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CURRENT TOPICS.

Resolutions have been introduced in congress calling upon the secretary of the treasury for information in regard to deposits of public funds in banks and also as to the relations between the national treasury and certain banks. The inquiry is an entirely proper one. It has been alleged that Secretary Gage has favored one or more banks in the matter of deposits and that the relations of the treasury with these institutions are not strictly in conformity with the law. It is the duty of congress to give attention to these allegations and to ascertain the facts and it is not to be doubted that the secretary of the treasury will be found most willing to furnish all the information asked for. Under the law of 1864 the secretary of the treasury is authorized to deposit receipts from internal revenue in banks that are government depositories and which furnish government bonds to secure such deposits. Pursuant to this authority and in order to give relief to the money market, Secretary Gage ordered the internal revenue to be deposited in banks complying with the law and he designated one New York bank, which has long been a government depository, as a sort of fiscal agent of the government to distribute the deposits to other banks. This gave that institution the handling of a very large amount of public money and was held by some to be a discrimination in its favor for which there is no warrant in law. In a recent interview Secretary Gage said in defense of his course: "There came a panic in Wall street on the 18th of December and stocks suffered an awful depreciation. There were fears that the depression would spread over the whole country and the treasury was looked to put money in circulation and relieve the stringency. There was only one way for us to do it and that was to deposit money in the banks, so we gave notice that deposits in banks would be increased and that those depositories putting up more bonds as securities would receive the deposits. Sixty-six banks responded and put up additional bond securities." Of these the National City bank of New York put up \$400,000,000 in bonds and having thus given the largest security was deemed by the treasury officials to be the proper institution for gathering and distributing the funds derived from internal revenue.

Ten years ago our exports of cotton cloth to China were valued at \$1,519,265. In 1891 our cotton exports to China went up to \$5,334,860; declined in 1893 to \$1,638,657; increased in 1899 to \$9,823,253. In twenty years our exports of manufactures of cotton have increased in value from \$10,853,950 in 1879 to \$23,567,914 in 1899. During the same period the exports of iron and steel products increased

from \$15,133,493 to \$93,715,951. Those interested in the cotton trade have felt that there ought to have been proportionately as great an increase in the exports of manufactures of cotton. Naturally they are looking to the markets in which there is the greatest demand for cotton goods. China is one of the greatest users of cotton in the world. In 1897 China imported cotton goods to the value of \$54,000,000. The United States furnished that year cotton goods to the value of only \$7,438,203, or about one-seventh of the whole. Here is a market capable of absorbing at least four times the manufactures of cotton that we send. It is believed that under the new conditions, with the advantages given us by the possession of the Philippines, not only our cotton trade with China may be greatly increased, but trade in other departments as well. The cotton growers of the South and the manufacturers are not in favor of closing the door of opportunity. They see in the expansion policy a wider market for their staple product, and none of the sophistries of Mr. Bryan will make them over into anti-expansionists.

Referring to the assurances obtained by our government from European powers that the open door principle will be observed in China, Secretary of Agriculture Wilson said that some idea of the vastness of the interests involved may be gained from the fact that while ten years ago our exports from the Pacific coast to all countries aggregated \$26,000,000 and five years ago \$42,000,000, the steady increase in Pacific coast exports has raised the aggregate to \$73,000,000 a year ago. What proportion of this was sent to the Orient we are unable to say, but it is a fact that the trade of the Pacific coast with that quarter of the world is steadily increasing, so that the maintenance of the open door in China means a great deal for the states on our western border. It is said that ships are needed on the Pacific coast faster than the shipyards here can supply them and that all the ship-building plants, from San Francisco to Puget sound, have enough business on hand to keep them going for a year to come.

Too much encouragement given an enterprise sometimes has a boomerang effect. In Michigan there exists a law giving 1 cent a pound bounty on all sugar made from beets and it is said that the state will be called upon to pay nearly a million of dollars to the wide awake Wolverines who, by establishing small co-operative refineries, find themselves in clover through the rapid development of the beet sugar industry. The wheat yield of the state has fallen off by reason of farmers giving up raising grain and devoting their attention to the saccharine root, now coming into prominence all over the country; and the financial effect on the state treasury is such that efforts will be made to repeal the bounty law. The point made is that a local industry should not be fostered at the expense of the whole body of citizens in the commonwealth.

It is a shame that a personal squabble over the merits of the two men of highest rank con-

cerned in the naval battle at Santiago should be the means of withholding the rewards due to the other officers and men of the fleet. Of all the men who participated in the war, none deserve better than Captain Clark of the Oregon and Commander Wainwright of the Gloucester. Through the advancement of others Captain Clark actually ranks two numbers lower now than he did when the war broke out. It is high time that petty jealousies should go to the rear.

The twentieth century problem is still being discussed all over the country, and bets are being made upon it, showing a great deal of foolishness, on one side. As a man is not of age until his twenty-first year of living has closed and not when his twenty-first birthday arrives, make the application to the twentieth century problem, and the case is closed.

This is worth repeating: Oom Paul is achieving as great a reputation for bottling up British troops as Hobson did by his efforts toward bottling up the Spanish sailors in Santiago harbor. One danger to which Paul will ever remain impervious is that he need have no fear of being Hobsonized.

If there are any more deserters from the union army who want their record straightened out they had better apply to congress without delay. There is still room in the pension list for a few more bounty jumpers who took up their abode in Canada while the fighting was going on.

A person cannot go anywhere on the civilized globe without finding an Irishman. Men of this race have become prominent in every nation on the face of the earth and now one of them has been elected chief of the Winnebago Indian tribe in Wisconsin.

A judge of the Iowa supreme court has promulgated the opinion that twenty-two years is long enough to hold office and he will voluntarily retire. It is always refreshing to find a man who knows when he has had enough.

There is no doubt about the Boers being behind the times and nonprogressive. They have not yet learned the value of a typewriter in war. When it comes to the use of the rifle, however, they are well up towards the front.

Twenty-five thousand men in Pittsburg, who have just had their wages raised, start in the new year with ample reason for swearing off voting the democratic ticket, if they ever acquired the habit.

TWO LIVE PAPERS

The regular subscription price of THE HEADLIGHT is \$1.50, and the regular subscription price of the Weekly Oregonian is \$1.50. Any one subscribing for THE HEADLIGHT and paying one year in advance can get both the

HEADLIGHT and WEEKLY OREGONIAN One Year for \$2.25.

HOW TO REGISTER.

And Other Features of the Registration Law.

Every elector in this state must register between the first Monday in January, 1900, and May 15, at 5 o'clock p.m., following.

Such was the law passed by the last legislature. A voter who registers with a notary public, justice of the peace, or county clerk. Electors are not subject to expense in the matter. A book containing the registration of all voters in the county will be prepared, and from this general book smaller ones will be made, giving the list of electors in each voting precinct.

Electors will be numbered, consecutively, in each precinct, as they are entered in the general county register. The clerk shall require of the elector such information as his registration number, day of registering, full name of elector; business or occupation; age of the elector in years; country of nativity; if naturalized, the time, place and court of naturalization or declaration as evidenced by the legal proof exhibited by the elector.

The actual and precise place of residence of the elector at the time of his registering will be asked, and the precinct, and, if in the country, the township, section and range; in cities and towns having streets, by specifying the name of town or city, the street or other location of the dwelling-place, with the number of the dwelling, and if it has not, then such a description of the place that it can be readily ascertained and identified. If the elector be not the head of the house it must be stated, and upon what floor thereof and what room the elector occupies in the house.

It must also be stated whether the voter is able to write his name or mark his ballot. If the elector's inability is apparent in consequence of some physical infirmity, such as blindness or loss of a limb, incapacitating the applicant from writing, this fact must be set down in the register. Should the disability be illiteracy of the voter, the clerk shall, in addition to stating the fact, enter as full a description of the physical peculiarities of the elector as possible, giving height, approximate weight, complexion, color of eyes and any visible marks or scars and their location.

The law is very explicit and enters into smallest details; until after a person has gone through the process of registering he will think he is under suspicion for murder.

Should an elector change his residence after registering, he may, before the books are closed, cause his former registration to be cancelled, by a request in writing to the clerk where he registered, on a specially prepared blank. Section 12 of the law says: "No person shall register who is not a qualified elector in the precinct in which he registers, and who is not a resident thereof, or register in a name rather than his true name, and no elector shall register a second time in the same precinct or register in any other precinct until his first registration has been cancelled."

Upon the day of election the judges, as soon as an elector applying to vote has given his name and residence, shall ask the elector if he is registered, and must also examine the register. Even though a person may be registered his vote may be challenged before his ballot is actually in the box. If not registered the elector is to be considered challenged. In case of a challenge the voter may subscribe an oath on a blank provided for that purpose, and this also must be sworn to by not more than half a dozen freeholders. In trying such cases the election judges have power to issue subpoenas to require the attendance of witnesses before them. The last section of the law gives the following warning:

"Any county clerk or clerk of any county court, or any deputy of either of such officers, or any judge or clerk of election, or any justice of the peace or notary public, who shall willfully disregard any of the provisions of this act, or who shall willfully fail to perform any provision of this act, or any person who shall willfully or fraudulently register more than once, or register under any but his true name, or attempt to vote by personating another who is registered, contrary to the provisions of this act, or knowingly register in any precinct where he is not a

resident at the time of registration, upon conviction shall be punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary not less than one year, nor more than three years, or by a fine not less than \$100 nor more than \$2000, or both such fine and imprisonment. Any person who shall falsely swear to any affidavit required by this shall be deemed guilty of perjury, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished accordingly."

For those who for any reason cannot go to the county clerk for registration, the law enables them to settle the matter with a notary public or justice of the peace, special blanks being provided for the purpose. These officials do not collect any fee from the elector, but receive 10 cents for every blank filed with the county clerk.

THREE VOLUNTEERS MET DEATH IN THE JUNGLE.

This is The Opinion of General Summers.

It is doubtful if the fate of the three Oregon volunteers who disappeared near Marilao, island of Luzon, will ever be known. The unfortunate men were Clarence Mills, R. C. McCoy and J. E. Lawrence, all of company M., Second Oregon volunteers. They disappeared April 28, 1899, and no trace has been found of them since that day.

At the time the Oregon regiment was camped near Marilao. The three young men obtained passes to go on a foraging expedition, and started out in the direction of Bullacan. Before starting, they were cautioned by the officers not to go far away from camp as the rebels were on every side, and there was great danger of falling into their hands.

The last seen of the trio they were entering a bamboo thicket some distance from the camp. They had their guns, but no shots were heard in that vicinity. When they failed to return a search was made as far as possible, but nothing could be found to show what had become of them.

General Summers is of the opinion that soon after entering the thicket they were surrounded by natives, and captured or killed. He says he hoped for a long time that they had been captured and were alive but the recent rescue of prisoners from the Filipinos failed to bring any news of the three Oregon volunteers.

"I am now convinced that the men were killed soon after leaving camp," said General Summers this morning. "There isn't the slightest evidence that they were captured and are still alive. They did not desert, hence they must have been killed. I think their retreat was cut off by natives who were lying in wait in the bamboo thicket, and refusing to surrender as they most likely did, were killed on the spot."

"The surrounding country was full of rebels. They made a desperate attack on us the night following the disappearance of the three soldiers, which shows that they must have been near us in great numbers that day."

Clarence Mills was a native of Clay county, Ky. He enlisted at Hubbard, Or., where his father, H. L. Mills now lives.

J. E. Lawrence was a native of Franklin county, Ky. He enlisted at Hubbard. His nearest relative is given as O. B. Lawrence, of Tillamook, Or.

R. G. McCoy is a native of Oregon. He enlisted at Portland, and his nearest relative, presumed to be his father, is given as J. O. McCoy, of Helix, Or.—Telegram.

THEIR HIGHER MORALITY.

At the meeting of the American Economic association, the principle subject of discussion was the trusts. The president of the association, Prof. Hadley, of Yale university, declared that he had little confidence in the efficiency of governmental supervision or control of these great combinations of organized capital. Instead of governmental control he urged the necessity of higher morality, which would lead the trusts to treat the public with sympathy and justice.

President Hadley plainly has not yet discovered that corporations have not souls and the organized classes, as he calls them, cannot be persuaded to treat the public with sympathy and justice by

appeals to their higher morality. The only evidences of their standard of morality are to be found in their fraudulent capitalization and their conscienceless crushing out of competitors by means of the individual man would be ashamed to employ. One needs only to read the history of the most colossal of these combines, the Standard Oil trust, the Anthracite Coal trust and the Whisky trust to form an idea of the moral code by which these concerns are governed. What is true of these monopolies of public necessities is equally true in a degree of the combinations that control nearly every field of industry.

The trouble with most of the modern college presidents and professors is that they see everything through the multi-millionaire's spectacles. The millionaires make magnificent gifts and bequests to universities and colleges and therefore they can see nothing wrong in the morality by which these millions have been amassed.

In a spirit of grateful appreciation and of more grateful anticipation the collegiate political economists refuse to believe that any harm can come from anybody or any concern that has showered such benefits upon them and the institutions that are through them enabled to pay high salaries and grant long and frequent vacations.

Love Story Told in Brief.

He was young, handsome, cultured, popular, and also a parson. Is it any wonder that he was the cynosure of maiden's eyes and that his holidays were marked with slippers without number and other toilet trifles, worked by fragile fingers belonging to gentle maids in his congregation?

Then he fell in love—as even a parson can properly do—with the daughter of a deacon who was also a doctor; who diagnosed the affair as promising and offered his blessing. All went smoothly for a while and then, vacation season being at hand, the parson planned a trip across the salt, salt sea, and bade adieu, with farewell words, to his flock and farewell kisses to his promised bride.

Later he journeyed homeward. On the vessel was a young lady, "a pretty trained nurse." And Miss Mary was in no way contrary when the parson yielded to the charm of her society, forgot his fiancée on the banks of the Hudson river and won Miss Mary's consent to be his and only his, before the banks of the Newfoundland had been reached.

Was there trouble when he got home? The text, "Love one another," had got muddled up in his brain and he read it, "Love another," and let the old one go. Of course there was severe comment, but the old love gave him up and wished him happiness. It didn't come. Why? The new love was of a different faith and the orthodox members of his church were not willing to accept her. So of course there was trouble.

The worry threw the parson into a fever, the fever into an aberration of mind, the aberration into committing the foolish act of trying to blow out what he supposed was his brains. He fired six shots and four of them sank in his head and didn't hurt him in the least. The doctors took them out, marveling greatly over the incident.

During his illness he was tenderly nursed, but not by the pretty shipboard nurse. She learned, through friends, of his former engagement and had sense enough to give him his congee and go back to the hospital where her services were in demand. Then, what happened? The other Mary (her name, by the bye, was written Minnie) was remembered, and when he got well he pleaded the lamentable effect of sea air on the heart that was on the bounding billow while his mate was on the shore, so that she—woman like forgive him, took him back to her arms and hunted up the laid aside wedding finery to furnish it for early use.

At the wedding the pretty nurse is to be present. She will look at the bridegroom and whisper under her breath "Meum," and at the bride, add to it, "Eet tum." Mine (once) and thine (now). Perhaps she will wonder whose next? For the heart is fleck above all things and desperately wicked. Does not the good book say so? And will the parson, while in the pulpit, ever take it for a text?

But a woman's heart, oh, wonder of all earthly wonders—"I have traveled far," said an old man, once; "I have seen many strange things; but the strangest one of all is a woman's heart."