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insisted upon the literacy clause and upon a strengthened contract labor clause. Manufacturers, particularly of the south, resisted all attempt to diminish the opportunity to import labor, pleading the lack of labor which has for some time kept many factories idle. Southern politicians felt the more strongly on this point, since the south has come to consider European immigration the most promising solution of the southern race problem. The proposed addition to the contract labor clause was feared by the southern senators as a possible blow at the right of southern states to engage in special efforts to induce immigration, efforts which have lately been made with some success in South Carolina. This doubt explains the filibuster of the southern senators against the bill last week.

The exigencies of the Japanese situation however put all parties into a mood to make concessions. The senate gave up the literacy clause. The southern senators decided that they would not be injured by the contract labor clause. The head tax was set at $4, a compromise. The requirement of better steamship accommodations for immigrants was accepted and the house gave in on the point of admitting the victims of persecution. This does not make a radical bill, but the bill provides for a commission of senators, representatives, and appointees of the president to make a further investigation and report on the immigration situation. Of most vital immediate interest, of course, is the amendment to the bill which really brought about its passage, by which the president will be empowered, at his discretion, which means by agreement with Japan, to forbid the immigration of Japanese coolies.

EDISON RETIRES.

Announcement is made that Thomas A. Edison, the wizard that has ruled the electric world and has done more toward revolutionizing man's affairs than perhaps any other man living or dead, having reached the sixtieth mile post of his busy life, has declared that he will celebrate this event by retiring. He explains, however, that he does not propose to give up his life work, but simply to retire to his laboratory and take life easy in the pursuit of explorations in which no thought of gain will enter.

For forty-five years Edison has been experimenting with electricity, having all the time in view the practical uses of the mysterious fluid and their immediate application to the necessities of mankind. He feels that he has done enough in the way of service of that sort, that he has been amply rewarded for his effort, and is happy in the reflection that the good he has done in that direction is of no mean volume nor of the useless kind.

He accordingly celebrates his sixtieth anniversary by retirement, not as some men do, from their actual vocation irrevocably and completely, but by a retirement into a semi-seclusion wherein ideas now vague may be drawn out and toyed with for results as yet perhaps undreamed of. It is but a retirement into closer communion with the mysterious force that has made the name of Edison world-famous.

Edison's tireless spirit is one over which idleness can never prevail, and as the field in which he proposed to retire is boundless in its possibilities the world may still hope to hear of discoveries more wonderful than any of the countless ones which now bear the name of Edison and the marks of his marvellous genius.

Electricity, in spite of the important part it bears today in the world's economics, is still in its infancy as an economic force. No one has ever yet really discovered certainly just what it is. There is a vague impression, amounting to little more than suspicion that yet awaits proof or disproof. Perhaps in his hours of play for his second childhood Thomas A. Edison may outstrip the tasks he imposed upon himself as work in the days when he bent his energies to his studies as a means of keeping the wolf from the door. Once he can turn his attention from the practical uses of electricity, he may be able to penetrate to the secret of its identity and constituency and tell the world just what is the mysterious force that is accomplishing so much for the comfort and convenience of mankind.

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THOSE FOREST RESERVES.

Senator Fulton of Oregon and some other northwestern senators and legislators are exceedingly perturbed that large tracts of land in those regions are being set aside by the government for forest reserves. Governor Chamberlain of Oregon objects that it will close two-fifths of the area of Oregon to settlement, development, and taxation for state and local purposes. This argument has its merit to the Oregon view, but the land is Uncle Sam's to do with as he pleases.

Another Oregon view, reflected indirectly in the current prosecution of ex-Congressman Binger Hermann for his part in the land frauds, is that the creation of these reserves locks up an immense melon which certain people in that region have been looking upon with hungry and expectant eyes. The government view, and the view of any unselfish citizen with capacity to see beyond his next meal, was expressed by Forest Inspector Kellogg in his lectures at the university the other day. He pointed out the decline of the national timber supply as proportioned to demand and said: "We have 500 to 600 million acres of potential forest land in the United States, mostly under private management, which is mismanagement or no management at all. The private owner strips the timber from the land without making any provision for a future crop. We shall have to correct this error by the creation and maintenance of forest reserves: Within a few years we shall have 150 to 200 million acres of potential forest land in the United States, mostly under prepected that the private owners who control the remainder can afford to go into forestry. This is a long-time proposition, it being estimated that the average tree cut for lumber today is between 150 and 200 years old. The private owner cannot live long enough to realize on such a proposition.

CANNED BLESSINGS.

The meeting in Buffalo last week of an association of manufacturers of canned goods numbering 1,000 delegates illustrates the tremendous growth in this line of industry within the last few years. Canned goods are a modern convenience. The growth of the canning industry has done wonders, economically, in saving surplus fruits and vegetables that were going to waste before this means of preserving them over considerable periods of time came into general use. The housewife is no longer compelled to depend upon her own preserving operations for the chance to set a variety of food before her family in the seasons when green foods are not to be had. Dried corn has given place to the more tasty canned corn which factories in Nebraska and other states turn out by the carload. But with all these advantages came grave dangers. Until the pure food law went into effect six weeks ago there was no adequate protection for the consumer against unwholesome or unclean canned goods. To the canners' credit it can be said that they interposed no serious obstacles to the passage of a law to regulate the relation of their labels to the insides of their cans. It is to be hoped their national association, powerful as it is, will throw no stone in the way of the proper enforcement of the law.

THE REFERENDUM.

No doubt the reason why no move has been made before in Lincoln to take advantage of the initiative and referendum privilege granted by state law ten years ago, lies in the fact that under the direct primary there is comparatively little need of direct legislation. The direct primary is the referendum applied to nominations, and councilmen nominated by that method are little likely to go counter to the wishes of their constituents in making laws. As a reserve power for use in special cases either the referendum or the initiative either may be of pronounced value. At any rate there is a marked tendency throughout the country to give the people of the states and cities the right to veto legislation by the referendum, or to originate it by the initiative. No less than five states made advances in that direction at last year's elections. Massachusetts, Maine, Delaware Montana and Oklahoma directly or indirectly declared in favor of some form of direct legislation. Oregon South Dakota, Illinois, Ohio and Texas had declared for it previously. In none of these states except Oregon has much use been made of the right, but that does not mean that it has been of no value. It is possible that legislators under the direct primary may insist voluntarily upon clothing the people of the state with the referendum power, as a means of escaping responsibility in important matters with regard to which public opinion is unexpressed or in doubt.

MARK TWAIN, REACTIONIST.

Mark Twain, regretfully we have to say it, shows evidence of being a badly spoiled child. It is his fortune to lap over into a generation that has not produced his equal in humorous authorship. He is lionized as if he were a roc's egg or the last living buffalo. Publishers fight for his manuscripts whether good or bad, and people read them whether bad or good, and they are not always good. The arrival of his three score and ten is made a national celebration and the homage has turned his head. The shoemaker who had to be told to stick to his last is revived in him. Forgetting that it is Mark Twain, humorist, that the people acclaim, Mr. Clemens has shown a disposition to branch out into general heroism. For example, the other evening he appeared at a dinner in a white dress suit. This was not an attempt to be funny, but an effort to set a style, a prerogative hitherto reserved for British kings and French tailors. Anything else might have been forgiven, but for our erstwhile beloved humorist to use his hold upon our affections as a lever for overturning the single sane bit of style in the civilized universe surpasses the bounds of friendship. The dress suit, our sole social anchor to democracy, the mark that puts rich butler and guest together on their inherent merits by making them look exactly alike; the single external article of dress that can be worn till it is worn out, as all articles of dress should be; for Mark Twain to try to do what the tailors to their own profit would have done long ago if they could is not only egotistical but reactionary. The black dress suit, which today is and ten years hence is yet, at all hazards must be preserved.

UNIFORM STATE LAWS.

One of the eminently logical outcomes of the discussions of states' rights arising from the railroad, pure food, employers' liability, child labor and Japanese questions is a renewal of the uniform legislation project. In 1889 New York led the way in a movement to hold interstate conferences on the subjects of legislation needing uniform action by the states. Altogether thirty-one states fell in with the idea, and eight meetings were held, the last being in 1898. Special committees were appointed to deal with such subjects as marriage and divorce, wills, commercial laws, hours of labor, presidential electors, insurance laws, weights and measures, and other less vital subjects. Nothing in particular came of the movement, though good progress was seemingly being made when the efforts ceased. There are still organized efforts at uniform legislation on divorce and on life insurance, but these are independent efforts. Assemblyman Merritt of the New York legislature has lately introduced a bill providing that the governor shall invite delegates to an interstate conference on uniform legislation, and appropriating $60,000 for a meeting at Saratoga.

The states' rights advocates can show their good faith in no better way than by backfiring against what they deem the dangerous tendency of the times toward allowing the national government to do everything under a strained constitutional construction of an interstate commerce or some other clause. If child labor can be restricted properly by state legislation, there is nobody to complain that it is done this way instead of by national action. The thing is to get it done, and the thing for the states' rights people to do is to demonstrate that these things can be done. At present the states show a disposition to regard their relationship to the federal government somewhat as did an Alabama nergo in his partnership with Mose Jenkins. On the door of the blacksmith shop formerly operated by himself and Mose was found the following notice to persons having accounts with the firm: "All persons owing the firm will settel with me, and all persons that the firm owes will settel with Mose."

CLIMATE.

The Texas legislature has taken official cognizance of the increase in the rainfall at El Paso from an average of 12.92 inches for fifty years to a total of 17.80 inches in 1906. This gain in moisture is attributed to the break in the Colorado river and the creation of Salton sea, in southern California. It is suggested that it would be a good idea to stop the attempt to mend the break and allow the basin to remain filled as the resulting rainfall would add "untold millions" to the value of the lands in California, Arizona, New Mexico and portions of Texas. Congress is therefore asked to pay for the private property engulfed and allow the sea to remain in its place indefinitely. This all sounds plausible, but if the presence of water brings rainfall and a lower temperature, why is it that the Gulf of California is surrounded by some of the hottest and driest land on the footstool? If all that immense body of water has no appreciable influence in ameliorating harsh climatic conditions, it is foolish to believe that a small extension of the gulf northward would work the miracle of changing the southwestern desert into fruitful fields. It really requires a look at the map to expose the full brilliancy of this resolution. El Paso has always been dry, although only 475 miles away from the big Gulf of California. Now a lake is formed 100 miles farther away, and that comparatively little pond is charged with the accident of a wet season in western Texas. Everybody in the western half of America seems ready to believe that "the climate is changing," when as a matter of fact the stars in their courses are only a little more fixed than the average climate of a given locality.

The Cause of Indigestion

Traced to the Nerves

A PHYSICIAN TELLS WHY

Stomach trouble is not really a sickness, but a symptom. It is a symptom that a certain set of nerves is ailing. Not the voluntary nerves that enable you to walk and talk and act—but the AUTOMATIC STOMACH NERVES over which your mind has no control.

I have not room here to explain how these tender, tiny nerves control and operate the stomach. How worry breaks them down and causes indigestion. How misuse wears them out and causes dyspepsia. How neglect may bring on kidney, heart, and other troubles through sympathy. I have not room to explain how these nerves may be reached and strengthened and vitalized and made stronger by a remedy I spent years in perfecting—now known by physicians and Druggists everywhere as Dr. Shoop's Restorative. (Tablets or Liquid.) I have not room to explain how this remedy, by removing the cause, usually puts a certain end to indigestion, belching, heartburn, insomnia, nervousness, dyspepia. All of these things are fully explained in the book I will send you free when you write. Do not fail to send for the book. It tells how the solar plexus governs digestion and a hundred other things every one ought to know—for all of us, at some time or other have indigestion. With the book I will send free my "Health Token"—an intended passport to good health.

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Book 5 for Men.
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Dr. Shoop's Restorative Tablets—give full three weeks' treatment. Each form—liquid or tablet—has equal merit. Druggists everywhere.

STINGING THE UNIVERSITY.

The Omaha Bee still persists in assailing the state university. In discussing the question of open meetings of the board of regents, it insinuates that the present board is overriding all precedents in holding closed sessions. It knows or ought to know that the present board is following a custom that has prevailed ever since the university was organized. It knows or ought to know that meetings of regents are not open in surrounding states—Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin, and never have been. It knows or ought to know that the bill pending in the legislature expressly authorizes executive sessions.

The Bee insinuates that the regents cover up financial transactions and that the public does not know where the money goes. It knows or ought to know that the salary of every employe is a matter of public record in the auditor's office. It knows or ought to know that all items of current expense, fuel, repairs, etc., are a matter of public record in the auditor's office.

The Bee knows or ought to know that the pay roll of the university is low as compared with the pay roll of other state universities with whom the people expect the university of Nebraska to take rank. It knows or ought to know that maximum individual salaries are far below the ordinary standards in state universities of standing. It knows or ought to know that Nebraska is far behind in buildings and equipment. Yet it insinuates that there is extravagance in current expenses and buildings.

If the Bee does not believe that Nebraska should keep apace with educational progress in surrounding states, it should frankly say so. This would be far more creditable than attempting to reach the same end by prejudicing the public against the university.

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