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soloely on the Columbia River route as a highway to the sea for their products will in time become thoroughly understood.

In one issue it demanded that every obstruction between Portland and the inland Empire be removed forthwith. In the next it berated Portland for spending her own money in opening a channel to the sea, and by insinuating as well as direct charge sought to create the impression that the channel below Portland could never be placed in good condition.

It is of no use now to call for an investigation of that Northern Pacific line land job, as a correspondent does in another column of today's paper.

Today's weather—Occasional rain. Southeastly winds. YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 42 deg.; minimum temperature, 38 deg.; precipitation, 12 inch.

PORTLAND, MONDAY, DECEMBER 8.

"The lady doth protest too much." In this pregnant statement does William Shakespeare, that greatest of human minds, uncover one of the profoundest bits of his unapproachable philosophy of human nature.

RAILROAD POSSIBILITIES IN SOUTHEASTERN OREGON.

Let the business community and the property-owners of Portland take notice that surveys are in the field locating a line of railroad from Nyssa, on the Oregon Short Line, to Vale in the Malheur Valley.

From the standpoint of the Union Pacific Railroad people, the movement is a very natural one. The country lies within the belt contiguous to their through line, and its traffic, already large, would be greatly increased.

From the standpoint of the southeastern counties this connection is in every way to be desired and encouraged. They have been appealing for twenty years past for a railroad connection to Portland, to San Francisco, to the East.

That warm friend of the Columbia River and earnest advocate of appropriations for its improvement, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, has just thrown another of its periodical fits over the detention of a fleet of vessels below Astoria.

situation well. The southeastern branch of the Short Line, while plainly in prospect, is not yet built. The projected line from Nyssa to Vale is but a first step. The succeeding steps are inevitable if, when time and convenience serve, the opportunity shall be what it is today.

There are, we know, difficulties in the way of extending the Columbia Southern line on to the south. But these difficulties are not of a sort to stand very long before a resolute and well-backed purpose. Let it be made plain that if a way cannot be found for extension of the Columbia Southern, its line will be paralleled by the route of the Deschutes with its northern terminus below the mouth of the Cello obstructions, and the difficulties which now appear so serious will quickly fade into thin air.

THOMAS B. REED.

The death of Thomas B. Reed is a National calamity. Not since the unexpected death of Roscoe Conkling in 1888 has the country lost so large, so intellectually impressive, so patriotic and so stalwart a statesman.

HALF A MILLION FROM THE STATE.

With the adoption of the plan for National and state co-operation recommended by Hon. William D. Fenton, the most important feature of the work of the Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition is coming to the charge of the committee of legislation.

The 1905 Fair must be builded upon its foundation this Winter, or not at all. The business in hand may be likened to a game of chess. It is Oregon's first move, and the kind of play we make will set the pace.

THE POLICY OF THE PRESIDENT TOWARD THEM.

It is said that the Lilywhites have decided war on the President, and will make an effort to send to the next National convention delegations opposed to him. That is, alleged white Republicans, who poll no votes, maintain no organization and are not in the movement of the party, propose to go to the National Republican Convention in 1904 and attempt to defeat the nomination of President Roosevelt because he will not indorse the whole disfranchisement of colored voters.

OREGON'S TIMBER RESOURCES.

Day after day and night after night great raft of logs goes St. Helens on their way to the big sawmills in Portland. Never before in the history of Oregon has there been such a demand on the fir forests of the Lower Columbia.

A NEW WAY WITH A FEND.

In pursuit of his determination to "have it out" with his old partner and present enemy, Andrew Carnegie, Henry Clay Frick proposes to give Pittsburgh a university with a princely endowment.

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ever stooped to any kind or degree of political jobbery or trickery. His ascendancy was won by hard knocks in the open field, he never favored an ambush; he never tried to corrupt the garrison or betray the camp; he was an ambitious soldier in the Republican ranks, but he was always a bold, daring, relentless soldier, who scorned to play brigand, pirate, pickpocket or pawnbroker in politics.

After all the light that has been beating so fiercely upon Carey Irrigation in the Deschutes Valley, the State Land Board goes ahead and enters into contract for another reclamation project in that part of the state. This covers 77,724 acres, which will be watered from the Tumello branch of the Deschutes. A lien a trifle under \$10 an acre is allowed for this contract, with annual maintenance charge of \$1 an acre.

REED TOO FOR INTELLECTUAL IMPERIOUSNESS IN POLITICS.

Mr. Reed stood for intellectual imperialism in politics. Men naturally called him the czar, and he was termed a Napoleon in his speech. He was a vast creature to their day and generation, but in ordinary times they never wish the Presidency, even when they desire it.

THE POLICY OF THE PRESIDENT TOWARD THEM.

It is a pleasure to observe with what uniform favor each and every part of the Presidential message meets from our Republican exchanges, and with what equally uniform disapproval the every part is greeted by our Democratic exchanges. It is pleasant, because any dislocation of the traditional partisan enmity would be disconcerting, if not positively alarming.

DELAYS WORKS ITS HARDSHIPS.

There seems to be a disposition on the part of Portland Councilmen and officials to think our electric light company is dilly-dallying along for nearly a year the pressure of public opinion was so strong that they were forced to pass an ordinance granting a franchise, but they now think they have a better chance of getting ahead and got things in shape for actual work, that they have discovered a defect in the ordinance granting the charter that will nullify it, and they talk, or at least think, of their doing so.

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good that it will do the Pacific Coast, for the good that it will do Oregon, and for the good that it will do Portland. It will cost \$500,000 into the Exposition company without expecting to receive a direct return of a single cent, and it will pay \$150,000 of the state appropriation of \$350,000. It asks the remainder of \$200,000, and it is entitled to receive these amounts and the help that the appropriation of them means.

DISAPPOINTING ON THE TARIFF.

President Roosevelt's message to Congress, so generally characterized as the man, though the expected strenuousness of the document, especially on the tariff question and tariff reform, is disappointing.

PARLIAMEN PREJUDICMENT.

Neither the tariff will be revised nor anything done to injure the trusts. Whatever trust bill is passed, if any, it will be of such a nature that it will fall far short of the mark, as will be intended.

LET'S HELP THE DEMOCRATS.

As to the tariff, the President yields to the clamor against revision—and time may tell whether such yielding is or is not a serious business. His suggestion that "One way in which the readjustment sought can be reached is by reciprocity treaties" is likely to prove an extremely unsatisfactory solution of the problem.

ISN'T THIS TREASON?

The authorities at Washington are getting entirely too meddlesome as regards the private affairs of our citizens, and the first thing some of them know they get their hair pulled out and their faces freckled with feminine finger nails.

IN DEFENSE OF FOOTBALL.

A review of current thought would hardly be in place these days without a reference to the game of football, which for a few weeks has been absorbing the entire country, not only drawing enormous crowds, more than any other game, but filling the newspapers with long articles anticipatory and of the fact.

A SIGN OF BETTER CITIZENSHIP.

One fact stands out prominently in the town elections which are being held all over Oregon, and Washington is requested that the main question at issue is the temperance, or prohibition, question. In the majority of cases this has been more or less an issue, and in a great many it has been the only issue.

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There seems to be a disposition on the part of Portland Councilmen and officials to think our electric light company is dilly-dallying along for nearly a year the pressure of public opinion was so strong that they were forced to pass an ordinance granting a franchise, but they now think they have a better chance of getting ahead and got things in shape for actual work, that they have discovered a defect in the ordinance granting the charter that will nullify it, and they talk, or at least think, of their doing so.

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SPIRIT OF THE NORTHWEST PRESS

Yes, but Both Are Now Washington Counties. Woodburn Independent. We do not think there is a county or postoffice in the State of Oregon named for Lewis or Clark.

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NOTE AND COMMENT

Experience teaches wisdom, and wisdom needs it sometimes. Good-morning! Are you ready for another week's weather? The man that lives on his reputation will eventually starve to death.

The man who monkeys with the land laws is likely to come away with a soiled reputation.

The boy of 16 cherishes a hair ribbon, the boy of 13 a glove, the boy of 21 his liberty, and the man of 41 his memories.

Ex-Minister Cambon says the Americans are generous. Does he refer to the gracious Count Castellane as a shining example of our generosity?

Another poor devil of an author has killed himself in New York because of the non-success of his novel. It was the only atonement he could make.

The witty book agent is again in evidence, and people are kicking because his contracts are not blinding. This looks like the complaint of a rank outsider.

Men say things to their wives that they never, no, never, would dare say to a man. When the woman takes exception then it is what is called an unhappy marriage.

A little girl in this city who was calling on some grown-up friends who live in a flat explained to her mother that a flat was a house with the down-stairs just back of the sitting-room.

Now that a telephone has been invented where the message is plainly audible to a person standing 10 yards away from the receiver, we may expect a tremendous falling off in "line busy" owing to gentle conversations between two.

Mark Twain has a story in this month's Harper's in which makes the telling of a lie the keynote to some lovable character. According to Mark Twain's view, even George Washington must have told lies, and it is with a sigh of satisfaction that we read the vindication of some of our modern statesmen.

"The last edition of love," said the newspaper poet, dreamily, "is"—and he sighed reminiscently.

"What, dear?" she whispered, and came closer.

"Going to press," he answered, and, through force of habit, stretched out his arms.

Here is an item from the Big Bend Chief: Sam Fader wishes the good people to know that he is not a Missourian, and that the necktie he has been sporting lately is not a bandana, but the very latest in neckwear that can be obtained on the West Coast. It seems an injustice has been done Mr. Fader, and the Chief gladly hastens to put the matter right.

This courtesy is almost Senatorial.

The following things are now due: Program liable to change without notice, First—One big fire. Second—One hair-raising suicide. Third—One scandal in high life. Fourth—Repair of one street (this will be a tableau). Fifth—Double murder with accessories; special scenic effects. Sixth—A day of sunshine. (Owing to the delicacy and fragile character of the materials used, patience is requested.) Seventh—A snapshot of an ordinance on its way through the Common Council. (A most difficult piece of work. This picture represents over a thousand failures.)

The good die young, says the ancient adage. It is to be hoped that the young who die are good, but the statements of the virtuous cannot remain long in this sphere of mundane activity seems questionable. Else how are we to account for the noble men who have given their lives, their wealth and their health for the cause of tariff? What to say about the aged reformers who struggle manfully, if feebly, against the inroads of a foreign policy? The proverb is an excuse of those whose life has proved inefficient, whose slender abilities have been exhausted in the effort for "falsely, but better, than they were." Let us pray for the good. The good do not die young. Hum-m-m-m. Well, it's a little question, and needs further thought.

Ever so often somebody arises and tells the blind people of this generation that they should live as though Fate had decreed death for the morrow. And this doctrine has its followers. Witness the ways of those who pull a long face and throw a fit when it is suggested that they should live as though Fate had decreed death for the morrow. It is a little question, and needs further thought.

LIFE AT OXFORD.

Church Quarterly Review. The bump suppers and boating wines at Oxford are much less heavily than they were. The ladies are many colleges have to dance after them, or in some other way invented something better to do than to get drunk. Teetotalism has diminished in the university, and so has drunkenness. But for all that there is enough drunkenness to be seen in Oxford absolutely to prevent the conversion of any Mohammedan who comes.

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHS

Half the world doesn't care how their better halves live—Life. "Bilham's religion is like his property," said Trivet to Disc. "How's that?" "It's all in his wife's name"—Judge.

"Is he rich beyond the dreams of avarice?" "Glad, yes! Why say? That chap's raft beyond the dreams of an infatuated industry." "Pack up your trunk, and get out of here!" "Pack up when he hasn't known me a week?" "I think that's the reason."—Baltimore American.

Kind Lady—I suppose you have seen better days? "Frankly, no. I would, but I don't think I get three dinners and 10 beers.—Detroit Free Press.

"Is she ashamed to look a person squarely in the face?" "Oh, no; it's her pride." "Frida-blah, she's proud of her joints."—Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.

"Colonel, would you mind telling me how you made your first \$100,000?" "Not at all. I made it by attending strictly to business—my own business, you know."—Chicago Tribune.

Kit—So you really think Esther and Charles are to make a match of it? Becha—I'm certain of it. I don't see how Esther last night snuck out of Charles's "bedroom" and got to Boston Transcriber.

Magistrate—Drunk again, Uncle Rastus? Apen? you ashamed to be seen here so often? "No, no; it's the industry." "Pack up your trunk, and get out of here!" "Pack up when he hasn't known me a week?" "I think that's the reason."—Baltimore American.