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TODAY'S WEATHER.—Occasional rain; increasing temperature; winds southwest to south.

PORTLAND, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

BOSH ABOUT "BIMETALISM."

Shall we never have done with bosh about "bimetalism"? Speeches in congress are still loaded with it. Not all who use the term, however, mean the same thing by it. In fact, none knows precisely what he does mean. Here is Chandler, of New Hampshire, saying: "I want the double standard. The merits of bimetalism are plain." But Chandler doesn't want free coinage by the United States alone, at 16 to 1, or at any other ratio. He has steadily spoken and voted against this proposition. What he contends for is the myth of "international bimetalism." That is, he pursues a mirage and cries for the moon; or perhaps it is a railroad to the planet Mars that he has faith in.

Senators Jones, of Arkansas, and Cockrell, of Missouri, also clamor for "bimetalism." They say that what they mean by bimetalism is free coinage of silver and gold at the mints of the United States at 16 to 1. This nation is competent, they say, to formulate its own monetary system, without regard to any other nation or nations—which is altogether true. We can, if we see fit, make a law for free coinage of silver and gold at 16 to 1. But we should not get bimetalism by it. We should get silver monometalism.

It is simple truth that we don't have to ask another nation what our monetary system should be, or may be. But we do have to ask the commercial world what the relative value of gold and silver is; and we have also to accept the fact that that relative value is not a fixed but a fluctuating one. We can adopt free coinage of silver if we choose; we don't have to ask anybody. But we can't make silver and gold go together under any mint code, contrary to the law of commercial value; and we can't control the law of commercial value by any mint code. Consequently we can't have bimetalism, through free coinage at 16 to 1, or at any other ratio.

Bimetalism is a vague, indefinite and misleading expression. It is so illusory that the reality is precisely the opposite of the suggestion it carries to those who do not analyze the facts that belong to money and are inseparable from it. Words used without precise analysis often do similar mischief. A great thinker and writer, of two centuries ago, Robert South, said: "The generality of mankind is wholly and absolutely governed by words and names, without—nay, for the most part against—the knowledge men have of things." And one who wrote much longer ago had a remark about the demagogic politician who "scatters ambiguous words among the vulgar." Such is he who now talks about "bimetalism."

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE.

The collapse of Christian Science has been long predicted, but is still postponed. So immense a fabric of faith and practice cannot wholly be built upon error or fraud; and it is fitting to inquire what the facts are that support this peculiar body of teachers and believers, whose costly edifices are rising in every great city of the land, and whose followers are both numerous and devoted.

Two things about Christian Science are real—the physical exuberance of blithe spirits, remedial through infection, and the power of suggestion to induce mental states in a receptive personality through determination on the part of an aggressive one. Half of many a physician's power in the sick-room is due to his cheerful flow of "animal spirits." Everybody feels improved the moment he crosses the threshold. He soothes alarm, he inspires confidence, he jostles the hypochondriac's thoughts off his own troubles. Many a person is a born doctor in this aspect, and if he has no knowledge of the profession and falls in with Christian Scientists, he becomes a "healer."

What men of science call the power of suggestion is a province of mental activity as yet but imperfectly understood. If the various antagonistic schools of hypnotists can ever be got to eliminate their differences and formulate their common conclusions, an accepted body of truth might be recognized. The use of intellectual power in affecting certain physical conditions, notably nervous states, is well ascertained, and hypnotism, for example, has its place in medical science. It goes without saying, however, that this power should be used, indeed can only be used to intelligent and legitimate purpose, by educated and trained persons, who understand its relations to the more important and necessary things of medical theory and practice. It would be manifestly absurd to set those ignorant of physiology and medicine at experimenting with these things, as much so as to put a novice into a locomotive cab and tell him to run a crowded passenger train over a busy track. The news of every day tells us how disastrous these experiments are continually resulting.

Christian Science in practice, therefore, is a fraud and a crime. It is neither science nor Christian. There is no more science in it than there is in the labors of the impecunious medium who boldly gives advice as to how to succeed in business. Its religious pretensions are outrageous, for it sets at defiance the fundamental principles of Christianity. It belongs in the category of spiritualism and theosophy, where a few gifted and unscrupulous charlatans are supported by an army of deluded followers. Some way should be found for bringing to justice every so-called "healer," whose interference with the sick is followed by fatal consequences, and every parent who, bound to the same misguided theory, contrives his child's death through neglect. One of the principal sources of the rise of these schools of "mental" healing, or killing, has been the stubborn refusal of doctors and scientists to recognize and investigate the phenomena of hypnotism and kindred processes.

THREE LIBERALS.

It is a significant fact that the liberalization of Protestant churches goes on without perceptible increase in the relative strength of the liberal churches. This is not an argument against the reality of liberalization, but a demonstration of the fact that the methods of other churches have something or other in them that appeals more successfully to popular support. Perhaps it is greater evangelicism, perhaps inherited momentum in both fervor and methods. Just what does not matter. The main point is that the mass of communicants retain their denominational affiliation regardless of their intellectual beliefs, just as it is the case with the various parties in politics. The now extinct species of silver republican used to claim for himself a truer republicanism than that of the gold man allied with the Money Power; and Bryan and McLaurin are at loggerheads as to whether expansion or anti-expansion is the real democratic doctrine.

Liberalization is going on in all the denominations. Yesterday's dispatches gave a full account of an episode in the Methodist school of theology at Boston university. One professor has already been in trouble because of his advanced teachings, and now the attack has been directed at three others. The charge against the teachers, to which they plead guilty in effect, with the inevitable disagreements over terms and interpretation of authority, is that they view salvation as possible without belief in the divinity of Christ; that they hold parts of the Bible to be legendary; and the so-called Mosaic account of creation as not to be received as scientifically correct. This controversy shows that historical criticism and knowledge of Nature through study of her records in the earth and in still living forms must be going on in the Methodist church as elsewhere. All the basis is here for a Briggs controversy, though one may be avoided if tact and discretion are called into play.

Rev. D. Reuen Thomas is a great preacher of the Congregationalist denomination, and ministers to a large and influential people at Brookline, a suburb of Boston. In his sermon on Martineau, the Unitarian teacher, and Ruskin, Dr. Thomas likened them to David and Isaiah, and said they were more Christian in spirit than either of the two ancient Hebrew worthies. "These men," he said, "had the fulfillment of spiritual life. They gave themselves up to do what appeared to them to be God's will and way. It is faith without self-surrender that makes men weak." This is strange doctrine, compared with the narrow exclusiveness that used to prevail in orthodox pulpits, and perhaps there are few pulpits in Portland from which Dr. Martineau would be eulogized as a true servant of God, and held up as a model for spiritual attainment.

Another illustration comes from High Church Episcopalianism. Rev. Algernon S. Crapsey, a rector at Rochester, N. Y., is the author of a tractate in advocacy of the idea that Christian doctrine today needs to be restated in such a way that it will be in accord with the facts of the visible universe, as ascertained by scientific investigation. Mr. Crapsey holds that the day for promulgation of belief through authority has gone by. A creed formulated by an ecclesiastical body, he says, does not rest on its own inherent truthfulness, but must be enforced by a power external to itself. And men are called upon to believe it, not necessarily because it is true, but because it has been promulgated by a given authority. Mr. Crapsey concludes, therefore, that the despised restatement of religious belief in terms consistent with the accepted scientific view of the universe should be derived from individual religious thinkers, and gain its acceptance from its inherent truth. His tractate is a forcible presentation of the futility of dogma to withstand scientific discovery.

These illustrations are sufficiently indicative of the widening vision of the Protestant pulpit, regardless of denominational lines. The danger in all these things is that in impairing the genuineness of non-essential flourishes of doctrine we shall witness a weakening also of basic religious and moral convictions. Skeptics frequently imagine that in showing the imperfections of Scriptural texts and the inadequacy of the so-called Mosaic account of creation they have disproved the eternal verities of religion itself. And it must be said that they are encouraged in this view by the desperation with which theologians hang on to these very trifles of doctrine, oblivious of the temple of truth in contemplation of the scaffolding that has served its purpose and is now fit for nothing but to be torn away.

SPEAKER FAVORS THE CANAL.

Speaker Henderson's attitude toward the Nicaragua canal has been the subject of some speculation in various newspapers; but a letter written by him last summer will clear up the doubt. Captain Robert Williams, of Vancouver, Wash., wrote to Representative Henderson, on June 4, 1899, a letter of hearty sympathy with his contest for the speakership, and gave him this statement of "measures of particular interest to the whole Pacific coast":

The construction of the Nicaragua canal is most universally and urgently desired, and I feel thoroughly assured that any candidate for speaker who will oppose or manifest any unfriendliness for that measure will not get the votes of the Pacific coast members.

Another living issue, emphatically supported by the patriotic people of this coast, is that the government shall permanently retain the Philippine islands. We have, I believe, come into possession of them by the economy of God in directing our navy and army to go there and wrest that unfortunate and misgoverned country from the tyranny of Spanish rule. Our country will, in due time, when the people of the Philippines shall have submitted to the lawful authority of this government, give them as liberal a government as can be formed, suitable to their condition, and when that is demonstrated to them by their improved condition and prosperity, they will bless the day that Admiral Dewey sailed into Manila bay and defeated the fleet of their tyrannical Spanish rulers.

Mr. Henderson declined to declare his position on the Philippines, merely saying, in his letter of reply, dated at Dubuque, June 10, 1899, that on this matter "no one should commit himself to policies in advance of the order for action and of all the light possible to be derived." But on the other topic he was not reticent, and made this statement of his views:

I have been in favor of the Nicaraguan canal, to connect the two oceans, for years, and hope to see it accomplished.

The speaker is in position to give cordial support to the accomplishment of his hope. In one particular, at least, the country is likely to be a great gainer through the exchange of Reed for Henderson.

CANADA'S CONTINGENT.

Throughout British Columbia the rough riders, assembling and departing for the South African war, are welcomed and speeded with glad acclaim by a loyal people. Local pride in these troops is not misplaced, for the mounted troops given by Canada in aid of England in the Boer war are better stuff for the work before them than any "crack" regiment of cavalry in the British regular army. One regiment of mounted riflemen, 742 strong, with four Maxim guns, three batteries of field artillery, 522 strong, with eighteen 12-pounder, breech-loading, quick-firing guns, or in all 1264 men, with 1175 horses and twenty-two guns, made up the second Canadian contingent that embarked for South Africa the third week of January. Officers and men are dressed in khaki costume, and all the artillery has been painted to match. These contingents of mounted riflemen and artillery represent the flower of Canadian manhood. They are the picked men of the Canadian militia of 35,000 men. The mounted rifles sent by Canada to the Cape consist largely of Northwest mounted policemen, who have seen varied service as scouts, constables, plain-rangers, etc., in the performance of the many duties falling to the lot of a mounted policeman. Their duties have compelled them to be cavalrymen and riflemen by turns, and a better training could not be devised for a man who has to fight on the veldt of South Africa from the saddle in the open or on his feet behind a kopje.

The Canadian mounted police of the Northwest is an ideal soldier to fight the Boers. It includes a splendid class of stalwart Canadians, who have roughed it in the lumber camps, can bridge a swamp or build rapidly a "corduroy" road. Lord Strathcona (Sir Donald A. Smith, Canadian high commissioner to London) is raising and equipping at his own expense a company of rough riders, which will consist of some 400 cavalrymen, and British Columbia is sending 100 men, all expense to be borne by the province. Canada's contribution of 2700 men to the British army in South Africa is likely to furnish the model for the imperial army that will ultimately conquer the Boers. Absurd statements have been made that the French population of Canada did not support Premier Laurier in his cordial support of Great Britain in the Transvaal war. In Quebec the church has repudiated the disloyal utterances of certain journals, and the French-Canadian peasant of Quebec province cheers the parading troops at every opportunity.

The enthusiastic voluntary response of all Great Britain's important colonies to the call for troops is a complete answer to the stupid "shibboleth" of the Clan-na-Gael party in the British parliament that "England's difficulty is Ireland's opportunity." That sentiment is what loses the Irish home rule party the sympathy of its best friends, for while thousands of intelligent Americans would welcome the home rule for Ireland that prevails between the states and the general government in America, no intelligent American would wish Great Britain's politically beneficent civilization whether in India, Africa or Ireland to perish from the earth.

WOMEN ON THE SCHOOL BOARD.

While not detracting anything from the candidacy of either of the worthy citizens who have been named to succeed Mr. Strowbridge upon the school board, subject to the indorsement of the taxpayers, The Oregonian may say that the suggestion of the retiring member in regard to the selection of a thoroughly competent woman to succeed him, and again another to succeed Mr. Warren next year, is a good one. The efficiency of women upon educational boards has been fully proven in other cities, and, indeed, in our own state, women have served from time to time as school directors with great energy and acceptability. So far in this city the experiment, if such it may be called in the face of the facts above noted, has not been tried, owing possibly to the disinclination of women to run the gauntlet of opposition which would be marshaled by small minds against a woman's candidacy.

Citizens of Portland, or perhaps we should say those who in the main have run the educational machine in this city, have been slow to accord to women the honors to which, by virtue of the value of their services in the schools, they have been entitled. It is true that we had at one time a woman for city superintendent of schools; it is true also that, notwithstanding the fact that the standard of excellence through method and discipline in the schools was greatly advanced during her administration, the position was made so uncomfortable for her that, rather than camp constantly upon the firing line and skirmish continually with opponents of small caliber, whom she was compelled to meet, she withdrew from the contest and accepted a position of honor and responsibility in an educational institution in the Middle Northwest, where her capabilities and energy as an instructor and manager are appreciated.

It is true also that women have from time to time filled the position of principal in the several schools of the city. Perhaps the less said the better for the credit of school boards, past and present, in connection with the fact that the last one of these has been displaced—in some instances by mildly incompetent men, chosen seemingly (to use a military phrase) for their mobility in action.

All this has not been done in a corner. For years the school politics of this city were manipulated by one of the most crafty of small-bore educational politicians in his own interest, primarily, and as auxiliary thereto, in the interests of a great schoolbook company. Women were insignificant factors in his educational maneuvers; their generalship was not to be permitted under the regime he inaugurated and maintained for many years, and by persistence, craft, upon one pretext or another, and often arbitrarily, he succeeded in reducing them to the ranks, greatly (in some instances) to the detriment of the field service.

It was because of this strife and through the bitterness that it engendered, that women who were approached upon the matter at different times firmly declined to serve upon the school board. In plain terms, they did not consider "the game worth the candle," and, though this narrow, vituperative opposition to women in the higher grades of school work has to some extent passed away, or at least has been minimized by the removal of the small-bore school politician to another scene, the disinclination of women to have their names brought forward as candidates for service on the school board remains—a heritage of the disgust and injustice of the events of his reign.

It is doubtful, therefore, whether a suitable candidate could be secured at this time to enter the lists as successor to Mr. Strowbridge. Next year, possibly, if men and women taxpayers who have the true educational interests of the community at heart, bestir themselves early in this matter, a suitable woman may be found to succeed Mr. Warren as school director, and the fulfillment of the desire of Mr. Strowbridge and of many other intelligent citizens who believe that two out of the five members of the board should be women, will begin. To say that Portland will stand still indefinitely in this matter while other cities and progressive rural communities all over the land are recognizing and availing themselves of women's work as organizers and managers in educational lines, is to impugn the intelligence and exalt the prejudice of her citizens. The function of women on the school board would not be so much that of attention to the business of the district, the construction of its schoolhouses and the management of its finances, as in consideration of the employment of teachers, much the larger number of whom are women.

England may be forced to resort to the militia ballot law, an old-time measure of conscription. The operation of the statute was suspended in 1829, and when the militia was organized, in 1852, recruitment by volunteering was substituted, but the original statute remains, and it may again be enforced. Under it all male persons between 18 and 30 years of age are made liable to the service, and when militia are called for, double the quota is drawn by ballot, to make room for those able to show exemptions and to allow for other disqualifications. For instance, the requisite height is fixed at 5 feet 2 inches. Substitutes are allowed, and there are many exempt classes. The suspension of the ballot was due to a provision that if the quota is filled up by volunteering, no ballot shall be used. If, however, as seems to be the case at present, the possibilities of securing sufficient volunteers are exhausted, the enforcement of the compulsory service of the statute is within the power of the government.

It is said that Boers appear in "unexpected numbers" wherever the British make a sortie or a reconnoissance. This is evidence that the status of human society depicted by Olive Schreiner, wherein it is the province of women to produce soldiers, cultivate their fields, attend to stock and dress the meats, and the province of men and boys to fight, has not been outgrown by these people. The greatness of a state, based upon the fecundity of its women and the brawn of its men, may endure for a time, but to believe it to be a permanent condition is to account human progress a myth and civilization a dream. Of greatness reckoned upon this basis, the North American Indians possessed their full share, and the stubbornness with which they held their ground protracted the tribal history of these people through four centuries of strife, with defeat as its logical sequence.

The purpose of General Roberts is to oust the Boers from Stormberg, push them back across the Orange river at Aliwal North and Bethulie. If a strong movement should be made from the Modder river or from some of the stations between it and the Orange river into the Free State, the Free State forces would have to retreat without delay to the north, lest their retreat be cut off. General French holds today a large force of Boers in check at Colesberg. Colesberg is an open town, four miles west of Colesberg Junction, on the railway from Naauwpoort to Bloemfontein. General French's headquarters is at Rensberg, south of Colesberg.

In addition to the political perils which threaten civil institutions in Kentucky, the state is confronted by the danger of a widespread epidemic of smallpox. The disease is already prevalent in thirty-five counties, in some of which a large number of the inhabitants have been stricken and a much greater number exposed. The state board of health is entirely without funds to fight the pestilence, dozens of local health officers are resigning, and practically nothing is being done to check the spread of the disease. The conditon in this respect is as disgraceful to Kentucky as is the political situation at Frankfort.

The transport Slam, the hold of which proved a charnel-house for 311 out of a cargo of 330 mules on her outward passage to Manila, several months ago, has returned to San Francisco. The experience of this vessel as, with her living freight, shrieking and moaning as only frightened, suffering animals can, she outrode two typhoons in the Pacific, was simply terrific. One cannot wonder in reviewing the accounts of the voyage that the captain resigned his position upon reaching Manila, thus necessitating the detention of the vessel in port until a commander for her return voyage could be procured from Australia.

Major-General Butler, who commanded the British troops at the Cape in 1898, instead of strengthening the Natal garrisons, as was proposed by Sir Alfred Milner, spoke of the suggestion as "ridiculous from a military point of view, 'in case' a policy of war had been decided upon," and urged rather that "if war broke out the first thing necessary would be to withdraw the garrisons in a hurry" as the only way to avoid having them "locked up by the Boers." This is the man whose counsel seems to have been contemptuously disregarded, but now is to be sought with some solicitude.

Hoke Smith, the Georgia democrat who was in President Cleveland's cabinet, but nevertheless cast his fortunes with the Bryanites in 1896, puts the blame for the Kentucky situation where it belongs. He says: "When we come to look at the state of semi-revolution that exists in Kentucky, we cannot escape the conclusion that Goebel and his confederates are responsible for it." The death of Goebel does not alter the fact that it was his conspiracy against the people's right to majority rule that has brought Kentucky to shame.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Kentucky has her troubles, but Bryan is in New York.

Pitchfork Tillman should be kept away from Secretary Hay.

Now that all the votes in Kentucky have been counted, the election board can proceed to count the governors.

There is not so much in a name as one might believe. For example, "In Old Kentucky" is not a war drama.

Richard Harding Davis has gone to South Africa. He will now be able to tell what he saw with his own I's.

It is singular how much more plainly a man hears his country's call when it comes in form of a captain's commission.

The trusts have given us the horseless carriage, and they now seem about to bring about a state of carriageless babies.

Editor Laura E. Jones, of the Drain Watchman, declares that the hardest branch of learning grows on a birch tree.

A new passenger locomotive can make 106 miles an hour. Here is just the present for Senator Hoar to make to Aguinaldo.

People who know enough to come in out of the rain never get credit for their sagacity when there is no rain to come in out of.

The Boers are doing their share to assist the press censor in South Africa. They kill two or three war correspondents every day.

Several hundred diamond-cutting mills are reported to be idle on account of the isolation of Kimberley. Modern business has become a complex matter, touching every continent and country.

The mantle of Sir Boyle Roche has descended upon M. de Blowitz. In a recent issue of the London Times he achieved a bull which rivals the famous "Sir, I smell a rat; I see it in the air; but I will nip it in the bud." A passage from the Liberte prompted M. de Blowitz to this surprising piece of natural history: "I quote this because the Liberte is one of the most amphibious journals that, waiting to see which way the wind blows, sometimes unexpectedly turn the scale."

Paris has a hotel for working girls founded by a wealthy woman at the cost of 1,000,000 francs, and it is the home of the Amicitia Club, with 30 rooms for shop girls and a good and cheap restaurant, to which any working woman may have access. Each of the members pays a small sum toward a fund used in the common interest of the association, which keeps up lectures and educational classes and otherwise provides for the entertainment and instruction of the members. The clubhouse is a restored mansion 200 years old, near what was once the hotel of Mme. de Sevigne, now the Musee Carnanlet, in the Rue de Parc Royale.

Every three months in the province of Smolensk, Russia, husbands and wives are chosen by the chance drawing of a lottery ticket. The tickets cost one ruble (60 cents) each. There is only one prize to be drawn, and it consists of the entire sum yielded by the sale of the tickets, amounting to 5000 rubles ($3000), together with a woman described as being of noble blood. The tickets are sold only to men, and the lucky winner of the prize will have to marry the damsel if he takes the 5000 rubles. If, however, he be already married he is at liberty to turn over the money and the woman to any friend whom he may wish to put in for such a good thing. If the winner should be willing to marry, but is not found to be to the damsel's taste, then they are to be excused from matrimony and permitted to divide the rubles.

A movement, which no doubt will receive the support of newspaper men all over the country, was recently started at the meeting of the Internal League of Press Clubs. This is the organization of the International League of Press Clubs' Benevolent Association. In Jersey City, where articles of incorporation were prepared and executed, a tract of land located at New Orange, N. J., was turned over to the association, and it was decided to commence in the near future the erection of a $20,000 home for aged and indigent newspaper men. The following officers of the Benevolent Association were elected:

President—John M. Carter, jr., Baltimore, Md.
Secretary—C. Frank Rice, Boston.
Treasurer—James S. McCartney, Philadelphia.
Directors—Thomas J. Keenan, jr., Pittsburg; Dr. John Friedrich, New York; Edward W. Haswell, Boston; J. M. Lecoque, New Orleans; George H. Rowe, Brooklyn; George H. Hoffman, Philadelphia; George W. Peck, Milwaukee, Wis.; A. O'Donnell Hayward, Baltimore; Cynthia Westover, Alden, N. Y.; O. H. Chamberlin, Manchester, N. H.; P. J. Hazway, New York, and W. C. Ruch, Philadelphia.

Tit for Tat.

Boston Transcript.

Certain papers of this country have been clamoring for the intercession of the United States in the Transvaal war, and a Boston contemporary insists that President McKinley should give a "tip" to Queen Victoria to stop the war. It says:

The slaughter in South Africa can be stopped any time that the administration at Washington decides to have it. The minute President McKinley notifies Queen Victoria that this country wishes the bloodshed to cease, the British ministry will be changed, a new set of men put in power, the independence of the Boers—already a fact—will be admitted, and men of the same blood and the same religion will stop murdering each other. Certainly this country wants it done. The safety of Great Britain as a great power requires it. Nothing but the obstinacy of a few people, holding office, prevents it. It will make Mr. McKinley the strongest man in this country and insure his re-election, as well as save the lives of thousands of honorable men. What is the occult force which causes the delay?

Now what would be the attitude of the American people were the London papers to print an article like this:

The slaughter in the Philippines can be stopped any time that the British government decides to have it. The minute Queen Victoria notifies President McKinley that this country wishes the bloodshed to cease, the American cabinet will be changed, a new set of men put in power, the independence of the Filipinos—already a fact—will be admitted, and men will stop murdering each other. Certainly this country wants it done. The safety of the United States as a great power requires it. Nothing but the obstinacy of a few people holding office prevents it. It will make Lord Salisbury the strongest man in the country, and insure his party remaining in office, as well as save the lives of thousands of honorable men. What is the occult force which causes the delay?

The Rape of the Dependencies.

Chicago Times-Herald.

A satisfactory local tariff will never be devised at Washington for Puerto Rico or the Philippines. This is absolutely certain, because it will be passed not for the good of the natives or of the United States, but for the advantage of various interests in this country. As well protect California against Florida because they both raise oranges, or Virginia against North Carolina, because they both raise and manufacture tobacco.

MAJORITY RULE AT STAKE.

Plain Statement of the Situation in Kentucky.

Brooklyn Eagle, ind. dem.

By a law in Kentucky, a state central board appointed county election boards, and county election boards appointed election officers at polling places. That constituted the machinery of election of which registration and the use of the Australian ballot system were features.

The first count of the votes was by local officers. Their returns were passed on by county boards. The returns were further passed on by the state board, of which all three members were democrats. There is no doubt that W. S. Taylor and John W. Marshall, republican candidates for governor and lieutenant-governor, received many thousand more votes than their democratic competitors. The democratic local boards and county boards and the democratic state board cast out all the republican votes which, by any possible pretext, they could reject. But when all that was done, the final announcement had to be as follows:

VOTE FOR GOVERNOR.

W. S. Taylor, rep.	194,902
William Goebel, dem.	191,826
Brown, Ind.-dem.	12,140
Taylor's plurality	3,076

VOTE FOR LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.

John Marshall, rep.	183,872
J. C. W. Beckham, dem.	181,299
Marshall's majority	2,573

Under that, Messrs. Taylor and Marshall took office on the 12th of last December, and have been officiating ever since. They were elected by the people. Any reversal of the people's votes, either by courts or by the legislature has in it the moral quality of any other robbery, and any taking of their offices by others has in it the moral quality of any other theft.

In the constitution of Kentucky is the clause: "Contested elections for governor and lieutenant-governor shall be determined by both houses of the general assembly (the legislature), according to such regulations as may be established by law." There were not enough men elected by the people to the legislature to reverse the votes of the people on governor and lieutenant-governor, but a number of elected members were turned out and a corresponding number of defeated contestants were seated in their places to pack the tribunal, for the purpose of reversing the will of the people. They claim to have reversed it. The republicans claim that the reversal was not effected even by law, and that if it had been it would be morally indefensible and would justify revolution against it.

Something called an "adjustment" has been reached by some course called a "conference" between representatives of both sides in Kentucky. If the result of this be the overthrow of majority rule, it will be disastrous and disgraceful to Kentucky and to the republic. That is for Kentuckians to settle, but it should not be for New Yorkers to justify, for any purpose or on any pretext, the overthrow of majority rule in Kentucky or anywhere else. Those who, for reasons of congenital pusillanimity or of hatred of republicanism, whether it be elected or not, consent to praise or fail to protest against the overthrow of majority rule, are heaping a record of shame for themselves and their posterity.

The facts, as we have given them, will be found in no democratic organ. They would be found in no republican organ, were they the reverse of what they are, so as to make against that party. Independent papers can alone be trusted to give them in full and with right motives. They reduce the rhodomontade of Henry Watterson and other apologists for government by violence in Kentucky to roaring rot. As for Goebel, who killed Sanford, he was probably shot by some avenging friend of Sanford's, not a few of whom have been on his trail for years, and some one of whom very likely found a dramatic pleasure in exterminating him, at the apparent climax of his plan to get by fraud what the people had refused to him by vote.

Starvation Stories Disproved.

New York Journal of Commerce.

The census of Cuba raises a doubt as to the accuracy of the estimates of the mortality due to the administration of General Weyler. It seemed to be pretty well established by concurrent testimony that 300,000 or 400,000 people perished among the reconcentrados. The insurrection lasted three years and must have caused a great deal of mortality in the country districts before the reconcentrado order. It was confidently stated a couple of years ago that the population had decreased from a million and a half to less than a million and a quarter. But now the census shows that the population is more than a million and a half, and is within fifty or sixty thousand of what it was in 1887, nine years after the close of the 10-years' war, and eight years before the last insurrection. During those eight years the population may have grown very rapidly, but none of the writers on Cuba supposed it did, for no estimate of the population in 1895 very much exceeded a million and a half. If General Sanger's enumerators have found 1,572,840 people in Cuba the loss of life under the last three years of Spanish rule has been much exaggerated.

My Old Kentucky Home.

Denver Post.

The sun shines bright on my old Kentucky home,
The voters are boozy and gay;
The rye is ripe and the bourbon is in bloom,
And the shotgun makes music all the day.
The stone jug rises to kiss the waiting mouth,
And the upturned eyes gladly play
On the soft blue skies of the sunny, sunny South
In my old Kentucky home far away.

Put on a shirt of mail beneath your Sunday coat,
Wear an armor plate under your vest,
That's the safest way when the nigger goes to vote,
And the white man is there to protest.
Oh, there's gay old times when election comes around,
There's music to liven the day;
The sexton's spade stabs the Dark and Bloody Ground,
In my old Kentucky home far away.

The black smoke pours from the chimney of the still,
The fragrance of corn taints the breeze,
It rises up until the tears of angels spill,
And the man in the moon has to sneeze,
The red juice chines in the bottle on the shelf,
The sunbeams around it at play,
When your throat gets dry pull the cork and help yourself,
In my old Kentucky home far away.

The feud man hides in a corner of the fence,
And waits for a shot at his foe;
That foeman's soul goes a-kiting to the hence,
To the land where they don't shovel snow!
The coroner comes to investigate the death,
And jags up comfortably gay,
And the verdict says that he died from want of breath—
In my old Kentucky home far away.

Weep no more, my lady,
Weep no more today,
For things have changed in my old Kentucky home,
In my old Kentucky home far away.

GOSSIP OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—The Hay-Pauncefote treaty is enveloped in a fog. No one seems to be able to say what will become of it. When first sent to the senate, predictions were freely made, some declaring it would be defeated and others that it would be adopted. This was because all sorts of opinions could be obtained from senators who are usually supposed to have some knowledge of what the senate would do. Their opinions vary from day to day, and but one tangible facts seems to stand out with prominence now, and that is, that the bill for the construction of the canal has been endangered, if not postponed for this session of congress. That seems to be the most serious of all situations. The treaty will lead to extended debate, possibly it will be amended. In that event, time must elapse before the acceptance of Great Britain and the ratification can be exchanged. Under these conditions, congress would wait with the canal bill, and other measures would intervene.

Considerable opposition developes on the republican side because it is feared that the treaty gives the opposition more campaign material, by affording them an opportunity to allege that great concessions have been made to England, and the canal is built for English commerce. The position of many republican papers could be cited in support of this contention. So there is not only the question of doubt on the merits of the treaty, but politics also enter into the matter, which clouds everything still more.

Instead of the canal bill following the financial bill, in the senate, some other measure will now crowd it out. It is considered useless to pass the canal bill until the treaty is disposed of, because it is said the president would not sign it, believing the Clayton-Bulwer treaty is in full effect.

Portland Exposition.

Representative Tongue, after reading the recent editorial in The Oregonian, condemning his suggestion that Portland hold an exposition in 1903, made the following statement in his own defense:

"I have not and do not contemplate introducing a bill to secure an appropriation for such an exposition, and have made no effort in that direction further than to suggest the question for the consideration of the Portland Chamber of Commerce, and offering to take what steps I could in that direction if the leading business men of Portland thought it advisable to do so. An appropriation for the purpose would have no effect upon the appropriation for rivers and harbors. This class of appropriations comes from a different committee, and has been distributed in different sections of the United States. I recognize, as much as any one, the overshadowing importance of improving the water navigation from Portland to the sea to a sufficient depth to accommodate the largest vessels now or likely to be afloat. On that question the Oregon delegation is a unit, and each member will spare no pains to accomplish the desired result."

It is true that Mr. Tongue's position on the river and harbor committee will be very beneficial to the state when river and harbor bills are framed and passed, and to replace him by a new member from the first district would be to relinquish that advantage which the state now holds.

Democratic National Chairmanship.

The democrats are in doubt as to whom they shall select for chairman of their national committee. Jones will probably go out on account of health. Stone, of Missouri, is not wanted. Several other possibilities have been made, the latest being McLean. He is put forward by those who want some one with money to conduct the campaign who will make good all deficiencies.

An effort was made when Bryan was in Washington to get some expression of opinion from him as to whom he would like for his running-mate on the ticket, but he gave no indication whatever. He evidently hopes, with many others, to find some more valuable man than has yet been mentioned. The populist demand for Sulzer, of New York, has given that freakish individual a prominence for the democrat-populist nomination.

There is a general feeling that the administration republicans have about determined that Cornelius Bliss, of New York, is the most available man for McKinley's running-mate.

Classification of Lands.

The commissioner of the general land office has submitted to congress an estimate of an appropriation of $51,000 to complete the examination and classification of certain lands within the limits of the land grant and indemnity land grant to the Northern Pacific Railroad Company. The land lies in the Helena and Missoula land districts of Montana, and the Coeur d'Alene district of Idaho, and is to be examined with special reference to its mineral or nonmineral character. Forty thousand dollars of this amount is for compensation of 12 commissioners, $10,000 for holding hearings, and $1000 for stenographers. The land to be examined is divided up as follows:

	Acres.
In the Coeur d'Alene district	500,000
In the Missoula district	2,000,000
In the Helena district	1,500,000

Wolcott's Campaign Speech.

The speech of Senator Wolcott, delivered today, is clearly intended as the beginning of his effort to seek re-election. Recognizing the fact that Colorado is committed to the silver question, he knows he must throw a sop to silver men in order to stand any show of being returned. Very few people believe that Wolcott has any convictions on the money question, but understand that this speech is his last chance of securing a re-election.

Chandler's speech is not yet understood by anybody, because nobody seems to understand just what Chandler intends to do.

Salem Public Building.

Representative Tongue has been urging the treasury department to hasten work and advertise for proposals for the construction of the Salem public building. The supervising architect has roughly outlined the building, and final plans are now being completed. The building called for is to be three stories, mainly of stone, with brick and terra cotta trimmings. Such a building will require an additional appropriation of $15,000, but it is not anticipated that there will be any trouble in securing this amount, as most every other building authorized by the last congress is now demanding a proportionate increased appropriation.

Improvements at Lemhi.

Senator Shoup today offered an amendment to the Indian bill appropriating $15,000 for the construction of a new schoolhouse, with a girls' dormitory and sitting-room attached, at the Lemhi agency, Idaho.

Ohio's Delegates to Convention.

According to the present arrangement, Senator Hanna is not to be one of the delegates for Ohio to the republican national convention, but the four will be Foraker, Governor Nash, Representative Dick and Colonel Herrick.

Artificial Fruit Coloring.

Chicago Tribune.

Various fruits are colored on the surface or in their substance to suit the fancy of purchasers in France. For example, strawberries that are unripe are given a red color by means of a fuchsine preparation; ordinary oranges of poor quality are made to pass for blood oranges by injecting roceline into their pulp; and melons are rendered of a fine orange color by injecting a solution of troposline, and of the same time aromatized with an artificial melon essence.

A Portable Searchlight.

Chicago Chronicle.

A French officer has invented an acetylene searchlight which can be carried by one man, and which will illuminate everything within a distance of 100 yards. It is expected to be of great use in searching for the wounded after a battle, and in bridge-building at night.