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THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 1912.

VAGUE AND INTANGIBLE.

We believe that the statement of Mr. Pickett, one of the Helena members of the state board of education, presents clearly and accurately the situation in the state university case.

This statement was printed yesterday in The Missoulian's special dispatches. Mr. Pickett says that, "notwithstanding Dr. Duniway has raised the standard of the state university, that he is an able man of high attainments."

There was some opposition to him which "was vague and intangible, but it existed."

That appears to be the whole case against the university's president. "A vague and intangible something" was the ground upon which the state board discourteously and summarily terminated the contract with the president without discussing the situation with him and without giving him an opportunity to clear up the vagueness and the intangibility. It is a sorry showing; it places the state board in an embarrassing situation; it makes a position upon a Montana faculty "vague and intangible."

It should be observed in this connection that there is nothing to substantiate the claim that President Duniway was given an opportunity to resign. The first notice he received of the attitude of the state board was that action had been taken terminating his contract at the end of the year. That did not leave much of anything to resign. True, the board seems to have the notion that the president would resign at once; but he didn't and the board's plan was dashed.

We owe thanks to Mr. Pickett for his statement. It makes plain the contention that the action of the state board was based upon nothing. We owe him thanks, also, for that very excellent phrase, "vague and intangible."

HIS OWN PRECINCT.

Colonel Roosevelt, returning from his tour of Europe, confided to friends on the steamer that he thought more of Emperor William of Germany than of any crowned head he had met. "He is the only one of the lot," said Mr. Roosevelt, "who could carry his home precinct." That might have been true then; certainly it is not true today.

Emperor William has been defeated in his own precinct and he may thank his megalomania for his defeat. A more discreet monarch would not have tried conclusions quite so boldly with the socialists and liberals. A more diplomatic ruler would have addressed a few pious adjurations to the people, urging them to vote for the best interests of the Fatherland and for those men who could and would protect it at home and abroad. But Kaiser Wilhelm did not do this. He made an open fight and in the open he was worsted. It was this attitude that had much to do with increasing the vote of the liberals and socialists.

The situation is not new. The emperor is staking everything upon his demands for a greater navy. He is more or less indifferent to his people's complaints against the high cost of living, on which this country has no monopoly. He is, in fact, indifferent to anything that does not appeal to his

personal love for himself and the exaltation of his name as emperor. This attitude, to put it plainly, is not conducive to carrying a precinct when the voters therein can read and write and have economic interests in opposition to the emperor's militaristic policy. Just what the Kaiser will do now is problematical; he appears to be up a political tree and out on a slender limb.

Woodrow Wilson is undoubtedly correct in the belief that it hurt his chances to have it known that he is J. P. Morgan's candidate, but Harper's Weekly had already done the damage and the taking-down of Wilson's name by the great journal of civilization will not undo the injury.

There have been a good many charges made against the state board of education which were much less "vague and intangible" than those upon which the board based its action against President Duniway.

There is, however, nothing vague and intangible about the job-printing proposition. The place to have your printing done is in The Missoulian print shop.

The present religious revival in Missoula presents the finest illustration of the power of the pull-together that we have seen.

The Missoulian class ad is neither vague nor intangible in its methods; it works all the time and it works on the square.

Although it is "vague and intangible," the case has been made quite clear by the lucid explanation of Mr. Pickett.

Butter is 52 cents a pound in New York. That's another reason why New Yorkers should come to the Bitter Root.

We modestly decline to state who is responsible for the excellent weather, but we admit it is the best ever.

Butte's determination to protect its girls might well be followed by some other cities of which we know.

Do you have your printing done at home? If you don't, have your right to ask for home patronage yourself?

The Missoulian class ad will help you in your business and in your home if you will give it the opportunity.

Now and then, Mayor Duncan of Butte does something which almost makes us forget his shortcomings.

Despite the riots in Lawrence, Massachusetts will probably continue to talk about "the wild west."

Lorimer tells a mighty good story. But it is said to be true that the devil can tell a plausible tale.

After what he has gone through, the mere matter of a bomb is nothing to the Chinese premier.

Don't let the bright weather make you foolish. The germs of the sneeze are yet abroad.

Likewise, the mineral resources of Missoula county are attracting much attention.

"Again we acknowledge the applause of visitors, bestowed upon our weather."

However, duck trousers should be kept in storage for a few weeks yet.

Butte's ten-million-dollar jury in the police court did good work.

That man out in Seattle overplayed the Enoch Arden part.

Neither is the work of the weather man vague and intangible.

It was a great day for the robins.

AMNESTY ASKED. Mexico City, Jan. 17.—Amnesty for all political offenders is asked by the central committee of the anti-reactionist party in a petition sent to the permanent commission of congress today. Should the petition be granted, General Bernardo Reyes, imprisoned on the charge of inciting rebellion, would be freed.

ROOSEVELT AND THE PRESIDENCY

Frank A. Munsey, publisher of various magazines and also of several daily newspapers in eastern cities, including the Washington Times, in a front page signed editorial statement in the latter publication, sets forth the true situation regarding the widespread movement in the republican party again to nominate Colonel Roosevelt as its standard bearer in the coming presidential campaign.

As Mr. Munsey is known to be an old-time, intimate, personal friend of Colonel Roosevelt, his statement is generally interpreted as being the real attitude of Roosevelt himself regarding the matter of his possible nomination by the republican national convention.

Mr. Munsey's editorial statement is being given wide circulation in the eastern press and is herewith reproduced in full:

The question, which just now occupies so much newspaper space, as to where Mr. Roosevelt stands, and what he will do and what he won't do, is not so very difficult, it seems to me, of some analytical answer.

THAT HE IS NOT A CANDIDATE FOR THE NOMINATION IS CERTAIN. There is a wide difference between being a CANDIDATE FOR A NOMINATION and being a CANDIDATE FOR ELECTION AFTER A NOMINATION.

If the nomination comes to Mr. Roosevelt, it will come because the party CALLS HIM OF ITS OWN ACCORD, and not because of any MANIPULATION ON HIS PART TO COMPEL THE CALL.

If, between now and the assembling of the republican national convention on June 18, it becomes a conviction with the party that MR. ROOSEVELT IS STRONGER WITH THE PEOPLE, AND WOULD HAVE A BETTER CHANCE OF ELECTION, THAN ANY OTHER MAN, he will be nominated. If this is not the conclusion of the party, then assuredly he will not be nominated. THE WHOLE QUESTION RESTS RIGHT ON THIS ONE POINT, AND THAT IS EXACTLY WHERE IT SHOULD REST.

Mr. Roosevelt's nomination under such conditions WOULD PUT UP TO HIM A RESPONSIBILITY THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO ACCEPT, no matter what his personal wishes, and no matter how serious the fight ahead.

THE NOMINEE OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY WILL HAVE NO CIPHER IN THE COMING ELECTION. Pitted against a democratic candidate

of equal running strength, the odds would be with the latter, as the voting strength of the democratic party is apparently greater than that of the republican party.

But this fact would make no difference with Mr. Roosevelt. He has never yet shirked an important responsibility, has never yet shirked a hard job, and certainly would not get out from under this one with the life of his party at stake.

The republican party has given to Mr. Roosevelt the greatest honors that it can bestow on any man. AND SO IT HAS A RIGHT TO CALL ON HIM FOR ANY HONORABLE SERVICE AT ANY TIME, AND HE WOULD HAVE NO RIGHT TO REFUSE TO SERVE HIS PARTY, save on the plea of physical inability to take on the work. And this is a plea he could not make, for he is as hardy as a cowboy and has the energy of a steam engine.

The effort to "smoke out" Mr. Roosevelt and compel him either to declare himself a CANDIDATE FOR THE NOMINATION OR TO SAY HE WILL NOT ACCEPT THE NOMINATION IF IT COMES TO HIM, will accomplish no more than has so far been accomplished in this respect.

Mr. Roosevelt's position is unique. He has had all the honors that the office of President of the United States can bring to a man. An election to the Chief Magistracy would not mean to him what it would mean to a man who has not already had it.

AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN, MR. ROOSEVELT IS STILL VERY MUCH A PUBLIC MAN, WHOSE POSITION OUT OF OFFICE IS JUST ABOUT AS BIG AS IF IN OFFICE, AND WITHOUT THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICE. Neither has he the responsibility of great wealth, and yet he has all that wealth means in the income from his pen.

He is free to live the life that pleases him—free to work along the lines that interest him, and free to do whatever will best serve the people of his generation and of generations to come. Such freedom and individual power must measure up pretty well with official power—even that of the Presidency, to a man who has had it.

Situated as he is, my guess is that MR. ROOSEVELT IS QUITE CONTENT TO LET POLITICAL MATTERS SHAPE THEMSELVES UP AS THEY WILL. If he calls upon him to lead the fight, he will keep right on having a good time with his work, as he is now doing. BUT IF THE CALL DOES COME, HE WILL BUCKLE ON HIS ARMOR AND "GO TO IT" WITH ALL HIS OLD-TIME IMPETUOSITY AND ENERGY.

FRANK A. MUNSEY.

The Cost of Living X.—Investigations Abroad.

By Frederic J. Haskin.

While no other nation has investigated the question of the cost of living more extensively than the United States, the conclusions reached in many foreign inquiries are perhaps more trustworthy than those of the majority of the American investigators. The question is bound up so intimately with the tariff issue in America that it is difficult to consider it without bringing that issue to the fore. A century of conflicting ideas on that subject has left almost every American citizen a partisan of a high or of a low tariff. Those who advocate a high tariff have nearly always sought to free it from responsibility for the increased cost of living, while on the other hand, those who stand for a low tariff, have tried to shift practically the entire burden upon the protective tariff policy.

In foreign countries the officials are not so directly interested in the perpetration or elimination of any particular tariff theory, and consequently are able, perhaps, to approach the matter of prices with less partisan bias. Perhaps the most notable investigation made to date is that of the British board of trade, referred to in previous articles. This organization is one of the most influential of all the semi-official bodies in the world. It has done a great deal in the direction of shaping British political thought and has won for itself an enviable position, because of its accurate statistical inquiries. Its first important activity in connection with the cost of living problem was to investigate conditions

in Great Britain. After it had completed its inquiries along this line, its representatives made similar inquiries in the principal nations of continental Europe, and later in the United States. It attempted to ascertain how much food the average workingman's family consumed in various countries, how much his rent amounts to, what price he has to pay for each item in his market basket, and what is his annual grocery bill. It likewise investigated the relative cost of living in various cities of Europe and America, and then published the results of its investigations in full. It is rather a significant fact that the report concedes to America the best position in the matter of living conditions among all the nations investigated.

The British foreign office for many years also has been conducting a number of investigations along these lines. In 1876 a report of her majesty's diplomatic and consular officials of the British government. Another investigation made by the British government was that of the tariff commission. Its report fills 13 volumes and covers practically every industry in the United Kingdom. It contains comparative statistics and testimony from experts on the prices and wages which

are largely confirmatory of the work of the British board of trade.

France has not made as extensive investigations abroad as Great Britain and the United States. Yet its economic history of the condition of salaries and wages and of prices in general, published in five volumes, is regarded as one of the most authoritative inquiries made by any country. The bureau of general statistics of France also publishes an annual report in which it gives data showing variations in prices of commodities in general use. These statistics begin with 1857 and are brought down to date. Germany, likewise, has given much attention to the problem of the cost of living and of prices in general. Its conclusions are almost entirely in keeping with those of the British and French investigators.

The one significant fact to an American, in viewing all of these investigations, is that wherever politics has been divorced from the inquiries, the results have been practically the same. Wherever comparisons are made between conditions in various countries, there is a substantial harmony. It is only when investigators start out to prove a theory, rather than to ascertain the facts, that wide divergence of opinion becomes evident.

Our neighbor of the north, the Dominion of Canada, maintains a department of labor, which gathers data as to prevailing prices in the Dominion, and frequently publishes comparisons of prices in the United States and Canada. In 1910 it issued a report on the course of wholesale prices in Canada during the preceding 20 years. The inquiry covered 230 commodities, as compared with the 257 in the inquiry of the United States Bureau of Labor. One of the interesting things about the report was a graphic chart showing the relative trend of prices from 1890 to 1909 in the United States and Canada. From 1890 to 1905 prices in the United States were higher than those in Canada. At the latter point on the graphic chart, the dotted line representing the United States goes below the black line representing Canada. It does not cross the black line again until 1899. From that date to this, prices have been higher in the United States than in Canada. In the main they have averaged about 2 per cent higher.

One of the things upon which the investigations of all nations agree is that prices do not rise and fall to any great extent in one country while maintaining a level in other countries. A great deal of political capital has been made out of high and low prices in the United States. During the tariff campaign following the enactment of the McKinley law, the democrats made great capital over the era of high prices which followed. During the panic years of the middle 90's, the republicans made equally as much political capital out of the era of low prices which followed the enactment of the Wilson-Gorman tariff law. At the present time the worm has turned again and the democrats are charging the republicans with the responsibility for the high cost of living today, just as the republicans charged the democrats with the responsibility for the low cost in the 90's. Yet an examination of the price studies made by all of the principal countries discloses the fact that prices throughout the world, as well as those in the United States, have fluctuated. While the decline may not have been as sharp in the middle 90's in Europe as it was in the United States, and while the latter has not been as great since 1906 in Europe as in the United States, it is still the general rule that price movements have been international rather than national.

If present plans do not miscarry, one of the results of the meeting of the American Economic association in Washington during the recent holiday season, will be the creation of a commission consisting of all of the heads of the important statistical bureaus of the world. This commission will meet and map out a plan for an international inquiry into the whole matter of prices and the cost of living. The movement has been led by Prof. Irving Fisher of Yale, who already has secured responses from many statistical bureaus favoring the creation of such a commission. Many new fields of inquiry will be touched by the proposed investigation, for no inquiry yet made has afforded a clue to the cost of distribution from the producer to the consumer.

Everybody knows that the constantly increasing complexity of living conditions adds new difficulties to the problem of distributing the products of the farm and factory to the ultimate consumer. How complex this has become is shown by a "penny" admitted by the literary senator from Massachusetts, Mr. Lodge, when the special committee, of which he was chairman, investigated the cost of living. It is entitled: "The Lay of the Ancient Egg," and is in 10 stanzas. The first stanza is this:

"I am the Egg. I was laid. Each following stanza continues to grow, somewhat on the order of the house that Jack built, until the tenth, which is as follows:

"I'm the poor Devil who ate the Egg My Wife Bought from the Grocer who Sold the Egg He got from the Jobber who Passed Along the Egg From the Wholesaler who Cold-Stored the Egg After the Railroad Carried the Egg For the Express Company that shipped the Egg From the Man who Took the Egg to the Station For the Farmer who Owned The Hen that Laid the Egg. I got Plumaine Poisoning."

AN EXPLANATION THAT EXPLAINS VERY LITTLE (Helena Independent.) Yesterday at the state house, Superintendent of Public Instruction W. E. Harmon, who is executive secretary of the state board of education, made public what purported to be the report of the special committee of the state board which "investigated" the state university last summer, and the "minutes" of the executive sessions of the board at which the extraordinary action was taken under which Dr. C. A. Duniway is to be removed from the presidency of the state university. Apparently this is to be the board's answer to the state-wide criticism

Watch It Men! Saturday for \$14.75 It's Your Opportunity

Thought for Today The Stout. By Mrs. Robert M. LaFollette.

A small amount of daily exercise which expands the chest, stretches the waist muscles, and generally invigorates the system, will keep the normal person bodily young and free. The tendency to grow stout calls for a greater watchfulness and effort, to maintain physical proportion. We should undertake the reduction of the weight and the prevention of normal proportion rationally. It would be very much easier if one could have a trainer, but few enjoy that luxury. When one is self-taught, one must work out an effective plan by experiment and test its success by results, and must not ask immediate results. If we are seeking permanent improvement, we should be very patient and have great faith in our good effort. Start leisurely, while weighing night and morning systematically, and recording the weight for two or three weeks; also observe the quantity of food and drink habitually taken at

meals. Note whether any more is eaten than needed to satisfy hunger, and whether there is one meal for which there is less appetite than others. That is, we should carefully observe our own habits for a while as we would observe the habits of another man for whom we were anxious to get facts upon which to base rational advice. During this time of observation we should be taking a brisk walk every day, and doing extra deep breathing, stretching and bending, getting hardened and ready for the severer training needed to make the scales register the reward. To reduce the weight requires a certain amount of strength and also some leisure. One should not attempt it unless well and strong, and if one is under severe strain, mental or physical, it is not wise to tax the system with a new undertaking. Vacation time is the most favorable,

which resulted from its extraordinary action. The report of the committee and the "minutes" of the executive session, as given out by Mr. Harmon, are printed in this morning's Independent. Without commenting upon the anomaly of such detailed "minutes" being kept at an executive session or upon the fact that it was only the pressure of an outraged public opinion which brought even these few facts to light, the Independent ventures the assertion that the people of Montana will not be satisfied with the board's explanation.

The report of the special committee deals largely in generalities. It speaks vaguely of a "spirit of unrest and dissatisfaction existing between the student body and the president, the alumni and the president, and a lack of co-operation and co-ordination existing between the president and a large portion of the faculty." It also declares the president of the university to "be exceedingly unpopular among the high school students of the state."

Based on conclusions on such indefinite and as far as the public knows, wholly unsupported premises, the special committee finds that the conditions outlined above "seriously retard the growth of the institution" and impairs its usefulness, "causing it to lose many students." In addition to the "facts" set forth in the committee report, the board, in the general discussion in executive session, uncovered the appalling truth that President Duniway did not visit the classrooms of his professors while the latter were holding classes!

In view of the well-known fact that Dr. C. A. Duniway is without question the ablest educator who has ever graced this state with his presence; in view of the fact that during the three years of his administration, the state university has been raised to an exceptionally high standard; in view of the fact known everywhere throughout Montana, save possibly behind the closed doors of the state board of education, that the growth of the university has NOT been retarded, but that the school has gone forward, as far as attendance is concerned, at a gratifying rate; in view of the fact, also well known by everyone, save possibly the state board of education, that the usefulness of the university has NOT been impaired, but that, on the contrary, the university, under the administration of Dr. Duniway, has become a larger factor for good throughout the state of Montana, illustrated both by the higher standard required of students and graduates, and by the splendid system of university extension work carried on by Dr. Duniway—in view of all this, the state board has made a rather sorry showing.

If the report which public sentiment has just "smoked out" from the secretory of the state board of education constitutes all the cause of action which that board had against the president of the state university, it would have been better for the reputation of the board for it to have "stood pat" on its original statement that Dr. Duniway was discharged because of a "lack of fact" and to have allowed the public to continue to entertain the suspicion that petty politics, rather than a genuine desire for the welfare of the state's university, was responsible for the board's star chamber proceedings.

"DOPE FIENDS" DASH TO ESCAPE FROM JAIL Salt Lake City, Jan. 17.—Risking the bullets of the police rather than to be deprived longer of the drugs that have become necessary to them, a half-score drug fiends made a determined effort to escape from the city prison yesterday. Two succeeded in eluding officers, but the others were recaptured. The drug fiends were being transferred to the basement of the police station while their ward in the city jail, which is badly crowded, known as "Dante's Inferno," was being cleaned.

Assistant City Physician Sprague has urged that drug fiends arrested on various charges be given sentences of at least six months, claiming that shorter sentences are of little effect in breaking the habit. Many attempts of drug fiends to smuggle drugs into the prison have been discovered and frustrated.

ONE source of worry in dessert making will be removed if you know that the flavor will always be perfect. USE Burnett's Vanilla and you may always be sure that you will get the best results. JOSEPH BURNETT COMPANY Boston, Mass.

ZERO WEATHER AT OYSTER BAY

