

The Weekly Chronicle.

NOTICE.

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THE TRAMP PROBLEM.

The tramp problem has caused, is causing, and will continue for an indefinite time to cause comment as to his wherefore and suggestions as to his whitherness. That he is an unmitigated nuisance is undoubted; that he is a source of danger at all times, a threat to property and a menace to peace is freely conceded by all; that he is often a dangerous criminal, always a petty one, his history shows.

What then to do with him, and how to control him have become important questions. The remedies suggested have been multitudinous, ranging from the rock pile and enforced work to a great national home for him, where he may be sent and cared for until his moral nature gets thoroughly renovated and he becomes a good citizen, by contagion.

The tramp disease, like leprosy, once contracted is incapable of cure. It goes from bad to worse, eating into the morals, into the manhood of the victim until disease or a slip from the break-beam sends him into the beyond.

It seems to us that the proper way to deal with the tramp is to prevent him, and we believe this can be done easily. We premise that the great mass of tramps were not born to that condition, but made so; that they were not born with criminal instincts, but acquired them through circumstances. The only difference, after all, between your moral citizen and the criminal is a half dozen or so meals. When hunger makes the demand, crime will, if necessary, furnish the supply. What then is the remedy? By making steady employment possible, the first step in tramping will be avoided. How can this be done? By stopping immigration, or so controlling it that it will be reduced to a minimum.

With 350,000 to 1,000,000 people coming here annually, besides our own natural increase, the supply of labor outruns the demand. The result is steadily decreasing wages, trending ever to the level of those in Europe, and forced faster and faster to that level by the sharp competition of the labor of Europe imported and competing with that already here. The laborer, accustomed to certain wages and to the mode of living permitted from them, becomes disheartened as year after year his wages decrease and the practice of the most rigid economy is forced upon him. He refuses to work for the reduced wage and takes a tramp seeking some place where he may better his condition. The European laborer, accustomed to lower wages, goes to work willingly, for to him it is an increase in pay. The result is that the new immigrant is employed; the older one and the American becoming idle and tramps. The mining regions of Pennsylvania and Ohio are in consequence practically foreign countries.

The tramp cannot be cured by punishment, but he may be prevented by wisdom. Have we as a nation the latter quality?

A MORAL DUTY.

The dispatches yesterday lead us to believe that the administration foresees the possibility of trouble with Spain, and the probability of being compelled to interfere to settle the struggle in Cuba. That this government has no right to interfere in the affairs of Spain or Cuba is freely

admitted. It is a matter between the parent government and its colonies. The only excuse for any interference must be based upon the manner in which the war is conducted.

Higher than international law or international courtesies is moral duty. To take part in the war is beyond us; to stop the butchery of women and children is our duty. Warfare at its best is a bloody butchery of men, but civilized nations have certain well-defined rules that govern the conduct of all wars. One of these is that non-combatants shall not be disturbed. Another that prisoners shall be treated humanely. Spain has violated both of these rules, and has turned her licentious soldiery loose to rob, to ravish and to murder. As long as Spain conducts war against the rebellious subjects, according to the rules of civilized warfare, it is none of our affair; but when she resorts to the methods of the savage, it becomes our duty to stay the red-hand of murder. This sentiment is shared by fifteen millions of free men in this country, and it is high time the head of the government discover this fact. Let Spain stop her butchery of babes, or let her be swept by the strong hand of free America from her last foothold on this side of the Atlantic.

The English government acceding to the demands of the United States for the arbitration of the Venezuela boundary lines, is more of a victory than it at first seems. It is not the concession in this particular case that is of importance, but the acknowledging of the principles expressed in the Monroe doctrine by the greatest government on earth, except our own. It was not Venezuela's border lines that were in issue, but the question as to whether the United States, looking after its own interests and providing for its own protection, might interfere between the governments of Europe and those of South America, or rather of this continent, and compel the submission of differences to arbitration. The United States, in England's opinion, at least, has this right, and the far-reaching effects of this admission can scarcely be estimated.

Cuban affairs seemed to have reached a crisis. According to the latest dispatches, General Weyler, with 60,000 troops had attacked Maceo, the insurgent leader, who has but 7,000. The latter, however, has the advantage of position, and the continuous firing indicated that the battle was a severe one. Spain fears the meeting of congress, and is urging Weyler to crush the rebellion before that time. It is understood that Weyler must either win or be recalled, and this is what has sent him into the field. The result of the battle is awaited with great anxiety by Cuba's friends in this country, they feeling that it may be decisive. It is quite probable that within the next two days we shall have news that will indicate the final result of the struggle. Should Maceo hold his position the blow will be fatal to the Spanish cause, while the contrary result will make things look black indeed for Cuba.

In three weeks congress will be again in session, and our valued exchange, the Congressional Globe, will again resume publication, encumber the mails, load the editorial table, and finally find the waste basket. It is one of the most intensely stupid publications foisted upon a helpless public, but for this it is not to blame. Senators and congressmen furnish the copy instead of newspaper men. There are speeches handed down to posterity in its pages that would jar the popcorn off the Christmas tree, or make a campaign orator put a seal on his mouth and swear off talking forever.

The rains are coming up the river, and the river is coming up itself since McKinley's election.

It is the same old story and yet constantly recurring that Simmons Liver Regulator is the best family medicine. "We have used it in our family for eight years and find it the best medicine we have used. "We think there is no such medicine as Simmons Liver Regulator."—Mrs. M. E. S. Adington, Franklin, N. C. Each member of our family uses it as occasion requires.—W. B. Smith, Mt. Vernon, Ky.

EDITORIAL MUSINGS.

THE DRIPPING RAIN.

I never see a summer shower
But memory brings again
A scene, a dream of long ago,
Mixed with the falling rain.
I see the gnarled apple tree,
Its pink-white petals wet,
And under its protecting leaves
My boyhood's Violet.
I see her wistful eyes of blue
Uplift to gaze in mine;
I feel her arms—two links of love—
My bending neck entwine;
I feel the kiss upon my lips
By trusting girlhood given;
The first, the last, the only taste,
I ever hope, of heaven.
I feel my heart throbbing next to mine:
"Good bye!" I hear her say,
And through the softly-falling rain
I sadly ride away.
She stands beneath the apple tree,
I turn, and turn again,
Until the picture fades from view,
Dimmed by the dripping rain.
Ah! That was thirty years ago,
And all these passing years
Have left their scars of venal sins,
A heritage of tears.
But memory of that long ago
Comes mingling with the rain
To lift my heart from sinfulness
And bid me here again.

The beauties of the grand canyon of the Columbia, where it cuts its way through the mighty mountain chain of the Cascades, await the coming of some poetic soul to drink them in and tell them in the flowing measure of noble verse. The grand bluffs on the Oregon side, extending from Eagle gorge to where Multnomah pours its billows of lace a thousand feet down over their majestic battlements, are simply overpowering. The bold headlands, the towering precipices, the castellated peaks, built by Titan hands and fashioned by Nature in her grandest mood, fill the soul with awe and the heart with wonder at Nature's handiwork. But awe inspiring, magnificent as they are in their towering and silent grandeur, the great Columbia, flowing at their feet, challenges them in its majesty and strength. The one stands the grim, silent emblem of eternity; the other moves, the swift, noiseless, unswerving rush of Time.

Go out on the farthest point at the head of the rapids and watch the great flood as it gathers itself for the will dash over the rocky barriers. See! There by the island the current sweeps silent and swift! powerful! majestic! restless! See the tide glide ever faster and faster, its blue surface spotted with bubbles of foam, until, as you watch, it seems the rush of a mighty leopard swift in pursuit of its prey. There, but a little further, the white foam breaks up in feathery streaks, darting in and out and across, hither and yon, as though all the Naiads were plying their shuttles and weaving their bridal laces of delicate spume. Fiercer and more resistless grows the sweep of the azure tide, and now it is no longer a leopard, but a royal tiger, showing the milk of its teeth twixt its teeth all a-wrinkle. Silent still, yet with a sensate desire in each throbbing drop to outdo its fellow, it heaps itself, arching its spine, and just there where yon Titanic boulder of basalt lifts its head in sullen and stubborn defiance, it gathers its superb strength, the blue foam-flecked wave lifts itself for the leap, and as it springs you see the blue change to green, to yellow, then to the glow of an opal, and with one mad dash pour its whole mighty torrent down onto the black basaltic boulder, and shiver itself into a million crystalline splinters, into a hundred million atoms of diamond, that bluish up to the sun in a rainbow at their own mad wantonness. Panic-stricken it flees away with a rush and a roar, and the Naiads shriek from very exuberance of joy and fly away with the swirling foam, flinging their white arms up through the spray, riding the foam-flecked race, as the spirits from out the cave of the winds go forth with whip and scourge upon the hurricane. Then in a moment it gathers again and rushes away down twixt the mountains that lift their heads a mile or more above it, down ever down, home ever home, to lose itself in the bosom of its mother, the sea.

A NEW DANGER.

At Chicago, about a week ago, Warren B. Mason was killed by the sudden closing of a folding bed. He arose to ascertain the time, and in getting back jarred the bed so that

the heavy top came down. He was in a sitting posture, and the top of the bed caught him, bending him down in such a manner as to break his back. Surely no man knows when his time shall come. When a man's bed joins the vast number of other things that rise up, or fall down, to crush the life out of him, where shall he find safety? To what sudden and terrifying dangers are modern inventors leading us? Has it come to this that an insensate and measly bed shall conspire to a man's undoing? Shall man go to his bed with fear and trembling as to the guillotine? Shall he fold the draperies of his couch about him with the pleasing prospect that the sheets may be winding ones ere the dawn of day? Shall the prayer learned at his mother's knee, "If I should die before I wake," be brought forcibly to the mind of the old, and bring the careless sinner to his knees from very fear? Shall he rise from his couch in thankfulness and approach it at night in dread? Heaven forbid! Sickness and sudden death are frequent enough now, but from the treacherous bed that smites one to his death in the silent watches of the night, may the saints preserve us.

THE ASYLUM MUDDLE.

The decision of the supreme court in the branch asylum matter is no doubt in accordance with the law, but what effect will it have on the treasurer or the secretary of state if called upon to issue or cash warrants in favor of state institutions outside of Salem? Can the members of the supreme court, for instance, draw their extra allowance of \$1500 per annum for holding their term at Pendleton? Or, for that matter, can the secretary or treasurer issue or draw a warrant for any of the state institutions not located near, but at Salem? In speaking of the present condition of the branch asylum matter, the Baker City Democrat says:

The financial status of the Eastern Oregon branch asylum muddle is about this: About \$500 has been drawn on the Eastern Oregon asylum appropriation including one attorney fee of \$250. All necessary expenses connected with the asylum will have to come out of the appropriation levied for the asylum at Union. All has been converted into the general fund, except the \$40,000 levied this year. What was levied in 1894 was turned into the general fund. The warrant of \$25,000 that was issued for payment of the land is out, endorsed by the state treasurer. It was issued in the name of Phil Mettschian as a member of the state board, turned over by him to Thos. Wright of Union, who in turn passed it over to a Portland bank, where it is now. The title to the lands have passed to the state, and are on file with the secretary of state. The deed is recorded in Union county. The land is paid for, but not by the state, although the state owns the land.

LOOK OUT FOR BURGLARS.

All Island Empire Towns Invested by a Thieving Gang.

Burglaries and thieving have been common in Pendleton, Athena and Walla Walla and all towns in these parts during the past month. In Pendleton only a few have occurred and the vigilance of the city police officers has kept down the number of cases there. But Athena suffered no less than half a dozen last Saturday night, Walla Walla had another case Wednesday night, and all the towns appear to be infested with a gang of lawless characters such as go the rounds every fall in this country and were due here several weeks ago.

The advance guard began by stealing grips and bundles from the cars in Pendleton and Walla Walla, says the East Oregonian, and about one dozen cars were reported robbed during one week a month ago. Rewards have been offered in some cases. Business men should take care to secure their places from the burglar by barricading the doors more than usual and the people should see that their dwellings are locked and no opportunity given for the thieves to break through and steal. The Athena robberies constitute a rather remarkable instance. It is reported that six stores were entered during one night and all the money taken from the tills. But little merchandise was taken, only articles that could be worn with little danger of detection were stolen. Sheriff Houser and his deputies have the Athena case in charge, but no clues have been found.—La Grande Chronicle.

Cash in Your Checks.

All county warrants registered prior to July 11, 1892, will be paid at my office. Interest ceases after Oct. 20, 1896. C. L. PHILLIPS, County Treasurer.

IMPORTANT RAILROAD DECISION.

Contracts Relieving the Company from Liability in Case of Injury Are Void.

A decision of importance to railway beneficial associations has been rendered by the United States court of appeals.

An employe of the Burlington named Miller obtained judgment against the company for damages occasioned by a derailment in Colorado. The company set up that Miller was a contributor to the Burlington Voluntary Relief association, an organization for employes, and in his application for membership he agreed that whatever amounts he might receive should be in satisfaction of all claims for damages arising out of injuries for which he drew benefits. The court sustained a demurrer to this plea, and the railroad company appealed from this finding. The court of appeals sustains the court and affirms the judgment.

Judge Thayer says that several well-considered cases sustain the theory of the demurrer—the courts holding that employes may elect whether to take benefits in such an association or to reserve the right to sue the employer, and that such contracts are not contrary to sound public policy; but he remarks that in this case the plea of the defendant failed to show with requisite certainty that the corporation had legally obligated itself to the members to maintain the organization and to supply the funds necessary to run it. It did not appear that if the relief association was at any time short of funds a member could maintain suit against the company to recover the amount due him. Neither did it appear what money, if any, the corporation had contributed to the association, but it did fairly appear that the moneys expended by the relief association were paid from moneys deducted from the wages of the members. The corporation had not shown that the arrangement was fair and reasonable to the men, and Judge Thayer hints that there are reasons for holding it to be voidable for lack of valuable consideration.

Judge Caldwell, as perhaps was expected, took still more radical grounds, declaring that "such contracts, in so far as they attempt to release the railroad company from liability for injuries inflicted on its employes through negligence, are without sufficient consideration, are against public policy, and are void, and must ultimately be so declared by all courts."

SOME WEATHER NOTES.

The Rainfall Unequaled Since the Year 1875.

From Mr. S. L. Brooks we learn that rainfall so far this month has not been equaled since 1875. In November of that year a trifle over 6 inches of rain fell. We have had, to date, 2.85 inches of rainfall this month, 2.65 falling during the present storm. The barometer is low, 29.44, and still falling, with the thermometer at 53, indicating more rain. Contrary to the stories that the rain is confined to the territory immediately along the Columbia, the storm is general, extending south to Los Angeles, and east at least as far as Idaho. Snow is falling in the Blue mountains and at Baker City and other points east.

A peculiarity of the storm is that it is unaccompanied by wind, a dead calm having prevailed through it all. This is the more noticeable when the reports show that at Portland yesterday the wind reached a velocity of seventy miles an hour, almost a hurricane.

From 5 o'clock last night to 3 this afternoon .76 of an inch were added to the rainfall. In Sherman county farmers are plowing in the rain, and at Bakeoven, Mr. Burgess, who came in day before yesterday, says the rainfall has been heavy.

How the President is Elected.

The exact procedure of a presidential election is known to comparatively few people, and a recitation of the principal points is always worth while.

The election takes place on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

The vote is for electors, the number of whom in each state must equal the whole number of representatives and senators from the state in congress.

The electors are required by the constitution to meet in their respective states on the same day, and congress has decreed the second Monday in January following the election as the date.

The electors vote separately for president and vice-president (one of whom at least shall not be from the same state as the elector), and the list of voters, after being signed, certified and sealed, is transmitted to Washington, directed to the president of the senate.

Congress is required to be in session for counting the ballots of the electors upon the second Wednesday in the following February, the president of the senate opening the certificates in the presence of the senate and house of representatives jointly assembled.

A majority of the electoral votes elects the president and likewise the vice-president.

If no one has a majority, the election goes to the house of representatives; the three (or two) candidates having the highest number of electoral votes being voted upon by states. The representation from each state has one vote; there

must be two-thirds of the states present for a quorum, and a majority of the states elect the president.

If the house of representatives fails to choose a president before the next March 4th, the vice-president acts as president.

The vice-president will have been elected previously, in all human probability, because if he has not been named by a majority of the electoral votes at the joint session of congress, the senate is directed to select him by majority vote from the two highest numbers on the original list, a two-thirds quorum being required for this action.

Beyond the provisions of the constitution, an act of the forty-ninth congress covers all proceedings in case of dispute, and also fix the presidential succession in the emergency of death, resignation and disability in the following order: Secretary of state, treasury, war, attorney-general, postmaster-general, secretary of the navy and interior. But this acting president must have been approved by the senate as cabinet officer, and within constitutional requirements for presidential eligibility. He is compelled to convene congress immediately and with twenty days notice.

Hood River Notes.

No opposition line of boats on the river so far. The Regulator line has too many friends to make a competing line profitable.

A big land slide occurred on the Washington side of the Columbia, below the Knapp place, last Monday. The loud report of the avalanche was distinctly heard at Franklin, where it seemed as if the slide had occurred on this side of the river.

Mr. J. N. McCoy received word Wednesday that his daughter, Mrs. Agnes Jones, living near Boise City, Idaho, way lying at the point of death. Mr. McCoy being in feeble health, could not make the trip to Idaho, but Mrs. Milton Odell left here Wednesday night to go to her sister's bedside.

Hood river was booming last Sunday after the heavy rains of Saturday and Saturday night. There had been a big fall of snow in the mountains, and the chinook winds melting the snow caused a big rise in the river. At the head gate of the Improvement Co.'s ditch there was a rise of eleven feet in the river, and floating logs threatened the flume, but it escaped unharmed.

The board of directors of the Improvement Company appointed H. H. Bailey, L. Henry and Joseph Wilson to go up to the head of the ditch Wednesday and inspect the first half-mile of flume that is now completed, with water running in it. Another half-mile will be completed before the end of the month, unless the weather should be too severe to continue work. The flume was expected to reach the bridge yesterday.—Glacier.

A Good City to Leave.

Mrs. E. M. Wilson received a few days since, a letter from her sister, Mrs. Grover, who is living at Lausanne, Switzerland, giving an account of the condition of Constantinople. Stopping with Mrs. Grover is Mrs. Marthal, an English lady, one of the refugees from Constantinople. In speaking of conditions there, the lady says, "They are simply indescribable. The Sultan lives surrounded by five or six thousand fanatics, and no one can approach him. The Turks would gladly accept any kind of a government if the Sultan could be deposed and some semblance of law and order restored." Lausanne is filled with refugees, as nearly everyone who could get out of Constantinople has left it.

A Bridge Gone.

Saturday night the bridge across Hermann creek, just this side of the Cascades, was carried out by that stream, which we are told has assumed the magnitude of a torrent. It has remained so high that nothing could be done towards bridging it, and so, the through passenger trains have made a transfer at that point, and the local and all freight trains have been abandoned. Sunday morning the pile driver was started for the scene of the wreck, but it had either swelled or the tunnel shrank, for it wouldn't go through, but struck fast and was smashed to a limited extent. How long the delay will last is hard to say, but it is quite certain that the danger will be repaired as soon as it is possible.

Public School Report.

The following report of the public school for the quarter (four weeks) ending Nov. 8, 1896, show the gain over the same period last year:

Table with 2 columns: Metric and 1896 1895 GAIN. Rows include No. in attendance during quarter, Average number belonging, and Average daily attendance.

The quarter ending last week has in the totals of enrollment and attendance greatly surpassed any previous period in the history of the city.

The Master School.

Following is the report of Woodvale school, district No. 52, for the term beginning Aug. 24 and ending Nov. 13, 1896:

Number pupils enrolled, 28; No. pupils belonging, 20; No. of days taught, 60; No. of days absence, 40; No. of days attendance, 1039; Average daily attendance, 19.2; No. of visitors, 24. KATIE E. DAVENPORT, Teacher.