

Passing Remarks.

The president has given the suffragists his moral support. He at least thinks more of them than he does of the Huerta Government.

Wall street is trying to find out whether the policy of the administration is to talk softly and carry a big stick or to talk loudly and wink.

The St. Louis girl who does not know how she will ever be able to spend a \$150,000 estate won by a lawsuit might get some advice from Andrew Carnegie.

The race prejudice of the average Southerner is aroused when he hears of any concessions being made to the American Wool Growers' Association.

President Huerta is in luck in one respect. He does not have to take time from his official duties to dedicate a monument or give away a bride.

While the people of Hawaii have never heard of Mr. Pinkham, the prospective governor they have doubtless read his mother's advertisements.

The French press warmly praises the conduct of the visiting American marines, who are voted perfect gentlemen. Criticisms from Naples may well be ignored.

Perhaps the Mexican Government has granted the concession for a 2000 mile railway to a Belgian syndicate merely to test Brand Whitlock's efficiency as a diplomat.

Moving pictures of scenes of good roads day were shown to the inmates of the Missouri Penitentiary Thanksgiving. It was not necessary to show pictures of the rings.

Secretary Garrison of the War Department wants his share of that new revenue from the income tax. He asks an appropriation for the army of \$10,000,000 in excess of that of last year.

Ex-President Mellen struck a happy average in limiting a man's earning power to \$25,000 a year. Half of the money earners believe the figure to be too low and the other half are convinced that it is too high.

A microscopic student of Gray's Elegy professes to have found two mistakes in grammar in a single stanza. But Mr. Gray dashed the poem off in seven years and grammarians should be charitable.

The arrival of corn from Argentina will supply the Southern market, but by some sort of arrangement the consumer is not to benefit. The American farmer will soon be demanding something besides a better credit system if this keeps up.

The story of Wisconsin heirs discovering a fortune of \$12,500,000 in the vaults of an Irish bank, which has been held there for years, has the limitations of an old acquaintance, and scarcely a change of costume to meet modern ideas of dress.

Gen. Villa, having risen in a few months from an outlawed bandit to the leading military figure of the constitutionalist cause, would make an ideal president of Mexico, one who could be officially recognized as an exemplar of law and order and constitutional procedure.

The policeman who has been discharged because his statement as to his physical condition when he secured a position on the force is said to have materially differed from allegations in a suit for damages for personal injuries filed a month before, can sympathize with the merchant who listed his stock of merchandise to a tax assessor whom he mistook for a fire insurance agent.

How will Farmer Bryan explain to his puzzled fellow-agriculturists in Nebraska the prominence of Mrs. Bryan in the egg boycott in Washington? To be sure, a Maryland or Virginia egg is not a Nebraska egg, to which Mr. Bryan presumably would never be disloyal, but farmers are beginning to learn that "eggs is eggs," and that the law of supply and demand can not be trifled with locally without affecting the whole country.

Secretary Houston of the Department of Agriculture has justified the wisdom of his appointment by conducting an inquiry into the needs of the women on the farm. This is the one subject that this enterprising department has heretofore ignored. There is none more important to the success of the stay on the farm movement. Make farm life attractive to the women folks and the great problem is solved.

We have doubted the charge made by the Sioux Indians who are protesting against the making of an alleged Wounded Knee battle picture a historical record of the War Department, that Gen. Miles and William Cody actually posed with the Indians and troopers for the making of the picture. Of course, there is no denying that figures greatly resembling those of the two men are to be seen in the picture as taken and made. We had, however, presumed until lately that other men, dressed in proper costume, had impersonated both the general and the famous scout.

While the Hepburn law was under consideration in Congress the opinion was expressed that rates, within the limitations which

competition could itself impose, was less a factor in the railway problem than discrimination and combination, the two things most destructive of competition. Combination, under government ratings, was seen to be much the lesser evil of the two. Regulated combination was even admitted to be a possible element in rate-making advantages to public interest. What was asserted was the necessity of stricter supervision, not only to prevent discrimination and suppressive combination, but such exploitations of the investing public as had then been clearly shown, and of which we have since seen more recent examples.

Although we must regard the question of presidential primaries raised in the recent message as academic at this time, the contention of Congressman Volstead of Minnesota that the plan proposed is unconstitutional is worth considering. The Minnesota congressman makes out a strong case in quoting the mandatory words of the federal constitution in the creation of the electoral college. The language of the instrument is not merely directory, nor does it imply any degree of discretion in Congress to undertake changing the plan in any other way than through submission of a constitutional amendment. The Minnesota member is probably correct in his opinion that the Supreme Court would declare unconstitutional any federal law making the changes proposed by Mr. Wilson, without a previous amendment of the constitution by the states striking out the mandatory words now there in the ordination of the electoral college, a majority of the votes in which are necessary for legal qualification of a president or vice president.

Reduce the Oleo Tax.

Representative Buchanan, of Brenham, Tex., has introduced a bill in the House of Representatives which is likely to arouse a controversy in which the ire of the united dairy interests will be displayed. One novelty in the bill may not bear scrutiny. It prescribes penalties for consumers that knowingly buy misbranded oleo. This would be practically impossible of enforcement because of the difficulty of proof. And there is a question as to its constitutionality. The cities and states may protect persons who eat at restaurants, hotels and boarding houses by requiring that where oleomargarine is served instead of butter a sign to that effect be displayed by the landlord or caterer.

For years the dairy interests have resisted the repeal of this tax, and they have succeeded by alarmist

methods in getting the co-operation of thousands of farmers. Congressmen from the agricultural districts have usually voted against their own judgment out of deference to the supposed wishes of their constituents. It is fortunate that the congressman who is now urging the matter may be called a country member, since he lives in a small city of Texas and in a district which has but one city of 30,000 population. The bill, according to the synopsis of it in the dispatches, would remove both the one fourth of a cent a pound tax on uncolored oleomargarine and the 10 cents a pound tax on the colored. It imposes strict governmental regulations on the manufacture and sale of oleomargarine, among them being the provision that it shall be sold in original packages bearing labels giving a true statement of the nature of the contents and the name of the maker. Severe penalties are provided for violation of part of the proposed law. There should be a slight tax for two reasons: The payment of the cost of supervision and also to insure federal control. It is subject to federal control now, unless designed for interstate shipment, only through its being taxed under the internal revenue laws. The 10-cent tax is practically prohibitive, as the annual output of colored oleomargarine is now only 3,000,000 pounds. The uncolored product, bearing the small tax, is nearly forty times as great.

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