

The River Press

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DIXON DOES GOOD WORK.

Events of the past week in Washington give testimony that Senator Dixon of Montana, is still living up to his well won title, won by hard work, of 'the man who does things' in Washington. No senator on the senate roll works harder for his constituents than Joe Dixon of Montana, and his work is of the class which brings results.

To Great Falls, to northern Montana, the aid of Senator Dixon in securing from the secretary of the interior an order allowing the waters of Birch creek to be used for irrigation of land under the Conrad ditch, seems of most importance in that it concerns us the more directly. Birch creek is the southern boundary of the Blackfoot Indian reservation, and lies at the foot of a heavy slope from the reserve, which alone prevents the water from being used upon the lands of the reserve, were there ever any attempt made so to do; as a matter of fact the waters of Birch creek have never been of any chance for use to the residents of the reserve, even before it was placed to be thrown open, as water will no more run uphill upon an Indian reservation than it will upon ordinary land—and that is all there is to it. Nevertheless, it has been impossible to secure the waste water for irrigation of other wheat lands under any administration of the land office previous to that of Secretary Fleher, and the work of Senator Dixon, and the order will be one which means prosperity and happiness to thousands of people who propose to till the soil and add to the wealth of the country through the medium of farm lands reclaimed from the unbroken prairie.

In the Yellowstone reclamation project also there has been grief between the settler and the government reclamation arm—a grief which caused the settlers to refuse water from the government ditch, and brought about a most startling, as well as unfortunate condition. The Yellowstone matter has been on for a year or more, the settlers holding that their rights were not looked after according to agreement by the reclamation service, and for a time attempts at an amicable settlement seemed considerably up in the air. Senator Dixon was made mediator in the case by the government, and his visit to Montana about the time of the Roosevelt visit last month was for that purpose; that he was successful is shown in the agreement reached.—Great Falls Leader.

THE STORY OF CEMENT.

It is predicted by no less a person than Mr. Edison that nearly all the buildings of the future will be of fire-proof concrete construction, poured into molds. By this method a good substantial house can be made within 24 hours.

No man knows the history of cement. Wander among the ruins of ancient Rome and you will find solid masonry, laid with cement made from volcanic ash mixed with lime and water. History does not tell who laid these stones and how the first mason discovered the secret of his mortar. Visit the ruined cities of the Aztecs in Central America and you will find intact their ancient masonry, laid with cement, and walls still standing made from cement and rubble. Cement, as we know it, is made from a mixture of lime, silica and alumina. These things, in the right proportion, have the property of cohering until the product becomes as hard as stone. The lime is usually secured by burning limestone, the silica and alumina are natural products of clay.

There are three distinct kinds of cement, of which the Portland is the best known; so called because it happens to resemble a certain kind of gray rock on the Island of Portland, near England. Portland cement was first made in England in 1825 and it was not until 1878 that the industry was brought to this country. The first cement works in the United States was at Caplay, Pa. Up to the year 1894 the output of the few cement factories in this country was very small. In 1891 only 14 per cent. of all the cement used here was made in the country; the rest came from England and Germany. But the growth of this business was the most marvelous of anything in the whole history of the industrial development of the country. In 1900 we were making 80 per cent. of all the cement used in the world, and the cement industry has since grown with leaps and bounds until today our plants are models for the world.

One of the main reasons why the cement industry has grown so fast is because it was fostered and helped by the best engineers of the world. It was among the first industries to be completely electrified and today nearly every cement plant is run by electric power. It is electricity which handles the material and drives the powerful crushers and grinders. This

same power pulverizes the coal and drives it into the drier kilns where the cement is roasted to a clinker. Even the finished product is automatically weighed by an electric device.

Most of the old flagstone quarries have long since been abandoned and a majority of the cut stone quarries have either been given up or turned into the manufacture of crushed stone for concrete work. Cement walks are cheaper and better than flagging, and concrete has taken the place of masonry. It is cheaper to handle crushed stone and cement than it is to handle blocks and slabs of stone. With concrete a new abutment for a bridge can be poured and moulded into shape in a day, where it used to take a gang of skilled masons a month to build it. Dwelling houses, apartments, offices and great factory buildings are now made from reinforced concrete.

WOOL FREIGHT RATES.

It is announced in a press dispatch from Washington that a comprehensive investigation of alleged unreasonable freight rates on wool, hides and pelts from western points of origin to eastern destinations was ordered today by the interstate commission. The inquiry will affect wool, hides and pelts rates throughout the country.

The investigation has developed from complaints filed by the National Wool Growers' association and the Oregon railway commission against western carriers, alleging that existing rates on wool, hides and pelts were excessive, exorbitant and discriminatory.

Some of the features of freight charges upon western products are discussed by the Missoula Sentinel in these remarks:

According to Mr. McCune, the tariff expert in the Spokane race case, wool growers have been especially aggrieved by the rates charged them. While the uniform rate on wool from Pacific coast points to Boston, the nation's wool market, has been \$1 per hundred pounds, the rate on wool from interior points, where practically all the wool is grown, is \$2.13 per one hundred pounds.

What makes the matter worse is that wool, shipped as it is "in the grease," that is without the waste being eliminated, is subject to great shrinkage, amounting in some cases to as high as 67 per cent. On the waste as well as on the wool, of course, freight has to be paid. Thus it is estimated that it costs the wool grower of the mountain states to get a pound of pure wool on the Boston market 6.39 cents.

The rank injustice to the wool grower becomes all the more marked when it is known that, even at the high rates charged, it only costs the manufacturer of woolen goods 3.75 cents per pound to transport his product to the point of wool shipment.

It is claimed by those who have made up the case to be presented to the interstate commerce commission that the excess railroad charges above a reasonable rate amount annually to \$2,000,000. If this could be secured to the wool grower it would go a long way towards compensating him for any anticipated loss from the reduction of the tariff on foreign wools. Being divided among a number of railroads the loss of each would not be great. Moreover, if a lower rate would have the effect of encouraging the industry it would look like good railroad policy.

Size of Acre Depends On Man.

Professor L. H. Bailey, director of Cornell college of agriculture, thinks that the size of an acre depends on the size of the man who farms it—that is to say, on his industry and ability. He visited a farmer in Texas who was making less money out of a 40,000-acre ranch than a Rhode Island man out of ten acres; and he gives reasons for his belief that a greater advance in agriculture will take place within the next fifty years than the world has ever before seen.

Farmers Suggest Annexation.

WASHINGTON, May 10.—Annexation of Canada instead of reciprocity with that country was advocated today by George S. Ladd of the Massachusetts State Grange, in the senate finance committee's hearing of the Canadian reciprocity bill. Mr. Ladd argued against any trade agreement declaring if it were made it should be by annexation so Canada might share the burdens of the United States as well as enjoy its benefits.

A number of representatives of the farmers were heard in opposition to the agreement.

J. M. Howell, a popular druggist of Greensburg, Ky., says, "We use Chamberlain's Cough Remedy in our own household and know it is excellent." For sale by all dealers.

HELENA, May 9.—With a force of field agents in Montana almost doubled, H. C. Collum, chief of the special agents' division of the general land office in this state, is hopeful of clearing up by the end of this fiscal year, June thirtieth, all pending cases, in number about five-thousand. This will be a great relief to settlers in eastern Montana, some of whose homestead entries have been held up many months pending an investigation.

BARS THE CROOKS

Uncle Sam's Assay Office in Wall Street Not a "Fence."

ON THE WATCH FOR THIEVES.

Precautions Taken to Keep Jewelry and Gold and Silver Articles, That May Have Been Stolen, Out of the Government's Melting Pot.

The way in which the United States assay office in Wall street keeps itself from becoming a "fence" where thieves and crooks may bring their stolen wares to have them melted and receive cash for the same was recently explained by the superintendent.

The federal statutes make it difficult for those in charge to refuse any gold or silver handed in. The statute reads in part that "any owner of gold and silver bullion shall be entitled to deposit the same, and it shall be melted and assayed immediately." It does not designate that only the rightful owner may apply for service, and inasmuch as possession is nine points of the law of rightful ownership the assayer is not allowed to be a doubting Thomas.

"Several years ago," said the superintendent, "there was a city detective stationed in the building to watch for jewelry and gold and silver pieces that were presented for assaying to determine whether or not they were stolen goods. He remained here for eighteen months, and during that time he did not catch a single thief. The reason was that the news undoubtedly went out to every 'fence,' crook and thief of every description in the city that a guard was at the assay office and to watch out for him.

"After the city detective was withdrawn it became more necessary to secure some other means to prevent our offices from really becoming a 'fence' for stolen articles.

"The one provision we finally incorporated into our rules that has kept away from us the greatest portion of stolen goods that might otherwise be headed in our direction was that we refused to accept any bullion that will assay less than \$100. In this way we are able to refuse any ordinary quantity of rings, watches and other trinkets that would be stolen and which we know will not contain pure metal to that amount. Of course sometimes we will accept stuff and it will turn out to be worth a few dollars under the amount, but we cannot always guess correctly when looking at goods.

"We have many other ways of determining whether goods presented to us have been stolen, but it would not be wise to let every crook in town know what they are. Sufficient to say that every time we have suspected things were not right we have secured immediate co-operation of the New York detective bureau, and I believe we have secured better results than when a man from the central office was constantly on watch. Then the stuff did not appear. Since then we have been of assistance in tracing down several burglar mysteries.

"When goods are stolen that value or would assay over \$100 it is much easier for us to keep the lists of the same which are furnished by the police department and to be on the lookout for what is wanted.

"Then when the value of the articles is over that amount we are in much safer position to put a few questions to our customer, to discover who he is and why he wants to get money for the articles. If we are still suspicious that all is not as it should be it is a simple matter to make a few investigations before we complete the transaction.

"I am perfectly aware that the idea is prevalent in many quarters that the United States assay office is a 'fence' for thieves to bring their wares. This may have been the case in New York in the old days, and it may be so now in other places, but I feel that it is a pity that such feeling still exists in New York. It may be that there are cases where stolen articles get by us, but we are constantly on the lookout for crooks and what they have looted, and I feel safe in saying that there is less justice to the term 'fence' being applied to us now than at any other time in the history of the office."—New York World.

Bench and Bar.

Sir Edward Carson is noted for his ready Irish wit. On one occasion in court when the judge, with whom he had had more than one passage of arms, pointed out to him the discrepancy between the evidence of two of his witnesses, one a carpenter and the other a saloon keeper, he answered: "That's so, my lord. Yet another case of difference between bench and bar."—London M. A. P.

Starting Badly.

"Look here," exclaimed young Mr. Cotter Tarter in desperation, "is this or is it not a wedding tour?" "Why, of course," snapped young Mrs. C. T., "it's our wedding tour. What on earth did you think it was?" "Well, I'm beginning to think it's a lecture tour. Now cut it out, see?"—Toledo Blade.

Showered With Attention.

"Now that you are rich I suppose everybody is anxious to serve you." "That's the way it seems. I'm on the lookout all the time for subpoenas."—Kansas City Journal.

Those who do not look well after their own concerns are not fit to be trusted with other people's.

PASSED FREE LIST BILL.

Democratic Measure Will Now Go To Republican Senate.

WASHINGTON, May 9.—Nine hours of continuous talking at the hands of the republican minority of the house failed to make a change in the first democratic tariff bill—that placing on the free list agricultural implements, meats and many other articles. The bill passed the house by a vote of 238 to 109, the democrats voting solidly and mustering 24 republicans with them.

This came after the democrats had voted down, or ruled out of order, more than 100 amendments and had demonstrated again that the democratic majority was a compact and smoothly working machine for the enactment of legislation. Minority Leader Mann offered amendment after amendment, ranging all the way from free rice to free lead and pig iron, but those that were not ruled out of order were cheerfully voted down by an almost solid democratic vote.

The republican leaders roundly denounced the democrats for denying freedom of debate and amendments. Former Speaker Cannon said that never in the history of congress had the right of representation on the floor of the house been so limited; Minority Leader Payne said the democrats would be discredited before the country for their arbitrary exercise of majority power.

Mr. Mann said the democrats had not put either rice or rice flour on the free list because they were products of the southern states. Democratic Leader Underwood declared it was because the democrats did not know how much revenue it would cost the government.

Montana Stockmen Protest.

WASHINGTON, May 9.—Senator Myers will ask the interior department to rescind the order of commissioner of Indian affairs removing by July first, white men's cattle from the Blackfeet reservation. Senator Myers received a telegram today from Helena signed by Wm. Wallace, C. B. Power, and William Flowerree, protesting against the order, asking his support and saying that C. B. Power would leave for Washington to protest the department. Senator Myers wired his cooperation.

Favor Free Wool.

WASHINGTON, May 8.—That the ways and means committee will put raw wool on the free list on revising schedule K was declared to be practically certain today and resulted in a caucus of the democratic delegation from New York at which 18 members declared themselves in favor of free raw wool and four argued against it. All pledged themselves to abide by the decision of the full democratic caucus.

The caucus was called at the instance of Representative Harrison of the ways and means committee, who will fight for free wool before the committee and wants the support of his state delegation. Representative Sulzer, as chairman of the caucus, declared the revision of schedule K undoubtedly would put wool on the free list.

Farmers Interview President.

WASHINGTON, May 9.—President Taft indulged in some plain talk yesterday in explaining to 25 members of the National Grange that he does not intend to present any politics with the Canadian reciprocity agreement, even if the enactment of that measure by congress costs him the farmers' vote. The president told his visitors bluntly that he was sorry to hear that republican farmers would desert the party if the agreement goes through but fear of such desertion would not change his conviction as to the wisdom of such legislation. He said he believed reciprocity to be the best thing for the whole country and that he did not intend to argue it.

N. P. Hall, master of the Michigan Grange, spokesman of the farmers, intimated strongly that the farmer does not like reciprocity and that republican votes are likely to be lost if it is passed. "If reciprocity goes through," said he, "it means we must take less for our products and that means a halt in the improvement of our homes and the education of our children."

Long Distance Telephone.

NEW YORK, May 8.—For the first time in history the human voice carried 2,000 miles direct tonight, when New York found Denver over the long distance telephone wires. Manhattan newspaper men in a down town skyscraper, talking to a group in the Colorado capital, picked up Omaha on the way and also gossiped with Chicago.

A "phantom" telephone connected with four copper wires the thickness of a lead pencil, brought the cities together and in all 22 people were exchanging messages by the telephone and the telegraph at once over these four wires.

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Notice of Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Mackton Coal Co. will be held at the office of the company at Big Sandy, Montana, at 2 o'clock p. m., on Wednesday, June 7, 1911, for the purpose of electing a board of directors and for such other business as may regularly come before said meeting. O. A. BERGESON, Secretary.

In Bankruptcy Notice.

"A" This is to give notice, that in the district court of the United States for the district of Montana, Stewart E. Henderson, of Warrick, Chouteau county, Montana, has been duly adjudged a bankrupt upon his own petition. That the payment of any debts or the delivery of any property belonging to said bankrupt; to him or for his use, and the transfer of any property by him, is forbidden by law. That the first meeting of creditors of said bankrupt, for the purpose of filing and proving claims, and to choose one or more trustees of his estate, and for examining the bankrupt under oath, and for the transaction of such other business as can lawfully come before said meeting will be held at the court of bankruptcy, to be held at rooms 1-14-13 Dunn block, Great Falls, Montana, before A. H. Gray, referee in bankruptcy, on the 22d day of May, A. D. 1911, at 10 o'clock a. m. A. H. GRAY, Referee.

Notice of Bond Sale.

Notice is hereby given that the trustees of school district No. 23, in the county of Chouteau, state of Montana, will sell to the highest bidder for cash coupon interest-bearing bonds of the denomination of fifty (\$50.00) dollars each, interest thereon at the rate of six per cent. per annum, to be paid annually, which said bonds amount to the aggregate sum of four hundred fifty (\$450.00) dollars, at the school house in said district on the 20th day of June, A. D. 1911, at 2 o'clock p. m., in the afternoon of the said 20th day of June, 1911. Said bonds are not to be sold for less than their par value and the right is hereby reserved to reject any and all bids. Said bonds are redeemable and payable ten years from and after the 30th day of June, A. D. 1911, or on the 30th day of June, A. D. 1921, at the office of the county treasurer of said county of Chouteau. All bids must be sealed and addressed "Thekla Thomson, clerk of school district No. 23, Fort Benton, Mont.," and marked, "bids for bonds." By order of the board of school trustees. Dated this 1st day of May, 1911. ROBERT THOMSON, Chairman. THEKLA THOMSON, Clerk. First publication May 10, 1911.

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