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HONORS DAVID ECCLES

The American Sugar Industry, a monthly magazine of over one hundred pages, well edited and lavishly illustrated, devotes a page of its January number to Hon. David Eccles.

It produces a very fine half tone of the great financier and says:

With the death of David Eccles on December 5 there passed out of Utah and the West one of the builders of the Inland Empire. Hardly a big enterprise that had as its object the advancement of the Northwest, but David Eccles was identified with it. His death means a public loss as great and overwhelming as it was sudden and unexpected. Empire builder, multimillionaire, yet his manner of life was uniformly sane and simple and his bearing quiet and unassuming. His life and achievements emphasize the fact that big men are not necessarily those who wait for opportunity; they make the opportunity. His was not a sudden and spectacular rise to power and wealth due to any lucky circumstance or combination of circumstances, but rather the resistless, onward sweep of a life marked out from the beginning for big things. That he achieved the big things and yet kept his head is probably due to his hardheaded Scottish ancestry.

David Eccles was born at Paisley, Scotland, on May 12, 1849, the son of William Eccles and Sarah Hutchinson Eccles. His father was a wood turner by trade. He was not a university man. His only schooling, outside the broad education he received in Life's school, was received in one term at the common schools of early Ogden.

In the spring of 1863 the family came to America, arriving at Ogden, Utah, in October of that year. Later young Eccles went to Ogden Valley and became the sole support of the family. Four years later, or in 1867, he decided to go farther west, and went into Oregon, locating at Oregon City. His connection with the lumber industry traces from that year when he went to work in the timber of Oregon and Washington, a connection that he kept up to the day of his death. After spending two years in Oregon, young Eccles returned to Ogden Valley, but still continued to work in the timber until in 1873, when by thrift and economy he had managed to save sufficient money to go into business for himself. A sawmill was purchased. Within a year a partnership was formed between Mr. Eccles and two other men, the style of the firm being Gibson, Eccles & Van Noy, and a lumber yard was opened. Incidentally, it may be remarked that his venture was made upon the very same site of the present great lumber business owned by Mr. Eccles at the time of his death.

Mr. Eccles has from the beginning been identified with the lumber industry, and up to the time of his death was heavily interested in operations in Oregon. Closely connected with lumber manufacturing always have been and probably always will be the building and operation of railroad lines It is, therefore, only natural that among other things Mr. Eccles was a builder of railroads. He built two lines in Oregon, one, the Sumter Valley railroad, running from Baker City into the John Day country, and the other, the Mount Hood railroad, running from the town of Hood River toward Mount Hood.

Among other big things with which the dead man was identified was the Utah Construction Co. a gigantic railroad construction corporation, which built a line for the Western Pacific from Utah to California, which is said to constitute the largest railroad contract ever let to any one company west of Chicago. Mr. Eccles was president of this big corporation, and the immense undertaking was made possible largely by his standing and influence.

Mr. Eccles' connection with the beet sugar industry is so well understool that it would hardly seem necessary to review it in detail at this time. Of course, wherever the name of the Amalgamated Sugar company is spoken it is known that David Eccles was its president. Beet sugar unquestionably is the greatest enterprise in which he ever embarked. He was one of the promoters of the Ogden Sugar factory in 1898 and in the same year he built the sugar factory at Logan. The consolidation of these two companies was effected in 1902, under the name of the Amalgamated Sugar company with Mr. Eccles as president.

Altogether, it is estimated that Mr. Eccles was connected with twenty-seven companies, being president of seventeen of them among which are banks interurban lines, railroads, lumber companies, and, of course, his well known connection with the Utah sugar industry.

Mr. Eccles death was sudden. Apoplexy was the cause. He was in his usual good health only a few minutes before the fatal stroke came and in fifteen minutes he had breathed his last. So sudden was the end that this man of affairs, sugar magnate, lumber king, and banker, died in the emergency hospital of a Salt Lake police station. In the excitement, even his identity was not realized until he had taken his last breath.

Funeral services were held at Ogden on the tenth. As a tribute of respect to the dead man, all the industries with which he had been connected—lumber mills, sugar factories, street railways—suspended operations for five minutes as the body was being carried into the tabernacle for the sad ceremony to follow.

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INTEREST ON PUBLIC FUNDS

The question of interest on state funds ought not hinge upon the personal decision of a state treasurer. If the principle in itself is proper, and he would be rash indeed who questioned it, it should be made operative either through statute or constitutional amendment. State treasurers serve their tenure and depart; the policy of one may not be that of his successor. If the collection of interest on the people's money is made mandatory by statutory or fundamental law, the rotation in the treasurer's office will not affect the operation of the principle. It is not seemly that the public funds should be made a matter of private negotiation between the treasurer and the bank he selects, whether the income accrue finally to the taxpayers or to the treasurer himself. The present incumbent announces that the arrangement he has been trying to effect is not satisfactory, and one can well believe it.

Interest on state funds was a mooted subject during the recent state campaign and public interest in it is by no means abated. We have heretofore expressed our doubt whether, under the present reading of the constitution, a valid law could be enacted providing for the collection of interest But so many able students of the law and of the constitution believe it possible that we can but defer to their professional judgment, and urge that the Legislature, despite such arrangements as the treasurer may be able to make, write a method into the statutes and thus make mandatory and lawful what is now a matter of personal choice.

Under the existing system, each succeeding state treasurer, has no office, but becomes the tenant of some favored bank, often going upon the bank's payroll to perform duties that are less than nominal and at a salary that is considerably more than nominal. So frankly has the profitable connection between the state's financial officer and the bank been paraded on occasion in the past that one wonders why the people have endured it. The official charged with responsibility for the funds of a sovereign state should be furnished an office by his employer—the commonwealth; he should be under no obligations to interests whose deep concern in the whereabouts of the people's money is prompted by the profit they get out of it.

Those who have the use of state money should pay the state for it, just as the borrower of private capital pays a proper return to the lender. This is the broad general principle that should be established by law; to the legislators may safely be entrusted the task of arranging the details. It is impossible that financial institutions should bid for the use of state money, with an award to the highest bidder. Any argument against this that includes the statement that an unsafe or insolvent bank might secure the funds is worse than absurd; a proper method of safeguard can be easily invented.

This matter is important to the people and is vital to the future success of the party that is in the Legislature. The Republican state platform took a firm stand upon it and it thus has become a party pledge that the party should redeem—Herald-Republican.

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EDUCATION

In addition to the 81.1 per cent of taxes devoted to education, as shown in our last issue, the various state educational institutions were many years ago made the principal owners, under grants from the national government, of about seven million acres of land, five and a half million of which were set aside for the upkeep of the district schools. A portion of this land has been and is now being sold (roughly 38 per cent of it so far), and the proceeds reinvested. There is consequently in the hands of the state land board a steadily rising total of (at the present moment) about five and a half millions of interesting bearing paper, the income from which can never be diverted to any other purpose than the maintenance of the state institutions. About two and a quarter millions of this consist of deferred payments on land contracts, drawing interest at 5 per cent. About three and a quarter millions are invested in mortgages, bonds, etc. The activity of the land board is indicated by the fact that during the last two years it has sold 269,400 acres involving a purchase price of $712,900.

To give a still better idea of the stress laid by the state and local authorities upon educational work, it may be said that during the two year period ending June 30, 1912, almost $7,700,000—seventy dollars for every child of school age—were spent in the upkeep of the elementary and high schools of the state. The one item of alterations and new construction on school buildings has alone taken $1,370,000 of this sum. The value of lands and buildings occupied by the five state education institutions amounts to $2,900,000 (est). Adding $7,800,000 as the value of city and county property, the total of Utah investment in educational plants becomes $10,700,000; and it spent nearly $5,500,000 in 1912 to maintain, operate and extend them.

Such generous provision has resulted in centralized and graded schools and rural high schools though the state is sparsely populated. It is to the everlasting credit of the pioneers of Utah that in almost every town, the largest and best buildings are the school house and the church.—National Copper Bank.

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Book love, my friends, is your pass to the greatest, the purest, and the most perfect pleasure that God has prepared for His creatures. It lasts when all other pleasures fade. It will support you when all other recreations are gone. It will last you until your death. It will make your hours pleasant to you as long as you live.—Anthony Trollope.

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Water, air and cleanliness are the chief articles in my pharmacopeia.—Napoleon.

GRANDFATHER WITH HIS " LET ME INSTRUCT YOU"

In the January American Magazine Brand Whitlack, Mayor of Toledo, Ohio begins a series of personal reminiscences under the title of "Forty Years of It." The first article is entitled "A Boy and His Grandfather." Whitlock tells about becoming a free trader as a young man and how he dreaded to meet his grandfather at Urbana. Ohio where the old gentleman had lived in Republican contentment. The story goes on:

"For the first time in my life I went on my vacation to Urbana that summer with reluctance for the first time in my life I shrank from seeing my grandfather. The wide front door opened and from the heat without to the dark and cool interior of the hall I stepped: I prolonged the preliminaries. I went through the familiar apartments and out into the garden to see how it grew that summer and down to the stable to see the horses but the inevitable hour drew on and at last with all the trival things said all the personal questions asked we sat in the living room cool in the half-light produced by its drawn shades the soft air of summer blowing through it, the odd old Nuremberg furniture, the painting of the Nuremburg castle presented to him by the American artist whom he rescued from a scrape the tall pier glass with the little vase of flowers on its marble base and my grandfather in his large chair his white waistcoat half unbuttoned and one side sagging with the weight of the heavy watch chain that decended from its large hook his white beard trimmed a little more closely his white hair bristling as aggressively as ever—all the same all as of old like the reminders of the old life and all its traditions now to be broken and rendered frever and tragically different from all it had been meant. He sat there looking at me the blue eyes twinkling under their shaggy brows, and stretched forth his long white hand in the odd gesture with which he began his conversations. Conversations with him it suddenly devoloped, were not easy to sustain he pursued the Socratic method. If you disagreed with him, he lifted three fingers toward you, whether in menace or in benediction it was difficult at times to determine, and said:

"Let me instruct you."

For instancec:

"'Do you know why Napoleon III. lost the battle of Sedan? he might abruptly inquire.

"'No, sir,' you were expected to say. ('You always addressed him as sir.')

"'Let me instruct you.'

Or:

"'Do you know who was the greatest English poet?'

"'No sir,' you would say, or, perhaps, in those days you might venture, 'Was it Shakespeare, sir?'

Then he would look at you and say:

"'Let me instruct you.'

"'This afternoon then, after I had inspected the premises, noticed how much taller my cousin's fir tree was than the one I called mine (we had planted them one day, as little boys, years before) and after I had had a drink at the old pump which in those days, before germs, brought up such cold, clear water, and after I had ascended to my cool room upstairs, and come down stairs again and we had idly talked for a little while, as I said, he sat and looked at me a moment, and then said:

"Do you understand this tariff question?'

"In those days I might have made the due, what I might term with reference to that situation the conventional reply and said:

"'No sir.'

"In these days I am sure I would But I hesitated. He had already stretched forth his hand.

"'Yes, sir,' I said.

"He drew in his hand, and for an instant touched with his long fingers the end of his large nose. I plunged ahead.

"'I am in favor of free trade, sir.'

"He did not extend his hand. He looked at me a moment, and then he said:

"'You are quite right; we must support Mr. Cleveland in the coming contest.'

"And he sank back in his chair and laughed.

"He was always like that, following the truth as he saw it, wherever it led him."

MEETS FIRST BIG DEFEAT

Loses Its Suit Against the United Shoe Company in U. S. Supreme Court

Washington, Feb. 3.—The government today suffered its first big defeat in the recent anti-trust campaign when the supreme court held that the officials of the United States Shoe Machinery company had not violated the Sherman anti-trust law by organizing that company. The court, however, did not pass upon legality of the system by which the company leases machines on terms that no "independent" machinery be used.

The action of the supreme court today grew out of Massachussetts federal court's annulling one of two indictments brought against Shoe machinery company officials. The Massachusetts court took the position that the indictment did not state an offense under the Sherman law. The government appealed to the supreme court by virtue of the criminal appeal act of 1907, on the ground that it did state an offense.

The government in the indictment alleged that Sidney W. Winslow, Edward P. Hurd, George W. Brown, William Barbour and Elmer P. Howe, violated the law first by organizing the United Shoe Machinery corporation and second by a system of leasing their machines whereby patrons were compelled to promise not to use any machinery made by independents and to use only that made by the alleged combine.

The charge was that the shoe machinery corporation took over the business of the Consolidated and Mackay Lasting Machine company, manufacturing 60 per cent of all lasting machines; the Mackay Shoe Machinery company, manufacturing 70 per cent of all heeling machines and 80 per cent of all metallic fastening machines, of the Goodyear Shoe Machinery Co., manufacturing 80 per cent of the welt sewing and out sole stitching machines.

The government claimed this put about 80 per cent of the business of shoe manufacturing into one concern and that being an undue proportion of the trade was a violation of the law. It did not claim that there had been unfair competition as in the Standard Oil and Tobacco cases.

The shoe machinery officials declared the supreme court could not review the action of the Massachusetts courts because the criminal appeals act was repealed by not being included in the judicial code of 1912, and also claimed that the organization of the corporation was a normal trade development. They further urged that the groups consolidated in the corporation were non-competing and that the leasing system was justified by the patent laws.

ADVERTISED LETTERS

Logan, Utah, Feb. 4, 1913.

Bend, Stella.
Dalley, Roy.
Williams, W. W.

JOSEPH ODELL, Postmaster.

WILL FIGHT BUILDING OF MORE BATTLESHIPS

Washington, Feb. 4.—With "no battleships" as their slogan, members of the House opposed to a big navy secured today a sufficient number of signatures to a petition for a Democratic caucus on the question of how many battleships shall be used this year. The caucus will be held before Friday, when the House naval affairs committee is scheduled to vote on the new construction section of the naval appropriation bill.

Representative Sherwood of Ohio started the movement for the caucus He and other signers of the petition hope to have the majority vote against any appropriation for battleships on the grounds that economy demands such a stand by the Democrats. It has been conceded generally that the naval affairs committee would report a provision for two battleships.

Sentiment among the Democrats is divided, but only a small number can be found to predict that the caucus will commit itself to a "no battleship" program.