

The Weekly Chronicle.

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THE FOOL SENATE.

The United States senate has been amusing itself by monkeying with a new immigration law. It is provided in the new bill that no foreigner over sixteen years of age will be allowed to come to this country to remain unless he can read five lines of the constitution of the United States in some language. It is further provided that after the aforesaid person comes, proves his ability to read the five lines of the constitution translated into a foreign language, and so becomes one of us, he may then send for his parents, children, brothers or sisters; dependent on him, and these may land without any educational test.

A man with intellect enough to keep out of the Banyan hospital for sick insects would know better than to draft such a bill, or to waste the time of the senate in considering it. Any family with one member smart enough to read and write could come, and so that law to prohibit or control immigration would do neither.

The question of immigration is attracting considerable attention, and like all other questions, has two sides. If it should be stopped, then a law should be framed stopping it; but such bills as the one alluded to are simply the vapors of a befuddled intellect of very small bore. Its author was trying to please the partisans on either side of the question, and, like an ostrich with its head in the sand, thought he had very smoothly fooled both.

The United States senate is rapidly convincing the people that the selection of railroad attorneys, presidents of corporations and political Jekyll-Hyde monstrosities, must result in a change of base, either by doing away with the two-headed political calves, bearded women and living skeletons, or by the election of another class of men directly by the people. The mental vacuums now in the senate are not brainy enough to "fool part of the people part of the time."

PENSION LAWS.

There is no higher evidence of the gratefulness of republics than the pension list of the United States with nearly a million pensioners, drawing an average of \$150 each. That there are many persons drawing pensions who should not be, is undoubtedly true, but this will happen in spite of the closest vigilance. The list is great enough, however, as it is, and congress will do well to call a halt in pension legislation, instead of branching out.

We believe in pensions worthy bestowed, but not otherwise; but we do not believe in pensioning all the relatives of an ex-soldier's mother-in-law. Neither do we believe in pensioning women not born until after the war simply because they married a veteran after it was over. We do not believe it required, or requires, a chromo to go with an old soldier who marries, the chromo being in the shape of a possible future pension to the widow. The woman who got a soldier for a husband after the late war, in most cases got a good man, and one of whom she might well be proud. It is quite possible that children yet unborn, if girls, may yet become pensioners as widows of some veteran of the late war.

And yet congress proposes to extend the list and add to the vast sum annually expended. Is should think

not twice, but once only, before doing it, and then not do it.

The Associated Press is getting utterly and thoroughly unreliable. There is no longer anything in the dispatches that can be relied upon as being true, and it is time that a reform take place, or some other news gathering corporation be organized. We realize how difficult it is, how impossible it is, to get at the exact truth in many things. We understand that in the rush of news-gathering some mistakes are necessarily made, and that to be accurate in all cases is impossible. Inaccuracy in a certain class of news, is to be expected, but while the public expects this and willingly overlooks it, it does not expect that the truth should be ignored intentionally and the faked up stories that would not deceive a three-weeks old Papuan furnished it instead. The association should instruct its news-gleaners to stop telegraphing every rotten rumor that is told them and dressing it up as truth.

If the next legislature is as economical as the people seem to desire it to be, there will be but few clerks and when it adjourns there will be no more commissioners left. The railroad commission will probably be the first to go, and it is possible the term of the supreme court at Pendleton may be discontinued. It was only established there by the legislature to dodge the requirements of the constitution and pay the supreme judges \$1,500 per year more than the salary allowed them under the constitution. The decision of the supreme court that all state institutions must be located at Salem may possibly apply to the supreme court.

Only three more days in which to decide upon just what to swear off on. It is one of the features of the season that something must be sworn off, and soon after sworn on again. The old pipe that has done such yeoman service will be laid away for two or three days, or perhaps a week, but it need not flatter itself that it is to retire from business. Its wreaths of smoke will soon be seen again, and the Samsonian fragrance of its bowl will perfume the air long before the cherry blooms get their work in. Its the same way with other things, for good resolutions are easy to make, and much more easy to break.

Rivera seems to be a worthy successor to Maceo, his first engagement with the Spaniards resulting in a decisive victory. From present indications the war will be prolonged indefinitely, or at least until Spain exhausts her resources, or this country intervenes. Spain, it is said, will offer a settlement on the basis of giving Cuba autonomy, allowing her to elect her own congress, Spain still appointing the captain general. This offer a year ago might have been accepted, but it is not likely it will meet with favor among Cubans now. With them it is all or nothing.

A description of Christmas at Bethlehem, going the rounds of the country papers, contains a very suggestive suggestion. It states that a regiment of Turks are on guard during the Christmas festivities to keep the different sects from fighting over and trying to appropriate the sacred relics kept there. It seems rather paradoxical to think of Turks guarding the birthplace of the Savior to prevent Christians ravaging it, but such is the fanaticism of sect that the guard is probably necessary.

It is really too bad that such open weather as we are having is being allowed to pass by without a diamond drill being on its way down to our coal beds. Let us get a move on and see what can be found. With The Dalles at the head of navigation, and with a good vein or two of coal, no city on the coast would compare with her. She is way yonder ahead of most of them now, but with good coal mines she would be "out of sight."

The people of some parts of New Jersey, as well as those of the United States, are ardent Cuban sympathizers, and recently Weyler was hanged in effigy.

ANOTHER ALAMO.

Texans have made another Alamo, and in the cause of freedom. On the unhappy soil of Cuba fifteen brave fellows have poured out their life blood, a libation on the altars of liberty. Hopeless of success, they unflinchingly faced a myriad foe, and one by one fell at the post of duty. Called upon to surrender, they sent back the grim reply, "We remember Maceo," and prepared to die as brave men die. One by one they fell, yet there were no trembling hands, no dimmed eyes, no quaking hearts in that little heroic band. At last but two remained. Wounded, bleeding, parched with thirst, their indomitable spirits exulted in death, and with the cry "Vive Cuba Libre," they fell beneath the hacking knives of the accursed Spanish soldiery.

The world over, heroic deeds send the blood tingling through artery and vein, and mingling with sorrow for the untimely death of those brave fellows who fell in the cause of human freedom, is a thrill of pride that Americans have not yet forgotten how to die. The pages of history are emblazoned with heroic deeds, and for centuries the story of Leonidas and his immortal band has furnished a theme for historian, poet orator and painter. That one field where fell all but two has been pointed to as the greatest of all battles. It remained for Davy Crockett and his band of Texans to furnish, at the Alamo, a second Thermopylae, where Death held carnival, but Fear entered not. The Spartans fell resisting the Persians, and in the defense of their liberty, their homes, their country—their all. No greater motive ever moved the hearts of men. Yet, at the Alamo, the brave Texans died on the heaps of dead that they had made, to free themselves from the rule of the descendants of Spain. They, too, fought for liberty for themselves, to acquire freedom for their children, and to shake off the yoke of the oppressor. They, too, were moved by the powerful motives of self-interest. It remained for Texas to furnish the third example, and the most striking of the lot, for in this latter case no selfish motives entered in. Their homes were not invaded, their liberties not to be won. Moved only by that sympathy which makes men almost divine, they risked their lives that others might be free, and at the call of the oppressed gave all that man can give—their lives—for the sacred cause. No more precious gift was ever made at the shrine of Liberty than the fifteen brave lives, sacrificed so gloriously that Cuba might be free.

It may be that no monument of stone shall mark the spot where these men fell, for national gratitude is a rare trait, but the pages of history for all time to come will contain their story, which shall stand side by side with those of Thermopylae and the Alamo.

Texas may well feel proud of her sons, for of the three great examples of men fighting to the last, Texas has furnished two, the balance of the world, one.

The ambassadors of the European governments have met and agreed upon reforms in Turkey which they have submitted to the sultan. It seems that copper-colored accident is not satisfied with the arrangements and refuses to listen to them. He rises to the heroics, and with the pride engendered by the uncorrupted blood of a long line of murderous and licentious ancestors, he dramatically said, "I may be the last of the Caliphs, but I will never be a second Khedive." It might be better for Abdul Hamid to con a few of our homely English proverbs. "Half a loaf is better than no bread" might do for a kindergarten example, and along with this the story of the farmer who threw grass, clods and then stones at the boy in his apple tree. He might learn from these ancient stories that it were better to come down gracefully and cheerfully while he may do so without seeming compulsion.

General Weyler says that "when the Cubans begin to come in and surrender in large crowds, then the balance will soon come in and sur-

render all at once. If the captain general had not given so much publicity to the fact that surrender meant torture and murder, he might have done something with the non-combatants. Most people, though, would as soon take their chance of being hanged as to surrender and be burned.

Skamania county possesses some very valuable mines, or at least the people down at Stevenson think so. There was quite an excitement last fall over the discovery of gold-bearing quartz, an excitement that has not died out yet, but which continues in spite of snow, rain and cold. We hope our friends down that way will not be disappointed, but we must confess to a lack of faith in Cascade mountain quartz claims.

There is an epidemic of burglary in Portland, said epidemic commencing about the time the gang had burgled its way across the state from California. It is not probable the bold gang will go around Eastern Oregon, it being much more probable it will go through it. In time of peace prepare for war, and in times like these prepare for a visit from the bold burglar.

The commander of one of Uncle Sam's warships is credited with the following declaration: "If the United States government will give me permission to turn loose on Havana, there won't be anything but Spanish spoken in hell in the next two months."

We suggest that Secretary Olney and the senate fight it out in San Francisco, with Earps referee. The decision might not be correct, but it would stop the everlasting yawp.

The bar has been removed from the capitol building at Washington, and now our senators and congressmen may be able to pass in and out without either pilot or tug.

HOW CHILDREN ARE SPOILED.

The Young Mother Fosters Ugly Traits by Injudicious Management. The dangers that cluster about the untutored feet of the young mother begin from the very first dawning of her babe's intelligence. Long before she dreams of his knowing anything or receiving mental impressions, the seeds are sowing for good or ill in his character. I have watched the growth of weeds that, with the lightest touch, might have been flung away from the tender soil, but time passed by and the intruder flourished apace. Get control of your child during the first three years and you are sure of him. If the habit of obedience and deference is firmly rooted then he will never fall you in after years when he has slipped the apron leash.

The trouble is too often with the parents. The mother herself fosters ugly traits by injudicious management. Her baby refuses to kiss her. She makes believe to cry about it and thus gives a lesson that will soon have him crying for what he wants. He bumps his head and she whips the door or whatever it was that hurt him, thus teaching him to be combative and spiteful. What is it that makes nearly all children liars and many of them thieves? They are trained to be so by the unconscious fingers that point the way. The mother promises anything, everything to keep peace and avoid a combat with the little creature, who even now is beyond her control. She does not fulfill these promises and the child becomes her judge. Never tell a lie to a child, or in any way deceive him, if you would hope to get the proper influence. Do not rob him of the happiness of supreme trust in you. It will cling to him through life. —Ladies' Home Companion.

Asked Too Much.

"Is it true that your engagement is broken?" The beautiful girl inclined her head slightly and acted as if she considered the subject a particularly painful one. "He must have done something terrible," persisted the best friend. "I never knew of anyone more devoted than you." "We could have been happy if it were not for his intolerant spirit," answered the beautiful girl. "I gave in to him on every point that I could and still retain my independence, but when he insisted that I should give up my bicycle and ride the make he favored it was too much." —Chicago Post.

The Way to Advance.

The following new story is told of the late Lord Anphtill. When he was a junior clerk in the foreign office, Lord Palmerston, then foreign secretary, introduced an innovation whereby instead of being solemnly summoned by a verbal message the clerks were expected to answer his bell. Some haughty spirits rebelled against being treated like footmen and tried to organize resistance, but Odo Russell, as he then was, refused to join the rebellious movement, saying that whatever method apprised him most quickly of Lord Palmerston's wishes was the method which he preferred. The aggrieved clerks regarded him as a traitor to his order, but he died an ambassador.

ELKS GATHER IN A HERD.

And Have a Carnival of Festivity, Frolic and Fun.

Cascade Lodge, B. P. O. E., No. 303, met in their hall Saturday night in social session, with W. L. Bradshaw acting as chairman. About forty of the antlered fraternity were present, accompanied by about the same number of ladies.

When Chairman Bradshaw called time, the fun commenced, grew, waxed fat, fast and furious. The Dalles orchestra was present and discoursed some of its sweetest music during the evening. At the request of the chairman, J. S. Fish, C. L. Phillips and J. Hampshire sang the opening ode, and were promptly fined \$3 a piece, for having the temerity to offer to sing before ladies, when they all knew they couldn't, thus bringing disgrace on the order. The lecture was free, going with the fine. Then Mr. John Hampshire was called upon for a solo, which he gave in his best voice, and his best is good enough for anybody. The chairman, however, was looking closely after the lodge's reputation, and lectured him warmly "for deceiving the lodge with the story that he could sing, and then getting up and exposing his lack of voice, ignorance of time, and enormously uncultured ears." The fine in his case was \$3. E. Jacobsen, J. Falt, T. J. Driver, Ted Seufert and Mr. Ferguson were fined \$2.50 each for coming in late, and this was no sooner paid than John Hertz was called to the front, and after listening to the chairman expatiate on the enormity of his offense in getting married without consent of the lodge, he was fined \$15. On his making a solemn promise not to do it again, the chairman very generously allowed him to make it in two payments, both at once. Then the chairman's eagle eye fell on Dr. Siddall and he was invited to the center and fined \$10 for not bringing a lady with him. The doctor kicked and had his fine promptly raised to \$12. Judge Blakeley was fined \$3 for putting up hair tonic that produced bald heads. W. H. Wilson was called upon for a story, and as he refused was fined \$3, the chairman stating that his discretion saved him \$3, for he would have been fined \$6 if he had tried to tell one. J. B. Crossen was fined \$2.75 for being a grandfather, and J. A. Crossen, who tried to dodge the chairman's glance, got it for \$2.50 for hiding behind his wife. Tom Kelley received earnest commendation for his neat appearance, nicely blacked shoes, immaculate ties, etc., and just when he began to smile at his easy escape, the chairman froze his mirth with a fine of \$5 for showing himself in the presence of ladies with the top of his head bare. A. S. Mac Allister received a genuine roast for bringing his own wife, thus setting a fearful example to the brethren, and was fined \$5. Grant Mays was called up. "Brother Mays," said the chairman, "it becomes my painful duty to caution you, to warn you, and to condemn. You fancy you are a ladies man! You spend your time before the mirror admiring yourself! You are too particular about your clothes, and the cut of your hair and smile! I am disposed to fine you the full limit, and you can walk up to the office and pay 5 cents. Grant remarked in a whisper that he was \$2.45 ahead, as he borrowed the money from his mother, but the ears of the chairman were keen, and \$2.50 was added to the fine. H. H. Riddell was fined for having a bad memory, he being accused of inviting three young ladies and forgetting to bring any. Dr. Logan was fined \$2.50 for coming alone, and W. A. Johnson had to pungle \$9 for holding the baby, and thus depriving his wife of her inalienable rights. Max Vogt, Jr., had to settle up for "being too long on earth," and Julius Wiley, for arresting one of Herbring's dummies. T. J. Driver was fined \$10 for saying yes when asked if he could sing the doxology, and Dr. Fraser was fined the same amount for singing that same hymn to the tune of Annie Laurie. Harry Lonsdale recited a poem and received a roast "for imposing a lot of rotten doggerel on intelligent people, and for trying to recite anything at all in public; fine, \$8. Dr. Sturdevant was charged \$10 for having to be coaxed to come. A. M. Kelsay paid \$5 for being too diligent in attending to the sick, and everybody that wiggled enough to catch the chairman's eye, got a lecture and a fine. The address of welcome was delivered by Exalted Ruler Michell, who left nothing to be said. As the fines went flying right and left, the audience entered into the spirit of the thing and were convulsed with laughter.

Dancing was next in order and was thoroughly enjoyed, the great and taking feature being a quadrille a-la-ataq participated in by eight gentlemen, most of whom knew nothing about dancing.

Shortly after 11 o'clock the big Umattilla house 'bus was brought into requisition, and in two trips the ladies were all taken to the Umattilla house, where, under the direction of Steward Wilson, as fine a supper was spread as ever graced a festive board in Oregon. Chairman Bradshaw acted as toast master, and after the good things on the table had been attended to, Exalted Ruler Michell responded to the toast, Cascade Lodge, No. 303," in a brief but scholarly address. "The B. P. O. E.," was responded to by Bert Phelps, in a manner

that won hearty and prolonged applause. J. A. Douthit spoke feelingly in response to "Our Absent Brothers," and H. H. Riddell made an eloquent response to "The Dalles." "Our Dears" brought W. H. Wilson to his feet, and his address showed a thorough understanding of the subject. The speech of the evening was that of T. J. Driver in response to the toast "Minneapolis in 1897." We regret we have not space for this gem in its entirety, but cannot forbear a quotation or two. Minneapolis," said the eloquent speaker, "Minneapolis, what a theme for poet, what a dream for the painter! Minnie an apple is! Aye! More Mr. Chairman, she is a peach, a velvet robed, crimson tinted Crawford's early, blushing beneath the kisses of the summer sun. Soft as the touch of a mother's lip upon the brow of her slumbering babe; luscious as the heart of a watermelon, with the rounded fullness of a Cleopatra and the languorous sweetness of a Gulbeyez. Her teeth are as the ivory keys of a rosewood piano, her eyes two pellucid pools of dew gathered in the snow-white chalice of twin lilies. Her nose pink and white, tip-tilted and cute as those of a whole litter of chester-white piglets. Her hands are supple and straight, and she lifts her drooping lashes, only to blush in a royal flush. Her hair is as the spun gold of Ophir. Her neck is a column of marble, set on a drift of snow, and her feet are as white mice at play. She is altogether lovely, all wool, and warranted not to shrink in the wash. She would lure an anchorite from the single blessedness ideas of St. Paul." In conclusion he said, "Where, my friends, can you find aught so beautiful?" Hear! Hear! yelled the delighted Elks, and casting his eyes a-down the tables, the speaker closed his speech by saying, "Yes! here my friends, and here only." And then the only reason the roof did not come off was because the ceiling was in the way.

A few minutes after midnight the party broke up, and it is safe to say that no entertainment ever given in The Dalles, left such vivid and such pleasant memories as those which will last for life, of the social meeting of the Elks Saturday night.

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