

TIME TO REFLECT.

The Philadelphia Times says: The Reading Times, an able and earnest republican organ, announces that the Sheriff of Berks will sell more farms in February than have been sold at any time since the panic of 1873. It very pertinently adds that "the unusual number of farms sold has attracted considerable attention and excited much comment."

Well, what must be the intelligent comment on the failure of so many farmers in Berks county? It is not accident; it is not the result of panic, such as we had in 1873; it is not because of any financial revulsion, for money is plenty and cheap; it is not the result of depression in the prices of farm products, for they have commanded improved markets during the last year, and it will not be pretended that there has been overtrading among the frugal farmers of Berks.

Now that the national campaign is over and partisan prejudice and passion do not obscure the truth from those who have most interest in the truth, the farmers will readily see why they are realizing less for their investments and labor each year and why their lands are steadily diminishing in value. It is not because they earn less, but it is because they are taxed more. All industrial enterprises outside of monopoly combines, are now compelled to produce at the closest margins of profit. The Times, that sold for two cents three years ago, is now sold for one cent, and a better newspaper furnished at the reduced price; but there is an illimitable field for journalism, and cheapness and excellence multiply newspaper readers indefinitely. Cheaper wheat, however, does not double or treble the consumption of bread, and the farmer has severe limitations upon his business.

The farming industry, the greatest of all our industries, is now perishing slowly but surely from the continuation of war taxes maintained nearly a quarter of a century after peace, and when the public Treasury has been overflowing with surplus millions for years. It is taxation, and taxation only, that is depreciating the value of our farms and lessening the reward of agricultural labor from year to year. The farmer is taxed, needlessly taxed, for almost everything he and his family consume. If he scans his dress, from hat to boots and from underclothing to overcoat, he is taxed for everything he wears, and his wife and daughters are like living monuments of needless taxation. His house is taxed from cellar to garret; his barn is taxed from foundation stone to roof shingle; his implements are taxed from hoe to thrasher; his furnishing is taxed from dust pan to bed; from carpet to curtain; from the light of window to the darkness of closet; from Bible to newspaper; from salt to table, and the only protection offered him is the veriest mockery.

In short the farmer has become the man who works and pays, while combines under excessive tax laws strip him of his values and doom him to servitude and poverty. They profess to protect his wool to which he gives no labor and grows only as an incident, and they tax him ten or twenty fold more for his wools which he and all his family must wear. They profess to protect him on his wheat, which he must compete with foreign markets with his surplus, and the pretended protection is chiefly a tax on his imported seed; and thus from work to leisure; from secular duties to devotional, he is taxed and mocked, and mocked and taxed, until farms have fallen in value and the Sheriff is gradually closing them out when the general business of the country is prosperous.

What the farmers of both the East and the West most need is to stop politics and study equality of taxes. Whenever they get down to that one study that most interests them, there will be a sudden overthrow of war taxes in time of peace, and a like sudden overthrow of monopoly masters who now sap the life-blood of the husbandmen.

Senator Veatch's bill providing that newspapers sent regularly to any person without being ordered shall be regarded as a gift, is not needed. If a person would follow the regulations of the post office department and refuse to take such papers from the post office there would be no trouble about newspapers being forced upon unwilling persons. The DEMOCRAT is not opposed to the passage of the bill but believes a remedy already exists.

Condon's bill to increase aid to the State university has been made a special order for next Monday at 2 o'clock P. M. Let it be defeated by a large majority. It proposes to make tuition free and then taxes the people of the state to make up the deficiency.

A Philadelphia paper says that George H. Williams, of Portland, has been converted to religion, and that Senator Mitchell is still untouched by grace. No, but he is sometimes touched up a little by the ruling power of sheol. See columns of the Oregonian.

The Roseburg Review is now published twice a week and is a credit to that town.

Speed is hard to average. The 60 and 75 miles and hour train is generally a myth. An average of 48 3-10 per hour is the fastest time in the United States. This is made on the Pennsylvania "limited" in its run from Jersey City to Philadelphia, 90 miles, in less than two hours. The "Flying Dutchman" train is supposed to make the fastest time in the world, between London and Bristol, 118 1-4 miles, in less than two hours. The average, though, of even this fast train is only 59 1-8 miles per hour. There are several other trains noted for remarkably fast time on short distances. Sometimes a straight and even grade for a distance of 20 miles will permit a train to run at the rate of more than a mile a minute. One train on the Canadian Pacific road, from Cotaneau to Ottawa averages 50 miles an hour for a distance of 78 miles. On the Central road the late Mr. Vanderbilt traveled at the rate of 90 miles an hour. An average of 36 1-2 miles an hour is considered fast traveling. Many of the limited, lightning expresses do not go at a faster rate. The value of railroads in the United States exceeds \$8,000,000,000.

STATE LEGISLATURE.

A bill providing for submitting the question of the relocation of the county seat of Polk county passed the senate, but was indefinitely postponed in the house. A bill providing for bounties on sea lions seals and other wild sea animals, was introduced. Dawson's abstract bill passed the senate, also Cauthorn's bill for development of agricultural college. Miller's bill making it unlawful to kill deer for their hides passed the house. Harrington's juryman's bill passed the house. The vote on the Portland water bill was set for Monday at 3 o'clock.

PURE MILK.—Mr. Henry Stewart has established a milk route in this city and asks for the patronage of our citizens. Tickets for sale at Brownell & Sanard's.

BABIES.—The finest line of baby carriages in the Valley just received at Stewart & Sox's. Prices are remarkably cheap considering the superior quality of the carriages.

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CHOICE NOVELTIES IN DECORATED CHINA.
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Albany, Oregon