

The Oregonian

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DAILY METEOROLOGICAL REPORT. PORTLAND, Feb. 22, 8 P. M. - Maximum temperature, 57; minimum temperature, 44.

There is a storm of vast proportions central to the coast opposite the mouth of the Columbia river. Owing to its sudden appearance, causing a decided fall in the barometer throughout the country west of the Rockies, copious rainfalls resulted.

Forecast made at Portland for the 24 hours ending at midnight February 23: For Oregon, Washington and Idaho - Rain and stationary temperature, with fresh southerly winds.

PORTLAND SATURDAY, FEB. 23. SPECIAL FEATURES TOMORROW. The fourth and thus far most interesting chapter of Anthony Hope's great serial, "Chronicles of the Great Naval Station of Russia."

THE BRIDGE ADJUSTMENT. The creation of a commission to buy the Morrison-street bridge and the Stark-street ferry was the result of a demand for justice for the central part of the city.

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for providing bridges for other localities that the city could not well afford. But now, with this final measure, including a revenue from vehicle tolls, the bridge problem will be solved on terms the best that present conditions will allow.

DIRECT ELECTION OF SENATORS. Undoubtedly the scandalous senatorial deadlocks of the last few years, which left no less than three states only half represented in the senate at one, not to speak of several senatorial elections more shameful than deadlocks, will give strong impetus to the public opinion fast forming in favor of choice of senators directly by the people at general election.

This will be a slow reform, because they who profit by the present system—United States senators and members of state legislatures—are entrenched directly in its path. The reform can be brought about only by an amendment to the constitution.

To make this, as required of two-thirds of the senators and three-fourths of the state legislatures. This amendment will be given only under absolute popular compulsion.

The house of representatives has adopted twice a joint resolution for submission of such an amendment to the constitution to the states. The first time it was rejected by the senate, and now the senate committee on the subject has again made an unfavorable report.

No matter how large a majority such a proposition may secure in the lower branch, most of the senators will oppose it, although it is not without advocates in that branch. The whole force of tradition and precedent is on the side of the existing system, and this is reinforced by the practical objections to a change of not a few senators, but of the entire senate.

It is getting elected by a legislature, but doubt whether they are as fortunate as they submitted their claims directly to the people. This amendment never will pass the senate until men are sent there absolutely pledged and instructed to support it.

This never can be done until the unwillingness of the state legislatures to see a change made shall be overcome by the people. No matter how large a majority such a proposition may secure in the lower branch, most of the senators will oppose it, although it is not without advocates in that branch.

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which the pounds represent the weight of projectiles, and the foot tons their striking force:

Table with 4 columns: Weight of projectile, Striking force, Weight of projectile, Striking force. Rows include Indiana, Massachusetts, and other states.

reduced somewhat in practice. Inasmuch as the Majestic's six-inch guns are rapid-firers, they would be able to deliver their projectiles faster than from breech-loaders, and this would add somewhat to her fighting efficiency, as compared with the Indiana; but the latter's superiority in weight of metal and in the energy of the blows delivered is too great to be offset by the rapidity of fire of a few light guns.

The extraordinary protection given by heavy armor to the Indiana's guns would go far to prevent the Majestic's rapid-fire guns from doing any damage to the former's battery, and it would tend to stand by the American's eight-inch and six-inch guns would wreck everything outside the Englishman's barbettes. Besides, our six-inch and eight-inch breech-loaders can easily be replaced by rapid-firers, if it shall be found profitable to do so.

Experience in designing and building the new battle-ships will throw a deal of light upon this and all other naval problems.

AN INDIAN "SETTING OUT." The Nez Perce Indian reservation in Idaho will soon be opened by government purchase and proclamation to settlement under the federal land laws. This is a magnificent tract, richly diversified and well watered. The lands can be possessed by settlers only under the homestead, townsite, stone, timber and mining laws, and in addition to the regular land-office fees, each entryman must pay \$3.75 an acre for agricultural lands, and \$5 an acre for those classified as stone, timber and mineral lands. One-half of this price must be paid within two years from the date of entry, and the balance before making final proof. No interest will be charged on deferred payments, the government to take the place of real estate agent in this respect. The object of the law is to give energetic, careful men a chance to secure homes and lands with the least possible hardship.

In making terms by which this magnificent tract is to be laid out, the government has been exceedingly generous with the Indians. The indemnity fund reaches an aggregate of \$1,568,622. The money which will constitute the first cash payment to the Indians, and will be immediately disbursed. This will allow \$300 to every man, woman and child on the reservation, and will create temporarily in the Indian community a condition of financial equality that would delight the soul of socialism. In a very short time the usual inequalities of wealth will no doubt manifest themselves among them, and the few who have absorbed all that the white people have not gotten by barter.

The government will not, however, abandon its benevolent policy solely to the blight of their own improvidence, laziness and mismanagement. The \$1,000,000 remaining will be retained, the government paying 5 per cent interest for the use of it, devoting the income thus acquired to the benefit of the Indians. In addition to this, the Indians are to become individual landholders, having been given their choice of lands from the entire tract, and having shown good judgment in their selection.

It would be difficult to find an agricultural community better equipped to "get along in the world" than the Nez Perce Indians will be when the arrangements in progress for their "setting out" in ways of civilization are completed. With an allotment of 160 acres of the choicest farming land, and a cash payment of \$300 to begin with, an assured income of \$50,000 per year in interest on deferred payments, and the government to manage its disbursement, they may well be regarded as among the richest agricultural people on earth.

Senator Villas wants the government to build and own its postal cars, instead of renting these vehicles from the railroad companies as now, and has embodied this idea in an amendment to the postoffice appropriation bill. According to his calculations, the amount paid by the government in one year for the use of postal cars would more than build all that are needed for the postal service, and the cost of transporting the mails would be confined to a hauling charge, based upon the weight of mail. Since the government is formerly postmaster-general it is fair to presume that he knows what he is talking about, and it may be surmised that Uncle Sam has been and is paying an exorbitant rental for postal cars. To correct this extortion and bring the service down to a business basis should not be beyond the power of the reform statesman, who erstwhile

"Emboldened with outrageous noise the shrieks for economy and distributive against government extravagance. Business men all over the country have met and corrected a similar condition, left by more prosperous times, by securing a substantial reduction in rentals.

It is worth noting that there are few farm mortgages in the South. Less than 5 per cent of the farms in that section are mortgaged, while in Northern states the proportion in many cases exceeds 50 per cent. It is curious to observe that in New Jersey nearly as large a proportion of the farms are mortgaged as in Nebraska, the percentage for New Jersey being 48.91 per cent, and for Nebraska 51.90 per cent. Too much money has been borrowed for improvement of farms upon a falling market for farm products. But the consequences could not have been foreseen, and, without doubt, the next census will show a still further growth of the tenant class upon farms. Very much against their will, lenders upon farm mortgages will become owners of the lands, as a rule to find no profit in them.

Taxation remains the same at Portland as when business was brisk and profits were large. Now, when there are no profits, or but very slender profits, continuation of the old tax rate, which is due to the extravagance of officialism, increases immensely the general burdens. All debts and all taxes must be paid out of profits. When there are no profits, maintenance of the

former tax rate is virtual confiscation. They who pay the same taxes on their property, when rents have fallen from \$50 to \$25, really have had their taxes doubled. This is the condition in which the owners of most of the property of Portland are placed today. And this is the reason why public opinion is so largely in favor of the continuation of such taxation ought to be reduced. But when this is talked to office-holders, they appeal to the legislature, which tells them they have a vested right to insist on continuance of this excessive taxation for their own benefit.

They are talking about a substitute for the Relyly Pacific railroad funding bill. It is proposed that the railroads shall pay the raising the money by selling second-mortgage bonds; then that they shall give a third mortgage for the accumulated interest, bearing 4 per cent and to be paid in fifty years. This would be a good bargain for the government, if the new debt for arrears of interest on the bonds of the state is, the government would be lucky to get the principal of the present debt and give up all hope of ever recovering the interest. But it is not likely that the companies can borrow money enough on a second mortgage to pay even the principal of the debt to the government. The truth is, these roads are barely worth the first-mortgage government bonds they are now selling, and would not pay the principal if sold under the hammer. The value represented by the government's second lien is wiped out, and never can be recovered. It is folly to pursue it. The wisest thing is to sponge out the debt and lease the roads to the first-mortgage bondholders.

An Oregon paper censures the Oregonian for speaking of silver as "base money." "We are glad," it says, "to take silver, greenbacks or bank notes for anything due us, and so is the Oregonian." This remark indicates a total lack of comprehension of the principles upon which silver, greenbacks and bank notes are kept at parity with gold. The office of good and bad money is not in the material, but in the limitation of their quantity and maintenance of a gold reserve. It is adherence to this system by the national government that makes us all so willing to take silver, greenbacks and bank notes. But our adherence to it has not been vigorous enough. We have issued too many of these substitutes for money for our small gold reserve to take care of our needs to maintain them. This creates distrust, and is now the main cause of the financial stringency and industrial depression.

The device of causing pupils of the public schools, they having first voted to do so, to take the American flag as it floats over their schoolhouses every Monday morning, is one of patriotism, and may properly be commended. It may be said to inculcate two principles indispensable to good citizenship—that of freedom of will and the responsibility inseparable from its exercise, and veneration for the national colors as the ensign of liberty. The existence of the republic can never be very gravely menaced so long as these principles abide, and certainly they will abide as long as they are a part of public-school training.

A new appointee is stenographer for the governor, at \$1600 a year. The government has no need of a stenographer; former governor have none. And if a stenographer were necessary, there are multitudes who would jump at the offer of such a place at \$800 a year. Again, the governor is now to get \$1000 a year for supervising public works, where \$500 heretofore has sufficed. The legislature is so unusually liberal to pay taxes.

If anybody had said last summer that we had elected a legislature which would put all the old jobs into the appropriation bill, and many new ones, he would have been denounced as a malignant pessimist. But we have all the old jobs, many of them enlarged, and a lot of new ones. It is a record that will tell when another legislature is to be elected.

It costs as much trouble to elect a senator in Idaho, where they are all for base money, as in Oregon, where only a minority want it.

EUROPE HAS SAVED AMERICA. The situation almost compelled Europe to come to the rescue.

The circular issued by the banking house of Henry Clews & Co., New York, February 17, contains the following interesting facts:

The past week has witnessed little change in the speculative aspects of Wall street business. There has been, however, a good deal of earnest thinking, and on some points of view, the market has been somewhat unsettled.

The loan contract bears a air of serious purpose. It includes dimly defined provisions, which suggest something more than a transient negotiator's operation for the purpose of raising money, and leaving the luckless borrower to whatever fate betides. The work undertaken by these kinds of finance involves some very broad commitments, and some which benefit only the boldest and most resourceful command of capital. Such financiers understand the significance of an undertaking to repair the badly impaired financial condition of a nation, and to appreciate the prestige of saving a nation's credit, and are not likely to administer a momentary palliative and then withdraw the party to a more profitable higher prestige, as well as for high profit. They comprehend that there is something as patriotic gratitude, and are aware that the nation's credit is the very thing that is being degraded is not likely to forget its benefactors.

EUROPE'S INTERESTS DEMAND IT. In the present case there are other considerations which very directly concern the interests of these great negotiators. The United States is now in a condition that materially affects vast European interests. The process of recovery from the financial reaction that set in with the Baring failure moves slowly and hesitatingly. There is still a conspicuous absence of complete confidence; commerce is held in restraint; important enterprises are suspended; and the accumulation in huge idle masses; capital and investment are suffering from stagnation. Nothing contributes more than the recovery of the United States to the perpetuation of these conditions in Europe. We rank as the second trade power in the family of nations. Our de-

mand for merchandise is broadly felt in every great market of the world. Our investments are more largely held in Europe than those of any other country. Above all, we are the largest silver-using country; and the significance of this factor lies not wholly, if even principally, in the question whether this may impair the value of our securities held largely abroad, but equally in the fact that, if we come out of our silver struggle with a fixed and permanent commitment to the gold standard, that president will go far toward settling the same question for all Europe.

It is easy to perceive how, under such circumstances, the world's leading bankers may see, in the restoration of our finances and our salvation from the silver peril, much more than a mere profit on a large negotiation. It is easily conceivable how they may see in the restoration of American finances as a great step toward the revival of confidence and enterprise throughout the world at large—a step toward a higher civilization, and toward a higher standard of living. This assumption we may regard the purposes of the syndicate as probably extending much beyond the mere terms of their contract, as in a short purpose to stand by this government until its finances are placed upon a sure and permanent foundation. Wall street is scenting this sort of thing, and is not likely to have any man and soon withdraw very encouraging conclusions therefrom, calculated to develop a much healthier tone in the financial market.

The first half of President Cleveland's administration certainly proved very disastrous to the business and labor interests of the country, as it was full of objectionable features. The president has now commenced on the last half of his term of office, and there are not wanting indications that his policy will be to reverse the policy of the first half, and to bring back a return of prosperity. His object lessons hereafter will be directed to the members of congress and not to their constituents. This is one good reason for the belief that the work of our district will pass smoothly into a cheerful summer.

A SENATORIAL REMINISCENCE. The Election of E. D. Baker and J. W. Nesmith in 1860.

Hillbore Independent. Colonel J. P. Cornelius called a few days ago, and while chatting of things political, gave some reminiscences of legislative contests that were waged when the state was young. One celebrated incident of the contest between E. D. Baker and J. W. Nesmith were elected. Colonel Cornelius was in the senate from Washington county that year. The democrats had a large majority, but were in two factions, the moderate and the Breckinridge. The republicans had 15 votes on joint ballot. Neither democratic faction could elect without the aid of the republicans, and the two factions consulted with the ultra pro-slavery, the republicans considered an alliance with them unwholesome. Some of the Douglas men, while they were willing to receive the republican votes for their favorite, Jim Nesmith, could not bring themselves up to the support of a "black abolition republican." There was a caucus of each party held. The democrats nominated their men but could not elect. E. D. Baker, Amory Holbrook and David Logan were aspirants for the office of governor. The caucus named Baker. This done, Enoch Covert, Henry Eddy and Amory Holbrook held the caucus nominee. The republicans promised the Nesmith men 15 votes, but could not deliver. However, with these 15, the Douglas democrats, then called the Bush men, could elect Nesmith, but Bush could not at first get enough men to elect Baker, and without such an assurance the 15 would not vote for Nesmith.

About this time the pro-slavery men absconded and broke a quorum in the senate, so that the legislature could not adjourn. The sergeant-at-arms scoured the country from Salem to the head of the valley, but could not find the runaways. Nearly two weeks passed, when, on Wednesday or Thursday, a resolution was passed and "Resolved that when we adjourn on Saturday it be 'sine die.'" The pro-slavery democrats in the house raved and raved. They claimed that the resolution was illegal, and that the legislature not having a quorum, could not legally adjourn. The others claimed the contrary, and said they would go home on Saturday. So on Saturday a caucus was held, and the Solos left for tall timber, but they were care to be back by Monday morning.

In the meantime the Breckinridge democrats came back in great glee that they had prevented the passage of the great calamity as the election of a black republican. The sergeant-at-arms swung to the doors, the adjourners were called in and enough Bush men having been in the hall, the sergeant-at-arms called, without the bolters, the 19 threw their votes to Nesmith for the long term and to Baker for the short term.

LET THE LEGISLATURE SEE. Secrecy of Salmon in the River This Spring.

Astorian. It has been a long time since salmon brought so high a price in the Astoria markets as at the present time, owing probably to the scarcity of the fish. Chinook salmon are selling at 15 to 20 cents per pound in the city, and when a fisherman makes an average haul he has the sum of money that would be a great present scarcity of fish leads many of the fishermen to cast a dubious look toward the opening of the April season. Cannermen instead of canning them now, are disposing of the fish to the Astoria and Portland markets.

After All the Fish. The Dalles Times-Yesterday that no law will be passed this session interfering with fishermen has given a stimulus to men engaged in the fish business in this vicinity. New wheels are being built, and when the season opens, the salmon industry will give employment to a large number of men, and send in circulation considerable coin. The Regulator had about 15 tons of sturgeon this morning, which was caught on the middle river. This industry has developed considerably since the vicinity during the past few months, and men are engaged in catching sturgeon from the vicinity of this city to the Locks. On the lower river this species of fish are very scarce, and they generally congregate in deep places, such as the Cascades. As they sell readily in the Portland market at 8 cents a pound, the business is a paying one.

PERSONS WORTH KNOWING ABOUT. Tolstoi returned Hebrew after he was 50. Queen Victoria's will is engrossed on parchment, and is written on a volume, and secured by a private lock. The ameer of Afghanistan will pass through the United States this spring on his way to England, where he will be received as royal guest.

The niece of General Boulanger has announced her intention of removing the general's remains from Brussels, the scene of his suicide in 1891, to Paris for interment.

A French artist, who picks up many an American patron is Benjamin Constant, the portrait painter. He is now in Washington. He apparently gets his sittings to a great extent in this country. His patrons are distinguished people in social and political life, and hence excellent advertisers.

Herbert Putnam has been chosen librarian of the new Boston public library. Mr. Putnam is the youngest son of George F. Putnam, founder of the publishing house of the same name. He was graduated at Harvard in the class of '83, studied in the Columbia law school, and in 1885 was admitted to the bar of Minnesota.

Miss Lillian Northrup, a young lady of success in opera, in answer to a question as to what one quality more than another was required to be a great singer, said,

"Will, will, will." She says that strong and unwavering will power can overthrow all ordinary obstacles and place the possessor in a position which great gifts of voice and genius would not have secured without that indomitable energy which must characterize a successful singer.

Mrs. de Feyerherz Field, nee Hamersly, so well known in New York city in connection with religious and charitable work, and one time prominently identified with the King's Daughters, has organized a Bible class for convicts in Sing Sing prison. The initial session was held at Sing Sing when 50 convicts paid respectful attention to her lucid and interesting teachings. Mrs. Field intends to have her class meet every Sunday afternoon for an indefinite period.

Edward Everett Hale's remark that there has not been a good Phi Beta Kappa poem at Harvard since Oliver Wendell Holmes' in 1855 is generally indorsed. The Boston Herald recalls Bret Hart's extraordinary performance, approaching the ridiculous in this line, when, fresh from the "Northwest" he sang "The Song of 'Ab Sin," he read some very frivolous verses before his august audience, and accentuated the absurdity of the poet were green kid gloves on the occasion. It may be added that in those days Mr. Hartie inclined to gorgousness in attire.

IT NEVER HAPPENED. Must All Have Been a Horrid Newspaper Invention.

PORTLAND, Feb. 22.-(To the Editor.)-As it is reported that a board of my audiences at the ministers' meeting, permit me to say that I did not mention my audiences, not a single word as to how I got along, nor whether I had any at all; in fact, I have nothing to say of, anyway. You must have got the wrong man somehow. Neither have I publicly announced that I did not believe in sensational preaching. There are plenty of preaching that does not create any too much sensation of any kind.

As a matter of fact what we did say was: "As to this whole advertising business, it is a strange thing, especially when we have been so long before the public, we should still be obliged to blow a trumpet of half a column in the Sunday paper, and to do so for the sake of having our names in a town, and that it thus becomes more a matter of notoriety than of popularity." All of this referred to myself as well as to any one else, being a matter of principle rather than personality. I do not repeat it. Greatness and sweetness ought to spur receiving an unkindness as well as the giving it.

I remember we had discussed certain things as we are able to say some things that the world would be as well off if they were not spoken; but at that meeting there was not anything said or done that was unbecomingly self-delighting. The men men met. The first that I knew that anything had happened to make a fuss about was through the newspaper. If I had not been so busy, I would certainly have regretted it. But all this talk about it is "booh."

As to my awful sin of not eating with you, Dr. Elliot at Dr. Clapp's house; I remember we had discussed certain things, but as to that particular "tea," I did not know of it for several days after. You report that I would not quarrel at the meeting, and the girl cast a cuspidor at him, cutting his head badly any laying him out temporarily. Fearing she had killed him, she attempted suicide with morphine. The same doctor straightened them both out, and when they recovered they were married. He has a young rancher won \$60 at craps in Spokane Tuesday night, and had to get police protection to get to a hotel in safety. This is the city that has just had a moral spasm.

John Joyce, superintendent of the Western Iron & Steel Company's roller mill plant at Lakeview, returned from Youngstown, O., Monday. He says that the big plant will start up in about two weeks.

Sunday night a plumber and his girl quarreled at the home of the girl's father, and the girl cast a cuspidor at him, cutting his head badly any laying him out temporarily. Fearing she had killed him, she attempted suicide with morphine. The same doctor straightened them both out, and when they recovered they were married. He has a young rancher won \$60 at craps in Spokane Tuesday night, and had to get police protection to get to a hotel in safety. This is the city that has just had a moral spasm.

The board of curators of the Washington State Historical Society is composed of Elwood Evans, Tacoma, president; Henry Roeder, Whatcom county, vice-president; General L. P. Bradley, Pierce county, chairman; B. E. Dargie, Kittitas county; A. A. Denny, King county; Senator F. G. Deckebach, Chehalis; J. H. Long, Lewis county; Miles C. Moore, Walla Walla; W. F. Frosser, Yakima; Arthur W. Welch, Chelan; and H. H. Hobart, Tacoma. At a meeting held in Olympia a few days ago, Ezra Meeker, of Puyallup, was elected a member of the board to succeed the late J. P. Stewart, of Puyallup.—Washington Star.

PARAGRAPHERS' PLEASANTIES. Mother—Your penner has never been used at all. Little Johnny—Don't need it. My new pants is black.—Street & Smith's Good News.

Farker—Is there any life at all in your office boy? "Harper's life!" He's only resting for a spurt. Wait 10 minutes, and you'll see him close the office.—Life.

"What interesting stories of travel Du-flix tells. He must have roved a great deal." "No—He's always been here. But his mind wanders."—Harper's Good News.

Traveler (inquiring at famous castle)—Can I see the antiquities today? Servant—I am afraid not, sir. My lady and daughter have gone to town.—Household Words.

"The gre't trouble that Of old wind strokes," remarked Mrs. Dolan, "is that they're invariably so much better to look forward to than they are to look back on."—Washington Star.

"You have let me hope for months now, and tonight you reject me." "I didn't know you were hoping; quite the contrary, I have regarded you as hopeless from the start."—Harper's Good News.

"Little visitor—Why does your mother put such a little bit of a picture on that big easel? Little hostess—I don't know; but that easel cost \$50, and I guess mamma has done it to cover it up.—Street & Smith's Good News.

Medical Examiner—Suppose you should have a patient with some disease which you knew nothing about. What would you do? "I would examine him for the examination and then send him to you."—New York Weekly.

Scribber (in stationery and book store)—Have you the book, "One Thousand jokes of the Ancients?" "Clerk—No, Scribber—