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FRANK CONOVER.
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THE SCHOOL BOOK LAW.

T. B. Handley, attorney, ex-editor of Tillamook, writes pointedly on the school book question as follows:

"Among all the questions before the Oregon legislature there is no other that can compare in importance to the poor man with that of our school books. Under our present system a single firm in Portland has an absolute monopoly, and books are sold at an enormous profit, and sold too, to the people least able to bear the burden. It costs a poor man more for school books than for the tuition of his children and at least two-thirds of that expense is clear profit to the state agent who extorts it because he is granted the power to do so by the legislature. Go to any book store and you will see books of history, poetry or science, sold side by side with school books and sold at less than one third the price. A copy of Byron can be bought for 20 cents and a fifth reader for \$1.10. The Byron contains the most reading matter, is on paper, with better print and better binding, but having no "cinch" on the people it is sold at a reasonable profit, while the other book is forced upon buyers at enormous rates. When a school history that can be published for 17 cents is sold to a man who is obliged to buy it for 120 cents, the purchaser is actually robbed or at least 90 cents of that sum, and when the people of Oregon buy over one hundred thousand of these books they are robbed of \$90,000. So with all the books, and it is safe to say that the present school book monopoly of Oregon is clearing half a million dollars annually, above a reasonable profit on business."

"No wonder that they can have talkers and writers, and newspapers, and perhaps members of the legislature creating a public sentiment in favor of the present system, but it seems to me that every man who buys a school book and then reflects a moment on where the high prices come from, must demand some measure of relief from the law-making power. It may not be best for the state to print the books, or it may. But it certainly is suicidal to trust any man or firm with an exclusive right for the sale of school books in the state. Let the booksellers compete on an even footing and we will buy all our school books for about one-third of the present prices."

The jute mill bill, says the Statesman, will likely pass, since the committee has reported it favorably and there is no other proposition for the employment of the convicts, except it be a renewal of the present contract. It is said the wool and hops of Oregon will use more jute sacks than the proposed factory can manufacture, to say nothing of the wheat and other sacks. It will be fully a year before the proposed plant can be put in operation and the convicts be educated so as to run it successfully. The machinery comes from England, and by bringing it around the horn there will be a delay of about three months, but a saving of \$25,000. The appropriation calls for \$160,000.

The governor of Oregon appears to be thoroughly mad. He seems implacable in his bitterness toward Cleveland. The Salem Journal saw him in reference to his refusal to allow the state cannon to be used at the inauguration, and here is the cranky result. "The governor says he will court martial any officer of his staff who would do such a thing. It is asking too much of him as commander-in-chief to have a salute fired at the expense of the state in honor of such a man as Cleveland. He says the barbarians bow down to stock and stones, but Oregon shall not contribute to the idolatry of the stuffed prophet of Wall street while he is governor of this state."

COOPER'S new road law does away with the labor tax which yields no good results in roads, but proposes a tax of four mills instead. Grading machines are provided to do the work before the ground gets hard and such a machine will do as much road work as thirty or forty teams with plows and scrapers. The roads are to be uniform in plan, built with gravel with stone culverts where practicable. It is being opposed on the ground that the tax is already too high, and that the supervisors would do their duty without it.

A law is under way to make counties liable for loss or damage a person may sustain in consequence of defective and dangerous roads and bridges on any legal county road without any contributory negligence on his part. The measure is favorably spoken of.

The era of "harmony" is gradually overspreading the nation. There are now only about half a dozen legislatures in a deadlock over a senatorial election. Our neighbors over in Washington seem to be frozen solid in their

THE GREAT NORTHERN.

Perhaps no railroad of modern times so fully illustrates American "push" and enterprise as the building of the Great Northern, which was completed to its Puget Sound terminus a few days ago. The road was pushed over the mountains at the rate of 2,000 to 3,000 feet a day, and for the past two or three weeks the builders have been hindered by over three feet of snow. This work went on with precision and certainty of a great army, notwithstanding the snow and cold. The road traverses wild and solitudes unknown to tourists and sight-seers, and the work was pushed in both directions until the builders met Friday night, January 6th, when the last spike was driven. And not only were the rails laid down at the rate of nearly half a mile per day in frost and snow, but a wire car followed the locomotive and unweaved a Western Union line, and an improvised telegraph station was formed at the end of each day's work.

The manner of the construction of the road is gratifying also, says the Inter Ocean, compared with the history of the Northern Pacific. In the building of the latter, Chinese labor was an important and at that time regarded as an indispensable element. In the construction of the Great Northern, however, Scandinavians and Irish did the greater part of the work and at fair compensation, the wages for common labor being \$2 per day.

The immediate benefit of another great transcontinental route will be felt by all the cities of the northwest as well as by the rapidly growing states of the northern Pacific coast. The element of competition will now enter more and more in commerce with the coast states, and this in turn will be felt in the increased commerce between the east and the west. Every great railroad and telegraph line makes the solidity of the United States more complete and tends to unify commerce, politics and law.

After viewing the remains of ex-President Hayes at Fremont, Mr. Cleveland said to a friend: "When the news of General Hayes' death reached me I was almost overcome. I said to my wife that if General Hayes were in my place and I in his, he would certainly come to me and I told my wife that I should take the trip. He was a man for whom I had the highest regard. He was brave and he was conscientious." Yet these are words from the leader of the party whose spokesmen from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the lakes to the gulf, hounded the lifeless ex-president to his tomb with the old pot-house political howl of "Grand Hayes," and all the other epithets once familiar in a reprehensible turmoil at the bottom of which the democratic party was just exactly the one that was responsible. The contrast between the man and the moral hyenas is noticeable. That is all.

It is to be hoped that democratic whangdoodles, who have set up a man of straw for President Harrison and abused it high and low because they "knew" he wouldn't appoint a democratic supreme judge in place of Lamar, will now feel relieved of their distress sufficiently to see what a set of squawking geese they have made of themselves. Howell E. Jackson has been appointed by the president to the position named. He is a democrat and a resident of Tennessee, where his standing as a lawyer is high.

The Sandwich Islands, in which the party now in power asks for union with the United States, are a long way down toward the equator, being more than half way from here to that line. They are under the 20th degree of latitude, which line also passes over the middle of the Gulf of Mexico; and the 160th degree of longitude, which cuts the western part of Alaska, also passes over them.—Exchange.

When the project for an ex-Confederate's home in Richmond, Va., was first set afoot, General Butler was living in Washington, and contributed \$500; and as he handed a check for that amount to Mr. Fleming, the canvasser for the enterprise, he added: "If you need more, let me know."

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The new blood and skin purifier, and greatest of Honor Remedies, cleanses the blood of all impurities, and restores the system to its normal condition. It is a blood and skin purifier, and restores the system to its normal condition. It is a blood and skin purifier, and restores the system to its normal condition.

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IN HAWAII THERE ARE 40,000 SERFS EMPLOYED AS "CONTRACT LABOR" WHICH WOULD BE DIRECTLY IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES.

There are many other crude and complex institutions on the island that would have to be born again for adaptation into the American system. Annexation on the part of our government, would be like the mountain going to Mohammed, with very little reciprocal benefit—in fact none that our nation has not already enjoyed well on to a century and a quarter, while we have prospered very well under a separate government. There is just one valid excuse for the United States' setting up business over among the Kanakas, and that is, if she don't do it some other nation will. That's bad, but so long as there are millions of square miles of territory right side by side with us, that comes squarely under the purview of the Monroe doctrine, but is dominated by foreign monarchies, it looks as if the scheme of going off into mid-ocean for more territory is decidedly far-fetched. Fifty years from now, if this United States can maintain a serene and peaceful federation over the territory she owns today, she will be exceptionally fortunate beyond all histories of the world. This is not an alarmist's vagary; it is a glint of the signs of the times.

The people of Eastern Oregon are highly incensed over the defeat of the Raley portage bill, and talk retaliation against Western Oregon as a means of procuring a more just consideration at the hands of the latter's representatives. The Times Mountaineer vigorously represents the affront its people feels and strenuously urges the following significant advice: "There is one way in which the people interested in the passage of the portage road can stimulate favorable action, and that is by pursuing obstruction tactics regarding important matters. The dome of the capitol, the penitentiary, insane asylum, reform school, agricultural college, fish ladder at Oregon City, and the purchase of the locks at that point will all need money, and every member from Eastern Oregon should refuse to vote a single dollar for either of these until the portage bill is passed. Western Oregon receives liberal appropriation every year and Eastern Oregon is not considered at all. This has continued long enough, and the time has come when the vast region east of the Cascades should demand recognition."

According to Bradstreet, the old reliable, the available wheat supply of this country is something stupendous. The latest figures showed accumulated stocks to be 107,870,000 bushels; one year ago the like total was only 67,183,000 bushels. We are, therefore, carrying more than 40,000,000 bushels of wheat in sight, available for market purposes, in excess of what was correspondingly available one year ago, after we had harvested the largest wheat crop in the history of the United States.

The new proposed trespass law is "a corker." It virtually forbids a man with a firearm in his possession going even to a man's house to ask permission for hunting on his premises; makes a felon of a man for hunting on any grounds not fenced in and privileged; the shooting of any dog caught out from home. Sportsmen will fight the bill to the bitter end.

A bill repealing the mortgage tax law and wiping out the deduction for indebtedness clause passed the house some days ago and went to the senate Tuesday with a prospect of being sustained by that body. Governor Penoyer's sentiments, heretofore expressed, indicate that he will without doubt perfect the law.

The New Orleans lottery swindle having outlived its charter in this country will set up business in Tegucigalpa. It may be discreet to state, for the benefit of the fence Post man, that Tegucigalpa is not in Benton county, but is one of the county seats of Honduras.

Over in Pacific county, Wash., a mob promptly did what lawful proceedings failed to do in moving a county seat. There is a no more prolific cause inciting to lawlessness and bloody feuds than these county seat questions.

JOINING in the common vein of press criticism of the legislature the Statesman discovered "space to remark that all the fools are not in the legislature." And the Statesman filled that space.

The senate has passed a bill which sets apart a homestead of the value of \$1500 for each head of a family and the probabilities are that the measure will pass the house and become a law.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30, 1893. The solemn tolling of the big bell in the tower which surmounts the church of the covenant tells the sympathizing thousands who crowd the streets adjacent thereto that the remains of America's greatest statesman—James Gillespie Blaine—have left the house in which he made such a brave fight against death. Slowly, slowly the funeral cortege moves through the vast sea of sympathetic faces, every head uncovered and reverently bowed and every heart throbbing with the same sympathy that is felt by every patriotic American. At the door of the church the unobtrusive black casket—an almost exact duplicate of the one in which Mrs. Harrison was so lately carried to her last resting place—was carried within by loving hands and carefully deposited on the velvet covered dais. In the congregation which filled every inch of available space were the most prominent representatives of every profession and calling, conspicuous among them being President Harrison and entire cabinet, and the legations of every foreign government represented at Washington. The services were of the simplest, no singing, no music, except a dirge upon the organ played by Mr. Walter Damosch, Mr. Blaine's son-in-law, and no sermon; nothing but the reading of the Presbyterian burial ritual, and a prayer by Dr. Hamlin, the pastor of the church.

It was proposed to give the dead statesman a grand public funeral in the capitol building, but at the request of the family the idea was abandoned. Mrs. Blaine also requested that no further official notice of the death be taken by the national government than was absolutely necessary, and that the mourning now on the state department on account of the death of ex-President Hayes should be removed at the expiration of thirty days, just as would have been done had Mr. Blaine not died; and her wishes will be respected in that as they were regarding the funeral.

From the church of the covenant to Oak Hill cemetery where the interment was made beside the grave of his favorite son, Walker, from the effects of whose death Mr. Blaine never entirely recovered, is something more than a mile, but the crowd which followed the procession, on foot, cared nothing for that; they were there to do honor to the man they loved, and had it been twenty miles they would have followed that casket to its final resting place. And who doubts that in the after years, when the United States shall have reached the grandeur which was so plainly visible to the prophetic eyes of Mr. Blaine, it will be considered a great honor in thousands of families to say: "My father, or my grandfather, or my great-grandfather saw Mr. Blaine buried?" Not I.

Already there is much talk of a movement for the erection of a grand monument at the capital of the nation he did so much for, in honor of Mr. Blaine, and there is little doubt that in due course of time such a memorial in bronze or stone, or both, will be erected; but Mr. Blaine will have a monument in the history of his country that will last as long as the world itself. His great work in behalf of his country is already as well recognized by his political opponents as by his followers, as was shown by the following telegram to his widow, from Mr. Cleveland: "His brilliant statesmanship will always be an inspiration to the nation he has served so long and so well. Permit me to extend my sympathy on the death of your distinguished husband."

Within a few weeks—some time in March—the patents on the principal parts of the Bell telephone will expire. This will be a very important event to the renters of telephones who have been compelled to pay extortionate prices to the owners and controllers of these patents, which may soon be used by anybody.

Whether intended or not Senator Chandler's resolution providing for the investigation of the whisky trust, had a stimulating effect on the house committee on rules, and representative Burrows' resolution was reported to the house and adopted. At the same time a resolution providing for an investigation of the money spent by the Panama Canal Co. in this country, and the relations of the Panama railroad with the Pacific Mail Steamship Co., and other transportation lines adopted.

The president and members of congress are much interested in the application of Hawaii for annexation to the United States, but the matter is too important to be decided off-handed, and will probably be left for Mr. Cleveland to wrestle with.

The bill appropriating \$60,000 for the world's fair exhibit has passed both houses, and went into the hands of the governor the first of the week.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

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Portland is in a peck of hail bushes over the bridge question.

Consolidation was funny before it was a fact. The Fate of Famous Italks. The outcry which has been raised against the destruction of Nelson's old flagship, the Frodoypant, makes it interesting to trace the end of other famous vessels. The Shannon, which fought and captured the Chesapeake, was broken up at Chatham, parts of her hull being sold at a fancy price. Sir Francis Drake's Golden Hind came to a similar end at Deptford, a chair made out of her timbers being one of the fragments of Oxford university. The Resolute, which went in search of Sir John Franklin, was after being abandoned in an ice field, was picked up by an American whaler and returned refitted by the United States government to this country, was moored in the Midway for some years afterward, but ultimately taken in dock and pulled to pieces, a suit of furniture fashioned from her broken timbers being sent as a memento to the American president. The Sovereign of the Seas, the first British three decker, built in the time of Charles I. "to the great glory of the English nation, and not to be paralleled in the whole Christian world," was accidentally destroyed by fire at Chatham after seeing much and long service.

Of Captain Cook's Endeavor not a trace is left, though several of his scientific instruments have been preserved, nor is there any trace of the Victoria, which made the first voyage round the world. The Betty Cadis, which brought William of Orange to this country in 1683, was cast away 133 years later—London Standard.

A Lively Bridegroom. I recall as I call to mind the day when I married a well known jockey to an equally popular baronet's daughter. How he did make the money fly! He gave me a diamond pin, my clerk got a five pound note, and the two witnesses, both sporting men, a "tanner" each. Some of the terms he used were decidedly horsey. For instance, he referred affectionately to his lovely "smart little filly; little bit skittish; wants careful foxtrotting, but a demon when she gets the bit in her mouth, and yet the smartest in the field."

"Look at the rare style she comes to the post!" he joyfully cried, as the lady walked up the room; and "how we're under starter's orders!" as I commenced the ceremony. When I asked the lady if she would "take this man," etc., and she answered in a clear voice "I will," he remarked, "Takes the fence like a daisy," and on putting the same question to him the answer was, "It's 20 to 1 on I will."

When all was over and they were hitched into double harness, he flung his arms around her and kissed her impulsively; then turning to us all as we stood smiling, he sentimentally remarked, "Fitting good finish." As my jockey friend left the room and entered the carriage he whispered, "Back my mount for the Chester cup next week." I did—it won.—A Register in London Tit-Bits.

Women Who Work. It seems that 35 per cent of the women of England earn their own living, but one would scarcely believe that there are nearly 350 female blacksmiths in England, which, however, sounds no stranger than the statement that women may now be seen driving cabs in New York.—Chambers' Journal.

A. F. Parker, a street car conductor in Oakland, Cal., possess two medals—one given by the queen and the other by the khedive of Egypt, for bravery on the battlefield. Mr. Parker took part in the march with Wolsey across the desert to Khartoum to relieve Gordon.

Measure of engerness, and even of something very like impatience, is a pretty good characteristic of young people. Boys and girls, young men and maidens, ought to be wise, but not with old men's wisdom.

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