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ANOTHER PORK MEASURE.

Another so-called pork measure has been reported to the house of representatives, the rivers and harbors bill which carries appropriations for some thirty-eight million dollars, of which about ten millions are for new projects. This bill has been polished up by the committee on rivers and harbors, of which Representative Sparkman of Florida is chairman, and it is no surprise to find that Florida is treated in a very liberal manner. Several new Florida projects are included in the measure, involving proposed expenditures of \$2,000,000, to say nothing of sixteen old projects which are continued. Other southern states are not forgotten, a good example being an additional appropriation for the Brazos river in Texas, on which some \$3,000,000 already has been spent without aiding or benefiting commerce in any way, and with absolutely no prospect this ever will be accomplished.

Although the present rivers and harbors bill is somewhat more modest than some of its predecessors, it nevertheless is plain that it still carries generous chunks of pork, meaning inexcusable waste of the public funds. Representative Fear of Wisconsin has prepared a minority report pointing out the "fakes" in the measure, and he also intends to vigorously oppose it when it comes to a vote. Strong opposition also is developing in the senate, it is claimed, where there is talk of a filibuster, if necessary, to defeat the measure. And the public, which heartily discredits these shameless raids on the treasury, will sincerely hope these plans of opposition will prove successful.

Meanwhile, as a measure of pork-prevention, the president is reported to have suggested the naming of a commission to investigate and report on rivers and harbors projects, and a little provision for a temporary commission has been slipped into this bill. Just why it is necessary to add one more commission to the steadily lengthening list of government commissions, with their quota of clerks, stenographers, inspectors, experts, and attorneys, is not clear. The army engineers investigate all projects and report on them impartially and expertly, but congress never takes their adverse opinions, when it is a case of pork-grabbing. What reason is there to suppose that congress would pay any more attention to a commission?

TIME TO BE CAREFUL.

Grip and pneumonia are two ever present perils at this season of year, and reports indicate they are unusually severe this season and claiming many victims. Both are winter diseases, statistics showing that about one-half of the cases of pneumonia developing through an entire year occur during the months of December, January and February, while grip likewise seems to favor these months. Both are germ diseases, and both may be guarded against by proper precautionary measures. And the very first rule to insure such safeguard is to cultivate a condition of high physical vitality and resisting powers against the infection of the germs which cause these annoying and dangerous diseases.

In some parts of the country grip is now termed epidemic, which is a term applied when a disease becomes unusually prevalent and the number of cases reaches a certain ratio in relation to total population. Pneumonia also is claiming many victims, and the obvious deduction is that conditions are favorable for the spread of these diseases. Climatic conditions may not be governed by man, but when climatic conditions are bad for health it follows that people should be more than usually careful to avoid excesses, exposure, fatigue and everything else that tends to impair bodily vigor and physical resisting power against disease. Clean living and good habits are especially desirable at such a time, for the penalty of neglect may be serious illness, or death itself. And if all persons would remember this fact and be prudently careful, it unquestionably would diminish the danger of these winter diseases and save many lives.

Yet while many do follow this advice, others blindly continue to court disease and then blame their luck when they fall ill, ignoring the fact that they themselves are largely to

blame. These are the ones who usually are the first victims of grip and pneumonia, and their carelessness is a menace to others, as well as to themselves. For they keep up the cultivation of the germs which spread to others, directly and indirectly, and thus the menace of an epidemic is increased. Wherefore it is important that individual responsibility be impressed on all, not only for personal safety but as a safeguard of the health of communities and society in general.

"SAFETY FIRST."

Jim O'Leary, a well-known Chicago gambler and bookmaker, does not believe in taking things for granted when it comes to paying bets, and especially election bets. O'Leary still holds considerable money staked on the outcome of the presidential election last November, and although the fellows who took a chance on Wilson winning think they are entitled to the cash O'Leary insists they must wait a bit longer. He admits it looks very much like Wilson, but he says he wants to be sure and that it will not be definitely settled until congress decides the question, which it will do on February 8. "There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip," quotes O'Leary, who further declares he is a firm believer in the rule of "safety first."

O'Leary may be drawing the point a trifle too fine for the comfort of his patrons, but at that his position is unassailable. And if every stakeholder of election bets would be as particular about waiting until the last shadow of doubt was removed, it is safe to say it would almost be a complete cure for the evil of election betting.

THE PASSING OF TWO HEROES.

In the recent death of William F. Cody, better known as "Buffalo Bill," and Admiral George Dewey, comes a reminder of the hardships which our forefathers endured, and the great sacrifices they made in the battle on the frontier where history is written. Colonel Cody's early career was filled with incidents of thrilling excitement and adventure, typical of frontier times and conditions no more so than were Admiral Dewey's early experiences in naval engagements of the civil war. Cody was famous as a scout and hunter and he achieved a reputation which became valuable in later years when he turned to the more prosaic calling of an actor which in turn led him to become a partner in the so-called "wild west" exhibitions. But the real wild west as he knew it in his early days, ceased to exist long ago. And at the ripe old age of 71 he has been called to join the other hardy pioneers who helped to transform the western land of Buffalo and Indians into a populous section of prosperity, productivity and progress.

Admiral Dewey's life was a frontier battle on the open sea for America. Farragut was the inspiration for his career, and no other man of our navy since the distinguished civil war admiral's time has so won his way into the hearts of Americans as did George Dewey. It was in the Spanish war of 1898 that this son of Vermont was made world famous in the battle of Manila bay. So successfully did he maneuver against the Spanish fleet that not one life was lost and not an American ship severely damaged in the action which practically decided the outcome of the war. Not alone was Dewey great as a seaman; he was a statesman and diplomat of no mean ability, as witness his handling of the German admiral, Diederich, of the German fleet, a masterpiece of complete skill. It was he who made ascendant the commercial position of the United States in the Orient, established by Commodore Perry way back in 1841.

Both Colonel Cody and Admiral Dewey performed their share of America's great work, and their names will be long remembered and duly honored.

The German submarine Deutschland is reported again on her way to this country. She has been remarkably lucky thus far, but one is reminded of the old adage about the pitcher that goes to the well once too often.

When alcohol replaces gasoline as automobile fuel there seems to be no good reason why one should not fill the tank with sawdust and let the fiver make its own juice as it goes along.

Another big munitions plant in this country has been destroyed by explosion, causing a heavy financial loss and the sacrifice of more lives. Rather suspicious, to say the least.

California boasts of its perfect climate, but statistics show that the highest suicide rate in this country is to be found in the cities of the Golden Gate state.

Harry Thaw says he objects to being treated like an ordinary criminal. Isn't he getting just a little too particular?

OTHERS' OPINIONS

Blood Tells.

It is a trite saying that blood tells. This is noticeable in the human family and applies with equal force in reference to the animal kingdom. A few years ago farmers, as a rule, did not realize the value of using pure-bred sires in their herds as they do at the present time. Occasionally would be found pure-bred boars used in raising hogs and the development of his hogs led the farmer to start the improvement of his cattle.

We are convinced that there is no money better expended on the farm than that invested in pure-bred bulls for building up the grade of cattle. The larger farmer is more apt to use pure-bred bulls than is the small farmer, because he is carrying on a larger business. We would, however, point out that it is equally as important that the small farmer should use improved blood as it is for the large farmer. If the small farmer has only a few cows, he is likely to think it is a large price to pay from \$100 to \$150 for a pure-bred bull, but notwithstanding the fact that the expense is a large one at first, in the end the increase in value of his stock will more than pay for the additional expense of purchasing a pure-bred bull.

The way to go at the matter of purchasing a pure-bred sire for cattle or swine is for the farmer to study his needs and understand the standard he is endeavoring to reach. We would advise purchasing sires from families that have established a reputation. The line of breeding should be a good one, and while the individual is of as great importance as the pedigree, still where a strong pedigree backs up an animal of any kind, we may be pretty sure that the offspring from such sires will be of high grade.

We would urge the readers of Western Farmer who are working along with grade stock to study this question from all sides and see if there is not an opportunity to do still better. The amateur who contemplates going into the livestock business should bear in mind that when the price of livestock is low is the best time to purchase pure-bred stock. When we stop to consider that less than 3 per cent of the cattle in the United States today are pure-bred, one can see at a glance the opportunity that presents itself for the breeding of pure-bred stock.—Western Farmer.

SCHOOL NOTES

The regular zone meeting was held at Elkins school last Saturday where ten school districts were loyally represented by their progressive teachers, who came with smiling faces and open minds to give and take in an intellectual way. These meetings are gradually attracting the patrons of the surrounding communities and many earnestly express their approval and increasing interest in the work. One of the enthusiastic mothers at Elkins last Saturday said, "Those that don't find time to come to these meetings are missing a priceless treat."

Saturday's work began at nine-thirty by singing a familiar hymn which was followed by a brief discussion on reading by Supervisor Moore. Miss Lucille Hamilton gave a very interesting observation lesson in reading with her fourth grade class showing her ability in developing the salient points: thought getting and expression. She also explained some forms of busy work. Miss Edna Messinger of Suver spoke at length on busy work which she ably demonstrated to the satisfaction of her fellow teachers. Miss Marie Smith of Buena Vista gave some beneficial pointers on busy work, showing not only ability, but been interest in her professional pursuit. Miss Edith Witzel of Elkins followed the primary work with a seventh grade reading class which was instructive and interesting to all. It helped the other teachers prove the worth of the reading plans as were outlined and taught by Supervisor Moore at the first zone meetings.

The noon hour having arrived by this time the interested listeners proceeded to the basement where the physical food was as well and splendidly served by the thoughtful wives of the community as the mental food had been by the pedagogues.

After lunch Mr. Moore discussed English and gave some helpful work for primary grades, which was followed by class demonstration in fourth grade composition. The class was quite normal and much laughter was furnished the appreciative audience who watched Mr. Moore develop the work step by step. Superintendent Crowley led a round table discussion which proved most helpful to all.

Mr. Moore proceeded with the class work using the seventh grade to develop a technical lesson in grammar.

The work was brought to an abrupt close by the approaching train on

which many had come. The next meeting will be at Guthrie school, near Dallas, on Saturday, January 27.

The teachers attending at Elkins were: Miss Edith Witzel and Miss Lucille Hamilton of Elkins, Miss Marie Smith of Buena Vista, Miss Jessie Hunt of Highland, Miss Nellie Young of Parker, Miss Roberta Ballard of Cochran, Miss Edna Messinger of Suver, Miss Gertrude Wilson of Lewisville, Miss Lula Peterson of Valley View, Mrs. Olive McCready of Fairview, Miss Mabel Stevens and Miss Beryl Holt of Independence.

Miss Lillian Etchells and Miss Alice Eekstrom, both Normal students, but formerly Multnomah county teachers were visitors and said, "It is better than any institute work we ever had in Multnomah county."

The fourth grade class was composed of Ruth Tetherow, Gordon Matthews, Tommy McEldowney and Alfred Jones all of Elkins. Seventh grade class: Carl Tetherow and Marjorie Tedrow of Elkins. Eighth grade class: Emma Zieselsch and Winnogene Peterson of Parker. These children answered the call with the patriotic spirit all true Americans possess and every one is no doubt stronger for serving in such a noble way.

Superintendent Crowley and Mr. Moore are delighted at the increasing spirit among both teachers and patrons.

All teachers were present except Miss Rose Page of Sunny Slope.

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