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From a woman's column in one of our exchanges we take the following: In trusts \$719,000,000 throttles the domestic economy of the housewife. For the lump of sugar she drops into her baby's glass of milk she is dependent on the terms of the American Sugar Refining company, that is capitalized at \$125,000,000. During the morning she gives a sick child a cup of beef tea, and pays tribute to the powerful dressed beef and packing combine; where strength is measured by \$100,000,000. The fruit she buys she gets by supporting the United Fruit company, that influences the market with the force of \$20,000,000. For dinner she feeds her family on celery soup that savors of the celery trust's \$1,000,000; bread that is tainted with the American Flour Manufacturing company's \$150,000,000; butter that smacks of the evil of the Farm and Dairy Product company may do with \$5,000,000 capital; vegetables that grow and sell under the dominion of the preserving combine's \$10,000,000; icecream that represents the horrors possible to be wrought with \$80,000,000, the American Ice trust's capital; \$15,000,000, the milk trust's, and sugar trust's \$125,000,000—a total of \$200,000,000. Then a biscuit with some cheese and demi-tasse means giving trusts a further hold on the family vitals to the extent of another \$130,000,000—the combined wealth of coffee, cheese and biscuit trusts. Of every dollar spent on food for the family it is estimated there is a net profit of 25 cents to trusts. The trust problem is a woman's problem. It figures up in her market bills and may disorder the digestion of her children. What of a woman's war or trusts? The housewife has a tremendous power in the boycott.

The time has arrived in the State of Oregon when legislation relative to a right-of-way bill, permitting timber to be logged without "holding up" those engaged in the business, should be discussed. There is no question so vital to the permanent success of the lumber business as an adequate and equitable method for getting the logs cheaply to market. The present bill allowing the use of a portion of a county road for logging purposes is only a makeshift. The dog-in-the-manger policy, which is pursued by the owners of a strip of land in many cases abominably valueless, which must be crossed, is a travesty upon justice and a stigma on the intelligence of the lumber men of the state who have not taken sufficient interest to see that suitable legislation is devised to remedy this abuse. The supreme court of Oregon, in a recent opinion, affecting the use of dams, has cleared the ground of uncertainty affecting navigable or floatable streams and established, clearly, the rights of all parties who may be compelled to utilize these natural outlets. This doctrine is in accordance with the advanced opinions of courts of last resort in other timbered states. The supreme court of Washington has held substantially the same doctrine. Washington has gone farther and passed a right-of-way bill affecting the use and condemnation of land where it becomes necessary for building logging roads.—Oregon Lumberman.

The action of the senate committee in unanimously declaring against the right of W. A. Clark, of Montana, to hold a seat in the senate will meet with the approval of right thinking people of the country, regardless of political preferences. It is doubtless true that the practices which were employed to defeat Senator Clark were just as corrupt as those by which his election was secured and there will be some sympathy for the deposed senator because he will be unable to wear the laurels he won in a contest of hoodlums, bribery and all brands of corrupt political methods. The evidence presented in the course of the investigation reveals a record of venality un-

equaled in the world's history of political crookedness. It shows that votes were bought and sold at auction prices, that perjury was purchased and honor, even of the kind that is supposed to obtain among thieves, was entirely eliminated from the contest. Any other report than that made by the committee would have been impossible in view of the evidence. Senator Clark's rejection by the senate is a triumph of political decency, a notice to moneybags that political honors are not always purchasable.

That there are inconveniences in a divided nationality has been made pretty clear to the heirs of the late Mr. George Smith. As he died in London, and apparently considered himself a British subject, Sir William Harcourt's death duties were levied on the \$55,000,000 he left, yielding \$5,000,000 to the British government and furnishing Sir Michael Hicks-Beach with the occasion for astonishing jocularity in his budget speech. As the money was made in the United States and is in the shape of American securities, the United States government likewise levies its war tax on inheritances and takes another \$5,000,000. The state of New York comes in for its tax of \$2,000,000, so that so far \$12,000,000, or more than a quarter of the estate, has gone in inheritance taxes, with the Illinois and Chicago taxes still to be heard from. Mr. Smith's heirs will be able, doubtless, to save a competence of the estate, but they must look on death as an expensive luxury.

The wife of Admiral Dewey has developed a serious case of discontent. In a different form it might be called ambition, but true ambition is without accompanying symptoms of fever or brain congestion. Ever since the widow Hazen became Mrs. Dewey she has been cultivating bees in her bonnet, and those that have lived in her Easter millinery are of the presidential breed. As the wife of the admiral of the United States navy she immediately imagined that, in social prestige, she was second only to the wife of the president of the United States, and in endeavoring to assert her supposed prerogative she made herself ridiculous in Washington society. Finding that her claim was not recognized, she made feminine resolve to get even with those who had ignored her demand for social exaltation and at once to become the very first lady in the land.

The House committee on interstate and foreign commerce made an important change in the Hepburn Nicaragua Canal bill, striking out the provision for fortifications and thus providing what is expected to become a compromise. The amendment was proposed by Representative Barham, of California. The chairman of the committee was instructed to offer the same upon consideration of the bill at the proper time, as a committee amendment thereto. The amendment was agreed to, not without some expression of reluctance, but with a view to overcoming opposition and securing action.

Probably the greatest profit ever enjoyed by the government as a result of the destruction of money was in connection with the fractional currency or shipplasters issued during the civil war. The total amount issued was \$368,724,079, of which \$6,880,558 has never been presented for redemption. A large amount has been preserved as curios by collectors and occasionally even now it is offered for redemption. This was especially the case during the recent hard times. People who had the old "shipplasters" of war times in their cabinets and scrapbooks got hard up and sent them in for redemption.

Postal savings banks are now in successful operation in Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, England, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Australia and New Zealand. In Hawaii, also, the system has been in successful operation, but since it has cast its lot with the United States, the most unprogressive of the advanced nations of the world in this respect, its postal savings banks will be abolished by the action of the Hawaiian bill passed the other day.

ing much ado over the alleged promise of General Miles to the Puerto Ricans that they should have free trade with the United States. The official records show the proclamation issued by General Miles at Ponce, July 28, 1898, when possession was taken of the island. There is not a line in the document making the pledges which the Demopops now assert was made.

A letter from a nurse in the hospital at Cape Town corroborates an unpleasant feature of the war. The writer says medical officers, for many reasons, forced a number of Boer prisoners to bathe in the river behind the hospitals. Two of them absolutely refused to strip, and when forced to do so, it was found they were women in men's clothes. The writer adds: "Quite a number of dead on the battlefields have been found to be similarly disguised, and, worse than all, has often been these women who have been guilty of atrocities, such as killing wounded."

Statisticians have figured that the Boer war is costing Great Britain \$760 a minute, or \$300,000,000 for the nine months upon which term the estimate is based. This ought to be enough to stagger the British taxpayers, who must in the end foot the bills for this enormous expenditure which, for the term named, is more than \$200,000,000 in excess of the nation's revenues.

Some big attorneys' fees were paid in the case of Senator Clark. Ex-Senator Faulkner of West Virginia, who looked after Mr. Clark's interests, will receive a handsome check and ex-Senator Edmunds who has represented Marcus Daly, is understood to have been paid \$10,000 already.

Queen Victoria has given the name of Patrick to her newest grandchild. That is to please Ireland. She wants to be friendly with the United States, therefore we have the right to expect that the next of the royal candidates will bear the name of Samuel.

A woman has been nominated in Idaho for congress. If she gets there she will have hard work to keep up her sex's record for superior tongue power.

Reduce the War Taxes.

There is no longer any question but that the present revenue laws are producing more than sufficient to meet the expenses of the government, and the way now seems safely clear for the administration to effect a considerable reduction in the taxes. The taxes imposed two years ago for the purpose of raising revenues for the carrying on of the Spanish war have proved effective beyond all expectation. The increase in the internal revenue has been of a most astonishing character, amounting practically to \$100,000,000 during the first year of the new taxes, the receipts, furthermore, being still on the gain. The redundancy of the treasury appears in the fact that for the 1899 fiscal year the receipts of the government aggregated \$610,982,004, against appropriations by the last session of congress amounting to \$462,509,750. The law of 1898 was passed before the great revival of business was fully under way; the measure was largely a tentative one, its effect being to a considerable extent a matter of conjecture. But besides the unexpected increase in the revenue, we have to take into account that the extraordinary expenditures of the government, growing out of the Spanish war, are no longer a factor. Though the need which the law was designed to meet has passed away, the revenue, by reason of the law, has reached a point which bids fair to lock money up in the treasury in amounts that can ill be spared from the channels of circulation.

It is worthy of note, in this connection, that a surplus often, a deficit never, is the record of Republican revenue measures. The unexampled prosperity of the country has brought about a most handsomely realized every promise of the Republican leaders when the revenue measure was framed. Ending of the war in the Philippines and the certainty of a continued prosperous conditions makes it unnecessary that the present war taxes should be longer maintained in their present form. A bill is now pending in con-

gress for a reduction of the tax upon certain articles of household use. It is argued that this tax is a direct burden upon the consumer that could be well spared, in view of the present condition of the nation's revenues. It is clearly the duty of congress to take such action as will quickly reduce these burdens and all forms of the tax not absolutely necessary to keep the nation's income equal to its expense demands.

The Per Capita Circulation.

The cry for more money which induced a great number of voters to support the democratic candidates four years ago can hardly be so successfully employed this year, since in the meantime there has been an increase in the circulation of nearly \$50,000,000 and this largely of gold. According to the last treasury statement the total circulation at the beginning of the present month exceeded \$2,000,000,000 and the per capita, estimating the population at 77,000,000, was a little over \$26, the highest in our history. The amount of gold in circulation, coin and certificates, is greater than at the corresponding date of any preceding year, being \$785,000,000, and it is also a fact that the amount of silver in circulation of all kinds, including certificates and treasury notes issued for the purchase of silver in 1890, is larger than ever before, being in round numbers \$631,000,000. For the last four years the average annual increase in the circulation has been about \$120,000,000, the addition to the gold supply in that time having been nearly \$300,000,000.

There is every reason to expect that the increase in the circulation for the next few years will be quite as rapid as during the last few years, though the proportion of gold may not be so large. Under the new currency bill opportunity is given for a very considerable addition to the bank currency and while as yet this is not being made to the extent that was expected if business expansion continues the banks will undoubtedly meet the demand for money arising from it. There are people, no doubt, who will still say that the circulation is insufficient and that there ought to be at least \$50 per capita, but conservative men will agree that the currency increase in the last few years has been quite rapid enough for safety and for the needs of legitimate business.

Walnut Wood is Dear.

Indiana timber land, which was considered the best in the country, is being so rapidly denuded of the once splendid forests of hardwood timber that speculators are seeing the advantage of gobbling up everything that may be got in way of timber tracts. The walnut and hickory of Indiana and Ohio are considered the best that can be had, reports the Chicago Record, and the monster poplars which once formed the nucleus for the log-heap fire are now worth individually more as they stand than the acres they occupy will bring when cleared, many a poplar tree selling for \$100 before an axe touched it.

The walnut that was once so plentiful that barn timbers, house sills, fence rails, etc., were made from it, is becoming exceedingly scarce and curled walnut stumps have brought almost fabulous prices, while hickory of the shell-bark variety can scarcely be found in some of the best sections. Last year's purchase by a Goshen (Ind.) firm of fifty-five standing walnut trees near the northern Indiana line for \$10,000 and the handsome sum they make out of the handling of this rare clump of trees have proved an incentive in the search for timber in other directions. Grant county furnished a noticeable instance in the sale of the 1,030 acres of virgin forest on the Wood tract, the last large forest in Indiana, for 66,000.

A New York firm bought the walnut timber where it stood for \$55,000, 400 acres of land, the timber being reserved by the seller, sold for \$20,000, and there remain 630 acres of the best timber in Indiana, the walnut alone being sold from it. The buyers will clear \$50,000 by their deal in that timber. Where years ago the lumbermen went for only large tracts they are now content with individual trees, and wherever there is a notably fine forest monarch of the desirable variety its whereabouts becomes widely known and the competition to secure it is very sharp.

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