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TODAY'S WEATHER—Rain, except fair in afternoon; winds northwest to west.

PORTLAND, THURSDAY, MARCH 22.

AGRICULTURAL PROSPERITY.

Of the leading agricultural products of the United States, some at the present time bear low prices, while others the prices may be termed high.

These figures show that in spite of the depression in the wheat market the farmers of the United States are having a large share in the general prosperity.

FOREDOOMED TO FAILURE.

The failure of The Hague peace conference was foredoomed from the first by the warlike spirit of the nations.

It is, perhaps, as well that this is so. Peace can no more be legislated upon than the relation can be. It is an element that depends upon the subtle essence of the spirit of frustration.

AN INADEQUATE EXCUSE.

A British officer in the current number of the North American Review denounces Cecil Rhodes as responsible for the grave strategic errors which delayed for months the progress of the British arms and subjected Generals Buller, Methuen and Gatacre to defeat.

pression of national resentment, retaliation and compulsion. Knowledge of these facts makes practical men doubt the efficacy of peace conferences, and even question the sincerity of rulers of great nations in their negotiations.

THE PRACTICAL BENEFITS.

It is sufficient for our Bryanites to know that the new banking and currency law is fathered by the Republicans. Thereupon, with what is to them adequate justification they fall upon it with avidity.

It should be clearly understood by the public that the national banking system throws, in the interests of the general welfare, safeguards about the business of banking which are absent in the case of state and private banks.

No fewer than five persons can start a National bank—the theory being that five heads are better than one, whereas in private banks the number is unrestricted.

While state and private banking is for the most part a go-as-you-please arrangement, the National banks are under the strictest governmental supervision.

A fair-minded man will be disposed to welcome any measure that will encourage state and private banks, now doing business without responsibility to anybody, to come under the National system, with its regime of safeguards and examinations.

IMPERIAL CONFEDERATION NOT A DREAM.

The speech of Premier Seddon in bidding farewell to the fourth contingent of New Zealand troops on their departure for South Africa, Tuesday, included the important announcement that Australasia had 400,000 men prepared to defend the colonies; that in order to uphold the imperial prestige of the country Australasia could send 200,000 men to South Africa to release the imperial troops for service against any power daring to meddle with the settlement.

dispatch of a relief column to Kimberley, and Rhodes possessed influence enough with Sir Alfred Milner, the Governor of Cape Colony, and other high officials, to persuade General Buller, much against his will, to order General Methuen forward to the relief of Kimberley.

Buller's strong opposition to this diversion of Methuen's division from the true line of attack is proved by his orders to Methuen, which were to return at once after relieving Kimberley to De Aar in order to head the general advance into the Orange Free State.

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The pretense that the French Canadian citizens of Canada are not intensely loyal to Great Britain is being exposed by the action of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in his loyal sentiments and action, voices the vast majority of the French Canadian.

The action of Canada and Australasia means that a long-looked-for imperial confederation has been taken. It is a practical confession that the leading colonies of the mother country expect to help fight the battles of the British Empire, near or remote, when necessary.

When the Boer war is over, England's difficulties in South Africa are ended for all time, and that country will be amply able to defend its integrity against foreign or domestic foe, for with the obliteration of the Chinese policy of Paul Kruger thousands of Englishmen will flock to the Transvaal for settlement; its buried mineral wealth will be exhumed and utilized; its agricultural resources will be developed by intelligent, systematic culture, so that in twenty-five years South Africa will be a loyal and contented under-English rule as is Canada.

South Africa Future.

What that future will be cannot be wholly predicted, but there are certain things that there will be no more as sure to be established. One is the equality of races. There will be no more ostracism of Englishmen and Americans by the Dutch, and there will be no more ostracism of the Dutch by the British.

carried to the Supreme Court of Indiana, recently, that tribunal decided that the protection of the public health comes within the police power of the state. While the decision assures in a matter of this kind are justly deplored and, as far as possible, to be avoided, the opinion of the Indiana Supreme Court is, at least in the presence of a virulent epidemic disease, well grounded.

Threat of destruction of Johannesburg by the Boers, to prevent its use as a base of supplies for the British army, is a serious matter. Though Johannesburg is destroyed, the ground on which it stands will remain, and will serve for just as good a base of operations for the British Army as the city itself.

The withdrawal of the Boers from Kromstadt to the line of the Vaal River, which forms part of the southern boundary of the Transvaal, means that the bulk of their army will be found holding their last line of defense in the Valley of the Vaal, in the difficult country about Potchefstroom, Heidelberg and Wackerstein.

The declaration of President McKinley and Secretary Root in favor of free trade with Puerto Rico was sound policy and sound statesmanship. It was sound policy because, in the line of our traditional policy, the needs of the island, it could not be effectively attacked by the opposition.

AN IRELAND AT OUR DOORS.

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The heavy rains that soaked the San Joaquin Valley and extended as far south as Los Angeles the first week in March will save an immense sum of money to beet and fruit growers.

Eleven caskets, containing mortal remains of men of the Second Oregon, who perished in upholding the flag of their country in the Philippine Islands, are at the Army of the National Guard, in Portland.

Puerto Rico's Protest.

The Guards brigade in General Roberts' advance on Bloemfontein marched from 3 P. M. on March 12 to 1 P. M. on March 13, with only two and a half hours' sleep.

heard of. No, we have not any sugar to spare just at present. Tobacco is the only product of the island this year that is sufficient to keep the human fire of life aglow in our cigars.

President and Party.

The President's Weakness the Source of Present Difficulties. Boston Herald, Ind. If President McKinley's political future is now in peril, he has no one to blame for it but himself.

There is positively no political difference between Puerto Rico and the Philippine Islands. If the former is under the Constitution part and parcel of the United States, and its people have all of the civil rights and political status of American citizens, then the same must hold true of the Philippine Islands.

It all grows out of the absence of administrative leadership on the part of President McKinley. He has proved himself incapable of grasping the needs of the situation, he has shown neither foresight in arriving at conclusions to which he and his party have been brought, nor the courage needed to explain and defend those positions when, through the pressure of circumstances, he and his party have been compelled to take a course which we have more than once said, we agree in the main with the opinions which the Republican party in the House of Representatives has adopted.

Key to the Laws of Oregon.

Under this title, W. H. Parker, of Medford, Or., has compiled and reduced to form for ready and convenient reference, under the various titles, the laws of the Constitution of Oregon, and all sections of the Code of Civil Procedure which have been adjudicated by the Supreme Court of Oregon, including the Code of the Codes of 1855, 1864, 1872 and 1891, containing the same titles; also alphabetical tables of all the state cases heard and reported by the Supreme Court of Oregon, also alphabetical tables of the Criminal Code, the Justices' Code and Miscellaneous Laws, and of the several Session Laws of 1898, 1899, 1900 and 1901, appended to the Second Edition of Hill's Annotated Laws of Oregon.

Waits for the Best Edition.

"Have you read Mr. Carnegie's answer to Mr. Frick's complaint?" asked the observant boarder.

As It Struck Him.

Ho-jack—I understand that you skated into an airhole the other day. I found it—That's what they called it, but I found it was full of water.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

McKinley is a star lightning change artist in his mind. Kruger seems determined to cry war, war; when there is no war.

In parting, it may be said that no one will ever attempt to run a newspaper the way the Rev. Mr. Sheldon ran one.

THE COMING SETTLEMENT.

British Opinion and Purpose Plainly Stated. London Daily Mail. The moment will soon arrive for the Empire to consider what shall be the future of the Boer territories.

In effect, the whole British people is united on the broad lines of the coming settlement. Things cannot be done as they were. The blood of our sons has not soaked the veldt in vain.

Those who have suffered for their loyalty in South Africa must be simply repaid. No one who can be given anything to the Queen have joined our enemies, will have their claims strictly scrutinized.

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