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TODAY'S WEATHER .- Occasional rain, with noutherly winds

PORTLAND, THURSDAY, JANUARY 4.

G. A. R. AND PENSION ROLL. We publish elsewhere communica

tions from members of the G. A. R.

who do not agree with The Oregonian in its conviction that the present pengion roll, if purified of all persons who are in moral equity illegitimate claimants, would not exceed \$75,000,000. The position of The Oregonian has always been, and is today, that there is need of amendment of the pension laws so that it shall be impossible for a man of pecuniary means sufficient for his own support and that of his family to draw a pension. There are thousands of men today possessed of full capacity for self-support who are on the pension roll, and have been paid a large lump sum in arrears of pension. These men have a legal right to a place on the pension roll, but they have no moral right to a pension. Nevertheless, the retains and modifies as seems neces G. A. R. will not even favor the listing of such pensioners and the publication of their names, so that every state may know who these men are who are so destitute of pride as to swell the numbers on the pension roll. Our critics dodge the real point of the matter by asking, "What has the G. A. R. done?" The trouble is that the G. A.

ing, officially, by the use of its organized influence, to prevent enactment of vicious pension legislation. The G. A. R. sits with its hands folded and allows this legislation to be enacted through pension attorneys, and then, after a legal extravagance has been enacted through their quiescence, they ask, "Why are the G. A. R. responsible?" They are responsible to the extent that their passivity has permitted all this loose, vicious legislation to be enacted without effective protest.

Does anybody suppose our presen

R has done nothing, absolutely noth-

been enacted if the congressmen of both parties had been notified officially by the G. A. R. that all that the honest soldiers of the country ask is that the nation will provide for those of their comrades who are really unable to provide for themselves or their families, so that no soldier shall be obliged to beg his bread or find refuge in an almshouse? The pensions paid to deserving t sarge. In a they are not large enough. But the pension roll is loaded down with the urden of pensions paid to men who have no moral right to a pension, and ought to have no legal right to one. These men have a legal right to a pension today, because of the indifference, the apathy, of a minority of the G. A. R, and because of the tacit assent of a majority of that order, who seem to be infatuated with the immoral idea that because a man has performed a duty in defense of his country that could be exacted of him by law, he is entitled to

Now, The Oregonian is not a crank on this subject; It rests its conviction that the pension reli at present is largely padded with pensioners who have in moral equity no claim to pension, on the testimony of men of high military distinction, of the highest personal character, who were during life members of the G. A. R. To Illustrate: General H. W. Slocum a graduate of West Point, an exceedingly able and trustworthy soldler, who Lought with distinction in the Peninsular campaign of 1862, who was distinguished at Gettysburg, where he commanded our right wing, who was so distinguished for his services before Atlanta that General Sherman selected him for the leadership of half his army of 60,000 men that marched from Atlanta to Savannah and from Savanuah to Raleigh, N. C., was a war democrat of the Douglas faction, but he was an absolutely honest man, as well as a very able soldier, After the war Slocum broke with his own party in Brooklyn, N. Y., because he detested Tammany and believed in civil service reform. This General Slocum, a member of the G. A. R., believed with The Oregonian that there are thousands of persons on the rolls that have no claim in right or equity to a pension. General Francis C. Barlow and General John Gibbon, both members of the G. A. R., and both distinguished division commanders of the Second corps of the Army of the Poto-

There are today on the pension roll nearly 1,066,660 names. Making due allowance for the 6600 widows of the war of 1812, for the 15,000 survivors of the Mexican war, and 7000 Mexican war widows, we still have a pension roll so enormous as to forbid the idea of its honesty. There cannot be today more than a million veteran survivors of the Union army. Allowing for the very large number that are not dependent and are not applicants for pensions, there is no way of accounting for the size of our pension roll except upon the assumption that thousands of pension ers on the roll have no moral right to be there. Every honest Union veteran can name at least one fraudulent recipient of a pension, and it would not trouble our local critic to find more than one ex-Union soldier who has for years been drawing a pension to which he had no moral title, and would have had

mac, agreed with General Slocum that

the pension roll was in severe need of

purgation.

Tens of thousands, moreover, have pensions who saw no real service; and there is no old soldier who does not know many such.

SLANDERS THOROUGHLY BEHUTED. It was one of the proud boasts of the antis that the country they belong to has no capacity for administration of colonial dependencies. Because the Indian is still a problem and the negro a care, therefore we shall inevitably make a mess of Cuba. Puerto Rico and the Philippines. Whatever hope in that direction may have been entertained

been made up to the present time.

Things in Cuba have been almost revolutionized. Sufficient demonstration, if there were nothing else, would be afforded in the reception of General Wood at Havana and the enthusiasr with which all factions there are supporting his programme. The full mean ing of this support can only be grasped by recalling the Latin-American con ception of politics, which never contemplates the acquiescence in the result of elections and support of the de facto government that have become second nature to us. To be out of power in Latin-America, outside of Mexico, is to be plotting revolution. General Wood has triumphed over this untoward tendency by simple virtue of his demonstration in good government made at Santiago. Havana welcomes him and pledges co-operation with his new cabinet, because it can already discern honest use of taxes, sanitary reforms road and bridge construction, peace and order. It is even likely that in many of these things examples will be set for us to copy here at home. This is a blessing The Oregonian has pre-

dicted from the first. Just this sort of work General Otis Is doing in Luzon. His reports from there, overshadowed by the campaign's more showy vicissitudes, show unmistakable achievement of sagacity and benefaction in the work of peace Schools and courts, taxation systems and municipal organization, are apparently proceeding in good order in the path of victory and occupation. He adapts American institutions to the different capacities of the local field. He takes counsel of the wisest Fillpinos. Customs ingrained in habit he sary, and procedure that is manifestly iniquitous he plans to displace through gradual substitution of better things The splendid progress of the schools there under American teachers is revealed in frequent letters from Manila to The Oregonian. Honesty is replacing extortion, and the inhabitants are becoming convinced that our concern is not their spoliation, but their welfare.

It need not surprise us that this work is done under the army. The military force of this republic is little more than one manifestation of our civil life. Militarism in the European sense is un known, and our great soldlers are no so much versed in arms as they are in affairs. In Wood and Otis alike we see not so much the fighter as the states man, organizing the forces of peace and order, repairing as fast as they tear down. What they call peace is the farthest possible remove from the soll tude Rome made in Britain. Their vicious pension legislation could have work is the final answer to the slanders that have been heaped upon the American arms. It is a demonstration in the adaptability of the American genius for work, the mobility of the forces the American people must bring to bear on the waste places fallen to their charge.

GROSS DERELICTION IN COOS.

A precinct meeting of the people's party at Coquille City-a center of pop ulism-was called a few evenings ago to elect delegates to a meeting for reorganization of the Coos county central committee, to be held in Coquille City. One would expect such a meeting, in that community, where the local town would reap the benefit of a pros pective gathering, to arouse great in terest and draw a crowd. But the populist paper at Coguille reports that "the attendance was not large," and after the selection of two delegates, the alms from the state all the rest of his small meeting wound up with a "social

chat." Such a lack of populistic interest in public affairs is saddening. For many years the country has received its warnings of impending disaster from the patriots of populism, and no one more veciferously prophesied the ruin of the republic from the aggressions of the money power and the usur pations of the courts than the profound butcher of Coos county, who came s near election to congress in June of 1896. Yet the country is further along the road to ruin now than when Mr Vanderburg, leaving his meat block and sausages, pointed us to the gaunt wolf of poverty that was stalking be hind the gold standard, and the des potism that was creeping along to de your our liberties under the delusive guise of government by injunction, But the gold party won the election

and has taken no backward step. It has not even restrained the courts from interfering with the liberty of citizens, in Idaho for example, who want to take life and destroy property. More than ever, the courts-without waiting for the commission of crime and then gently reproving the perpetrators-are given to granting injunctions against actions and gatherings which presage lawlessness, and the party in power is fastening the gold standard upon the nation. Yet the populists of the very center of popular liberty in Coos county neglect to cry an alarm in clarion tones, and are content to indulge in "social chat," instead of ringing resolutions against the villain-

country. Nero fiddled while Rome was burn ing, and has been duly execrated by all lovers of liberty and justice for some 1800 years; but was he more recreant than they who sit suplnely by and see our ship of state flounder toward the rocks of gold, with never a rocket to indicate the terrible danger? What's the matter with the populists of Coquille, anyhow? Are they too busy, under a stable monetary standard and the security of property rights maintained by our courts, to attend to their old-time function of warning the country against the oppo site political party? Or have they since the settlement of the litigation over its railway and coal properties gone to work to aid in the era of growth and progress that seems now

ies that menace our beloved common

The loose manner in which much of no legal title if the G. A. R. had in- the probate business of Multnomah

at hand in Coos county?

ed to a man able to support himself. | years is strikingly illustrated in the announcement that a list of about 250 estates, dating back as far as 1860, are found upon the record journals of the county court, the accounts of which are still open. In closing these accounts, as he proposes to do, Judge Cake will make a general clean-up of the business of his many predecessors in office covering a period of more than a third of a century. The un earthing, so to speak, of this vast volume_of-unfinished business proves conclusively (if proof of a proposition so thoroughly demonstrated in official life may be considered necessary), that men do not always do faithfully and must be dashed by the record that has conscientiously what they are elected to do and are paid for doing.

> WEAK POINT IN REGISTRY-LAW. The process of registration under the new state law discovers at least one grave difficulty in its enforcement. This arises in registration of foreign born citizens who have since been naturalized or through "declaration of in tentions" have acquired right to vote under the state constitution. The reglstry law, approved February 17, 1899; specifies the facts to be enumerated by the registration officers concerning the voters. One of these specifications 8. If naturalized, the time, place and court of

> naturalization or declaration, as evidenced by the legal proof thereof, exhibited by the elector. The naturalized voter, therefore, or the man who has declared his inten-tions, must exhibit "legal proof," which can only be interpreted to mean documentary evidence, in the shape of the "first papers" or "final papers" themselves, or else in the form of certified transcripts of court records. It is not strange that numbers have failed to preserve these papers, and are unable even to recall the time, place and court where they were naturalized or made declarations. Most would probably remember the place, some would even re member the time, very few could name the court. Even this information is inadequate, without the written records, and if the records are lost or unobtainable, there's an end of the man as a voter, no matter how many years he has voted, no matter how generally accepted and indisputed may be his right to vote or his desirability as a citizen. Papers of this sort are not kept by the average man, for the ade quate reason that hitherto there has been no need to keep them; and the court records from which transcripts might be obtained, in case the court were remembered by the voter, are doubtless difficult of access, perhaps stored away in forgotten receptacles, possibly even in some cases destroyed. It is possible, though not at all probable, that this clause could be made the basis of overthrow of the whole registry law by the courts. The new law es not prescribe qualifications other than those outlined in the constitution, but merely calls into operation a method of ascertaining whether the constitutional qualifications are possessed by the applicant. This is general view of this point, and though a decision of the Oregon supreme court in 1886 has been cited against it, there are good reasons for believing-reasons which it is needless to go over now, as they have been fully discussed here for years-that a registry law properly framed is constitutional. But it is also true that the operation of the act as drawn works a hardship on many of our best citizens and is inimical to public policy. If any way can be found by which the apparent intention of the act can be interpreted so as to admit to registry citizens clearly entitled to vote but denied registration under the letter of the law, it should be applied. If that low should

A MERCANTILE TAX LAW.

the next legislature.

A new mercantile tax law went into effect in Pennsylvania January 1. Under constitutional provisions existing in Oregon, such law could not be put in operation here; yet the system is worth attention.

Under the Pennsylvania law any person who sells goods of any kind not manufactured on the premises where sold must pay a mercantile license tax to the state, and that, instead of a mercantile assessor making appraisements, according to his best judgments, each person who sells goods must supply a sworn statement of the amount of business actually transacted. In the first place, a \$2 retail vendor tax will be collected. Then there is a city fee of 50 cents. In addition, by the new mercantile license tax, the retail dealer must pay to the state 1 mill on every dollar's worth of goods sold during the previous year. A wholesale dealer must pay the wholesale tax of \$3 and one-half mill on every dollar of his total sales. The whole tax on a merchant making sales to the amount of \$5000 a year will be \$7 50; if the retail business runs up to \$5,000,000, the tax will be \$5002 50. Mercantile houses are required to produce their books, when called for, so that the returns may be verified; and there are heavy penaltles for false returns.

The London Daily News says: "Wars in countries that offer the advantage of position to the defenders are bound to be tedious affairs." So it seems to John Bull, from his experience in South Africa. We have a similar lesson in the Philippine islands; only the Filipinos play their game differently. They the American army appears they hide their rifles and play "amigo." Then their arms again and start out on their campaigns of loot and murder, putting to death, often with torture, natives who are supposed to have been friendly small force of Americans left in a place, these "amigos" sneak up and try effort ought to be made to snatch up these cowardly scoundrels and make examples of them. Only the courtmartial and the gallows will put a stop to such outrages.

It requires extreme hardihood to assert that in the pension legislation of by an intricate process of reasoning. It the country there is no abuse or excess. Yet The Oregonian is often censured for saying there is. And more legislation, carrying the excess and abuse been clear to everybody. It would also much further, is threatened. Here is have been brave and outspoken. But it an expenditure so colossal that it can- was months afterward before the nom not possibly be ignored. The root of lines upon that platform felt safe in utterthe abuse is that vast sums are paid ing the word gold. to persons who are in no need of them, and other vast sums to persons who were but a short time on the army rolls and never saw real service. The Ore- real author of it might not be justified in gonian's position is that pensions are trying to lie out of it, but modest stilldue only to service and need. But the ness and humility would be very become

those who propose legislation that shall go much further still. This is The Oregenian's criticism. It has to say, moreover, that every article on the subject that has appeared in its columns has been written by a soldier who served three years with the army of the Po tomac, and who, though poor, never has applied for a pension.

Generals MacArthur and Young, who have been nominated for brigadier-generals in the regular army, are volunteer veterans of the civil war. General MacArthur entered the Union army as first lieutenant of the Twentyfourth Wisconsin infantry in August, 1862; and was mustered out as lieutenant-colonel of his regiment in June, 1865. He was appointed second lieutenant of the Seventeenth United States infantry in February, 1866; became captain of the Thirteenth infantry in 1870; major and assistant adjutant general in July, 1889; Heutenant-colonel in May, 1896; brigadier-general of volunteers in May, 1898, and major-general of volunteers in August, 1898. Gen eral MacArthur was twice brevetted for personal gallantry in the civil war. Colonel Young, of the Third United States cavalry, enlisted in the Twelfth Pennsylvania infantry in April, 1861; was mustered out in July, 1865, as colonel of the Fourth Pennsylvania cavalry and brevet brigadier-general of volun teers. 'He entered the regular army as second lieutenant of the Twelfth infantry in May, 1866; became major of the Third cavalry in April, 1883, and colonel in June, 1897, and major-general of volunteers in July, 1898.

The president is said to desire that Hanna shall continue to hold the chairmanship of the republican national committee, shall be president of the national convention, and shall conduct or direct the presidential campaign. If these are the president's wishes, they will "go." The men who direct party action and want the offices will have no opinions or wishes contrary to those of the president. Mr. McKinley is the republican party. And not merely that; but, owing to the impotence of the democratic party, the result of its unspeakable follies, Mr. McKinley is the entire country.

A man is on trial in Olympia for vio lation of the compulsory education law of Washington, he having refused to send his children to school. His defense, if well based, should not only exonerate him, but should result in closing, under its present management, a certain district school in Thurston county. He meets the arraignment of the school officer for violation of the law with the assertion that he withholds his children on account of "the immorality of the school." The burden of proof, of course, rests with the defendant, and public interests demand that the investigation be most searching.

The further extension of sixty days to McDaniel's counsel to prepare for and argue a motion for a new trial savors strongly of California methods in dealing with criminals of this stamp. Tragedies frequently grow out of the law's delay as thus exemplified. and there is not the slightest reason to suppose that justice will profit by it. Sixty days from the date of the commission of a crime so abhorrent as that of which McDaniel has been convicted should suffice to land the perpetrator upon the gallows, or, pallisting circumstances being found by the jury, in the penitentiary.

The promise of activity in the logging camps of the Northwest, unpara magnitude greater than ever before known, bespeaks great activity in our lumber export and building operations. It also indicates a great and substantial demand in the labor market which says clearly, no able-bodied man in the community needs to be idle during the coming months.

If we are, as some confidently assert, a creditor nation, another argument of Bryanism is gone. It was well enough for England, a creditor country, the Bryanites said, to desire the gold standard, but not for us, a debtor nation. The wholesale scaling down of debts one-half will therefore wear a dubious aspect to us, to say the least.

The doctors attendant on Represent ative Boutelle and Roland Reed are not making the mistake of promising re covery and thus taking chances on im pairment of reputation. They talk gloomily at first and lay the foundation for glory if they are lucky. They know their business.

The Lawton fund grows steadily and substantially. Unlike the Dewey home fund, which resulted in such general dissatisfaction, this contribution represents a need as well as a patriotic im

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING.

Louisville Courier-Journal, gold dem. There is not the slightest reason why there should be any contention about the authorship of the financial plank of the republican platform of 1896. The truth is that "plank" was a good deal of a rigmarole. It wrote all around the financial question in a way that plainly be trayed that the writer was afraid of say ing too much. The vital part of it was don't "defend" very much, but when the plain declaration that the gold standard should be preserved until an interna tional agreement for the free and unlimwhen the Americans are gone they take | ited coinage of silver could be obtained. As most of the sound-money men be lieved that such an international agreement would be postponed till the Greek calends-the Greeks never having had any to the Americans. When there is but a calends-this assurance was satisfactory to them, as far as any platform deliverance could be satisfactory, and on the to kill or capture individuals. Every strength of this Major McKinley was

elected. But why should any one claim as ar honor the authorship of the resolution? There was nothing in the framing of it but irresolution, cowardice and insincer ity. That it meant the preservation of the existing standard could only be arrived at would have been easy enough to say: "We favor the existing gold standard and will maintain it," and that would have

Under these circumstances versy as to the authorship of the financial plank seems altogether superfluous. The sisted that no pension should be grant. I county has been transacted in past law goes much further, and there are ing to him. Why any one should try to land Australian offers of volunteers for

claim it without right can only be explained by the prevalence of paresis among politicians

BANK NOTES ARE SAFE. And Assertions to the Contrary Are Beneath Contempt.

New York Times. Projudice dies hard, and hardest of all when it is inspired by envy and covetous-ness and based on ignorance. During the late debate in the house of representatives on the currency bill, several members of the opposition denounced the national banks for their possession of a monopoly of note issues, and declared that these notes were a source of great profit to the banks and of real perti to the noteholders. The first statement is grossly erroneous, the second is palpably false. That there a not much profit in issuing notes at present is shown by the fact that the issues do not increase. That every note issued by a national bank is absolutely safe, as safe as the notes of the United States or the bonds of the United States, and even a little surer to be instantly reseemed, is a matter of law, and every conreesman ought to know it.

In the first place the notes are secured by the deposit of United States bonds

with the treasury to the amount of \$100 conds at par for \$90 of notes, and these bonds at present are worth from \$110 to \$113. In the second place, the moment a bank falls to redeem its notes on presentation, and the fact is made known in due form to the controller of the currency, he proceeds to declare the bonds deposited for the security of the notes forfelt. "Thereupon," in the language of the law, 'he shall immediately give notice to the holders of the notes of such association to present them for payment at the treas-ury of the United States, and the same shall be paid as presented in lawful money of the United States." For the reimburse-ment of the United States for such redemption the United States is given "a first and peramount lien on all the assets of such association." and this lien covere not only the property of the bank, but the personal liability of all the shareholders for an amount equal to the par value of their shares. In brief, if the bank does not redeem

its notes on demand, the treasury will, and to enable it to do so, it has security worth more than the face of the notes and a first lien on all assets, including the property of shareholders up to the par of the capital of the bank. For security, there is nothing better in the country, and cannot be

WHERE HAS THE GOLD GOVE? Mint Directors Endeavor to Locate An Odd \$300,000,000.

Chicago Tribune, "Lost or strayed, \$300,000,000 in American gold coin. Any person who has in-formation as to its whereabouts will please communicate with the director of the mint." This is the substance of a cirular which is about to be sent out by the director to manufacturers of jewelry, to gold-leaf supply houses and all dealers and manufacturers who use the precious metals in their work.

Let it not be supposed that the treasury

or the mint has lost \$300,000,000 in gold coin and wants to recover it. Nothing so serious as that has happened. What troubles the director of the mint is that, while he knows the whereabouts of the greater part of the gold coined in this try since 1879, as large a portion of \$300,000,000 has eluded his search. It country has disappeared from circulation, and he does not know where it is. If it has been melted down, then the mint statistics of the amount of gold coin in the country are at fault. The accuracy of those statistics was questioned recently by Professor Faulkner. He doubted whether the stock of coin outside the treasury and the banks was what it has been assumed to be Mint Director Roberts seems to have been impressed by Professor Faulkner's statements, and is going to find out whether there has been a flaw in the customary mode of calculating the amount of gold

in the country. The mint officials have been able to keep close track of the gold in bars used by jewelers, dental houses and others. They have guessed that gold coin, to the value of \$1,500,000, was melted down annually and used in the arts. It occurs to them now that that guess may have been far out of the way. Hence, 20,000 circulars are to be sent out to firms using gold in the arts, asking them to say how much gold coin they have melted down during the present year. If their replies indicate an annual consumption of, say, \$10,000,000, instead of \$1,500,000, then the director of the mint will know where a good part of his missing \$300,000,000 has gone, and he will have to revise and cut down his estimate of the amount of gold in circulation. But if the replies show that the million and one-half guess is about right, then the mystery as to the whereabouts f that \$300,000,000 of gold coin will be darker than ever.

Dempsey in Another View. Chicago Times-Herald.

"There is a movement here," says the Brooklyn Eagle, "to have a monument erected over Jack Dempsey's grave or to have the body removed to Brooklyn if his relatives would consent." The writer then goes on to inform the public that Demosey ought to have a cookle ought to have a noble monument Dempsey ought to have a noble monument, provided by public subscriptions, and sets forth in the following verses the condition of his present resting-place: DEMPSEY'S GRAVE.

Far out in the wilds of Oregon, On a lonely mountain side, Where Columbia's mighty waters Roll down to the ocean's tide; Where the giant firs and cedars Throw shadows on the wave, O'ergrewn with ferns and mosses, I found poor Dempacy's grave.

That man of honor and of iron, That man of heart and steel, That man who far outclassed his class, And made the world to feel
That Dempsey's name and Dempsey's fame
Would live in storied stone.
World In the wilds of Oregon.

Forgotten by ten thousand throats That thundered his acciaim, Forgotten by his vanquished foce, Forgotten e'en his name. But shall New York so soon forget Its bravest of the brave. And in the wilds of Oregon

Leave unmarked poor Dempsey's grave? It seems to us that there is room for a few more lines here, and we have taken the liberty to furnish them in our own poor, weak way: And who, methinks I hear you Was this exalted man?

Give heed and I'll explain his worth As briefly as I can: He never drew a flashing blade Against his country's foe, But with his bony fist he laid He won in more than sixty fights Before he met defeat; He made three-score of noses look Like freshly served mest, And when, at last, he got the punch

That sent him o'er the rope. He nobly put the mitts away

And went to selling dope.

Ah, shame upon the people who Have honored Grant, that they Should let great Dempsey lie unm Three thousand miles sway! He was by far too strong to work, And whisky broke him down-Let's raise a monument to him And give him new renown!

English Press Comment. If the victory is to be purchased at dearer price than we anticipated, its cost will strengthen the national determination to reap the fruits of victory to the last rain. Politicians and humanitarians will not be allowed to give away what soldiers have fought and died to win for queen and empire.—Birmingham Post.

There is good reason to believe that the

war office is somewhat repentant of the ignominious slights it has persistently placed upon the South African, Canadian

the war. Some of the authorities, it is said have begun to think it possible that men trained to the life of the veidt, the prairie and the bush have certain advan tages in the kind of warfare in which the Boers have proven themselves so adroit, and there is talk, but talk only so far. of a change of plan with regard to the colonials.-London Mail.

This much is clear, that the general com manding at the Cape would at this mo-ment give anything to have 10,000 or 20,000 men in hand for unforseen emergencies. such as the Stormberg mishap, and that they are not there. Two rules of war, inculcated by the experience of centuries. are never to begin by exposing fractions of your force to the enemy's attack, and to keep an uninterrupted stream of reinforcements moving towards your army in the field. The government broke the first rule when, after sending Sir G. White It sent no more troops for many weeks. It broke the second rule when it made a pause after the dispatch of the army corps. Are not the events that have pened object lessons enough? If there is a seventh division ought it not to begin embarking before the whole of the sixth has left?—London Post.

BY SEATING CLARK The Senators Can Help Decree Their Election by Popular Vote.

Philadelphia Press. The Montana bribery case opens a seri-us issue which the United States senate annot dodge and on which it cannot aintain its familiar doctrine that where bribery is proved a direct connection be-tween the elected senator and the man paying the bribe must be proved.

The English election law long since tore up this legal fiction. If any valuable nsideration is proved to have for the purpose of gaining votes by one associated with the candidate, or committee, in his employ or in his family, the English law justly holds that this is corruption, and the election is void accord

This is common sense, and it ought to e common election law. The cloud of friends, backers and supporters are al-ways ready to take the risk of bribery if it will not reach the benefited candidate, who keeps conveniently deaf and, blind. His benefit is and ought to involve his complicity. Bribery of John B. Wellcome, conspicu-

ous as the agent of the senator, William A. Clark, has been judicially established, The supreme court of Montana has decided that by disbarring him. Evidence which satisfies a court of last appeal on such an issue is enough to satisfy any man of candor and common sense. The one hope of the principal for whose election and in whose benefit \$30,000 was paid, is to deny a direct connection with an act which, under the English election laws, would leave him without standing in court.

If the senate refuses to unseat, except where a direct personal connection is proved, it will do much to convice the entire country that senate elections by leg-Islatures must cease and senate elections by the voters begin. Bribery exists in some of these elections now. No one doubts that. If this bribery is never to be held a bar to a seat in the senate unless a direct personal connection is proved, no elected senator can be excluded for bribery. He can always, by simple precau-tions, let his friends bribe for him, escape all responsibility and reap all the rewards of the act.

Establish the conviction in the public mind that this technicality is always to protect bribery and the mode of electing enators is certain to be changed. Greater reforms have come for less cause. The senate is on trial in the Montana case, and its judicial action will be jealously

The Imperturbable British Soldier. St. James's Gazette.

A correspondent rode out to meet the force falling back from Dundee. The track (he says) went steep down hill to a spruit where the water lay in pools. And there on the opposite hill was that gallant little British army, halted in a position of extreme danger, absolutely commanded on all sides but one, and preparing for ten as unconcernedly as if they were in a Lockhart's shop in Goswell' road. Almost as unconcerned, for, in-deed, some of the officers showed signs of their long anxiety and sleeplessness. The British private was even here imperturbing the latest he knew from the music halls. He lighted his fires and made his tea and took an intelligent interest in the slaughter of the oxen, for all the world as if he were at maneuvers on Salisbury Plain. Filthy from head to foot, drenched with rain, baked with sun, unshorn and unwashed for five days, his eyes bloodshot for want of sleep, hu and footsore, fresh from terrible fighting and the loss of many friends, he was still the same unmistakable British that queer mixture of humor and blasphemy, cherfulness and grumbling, never losing that imperturbability which no mixture of any other quality at all in part. it. The camping ground was arranged almost as though they were going to stay there forever. Here were the guns in or-der, there the relics of the Eighteenth hussars; there the Leicesters, the Sixtieth, the Dublins, the Royal Irish fusiliers and the rest. The guards were set and the sentries posted. But only two hours later the whole moved off again for three miles' further advance to get them well out of the mountains. Why on that perilous march through unknown and difficult country the Dutch did not spring upon them in some pass and blot them out is one of the many mysteries of this strange campaign.

His Work Unsatisfactory. Philadelphia Press. "Did you ever get the money D'Auber

"No. He wanted to square accounts by painting my house inside and out."
"Well, that would have evened things up. Why didn't you let him:
"I was going to until I saw one of his pictures.

The Comic Opera. Syracuse Herald. Librettiat-I don't like that new prima-

Librettist-Her enunciation is so perfect

that everybody will be able to understand Not That Kind. Chicago News. Clerk-What do you wish ma'am?

Manager-Why not?

Mrs. O'Toole-Ol want to sae some mir-OFS. Clerk-Hand mirrors? Mrs. O'Toole-No; some that ye kin sae yer face in.

Bears Them in Mind. Philadelphia Catholic Standard. Wiggs-He's very charitable, isn't he? Waggs-Who, Pincher? Wiggs-Yes. He says he always remem waggs-Well, that's all. It's a matter of memory.

Unendurable. Philadelphia Record. Mrs. Buggins-Why did you move in from the country? Did you find it too Mrs. Muggins-Yes; there wasn't even anybody to inquire how much we paid our cook.

Question for the "Antis." Washington Post.
The anti-expansionists have discovered hat the life of a man like General Lawton is worth more than the whole island of Luzon. Then why do these gentlemen

tinue to encourage the Filipinos to take

Shouldn't Have Said It. Yonkers Statesmen. She-I'm one of her oldest friends. He-You look it.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

The Boers are evidently not yet on to Pitcher's curves. If the Fenians rise, it will be by virtue

of the buoyancy of gas. Two milk trusts are fighting for the

ream of the trade in Chicago. Properly enough, the Cuban cabinet

eems to consist chiefly of Wood. The rise in the price of hemp may make t cheaper to electrocute Aguinaldo.

The gallantry of the Canadian troops in South Africa may be easily explained. They came from America.

Hanna wants McKinley to want Hanna for chairman of the national committee, and McKinley wants what he is wanted

to want. What the local democrats want is a decaration of principles that shall dodge every issue that stands the remotest chance of coming up in the next campaign.

The Wisconsin, being nearly ready for her trial trip, the Badger will be sold. Too many namesakes are likely to make a state think it is entitled to a presidential candidate.

Congress ought to get the currency bill, the Roberts matter and the little unpleasantness over in the Philippines off its hands before it launches into that Sampson-Schley affair again,

Pension-office statistics show that just one-half the members of the Seventy-first New York and Ninth Massachusetts regiments are applicants for pensions on the ground of alleged injuries received during the recent war with Spain. Probably the invalids are victims of the unripe banana.

A woman, drunk and frequenting saloons with a babe in her arms, while two little girls pleaded with her to control her appetite, was a sight at The Dalles last Sunday. The family took a train for the West. The Times-Mountaineer says it is a case that might well have the attention of the Boys' and Girls' Ald Society.

At Cascade Locks a young man whose head was cut in a street fight was patched up by a doctor, who declined to charge him for the service, as the fellow was hard up. The fighter wanted to know what a man who was not broke would be charged, and was told. This angered him, and he abused the doctor until the latter had to settle matters by sending him sprawling with his fist. The last seen of the ingrate he was on the run down the street.

Kansas understands that advertising s valuable to a state as well as to a merchant. The secretary of its board of agriculture has sent out, under instructions, a handsomely engraved card, which shows the agricultural and livestock products of the state for the current year. The aggregate value of wheat, corn, oats, tobacco, wool and other farm, garden and horticultural products for the period covered was \$169,747,007; that of horses, mules. cows and other livestock, \$133,657,092, making a grand total of \$302.504,129, an increuse of \$37,652,367 over the returns from these sources for 1898. And now, when people ask "what is the matter with Kansus," they may very properly be assured that "she is all right," depression and populism having had their day.

A few days ago the driver of an automobile was thrown from his carriage on a street in New York. As he fell blahand set the machinery going at full speed. and set the steer-wigger so the vehicle went round and round. After breaking one man's leg and creating a general panic the carriage was captured and the power reduced to submission. The incident has aroused much discussion upon the danger of the vehicles thus propelled upon the streets of cities. The sufficient answer to criticisms of the automobile on this score is that horses are prone to run away, and in so doing they generally make a much worse job of it than does the wild electrical carriage. The latter is automatic and cannot be scared, whereas the longer a horse runs the more frightened he gets, and more capable of serious mischlef. There is better and worse even in runaways and the automobile seems to have the better

The Indianapolie Press publishes a leiter to a friend from an American business man in Johannesburg, in which he says: 'I do not agree at all with the statements I see in some American papers about England having no real cause for war with the Transvani, It should have come to this point long before it did. England took slap after slap from the wretched little country which she would not have taken from any other, I am sure, and had the United States been so treated by another nation our whole people would have been up in arms months ago and the question settled. I have heard many Englishmen say this, too, and many of them in Johannesburg said they wished the United States had the settling of affairs. The great mistake England made was in ever giving the country back to the Boers. I have heard people say ever since I have been here, 'Never trust a Boer," and I am afraid I must believe it. As a nation I certainly do, and that must mean they are individually untrustworthy. They have been greatly misrepresented as a 'Godfearing people." There is an overwhelming amount of 'lip service,' to be sure, and the speeches of the volksraad memhers were sickening to us living here, as we knew the hollowness of it all."

Indorsed by the Gallery.

"Aha!" exclaimed the heavy villain, "the plot thickens." "This about time," remarked the occuant of the gallery; "It's been pretty thin o far."

His Style.

Yonkers Statesman. Bacon-You say your son at college writes a bold hand? Egbert-I should say so. He's just writen for \$150 more.

· The English Language.

New York Sun.
A farmer was trying to plough
With a jackass hitched up to a cough, When they kicked up a terrible rough. Said the farmer: "It's hard, I allough I could do near as well with a sough: I will rest 'neath the shade of this bough;

"Such driving for me is too rough; 've had of it nearly enough; I'll give this old Jackass a cough and quit, for I'm quite in a hough and ploughing is almighty tough.

"With farming I'm glad to be through-My wife, she is tired of it, tough; We're wet with rain and the dough And ploughing has made me quite blough.

'T'll æll out and pocket the dough, To the city I'll glad enough gough, I'll through down the shovel and hough; In Wall street my money I'll blough.