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PORTLAND, MONDAY, JANUARY 1.

OREGON'S MOST PROSPEROUS YEAR. Never since the pleneers drove their ox-teams across the plains have the people of Oregon been so genuinely prosperous as they were last year. The greatest activity prevalled in every calling that engages the energies of our people, and advancement was general in all branches of industry. While prices for some commodities were not so good as in 1838, producers have not been forced to sell. Large crops and fair prices in 1897 and 1898 made producers financially independent, and those who are not satisfied with present market conditions are in position to hold their 1899 crops for higher prices without borrowing money to tide them over. The producing classes, notwithslanding their large holdings for improved markets, never were better off. Productions of farm, orchard, dairy and range amounted last year to \$45,-580,787. This includes \$9,500,000 which sales of stock brought into the state. The yield of minerals was \$3,743,103, of which \$3,285,000 was gold, \$193,940 silver and \$264.163 coal. Manufactures were, according to the best estimate, \$56,140,-195. The lumber cut, which is included manufactures, was the largest in the history of the state. It amounted to 669,656,000 feet, valued at \$6,228,250. Multnomah county broke all records with a cut of 205,000,000 feet. The product of fisheries was \$2,448,155. Port-

Demand for stock never was better. The only check to larger trading in this industry is the inability of stockmen to meet the demands of buyers. Horticulture is passing from the control of the careless and the negligent and into the hands of men who will give scientific management to orchards, Mining is out of the experimental stage in every section of Oregon where mineral is found, and the era of large production has dawned. The only unsatisfactory condition is the slow growth of manufacturing. So long as our people continue to ship hogs, wool and mber to the East and buy them back, with transcontinental freights added, as bacon, clothing and furniture, just so long will industrial development drag.

land's foreign commerce for the twelve

months ended November 30, 1899, was

\$9,120,802. This makes a total of \$117,-

907,993 for products and foreign com-

Immigration was small last year, but it was of a high type. The newcomers were mainly native-born Americans from the Middle West, with a sprinkling from the Atlantic states. They are the cream of the Easterners now settling in the Pacific states. They come well provided with funds either to buy or make homes. Oregon's population, according to the federal census to be taken this year, should not be far from 425,000.

One of the surest signs of the pros perity is the enormous store of ready money. Our people are financially independent of the East. It is conservatively estimated that the national, foreign, state and private banks of Oregon, Washington and Idaho are now serving individual deposits of nearly \$59,000,000. Individual deposits of the national banks of Oregon were \$11,781,-180 32, on September 7, 1899. Those of the national banks of Portland were \$7.845.873 03 on December 2.

All the towns of the state are steadfly increasing in population, but there is no extravagance. Municipal expenditures are kept down to the lowest noich. Portland has made rapid growth and extended its trade. Its population is nedring 100,000, Last year its jobbing trade amounted to \$300,000,000, an increase of 25 per cent over 1898. Its bank clearings reached a total of \$91,-\$52,230 83. Sales of real estate were \$3,665,165 21. New buildings, costing \$648,930, were built. All towns in the Northwest made substantial progress, but their growth has not endangered

Portland's supremacy, perous and contented; with well-filled purses and practically no debt; with midence in the future of the state and its institutions; with conservatism born of the experience of depression; with modern methods in the management of their affairs; and with the valves of energy wide open. They are spurred to new and greater endeaver by the opportunities which these progressive times, the resources of the state and the investment of outside capital offer to intelligent effort. The entire state breathes the spirit of progress. Great as was the development of 1899, that of 1900 will be greater.

If we insist, as we plainly are in sisting, upon the open door at Port Arthur and Kiso Chau and Kwang Chau Wan, how shall we refuse it at Manils also? Such inconsistency is incredible, and yet equal privileges for trade at American ports involves a revolution in American political theories. Apparently, unless the threatened republican revoit in congress exceeds its present 100,000. In addition the British governdimensions, the open door in the dependencies and the reciprocity treaties with France, Argentina, Nicaragua and ditional force, estimated at 60,000 men, the British West Indies, will put an end forever to exclusive tariff policies on part of the United States. This the stroke of policy that will Mr. Bynum's party from polling Australia and India. sa 5 000,000 votes in 1904. It would be

a just retribution for the iniquitous | troops ever gathered under the British course of the democratic party at Chicago in 1896, if the economic policy on which it might have held power for long years were effected by its enemies, while it tarried to play with currency debasement, sympathy with riot and opposition to the government in time. of foreign war.

GOOD MONEY AND PLENTY OF IT. Although the amount of money in the country is greater than ever before, both in the aggregate and per capita, the rapid increase shows no signs of abatement. The director of the mint reports our gold product for the year just closed at \$70,694,170, an increase of \$6,236.670 over 1898, and our silver product at \$74,424,696 (coinage value), an increase for the year of \$4,040,211. A large portion of this silver has been sold abroad, but the gold has been added to our monetary stock. Within the as we have exported as much gold as we have exported, even including the shipments for Europe now on the Atlantic, so that from gold alone we have increased our money within the year by at least \$70,000,000.

Prophecies of dire disaster by the silverites have come to grief, and for proposals of inflation have been substituted through natural processes accretions of money and currency, every dollar of which is as good as gold. As Representative Grosvenor reminded the country in the progress of the debate on the reform bill, the currency has gained nearly \$400,000,000 in the three years since Bryan was defeated. The gold stock has increased \$178,000,000; silver dollars, \$12,000,000; subsidiary silver, \$14,600,000; treasury notes, \$1,000,000; bank notes, \$20,000,000; gold certificates,

\$6,000,000; silver certificates, \$46,000,000. Speculators that were nipped in the recent squeeze in New York and Boston might inquire where all this money has gone, as there is a stringency in supplies available for their use. The answer is that the money has gone into the country, absorbed in trade, deposited as savings of the people in banks. In this little town of Portland banks contain no less than \$3,000,000 in cash, and the individual deposits of Oregon, Washington and Idaho banks are not far from \$50,000,000. On the Pacific coast generally, and throughout the South and West, banks are practically independent of the great money centers and have vastly more funds on hand than they are able to find safe and

profitable use for. It is an exhibit in prosperity and solid resources that may well put the Bryantines at their wits' end for an is sue on which to go before the people next year, and one that has already stiffened the backbone of our timorous republican politicians, whom the word "gold" has been wont to throw into a nanic.

THE REGISTRY LAW.

A bright spot in Oregon's political history is the new registration law, which goes into effect today. It has taken a long time to bring the reform about, and there is good reason to fear the act as it stands is far from perfect. But a beginning has been made, and amendment will do the rest. In the history of ballot reform there are no steps backward. When the voter has once tasted freedom from the tyranny of the political boss, he never goes back to put his neck in the old yoke. It is an opportune time to pay a tribute to the cranks and enthusiasts who have carried on this uphill and thankless task, for the purification of the ballot is their work and theirs alone. The most unpopular man in his in scorn by the practical man, and his approach is the signal for busy persons to close the door and be consumedly busy. But he is nothing daunted, and when he is dead the renown he earned will be freely bestowed. It was through that arch-offender, Mr. Ed. Bingham, that the strange and unwelcome Australian ballot was forced upon us years ago. We took it with a wry face, but the politician does not live who would dare propose to take it from us today. Probably the chief credit for this registration law is Mr. Bingham's also; and we shall be surprised if he does not gird on his armor now for another campaign, whose object shall be extension of the registry law to the primaries-a measure of reform for whose neglect there is no excuse and which should be enacted by

Everybody should register. It is no use to wail about the corruption of polities or the poor quality of officials or the power of the boss, and then neglect the primaries or stay at home election day. Good citizenship that preaches and scolds, but is too busy to vote, isn't worth much. Support of the new law by registration is the most effective way to secure its perfection and purify our politics.

the next legislature.

THE FORCES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

General Joubert is reported as having said recently that the Dutch population of the two republics is but 170,000, furnishing an army of 50,000 men. But it would not be possible to form an army of 50,000 men out of a total population of 170,000. It is probable that a good many foreigners are in the Boer service; also Dutch from the British prov-Inces; for the indications are that the Boers have at least 50,000 men under

arms. At the outbreak of the war the Brit ish war office reported that the British forces in South Africa amounted to 24,746 regulars, all "trained and mature men." These original forces, less the members lost in battle and by disease, are mostly shut up in Ladysmith. Kimberley and Mafeking. Probably 15,000 effective men of these forces re-

The British authorities do not now give out information as to the numbers and movements of their troops; but it is known that the reinforcements which sides these, over 15,000 colonial troops have been recruited; and this colonial force is very valuable, since it has a large proportion of mounted men. Including these troops and the naval brigade which reached Ladysmith before the complete investment of the place by the Boers, the British num- this deep-rooted instinct is problematbers now must reach and may exceed ment is hurrying its preparations, with all possible energy, to transport an adthe last of whom should arrive in Feb ruary, at farthest. These reinforcements are mostly from England, but considerable numbers are from Canada,

ical.

flag. But the contest is of a kind that requires at least three men to one; for the Boers are wise enough never to attack. It is clear that the British terpretation. So it matters not to large strength has been from the first and even yet is nullified by lack of concentration. The plan of General Buller was to press the Boers strongly along the line of the Orange and Modder rivers, so as to make them let go of Natal and Ladysmith; but it requires more men than thus far have been at his disposal. If now General Buller has further. 85,000 men at his disposal (not including the beleaguered garrisons, which Statistics printed elsewhere in today's are not at his disposal) he cannot, after detaching the necessary forces for protection of his communications, bring much more than 50,000 in direct and active movement against nearly or quite equal numbers of a brave and vigilant enemy, holding the interior line, superior in mobility, supplied with the best arms in the world, and standing on the defensive. Buller's army thus far has been utterly unequal to

GOVERNOR-GENERAL WOOD.

the execution of sound strategy.

If General Wood is not the very best man that could have been appointed governor-general of Cuba, everybody thinks he is, which, for all practical purposes, comes to the same thing. As physician, sanitarian and soldier, he has made a record that promises success in the career upon which he has entered with greatly widened powers. In some circles his appointment is regarded with great satisfaction as a needed blow to the principle of ironclad seniority in the army. Secretary Root has, perhaps, not more veneration for the traditions of the army than necessary for the impartial discharge of the duties of his position, and he desires to promote men on their merits. This, it is conceded, he has done in this instance. Having proved himself a man who can do things with a minimum of mistakes, General Wood has fairly won the promotion which the secretary of war was bold enough to give him. General Wood is a well and favorably advertised, hence a wellknown and popular man. He has written for the magazines and been written about, and he was advanced with extraordinary rapidity, considering the claims of many of his co-workers to advancement in accordance with mili-

tary usage. Criticism in army circles in regard to his appointment is disarmed, however, by the fact that his civic rather than military qualities won for him this appointment, and that civil ability rather than military responsibility will be required for the successful discharge of his duties. The civil administration of Cuba requires the judgment of a civilian rather than the unbending methods of the military man, and it also requires a man who is widely known and whose reputation, civil and military, is established upon a popular basis. These requirements General Wood meets, and the very fact that he is a civilian though necessarily holding military rank, will make it easier for men who outrank him in the service to serve under or with him in their purely mill-

tary capacity. It is a fact that augurs well for the success of his administration that the department commanders in Cuba, though all much his senior as soldiers, seem to have welcomed him very cordially, while, more important still, the Cubans are apparently disposed to accept his administration with confidence and hope. Thus equipped for work in his new field of endeavor, and with the full sanction of public opinion at day and generation is the reformer, His home, Governor-General Wood assumes mortal enemy is the boss. He is held the difficult role to which he has been very favorable aus and starts with every opportunity accomplish excellent results. His title has a sound to which American ears are unaccustomed, but with which they must, under changed conditions, soon become familiar. Our success in the management of our new possessions and dependencies depends largely upon the interpretation given to this unfamiliar title by the men who bear it, and, unless indications are greatly at fault, the administration of General Wood as governor-general of Cuba will do much to relieve the title from the odium that was attached to it in the American estimation by the odious record made by Spanish generals, and especially in recent years by Weyler,

> There is no probability that Senstor Clark, of Montana, will be turned out of the senate. It cost him \$1,200,000 to get the seat, which is but one-fourth of his income for a year, and his chief manager, John B. Wellcome, has been disbarred by the supreme court of Montana from practice in the courts of the state, for complicity in the conspiracy to purchase the seat. But the senate has no mind to encourage inquiry into the methods by which its members are elected; so Clark is in little danger. In Montana the grand juries were "fixed" at the beginning, and the coming ones will be "fixed" till the statute of limitations shall have run. Clark has unlimited money, the product of great mines; and money "goes." There would be a remedy against these abuses if senators were elected by popular vote; but the senate blocks the way to the amendment of the constitution necessary to secure that result. An hereditary body might not be an improvement, but it couldn't be worse.

Neglect of engineer officers affords significant corroboration of Great Britain's well-known inefficiency in the early stages of land operations. It is a counterpart of our similar errors in the early months of the Spanish war. We are not a military people, neither is Great Britain, and the evidence of it is sometimes humiliating. Yet the basis of the inefficiency lies in qualities of supreme value. These are antipathy to militarism and devotion to the arts and labors of peace. Herein already have arrived carry the British is to be found explanation of that perforces up to at least \$5,000 men. Be- petual unpreparedness for war in which the English-speaking world always finds its land forces, for which we always blame our organization and our representatives, and against which military students rage in vain. To what extent education of the masses in the necessity of army reform can prevail over

It is a pitiful commentary on popular intelligence that thousands hurral for the Boers because their government is called a republic and Britain is a nominal monarchy. Slavery to words and phrases is a common obstacle to the spread of truth. "Free trade" is a sacred shibboleth to many. Here is the largest muster of white but there is not, nor can be, any such erament" into the Filipinos, or of hauling down

governed" is worshiped by those who have no adequate understanding either of its historical significance or legal innumbers that Great Britain has as perfect a form of representative government as our own, or that the Transvaal, nominally a "republic," is a more exclusive and oppressive oligarchy than Germany or even Spain. They come to the word "republic" and the word 'monarchy" and they can go no

paper give in detail the movement of cereal is the one great staple of the Pacific coast. From Mexico to British Columbia, scores and hundreds of hamlets, villages, towns and cities are dependent on wheat to keep the wheels of trade moving. The figures mentioned are from official records, and they show that in the year 1899 Port-land handled nearly one-half of all the wheat exported from the Pacific coast. Low prices for wheat and high rates for ships made a much lighter movement than was expected earlier in the season, when the enormous crop was eventually seek a market, and, as Portand has better facilities and more exporters in the market than are found in any other city on the coast, the movement for 1900 will probably find her still in the lead which she has long maintained. All branches of trade are affected by the wheat movement, and Portland's supremacy in that business accounts for much of her prestige in other lines.

Russia, in her reply to our overtures concerning the open door in Asia, contents herself with verbal representations made with great suavity and impressiveness by that past master of diplomacy, Count Cassini. That is to say, she will promise anything now, but she will perform as it suits her best when the time comes. The history of international politics shows us what this means. "Spheres of influence," to France and Russia, mean trade preserves, securely locked from competition. This is a situation we shall have to face with firm diplomacy some day, unless the work shall be sooner done for us through the warships of Great Britain and Japan.

It will be well for the British if Lord Roberts really purposes, as he is reported, neglecting the beleaguered places and marching direct upon Boer centers. To strike at vital points is the way to make war, and this will not only leave the formidable strongholds now occupied by the Boers unassailed and inevitable losses saved, but will draw the Boers away from them to meet the main British advance. By this time the political considerations that broke in on Buller's original plan should be amply satisfied.

Cable reports of London press utterances show how quickly in this rapidly moving age tables may be turned. Journals that twitted us in our extremity eighteen months ago now make haste to speak well of us. It is England's turn to worry. Consistently enough, there are ingrates on both sides. The role played by our aspersers in Great Britain at the time of our civil war and in the late war with Spain is now sustained by the Boer sympathizers in this country.

The popocrats who attribute the currency stringency in the East and the recent panic on 'change to the goldtandard bill, should not neglect to note its extensive effects also throughout the Old World. Its baleful influence seems almost as extensive as those of the crime of '73.

The real reason behind the Montgomery affair is, of course, yet to come, The Schley partisans will soon discover that the cruiser was shuffled off in order to put fresh humilistion on their idol, who was away off in South American waters and knew nothing of the proceeding.

Hints of a plan to deadlock the Kentucky legislature have strong antecedent probability. The arch built up by Kentucky politics recently needs some such fitting keystone.

ANOTHER PHILIPPINE LETTER. Our "Antis" Are the Strength of the Rebellion. Hartford Courant.

"Life" has a letter from somebody whom it vouches for as "an unbiased United States official (not officer, observe), now in the Philippines." It publishes some interesting extracts from the letter. "Life" itself is not unbiased. It is very strongly "anti-imperialist," as all its readers know, though it has occasional twinges of patriotic compunction.

The unbiased official is not in love with the Philippines. Once he gets out of them, he hopes never to set eyes on them again. He does not approve of General Otis. He thinks it quite natural the Filipinos should dislike a lot of strangers who do not speak their language, who are not of their religion, who call them "niggers," who have raised prices without reducing taxes, and who, by occupying a district or town awhile, and then clearing out of it, get them fined by the insurgents. Here is the really important paragraph

of the letter: The greatest obstacle to the settlement of the question is the encouragement of certain American public men, newspapers, etc. These things are all read, and many of them reprinted in the Heraldo Filipino, La Libertad, etc. Many of them, I think, believe that congress will recall the troops shortly. In that case, the 250,000 Tagala would run the whole group of islands.

So the situation stands. Se this unbiased official, who is "sour" on General Otis and the management of the campaign, and the islands themselves, corroborates unqualifiedly the dying testimony of General Lawton that the chief responsibility for the continuance of the bloodshed in the Philippines lies at the doors of the "anti-imperialists" here at home. We reproduce again the impressive words of that knightly soldier, written when he was already (though he did not know ft) in the shadow of death. He

wrote to ex-Minister Barrett: I would to God that the truth of this whole Philippine situation could be known by every one in America, as I know it. If the real history, inspiration and conditions of this insurrection, and the influences, local and external, that now encourage the enemy, as well as the actual possibilities of these islands and peoples and their relations to this great East, could be understood at home, we would hear no more talk of unjust "shooting of gov-

thing as free trade. "Consent of the our flag in the Philippines. If the so-called POSITION OF OUR COAST JOBBERS anti-imperialists would honestly ascertain truth on the ground, and not in distant Amer ica, they, whom I believe to be honest me misinformed, would be convinced of the err of their statements and conclusions and of th unfortunate effect of their publications here If I am shot by a Filipino bullet it might at well come from one of my own men, became I know from observations, confirmed by cap tured prisoners, that the continuance of fight ing is chiefly due to reports that are sent ou

from America. We hope that as often as an "antiimperialist" gets up in senate or house this winter and declaims the commonpiaces of his sect some one will immedi ately read these words of our dead genwheat for the year just closed. This eral to him, and invite him to comment on

A LAW OF HISTORY.

And Its Application to the Present

Contest in South Africa. The question has been asked why it that the Boers are not entitled to the sympathy of the American people, and why there is not good reason for thinking that, in the long run, their cause, because it is the right one, should not succeed. Perhaps the best answer that can be given to this question is one which harvested. However, the wheat must is drawn from an exceedingly scholarly article recently written by M. Edmond Demolins, entitled, "The Boers and the English-Which Is in the Right?" and printed in the French periodical La Science Sociale. This review is one which is to this extent interesting, that M. Demolins, as a Frenchman, might be expected to share the feelings of the great mass of his countrymen against the nation on the other side of the channel. But he has arrived at the conclusion that in this respect they are in the right; that they are simply following a law which has controlled mankind from the earliest days of recorded history-the law that when two races, representing different social conditions, are brought together, the contentions between the two races will inevitably end by the success of the superior. The war now going on he looks upon

as simply an incident, and he goes so far as to say that, if the Boers were to win an apparent victory, it would only delay for a short time heir inevitable fate, unless they changed their conditions of existence and brought themselves into line with the manners and methods of the progressive races of the present time. There is, he says, no civilized country which does not afford evdences of changes of this kind, whether it is the Phoenicians, the Greeks, the Romans, the Portuguese, the Spanish, the English or the American, or, indeed, the Boers themselves. All of these various people, and many others beside them, have advanced through migration into a previously occupied territory, and when once there, have given a practical demonstration in one form or another of the law of the survival of the fittest.

Take the Boers, for example. they "trekked" out from their settlement in the Cape Colony, they found the Transvaal occupied by native races-races which still in numbers far exceed all of the white settlers that have since been the white settlers that have since been there. They disposessed these natives of their land, and even of their cattle, with-out the least ceremony, and without the least consideration for their personal or national rights. They were an inferior race, and as such were compelled to subordinate themselves. In certain instances, as in the case of the Zuius, the natives were determined fighters, and it required long and severe warfare to bring about this dispossession. But in the end it came, and those who are the friends of the Boers are hardly in a position to assert that the Boers are entitled to the possession of the Transvaal as against those reprethe higher order of civilization, se representing were justified as a superior race in driving out the Hottentots and the Kaffirs.

Europe. As they are at present constituted, they represent the extinction, usually through forcible means, of a large number of small independent nationali-Within the present generation the German empire has been formed, with enormous advantage to the Germans as a whole, by the enforced suppression of a large number of its formerly independent states. France, England, Italy, Austria, were each formerly divided into a greater or smaller number of independent sovereignities. By degrees one of these small nationalities became, through progressiveness, superior to its neighbors, then dominated over them, and finally compelled them by force of arms to join with it through the complete loss of local

This movement M. Demolins asserts to and political results. When two classes of people living together, or two nation: living in contiguous territory, show marked differences in civilization, making a superiority in one instance and an inferiority in the other, judged by the tests modern civilization, then, unless the Inferior can by imitation bring itself up to the level of its rival, it is inevitable that it will sooner or later go to the wall.

This he asserts to be the law of human progress. If one denies it, they should progress. If the process and Ameri-proclaim that all Europeans and Ameri-cans are simply monsters, worthy of being placed under the ban of humanity. They should be treated as animals of prey by all savage barbarians or less advanced people whom they have unjustly or brutally dispossessed. It is the law of their being that they have followed out, and It is as the result of this law that a large part of the world is now civilized, and is not in the state of barbarism or semibarbarity in which, in numberless cases, the native inhabitants would have continued to live if the more advanced people had not overcome and dispossessed

No Pockets in a Shroud. O! ye who bow at Mammon Of ye who bow at Mammon's shrine,
Whose hearts with greed are growing cold,
Who turn your backs on things divine
And worship but the god of gold,
What will it profit you when death
Lays low the head so kingly proud
And rebs the wasted form of breath?
There are no packets in a should There are no pockets in a shroud.

Your thoughts by day, your dreams by night, Are but of grasping golden gain, Your guide is but the beacon light Of riches burning in your brain You cast all nobler aims behind And struggle as a madding crowd To clutch the dollars, but you'll find There are no pockets in a shroud

Ye usurers who grind the poor Beneath a cold, relentless heel, Who overshadow many a door With cloud of misery, and feel No sympathy to see them lie Beneath the hand of sorrow cowed, Remember when you come to die There are no pockets in a shroud.

What is the profit to the man Whose life to Mammon has been given? A bridge of gold can never span The gulf between the earth and beaven? What will it be to him to find The wealth with which he is endowed At death's gate must be left behind? There are no pockets in a shroud.

We're here; tomorrow we are gons, Have faded from the earth away Into eternity's strange dawn! Yet in the hungry greed for gains Too many at the gold shrine bow Forget that when the life-spark wanes There are no pockets in a shroud.

If the Pacific coast had possessed no advantages over Eastern jobbing centers for supplying the retail trade of the Western slope, and even the intermountain region, no jobbing trade would have been established here. Now that so large a wholesale trade is es tablished here it is not to be supposed that it will be surrendered to greedy competitors of the East. The jobbers of the Mississippi valley are making desperate fight for shipping rates that will give them command of much of the territory that is now supplied by the distributors of the coast, but they must fail in the end, because they cannot destroy the natural advantage that operated to bring business here in the first place. At least four rate-making factors are

involved in the controversy now pending before the interstate commerce commission, wherein the jobbers of St. Louis seek to get transcontinental rates that shall enable them to undersell the Pacific coast dealers. These are (1) water competition with rail lines; (2) distance as a basis for rate-making; (3) carload compared with less than carload rates; (4) classification of package freight. The greatest pressure is brought to bear upon the question of the relation of carload to less than carload rates, it being presumed that if 100 pounds of freight can be transported at the same rate as a carload that the interior retail dealers will buy their supplies in the East, rather than on the coast, for the Eastern jobbers boast of being able to do business cheaper than those of the coast, and to sell their goods at a corresponding reduction in price. This would grant those who buy by the carload or trainload no consideration whatever for their large shipments, for their capital invested or for the cost of distribution, while at the same time there is no denying the fact that the handling of the large lots of goods is at a much lower rate of expense to the carrier than the handling of the small shipments. The rates contended for by the St. Louis men-who are really acting for all the jobbers of the Middle West-would tend to make the Pacific coast jobbers pay the freight for the interior retailers or go out of business and leave the field entirely in the hands of these Eastern competitors. In other words, the railroads were asked to lend a club to break the backs of their own best customers. They refused to do this, and it is not probable that the interstate commerce commission will undertake to force them into any such course.

Moreover, water carriage, which first brought goods to the Pacific seaboard at a living rate and was largely instrumental in building up the great wholesale trade of this coast, will still rebination of transportation interests and Middle West jobbers that may be entered into. The St. Louis plaintiffs recognize the danger to their scheme that lies in ocean transportation when they make the Southern Pacific Company defendant in this raid on transcontiits own through line from seaboard to seaboard, using steamers east of New Orieans, and it has been able to dictate terms on through freight. When other lines insisted on making a certain rate on certain commodities from Chicago and Missouri river points to the West, the Southern Pacific made the same rate applicable from New York, where its business originated. This is the influence that brought into use and has retained the blanket or Unrelenting now is here.

And it's time to be reviewed. use and has retained the blanket or postage-stamp rate on so many commodities. And it was the cheap water modities. And it was the cheap water That is clear. Carriage east of New Orleans that made For the noise, noise, noise, the position of the Southern Pacific so Is a warning that the boys, the Middle West people were Must go hereafter down the line without our strong. If the Middle West people were to be successful in eliminating the present difference between carload and less than carload rates, and at the same time get rates graded according to distance carried, they would gain two things for which they have long been gether, for it would avail the Middle West men nothing to find after all their only in letting New York deeper into their own country.

Ocean carriage, nevertheless, which figures so low that the railroads could not use them in serving interior points, would remain to regulate the case of of the best and highest social, industrial competitor. Just now is the opportuni- game, is significant. The New York Sun, ty of the St. Louis schemers, for the exgo icies of war in two continents have drawn a large part of the ocean tonnage of the world from the channels of trade and made ocean freights very high. Therefore, at this moment water transport does not serve as a protection of coast jobbers against inconvenience in case the obnoxious rates sought by the Middle West were put into effect. But this condition cannot long continue. Shipbuilders will remedy this difficulty even if the nations shall not make peace. The future promises low water freights; rail rates, however, are rising by leaps and bounds. If there were a canal across Nicaragua this matter would adjust itself without any worry on the part of the coast interests attacked, and even without the canal the influence of sea carriage must defeat the Middle West in its attempt to corner and monopolize the distributing trade of all the great

West. Supposing the coast jobbers were to to buy goods from the Eastern houses which goods may sell? This consideration, of course, will not restrain the voice to the cry in favor of giving the home trade field over to the invaders "milk" the country. Better or less expensive service cannot be expected from the Eastern jobbers. It would not come if coast wholesalers were driven driven out of business, because ocean carriage protects them beyond possimeans of land transportation has not outmarched those of the sea, and carriage by water must continue to be cheaper than carriage by land.

The Man to Ask. Boston Commercial Bulletin e question, "Where do the pins go is easily answered by the fellow who makes a 10-strike.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Happy New Year.

Turn backward, turn backward, oh, time in your flight. Total sexplain what I did with that fifty last

Beginning on wash day, the new year ought to have a clean start in life.

The first thing requisite to comfurt on New Year's day is to buy a new but. Aguinaldo will not lack for company al-

ways. Bryan will be running next year. First thing you do this morning probably will be to write "1899" at top of your letters.

There will be still another Christman in this century, despite all demonstrations to the contrary.

"I just called," said Alphonso to Clarinda on New Year's day. And then her father saw him and raised him.

Beginning today, the Pennsylvania Railcoad Company will retire 1000 of its employes on pensions. Even the devil is not so black as he is painted.

Alfred Austin, poetaster to her gracious najesty, Queen Victoria, has written ome more poetry on the Boer was. This fact is chronicled more in sorrow than in anger.

The Boers evidently read Scripture to ay, "Let your searchlight so shine before men that they may see your earthworks and glorify the chance that has given them a target to shoot at."

--While congressmen are sending out garien seed to their rural constituents, why don't they donate a few packages of water plant and electric light plant seed to their urban friends?

This is the first day of the new year, the first day of the working week, the first day of the month, the first day of the new moon, the first day under the workings of the new registration law, and according to some mistaken people, it is also the first day of the new century. With all these new items and a set of regular New Year resolutions, people can make a good square beginning in life on January 1, 1900.

Since good servant girls became as carce as hens' teeth, housewives who are so fortunate as to secure one are showing their appreciation of the treasure by the granting of unusual favors, and a brighter day seems to be dawning for the hard-worked kitchen girl. In one district of the city there are a number of these good girls, and their employers have adopted a system of allowing them to entertain each other occasionally of evenings. Some allow them the use of the kitchen, others main to menace and destroy any com- a back parlor or dining-room, and occasionally one gives up her parlor to the servant girl's friends. Tete-a-tete tables for games and light refreshments are furnished for the company, and the favored girls appreciate the favor shown them, and greatly enjoy entertaining and being entertained by each other. Every woman who nental rates. The Southern Pacific has has a good servant girl whom she desires to retain can well afford to grant favors of this kind occasionally, as they make the lives of the girls better worth living. and render them more contented and happy, and cause them to have a kindly feeling toward their employers.

Hear the whistles and the belts.

Midnight belts.

How we shudder as we listen to the tale their

tumult tells All the things that we've been doing

For we've taken resolutions that as straight as

etrings we'll be, While the bells, bells, as their clamor wells and wells.

Make more racket than the bobos in their dank and clammy cells, Do the bells, bells, bells, bells, bells, bells, striving. And really the two go to- Do the fearful shricking whistles and the be-

It is not improbable that the season struggle that they had been successful of 1900 will witness an arrangement that will insure an annual intercollegiate game of football between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. "Westward the star of emoriginally forced through rail rates to pire takes its way," is as true in the world of sports as in other material things. The advent in Portland, Saturday, of Sullivan, the baseball manager, closely the Eastern jobber versus his coast following the Carliste-Berkeley feathalf in commenting on this contest, said:

A conclusion not unfair to Carlisle is that their victory was a fluke. It will hardly do to say that the Indians were stale, for they are never out of training. The truth is they met an eleven that, under the tuition of college specialists from the East, had developed cham-pionship form. Physically, the Californians were the peers of any football men the Indians had played in this part of the country. It must be borne in mind that outdoor sports are pos-sible in California all the year round. Some of the greatest American athletes of the future should come from the Pacific slope. The Chrismas game at San Francisco presented a a new candidate for championship honors in Berkeley. If its gladiators should come East to try conclusions with Harvard, Prinseton or Yale next fall, the football prophets would hardly be able to forecast the result with con-didence. An annual game between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts may yet become a fixture.

There has been no end to the arguments as to when the 18th century ends and the 20th century begins. The matter is of little consequence, and a child ought to know that it takes 100 years to make a century, but it is said that the same misunderstand ing has occurred at the end of every cenbe driven out of business-does the interior retailer think he would be able into general use. It is, however, only a triffing and local misunderstanding. for less money than he would pay Chinese, who reckon back thousands of here? It is the history of all such years before there was any Christian era. movements that prices are temporarily and patronize the lunar year; the Mohamreduced to a figure even below cost in medans, who also use the lunar year of order that competition may be de- 354 days, and reckon time from the data stroyed. When the field is clear of of their prophet's skednddling, never have competitors, who names the prices at any fuss of this kind about the end of a century. If one could stand off in space he would see that there was no such thing country merchant from buying where as time, and understand that the calendar he can get lowest prices today, but it in use on this speck of earth is only a ought to make him hesitate to add his record of how many times the earth revolves on its axis, and is intended to enable us to keep some record of the brief who have no interests here except to space of our existence, which amounts to nothing and cuts no figure in the economy of nature. Out in space, away from the trivialities of human life, nature rules alone, and is ignorant of epochs and dates, out of business. They will not be heeding neither century nor cycle, lustrum, or olympiad. It will, therefore, be seen that only narrow-minded people will worry bility of destruction. Improvement in themselves over trying to make a century end at the wrong time, as very few ever have to go through the end of more than one. It is to be hoped that all those now engaged in discussing the proposition who live till the end of the next century will get their heads screwed on right by that time, and be able to frown down any such wearisome discussion and that occasion, As for the rest of use it's no great matter

d. H. Con., Car. lowyer, Co.

anyhow.