

The Oregonian.

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ADVERTISING RATES. The Oregonian does not buy poems or stories from individuals, and cannot undertake to return any manuscript sent to it without solicitation.

TODAY'S WEATHER—Occasional rain; high about 50; low about 40.

PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

OUR OWN COLONIAL HISTORY.

Taxation of our new "colonial" possessions brings us back to the review of the causes of the revolt in America against the system of taxation employed by the British Ministry in our own colonial days.

This lesson in the historical progress of the constitution of a nation is brought out with great clearness by Hon. Hannis Taylor in the introduction to his volumes on "The Origin and Growth of the English Constitution."

The English colonies in America had been established through royal charters and the "articles of direct legislative control to which all the colonies were subjected, in the form of ordinances or instructions from their government, emanated from the royal power of the King in council.

The Oregonian has taken no part in the administration of the Sub-treasury by Secretary Gage; and it does not now propose to do so. It has full sympathy with the reformers who urge abolition of the Subtreasury system, and no sympathy whatever with the demagogic assailants of the Administration.

NO SERIOUS LOSS OF PRESTIGE. The pro-Boer journals pretend to believe that Great Britain has lost prestige as no power has lost it since France was overwhelmed at Sedan.

DEPOSIT OF TREASURY FUNDS.

The Forum consistently sustains, in its March number, the role of defender to the McKinley Administration. The specific task this month falls to the Director of the Mint, Mr. George E. Roberts, who acquires himself well of an assignment to vindicate Secretary Gage's deposit of treasury funds in New York banks.

No very thorough financial education is necessary to understand that unlimited accumulation of Government funds in various forms of currency will tend to contraction of the circulation and threaten if it does not precipitate grave commercial disaster. This was foreseen by Daniel Webster as early as 1825, and is being demonstrated by the proposed Subtreasury, offered as a substitute for the United States Bank President Jackson destroyed, he said:

The very first provision of the bill is in general character with the general objects and the general character. It shows all the sentiments of civilization and of humanity, and confidence, and carries us back to the Dark Ages. The first that we hear of is of safe vaults and cells and closets. From an intellectual point of view, it is a measure of the lowest order of civilization.

What Mr. Webster foresaw, of course was that whenever circumstances so combined as to accumulate large sums in the Subtreasury, thus withdrawn from circulation, the currency supply of the country would be impaired and the only way the banks could raise money would be to force payment of loans with consequent inconvenience to business and impairment of confidence. This, in fact, happened; and it was given to Mr. Webster himself, eight years later, to depict the fulfillment of his prophecy, which he did in these words:

This is precisely the undesirable situation that has prevailed in the United States for months past, and that would have been disastrous had not Secretary Gage availed himself of authority granted in 1861 and more fully in 1864. Secretaries Sherman, Folger, Fairchild and Windom, under whose administration a surplus was accumulated in the Treasury, had this same difficulty, and encountered the same fierce criticism.

The remedy for the difficulty is conceived by Mr. Roberts, and by currency reformers generally, to be the free deposit of Government funds in banks, where its deposits and checks will come and go just as those of business firms come and go without disturbing the current supply of the country.

THE DOOM OF THE SAILER. The doom of the sailing vessel, which has been so often pronounced since England commenced selling her fleet of sailers and investing in steam, is apparently yet some distance in the future. The charter of the British bark Glenard for the round trip—Antwerp to Puget Sound and return, at 50 shillings—would have been considered good business in the ordinary days of sailing.

than anything that appears in it, because it is intended also as a precedent for the Philippine Islands.

to the sugar and tobacco trusts, instead of going through the expensive circumlocution of paying the duty on the sugar and tobacco in order that they may pay it back in duties imposed for the benefit of the trusts?

The very complete report of the business of the Albany creamery, presented yesterday morning, leaves hardly a word to be said in favor of that industry for Oregon. Not only is the profit of the creamery business clearly shown, but it is with equal clearness shown that in Oregon the profits are materially larger than in Minnesota.

A Linn County Grange undertakes to say that the adverse report of government experts on the proposed improvement of Yaquina Bay was due to Fortian influence. This is a serious charge, and it is not to be made without evidence at hand to support it.

THE GOLD STANDARD IN JAPAN. By S. Uchida, Japanese Consul at New York. The latest issue of "Sound Currency" has a copy of the report of the Sound Currency Committee, 52 William street, New York City.

THE ACTION OF THE HOUSE ON THE PUERTO RICAN BUSINESS. The House of Representatives yesterday passed a bill to repeal the duty on printing paper, and the material of which it is made. It is very well; but there are about forty more big trusts that have helped through protective tariff and should be dealt with in the same way.

THE WRONG SIDE OF THE QUESTION. Puerto Rico belongs to the United States, and it is so vitally important to the national future that it should be treated as part of the United States that no Congressman can afford to publicly record his vote on the wrong side of this great American question.

LEGAL BARS TO LOQUACITY. The Limits in Various States to the Length of Legislative Sessions.

What the five-minute rule, restricting to that period the speech of a member of a deliberative body, is to parliamentary procedure the session limit established by law is to assemblies empowered to adopt "statutes," "resolutions" or "ordinances," as they are variously called in the different states.

THE VERMONT LEGISLATURE. The Vermont Legislature is composed of 26 members, and should its sessions be prolonged unduly, the cost to the people of that economically administered state would be heavy.

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DEPEW'S BROAD VIEWS. The fears daily expressed by Senators of disarray consequent to a sweeping reorganization of the industries of these islands have no justification in the long experience of other nations.

to the 500-tail claim Yankees from the obscuring rather than the connecting of that if the new possessions are to be made so by industrial and commercial development.

BRIEF ESSAYS ON MOBILITY. "Mobility of character," as a friendly Oregon newspaper recently described his ability to accommodate himself to circumstances, may enable him to sign a bill directly in conflict with his recommendations to Congress.

IT WAS ADMIRABLE. Such is a hasty but fair summary of the opinions Mr. Olney advances in his article in the Atlantic Monthly for March. We are sure that no one can read it, no matter whether he agrees with Mr. Olney or not, without increased admiration for the energetic intellect and character of this interesting Statesman, patriot and expansionist.

MAY SOON HAVE REVOLT ON OUR HANDS. The way to make the people prosperous, happy and loyal to the United States Government is to untie their hands and give them free access to our markets.

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NOTE AND COMMENT. Kentuckians are arming as actively as if they had just held a peace conference.

Perhaps the Senate will allow Clark, as a badge of his wealth, to write X before his title.

They are having a white March in the East, and yet no one has accused it of coming in like a lamb.

A commercial traveler in the agricultural implement line, who has just made a tour of the Willamette Valley, reports the farmers generally as very much discouraged.

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