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RESULT OF SCIENTIFIC FARMING.

A forthcoming circular of the agricultural department will contradict the prevailing impression that the fertility of the country is wearing out.

Pennsylvania is doing well in forestry and in tree conservation.

The state commissioner reports nearly 1,000,000 acres in the reserve, to which additions are being made, and has much to say about the effective system of replanting, cultivation and general safeguarding.

Dislike of the cigarette has often been manifested by fathers, mothers and guardians.

Thus a young man named Acker, of Atlantic Highlands, N. J., has been left \$25,000 by his grandfather on condition that for the next 24 years Acker shall refrain from indulging in cigarettes.

The plan, announced from Boston, of solving the problem of illiterate and impecunious immigrants.

By educating them and getting them into profitable employment is undoubtedly a good one, and would be effective if it could be executed.

Roads like those proposed in England, on which there would be no speed limits for motorists.

Sensible persons would all use the other road, and the speed maniacs would soon bring themselves to their fit end.

The time-honored swindling schemes do not show much variety.

but they probably rely, with more or less certainty of profit, on the fact that there are no special novel changes in human nature.

Now is the time for gazing at the shelf-load of pickles, plums, peaches and other preserves.

and letting yourself think how good they will all taste this winter.

FOR AN EMERGENCY

PRESIDENT TAFT EXPLAINS POSITION ON INCOME TAX.

Declares Emphatically He is Not in Favor of Its Imposition at Once, Though He Would Have States Indorse It.

In the light of extensive and widely varying speculation regarding the attitude of President Taft toward the income tax, it is gratifying to note that in his speech at Portland, Ore., he set forth his views with a directness which leaves no doubt as to where he stands.

"I am not in favor of levying an income tax such as that which was provided in the bill, in times of peace. I am not in favor of it because I think it will prove to be too inquisitorial as to individuals, and I think it will be found also that it puts a premium on perjury, so that the gentlemen whom you are especially after when you levy an income tax will escape, and only those which are too conscientious will pay more than their share."

The president's declaration must set at rest the allegations that he favors the imposition of an income tax at once, if the constitutionality of such a measure shall have been confirmed by the adoption by three-fourths of the states of the amendment submitted by the present congress.

The president's self-defined position does, however, raise a decidedly interesting question. If, as he hopes, the federal government is authorized to impose an income tax, how long will it be before it is compelled to do so? Mr. Taft believes the federal government should enjoy the right to impose such a tax in emergencies.

On the other hand, he would regard the exercise of that right under normal conditions as bad because, as he explains, it would put a premium on perjury and would probably prove impossible of equitable assessment.

And yet the strength of the advocacy of an income tax as a normal method of raising revenue was clearly demonstrated in the session of congress recently adjourned. So great was that strength that at one time a majority of the senate was committed to it and, while there were no figures available, the leaders clearly appreciated that if the house had an opportunity to vote on the question it would adopt the tax by a large majority.

Progress in the Merit System.

When compulsory civil service reform laws were first introduced they needed to be guarded from abuses by certain strict provisions. In making examinations the test for appointments and in eliminating elasticity from the system, no one could say an ideal method of appointment was being established, but only that a great improvement was being made over old methods and that the very inelasticity was necessary in order to give the new system a fair start in the struggle for existence.

Now, after ten or fifteen or twenty years of experience, the time has come when the rigid barriers may to some extent be relaxed. The old spoilsman enemies of the merit system naturally sneer at the change, but, nevertheless, what is happening is strictly logical and marks distinct advance. If it has become possible to facilitate the discharge of incompetent employes without too much red tape, that is one gain. If, as has just happened in New York state, a reduction in the weight given to formal examinations can be made all along the line and a corresponding increase made in the weight given to experience as judged by the appointing power that is another gain.

In New York state the development has gone to a point at which the civil service commissioners, instead of concealing information in a way still known to occur in some places, are giving it the largest publicity. At this year's state fair a large civil service exhibit is to be installed. It will contain statistics of positions and of past examinations, maps, charts, information pamphlets and everything possible toward acquainting young men who might consider entering the state's service with what steps they must take to that end. As providing an agency for "peopleizing" the civil service, the idea is not a bad one.

Can't Beat Him.

You can't beat him, anyhow. Col. Bryan is about to celebrate his silver wedding—New York Evening Telegram.

EFFECT OF TARIFF ON PRICES

Impossibility That Reduction of Duties Should Result in Immediate Price Reductions.

Tariff reformers need frequently to be reminded that the tariff is only one of many things that influence the prices of commodities. By harping too much upon the effect of duties as a tax on the consumer, they give rise to the expectation that a reduction of duties must be immediately followed by a reduction of price—an expectation very often disappointed.

There can be no doubt that the duty upon hides increased the cost of imported hides, and allowed a corresponding addition to the price of domestic hides. The removal of the duty was thus an advantage to the American tanner. Other things being equal, it would reduce the cost of American leather, and the import duty upon leather being also reduced, there is an enlarged opportunity for competition, which might be expected to reduce the price.

Thus far the reasoning is clear. But suppose the demand for leather to increase more rapidly than the production, and the demand for hides more rapidly than the supply. The price could not be raised as fast or as far as under the protection of high duties, but it does not follow that it would not be raised at all. If it is true, as is asserted and as appears probable, that the revival of all kinds of industry has created a greatly enlarged demand for leather in all forms, even beyond the general ratio of increase, it is evident that we have influences to consider to which the tariff can be only secondary.

The uses of leather have increased enormously of late years and in many fields. Even the automobile is said to have made an appreciable difference. People are wearing American shoes all over the world who never wore shoes before. It may safely be concluded that if the duties on hides and leather had not been reduced, all prices would have been raised to the highest possible figures. The "revision" has checked an artificial advance. It is also demonstrated that the reduced duties are more than adequate for all desirable protection.

Judge Gaynor's Pose.

Judge Gaynor, the Tammany candidate for mayor of New York, is conducting one of the freakiest campaigns in the whole history of queer-streak politics. He is the willing nominee of the Tammany organization, but continues to harangue against municipal corruption and to discourse in general upon the exceeding sinfulness of all the arts and methods by which Tammany has been accustomed to win elections and to thrive upon the boundless opportunities for graft that have followed the various winnings. He is the nominee of an organization that has made political crookedness a science, but continues to point with pride to "my life record and my life work for good government and to destroy low and corrupt government" without an apparent touch of embarrassment at the ridiculous pose in which he is placed.

A candidate of Tammany hall preaching reform in politics is somewhat in the same classification of that notorious individual who upon occasion and to subserve his own ends is supposed to rebuke sin.

The Tammany candidate has even made the spectacular play of sending back money which was forwarded to him for campaign purposes. Possibly that \$1,000 check which a Brooklyn merchant sent directly to the judge through the mail was for the very purpose of giving him an opportunity to write a letter declaring "I have decided not to use a dollar in this election." Even in the primary which resulted in the nomination of Justice Gaynor, Tammany influences were accused by several of the New York dailies with having stuffed the ballot-boxes to assure the election of certain convention delegates. And to think that the candidate of an organization that could resort to such methods is opposed to the using of a dollar to promote his candidacy! Gotham must be growing pretty solemn if it is not touched by the gaiety of such a situation.

Taft's Antipodal Critics.

Taft is the type of statesman who incurs criticism from both the opposite extremes of opinion.

He is too conservative for the radicals, and too progressive for the ultra-conservatives. He may be defined as a progressive conservative. He is the man who thinks hard before speaking; looks before leaping; and wants to be reasonably sure he is right before going ahead.

He is a reasonable man. He is capable of compromise—in the essence, as Burke says, of statesmanship. He believes in progress, but he steers by settled principles; and he knows when to shorten sail.

It is because of such traits of temperament and training that the bulk of our people regard him as the ideal man for the presidency at the present time, when "slow speed ahead" is the needed word in legislation.

The business world, big business and little, employers and employed, breathed a sigh of relief when he was elected. The labor world felt that while there might under him be less vociferous lip service to the "square deal," there would be more of the real article all around. It had discovered that while threatening and alarming capital might be good fun for the gallery, it was death for work and wages.—Milwaukee Sentinel.

Mr. Bryan is at present engaged in making the next congress Democratic and, incidentally, in keeping himself advertised for lecture purposes

SUMMARY OF A WEEK'S EVENTS

Latest News of Interest Boiled Down for the Busy Man.

PERSONAL.

Horace H. Lurton of Nashville is believed in Washington to have the best chance for appointment to the bench of the supreme court to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Justice Peckham. Lurton is an old friend of President Taft.

G. A. Simpson, a Grant county (Ky.) tobacco grower, who shipped 75,000 pounds of his 1909 crop, with the aid of state troops, says he will move to New Mexico, as he fears night riders.

Jacob M. Dickinson, secretary of war, says if his candidacy for senator in Tennessee would unite the Democratic factions in the state, he would make the race.

Prof. Hendlee of the Kansas agricultural college says chinch bugs cause from \$5,000,000 to \$25,000,000 loss annually to the farmers of the state. He is experimenting with destroyers.

Dr. E. B. Morgan, an eye and ear specialist of Paterson, N. J., has come into possession of \$1,000,000 through the generosity of a brother who made \$7,000,000 in stock deals and shared his fortune.

Cardinal Gibbons says he pities the friendless rich. "Millions," he says, "avail nothing to a man if he have no one to give him solace in sorrow."

Richard Croker's trip to the United States this fall is not in response to a call for aid from Charles W. Morse, according to a statement by Mr. Morse, who is a prisoner in the Tombs at New York.

Emperor of Russia was accorded a cordial and gracious reception on his arrival at Raconico, Italy. His meeting with King Victor Emmanuel was signalized with booming of cannon and cheers of the multitude.

GENERAL NOTES.

President Taft and party left St. Louis for a four-days' trip down the Mississippi. At New Orleans they will attend the fourth annual convention of the Lakes and the Gulf Deep Waterways association.

Five hundred Indian bucks and squaws, after receiving their annuities, indulged in one of the wildest orgies that the Leech Lake (Minn.) agency ever witnessed. It was the last day when saloons could sell liquor to the redskins.

Mrs. Frank Stanley, at Pana, Ill., shot and killed her husband, Frank, during a struggle for the possession of a shotgun. The woman claims she shot in self-defense.

Frederick Gebhardt, the New York self confessed wife murderer, admits he has been guilty of three such crimes, for the purpose of securing the women's money.

Grand jury at Chicago in their final report to Judge Tuttle, declared the jury-drawing system of Cook county "rotten and corrupt," and charge the commissioners with wholesale violations of the law.

Gen. Oliver O. Howard, the last of the union commanders of the civil war, died at his home in Burlington, Vt., of heart disease, aged 79 years.

Credence is given by Tokyo officials to the report that the assassination of Prince Ito was the culmination of a plot, the ramifications of which extended through Korea and into China.

Federal Judge Holt, at New York, handed down a decision which will allow Gustav E. Kissel and Thomas H. Harned, who were among those indicted along with the American Sugar Refining Company for criminal conspiracy, to escape prosecution through the provisions of the statute of limitations.

John R. Walsh, the former Chicago banker, has received \$100,000 for an option on his railroads from the United States Steel Corporation, which will enable him to settle his financial difficulties for the time being, at least.

Sheriff Strassheim of Cook county, Illinois (Chicago), was fined \$500 and costs by the Illinois supreme court for contempt in not promptly obeying a mandate of that tribunal. Gov. Deussen will pay the fine, if the decision stands, as the sheriff was, it is alleged, following his instructions.

Harry K. Thaw's contention that he was illegally committed to the Matteawan asylum was overruled by the New York court of appeals.

By a decision of the Illinois supreme court Chicago will have to pay \$700,000 for cars burned during the big railroad strike of 1890.

The western section of the Northern Illinois Teachers' association met in Galena, Ill., with Cyrus Grove of Freeport presiding.

Fifty thousand people greeted President Taft upon his arrival at Cairo, Ill., during his trip down the Mississippi.

Rumors are in circulation at Chicago that final steps looking to a gigantic merger of the various Hawley and allied lines into one compact railroad system have been consummated.

According to the new minister of war Spain has decided not to push further the Moroccan campaign.

The McCormick Theological seminary at Chicago celebrated the eightieth anniversary of its founding, eminent theological educators and divines from many cities taking part in the ceremonies.

The honorary commercial commissioners of Japan and their suites arrived in Washington and visited Potomac drive, along which will be planted 2,000 cherry trees which the emperor of Japan has presented to the government.

John D. Rockefeller has given a million dollars to aid in the extermination of the disease of "hook worm," or "lazy disease" germ in the southern states. He intrusts the expenditure to a commission of 12, including his son and noted scientists.

The federal court of appeals has refused to grant the petition of the government that John R. Walsh be placed in prison pending the appeal of his case to the supreme court of the United States, thus giving the banker a year's liberty at least.

Mrs. Chapin, a suffragette, in attempting to destroy the ballots at an election in London, broke a bottle of acid over the ballot box as a protest against the exclusion of women from the right of franchise. Several officials were painfully burned and she was arrested.

A general uprising of Korean revolutionists is feared following the assassination of Prince Ito at Harbin. His murderer has been identified as a Korean newspaper editor, and the open declarations of approval of the murder has caused great alarm.

Mrs. Charles Edgecomb and four-year-old son were found dead at their home in Chicago from gas asphyxiation. It is believed the child turned on the gas instead of the electric light. He was in the habit of playing with the latter.

Frederick Dietz and his wife perished in a supposedly incendiary fire which destroyed a tenement at West Thirtieth street and Third avenue, New York.

Inventors are to benefit from a classification of patents undertaken by the United States patent office at Washington.

Erwin Weinspach, a Los Angeles druggist, his wife and Jesse R. Thornton, who started for the Sierra Nevada mountains eight weeks ago, are missing. A searching party is to go out.

The body of Prince Ito, Japan's murdered statesman, will be taken to Japan on a warship now at Dairen. Nine alleged accomplices of his assassin are under arrest.

The new tariff bill is not reducing the treasury deficit as predicted by its authors. It is shown by a statement just issued that the deficit for the fiscal year ending October 23 was only seven million less than the same period last year.

By the will of Caroline Phelps Stokes over \$3,000,000 is given for the erection of model tenements in New York, the education of negroes, North American Indians and white students and for several charitable objects.

Arthur P. Heinze was sentenced to prison for ten days and fined \$250 by Judge Ray in New York on a charge of obstructing justice by advising a witness to evade service.

Suffolk county (Long Island) officials have found Minnie Rosenau, who says Frederick Gebhardt, confessed slayer of Anna Luther, married her in Russia 14 years ago. The woman is supposed to be one of Gebhardt's many wives.

The "unwritten law" figures in the case of John Sikes of Dallas, W. Va., whose trial for murder has begun. The defendant killed Randolph Ritchie, his nephew, whom he found in a room with his 15-year-old daughter.

What is known as the opsonic treatment, discovered in England and tried on human beings to combat germ diseases, is found at the Colorado Agricultural college to be successful when applied to animals.

Earl W. Spencer, with an office in the Rookery building, Chicago, has written to Flower hospital, New York, offering assistance to Edith Thomas, who attempted suicide after writing a letter to her mother saying she preferred death to becoming bad.

Baron Rudolph von Gutmann of Vienna, who has just sailed from New York for Europe, has returned from a remarkably successful hunting trip in Alaska and Siberia. He says that big game shooting in Alaska is the best in the world.

A report reached Shanghai that Prince Ito, the Japanese statesman, was killed by a shot fired by a Korean at Harbin, Manchuria. The Japanese consul general and president of the Manchurian railroad were injured.

Knud Rasmussen, the Danish explorer who has reached Copenhagen, reiterates his former statement that he believes Dr. Cook reached the north pole and says he saw the physician's diary and cannot believe it was false.

A brewery combine of \$10,000,000 in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, is said to be backed by the steel trust, in an effort to curb drinking habits of employes in the mills. The corporation would stop the sale of beer in kegs.

No details of frontier excitement in the early days is lacking in the "Rush of '49" celebration at Stockton, Cal., for which a typical gold camp has been reproduced on the public square.

Eluding her children and grandchildren, Mrs. Rebecca E. Walworth, 71 years old, of Berkeley, Cal., was married to P. P. Chamberlain, a San Francisco contractor, who is 75.

Deputy Marshal Otto W. Zindars was found dead in front of the jail at De Pere, Wis., with a bullet wound. His watch and revolver were missing and the jail key was broken off in the door.

MILLIONAIRE SUICIDES

MYSTERY SURROUNDS THE ACT OF PITTSBURG MAN.

Suicide Goes to a Hotel, Writes Letter, Stands Before Mirror and Blows His Brains Out.

Pittsburg, Pa.—Pittsburg is struggling with one of the most sensational suicides in its history. Edward Steinhauser, member of one of the oldest families in Pittsburg, supposed to be worth more than \$1,000,000 in his own name, killed himself in a most tragic manner at the American house here. It is intimated by some that Steinhauser had been plunging in the stock market.

Steinhauser, who was 38 years old, put his last thoughts on his mother, grandmother and sisters, whom he did not want thrown into a panic by having news of his suicide telephoned, nor did he wish them to see his mutilated body until it had been fixed up. He arranged for all this just before floating himself. The North Side millionaire in the afternoon slipped into the American house and registered as "W. F. Lawrence, City." He asked to be shown a room and stipulated that the room be large, well lighted and clean. Asking that stationery be sent to his room he sat down and in a round, flowing business hand, wrote the following letter:

"Mr. W. S. Wilson, No. 925 Pen avenue, Pittsburg—Dear Billy: Break the news to the dear ones at home. Tillie and mamma are at Annie's for supper, but grandma is at home. I cannot help this. Forgive me, dear friends. I cannot rest until I am with George.—Ed."

"P. S.—Will: Don't phone home about this. You might startle them. You go to Annie's yourself and tell them. And, Will, have my body fixed up right before I am taken home. Let them remember me as I was. Goodbye, old pal, goodbye."

"Lawrence" then carefully removed his coat, vest and collar, and standing in front of the mirror blew out his brains. The shot and sound of the falling body brought help, and the locked doors were battered in and the still warm body found.

TRADE REVIVAL IS NO DREAM

Reports from Various Sections Make the Close of the Year 1909 One of Prosperity.

New York City.—Broadstreets say: Trade as a whole is good or better, the former word, in fact, hardly sufficing to characterize the buoyancy and breadth of demand shown in many lines. Industry, in turn, responds with advances of full manufacturers' order books, full of overtime run and general reports of an insufficiency of skilled labor to meet the requirements. Altogether the situation is, all things considered, a very satisfactory one and the rate of improvement in the late months of the year promises to place 1909 close to the front in the list of years of prosperity.

While mild weather has tended to retard retail trade in some sections of the northwest, the general report is that the advance of the season and the marketing of the year's crops is bringing out a large volume of trade in the country districts, while enlarging pay-rolls, fall festivals and state fairs are all helping to stimulate distribution in the cities.

MANY VICTIMS OF WRECKS

Two Dead and Six More May Die as Result of Train Crashes in Two Different States.

Ft. Wayne, Ind.—In a collision between a westbound immigrant train and an eastbound freight train at Tocsin, on the Chicago & Erie railroad, 35 immigrants—men, women and children—were injured, some of them perhaps fatally. Samuel Barnes, fireman of the freight train, and six of the immigrants were taken to Huntington. Barnes and four of the foreigners probably will die.

Rochester, N. Y.—Two men killed, two seriously injured and one injured in a lesser degree, an engine practically demolished, the wall of the freight house caved in and dozens of freight cars with their contents damaged or completely wrecked, is the result of a wreck that occurred in the Kent street yards of the New York Central railroad. The train took a wrong switch and crashed into freight cars.

Twenty-two Miners Killed.

Rarran, Wales.—Twenty-two miners were entombed in the wrecked shaft of the Rhyney iron Co., following an explosion when 48 of the crew were entering. Eighteen succeeded in fighting their way out, and a rescue party saved eight more. After hours of work rescuers succeeded in digging out of the choked mine shaft 11 bodies, including that of Mine Manager Bowen. When these corpses were recovered all hope for the survival of any of the 22 miners caught beneath the slide that followed the explosion was given up.

Husband Finds Wife Slain.

New York City.—The body of Mrs. Rose Banks, with her head almost severed, was found in her flat here. Her husband is under arrest. Banks and neighbors told the police that he had broken in the door and found his wife dead.

Korean Riots Busy.

Seoul, Korea.—The union station here of the Seoul-Pusan railroad was attacked by 300 rioters and partially burned. The rioters were finally dispersed.