

The Oregonian

Entered at the Postoffice at Portland, Oregon, as second-class matter. TELEPHONE ROOMS... REVISED SUBSCRIPTION RATES...

Nek. The passes from Natal into the Orange Free State and the Transvaal will naturally be held stiffly by the Boers to prevent a junction between the forces of Lord Roberts and General Buller...

The right of this line will rest on the Vaal River, near Klerksdorp, and the left in the mountains of Natal. The railway bridges destroyed between Bloemfontein and Kromstadt can probably be easily restored...

PROFITING BY REPUBLICAN MISTAKES.

The Bryan platform adopted at dictation of the Boy Orator of the Platitudes, by the Nebraska Democracy, proves that the enemy have been prompt to profit by the mistakes of the Republicans...

ON A SMALL SUBJECT.

McBride's Postmaster at Albany, who edits a paper called the Herald, does what he can from week to week for his pocket and boss...

But, having tarried thus long with this antic, The Oregonian will squander just a little more time on it now; for probably it never will notice it again. This eminent pundit, who is interested in the eminent Senator who secured him the appointment...

Some degree of knowledge is presupposed and required by the laws of this state in those who would enter certain professions and practice those professions within the state's borders. Since some intelligence and knowledge are required in law, dentistry and medicine...

THE RETREAT OF THE BOERS.

The announcement of the retreat of the Boers to the north after blowing up the railway bridges on the Modder, Vet, Zand and Vaal Rivers, is not unexpected, for the intrenchment of the Boers at Biggarsberg, in Natal, and the intrenchment of Vereeniging, just north of Willem's Drift, on the Vaal River...

The Boers have not men enough to defend both the Orange Free State and the Transvaal, so they have wisely concentrated their forces for the defense of the Transvaal. Kromstadt, from which the Boers have just retreated, is just 150 miles in a direct line south from Pretoria...

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were mere statements, while Bryan is the peripatetic "Boy Orator of the Platitudes."

THE LATEST MCKINLEY COMMISSION.

The bill providing for the appointment of a commission to study commercial and economic conditions in the Orient is now before both houses of Congress. Both committees to whom it has been referred have reported favorably upon it...

The most ludicrous thing yet is the appointment of "Archie" Johnson, of Ohio, to be bank examiner. Johnson is one of McBride's discoveries. Possibly he might be fit for something, but not for bank examiner. He would be quite as fit for a position in the Naval Observatory...

The English War Office recently notified the last of the militia to be ready by May 1, and the reserves, which England has summoned, actually mobilized, will be May number about 300,000 men...

Half-Moon Bay, near San Francisco, has claimed another victim from the sea, the British ship City of Florence sinking in a fog last night. From first reports received it is apparent that no lives were lost...

It is to be regretted that the House tabled the resolution to inquire what fortifications Great Britain is constructing and completing along the Northern frontier of the United States...

The knowledge we now possess regarding this trade has been secured from men who have spent years in the particular field for which they were trained and no roving band of commissioners wandering from place to place in the Orient can learn as much as is already known in this country regarding Oriental trade...

A MOST INOPPORTUNE CONFLICT. Nothing could be more unfortunate at this juncture, both as regards the season of the year and the constantly increasing opportunities, than a disagreement between the labor and capital of a nature so serious as to induce a strike involving 100,000 workmen and industrial plants representing an aggregate value of many millions of dollars...

The remarkable work done by Adjutant-General Gantenben on behalf of the state certainly entitles him to high praise. The difficulties of overcoming the adverse influences and determination of official Washington are great, and the Adjutant-General's success is attributable to his service in the Philippines, his good address, and his knowledge of National Guard matters...

Senator Simon has the Puerto Rico business by the right handle; and approval of his course by the Chamber of Commerce of Portland is the right thing. On this subject opinion in Oregon is practically unanimous. In contending for free trade with Puerto Rico, Senator Simon is contending for conditions favorable to growth of commerce across the Pacific. In no other subject have our Pacific States so deep an interest.

wonder that the trade of the island languishes? Compared to the vast area of the United States of America, the island of Puerto Rico is a mere dot on the map. Yet, although by all right her political protector, some of the statesmen who are in the helm of affairs in Washington seem indisposed to render the slightest relief...

OUR CHEAP STATESMEN.

The opposition to the Hay-Pauncefote treaty has become a national disgrace. It has never advanced an argument that was not an affront to the intelligence of those who have to listen to them, and its appeals to the American people are made in the familiar, old-fashioned, lowest demagogues in our politics. We have already expressed the belief that this opposition was in part as dishonest as it is ignorant...

But a more potent influence than either of these is at work in Washington. The German vote, and probably the German vote, too, has once more possessed the souls and paralyzed the senses of the Republican politicians. The organs by which what is called the Irish vote is supposed to be expressed have denounced the treaty as a piece of "trucking" to England...

The English War Office recently notified the last of the militia to be ready by May 1, and the reserves, which England has summoned, actually mobilized, will be May number about 300,000 men of whom two-thirds are in England. The English fleet has been placed upon a first-class war footing. When the Eighth army division arrives in South Africa, there should be a total of 208,000 troops there...

Half-Moon Bay, near San Francisco, has claimed another victim from the sea, the British ship City of Florence sinking in a fog last night. From first reports received it is apparent that no lives were lost, but the underwriters will have an expensive bill to foot for both vessel and cargo...

It is to be regretted that the House tabled the resolution to inquire what fortifications Great Britain is constructing and completing along the Northern frontier of the United States, and especially at points opposite Puget Sound. Any amendments which have been offered calling also for information as to what fortifications the United States is constructing and completing along the Southern frontier of Canada...

The United States has paid the State of Oregon in full for the clothing it provided for its soldiers who went to the Philippine Islands. This clothing ought to have been given to the soldiers by the state; but inasmuch as there were difficulties in the way of doing it, the Legislature at the next session should appropriate the money for distribution among the men who are living, and to the heirs of those who have died. This is an act not overlooking which the Legislature must not overlook.

The Bar Association of Boston recently paid a tribute of honor in a public address to Chief Judge Oliver Wendell Holmes. The following extracts from the reply of Judge Holmes indicate that he has inherited something of the metaphysical and philosophical quality of his gifted father:

When it is said that we are too much occupied with the means of living to live, I answer that the chief worth of civilization is just that it makes the means of living more complex. The means of living are great and complex intellectual efforts, instead of simple, unadorned ones. In order that the crowd may be fed and clothed and housed and sheltered from place to place, because more complex and intense intellectual efforts mean a fuller and richer life. They mean more life. Life is an end in itself, and the only question as to whether it is worth living is whether you have enough of it.

Every such movement as that of the Gold Democrats of Indianapolis toward some other resource than McKinley and Bryan in next fall's election is to be welcomed. It is, of course, not for any definite action, but it is not too soon for those who want something better than a choice of evils in November to hold their peace. The feeling of disgust with McKinley has grown greatly in force since he "changed his mind" about "our plain duty" as a Nation to Puerto Rico...

PHYSIOLOGICAL JUDGE.

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I will add but a word. We all are very near despair. The abating of the heat us over its waves, is compounded of hope, faith in the unexplainable worth and sure issue of effort, and the deep subconscious content which comes from the exercise of our powers. In the words of a touching negro song:

Some times I'm up, some times I'm down, Some times I'm almost to the ground; But these things have not scared me, as I hope they will carry the young men who hear me, through long years of doubt, self-distrust and solitude. They do now, for, although it might seem that the day of trial was over, in fact it is renewed each day.

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Each day. The kindness which you have shown me makes me bold in happy moments to believe that the long and passionate struggle has not been quite in vain.

NEED OF THE CANAL.

Commercial Wants Now Enforced by Asiatic Politics. Chicago Times-Herald. Discussion of the canal treaty and the Davis amendment naturally tends to obscure the commercial aspects of the proposed isthmian waterway. While the enterprise must inevitably strengthen the war power of this nation, whether fortified or not, its probable effect upon trade conditions is of far greater concern to our commercial and industrial interests...

The completed isthmian canal is now widely discussed by naval officers in a New York paper. One authority declares that America is losing a vast trade by reason of her delay in digging the waterway. "America's new interests in the Pacific are sufficient warrant alone for the cost of the canal, even if the cost reaches \$150,000,000," says former Minister to Siam John Barrett. It is argued that in three years the canal will open up the increased trade with China, Japan, Siberia, Corea, Siam, the Philippines, Hawaii and Australasia will more than pay the whole expense of construction.

How urgent may have been the commercial need of a shorter route to India that need has been tremendously accentuated by our newly acquired interests in the Pacific and in the Caribbean Sea. As China Main ports, and probably the Suez Canal, the isthmian run through the latter sea, and it contains many strong positions. No matter what may be the ultimate disposition in the Philippines we will become an "Eastern power," and whether we like it or not we become a factor in the Chinese problem and a formidable competitor for the trade of the Orient.

"R. W. B." in New York Evening Post. Once upon a time, as an Elephant was being driven through the streets by Mahout, the latter chanced to see Partridge on her Nest hovering her young and Pecking at them when they tried to escape from under her protecting wings. "Thou Cruel Bird!" shouted the Mahout, "Thou art Killing thy Young by thy Degree!" And he threw things at the Mother Partridge and drove her away into the Forest. Then seeing the helpless state of the Young Partridges, the Mahout said: "I will protect you from the prowling Beasts of the Forest, and with that he made the Elephant to sit down on the nest of young ones, and is now considering whether he shall make Mahout's last remark 50 per cent of his weight from them.

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

Bryan has broken his long silence. They have been having an election down at Holbrook that is worthy of Kentucky. After all, there was nothing miraculous about the conduct of the Topeka Capital.

Two nominations are not always better than one, as Bryan will find out before long. Li Hung Chang has acquired a controlling interest in a newspaper. He will probably run it as Confucius would have run it.

A local grocery store invites its customers to come in and wait for the car, but neglects to add as an inducement that the weight is sure to be short. Mr. Sheldon overlooked a golden opportunity when he didn't add a famous remark of General Sherman's as a commentary after the Transvaal news.

No one has ever accused Kruger of being a funny man, but his mind appears to run in the same groove with that of Artemus Ward in some things. Ward expressed himself as willing to sacrifice all his wife's relations in the war for the Union. Kruger says he has 200 blood relations fighting and would sooner see them all perish than yield to England's unholy aggression.

The Rhode Island election for Governor, various state officers and a full Legislature occurs April 4. In the April election of 1896, the Republicans carried Rhode Island by a plurality of 11,411, and in the following November Mr. McKinley had 22,778 plurality. Subsequent state elections have shown only a small falling off in the Republican pluralities. The registration this year is large, and the probability is that the plurality of April, 1896, will be equalled.

Measured by the early appearance of the wild flowers, our Spring is a month in advance of that of ordinary seasons. Last year, the first of the wild Iris and the Erythronium (Adder-tongue) were both in bloom at Oregon City. Mr. Thomas Howell, the botanist, says that he never before saw the wild Iris in bloom in March. Last year the Iris did bloom until about April 20, and the Erythronium is very seldom seen in bloom about Portland before the second week of April.

"They met at the Woman's Republican Club hall at Christiansburg," says the Salt Lake Herald. "She was from the East; he was a home product. The conversation lagged between the dances. Finally he ventured this: 'How do you like 'David Harum'?' She bridled like a porcupine. 'I have no use for harms of any kind,' she retorted; 'they're just perfectly horrid. Look at the Sultan of Sulu! Look at those wretches in Turkey! The whole system is intended to degrade women into beasts. Don't talk to me about harms.' The young man was frantically trying to square himself when the music drowned the conversation."

The late Rev. Dr. Thomas K. Beecher, of Elmira, N. Y., was a half-brother of the famous Henry Ward Beecher and Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe, being the son of Rev. Dr. Lyman Beecher, by his second wife. Curiously enough for a brother of the man who was the foremost anti-slavery orator of his time, and of the woman who wrote "Uncle Tom's Cabin," Thomas K. Beecher was a believer in slavery and, indeed, never thoroughly foresook that leaning. His personal habits were not altogether clerical, for he played a skillful game of billiards and was fond of the game when he could find time to play it. Then, too, he drank beer and ale, and was so little ashamed of it that he would go into any public restaurant or hotel and order it. But he never would drink with any one else nor invite any one to drink with him. When he was criticized for drinking, he would smile and say: "I did not stop until I decided in his later years that malt liquors were not good for his digestion. He was a philanthropist in practice and a 'greenbacker' in finance. He visited the Pacific Coast about 10 years ago, spent several days in Seattle and Portland and in an interview published in The Oregonian confidently predicted that "the boom" in both cities was near a collapse—"not five years distant."

My name is Bryan, William J. I hail from under Nebraska way. You know the far-famed River Plate, When I'm at home, I'm at home, I'm at home. Though great and wise, I'm still a boy, Modest, shrinking, timid, coy. You'd scarce expect one of my age To speak upon the public stage, But I have done it, acted too. I got bonquet, and eggs (a few), And getting somehow diddled by the press. The much abused, the much abused, I ran a paper for a while, And thought I had a fluent style. But soon I found my words and spades at that; And so I left the press behind. With this engraved upon my mind, "Get all the news you can, and write it down, the hardest is to drive a pen." My journalistic labors done, I championed sixteen-to-one. The Democrats were my old brains, And I left the dreary plains, And shouted victory in the ear Of every one who'd stop and hear. The news was all the same, I hit a bit, And soon I found that I was IT. They nominated me all right, And I had beaten out of sight. Every one was sure to say, "I didn't get quite votes enough, But now I'm in the field once more To tell how roses at the core." The news was all the same, I hit a bit, And so I left the press behind. I'm anti-everything-but-peace; Anti-freedom, anti-peace, Anti-everything-but-peace. But outmost of all, I'm for President. To young and old I make one plea, And that is simply, "Vote for me!" My name is Bryan, William J. I come from under Nebraska way, And by your leave it's my intent To get that job of President.

Wearily Adam and Fair Eve, S. E. Kiser in Chicago Times-Herald. She stood before the window. And gazed with dancing eyes. And those who had made a game of her said "my-ob-my!" There was the hat she wanted—A dainty thing to see. The price was a dollar, and her breast was full of grief. The price was thirty dollars. She didn't care for that—She knew her style of beauty. Demanded such a hat. And she went to the store. The hat was on her head; Her heart was full of gladness: "Just charge it, please," she said. His brow was deeply wrinkled. His tired eyes were red. He looked at her with pride. Kept fanning up long columns. He hurried here and there. He seemed a little worried. And saw things in the air. His clothes are getting seedy. His tuxedo coat a dime; Important collectors Fussed about all the time—He fondly called her "Baby" And bore his wife alone. And she, somehow, was weary Of being "Baby's own."