

The Oregonian

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TODAY'S WEATHER - Occasional rain; clearing in afternoon; wind southwest to west.

PORTLAND, MONDAY, MARCH 26.

MCKINLEY AND BRYAN.

It is a sound observation that "the first maxim of democratic government is the need of leadership."

Yet in selection of its leaders democracy often selects badly, and seldom selects the best, because those best qualified to lead seldom flatter; moreover, they are aware of the difficulties and obstacles that lie in the way, and appear therefore to be disposed to obstruct the hopes and wishes of the people.

Democratic institutions awake and foster a passion for equality which they never can entirely satisfy. Multitudes are agitated by the chance of success, yet irritated by its uncertainty; and they pass from the enthusiasm of pursuit to the exhaustion of ill-success, and lastly to the acrimony of disappointment.

Hence it is that democracy, always in need of leadership, seldom or never gets the best. What strong, sincere, candid and able man stands a chance of receiving the nomination for the Presidency of the United States? We all know that democracy is not only deficient in that respect, but also in that which is necessary to select men deserving of its confidence, but it has neither the desire nor the inclination to find them out.

Early in the present century a great philosopher of politics (De Tocqueville) wrote: "The first duty which is at this time imposed upon those who direct our affairs is to educate the democracy; to warm its faith, if that be possible; to purify its morals; to direct its energies; to substitute the power of conviction for its impetuosity, and an acquaintance with its true interests for its blind propensities; to adapt its government to time and place, and to modify it in compliance with the occurrences and actors of the age."

AMERICAN OUTLANDERS.

The story told by Mr. C. W. Thompson in the local columns of the Oregonian Saturday evening, of the oppressive measures imposed by Canadian officials upon American miners and "Outlanders" generally in the Atlin district has been often told by veracious witnesses and never once disputed, not to say refuted.

A Southern conference for the study of the race problem in relation to the welfare of the South is to meet annually in Montgomery, Ala. The initial meeting will be held May 8-10 inclusive.

THE SOUTH AND THE NEGRO PROBLEM.

The intelligent leaders of public opinion at the South have waited a very long time to begin a serious discussion of a reform that ought to have been and could have been undertaken twenty years ago.

takes nothing for granted. A case involving complaint against another government must be duly set out in detail. This, it seems, has not been done, though thousands of American citizens seeking gold in British Canadian territory in the past four years have been subject to every annoyance and injustice that petty officialism, with a grasping governmental policy behind it, could invent.

It is not to the credit of American citizens if they have endured in silence or with impotent wrath indignities, injustice and oppression through Canadian laws and officials when seeking to enter Canadian territory that they could not resist.

Meanwhile, what is the matter with Cape Nome? The gold standard is now discredited at its nefarious work in India.

The purchases of India in the silver market have for some time, been subject of comment. It was urged against the gold standard scheme that the vast volume of silver in circulation could not be maintained at the arbitrary ratio of 16 to 1 or 32 to 1.

THE MENACE OF CORBINISM. The Army bill drawn up by Secretary Root is in danger of defeat because it is unanimously opposed by the Army.

THE LIFE OF ISAAC INGALLS STEVENS. Major-General of Washington Territory, by His Son, Hazard Stevens, Brigadier-General U. S. Volunteers, will be published in May, in two volumes octavo, by Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston.

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self is the latest and most conspicuous beneficiary of his own system of securing military promotion through political "pull." Secretary Root is likely to lose the passage of what is in many respects a very valuable measure of Army reform through its enlarged opportunity for the perpetuation of "Corbinism," which is an accurate definition of promotion by political "pull" rather than military service.

Bishop Potter, at first opposed to expansion, made a journey of observation to the Philippine Islands. He now says that the question as to what we should have done at the beginning has become obsolete or purely academic, and adds: "I confess to saying that I have put it on the shelf. It is perfectly idle now to linger on that question."

As to our duty in the premises, he says, further: "On the whole I think I have considerably changed my view as to the right and duty of a superior nation to govern a weaker. Everywhere throughout the East the problem is the same—being the people to see and recognize the superiority of what we know as civilization and give them the opportunity to adopt it."

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES. We are told, does not "run" in our new possessions. This is the basis of the argument for treatment of Puerto Rico, and the Philippine Islands as alien territory—though the doctrine is not applied to Hawaii.

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but gradually the Republican vote has increased. The stronghold of the Republican party in the state is St. Louis. For 19 years the average Republican plurality in this city has been 25,000. In 1890, in the last Presidential election, and over 16,000 at the municipal election last Spring.

Senator Pettus, of Alabama, in New York Independent. All admit that Puerto Rico is a part of the United States, and the inhabitants (with certain exceptions) are citizens of the United States.

Comment by an Independent Democratic Newspaper, the Man and the Event. Brooklyn Eagle, Ind. Dem. This is Mr. Bryan's 46th birthday.

No Democratic candidate for President, elected or beaten, ever before received so many votes, or was defeated by so large a popular majority against him, as Mr. Bryan was ever before.

Results never before wrought havoc of all the circumstances of the man's career. His popularity has been increased by the unanimous refutation of all his ideas by facts.

No man ever before aroused more enthusiasm or more apprehension by a violation of all the conditions of the political game, and the no-holds-barred, but the apprehension is not.

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