

the power represented in the downpour will soon be the direct or indirect means by which the machinery of mills, factories and elevators will be operated; it will run railway trains, such as are geared to electricity, and appearances are that it is not to be long before all of them will be so arranged. We are truly on the verge of great revolutions, in mechanism and otherwise.

INCOME TAX OF EUROPE.

THE question of taxation is more or less a burning one in every country. In the United States several schools of reformers in this line are coming into prominence. We have the advocates of the single tax as interpreted and expounded by Henry George. We have advocates of direct taxation and of graduated income taxes. The disciples of the latter school will find some comfort in the fact that Portugal, a country on the verge of bankruptcy, has introduced a progressive system of taxes, running from five to twenty per cent. on incomes. Those who receive \$450 to \$750 a year must pay five per cent. into the royal treasury. Incomes of \$1,660 a year, and over, must pay twenty per cent.

The income tax is not a new development in Europe. In England, though at first introduced as a temporary measure, it is now one of the most firmly established institutions in the British system of revenues.

Germany has had for a long time a graduated system of income tax, extending in some cases to persons whose incomes are not really adequate for family support. So it is with most if not all the European nations—some form of this kind of tax prevails.

The system was never popular in the United States, even in war times, when it existed. However, there are many wise economic writers today who believe that an income tax applied to the possessors of large fortunes would not be at all out of place.

NEW YORK SUCCESSION TAX.

THE New York Legislature has under consideration a measure providing for a succession tax on real and personal property. On the market value of the latter passing to husbands, wives, parents, children, etc., by will or intestacy, a tax of one per cent. is contemplated. On real property passing in the same manner, a tax of five per cent. on the market value is also to be imposed. There is a proviso, however, which exempts personal property to the value of \$10,000. It is said that there is no exemption in the matter of real estate. The exemption in the personal property tax seems fair enough, inasmuch as it excludes the working and industrial classes, whose personal effects rarely exceed the \$10,000 limit.

In the case of small real estate owners the tax, it would appear, might be a real hardship. A small farm worth \$10,000 passing into the hands of a widow and children would be taxed \$500. A bill of this kind as applied to vast estates may have some reason behind it, but as applied to

small properties it looks like confiscation. Economic reformers contend that the owners of large estates do not contribute to taxation in proportion to their possessions. The taxgatherer is cheated on every possible occasion by false returns and perjured statements. By placing the succession tax false returns are obviated, and the real value of property ascertained by reason of probate procedure.

MINERAL PRODUCTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE census bulletin devoted to mineral products in the United States, contains some interesting figures. Fifty-five varieties of minerals are named, and grouped into metallic and non-metallic. In 1880 the metallic products were about \$190,000,000, and in 1889 \$269,590,000, an increase of nearly 42 per cent. The non-metallic products in 1880 were \$173,279,000, in 1889 \$307,600,000, thus showing an increase of nearly 78 per cent.

From 1880 to 1890 the increase in the production of bituminous coal was 123 per cent., and in anthracite 59 per cent. The increase in the production of iron ore for the same period was over 100 per cent. Aluminium was not reported in 1880, 1881, and 1882; in 1883 83 pounds were produced valued at \$10.50 a pound, in 1889 47,468 pounds were produced, valued at \$2.05 per pound. The price of this mineral at present is less than \$1.00 a pound.

Copper shows an increase in production of over 282 per cent., lead 87 per cent., zinc about 153 per cent., and silver about 69 per cent. Quicksilver shows a decrease of about 56 per cent., nickel 23 per cent., and gold from \$36,000,000 in 1880 to \$33,000,000 in 1889, a decrease of about 9 per cent.

The sales of mineral waters increased from 2,000,000 gallons in 1880 to nearly 13,000,000 in 1889. The production of petroleum varied from 32,000,000 barrels in 1880 to 35,000,000 in 1889. The first report of the production of natural gas was made in 1882, when the amount produced was valued at \$215,000; the value of gas produced in 1889 is put at \$21,000,000. The total value of all minerals produced in the United States in 1880 was \$369,000,000, in 1889 \$587,000,000.

ENGLAND ON THE PACIFIC.

ESQUIMAULT, the British Pacific naval station is now an object of wide attention. It is situated about three miles from Victoria, the capital of Vancouver's Island. The harbor is perhaps the most secure in the world. Safe anchorage is afforded the heaviest vessel during the fiercest storms. In fact it is very nearly landlocked. The surrounding country is excellently adapted for fortifications, and already a line of batteries mounted on the peninsula can be made effective in case of war.

At Esquimault are stored all the government supplies including immense magazines of all kinds of ammunition. The graving docks completed some time ago cost \$10,000,000.

They can accommodate the largest ship in the British navy.

Rail and road communication between Esquimault and Victoria has long been established. Along the coast great batteries have been located commanding the Straits of Fuca. They afford absolute protection from foreign invasion by the channel. In case of war, provision is being made for mounting gigantic guns at other points on Vancouver Island. It is thought that England contemplates making Esquimault a great naval station, so that in a short time it may become the Malta of the Northern Pacific.

PERRY'S PECULIARITIES.

PERRY, of Syracuse, N. Y., the daring and intrepid train robber, is now a subject of investigation by philosophers and religionists. It is said that he is and has been from birth, totally destitute of anything like a moral nature. At fourteen he was convicted of burglary. He turned up next in Minnesota, where he robbed his uncle, who was trying to help him. Later he killed a man in Montana, where for some time he acted as a cowboy.

After an adventurous career in the West, he again turned his footsteps to the East. In manner and appearance he is prepossessing. His voice is soft and sweet, and his brow lofty and indicative of thought. In the East he made himself prominent in religious circles. He was always sure to be known at the rooms of Young Men's Christian Associations.

All through Perry's vicious life, and he is only 27, his outward actions and demeanor bespoke the perfect man in morality and conduct, that is as regards his attitude to the world and his associates. While employed as a brakeman for the New York Central railroad, he wrote to the officials, saying that his conscience hurt him because he had to work on Sundays. The officials finding that he bore a reputation for sanctity, gave him Sundays off, lest they might be charged with interfering with the religious convictions of an employee. This is only one of the innumerable hypocritical pretensions that are now being related about him.

THE WORLD'S FAIR ORATOR.

THE Hon. W. C. P. Breckenridge, of Kentucky, has been selected by the National Commission to deliver the oration at the inauguration of the Columbian Exposition in Chicago on next 12th of October. Several of the extreme organs of the Republican party are not pleased with the selection. While conceding that the famous Kentuckian stands in the foremost rank of orators, yet they claim that in all his speeches he interjects party politics, whether delivered at a school commencement or at a festival banquet.

It is also asserted that the great orator always wears Confederate gray because of his devotion to the lost cause, and that if he should appear at Chicago in clothing of this color his personal safety could not be guaranteed.