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OBSERVATIONS.

The street railway company's plea for a remission of the taxes would not be considered for a moment if proceeding from an individual. The fact that the complainants are many instead of one has nothing to do with the force of the plea. If the street railway taxes are remitted, private individuals will have to pay them in one way or another. AS THE COURIER has frequently intimated, the expenses of the city remain the same but the burden upon the individual taxpayer is increased whenever a citizen or corporation eludes his share of the tax. This is so trite and self-evident a saying that it seems not worth while to repeat it. Receiver Slaughter's specious plea that the railway company does not receive any benefit from the paving, might be urged by every citizen who uses no artificial means of locomotion but nevertheless is taxed for the paving, over against his own house. The question of the liability of the company to the city may be taken into the courts, but it has no more place there than the claims of any citizen who wishes to hold property and realize from it without paying the tax on it. And however the lawyers may obscure the question of the claim of the community of Lincoln upon a large property supported by the contributions of the citizens of Lincoln, the taxable character of the company's property is in no degree less than that of real estate held by the humblest laborer in the city. The latter must pay his taxes or his prop-

erty will be sold at public auction by the sheriff. The city ought to hold the street railway company to the same accountability. Anarchists are made not by the severity of laws but by their unequal application. The supremacy and dignity of the law will obtain when privilege is done away with and each member bears an equal share of the common burden.

Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany has killed in the last two decades 33,967 head of game. In view of the fact that his left arm is withered and useless, this is a remarkable record. It comprises two aurochs, a kind of wild bison which was more common in the days of Nero than it is now. It will be remembered that Sienkiewicz uses the aurochs in that wonderful scene in the Arena where the gigantic German saves the heroine's life by breaking the neck of the aurochs to whose back she is bound. The game book, which the emperor has sent to his especial friends, includes 2,175 wild boars, 16,000 hares, seven elks, three reindeer, half a dozen bears, 1,289 stags, 9,643 pheasants, 121 chamois, twenty foxes and three snipe.

This record is presented to the consideration of Secretary Porter. The royal butcher of Germany has game keepers whose underlings drive the game in front of His Majesty that he may shoot them by tens at a time and his game book, in consequence, is not to be ashamed of. As a souvenir of the present administration a pig book containing the number of hogs which Secretary Porter has stuck would be most characteristic. The scene of last week in the secretary's yard upon the arrival of the chief of police would make a handsome frontispiece in photogravure. The secretary of state dripping with gore, surrounded by the state house clerks also dripping with the blood of four moribund hogs whose piercing squeals have aroused the neighborhood to a protest, should be in the foreground. The background might be composed of the little children of the neighborhood who have been attracted to the spot by the noise and evidence of unusual proceedings. The value of the work would be greatly increased, especially to eastern subscribers, by the statement signed by the secretary of state that the scene is a photograph of himself and his clerks in the act of laying in the winter supply of meat for the family of the secretary of state of Nebraska. Round in pigskin, the brochure would make a handsome holiday gift for friends in the east who need to be convinced by something more than statistics that Nebraska has less illiteracy, per capita, than any other state in the union.

The scene in the police court, where Secretary Porter was fined seven dollars and a half for slaughtering hogs within the city limits, is not without pictorial possibilities also. I doubt if any other state officer in the country has had the unique experiences of Secretary Porter. For this reason, if for no other, the hog-killing episode should be put into permanent form, with photographs, so that future generations may not have to rely upon newspaper evidence for verification of the duties of the clerks in the Nebraska secretary of state's office in the year of Our Lord, eighteen hundred and ninety-seven.

Thomas Wentworth Higginson, in speaking of the comparative correctness with which the British and Americans speak English, said that "There is a strong desire among our citizens to have their figure-heads presentable and a man of greater energy or capacity will sometimes be set aside, on this very ground, in favor of one showing more polish in manner. Again, in those secret societies, which are perhaps the greatest school of manners for American men, one element of promotion lies always in externals; the members wish to put forward those who will do them credit, and rough diamonds will be kept in the background. The late General N. P. Banks owed a large part of his success in life to a fine voice, a dignified bearing, and a good use of the English language. And I know, on the other hand, a man who permanently paralyzed his influence in his own town one Decoration day by proposing that the whole affair should be placed in the hands of 'some of those old Veterinaries,' when he meant veterans."

If the milk trust, which is now being organized in New York, supplies the citizens of the metropolis with purer, cleaner and cheaper milk than the isolated dairies have been able to do, then it is decidedly beneficent. The dairymen who have paid no attention to the microbes students who declared that milk was the most easily infected of all foods and that absolute cleanliness of cans, refrigerators, stalls and cows was necessary to keep milk from destroying more lives than it preserved, deserve to have their means of livelihood taken away from them. The trust contemplates immense dairies built according to the requirements of modern science. Large farms within a few hours of New York City are to be converted into ranches for milch cows. The arable land is to be made into vast pastures of blue grass and the cost of a quart of milk to the producer reduced one half. The consumers, in which economic term thousands of

babies are included, will receive milk which has been emptied by the milker into a pipe which rests upon cakes of ice and is finally strained into the very air-tight quart jar in which the milk is delivered to the customer without being touched or handled. In this way the milk is preserved from infection, and when the system is once established physicians say that the rate of mortality, especially among infants, will be greatly reduced. Trusts is only another word for co-operation. If a combination reduces the price of the product and improves the quality of it, the greatest good to the greatest number, demands that co-operation be established. Henry George's theory of socialism is only a gigantic trust in which all the people are partners. The oil, match, paper, and wire trusts of today which excite the ire of the socialists are only showing the people how to run the business when their turn comes.

Secretary Porter's flagrant disregard of the law in opening the election returns from the counties of Adams, Box Butte, Buffalo, Butler, Cedar, Chase, Clay, Colfax, Cuming, Custer, Deuel, Gosper, Greeley, McPherson, Merrick, Nance, Pawnee, Pierce, Polk, Red Willow, Richardson and Stanton was rebuked on Monday when the state board of canvassers assembled to open and examine the election returns from the counties of the state. Without authority, and in express violation of the law, Secretary Porter has opened, or caused to be opened envelopes from seventy-three counties. He says he did this so that when the canvassing board assembled they might do their work in a day or two. In point of fact he performed the functions of the board so that its assembling was a mere matter of form. How threatening such a precedent is to the inviolability of the ballot, and how easy it would be, were such a procedure allowed, to declare any candidate elected whom the secretary of state might favor, is admitted by everybody. In this particular case the secretary has probably not altered the official ballot. But he has done something which, if it were allowed to go unrebuked is a much more serious matter than a criminal mutilation of the returns. Holding one of the most important offices of the state he has shown an utter disregard for the law. A burglar who breaks into a house commits an offense which brings no disgrace upon the community because the housebreaker is an outlaw. The secretary of state holds his position in consequence of the law and should render the law, which defines the duties of his position, scrupulous obedience. The committee who protested