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TODAY'S WEATHER.—Probably rain; east to southeast winds.

PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, JAN. 31.

BRITISH PREPARATION, AT LAST.

The British nation, finding out at last what it ought to have foreseen, that the undertaking before it is a very serious one, is now settling down to business.

The situation is found to require 200,000 men; it may require 300,000. What then? The nation has them, and more if more are necessary.

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THE CLAYTON-BULWER TREATY.

The report that the British government is entirely willing to withdraw any ground for opposition to the building of the Nicaragua canal, so far as it rests upon the Clayton-Bulwer treaty of 1850, is entirely credible.

It is not for us to speak for the British people or their policy. They will speak and act for themselves, as we shall do; but it remains always to be

said, at the end of every remark on our own national policy, at home or abroad, that the flag of the United States can not be a symbol of oppression, but always and everywhere is and must be a guarantee of liberty, now and evermore!

THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF GOEBEL.

The attempted assassination of William Goebel cannot be described as unexpected, for when political passion on both sides has been stimulated to the boiling point in a state like Kentucky, scenes of mob violence or individual vengeance are likely to take place.

The bitterest political enemies of Goebel are not Kentucky republicans, but Kentucky democrats. The two members of the state board of elections who issued the certificate of election to Governor Taylor were friends of Goebel, but were fair-minded, liberty-loving, honest democrats, who held political integrity above party advantage.

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case of a struggle for the control of the interoceanic waterway. The treaty, moreover, binds the United States not to use its military force in any precautionary measure, while it leaves the naval power of Great Britain perfectly free and unrestrained.

Mr. Blaine's view was that to perpetuate any treaty which impaches our rightful and long-established claim to priority on the American continent would be as absurd as it would be for the United States to demand a share in the fortifications which Great Britain excludes all other powers from the waters of the Red sea, and thus virtually controls the Suez canal, and to demand their neutralization.

Mr. Frelinghuysen pointed out that similar Britain has violated and continued to violate that provision, the Clayton-Bulwer treaty is voidable, at the pleasure of the United States. This is the position taken by the friends of the Nicaragua canal bill in the senate, viz., that Great Britain, having failed to conform to the provisions of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty that treaty is voidable at our option, and for this reason congress will proceed to exercise the option. In other words, England will not enforce against a friend a treaty which her own action has made obsolete.

ESSENTIALS FIRST.

Representative Tongue's effort on behalf of a national exposition to be held at Portland is all advised. If Portland would endorse the project, it is likely that the Oregon delegation could get a considerable appropriation from the government to give the big show a start.

Smallpox has broken out among the Indians of the Colville reservation, in Spokane county. Medical and sanitary service will be taxed to the utmost in battling the scourge under the conditions existing on an Indian reservation.

Goebel's attempted assassination is apparently due to an almost irresponsible editor perhaps half-sane man, whose act in no way incupates the anti-Goebel faction any more than Gaitano's crime incupates the Conkling faction.

Because unlimited and unrestricted suffrage was imposed upon the negro, however mistakenly or prematurely, is reason enough to Tillman why the same thing should be done with the Filipinos.

Americans who are controlled by good sense and see through the demagogic and demagogic appeal must be pardoned for not believing that there is anything in the ascendancy of the flag of their country in the Philippine islands that is or can be inconsistent with liberty.

The Age of Steel affirms that the mills and appliances of the Southern cotton industry are now capitalized at not less than \$25,000,000. The New York Journal of Commerce finds that \$32,000,000 was invested in spinning and weaving mills in the South last year.

trade, banking and commerce will insensibly alter the tone of political oratory. The disposition of the agriculturist to deem the merchant and banker his natural enemy may be changed.

The Salem Statesman asserts that "The Oregonian has been 'dictatorial' It has been dictatorial on one point only. It has demanded and insisted that free-silver advocates be turned out of congress. This was an effort that cost it twenty years of labor; and every little time-serving politician and newspaper in the state, including the paper at Salem, was at one time or another against it.

Anti Cochran, of Missouri, is out to the quick that Great Britain should not have torn hair and cracked heels together over the doubtful boundary while Alaska was still supposed to be a frozen wilderness, not worth fighting for, and that more interest was taken in the Transvaal after the discovery of gold and diamonds than before.

It is not long since Tillman and his compatriots were denouncing McKinley for going ahead in the Philippines instead of looking to congress, which alone is competent to declare a policy concerning them.

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tainly never mentioned this extraordinary power to me. Judging by our own capacity or incapacity, we may perhaps recall to mind the well-known lines of Horace which we learned at school many years ago, and which may still supply some comfort to weaker memories and humbler souls:

GOLD STANDARD IN JAPAN.

The New York Journal of Commerce. The adoption of the gold standard by Japan constitutes one of the most interesting chapters in the history of national finance. The Chinese indemnity, paid in silver, but converted into gold, afforded the means for the gold payments, and the promptness with which this opportunity was seized, and the skill with which the substitution was effected with no derangement of business, reflects credit on the government.

Of the general effects of the adoption of the gold standard, Mr. Uchida says that prices have ceased to fluctuate with silver and the elimination of this risk is developing industries and commerce, as is shown by the increase of bank clearings, by the favorable foreign trade, which our silverites have pretended was benefited by a falling monetary unit, and by stability of prices for agricultural products and the wages of labor.

Relative to the Boer's preparations for war, a contributor to a London paper makes a significant showing, which strikes the British all the harder because nine-tenths of this money was raised out of the pockets of Englishmen in the Transvaal.

Liquor and Labor in the Transvaal. Interviewing John Hays Hammond in the Engineering Magazine.

There has been a great deal of talk of good legislation, but utter laxity in the enforcement of such law as there is. To this is attributable the deplorable condition as regards the liquor traffic.

British Dockyards. The Boer war has done much for the British dockyards. There are now some of the best in the world.

Memory, and What? Max Muller, in The Nineteenth Century. I knew Macaulay, of whom it was said and believed that he could repeat a leading article of the Times after having read it once, but I never had the heart to ask him to do so.

The South Diversifying. The Age of Steel affirms that the mills and appliances of the Southern cotton industry are now capitalized at not less than \$25,000,000. The New York Journal of Commerce finds that \$32,000,000 was invested in spinning and weaving mills in the South last year.

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Why does not England put this Transvaal question to rest? The navy is said to need more officers. It certainly needs more Deweyes. Factories put money into circulation, of course, but nothing to compare with senatorial elections. Probably when Lady Smith falls, some of the generals who were sent to relieve it will hear something new. Reinforced by the Japanese poolie, the Russian bear ought to be able to cope with any dragon that ever flew. The contractor who took the job of floating the lightship seems to have discovered that she is not a light ship after all. It looks now as if the quickest way to reach Lady Smith will be to drive out the Tugela and sail up with the sea-sweeping British navy. It is evident that no platform will be strong enough to uphold the trusts, although the platform builders will undoubtedly hold them up. Now New York is going to improve her canal. If she would combine with Chicago perhaps between them they would be able to carry out that Nicaragua project. Bryan says he is carrying around a barrel of oil to pour on the troubled waters of democracy. He is more likely, however, to pour it on some burning question. Among the earliest of Oregon's spring vegetables that grow out-door all winter are Brussels sprouts. If your garden area is limited, the quickest way to get them is to sprinkle cabbage seed over your Brussels carpet in the evening and harvest the sprouts for breakfast next morning. At the city Park Sunday afternoon the old pioneer white-headed eagle jumped off the perch plump into the bath-trough. "Aha!" said Parkkeeper Myers, "that means a change in the weather—more rain. That eagle always takes a bath when rain is coming on; never knew it to fail." It was bright and sunny at the time, but the sidewalks were wet next morning. The heads of Chinese firms, dressed in their best long-tailed blue silk night-shirts, were out calling most of yesterday, accompanied by their children, clad in all the colors of the rainbow, away from the hills of the field, and as brilliant as birds of paradise. At every place they visited they left their calling cards—long strips of red paper with a few Chinese hieroglyphics on them—and were given in return a similar card. Wine and other liquors, cigars, sweetmeats, etc., were furnished all callers, and expressions of good-will and a happy New Year were heard on all hands. Misfortunes never come singly, and Sylvester Pennoyer has found this out. To have his dwelling seized in the unrelenting grasp of the law was had enough, but there are other ways of making ducks and drakes of one's property than going bondman for an unfeeling and heartless city. Mr. Pennoyer has a little farm at Woodstock, on which he has a large duck pond, and recently he purchased a dozen ducks to stock this pond, looking forward to having a large stock next fall. The ducks were only sent to the farm and turned loose on the pond, when the man in charge of the place discovered that 11 of them were drakes. Further particulars are unnecessary, but there are other things occurred under the gold standard. When the animal transport Lennox left Portland she had in addition to her load of horses and mules a fatness quantity of Portland brand. It was good brand, and no one at its birthplace ever dreamed that it would meet the fate it did. Manila papers just received say that people along the water-front there were recently surprised one morning at seeing the bay filled with floating sacks of bran. It was Portland brand, and the cause of its being overboard was quickly traced up. The natives had been kept at work all night unloading the Lennox, and in order to lighten their toll she saw two other handlings of the bran, they had dropped overboard every third sack. They thought that there was luck in odd numbers, and they considerably allowed the government to retain two-thirds of the bran. The demands upon the officers and men of a large modern war-vessel are enormous. Comfort, as it is understood in a big ship, is quite unknown. Even in what is known as moderate weather, cooking is almost an impossibility, though the stoves are regulated for the dura lila of the most insured sailor often give way, and he feels a certain distaste for food when, besides the extremely lively motion given by the vessel, the whole structure vibrates and trembles under the strokes of the engines and the kick of the propellers. The duties, which torpedo-boat destroyers would be called upon to undertake in war time are not less onerous. The little ships are the infants perdue of the fleet. Even if they can carry their dread assault to a successful issue, it will only be by the grace of heaven, and they themselves escape destruction. The torpedo-boat destroyer offers look coldly upon death as their more than probable fate in action, but one who has seen a well-toil in his ship and crew will be well lost if he can only plant one deadly stroke which sends a battleship to the bottom. It is a comparison between a few thousand pounds' worth of structure, its toll, against a floating castle which represents more than a million of money and carries 700 or 800 of an enemy's seamen. Kissing Our Boys Good-Night. W. L. Sanford in Calverton News. Oh! what a change comes over things. What quiet fills the place? The winter evening slowly drags. The whole world seems to be dead. Far up the chimney seem to shed. Less cheerful warmth and light. When, putting on their little gowns, We kiss our boys good-night. We follow them off as they go. With ringing laugh and shout. And to fondly tuck them in the bed. And turn the blanket out. And, clasped in one another's arms, So warm and snug and tight. They fill our hearts with worship. When we kiss our boys good-night. And as they drift to slumberland We linger 'round their cot. For lo! a strange enchantment Has descended on the night. And life somehow grows sweeter. And the veiling cares take flight. When, bending over their sleeping forms, We kiss our boys good-night. Then, looking to the future, The whole world seems to be dead. They must go to meet life's tasks. Now with gladness, now with tears. We greet that he may lead them. When we kiss our boys good-night. When no more beneath our roof-tree We may kiss our boys good-night.