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TODAY'S WEATHER—Fair, with southerly winds.

PORTLAND, SATURDAY, FEB. 10.

CONGRESS AND THE NEW POSSESSIONS.

The minority report on the Puerto Rico tariff bill makes a case which the advocates of robbery of our new insular possessions will find it exceedingly difficult to handle.

We have no right to hold Puerto Rico or the Philippine Islands, unless we allow free interchange of their products with those of the United States.

The proposal to keep these islands without allowing the advantage of trade with the United States is at the very top, the height, the crest, or crest upon the crest, of protectionist greed and folly.

It is gravely argued by the majority of the ways and means committee of the house of representatives that the mandate of the constitution that duties shall be uniform throughout the United States has no application to territories, but only to the states.

This is sound doctrine. It is the doctrine that must in the long run prevail. Protectionist greed has gone mad. We cannot hold Puerto Rico and the Philippines under the doctrine set forth by the majority of the committee.

I recognize our full duty to do our utmost to secure the welfare and happiness of the people of our new possessions. But I regard it as a most unimportant, a trifling, a negligible act should be framed on the theory that freedom does not follow the flag.

That is just the significance of this extraordinary report. The naked question is whether our dealings with our new possessions are to begin with this measure of "extortion and robbery."

A gentle friend who "operates" one of the populist journals of Oregon reprints with glib and feigns certain remarks made by The Oregonian about the Philippine Islands.

policy of oppression, through obstruction of trade, be forced by the extreme protectionists in congress. We ought, however, to withdraw even yet, unless a rational policy be pursued, under which our rule over the islands will be beneficial both to them and to ourselves.

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY.

The Puerto Rico issue in congress affords the republican members from the Pacific coast a great opportunity to establish justice to reader signals and incidentally to render signal service to their own section.

If a protective tariff is put in force upon Philippine imports to the United States, what will be the result? The islands will trade elsewhere.

Commerce cannot altogether ignore sentiment. The Philippines will not feel like doing much business with a few favored nations.

The democrats, in house and senate, will stand for justice for the dependencies. Not that justice is agreeable to them, but their natural repugnance to a few favored nations.

TWO GOOD SOLDIERS.

General Ewell S. Otis, United States army, is soon to return to this country. He has earned a rest, and probably will receive a flattering reception.

General Otis has been the military commander and administrator of the Philippines during all the severe times of trial since the departure of General Merritt, in the autumn of 1898.

When Brigadier-General Gilbert S. Carpenter, then colonel of the Eighteenth United States infantry, who was stationed at Vancouver barracks as senior captain of the Fourteenth United States infantry from 1885 to 1894, passed through Puerto Rico as a brevet brigadier-general, he was a military administrator.

General Otis will be retired for age, March 25, 1902, and on the retirement of General Wesley Merritt, in June next, will doubtless be promoted to the rank of major-general, United States army.

General Otis, who will succeed to the military duties of General Otis, is a soldier of gallantry and ability, as is attested by his career in the civil war and in the Philippines.

Serious embarrassment of Harper & Bros., whose indebtedness is officially set down at \$1,100,000, shows how mismanagement can wreck a great enterprise.

but recouped only a small percentage of their losses in the wide field that had given their ancestors princely support for more than a generation.

BRYAN'S NEW ENGLAND TOUR. Bryan's political passage through New England in midwinter, from New York to Central Vermont, is not easy to understand from a practical standpoint.

Mr. Bryan cannot seriously doubt his standing by substantial unanimity by the national convention of his party. Mr. Bryan knows perfectly well that his strength today in the South and in the whole country west of Buffalo is so great that it needs no recruitment from New England and the Middle states.

When Louis Kossuth came to this country, years ago, and appealed to the United States government to intervene in behalf of oppressed Hungary, the public was unanimous in its sympathy.

The British army lacks mobility, because the British soldier must always have full meals, and have them with regularity. He is tied to his "commissary."

A friendly Basuto chief, desirous of seeing the Boers thrashed soundly and without loss of time, recently asked: "Why do the English drive straight against the Boers' fastnesses?"

The action of the school board in abolishing free tuition to non-residents of the district is one that should have been taken long ago.

Mr. Hepburn is ill-advised in his objections to the Hay-Pauncefote treaty. He seems to think it sufficiently discredited by the fact that Great Britain gave something in return for her concessions.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Curiously enough, the gas never gets hot when it is turned down.

General White is still at the old stand, in spite of the failures of his colleagues.

The war department thinks perhaps Aguinaldo is in Europe. One thing is certain, he is not in South Africa.

Two suits have recently been decided in favor of a street-railway company. Isn't this a violation of the constitution?

and almost childish basis, is seen in the fact that it is now largely concentrated upon a single word. The Czech soldiers insist upon answering "ade" to rollcall, in defiance of the imperial decree that they must say "bler."

A Washington man, vouched for by the Washington Times as a man of his word, writes that paper that he has "taken upon himself" to put a suitable word in the place of "ade."

The following is a holograph message from Ladyship, intercepted by the Boers, and sent special to The Oregonian: I am waiting, Buller, waiting.

NO MARTYR'S CROWN FOR GOEBEL.

Let That Crown Be Reserved for Worthy Men. Chicago Times-Herald.

Only charity in the presence of the dead, only detestation of the crime of assassination, only abhorrence for the humiliation of a sovereign American state, rushes the universal verdict that William Goebel died as he lived—a victim to that Scriptural law that reads: Whoso sheddeth man's blood, his blood shall be shed.

After laboring incessantly for years to become governor of Kentucky, William Goebel enjoys the reputation of having held office for a few days.

When laws are enacted to promote such evil purposes as the rule of the majority by the minority, and when such laws are upheld by partisan legislatures and courts, who can have much respect for law?

SEWALL AN EXPANSIONIST.

Mr. Bryan's Running Mate in 1896 Says He Would Hold the Philippines Islands.

Following is the statement made by Arthur Sewall at San Francisco some days ago, to which reference has been made in the telegraphic reports: It is a well known fact that I have always favored the acquisition of the Philippines after the Paris treaty.

There is an old saying that an army goes on its belly. But the British army in South Africa doesn't go on its belly. It lies still on its belly. It doesn't go all. But perhaps it will go after a while.

GERMANY EAGER FOR THEM.

Washington—It is out that in executive session of the senate, Senator Davis, of the committee on foreign affairs, stated that the reason our government took the Philippines was that during the peace negotiations at Paris it became known to the government that if cession of the islands was not made to us, Germany would take them, and was eager to do so.

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peace commissioners, abandoning the plan of partial occupation upon which they had been proceeding.

This must be a bitter pill for the so-called "anti-imperialists" for it knocks their argument about the "consent of the governed" skyward. It makes it clear that abandonment of the islands after Dewey's victory, or later, would have been to turn the Philippines over to a non-revolutionary form of government, administered by the haughty and exacting emperor of Germany.

A FRAUD ON ITS FACE. Attack on the Congressional Refuse to Free Trade. Chicago Times-Herald.

Congress can do pretty much as it wants with our new possessions. It may incorporate them as an integral part of our territory or hold them outside in absolute dependence upon our sovereignty.

A scientific or just tariff was never framed in this way, and the general conclusion is a fraud on its face, because the local tariff will never be devised at Washington for Puerto Rico or the Philippines.

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BRITISH MILITARY OPINION.

Lieutenant-General John F. Owen, of the British army, has an article in the North American Review, for February, on the unpreparedness of the British government and army for the present emergency.

We have experienced so rude a shock, and the weak point is so strikingly exposed, that the nation, thoroughly awakened, will insist on a complete reorganization of our war office, which has worked too long in ancient groove, and of our army, to meet new conditions.

TO BUILD CANALS.

The desire to build canals seems to have sprung up in the senate with renewed activity. Senator Foster has introduced a bill which has been reported favorably by the committee on commerce.

FREE HOMES BILL.

The committee on Indian affairs in the senate and on public lands in the house have reported favorably the bills that have been pending allowing free homes for the Indians on reservations.

GOSSIP AT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—There is a divergence of opinion upon the bill that have been reported regarding Puerto Rico, which imposes a duty of 25 per cent of the present tariff rates on commodities from that island.

In all the conversations that the president has had with members of congress he has shown a preference for his original plan, believing that a tariff on Puerto Rico will not finally bind the United States relative to the other islands.

Oregon's Expansion Democrats.

Leading democrats are somewhat afraid that the expansion sentiment in Oregon will be strong enough to repudiate the Oregon platform.

REFOUNDING SCHEME IN FINANCIAL BILL.

Although there is a great deal of opposition to the refunding scheme in the financial bill, the general impression is that it will pass.

SILVER MEN WHO OPPOSED BRYAN.

The democratic national convention of 1896 was not for Bryan, but was forced to vote for him because the leading silver candidate, Blaine, of Missouri, was regarded by public opinion as the only man who received 137 votes on the first ballot.

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ISOLATION OF ENGLAND.

The wind is hushed; the darkness grows; The fainting moon is lost in night; Death lies a somber hand on thine eyes.

THE ISLANDS.

Along the trembling earth, that feel The distant tramp of marching hosts; And hear the smothered clash of steel;