

The Oregonian

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TODAY'S WEATHER: Fair, with northwest wind, drifting to southwest.

PORTLAND, SATURDAY, FEB. 24.

TAXATION AND STATE REVENUES.

It is commonly asserted that the main reason why the Assessors do not make higher valuations of property is the desire of the people of each county to keep down their proportion of the State tax.

Some dozen years ago a commission appointed by the Legislature, consisting of prominent citizens, among whom were the late Judge Strahan, Henry Palling and Senator Hughes, to "examine the matters of assessment and taxation in this State," made a report which embodied better suggestions than any made since.

Good times, hard money, the explosion of the silver theory, enlarged business and abundant employment were the conditions which the Populists followed.

COMMISSION ON ORIENTAL TRADE.

The surest way to extend American trade in the Orient is to know how to go about it. Experience has taught that the Orientals do not take to our system of drumming up orders through a sales agent and a small line of samples.

THE RIVER AND HARBOR BILL.

While every section of the Coastline districts is to a greater or less extent interested in the passing of a river and harbor bill, the announcement that so such bill will be presented during the present session of Congress

for by the insertion of an item of \$15,000,000 in the budget for 1907. There is, moreover, an unexplained balance available for this class of work of \$30,000,000, so that the failure to pass a river and harbor bill at this session of congress will nowhere be seriously felt.

FUSION AND CONFUSION.

It would seem that the subcommittee appointed by the Populist State Committee to draft an address showing "the necessity of continuing the People's party organization," strayed from its mission.

Fusion of the Populists and Democrats of Oregon gives it slight hope of success, even if it should be accomplished. There is no certainty that the parties will fuse or can fuse.

In spite of the fact that the Democratic State Committee adjourned last month without sending a message of peace, and that many of its members are in favor of dropping silver and Bryan and of reconciliation with the gold wing of the party, the Populists

The British forces will be obliged to live for the most part on supplies transported from the seaports or from inland railway bases, like Kimberley, Mafeking and De Aar Junction, until the railway bridges at Norval's Pont and Beulah are rebuilt, and then the march could be pushed along the railway line to Bloemfontein, Kroonstad, Johannesburg and Pretoria.

The death of Mrs. John Myers closes the record of a useful, faithful, unobtrusive life that enriched by womanly devotion to the duty that lay nearest the community life of which it was a part for more than half a century.

The latest amendment which is reported to be seeking attachment to the shipping subsidy bill is offered by Senator McBride. It provides that 20 per cent of the moneys appropriated for subsidies shall go to ships on the Pacific Coast.

According to Frick, who has managed the Carnegie properties for years, the net profits of the Carnegie Company last year were \$2,000,000, and he estimates the profits for 1905 at \$4,000,000.

MILITARY TRANSPORT IN SOUTH AFRICA.

General Sherman, in his "Memoria," says that one of the chief reasons which impelled him to start from Atlanta for the sea was the practical impossibility of keeping open his existing line of railway communications to Nashville, owing to the raids of the enemy upon his rear.

Sherman admitted that, even with the railroads, his campaign would have been impossible "unless we had had the means and the men to maintain them. In addition to what were necessary to overcome the enemy," yet Sherman had, besides the railroad, the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers, that were to a considerable extent available for transportation.

Inquiry is made whether the proposed amendment of the Constitution, on "initiative and referendum," so-called, is to be voted on at the general election in June. It is not. It has been adopted or proposed only once by the Legislature.

Roger Q. Mills—"Mills of Texas"—announces that he is not only not a candidate for governor of that state, but would not take the job if every man, woman and child of the commonwealth were to make personal appeal to him to accept it.

One would think, from the slowness and seeming reluctance of voters to register as preliminary to the exercise of the highest duty of citizenship, that the franchise was the least prized of all the privileges guaranteed by a free government.

Russia's long-coveted opportunity in Persia seems likely to be hastened by a revolt in Kurdistan, the seriousness of which, it is held, calls for the presence of Russian troops.

Certainly the bullepen in Idaho, where the rioters and murderers were confined last year, was an unattractive place. But it was even better than that deserved.

The Roberts Guard. In picking out a squadron of 100 Irishmen for special service, Lord Roberts acts from experimental knowledge of that people, and it is a safe forecast that they will be heard from in a way creditable to their skill and courage.

Profits Two Millions a Month. Toledo (Ohio) News. According to Frick, who has managed the Carnegie properties for years, the net profits of the Carnegie Company last year were \$2,000,000, and he estimates the profits for 1905 at \$4,000,000.

The failure of a carriage building company at Concord, N. H., which made the first Concord coach in 1833, will call to mind the "Concord coach," which did so much to help the Empire on its Westward way.

THE INDIAN FAMINE.

It will Slay Thousands Where War Kills Hundreds. Chicago Tribune. Three and four years ago there was a lack of rain throughout extensive regions in India.

There is famine in India now. Its extent was declared official by Lord Curzon three months ago. At that time 30,000,000 people were involved and only 50,000 persons were on the relief lists.

During the last Indian famine hundreds of thousands of pounds were subscribed in England and the United States. There are no subscriptions now.

The moral of the Macrum case is clear enough. The consul at Pretoria instantly became governmental etc. He knew it and a little more.

He says that "American interests in South Africa were in jeopardy which demanded that the Department of State should be cognizant of them."

Statement from Mr. Hammond. PORTLAND, Feb. 23.—(To the Editor.)—This morning's Oregonian contained an article on the 12th page, under the head of "Rate War About to End."

As surely as in the year 1898 the state of Cuba was a scandal not to be endured by a civilized country, so are the existing relations between the United States and Puerto Rico scandalous and unendurable.

For the Guidance of Shoppers. San Francisco Call. Clerk to employer—"What shall I mark that new lot of black silk?"

For the Guidance of Shoppers. Chicago Tribune. The jawlinths who were chiefly in evidence at the late anti-trust conference were exceedingly severe on the newspapers.

John Baskin. F. W. Bourdillon in the Spectator. Queened is the lamp, even in its flickering glow.

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DIARY OF THE AFRICAN WAR.

The most remarkable thing about Lord Roberts' tactical victory over the Boers is that in an unfriendly country, like North Cape Colony, where every man sympathizes with the Boers, but will not risk the loss of his farm, he should have been able to execute his plan so perfectly.

The Boers ordinarily make 30 miles a day. Cronje made 33 miles in a single night's march; which indicates that he made a forced march and was ignorant of the nearness of Lord Roberts' main column.

It is extraordinary that the Boer spies, who are omnipresent in North Cape Colony, should have been so dull, while Lord Roberts massed 50,000 men for the invasion of the Orange Free State.

On Monday, the 12th, the action began, which was an attempt to turn the Boer position by a march around its left or eastern flank.

It looks as if Cronje never appreciated his danger until French dashed through his communications, and that he probably did not begin his retreat from his lines at Magerfontein before the morning of the 15th.

Be Fair to Puerto Rico. New York Mail and Express, Rep. Possibly the advocates of a tariff barrier against Puerto Rico will find some difficulty in the House of Representatives next week when they endeavor to recon- sider the wisdom of the State de- partment in granting him permission to come home, and in sending his successor with all possible promptness.—Kansas City Journal.

What a policy it is for a Nation like that of our country, and which is commercially strong beyond comparison, to hold a tariff club over these people whom we have forced under our flag—and say to them, "effort you to get along with us only so far as it is to our advantage to permit you to be; whenever there is the slightest prospect that you will get as much out of trading with us as we will receive from you—whenever that prospect reaches it is to be the line of separation between us as a common country!"

A Matter of Honor. New York Sun, Rep. As surely as in the year 1898 the state of Cuba was a scandal not to be endured by a civilized country, so are the existing relations between the United States and Puerto Rico scandalous and unendurable.

Lord Rosebery's Speech. Brooklyn Eagle Ind. Dem. In his speech in the House of Commons, Lord Rosebery described the fighting in South Africa as "a life and death crisis."

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

General Cronje ought to be happy. Things are coming his way fast enough now.

The Ashland Tidings has issued a creditable special edition showing the progress of Ashland and the Rogue River Valley. Half-tone views of public buildings, residences, landscape and mines, and well-written descriptions make an attractive souvenir.

A new dramatic star is in the firmament. A paper in Arkansas says: "A Hot Springs girl who has been told that she recites pathetic pieces with the artist's sob in her throat, will go East in May to study, though her mother really needs her on wash days and her father can't afford the money."

A correspondent wants to know how much gold there is in circulation. We don't know; but we do know there isn't as much as everybody wants, never was, never will be. That's the reason why people are going to rust off by Cape Cod in the spring, buying their outfits in Portland.

A citizen of Portland has just perfected a burner for using coal oil, gasoline and air for heating and cooking purposes. He says it will save the citizens of the City of London \$90,000,000 in one year.

It is fairly startling to see how exactly the ideas of the Port Townsend Leader and The Oregonian agree on many subjects, and how the two papers express themselves in identical terms.

Just what the result of the decision of the School Board to enforce payment of tuition fees for nonresident pupils in the public schools in the city, cannot yet be fully determined. So far, it has resulted in a shower of applications for free tuition, and the receipt of but little money as tuition fees.

Philippine Army Scandal. Washington Star. "I suppose there is a great deal of jealousy among your Generals," says the Philippine chief, gloomily. "We have an army scandal at hand. The man who claims to hold the record for long-distance pretzels is accused of violating the rules of such contests, and will be 'punch-maker'."

Gives Seed to Example. Boston Transcript. Mummeo—I notice that you stick to one kind of wine when you dine at Chamberlain's and never touch any of the others. Brutwin—Neither does the butler.

Truth and Falshood. Kansas City Independent. List to a tale which is the life of all who wit and sense administered—it is very clear—Some ages prior to Matthew Prior.

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