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

PORTLAND, FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 1900

FORECASTS IN POLITICS.

The political outlook is that the Republicans will nominate McKinley and the Democrats will nominate Bryan. Beyond that, it is not altogether clear what will happen.

There is a great deal more dissatisfaction with McKinley in the Republican ranks than there is with Bryan in the Democratic ranks. It is clear that Bryan will receive a great many gold Democratic votes that were denied him in 1896; it is clear that McKinley is not as strong with the masses of the party as he was in 1896, either in New York or New England, where thousands of Gold Democrats and Independents who disliked McKinley voted for him reluctantly because they dreaded Bryan and detested his platform. Among this great body of Gold Democrats and Independents, the prevailing feeling is reported to be one of profound disgust for McKinley's administration. McKinley has tried to carry water on both shoulders in the matter of the tariff, while the prominence of Hanna, his influence at the White House and in Congress, and the feeling that he is virtually President, are reported to have brought McKinley into increasing disrepute with the independent voters of both parties. While McKinley is clearly weaker with the Gold Democrats and Independents than he was in 1896, Bryan will be supported this year by many men who voted for McKinley or Palmer, or did not vote at all, in 1896. There is a visible tendency of former Gold Democrats in the direction of Bryan. The bitterest anti-Bryan papers of the South in 1896, like the Charleston News and Courier, and the Richmond (Va.) Times, declare for Bryan this year. If the Gold Democrats and Independents sustain Bryan in New York, he would be dangerously likely to carry the State. This would be not because they do not dislike Bryan, but because they dislike and distrust McKinley more. Gold Democrats and Independents say that Bryan, even if elected, will be practically powerless to reverse existing financial conditions, and that free silver, while a theoretical calamity, has ceased to be a practical danger for the present. Conservative Gold Democrats and Republican Independents are reported as saying "the interests of the Republic have less to fear from the triumph of what is called Bryanism now than from the continuance four years longer of the government by plutocracy into which we have drifted under McKinley."

Leading Gold Democrats say that, while Cleveland was elected in 1892 on a platform declaring for tariff for revenue only, nevertheless the Democratic Congress refused to enact it, but substituted protection with discrimination. They say also that Bryan elected on a free-silver platform would not mean the enactment of free silver, for the Bryanites cannot possibly hope to control the Senate during the next four years; and, moreover, that if their party were in power, its representatives in Congress would assume a conservative position, and all of them from the business world would vote against silver legislation. Many Republicans also hold that the passage of the gold-standard bill by Congress will eliminate the financial issue from this year's campaign; that if certain tendencies now so prominent be not checked this year, there will be a political revolution in 1904 so violent that its leader would be a worse man than Bryan and ready to proceed to greater lengths of radicalism. These signs of discontent stand for a state of feeling that might lose the Republicans such States as Indiana, Ohio and California. Bryan in 1896 lost no State that was Democratic in 1893, 1894 or 1895, but gained the States of Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Nevada, Colorado, Washington and Wyoming. He reduced the Republican majority in Indiana from 45,000 in 1894 to 18,000 in 1896, and in Ohio from 92,000 in 1895 to 47,000 in 1896. Kansas went Republican by 80,000 in 1895, and yet Bryan carried it by 13,000 in 1896. He came within a few hundred votes of carrying Kentucky and California. He is stronger today in the other States he gained than in 1896; he retains his hold on the affections of the Populists, and, instead of being nominated by a national convention, one-third of whose delegates went home to sulk in their tents or vote for McKinley, he probably will receive a unanimous and enthusiastic nomination.

So Bryan has clearly a better fighting chance than he had in 1896, for he is likely to obtain a very large accession to his strength from the Gold Democrats and Independents who voted for McKinley or Palmer in 1896. Bryan is no longer dreaded as he was in 1896, because his opportunity for mischief has gone by, while a good many McKinley voters of 1896 are not willing to vote him into another opportunity.

It appears, from testimony brought out before the Congressional investigation of the Wardner "bullpen," in which several hundred desperate criminals were confined many weeks last summer, awaiting adjudication of the trouble they had brought about, that these men and their apologists expected to be provided with first-class hotel accommodations during their incarceration. That the outraged citizens of Idaho, for whose protection in life and property these men were restrained of their liberty, did not consider them entitled to special privileges, is, in the circumstances, not strange. If experience demonstrated to these outlaws the simple fact that the "bullpen" was a good place to keep out of, the commonwealth will be the gainer. To the extent that this fact is made clear by the investigation now in progress, it will be of benefit to mineowners and peaceably-disposed miners in the outlying districts of the great West.

TEACHERS' ANNUITY TROUBLES.

The educational authorities of Pennsylvania, and notably those of Philadelphia, have been for several years experimenting with the "teachers' annuity" idea through the administration of a fund raised to carry out the intent suggested by the name. This fund is a composite one, the organization that is behind it receiving State and Municipal aid, as well as membership dues from teachers who desire to become its beneficiaries. But, with all the effort and system involved, the affairs of the association are not in a flourishing condition. On the contrary, those who administer the fund are in a state of constant anxiety and perplexity concerning it. Last year it was found necessary to reduce the amount paid to annuitants from 61 to 51 per cent of the salaries which they had received at retirement from the service. Yet, with this reduction and other economies practiced, the expenditures for the year, according to the last report, were $2327 38 in excess of the income. Specifically, the receipts were $50,023 73, and the expenditures $52,356 11. Of the latter, annuitants received $50,219, while $599 was paid for funeral benefits and $359 was returned to those who ceased to be members.

The explanation of the difficulties encountered in making the income meet the outgo in connection with this fund is found in the indifference or repugnance of teachers toward becoming members of the fund. In some quarters it is said there is a strong antagonism toward it. There are 2500 teachers in Philadelphia who are eligible to membership, and at least 1600 of these withhold their names and support from it, either through indifference or opposition.

"It would seem," says the Public Ledger, "that there must be something radically wrong somewhere when such a large proportion of the public schoolteachers decline to join an organization receiving financial aid from the City and State, which is presumably for their benefit, after they have devoted a certain number of years to continuous service in teaching."

The independent spirit which it is the purpose of American institutions to foster; the self-respecting principle of self-support, which it should be a part of our educational system to encourage and develop, are probably at the root of the difficulties experienced in the administration of the affairs of this organization. In the first place, public school-teachers generally receive fair compensation for their time and services. Where they make teaching a profession and follow it for a long term of years consecutively, there is no reason why they should reach the end of their industrial career penniless or in need of "aid." As a class, teachers are supposed to know something of the principles of political economy as applied to industrial getting and saving, and there does not seem to be any good reason why they should not apply this knowledge to their own affairs. It is in the nature of impertinence to suppose that they cannot do so, and to many, judging from the foregoing figures, in the nature of an insult to suppose they will not. An old age fund, personally administered, or in the form of savings bank deposits, is much more suited to the views of the self-dependent wage-earner than is the community fund made up of membership dues and State and Municipal dole.

Many teachers decline membership in this fund, it is said, on the ground that "the organization is run as if it were a mixed public and private charity," and that applicants for benefits are treated "almost as paupers." The resentful feeling shown in this arraignment of the management of the fund indicates the basis of its unpopularity. No self-respecting wage-earner wants to be, even inferentially, placed in the category with paupers, whose "allowance" is to be doled out to them by "managers." The remedy is in systematic, individual savings from stated salaries sufficient to insure a comfortable living during the years that follow superannuation. This is the safe and general rule, and there is no reason why teachers should be exempt from its operations.

COALING STATIONS FOR OUR NAVY.

A fact which scarcely needed demonstration, but which nevertheless was fully demonstrated in our war with Spain, is that modern war fleets, without an assured and conveniently located coal supply, are as useless as a collection of rafts at sea. Upon the knowledge furnished by this demonstration the Navy Department is preparing in peace, as is seemly, for possible war by arranging for an indefinite number of coal depots. While the old saying that "an army moves on its belly" is true in suggestion of absolute necessity, it is not the less true that a navy is absolutely dependent for efficiency upon a coal supply that can be frequently replenished. A 16-knot speed for battle-ships and a 30-knot gait for torpedo-boats, with the cruiser speed anywhere between the limits, means an enormous coal consumption as a prime requisite in efficiency.

Coal depots for this supply are about to be established by the Government at Frenchman's Bay, Portland, Me.; Portsmouth, N. H.; Boston, New London, Newport, New York, League Island, Chesapeake Bay, Port Royal, Key West and Dry Tortugas, on the Atlantic Coast; at New Orleans, on the Gulf, and at Mission Rock, Cal., on the Pacific Coast. One has already been established at Honolulu, and there is to be one placed immediately at Guam, while already a good supply of coal is in store at Manila.

This enormous demand for coal as an element of warfare is, fortunately, met by an exhaustless supply of American coal and an ever-increasing production. With a series of coaling stations reaching round the world, we shall soon be in a condition to coal our own vessels, no matter with what country we may be at war. The purpose of the Government to leave nothing to chance in this direction is highly commendable, as it shows that the contingency that met our fleet in Pacific waters in the spring of 1898, and which was overcome by the destruction of the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay, will not again confront an American naval commander.

TWO KINDS OF INDUSTRY.

In the United States during the past half-century there has been great change in the relative importance of agriculture and manufactures. Capital in agriculture has quadrupled, and its output has increased one-half in value; but capital in manufacture is six-fold and its product five-fold what it was forty years ago. The fact that manufacture has made so great progress, in comparison to agriculture, has probably been due in a measure to tariff aids; but the prime cause is undoubtedly the great increase in utility that comes from working raw materials into finished product. It represents the difference between skilled and unskilled labor.

Agriculture of the commoner sorts is the support of millions in all continents, and the world-wide competition is keen since modern transport has made every market accessible. Yield is dependent, of course, largely upon the seasons and elements; but when the bounty of nature is largest, the return in money is relatively the lightest. In manufactures there is less competition, and the public has small knowledge of cost of production in any line. It is easier to market wares and merchandise at a good profit than agricultural staples, whose widespread production makes their cost a matter of general knowledge. Good price of manufactured articles does not bring quick competition, because the general public know nothing of the profits, and could not become prompt competitors if they did know; but high price of agricultural staples at once attracts the attention of millions in both hemispheres, and there is quick productive competition.

Metals may be cheap; but skill and knowledge will soon transmute them into articles of value. For example, a dollar's worth of steel may quickly be wrought into twenty times its value in cutlery or a hundred times its value in watchsprings; and a few cents' worth of wool or cotton may readily be changed into a dollar's worth of fabrics. But wheat, corn, oats, etc., may not be so greatly increased in value by change into other food forms. The farmer is face to face with a condition, and no theory of cheap money or crafty legislation can aid him. The manufacturer occupies a preferable position, and the agriculturist has cause to complain when tariffs are framed to benefit industries that long ago passed the "infant" stage.

Tables of increase of capital and output show clearly the astonishing progress of manufacturing industry, and when the census of 1900 is completed there can be small doubt that greater disparity will appear against the agriculturist. In 1850 the capital in manufactures was but $533,245,000, against $3,967,343,000 in agriculture, while the product was $1,019,106,000 for the former and $1,326,690,000 for the latter; but by 1890, though capital in agriculture had risen to $15,982,267,000 and in manufactures to $6,139,397,000, the output of the farms was but $2,460,107,000 against $9,056,764,000 for the factories. Making allowance for the fact that farm capital in many places is nominal rather than actual, and that much of its increase is due to development of the country by construction of transportation lines, yet it is apparent that the manufacturers of the country are getting ahead much faster than the farmers.

CONSULAR REFORM SHELVED.

By shelving all the projects for placing the consular service of the country on a basis of efficiency, the House committee on foreign affairs has apparently made an urgently needed reform impossible during the present session. This action, in view of the tremendous trade expansion of the country, is inexplicable. While the exports of the United States were limited in variety to a few of the great staples which other nations had to purchase in order to live, the business unfitness of numerous Consuls who had been appointed to liquidate political obligations, though sufficiently apparent, was not broadly mischievous. But, now that American manufactures are invading foreign markets in constantly increasing variety and volume, the demand for competent, active business representatives abroad has become imperative.

As frequently shown, the excellence of her consular system has been a potent factor in enabling Great Britain to open and control profitable markets all over the world. The only objection against following her example in this direction comes, indirectly at least, from the spoils-hunting politicians. The United States should possess a trained and efficient body of Consuls—men selected for fitness and retained in the service as long as they perform their duties satisfactorily. The need is pressing. But Congress seems to be unwilling to surrender for the sake of the general good the chance to reward and pension political parasites whom a discredited policy has thrown upon its hands. In other words, it prefers patronage and its privileges and possibilities to the public interests.

The Boers have not only evacuated Natal, but have evacuated Colesberg, which is but twelve miles from Norval's Pont, the bridge where the main line of railway from the sea base of Port Elizabeth in Cape Colony to Bloemfontein crosses the Orange River. With this bridge rebuilt, it would be easy for General Gatacre's forces to advance to Bloemfontein, distant about 120 miles, rebuilding the railway, if it has been destroyed; and with the bridge at Bethulie rebuilt, there would soon be railway communication with the seaport of East London. It is not believed, however, that the Boers will concentrate for defense at Bloemfontein, but will occupy a new field of defense from Harrismith to Winburg and the line of the Vet River. There is no lack of strong positions for defense from the line of the Vet River North to Kroonstad. It will be so easy for the Boers impregnably to fortify the passes through the Drakensberg Mountains into the Orange Free State that it is not likely General Buller will attempt to force them; but the Boers' new line of defense could, of course, be turned in the last resort by an advance from Mafeking, when railway communication with Kimberley is restored. A strong party of mounted men and light horse batteries could smash the enemy's railway communications, while the main infantry column pushed direct for Pretoria. Such a movement would be difficult from the dry, barren nature of the country, but it would turn any intrenched line of defense on the Vet or Vaal River. It is not more than 150 miles from Mafeking to Pretoria, and a military railway could be rapidly built behind the army to supply it, as Kitchener did in the Soudan.

Typhoid fever has again become epidemic in Philadelphia, the result of the annual freshet in the Schuylkill River, from which the city water supply is obtained. This water is described as first brown from the washings of clay, and then black from coal dust, and loaded with organic matter to an extent that defies filtration as a purifying process. Bull Run water never looks so clear or tastes so sweet as when the faucet is turned for a drink wherewith to clear the cobwebs of disgust from the throat that are formed from contemplating the filthy water supply of other cities. It is inexplicable that Philadelphia, the center of sanitary science in this country, continues to fight typhoid that is engendered by an impure water supply year after year, on any other basis than a demand for abolishment of the cause.

The armor-plate for the Russian battle-ship Retvizan, now being built in this country, was tested at the Indian Head trial grounds recently. It showed a power of resistance which practically defied projectiles, and demonstrated the superiority of armor of the Krupp form made in America over any former product. Five-inch projectiles with a striking velocity of more than 2000 feet per second failed to penetrate more than two inches in a five-inch plate; the projectiles were broken to pieces, while the plate was not cracked. Armor, as it appears from this test, seems to be getting the better of guns in the endless contest that is being waged between the two, and American armor-plate heads the list.

While there is something very human in the exultation of the British soldiers as represented in calling the day of Cronje's surrender "Majuba Day," it ill becomes victors to exult over the vanquished in a taunting spirit. Still, war being a human effort, fed by human passions, it is not to be expected that it will develop the graces of forbearance and generosity toward a vanquished foe. Humanity has much to congratulate itself upon, however, in that the wounded of contending forces receive alike generous care from the victors; that the flag of the Red Cross is everywhere respected, and that treachery under a flag of truce belongs to the history of savage warfare.

The unusually poor quality of potatoes raised last year in many portions of the Willamette Valley demonstrated the necessity of procuring new stock for seed. Grown upon the same soil for many years, the necessity of "new blood" makes itself apparent by deterioration of the product, both in productiveness and quality. It is gratifying to note that intelligent farmers have recognized this fact in regard to the potato crop, and are shipping in large quantities of potatoes from other portions of the country for seed, thus insuring a return to standard quality of this important agricultural product.

Great Britain makes war in earnest. It is officially announced that during the present month thirty-eight ships, carrying 38,800 men for reinforcement of Lord Roberts in South Africa, will sail from England, and during next month 17,800 men will be ready, for whom ships have not yet been secured. Thus the effective British forces in South Africa will be maintained at a total of not less than 200,000 men. And more will be put in, if needed. This job is to be done so effectively and thoroughly that it will never have to be done again. The short way to permanent peace is through vigorous war.

Questions of all sorts come to The Oregonian, and many have to be given private answer. Of late, a surprisingly large number are from persons who do not furnish names as a guarantee of good faith, but content themselves with the signature "Reader," or "Subscriber," and whose questions relate to matters that are not of public interest. It is becoming burdensome to handle this branch of newspaper work, and The Oregonian will say again that not only does it want the names of correspondents, but it desires questions to be confined as closely as possible to matters of general concern.

Last week, in New York, at an anti-trust meeting, one of the speakers was vigorously applauded when he asserted that "the sole purpose of the Government ought to be to maintain justice, and it has no right to grant corporate power to anybody." Here is confusion that is common. In fact, the Government grants no corporate powers. The corporations are formed under State laws. The main reason why it is difficult to deal with trusts is found in the fact that a multitude of States must be reckoned with, instead of the Government.

An interesting squabble is on in Greater New York. Representatives of the Brooklyn League declare that Manhattan is escaping taxation on at least $200,000,000, which should be listed before there will be equalization of assessments. Brooklynites say their property is assessed at 70 per cent of its value, while Manhattan pays on but 60 per cent of its value, and they are agitating to have the injustice corrected. The troubles over assessment and taxation never cease.

"PLAIN DUTY."

President Ought to Speak Out on the Puerto Rican Bill.

New York Times.

It is impossible that the President should not be affected by the appeals which are coming to him from every quarter of the country to declare himself upon the present state of the question of the Puerto Rican tariff. He is particularly sensitive to authoritative expressions of public opinion, and it is a good thing for him and for us that he is so. He has managed better by waiting to find out what the country thought at several critical stages of the questions growing out of the Spanish war than anybody could have done by consulting no judgment but his own.

Now it is a very serious situation which confronts him, serious in a party as well as in a public sense. He has declared that it is "our plain duty" to take down the tariff wall between ourselves and Puerto Rico. The committee on ways and means prepared a bill in accordance with this recommendation. It afterward altered the bill to make it a measure for extracting from the commerce between Puerto Rico and the United States one-fourth of the rates charged upon foreign commerce. Under what influence this change was made we cannot know, though we may shrewdly guess. Certainly it was not on account of any new light upon the interests or the wishes of the Puerto Ricans or the "plain duty" of the United States.

This change has wrought a formidable revolt in the Republican party, a revolt which is likely to grow not less, but more formidable, as members hear from their constituents and learn that the people regard the substitute proposed for the doing of "our plain duty" as a cowardly and cruel evasion of that duty. The President has been quoted and has allowed himself to be quoted on both sides of the question. What is needed is an authentic declaration from him as to where he stands now upon the question upon which he took so firm a stand at the beginning of the session. The men and journals who are appealing to him for such a declaration are not trying to put him in a dilemma. They are not his enemies. They would like to be his supporters if he would permit them to be so. If he has changed his mind about "our plain duty," the people have a right to his reasons. If he has not changed it, it is a "plain duty" he owes to his party, as well as to his country, to say that. Nothing could do more to encourage the men who are fighting for humanity, decency and good faith in Congress than such a declaration. Nothing could do so much to heal the formidable and growing schism in the Republican party.

A LEAF FROM HISTORY.

Hon. Thomas H. Tongue and His "Soundness" on Money Question.

Several individuals and some newspapers have been making spiteful thrusts at The Oregonian because it made a statement some time ago that Hon. T. H. Tongue, among others, had not in former times been "sound" on the money question. The Oregonian will revile not in turn, but will content itself by reprinting the following letter sent to it by Mr. Tongue:

Hillsboro, Or., Nov. 3, 1894.—(To the Editor.)—I have read with some care your editorials in today's Oregonian, as well as the one of a few days ago, in which you depict the terrible consequences of either the free coinage of silver or coinage of the product of our own mines. It is to be inferred from these articles that The Oregonian favors the present coinage laws of the United States, and is ready to wield its powerful influence in favor of their continuance. Let us look at those laws squarely, and see what they are and where they are leading us. Heretofore our silver mines have been a vast source of wealth; they have furnished employment to thousands of men, who became consumers of the products of the labor of others, and have furnished a good share of the increased circulation needed by a constantly expanding population to do its increasing business. Nearly all of this has been overthrown by legislation in the last year. We have reached a condition unknown to our previous history. Our silver mines are absolutely worthless to us as producers of money metal. If run to their full capacity, not one ounce of their products could pass through the mints of the United States, or get into circulation among our citizens as money. Not a dollar of additional silver can get into circulation as money, except by redeeming a treasury note. When the silver is got out the treasury note is redeemed and destroyed, and the circulation remains the same. A vast amount of silver money is lost and destroyed every year by abrasion and by accident, and there is no way to supply the loss. Constantly increasing population demands increased silver circulation, and the demand is ignored. On the contrary, as the population increases, the silver coin, by abrasion and destruction, constantly decreases. This will lead inevitably, if long continued, to gold monometallism. With tariff laws designed to increase our imports, while exports are diminishing enormously in value, the products of our gold mines, inadequate even to pay the interest on our public, private and corporate indebtedness to Europe, what will be the end? And where will the supply of money be obtained?

A continuance of this legislation means constant contraction. Scarce money means dear money, with increased purchasing power; it means a decrease in the price of every other species of property, real and personal, in the country, and in the city; it means decrease in the wages of all classes of labor, skilled and unskilled, manual and professional. But worst of all it means an enormous increase in indebtedness of every class, public and private, with diminished power to pay. It means confiscation of the property of the debtor, for the benefit of the creditor. It will make the United States a paradise to the class of people who are exclusive creditors, but it will make it a hell for everybody else. Even the most generous and less exacting creditors will suffer with the rest. Having loaned his money on property with only a fair margin at old-time values, when the power of the debtor to pay is taken away, he finds himself compelled to take property robbed of its value. That it would be downright dishonesty to legislate to enable the debtor to repudiate just financial obligations, is not disputed, but it is equally dishonest, and productive of much more hardship, to increase by legislation the obligations and burdens of the debtor for the benefit of the creditor. It is easy of comprehension why England, the creditor Nation of the world, should favor contraction of the world's money and a limitation of money metal. Having no silver mines of her own, and being a purchaser of both silver and food products, it is equally easy of comprehension why she should use every effort of diplomacy and legislation to diminish the value of both; but why the United States, a debtor Nation, with extensive silver and vast stores of food products to sell, should voluntarily assist in carrying out the same policy, and diminish the value of her own resources, "passeth understanding." Unfortunately for the welfare of the country, it contains too many people who, surrounded by huge blocks of well-secured, interest-bearing obligations, are interested in legislation that makes money dear, and everything else cheap; who, not engaged in productive industries themselves, are anxious to secure the product of the toil of others at the least possible outlay. Unfortunately, also, in these "evil days" that have befallen us, these men are powerful in taking lessons of a hard schoolmaster, and are acquiring some valuable experience. This is about the only valuable thing we are acquiring. When the change comes, and when the American producers supply the American markets; when we cease to buy of Europe what we can buy of ourselves, the same beneficial legislation that brings about this result, applied to our silver mines, will make of them hives of industry, fill them with an army of men, who will purchase supplies at fair prices from men who are now standing idle, while their families are hungry. As business and population expand, our monetary needs will be constantly supplied from silver mines on American soil, owned by American citizens, worked by American miners, who in turn supply their needs from the production of other American workmen. How this result, if accomplished, placing in circulation the entire product of our silver mines, not needed for other uses, and will not exceed probably 50 cents per capita, will disturb business or commerce or prove detrimental to our financial system, I am at a loss to see.

In this contest it is greatly to be regretted that The Oregonian, right upon so many questions, should, in the opinion of many of its stanchest friends, be wrong upon this, should throw the weight of its vast influence upon the hand that, while oppressing other people, bears with equal hardship upon the proprietors of The Oregonian. The heart of the editor is generally in the right place and sympathizes with those who are wronged and oppressed, and it ought to be so in this matter. With The Oregonian on the right side of this question, the entire West would present a solid front against those who are doing us financial wrong and laying weary burdens upon those least able to bear them.

THOMAS H. TONGUE.

A Guileless Chinee.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The Chinese Minister, Mr. Wu, has established a reputation for humor so bright that at times his American auditors hardly know where to draw the line on his utterances. At a recent dinner the Minister found himself in company with William J. Bryan. When he began to talk he said he felt he had better be discreet, because there was a gentleman present who, he understood, might occupy the White House some time, and might be in a position to hand him his passports if he said something distasteful.

"However," continued the Minister, with that guileless air which distinguishes his race, "it is altogether probable that I shall have to leave Washington before he is President." And the Minister's auditors are still wondering whether Mr. Wu was thinking of the practice of frequent changes in the Chinese diplomatic service, or was venturing an opinion that Mr. Bryan's chances were not to be taken seriously.

FRUITS OF GOOD GENERALSHIP.

The relief of Ladysmith, accomplished yesterday, is as much due to the fine military skill of Lord Roberts as the relief of Kimberley and the impending evacuation by the Boers of their line of defense along the Orange River from Colesberg Junction and Norval's Pont to Aliwal North. The capture of General Cronje is a mere incident of the campaign. The severity of the stroke executed by Lord Roberts is illustrated by the fact that the same blow which by turning Cronje's position relieved Kimberley forced the Boers to evacuate Natal and their occupation of North Cape Colony along the line of the Orange River.

The siege of Kimberley began October 12; the siege of Ladysmith began October 29. As early as the middle of November General Methuen started for Kimberley, won a bloody victory at Modder River November 28, but was decisively repulsed at Magersfontein December 10 and 11. General Gatacre the same week was repulsed with severe loss near Stormberg Junction, and on December 15 General Buller was severely defeated near Colenso. This succession of defeats resulted in the dispatch of Lord Roberts to the Cape, with General Kitchener as chief of staff.

General Buller was not to blame for the fatal blunder of Sir George White in allowing his men to be cooped up in Ladysmith, for the blunder was committed before Buller landed at Cape Town, but Buller, unfortunately for his historical fame, abandoned his original campaign through the Orange Free State, under the influence of Sir Alfred Milner. When the British reinforcements began to arrive November 6, General Buller should have left Ladysmith to look out for itself, should have massed his reinforcements and at once proceeded to turn the Boer position in the Orange Free State, just as Lord Roberts has done. Instead of sending 35,000 men to Natal to waste themselves in a fruitless attempt to relieve Ladysmith, his original plan of campaign should have been followed out. In that event he would have saved all the fine troops wasted in Methuen's and Gatacre's advance, and would have saved the 5000 men he has lost in getting into Ladysmith since the first week of December. Buller only gets into Ladysmith today because Lord Roberts' stroke has forced the Boers to let go of Natal. The battle which Buller fought on the Tugela to no purpose with 35,000 men December 15 he ought to have fought with success in the Orange Free State with 50,000 men by the middle of that month. He would have relieved Natal and Ladysmith as promptly as Lord Roberts has done, if, like Lord Roberts, he had massed his forces and turned the enemy's position in the Orange Free State, as he could have done by the middle of December if he had not been persuaded to attempt the relief of Ladysmith by facing the entrenched line of the Tugela.

An able English soldier, Major-General Bengough, printed in a recent number of the Broad Arrow that it was political, not strictly military, considerations which led the British to hold and to attempt to relieve Ladysmith. It was a great military blunder originally to attempt to hold Ladysmith, and it was another military blunder to attempt to relieve Ladysmith, except as Lord Roberts has relieved it. Had Buller fought on correct military principles he would have relieved Ladysmith the first or second week of December, by massing his army, then some 60,000 strong, and invading the Orange Free State. But he divided his army by sending 35,000 men to the Tugela, where they were as utterly useless as if they had remained on shipboard, and the 20,000 he divided up between Methuen, Gatacre and French were too weak to make any diversion from the Boer army in Natal to the defense of the Orange Free State. General Buller is today in Ladysmith only because Lord Roberts, by his invasion of Orange Free State, forced the Boers to evacuate Natal. But for the action of Roberts, General Buller probably never could have reached Ladysmith. White's capitulation, followed by Buller's decisive defeat, could not have been avoided but for Lord Roberts' invasion of the Orange Free State.

Bonded Indebtedness.

LEBANON, Or., Feb. 27.—(To the Editor.)—Will you please state through the columns of your paper the amount of the bonded indebtedness of the United States and the date of its maturity? M. A. MILLER.

The bonded debt December 1, 1899, was $1,037,049,690, maturing all the way from the present up to 1925. The Treasury Department will forward circular statement on application, or fuller information may be had from any of the standard almanacs. Does Mr. Miller intend to pay off the debt or invest in gold bonds?

Lest the "Antis" Forget.

New York Tribune.

The anti-imperialists can resolve till the cows come home about violating the principles on which our Government rests. But the Constitution as interpreted by the Supreme Court is the basis of our Government, and not the notions of any number of cranks.

Dictionaries.

HILLSBORO, March 1.—(To the Editor.)—Which is considered standard dictionary, Webster's Standard or Century? and which is most used? A. S.

It is hard to say which is most used. Either is accepted as authority.

Stumped.

Chicago Times-Herald.

He—I can trace my ancestry back through nine generations.

She—What else can you do?

Then he blinked and looked at her as if he wondered where he was and how far he had dropped.

Like for Like.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Of course, it will be a mistake if that Hahnemann statue at Washington isn't supported by little pillars.

Peculiar Thing About Cutting.

Detroit Journal.

It sometimes happens that particular people cut a man unless a particular tailor cuts his clothes.

The Silent Hero.

Catholic Standard and Times.

We have heard in song and story
Of the man behind the gun,
And we all concede the glory
Of the wonders he has done.
It's a very noble calling
To arise with gun in hand,
While the men like leaves are falling,
For the honor of the land.
But remember, there's the glory,
When the battle has been won,
To be praised in song and story,
As "the man behind the gun."

There's another sort of hero,
And of him the poet's pen
Never writeth. He's but zero,
In the book of "Noble Men."
Not for gallant deeds in war meant,
Yet, with temper in command,
He must suffer mental torment
Nor not so much as raise his hand.
Though his enemies should blind him,
He must let it go at that,
In the theater you'll find him—
He's "the man behind the hat."

NOTE AND COMMENT.

In the meantime we are getting along fairly well without Aguinaldo.

The conduct of the Canadians who were with Roberts was not such as to encourage that Fenian invasion.

Roberts might as well take a rest now, for it will be impossible to celebrate any more victories till after Easter Sunday.

Bryan may be sadly in need of the blue-room in the White House after November, but the country cannot afford to send him there.

No, Lucille, it is not true that orange blossoms should not be worn on March 17. But be a little careful whom you invite to the wedding.

March came like an innocent lamb,
And that is the reason I amb
Prepared to believe
It has claws up its sleeve,
And its end will be not worth a damb.

If Roberts had been only an ordinary human being, the first thing he said to Cronje would have been: "How do you pronounce your name?"

Winds a-blowin' soft and sweet
Like a breath o' May,
Folks a-throngin' on the street
All the blessed day,
Sun a-shinin' brightly down
From the sky's blue arch,
Portland was a lucky town
On the first o' March.

A Philadelphian notes that a layer of snow over the country saves thousands of dollars to the people by the saving of gas. Snow is so powerful a reflector that one can see to read at least a half-hour longer on account of it, and thus about 15 cents' worth of gas is saved each evening.

In one English home, at least, the progress of the campaign must be watched with somewhat divided feelings. The head of the household, a hale old farmer, has four sons engaged with the armies—two on the side of the British and two on the side of the Boers. The farmer himself prays for the success of the British arms.

In the laundry of an insane asylum at Pontiac, Mich., electric irons, instead of gas irons, have proved to be peculiarly adapted for insane asylum service, where most of the work is done by the patients. There is no chance of their setting anything on fire with the irons, and as they are kept at an even temperature, they do not require the exercise of judgment in changing them.

Governor Roosevelt, at a dinner of the Harvard Club, in New York, on Washington's birthday, made this remark, probably having in mind the treatment given his efforts at good administration by the yellow journals: "I don't want to preach, but if I did I would refer to the Eighth and Ninth Commandments. The first applies to politicians, and the other to the critics of politicians. The second class may not be more noxious than the first, but they are even meaner."

A Kentucky lawyer, Samuel Harris, was given a "remitted fine" in Cincinnati on February 23 on the charge of carrying concealed weapons. The Police Justice lectured him from the bench, as follows: "All of you Kentuckians when you come to Cincinnati insist upon carrying revolvers. You do not know how to use a gun. You either kill the wrong man or shoot yourselves in the feet. Brave men and fine women are supposed to come from Kentucky. Where are your brave men? Nine out of ten of your people killed are shot from behind, through a window, or while somebody is holding them. Kentucky may slaughter her innocents, but she can't slaughter them in Cincinnati."

Beckham, of Kentucky.

Louisville Courier-Journal.

J. C. W. Beckham, who claims to be the de jure Governor of Kentucky, comes of one of the oldest families in Kentucky. His father was William N. Beckham, of Nelson County, and his mother is the daughter of ex-Governor Robert C. Wickliffe, of Louisiana. On the first day he was eligible to hold the office he was nominated by the Democracy of Nelson to represent it in the House of Representatives, where he had years before served as a page. Though the youngest member of that body, his voice was often heard in its counsels. He declined to stand for re-election, and was succeeded by the late Isaac Wilson, who died at Frankfort during the memorable Blackburn-Hunter Senatorial race. He was elected to fill out the unexpired term, and stood by Blackburn during that heated contest. He was re-elected to that body at the last session, and was made its presiding officer, being the nominee of the Democratic caucus without opposition.

Respect for Foreign Flags.

New York Tribune.

The schoolboys who pelted the flag on the British Consulate at Chicago should be treated to some sound spankings. One of the best lessons in patriotism that any boy can receive is the lesson of treating foreigners and their flags with respect, and not thinking his own flag one to be honored by rowdyism.

Suits and Damages.

Philadelphia Record.

Tailor—I brought you this suit six months ago, and you haven't paid me a cent.

Harduppe—But it didn't suit; it was damaged.

Tailor—I'm afraid I shall have to bring another suit for damages.

The Golden Rule in Texas.

Galveston News.

When men learn to do unto others as they would have others do unto them, horsetrading will have become one of the lost arts.

A Song of Money.

Frank L. Stanton in Atlanta Constitution.

I.

It jingled, it jingled, it warmed the cold palms
Of a miser; A man singing penitent psalms
In sackcloth and ashes—bowed down to the sod,
Heard the chime of the dollars, and smiled, and thanked God.

II.

It jingled, it tingled—it flashed through the night
To a beggar who knelt near a mansion of light;
And he said: "I shall win her if life will but hold!"
And he climbed to the heart on a ladder of gold.

III.

It jingled, it tingled! A man heard the sound,
And over him gathered the darkness profound.
And he said: "There is never a God that will note."
And he strangled the life in a sleeping man's throat.

IV.

It jingled, it tingled. A woman made wild
Hushed on her mad bosom the cries of a child;
And she said: "How the black night falls hateful and cold—
And the wolf at the door would have virtue for gold."

V.

O world, with thy splendors, thy hopes and thy fears—
Thy plenty of charity—plenty of tears,
We know there's a rainbow for every dark sky—
We know there's a love that no money can buy:
But under the rainbow what love may be lost
While the tradesmen still cavil and cast up the cost!
It's jingle and tingle in rags and in lace,
And we kneel and thank God for the light of His face.