# The Oregonian.

Entered at the Postudice at Portland, Oregon,

TELEPHONES. Billorial Booms .... 108 | Business Office ... REVISED SUBSCRIPTION BATES. 

with Sunday, per year ..... day, per your .. To City Subscribers— Dully, per week, delivered, Sundays excepted.150 Dully, per week, delivered, Sundays included.200

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Fuget Sound Bureau-Captain A. Thompson, office at 1111 Facilio syenue, Taccoma. Box 853, Taccoma posteofice.

Eastern Pusiness Office—The Tribune build-ing New Tork city; "The Rockery," Chicago; the E. C. Rechwith special agency, New Tork. For sale in San Pruncisco by J. K. Cooper, 165 Market street, near the Pulmos hotsl, and at Goldennith Bros., 255 Sutter street. For sale in Chicago by the P. O. News Co., 251 Dearborn street.

TODAY'S WEATHER-Pair, with northwest

PORTLAND, SATURDAY, PEB. 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. The Oregonian is by no means sure that this is the leading First, there is reasonable question what the actual cash value of real property is. Undoubtedly it is far below what it was supposed, ten years ago. It may be doubted whether the property valuations of any county in the State, by the last assessment, could be realized in cash within the next years. Indeed, it is certain they could not be, Again, the people desire low or moderate assessments as a means not merely of keeping down the State tax, but more especially as a means of keeping down the county and local expenditure. They know that if the valmattens were doubled there would be much more money raised and spent; for officialdom never can get enough They believe, therefore, that the most effective method of economy is to hold down the revenue. This could not or would not be done upon high or full

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 "exsmine the matters of assessment and taxation in this State," made a report which embodied better suggestions than any made since. But the sugges-tions received no attention from the Legislature. Among them were outlines of a plan for doing away practically with the State tax collected through the agency of the counties, and for obtainment of State revenues by direct tax on gross earnings of insurance, express, telephone, railroad and eleoping-our and other companies, to be paid directly into the State Treasury. Confidence was expressed by the commission that in a little time, in Oregon, as in other States, the direct taxes un these sources would entirely provide for the expenses of the State government. This, it was said, would at once put an end to the undervaluation of property, on the part of the counties, now resorted to for the purpose of tax, and would obviate the necessity of a State Board of Boundization.

it had been careful in its recommenda- gon. tions, and had gone only as far as b and still remain within the limitations prescribed by our fundamental law. It reported that it had taken the Constitution, as interpreted by our highest courts, and by courts of last resort in those States where similar provisions prevail, and had conformed its bill to such interpretations. Upon some of the matters discussed in the report. Judge Strahan did not agree with the other six members of the commission; but his dissent was not on constitutional grounds. bused chiefly on the doubt whether the volume of the business of the railway and other corporations at that time was sufficient to produce, at the rate of taxistion proposed, money enough to meet the requirements of the State

The Orogonian believes that the time has come for a new study of this subject, on the lines pursued by the comcussion appointed under the act of 1885, If a method can be devised of obtainby the State revenues through indi bert taxation, to supersede the inefficlent and unsatisfactory system of toluntary contribution by the counties for this is practically what the presvoi system is—a cause of complaint would be removed, through better equalization of the burdens of taxation,

#### THE RIVER AND HARBOR BILL.

While every section of the Constlying districts is to a greater or less zons interested in the passing of a river and harbor bill, the announce cept that no such bill will be presented during the present session of Congress will not cause dismur. The character The reasons that induced the House cumities on rivers and harbers to oder this decision can readily be conctured, though these reasons have not on given. The expediency, to say the of, of keeping within a certain limit the national expenses, abnormally in--ased by the cost of operations in the bilippines and Puerto Rico, is readily ognized. Those who have been from which the national revenue is dethe suspension of the river and harappropriation and cease vexing the air with their protests. If it is necesmary or even prudent to withhold the river and harbor appropriation, it is Chrious that the revenues of the govment are not appreciably, if at all, in excess of the national needs.

It may be well to understand, however, that there will be no interruption inder contract under the general head of river and harbor improvements. The completion of these contracts, or their

000,000 in the sundry civil appropriation There is, moreover, an unexpended 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. The amounts still available for work on the rivers and harbors of Oregon and Washington have lately been published, and it is not nec essary to give them in detail at this time. Suffice it to say that the people of these sections can regard the situation with equanimity, since work will go forward without interruption from Coos Bay north to Gray's Harbor, and at the several intermediate points where channels and harbors are being improved by the government, under the direction of its engineer corps.

#### 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 Instead of recommending Populist candidates and Populist Issues as the best method of maintaining sep- try." arate party organization, the address discusses national issues, condemns and hints, like the bumpkin Macrum, at a secret alliance between this country and Great Britain. Not a word is said s shown why the Populists should stay out of the enemy's camp and keep in the path of duty for which the majority of Populists think the party was organized.

Fusion of the Populists and Demo crats of Oregon gives but slight hope of success, even if it shall be accomplished. There is no certainty that the parties will fuse or can fuse. They formed a close alliance in 1898, and the result was confusion, treachery and stinging defeat. The Middle-of-the-Road element bolted and nominated a separate ticket. A large number of Populists, disgusted with fusion, and eing no show for the Middle-of-the-Road ticket, stayed away from the polls. The fusion of the conventions did not extend to the voters. Demo-crats slaughtered Populists and Populists slaughtered Democrats. The Republican candidates gained many votes from Democrats who would not vote for a Populist, and from Populists who would not vote for a Democrat. The bitterness engendered would, it was thought, forever settle any future attempt at fusion.

In spite of the fact that the Demo cratic 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 have again shown a desire that amounts almost to anxiety to combine for 1900. They may be deluded enough to think they can win, but surface indications are that they are cunningly seeking an opportunity to revenge the treachery for 1898. They may fuse the issues and the candidates, but they cannot fuse the rank and file. Neither expostulation, remonstrance, entreaty nor coercion can whip into line the votes represented by the five committeemen who voted on Thursday against holding the Populist convention on the same day as the Democratic- These constitute one-third of the Populist strength in Oregon, Their disaffection

will settle the fusion business. Good times, hard money, the explosion of the silver theory, enlarged busi-ness and abundant employment have so weakened Democratic and Populistic followings that no combination which is open to them will hold out prospect of success in June and November. On conding their proportion of the State the issues of 1896 and 1898 they are foredoomed to defeat, and attempts to who a fight avainst expansion under Would such method be constitu- the tawdry banner of "anti-imperialtional? The commission reported that ism," will but intensify disaster in Ore-

> 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 gilb tongue and a small line of se ples. They have trade customs of their own to which we must conform before we can hope to put our goods on thel shelves. A bill which nims to place this valuable knowledge at the disposal of American merchants is that by Sen ator Gallinger, of New Hampshire, authorizing the President to appoint a ommission to "study and make full report upon the commercial and indusrial conditions of China and Japan and for other purposes." There are to be five commissioners, one each from the Eastern, Middle, Southern, Western and Pacific Coast States. They will ascertain which of the products of our farms, mills and workshops may be seld in China and Japan, how they should be manufactured, packed and shipped, and the proper means of transacting business with the Orient. At the end of one year they are to return to the United States and report their inestigations to the President.

Commissions of this character have done more than any other agency to establish amicable trade relations be tween Great Britain, Germany and France and the Far East, Germany has made greater headway in this linthan any other nation, and its merchants know better than any other sellers how to reach the Asiatic buyer. Germany guards these reports as it does its state secrets. They are for German exporters, and German exporters reap the benefit of them. Russia proceeds on different lines. Its merchants establish branch houses in China and the managers of these branches learn the Chinese language and keep constantly in touch with the Chinese tradesmen. Our best oppor tunity for trade expansion across the Pacific is by methods approved by Eumoring for a reduction of the taxes ropean experience. The here-todayand-there-tomorrow way of our comived may take the hint plainly given | mercial men will not avail us in Asia. John Barrett, of Portland, ex-United States Minister to Slam, is mentioned as the possible Pacific Coast member of the commission. Thorough the Pacific Coast an advantage over study of economic and commercial con- the Atlantic, and would be of vast imditions in the Orient has equipped him for the work. Few understand the situation as well as he, and no one has been more active in pointing out ways by which American trade could be enin the work which the government has larged. His extended personal acquaintance in China, Slam and Japan, and his intimate knowledge of British. German, French and Russian methods,

Chamber of Commerce and Board of

#### MILITARY TRANSPORT IN SOUTH

Trade.

APRICA. General Sherman, in his "Memoirs," mays that one of the chief reasons which impelled him to start from Atlanta for the sea was the practical inpossibility of keeping open his exsting line of railway communications to Nashville, owing to the raids of the enemy upon his rear. He says that the Atlanta campaign would have been simply impossible without the use of the railroads from Louisville to Nashville, 185 miles; from Nashville to Chattanooga, 151 miles; from Chattanooga to Atlanta, 187 miles. To have delivered the amount of food and forage needed by his army of 100,000 men and 35,000 animals, without the aid of the railroad, Sherman said "would have required 36,800 wagons of six mules each, allowing each wagon to have hauled two tons twenty miles each day, a simple impossibility in roads such as then existed in that region of the coun-

Sherman admitted that, even with the raliroads, his campaign would have Republican policies, harps about im-perialism and threatened militarism, 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 Cumberin condemnation of Democratic treachery in the alliance of 1898. No reason to a considerable extent available for transportation. He held that his campaigns had demonstrated that no considerable army can subsist if it depends upon the wagons and common country roads for more than a few

niles from the railway depots. These facts will serve to illustrate now difficult has been the solution of the question of military transport for the English in South Africa. There are no navigable rivers like the Tenness or the Cumberland: the region south of the Transvaal frontier is very mountainous, and contains but very few roads, and these are of a wretched character, running through continuo defiles, following nearly the line of the railroad. The elevation of the railroad not twenty miles from Durban is 1125 feet; at thirty miles it is nearly 2500 feet, and near Majuba Hill the altitude of 5385 feet is reached. A great many streams have to be crossed, and a singie man carrying a few sticks of dynamite can quickly and thoroughly de-stroy a bridge. That is, railway military communications can be destroyed with the greatest ease, while the repair of track and the rebuilding of bridges is a slow and difficult task, as illustrated by the number of weeks it took Lord Methuen's army to rebuild the Modder River railway bridge, destroyed

by the Boers. These are the kinds of great natural difficulties that confront the English army in Natal, where, even on the evacuation of Ladysmith, it will take the British several weeks to rebuild the railway bridge that has been destroyed at the Colenso crossing of the Tugela

River. But, even in Lord Roberts' present field of operations, the question of milltary transport until the railway bridge across the Orange River at Norval's Pont shall be restored, is most difficult to meet. Without that bridge rebuilt and the railway restored to Bioemfon tein, no great progress can be made The country is barren of food and forage, and roadless, compared with Europe or America. Nearly all the food and forage required by the British must be brought up on the railroad from the eaports of Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and East London. There is no agricul-ture, and a hostile population will kill what cattle they cannot drive away. The Transvaal lives out of its gold mines; the product of which is bartered for imported supplies.

The British forces will be obliged to most part on supplie 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 Bethulie are rebuilt, and then the march could be pushed along the rallway line to Ricemfontein Kroonstad channesburg and Pretoria; but until that time the question of land trans port for a great army of 50,000 men will be most difficult of solution, for there is no double track beyond the Orange River.

Wellington said war was a question of commissoriat and commissariat a question of transport, and the highest military authorities today hold that Napoleon's Russian campaign of 1812 croke down more from the destruction of his transport than from the severity of the climate. The success of Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener thus far in moving a large body of infantry, cavalry and artillery away from the railway and through a barren country, without forage or supplies of any sort. is a most remarkable achievement.

The death of Mrs. John Myers close the record of a useful, faithful, unob trusive 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. A ploneer woman in the fullest sens-Mrs. Myers grew up from early childhood and was married in Clackamas County, where the greater part of her life was spent. In the possession of good health until a week ago, she surived her husband but little more than one month, passing out of life before the infirmities of age had come upon her-her work done and herself ready to depart. Her life was not long as meas ured by the span of the aged, but it overed a period of wonderful develop ment in State and community life, and mpleted the work to which it set itself in youth. If it is true that "the life is long which answers life's great end," then it may be said of Mrs. Myers that long life was given her.

The latest amendment which is reported to be seeking attachment to the shipping subsidy bill is offered by Senator McBride. It provides that 30 per cent of the moneys appropriated for subsidies shall go to ships on the Paeific Coast. The Senator thinks that such an amendment would at once give portance in speedily building up the immerce on the Pacific. This matter of "advantage" is the objectionable feature of the subsidy bill. The entire taxpaying population of the United States is asked to contribute to a sub sidy fund, which is to be presented to few wealthy chipowners and shipbuilders, in order that they may have the "advantage" over men in the same

command the attention of Portland's trade on the Pacific are being met in a usiness-like manner. Ships are provided as fast as business increases, and the fleet will continue to grow as the business grows. The wheatgrowers and lumbermen of the Pacific Northwest are anxious to have their products carried to market by the cheapest possible method, and as they neither shipowners nor shipbuilders, they care nothing about the flag under which their freight-carriers sail. lack of merit of the bill as a whole is enough to carry it, with the accompanying amendments, into hopeless ob-livion, but the McBride amendment will still further weaken it. The millionaire owners of the American steamship lines on the Atlantic Coast might be satisfied with 90 per cent or 95 per cent of the graft, but with 70 per cent, never. Among many of the Pacific Coast people, the Payne-Hanna bill is regarded as a steal, and they will decline to sanction any participation in the robbery, even though promised 36 per cent of the plunder

> The Philadelphia Inquirer tersely sums up the reasons for ex-Consul Mucrum's attitude toward the Boers, the British and his own government, saying: "As for the Vice-Consul, he was a Dutchman, and naturally went along with his people." All of his "explanations" cannot disguise the fact that Mr. Macrum wanted to aid the Boer government. His duties as American Consul would not permit him to do so, therefore he left, and, reaching Washington, detailed a story which, if it had any foundation in fact, should have been given to the State Department by cable and mall weeks ago. He will figure hereafter in the matter as the cheap, bumptious fellow that he is. Only this and nothing more.

Inquiry is made whether the proosed amendment of the Constitution, "initiative and referendum," socalled, is to be voted on at the general election in June. It is not. It has been adopted or proposed only once by the Legislative Assembly, and must come before the Assembly again and obtain favorable action there, before it can be submitted to the voters of the State. This concession doubtless will be made by the Legislature next winter to those who have so long insisted on submision to the people of Oregon the question whether this feature or method of egislation shall be introduced into our system. If passed again, at the next ession, it will be voted on two years ence.

Roger Q. Mills-"Mills of Texas"nnounces that he is not only not a candidate for governor of that state out would not take the job if every nan, woman and child of the commonwealth were to make personal appeal to him to accept it. The truth crobably is that Mr. Mills has found business life far too congenial and lu-crative to be abandoned for political place on a stated salary. Moreover, being busy making himself a million nire, with flattering prospects of sucess, he cannot be much in sympathy with the party that declaims against wealth and inveighs against those who accumulate it as robbers.

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. The fallacy of such a view will be fully demonstrated later on, when, the opportunities for registration having passed unimproved, the great American citizen will be in eviience at the polls by his loud clamor to be allowed to vote without having registered. A word to the wise is sufficient. In this case it is "now."

Engene authorities have out five we grant boys, of ages ranging from 15 to 17 years, at work cleaning the crosswalks of the town. Their education in the line of being made useful was neglected in Albany, the place from which, it is believed, the boys came; otherwise, they might have been hor orable juniors of that community. The plan of putting idle, vagrant boys to work is one that commends itself to a practical, sober-minded people as being far better for the boys and the taxpayers than the ever-ready commitment to the Reform School.

Russia's long-coveted opportunity in ersia seems likely to be hastened by s revolt in Kurdistan, the seriousness of which, it is held, calls for the presence of Russian troops. A Russian army once quartered in Persia, the dream of Peter the Great of Persian conquest will soon be realized. Luckily for Russia, England's back is turned and her hands are extended in quite another direction just now.

Certainly the bullpen in Idaho, where the rioters and murderers were confined last year, was an unattractive place. But it was even better than they deserved. A harder lot of villains never was seized by the hand of long-outraged law and justice.

Under the stimulus of the high price of wool, the number of sheep in the country is rapidly increasing. The Department of Agriculture gives the number of sheep now in the United States at 41.883,065, an increase over last year

## The Roberts Guard.

New York Tribune. In picking out a squadron of 100 Irish-nen for special service, Lord Roberts cts from experimental knowledge of that ple; and it is a safe forecast that will be heard from in a way creditble to their skill and courage. The home staying or expatriated Irishman whose only thought is to throw a stone at the struggling Empire presents nothing of the dignity or patriotism which will shine the Roberts Guard, lighting them on into history, the muse of which will give them a welcome as generous as that which she has bestowed on a long procession of their fighting countrymen baptized on all the world's battle-fields, including a few of their own.

## Profits Two Millions a Month.

Toledo (Ohio) Bee. According to Frick, who has managed the Carnegie properties for years, the net profits of the Carnegie Company last year ere \$21,000,000, and he estimates the rofits for 1900 at \$40,000,000. And this is one of the infant industries which the great Republican party in its wisdom protected" from the competition of the

sauper labor of Europe." Carnegle himself owns nearly 00 per cent f the stock, and his profits last year vere over \$12,600,000-\$1,000,000 a month

for by the insertion of an item of \$15,- to the Pacific Coast, and it should dustry. The demands of the growing his kind to control the home market and

#### THE INDIAN PAMINE. 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. A shortage of crops and a fam-ine followed. A population of \$6,00,00 suffered from total drought. Notwithine followed. A population of \$8,000,001 suffered from total drought. Notwithstanding the unwwarfed labors of the authorities, who had at their command vast sums of money advanced by the Indian government and contributed by charitable people throughout the world, the mortality from starvation and from those diseases which lack of food brings with it, was frightful. Until the rains came and the earth bore crops again, the droudful state of affairs in India was a subject of general interest.

ral Interest.

There is famine in India now, Its exis-ence was declared official by Lord Curson tence was declared official by Lord Curaon three months ago. At that time 30,005,000 people were involved, and only 800,000 persons were on the relief lists. At present 59,005,000 are in British territory, and 27,000.000 are in British territory, and 27,000.000 in the native states. There are now about 2,300,000 people on the relief lists, and the cost of relief work to the end of March will not come until July, if they come then. Between now and then, in spite of all the authorities can do, there will be an immense mortality, especially among children and old people.

It is safe to say that there will be more actual suffering and probably much greater loss of life in the famine regions of India than in South Africa because of the war now raging there between Boers and

war now raging there between Boers and British. Yet few outside of India are giv-ing any thought to what is going on there, while nearly everybody is taking a deep in-terest in events in South Africa, and is afseted painfully by the continuing reports f men killed in battle which fill the dis-atches. Pestilence and famine may slay helr thousands where war slays its hunreds, but a greater measure of sympathy s given the smaller number who die on the leld of battle. During the last Indian famine hundreds

f thousands of pounds were subscribed England to relieve those affected by it. there are no subscriptions now. He who as any money to spare gives it to be ex-ended in caring for the British soldiers South Africa. So the British authorities in South Africa. So the British authorities in India have no resources save their own with which to make their fight against famine, an enemy as formidable as the Boers and ignorant of any of the amentice of modern warfare. If the hoped-for July rains should not come the situation in India will be frightful, and may have more serious consequences for the British Empire than the Transvaal war can have.

The Case of Macrum The moral of the Macrum case is clear mough. The consul at Pretoria instantly ecame of governmental size. He knew it

and a little more.—Brooklyn Eagle. Ex-Consul Macrum's statement shows that a lightweight statesman is all right until he faces a heavyweight proposition, when he goes down and out in the first round.—St. Paul Pioneer Press.
His statement neither justifies nor excuses him, but shows that he was alto-

gether unfit for the position he had ob-tained, since he collapsed utterly on the first real test of his character.—Philadei-phia Press. Macrum's whole statement bears ear-

marks of being an afterthought and an atthe blame for his own weakness and lack of judgment, discretion and courage.-Minreapolis Tribune. The evil of allowing such a man as Mac-

evident by his talking about state affairs after he has left the service-or rather, after he has been kicked out for incompetency Dulladalahly. petency.—Philadelphia Inquirer,
His statement shows him in the unsavory light of one who has lost office through his failure to measure up to the required standard in time of emergency and who now resorts to innuendo and ac-

usations to justify himself.-Washington Star.

He says that "American interests in South Africa were in that condition which demanded that the Department of State should be cognisant of them." Yes, they undoubtedly were, so long as they were in the hands of Mr. Macrum.—New York

Tribune.

He may still have something up his sleeve to defend his action, but his first and long-delayed statement of the case but emphasizes the wisdom of the State department in granting him permission to with all possible promptness.—Kansas City

What he says enables us to dismiss the neories of personal cowardice and of in-ernational treachery, and to see in his orduct merely a display of that talent for making mistakes of judgment which is so often the not unpardonable accomplish-ment of youth and inexperience.—New York Times.

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." The writer of the article claims that his report came from "good authority," and in attempting to set forth the trouble between the Astoria Railroad and the O. R. & N. Co. states that the explanation is furnished by an "interested party and may be of public interest." The correspondence between the President of the O. R. & N. Co. and myself should certainly be good authority for the cause of the trouble between the two transportation companies; and if The Oregonian considers it of sufficlent "public interest." I am quite willing that it should be published, providing, o course, that the management of the O. R. & N. Co. will give consent. I shall be pleased if you will kindly publish this note, as the article above referred to entirely misrepresents the position taken by the Astoria & Columbia River Raffrond Company, and I know well that it is not your intention to misrepresent or do injustice to any one. A. B. HAMMOND.

## Lord Rosebery's Speech,

Brooklyn Eagle Ind., Dem.
In his speech in the House of Commons.
Lord Roselery described the fighting in
South Africa as "a life and death crists,"
and compared the need for raising British soldiers to that in our Civil War, That was not the only allusion to this coun-try in his speech. His other remark will not bring comfort to those Anglo-phobes among us who shout themselves red in the face over a "secret alliance" with Great Britain and who are preparing to use that as a campaign cry against the re-election of President McKinley, Lord Rosebery

Last December the Government made vis ous overtures to two great powers. Germany and the United States, for an alliance; but those overtures were not received with such cordiality as to encourage the Gov That frank statement ought to kill all

talk of an alliance here, but it will not There are politicians and newspapers that would rather believe Macrum than Rose-bery and who would continue to shout anything calculated to embarrass the President, even if they had not so much foundation for it as a Consul out of a

## The Concord Coach.

The fallure of a carriage building com-pany at Concord, N. H., which made the first Concord wagon in 1838, will call to mind the "Concord couch," which did so much to help the Star of Empire on its Westward way. More enterprises, ex-pansion, movement and territorial ag-grandizement is associated with the Con-cord couch than with anything else that completion of these centracts, or their derivation of the same that they may have the "advantage" over men in the same t

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 and surprise the enemy, as he clearly did Gen-Of course if Cronje eral Cronje. suspected the design of Roberts he would not have been caught in the disadvantagcous and seemingly hopeless position that he occupies today. The Boers ordinarily can make 20 miles a day. Cronje made 13 miles in a single night's march; which indicates that he made a forced march and was ignorant of the neurness of Lord Roberts' main column. It is extraordinary that the Boer spice

who are omnipresent in North Cape Col-Roberts massed 50,000 men for the inva sion of the Orange Free State. As early as February 10, Dr. Leyds, the Brussels agent of the Transvaal, divined the third attack on the Boer lines on the Tugela in Natal as a mere "bluff" to divert atention from the projected invasion of livined General Cronje ought to have let to congress? known. 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. On this day General French's cavalry seized the fords of Ries River, southeast of Jacobedal and was at once followed up by two infantry divis-Jacobsdal, it should be remarked, is a point where a wagon road leads off to Kimberley from the main read to Bloemfontein, and it was therefore a natural advanced base of supplies both for Cronje's main army and his outpost he sleging Kimberley. On Tuesday, the 13th, French moved north and seized the fords at the Modder River, the infantry follow- 24 hours. ing close at his heels. On Thursday morning, the 15th, when one division of infantry was on the Modder and the other close behind it, the cavalry of French moved forward to Kimberley. This same day the British infantry in the afternoon entered Jacobsdal. In other words, Lord Roberts' movements were so rapidly executed that his flying cavalry column under French entered Kimberley about the same time that his advance division A paper in Arkansas says: "A Hot Springs of Infantry entered Jacobsdal. General girl who has been told that she recites Cronje's surprise must have been genuine, for Lord Roberts telegraphed the war office that General Kelly-Kenny captured on the 16th part of General Cronie's train which the British artiflery shelled all that day. Since the British Infantry overtook Cronje's rear guard on the lith, and forced him to turn at bay on the 17th and fight all day on the 18th in a most disadvantageous position, it is clear that Cronje must have been surprised by Lord Roberts' dash upon his lines. Otherwise he would have withdrawn his forces from before Kimberley and Magersfon-tein so rapidly that he could have fought his battle from a position of his own choosing.

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 Magersfonstein before the morning of the 15th; so his forced night march of 33 miles availed him nothing. He is very gallant man, but he is not a good general, or he would not have been caught "In his pajamas." The success of Lord Roberts is a fresh illustration that no natter what changes are made in modern warfare of tactics, or magazine rifles, or rapid-firing cannon, other things being equal, brains is the chief essential in a general. Methuen and Buller have a fine scord as buildogs, but Lords Roberts and Kitchner with comparatively small loss have won a great victory.

## Be Fair to Puerto Rico.

New York Mail and Express, Rep. Possibly the advocates of a tariff bar-rier against Puerto Rico will find some difficulty in the House of Representatives next week when they endsavor to recon-cile their present attitude with that which they assumed, in common with the whole lts people that henceforth they were to be under the protection and the bene-ficent influences of the Stars and Stripes. Nothing was said to them of making Puerto Rico a possession, but not a part of the United States. Nor was there any suggestion at that time of a S per cent tariff upon Puerto Rican imports into this country. The Puerto Ricans then this country. were bailed as fellow-Americans, and ambitious plans were projected by enter-prising merchants here for increased sales of American manufactures to the inhabicants of the island.

tants of the island.

What a policy it is for a Nation like this, prosperous, enterprising and commercially atrong beyond comparison, to hold a tariff club over these people whom we have forced under our flag-and say to them, in effect, you are one with us only so far as it is to our advantage to permit you to be whenever there is the ermit you to be; whenever there is th slightest prospect that you will get as much out of trading with us as we will get out of you—whenever that line is reached it is to be the line of separation between us as a common country That was Spain's selfish policy in Puerto Rico. In it to be ourn?

## A Matter of Bonor.

New York Sun, Rep.
As surely as in the year 1886 the state of Cuba was a scandal not to be endured by a civilized country in the position occupied by the United States, so are the existing relations between the United States and Puerto Rico scandalous and

To end the first we were required to make war; to end the second it is neces-sary to pass an act of Congress waiving

or modifying the tariff.

The best way of facing the new situation would be to abolish the tariff between the United States and Puerto Rico entirely, in accordance with the original recommendation of the President. But a simple modification would be better than

Congress sullenly leaving Puerto Rico out in the cold, the victim of war, is like a troop of soldiers that refuses to bring in the wounded, from the battlefield through unwillingness to diminish the common share at the mess table.

For the Guidance of Shappers. San Francisco Call.
Clerk (to employer)—What shall I mark
that new lot of black silk?
Employer—Mark the selling price 25 a

yard. Clerk-But it cost only \$1 a yard Employer-I don't care what it cost, I am selling off regardless of cost,

#### The Garralous Ingrates. Chicago Tribune

The jawsmiths who were chiefly in evidence at the late anti-trust conference were exceedingly sever on the newspapers. How many of them would ever have been heard of if it had not been for the news-

# John Ruskin.

P. W. Bourdillon in the Speciator. hed is the lamp, ew'n in its flickerin

dear. . We miss the light: we would not have him her No carping littlenemes lift their head. Where he is, 'mid the great unjectous dead.

He thirsted—as a thirsty land for rain— Fur Beauty, and for Good as men for gal Now may be drink of the immortal tide, Ever athirst and ever satisfied.

#### NOTE AND COMMENT.

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

" "The the sport to hunt the Hon; but

when the Hon turns to hunt you, that's different,"-Oom Paul. Now is the time for General Killfeather and Judge O'Day to send a cargo of sld

and comfort to the Beess. She Gaughing at an English picture of some Boers)—They're just killing. He—So I have always understood

The poets will not worry Cronje for a while at least. None of them have yet earned how to pronounce his name.

Josquin Miller has published a booklet utitled "Chants for the Boer," From the present outlook the Boera have no chance.

Before Congress adjourns it should pass an appropriation for a few hundred gallows and about a thousand jalls in Luzon.

And so we are not to have Sulu after all. What will Utah do for an argument the Grange Free State. What Dr. Leyds | the next time she wants to send a trigum-

> The actrom who in any New York Would seek to be the rape. Must straightway go and get a play Too naughty for the stage.

There is one way to avoid the horrors of a bull pen, and that is to withhold support from dynamiters, and abstain from dynamiting.

What is said to be the largest blast furace in the world has just been started at Youngstown, O. It is 100% feet high, 15 feet in crucible and 23 feet in bosh. The capacity of the furnace is 600 tons every

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 wellwritten descriptions make an attractive gouvenir.

A new dramatic star is in the firmament. pathetic places 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 monsy."

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 rush off for Cape Nome in the spring, buying their outfits in Portland.

A citizen of Portland has just perfected 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 \$300,000,000 in one year, If they adopt the burner right off, they will save the expenses of the Boer war and have money enough to indulge in another scrap with some one else.

It is fairly startling to see how exactly the ideas of the Port Towncend Leader and The Oregonian agree on many subjects, and how the two papers express themselves in identical terms. The only thing that removes this constantly recurring coincidence from the realm of the supernatural is the fact that the Port Townsend paper's bright ideas see daylight two or three days later than The Oregonian's.

Just what the result of the decision of the School Board to enforce payment of tuition fees for nonresident pupils in the public schools is to be, cannot yet be fully determined. So far, it has resulted in a shower of applications for free toition, and the receipt of but little money as tuition fees. All sorts of reasons for askcountry, when our soldiers took forcible ing free tuition for nonresident pupils are possession of the little island and assured given, and in some cases it is very hard to refuse. To grant free tuition to some nonresidents and refuse it to others is very difficult, and the only way out of the lemma appears to be to draw a line and adhere to it. As one of the directors remarked yesterday, the public schools are not charitable institutions. They are supported by the taxpayers, and however and am-strongly the sympathics of the directors sed sales are appealed to by deserving cases, they should bear in mind that they have no right to exercise their benevolence at the expense of the public. "If," said he, "the lirectors were required to pay the tuition fees of nonresident pupils, there would be very few of them in the schools."

## Filipino Army Scandal.

Washington Star. "I suppose there is a great deal of calcusy among your Generals?"
"A great deal," answered the Filipino hief, gloomly. "We have an army scanchief, gloomliy. "We have an army scall-dal at hand. The man who claims to hold the record for long-distance retreats is accused of violating the rules of such contests and using a pace-maker.

Gives Heed to Example. Boston Transcript.

Mummsec-I notice that you stick to
ne kind of wine when you dine at Cham-

lay's and never touch any of the others. Brutwin-Neither does the butler. Truth and Falsehood.

Hansus City Independ List to a tale well worth the ear Of all who wit and sense admire nvented—it is very clear— Some ages prior to Matthew Prior. Falsehood and Truth "upon a time," One day in June's delintous Twax in a distant age and cit Like sisters, took a walk together.

On, on their merry way they took, Through fragrant wood and verdant meads to where a beach heatde a brook Invited rest beneath its shadow.

There, sitting in the pleasant slinds, Upon the margin's grassy matting A velvet quebion ready made). The young companions fell to chatting,

Now, when in voluble discourse On this and that their tongues were run As habit bids each speaks, perforce. The one is frank, the other cumning. Falsehood at length, impalient grown. With scandals of her own creation.

Said: "Since we two are quite alone And nicely acrosped from observation

"Suppose in this fellightful rill,
While all around is so propitious.
We take a bath" Said Truth: "I willA bath, I'm sure, will be delicious?"

At this her robe she cast saids, And in the stream that ran before her She plunged-like Ocean's happy helds-As naked as her mother bore her! Pateshood at leimze note undre

Put off her robes her limbs that hampen, And having donned Truth's snowy vest, han off as fast as she could someper.

Since then the subtle maid, in acrth, Nupert in list and shrewd in evasio Has borns the honest name of Truth, And wears her cluthes on all conset

While Truth, diedaining to appear In Falsehood's pettioner and boiles, Still braves all eyes from year to year, As naked as a marble goodsus.