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MONDAY, MAY 5, 1913.

Reclamation Work O. K.

There is refreshing optimism in the decision by Secretary of the Interior Lane that the testimonies adduced in his "get-together" hearings for the water users dependent upon the Salt River projects for the irrigation of their lands had not shown such grossness of fraud or wastefulness or inefficiency on the part of the Reclamation Service as to require a Congressional investigation.

Secretary Lane announced at the beginning of the hearings that they were intended to educate him, to give him a sympathetic knowledge of reclamation work from the water users' point of view. The hearings, at which representatives of the water users' association and of an independent organization of farmers in the Salt River Valley expressed their opinions of the construction and maintenance of the reclamation work, were instituted independently by the head of the Interior Department, of which the Reclamation Service is a part.

Whether or not the need of such hearings was suggested by recent Congressional investigations, however, the determination of Secretary Lane can be regarded by the friends of the Reclamation Service as a denial of the findings of a subcommittee of the House Committee on Expenditures in the Interior Department of the Sixty-second Congress. That subcommittee, of which Representative Hensley of Missouri was chairman, and made the report, charged mismanagement and waste on the part of certain officials connected with the Salt River projects.

The hearings of the Congressional committee and of Secretary Lane brought out testimony tending to show that the Reclamation Service had made errors. It is impossible that it should not make errors, some of them serious ones. But to believe, as Secretary Lane believes, that none of the errors, whether of head or heart, was so grievous as to prove hurtful to the service is helpful to the American people.

Missouri and Its Insurance Fight.

The contention between the State of Missouri and the insurance companies at last has reached an acute stage. The State Supreme Court has issued injunctions against 82 of the companies, restraining them from cancelling contracts now in force. This is not quite to the point, as probably not one-tenth of those companies think of cancelling such contracts. What is far more disquieting is that there is a general stampede to get out of the jurisdiction of that State and to cease writing new business. Within ten days they are to show cause or be fined for threatening to leave the State.

The real root of the evil is a clause in the new law, which may paralyze the entire fire insurance business there, and which provides that "when two agents' rates coincide, this shall be prima facie evidence of a 'rate fixing' agreement," and upon them or their principals is to fall the penalty therefore. We can quite understand that so drastic a feature has almost caused a panic in insurance circles, but it is not clear how any law can compel the companies to remain upon the ground and serve the public under the new conditions. Opportunities to do business are conferred as a privilege; but it is a strange doctrine that, if not exercised voluntarily, such privileges can be made operative by compulsion.

Our ably conducted contemporary, the Kansas City Star, sees in the situation a chance to apply "progressivism." Giving the popular and the State side of the issue, it tells the companies that their contention that Missouri cannot get along without them is an erroneous one, as their action "will not tie up the credit of the Commonwealth." With all due respect to the men who are on the ground and should know whereof they speak, this is a strange way indeed of putting it.

There is an opportunity for cooperative or State insurance. Co-operation in the insurance line is nothing new. Shipping, timber, flour mills, and many other industries use it. But our esteemed contemporary fails altogether to convince in its arguments, because it does not tell where the householders, the individual property owner, fits in to such an arrangement. It says:

"People have been hearing about State rights for a century. It is now time that they heard something also

of State privileges. The public has been feeling more and more that the business of fire insurance in this country has been badly conducted. The people are in a temper to conduct it themselves."

The new Missouri law is not one to suggest itself for use in other States. It is quite possible that the insurance companies have been somewhat precipitate in preparing to run away before they were hurt. It is not the first time that they have clashed with legislation of which they did not approve. They withdrew from New Hampshire when the "valued policy" law went into force, but, of course, they returned again and were only too glad to do so.

The only practical benefit from State insurance would be a better building code, because if the State had to pay the insurance bills it might require a much safer system of construction than that which now often is permitted to go unchallenged.

Their Right Conception of True Freedom.

In his dispatch to President Wilson expressing his gratification over the recognition of the Chinese republic President Yuan Shi Kai states the means whereby his countrymen hope to make their new government permanent and perfect. It will be their aim to assure themselves the unalloyed blessings of self-rule and prosperity and happiness within, through the union of law and liberty, and without, through the faithful observance of all established obligations.

This is not the first time that these "untutored Chinese novices in the practice of republicanism" have given cause for wonder at their grasp of the essentials of popular freedom. The declaration of principles put forth by their Parliament on the day of its first assemblage was, in the main, a reiteration of the maxim that the public welfare is the supreme law, and that government of right exists only by the consent of the governed. And now their President hits upon the truth that national prosperity, happiness and the blessings of self-government are obtainable only through the union of law and liberty. This is an epitome of nearly all that has been said and written on the subject of free popular institutions; and the man who framed this phrase could not have done so without thorough understanding. President Yuan gives points worth remembering by jingoes. No nation which observes its established obligations has anything to apprehend. Its position is made stronger thereby than it could be by piling up armaments and keeping millions of its young men in barracks, aloft and ashore. It was by the observation of its own international duties that this government secured unquestioned recognition of its rights.

The Latest Rue de la Paix Dictum.

It seems too bad that those designers of feminine fashions and the puissant tailors of the Rue de la Paix are so callous in their iniquity and so bare of all moral feeling that they fail to take into consideration the sentiments expressed from the bench. Without the least regard to this frowning the fashion authorities brazenly announce that "chic" costumes for ladies are to be still less in quantity and more transparent than ever before, and heaven knows they have been scanty enough as it was.

This ukase hits hard the New York judge who took offense at what he regarded as too liberal a display of transparent light hosiery. Most likely that Gotham Kadi is an elderly man who, with that well known and understood conservatism practiced upon the bench—one of its characteristics in fact—has failed to keep abreast of the progress of fashion—and women in particular. Beginning with the drop frame bicycle, which was followed by hobble skirts, sheath skirts, slit skirts, and divided skirts to peck-a-boo waists and transparent stockings, mere man has become accustomed to many things that may have shocked our sires and still may disquiet the "old fossils" on our bench.

But why kick, ye moral dispensers of justice? The practice may be a bit unjust toward impressionable youth, but all these feminine innovations are not perpetrated for the eyes of aged men, especially when they occupy seats on the bench of the "blind" goddess. Let our friends in the New York courts be satisfied and thankful that there is even a scant stocking where one kneed under a scant skirt is resting upon the other.

Let the women alone. No sort of legislation ever will be able to stop them, and after all how to dress, or fail to dress, is their own business.

Where Washington Crossed. From the New York Mail. The historic spot where Washington crossed the Delaware Christmas Eve, 1776, is to be commemorated with a memorial bridge and a park. If the plans of the New Jersey State Commission, headed by President Wilson, materialize.

Charles W. Leavitt, Jr., made the design, now being exhibited at the architectural League. The plans call for a park of 30 acres, enclosed by a drive, with an entrance to the park from the famous "old high road."

Through the center of the park runs what will be known as Washington's Lane, leading straight through the park to the memorial bridge.

NATION'S MEN OF AFFAIRS IN CARTOON

UNITED STATES TRUST COMPANY WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT.

Handwritten note: May 1st 1913. Mr. H. R. Mung, 7 Washington Herald, Washington, D.C. Dear Mr. Mung, I was very greatly pleased with the cartoon which you made of me. It was a 'bully' one - I sent several copies of the paper out for fun, and my friends say it is simply splendid. Very sincerely yours, Clarence D. Munn

A LITTLE NONSENSE. STATESMEN—REAL AND NEAR

By FRED C. KELLY. NOT ALL GLOOM. The world has many joys for men and many ills betide. But there is surcease now and then; Life has its comic side. Some days the world is full of bile And woe spreads far and wide; But now and then we get a smile; Life has its comic side. Let us recall that fact with bliss And point to it with pride. In spite of dreary verse like this, Life has its comic side. Too Much. "Why did you turn down that offer of \$10,000 from the advertising firm for the use of your picture?" asked the prominent southpaw. "Couldn't stand for it," responded the champion base-stealer. "They wanted to show me in a union suit." Amid Life's Discord. "What did you say your business was?" "Instructor in harmony."

TOURIST TICKETS

By GEORGE FITCH, Author of "At Good Old Swab." The tourist has planked down the amount of money named in the fascinating railroad advertisements the company gives him a round trip ticket to the Coast. These tickets are very easily made. In the first place, the agent takes three reels of blank tickets and cuts off a few fathoms of each. Then he pastes the southwest end of his ticket to the northwest exposure of another, and adds two yards of the third. Then he fills in casual information with a fountain pen on the front breadth of the ticket, signs here and there, tears off an outside section for future reference, punches it nineteen times, and stamps it once for every foot. In punching it he describes the sex, height, weight, age, complexion, political and religious preferences and temper of the buyer. When all this is done the buyer signs the ticket, thereby agreeing to cherish and support it until death does them part, to unfurl it whenever any conductor or shall approach, to protect it against scalpers, Indians, and personal friends, and to ride on it only in the manner hereinbefore described, and at such times only as will be convenient to the company, and to surrender it instantly whenever he has abused it or has even thought hardly of it. After the tourist has signed this agreement the agent rolls the ticket up on a hose reel and gives it to him for keeps. When the tourist has bought his ticket he lugs it onto the train and the conductors begin to peek at it. Each conductor looks it over and tells him it is no good because the wrong color was used on the second section, punches assorted holes in it, and tears off a sample. By the time the tourist has reached Cali-

Court Gossip of Interesting Events on Two Continents

At one time the taste in dress of the ex-Empress Eugenie of France, was the talk of Europe, and for years she spent more money on her frocks than would have sufficed to have fed half the poor of Paris. The Empress of Germany is said to spend about \$10,000 a year on her articles of personal adornment, but she never appears to be expensively dressed. Perhaps the finest and most costly dress Queen Mary of England, ever attired herself in, was the one she wore at the Coronation Dunbar in Delhi. The train, which was of Irish point lace, measured no fewer than 5,250,000 stitches. The train was a gift of the ladies of Belfast.

A Spanish court lady had a dress made of glass, containing over 2,000 miles of crystal threads, while the Countess of Villeneuve paid a huge sum for a dress of brocade silk almost entirely covered with beetle backs.

Worth, the famous dressmaker of the Rue de la Paix, placed on show at one of the Paris expositions a court train of Moiree Antique, embroidered with gold thread and pearls, a series of founces in national resources, and he didn't know what next to tax. In sheer despair he wrote to a Somersetshire friend for suggestions. Back came the reply: "Tax umbrellas, and make the Bishop order the prayer for rain to be read in all the churches until the end of the war." But this was advice which the Chancellor declined to follow.

Mr. Lloyd-George is not likely to receive Lewis's unhappy idea of a match-box stamp, but he might remember less inconsequential in one of the proposals of Lord Randolph Churchill's budget that was never produced. This was for a penny revenue stamp to be pasted over the shot end of every sporting cartridge. As 70,000,000 of these were used in a season, the tax, with allowance made for all possible causes of reduction, would have brought in \$1,400,000. "The sportsman," comments Mr. Churchill, "whose unerring aim never required a second barrel, except for another bird, would in poetic justice enjoy a comparative immunity. But while his unskilled companion blundered, he might remember that at each discharge the stamp blown to pieces by the explosion would carry its tribute to the public treasury."

The great boom in drapery may suggest a new field of taxation to the agriculturist. Taxes on clothes would be no new thing, of course. In 1867 the government attempted to raise the wind by taxing French straw hats, known as "Watteaus." This failed, however, as in 1857 Pitt imposed a tax on gloves, every person dealing in gloves being required to obtain a license, and to affix to each right-hand glove a Stamp Office ticket, denoting the duty. In both cases, however, the tax was a failure, for people abandoned the "Watteau," and the gloves gave place to home-made and un-taxed woolen mittens.

Twickenham, the scene for the honor of rowing Englishmen across which the Earl of Dysart is now contending with a rival in the law courts, once had a subterranean competitor. This took the form of a tunnel from the Manor House on the Surrey side. But history for a long time failed to keep a record of its use or size. Probably no ferry in the world, except Charon's across the Styx, has carried more illustrious passengers than the ferry of Twickenham. Pope, Walpole, exiled French kings and their glittering train of guests, made the place in the eighteenth century the haunt of "fashion and the muses."

When Walpole bought his Twickenham house from the toy woman, Mrs. Chevenix, he found it to be the "prettiest bubble you could buy." This was a happy description that rolled by his windows and the two delightful roads, dirty, but alive with coaches and chaises. "Barges as soon as they were formed, were carried under the windows. Richmond Hill and Ham Walks bound my prospects; but, thank God, the Thames is beside me and the Duchess of Devonshire will act as my agent as a foundress between all around me!"

PLANS FOR SUMMER NOW ARE AVAILABLE

Public Library Has Complete Information on Subject of Vacations. Any one who is in doubt where to spend the summer vacation can find plenty of good summer travel literature on the subject available at the Public Library. The library's ninth annual exhibition of such literature is now open to the public, and already has been visited by so many that there is no doubt of its being just as popular as it has been every summer since the Librarian first planned this vacation-goer's aid.

In the exhibition are pamphlets, circulars and booklets which give information concerning noted summer resorts, affords and near. The person who can afford hundreds of dollars to make a vacation trip abroad or to far-distant parts of this country, while the person who can afford only a few dollars, can learn how to get the best vacation possible on a little money. Particularly all the important railroads and steamship lines are represented by literature telling where to go, how to get there, and what to see there, and how much it will cost. Altogether the collection is one which must be seen to be appreciated. Many of the pamphlets and booklets are well illustrated and so well written that they illustrate for distribution to adults on request at the desk in the reference room, where the exhibit will be on view throughout the summer.

Gunboat Ordered to Haiti. The United States gunboat Nashville yesterday was ordered from Santo Domingo City to Port au Prince, Haiti, where disturbance is possible as a result of the death of President Auguste two days ago. According to the most recent advices to the State Department, all is quiet in the Haitian capital up to date.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSES WORK

The work that the children's relief committee of the Women's Democratic Club carried on for the relief of the children who were in the Ohio flood district was the subject of a meeting of that organization in the Lenox apartment on Saturday afternoon. The following officers of the organization participated in the Ohio work: Miss Katherine M. Dabney, president; Miss Rosalie Thornton, secretary; Mrs. J. Addison Hicks, historian; Eldridge E. Jordan, treasurer, together with Dr. Clifton A. Clark, Mrs. James Barton, and Mrs. William O. Owen.

