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**The Tillamook Headlight.**

Fred C. Baker, Publisher.  
Fire Protection for the City.

The water question is a matter which confronts the people of Tillamook City, and to decide off hand what is best to be done is no easy matter so as to give the city fire protection. There is plenty of water for domestic purposes, but business men and those who have property at stake realize that they run considerable risk with the present fire protection, and with rates of insurance at 10 per cent, the situation is anything but satisfactory. Under the circumstances, what is the wisest and best plan for the taxpayers to decide upon? There are those who object to bonding the city for \$60,000, and there are those who advocate bonding the city for that amount to put in an iron system. Both are entitled to be heard on the question. The former claim the city is not large enough to carry such a large amount of bonded indebtedness with the present rate of taxation, which would become burdensome if more should be added. Those who want the city bonded claim that the system would have a source of income and that by extending the bonded indebtedness over 20 years it would not fall so heavy upon property owners now. There is good logic in both contentions, and no matter which side a person takes their opinions are worthy of respect. We admit we have an antipathy to the bonding business, but if the majority of the taxpayers want to put a heavy yoke of bondage around their necks all we will say is "Amen" if it carries. Two things should not be lost sight of: Another financial panic that some people predict, and the tendency, by those who want to engage in manufacture, to avoid small towns with a heavy rate of taxation. It's not our intention to scare people on such points, but in considering the question in a careful, deliberate and business way they should not be lost sight of. Taxes will be heavy enough, anyway. The bonds on the district for the old school house, which have been running a number of years, yet only amounting to \$2000 and never paid, the bonds on the new school building amounting to \$8000, and \$60,000 for a water system, can the taxpayers stand it? It can, probably, if the bonded indebtedness is saddled on the next generation to pay off, a legacy it will have to groan under. We are at a loss to know what is best to recommend for fire protection until such time as the taxpayers signify to what expense they are willing to agree upon to procure it. That is the point to be settled.

**Other Side of Oleo Law.**

A recent press dispatch from Washington gives the statistics of the oleo business during the past year. It does not require any editorial assistance to point out where the decreases have occurred. By the enactment of the law restricting what good authorities believe to be a legitimate use of oleo as a food, the records upon which the report of the commissioner of internal revenue will be founded show that during the year there has been a decrease of \$2,297,709 in the receipts from oleo as compared with one year ago. In other words, the receipts this fiscal year amount to \$736,783. This can have but one meaning—transactions in oleo have been reduced. Marked instability in the oleo market is the result. Packers cannot secure a market for their surplus, so they are obliged to turn it into a cheaper product than oleo—tallow. Instead of realizing from 10 to 11 cents, they realize from 5 1/2 to 6 cents. The problem is well summed up in a statement issued from a leading firm at this point, as follows:

"Federal legislation and restrictions by many states regarding the manufacture of oleomargarine have lessened the productive value of beef suet that the packers are compelled to make tallow from this product, which is worth perhaps 5 1/2 to 6 cents per pound, instead of oleo oil, formerly worth nearly double that. Oleo oil, as is well known, is an absolutely pure animal product made from prime beef suet and is used in the manufacture of oleomargarine. Before the restrictive measures were taken oleo oil sold at 10 and 11 cents per pound. As a result of the decreased value of beef suet, cattle sold by the producers in the live stock markets of the country are worth from \$3 to \$5 per head less than they were prior to the enactment of laws against oleomargarine."

Packers feel the decline first, but the final reaction ends with the farmer and feeder. The products of his steers are not worth so much, consequently the value of the steers decline. Let the reader bear in mind that during the year 1902 cattle sold in Chicago to the amount of \$159,114,000, not including

elves to the value of \$3,148,000. The farmers supplied these, making an increase over the year of 1901 of \$13,606,992. Does this vast value count for nothing? All unfavorable legislation toward oleo means a blow to the beef-raising farmer and feeder.—Drover's Journal.

**Mischievous Speculations.**

Secretary Wilson of the Agricultural department has pointed out some of the mischievous effects of the great cotton speculation, from which a few men composing the clique that cornered the visible supply of raw cotton are said to have made millions of dollars. One inevitable effect of this corner is the suspension of operations by numerous mills and the throwing of thousands of workers into idleness. At the high price to which cotton was advanced by the speculators the mills could not manufacture at a profit. It was safer for manufacturers to sell their cotton to the gamblers and this some of them did, finding this course more profitable than continuing operations. The thousands of unemployed operatives, however, must put up with the idleness or lessened earnings until there is a readjustment of conditions and no one can tell when this will come.

Another effect pointed out by Secretary Wilson is that most European nations which manufacture cotton and also own lands in outlying provinces where cotton might be grown, anxious to become independent of our speculators, are organizing and holding out inducements for the development of the cotton-raising industry. "The British, French, Germans, Belgians and others," said the secretary of agriculture, "own lands in Africa and they have been for some time organizing to produce cotton. They know that we are training scientists to study the cotton plant and they have been anxious to get our high class men over there to organize for them." Thus the speculators, while inflicting an immediate injury on the cotton industry, have at the same time seriously imperiled the position of the United States as chief source of the staple by stimulating efforts all over Europe to obtain supplies elsewhere. If as a consequence this country should lose command of the world's cotton market it would be a serious blow to our export trade.

Secretary Wilson stated that the prospect of the present crop had nothing whatever to do with the operations of the speculators. The shortage of raw cotton to the manufacturer is not due to a shortage in the crop, but solely to the manipulation of the visible supply by a clique said to be composed of only seven persons. The producer has not profited by the high prices, as the cotton is practically all out of his hands. The secretary said he saw no prospect of relief for the workmen who are thrown out of employment by the mills closing down until the corner is broken and the price of the raw material reduced. There is of course no remedy for speculative operations of this character in statute law at present and it would be extremely difficult if not impossible to provide a practicable remedy. The mischievous nature of such speculation is obvious. It creates a disturbance of economic conditions which is full of danger. It is unquestionable an evil, but how to correct it is a difficult question.

Among American railway magnates who take deservedly high rank Stuyvesant Fish of the Illinois Central stands peerless, not only as a master of transportation, but as a man of the highest culture. President Fish has recently given out a statement in which he commends railway business consolidations as helpful to the general prosperity of the country, but lays special stress on the beneficial effects of railway mergers which, he declares, are made to secure greater economy and should bring about lower transportation rates. According to Mr. Fish, "there is no danger that the railroads will ever be controlled by one man, or by the government. The right way to do is to let the railroads consolidate, or merge, all they want to, and then let the people look after the traffic rates and taxation." In advising the people to strike home for equitable taxation first, and then freight rate reductions, Mr. Fish has struck the keynote. But when shall the people begin? The railroads west of the Mississippi, and especially those west of the Missouri, are already consolidated into systems, and one or two have been merged with other systems, ostensibly in the interest of economy, but in reality to inflate their capitalization to justify excessive transportation tolls adjusted on the higher level basis.

The growing trade of the Dominion, as shown in the statistics submitted to the congress of British Chambers of Commerce in session at Montreal the past week, is worthy of attention as evidence that our northern neighbor is really making substantial progress toward that commercial independence which a great many of her people are hoping for and earnestly believe to be attainable. The figures show that in the last ten years the trade of Canada has more than doubled, amounting in 1901 to over \$467,000,000, and it probably exceeded this last year. The percentage in commercial growth during the past five years was greater for the Dominion than for any other country, the United States included, being 64.97 per cent against 32.39 per cent for this

country. This seems almost incredible and yet the details presented fully support the statement.

**Looks Like Higher Wheat.**

The wheat crop this year has been disappointing. There are but two states that have come up to the early estimates. They are Kansas and the territory of Oklahoma, that ought to be a state. Iowa was expected to have a yield of spring wheat of 14,000,000 bushels, but now reports come that the yield will be little more than one-half this estimate. The yield in winter wheat states is short from one-fourth to one-half of the early estimates on this side of the Rockies. South Dakota is reported as having a full crop of spring wheat, while other spring wheat states are giving a light yield. An unprecedented state of affairs prevails at Minneapolis. Trainloads of winter wheat from Kansas have been taken to Minneapolis, not but what Minneapolis for some time has taken some Kansas wheat to mix with the hard northern wheat to make different grades of flour, but not to the extent of the present movement.

There is no accumulation of winter at the elevators. Farmers seem to realize the situation and are not selling their wheat with freedom. It really seems that dollar wheat is possible.

**Cashier Has a Gun.**

FOREST GROVE, Or., Aug. 27.—Two revolver muzzles were shoved in the face of J. H. Burke at the Haines Bank at Forest Grove this morning, when he presented a forged note for payment. President Haines and Cashier Kane were behind the guns and the man with the bad paper nearly collapsed. He was given over to the Marshal and afterward placed in the county jail.

The paper was for \$300 and had the name of Walter Bernards attached. Bernards is a well-to-do farmer, living in the neighborhood of this place. He pronounces the signature a forgery, and a very clever one.

Burke called at the bank yesterday and asked Cashier Kane if Walter Bernards' name on a \$300 paper would be gilt-edged. He was told that it would be. But the cashier was suspicious of the fellow and drove out to Bernards' home last evening when Bernards told him that he did not intend to sign any such paper. His signature was secured by Burke getting him to write it in a memorandum book, Burke claiming that he would send him a catalogue of the firm which he represented, which dealt in ploughs.

So the cashier and the president of the bank laid a trap for the stranger, and when he passed the paper into the bank early today, the cashier took it and instead of passing out the money for it, he and President E. W. Haines both covered Burke with revolvers and called Marshal P. W. Cronin, who took him to the city jail and held him until Deputy Sheriff Sappington, of Hillsboro, came and escorted the prisoner to the county jail.

Burke is a man about 35 years of age and fairly well dressed. He had in his possession \$465-\$380 gold, \$84 currency—and a full jeweled gold watch. Burke came to town on a Rambler bicycle of 1903 model 69, numbered 10,712, and said he was married and lived in Portland.

"Why does the milk sour so quickly this summer?" is a question which has been perplexing the Chicago health department. The cause has now been ascertained. The presence of a large amount of white clover in the pasture of the milk cows is held responsible by Chief Milk Inspector Grady for the rapid souring of milk. Many persons who have written letters to the department have suggested that liquids may have been placed in the milk to preserve it and that after the fluids have lost their effect the milk suddenly became sour. The city chemists have made repeated tests in the last two weeks to ascertain if there was any foreign preservative fluids in the milk, but to no avail. It was then decided that either the milk had not been kept under proper conditions since leaving the milk cows, or there was some deleterious element in the food or water. It was explained by Inspector Grady that the pastures of Wisconsin and Iowa, which he has been visiting on his vacation, contain a large amount of white clover. He asserted that the clover, by having honey producing characteristics, has a tendency to produce milk which sours quickly.

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