

# Oakland Tribune

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1916.

## THE REPUBLICAN TICKET.

With the presidential issue, candidates to be chosen for the Senate and Congress and State legislative offices, and the State and local propositions on the ballot, a record vote should be polled throughout California tomorrow. It is not the time for citizens to shirk their duty of suffrage and there have been sufficiently lively campaigns to awaken every voter to the fact that an election is to be held.

THE TRIBUNE is a Republican paper and as such advises the voters to cast their ballots in favor of the Republican presidential electors, for the Republican candidates for the Senate and Congress and for the Republican State legislative ticket.

If Mr. Hughes is elected to the presidency, his power in the interest of good government will be greatly, if not fatally, curtailed if the people of the country do not also vote to give him a working majority of Republicans in Congress.

## THE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSITIONS.

While THE TRIBUNE has discussed from time to time in these columns, the legislative propositions on the ballot it is deemed timely here to call special attention to the following, which should be disposed of by decisive votes. Voters have no excuse for passing them up on the ground that they do not understand them.

No. 3 provides for the issuance of \$15,000,000 to complete the system of State Highways. When the first highway bond issue was authorized in 1909, it was estimated that it would require \$50,000,000 to construct the proposed highways and laterals. It is now found that the system can be completed with the additional \$15,000,000, which will keep the total cost down to \$33,000,000. The great general benefit of good State roads has been demonstrated completely by those already in use. Vote "Yes" on Proposition 3.

No. 4 is a referendum against the non-partisan registration law passed at the special session of the legislature last January. This law is therefore up to the vote of the people for rejection or approval. It provides that voters may merely declare their party affiliation when they go to the polls to vote in the primaries. Such a practice would open all the gates to political corruption and viciousness. It would permit and openly invite "colonization" of voters and the raiding of one party by the leaders of another party. The people disapproved this method in the referendum election of October, 1915, and indicated their desire for a law requiring that party affiliation be recorded at the time of registration. They should defeat the non-partisan registration law now before them. Vote "No" on Proposition 4.

No. 5 is on the ballot under the title "Land Taxation." It is, pure and simple, the Henry George idea of single tax, which, as its author and champions proudly assert, means confiscation of all land through the destruction of land values. The project was put on the ballot by the activities of outside and alien propagandists, who contributed handsomely to a campaign "sack" which they designate as "The Great Adventure Fund." The Henry George dream has proved a failure wherever tried out, even in communities of township size. The law, if passed at tomorrow's election, will sacrifice all corporation revenues and abolish licenses and all other sources of public revenue except a small portion of the inheritance tax. It will restore taxes on church property. Vote "No" on Proposition 5.

No. 6 is an initiative measure making members of the State legislature ineligible to appointment to executive office by the Governor. It is designed to prevent corruption of the legislature by the executive through inducing favorable action on legislative measures by the promise and giving of pecuniary reward in the form of salaried office. Vote "Yes" on Proposition 6.

## AS A SELLER OF JUNK.

Josephus Daniels, Secretary of the Navy, is also a failure in the junk business. His display of business acumen in disposing of government property may be stated with approximate correctness by .0 minus.

In his advertised sales of "junk" notice has been taken of the humorously low prices obtained for the pajamas which he bought for "my boys of the navy," only to have the enlisted men commit the unpardonable affront of wearing them over their uniforms to "coal ship." His peddling of the cut glass of the officers' messes, just after he introduced grape-juice in the navy, was painfully unprofitable. These poor adventures in the mercantile business were explained on the ground that "junk" covers a multitude of bargains and that the dealers enjoyed an in-

imate acquaintance with each other. Such a condition has been known to prevail.

In an advertisement appearing in a recent New York paper, over the signature of Mr. Daniels, there appears an item, however, that ought to be taken out of the "junk" heap and sold on its merits. Sandwiched in between "steamers" and "shoes" is "50,000 pounds of plug tobacco." This is an advertisement of a sale of "condemned stores." It is explained that there is nothing wrong with the tobacco, and it transpires that it was purchased after samples approved by the enlisted men who use it.

Tobacco dealers and manufacturers who have inspected this item of "junk" say that the wholesale price of it is forty cents a pound, and that retailers would be glad to get it at seventy-five cents. The value of it may therefore be conservatively placed at \$25,000. That is what it would bring if sold at auction to the highest bidder from among tobacco dealers. But the junk dealers, who are intimately acquainted with each other, and with Mr. Daniels' methods, will not pay so much. So the government will play the same old role of loser and the reign of extravagance will continue.

## FOR A GREATER OAKLAND.

The last proposition on the ballot is a local issue solely and is of highest importance in the future development of Oakland and its environs.

This is a proposition to amend the city charter as to one section and insert a new section providing a method by which general and resettlement franchises may be granted to street railway companies.

While general in its application to all such companies, the immediate motive of the proposed amendment is to create authority for the city council to negotiate a resettlement agreement with the San Francisco-Oakland Terminal Railways, whereby the latter may surrender its eighty different franchises in Oakland for one "blanket" franchise covering the right to operate street railway lines.

It is stipulated that in the proposed resettlement agreement the city shall have fifty percent representation in a board of control, shall receive fifty-five percent of the net profits of the company and shall reserve a perpetual option to purchase, at any time upon six months' notice, and at the valuation fixed by the State Railroad Commission, such properties as used exclusively and are necessary in the operation of street car service.

The detailed agreement for the resettlement franchise later will be submitted to the vote of the people for their approval or rejection. The proposed amendment to be voted on tomorrow merely bestows authority on the city council to discuss the terms of a resettlement agreement. It does not make any concession to any person or corporation. The interests of the people are fully protected.

Vote "Yes" on the last proposition on the ballot.

## MR. MALONE'S BRAVE.

The world's Irish had no need of the gentle encomiums of Mr. Dudley Field Malone to establish a reputation for their fighting qualities. History's pages are nobly filled with accounts of Irish heroes; some had pathetic careers, some were misguided, but all were brave, because they came from a race whose bravery is its greatest pride.

But being brave, the Irish are magnanimous, and so have never claimed a monopoly on bravery. If they could do so justly, bravery would cease to be a human virtue; it would be merely a temperamental distinction.

Thus there will be many to question the correctness, and at least the good taste, of Mr. Malone's public statement that Colonel Roosevelt is not brave or capable of displaying an honest fighting spirit simply because "he hasn't a drop of Irish blood in his veins." While not always admiring the combativeness of the Colonel, his "fighting" record is a sufficient answer to Mr. Malone's insinuation that he is not brave nor can be brave because of an ethnological misfortune.

If Mr. Dudley Field Malone wishes to be known as a creditable exemplar of the bravery of that great and brave people among whom his forebears dwelt he can do no better than to perform as bravely for his country as has Colonel Roosevelt.

## SOUND PROSPERITY.

Department of Commerce figures show that the foreign trade of the United States is increasing with the British empire. Exports to the Antipodean port of Raratonga for the calendar year of 1915 amounted to \$24,850; imports from that city, which represents all products purchased of the people of the Cook Islands, were \$43,000.

Let there be further rejoicing within the great, aggressive commercial nation of the United States. It shares the trade of the Cook Islands to the extent of \$67,850. This is a strong point in the defense of the apologists for wartime prosperity in the United States. Raratonga is so far out of the zone of belligerent activities that it could be affected by the war only indirectly; but in spite of its isolation the volume of commerce with this great country has reached the stupendous total of \$67,000. Peaceful and abundant prosperity is reflected throughout the country by the \$24,850 of exports.

That the New York Bureau of Municipal Research has pronounced the civil service system defective does not mean that it is not an invaluable feature of efficient, honest municipal government. Its failings have been due largely to the failure of its administrators to follow closely the ideals of civil service. Examinations of applicants for positions have not been as rigid as they might, both as to ability and character. Inspection of the work and habits of civil service employees has been neglected. Thus it is true that the civil service has protected some incompetents in office. But these weaknesses can be remedied without in any way subtracting from the established merits of the system. It ought to be easy to strengthen it where it is weak and keep it strong where strength already exists.

Conjecture places the value of the cargo which the undersea boat Deutschland brought on the submarine's second voyage to the United States at \$10,000,000. If this is a conservative estimate, it speaks strongly for the confidence of the German manufacturers and merchants in the ability of the new type of commerce carrier to reach its destination through a very energetically conducted hostile blockade.

## NOTES and COMMENT

"Fable," from the Chico Enterprise: "Once upon a time a woman boarded a street car and had her fare ready."

Volumes of meaning are compressed in the statement, "What the country needs is a Lincoln; what it has is a Buchanan."

The grocers are taking popular action in refusing to stand for the five-cent loaf. Whether the inspiration is a loathing for the one cent or consideration for consumers is not so material.

The Redlands Review sagely observes that it is hard to beat the candidate who promises to increase the appropriations for everything and at the same time lower the taxes.

Tragedy at Holtville, related by the Tribune: "This morning Sid Reeves lost his dog which he valued highly, by poison. The dog died on the street in front of the pool hall and a number saw it."

What has become of the idea that a man who bets on the outcome of an election loses his vote? In other times there were frequent reminders about this. But we have seen none during the present campaign.

The devoted admirer who uttered the celebrated "Thank God for Wilson—he kept us out of war," has had effect on the Chicago Tribune which prints a paraphrase—"Thank God for Carranza—he kept us out of Mexico."

The Gustine Standard thrills and plagues its readers. To hear that a wedding is impending in Gustine will interest all of us. The happy event may not transpire in Gustine, but both parties are well and popularly known here and everybody will welcome the bride and congratulate the groom and give him a bushel of good wishes.

Kind words for teachers from the Marysville Herald: "Today ends the sixth annual convention of the Northern California Teachers' Association. On behalf of Mayor Hyde and the citizens of Marysville, we wish to announce that the school teachers were a well-behaved lot. During the four days' convention not a single teacher was arrested."

Judge Donahue thinks that divorce should be made more difficult. It certainly is easy to sever the galling bonds, and there is logic in the contention that if it were not such a simple matter there are many who would not undertake it, but who would take their medicine with enduring grace. And possibly some would not be so ready to come under the yoke.

Diversions at Holtville, described by the Tribune: "One of the novels of the season is a 'cheering party.' Plooting two auto loads of boys, Hugh Rogers invaded the No. 7 district and bombarded every house with various yells and cheers, especially if it was the habitation of some comely damsel. Later in the evening they retired to the desert, where joy and liquid refreshments flowed unrestrained."

## SPIRIT OF THE STATE PRESS

Climatic conditions are just as good about Vallejo for the chicken industry as they are in the vicinity of Petaluma, recognized as the greatest poultry center in the state. This was the encouraging statement made at the Chamber of Commerce banquet last night by L. E. Rankin, secretary of the Petaluma chamber.—Vallejo Chronicle.

The recovery by the state controller of millions of inheritance tax from states like those of Hager, Canfield, Harkness and Miller, amounting in all to between three and four million dollars a year, should enable the state to let up a little on its taxes on corporations, great and small, that are engaged in legitimate business in California.—Chico Enterprise.

Merced restaurants displayed signs this week that beginning November 1 prices on meals would be advanced 5 cents, explaining that it was necessary for them to do this on account of the high price of foodstuffs.—Merced Star.

Representatives of the Hunt-Schmidt advertising agency are wondering if the man who fleeced them on contracts for an Oakland magazine, was W. J. Milton, arrested in Richmond on a similar complaint. Milton was placed on six months' probation and immediately arrested by the Berkeley police.—Richmond Record-Herald.

## CALIFORNIA.

(Written for THE TRIBUNE.)  
Where are your strong men, O state of mine?  
Where are their arms and their brains?  
Long I have watched and searched for a sign  
Through your waterways, mountains and plains.

I see on the peaks of great mountains  
A white mystery of silence and snow;  
Who will conserve it in fountains,  
To make valleys fruitful below?

And trees that had birth before Noah,  
Who lift high their heads close to God;  
Are there none to protect them from death  
At the hand of an ax-swinging eld?

The desert comes over our border,  
Smooth rolling with blue hills that doze  
Indifferent to sloth and disorder,  
When it might blossom forth like the rose.

And what of the gate that is golden,  
And the harbor with space for a fleet,  
And the bay where still-wind's darts  
To quiet their motor's quick beat?

Harbors whose wide arms are a station,  
Safe shelter for ships of the sea;  
Ships come flying darts of all nations,  
But not one belonging to me!

Give me dreamers, builders and craftsmen,  
Who will harness the sun and the rains;  
Give me tillers of earth and draftsmen,  
Strong men with arms and with brains.

—Pauline B. Barrington.  
Still Oceanside, Los Angeles.

## UNCLE SAM: I CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE ANOTHER CHANCE



## ARGENTINA'S WHEAT PAMPAS

With Russia's and Rumania's wheat crops cut off from the rest of the world by the Dardanelles, with Canada's and Australia's cereal output "spoken for" by England's armies, and with America's product commanding record prices, the eyes of empires turn toward Argentina, which ranks sixth among the wheat-growing countries of the world. Bailey Willis, in a communication to the National Geographic Society, tells of the vast agricultural wealth of this country. The society has issued a part of Mr. Willis' articles as the following bulletin: "The soil and the climate of the pampas, which cover an area of 200,000 square miles, give the Argentine Republic its high rank among the wheat and corn growing countries of the world. The soil is an ancient alluvium, the fine sediment carried by old rivers far out from the mountains, like the deposit now being made by the Paraguay, and its tributaries, an island delta in the interior of the continent. The sediment is very fine, and mingled with it is a large proportion of fine volcanic dust blown from the volcanoes of the Andes. Like the renowned loess soils of China, it is exceedingly fertile and, being very porous, absorbs the rain waters, which rise again by evaporation and supply the surface soil constantly with plant food."

"The pampas are a vast grassy plain. In there anything more to be said. An Englishman put it, 'What can you say about a bally billiard table? Yet the plain of the pampas is not like the great Western plains of the United States. The latter are broken by gullies, furrowed by streams, traversed by river valleys. The pampas are not."

"Among all the landscapes of the world there is none more meadow-like than the flat pampa, with the meadow grass hides no meandering brook. Hour after hour and day after day you may ride without crossing a stream. You will, however, encounter many shallow pools and lakets.

"The time will come, probably, when plentiful rains or drought will matter less than now; for at present agriculture in Argentina is in that elementary state when it is most exposed to injury by the vicissitudes of climate. Great fields

are cultivated by few hands. The poorly prepared soil, the shallow plowing, the neglect of cultivation, all invite losses in any but a favorable year. In the east rainfall usually is abundant or excessive. There are areas of Buenos Aires province which are inundated by heavy rains, and great drainage works have been undertaken by the government at the instance of the landowners. From east to west the rainfall diminishes, till it becomes insufficient for agriculture. In the average year, and farming can prosper only where irrigation is practicable.

"Thus the pampas, of which Willis thinks as a monotonous plain, exhibits great diversity of aspect. Portions of them may be flooded, while other distant regions of the same plain are drying up. Portions are suited to the growing of wheat, others to cattle raising and still others in the warmer, rainy zone about Rosario are adapted best to the raising of Indian corn."

"The area of the pampas is one-sixth of the country. In the larger part, which lies beyond the pampas, the other five-sixths, there is a great extent of lands destined to pastoral pursuits. There are some real desert areas, and there are also districts of great natural resources, which are either actual or potential contributors to the natural wealth.

"The pampas are a paradise for cattle in the average year when the rain fills the lakets and the pasture, whether freshly green or cured to natural hay, affords abundant food. Occasionally a dry season intervenes; the water pools dry up; the plain becomes a waterless desert. Formerly in such years disaster overcame the herdsman and his herds, lingering by the shrinking pool, hundreds of thousands of cattle and sheep fell and perished in the dust. It is somewhat different now. The seasons still vary inexorably, and from time to time comes one of drought and loss, but it has lost its gravest menace. Scattered over the pampa, wherever they may be wanted, are windmills, and beside each mill is a tank and drinking trough. The wind, which so sculptured the hollows of the plain that a very large proportion of the rainfall sinks into it, now pumps the supply back to the herds, which otherwise might perish stamping the dust just above the subterranean waters."

## THE FORUM

The Editor of THE TRIBUNE disclaims responsibility for opinions and statements expressed in this column. Brief contributions on current topics of general interest are welcome. They will not be a rule be printed unless accompanied by the name of the writer, which, if desired, will be withheld from publication.

## SINGLE TAX

To the Editor of THE TRIBUNE:

"Through a letter published in your paper yesterday A. M. Wolfenden expresses some opinions on the single tax question and refers to an earlier statement of mine. He says: 'The security of the bank is not the value of the land, but the value of the interest of the borrower in the land.' Since the banks don't loan on second mortgages, they require the borrower to furnish absolute proof that his interest in the land is as near infallible as law and equity can make it; thus his interest in the land extends to and includes the basic value of the land. While the theoretic value of land may be impaired, the basic value cannot be affected. 'Adding production to the cost of production. There should be no increase in taxes on land that is now being farmed intensively, but there should be a very large increase on the thousands of acres which is not; nor would there be any increase in the cost of production, but rather a decrease.' Consequently, all land production would come cheaper to the consumer, for the reason that more intensive farming would create a greater abundance.

Coming now to the city land owner, it makes little difference to the average citizen whether his taxes are assessed against the house and lot or just the lot. But it would probably make some difference to the man who owns a lot in the center of town with dilapidated improvements on it, where more enterprising owners have increased the theoretic value by spending millions of dollars in constructing buildings round it.

Farming land should be assessed according to its fertility and productivity. City lots according to their size and rental value. The rate should be such as would leave the owners a reasonable interest on the basic value of their property. G. N. SIMMONS.  
November 3, 1916.

## ROOSEVELT'S NOBEL PRIZE.

It has just come to light that the Nobel Prize, amounting to \$40,000, awarded to President Roosevelt some years ago and by him given to the nation to advance the cause of peace, lies intact except that it has increased through the accumulation of interest. Roosevelt turned the money over to trustees and Congress accepted it, so that it is technically in the treasury, although actually in the hands of the trustees.

It is not remarkable that the trustees, headed by Chief Justice White, have concluded that there is no possible use to be made of the fund and they wish to get rid of it. Unfortunately they have it, but do not control it. It did belong to Colonel Roosevelt, but not now. An act of Congress will be required to dispose of it. Probably Congress will be willing to return it to Colonel Roosevelt, but that will take some time. Indeed, it is very hard to get money out of the hands of the nation, as witness the French Spoils Office Claims Fund and other moneys in the Treasury to which this government has no right, but to which it hangs on with the tenacity of a burglar.

Doubtless Colonel Roosevelt would be glad to get hold of the money and put it to some good use. It is certain that he is not anxious to spend it on himself, but just how it can be of any use in promoting peace at this time no man can say. If to promote peace is going to be as expensive as war, and there is no reason why it should not be, Millennial Dawn is still somewhat distant.—Philadelphia Inquirer.