

The Oregonian.

Entered as the Postoffice at Portland, Oregon, as second-class matter.

REVISED SUBSCRIPTION RATES. By Mail (outside of Oregon) Daily, with Sunday, per month \$1.50...

POSTAGE RATES. United States, Canada and Mexico: 10 to 14-page paper...

News or discussion intended for publication in The Oregonian should be addressed invariably to "Editor The Oregonian," not to the name of any individual.

For sale in San Francisco by L. E. Lee, Pacific Building, 225 California street.

For sale in Omaha by Bartlow Bros., 1012 First street.

For sale in Oregon by W. C. Kline, 200 Twelfth street.

For sale in Denver, Colo., by Hamilton & Kendrick, 906-312 Seventeenth street.

TODAY'S WEATHER—Cloudy and threatening; variable winds.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 43; minimum, 25; precipitation, 0.02 inch.

PORTLAND, SATURDAY, FEB. 1, 1902.

TWO OR THREE FACTS. Let us have done with argument for the nonce, and put the case flatly as it is.

All the great protected trusts of the iron and steel and allied lines, including machinery, locomotives and implements, are exporting raw materials.

Cuba has been taken possession of. We want her markets for our iron and steel, locomotives, implements and machinery.

The revenue needs to be reduced, but the war revenue taxes which are burdensome, are selected for reduction.

These are the facts. They need no amplification. They point their own moral. How long are they to continue?

THE DEATH PENALTY. The death penalty is now inflicted in New York and Ohio by electricity.

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of them came from a considerable distance, traveling two days or more to see the spectacle. The scenes at this public execution were so odious that the Legislature at its next session passed a law making all executions private in the prison yard at Windsor.

Italy does not inflict capital punishment for murder, but she does worse for she makes her cellular life imprisonment so heavy that the assassin is often tortured into insanity, as was Bressi, the assassin of King Humbert.

A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE. When our Oregon Democrats, in convention assembled, look out over the troubled sea of politics, they heave a sigh and shake their heads.

It is one of the charming and altogether commendable things about your true Democrat that he reveres his party's principles. He believes in them so thoroughly that he thinks all that is needed is for them to be presented to a candid world.

But our Oregon Democrats do themselves injustice. Their memory is short. Now, the fact is that for some six years ago, the head of the party was W. J. Bryan, of Nebraska, who was a "principle" man without guile.

The trouble wasn't lack of principle. His head was in the clouds. But the principles were wrong. They can't be any more loyal to principles than they have been.

The Democrats are for principles on general principles, but every man is for fusion in his own county. He applauds principles in platform and oration to the echo; he urges them upon his constituents in every corner of the state.

Let us not be hard upon the Democrat, with one hand swearing fidelity to the principles of Jefferson and Jackson and with the other reaching out for votes. Nature has so constructed our politics that the only way we can achieve the vindication of eternal principles is by the help of the majority.

ALARMED BY EXPOSURE. The annual report of the Interstate Commerce Commission by its revelations appears to have brought the offending railroads to their knees in an attitude of at least transient submission to the laws of the country.

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use henceforth to be on their good behavior. The Supreme Court has declared that under the law all the commission can do when it finds rules and regulations unreasonable is so to declare and to order the carrier to cease and desist from charging such rates or enforcing such regulations.

The judicial record in the Wade-Dalton murder case is one of vigilance, promptness and fidelity to the edict of justice concerning capital crime. Two months and ten days elapsed between the killing of James B. Morrow on the street near his home and the execution of the men who set out to rob and ended by murdering him.

The Philadelphia Press says Congress will not give the commission the power to make rates directly and to enforce them, and even if Congress gave it, the Federal courts in the future as in the past will find some way to eliminate the force until they have been overruled by the courts upon appeal by the carriers.

A GRAB AT HOME—PIRACY AHEAD. By way of explaining the slow movement of railway construction in this country, it was shown in these columns a few days back that the steel combine holds the price of steel rails to its American customers at a price practically prohibitive of railroad construction.

Practical charity is not a thing of every day, and when met it is worthy of commendation. A humble example of its beneficence is shown in the purchase of a home suited to the needs of Dorcas Whiting, a woman, and a widow and no longer young, who was practically evicted from her scow dwelling several weeks ago.

Under the influence of "evangelists" who ministered to them in their last hours, the murderers of James Morrow developed an edifying religious sentiment. No one would be surprised if this last consideration does that destroys its value.

The German forces during the war with France thirty years ago numbered about 1,224,000 officers and men. Of these, only 23,365 non-commissioned officers and men are pensioned, and only 2769 commissioned officers are drawing pensions.

Official statistics tell the story with a brutal frankness. Ten years ago the United Kingdom produced more steel and pig iron than the United States. In 1887 the production of the two countries was very nearly equal.

The weather is in a melting mood. The blessed Chinook comes in softly from the far southwest. Reinforced by rain, it will soon dispel the Winter of our discontent and make us glad that we are alive and that we live in Oregon.

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LET THE PRESIDENT DECIDE.

Chicago Inter Ocean. Here are the principal facts about the Nicaragua and the Panama Canal routes, taken from the Walker commission's report and other official sources:

Commercial—For ships going from all Atlantic and Gulf ports, American or European, to our Pacific ports and to the Orient, and vice versa, the Nicaragua is from one to two days shorter than the Panama.

Strategic—We could move warships from the Atlantic to the Pacific, or vice versa, or send them from the Atlantic to the Orient, much sooner by Nicaragua.

Political—The Nicaraguan Government is friendly and anxious to facilitate the construction of the canal. It has already made a treaty with the United States for a strip from sea to sea.

Engineering—At Nicaragua all problems have been solved. At Panama the control of the Canal has been unsolved.

The commonwealth of Pennsylvania is still subject to an abhorrent and degrading custom which Oregon has long since outlawed. According to a dispatch from Harrisburg, 10,000 struggling, jostling, noisy people witnessed the execution in the jail yard of that city last Monday of two murderers who had been duly condemned to die for their crime.

Practical charity is not a thing of every day, and when met it is worthy of commendation. A humble example of its beneficence is shown in the purchase of a home suited to the needs of Dorcas Whiting, a woman, and a widow and no longer young, who was practically evicted from her scow dwelling several weeks ago.

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AMUSEMENTS.

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

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PLEASANTNESS OF PARAGRAPHS.

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