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**A THOUGHT FOR TODAY**

*Wealth is like a viper, which is harmless if a man knows how to take hold of it; but if he does not it will twine around his hand and bite him.*  
 —St. Clement.

You can always tell a dogwood tree by its bark.

If anything, Pittsburg has added to its prestige as a steel center.

Ever think that ice is really the only thing that its cracked up to be?

The returns indicate that the open season for the "drys" is about closed.

"Statehood in spite of democracy," runs a headline in the Tucson Citizen. Well, that is the promise; fulfill it.

This is the season of the year when every club that plays the national game claims the championship. It will be different later.

A New York bigamist has confessed to having twenty-four wives, which simply goes to show how little the cost of living affects some people.

The present city officials are entitled to great credit for the economical manner in which the municipality has been conducted during the past two years.

They say that Kermit grew a mustache while in the jungle. Doubtless more kids would grow mustaches if they had a jungle to hide in while they were sprouting.

The latest report has it that Andy Carnegie intends starting a newspaper in either Washington or New York. Undoubtedly Andy has determined to die poor.

If you happen to be a Yale student, there is every chance in the world for you at Washington, (D. C.), and if you are a classmate, well your future is assured.

"We need professors," asserts a Tucson educator. What's that? We have entertained the opinion for some time that the country was overrun by "professors."

If these April political freshets can be employed as straws it behooves the republicans to get busy if they hope to accomplish anything during the next few years to come.

A Tucson merchant advertises: "Every time the sun goes down it sets on a smaller output of eggs." Old Sol shouldn't butt in on the incubator and take the chance of being called a nature faker.

"It is good news that we are to have no tariff war with Canada," gleefully remarks the Phoenix Gazette. Indeed it is; we will have a satisfying quantity of tariff war at home during the next few years.

A Boston shoe drummer has told the people of the Old Pueblo that "all you hear in the east is Tucson." We mistrust the republicans heard something drop in Massachusetts the other day that didn't sound like Tucson.

Gifford Pinchot is in Copenhagen. Isn't that where Dr. Cook submitted his "polar proofs" to the University, and were they not given a cold reception?—Tucson Citizen. Exactly, my boy; but Theodore Roosevelt is not a "U."

Andrew Carnegie has likened Speaker Cannon to Abraham Lincoln. When you come to think of it the resemblance is amazing. Abraham Lincoln had whiskers on his chin. Speaker Cannon has whiskers on exactly the same spot on his chin. Marvelous!

**"INEVITABLE WASTE"**

A long time ago, somebody said that waste in municipal government was inevitable, and it was one of those dangerous sayings that get repeated so often that they become imbedded in the structure of thought and thereby make themselves true though essentially they are false.

New York is having an experience under the administration of Judge Gaynor that is proving very disastrous to that ol' time belief.

Municipal waste is inevitable so long as people believe it to be inevitable and let it go at that, and only so long.

When somebody comes along who doesn't take his thoughts already made up and tied in bundles for unmastered swallowing, it is different. That was the way with Gaynor. Doubtless he, too, had heard that municipal waste is inevitable; but just because he had heard it was no reason, for him, why he should believe it. So he didn't believe it, and he isn't acting as though it were true.

Says the New York Tribune, which cannot be accused of undue partiality to Gaynor: "One day the city administration cuts off one source of 'honest graft' and another day another, until now it is almost possible to revise old notions to the extent of saying that economy in city management is inevitable." That is going too far, of course, because Gaynors don't happen along every day; but it is a mighty good thing that in New York, at least, somebody has arisen to show the emptiness of the old belief that municipal waste is inevitable. It isn't inevitable except as public indifference and paralysis of public spirit make it inevitable. It isn't inevitable except as these things and boss-led partisanship dominate a slothful public which out of its indifference and neglect gives birth to municipal extravagance and corruption.

Continues the Tribune: "The administration is almost embarrassed by the opportunities of saving presented to it. It cuts off special counsel in the Catskill condemnation proceedings who have been costing the city \$100,000 a year or so apiece, and substitutes for them salaried counsel at \$3,000. Now, which is the more inevitable, to pay \$100,000 or \$3,000 for legal services? Is there anything inevitable about two idle crews on the municipal ferries, which are accumulating a comfortable deficit of \$1,000,000 a year? Was there anything inevitable about the great patronage scheme which the providing of a water supply in the Ashokan region was made to subserv? If the public wishes to be well governed it must strike the word 'inevitable' from its vocabulary."

Not necessarily. It is enough to change its use. Municipal waste is inevitable in a condition of public indifference. Municipal economy and good government are inevitable in a condition of alert public spirit.

New York is having an education on this point that is worth vastly more than the immense sums that are being saved to its taxpayers. The city that can't profit by that experience, and by an awakening of public spirit shift its use of the word 'inevitable' so as to make it mean inevitable economy and good government, is a happy exception. We doubt if it exists in this country.

**THE FISH THAT GOT AWAY**

Every angler is familiar, by personal experience and by hearsay repeated far past the point of satiety, with the tale of the big fish that got away. It is the basis of an annual output of more or less hilarious jokes, and curiously enough every angler takes it seriously so far as his own experience is concerned, and as a joke so far as the other fellow's story is concerned.

A Connecticut man has invented a fish rod handle that registers the weight of fish automatically, so that hereafter everybody equipped with his device will be able to prove the exact weight of the fish that got away.

No doubt he thinks that he has struck something that will make him rich. Never was inventor more hopeless in error. It must have struck the unprejudiced observer long ago that in all human probability there is no reason why the fish that get away should be any bigger than those that don't get away. But in the realm of doubt created when that fascinating monster wriggles off the hook and darts away into his secret haunts, there is abundant opportunity for weaving almost any kind of story. Nobody can deny your claims, because the fish that got away tells no tales. Whether you deceive anybody else or not, you do deceive yourself; and that delightful self-deception is really one of the most piquant charms of fishing.

What is to become of that pleasure if you have a rod that registers the exact weight of the fish that gets away? You are willing to swear that it must have weighed fully five pounds. But you look at that accursed scale on your rod, and you found it weighed exactly a pound and a half, and there are three-pound fish in your creel. Where is the pleasure of fishing when things like that can happen?

The Connecticut adventurer would better return to the creation of a new variety of wooden nutmeg. The world has no place for a device that will register the exact weight of the fish that get away.

**STATUS OF THE SUGAR SCANDAL**

It is doubtful if the Taft administration can much longer refuse to permit an investigation by congress of the sugar trust scandal.

There is a strong feeling that the republican party can not afford to ignore the charges and counter charges that have been made by various members of congress.

It is feared by the republicans that if a congressional investigation is refused, it may be accepted by the country as an indication that the G. O. P. is afraid that facts might be developed which would be harmful to the party; that failure to probe the \$2,000,000 custom house frauds in New York may leave the impression on the public mind that the sugar trust was able to avoid investigation simply because it had contributed freely of its stolen millions to republican campaign funds. Furthermore, the republicans fear that the fact that Henry W. Taft represented the sugar trust in one of the most important suits that it was ever forced to defend, and that he is declared to have received from the trust one of the largest fees ever paid in the United States for legal services, might be connected in the minds of extreme partisans with the action of the president in making a request in a message to congress that the underweighing frauds be not investigated. The most partisan democrat, however, has never in any manner charged, nor do they believe, that the president would knowingly take any step to protect the heads of the sugar trust if he thought them guilty. They maintain, however, that the fact that the names of the president's brother and his attorney general have been brought into the controversy is a strong argument why Mr. Taft should withdraw further opposition to a congressional probe of the sugar trust scandal. The situation in regard to the holding up of a sugar trust probe is something like the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy. The president's bitterest enemies do not for a single moment question his motives or good faith. They unhesitatingly state the belief that Mr. Taft made a mistake in relying upon Ballinger instead of Pinchot, and that he is making another mistake by relying wholly upon partisan republicans for advice in the sugar controversy.

President Taft is undoubtedly getting much blame he does not deserve, in connection with the sugar scandal gossip, and which he could have avoided by allowing resolutions introduced in congress providing for an investigation to have run their natural course without executive opposition.

**THE TAX ON BUTTER**

The National Livestock exchange, representing the beef producers of the country, has appealed to congress to repeal the law taxing oleomargarine to keep up the price of butter.

That makes it clear enough that the beef producers do not milk their cows, or else that their cattle are mostly steers. Cattle raisers who are in the dairy business take an opposite view, and would rather see the oleomargarine tax raised than repealed.

Clearly, however, a fight is on against the oleo tax. With butter at its present price, it will be hard to get the average consumer excited about preserving the oleo tax. The specific purpose of this tax is not to raise revenue, because a lower tax would raise more revenue. Its object is to prevent the use of oleo in competition with butter. If it were not for the tax, colored oleo would sell much cheaper than colored creamery butter, and as oleo is good food, though not so tempting as butter, many would use it and suffer no harm.

If the country considers it proper, as a measure of encouragement to the dairy and creamery interests, to retain the tax on oleo, well and good. But it should not be done upon any hypocritical presumption that it is a measure to protect the public. If revenue is required, a lower tax would raise more. If the tax is kept, it should be clearly understood that consumers of butter are being taxed for the profit of the dairy and creamery interests.

The tax on oleo is a tax on butter, paid by the consumer to the creamery proprietor. If it is justified, it should be justified in that light, and in no other light.

**POINTED PARAGRAPHS**

Many a long-whiskered candidate has a close shave.

Give a woman a fighting chance and she will do the rest.

A girl's broken heart is usually a case of wounded pride.

Religion may make men, but some men want to make their religion.

Our idea of a truly good man is one who has lived up to his obituary.

Fools and grafters are men who were unable to dodge the muck rake.

It's too bad the average man is unable to see both sides to a question.

The oftener a man has occasion to visit a dentist the more patience he has with a barber.

The man who waits for something to turn up is usually fast asleep when it does come along.

The something you get for nothing seldom justifies you in hiring an expressman to haul it home.

**POLITICS AND POLITICIANS**

The democratic state nominating convention in Ohio will be held June 21 and 22.

California prohibitionists will hold their state convention in San Jose on May 18.

Republican editors of Colorado are to meet in Pueblo on April 9 to discuss the policy of the party in the next campaign.

The republican party in Virginia has decided to put up a candidate for congress in every district of the state this fall.

Eugene N. Foss, recently elected to congress from the Fourteenth Massachusetts district, may be the next democratic nominee for governor of Massachusetts.

The great question now agitating the democratic party of Indiana is whether the coming state convention shall indorse a candidate for United States senator.

The prohibitionists of South Dakota have nominated a state ticket to be voted for at the next election. O. W. Butterfield is the candidate for governor.

A special election will be held April 19 in the thirty-third congressional district of New York to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Representative James B. Perkins.

The Federated Labor Party has been organized in Pennsylvania to represent the labor unions in politics. The party purposes to nominate candidates for congress and the state legislature.

A gubernatorial boom has been launched in New Jersey in behalf of Pierre Garvan, the Hudson county prosecuting attorney, whose crusade against the alleged meat trust recently attracted nation-wide attention.

Montana democrats are planning a great fight to capture the next legislature. If they succeed it is probable that T. J. Walsh of Helena will be elected to succeed United States Senator Carter, whose term will expire next March.

Four candidates are contesting for the democratic nomination for governor of Texas. They are Cone Johnson, William Poindexter, R. V. Davidson and O. B. Colquitt. The first two favor statewide prohibition, while the last two are opposed to it.

Minnesota democrats are laying plans to capture the "insurgent" republican vote of the state this fall and carry seven of the nine congressional districts. The third and sixth districts, it is said, are the only ones they will leave alone.

Eugene N. Foss, who recently wrested the Fourteenth Massachusetts district from the republicans, is soon to make a western tour "to carry the message of tariff reform and reciprocity." Des Moines, Sioux City, Omaha and St. Paul are among the places where he is scheduled to address democratic gatherings.

Republicans of the thirty-first congressional district of New York are talking of opposing the renomination of Representative Sereno E. Payne, chairman of the ways and means committee of the house. The republicans report dissatisfaction in the district arising principally from the loss of federal patronage which was in Mr. Payne's keeping. Mr. Payne has been a member of congress for twenty-six years.

**MORNING SMILES**

"John D. Rockefeller says the best thing he ever did was to join a Sunday school."

"Well, so far as I have learned, it was."

New Assistant—How do you pronounce butterine?

Old Grocer—The last syllable is silent.

"Your new butler seems rather awkward."

"For a butler, yes. But if he's a detective, I think he does very well."

Church—In the future the man with the airship will take nobody's dust.

Gotham—Won't he? You just try to hire one and you'll find out.

"You don't seem to give Bykins credit for any originality whatever."

"I don't. His memory is so wretched he can't quote correctly; that's all."

"You seem to have a great deal of faith in doctors," said a friend of the sick man.

"I have," was the reply; "a doctor would be foolish to let a good customer like me die."

"I find it hard to kill time," declared the pampered pet. "I only have my music, you know. How do you manage?"

"Oh, I do very well," answered the other girl. "In addition to my music, I have my sweeping, my dusting, my sewing and my dishwashing."

**REFLECTIONS OF A BACHELOR**

The salt in the wound of love is a term of affection without feeling.

A woman can be very sorry for a man who is married unless it's to her.

Respectability might not be so bad if it did not act so proud of its stupidity.

The hardest thing on a man at the opera is how mad it makes him that some of the people there seem to enjoy it.



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