

THE JUSTICE.

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THE DEVIL'S MASTERPIECE.

The Lease Law is a Fraud and the Quarantine Line
Isn't Perfect.—A Local Curse and a State's Dis-
grace.—An Incubated Germ of Infamy in the
Vitals of Western Texas Progress.
Other Remarks.

The lease law and the quarantine questions are the only issues materially concerning the people of Western Texas at present, but they are of sufficient importance to produce enough political nightmares to glut the horse market of Texas for several weeks to come.

The quarantine law is of minor importance in comparison with the lease law, and can be far more easily remedied, because it does not involve the multiplicity of complications, nor is it of such far-reaching consequence and irreparable detriment; yet it seems to be the theme of a howl that threatens to develop into a political riot. As a matter of real, tangible importance the quarantine line bears about the same relation to the lease law that a bootblacks' union does to the steel trust. The quarantine law needs a surgical operation, while the lease law demands the attention of a vigilance committee and an ignominious interment. The lease law is a local curse, but a state's shame, for it has been imposed upon the majority of people in this country, by the other portions of the state. It is an incubated germ of infamy in the vitals of Western Texas progress; a product of chicanery, watched by the subtle fumes of moral filth in the atmosphere of legislative imbecility.

In this connection it may not be amiss to give a brief history of the lease law. It was first made operative under the land commission of 1883-4, and without stopping to consider the infamous seven-section act and kindred legalized real estate disgraces, we come down to the present lease law under which the country is now buried in mistakes and which was first enacted by the pokerlature of 1895. Since that time it has been changed from awful to a blamed sight worse; the dungeon of infamy having been whitewashed with corruption in 1897 and the mirror of illusions placed in the front room of deception in 1901.

In poker parlance, which most legislators will more readily comprehend, it is now the top hand in a deck of the rottenest, most pusillanimous set of outrages ever made operative by legal process. It has caused more

hatred and bitter feelings, more perjury, more funerals and more cripples for life and produced less good than any other piece of moral debauchery that was ever christened a law or enrolled on the statute books of iniquity in Texas. I use this kind of language because I fail to see the propriety of throwing highly perfumed linguistic bouquets at this disgraceful monument to legislative jassackery.

The lease law has produced a little revenue to the public school fund of the state, but this is offset by the fact that it has not only retarded the development of the western part of the state, but has produced mischief that can never be repaired—a catalogue of mischiefs too numerous to be recapitulated. By giving to individuals and corporations the exclusive control of vast scopes of country to the exclusion of all other persons, and by statutory defects operating solely in the interest of the lessee, it has produced the collusionists and the bounty jumper, and deprived honest men of their inherent rights. As a result of the collusive purchases that have monopolized the fairest part of Western Texas into the hands of a few men it has produced vast landed interests that simply mean a system of landlord and tenant that would make a Russian serf homesick, and owing to the grand scale on which frauds of every kind have been committed in acquiring ownership to land endless litigation has already begun. It has fostered every kind of fraud and crime from legalized theft to perjury and murder. These are cold, hard facts that can be verified to the satisfaction of any one wanting further evidence, but of which lack of space will not permit detailed mention in this connection.

The lease law advocates, say the lease law has produced thousands of dollars for the state school fund, that previous to the passage of the lease law the land was lying idle and non-revenue yielding. When Columbus discovered America the whole blamed continent was lying idle. Now, instead of spending so much money and engaging in so many wars in their efforts to utilize and develop the country, why didn't the European powers combine and lease America to some cow outfit, and a few centuries later point with pride to their magnificent school fund and great American cow ranch? Some years ago the present site of Chicago was an undesirable wilderness of wastes. Where would Chicago be to-day if the state of Illinois had leased that piece of country to some cowman on a collusive purchaser, bounty jumper basis? Not many years ago this part of Western Texas was a buffalo range, and its only inhabitants were Indians who preferred human scalps to agricultural products, and as a result of the scattered social advantages there was no

demand for land in small or large bodies at that time. But the buffalo hunter and the government ran the Indians out of the country, and any one can see by referring to the census that since that time the country has been settling up. The lease law advocates often tell about how they got Injuns and bled and died for this glorious country and that they deserve some special consideration for having civilized the country. There wasn't a cow ranch within the confines of the present lease law, that is north of the Pecos river, until after 1880, and at that time there wasn't enough wild Indians in Western Texas to steal a hobbled horse. Your educational story is a fake, pure and simple, and in this connection the state has derived its greatest benefits from the land that has been taken up through collusion. On such land it has received an annual interest almost equal to the lease, and in addition thereto has received taxes on all improvements and on the land which is generally rendered for the value of \$1.00 per acre.

Had the country within the confines of the lease law been open to actual settlement during the past few years every acre of school land now under lease or to which individual title has been procured through collusion, would have been owned and improved by substantial farmers and stock farmers. There isn't a section of school land east of the Pecos river open to homestead entry, and men are paying bonuses of from one to five hundred dollars per section for land that they steal entry, and men are paying bonuses. They are not speculators, but good, solid men wanting land for homes; they are men with nice bunches of stock and money enough to nicely improve farms or little ranches.

In that country above the lease line there is not a section of unoccupied school land—not a section of school land leased from the state. It is all taken up in homesteads in from one to four sections, and a more prosperous, substantial class of people cannot be found in the state. I would especially call attention to the counties of Hale, Lubbock, Crosby, Floyd, Briscoe, Randall, Swisher, Potter and Deaf Smith, all of them thickly settled and land valued at from two to four dollars per acre, and the people not anxious to sell at any price, for they all have good homes, good health, plenty to eat, good neighbors, good schools and money in the banks. But the moment you cross the lease line, you gaze upon the heaving bosom of a beautiful expanse of vacancy. No homes, but here and there many miles a part you see a windmill, and in the course of a day's travel you may open a wire gate or two leading from one big pasture into another, possibly you will find a ranch house or some unoccupied

tent—some cowboy's homestead entry or bounty jumper's residence; and though on the same kind of soil, in the same altitude and climate, and in the heart of a country having the same physical possibilities found in the counties previously named, you find scarcely an evidence of civilization. You would like to take up one or more sections to make a home for yourself and children, knowing you could prosper as others have done in a country identical as to all conditions, but the state of Texas says no, this land is leased. And if you look like a prospector and chance to meet a man on horseback, and want to command his good will, esteem and confidence, ask him for directions to some point on the Rio Grande river and drive in a trot. The writer traveled over every county in Western Texas during 1900 and is thoroughly familiar with the degree of development to be found in every one of them. And if you want to find where a virgin soil has been robbed of its virtue by an act of infamy travel over the country covered by the absolute lease law.

Now, again referring to the magnificent school fund to which the lease law advocates point with so much pride, etc., mostly et cetera. I will state that nearly fifty per cent of that fund goes to educating Brazos river negroes, or their fellow-countrymen in other portions of the state, and for my part I would prefer giving one white child a home and an opportunity to make an independent self-respecting man or woman of itself than to give a lot of coons of questionable pedigree an undivided half interest in their public school attainments. But if my lease law friends are so enthusiastically determined that our fellow-sovereigns from Africa shall have the benefits of a magnificent public school fund they can obtain the result by opening the country to actual settlement, thereby providing a home for the white man's child and an increased public school fund in which their colored proteges own a half interest. But here permit me to state that the men who have the country leased to-day were not so energetically enthusiastic over this public school fund business until the lease law was passed over their protest in 1883, at which time they demanded the free and unconditional use of the grass, and nearly all of them voted for G. Wash Jones, the Independent free grass candidate, as against John Ireland, the Democratic nominee on a lease law platform in 1884. It wasn't education then, but free grass; now it is free education and ownership of the grass.

Furthermore, though the lease law was really passed in 1883, the cattlemen continued using the range free of charge, and no leases were made until about 1887, when immigration began pouring into the country, and

1500
3500

to stop which the cattlemen began making extensive leases, and have since clung to the law which they originally opposed, now declaring its maintenance the only possibility of their salvation.

You say the country isn't fit for anything but a cattle country, is solely adapted to cattle-raising on an extensive scale. Oh, tackler juice. Then why do you so viciously object to the country being opened to actual settlement? If your statement is true, and the land is worthless no one is going to disturb you, and you can lease the land subject to settlement or get the grass for nothing, just as you like. If the land is worthless why is so much of it being gobbled by collusion, and why do you spend so much time discouraging immigration, and waste so many thousand dollars on every session of the legislature trying to maintain the lease law? Why don't you let the actual settlers pour into the country, file on the land, starve out and have to leave, then you will have the fact demonstrated by experience and will be able to obtain peaceable, lawful possession of the country? There isn't an acre of land under lease to-day that couldn't be used by some small stock farmer to far greater advantage to himself and the state than the purpose to which it is now utilized, and the cowman knows that if the country is ever opened to actual settlement it will pass forever from him, his heirs and assigns. West of the Pecos river there is considerable worthless land and it is not under lease nor bringing the state one cent of revenue. Cattlemen don't lease worthless land, and their action not only contradicts their assertions but is sufficient evidence to convict them of an aggravated assault of mercenary motives.

The big lessees say it would be unjust to abolish the lease law because it would ruin their business, that it would rob them of billions and billions of dollars that they have spent in reclaiming this arid waste and beautifying the barren baldies to the enormous extent of one windmill and a few strands of barbed wire to an average of every several thousand acres; that it would deprive them of inherent rights; that they are entitled to and demand protection according to the letter of the law during the term of their leases; that any demand simple justice, etc. As individuals I don't suppose any one cares a continental what becomes of you, and as a business proposition the general public wants to see the country settled and developed, a condition which you are strenuously antagonizing at present. Nobody wants to rob you of one cent, and you have already had possession of the land long enough to reap a bountiful profit on all the magnificent immovable improvements you have made on public school land, and as for demanding protection according to the letter of the law, why haven't you complied with the law? Why have you taken advantage of every possible subterfuge? Why have you used your dictatorial authority in relinquishing leased land to hired men and having them file on it as a homestead entry? Why didn't you keep good faith with your lease contract and hold that land until the lease expired, and then let it legitimately pass into the hands of other people?

Why do you appeal for a strict compliance with the letter of a law that you have so shamefully abused? Why do you demand anything of a people whom you have treated so shabbily? What would you do to a man or set of men that had treated you as you have the general public? And as for simple justice you won't find the kind you have been dealing in this side of hell of the Philippine islands.

The big cowman and the farmer and stock farmer represent strictly opposing elements and divergent interests. The big cattle ranches naturally oppose and retard progress and development, while the farmer and the stock farmer as well as the man with a few hundred head of cattle represent individual enterprise and their principal profit results from improvement, progress and development.

Probably no class of individuals have been more vituperatively made famous than the muchly mythical bounty jumper. He has been a factor in the real estate mess in Western Texas, but considering the question from an ethical standpoint, admitting the existence of the ferocious bounty jumper in all of his alleged numerousness, and that he is a creature with a castiron conscience, a rawhide soul and an india rubber veracity and that his sole avocation is that of pre-empting private privileges held in fee simple by some good and holy cowman, he is the only kind of human qualified to smear his conscience with such a litter of legislative awfulness as the lease law garbage pile. Nine out of every ten bounty jumpers are employed on some big cow ranch and jump land belonging to the state, at the request and to the benefit of their employers, adding perjury to their other accomplishments. It doesn't matter how good a citizen a man be, nor how strongly in the right, the moment he settles on a piece of land in some cowman's pasture, contrary to that cowman's desires, he is termed a bounty jumper, woolly, soap-tail, rabbit twister, etc. With the exception of the hired men mentioned there are very few bounty jumpers, but it is a wonder they haven't been a far more effective feature for the most mythical bounty jumper would be a purely legitimate product of such a nefarious land law system. The bounty jumper generally has the intruding bounty jumper thrown over a two-story barbed wire fence with a writ of injunction, sequestration, municipal malfeasance, or any other old malady that the court may consider sufficient for an emergency, while his pet bounty jumper is petted and paid for his real estate and perjury, at the rate of twenty dollars per month. Now, if the state would throw a few collusive purchasers and their contemptible bounty jumpers over a few thousand miles, the situation would possess an aspect of retributive justice.

The last legislature took special pains to provide against the uninvited bounty jumper by limiting a homestead to one entry, but provided for the collusive purchaser by giving the lessee sixty days prior right to file on land held by him under lease. It has been held that a sublessee doesn't have this sixty days prior right privilege, but that doesn't prevent the lessee giving his hired men all the necessary advantage to gobble up the land.

He simply hired a hired man that he is going to file on a piece of land on which the lease expires within a few days, and with a shotgun and a camping outfit, directs him to take possession of the land and shoot a few holes in all trespassers and at the proper time beat everybody else to the clerk's office and file on the land.

The lease law should be abolished because a preponderance of evidence shows that it is wrong from every viewpoint of human justice, because it nurtures fraud and fosters crime, because it benefits a few men but irreparably injures many, because it is retarding development, and hastening a deplorable crisis, the only partial remedy for which is its immediate abrogation.

Two classes of people are vitally interested in the lease law—the cattlemen who want it maintained, and the agricultural classes who want it abolished, each side demanding that class of legislation which will best serve their respective interests. As an individual the cattle man has done nothing more than any other class of people would have done—accumulated compound interest on a golden opportunity. It isn't a question of thief on one side and saint on the other, but a question of humans on both sides and justice to all.

There can be but one just and equitable system of land laws and that is one providing the greatest number of homes for the citizenship of the state. The legislature has no right to enact laws for the exclusive benefit of men who are financial able to avail themselves of its beneficence, upon the hypothesis that it is best for all. Failure to appreciate the dire consequences of such legislation might possibly excuse its enactment, but its maintenance over the protests of honest men, who have suffered the effects of its sin cursed operations and have appealed for redress, is inexcusable, and the perpetrator's error becomes the perpetuator's crime.

The quarantine line demands but a passing consideration, as it involves no title and cannot do more than work temporary detriment. The splentic fever is a fact, not a myth, and when it is produced by a dissemination of ticks, as by some as yet undiscovered agency is not the province of this article to consider. The preponderance of scientific tests and personal experience confirms the tick theory, and it would take but a few days of inexpensive experimenting to further demonstrate the truth of falsity of the now generally accepted tick theory. An open season at all times for cattle free of ticks ought to be a satisfactory solution of the problem for all parties concerned. The man below the quarantine line has no more moral right to promiscuously introduce his ticky splentic infected cattle into this country than the cowman of this country has to swipe the school land, and if ticks do the devilment a law that prevents clean cattle crossing the quarantine line at any time is an outrage.

What has been said in this article concerning the lease law, and incidentally the quarantine line, is but an infantismal part of what can be said. If everything concerning the lease law was put into one article it would constitute a library that it would bust

Carnegie to buy. It is a matter concerning which the people are already sufficiently posted to act with proper intelligence. The only way to accomplish results is to force the issue by injection it into the present campaign with a radical vengeance, for if this opportunity passes it will be eternally too late.

Don't support any man who hasn't got the moral courage to state his position in unequivocal terms. It is a question concerning which every private citizen should express his opinion, for it is one seriously pertaining to the destiny of this country—the future homes of our children and our own immediate welfare, and the candidate who will bellyache about the Kansas City, Chicago and other places platform, Cuba and the Philippines, and dodge this issue because it doesn't pertain to the office to which he aspires, would dodge any issue that might arise and a declaration concerning which might affect his personal interest.

THE JEFFERSON SHEENY IS IN THE PUSH.

The latest beneficiary of our magnificent lease law system, together with all hereditaments and appurtenances pertaining thereto, is a hook-nosed descendant of Solomon, whose name is Ed Meyer, and whose postoffice address is Jefferson. Mr. Meyer is a broker, as I understand, and is possibly a cattleman to the extent that he patronizes the dairy interest of his town, but nevertheless Mr. Meyer has just secured a lease on thirty thousand acres of land in Terry county, and thereby hangs a romance wherein the land commissioner appears in the role of Mysteriously Mixed up, or the Man Who Might Explain. The plot of the story is something like this:

For some years there has been a discrepancy in the lay of the land between the Double Lakes and the line of New Mexico. Sometime ago the state sent a surveyor into that country who made a resurvey, and forwarded his field notes to Austin, and here the discrepancy was discovered to be due to an error of the former survey, and that two blocks of land, supposed to have been separated by a stream of country two miles wide, and embracing thirty thousand acres of land. When this fact was discovered no one knows, nor had the general public any intimation of the fact that such vacant land was in existence, but if the commissioner had followed his sworn duty and the plain and mandatory letter of the law, he would have had such public land surveyed and placed on the market to actual settlement, for the wild rush and subsequent trouble over the 54 sections of land that recently came on the market and which were situated in the NUN pasture, in that same section of country, put the commissioner on notice that all land in that locality was in demand for actual settlement. But instead of that the land is secretly awarded to Mr. Meyer, and on the back of Mr. Meyer's lease appears the following memoranda:

Rejected; land will be surveyed and sold.

Reconsidered.

Awarded January 13th, 1902.

Now, who in steamboat language is Mr. Ed Myer of Jefferson, Texas? How did he learn to the exclusion of every-

THE JOSHER.

One Don by the name of Biggers,
Soul Owner and Editor.

SOMETHING ABOUT TRUSTS

I see that considerable is being said about trusts, and for fear this matter may go too far before being properly understood, I have decided to take it up and furnish the public some information that may prove of incalculable benefit. I reserve the right to retract this statement at any time; and in case either the Democratic or Republican parties should nominate me for president in 1904, despite my protests, which have already been filed in the office of the secretary of the steel trust, I shall refer to this as a joke; and it is probably the only chance I will ever have of referring to it in that manner without appearing conceited and untruthful.

"Trust in the Lord" is the first trust of which we have any authentic history and it is the only trust that congress and the various legislatures haven't helped along by passing laws to protect the general public under the disguise of an act "to protect and encourage our infant industries," or an act entitled an act "to subjugate, annex, regulate and control an octopus," and, furthermore, it is the only trust that does not monkey with the price of produce, necessities of life and wearing apparel, and it is the only trust that a young man can tie to with any assurance that he won't wish he hadn't.

The trusts against which our political parties say so much, and for which they do so much more, are strictly human institutions, and are as plentiful as the human family is numerous, but some of them are much larger than others, and it is the big ones that do the most mischief. If everybody owned a billion dollar trust there wouldn't be so much complaint, but the scarcity of big trusts works a hardship on the majority of the laboring class, also conflicts with the temporary happiness of the producer and the consumer. Some people think trusts ought to be abolished, but I don't think so. I think they ought to be capitalized at three billion dollars each, and distributed by the census bureau; and in case the census bureau should miss any, the president of the steel trust will keep the supervisor of census advised as to my postoffice address. If everybody owned a billion dollar trust there would be happiness and contentment in every home, whereas, a few big trusts in the hands of a few men are causing much dissatisfaction and inconvenience. It is a nice thing to be the proud possessor of a large dapple gray trust for which you can indignantly refuse a spot cash offer of \$999,999,999.99; one that you can drive at a two-ten clip over the panickiest kind of a road, and if you collide with a poverty-stricken team hitched to the ramshackled cart of public welfare you don't have to stop to ascertain the amount of damages; one of these avaricious trusts, where you can point to the homes and business concerns of the country as the barns where you have your reverse horse feed stored.

I had rather be the sole owner of a

large, high-spirited trust than be the editor of the Josher, a concession I make after mature deliberation. When a man owns a trust, he has something that everybody wants, and if they can't get it all at once, they will take a nickel's worth at a time until they get busted, then they will hire to the owner of the trust at a reduced salary. When you are running a newspaper it seems that nobody wants it except the fellow that is two years in arrears on his subscription, and he is liable to refuse to take the paper out of the office and not pay for it. To be a success, a newspaper man must think and write to suit everybody; and the only man that ever attempted this with any degree of success was libel suited and shot all to pieces seven times in five minutes. His thinking and writing suited everybody except the seven parties who called on him in a body, and did as herein alleged. When the people cuss an editor he feels all broke up, and looks worse than a Populist platform after a general election. When the people cuss the owner of a trust, he knows his medicine is having effect, and he gives them another dose, just enough to maintain circulation pending an autopsy. Whenever a man refuses to patronize a trust he is told to eat hay, wear atmosphere, farm without implements, and haul his produce to town in a tow sack. After competing under such handicap conditions with the whole universe, and attempting to reform the earth at the ballot box, the rebel against the monarch of commerce, hobbles into the trust hospital, and is given a poorly ventilated berth in the ward for incurables. The poor man makes a dying statement to the effect that he would have won the fight if seventeen million fools had had enough sense to vote right at the general election.

When a trust law is tendered it has troubles the same as everybody else, and then is the time to prune it down, but while the people are howling and indignating about the unsentimental conduct of the big trust, the little trust is growing and spreading, and the first thing anybody knows, it is a big tree, and Congress and the State Legislatures are having a picnic under its magnificent shade, and picking delicious fruit from its boughs. Then the people raise a roar, and the young trust raises a crop of political benefactors, and the price of everything used by the consumer.

If any deluded individual, after listening to the wails, moans and lamentations of the populace, wants to undertake to relieve their distress by starting a business in opposition to the trusts, he has my permission; but if he were to come to me for counsel, I would advise him to bequeath his money to some insane asylum and then make application for admission. A big, double-fisted trust will seize a price list and pestle the public like unto a beastly husband administering his unbounded love to a helpless wife, and the dear people will holler "Police! Thief! Help! Murder and robbery," and will then assist the trust in massacring the first humbre that interferes. When a fellow starts an opposition to some trust the people call upon him, first with his prices, and tell him that they are going to get a divorce from the trust and be

his'n. Then they go over to the trust and tell him that the other fellow has been tampering with their affections, and do a lot of jawbone labor about what they may do, etc., and then strut around town looking wise and independent. But the trust knows a thing or such a matter, and instead of politing himself with sackcloth and ashes, and circulating a petition of unconditional repentance, he gives a grand banquet of low prices, and invites everybody to partake thereof. Then the people boast exceedingly of what they have done, and go over to the trust feast and gorge themselves with a lot of indigestible stuff they don't need. But while thus celebrating their good fortune they forget all their past troubles, and the present troubles of the amateur commercial pugilist, who has been so extensively advertising a fight to the finish with the octopus. Bye and bye the "other fellow" goes out to collect an account of fifteen cents for goods sold during the previous month, in order that he may meet a draft for \$1,500. He becomes intoxicated with discouragement, falls into the gutter of insolvency and freezes to death. The trust then has him buried with great pomp and splendor, and charges the funeral expenses to the people's account, and also presents them with a bill for the feast which they foolishly thought was free, takes a mortgage on everything they have, and proceeds to collect the account on the installment plan.

This is why I think everybody ought to own a big trust, and that it would be illogical to try to give general satisfaction by dividing one big trust among all the people.

JUDGE EARNEST ON THE LEASE LAW.

Sometime ago, Albert S. Hawkins had himself extensively interviewed in the Dallas News, whereupon Judge C. H. Earnest, one of the most conservative men and finest land lawyers in Western Texas, replied through the News, and did it unto Albert as follows:

Colorado, Tex., Feb. 10.—(To The News.)—I read with some interest the article of The News correspondent with H. S. Hawkins of Midland, reported in Sunday's issue, on the Texas lease law. Coming from one who now represents this district in the Legislature, and who possibly aspires to go again, and the impression which might well be indulged that these views are representative of the West, requires of them more than a passing notice.

Mr. Hawkins seeks to point out reasons why the present land law should be permitted to stand, and depicts in glowing colors the many fascinating features possessed by this product of the Twenty-Seventh Legislature. Without his aid, I dare say, we should never have been able to perceive anything so strikingly beautiful in a law more fruitful of promise, without any results, more hopelessly inadequate to the task which it was supposed to accomplish than any ever enacted—in short, a complete farce. I quite agree with him that it is unwise to be always legislating on one thing, to pass a new land law every session. The difficulties arising from this course are apparent, for no sooner does the public become acquainted with the provisions of the old than a new one is foisted upon them to be learned over again.

It is asking too much to let this present law have no better reason for its existence without an effort to make a radical change, if not totally repeal it, as now seems demanded.

It does not meet the situation. It has no claim to existence, save perhaps

that any change might be worse, is doubtful.

At the time this law was enacted will be remembered that there was pretty general desire to extend territory within which the public land could be purchased by settlers. This was evidenced in the resolutions adopted by county conventions and by district representative convention which Mr. Hawkins was nominated. The present law was the answer to the appeal. Did it relieve the situation? Will Mr. Hawkins or any other apologist undertake to say how many settlers have secured homes under its provisions in this section of the country represented by him? And while he is enumerating those who have let him also say what connection, if any, such persons had with the expiring leases.

Yet the absolute lease line was removed several counties west from its old position, with this "rider," that all existing leases must be respected. Do we not know that just prior to this session of the Legislature the great majority of the leases were cancelled upon the application of the lessees, and new leases executed for a long term? This much Mr. Hawkins admits and deprecates.

Under the present law new leases are not permitted to be made in any territory for a period longer than five years, and leases made in the territory which was cut out of the absolute district, such as Mitchell, Scurry, Howard, Kent, Garza, Lynn, Dawson, etc., to terminate at the expiration of five years from the taking effect of this act, regardless of the period for which they were originally made. But how about leases theretofore made in what is now absolute territory, for periods of ten years, say, for instance, in the rich county of Terry, where lands are now and have been for a long time so much in demand, and in the counties of Yoakum, Gaines, Andrews, and in Midland county, if you please, where Mr. Hawkins occasionally resides for interviewing, judicial and other purposes, and where grow the finest Herefords, Durhams and muleys in the world? A country so rich in natural resources, of climate, soil and other physical conditions as to be able to produce the finest stock in the world should not, in my humble opinion, be so handicapped, so pent-up as to prevent others from coming in and participating in some of these good things. If these fine cattle can be successfully grown on land leased from the State, how much more successfully can they be grown on land utilized in smaller bodies, owned and improved by the use thereof?

At the risk of being called down, I venture the assertion that since the passage of the present law not as many as fifty sections of school land altogether have come on the market by expiration of leases in the whole list of school lands placed east of the absolute lease line, and that no wise or persons disconnected or in no wise connected with the leasehold had any chance to get them; and, so far as relieving the situation, it has but intensified it, and those which came on the market had just as well remained under lease for all the benefit derived therefrom by those actually seeking homes. Out in the absolute lease district, but little more than a hundred miles from Colorado, and not so far from Midland, a lease expired last August of some fifty sections. This fellow was asleep when others were having their leases cancelled and extended for ten years, and when he finally awoke to a realization of what the other boys were doing the Land Office had shut up, had a spasm, or lucid interval, or something. He was not permitted to extend, and so his lease expired.

Long before its expiration, however, he called all his cowboys together and told them that he hated to see the thing die, that it was very near to his heart but as long as it had to die, he wanted them to have the remains. So he parceled it out to them, four sections to the man, told them to go on it, build themselves little habitations

a man in a suit, could testify against the Colonel with-
as had been proved, on incriminating I
ast amount of money. The application
by Colonel Hargrave for membership
e Club's secret ser- count of his na
ems

ADDEREDVHAV

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thereon, (4x6), and if they had any grass left on four sections after grazing their cow ponies on it he might use it for them and that they might still remain in his employ, if they wished—and they wished.

Now, while it is true, as a matter of correct history, these lands were also applied for by outsiders not connected with the lessee, and that they were awarded to the outsiders by the land office, all of these lands are now the subject matter of litigation in the courts between the men who were and are now working for the lessee and the contestee outsiders. It but serves to illustrate that the fond hope expressed by Mr. Hawkins that the stockman will yield upon the expiration of his lease is a delusive one and that, whether said stockman gets the land or not, he desires to dictate who shall have it.

Why, if it has come to this, that a would-be actual settler who desires to purchase some of these lands upon which leases are about to expire, seeing the hopelessness of getting it without expensive and perhaps fruitless litigation, goes to the lessee and pays him as much as \$100 to \$300 per section for the privilege of getting on lands prior to expiration of lease, thus to secure whatever moral advantage a prior possession and occupancy would give him. In the name of heaven, who is your bonus man there? And this is no fairy tale. Where will Mr. Hawkins go to find his hundreds of thousands of acres of school lands, the leases on which will expire before the next Legislature could change the law? I can point him to hundreds of thousands of acres in one county which under present law, will not come on the market for some seven years yet, some as fine lands as one could wish to see, and settlements right up to the county line—one lease of as much as 35,000 acres, not expiring till September, 1910. And when I make the statement that these lands would be purchased now by bona fide settlers, I but state a fact which is apparent to every fair-minded observer who wants to see.

The demand for these lands is not, if you please, from the ranks altogether of the much-despised "nester," over whose head so much of this strife has risen, and who has served as a target for the jibes of cruel misrepresentation, but from the solid, substantial, small stockmen and stock farmers who are independent of and ask nothing at the hands of the large lease holder, except the right to buy State school lands. They are able to improve the lands and stock them, and they can stand as much drought as the large stockman, and they can stand more, because they would live at home, raise feedstuffs upon which to winter their stock, etc. They are not alone from this portion of the State, but from every portion.

The cry is, Where can I get some State school lands? If none is open to settlement, at what price can I buy some stockman's lease, and what advantage would this purchase give me in securing the land when it comes on the market? These are the daily inquiries of those who are on the ground.

The answer is, Wait till a certain lease expires and you may stand some show, perhaps, to get in, but the competition will be strong, the demand is so much greater than the supply, and the race is to the swiftest, to the man who camps in front of the county clerk's office and is able to get in his day's work.

Now a word in relation to the "abolition of contracts" made by the State, so solemnly invoked by Mr. Hawkins and others who would perpetuate the system now in vogue. This exceedingly catchy phrase, but specious argument, has been sounded more than once, and was to a large extent responsible for existing legislation. Its intonations rang up and down the legislative halls during the session of 1901 and were trumpeted far and wide by friends of the lease law. It has more than once been answered. Every lawyer knows, and perhaps some of the members of the Legislature may know, that the Supreme Court of this State has more than once shown up this contention in its true light. In the case of Smitten vs. the State (71 exas), it was said that the Constitu-

tion provided only for a sale of the school lands "at such time and on such terms as may be prescribed by law. That it was left to the Legislature to determine the time and the manner. That the people did not intend that the lands made a part of the common school fund should be utilized by a system of leasing for a long or indefinite period, would seem manifest; for if this might legally be done, one Legislature might authorize leases to be made which would deprive a succeeding Legislature of the right to sell the lands unincumbered, although the succeeding Legislature might be of the opinion that the proper time for sales had arrived, and persons were ready to comply with the terms and regulations deemed advantageous by the Legislature."

It is scarcely necessary to quote any further from this opinion by Judge Stayton to show that upon every lease contract issued by the State of her school lands, whether the lessee understands it or not, is engrafted the condition that said lease may be terminated by any subsequent Legislature whenever it sees fit to place the lands on the market. This is written in the face of the contract by the Constitution. It is a lease determinable at the will of the Legislature, and the act of a succeeding Legislature placing leased lands on the market in no sense violates or abrogates a contract made with the State. Oh, but you say, to thus do away with our leases will drive out a great industry, the cattle interests. It will do no such thing. You, the large lease-holder, have been for many years the beneficiary of special privileges given to no one else, and little wonder it is that you should be unwilling to be cut off before your amazing appetite is full. If you must go, your place will be more than filled by the small stockman, who will produce more cattle and better cattle than you ever did, and under conditions which will people and build up this Western country, give business to our towns and distribute the means of earning a livelihood instead of confining it to a favored few.

Your coming out here, some of you, when the country was new and reclaiming an untamed desert was commendable to your business sagacity and did not proceed from disinterestedness or pure patriotism. You, some of you, may have helped to drive back the marauding Indian, to your credit be it said. The trunk railroads, the Texas and Pacific, the Southern Pacific, and the Fort Worth and Denver, forever reclaimed the West from the Indians.

You have been more than compensated for what you did for the country. Some of you used these public school lands without paying for their use as long as you could safely do so, and to your discredit, you, the large lease-holder, with rare exceptions, have been the stumbling block and bar to the settlement of this portion of the State. You have by one means or another contested the approval of settlement inch by inch. Your tenure has been a long one. It is time that you quit this unseemly struggle, and bow to the inevitable.

The lease line is not abolished. It is certain that the next Legislature will be asked to abolish it, and that in an unqualified manner. Any attempt to compromise but makes it all the worse.

Let's not be afraid that all the leases will terminate at once, as Mr. Hawkins suggests, thus temporarily embarrassing the available school fund and crippling the schools. Some way will be found to avoid such a calamity, and if no other way is found I would suggest that the purchaser be required to pay a year's interest in advance, until we can catch up with what we have lost by these valuable leases.

C. H. EARNEST.

DANGEROUS BUSINESS.

Mr. E. P. Turner, General Passenger Agent, T. and P. Ry.:

Dear Sir—I feel that it is my duty to give you a little advice and information, for while you have snubbed me on all former occasions of this kind, and acted as though I had nothing to do with the transportation of

the Takes-its-time and Possibly-get-there railroad, I hold no malice toward you, and if I should get a letter from you asking for my advertising rates and suggesting that you still had a few thousand miles of unused transportation that you would like to dispose of in exchange for space in which to advertise your time table and summer picnic excursions, I would give you an immediate answer; but your road is addicted to some dangerous practices which ought to be attended to at once.

For instance, your westbound passenger trains, which came within several hours of being on time Wednesday, had a red flag attached to the rear end of the sleeper. As the train passed through Tom Smith's pasture, one of his Hereford bulls noticed the flag and made an assault upon it, with the result that after running fifty yards the bull dashed into the rear end of the sleeper with such force that he knocked off one horn and seriously gored a tourist who was abstractedly gazing upon prairie dog settlement.

One day a burro got on the track in front of your west-bound passenger train, and jogged along till the passenger train was so far behind that he couldn't see it, then he came back to town with the impression that he was a second Nancy Hanks. That evening he took some of his friends down to the track to show them how swift he was, and when he heard a train coming, he bounced upon the track and started off. It is to be regretted that this burro didn't know the difference between the relative speed of a west bound passenger train and a through freight. If he had possessed this amount of discriminating knowledge he would now be browsing on the village green, instead of posing as a pedigreed Kentucky Jack in a three hundred dollar damage suit.

Little boys have been in the habit of catching on to the rear end of the west bound passenger train, riding two or three miles up the track and dropping off with no more serious results than a whaling for being gone from home all day. This practice embodies no possible element of danger except that some boy is liable to think he can drop off a wing handcar just as he does. The west bound passenger trains, and then your road will be sued for a large amount of poignant grief and funeral expenses.

It has become a common practice for town-cows accustomed to burglarizing farmers' wagons, to follow along behind your westbound passenger train for several miles, poking their heads into the rear end of the Pullman sleeper, chewing up ingrain carpets and whatever valuables the slumberers may thoughtlessly leave within their reach. Owing to this practice on the part of the town-cows following your train a distance of eight or ten miles, and then foolishly waiting for another westbound passenger train, there is now a milk famine in this place.

I would suggest that you instruct the conductor not to let the boys ride for a distance of more than a half a mile, and if his parents have sent him anywhere in a hurry, it is the conductor's duty in behalf of haste to not let the boys fool around the train at all. Furthermore, that you make your porter walk along behind the train and drive back all cows attempting to follow it away.

P. S.—I believe if you would take some of your section crews and put them to work in the smoker, that they would succeed in finding, somewhere in the midst of the pile of debris that has accumulated therein, the remains of a friend of mine who was last heard of in transit from Fort Worth to this place. They might find several other valuables after going down in this litter for a distance of fifteen or twenty feet. In fact, a scientist ought to be called to analyze the mess. He could at least ascertain what kind of tobacco was used in the early ages.

If you want a cheap home, don't fail to write or come to see me. I control about twenty thousand acres of small, improved farms in Mitchell county, the lands being in bodies of from 160 to 3,000 acre tracts. If you ever expect to come to this country, now is the

time. Don't wait until land advances to double its present price.

L. E. LASSETER,
Colorado, Texas.

Senator Sebastian and W. L. Grogan are throwing chunks of the burning issue at one another, both being candidates for the State Senate, betting at present being seven hundred to 0 in favor of Sebastian. Heretofore Sebastian has been on the wrong side, but be it said to his credit he has been faithful to his ante-election pledges. He is now working hard to succeed himself, and is strictly against the lease law and favors material changes in the quarantine line, or rather law. Sebastian is a man of far more than ordinary ability, and if he promises to work for the abrogation of the lease law, no one need doubt his doing so, and no man in this district can accomplish more along those lines than he can. One thing that especially recommends Sebastian for re-election is the element that is now arrayed against him, championed by that noble monument of mud and moral filth, Hec-tor 'McEach-in.

If you want to get a nice, newsy newspaper, filled with beautiful literary jims,—pure extracts of mental microbes,—subscribe for the Josher, the retail price of which will be ten cents per copy hereafter, but in order to introduce it into every home between Northern Alaska and the terminating point of the Boer war, it will be sent to any address within the confines of the postal union from this date until the first of December for thirty-five cents. This offer will hold good until the first day of May, after which time the subscription price will be seven cents per year, or forty cents for six months. Country produce and cordwood received subject to a rigid inspection. Don't delay, as you may learn at any time, by reading a nicely written obituary by some "Dear Friend," what a good man the editor of the Josher was previous to his affiliation with Albert Hawkins and Bu-Journal McEach-in.

I understand that Albert Hawkins, during the trial of a land case in Scranton the other day, told the court that he would make affidavit as to the intention of the Legislature in regard to the prior right clause in the lease law. The editor of the Josher will make three affidavits to the effect that if Albert keeps on with his foolishness somebody will mistake him for a practical joker or a professional humorist.

It is unquestionably true that W. J. Miller, of Big Springs, will be a candidate for the Legislature, and his election is almost a certainty. He is the only man that ever ran for a Legislative office in this district and had the courage to tackle the lease law, and that, too, at a time when the position taken by him was not popular. He has never switched from the main track, although he ran into a carload of skunks at the representative convention two years ago, and was considerably bungled up and delayed, having a nomination which he had justly earned swiped from him during the melee. Miller deserves the office for the fight he has made and the manner in which he has been treated; and his political enemies will please keep quiet after making the mess they did two years ago.

I will guarantee to anyone subscribing for the Josher till November 1st, thirty thousand dollars' worth of hair, blood, lungs, liver and fractured horns of the lease law, all for thirty-five cents.

TO THE PEOPLE OF MITCHELL COUNTY.

The Constitution of Texas, adopted by the people in 1875, contained the following provision in Article 16, Section 20:

"The Legislature shall, at its first session, enact a law whereby the qualified voters of any county, justice's precinct, town or city may, by a majority vote, determine from time to time whether or not the sale of intoxicating liquors shall be prohibited within the prescribed limits."

In 1891 the people amended the Constitution, by adding after the word "city," the words "or such subdivision of a county as may be designated by the Commissioners' Court of said county." What is known as the local option law was accordingly enacted by the Legislature in 1876, and has been amended from time to time. The law provides that after the people vote for prohibition, the sale of intoxicating liquors is absolutely prohibited, except wines for sacramental purposes, and except in cases of actual sickness, upon the prescription of a regular practicing physician, such prescription being in the handwriting of a regular practicing physician, and certifying on his honor that he has personally and carefully examined the applicant, and that he finds him actually sick, stating the disease, and that he is in immediate need of an alcoholic stimulant, such as prescribed. No more than one quart can be sold on one prescription, which shall be sold at one time, and in one package, and delivered to the purchaser at the time of sale; it cannot be drunk on the premises where sold, nor on any other premises owned or controlled by the seller; there can be no more than one sale on one prescription, nor any sale on a prescription more than three days old. Every person who sells liquor in a local option county, even upon prescription, must give bond in the sum of \$2,500, binding himself and his sureties not to violate the law regulating the sale of liquor, nor to permit minors to remain on his premises or his place of business, except the house or place of a regular pharmacist, and not to permit any games prohibited by the laws of this State to be played in or about his place of business, nor to rent any part of his house or place of business to any one for the purpose of carrying on any business in violation of the local option laws or the penal laws of this State. For every violation of this bond the party and his sureties are liable in damages to any person injured thereby, and in addition it is the duty of the County and District Attorney to bring suit on such bond for \$250.00 for each violation, which sum goes into the county road fund. Any person selling liquor unlawfully in a local option county is also liable criminally in a fine not less than \$25 nor more than \$100, and imprisonment in the county jail not less than 20 nor more than sixty days. If any one not a regular practicing physician, or any physician directly or indirectly interested in the sale of liquor, shall give a prescription to be used in obtaining such liquors, or if a physician shall give such prescription to one not actually

sick, and without a prescription, shall be punished in the same manner as above. Any person found running a "blind tiger" is liable to confinement in the county jail not less than two nor more than twelve months, and to a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500. Parties shipping liquor from any point in this State into local option territory, C. O. D., and parties soliciting orders for liquor in local option territory, which orders are subsequently filled, are subject to the same punishment as other violators of the law.

We have recited the law thus at length because it has been claimed that if local option be adopted there is no protection against "blind tigers," and no protection against sales to minors, and because we wish the people to vote intelligently upon the question. Upon the petition of 265 qualified voters in Mitchell county, the Commissioners' Court has ordered an election to be held on TUESDAY, THE FOURTH DAY OF MARCH, 1902, at the several voting places in the county, to determine whether or not the local option law shall be put into effect in Mitchell county. The law requires that those favoring the closing of the saloons shall have written or printed on their tickets the words, "For Prohibition." Tickets must be on plain white paper, and the words must be in black ink or pencil, and no other words and no picture or mark of any kind must be on the ticket. A ticket reading, "For Local Option," or "Against Whiskey," or "Against Saloons," would not be counted. We urge the people to be on the watch for fraudulent tickets, and to see that every ticket is on white paper, and that the words "For Prohibition" and nothing else are written or printed on the ticket in black ink or pencil, so that all ground for contest may be avoided.

The local option has been adopted in nearly half the territories of Texas. In many of the most prosperous portions of the State it has been in force from ten to twenty years. Every county in the plains country now has prohibition. Prohibition and prohibitory laws have been tested, in the courts in every conceivable way, and have invariably been sustained. The Supreme Court of the United States, in the case of *Leisy vs. Hardin*, 135 U. S. Reports, Page 160, said:

"The protection of the safety, the health, the morals, the good order and the general welfare of the people is the chief end of government. *** Common experience has shown that the general and unrestricted use of intoxicating liquors tends to produce idleness, disorder, disease, pauperism and crime."

In the case of *Crowley vs. Christensen*, 137 U. S. Reports, Page 86, the same high court said:

"By the general concurrence of opinion of every civilized and Christian community, there are few sources of crime and misery to society equal to the dram shop, where intoxicating liquors, in small quantities, to be drunk at the time, are sold indiscriminately to all parties applying. The statistics of every State show a greater amount of crime and misery attributable to the use of ardent spirits obtained at these retail liquor saloons than to any other source. *** The police power of the State is fully competent to regulate the business—to mitigate its evils or to suppress it entirely. There is no inherent right in a citizen to thus sell intoxicating liquors by retail; it is not a privilege of a citizen of the State or of the United States."

He simply is going on. The right of the people of this State to adopt a local option law can not be questioned. It is a right secured by the constitution, adopted by an overwhelming majority of the people of this State.

It is said that the saloon men have invested money in their liquors and fixtures, have paid their license tax, and that to close them up would be a great wrong. But the saloon keeper went into the business with notice that the people reserved the right to adopt prohibition at any time, and he cannot justly complain that the people exercise their right. Besides, if prohibition is carried, the unexpired portion of his license is refunded to him, and he has about forty days after the election in which to sell out his stock on hand, before the law can go into effect.

Our county papers, with the exception of the one in which this appears, have seen proper to oppose prohibition. One of them has suggested that the "output" of saloons in the vicinity of Colorado is \$12,000, and the further intimation is thrown out that if the saloons are closed, the occupation tax of \$750 paid each year by the five saloons will be lost to the jury fund. If there is anything in such suggestions, it is that the money consideration should above all else determine one's position upon this question, which is essentially a moral question. In other words, we should agree to the disease, misery, pauperism and crime which the United States Supreme Court has said, and which our own observation shows result from the saloon business, if the "output" in money is made large enough. We do not believe the good people of Mitchell County will agree to such a proposition. The health and morals of the people, the interests of law and order in our county, are not to be measured in dollars and cents. But what about the "input" of these saloons? Why not give us the figures on that, showing what amount is taken in each year by the five saloons, and what the customer gets in exchange for his "input"? If the saloons take in \$30,000 yearly from the people, and pay out to the same people only \$12,000, it does not take a skilled financier to see that the saloon is a good investment for the proprietors, but a poor one for the customer.

The five saloons in Colorado pay to the county \$150 each, or a total of \$750 each year as occupation tax. The total value of taxable property in the county is \$2,538,864. If we admit that prohibition would cause a loss of \$750 to the county, and that this loss would have to be made up by a tax upon property, it would require a tax of only three cents on the \$100 of property to meet the deficiency. In other words, a citizen who pays taxes on \$1,000 worth of property would pay thirty cents each year to rid the county of the saloons. We cannot believe this will scare the taxpayers of Mitchell County into voting to retain the saloons. But the actual figures, as shown by the sworn reports of the county officers to the Commissioners' Court are that the total receipts to the jury fund of the county from all sources for the past twelve months were \$1,516.95, and the total amount paid out for jury service

been the decision of the Court and the Legislature of Texas.

during the same period is \$1,296.46. The cost for feeding prisoners in jail was \$308.25. If we vote out the saloons we will not need so many juries, and certainly the jail board bill will be smaller, so that there need be no fear that jury script will fall below par, especially when the law gives the Commissioners' Court power to transfer money from the general fund to the jury fund when needed. But this objection that closing saloons will reduce the county finances and increase taxes on property is completely met by the fact that of all the counties which have in the past twenty-five years adopted prohibition in Texas, not one has had to increase its taxes as a result of closing the saloons. This fact is worth more than all the dire prophecies of evil that may come from our opponents.

The same may be said of the argument that the adoption of prohibition will injure the legitimate business of a town, or depreciate the value of its property. The people of the many towns in Texas who have adopted prohibition and have retained it for years by increasing majorities are quite as intelligent and have as much business sagacity as our own very able business men, and it is asking too much to have us believe that these people would deliberately hold on to a condition that works ruin to their own localities. It is not in the power of any man to show the connection between the saloon and legitimate business,—how saloons tend to build up the dry goods, grocery or other reputable interests of a town or county.

But, after all, this question should be decided by every man on moral grounds, in the true interest, morally and socially, of his family and the people among whom he lives. Every good man should stand against that which breeds disorder, crime and misery to the people. No man can defend the saloon on moral grounds. Those who oppose prohibition are careful not to undertake the defense of the saloon. No one will dare claim that society is made purer, or that our people are made happier by the presence of saloons. Every one must admit the danger of debauching young men that exists where there are saloons. The prediction that the law will not be enforced is a reflection upon the officers of the county, for the law is enforced in some localities, and can as well be enforced here. We are not ready to believe that the officers of Mitchell County will prove either incompetent or unwilling to do their duty. But if officers shall fail in their duty, still the voter must face the question whether or not as a moral man, one who has at heart the moral, social and religious welfare of the county, he will give his approval to the perpetuation of the saloon evil in the county. The man who votes against prohibition votes for the saloon, whether he so intends or not, for the saloon is the direct beneficiary of his vote. This permission to the saloon to continue its well-known work may be given by a vote against prohibition, or by refraining from voting at all. According to all righteous law, divine or human, one is responsible not only for the evil he may do directly, and for the evil which he may influence others to do, but for the evil which exists through his failure to prevent it when he has the power to do so. The only hope of the saloons for

story in the coming election is in the future of the people to turn out and vote. With a full vote, Mitchell County is safe for prohibition by a good majority. We therefore urge every friend of the cause to exert himself toward securing a full vote. See that you are informed of the date of the election—TUESDAY, MARCH FOURTH—and that every vote possible to be secured shall be cast for prohibition. The time is short. Let every one use his best efforts to make the majority so large and emphatic that the sentiment of the people cannot be misunderstood. No better advertisement could be sent north for Colorado and Mitchell County as a desirable home for the best class of people who are looking toward the west, than the fact that our people have adopted prohibition and banished the saloons and gambling houses and other institutions that go with them.

J. S. M'CALL,
J. D. WULFJEN,
D. N. ARNETT,
H. C. CALDWELL,
J. E. HOOPER,
Committee.

THE BROTHERHOOD OF BALD-HEADED BACHELORS.

The forty-seventh thousand monthly meeting of the Brotherhood of Bald-headed Bachelors, which took place Friday night in their spacious quarters over the Woe-Sin Laundry, was a well attended and somewhat sensational affair.

After calling the meeting to order, president Felix Thurmond read seven choice selections from the riot act, and then said: "If the members of this club continue conducting themselves as they have for the past few weeks, the by-laws will have to be so amended as to enable myself and the janitor to constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business. One new member had five marriages in three months! If his business keeps up I think we had better change the name of this club to that of some matrimonial agency." Secretary Tom Stonewoad read the minutes of the last meeting, which were approved, after which the committee appointed to examine the books and funds of Treasurer Clarence Smith, submitted their report. The report showed that the treasurer now had on hand the sum of ten cents in the denomination of one-cent stamps, one box of matches, three pounds of candy, forty-seven gross of bachelor buttons; but the committee reported with much regret that the patent pants patcher and rip repairer, of which they had expected so much, had been thoroughly tested and proved a dismal failure.

The death roll showed that Lee Jones and Jim Weatherford had recently been killed, and further, that several other members were now under surveillance for anticipating the same offense.

Judge Royall Smith was employed to prosecute the cases of the Club vs. Ben Randals, McLyons, Tom Henderson, Ben Gray, B. Dellinger, J. D. Mitchell, Pete Hensley, Jim Gibson, C. Dortch, Earl Morrison, M. K. Jackson, George Washington, O. Der Bolz, Billy McCauley, J. H. Basden, Solomon Robinson, Stant Robinson, Sam Lasky, Ike McNew, Elbert Collins, Douglass Sherwin, Dave Harrell, William Waterbury, Waltermire and Victor Dziedzloch, who have been making goo-goo eyes at the

fair sex through a matrimonial agency, and whose names had been secured together with a vast amount of incriminating evidence by Colonel Clarence Woods, chief of the Club's secret service system. It seems that the Colonel put an advertisement in a matrimonial paper, alleging that he was a beautiful and wealthy young grass widow, and that he was pining for some one to call him dear, and now he has a large collection of the autographs of the accused.

Patrick Henry Brady of Clairemont, reported that he and Peter Scoggin had worked up a considerable interest in the Club at Clairemont, and that they would now like to organize under the auspices of the Colorado Club. Upon motion, the chair appointed Clarence Pylant, Charley Crawford, Will Morrison, Claud Gill, Richard Arnett, Jim Sheppard, Charley Martin, Anderson Barnes, O. Lambeth and Walter Stoneham, as a committee of public safety to confer with the distressed brethren of Kent County and assist them in quelling the matrimonial riot now threatening that section of country.

The presentation of medals of honor to those who have been members of the Club in good standing for a period of forty years, were awarded as follows: Con Harness, R. O. Pearson, Dr. Homan, J. R. Creath, Allen Jones, R. H. Crump, Richard Looby, George Crumb, George Bond, A. P. Bush, Cactus McBurnit, Walter Bell, William Bell, Urda Wulfjen, Jack Smith, Jim Gordan—last heard of in Coke County—Dr. Theo. Merrill, Gene Totten, Walter Fouch, Uncle Bill Brown, E. Cullen, Jim Patterson, Will Boatwright, John Collison and Otis Calk. The chairman took occasion to eulogize the conduct of these members, and said he hoped every one of them would live to participate in the next forty-fifth annual distribution of honor medals.

The bill of Frank Smith for forty-nine dollars' worthy of fancy confectioneries sold to various members and charged to the Club since its last meeting was disallowed, and the chairman stated in very emphatic language that if Mr. Smith was a member of the Club he would be fined to an amount exceeding the taxable value of several dozen confectionery stands, as it is all the Club can do now to prevent a regular epidemic of marriages, and that any man that would encourage such business by selling caramels, etc., on credit, ought to be arrested. Whereupon Mr. Smith threatened to expose every member of the Club. The President looked as though he would like to apologize and settle the whole bill, and appeared greatly relieved when J. Pat Homan moved that the bill be reconsidered and allowed. Mr. Smith got his money.

Douglass Burns, Maurice Terrell, Art Bailey, Colonel Ingram, alias High Pockets, were fined forty cents each and suspended from membership for a period of thirty days, which suspension may be made permanent unless they show a repentant spirit for having committed treason against the Club by aiding and abetting in a prominent social affair.

The case against Colonel Zeke Doyle, who was charged as being the principal perpetrator of the Cowboy's Christmas ball, was dismissed owing to the fact that not a member of the Club

could testify against the Colonel without incriminating himself.

The application of Tom Breedlove for membership was rejected on account of his name. The chairman appointed a committee to confer with the gentleman, and inform him that the Club was breeding more love now than the good of the order would permit, otherwise he would be gladly accepted into full membership.

Luther Robinson, Prince Edward the Seventh Jones, and Henry Doss were appointed a committee to arrange with the opera house manager for a special list of front seats for the Club in case the London Beauties show here this season.

Col. H. Air Craig lectured the Club on the beauties of being alone and independent in this world. While prowling around in his inside pocket for a handkerchief the Colonel had the embarrassing misfortune to spill a hat full of love letters and seven photographs on the floor, and came near creating a big demonstration by saying he had borrowed the coat from Tom Stanford. A committee of thirty was appointed to ascertain for certain who the coat belonged to and report accordingly.

Prof. M. Etjeffress, of British Columbia, and owner of the famous badger-killing dog, Tear-em-up, invited the Club to assist him and Col. Windy Williams, owner of the ferocious badger, Crockery, entertain a gentleman from Boston, who is due to arrive in a few days. The Club unanimously accepted the invitation.

The Club then sang the beautiful song which they are now trying to have Congress adopt as the National air, "All Hail the Man Who Invented the Bachelor Button," and adjourned.

Nearly all the newspapers in the voting end of the district are supporting Senator Sebastian for re-election, and the Bull Journal, alias Stockman, of this burg, is opposing him, which is equivalent to a unanimous indorsement of the Senator. The papers that are supporting him are edited by men of intelligence, independence and moral worth; are men for whom the people have respect and in whom they have confidence, while the he thing slopslinger on the Bull Journal is a thing, whose opposition to any man is the surest means of rallying all decent people to his support.

While a special train loaded with prominent officials of The Radford & Great Northern railroad, was rounding the curve just north of the thriving little town of Tackhammer, a burro mounted the track and shook hands with the cowcatcher, since which time there has been an over-production of kindling, scrap-iron and badly bunged up railroad magnates in that vicinity. It is understood that the owners of the road intend to sue the owner of the burro for very heavy damages.

Send thirty-five cents for "The Josher" from till "Lecture Day."

If you want a free ticket to the grand Skund Skinning Contest, that will take place from now until the election, send thirty-five cents for the Josher.

If you want to know what I think of the Lease Law send thirty-five cents for the Josher until after the Election and find out.

All postmasters are authorized to accept and receipt for subscriptions to the Josher.

ADDRESSED BY HAY

The Secretary of State Delivers Eulogistic Remarks

ABOUT THE LATE PRESIDENT.

President Roosevelt, Prince Henry and a Vast Number of Other Persons Attended the Exercises.

Washington, March 1.—At noon Thursday in the great hall of representatives, in the presence of President Roosevelt, Prince Henry of Prussia, brother of the German emperor, the members of the cabinet, the justices of the supreme court, the generals of the army and officers of the army and navy who have received the thanks of congress, the ambassadors and other diplomatic representatives of foreign countries, the senators and representatives in congress and a large number of distinguished guests, Hon. John Hay, McKinley's premier, pronounced a eulogy upon the dead chief.

Secretary Hay's oration was in part:

"The obvious elements which enter into the fame of a public man are few and by no means recondite. The man who fills a great station in a period of change, who leads his country successfully through a time of crisis; who, by his power of persuading and controlling others, has been able to command the best thought of his age so as to leave his country in a normal or material condition in advance of where he found it—such a man's position in history is secure. If, in addition to this, his written or spoken words possess the subtle quality which carry them far and lodge them in men's hearts; and, more than all, if his utterances and actions, while informed with a lofty morality, and yet tinged with the glow of human sympathy, the fame of such a man will shine like a beacon through the mists of ages—an object of reverence, of imitation and love. It should be to us an occasion of solemn pride that in the three great crises of our history such a man was not denied us.

"There is not one of us but feels prouder of his native land because the august figure of Washington presided over its beginning; no one but vows it a tendered love because Lincoln poured out his blood for it; no one but must feel his devotion for his country renewed and kindled when he remembers how McKinley loved, revered and served it, showed in his life how a citizen could live, and in his last hour taught us how a gentleman could die."

GOOD STORIES COMPILED FOR THE BENEFIT OF JUNIOR READERS.

The Land of Lazy-Ho—Chinese Legends
Tell of a Wonderful Artist—Queer
Optical Illusion—How to Regulate
Your Watch by a Star.

Lazy-Ho.

There is a land called Lazy-ho,
Where girls and boys are free, you
know;
With never a cross old aunty there,
To scold or comb out tousled hair!
There, all the clothes are soiled and
rent,
And no boy is on an errand sent
When he is busy having fun;
But every lass and laddie may
Play tag or shoot a really gun,
And have molasses every day!
In this far-distant Lazy-ho
There's no such thing as a stubbed
toe!
But bon-bons grow on apple trees,
And sugar plums are thick as bees!
The water is as sweet as milk,
And every doll is dressed in silk!
There is no school in Lazy-ho,
Nor any "chores" that must be done—
No sums to do, no corn to hoe,
But toys galore for every one!
—Thomas Emmet Moore in Cincinnati
Enquirer.

For Busy Hands.

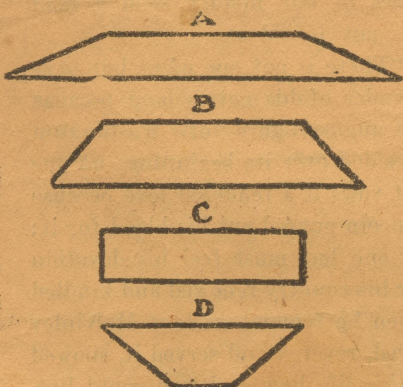
According to a Chinese legend, says
the Cincinnati Commercial Tribune,
there lived in Canton 290 years be-
fore Christ an artist named Lim-Kao-
Poung, who won an immortal reputa-
tion owing to the fact that he was able
to fashion out of a bean pod a boat,
complete with rudder, sails mast and
all other necessary appurtenances.
Moreover, on the exterior of the boat
were engraved various maxims by Con-
fucius. For this masterpiece, it is said,
the Emperor Tsi-Fou paid him 1,000
taels.

In these days pretty baskets are
made out of hazelnuts and chestnuts,
and heads of peacocks and parrots are
deftly fashioned from the stones of
apricots. It is with orange peel, how-
ever, that the most attractive, though
not the most durable, work can be
done.

With a few skillful incisions of the
penknife, the eye, nose and lips of a
man or woman can be cut out of such
peel, and by placing a suitable cap on
top the oddity of the countenance is
remarkably increased. Furthermore,
much fun may be obtained by placing
this head on a handkerchief which
rests on a tumbler; for, if one of the
four corners of the handkerchief be
then gently pulled, the head will wag
most comically to one side, and as it
has no neck the effect produced is most
ludicrous.

Optical Illusion.

The accompanying figures show a
complete little optical illusion. The
top line of figure A seems longer than
the top line of figure B, which seems
longer than the top line of figure D.
Yet the four top lines are all of the



same length. The explanation lies in
the varying slopes of the side lines.

The journey of a bottle from Central
Illinois to the Pacific Ocean has just
been announced through the receipt of
a letter by Walter Roeder of Bloom-
ington, Ill., from Jesse Wilson of San-
ta Monica, Cal., saying he had found,
off the coast of California, a bottle
which contained a letter written by
Roeder. The letter was written on
Jan. 27, 1900. After being placed in
the bottle the receptacle was cast into
the waters of the Mackinaw river, ten
miles west of Bloomington. The bot-
tle must have followed the river until
the confluence with the Illinois was
reached, and thence floated to the Mis-
sissippi, and through the Gulf of Mex-
ico to the Atlantic ocean. Ocean cur-
rents are supposed to have carried the
bottle around Cape Horn and thence
up the Pacific coast.

Bird in Wood.

Here is a very interesting freak of
Mother Nature reproduced from a pho-
tograph taken from the original wood.
It was discovered in a sawpit in which



a 25-foot sycamore tree was being con-
verted into plank, and so cleverly were
the outlines of the bird marked that
the sawyer stopped his machinery and
saved the section of wood as a curios-
ity. "The tree was about 25 feet long,"
says the sawyer. "I had to crosscut
into lengths about 19 feet long, the
other lengths being six feet. About
half way down one of these shorter
pieces there was a dark knot one and a
half inches in diameter after slabbing.
By the old process of hand-pit sawing
a two-inch plank was taken off this
piece, and there, on the other side,
were the outlines of the bird, as shown
in the picture."

An Aeronaut's Danger.

A miraculous escape is related on the
part of an aeronaut named Mousset,
who made an ascent at Bordeaux a few
days ago. When he had reached a
height of about 500 yards, a large rent
suddenly appeared in the envelope. The
gas escaped freely, and the balloon,
folding in two, commenced to descend
with frightful rapidity towards the
Garonne. The terror-stricken specta-
tors gave up the aeronaut as lost, but
when he was a hundred yards from the
surface of the river Mr. Mousset threw
himself from the car and disappeared
headlong into the water. When he
came up again he was pulled into a
boat, being much scared, but evidently
none the worse for his marvelous ad-
venture.

Sports Arrange Man Hunt.

Hurricane Branch, constable of
Nansemond county, Va., famous as a
bloodhound sleuth, has arranged for a
man hunt, to take place from here
within the next ten days. A white man
will be given two hours' start and his
bloodhounds, Tige and John, put on
the scent. The dogs will be followed
by a large number of society sports on
horses. Should the dogs locate their
scent, the man will have to climb a tree
to save his life. Branch arranged a
man hunt for Richmond last year, but
owing to denunciation by the press
the Richmond society sports, under
whose auspices the chase was arranged
abandoned it.

History of the Bicycle.

Just fifty years ago there died in
Helmshagen, Germany, Baron Karl Von
Drais, who was, the Germans claim, the
inventor of the bicycle. The anniver-
sary of this event was not celebrated
with pomp even in his native city
though by his invention he founded
one of the most important of modern
industries. Though in America the
bicycle is not as much the rage as it
was some years ago, it is finding in-
creased favor on the European conti-
nent and in the vast Oriental countries
most of the best makes being manufac-
tured in the United States, where last
year the industry made a record.

Windows of Stone.

In a new building attached to some
boiler works in Germany, a novelty in
windows has been introduced. Light
is introduced through stone windows.
The ordinary panes of glass were im-
practicable on account of the nearness
of the works to the railway lines, so
pneumatic glass stones have been used.
From the outside the appearance is the
same as the so-called "Butzen" panes.
They are translucent, and, at the same
time, as strong as the stone wall in
which they are set. They will with-
stand any pressure or blow that the
walls will stand.

The German Census.

The German census, which started
December 1, 1900, and has just been
finished, gives some interesting facts.
There are 442 cities with a population
between 10,000 and 100,000 each. In
1816 the German empire had 24,833,000
inhabitants; in 1855, 36,114,000; and
in 1900, 56,345,000. In the year 1816,
Prussia had 13,709,000 inhabitants; in
1855, 21,320,000, and in 1900, 34,463,000.
The enormous increase in the large
cities of Germany is said to be due to
the retrograde movement in agricul-
ture, which has driven people from the
country.

Sta-

w-

Measured by Music.

A learned scientist has recently
shown how the velocity of the wind
can be reckoned by noting the musical
pitch of the sound given out when the
wind blows across a stretched wire.
The principal elements on which the
calculation is based are the diameter
of the wire and the temperature of the
air. The length of the wire is immater-
ial, so long as it is not changed. Ev-
ery variation in the wind's velocity is
faithfully represented by the rising or
falling of the pitch of the note sung by
the wire.

Noiseless Alarm Clock.

A noiseless alarm clock would be
a boon to a host of sufferers from un-
seasonable din, says the Electrical Re-
view. It is suggested that a silent
alarm can be given by focusing an
electric lamp upon the head of the per-
son to be awakened, and arranging a
switch so that the current to light the
lamp would be turned on by the clock
at the desired time. It is claimed
that the flashlight would invariably
arouse the sleeper.

"Royal Bacon."

Happy is the citizen of Clifton in the
advantages offered him at his break-
fast table. A circular issued by a
local firm has the large heading, "Roy-
al Bacon," but does not refer to Sir
Francis and the rumored maternity of
Queen Elizabeth. It is to announce
as "now on show and sale, bacon from
pigs bred and fed by his majesty the
king."—London Chronicle.

Costliest Feathers.

The tail feathers of the fariwah, a
rare member of the bird of paradise
family, are the most expensive known,
and the only tuft existing in Great
Britain is valued at \$50,000.

People's Cap Sea.

Holland farmers play a trick on
crows which keeps the birds away from
their grain fields. To make small cornucopias of stout paste
smearing the inner side with bird
or some sticky substance. These
filled with a few grains of corn
stood about the field by sticking
points into the earth. Down comes
Crow, thinking himself in great luck
to find so much corn ready for him.
He tries to peck at it. Lo, a fool's
sticks to his head. He cannot get
off. His friends are scared, too,
they see him scrambling and stag-
gering about, for he cannot see which
to go. After he tears the sticky
loose he vows that he will never
near that field again. This method
of keeping crows away is better than
shooting them, as they are at all times
very interesting birds, and the damage
they do to the growing corn is in-
significant compared to the great good
they do all through the year by de-
stroying millions of injurious insects.

Fish and Dog Fight.

While a young man was strolling
the beach one day along with his mas-
tiff he noticed a singular disturbance
of the water a little way from the
shore and called the dog's attention
to it. The animal took to the water and
swam out to a sandbank. Hardly had
he reached the spot before a big fish
in pursuit of a whiting, darted in from
of him. The dog chased it and caught
it and brought it to the bank. The fish
showed fight and bit the mastiff badly
about the muzzle. In the course
the struggle the fish reached the water
and bolted. The mastiff dashed after
it, seized it and fetched it once more
the sandbank. But the fish was still
game and went for the dog valiantly.
This time, however, the mastiff mea-
it to be a fight to a finish, and though
the fish escaped again into the sea
was only for a few moments. It was
hauled back to the bank and soon ki-
ed. The dog's master found it to
a huge hake, seventy pounds in weight
full of whiting.

Don't Slight the Left Hand.

Because the right one generally
the stronger and more skilful, we are
likely to keep the other back, so
speak, and make it less strong and less
skilful than before.

Be more impartial with your hands
than you are naturally disposed to be.
Trust the left one with a few matters
that require strength or skill. Perhaps
without too much trouble you can be-
come ambidextrous, so that you can
use one hand about as well as the
other. Garfield did and always held
that it was a great advantage.

It is a good idea to give the left hand
plenty to do. There are numberless
ways in which it can be given
chance.

There was once a clerk who spent
little of his spare time in learning to
write with his left hand. He soon af-
terward sustained a hurt to the right
one, so that he must have been out of
work for some weeks but for his timely
caution.

Try This Trick.

There is a good deal of fun in the
more for the onlookers than for the
who try to do it, in the following
trick. Several persons can take part
in the game, and each must stand on
his right foot, hold his left foot behind
his back with his right hand and grasp
his right ear with his left hand. When
all the players are in this position a
newspaper or some other object which
is about six inches in height is placed
on the ground, and each player is to
hop toward it and do his utmost to
catch it with his teeth and raise it to
his own height. Those who succeed in
doing this are hailed as winners, while
those who do not succeed have to pay
a forfeit.