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TODAY'S WEATHER—Rain; southeast winds.

PORTLAND, MONDAY, JANUARY 29.

IDLE TALK ABOUT MEDIATION.

A cry of indignation has been raised that our government has denied diplomatic recognition to a representative of the South African Republic. The very question at issue between Great Britain and the South African Republic is involved herein; for the main root of the contention that has led up to the present war is affirmative of the right of suzerainty by Great Britain, and denial of it by the South African Republic. Before the bar of the world the contention is the same as that involved in our civil war, when the United States asserted a sovereignty which the Confederate states denied. Great Britain did not accord diplomatic recognition to representatives of the Confederate states—though, of course, she permitted them to live within her domains. It is not for us at present to declare that the South African Republic has a status entitling it to diplomatic representation; for if Great Britain's suzerainty is in force, if she is simply coercing a disobedient dependency, the South African Republic has no status entitling it to enter into direct diplomatic relations with the United States. By the convention establishing British suzerainty the foreign relations of the republic were placed under the supervision of Great Britain. The Boers contend that this suzerainty, established by the treaty of 1881, was superseded by the convention of 1884, under which Great Britain merely retained the right to veto any foreign treaties, except with the Orange Free State, its Dutch neighbor, and it is principally this very contention that Great Britain denies.

But the United States cannot enter into this controversy. According to our official publications, the South African Republic has not hitherto been classed with the countries sending diplomatic representatives to the United States. Indeed, the republic has not undertaken hitherto to accredit such representatives to other nations. If hereafter it is to have diplomatic recognition it can get it only through successful dispute of Great Britain's claim of suzerainty, by force of arms. That is just what the war is about, and the war will settle it.

Dr. Leyds, European agent of the Boer states, who sojourns mostly at Brussels, some weeks ago drew up an address, for which he solicited signatures throughout Europe, to be presented to the president of the United States, in which appeal was to be made for intervention, in these words: "Deeply moved by the terrible and sanguinary conflict in which two civilized nations are engaged in South Africa, the undersigned make an urgent appeal in favor of that mediation that you alone are in a position to offer. We implore you to fulfill this sacred duty toward the fraternity of mankind." This assumption that the president of the United States alone was in a position to offer mediation could have no foundation. Why could not the appeal have been made as well to the czar of Russia, the emperor of Germany, or the president of France? Here is virtual acknowledgment that at the present stage of affairs diplomatic recognition or intervention could not be expected in Europe. But we think that appeal has not yet been presented to the president of the United States. Indeed, as the telegraphic reports of yesterday tell us, Dr. Leyds, now on a visit to Berlin, is so sure of victory by the Boer states that he declares mediation is not wanted from any quarter; for the Boer states not only will vindicate their independence, but mean to wrest from Great Britain the territory she has hitherto taken from the Boers. That is what they surely will do, if they can. The world may, however, expect to hear from the British side, before the final settlement. Meetings of our citizens, calling for intervention or mediation, can produce no result but the peculiar kind of oratory that seems to belong to such occasions, even if it does not always befit them.

If the Boer states shall succeed in the war, as it is now boasted they will, the whole world will "recognize" them. But no meetings, no resolutions, no orations in this country, will have the slightest impression on the course of affairs, or affect the action of our own government as between the belligerents. If both parties should ask it, no doubt we should try to arbitrate the contention; but the Boers have not asked us and probably will not, and the British certainly will not, for the British empire is now in such position that it must see this war through, or go out of business.

Great Britain, which has been the leading force in the world's affairs since Waterloo, and has put many a bridle in the mouth of other nations, is now, when difficulties beset her and reverses meet her, in a position which recalls Byron's vigorous lines in "Childe Harold":

He who ascends the mountain tops will find,
The tallest peaks most wrapped in clouds and snow;
He who surpasses or subdues mankind,
Must look down on the hate of those below.

It applies to every strong and assertive nation, and to every strong and assertive man. All nations are jealous of the one of largest influence and greatest power in affairs. British defeats therefore call forth cries of delight—more in Europe than in America, because America has not felt as Europe has felt the ascendancy or domination of Britain. Again, among men, only inferiority passes without challenge, and the whole tendency is to eliminate and suppress able men and to bring mediocrity to the front.

THE PERENNIAL PARADOX.

Dr. Martineau's answer to materialistic philosophy, that it ignores the moral consciousness as an ultimate authority, is sound; but he errs in refusal to accept the conclusions of evolution as applied to the growth of that consciousness in man, from rude beginnings up to its acme in such elevated minds as that of Dr. Martineau himself.

The beginnings of moral consciousness are plainly discernible in domestic animals. The finer type of house-dog may be said to know when he has done wrong. He is susceptible to reproof through the grieved tones of his master just as much as through the more tangible demonstration of the rod. Rage and grief, joy and impatience, are seen in rudimentary form with domestic animals, and portrayed in their tones. The fidelity of some of them puts to shame the perfidy of many men, and of genuine heroism there are few finer instances than that of the brave gorilla, who, seeing a younger member of the tribe about to fall into the hands of their pursuers, rushed back at imminent peril to his own life and brought the little one to a place of safety.

In this case we see in elemental form that sense of responsibility for one's fellows which has, through the 150,000 years or so of man's life upon the earth, developed into moral consciousness, duty, conscience. If we compare the sentiments manifested by highly developed animals with the low intelligence of savages who live on desert islands, clad only in the long hair of their bodies, housed only by caves and trees, fed only by such carrion as the waves bring to shore, we get a hint, not only of what the dog and horse might have become if speech and hands had been given them, but also a suggestion of the vast distance traveled by man himself since the human form was first seen upon the planet.

Yet the history of consciousness is not consciousness, any more than moral philosophy is the soul, or the method of creation is the Creator. Science can explain such things as duty, conscience, the belief in God and immortality, the sense of moral guilt, but it cannot explain them away. It is a mistake to think the profoundest convictions of the mind can be expressed in terms of matter. But, on the other hand, it is a mistake to apply evolution to everything but the moral sense and there abandon it. The position of Dr. Martineau comes painfully near being a stand at the last redoubt of "special creation." The thinker who is to harmonize deistic philosophy with the facts of science has not yet arisen.

ENGLAND THE FOE OF LIBERTY.

They who arraign England as the embodiment of greed and the foe of liberty must have studied its history, literature and language to poor purpose. We had a war with England in 1776 and again in 1812. We may have another some time; but that need not blind us to the facts of her history, if we are living for anything else in this world beside race hatred and partisan disputation.

England is the home of the thoughts these antis array as the rallying cries of liberty, the literature in which they have pervaded the world, the very words in which they are clothed. Where but in England did Cromwell and Milton, Chatham and Burke, Peel and Cobden, Bright and Gladstone labor, speak and write, not for Englishmen alone, but for mankind through all succeeding generations? Who but Byron fought and sang for Greece, who but the Brownings hymned free Italy, who but Gibbon freed history from ecclesiasticism, who but Wickliffe gave us an English Bible, who but Nelson and Wellington set bounds to the overmastering ambition of Napoleon, who but Darwin and Tyndall, Huxley and Spencer, have freed the mind from the ancient shackles of superstition?

What would our O'Days and Riggens, who parade their "hate" of England, have? Let the sway of England be crushed, and which of the great powers will they choose to control the destinies of Europe? Will they have the Dreyfus case for their token, or lese-majestie, or the Inquisition, or Siberian prisons? The brand of iniquity and decay is upon Spain, the French republic is in the hands of an unscrupulous oligarchy of prelates and soldiers, Russia is all but an unlimited despotism, and the deadliest Continental foe of human liberty is the great military power of Central Europe, with its head in Prussia. They who would destroy England in the name of liberty know not what they do. They take the weapons English ideals and the English tongue have forged through centuries of struggle, and turn them against the land of their origin. History regards it as a happy day for mankind when New France and New Spain passed into the hands of England. If the antis are right, history is wrong.

REDEMPTIVE RATHER THAN RETRIBUTIVE.

The radical change of viewpoint from which the state regards the criminal is presented in the recommendations made in the annual report of the state prisons commission, of New York, recently published. While the changes in prison methods suggested are probably surprising to the general public, they are not so to those who have followed closely the trend of thought among penologists during the past few years. They advocate the abolition of the lockstep and the striped garments, the extension of the parole principle and the treatment of the younger misdoers as deserving instruction rather than simple detention and the harsher measures of prison discipline.

The keynote of the suggestions is that the appeal should be made to the prisoner's self-respect. The intent is that from the prison doors shall be taken the legend "Abandon hope, all ye who enter here," and that the whole scheme of penalty shall be considered as redemptive rather than retributive.

It may be objected that this is "criminal coddling," and, indeed, it may so prove, if not wisely done. But, says the Troy Times, "no one who has read the Sing Sing prisoners' paper, the Star of Hope, and heard the voices which find expression there will deny that even under the mildest treatment probable within prison walls or compatible with prison discipline the life of the convict has lack of the awfulness of retribution."

The state prisons commission apparently desires that the state apply to the prisons the principle that it is prudent for a community to be philanthropic. There is often a moral saving by kindness and an improvidence in severity. If the state can turn out from the prison a better instead of a worse man, it is a saving to the state as well as to the discharged convict.

The prisons of the country are held by observant men to be the test of its civilization, inasmuch as they are the last places to feel the influence of growth. One reason of this is the disposition—ingrained in human nature—to view the imprisoned criminal as a wild animal in a cage, with the day of the opening of his door a thing to be dreaded. Even wild animals are not tamed by this process. Another cause of public aversion is the isolation of the convict, who by this means becomes foreign to the people's knowledge and therefore to their sympathies. The establishment of the prison paper at Sing Sing has been a powerful factor in breaking down this barrier between the prisoner and hope of future usefulness. It has given prisoners a chance to speak for themselves in an orderly way, testifying that there is penitence as well as punishment, ambition as well as degradation, hope as well as remorse, in their lives.

The experiments suggested are decided innovations upon many preconceived views of prison life and discipline, but without innovation there is no advance, and the boast of enlightenment of the age would be in a sense empty, did it not apply to the dealing of the state with the large class made up of its younger evil-doers.

A DUBIOUS PROSPECT.

Forecast of parliament's attitude to the war seems on the whole more optimistic than facts will support. It is not at all improbable that unless Buller has something far more favorable to report, the present cabinet will be to some extent recast. The ministry is not likely to be overthrown, but it will be reformed to the extent that Lord Lansdowne, the head of the war office, will be replaced by a statesman of practical common sense. The liberal critics of the ministry argue that it was Lord Lansdowne's duty to insist that his colleagues should heed the warnings of Sir William Butler, a veteran commander of South African experience, and of Lord Wolseley, and not precipitate England into a war for which she was not prepared. The answer of Mr. Chamberlain is that the war was inevitable; that the Boers were ready for war, were determined to force war at once because they knew that they were ready while Great Britain was not ready. Probably this is true, but the British were as ready for war as they ever are or will be until defeat forces them to respect modern knowledge and experience and in time of peace make due preparation for war. Paul Kruger knew he could force war in forty-eight hours the moment he was ready, and nothing that Mr. Chamberlain said or left unsaid would have procured much delay in the utterance of the Boer ultimatum. The Boers seized the initiative in the start, and even as Moltke at once transferred his armies to French soil and kept them there, so the Boers up to the present time have confined the fighting entirely to British territory. At the outbreak of the war the advantage was with the Boers whether as regards armament, position and numbers, or military tactics and information. The British war office clearly was ignorant of the numbers of the Boers and of the strength and superiority of the Boer artillery.

As to the military prospect itself, the remarkable defensive strategy of the Boers, together with their possession of the passes of Natal and the line of the Orange and Caledon rivers fully doubles their resisting force, and Lord Roberts needs 150,000 men to break or turn the enemy's position. General Sherman could not by frontal attack force Resaca, although he had two men to Joe Johnston's one. General Buller has 5000 wagons operating from his railroad to feed, move and supply 15,000 to 20,000 men. When Grant moved across the Rapidan with over 100,000 men in May, 1864, he had but 4000 wagons. A mobile army down to fighting trim takes four wagons to a regiment, while Buller's train gives a thousand more wagons for a fifth of Grant's whole army.

The prospect for success for Buller is slight; he cannot now hope to do more than to hold the Boer army in Natal while Lord Roberts and Kitchener with their reinforcements move against the line of the Orange river via Colesburg. But in this event the Boers could rapidly transfer their troops by rail from Natal to the Orange river at Norval's Pont, while the British could only make such a transfer by withdrawal to Durban and a sea voyage of 300 miles to East London and thence forward to Molteno.

An English officer writes the Springfield Republican:

The English people will not even allow the ordinary preparations for war to be made with regard to mobilization in good and early time. "For fear," as they put it, "the enemy might find cause to complain of England's getting ready for war." Such words as "blood-guiltiness" and "magnanimity" are fine phrases, but, as applied to the Boers and the Transvaal, would find a good substitute in Bismarck's saying, "I always treat a gentleman like a gentleman; but a pirate like a pirate and a half." There can be no hope for the English people, either now or in the future, unless they abandon the spirit of pretense and hypocrisy which at present too often guides their conduct in public affairs, and learn that this world is a stern school, without mercy in the struggle for existence, where the maker invariably goes to the wall; and is not now, and never can be, a Sunday school for the education of children, or a society for the propagation of the doctrines of Gladstone.

This English officer points out that the English army transport is fatally defective; that until some terrible defeat, like Jena, Sadowa or Sedan, has humbled the English people to the dust and obliged them to consent to universal conscription, they cannot hope for success in a modern war which cannot rest its shoulder on a great English fleet. This English officer is a loyal Englishman, and writes more in sorrow than in anger over the present situation in South Africa. He fairly says that the United States is just as stupid and improvident as Great Britain in lack of preparation for war, and has only been saved from terrible humiliation by its geographical isolation and its good luck in escaping war with a formidable, well-armed, well-prepared and well-led enemy. He says:

If they had been Boers, led by German officers, at Santiago, no American would have left Cuba, except as a prisoner of war. The Spaniards were ignorant of the advantages which they really possessed at the time, and so did not advance and avail themselves of them. It was the American fleet, and not the American army, that compelled the full surrender of Cuba.

In volume of domestic exports our country is rapidly closing the gap between it and Great Britain. It is now but $34,000,000 behind, and undoubtedly will soon take the lead and keep it. In 1875 the exports of Great Britain were more than double the value of those of the United States. But in 1899 the figures for the United States were $1,253,480,000, while those for Great Britain were $1,287,971,000. From 1875 to 1899 Great Britain's domestic exports increased from $1,087,497,000 to $1,287,971,000, or 19 per cent, while those from the United States increased from $497,263,737 to $1,253,486,000, an increase of 152 per cent.

If we want to commit ourselves to the policy of maintaining a large standing army, our shortest way is to guarantee the independence of Cuba and the Philippine Islands, engage to defend them against the assault of other powers, furnish them with money, as Senator Hoar suggests, with which to begin business, and employ our army to do the police work of native administration and to keep other nations away. That policy will give us a sufficiently large army and navy.

There are those who think, or profess to think, that the English people will flunk, confess themselves whipped and quit the South African war. The Oregonian is not of that opinion. Possibly it may misjudge the British people; possibly they may have sunk into pusillanimity and degeneracy, and be willing to let historians begin to write the decline and fall of the British empire; but before it accepts this judgment The Oregonian will wait and see.

Investigation of the officials of the state department at Washington, respecting the foreign relations of the South African Republic, shows that no government has accredited a diplomatic agent to that government. Holland is the only country which has given any kind of recognition to an agent of the Transvaal, and this recognition could hardly be called official. Of course, there is warm sympathy in Holland for the Afrikander Dutch.

Of course the Boers are a brave people. They can fight. So could and so did the Modocs; and in proportion to numbers they inflicted greater losses than the Boers have yet inflicted on the British. Back and forth across the Tugela river the battle sways, as it swayed for three years back and forth across the Potomac and Rappahannock, in our civil war. We shall see, perhaps, whether the British get tired sooner than we did.

Our Washington dispatches say the house is in favor of submission of a constitutional amendment to provide for the election of United States senators by popular vote, but that the senate opposes it. It is not surprising that the senate opposes it. Such method of electing senators would retire every little cheap trickster from the senate, at the end of his term; and these constitute a majority of that body.

It was the gallant Decatur who gave the sentiment: "Our country! May it ever be right! But our country, right or wrong!" Andrew Carnegie calls this an "immoral sentiment." Commend us to a sentiment uttered by a man who is ready to fight for his country rather than to the utterance of a man whose life has been devoted to colossal and successful schemes for robbing it and his fellow man.

A question that is coming to the front these times is, Why didn't we concede to the Confederate states national independence and the right of self-government? In all the history of this world no people ever were fitter for it. Yet in the new lights of today, what a crime it was to trample down their right of self-government!

The legislature of California, called to meet in special session, will assemble today. It is to make another effort to elect a United States senator, and probably will succeed, since it would hardly have been called had not matters been pretty well "fixed."

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.

Earnest Words From Sources That Seem to Be Entirely Reliable.

New York Christian Advocate.

The Very Rev. James Green, dean of Maritzburg, who emigrated to Cape Colony in 1848, and was dean under the almost forgotten Bishop Colenso, and his successors since 1857, has written to a friend in England some suggestive words:

"Up to this time God's chastening hand has been heavy on the English in South Africa, in the sufferings which so many hundreds of our women have had to endure, and are still enduring, and nothing but poverty fronts, we may say, thousands; but I look forward to the English supremacy being re-established in the end, if we will but humble ourselves before God. I do so, because the Transvaal government is a military oligarchy, corrupt, oppressive, and blindly ambitious, whereas ours always aims at being just and generous; so, while the Transvaal would scornfully tread us under foot, we are ready to give the Dutch everywhere equal rights with ourselves. . . . Therefore it is that I trust to see the queen's sovereignty upheld, but how soon God only knows. The war is a civil war reaching from Cape Town to Delagoa bay, and the Dutch have been diligently preparing for it for 20 years, but I hope the energy with which they have commenced the war will hasten the end. They have apparently brought their whole force into the field, having themselves no reserves to fall back upon. Their efforts must consequently expend themselves in a short time, and then let us pray that peace may be restored."

But they will not attract quite so much attention as a communication in the Mission World from the Rev. J. S. Moffat, son of the celebrated Dr. Moffat, and brother-in-law of Dr. Livingstone:

"With the thunderous clash of arms all around us, it may seem scarcely a time to secure a hearing on anything like the religious and civil welfare of the native in South Africa. Yet the war now going on between white men is being watched by the natives with intense concern. As one of them put it to me the other day: 'If the English win, then we black men can breathe and live; if the Boers win, then we may as well die, for we shall be no more looked upon as men, but as cattle; so we shall all go home and pray to God to make the arms of the English strong.' And this is really the question of the day in South Africa: Are we to have all men, British, Boer and aboriginal, dwelling together with equal rights as men under the British flag, or are we to have the domination of a Boer oligarchy over British and blacks alike? In the Transvaal the black man is not a human being."

"THE ENEMY'S COUNTRY."

Mr. Bryan's Eastern Trip Not Destined to Improve His Chances.

New York Tribune.

Mr. Bryan comes East a second time. Once before he invaded what he called "the enemy's country," with results which he surely cannot have reckoned entirely satisfactory. New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Maryland had voted for a democratic president in 1892, but gave against Bryan about the biggest majorities they had ever given against anybody. Pennsylvania and Massachusetts had been republican, but enormously increased their majorities. In brief, Mr. Bryan was the worst beaten candidate in the Eastern states that had ever received democratic support, and he had no reason to presume that his appearance in this region lessened in the least public hostility to him and his objects.

But Mr. Bryan tries it again, and as nobody can suppose that he finds it necessary to seek in this region support in a nominating convention, it must be inferred that he hopes to strengthen himself in popular estimation as a candidate by his performances in this quarter. If it seems strange to anybody, and even incomprehensible, that the man should indulge such a hope after his experience in 1896, it may be answered that he knows as much of Eastern opinion and its modes of operating as many of the democratic leaders in this region have known, for they not only advise and invite him to come, but show in their own conduct precisely the same notions of popular feeling which he exhibits.

The bottom of his belief and theirs is that democracy can succeed only by stirring up the poor, lazy and stupid against a state of society which bestows rewards upon intelligence, thrift and industry. It is just as well to face the fact that there exists a natural antagonism between the elements described, which finds expression in heavy democratic votes in the least intelligent parts of some cities, and is the basis of every hope indulged by the lowest demagogues who preach hatred of law, of property and of capital. Mr. Bryan can find a mob in nearly every great city which will yell itself hoarse in greeting the worst things he can say against the employers of labor, the laws which protect property and the enterprise which combines intelligence and money and toil to produce wealth. His blunder and that of his advisers is in supposing that such mobs represent or ever can represent in this region more than a minority of voters.

THE NEWSPAPER MAN.

He Is the Unappreciated Drudge and Outcast.

Gerald Stanley Lee, in the February Atlantic.

In every city of the land the newspaper man is an outcast. He knows more people to be a stranger to than any other being in the world. He has no holidays. His Christmas is the record of other men's joys. His Thanksgiving is a restaurant. Even the Fourth of July and Sunday, servants of the commonest man, refuse him their cheer. The Fourth of July is the day he must be in every place at once, because everything is happening; and Sunday is the day he must make things up, because nothing is happening. His labors are our pleasures. He gets his vacation by doing another man's work, and earns his living by watching other people live. The very days and the nights turn their natural backs upon him. The lamp is his sun by night, and the curtain is his night by day, and he eats his supper in the morning. His business is the reflection of life. He is the spirit behind the mirror. What is left to us is right to him, and right is left; sometimes right side up is upside down. The world is all awry to the newspaper man. It whirls across the hours in columns, now in one edition and now in another, but it heeds him never in return. He is a spectator. The show passes before his face—a shut-out, unsharing face. He lives as the years go on, a notebook under the stars, and when the notebook is scribbled out he dies. . . . Men who might be immortal, morning after morning, week after week, year after year, fighting to be allowed to live in the current of a day, reaching in vain for something that lasts longer than a day to hold to, only to go under like all the rest—a few bubbles—a two-inch obituary at the bottom of a column, by the man who is going under next, and the story is told. The man who can furnish quantity and quality at once, who can thrive on the impossible, who can swim in the whirlpool instead of being carried with it, is a man who sums up in himself not only the definition of what the problem is, in literature, today, but the answer to the problem.

The Czar Wants an Offset.

The concession recently granted by the sultan of Turkey to Germans for a railway from Konieh, in Anatolia, to Bassorah, at the mouth of the Euphrates, seems to have caused a jealous feeling at St. Petersburg, and to have excited the Russian foreign office into making new demands at Constantinople. An offset in Russia's interest is wanted for the German concession. This is a railway 150 miles long from Kars to Erzeroum. Russia controls Kars, and the 150 miles of railway wanted would open up a commercial route of considerable importance now served by camels and pack animals from Tabriz. If Germany extends her political influence into Eastern, Central and Southern Asia Minor by having obtained the Konieh-Bassorah concession, Russia, too, desires to confirm her claim to a sphere of influence in the northern part of Asia Minor, where she already has a foothold. But it is precisely this assertion of a Russian sphere of influence in Asia Minor that offends the sultan, who has no idea of surrendering his Asiatic possessions, as he has been compelled to surrender his possessions in Europe. The Kars-Erzeroum railway is, therefore, not likely to materialize soon.

New Era in the Soudan.

The arrival of the first through train at Khartoum January 10 and the capture of Osman Digna a few days later near Tokar, are events that mark the conclusion of the old era in the Eastern Soudan. Constructive statesmanship may now be expected to repair slowly the losses inflicted on the country by centuries of bad government. The architectural remains found in the region between Khartoum and Berber and in other parts of the Eastern Soudan show that a large population once filled the country. Peace will give opportunity to rebuild, but half a century will probably be required to counteract the effects of Mahdism. The Western Soudan, between Lake Tchad and Darfur, is still controlled by native, or Arab, military dictators.

Liberia Again Solvent.

Liberia, having obtained an income from royalties paid by the English rubber syndicate, is now again paying interest on her debt of $500,000, on which she defaulted 25 years ago. The arrears of interest have been cleared off by an agreement of the creditors to receive $75,000 as payment in full of all back interest. A reduction of the rate of interest has been conceded also from 7 to 3 per cent, the rate rising ½ per cent every three years till it reaches 5 per cent. The development of the rubber industry in Liberia has attracted much attention and gave rise to the recent story about a concerted demand of England and the United States for a definition by the French of their frontier when it tends to encroach upon Liberian territory.

Clinging to Worn-out Notions.

North Yakima Republic.

The Olympia Standard holds that the 19th century has been completed, and that we are now in the 20th. The Standard also believes that free coinage of silver spells bimetallism, and entertains all the rest of the vagaries which are nowadays called democratic principles.

THE OREGONIAN'S ANNUAL.

All Records Broken.

Brooklyn Eagle.

The annual number of The Morning Oregonian, published at Portland, is a remarkably fine sample of what that thriving Pacific city can do in the way of first-class newspaper work. The number consists of a 36-page paper of ordinary size and shape and a supplement of convenient form, which comprises 24 pages, and is given up wholly to the reproduction of Pacific coast scenery and buildings, and to the photographs of men who are eminent in business and political circles. The Oregonian long ago established its reputation as a thoroughly progressive journal, but never in its long and prosperous career has it produced anything at all comparable with this annual number. It has had ample material to work upon, as the following excerpt from an editorial review of the past year will indicate:

"Productions of farm, orchard, dairy and range amounted last year to $45,550,737. 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 in manufactures, was the largest in the history of the state. It amounted to 669,550,000 feet, valued at $6,228,250. The product of fisheries was $2,443,155. Portland's foreign commerce for the 12 months ended November 30, 1899, was $9,120,803. This makes a total of $117,097,993 for products and foreign commerce."

Peer of Them All.

Marlborough (N. Y.) Record.

The editor of The Record has received from Mr. A. C. Sandford, of Portland, Or., a copy of the annual number of The Portland Oregonian for January 1, 1900, which, for magnitude, variety of contents and beauty of illustration, is the peer of any newspaper ever issued east of the Rocky mountains. The newspaper proper consists of 36 pages of the New York Sun size, which with the exception of a couple of pages devoted to foreign and general news and a page of editorials, are filled with matter pertaining to the city of Portland and the state of Oregon. The details of the agricultural, horticultural and manufacturing industries are replete with interest, and one might spend a week in their perusal without failing short of good reading. In addition to these, there is a supplement of 24 pages, 11x16 inches in size, every page of which is filled with fine half-tone engravings, illustrations of buildings, landscapes, waterfalls, etc., and a large number of portraits of prominent business men, state and municipal officers, bankers, etc. It is not surprising that Portland people should be proud of the exhibit, and that they should desire to circulate it to fullest extent. What would be the feeling, if he could arise from his grave now, of the congressman who two generations ago objected to the acquisition of Oregon on the ground that it was so far from civilization that the people of the United States would never be able to visit it, and that it could never be represented in congress because the representative could not go to Washington and return in the same year?

Splendid Destiny for Oregon.

Lancaster (Pa.) New Era.

The Morning Oregonian, published at Portland, and the leading paper published in Oregon, on January 1 issued the most remarkable number in its history. The reading portion ran into 36 pages, while there was a pictorial supplement of 28 additional pages, with about 500 illustrations, covering the great state of the Northwest coast, from its most minute to its greatest interests. It is not easy to decide whether the written or the pictorial part of The Oregonian's work is the better done. We have the history of Oregon from the beginning until the present time, with that of her many and various resources, industries, advantages and future prospects, admirably detailed, leaving nothing further to be desired. In the pictorial portion of the work we can see much of what is told in the letter-press, and in this way get the fullest possible details concerning the state. It is only when we carefully examine these several publications that we begin to fully realize what a magnificent domain Oregon actually is, how great are her varied resources, and what a splendid destiny lies before her.

Progress Something Remarkable.

Sacramento Bee.

The New Year's edition of The Portland Oregonian, 60 pages, contains an exhaustive history of the state of Oregon and of that great Northwestern city, Portland. The diversified industries of the state are fully exploited, and supported by statistics dating back to 1850. Oregon's progress in development for the last two decades has been, according to this showing, something remarkable.

The paper is replete with special articles dealing in facts and figures, and the illustrated portion presents to the eye beauties of our sister state to the north that the pen cannot portray. Oregon is a truly wonderful state, and this issue of The Oregonian presents it to the world as it is, and with no apparent effort to boom it beyond what is warranted by the soil, climate, forests, fisheries, mountains, streams and lakes, with which nature has so liberally endowed it.

One of the Greatest.

Toledo (O.) Blade.

The Portland Oregonian has issued its annual number which is full of facts and figures showing the development not only of that city and state, but of the entire Pacific coast. It is a most remarkable showing, and not the least feature of the developments is to be seen in The Oregonian itself. The number contains 36 pages besides an excellent illustrated supplement, in all making one of the greatest newspapers published on the coast.

Steel Ties.

The use of steel ties is constantly engaging the attention of American railroad men and their popularity seems to be increasing. According to information supplied to the Railway Review by Mr. T. A. Corry, resident engineer, steel ties have been in use on the Mexican Southern railway for eight years over a distance of 140 miles, and so much satisfaction have they given that they are about to be adopted for the entire mileage of 228 miles. The tie employed is an inverted trough, six feet long, five inches deep and 8½ inches wide across the bottom. The rails are 60 pounds per yard, and the track-gauge is three feet. The metal ties are not used on bridges or about shops and roundhouses. Tar is applied to them to prevent rusting. Much has been done in recent years toward preserving wooden ties by injecting into them substances that prevent decay and the depredations of worms. The life of a tie may be thus extended for many years. But the process is expensive, and ties are becoming scarce.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

It is almost as easy to pass resolutions as it is to make them.

I report with regret,
We have not licked 'em yet.
BULLER.

It is singular that pro-Boer sentiments should be accompanied by so much con talk.

Since Roberts could not succeed himself, Utah is going to elect a man to succeed him.

Kruger can stand the loss of a battle or two, now he knows that Judge O'Day and General Killfeather are with him.

The pro-Boer agitation arrived just in time to save the anti-expansionists from the embarrassing position of being without a cause.

Iron is said to be coming down in the United States. It has been coming down for several weeks in the vicinity of the Tugela river.

This business of making senators prove that they are entitled to their seats seems to be an unwarranted interference with a time-honored custom.

The fact that the diet of Finland bit at the czar's bait, proves what we were told in the geographies that the diet of Finland consists chiefly of fish.

Emperor William has had a birthday, and is being bombarded by a poet laureate. Now, perhaps, he will have more sympathy with his grandmother.

A stout-built, elderly man, wearing a small umbrella attached to his skull cap, has been seen sauntering around town of late. Outside of his headgear, there is nothing peculiar about him, and he seems to be thoroughly "at himself." From a few minutes' conversation with this stranger, it is learned that he is a mining man. He was in Arizona for some time and devised the umbrella attachment to his headgear to ward off the evil effects of the sun, and he says he finds it equally useful in Oregon to ward off the rain. He has been out in the hills back of town prospecting, and has found "colors," but this is nothing new, as colors can be found along almost any creek in Oregon.

One of the marked characteristics of the "Mr. Dooley" stories, whose author, Mr. F. P. Dunne, was in Portland last week, is the accuracy of the brogue used in them. Irishmen who read the stories pronounce them exact reproductions of the brogue as they know it, and call attention to the fact that no Irishman pronounces a double "e" with a long sound. Words such as sea, beat, meat, and the like are pronounced with the long sound for the reason that this used to be the correct pronunciation of them, and the old form has been retained in Ireland. Mr. Dunne says that Kipling's brogue, while humorous, is not absolutely correct, adding that Kipling told him that he (Kipling) never made a study of the brogue, and could not write it accurately.

Complaint is frequently made about the reckless manner in which thoughtless persons scatter orange peel and banana skins about the sidewalks. This is a great nuisance, and puts the lives and limbs of pedestrians in jeopardy. Such rubbish strewn on cement sidewalks especially in wet weather is very dangerous, but it seems practically impossible to put a stop to the habit of strewing it about. No sensible, thoughtful person throws orange or banana peels on the sidewalks, and remonstrance against the habit on the part of The Oregonian is of little avail, for people who do this are not to be influenced by anything that may be said or written. If the police would arrest a few of these persons who litter the sidewalks with their garbage and endanger the lives and limbs of sensible people, it might check the practice.

A big Scandinavian woodchopper, who had been working in company with a fellow countryman at some point along the Columbia, recently quit his job and came to town. He was telling some of his friends yesterday how he dissolved the partnership. Each of the men had an outfit of cooking utensils and cabin furniture of his own, and they owned a fine long crosscut saw between them. When Hans decided to quit, Ole offered to give him $10 for his traps, including his half of the saw. Hans was willing to sell for that sum, but when Ole proposed that the $10 should be applied on an old debt, Hans would not have it that way. He made a fire in which he piled his furniture, cooking utensils, etc., and while they were burning, he took an ax and hacked the saw till he broke it into two parts, and offered Ole his choice of them, and then came away. This is not exactly a new way of paying old debts, but it is an original way of dissolving a partnership.

The mild winter has enabled the Oregon hens to keep the market pretty well supplied with eggs, and imported eggs have been in small demand. As spring is approaching and eggs are likely to hatch out, importers are pushing off their stocks at prices which enable retailers to sell them at two dozen for 25 cents, or, by marking them "fresh ranch eggs," at two dozen for 35 cents. A man who is fond of fresh eggs was about to buy some yesterday labeled as above, but, on seeing the smoke marks on them, which showed that they had been "candled," he called the trade off and began to revile the dealer. The latter offered to guarantee the "soundness" of the eggs, and said the age of them made no material difference in the quality. The customer replied that there was not much difference between eggs one day or one week old, but these imported eggs were six months old, and if put in a warm place would hatch out in a few hours, and the chickens would come out armed with spurs an inch long and fully feathered.

It is to be hoped that school children will avail themselves of the opportunity to see the fine collection of birds' eggs which has recently been presented to the city museum, but the sight of the eggs should not inspire any youth with the collecting mania. There is a law providing an adequate penalty for destroying the eggs or nests of any kind of singing birds in this state. The collection of eggs for a museum can be commended, when the work is done in a proper spirit, and no eggs are needlessly destroyed, as such a collection gives thousands an opportunity to see the eggs, but indiscriminate collection of eggs should be discountenanced, and parents and teachers should take every suitable occasion to impress upon their children and pupils that they should, in every way, protect and encourage the birds, and never wantonly or cruelly molest them, or destroy their nests and eggs. There has been a great improvement in this matter of late years, and birds are becoming much more numerous in and around the city than they used to be.