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TODAY'S WEATHER.—Rain; fresh to high southerly winds.

PORTLAND, TUESDAY, JANUARY 23.

NEUTRAL RIGHTS AND CONTRABAND.

Theodore S. Woolsey, the well-known professor of international law in Yale university, in an article in the latest number of the Outlook, treats of neutral rights and contraband of war, reviewing the questions involved in the recent seizures of American and German goods by the British in South Africa.

Professor Woolsey says that Great Britain is bound by certain doctrines which she herself has heretofore recognized. One of these is the doctrine of "continuous voyages," and is in truth her only possible foundation for action against neutral commerce in present circumstances, since the Transvaal and Orange Free State have no seaport. That is, if the goods are to go through a neutral port to the Boer states, they are confiscable if contraband of war; but the hostile destination must be perfectly manifest. Upon this fact all depends; for if the goods, though held contraband by Great Britain, are to be sold in open market at Delagoa bay—if the intention of importation ends with that—then no hostile destination can be inferred. Since in the present case no enemy's port exists to which contraband can be bound, maritime capture can be claimed only through the doctrine of continuous voyages.

Great Britain may be expected to seize all military supplies seeking entry at Delagoa bay, on the presumption that it is the Boers who want them and that the shippers know it. But has she a right to hold and to enforce the same inference as to provisions? Professor Woolsey says not. Even if it be allowed that provisions may come under the rule of "occasional contraband," Great Britain must show that they have a hostile destination. The historical position of our own government is that provisions can be held contraband only if destined to a hostile fleet or a besieged port. Seizure of provisions for Delagoa bay, on the claim that they were destined to the Boers, Professor Woolsey says would be a "novel combination of two exceptional doctrines, that of occasional contraband and that of continuous voyage, applied to the same cargo." Our government, he says, cannot concede this, without receding from positions for which it has heretofore contended; and this, of course, it will not do.

Great Britain, then, will have to beat the Boers in battle. She cannot intercept provisions for Delagoa bay, for of course the shippers will take care that the hostile destination do not appear. After a while she may be able to seize the railway from Delagoa bay, where it enters the Transvaal, but she will have a great deal of fighting first; and by that time the Boers will have about exhausted their power of resistance.

THE PARTY OF NEGATION.

The pro-Boer meeting in Washington was composed of democratic politicians and blatherskite Senator Mason, of Illinois. Its utter absurdity is set forth in the declaration of democratic Congressman Sulzer that the defeat of the Boers "will be the severest blow at republican institutions that has been struck in a century." The so-called Boer "republic" is not a "sister republic" at all; it is a political anachronism; a medieval "republic," which was nothing but a despotic oligarchy. There is no free speech, or free press, or unwarped, absolutely unterrified courts; the courts are the mere creatures of Paul Kruger, who is the last court of appeal. What kind of a "republic" would the United States have been if even so great and good a man as George Washington could have held our supreme court by the neck and been himself the last court of appeal, like the divan of the sultan of Turkey?

Of course, intelligent democrats know better. They are only playing their old-time, stupid, demagogic performance as the party, not of creation of issues, but of negation to everything formulated by the republican party. The average democrat, except when he is imported, is pro-Boer because he is anti-expansion. He thinks to confuse the question of expansion in the Philippines with the question of expansion in South Africa. This attitude of the democratic party, as always a mere party of malignant negation, is what has always made it difficult to capture the country and impossible to hold its allegiance long when it is at long intervals victorious. It is never anything but a negation; it is always purely obstructive, never intelligently and courageously constructive. It holds out both hands to anarchism, to state socialism, to dishonest money. The democracy will never extinguish the mission of the republican party so long as it whitewashes industrial terrorism and murder in politics by cultivating an effusive friendship for organized ruffianism and disorganizing because dishonest finance.

Just so long as the democratic party persists in this reactionary attitude, just so long there will be a new lease of life to the republican party. Republicans of enlightened, independent spirit are not afraid to vote the democratic ticket, but they must be certain that there is a higher, nobler, more patriotic faith back of it than the old sickening, reactionary, vindictive war on equal rights and honest money. To walk backwards is to be on the side of barbarism, and impatient as republicans may often be of the conduct of their party, they are not prepared to leave it for one that condones industrial anarchism and organized political outrage and throws up its hat for dishonest and disastrous finance. The democratic party must stand for something better than mud mixed with blood, which about expresses the marriage between democratic finance and Altgeldian anarchy.

NARROW VIEWS OF TRADE.

In another column is a letter from Salem, in which the tariff is inveighed against as the source of our commercial inferiority to Europe, and, specifically, as the reason why Minister Lord went to Buenos Ayres by way of Liverpool. The tariff on wool is also given a rap, as a benefit to a few sheepmen at the expense of the whole people. This correspondent falls into errors about as great as those he designs to correct. The chief obstacle to trade between the United States and Argentina is not the tariff, but the similarity of its exports to our own. The Argentine has wheat, corn, hides and wool to sell to Europe, and so have we. We are not going to buy these things from Argentina, though we do take a good many hides, and an effort to have the duty on this product abolished is now under way, being urged by shoe manufacturers who want as cheap hides as they can get, and opposed by our home producers of hides, who want as good prices as they can get. The treasury statistics show that we have imported more hides from South America than we did before the passage of the Dingley law. Free trade in hides and a tariff on shoes is a very popular doctrine in Philadelphia and certain manufacturing districts of New England.

Owing to the demand in Europe for Argentine products, shipping is more abundant in that trade than with us, though as a matter of fact we are selling Argentina nearly twice as many goods as we were two years ago. To say that South American products are kept out of the United States by prohibitive tariffs is a generalization wofully inexact. Some are kept out by the fact, already noted, that we produce more of that specific kind than we can ourselves consume. Others are imported in great quantities because they are free of duty. Coffee is free. Cotton (of which we import nearly 2,000,000 pounds annually from South America) is free. Bananas are free. Hides and raw wool were taxed in the Dingley bill in pursuance of the principle that taxed shoes and free hides, taxed woolens and free wool, democratic practices, were not equitable. Revenue duties are collected on sugar and tobacco, from whatever source they come in.

The free trade doctrinaire is just as visionary as the high-protection doctrinaire. Neither is fit to frame a tariff bill. Neither is competent to be entrusted with our foreign trade. As to the means whereby that trade is to be conserved and promoted, they are many and various. There is no royal road to learning and there is no royal road to foreign trade. It is the product of many different conditions. Cheap iron for ships and cheap money for maritime investment are important conditions. Mutual needs are necessary. If all we had to export were wheat and all the Argentine had to export were wheat, there could be no trade between us. But with Asia needing locomotives and flour, and with us needing silks and tea, trade is necessary and profitable. Our foreign trade is also to be encouraged by American banks in South America and the dependencies, by study of Spanish in our schools, by sample warehouses in the foreign ports, and by the wide-awake American consul and the indefatigable American salesman. Tariffs must be just, and this no democratic tariff has ever been. High import duties are useful at some times, and at other times, as now in the case of Asiatic goods seeking market here, they are mischievous. As for free trade, there is no such thing except in books and visionary treatises. The government needs all the money it can get from customs, and more. We may have to tax coffee yet, and bananas. We may have to cut down some tariffs in order to increase the volume of imports and indirectly increase the aggregate amount of duty collected.

THE AUTHOR OF "LORNA DOONE."

The death of Richard Blackmore takes from this world at the ripe age of 75 a man of sweet and manly nature, who will live long in the memory of the lovers of pure and charming story tellers as the author of "Lorna Doone," which, published more than thirty years ago, still holds its place at the top of fine English fiction of the first rank, conceding first rank to Scott, Thackeray, George Eliot, Dickens and George Meredith. Perhaps it would not be too much to say that when Mr. Blackmore published "Lorna Doone," in 1869, he founded a new school of fiction; for he was the first to work successfully the vein of autobiographic fiction that has since been so ably wrought by Robert Stevenson, Conan Doyle, Anthony Hope and S. R. Crockett. With the exception of Stevenson, none of Blackmore's followers have written a novel of as enduring popular interest as "Lorna Doone," and even Stevenson's most popular stories, "Treasure Island," "Kidnaped" and "David Balfour," lack a certain fine atmosphere of manly simplicity and tenderness that pervades the beautiful story of the love of brave, stalwart John Ridd for delicate Lorna Doone.

Thackeray once bluntly said that "Pickwick Papers" was the finest and most original book that Dickens ever wrote. He compared its broad, hearty humor and natural, healthy sentiment to a draught of fine, fresh English ale. The flavor of "Lorna Doone" is something far finer and more delicate than this, and has been compared to that of a glass of fine old wine, which has ripened long enough to gather a nutty taste and a beautiful bouquet. The best test of a really fine novel is the delightful memory of it, which prompts you to read it over again at intervals of a few years, and affectionately to introduce it to the notice of men and women whom you like. Now there are but few books of this sort in the whole range of fiction. Among them are Thackeray's "Vanity Fair," George Eliot's "Mill on the Floss" and Blackmore's "Lorna Doone." Perhaps we ought to add Charles Reade's masterpiece, "The Cloister and the Hearth," which would be a perfect story if he had left out that long theological chapter which relates how Gerard became a priest, a celibate and a bereaved husband and father, through his priesthood.

There is no touch of morbidity, no melodramatic nonsense, in "Lorna Doone." John Ridd is a great, brave, stalwart, manly giant of a Devonshire yeoman; slow to anger, like all men of exceptional physical strength, and averse to fighting, but a man both fearless and fearful in battle when once persuaded that his quarrel is just. This stalwart farmer lad and delicate little Lorna Doone, who is better bred but not nobler hearted than her rustic playmate, fall in love with each other as naturally and purely as possible, and the whole story of his courtship and the perils through which he finally wins his wife are told beautifully, without a single false note of mawkish sentiment, without an unmanly, foolish or indecent action on either side. There is nothing subtle in the plot; there is nothing unique or eccentric in the characters. It is the old, old romantic story that has been told over and over again since the dawn of literature; but Blackmore has told it charmingly, completely without a bit of cant, or sentimentalism; he has presented in John Ridd a picture so natural in its rugged stalwartness, taciturnity and strength, of a noble-minded, heroic farmer lad, who fights like a Trojan with fists and heels every man who forces him to the wall, and fights as recklessly of life in defense of his girl as a lioness for her whelps, that the whole, healthy-minded reading world of English-speaking men and women have read "Lorna Doone" with delight, and will continue to do so for many, many years to come.

NOW IS THE ACCEPTED TIME.

A bulletin recently issued by the state agricultural experiment station at Geneva, N. Y., makes suggestions in regard to the present as the accepted time to forestall the possible ravages of the tent caterpillar, which apply to all localities subject to the depredations of these pests. Their eggs, as is generally known, are secured to the smaller branches or twigs of trees in small, black rings, easily discernible when the trees are bare of foliage. Farmers having at this time plenty of leisure, may readily find and destroy these eggs and thus save themselves the disgusting and much more difficult task of fighting the tent-spinning, crawling, voracious pests later in the year. Once let the creatures hatch and begin to spin, and the most heroic measures are required to rid invaded orchards of their presence. These measures include spraying with arsenicals, while the caterpillars are at work in the spring; swabbing with kerosene when they are collected in groups or in the nests, and jarring them from the trees; banking the trees to prevent access of wanderers and invaders, and destruction of cocoons in June and July.

In this state, old and abandoned orchards have been the nesting-places of the tent caterpillar for years. The State Horticultural Society has, however, in recent years, done much through its agents to cause the abatement of this nuisance by insisting upon the destruction of these useless trees—sad relics of bygone years wherein Oregon apples were without blemish and Oregon orchards flourished for the planting. Much, however, yet remains to be done in this line. There was a time, covering a long term of years, in which Oregon farmers took no interest whatever in their orchards. Following the few years in the decade in which apples were enormously high in price, a large orchard area, chiefly of apple, pear and green gage plum trees, came into bearing. The market was narrow and the product, of course, perishable. The fall climate was not suited to outdoor drying, while fruitdriers, in the modern sense of the term, were unknown. It followed that tons upon tons of the finest fruit rotted upon the ground, there not being even hogs to eat it. The result of the discouragement that followed is still seen in neglected, gnarly, moss-grown orchards that disfigure the landscape they once adorned—the haunts of the tent caterpillar, the codlin moth and the woolly aphis.

As said before, however, much has been done in accomplishing the destruction of the old orchard trees; but the utmost vigilance is necessary to keep the new orchards clean. The condition of the apples and pears that find their way to this market from most of the Willamette valley orchards shows that the battle so far is an unequal one, the pests having decidedly the best of it. The ounce of prevention that in this, as in everything else, is worth the pound of cure, is suggested, at least as far as the tent caterpillar is concerned, in the bulletin to which reference is above made, by which farmers and orchardists are notified that now is the best time to find and destroy in masses the eggs of this pest.

The Oregonian has said that men of the temperament of Senator Hoar live in a quixotic world. They lack power to adjust general and abstract ideas to actual facts. Burke has taught the world that there is nothing so mischievous as abstract political ideas not adjusted or adjustable to practical conditions. Really there is no political truth that is absolute. All depends on conditions and relations. For a people like ourselves, the assertions of the Declaration of Independence are sound truths and first principles. But for Russians or Chinese or Filipinos they are not. The armor of Achilles is for him only who can wear it. The New York Times says:

> The one thing that is absolutely certain about the premises for a political conclusion is that to some extent they must be uncertain. In Mr. Hoar's case the trouble is the worse because the premises from which he makes his deductions are very general and abstract propositions in political philosophy. To him these are as the laws of nature and of God. They are right, they are wholly and eternally right; anything that is in accordance with them or, rather, with his interpretation of them, is right and all else is wrong. It is related of him that he once remarked to a lifelong friend with whom he had been intimately associated in the anti-slavery contest, but who had felt himself forced by conscience to support Mr. Cleveland in 1884: "I am deeply pained. It had been one of the cherished hopes of my life that we should meet in heaven!" That was half a generation ago. He is as uncompromisingly logical as ever and no more reasonable.

Slowly and with extreme caution the British forces are advancing from their crossing of the Tugela river at Potgieter's Drift towards Ladysmith. At this point of crossing they were at about the same distance from Ladysmith as they were at Colenso, but the way perhaps is not so strongly fortified. At any rate, they have passed a strong column over the Tugela river, and are making slow advance, from day to day. It is a continual skirmish; but the extreme caution of the British commanders stands out in strong contrast to their impetuosity at the beginning of the campaign. And here is wisdom. They have found that contempt of their enemy, though it may have been magnificent, was not war. And yet we fully believe the Dutch Afrikanders never will meet the British in open field, on equal terms. On the other hand, the British will not allow contempt of their enemy to lead them into traps, as heretofore. The significant feature of the campaign at present is the extreme caution characteristic of the British commanders. It may take them longer to get to Pretoria than they thought, but this is the way to get there.

A notable phase of building operations in Boston and some other Eastern cities, as shown by the year's statistics, is the increased use of brick as compared with wood. This is true outside of the area restricted to brick, iron and stone buildings. Much of the new brick construction is in localities where wood might be legally employed, showing that the use of the more lasting and fire-resisting material is growing because of its merits. The fact that so many builders find it profitable to use brick outside of the fire limits is held to prove that an extension of these limits would not be so burdensome as many suppose. The lumber supply on this coast is still so ample that brick has not entered to any appreciable extent into the construction of residences. The substitution has been made in Eastern cities because builders have found it profitable—a reason that does not apply to cities in close touch with an apparently exhaustless lumber supply.

It is proper that the public should be informed that, although the transports Rio de Janeiro and Sikh sailed from the port of Portland with the Thirty-fifth regiment, some 289 men of which were made sick and one died from the fresh meats on board spoiling, the meats were not supplied to the ships here. The ships were furnished with fresh meats and other stores at San Francisco before coming to Portland, and it is scarcely to be wondered at that ptomaine poisoning developed before they reached Manila. The transports Pennsylvania and Olympia took on their supplies of fresh meat here, and no ptomaine poisoning occurred on board of them. The meats furnished were of the best quality, and gave great satisfaction.

There promises to be a hot campaign in Texas within the next few months. In view of past occurrences at such times, and mindful of the good name of the state, the Galveston News suggests that every time during this period that a farmer gets real mad and excited over politics, and feels like he must do something strenuous or perish, he run right out in the field, grab a hoe and take it out on the unresisting earth. There is good reason to believe that, if this advice were followed and the hoeing done intelligently as well as vigorously, the crop returns of the Lone Star state would be the most phenomenal in its history.

The correlative interests of labor and capital are witnessed when calamity overtakes an investment that furnishes employment to a large number of laborers in a community. The loss by fire of the Ashland woolen mills furnishes an illustration of this fact which will prove a striking one to the operatives so suddenly thrown out of work. It may be hoped, in the interests of labor, that the investment of capital in this enterprise proved sufficiently profitable above the heavy loss over insurance to induce the prompt rebuilding of the mills.

The British steamer Monmouth cleared from Baltimore recently with 5100 tons of steel rails to be delivered at Melbourne, Australia. This is said to be the largest cargo of rails ever shipped from an American port. Twenty years ago it was not uncommon for big cargoes to arrive at American ports, but this fact represents a condition that belongs to the past. The trade movement, so far as it relates to steel rails, now sets the other way.

A good many crazy people have come out of Iowa, but this Professor Herron, who offers socialism as a cure for ecclesiastical authority, is the prince of them all. Individualism has freed man from many shackles of sacerdotal authority, but its work is not yet done. When a man buries all his individuality in a grand socialistic machine, he will look funny talking about individual rights of belief.

On another page today The Oregonian publishes an extremely entertaining article from the New York Press, an extreme protection organ, and heretofore a McKinley organ, entitled, "Giving the Whole Case Away." It shows, amusingly, how McKinley has been converted by his expansion policy from his extreme protectionist doctrines, and denounces him for his change.

Democratic National Committeeman Woodson, of Kentucky, announces that he has "discussed the political situation in his state with Colonel Bryan thoroughly," and that "there is no foundation for the story that Bryan recently wrote to Blackburn in favor of discontinuing the Goebel contest against Taylor." So much the worse for Bryan.

The intrenched Boer is making a stubborn stand against the English army. His only hope of victory lies in fighting under cover, and he is wise enough to appreciate this fact at its full value. Once in the open, Tommy Atkins would compel him to a quick result.

They who contend for Tagal ascendency in the Philippines simply contend for the right of one tribe to tyrannize over all the others. In his contention for "liberty" and "freedom" in the Philippines Senator Hoar gives himself up to this paradox and delusion.

Doesn't Travel for Fun.

Omaha World-Herald.

Far from being the great autocrat, the arbiter of things of magnitude, the president of a railway system, be it great or small, is a dealer in trifles, with a consideration for everything. Every accident, large and small; every occurrence by which the road is to lose a dollar or to make a dollar, comes to the notice of the president. The successful head of a railroad is the one who considers the details. He is the man who makes the profits, and he is the man who has to face the music at the directors' meeting.

When you see the bright, smooth-running traveling palace of the railway president trailing along behind the long string of passenger coaches, you can be safe in the opinion that the occupant has not the softest snap on earth; you can also rest assured that if he is a success in his sphere, he is not traveling for fun.

TRADE WITH ARGENTINA.

And Incidental References to Tariff on Wool.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 20.—(To the Editor.)—The country is receiving fresh enlightenment upon the subject of tariff duties and protection. An illustration of one natural result has been called to mind by the difficulty encountered by the newly appointed minister to the Argentine Republic in reaching that country. Instead of being able to take a steamer from New York direct to Buenos Ayres, Governor Lord found it was necessary to take a steamer to Liverpool and thence an English steamer to Buenos Ayres. Our tariff duties upon South American products forbid their export to the United States, hence we have little business or communication with those countries. We do not permit our people to buy of them, and consequently they do not buy of us. The Argentine representative to the pan-American congress of a few years ago explained why the South American states had little business with the United States, and why they would have less with the enactment of the Dingley tariff bill then pending. He said the North American states prohibit us from selling our products to their people by their import tax upon them, and we are bound to do our buying where we sell. We have driven our merchant marine from the ocean, and now it is proposed to buy it back with subsidies.

The wearers of woolens are about to realize new benefits of protection. The American Woolen Company, or trust, announces the following prices for clay worsteds for the coming season: For 12-ounce goods, $1 25, against 90 cents a year ago; 14-ounce, $1 40, against $1; 16-ounce, $1 57½, against $1 10; 18-ounce, $1 72½, against $1 20. These increases amount to about 40 per cent. The advance in the prices of kerseys range from 15 to 33 per cent. The advance in other lines is about the same. The only article in the Dingley bill the tax upon which can be said to benefit Oregon, is wool, and that tax carries with it compensatory duties upon manufactured woolens. Nearly all the wool of Oregon is produced by 100 or 200 men, and mostly upon government land in the eastern portion of the state, the pasturage of which costs the woolgrowers nothing. The sheep of Western Oregon are few in number, used mostly as scavengers upon summer fallow, and the wool produced there is of comparatively small importance. A few hundreds of Eastern Oregon profit by the wool tax, and all of Oregon is compelled to pay 40 per cent more for woolen clothing. And that is

"PROTECTION."

THE MONTANA BRIBERY CASE.

Something About Senator Clark and His Principal Opponent.

Boston Herald.

Senator Clark was opposed by a citizen of his own state of great wealth, and who is probably Senator Clark's equal in the unscrupulous use that he makes of money. It is not unlikely that legislators at Helena were bribed not to vote for Mr. Clark as well as to vote for him. Suppose that, instead of being one of the richest men in the United States, Mr. Clark had been a man of extraordinary intellectual attainments and of high moral character, a man whom a majority of the citizens of the state desired to have represent them in the United States senate, and that there was every reason to believe that these popular views would find practical expression in the vote of a majority of the legislature. Suppose, moreover, that he was intensely hated by an exceedingly rich and unscrupulous citizen of the state, who determined to beat him no matter what the cost. The latter might carry out his purpose by wholesale bribery, and so long as he confined his activity to the purchase, so to speak, of negative votes, the United States senate would have no cause to interfere, although the one elected might be the outcome of an exceedingly flagrant instance of legislative corruption.

It is probable that, if Mr. Clark had shut up his pocket-book and announced that he would not spend a cent of money, his Montana rival's financial activity would have compassed his defeat. He may say, therefore, that he was fighting the devil with fire; but if the United States senate tolerates legislative bribery, even though opponents may have forced the adoption of such measures, it will be disastrous to its reputation and materially undermine the confidence which the American people should have in it as one of the co-ordinate branches of our government.

Our Foreign Trade.

The returns of the foreign trade of the United States for the month of December, and for the calendar year 1899 have reached us. There is a decrease in the value of exports of merchandise during December, adequately accounted for by the falling off in the exports of cotton, which in December, 1898, amounted to 1,430,376 bales, valued at $39,908,127; but last month were only 683,960 bales, valued at $25,831,110, a decline of 746,426 bales in quantity and $14,077,017 in value. Wheat also has a very bad story to tell. Turning flour into wheat at the rate of 4½ bushels of wheat to one barrel of flour, the total exports of the grain in December, 1898, were 28,014,974 bushels, valued at $21,634,582, while last month the shipments were reduced to 13,490,853 bushels, valued at $9,974,788, a decrease of 14,524,121 bushels in quantity and $11,659,794 in value.

Passing from the returns for December to those of the calendar year, we present below an analysis of the movements in merchandise and the precious metals for 1899, in comparison with the figures for 1898:

TRADE IN TWO YEARS.

	1899.	1898.
Merchandise:		
Imports	$ 799,934,620	$ 633,964,631
Exports	1,275,486,841	1,254,925,169
Total values	$2,075,421,261	$1,888,889,803
Excess of exports of merchandise	476,052,021	621,260,535
Net exports silver	22,639,699	24,767,380
Excess of exports of merchandise and silver	$ 498,291,720	$ 646,027,915
Net imports gold	5,815,553	141,841,298
Excess of exports of merchandise and precious metals	$ 492,476,167	$ 504,186,617

The imports of merchandise are $166,162,986 larger. The exports also have made an increase, though a much smaller one, the gain on that side of the commercial ledger being only $20,561,472. The total value handled displays the growth of $186,731,458. The excess of exports, which in 1898 stood at $621,260,535, dropped to $475,652,021 in the year just ended. The net exports of silver are substantially the same, being $22,639,699 in 1899, against $24,767,380 in 1898, but the gold movement displays an impressive difference. In 1898 there was a net import of the yellow metal to the enormous amount of $141,841,298, while in 1899 this was cut down to the inconsiderable supply of $5,815,553, a curtailment of $136,025,745 in the inflow.

American Authorship.

New York Herald.

Every trained observer knows that for several years past the American author has gradually been coming into his own. He need no longer fear foreign competition. Books distinctively American not only compete successfully with English publications, but several of the books most widely read here and abroad have been by American authors. Growth of national pride and consciousness of national destiny cannot alone account for this. The public does not read books because they are American, but because they are of the kind it wants to read.

THE OREGONIAN'S ANNUAL.

A Story of Prosperity.

Brooklyn Standard-Union.

The annual issue of The Morning Oregonian, of Portland, is a paper of 36 pages, which presents a most interesting story of marvelous growth and unprecedented prosperity in this far Western state. Under a series of striking heads the mining interests of Oregon, the growth of towns, the products of field and farm, increase of railroads and financial interests, and many another, are most graphically presented. Diagrams are used to advantage to show this growth. A row of elevators, for instance, pictures the increase in wheat production. A wee one shows that in 1832 this production was 9,779,000 bushels; a little larger one indicates a total of 11,862,720 bushels in 1895, and other elevators, ascending in height, are used, until it requires a very tall one to show the grand total of 23,649,334 bushels was reached in 1899.

Pictures of men of different sizes show the wonderful increase in population in Oregon. A dwarf, for instance, stands for the 90,923 of population in 1870, and a giant for the 425,000 in 1900.

The general get-up of this special issue is creditable in every way, and the appearance of the paper proves that The Oregonian shares in the prosperity the story of which it tells in such an effective manner.

Grown to Be an Empire.

Philadelphia Star.

The Morning Oregonian, of Portland, published a 36-page paper on New Year's day, with a beautiful photogravure supplement of 24 pages, illustrative of the immense resources, commercial, agricultural and otherwise, of the state of Oregon, which has grown to the dimensions of an empire within a generation. In closing an editorial on the state's material prosperity during 1899, this enterprising journal says:

"Our people begin the new year prosperous and contented; with well-filled purses and practically no debt; with confidence 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 endeavor 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."

Yearns to Revisit Oregon.

Benton Harbor (Mich.) Palladium.

We are in receipt of the annual number of The Portland Oregonian, full of illustrations. They show up Oregon's wealth of resources and Portland's attractive features to good advantage. The writer knows of no section of the country which he yearns to visit, with an honest wholesome yearn, as much as those marvelous cities of Oregon and Washington, where the climate is so genial and the business opportunities so great.

The United States has much to be proud of, but in no particular has that pride more cause to expand than in the possession of those rich and alluring commonwealths, Oregon and Washington.

From the Quaker State.

Scranton (Pa.) Tribune.

The Portland Morning Oregonian gives a review of the past year of prosperity on the Pacific coast in a 60-page edition, a portion of which is in the form of an illustrated supplement containing numerous half-tone views of public buildings; the shipping; hunting and fishing scenes; wheat fields; the various industries; portraits of public men, and other interesting subjects. From appearances The Oregonian has shared in the general prosperity of the state, and fraternal congratulations are cordially extended.

Devoted to Interests of Oregon.

Minneapolis Times.

"This Oregon of Ours" is the title of the first and possibly the most important article in The Portland Oregonian's mammoth 60-page annual number. The great edition is devoted to the interests of the state of Oregon and the city of Portland, and in the most attractive terms are the material, social and educational advantages of the city and state set forth. Always a great newspaper, The Oregonian is a newspaper and review combined in its handsome annual number.

A Big Surprise.

New York Tribune.

The annual number of The Oregonian, issued on January 1, reflects the highest credit on that able and enterprising journal. Its exposition of the many resources and possibilities of Oregon will surprise even those who have been noting the onward march of that great state. The year just closed was the most prosperous one in the history of the state, and the present year bids fair to surpass it.

Credit to a Hustling Community.

Burlington (Vt.) Free Press.

The Portland Morning Oregonian began the new year by issuing a 60-page number, which included a review of the past year in that far Western state and an illustrated supplement printed on fine book paper, and containing over 500 illustrations, embracing all the noted scenic attractions of Oregon and covering every important industry of the Pacific Northwest. The Oregonian is a credit to the hustling community which it represents.

The Arm-Chair Warrior.

Punch.

Ye amateurs of England
Who keep your native seats
And criticise so bravely
The fighting man's defeats;
Ye turkey-carpet warriors
Who ventilate your view
Of what could be accomplished
If things were left to you:

My paper-map civilians!
One cannot but admire
With how sublime a courage
You face the clubroom fire;
With what prophetic wisdom
You speak the warning word,
Choosing the happy moment
When things have just occurred!

There runs an ancient proverb,
Good for the swollen head,
How fools rush in serenely
Where angels fear to tread;
But here the common mortal,
The stroller down the street,
Knows better than to follow
Your rash, intruding feet.

Is not our task enough, sirs,
To bear the present hurt,
That you on wounded honor
Must dump your little dirt?
You, from your padded arm-chair,
Safe in a sea-locked land,
While those you snirch are holding
Their lives within their hand.

When we are short of critics
To sum the final blame,
We'll ask a fighter's verdict
Upon a fighter's game;
But you who pass opinions
On work but half begun,
Please give us your credentials,
Show something you have done!

NOTE AND COMMENT.

The longest way 'round is the shortest way to Ladysmith.

If England has any Algers, now is the time to turn them down.

Mr. Bryan will not get any dollar dinners at the Hoffman House.

Be it Attila or Klondike,
There's no place like Noma.

The battle is not always to the strong, but it is usually to the straightest shot.

Beginners in politics will make a mistake if they think they can learn its first lessons at the primaries.

So little has been heard from Aguinaldo of late that it is believed he must be getting things in shape to become a candidate.

The chasing of jackrabbits has been forbidden in Chicago. With legal restrictions on the chasing of rainbows, that city would now enjoy a model government.

Senator Ingalls has been mentioned as a candidate for vice-president. The senator has been out of politics so long that party managers have forgotten that he is a man of ability.

Li Hung Chang has been placed in charge of the Yellow river. A position which brings him in contact with so many bars ought to be highly acceptable to a modern statesman.

Justice Brewer's decision on the end of the century question has rendered it unsafe for him to visit Germany. He would be arrested on entering the kaiser's domain for lese majeste.

Our baby's just begun to talk,
He says things, oh! so plain.
He talks and talks and talks all day
With all his might and main.
There's no mistaking what he says,
"Just ask, dear, for papa."
And baby quite distinctly said,
"Jugchug goo goolocobah."

Take this warnin', Mr. Kruger, do your fightin' while you can,
For the holds will be hagainst you pretty soon;
There is sailing to the Transvaal a hamazin' little man,
'Oo will take 'is 'arp an' fight you with a tune.
'E will sing to Tommy Atkins till 'e makes 'im bloodin' wild,
'E will sing to Bobs and to old Buller, too,
An' they'll make you feel regretful that you came; to draw it mild,
You will get it 'ot and 'eavy 'fore they're through.

So be careful, Mr. Kruger, do your fightin' whilst you may,
For you cannot lick T. Atkins reinforced by Rudyard K.

This is an age of improvement, and it is wonderful to see how many things there are which have for years appeared to be the proper thing, but found capable of improvement. Persons who have had occasion to register at hotels any time during the past 30 years have invariably found a huge, unwieldly register, every other leaf of which was a page of advertisements, printed on blotting paper. Now the book is a light, handy one, placed on a light revolving frame, which can easily be moved about, and one page of advertisements, covered with a glass and mounted so as to slide from one side of the register to the other, takes the place of the whole cumbersome mass of advertising pages. The next improvement is due in hotel clerks, where much is possible.

Several persons interested in baseball are agitating the matter of getting up a baseball team here. Interest is being renewed in baseball all over the East, and there are many who would like to see the game revived here. It is complained that there is very little here in the way of outdoor amusements to furnish sport for those who have leisure for such things. The great trouble is that people do not care to go too far to see a baseball game. The field of the M. A. A. C. Club is convenient, but as baseball games are often played on Sunday, it appears that this club does not care to lease their ground for this purpose. Some of the street railway companies might find it profitable to establish an amusement ground at the end of one of their lines, where "chutes" could be created and baseball games, etc., held. It is thought that if an electric railway is ever built out to the White house, such accommodation would soon be located there, and, as this is a favorite resort, would be well patronized.

If all people who have allowed taxes and assessments for street improvements to go delinquent and their property to be sold find it as expensive an amusement as it has proved to some, it is no wonder that such persons howl about their delinquent taxes being advertised and their property sold to settle the claim. A person who had allowed an assessment of a little over $4 to go delinquent and the property involved to be sold, a day or two ago, desired to clear the title to the property. It had been sold to a broker for $7 15, and, with costs of various kinds, including a deed and the recording of it, the property-owner only had to pay $35 to get the title straightened out. In some instances, perhaps, property-owners save money by allowing their taxes to go delinquent year after year, but it is evidently carrying the joke a little too far when the property is allowed to be sold. However, it is but just that those who shirk payment of taxes and increase the burden of those who pay should help to swell the profits of brokers.

Yale and the Trusts.

New York Sun.

Like other American colleges, Yale has been remembered generously by rich men and women. One of the chief occupations of a good many of these people in the United States is to give money with an unsparing hand for educational and charitable purposes. But the young president of Yale strikes at the hand that feeds him. We cannot suppose that he will consent to take money from those whom he regards, in a sense, as public enemies and against whom he declares a social war.

Birthplace of Franklin.

Boston Herald.

Perhaps the most famous man ever born in Boston was Benjamin Franklin. Today is the anniversary of his birth, which occurred on Sunday, January 6, 1706 (old style), in Milk street, on the site of the handsome iron building numbered 15 and 17. A bust of the printer-philosopher adorns the front of the structure. Little Benjamin was carried across the street the day he was born and baptized in the Old South meeting-house.

Adopting American Ideas.

New York Times.

When the Canadian contingent sailed for South Africa, each soldier got a "housewife"—just as our boys got them when they went to war in Cuba. This is an American idea which has commended itself to the English so much that some papers are suggesting that the same useful article be given to the British troops in the field.