

The Weekly Chronicle.

Table of County and State Officials including County Judge, Sheriff, Clerk, Treasurer, Commissioners, Assessor, Surveyor, Superintendent of Public Schools, and various State officials like Secretary of State, Treasurer, and Senators.

THE CORNER IN WHEAT.

Those who are watching the wheat market closely are expecting developments of a sensational character. A combination has been formed to corner December wheat, and the indications are the effort may be successful.

It is thought by many that America has sold to a closer margin than should have been done, and when this fact is made patent wheat will take a jump.

The bulk of the crop has left the farmers' hands, and a rise in wheat is not desired now as it was in the fall. True, some farmers who have not yet sold would be benefited, but the great gainers would be the cold-blooded speculators who play with millions, while the losers would be the poor of the great cities, whose pittance is scarcely enough to keep body and soul together now, and to whom a rise in the price of wheat means still greater denial.

An index to the general improvement of business conditions throughout the country is found in the increased employment given to labor. In New York City there are nearly 35,000 less unemployed men than there were a year ago at this time.

And now it is rumored that Germany is planning a coup to seize the Hawaiian Islands and secure the supremacy of the Pacific. While there is absolutely no foundation for the report, and it is undoubtedly as untrue as any of the fake sensations of "yellow journalism," yet even the thought of such a possibility would evoke the declaration from every true American that no foreign nation can get control of the Islands without a merry brush with the American navy.

The war scare now appears in Asia when Russia, Germany and England are waiting for China to die. The avarice of the old world monarchies is pushing their armies and navies to points further away and China bids fair to follow the fate of India and pass under the dominion of a foreign people.

Since the Oregonian has led the way, the Republican fight in Mult-

nomah county will be on more bitter than ever. It is the duty of the outside delegates to take control of the party machinery, and when the state convention meets make the nominations without regard to the fight in Portland. In this way only can Republican success be assured.

A SURPLUS, NOT A DEFICIT.

The New York Tribune says: Hereafter the secretary of war shall annually submit estimates in detail for river and harbor improvements required for the ensuing fiscal year to the secretary of the treasury, to be included in and carried into the sum total of the book of estimates.

This quotation from the last Sunday Civil Appropriation bill, as it became a law and stands upon the statute books, explains the apparent prospect of a deficit in the fiscal year which is to begin on July 1, 1898.

A good deal of distress has been manifested in certain quarters over the figures of the report of the secretary of the treasury, which indicate a deficit in the next fiscal year. The people indulging in this distress will perhaps be gratified to know that the deficit is only apparent, and that the figures, which considered in the light of the paragraph cited, warrant the assertion that the next fiscal year will show a surplus of \$30,000,000 instead of a deficit of \$21,000,000.

The above is the formal "estimate" for river and harbor improvements in the fiscal year in question, now required to be inserted in the annual estimates sent to congress by the secretary of the treasury. Prior to the adoption of this new requirement the secretary of war made his estimates of the amount required for the river and harbor improvement on the judgment of the chief of engineers. Now he is obliged to insert in the annual estimates every dollar that any and every subordinate officer in charge of the various improvements the country over may choose to name as the amount that can be "profitably expended" during the coming fiscal year.

Everybody familiar with the reports of officers in charge of river and harbor works knows that it is their habit to recommend the appropriation of large sums, usually two or three times as much as is expected to be obtained. It has also been the habit of the war department for many years to reduce to about one-third of their dimensions the estimates made by these subordinate officers.

An example of this may be found in the total estimates for river and harbor works sent to congress in December, 1891, to cover the expenditures of the fiscal year 1893, for which the secretary recommended an appropriation of \$113,208,303. On the very same page began a lengthy table which gave the detailed estimates presented for the various rivers and harbors, the total of these figures \$52,489,950. That table was preceded by the following note:

"River and harbor, showing the amount that can be profitably expended in the next fiscal year. The following statement is not furnished as a part of the annual estimates for the public service required by the act of March 3, 1875, to be presented by the secretary of war to the secretary of the treasury, but is inserted as a convenient and customary summary of items taken from the annual report of the chief of engineers for the fiscal year 1891, showing, under the provision of the act of congress, approved March 2, 1867, the amount that can be profitably expended in the next fiscal year on each of the works mentioned."

In this case it will be seen that the figures covering the "amount that can be profitably expended in the next fiscal year" were \$52,489,950, while the amount that was actually estimated was \$113,208,303. The result was that the total estimates in that year as they went to contained for river and harbor improvements on the condensed item of \$113,208,303, instead of the elaborate estimate of "profitable expenditures" amounting to \$52,489,950. This

year, however, the law enacted by the last congress compels the secretary to put into the annual estimates the entire sum named in these statements of the "amount that can be profitably expended in the next fiscal year." The result is that the sum "estimated" for river and harbor works alone in the next fiscal year is \$65,400,409.81, while nobody expects that the appropriations will be more than one-third of this sum.

It is apparent that the actual appropriations for the fiscal year will be \$20,000,000 less than the estimated receipts, instead of \$20,000,000 more.

THE APPROPRIATIONS.

Here comes the assertion in several journals that Secretary Gage himself estimates there will be a deficit of \$21,000,000 in the next fiscal year under the present revenue law. Is it strange if many newspapers are lamenting their loss of influence with the people, even when they try to use it in a good cause, so long as they resort to such untruths in order to support any claim they make? The secretary made no statement warranting such an assertion. What he did was to contrast his estimate of the probable revenue for the next fiscal year with the amounts asked by the various departments, showing that if all the money asked should be appropriated by congress, and spent during the fiscal year, there would result a deficit of \$21,647,886. This formal statement, made by successive secretaries in their annual reports, is never supposed to be an estimate by them that congress will appropriate all the sums asked, although it does at times exceed the estimate.

The fact remains, says the Tribune, that the responsibility for the future, both as to sufficiency of the revenue and as to possibility of strengthening the monetary system, rests just where President McKinley placed it when he urged in his message great prudence in appropriations. It is obvious that congress has power to appropriate more money than its revenue laws raise, and equally obvious that a deficit, so long as it exists, involves more or less risk of distrust regarding the monetary future. In plain words Secretary Gage has shown congress that it is asked "by the several executive departments and offices" to appropriate \$21,600,000 more money than its revenue law will probably yield next year, although that law will probably yield next year, although that law will yield, in his opinion, \$18,600,000 more than the government requires for its expenditures this current year, and \$34,400,000 more than it actually expended in the last fiscal year. Thus the whole question comes to be one of appropriations—is the great increase asked, largely exceeding the probable revenue, necessary for the proper support of the government?

This is the one question which the representatives of the people in congress must decide in the light of their knowledge of the needs and the will of the voters. It is their especial and great responsibility at this time. They know that they can defeat themselves and their party, as both parties have more than once been defeated, by appropriations which the people hold excessive in view of the existing conditions. It is plain to them that the country greatly needs such assured excess of revenue over expenses as will strengthen the public credit and the currency and make practicable reforms to that end. If they care rather for the satisfaction of interested people in this or that improvement or building or extension of the public service, they have to answer to constituents who are not slow to remember that heavy appropriations without an ample surplus involve grave risks.

The appropriations asked this year are substantially the same as the amounts voted last year in most branches of the service, and the great difference is found in comparatively few items. Under the war department, including river and harbor improvement, \$65,400,000 is asked, in place of \$22,914,816 asked a year ago. The responsibility rests with congress to decide whether, until the sufficiency of the revenue has been established, such extensive increase

of appropriation should be made. Secretary Gage's department reduces its estimate for department service and public works by \$1,048,000, and increases its estimate for miscellaneous expenses by \$786,000, making a net decrease. The department of agriculture asks an increase of \$500,000, while in the estimate for foreign intercourse there is a decrease. The estimate for the navy department shows a decrease of \$2,350,000, and the interior department shows a small decrease in public works. The estimate for pensions is slightly reduced, and expenditures for the department of justice and the estimate for the District of Columbia are reduced about \$500,000. A decrease is also made in the estimate for interest on public debt. The great increase asked is for public works, and that increase alone would turn a comfortable surplus into a deficit if the revenue proves as large as Secretary Gage estimates.

Yesterday's dispatches tell of six glass factories which will resume operations January 1st — another practical illustration of the benefits of a protective tariff.

NEWS NOTES.

Quincy was re-elected mayor of Boston yesterday. Yesterday a robber was killed while trying to rob a station near Redding, Cal.

The first meeting of the National Building Trades Council was held at St. Louis Monday.

Latest advices say that England is thinking very seriously of helping herself to a slice of China.

Reports received from Portland this morning state that the Portland Chamber of Commerce may send a relief expedition to Alaska.

No appointments will be made by the president during the recess of congress except in case of emergency. Despite the announcement of this fact, the number of visitors at the White House yesterday was unusually large.

Yesterday Miss Leila Herbert, daughter of the ex-secretary of war, died at her home in Whington. The death was reported to police headquarters as a case of suicide caused by melancholia and temporary aberration of the mind as the result of illness.

After a week of conference in Boston, Justices Putnam and King, the commissioners for the United States and Canada, respectively, in the arbitration of the Behring sea claims, have completed their work for the present, and it is understood will soon begin the preparation of their reports to their respective governments.

Latest reports state that the Democratic, Populist and Union parties of Lane county have combined.

Matthew Richardson, a Clackamas county pioneer, was killed yesterday evening by falling from a wagon.

Latest advices say there is no danger of this country having anything to do in the affairs of China.

A steamer is being built at Baltimore for traffic on the Yukon, which can be navigated on ice or water.

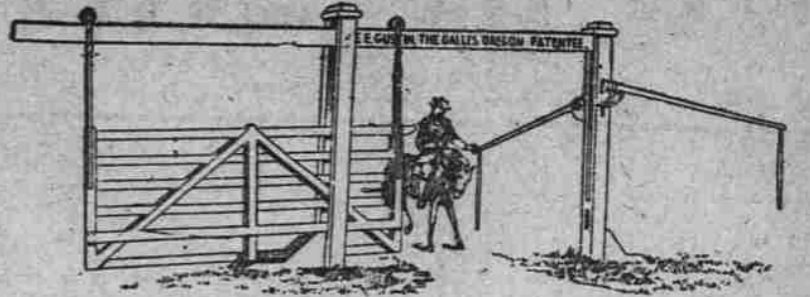
The Cuban version of the battle fought at Yacata ford, on the Cauto river, December 14th last, has been received at New York through the mails by Captain Alfredo Rodriguez, a Cuban insurgent officer, who is invalided in that city. It tells of a crushing defeat inflicted upon the Spanish general, Pando.

At Havana yesterday it was announced from the palace that during the past ten days the insurgents have lost 308 men killed, and that in addition the Spanish troops have captured seventeen prisoners and that sixty-nine armed insurgents have surrendered. The troops, it is further announced, have captured ninety-five stands of firearms during this time. Among the killed, the statement continues, are three insurgent leaders and three officers of the insurgent forces. The Spanish troops, during the same period, according to official statistics, lost three officers and thirty-three soldiers killed, and had thirteen officers and 213 soldiers wounded.

Energy Directed.

There is no danger so great for a man or a boy as idleness. If mothers and fathers would save their boys, they should give them something to do. Buy an ax and a saw, and let them chop up that wood, no matter how large the bank account. Let them keep the weeds from the garden and the tall grass from the lawn, the dirt from their own clothes and the dust from their own shoes. Don't do everything for them. It pays to teach the boys work—not so much for what they can do as for what it does for them. If more boys could have a piece of ground, a shop, a place of some kind where they could work off their superfluous energy, we would hear less of truant and reform schools. In the matter of reading, too, if you do not wish the boys to read worthless books and trashy novels, you must put into their hands good, well-written books, and these not of the dull type, which will discourage a young mind.—St. Louis Republic.

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THE DALLES, O R

DISEASES OF INFANTS.

Membranous Affections Are the Most Common.

The high mortality among infants is largely due to the widespread occurrence of inflammations of the membranous tract, the exact seat of inflammation varying with the change of the seasons. In summer the mucous membrane of the stomach is likely to be attacked, causing frequent vomiting, which results in an interference with the absorption of nourishment; while a similar inflammation of the mucous membrane of the intestines will cause persistent diarrhoea, with a like result.

In cold weather the mucous membrane of the nose, throat or lungs is often the seat of the disease.

The skin of infants, too, offers but a feeble resistance to outside influences. A condition of the blood due to indigestion often gives rise to eczema on the cheeks, scalp and elsewhere, the symptoms being roughness, redness and even moisture—weeping—of the skin. Local irritations, such as moisture, cold, or the rubbing of seams, are apt to give rise to the state known as "chafed skin."

This sensitiveness of the infants' skin should be borne in mind, and the underclothing should be loose, soft, and frequently changed, while nature's skin-tonsics for both infants and adults—the bath—should be daily administered.

In view of the quickness with which infants become chilled, especially before the period when they are able to walk, the garment worn next to the skin should be invariably of wool, which material affords the best protection against a too rapid loss of heat. In summer the garment should be thinner, but always of wool. Infants are rarely "bundled up" too much, notwithstanding opinions often freely expressed to the contrary.

The lack of resistance to disease in infancy which has been noted in connection with the skin and the mucous membrane is likewise characteristic of other organs. The most common age at which infectious diseases are contracted is in infancy, and in early infancy they prove more severe than with older children and are oftener fatal.

An impression that "children's diseases" are better once had and done with is entirely at variance with the observation and judgment of the medical profession. The sequence of diseases which the physician so often sees in children, as the result of one of the contagious diseases needlessly contracted, is a lesson which he cannot ignore. One disease makes a child less able to battle successfully with another which may be contracted before he is rid of the first. Wise parents ward off the contagious diseases as long as possible. Even measles frequently proves fatal in the young infant, while in other cases its evil effects are lasting throughout childhood.—Youth's Companion.

MUSCLE-MAKING FADS.

Exercises That Keep Athletic Girls Ahead of Their Brothers.

The fad for fencing at home has led many a girl to set up in the privacy of her father's residence a private gymnasium, or, as she prefers to dub it, an "armory," where she practices with the aid of an instructor and in company with a few of her intimate friends, says an eastern exchange.

Many a girl can do her trick on the flying rings or the parallel bar in a manner that makes her college-bred brother hustle for his laurels. And he'll have to hustle still more when the glorious May days come and she can show the result of her secret training on the golf links and the tennis court.

The Vassar girls and students at other of the famous women colleges and co-educational institutions have established gymnasium classes and are hard at work preparing for the coming summer. The Wellesley girls train with a special view of developing the muscles, necessary to become expert at the oars, and their famous fours and eights are expected to beat all records this season.

Bowling has its devotees, and many of the fair sex have proved themselves experts on the alleys.

The most usual place for practicing bowling is at some of the large athletic clubs, which generally have one day in the week, known as "ladies' day."

Harry Martell's company will arrive on the 5:15 train, and the parade will start from the depot at 5:20 sharp.

MISS GUILFORD'S VOW.

Said She Wouldn't Speak for Fifty Years, and Now She Can't Talk.

The people in the southern part of Hancock county, Me., are deeply interested in a peculiar malady which afflicts Miss Experience Guilford, an aged woman of East Bluehill, who has not uttered a word or any audible sound for 50 years. The original reason for Miss Guilford's speechlessness was anger because she could not marry the man of her choice. When she was 19 years old she fell in love with William Simpson, the village schoolmaster. They were to be married on June 15, 1847. One of Miss Guilford's rejected suitors told tales about the schoolmaster, and Miss Guilford's parents stopped the wedding. Miss Guilford thereupon said:

"I swear I will not speak a word, though I live for 50 years, unless I marry this man."

She kept her pledge. Her parents died, and she went to live with her married brother. When he died she made her home with a sister, and after the sister's death she went to a camp in the woods and kept house for a brother, with whom she is now living. All this time she performed her share of the household work and did not show any regret for having made the vow. When the 50 years of silence expired she was visited by a large number of relatives and friends, who went to the camp for the purpose of being present when she was at liberty to speak. Soon after the midday meal Miss Guilford dressed herself in the garments which she had not worn for half a century. At two o'clock she stood up before the people, smiled and opened her mouth to speak; but, though she tried hard and got red in the face in trying, she could not utter a sound. Her vocal muscles had become atrophied from long disuse and ceased to work.

When Miss Guilford found that she could not speak she sent to Bangor for a physician and took to her bed. The doctor gave no hope of recovery, but suggested that she be sent to a Boston hospital for treatment. As soon as Miss Guilford gets strong enough to take the journey she will make another effort to speak. Her father left her a small sum of money at his death, which has been growing every year in a savings bank, so she is well able to obtain the treatment she requires.—N. Y. Sun.

THE LIGHT OF THE FUTURE.

Studying That Produced by Animal and Vegetable Life.

The incandescent electric light wastes and throws away 98 per cent. of the energy utilized, only two per cent. appearing in the shape of light rays. On the other hand, the light emitted by the firefly and the glow worm wastes but two per cent. In other words, the animal light is 48 times cheaper.

In the course of recent experiments Dr. Raphael Dubois, of Lyons, has made elaborate studies of a great many kinds of light-producing creatures. There is no lack of them in nature; in fact, thousands of species possess this curious photogenic power. Not a few plants also have it, and among the latter may be mentioned certain mushrooms that grow in Brazil and Austria. Some of them give enough light to make it possible to read by the aid of a single specimen. The luminosity frequently seen in autumn in the forests on dead leaves or on bits of wood is due to fungi. The yellow flowers of the nasturtium emit a small amount of light. But in the animal kingdom the torchbearers assume an immense variety of forms, the minute organisms that are responsible for much of the ocean's phosphorescence to the deep-sea fishes that carry lamps of their own and form endless torch-light processions through the otherwise black and gloomy marine abysses.

Many jelly fishes are luminous, and so are some of the star fishes. A few earthworms are light-givers and numerous crustaceans have a luminosity of their own. One kind of shrimp has a brilliant circle surrounding the eye, which is really a luminous socket. A European species of "thousand legs" emits light in autumn. But no animals are better light-givers than certain insects, and even the eggs of some of these are luminous. From generation to generation the light-bearing creatures transmit the torch that is never extinguished, and which seems to have been lighted at the very dawn of creation.—Boston Transcript.

The Snipes-Kinsky Drug Co. have just received a fine line of Japanese ware suitable for Christmas presents. dc13-1w