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EASTERN BUSINESS HOUSES. "The Tribune" Building, New York City. Western Business Office, "The Rookery," Chicago.

Weather Forecast. Northern California—Cloudy and possibly rain on northern coast Thursday and Friday night; warmer in the Sacramento Valley; southeasterly winds.

AN IMPRACTICABLE SCHEME. Mr. D. A. Deque of the Santa Paula "Chronicle," is the author of a bill to be introduced in the Legislature, intended to correct the tramp nuisance.

Briefly stated the features of the bill are: 1. Supervisors are to appoint a Roadmaster in every district at \$3 a day to superintend the work of vagrants upon public roads.

2. Whoever shows to the Supervisors that he is homeless and destitute shall be employed on the county farm or county roads, be given three meals a day and a lodging, and be paid 35 cents a day for nine hours' work, out of the district road fund.

3. The person so employed may "quit" on three days' notice.

4. The penalty for vagrancy shall hereafter be three months at hard labor on the roads or county farm, or both.

5. Justices of the Peace are to commit convicted vagrants to the custody of the Roadmaster to execute sentence. The vagrant is to be boarded and lodged at county expense and paid 10 cents a day at the expiration of his term. The vagrant may be discharged earlier on a showing made to the Supervisors that he is able to support himself, has come to property or has secured employment.

6. Roadmasters are invested for the purpose of the Act with the powers of police officers.

7. If a vagrant is able bodied and refuses to work, he is to be put into the custody of the Sheriff by the Roadmaster, who is to give him but one meal in every twenty-four hours and keep him in the County Jail ninety days, or until he agrees to work under the Roadmaster, and such other punishment may be applied as is lawful now, or to be made so, and he is to be docked whatever money he may have earned.

8. Supervisors are to provide barracks and lodging places in each road district for use of the "honorable unemployed" and convicted vagrants; provide transportation and otherwise do as is necessary to carry out the proposed new law. They may transfer the workers from one road district to another, or to or from the county farm.

The above is a perfectly fair and very full synopsis of the bill. It really ought to need no other statement of it to disclose its impracticability.

It assumes that roads are to be made that are worth the name, under such a faulty system. It assumes what all modern road builders know to be impossible, that good roads can be constructed by fugitive labor and according to the ideas of local roadmasters and Supervisor direction, regardless of uniform system, application of road machinery and the use of approved means, requiring in a certain degree highly skilled labor.

It assumes that tools, materials and appliances are at hand at all times, in all seasons, in all road districts, for economic road work. It classes and works together the honorable poor and the willful degraded vagrant. It involves as many semi-convict camps as there are road districts in the county, at heavy cost for maintenance of guards, transportation, etc. It makes the penalty for the female vagrant hard

labor on the roads where there is no county farm. It provides unusual punishment at the discretion of a ministerial officer for prisoners convicted of offenses below the grade of felony. It gives power to a legislative board to cut short sentences imposed by the courts.

But the main objection, if for argument's sake it is conceded that the other objections may be disposed of easily, is that it is simply impossible to make good roads, or do good work on road construction or maintenance by any such system of enforced labor, or the employment of such fugitive and changing forces, or under any such direction. This idea of roadmaster and poor labor "work on roads" has been the bane of good road construction for half a century or more. It is the costliest possible kind of labor; it is the least fruitful kind of labor, and it never has and never will be resultant of effective and economic road work.

No one with half an idea of getting good results would think of building a house on such a plan; no one would dream of accomplishing any finished, permanent and desirable construction for his occupancy, use and comfort and convenience on such a level.

Land-owners and taxpayers are entitled to the best for their money in road work. This digging up, plowing up and scraping over of county roads under roadmasters has been the curse of road systems in California, and is in all highly enlightened communities abandoned and condemned. Engineering supervision, skilled labor largely, good material purchased in large lots, transported at just the right time and exactly to the right spot, and handled with least loss of time and margin of waste are the need. System, harmonious in each part of the whole, conserves cheapness and effectiveness.

The barrack guarding, feeding, lodging and working of such a force as is contemplated would, with the added pay, cost more to the road districts than free labor at \$2 a day directed by independence, self-care and intelligence. Moreover, the proposed system takes all the tramps and vags of towns and cities and claps the burden of support upon the shoulders of the people living outside of corporate and town limits.

It is conceded that the willful vagrant ought to be compelled to work, and that work should be provided to that end that will yield enough to support the fellow. It is conceded that the unfortunate poor, without home, shelter, food or means, ought to have opportunity to earn a living, and that poor farms and county homes for the indigent are properly established for all such. In the East these institutions are generally successful. The laws of California now provide for homes for the indigent and for poor farms and work thereon. But these should not be herded with the willful vagrants and county convicts. They do not deserve to be degraded by such enforced companionship.

This whole question of public relief is one of profound interest and ought to command the most earnest attention, but the system as suggested by the bill under notice is bad, at least so far as it applies to tampering with the roads, which Heaven knows have swallowed up enough millions of the people's money without visible useful results.

Whatever is done in the matter of road construction and maintenance must hereafter be accomplished with economy, permanence, and in line with the best known methods—the day of the fugitive roadmaster road work has passed forever wherever experience, scientific knowledge and discovery have enlightened the people.

PRIVATE USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS.

While bills are rushing in it is to be hoped that some thoughtful member of the Legislature will introduce a measure providing that it shall be deemed a felony on the part of any person or official, or body of county, town or city governors, to lend any public money to banks or private corporations or persons, or to intrust public funds to the care or custody of any person other than those prescribed by law, or to permit public money to be mingled with the funds of any bank, corporation or business house.

If it is said that the law by direction and inference now forbids such use of public funds, we reply that it is lacking in the matters of penalty and definiteness. With the example of Tacoma, Chicago and other communities before us, this State cannot afford to take the risk that such unlawful custody of public funds involves.

But that is a purely selfish reason, though a good one. There is another equally as strong, namely, that it is a wrong to permit anyone to use public funds as capital to fortify private business, a wrong to all taxpayers and to others not privileged to such use. The Legislature by means of an Act to regulate the care and custody of public funds, should make declaration on this subject so definite and unmistakable that there can be no evasion of its policy and no misinterpretation or twisting of the law.

THE POULTRY EXHIBITION.

The poultry exhibit now open at the Pavilion is one of such extent, variety, excellence and interest that we are pleased to say to all the people of the city that a visit to the Poultry Association's exposition well repays. There has not been given to the raising of poultry and the encouragement of production in that line, the attention that California interests demand.

The reproach should be removed that a very large proportion of the eggs used in California are imported, and that the same is true of poultry used for food. We are able to raise all the fowls we need and a surplus, and all the eggs the market demands and a surplus. Assuredly conditions are all in our favor, and that they have not been improved upon is to our discredit. The exhibition of the State Poultry Association is one of the first order, and we are assured that it has not been surpassed upon the coast in extent, and that in the matter of quality it is one of the best ever held in the United States.

The exhibition will be open but a few days and in that time the association of poultry raisers ought to receive cordial endorsement and recognition in the way of large attendance by our people.

The exhibition of fine bred dogs which is to be held in conjunction with the poultry show for convenience opens Saturday. While it can scarcely be said to represent an important state interest, it has strong attraction for a very large number of people and it adds interest to the poultry exhibition in consequence. It is said by those who are skilled in these matters that the Kennel Club has managed to bring together an altogether superior lot of animals, and that the bench show promises to be one of the best and largest ever held on the coast. That a judge should have been called upon to come out from New York to pass upon the merits of the animals is indicative of the great interest taken by sportsmen and dog fanciers in this branch of the exhibition at the Pavilion.

An Eastern paper says that a rich woman's dress costing \$300, if represented by coin, would buy 1,000 loaves of bread for the poor. Indeed, bread must be high in the East. We supposed that \$300 would buy at least 6,000 loaves. But the statement is made to illustrate what might be done with the money the rich woman expends for a fine dress, and to that extent to encourage hatred of those who have rich dresses. So far as extravagance is concerned, it will find no apologist among sensible people, nor will the arrogance of the rich when made manifest. But the rich dress, no matter what it is, pays labor somewhere; if in this country, all the better. Its manufacture and final outfit is a means of scattering the cost among artisans; if those of home, so much the better also. Just so far as the dress, therefore, conserves industry it is not necessarily a bad thing that it is made and worn. So far as its excess of cost goes beyond the proper reward of labor that produces it is concerned, it is extravagant and represents besides improper distribution of the rewards of toil. It is infinitely better that there shall be rich dresses worn and thrown aside, and more rich dresses ordered, than that the cost of the same shall be hoarded, or even increased in cent per cent. paper and bonds, which represent the necessities of those who have to borrow and pay the toll. It would probably be better if a hundred-dollar dress were worn by the rich woman, and the extra \$200 used in relieving honest distress, by helping the sufferer to help himself. Therefore, the best uses of given money are those in which direct giving and indiscriminate charity are avoided, and the recipient is aided to self-help and not made a dependent. But so far as the case of the \$300 dress goes, the same paper that gives the illustration is an enthusiastic supporter of Mr. Bryan and his cause. That gentleman is just now swinging around the circle for the second time, but on this trip he is charging from \$1,000 to \$2,000 a lecture, and is sometimes receiving more. He refused point blank to lecture in Albany, N. Y., on a guarantee of \$1,500, and wanted \$2,000. Now, if Mr. Bryan would take \$500 of the easily won \$1,000 and \$2,000, and do with it as his champion wishes the rich woman to do with the sum represented in her fine dress, how many loaves of bread would he be able to give to the poor? If the rich woman is extravagant in spending \$300 for one dress, Mr. Bryan is an extortioner in wringing out of hard times \$1,000 for one talk.

The news comes from apparently reliable sources that General Weyler is to be recalled. That will, if effected, not probably weaken the insurgent cause. It may remove a good deal of cause of complaint, but that it will have the effect of lessening the vigor of the rebels we do not anticipate. If the Cubans are not in deadly earnest in the effort to achieve independence, then history gives us no record of a people resolved to do or die. Here we have an island of not large proportions, with but about one-half of its area capable of sustaining a large population, inhabited by mixed races and long oppressed by a strong power, presenting a spectacle that is anomalous in history; a comparatively small body of insurgents having no treasury, ill-armed and ill-provided with the essentials for successful war, defying for more than fifteen months the armies of a nation strong and powerful compared to the devoted band in rebellion, commanding the sympathies of a large part of the civilized world. Spain has sent against them the flower of its armies, its most skilled Generals and its modern navy, and though she holds all the chief ports of the island, commands nearly all its approaches, and has resources giving her men, money and munitions of war to her full need, yet she is unable to suppress the rebellion or make any considerable advance into the heart of the country. Such a spectacle has not been witnessed, in modern times at least. According to all traditions and rules of war the rebellion should, under such conditions, have been crushed out in a few weeks, but apparently it is as widespread and virile as ever. The change from Weyler to some other commander may result in less inhumanity and brutality, but it will not lessen the efforts of the insurgents to free Cuba from Spanish rule.

While the California Legislature is making what we fear will be a vain effort to reduce the number of legislative attaches to a reasonable minimum, there is on foot in Washington a movement to reduce the number of Federal employes in the civil service. It is believed at the National Capital that of the 200,000 persons on the Federal official pay-roll fully 50,000, if not 75,000, can be dispensed with without injury to the service. That is to say, the remaining 150,000 can perform all required service without being burdened with too much labor or responsibility, and yet not work more than eight and nine hours a day.

Confidence. Middleton Independent: The restoration of confidence cannot fill the pockets of every poor man with money as in the days of protection. Reciprocity and progress. Our markets are now filling rapidly with Australian wool, and manufactured goods have been glutting our markets for the past three years. When we shall have returned to protective duties on imports and recovered from past experiments we may expect the return of good times as of yore.

Ukiah Republican Press: The wage earner as a general thing is the most pronounced in his opposition to trusts and combinations. It perhaps never occurred to the average member of a labor union that the law to abolish a mercantile or manufacturing trust might also be employed to abolish a labor trust.

Stockton Independent: One new section of the Penal Code which the Code Commission recommends is peculiar in more ways than one. It reads thus: "Section 258. Every person who, in a public manner, or at any meeting or assemblage, where more than twenty persons are present, states or charges that any class, or portion of a class, of females in a community, professing to lead virtuous lives, is unchaste, whether such statement or charge is true or false, is guilty of a misdemeanor."

One peculiarity is in the limitation to audiences of "more than twenty persons," and another is in restricting the application of the proposed section to "females," but the astounding part of it is in making the Act a misdemeanor whether the assertion is true or false. However good the intentions of the Commissioners may have been the last provision is absurd as well as unjust. Under its protection any number of disreputable human females might form a class, profess to lead virtuous lives and make their professions a shield against those who in a public manner would tell the truth about them. This is one serious objection and the limiting of the offense to falsehoods spoken in a manner that is not public to more than twenty persons in another. A wretch who utters such a falsehood as is sought to be prohibited, even in the presence of two persons, should be punished, and one who utters the truth in the presence of thousands should not be molested. The commission, in trying to do too much will probably in this direction.

FRUIT TARIFF. Red Bluff People's Cause: The Ways and Means Committee will take up the subject of fruits about the first of January, and the hearing will continue only about five days. There is, therefore, no time to lose. The State Horticultural Association has prepared a schedule of tariff rates which it is desired to have incorporated in the new tariff bill, but the fruit-growers of the Sacramento Valley should add their voice to that of the State organization, and steps should be at once taken to place all desirable information promptly before the committee.

FOR BIMETALLISM. Escondido Times: Keep it before the people that a return to bimetalism is the only road to national prosperity. The coming four years will probably demonstrate to many heretofore doubtful ones the truth of this assertion. High tariff may aid in some sections, but it will not cure the general depression under which our entire country is now suffering.

CENSUS TAKING. San Diego Union: There appears to be substantial merit in the bill now pending in Congress providing for the establishment at Washington of a permanent Census Office to undertake the work of making the twelfth and succeeding censuses and the collection of other essential information. The plan is to make the office a permanent institution and to continue its work of collecting statistics every year, as well as making an enumeration of the population every ten years, as provided by the Constitution. It is claimed that the cost of the office for the entire ten years would be no more than the amount expended in taking the eleventh census, which was \$11,500,000. If this estimate is correct the office should be made permanent on the score of economy.

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VOICE OF THE PRESS.

Extracts From Editorial Expression of Journals

Of the State and the Coast on Subjects of Living and News Interest.

Willows Review: Jingoism is the curse of America. If we could take every Congressman and every editor who is forever running around with a chip on his shoulder and send him to Cuba, there to fight until he has had his fill, the country would be much better off. If these men had their way this country would be forever at war and not a soul of them would go to the front. Each one would be willing to send his wife's relatives. Any little rumor is sufficient for one of these blood-thirsty warriors to make the base of a revolution.

THAT RIVER DREDGER. Colusa Sun: Certainly, if the State can be got to put in one dredger and build the weirs, the land owners can well afford to wait the result. Of course one dredger would find all the matter passing the river from the mouth to Rio Vista in order, and this would be of no direct benefit to us of the upper river. There is no doubt, however, of the fact that it is right and proper to begin operations at the mouth of the river. If the dredger then works as well as anticipated and the matter passes over the experimental stage it will be easy to put others to work.

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Escaped. "Aren't you late in getting home from Sunday-school, Bobby?" "Well, I guess! There was a man there who made an all-day speech and I thought he would never get out."

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POND'S EXTRACT. FOR BRUISES, SWELLS, BURNS, SORE FEET, FILLS, CHAFING, SORE EYES. CAYENNE, ROSEMARY, SAGE, THYME, MENTHOL, EUCALYPTI, GINGER, SALT, SODA, POTASSIUM, LIME, SUGAR, STARCH, GUM, OIL, WATER.

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STOCK TAKING

Will commence with us immediately, and from this date until JANUARY 23d next we will, as is our custom, give a BONA FIDE DISCOUNT of

20% On all ORNAMENT Only.

We trust the public will not judge this sale by others which are ALWAYS taking Place, but call and be convinced that we mean business.

Sacramento Glass and Crockery Co., 629 J STREET. CHINA HALL.

Chilblains. A SIMPLE REMEDY. RELIEVES INSTANTLY. Price, 25c. FRANCIS S. OTT, Druggist, 200 K STREET, South side Second and K.

Are You Getting Bald? NO CURE, NO PAY—O'H. My private remedy sure cure for baldness; guaranteed an absolute preventive for loss of hair; starts new growth in 30 days; eradicator of dandruff. Testimonials and circulars of J. W. O'Hore, 424 Folsom street. All druggists keep it. FOR SALE AT FRED KOLLIKER'S, S. W. Cor. Sixth and J.