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STATE INCOME REDUCED.

Railroad Assessment Reduced Nearly \$2,000,000—Trunk Lines Will be Reduced—An Assessment of Debris to Be Made.

Columbia, Sept. 12.—The State board of assessors has completed its work of assessing the railroad property of the State, having adjourned yesterday afternoon after a two day's session. The board made reductions in the assessments of the trunk lines, due to the decrease in business and valuations generally on account of the panic of last fall. The total railroad assessment for 1907 was \$48,577,148 and for 1908 it will be \$41,774,896.

For the next ten days or two weeks the force in the Comptroller General's office will be kept hard at work distributing the assessments for the different sections of roads throughout the State and sending out the figures to the auditors of the different counties. This work is delayed about six months for various unforeseen reasons.

The assessment of the Atlantic Coast Line is reduced by \$116,864 from total assessment of \$19,558,819 of last year, being a reduction of six per cent. The reduction in taxes to be paid amounts to about \$14,000.

The Southern Railway is reduced by \$104,515 on the 1907 assessment of \$26,025,000, or about 4 per cent. The reduction in taxes to be paid is about \$13,700.

The Seaboard Air Line is reduced by \$151,673 or about 3 per cent. on the 1907 assessment of \$4,500,000, being a reduction of about \$2,330 in taxes to be paid.

All of these reductions are to be distributed in the various sections of the trunk lines in different counties of the State. The reductions are confined to the three trunk lines, the assessments of the small independent lines being left the same as last year. The total reduction in assessments amounts to \$1,732,252, and the reduction in taxes to about \$20,000.

There were no protests from the telephone, telegraph, Pullman and express companies and the assessments of last year stand.

The Chester and Lancaster Road has made no return for taxation this year at all, though several times notified to do so, and the board placed on the eighteen miles which was assessed last year at \$2,500 per mile, the penalty of fifty per cent. for non-return, in addition to the assessment of last year; on the line from Ruby to Pageland, completed within the year, an assessment of \$2,000 per mile was made, with the penalty of fifty per cent.

The board endorsed a petition to the Comptroller General for a refund of the 50 per cent. penalty placed on the Atlantic Coast Telephone Company, of Charleston, last year for failure to make returns, the endorsement being based on a proper showing to be made to the Comptroller General.

Stanford White lies in his grave, to which he came under circumstances that make even his own family reluctant to have his name mentioned. Harry Kendall Thaw is in an insane asylum. To get himself sent there was his only alternative to going to the electric chair as a murderer. Evelyn Nesbit Thaw is in a sanitarium, a physical and moral wreck, living on the charity of friends. The moral of the tale is the old, old one—as old as humanity itself—and yet one that never grows old, since in every generation there are those who will not learn it until too late. The lesson of it all is plain and clear before us every day. But it needs ever to be reiterated and enforced upon the minds of the young, and to be taken to heart by young and old alike.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

Hubby (while dressing)—That confounded trial balance was running in my head all night. Wifey—John, you must tell the manager and maybe he will give you extra pay for working overtime.—Boston Transcript.

BRYAN REPLIES TO ROOSEVELT

RIDICULES THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER ENDORSING TAFT.

Says it is Irrelevant and Immaterial—People Want Republican Candidate's Position Defined and Not Letters of Approval From Sagamore Hill—More Trusts Now Than When Roosevelt Was Nominated.

Baltimore, Md. Sept. 14.—Replying to President Roosevelt's letter commending Mr. Taft, W. J. Bryan today issued the following statement: "It was expected, of course, that President Roosevelt would support Mr. Taft. He could hardly do less in view of the fact that he selected him as the Administration candidate and supported him with all the influence that the Administration candidate could bring to bear. The President's letter, however, may be objected to as irrelevant, immaterial and not the best evidence. If Mr. Taft were dead it would be interesting to know from Mr. Roosevelt what he knew of Mr. Taft's opinions and work, but as Mr. Taft is alive and able to speak for himself it is hardly necessary for Mr. Roosevelt to tell us what Mr. Taft will do.

"Mr. Taft is running upon a platform which was so unsatisfactory that he had to amend it in several important particulars, and yet even as amended it gives the public no definite idea as to what Mr. Taft stands for. Mr. Taft also has made some speeches and promises to make more. The ones he has already made have not thrown any light upon the political situation, but it is to be hoped that he will yet conclude to define his position with sufficient clearness to enable the public to know what he stands for.

"It is not sufficient for the President to say that Mr. Taft is a friend of labor—that is a subject upon which the laboring man is entitled to an opinion, and Mr. Taft's friendship is to be determined not by the President's endorsement, but by the measures which Mr. Taft advocates. Mr. Taft believes that the labor organization should come under the operation of anti-trust law, thus dealing with the men who belong to the labor organizations as if they were merchandise, for the anti-trust law deals with the monopoly of products of labor.

"Mr. Taft is opposed to trial by jury in cases of indirect contempt, thus denying to the laboring man a safeguard which is guaranteed to every man tried in a criminal court. Mr. Taft does not adore the laboring man in regard to the injunction in labor disputes. No words of praise from the President can change Mr. Taft's attitude on this question or make that attitude more acceptable to the wage earners.

"Mr. Taft's position on the trust is not changed by the President's endorsement. The President himself has not succeeded in putting any trust magnates in the penitentiary and only a few of the trusts have been disturbed. If Mr. Taft is no more successful than the President in his attacks on the trusts he will not satisfy the expectation of the public. There are more trusts in the country today than when Mr. Roosevelt was inaugurated, and Mr. Taft favors a weakening rather than a strengthening of anti-trust law, for he has advocated an amendment that will limit the operation of law to an unreasonable restraint of trade."

On the tariff question Mr. Taft has failed to express himself with clearness. The Republican platform does not use the word reduction, it only promises revision, and Mr. Taft has construed that to mean that some schedules would be lowered and some raised, but there is no intimation whether the average will be lower or higher than it is now, and so in regard to all the questions which are at issue, Mr. Taft must make his position known. He cannot rely upon the President's endorsement. An endorsement of the note is not necessary if the maker of the note is good and the endorsement is only good when suit can be brought against the endorser to enforce it. If Mr. Taft had a reform record of his own he would not need to be endorsed by the President, and the President's endorsement is of no value unless the President will agree to stay in Washington and see that Mr. Taft makes good. The people ought to have some definite statement as to what the public is to expect from Mr. Taft. No such definite statement appears in the platform and no definite statement can be drawn from Mr. Taft's speech, and it does not answer the purpose for the President to say he feels sure Mr. Taft will do what is right or what is just, for there is a

wide difference of opinion as to what is right and as to what is just. Plain, simple sentences from Mr. Taft would be worth more than the eulogy that the President pronounced."

SLAIN AT SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Girl Stabbed by Crazy Lover While Playing Closing Hymn.

Charlotte, N. C., Sept. 13.—A special to the Observer from Newton says that a demoniacal murder was committed near that place this morning, when Miss Willie Bullinger, nineteen years old, was stabbed to death by Lon Rader, aged twenty-one.

The girl was seated at the organ playing the closing hymn at Sunday school when suddenly Rader leaped across several benches, and, with his pocket knife, stabbed her once in the back and twice in the breast. She died almost instantly.

Rader was arrested and is now in the Newton jail. Some months ago he was committed to the State League asylum, and in his ravings often mentioned Miss Bullinger's name. Recently he was discharged from the hospital as cured.

The deed was probably prompted by unrequited love, as seems to have been well planned, as the knife used was bought new yesterday. In jail this afternoon Rader said he killed the girl "because she was a witch."

REPUBLICANS CARRY MAINE.

Plurality Cut to Less Than 10,000, However.

Portland, Maine, Sept. 14.—Although the Republicans came off victorious in the State election today, Bert M. Fernald, of Portland, being chosen Governor over Obadiah Gardner, of Rockland, the Democrats had the satisfaction of seeing the normal Republican plurality cut to less than 10,000 votes, for the first time in a Presidential year for more than a quarter of a century. All four Republican candidates for Congress were elected and for State Auditor, Charles P. Hatch, of Augusta, Republican, defeated his opponent. At 10.30 o'clock returns for Governor from all the cities and 400 towns and plantations out of 499 gave Fernald, Republican, 68,300, and Gardner, Democrat, 61,616. The same places in 1904 gave Coob, Republican, 70,882, and Davis, Democrat, 48,712. This shows a Republican loss of 4 per cent. and a Democratic gain of 32 per cent. On this basis the Republican plurality in the State was estimated at about 8,000.

KILLED BY CRAZY NEGRO.

Emanuel Carver Shot Down in Cold Blood.

Saluda, Sept. 14.—Emanuel Carver, a young white man about 30 years of age, living six miles south of Saluda, was shot and stantly killed this afternoon by Will Herrin, colored.

The killing took place in a field where he was picking cotton and the negro Herrin, who did the killing, it is claimed was of unsound mind. Herrin went to Carver's field and without warning or notice shot him down. Information received here is that after killing Carver he also tried to kill Carver's wife, who, it appears, was in the field. Mrs. Carver grabbed the gun and saved herself from a similar fate to that of her husband.

News of the shooting rapidly spread in the community and a posse was quickly formed and from reports just received they had captured the negro and are supposed to have lynched him.

DRAWN COLOR LINE.

Des Moines College Decides to Exclude Negroes.

Des Moines, Sept. 12.—The Highland Park College, of Des Moines, has drawn the color line.

This is the first Iowa educational institution to exclude negroes, and the action has caused resentment among the negroes in the State.

The Negro Baptist Association of Iowa and Nebraska, in session here yesterday, condemned the college's action and declared it the greatest setback the race has had in Iowa.

"It seems to me that I have heard most of the ideas advanced in your speech before." "That," said Senator Sorghum, "merely goes to show that they are good ideas, which will stand wear and tear."—Washington Star.

Mr. Newlywed—But, my love, why are you weeping? Mrs. Newlywed—Oh, John, John! I just peeped into the kitchen and saw the cook has on her traveling gown.—Harper's Weekly.

NEGROES HELD IN CONSPIRACY.

AN ALLEGED PLOT AGAINST WHITES DISCOVERED AT GREENWOOD.

Blacks at Ninety-Six Said to Have Conspired to Kill Prominent White Citizens—Negro Instrumental in Detecting Plot.

Greenwood, Sept. 14.—Eleven negroes were brought here Saturday, September 12, about noon, from Ninety-Six, in the custody of Sheriff McMillan and Deputy Sheriff Charles Dukes, under a warrant charging them with conspiracy. The arrest of these negroes was the outcome of an investigation on the part of the local authorities and certain citizens in Greenwood. Saturday evening another negro was arrested and brought here on the same charge. The negroes first arrested are: P. B. Dean, S. T. Jackson, a preacher, Jas. Stephens, Anderson Stephens, Ned Harris, Tom Bishop, Davega Williams, Wayman Jackson, John Calhoun, Zeke Chappell, another preacher, and Wade Williams. The negro brought Saturday night was Press Goodwin.

These negroes, who are members of the Odd Fellows Lodge at Ninety-Six, are charged with conspiring to kill several prominent white men of that town. The plot was discovered by a letter falling into the hands of a negro who was not a party to it, and he turned the letter over to the Chief of Police of Greenwood.

GEN. SUMTER MEMORIAL ACADEMY.

Prof. Ira W. Williams Will Deliver an Address Thursday Morning.

Please let your readers know that Prof. Ira W. Williams will commence work at the General Sumter Memorial Academy on next Tuesday morning the 17th, as a representative of the United States Agricultural Department in a demonstration farm system which Dr. Knapp inaugurated there on the 14th of August last, and at 3:30 P.M., he will make an address to the farmers and their families in respect to his school work.

The members of the Stateburg Improvement League will be out in full force, and all farmers and their families and all friends of agricultural enterprises are cordially invited to hear this address which will be delivered in the Assembly hall of the Academy. It is expected that a large number of persons will be out to understand more fully the character of this work undertaken by the government in Sumter County.

J. J. Dargan,
Principal, G. S. M. A.

DRIVEN TO SUICIDE BY "BLUES."

Georgetown Boarding House Keeper Puts Bullet Through His Brain.

Georgetown, Sept. 14.—Samuel M. Thompkins, 45 years of age, committed suicide this morning at 6:30 o'clock by blowing out his brains with a 32 calibre revolver. Mr. Thompkins kept a boarding house on the corner of Prince and King streets; he had a wife and two children, a daughter of 14 and a son 12 years of age.

At the coroner's inquest the fact was developed that Mr. Thompkins was driven to suicide by worry over financial difficulties and inability to pay his debts.

LOST WAGER; MUST QUIT STATE.

Manager of Evans Spartanburg Headquarters to Become Exile.

Spartanburg, Sept. 14.—Election bets are now being paid. One of the freak bets made before the Senatorial election was that of S. C. Little, manager of John Gary Evan's headquarters. Mr. Little wagered that if Smith beat Evans by over 20,000 he would leave the State. Mr. Little will leave here tomorrow morning for parts unknown. As there was no limit in the wager it is thought that he will return within the next several weeks, though he may make his home indefinitely in the West.

He—If you refuse me I shall go out and hang myself to the lamp-post in front of your house. She—Now, George, you know father said he wouldn't have you hanging around here.—Life.

Learn the lesson of thanksgiving. It is due to God, it is due to ourselves. Thanksgiving for the past makes us trustful in the present and hopeful for the future. What He has done is the pledge of what He will do.—A. C. A. Hall.

TAFT ANSWERS BRYAN.

Bitter Attack on Nebraskan for Criticizing Roosevelt's Letter.

Cincinnati, Sept. 14.—William H. Taft devoted himself today principally to political compositions. He wrote an answer to Mr. Bryan's comment on President Roosevelt's Taft letter, after which he spent the latter part of the day in the preparation of the two speeches he is to make tomorrow—the first to a delegation from Greenwood, Ind.; the other to the Methodist negro preachers of Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and Pennsylvania.

When Mr. Taft was first shown what Mr. Bryan had said, the spontaneous answer was short and terse; then Mr. Taft dictated a formal reply, as follows: "In my notification speech and in other speeches made since, I attempted to make clear my position on all the issues of the campaign. If Mr. Bryan has been unable to understand them I cannot make them clear. I stand on my record in office and what I have said. Mr. Bryan should devote a little time to his own record, from which he seems to be struggling to separate himself, with all the adroitness acquired in a 12 years' hunt for an issue on which he can be elected president. The readiness with which Mr. Bryan in successive presidential campaigns passes from one paramount issue to another shows that the chief consideration which has affected his selection of an issue has been its possibility in attracting votes. He presents the remarkable spectacle of one who has been seeking the presidency for 12 years without success and without official responsibility, and without the opportunity to test the various propositions which he has advocated for reforms, and yet of having the events demonstrate what a colossal failure he would have made in each instance had he been permitted to carry out his proposals in the policies of the country. He does not now say whether he is still in favor of free coinage of silver. He does not now answer the question whether, if he were president, and an exigency should arise in which he would be called upon to exercise his discretion affirmatively to maintaining the parity between gold and silver, he would exercise that discretion. He has not permitted himself to discuss in this campaign the issue of anti-imperialism, which was the paramount issue in 1900, as he declared, and in regard to the policy of the Republican party has been vindicated by the event, so that tranquility and a good government exist in the Philippines and even the Independents prefer Republican victory to Mr. Bryan's promises.

"He now says that he favors the rigid regulation of the railroads. In 1896 he expressed the view that the railroads could not be regulated because the railroads would own the regulators appointed by law and therefore he was in favor of government ownership. Instead, by describing his platform not only as an indication of principle, but as a protection against uncomfortable issues, he has attempted to give bond to keep the peace with respect to government ownership, which by its mere announcement shows it lack of the vote catching quality. He professes to have been the father, and now to be the heir, of the Roosevelt policies, and yet in no campaign of three in which he has taken part, two of which he led, did he make them the paramount issues. Indeed, in the Parker campaign he took occasion to charge Mr. Roosevelt with militarism and being completely subject to the influence of corporations, only to see him win the greatest peace triumph of the world, and secure such an effective stamping out of corporate abuses as to elicit the admiration of the entire country.

"Mr. Bryan professes to be the great friend of labor, and yet he was one of the chief supporters in the passage of the Gorman-Wilson bill that made labor helpless for four years. He then proposed as a remedy for the disasters to which labor was thus exposed the issuing of a 50-cent dollar, which would have cut in half such wages as there were and would have led to the hardest kind of struggle on labor's part to restore its wages to its proper level under the gold standard. The country has been most fortunate that the fallacy of Mr. Bryan's railroad proposition has been exposed without the cost of putting them into actual governmental practice and it will be fortunate indeed if the danger of four years' depression, to which it would be exposed in case of Mr. Bryan's election, may be averted, and if by Republican success in November and subsequent prosperity and by a clinching of the Roosevelt policies, he may again be shown to be a prophet without honor."

EUROPE NEEDS AMERICAN IDEAS OF MONEY.

Mrs. Astor Declares Her Belief in Her Country.

I believe in a republic, says Mrs. Astor in the November Delineator, and I believe in a republic in which money has a great deal to say, as in ours. Money represents with us energy and character; it is acquired by brains and untiring effort; it is kept intact only by the same means. It were well if Europe were imbued with the American ideas of money power—I do not say ideals—that is another thing. But American ideas about developing the natural resources of the country and their common-sense notions about work would bring about great things in Europe. Best of all, there is the American idea demonstrated about us every day, that each man can bring happiness and comfort to himself and to those he loves if he will only set about it, and that education, books, pictures, travel, are all within his reach.

I can speak with authority about our young people. I have always kept in close touch with them. They are of a new age and often have ideas different from my own old, conservative ones. And they are full of health and abundant spirits, embodiments of the new age of athletic development and out-of-door sport. It is perhaps true that they frequently go into excess in amusement, but they are not degenerate and they are not vicious. Our young men enter seriously upon the business of taking care of their large financial interests, and they often taken up an individual business or profession in addition, going in for healthy sports only as a well-earned diversion.

Our young women are easily trained in domestic matters and taught to appreciate their responsibility toward the poor. There are no such barriers between the very rich and the very poor as some newspapers would have the world believe. All of my friends do a great deal for the poor, and their daughters are brought up from infancy to look upon their charity work as an important part of their lives. When our girls marry, they take up the management of establishments in town and country, they rear large families of children and personally supervise their education at home during the critical early years. They are in love with their husbands and devoted to their interests.

Yes, I have heard that our young women smoke and drink and do other terrible things. I know a great many of them and know them very well; I have known them since they were born, and I am quite sure there is not one in my circle who is a cigarette fiend or who drinks to excess.

SPECIAL WEATHER FORECAST.

Bureau Announces That West Indian Storm is Approaching Southeastern Coast—Disturbance in Pacific.

Washington, Sept. 13.—The weather bureau late this afternoon issued a special forecast as follows: "The first well defined disturbance of the present season is approaching the North Pacific coast and a West Indian storm is advancing toward our southeastern coast. This combination should produce abundant rain in the drought-stricken district of the north central and east central sections before the close of the present week."

A Contribution From the Steel Trust.

The Republican parade at Youngtown, Ohio, last Saturday was an interesting affair. The number of workmen in line is estimated at from 4,000 to 13,000. "Most of these," the account before us reads, "were employees of the United States Steel Trust and kindred corporations which the giant monopoly controls. So as to swell the procession the steel mills were all closed, and the employees each received the amount of a day's pay as a gratuity. Besides this outlay the workmen were unformed at the expense of the trust the better to 'spot' them. What with the pay and the uniforms it is estimated that the cost of the holiday to the steel mills of Youngtown was not less than \$75,000 or \$100,000."

"So," remarked the boyhood friend, "you are in the swim." "Mother and the girls think I am," answered Mr. Cumrox, "but my personal feelings are those of a man who has fallen overboard and ought to be hollering for help."—Washington Star.

Kangaroos are still plentiful in some parts of Australia.

One flock-owner boasts of having killed several thousand in eighteen months.