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THE BRITISH SURPLUS.

GREAT BRITAIN has given the world a striking proof of her wealth and of the recuperative power of her people. With war expenditure in the last four years exceeding \$1,000,000,000, of which sum over \$340,000,000 was paid out of the current revenues, with heavy expenditures for army and navy and with a total debt in excess of \$3,991,000,000, the Chancellor of her Exchequer has been able to present to Parliament a budget showing a surplus of more than \$54,000,000 and to promise a reduction of the income tax and a total repeal of all taxes on food stuffs with the exception of sugar and tea.

The showing is the more gratifying because it is accompanied by reductions of taxation in South Africa as well as large reductions in freight and passenger rates on South African railways. The latter is expected to be highly beneficial to the industries of the Transvaal. In a recent statement on the subject, Lord Milner announced that the reductions in railway rates, based on the shipments of previous years, will amount to as much as \$3,750,000 a year. It amounts to 40 per cent reduction on freights of foods and general supplies, 25 per cent reduction on miscellaneous freight and from 10 to 15 per cent on iron and steel goods. The reductions will, of course, have a tendency to increase traffic and promote the development of the country, and consequently the saving to trade will be even larger than the estimate submitted.

The effects of the showing are likely to be felt in other directions. It will materially strengthen the Ministry in public opinion and thus aid the Prime Minister in carrying out his programme of legislation, including the army bill and the settlement of the Irish land question. In that respect it comes at a most opportune time, for of late popular sentiment in English constituencies has been running strongly against the Ministry. Time after time in by-elections the ministerial candidates have been defeated by candidates of the opposition. Even localities that were looked upon as Conservative strongholds have gone against them, and it appeared that the Ministry might be forced to resign before accomplishing the enactment of the land bill.

That the announcement of a surplus will have a good effect appears certain, because most of the opposition to the Ministry is due to the tax on grain, which irritated the working classes, and to the fear that the army bill and the Irish bill, each of which will entail large expenditures, would cause the grain taxes to be retained for a long period, and might even cause an increase of the income tax. The ample revenues at the disposal of the Government put an end to that fear. The repeal of the grain taxes will go far toward appeasing the workingman, and the reduced income tax will give the capitalists assurance that the land bill will not lead to further burdens upon them.

As affairs now stand, the Balfour Ministry seems strong enough to face without fear the divided and discordant ranks of the opposition. They have made good progress toward settling the problems of South Africa. Mr. Chamberlain's visit there has been so far successful that no one at this time perceives any danger of another outbreak or of any disaster to industry. In fact, it is estimated that the prosperity of that country will become so marked as to convince the Boers themselves that they are better off under British rule than they were before, and will enable them to bear with patience the burden of taxation which that rule will impose upon them.

Balfour is, in fact, to profit by the advantage which prosperity always gives to the party in power. The meeting of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce was marked by a spirit of congratulation among the members over the condition of trade. It was described by Lord Avebury as being "absolutely satisfactory." Having thus a good showing for private business as well as for the imperial revenues, it is hardly likely the conservative classes will vote for a change. The friends of justice to Ireland can, of course, be expected to sustain the Ministry so long as it promises a just measure of reform in the government of that country. Taken altogether, then, the situation is cheering to the Ministers, and we can well understand how Mr. Ritchie, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, spoke with eloquence and was greeted with cheers when he began his speech by saying that whereas his predecessor had to ask an increase of taxation he purposed to reduce it.

New York City, it is said, has an academy for the education of children in crime. To those of us who follow events in New York this educational feature of her life seems to be altogether unnecessary.

THE VALUE OF TIMBER.

IF every acre of forest land in the country belonged to the state there is no doubt that eventually the value of the timber, properly cared for by expert foresters, would nearly equal all other national wealth. If the private owners of forest land desire to endow their descendants and provide for their posterity, they cannot make a more certain provision than in planting more trees. The consumption of timber in all forms increases as the supply decreases. Timber that was formerly thought to be worthless has become valuable. The Indiana white wood, which was thought to be useless, until even for fuel, has become so valuable for furniture that the people who logged and burned forests of it to make farms are loud in lamenting their folly. In destroying the pine and hardwood forests of Wisconsin the basswood was passed by as having no value. Now the lumberman is going back over his path in the forest, cutting and sawing the basswood, which is more valuable than the white pine when it was lumbered. It is difficult to predict that any kind of tree will be found useless. Wood that has no other value is charcoaled, and the arts continue to demand the product.

It is only within thirty years that the high value of black walnut timber was discovered. Up to that time the forests of that wood had been cut for cordwood or made into rails or girdled and burned to clear land for the plow. By these processes fortunes were thrown away. Every reader is familiar with the history of a pound of iron converted into steel and made up into watch springs, with a value constantly increased with each change in form and use. That story of the metal is equalled by a recent history of timber. An owner of forest land in the mountains of North Carolina was selling walnut trees to a buyer, who represented a big furniture factory. For one very handsome tree the buyer offered \$50. The owner was suspicious and refused to sell that tree. He sent for an expert, found that it was curled walnut, and got \$1500 for it. The man who cut it got \$3000 for it on the cars. Its fortunes were followed on. It was shipped to New York and sliced into one-sixth of an inch veneers and sold for \$60,000. Though the owner got a big price, he did not get enough.

In view of the rapid increase in all timber values, it is doubtful if any attainable rate of interest on money will bring such returns, even if compounded, as can be had by planting forest trees, especially the valuable hard woods and furniture stock. The returns begin with the third generation after the planter, and if each generation plant a family endowment can be created that is more certain and more permanent than any other sort of property.

If people are taught and convinced of the value and increasing importance of timber, they will become more respectful of existing forests, which are now being wantonly and wastefully destroyed.

Forest administration is a legitimate duty of government. It is conceded that all meandered streams are in exclusive control of the Government. Therefore whatever affects such streams cannot be left to destruction, for public jurisdiction goes back from the water-courses to the water sources, and these are protected by the forests. If the Government will put its forests under expert management, and use them as object lessons to teach private owners how to make their timber property permanent and to increase its value, the benefit to all allied interests will be enormous.

Sierra, recently President of the ancient republic of Honduras, is a fugitive, with bands of his fellow citizens hot foot in chase after him. And still President Roosevelt has the assurance to talk about a strenuous life. He should give his fellow rulers of the Central American states the floor.

A NEW ZEALAND CRISIS.

REPORTS from New Zealand are to the effect that the rural industries of the colony are enjoying a high degree of prosperity and the demand for land is so great the Government has had to open up an enormous area of crown lands for settlement. It is announced that within three months the amount of land thus put upon the market in the Auckland district alone will exceed 700,000 acres.

The rush for land is due partly to the good crops obtained in recent seasons and partly to the industrial disturbances, which render manufacturing unprofitable. The situation is disappointing to those who hoped that the establishment of the principle of compulsory arbitration would put an end to labor controversies and permit the rapid development of diversified industries. When the boards of conciliation and the court of arbitration were provided it was believed the boards would settle nearly all disputes and that the court would have but little to do. In practice, however, nearly the whole burden has been thrown upon the court, as the boards have proven powerless to conciliate or to satisfy contending parties. It is announced that something in the way of a reconstitution of the court must take place in order to enable it to manage the business before it.

No one questions the essential fairness and justice of the court, and the three men who constitute it have the esteem of the public, but for all that the demand for reconstitution goes on. A report of the situation says: "The result of the awards points to increased cost of production, the forming of 'rings' antagonistic to employers, and to the impossibility of a man's being able to establish a business in a small way. A most serious detail is the fact that quite recently several employers have been before the court to answer charges of non-compliance with the awards. In two cases fines were inflicted, in the others decision was reserved. The latest result is that a number of employers, deeming an award inimical to their interests, since it raised wages about two pence an hour per man, have, rather than comply, dismissed their men and intend, while the market is low, to import manufactured furniture from Australia."

The situation is complicated by a question of union labor. The Prime Minister is reported to have recently promised to consider the issue of compulsory preference to unionists, and employers are afraid they will be restricted in obtaining labor. A further grievance urged is that under the present system there is an obstacle in the way of apprenticing lads to learn a trade. Finally it is stated: "A serious inconsistency has also been pointed out. The questionable method of examining the tradebooks has been used. In one case, though it was proved that owing to falling off in profits the employers were making less than journeymen's wages, the award for increased wage was upheld. Against this, however, is the fact that in a recent coal mining dispute an increase of wages was not awarded because the books of the company showed that there had not been sufficient profit to justify an increase."

Taken altogether the outlook for manufacturers is not good, so that there is no occasion for surprise in the announcement that people with capital are

taking to the land and are going to devote themselves mainly to rural pursuits until the industrial tangle has been straightened out and the employer learns to what extent he is to be permitted to manage any business he might venture to undertake.

In the bustle, confusion, distraction and hurly-burly of metropolitan life San Francisco has been sadly lacking of late in one incident of city life which always excites commendable interest. Nobody in town has killed a footpad for some time, and the hold-up industry still has an alarming vogue.

NAVAL ACCIDENTS.

DURING the war with Spain the American navy operating in the Eastern and the Western Indies, making long voyages and sustaining prolonged battles with a formidable foe, escaped without an accident, emerging from the war almost without loss of any kind. The Oregon made her record-breaking run at full speed round Cape Horn and arrived off Santiago in time for the fight without so much as starting a bolt or straining a shaft. Guns were fired in battle about as fast as they could be loaded and aimed, without sustaining a crack in their metal or any displacement of the machinery by which they were operated.

Upon that showing we straightway began with due pride and patriotism to exult and to boast. We challenged the world to note not only the skill and the courage of our officers and men, but also the excellence of our machinery. It was indeed a record to be proud of, for it is doubtful if any other navy in the world could have accomplished it. Such being the case, it is regrettable that we have not been able to maintain in times of peace the splendid showing we made in war. Only the other day we dismissed with contempt the statement of a German critic that our navy is not equal to our boasting, and now come the disasters of the target practice to give at least a showing of confirmation to the criticism.

Not a single ship or war vessel of our navy was injured by accident during the whole period of war, but in the peaceful practice of target shooting accident follows accident with startling rapidity. Of the seven ships engaged in the practice off Pensacola, two—the Iowa and the Maine—have been disabled by accidents. Another ship, the Massachusetts, underwent a like accident last January. Within a comparatively short time we have thus had disabled three battleships and lost a considerable number of lives by accidents of one kind or another. In some cases guns have burst, in others steam pipes have blown out, and last but not least damage has been done by the weakness of the structure of the ship itself.

Ample explanations are given for the accidents after they happen. It is said the bursting of the twelve-inch gun on the Iowa was due to the fact that it had been fired 127 times and was worn out. The Cramps explain the collapse of the Maine by saying: "The initial power of guns is increasing all the time, and while we make a contract to build a vessel which shall be able to sustain all the requirements of guns of to-day, by the time she is ready to go to sea with her guns on board they have increased in weight, power and energy beyond our expectations."

Such explanations will be accepted for what they are worth. They amount virtually to a declaration that we cannot guarantee either a gun or a ship. Guns that are counted good for 150 shots may blow up at 127, and ships counted on as strong enough to fight a battle may break down in target practice. Evidently in giving credit for the success of our arms in the Spanish War we ought not to neglect to inscribe a tablet to the goddess of good luck.

A Berkeley scientist has demonstrated that wings may be grown on insects by chemical process. This seems to remove the last obstacle in the way of Californians when ready to journey to their heavenly home. Science and faith appear to be working in complete harmony once more.

THE NEXT PLATFORM.

THE combination of Bryan and Hearst is positively the greatest Democratic show now on the road. More than that, they seem to have the only active organization and are likely to capture the National Convention next year. In order to know what the platform is to be, in addition to the sacred creed of 1896 and 1900, it is only necessary to read Mr. Bryan's speeches and Mr. Hearst's letters. After emphasizing the Socialist doctrines affirmed in the last two campaigns, the platform will run something like this:

- "Whereas, Grover Cleveland deserves to be d—d; therefore,
"Resolved, That Grover Cleveland be d—d.
"Resolved, That all trusts in which Mr. Hearst is not interested are speculative and therefore bad.
"Resolved, That the copper trust is not a speculative trust.
"Resolved, That the national Democratic party favors department stores and will trade at no other.
"Resolved, That there are only five Democratic daily papers in the United States, and that three of these belong to Mr. Hearst.
"Resolved, That Mr. Hearst be requested to always sign his name William Randolph Hearst, and that it is the opinion of the party that he should sometimes mention himself in his three-fifths of the Democratic dailies of the country.
"Resolved, That Mr. Bryan and Mr. Hearst be requested not to permit Gold Democrats in the party, as the Silver Democrats wish to sleep nights and not sit up to watch pickpockets.
"Resolved, That we are in favor of that old Jeffersonian Democratic principle, department stores, as we said before, and of William Randolph Hearst as the heroic champion of that time-tested, tried and honored doctrine of the party.
"Resolved, That Grover Cleveland be d—d."

The fates and our laws seems to be dealing kindly with California as far as a hope for increased population is concerned. The authorities of St. Louis have made it emphatically apparent that the climate of the town is not healthful for boodlers, and the thrifty gentlemen dare not go East.

General Baden-Powell, one of the British heroes of the South African war, has come among us and is traveling under an assumed name. His exceptional modesty is to be regretted. The American people love to do honor to a brave man, whoever he may be and from wherever he may come.

Ex-Senator Merriam of Minnesota says trusts are to the industries of the nation what ballast is to a ship, but as there is such a thing as a ship being overballasted the simile is not altogether comforting to the mourners.

Outlaw McKinney has at least one advantage over the rascal who attempted to aid him in his desperate deeds and to evade their inevitable consequences. The assistant outlaw is not yet dead and at peace.

CHICAGO RECOGNIZES GREAT UTILITY OF MARKET-STREET SAFETY STATION



NATIVES BOUND TO CONVENTION AT BAKERSFIELD

The delegates to the Grand Parlor of the Native Sons of the Golden West will start for the warm clime of Bakersfield to-morrow, where the session of the grand body will be held next week.

A remarkable feature of the Grand Parlor will be the number of new members who will answer roll call. In this city particularly there was in nearly every one of the twenty-one parlors at the election for delegates a turning down of many of the old-timers who had year after year been sent to the Grand Parlor, the idea being this year that new and young men were wanted to legislate for the order. The defeated candidates for Grand Parlor honors were taken by surprise and were for a time active in declaring that there is no gratitude in the order, and that there is no longer any recognition for services rendered by those who have long since made them what they are. It is an innovation and its result will only be known at the close of the session on Friday next.

The make-up of the Grand Parlor is eighteen past grand presidents, ten grand officers, seven grand trustees and 297 delegates representing 163 parlors. There will be, if the rule of the past is adhered to, the advancement of H. R. McBride from grand first vice to grand president and the election of Lewis E. Byington, who will be one year junior past grand president. Charles E. McLaughlin will be advanced to grand first and James L. Gallagher to grand second vice president. Henry Lunde and Henry S. Martin will, it is thought, be re-elected grand secretary and grand treasurer respectively, and Major Louis W. Juilliard, at present grand marshal; Joseph R. Knowland and Walter D. Wagner, the last two named at present grand trustees, will be candidates for grand grand vice president. J. Emmet Hayden, grand outside sentinel, wants to get on the inside and therefore will be a candidate for grand inside sentinel. There will be a contest for grand marshal and grand outside sentinel with at least as many candidates as there are parlors.

Seven grand trustees are to be elected and for the office the following are named as candidates: M. T. Dooling and James A. Daveto, by alternates; C. E. Jarvis, J. J. Eilers, Frank R. Wehe, C. E. Jarvis, W. R. Porter, Louis H. Mooser, J. M. Hanley, D. H. A. Andrews, William D. Hynes, L. C. Pistolesi, R. P. Troy, W. N. Burnett, Colonel Charles Boxton and T. C. Conny.

To-night Stanford Parlor will have high jinks in the Assembly Hall of the Pioneer building for the entertainment of the delegates in this city on their way to Bakersfield, and also for the benefit of the grand officers. A fine programme will be presented.

PERSONAL MENTION.

- H. L. Lee, a merchant of Quincy, is at the Russ.
The Attorney Frank Short of Fresno is at the Palace.
John Sweet, a wine-grower of Martinez, is at the Lick.
J. O. Hestwood, a mining man of San Jose, is at the Grand.
W. W. Douglas, assistant State Controller, is at the Grand.
T. S. Spaulding, a merchant of Woodland, is at the Grand.
J. R. Newberry, a merchant of Los Angeles, is at the Palace.
Max Isaacs, a merchant of Los Angeles, is at the Palace.
J. H. Edwards, a large land-owner of Novato, is at the Lick.
Charles A. Wisler, an attorney of Placerville, is at the Grand.
J. S. McCandles, a merchant of Honolulu, is at the Occidental.
Dr. and Mrs. V. T. McGilluddy of New York are at the California.
A. J. Blithen, proprietor of the Seattle Times, and family are at the Grand.
Robert McCormick, banker, ship-owner and rancher of Seattle, is at the Palace.
Morris Blen of Washington, a member of the United States Geological Survey, is at the Occidental.
H. P. Rand, proprietor of the Congress Springs Hotel, and wife and son are registered at the Palace.
Edwin G. Bordin, who is connected with the Hamersley group of mines near Grants Pass, is at the Grand.
Postmaster W. G. Hawley of San Jose, department commander of the G. A. R., is registered at the Occidental.
J. Allen Veatch, manager of the Darian mines of Payama and owner of a big oil gusher in Beaumont, Tex., is at the Palace.
The Rev. C. H. Hibbard of Morristown, one of the leading Episcopal clergymen of New Jersey, and family are at the Occidental.
Clerks and Carriers Wanted.
A United States civil service examination will be held in this city on May 15 for the positions of clerk and carrier in the postoffice at Oakland. Age limit 18 to 45 years. Apply to the secretary, 301 Jackson street, this city.

TRUST CLAUSES IN THE DUNPHY WILL ARE VALID

The trust clauses in the will of the late James Dunphy, the cattle king, who died five years ago leaving an estate worth \$3,000,000, were declared legal by Judge Trout yesterday. The decision is the outcome of a suit to have them declared void, brought by Mary Flood, Dunphy's daughter, on the ground that the trust clause giving her a life interest in one-fifth of her father's estate stopped her from alienating her interest upon her death.

Practically the same conclusion was arrived at two years ago by Judge Trout, when he sustained the demurrer to Mrs. Flood's complaint interposed by the other beneficiaries under the Dunphy will.

The cattle man's will was a peculiar document, in that it was very lengthy and displayed his desire to keep his vast estate almost intact and yet allow five people to share it. He provided that his three children, Mary Flood, James Dunphy and Jennie Dunphy, and his widow, Carmel O. Dunphy, and his grandchild, Viola Percy, should each have a life interest in one-fifth of his estate, which he devised to his widow and daughter Jennie as trustees. There was this difference, however, in the various clauses under which the estate was devised: In the clauses providing for his widow and Jennie and James Dunphy he provided also that upon their deaths they could dispose of their interests as they saw fit. Mrs. Flood's share, however, and the share of Viola Percy the will provided should go upon their deaths to their children, or in the event that they died without offspring, should revert to Dunphy's heirs-at-law.

With the exception of Mrs. Flood the beneficiaries under Dunphy's will were content to allow the estate to remain in the hands of the trustees, as the will provided, and enjoy the income therefrom. They refused, therefore, to join with Mrs. Flood in her attempt to have the trust declared void. She brought the suit against Carmel O. Dunphy and Jennie Dunphy as trustees.

Townsend's Cal. glacia fruits, 715 Mrkt. Townsend's California glacia fruit and candies, 50c a pound, in artistic fire-etched boxes. A nice present for Eastern friends. Moved from Palace Hotel building to 715 Market st., two doors above Call building.

Glasgow corporation has refused to allow blind men to travel free on the municipal tramway cars.

Special information supplied daily to business houses and public men by the Press Clipping Bureau (Allen's), 230 California street, Telephone Main 1042.

Considerably more than 100,000 tons of butter are made annually in the British Isles, and from 130,000 to 140,000 tons of cheese.

Avoid baldness, gray hair, dandruff and thin locks by using Parker's Hair Balsam. Hindercorns, the best cure for corns. 15c.

Advertisement for 'Tainted Gold' featuring a woman's story and 'Next Sunday Call' for 'Tinker's Colt' puzzles. Includes text: 'Most Thrilling of All Second and Last Installment of Tainted Gold', 'Read what became of Winifred Gray when she mysteriously disappeared in scanty stage attire.', 'Next Sunday Call. Most Humorously Clever Story of the Day.', 'TINKER'S COLT', 'Read of His Amazing Adventures.', 'Beautiful full page miniature of the most envied woman in San Francisco society. Can you guess who she is?', 'BUT, BEST OF ALL—WATCH FOR THIS 50 Special Prizes--50 Special Prizes', 'THE NEW ANIMAL FABLE PUZZLES'.