

Interesting Scraps.

Rockefeller's attention is directed to the fact that his score is 100,000. But Mr. Rockefeller leaves to extend his remarks.

Conditions in China remind the people of the United States that the opening of the Panama Canal will be none too soon.

Uncle Joe Cannon is on his way to visit Panama. Look out for the bright observations in which essentials are given in a nutshell.

Again a man in a motor boat has shot the rapids below Niagara Falls. The record should be viewed to stand complete, if not ready overdone.

Loading and unloading boats by machinery has been greatly developed on the lakes, and the rivers follow suit when their channels are similarly deepened.

The Italian forces on Turkish soil have begun to execute Arab swabbers who fire on them in rear. It is hard to fix the limit of warfare when once begun.

Sugar goes down in price it probably meets coffee coming up. There seems to be no point on the whole where the two commodities reach a satisfactory level.

Now that women are beginning to serve on juries perhaps jurymen no longer be subjected to physical hardships that suggest a stony indulgence in torture chamber methods.

American volunteers have proved that they can be turned into soldiers in less than three years. On this point the secretary of war can only advocate a shorter term of enlistment.

Dr. Cook has returned from Europe and now announces his determination to begin a lecture tour in this country. The Danes went to see him. We will do the same, which is a better plan.

Army engineers, aided by the navy, have almost covered Alaska with the wireless system. It would be a good idea for them to send a message to Col. Goethals at Panama.

Earthquakes are reported to have exposed new gold veins in Alaska. Increased gold production is a boon for the cost of living the earthquakes would be better employed in promoting agriculture.

Mr. Underwood of Alabama announces that he is not a candidate for president. His opinion that he will find his hands full in leading the Democratic majority in the house is undoubtedly correct.

Most of the statesmen who have recently been interviewed predict that the approaching session of congress will be productive of a great deal of talk. This would be safe enough prediction of any session of Congress.

Mr. Taft may have the felicitation thinking that if he had not yielded to Col. Watterson's combined threats and blandishments and stayed out of Kentucky until after the election he could have turned the tide in that state.

After it is fully pumped out the tank of the Maine will be towed to the harbor of Havana and sunk in deep water. An everlasting succession of sensational yarns magazine writers out of material will thus be averted.

Ten thousand housewives in Chicago are organizing themselves into a Consumers League which is to buy directly from the producer possible. It is plain that the people of this country are recognizing that they are up against a problem in the solution of which they must exercise intelligence at many places than the polls.

The housekeepers of London, agitated by advancing prices of staple food supplies, are, without organization or preconcerted action, skipping the use of things they have always been using. That is the only way. It will not fail in London and it would not fail in Oregon. In the nature of things can not fail anywhere.

A process for sterilizing drinking water for the army in the Philippines by means of electricity is interesting and suggestive to us at home, where it might be employed in many ways. The process, which is in actual operation, and has been the place of boiling the water, consists in sending a single flash of "ultraviolet" rays from an electric bulb into the receptacle containing the water. Instantly all germs and lower forms of life cease to live.

It is possible that the business interests which have appealed to Washington for relief from what is claimed to be the uncertainties flowing out of the Supreme Court decisions in the trust cases would have reason to be sorry if their programme could be carried out. That they seem to want is a new law, displacing the Sherman law and made to conform to the lines

of the court's decisions more closely than the Sherman law does. It is claimed that, as the case stands, business must await a long series of decisions in many separate cases, to know where it stands, and what it can do.

Experts of the United States Department of Agriculture have estimated that the wealth produced in one year by the 22,000,000 cows in this country is \$800,000,000, or an average profit of \$36.36 per cow per annum. If every cow in the country was like Sophie, a pretty Jersey, on the C. I. Hood farm, at Lowell, Mass., the total wealth yielded by 22,000,000 cows would be \$1,240,000,000 this year. Unfortunately all cows are not like Sophie. She is a champion. Her record for twelve months is 14,373 pounds 3 ounces of milk, equaling 1005 pounds 11 ounces of butter. She yielded a net for twelve months of \$565.22.

In New York State the Republicans regained a majority of the Assembly of nearly two to one, and the G. O. P. leaders interpret this as a sort of indorsement of Tatt, although the issues were largely local. But the result in New York City, where the sway of Charles F. Murphy and his Tammany organization was rudely shocked by the Hearst-Republican fusion forces, takes on some national significance. It is thought to foreshadow a change in the Democratic leadership for the presidential campaign, and already a fight is on to that end. The shock consisted in a big reduction of the former Tammany majorities and the actual defeat of its judicial candidates in Brooklyn, one of whom, Willets, was charged with using a \$10,000 bribe to get a nomination.

The Republican party is distinctly for the reasonable protection of American wages and industries. It has changed customs duties from time to time. It has removed some duties entirely, as in the case of tea and coffee. For a time it experimentally suspended the duty on coal, but found that American consumers were not thereby benefited to the slightest extent. But through all these modifications the avowed Republican purpose has been to protect wisely American workers and American business interests. Democratic leaders and platforms have denied that this is a commendable or even a constitutional policy. The most elaborate speech Mr. Bryan made while a member of Congress was a free-trade argument, and Mr. Bryan has been the Democratic nominee three times in the last four presidential campaigns. Democratic overtures for fusion that include support for protective duties, no matter how small, are a flop, no matter how disguised.

At the dedication of the statue of Abraham Lincoln that stands in Kentucky's new Capital at Frankfort, President Taft made a point thus happily and memorably: "I don't think it too much to say that Lincoln had the most judicial temperament of any man in history." In a time of the fiercest passion Lincoln personally lived, thought, and worked in a region above it, and reached his momentous conclusions unaffected by it. He was fair to others, held them in respect, recognized their right to honest convictions, and looked at all sides in a spirit of unflinching good temper. He said many incisive things, but nothing sarcastic nor even satirical. His illustrations carried a laugh as well as arguments that could not be answered. His lifelong aim was to convince, keeping all efforts to that end within the bounds of common intellectual rights and the restraints of kindly feeling. His principals were absolutely firm, but his methods of speaking for them just as completely dispassionate.

Washington learns from Tokio that Japan has no intention of intervening in China unless its subjects or its interests are assailed, and even then it will not act unless in harmony with the other great powers. This intelligence pleases Washington, for it means that if the Chinese refrain, as they have done thus far, from interfering with foreigners, they will be permitted to settle their quarrel in their own way. The vague threats of possible dismemberment by some of the nations holding territory in Asia, which have been heard from time to time, have no basis in fact. No alteration in China's boundaries is likely to result from the civil war. The eighteen provinces will remain intact, and they will be part of the new nation, whatever shape it may take. The flag may change, and probably it will change, for the Manchu dynasty will hardly survive the war. But whether the new polity be a limited monarchy, as many of the conservatives propose, or a republic, as the leaders of the rebellion prefer, the place which that country holds on the world's map is likely to remain as it is.

Germany has an issue on its

hands now which may turn out to be more disquieting than did the Morocco question, and which is certain to last longer. For many days the Reichstag has debated the high cost of living, and many devices have been proposed as a relief, but the chance for the adoption of any real remedy are remote. The advance in prices of food and clothing in Germany deals a far harder blow to the masses of the people than the like phenomenon here does to the welfare of the American workers. The margin between wages and cost of living is much wider in the United States than it is in any of the European countries, and is very much wider than it is in Germany. This is so vital a question over there that it has been brought up in the National Legislature and it has aroused a more exciting debate than any similar issue has ever called forth on this side of the water.

Parcels Post Misconceptions.

A low rate of postage on merchandise is not a new thing in the world. It has long been established in many countries, and its results are thoroughly well known. Business in all its branches has been promoted throughout Europe, and in nearly all civilized countries, by cheap postage on parcels transmitted through the mails. In Germany, whose general prosperity and rapid growth will not be disputed, a parcel weighing 11 pounds can be mailed to any part of the entire empire on payment of about 12 cents postage. In the United States the same quantity of merchandise would have to be divided into three parcels and the postage would be \$1.76. If, again, the same merchandise is mailed from the United States the 11 pounds is carried in one package, and the postage is 12 cents a pound, or 25 per cent less than the charge between any two domestic offices. People can send a parcel abroad for 12 cents a pound postage, but must pay 16 cents a pound if he mails the same package to any post office, no matter how near, in the United States. Here is the reductio ad absurdum and it is high time for Congress to see the point.

Cheap parcels post rates have not ruined business or any form of business in any country. On the contrary, it expands business in general and in detail. The experience with it outside the United States has been so widespread, seaching, and long sustained that it can not be viewed as a novel experiment anywhere. Its guarded extension in the United States has been recommended in presidential messages and in reports of postmasters general, but Congress still permits the exorbitant 16 cents a pound rate to stand, and so far has withheld its consent even to a trial of a cheaper rate on a small scale in a local way. A business in city or country that can not survive if a freight rate of 16 cents a pound is reduced is not keeping step with the times, and is not entitled to nor worth special favors. Postal savings banks were opposed in a similar manner, but are working well in spite of the predictions of the near-sighted class who long opposed them.

Searching for Fertilizer Deposits.

The field force of the United States Geological Survey is prosecuting searches for deposits of minerals which shall furnish the three necessary elements of plant food that are contained in a "complete fertilizer," namely, phosphate rock, nitrate salts and potash salts. The survey has already discovered and surveyed enormous deposit of phosphate rock, and 2,308,500 acres of public land containing phosphate, withdraw from entry on the recommendation of the geological survey, are now awaiting legislation by Congress to enable their development.

In order, however, to insure an "all-American" fertilizer, regardless of importations from other countries, it remains to discover deposits of nitrate or soda and potash salts. As both of these minerals are readily soluble and are not to be found as "outcrops" like ordinary rocks, the explorations of the survey will not be an easy mission. Nevertheless, it is believed that the geologic conditions prevailing throughout a large portion of the arid West favored the accumulations during earlier periods of the earth's history of both of these salts, and that these still exist in concentrated deposits it is only a question of search to discover them, according to the expert government geologists.

Hardly anything could be suggested which would be of greater assistance to the American farmer than the discovery of commercial deposits of either of these necessary fertilizing minerals.

The investigation into the possible sources of potash salts in the

United States is being made this year by the geological survey under an appropriation of \$12,500 inserted in the agricultural appropriation bill at the instance of Representative Asbury Lever of South Carolina for the same purpose, but to be used by the Bureau of Chemistry under the direction of Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, which, however, is a separate and distinct appropriation from that of the geological survey.

ROAD BONDS HELD LEGAL. Medford Judge Gives Decision in \$1,500,000 Issue.

MEDFORD, Ore., Nov. 17.—In a decision handed down by Judge Calkins of the Circuit Court tonight the legality of the \$1,500,000 bond issue for good roads sanctioned by the voters of Jackson County, September 30, was sustained. Judge Calkins contended that according to the state constitution as amended, a county may create county indebtedness for permanent improvements to its roads, if it has the approval of those voting on the question.

This approval he contended must be had by an election, for no other method was provided for securing the voice of the people. The legal principles involved, he declared, were the same as would be involved, in creating an indebtedness of \$1500 or \$1.50, for under the present constitution the county could not create an indebtedness of any amount without the approval of the voters.

The action against the bonds which was brought by Ed Andrews, of Medford, will now be continued and an appeal will be taken by the attorneys representing him to the State Supreme Court.

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