of stock in the Standard Oil company is $100. Since the republican victory of 1896, the market value of Standard Oil stock has been steadily increasing. Soon after the election of 1896 this stock was quoted at $200 per share. In February, 1899, it sold for $439 per share; in February, 1900, it sold at $512 per share; in September of 1900 it dropped back to $500 per share. But after "confidence" was once more restored by a republican victory, this stock went up to $600 per share. In January, 1901, it sold for $794. On February 4, it sold at $805, and the latest quotation at hand is $815.

When one reads the record of recent dividends declared by this great concern, it is not difficult to understand why the market value of the stock has increased so rapidly.

The capital stock of the Standard Oil company is $100,000,000. In 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894 and 1895, the Standard Oil company paid dividends amounting for each year to $12 on each share of stock. In 1896 the dividends amounted to $51 per share; in 1897 they were $33 per share; in the month of January, 1900, they were $20 per share; in April, 1900, the dividends amounted to $10 per share; in July, $8 per share; in November, $10 per share; and the company has now declared a dividend payable March 15 of $20 per share.

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This latest dividend means the payment of $20,000,000 upon the $100,000,000 of capital stock.

The total dividends paid by this company for the entire year of 1900 amounted to $48,000,000.

The dividends to be paid on March 15 brings the aggregate up to $68,000,000 of dividends paid upon a capital stock of $100,000,000 during a period of fourteen months and fifteen days.

It will be readily understood from the figures why Standard Oil stock is quoted so high in the markets.

But where will we find an explanation of a condition that within a period of less than fifteen months a concern whose working capital is $100,000,000 is enabled to roll up profits to the extent of $68,000,000?

This certainly indicates that the stockholders of the Standard Oil company are prosperous. But someone must have paid this $68,000,000. Who paid it?—Bryan's Commoner.

VOX POVERTY.

Behold me,
Oh ye
Who hunger after gold,
Or to be the mold
Of fashion;
Who have a passion
To own all
They can of this big, round ball,
Called Earth;
Ye, to whom the dearth
Of anything is gall
And wormwood; say,
Get onto me,
I'm Poverty;
And I am gay
While you are glum.
By gum,
My money doesn't bother me.
And my brain isn't sore in the exercise
Of chasing around to find a price
Of investment paying ten per cent.
On stocks or bonds or houses to rent:
And I'm not ugly and sour and blue
[illegible] I have got a million or two
That [illegible] bring in a revenue
As large a [illegible] think it ought; and I
Ain't frightened [illegible] to death for fear
I may die
And lose what I've [illegible]
Oh no, I am not
That kind at all,
And I don't scare at a ure [illegible]
For I've got nothing that fire [illegible]
harm
And panics don't bother
And mobs don't corse
At the size of my purse;
I don't get drowned
From the deck of a yacht,
And cranks ain't after me
For what I have got;
And a horse doesn't fall
And break my neck
And nobody forges my name to a check,
I don't overeat
Enough to kill,
And kick like a steer
At a doctor's bill,
And I don't wear my nerves
To a frazzle
Trying to shine in the social dazzle,
With an income less
By a thousand or so
Than the outgo is
To maintain the show.
The trusts
May bust
And the octopus may
Be peremptorily and permanently
chased away,
But it's nothing to me,
For I have a kind of security
That nothing can shake,
And I'll be on deck
If the whole darned shooting-match
Goes to wreck.
Oh, I've got a snap,
And my peace of mind
Is as much to me
As the other kind
At the Pearly Gates.—William J. Lampton in Everybody's Magazine.

A Strange Accident.

Albert G. Woodruff, once wealthy and highly respected, was accidentally killed while trying to commit suicide Wednesday night in the witness room of the Essex county jail, Newark, N. J. He was a prisoner for contempt of court on a commitment from Judge Skinner, who sentenced him to jail until such time as he should pay to his nieces $2780 in the settlement of his sister's estate. Woodruff was seventy-one years old and when he retired from the hat manufacturing business, several years ago, his fortune was estimated at $200,000. He is said to have lost most of this in Wall street speculation. In attempting to hang himself the rope broke and he fell, striking on his head, fracturing his skull, and death resulted.

Expensive Dining Cars.

The Burlington has placed an order with the Pullman company for five dining cars. The cost of each car, including china, linen, silver et cetera will be about $20,000. Each of the cars will have the new empire roof, and will seat forty passengers. The furnishing will be rich, yet severely plain. Instead of using mirrors and [illegible] to enlarge the appearance of the cars, the builders will achieve the desired result by the liberal use of polished woods

IRRIGATION IN CONGRESS.

If the leading minds of the country were asked to seriously discuss the topic: "What is the greatest question in the United States awaiting solution?" it is probable that a very few men living east of the Mississippi would think of "national irrigation" in this connection. To most of such the subject is new and unstudied. It will bear study; it will bear the most searching scrutiny, and the more studied the more it is seen to be a question of exceptional breadth and of truly great possibilities and far-reaching importance to the nation.

The query that many Eastern people are now making is: What is this irrigation problem before congress? Is it a legitimate one for the government to consider? Is it one whose support will be a benefit to the country? Along what lines is it drawn? In short, is it a question of really national import?

Its Western advocates, regardless of political affiliations, claim that it is the most important national question today. Eastern legislators, regardless of party, are inclined to smile broadly at this assertion.

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If the internal history of the American republic is studied carefully, however, the conclusion will be reached that national irrigation, properly wrought, is likely to shortly come to the front as one of the most important national questions of the day. It embodies, in its truest sense, the question of home-building, and the American people have been, up to the present time, essentially a nation of home-builders. In no country in the world is the desire for home-building so strong. The wish to own and have and live in homes has led thousands of Americans to endure trials and hardships, and brave dangers almost beyond conception. This controlling wish of the American people has conquered a continent. The hardy pioneer, with his family and his earthly belongings stowed in his wagon looking for a home, has accomplished this. The locomotive has only followed the prairie schooner.

Now, what has this to do particularly with irrigation? Simply that the opportunity for home building under the old order has disappeared. New, cheap homes, within the means of the hardy settler, are, under favorable conditions, no longer available. The opening here and there of a strip of good land to settlement, such as Oklahoma, and the following rush of immigration, attests to this and also to the fact that the country is still full of homeseekers. Where, then, will they now turn?

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The new homes of the future must be found on irrigated lands. There are, according to accepted government reports, some 74,000,000 acres of rich Western land capable of irrigation if the Western waters are properly conserved. Irrigation is not an experiment in the United States, and there is no question raised as to the feasibility of this reclamation, but irrigation development in private way has reached its limits. But, since under irrigation, yields are very large, a few acres of this land would generously support a family, so that with the lands irrigated rural homes would be provided for millions of citizens, waiting and anxious to go upon them.

The advocates of the national irrigation policy urge that the government should, where possible, build storage reservoirs to catch the flood waters of the Western streams and thus provide for the reclamation of these lands. The Newlands bill, now before the house irrigation committee, and its counterpart, the Hansbrough bill on the senate side, provide for the setting aside of the proceeds from the sale of public lands in the arid states and territories as an "arid land reclamation fund," to be used for building such reservoirs, and that the cost of such construction shall be put upon the land reclaimed by them, and the land then offered for sale by the government in small tracts, to bona fide settlers, upon easy terms.

Who will come to the support of such a policy?

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More people and a greater diversity of interests than supported the homestead act, and such legislation would be even more popular than the free [illegible] ments. What other proposition is [illegible] the country upon which labor and [illegible] can better unite and which [illegible] support, hand in hand without [illegible] or jealousy? Every labor union [illegible] United States which has discussed [illegible] question has unanimously supported [illegible] every combination of capital, of what [illegible] sort which has considered it, has given it unqualified endorsement.

The opening of the vast areas of Western lands by irrigation would provide cheap homes, certain of returning the owners a comfortable livelihood. It would create a valuable and growing market for every kind and description of manufactured product and would thus be favored by all classes of manufacturing and commercial interests in the country. It would insure cheaper living in the West which would result in the opening of numberless mining properties whose grade of ore is not sufficiently high to warrant development under present wage conditions. It would create a demand for transportation which would bring to its support every railroad interest.

Can any proposition ever before the American people claim the support of a greater diversity of interests than the irrigation and reclamation of the vast and waste areas of arid land under an honest policy, which would insure their settlement in small tracts by genuine home builders?

GUY ELLIOTT MITCHELL.

TIMELY TOPICS OF DISCUSSION.

What are the American people thinking most about? Whither tends the course of opinion? What social or political changes are imminent as a result of the intellectual activity constantly going on about us, for the most part silent and unobtrusive, but a mighty power for good or ill in the end? It may be safely said, we think, that American public opinion is gradually developing along two well-defined lines, each of them tolerably sure to bring about great changes in our governmental system in the comparatively near future. One of these, of course, is the moral support of the country for that policy which would consciously project American political control over foreign peoples. it cannot have escaped the notice of all close observers of public opinion that the American people are becoming more and more favorable to this policy, so much so that our legislators, our educators, even our supreme judicial tribunals, appear to have fallen within the influence of the new order of things and to be proceeding as if with leave. At first the new idea came as a great shock to old ideals; it did not seem possible the public opinion of this country would ever sustain a policy which in essence was "imperialistic." But familiarity bred [illegible] not for the business in hand but for the old-fashioned notions which stood in the way. We hear of admirable and much-loved public characters, like Senator Hoar, actually shedding tears because the character of their government is gradually changing, because cherished ideals are being swept away, because the procession—the mighty procession of man going forth to do the world's work in the byways as well as upon the highways—sweeps past them, ignoring their protests, disregarding their warnings, leaving them to stand alone, tearful, regretful, full of foreboding, helpless. The protest against this change has been in part moral and intellectual, in part simply political and to some extent insincere. But in all ways it appears to have been ineffectual. The procession is moving, and whether we like it or not we cannot close our eyes to the facts. There is still an agitation against "imperialism," it is true, and it is doing some good, it is helping to keep the procession in order, to hold it within bounds, to make it more regular and considerate, less ruthless and violent. But despite temporary reactions and certain obstacles, the forward movement does not stop at all; nor are there any signs of its stopping.

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Surely a powerful but almost imperceptible change is taking place in American public opinion—a change so striking that we have to pull ourselves together once in a while to realize its full significance. It appears that all our mental fermentation is over outward questions and that domestic policies, for the first time in our history, are almost wholly neglected. There is justification for this view in the well night universal discussion of Cuba, the Philippines, the Nicaragua canal, the forthcoming supreme court decision on the constitution and the flag cases, the shipping subsidy bill, China. But is it true that these questions have actually, as well as apparently, engrossed all the activity of the public mind? Is there no development of note and promise as to our domestic concerns? We think there is, and this is the second phase of popular thought which it seems to us is working so strongly and quietly under the placid surface that most of us have failed to appreciate its importance. It is a demand for tax reform. While the demand springs first from the leaders of thought, from specialists and scientists like Professor Richard T. Ely, they are playing upon a popular chord whose capacity for sound and outbreak even they, perhaps, do not fully know. This agitation, though rapidly gathering force, is as yet diffused. It has not taken definite form or direction. But there are unmistakable signs that it is nearing the stage in which it will be necessary for it to be co-ordinated that it may adequately express itself. One thing we may be pretty sure of, and this is that it will not take the form of an attack upon the protective tariff system, save in an indirect or reflex way. That has been fought out. If this fermentation may be said to have already given indication of its final expression perhaps we shall find it in a demand for tax upon wealth. This demand is not only local, state and municipal but national. It found expression in the income tax legislation which the supreme court overthrew and to whose fate millions of Americans are not yet reconciled. Doubtless it is safe to assert that within a few years a new income tax law, framed to come within the constitution, will pass congress. Public opinion is rising for it.

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In all this it is not difficult to see the principle of action and reaction. Americans are piling up wealth at a rate never before known. Probably there never was in the history of the world so rich and prosperous a nation as this. Great fortunes are as common as blackberries, small fortunes almost as numerous as the sand of the seashore. It is becoming almost axiomatic that there is something wrong with the man who in these days fails to amass at least a comfortable competency. Many deplore this rising tide of wealth. They fear we are falling down before the golden calf that we are in danger of becoming too materialistic. National expansion, government of subject peoples, the subsidy bill, the great standing army, are all looked upon by the sentimentalists as part of the orgy of brute force and mighty dollars which has taken possession of the world. But here comes the reaction. In a great democracy the two controlling forces are the leaders of thought—the large and happily increasing number of thinkers, philosophers, students and writers who resemble their ancient prototypes in caring little for the fleshpots of accumulation—and the great mass of the people who prosper only moderately and are not so taken up with money getting that they have no time for thinking. Between these two elements there is a natural affinity. one leads, the other follows; one gives scientific direction, the other furnishes the strength and the votes. It is these forces that can stand against all the [illegible] aristocracy in the world, with the [illegible] their mouthpiece. When they [illegible] to move they can sweep the field, [illegible] and sweep it quickly. Just now their [illegible] tendency is toward moderate, scientific [illegible] socialism. They would [illegible] tax wealth, not destroy it. Men who grow rich do so [illegible] through the protection given them by [illegible]. The state may not use its powe[illegible] to the extent of interference with the [illegible] natural law of free opportunity. But [illegible] may say, and appears disposed to say, that the unit [illegible] with increasing force, that the unit [illegible] be the dollar, not the [illegible] teller, Morgan, Vanderbilt, Harriman, Hill, Gates [illegible] as much wealth as they [illegible] their genius will enable [illegible] but they owe the state [illegible] the privileges which the [illegible] must pay it. Besides, [illegible] senatorial aspirations.

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There is cause for congratulation in the fact that this agitation has not taken extreme or violent form. The American people are [illegible] balanced. They justify the [illegible] all believers in a free and [illegible] democracy. Americans [illegible] expansion, even rule of dependencies, but they insist that [illegible] shall be just and generous. They demand regulation [illegible] of monopolies, trusts, but they will sanction no interference with the right of property, and they are willing to [illegible] sides of the case—the [illegible] politics as well as such [illegible] Charles R. Flint, the "[illegible] Trusts," whose singularly [illegible] lucid defense of commercial combinations has attracted attention [illegible] wide. The people note the [illegible] power of accumulated and [illegible] wealth, and they demand that [illegible] shall be taxed more than at [illegible] but confiscation is no part of [illegible] gram. They want an income [illegible] they want it constitutional [illegible] ate. They seek reform, not [illegible] This union of forces between [illegible] and masses of voters, with [illegible] press as their rapid and [illegible] means of communication and [illegible] tation, brings a conservative [illegible] telligent progress which [illegible] extremes neither "[illegible] old-fogyism, neither a rule [illegible] racy nor the rule of the [illegible]—Collier's Weekly.

GENERAL NEWS.

Brigadier General Theodore Schwan has been placed on the retired list on his own application, under the 40 years' service clause.

A bill was introduced in the Illinois senate yesterday for making hazing a felony, and providing for imprisonment in the penitentiary.

Sleet and snow fell Saturday night at Winsboro, Monroe and Tallulah, La., and Vicksburg, Yazoo City, Laurel and Water Valley, Miss.

Nikola Tesla will test his system of trans-Atlantic wireless telegraphy along the 40th parallel from the coast of New Jersey to the coast of Portugal.

It is understood the Anglo-Russian syndicate recently formed in Russia to build railroads and work mines includes representatives of the Rothschild interests.

At the meeting of the Jewish Women's council, in New Orleans, Mrs. Newman, of Portland, Or., read a report on the condition of the society in her city.

Minister Conger has started from Pekin on his return to the United States. He will place the country's affairs at Pekin in the hands of W. W. Rockhills.

Crosby won first honors at the Hot Springs shoot with a score of 161 out of a possible 165. Gilbert was second, Fanning third, Heikes fourth, Parmalee fifth.

Mrs. Emmons Blaine, of Chicago, has turned over to the Chicago University, the Chicago Institute of pedagogy, representing an endowment of nearly $1,000,000.

In the legislature at Utah the senate passed the anti-compulsion vaccination bill over the governor's veto. Similar action was taken on the bill by the house some days ago.

Both houses of the New York legislature passed the New York city single head police bill over the mayor's veto by a party vote. It now goes to the governor for his signature.

The eighteenth annual reunion of the Tom Green Brigade Association occurred at Hillsboro, Texas, Thursday. Many of the survivors of this notable body of brave men are in attendance.

The alarming reports which have been in circulation concerning the condition of Rear Admiral Sampson are deplored by the admiral, who is confined indoors, but declares he is not seriously ill.

According to the New York Mail and Express a copy of the charter of the new steel company, with its capital placed at $800,000,000, was taken to the office of the county clerk in Jersey City Thursday.

The American Woolen company's Assabett mills, at Maynard, Mass., employing 1100 operatives, are shut down on account of the strike of 30 women employes who are dissatisfied with their wages.

The new list of officers of the American Steel and Wire company announced shows that John W. Gates is still at the head of the board of directors, as well as leading member of the executive committee.

A contribution of a quarter of a million dollars by John D. Rockefeller to Brown university was announced at the annual dinner of the Brown university alumni association of New York held at the university club.

Cadet Hobson, brother of Lieutenant Hobson, has been promoted to the post of quartermaster of the West Point battalion, while Cadet Phil Sheridan, son of the famous cavalry leader, has been promoted to a lieutenancy.

A blizzard has prevailed north of Jamestown and extending into Canada for 48 hours up to midnight of Saturday. Trains have been abandoned north of Carrington. Snow in some places is higher than the box cars.

Li Hung Chang asserts, says the correspondent of the Morning Post at Pekin, that the punishment to be imposed upon Prince Chuang and Fu Sian has been carried out in accordance with the demands of the foreign envoys.

A mob took Peter Berryman, a desperate negro, out of the city jail at Mena, Ark., and hanged him to a tree. The crime of which Berryman was accused was an assault on a 12-year-old girl, whose condition is critical.

Statements having been published that General Harrison Gray Otis was seeking the office of pension commissioner, General Otis authorizes a denial of the publications, saying that they were without a shadow of foundation.

Haden's opera house at Columbia, Missouri, was destroyed by fire Saturday, while a matinee performance was in progress. The audience was largely composed of children, but all escaped injury. Loss, $80,000; insurance, $40,000.

The American syndicate prospecting for oil in Egypt it is said has struck it rich. Thomas Shatkey, a driller, writes home that the first well drilled is a producer. Oil is struck at a depth of 2,500 feet. It is near the banks of the Red sea.

Patrick Hussey, of Omaha was arrested on a warrant sworn out by John M. Raum, an Omaha detective, on a charge of being concerned in the kidnaping of young Cudahy. John F. Lake, alias Tory, was arrested also on the same charge.

There has been talk in Wall street of an attempt of the Chinese government to float a loan in this country of $[illegible] not only to meet the exigencies of the [illegible] pressing, to pay indemnities etc. It is said that Minister Wu has approached a number of bankers.

It has been decided to open the gates of the Pan American exposition Sundays. According to the plans the management of the exposition will not display the subject in any way, but the gates will be open the first Sunday after the opening of the exposition.

The arrangements whereby farming implements may be imported into Turkey free of duty has been renewed for another year. The Turkish minister at Madrid [illegible] again [illegible] his resignation as the Porte [illegible] to the non-payment of his salary.

Fat cows are killing near Baltimore by agents of the owners of the cat boats of Canada. The cats have also killed Kidnaper Eddie Cudahy is guarded [illegible] by [illegible] authorities [illegible] Omaha. He denies [illegible] surrender [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]