

The Weekly Chronicle.

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THE CENSUS OF 1900.

One of the subjects on which this congress should legislate without fail at this session is the census. It is high time, says the Inter Ocean to be laying the foundations of the next decadal census. It is not too much to say that the last census cost millions more than was necessary through the crudity and delay in the passage of the act of congress under which it was taken.

But before even a beginning is made in getting ready for the twelfth census, congress must legislate on the subject. Ten years ago it made some blunders which ought to be avoided this time. One thing, the act went into details too much. The bill was largely the work of the late S. S. Cox, a brilliant and able man, but one entirely without practical experience in that line. He had studied the subject in the abstract and found it very interesting, but there is no school like that of experience.

Congress may provide for a permanent census bureau. A comparatively small number of men could be kept at the work all through the ten years from one census to another, and it would be economy to do it. Those men should be under civil service rules, not examinations prescribed by the civil service commission, but by the superintendent himself and his immediate assistants. The men belonging to that branch of the census bureau should be protected from removal except for cause, the superintendent being held responsible for their efficiency and accuracy. It would be demoralizing to reduce the superintendency to a figurehead. The chief's authority must be such that he will be master of the situation, at the same time exempt from the pressure of place hunters, in congress and out, who made such distracting demands upon the superintendent of the last census, Robert P. Porter. In a recent magazine article from Mr. Porter's own pen conspicuous mention is made of those distracting demands. Evidently they interfered seriously with the work.

But the great bulk of the work has to be done by men who are employed only a short time, a few weeks, perhaps only a few days. Their work, in the aggregate, is really the most important of all, yet it would be impracticable to apply to them civil rules. We refer, of course, to the enumerators of population. There will be substantially the same number of them as there are election precincts, take the country through. Either by act of congress or rule of the bureau, the supervisors, under whose general supervision the enumeration is to be made, should be required to follow voting district lines, so far as possible. The average length of time required to make the return for an enumeration district in 1890 was about two weeks. Every applicant had to make his application in writing, and, so far as practicable, he had to be a resident of the district. No doubt this general system will prevail in 1900. Chicago alone will furnish employment for a fortnight for about 1,500 enumerators. No general examination would meet the requirements of the case. There are a good many districts in Chicago where it is necessary for the enumerator to be able to ask his questions in some foreign tongue. In one it will be Russian, another Polish, another Bohemian, and so on through a long linguistic list. The

enumerator must be able at the same time to read and write the English language correctly. The spirit of the civil service system ought to pervade the entire work of the census.

THE YEAR AT HOME.

The New York Independent gives the following resume of the most important feature of President McKinley's administration:

"The most important aspects of the past year are those relating to politics and financial and industrial recuperation. President McKinley in outlining his policy, gave the first place in immediate importance to legislation for the enlargement of the revenues of the country, and the second place to the question of currency reform. He also indicated his strong attachment to the merit system and his intention to uphold it. He took occasion shortly after to promulgate an important rule forbidding removals from office except on written charges. He has proved a strong friend of the merit system.

"On March 15th a special session of congress was convened, and the work of revising the tariff was entered upon. It was known in advance who would compose the committee of ways and means, and they had been working diligently in preparing new schedules. The house was, therefore, enabled to act with great promptness, and the new tariff went into operation in July. It raised the duties on many articles, notably wool and woollens, to about the rates of the old McKinley tariff, leaving a few (as in the iron and steel schedule) almost undisturbed. The results of the new law are not quite certain. While there has been a monthly advance in the receipts, they are not yet sufficient to meet the expenditures of the government. The present policy is to wait two or three months longer. Mr. Dingley and others believe that there will be such a substantial increase as will justify their policy of retaining the tariff as it is.

"The expectation that the tariff settled, there would be a gradual return of the prosperity enjoyed before the panic, has been justified in a large measure. Business interests have adjusted themselves to the new tariff and the present conditions; and with the most abundant crops the country has ever had and large demands for them from abroad, our farmers have had a remarkably prosperous year, particularly in the West and Northwest, and have paid off a large amount of mortgages and other debts.

"The elections in November were of a mixed character. Where Republicans carried states it was generally by a reduced plurality. The Bryan Democrats hardly held their own in Nebraska and lost South Dakota. In an election for chief justice of the court of appeals of this state the Democratic candidate won by a handsome majority, being helped by the large Democratic vote in the Greater New York, where Tammany was triumphant over the Citizens' Union and the Republican ticket. The loss of Greater New York came hardly as a surprise, because the Republicans insisted upon a separate ticket, making the triumph of Tammany certain. The loss to good government is great. On the other hand, Baltimore was carried a second time by those in favor of a good, clean administration, and the state also went Republican, insuring a republican successor to United States Senator Garman.

"Our relations with Spain and Cuba have at times been quite delicate. Under the new administration they have somewhat improved, due partly to the fact of a change in the Spanish cabinet, and the access of the Liberals, with Senor Sagasta at their head, to power. Our new administration is regarded as friendly to Spain, although President McKinley's policy of ultimate intervention is very distasteful to the Spanish people.

"One of the great events of the year has been the discovery of enormous deposits of gold in what is known as the Klondike region, part of which is in Alaska and part in British North America. The richest finds so far have been in Canadian terri-

tory. Many millions of the gold mined last winter have been brought to the United States, and it is expected that the next year's output will be immensely larger. A large number of persons from the United States and Canada have gone to seek their fortunes in the new diggings. So many of them have pressed into the country that starvation during the long arctic winter is a possibility, and relief expeditions are to be sent forward with supplies at the expense of the United States government."

THE COMPROMISE REJECTED.

The Simon men have refused the offer of compromise made by the Mitchell Republicans, and all prospects of harmonious action in Multnomah county have vanished. The course taken by Simon, Mallory, et al., refusing to make peace in the party will come with little surprise. Unless they can control the whole machinery of the party and state, these self-constituted leaders are disgruntled and revengeful. In their selfishness they leave room for no one to aspire to prominence outside of their own favorites and henchmen.

The attack made by Rufus Mallory on Judge Geo. H. Williams in his letter published two days ago, will go far towards strengthening the cause of the Mitchell Republicans. To charge Judge Williams with being unduly partial or prejudiced is to make allegations which the people at large will not believe. The very fact that the Simon men are unwilling that this venerable statesman should act as an arbiter of differences because they fear he might decide in favor of the Mitchell Republican's contentions, will be to many, strong evidence that the claims of the Mitchell men are meritorious.

The letter of Rufus Mallory and the answer of the Simon committee will not find commendation in the minds of fair-minded people. Calling people hard names is not argument, and abuse does not win converts.

We had hoped to see the trouble in Multnomah county satisfactorily adjusted, but the action of the Simon men makes this impossible. The fault lies with the men who, in their blind passion, would wreck the party rather than Senator Mitchell should be re-elected.

THE OHIO SENATORSHIP.

The Republican members of the Ohio legislature held their caucus Saturday and agreed upon Senator Hanna as his own successor. There was no other name before the caucus, but there were several absentees, the votes of some of whom are necessary to Mr. Hanna's election. It is impossible, at least for those outside of the state, to understand the situation. Are the anti Hanna people playing for position in the game of patronage? If that is all there is to it the general public can afford to be serenely indifferent to the outcome. But if there is a clique of Republicans at Columbus who really propose to bolt the regular nominee and go over to the enemy, then that is a matter that concerns the entire party.

There could be no excuse for any such act of downright perfidy. There have been times in the history of the country when a few members of the legislature, just enough to hold the balance of power, were justified in stepping in and making full use of their advantage. That was the case when five Trumbullites in 1855 refused to vote for Abraham Lincoln for senator to succeed General Shields, and compelled the supporters of Lincoln to come to them. They had been elected as Democrats before there was any Republican party. They violated no political pledge, were guilty of no perfidy. It was much the same when Salmon P. Chase was first elected to the senate from Ohio, John P. Hale from New Hampshire and Charles Sumner from Massachusetts. But no such conditions now exist. If Governor Bushnell or any of his friends should now repeat the bad faith which elected Judge Christiancy to the senate from Michigan in place of Senator Chandler, he or they would invite the contempt of all honorable men of both parties. No public man can

afford to set himself against his party in the mere gratification of personal spleen.—Inter Ocean.

The last act has been played in the drama of Durrant's life. The meager dispatches announcing the execution state that Durrant made no confession and met death with the same self-control he has exhibited at all times since first he faced the charge of murder. While there can be little or no question of Durrant's guilt, yet it was the general hope that he would make some statement which would remove any lingering doubt which exists in cases like this, where the evidence is purely circumstantial. In the annals of criminal cases the Durrant trial will remain for many years among the foremost, while the crime itself rivals all others in fiendishness.

NEWS NOTES.

Wednesday's Daily.

Robbers held up a train near Kansas City last evening and secured \$10,000 from the express car.

Last night an unknown man tried to kill a girl in Eugene, by shooting her, through the window of her room. The bullet took effect in her arm.

Yesterday evening two robbers undertook to crack the safe in the Vancouver postoffice. They were caught in the act but escaped.

John C. Herren, a sturdy Oregon pioneer, and citizen of Salem, died at his home, shortly after midnight yesterday morning, in his 70th year.

Thursday's Daily.

Yesterday John Fox was appointed collector of customs at Astoria.

It is reported that the Spanish generals are having serious trouble among themselves.

H. C. Adams, one of Oregon's well-known pioneers, died at his home in Salem last night.

Reports received from Portland this morning state that the Mitchell Republican proposition for harmony has been rejected.

Addie Brown, who was burned by her clothes catching on fire while she was asleep near a stove at Salem Monday, died at the hospital yesterday morning.

The surveying expedition attached to the Nicaragua canal commission is still in camp near Greytown. Everything is progressing favorably. The laborers hired at Port Limon, Costa Rica, landed at Camp Cheney, near the canal company's breakwater, yesterday.

John Cardwell and G. Karg late last night were crossing a long bridge over Grave creek, about 25 miles north of Grant's Pass. When they were about half way across, a south-bound freight train came along. Karg retained his presence of mind and lay down on the ties, the train passing safely over him, but Cardwell became frightened and jumped off the bridge, which is about 70 feet high, and was instantly killed.

Friday's Daily.

A message received this morning states that the time set for Durrant's hanging is 10:30 today.

Tonight's Telegram will say that President McKinley will not remain passive on the Cuban question.

Latest reports state that the contract for supplies for the Dawson relief expedition has been awarded to Portland.

Last night the Columbia theater in San Francisco was destroyed by fire. The loss will amount to over \$15,000,000.

The question of calling Weyler to account for protesting to the queen-regent against the wording of McKinley's message, is closed, the Spanish public prosecutor having informed the supreme war council that there is no ground for prosecution.

The split in the ranks of the Republican members of the Maryland house of delegates, which developed at Tuesday night's caucus, continued yesterday, with the result that the house was compelled to adjourn until today without having organized, and there seems no immediate prospect of a settlement of the difficulty.

Both branches of the Ohio legislature have adjourned until Monday, but both sides of the senatorial contest remain in conference daily and nightly at the Neil house and the Great Northern hotel respectively. The suspense and secret work will continue until next Tuesday, when the two branches of the legislature vote separately for senator.

The last payment to the government by the Union Pacific reorganization committee for the Union Pacific was made yesterday, a check for \$8,500,000 (round figures), being deposited at the sub-treasury. The payment concludes practically financing of the reorganization of the Union Pacific and the payment of the debt of \$88,000,000 to the government.

To Exchange.

Twenty-four miles west of Spokane and two and one-half from Deer Park, on the Spokane Falls & Northern, is the following tract of land, which I desire to exchange for residence property in The Dalles: One hundred and forty acres—seventeen cleared, one paled in garden. Five-room, new house; two-story barn, and several other buildings. Value, \$2,000. Call at Sentinel office. 6-1w

CHRISTMAS AT THE MINES.

A Chapter on Memory and One Concerning a Greenhorn Wood-Rat.

GREENHORN, Or., Jan. 2, 1898.

EDITOR CHRONICLE:

Christmas arrived here on time, and has passed back into the sand bank of things that were. It was not the Christmas that Dalles people kept, but an entirely distinct and different affair. There was no candy, no popcorn, no presents, no turkey, no cranberries, no smiling friends—no nothing. It snowed six or eight inches; but we really didn't need it, having some three feet of it at the time. Yet it was really a "happy Christmas" for me. Happiness is a queer quality. It exists only in the past and future tenses. With what we have had we can rejoice; with what we expect we can grow glad; but with what we have, what sane man, or woman either, ever was, or ever will be, happy, chewing the "cud" of things past, and scenting the green grass of things to come, which will make ruminating material for some future date.

Christmas the trees were laden with snow, the branches drooping tiredly, like eyelids heavy with sleep; but since the gay and amorous Chinook kissed away the snow and the bare limbs are flaunted unblushingly before us Greenhorns. Greenhorn creek, from its little bed, grumbles complainingly of the cold. It had no Christmas cheer upon its bars, no flavor of nutmeg and cinnamon in its drink; albeit its waters are the color of Tom and Jerry. A few fluttering magpies, with absurdly long tails; a few pine-squirrels, with abnormally bushy ones, and an occasional cotton-tail rabbit, with no tail at all, constitute the sum of the living things the forest shows, and all these have taken their moods from nature and are as silent and voiceless as the dammed creek.

Christmas and New Years and hope and new-born resolutions, these are for all. Yet up this way we have the advantage of civilized folk, in that we do not have to wear off. Instead, we can gaze into the glowing coals of an evening, and through the wool of Memory run the warp of Hope. Gaudy patterns and bright colors come easy to the fire-gazer. Alas! that they, like the embers, should fade so quickly to dull and shapeless and sooty black. What a blessed goddess is Memory! With what gentle touch she covers the ills we have borne, even as the green grass heals the torn hillside and carpets the harsh earth that covers the form of some loved one "gone before." Oh! gentle and blessed Memory. Most merciful gift vouchsafed to man by the Divine Power, and fortunately fired out of the Garden of Eden with him. We suffer but once; past we cannot feel again the anguish. Bruised and battered by contact with the world, Memory holds up her mirror that shows only the healthy spots between the bruises.

Have we loved? Memory recalls for us the blissful dream. Have we been amused? Again she shows the playful picture. Sorrow and suffering and pain, these, and all their kindred brood, she removes with loving hands, and puts to our lips the cup filled with the waters of Lethe. She cannot weep like Rachel, but she laughs like Sarah over her first born. True, she has her faults, for she permits us to remember the debts we owe, and fails not to aid the fellow we owe them to in the same direction; but these are simply her foibles. True, she fails to warn us about that spool of thread our better halves told us to get, and so creates strife and discord between those whom a justice of the peace and God had joined together; but then we must remember that she has been out of Paradise for a long time, and has been associated with man alone ever since. With the other brutes she cuts no ice. By the way, did you ever see a wood-rat? We have one in our tunnel that is a living curiosity.

A wood-rat is two pounds of industry with hair on it; two pounds of vital energy with four legs. Two pounds of storage battery with gray whiskers and a bushy tail. Judging by the whiskers, the wood-rat, in the first place, was intended to grow up into a Populist; by the tail, that he started out to be a squirrel, but got "ratty"—fied at a Democratic convention, and so failed to materialize; while, from the utterly absurd things that he does, and the way he interferes with things that do not concern him, the inference is plain that he was intended for a politician. He has the energy of the colic, the persistency of a corn, the curiosity of a woman, the activity of a scandal, the meddlesomeness of a sewing society. But I will tell you about him later, only adding that he is crazier than a Klondiker and "foolisher" than A GREENHORN.

Public Installation.

The G. A. R. and the W. R. C. will hold a public joint installation next Saturday evening at 7:30, at Schanno's hall. Friends of the order are cordially invited. Mary S. Myers, Sec.

When you can not sleep for coughing take Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It always gives prompt relief. It is most excellent for colds, too, as it aids expectoration, relieves the lungs and prevents any tendency toward pneumonia. For sale by Blakeley & Houghton.

EAST and SOUTH via The Shasta Route Southern Pacific Comp'y.

Trains leave and are due to arrive at Portland

Table with columns LEAVE, OVERLAND EXPRESS, ARRIVE. Includes train numbers like 7:00 P. M., 7:30 A. M., 17:30 A. M. and destinations like Portland, Astoria, etc.

INDEPENDENT PASSENGER. Express train Daily (except Sunday). 4:30 p. m. (Lv. Portland, Ar.) 8:35 a. m. 7:30 p. m. (Ar. McKinville, Lv.) 6:50 a. m. 8:30 p. m. (Ar. Independence, Lv.) 4:50 a. m.

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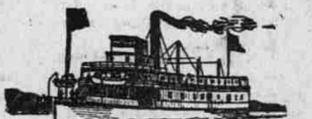
Leave for Sheridan, week days, at 4:30 p. m. Arrive at Portland, 9:30 a. m.

Leave for ARLINE on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9:40 a. m. Arrive at Portland, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, at 3:05 p. m. *Except Sunday. **Except Saturday.

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TIME CARD. No. 4, to Spokane and Great Northern arrives at 4:25 p. m., leaves at 5:30 p. m. No. 2, to Pendleton, Baker City and Union Pacific, arrives at 12:45 a. m., departs at 12:50 a. m. No. 3, from Spokane and Great Northern, arrives at 9:20 a. m., departs at 9:25 a. m. No. 1, from Baker City and Union Pacific, arrives at 3:20 a. m., departs at 3:30 a. m. No. 25 and 24, morning east of The Dalles, will carry passengers. No. 25 arrives at 5 p. m., departs at 1:45 p. m. Passengers for Heppner take No. 2, leaving here at 12:50 p. m.