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A PECULIAR FANCY.

That is a peculiar fancy which impelled a Democrat to say that "Mr. McKinley is an imperialist because he strives to catch the passing fancy of the people," says the Walla Walla Union. Never were there words more abused and misplaced than those of imperialist and imperialism, as bandied about by Democrats who are opposed to the cession of the Spanish Islands.

An imperialist is one who serves an emperor or favors the establishment of an empire antagonistic to that of republican ideas of government. The government of the United States is said to be republican in form, and in fact is democratic so far as the power of the people can direct public affairs through representatives of that people, and whose terms of office are limited and are subject to change through their expressed will. There can be no such thing as imperialism where within the people are the powers of the government, and who retain their freedom to act as their conscience shall dictate, and the laws of their country, as made by representatives of their choice, will permit.

It is wise and commendable in the president of a great and growing nation, who has been chosen by the people to preside over its destinies and see that its constitution and laws are faithfully executed, should endeavor to have the sanction of the people in those emergencies which oftentimes arise in the progress of events, which come to nations, that have more the appearance of providential than of human intentions.

If President McKinley has striven "to catch the fancy of the people" for aid to guide him in the performance of his arduous duties, such as have come to no other president than perhaps the lamented Lincoln, he has given the strongest assurance of Republican principles and his faith, confidence and reliance upon the people. It was the same firm convictions which sustained Abraham Lincoln through the trying times which continued through his administration. He took the people, as it were, in his confidence to lead him in measure, and he was not ashamed to confess that it was not an unsafe guide.

In following the paths of Abraham Lincoln in looking to the people for direction, President McKinley has shown the wisdom of a statesman, and that he is neither an imperialist nor tainted with imperialism.

SOCIALIST MAYORS.

It may seem strange to many people that several Massachusetts towns have for successive years recently elected socialist mayors, says the Telegram. But in practical politics the socialism of these officials does not aim, or, at least, does not attempt to accomplish, very much beyond municipal ownership of all public franchises, such as those for light and water plants, telephone systems, street-car lines, etc. The young men elected in these two or three New England towns are socialists of the Bellamy school in profession, but in practice they are so limited by their environment and by the status of society and the business world, that they are powerless to do any great amount of harm—or good. As to municipal ownership of what is somewhat vaguely classed as "public utilities," such as were mentioned above, a great many people who do not class themselves as socialists are of the same way of thinking. Hence the election of two or three socialist mayors in New England does not portend any great social, economic or political upheaval.

The report of the capture of the British Ninth Lancers by the Boers, though false, brings up once more the discussion in military circles as

to the value of the lance. In the French army the adversaries of the weapons are in an immense majority. They ridicule the thing, and insist that it should appear only in museums, among the relics of the middle ages. For ten years, nevertheless, the little group that favors the lance has held out. Probably the pretty effect of a regiment of lancers on parade has something to do with the stubborn resistance. But the moral effect of the thing in actual warfare, as compared with that of blazing carbines in the hands of charging horsemen, who hold their sabres in reserve, counts for little in the opinion of French officers. In the German army it was abolished some time ago; but it was recently restored. Austria has thrown it out completely, and in Russia it is preserved only in a few Cossack regiments. On the other hand, in the war of the Sudan, in which Gen. Lord Wolseley distinguished himself, Gen. Graham's corps came nearly being annihilated by Arabs armed with long lances.—Statesman.

FOR ONCE THEY LOSE.

A New York man has secured judgment against the Wagner Palace Car Company for \$750 as damages, the company having given to a woman a berth for which the plaintiff had a ticket. He was compelled to sit in the smoking compartment from Cleveland to New York, and the comments of the other passengers so injured his feelings that he thought himself entitled to money compensation for such mental suffering.

Little sympathy will be extended to the palace car company. It had sold two tickets for the same berth, and no one acquainted with the difficulties which attended the settlement of a controversy arising out of a mistake of this kind will express much pity for the person or corporation making the mistake.

The plaintiff was as much entitled to the berth as was the woman, who held a coupon for it, and because he attempted to expound his rights, his fellow passengers evidently called him a hog, who had none of the gentlemanly instincts which would prompt him instantly to sacrifice his own comfort in behalf of a lone lady passenger.

The fellow passengers, whose right and title to berths was not brought into question naturally viewed the situation with equanimity, and gave their opinion as to what should be done from the standpoint of chivalry. The contestant perhaps sympathized with the fair contestee, but having paid the customary two prices for a poorly ventilated cubby hole with its spacious conveniences for undressing, he was in duty bound to insist that the corporation fulfil its part of the contract.

He is a brave man who has the courage to attempt to wrench exact justice from the modern sleeping car company. They assume to provide for every comfort of the traveler, and enforce regulations which result only in discomfort. They profess to be moving hotels, but approach to the character of hostleries only in the matter of tariffs. They ask that in civilities be reported to headquarters, but reports generally die in pigeon holes. They take upon themselves no responsibility for the safety of passengers' property, and yet porters are supposed to be tipped for looking after such property. They promise a good night's sleep, and yet suffer fierce looking conductors to thrust enormous lanterns into the faces of dreaming passengers and order a search among scattered clothing for railroad tickets. They keep the coaches excessively hot or extremely cold; they haul down upper berths when they might just as well be kept up with no loss to the company; they rouse through passengers early in the morning, when two hours' additional sleep might be allowed, if the comfort of the porter did not have to be looked after; they provide coaches, the windows of which can never be opened, and the doors of which will rarely remain shut. And in the face of all the sins of omission and sins of commission, they talk of capitalizing their entire business for \$70,000,000, in order that they may not lose money under their present rates. The sleeping car companies have

much to answer for, and they will not go free by the payment of \$750.—Spokesman-Review.

The vote in the house on speaker—177 for the Republican candidate, 153 for the Democratic, 4 for the Populist and two for the Silverite—does not represent the full strength of any of these elements except the one last named. Some votes were missing from even the Populists, and larger numbers were lacking from the Republican and Democratic total. This division would give the Republicans a majority of eighteen over all the other political ingredients in the house. The Republican lead will be about half a dozen less than that, however. But it will be long enough, with the use of the Reed rules, which have been adopted, to give the Republicans control of legislation in that chamber. If they take intelligent advantage of their opportunities a great deal of useful work will be done in the session which has just begun.

The death of Senator Hayward, of Nebraska, will reduce by two the Republican majority in the United States senate, says the Review. Hayward was elected, after a bitter struggle, at the last session of the Nebraska legislature, but sickness and death prevented his sitting in the senate. Under the constitution, "if vacancies happen by resignation or otherwise during the recess of the legislature of any state, the executive thereof may make temporary appointments until the next meeting of the legislature, which shall then fill such vacancies." The executive of Nebraska, Governor Poynter, is a fusionist, and will appoint a fusionist to succeed Hayward.

Postmaster General Smith points out an abuse of second-class mail privileges which costs the government a loss of at least \$20,000,000 a year. Congress can do the people a great service by correcting this lavish waste of money.

Vigan, the latest seaport occupied by our troops in Luzon, is a flourishing place of 19,000 inhabitants. The naval brigade stepped in under the guns of the Oregon and the inhabitants were glad to see the flag go up.

ANENT THE FIRE SYSTEM.

The Proposition of the Seufert & Condon Company Accepted.

The councilmen met last night in special session to consider the bids of the telephone systems of our city to furnish and maintain the power for the fire alarm system, the Oregon Telephone Company having been induced to put in a bid since the last meeting of the council.

There were present Councilmen Stephens, who acted as chairman; Keller, Clough, Gunning, Johnston, Shackelford, Kelly and Wilson.

The Seufert & Condon company submitted two propositions and the O. T. & T. Co. one. The first proposition of the former company was to furnish and maintain a suitable and necessary line of wire, poles, etc., at the rate of \$12.50 a month for seven boxes and \$1.50 for additional boxes which may be put in. Also furnish a fire alarm to be placed at central. The second was to maintain the same for \$1 a month, providing the city pay the net cost for the erection.

The proposition of the Oregon Telephone Company was to furnish all material and labor necessary to construction at actual cost to the city; allow the city the use of poles without any cost whatever, and to supply all poles necessary free of charge and maintain the same free of charge.

On motion of Gunning the city accepted proposition No. 2 of the Condon Company.

An estimate of construction made by J. A. McArthur was submitted to the council, placing the cost at \$206.50.

On motion of Gunning the council appropriated \$206.50 in favor of the Seufert & Condon Company to be used for the same.

The council then ordered that the old hook and ladder truck be sold to Long of Portland, of whom they are purchasing the apparatus.

It was ordered that an electric light be placed in front of the South Side Hose Company's house.

Gunning then introduced ordinance No. 307, amending the former ordinance providing for the various fire companies. The amendment authorizes the changing of the name of Columbia Hose Company to "Columbia Hose and Chemical Engine Company No. 2," and also changing the nature of the company to correspond with the name. The same was passed.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

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DESPERATE CHARACTERS CAPTURED

ROBT. WILSON AND HUGH BROWN BROUGHT TO JUSTICE.

Sheriff Kelly and Dell Howard Do Some Clever Work in Capturing Two Old Offenders.

Monday's Daily.

It is not left to the officers in large cities to accomplish all the shrewd work and display all the bravery; but often their laurels are captured by the sheriffs in what are termed "country districts," and such a case is one which has just occurred in Wasco county; and thereby hangs a tale:

On the night of July 23, 1897, three white men—E. Simmons, Hugh Brown and Robert Wilson—held up and robbed three Indians near the old slaughter house, above town, badly beating two of them and taking from them \$7.50. They were captured the next day, and at the November term of court Brown and Wilson were sentenced to two years in the penitentiary, being taken down on the 27th of that month. On the 25th of last September they were released, but their imprisonment did them little good, as was proven later.

Saturday morning Sheriff Kelly received a telephone message from Everett, who keeps a stable at Dufur, saying that two men had come there in the morning and hired two horses, saying they were going down to where their horses were pastured near The Dalles. Later he heard they had tried to trade the horses to J. Moore at Nausene and were on their way south, so he telephoned to the sheriff to be on the look out. Mr. Kelly at once telephoned to his deputy, Dell Howell, at Antelope, to be ready to start in pursuit when they crossed the river at Des Chutes; at the same time sending word to Mrs. Sherar to advise him if two men attempted to pass there. At 6 o'clock she phoned that two men had just gone by on the run. Word was immediately sent to Howell, who started to meet them. He reached Dead Dog, about five or six miles this side of Bake Oven, and stopped over night, or until the small hours, when he again set out, reaching Davis' place, seven miles the other side of Des Chutes, by daylight. He here encountered his men; but allowed them to eat breakfast, after which he arrested them. Brown attempted to get his pistol, but was thwarted, and both gave up. Putting handcuffs on Brown, he made them mount their horses tied together, and in this manner they were taken to Des Chutes.

Desiring to telephone the sheriff, Howell left his men in charge of two guards and went into the house. No sooner had he gone than they started on the run up the grade. But Howell was soon on their track, shooting as he came in range of them. Two miles on the road he overtook them, one having fallen off his horse, which he left behind, and which Mrs. Sherar afterward sent word was found. He began throwing rocks. Howell had unloaded his pistol, and in attempting to reload found the cylinder had caught, but the crafty officer ran a bluff, and pointing the weapon at them demanded them to hold up their hands, and so recaptured the culprits. This time both were handcuffed and their hands tied behind them.

Securing a hack at Sherar's, in company with Mr. Sherar, the men were brought on into town, reaching here at midnight, when they were soon safe in the county jail. From photographs of Brown and Wilson—which were sent out by the chief of police about ten days ago, they having been charged with committing several of the hold-ups and robberies which have been going on in Portland recently, among which was the street car hold-up—the officers decided they had captured the men wanted in Portland and for whom they had been on the lookout. It will be remembered that the men were discovered at a boarding house in that city but escaped the officers, who shot at them several times, some of the shots taking effect. When they had been placed in jail here, Sheriff Kelly said: "Well, one of you fellows is shot, isn't he?" They both flatly denied and declared they were not the men. The sheriff, however, made them strip and found that Wilson had been shot under the left shoulder blade, also through the left arm, and again through the calf of the right leg. This morning Dr. Logan was called and succeeded in extracting a bullet from the top of the left shoulder blade, it having ranged through from the shot first spoken of. The mystery is how the man continued his depredations for over a week with such wounds on his person, for they must have been plying their trade, as six or seven watches were found on their persons when arrested. The deputy allowed them to retain them and when at Des Chutes one of them threw something wrapped in a handkerchief into the river and the watches are missing. At Chicken Springs they traded one horse for a smaller one and something to boot.

Word was sent to the chief of police in Portland, who answered that he would send officers up to identify them. They

will probably, however, be tried here first for horse stealing.

Both are men about 25 or 30 years of age, and desperate characters as one might well imagine. Sheriff Kelly deserves much credit for his prompt action and ingenuity, while his deputy, Dell Howell, has proven himself the bravest of officers, gaining for himself a record for bravery which is remarkable.

PORTAGE ROAD NOT A BLUFF

So Says Paul Mohr, and Defies Anyone to Prove That the Railroad Companies Are Interested.

Mr. Paul F. Mohr being interviewed today was shown an article in the Portland Evening Telegram of Dec. 7th, in which it is stated that the portage railway enterprise of the Central Navigation & Construction Co. is merely a bluff being worked at the instance of the Northern Pacific Railway Co.

Mr. Mohr replied, "If truthfulness were painful the Telegram's informant would necessarily have to be remarkably free from pain!" Mr. Mohr says that it has been part of the game of those who are opposed to the opening of the Columbia river to make the people of Oregon, Washington and Idaho believe that the work being done by the Central Navigation & Construction Co. was really done in the interest of some of the large railroad corporations now controlling the traffic of the great basin of the Columbia river; at other times that it was a scheme to hold up the railway companies to compel them to buy their rights, and other stories, which, although absurd to the "knowing ones" impress many thousands of people who are not in a position to know the facts. The financial standing, intelligence, character and business ability of the capitalists of the Central Navigation & Construction Co. ought to be sufficient to satisfy the doubting Thomases in all communities. I. N. Peyton, President of the Exchange National Bank of Spokane, Frank H. Graves, a great lawyer and capitalist; George Turner, famous as a statesman, lawyer and capitalist; W. J. Harris, a man of great wealth and business energy, and W. J. C. Wakefield, a very rich and distinguished lawyer, are not men who would be willing, or who could afford to act as stool pigeons for any railroad.

He says this portage railway is being built as a legitimate business enterprise, partly because it will pay, and partly because it furnishes an important means for Spokane to obtain such rates as will enable it to control the trade area which is tributary to it. There are many people who like to put on a long wise face, and to become oracular for the satisfaction of seeing

their opinions in print; but Mr. Mohr says he feels kindly to those people and abhors the time which is wasted by them in discussing things which they know no more about than a pig does snipe shooting. The company therefore has set aside the sum of \$5,000 to be given to any man who can prove anything which is being said against the honesty of the intentions of the Central Navigation & Construction Co., or who can prove that either the O. R. & N. or the Northern Pacific or the Great Northern Railway companies have any interest in the Central Navigation & Construction Co., or in any of its work, and to facilitate any inquiry of that kind made by any decent or reasonable person, properly accredited, by opening freely its books, vouchers, correspondence, or any paper or papers which may be demanded.

Mr. Mohr says that all of the work on the portage railway is under contract, and by June the first of next year the new transportation line will be taking freight from between Lewiston to the sea and vice versa.

Christmas Giving.

To ALL FRIENDS OF THE WORTHY POOR: Have you thought how near Christmas is at your doors? Have you thought how you could best brighten some other life than your own on this, the anniversary of the birth of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords?

We, the Salvation Army, are now making a canvas of the city looking for those most in need, and we find many who, not known to be among the poorest of the poor, yet are in need of the necessities of life. And now we have more than we can help as we should like. Will you help us to bring cheer to some homes this Christmas tide? If so, you can in the following way, by giving to our solicitors any of the following things: Food of any kind—potatoes, flour, eggs, apples, butter, turkey, chicken, etc.—new and second hand clothing for children or grown persons; toys of all kinds, new and second hand; candy, nuts, etc. In fact everything one needs for one's own home.

"The Lord loveth a cheerful giver." Do you wish to be loved by him. Our hall is just across the street from the CHRONICLE office. Leave word and donations at our head quarters.

Yours living for others,
 CAPT. TOM REED HILBERT,
 LIEUT. FRANK MERRELL JARVIS.

Mrs. R. Churchill, Berlin, Vt., says: "Our baby was covered with scabies sores. Do Witt's Witch Hazel Salve cured her." A specific for piles and skin diseases. Beware of worthless counterfeits.

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