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THERE has not been a state democratic convention held yet that Mr. Bryan can approvingly "point to with pride."

Now it is England's time to have a long drawn out series of army investigations and her tax-payers can turn their thoughts to the question of where the returns come in for the lives lost and treasure spent.

In Pennsylvania some of the operators granted the request of the coal miners and raised their wages. Now the railroads step in and tell these operators they will not handle their coal. Lending their power to other corporations to enslave labor will hasten the coming of government ownership.

A PRESS dispatch says that because of the spread of prohibition in Texas a number of large wholesale liquor firms will leave the state, and that the amount of property they will dispose of will run into millions. It is told since last January the success of prohibitionists had reduced the business of one house \$150,000 per annum, and it is feared the reduction will be still greater. Yet you will hear the saloonists argue that "prohibition won't prohibit."

WHILE the Louisiana Purchase Exposition will be the biggest American show, and will be worth seeing, some ugly steals are already connected with it. Gath, the Washington newspaper correspondent says: "The St. Louis exhibition affords a strange view of congressional corruption. A parcel of senators and members of both parties voted \$5 millions to it, and then lost their seats. McKinley appointed about all of them commissioners to the exhibition at \$5,000 a year, led by Tom Carter. The exhibition is now postponed at least till 1904. Meantime the commissioners will draw \$20,000 salary apiece and big money expenses."

A WOMAN in Moore county, who was once a society belle, has confessed to poisoning her husband who died suddenly a short time since. He had evidence of her infidelity, hence she sought to put him out of the way by committing murder, leaving their six children fatherless and worse than motherless. When man or woman conceals so wrapped up in their own conceit that they think they can go on in crime and not be detected, or that they are so accomplished that their crimes will be overlooked, they are sure to go from bad to worse until a community is shocked with something revolting and the perpetrator suffers the penalty of the law. Beauty and wealth may cover many sins, but those who depend upon them generally overgo the limit, and finally get their neck broke or spend the rest of their days in a felon's cell with only the thought of their own evil deeds for company and wake up too late to the fact that "the way of the transgressor is hard."

A TEXAS oil trust seems to be pretty well advanced. News comes from Austin that a corporation has been chartered which will make over the properties of several other companies, or rather into which these holdings are to be merged. The name of the amalgamated company is the Star Petroleum Co. and it has a capital stock of \$10,000,000. There has been merged into this corporation all the holdings and interests of the Sun Oil Refining Co., Home Oil Co., Saratoga Oil and Pipe Line Co., Texas Standard Oil Co., Omaha-Texas Oil Co., Eastern Texas Oil and Development Co., Texas Fuel Oil Co., Diamond Crude Oil Co., Texas Geyser Oil Co., and the Texas Petroleum and Refining Co., all of Beaumont. The holdings embraced in this consolidation constitute a large number of producing wells, a pipe line 18 miles long running from Spindle Top to Port Arthur; four storage tanks, each of 50,000 barrels capacity, and two storage tanks each of 30,000 barrels capacity, two large settling tanks, 32 acres of ground at Elvista and a great amount of proven oil lands. A storage reservoir which will have a capacity of 650,000 barrels has also been contracted for.

The prohibitionists will hold a convention at Dallas July 4.

An important decision in favor of actual settlers was handed down at Austin Monday by the supreme court. The point involved in this case was the power of the land commissioner to execute a new lease in favor of a large lease-holder before the expiration of the lease under which he was then holding the land. Under the act of 1897, providing for the sale of free school land of this state, a certain district was created within which the sale of all the school land which might be leased was postponed until the expiration of the lease. It was contended by the relator, J. E. Kentner, that the large lease-holders, for the purpose of preventing the lands held under lease by them from going on the market at the expiration of the leases, procured from the commissioner of the general land office new leases covering the same land before the expiration of the lease, and then when the old lease expired and settlers applied to purchase this land their applications would be rejected by the land commissioner upon the ground that that land was still held under lease by virtue of the new lease. This action of the land commissioner in granting such new leases, relator contended, was void as being in direct controvention of the statutes providing for the sale of this land at the expiration of the existing lease and contrary to the policy of our law to give settlers an opportunity to purchase this land at a given time. By the decision the contention of the relator is sustained, and it is held by the court that when an old lease expires upon school land it then comes up on the market for sale to settlers, regardless of the fact that the land commissioner had prior to its expiration, executed a new lease in favor of the lease-holder and that the execution of such new lease could not effect the rights of a citizen of this state to purchase school land at the expiration of a lease. This decision will have the effect to place on the market subject to purchase of all sections now held under leases which were executed prior to the expiration of a former lease. No doubt if all the illegal methods practiced in the land office could be uncovered, thousands of settlers could be located on land now held by people unlawfully.

Something of the political methods of the dominant party in Texas this year—when it has the least opposition for several years too—is thus given by the Dallas News: "This has been a remarkable political year in Texas. On account of the dates on which most of the primary elections were held they were largely in the hands of the politicians. Not being uniform, the politicians could attend to many of them. The public, as a whole, had very little to do with the primaries. Hence, there should be no surprise if complaints of misrepresentation have been long and deep. Never in the history of the state have there been more misrepresentation and deceit practiced in politics than are said to have been practiced this year. In some counties the charges of corruption have been so serious that Grand Juries have been called on to inquire into them, and in others the printing presses have been kept busy throwing off circulars containing attacks on character or refuting such charges. If it was ever a duty of a people to protect themselves that duty is imposed on Texans now. For if this method of campaigning is not stopped it will grow in volume to the disgrace and unhappiness of the people. If men are permitted to employ corrupt means to win primary elections it will not be long till the young people will understand that there is nothing wrong in it and dishonest methods will extend to the regular elections."

As we have said heretofore we still say, put all able-bodied men in town to work, and a whole lot of devilment will stop.—Plainsdealer.

The loafer is a menace. There are loafers and loafers, but the man who loafers and has no support in the way of property is sure to become a tramp or public charge. He must beg. If he can not get by begging, he must steal. If he is detected in stealing, he may murder. The loafer is a menace to good order and to life.—Dallas News.

One of the best inland town exchanges we get is the Young county News; the only strange feature in it is the little patronage Graham's business men give it.

Unwarranted Use of \$1,661,000 School Money.

Hon. Travis Henderson, chairman of the legislative investigation committee, to see after the crookedness of his own political party in conducting the state's affairs at Austin, after quoting the law says: "The total losses to the permanent fund not warranted by the Constitution aggregate \$1,661,000, divided as follows: Premiums paid on bonds, \$450,000; pay of clerks and other warrants not authorized by the Constitution, \$320,000; railroad bonds declared paid, \$891,000."

"It will be observed that the state in the management of this fund acts in a fiduciary capacity, with strict injunctions as to what it may or may not do; that there exists no misapprehension or conception as to the power delegated in the premises; it is specifically provided that the 'State shall be responsible for all investments.' No lawyer will contend that one cent of either the permanent or of the available school fund can be diverted from a specific purpose for which it was set aside.

"Holding to this view of the question as I do, it is my earnest hope that at no far off future day the amount will be made good to the common free school fund. Texas can't afford to do less in this matter; nor in the instance of the State University, for this fund, too, has been despoiled, which I will be able to show in a subsequent article."

There are times when lying is a virtue, but we ought not to mistake the proper occasion for practicing such a virtue.—Texas Farmer.

Mr. Shaw is a politician and no doubt his time to put his virtue (?) into practice is when engaged in making political platforms and speeches. The idea that lying is at any time "a virtue" must come from a person whose conscience is wrongly educated.

We are pleased to note that Montague county went prohibition by 300. Bowie was in a turmoil of controversy at the time we were there, May 31. Taylor county also went dry last Saturday, although the town of Abilene voted anti by 265 majority.

Saving by Use of Oil.

It is estimated that the exclusive use of fuel oil on the Southern Pacific will net a saving of \$1,500,000 a year over coal. Thirty-nine engines on the western division used oil last month. The estimated saving on this run has been \$16,000. The locomotives traveled 100,000 miles.

The company has ordered 250 new oil tank cars, with a capacity of 13,000 gallons each, double the size of cars now in service.

The Prohibition Counties.

According to the Dallas News the following are local option counties: Armstrong, Atascosa, Burnet, Briscoe, Cherokee, Collingsworth, Collin, Concho, Crosby, Crane, Dallam, Delta, Dickens, Dimmit, Edwards, Floyd, Foard, Franklin, Freestone, Frio, Glasscock, Hale, Hall, Hansford, Hartley, Hopkins, Hayes, Hunt, Irion, Jack, Jasper, Jones, Kent, King, Knox, Lubbock, McMullen, Madison, Moore, Motley, Mitchell, Newton, Ochiltree, Parker, Raines, Randall, Rockwall, San Saba, Sabine, San Augustine, Shackelford, Shelby, Sterling, Stephens, Stonewall, Swisher, Throckmorton, Tyler, Upton, Wise, Young, Zavala, Rapata.

Counties partially local option—Blanco, Callahan, Caldwell, Cass, Coke, Coleman, Dallas, Erath, Grayson, Fannin, Hill, Llano, Lampas, Lamar, McMullen, McLennan, Matagorda, Midland, Navarro, Rusk, Smith, Tarrant, Uvalde and Ward.

Irish Now Make Trouble For England.

LONDON, June 8.—The Irish question is looming up as the Boer question disappears. The attitude of the nationalist members of parliament in attacking Lord Kitchener and in refusing to join in the general rejoicing has greatly angered the government, and coercion is to be made more effective than ever.

The agitation in West Ireland continues. The peasantry are refusing to pay their rents in many cases simply because they hardly make enough off the land for a living, even if they had no rent to pay. The landlords are anxious to get rid of the tenants and turn the holdings into pasture, and therefore refuse to make concessions. It is the same policy which Anglo-Irish landlords have pursued for hundreds of years, of driving the Irish from the soil and giving it up to cattle.

The Salisbury government seems resolved to support this policy, and has so far refused to accept the compulsory land purchase scheme, which T. W. Russell, Liberal Unionist member from Tyrone, is earnestly advocating as the only remedy for Irish land troubles. Mr. Russell has personally investigated the condition of the Connaught peasantry, and he finds that they have many just causes of complaint. The government, however, will not adopt his plan and prefers to use the troops and constabulary in evicting the unfortunate tenants.

If you have any doubt about prosperity being here read this cheering editorial from that stalwart republican paper, the Iowa State Register: "It is now stated that J. Pierpont Morgan's personal profits on 'financing' trusts and combines aggregate \$172,500,000, and that he will endeavor to make the aggregate at least \$200,000,000 before the present year closes."

An exchange says a great many Kansas streams which heretofore have contained only microbes, are now shown by trustworthy analysis to contain houses, barns, hay stacks, corn crops and driftwood.

Abraham Kidd and son, were caught by the cave-in of their "dugout" on a claim in Woodward county, Ok., and were killed.

Jacksonville has shipped 100 carloads of tomatoes and Tyler has shipped 364 cars of potatoes and tomatoes up to last Sunday.

The Boers fought 300,000 troops for three years and then made the English pay them a war indemnity of \$15,000,000, besides forcing them to furnish capital without interest to begin business again. The London Hooligans call that a great British victory.—Ex.

The republican convention for the nomination of a state senator at Wesley, W. Va., Saturday, almost ended in a riot. Guns and clubs were used. The chairman was carried from the hall bruised and bleeding. The fight was between the followers of senator N. B. Scott and J. L. Caldwell, who is a candidate to succeed Scott in the United States senate.

A few years ago the country was shocked when it learned that congress, with the republican party in power, had appropriated \$1,000,000,000 for various purposes during one term. The billion dollar congress became a reproach and a by-word. It begins to look now, however, as if the present congress would discount that record by appropriating \$1,000,000,000 during a single session. And yet nobody is bold enough to predict that the high-water mark of republican extravagance has been reached.—Savannah News.

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World's Fair Notes.
Texas will make a mineral exhibit at the World's Fair that will surprise those who have regarded the state as one devoted chiefly to agriculture, stock raising and lumber production.

Mrs. W. P. Prentice, of Spring Valley, Cal., has presented to the San Diego Chamber of Commerce a collection of 700 stuffed birds found in San Diego county. This collection will form a part of the bird exhibit from Southern California at the World's Fair.

Tom Finty, Jr., for many years a member of the Galveston News Editorial Staff, has been appointed press agent of the Texas World's Fair Commission and other of the more progressive World Fair State Commissions have appointed experienced newspaper men as press agents, among them being Colorado and Mississippi.

The watchmaker is to have his corner in the coming St. Louis World's Fair. A well known Berlin connoisseur is inclined to lend his collection of ancient and other watches—one of the most valuable known. The collection shows the development of the watch from the beginning to the present time. Some of the pieces are little bigger than a four-penny piece. A unique is a watch owned by Charles V., of Spain. It was made by an artisan in Nuremberg. The man was probably the first maker of watches, and it is said, the only horologist in his time.—London, England, Leader.

The very ingenious "perpetual motion" invented by Daniel Quinn, an aged mechanic, for display at the World's Fair, consists of a tank of water through which an endless chain of hollow cylinders runs, entering at the bottom between rubber lips, going out at the top and down the outside. It depends upon the buoyancy of the cylinders to keep them in motion and to overcome the water pressure at the point of entrance.

Twenty-four States and Territories have thus far appropriated \$2,540,000 for representation at St. Louis. In nearly every instance these appropriations were made on the condition that the amounts would be doubled or increased at the next sitting of the respective legislatures and in every instance the funds will be swelled by private subscription. In a number of other states appropriations will be made by their legislatures which will assemble in 1903. In some instances, however, the funds will be raised entirely by private subscriptions, as in Indian Territory, where it is proposed to raise \$100,000; in Kentucky where active work is in progress to accumulate a fund of \$150,000, and in Texas where it is proposed to raise a fund of not less than \$300,000. The statement showing actual appropriations made by the states to date, does not convey an idea of the interest taken in them. At Chicago, out of nearly \$7,000,000 expended for state exhibits, more than one-half was raised by private subscriptions. The same ratio will hold good at St. Louis, if, in fact, it is not largely increased.

Mr. Bryan asks the bankers this question: "Why have you not been frightened at the trusts' proposed in other industries? Is there any reason why a banker should be in favor of squeezing out the small manufacturer or salesman and yet protest against being squeezed out himself? Come, be consistent, and oppose the principle of private monopoly everywhere, or take your medicine like men."

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