

The Oregonian.

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Portland, Wednesday, April 11.

OUR GREAT LEADER. In another column appears the announcement of a great discovery.

A Washington correspondent, turning his hired telescope upon the senior Senator from Oregon, pronounces that alleged statesman a great man, a leader in the front rank of the party, and most astonishing of all, a pioneer in the cause of the gold standard.

McBride is a pioneer of the gold standard movement—that is, he is a pioneer of 1897. When he was elected in 1895, nobody could find out what his views were. The two or three gold supporters he had in the Legislature said he was for gold.

The case under hearing by the Interstate Commerce Commission in this city yesterday is one which has heretofore been discussed in the Oregonian, namely, the case brought by the Eastern Men's League, of St. Louis, against the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, the Southern Pacific, the O. R. & N., and other railroads in the carrying of trade between the Eastern States and the Pacific Coast.

It is evident that there is need of reform in the financial system of the country, and it is my belief that such reform should be made in the line of the Interstate National platform (the Minneapolis straddle).

A more satisfactory and pertinent declaration was never made by the Delphic oracle. When Mr. McBride got back to Washington, he became imbued with the conviction that we must "do something for silver," and concocted a brilliant scheme by which we were to rehabilitate silver through mandatory clauses in the commercial treaties that we should make with foreign powers.

A hard fight has indeed been made for years in Oregon for the gold standard. Senator McBride had no part in it. If he had any views favoring gold, he kept them to himself. Such influence and ability as he had were cast on the side of the Mitchell or silver wing of the party.

Mr. McBride has also obtained and forwarded to Oregon testimonials from Senators as to his efficiency and greatness. There is quite a string of them. It is evident that Mr. McBride has exerted himself more in this effort to get "certificates" in his own behalf than he has ever done in any matter of public interest to the State of Oregon.

It is not that much study to see that the case in its essential character is an assault upon the jobbing trade and the manufacturing interests of the Pacific Coast cities on the part of the cities of the Middle Western States. It has, in fact, but one purpose, and that is to divert the jobbing trade from Portland, San Francisco, Seattle and other Coast points to St. Louis, Chicago, St. Paul, and to check the growth of manufacturing industry here.

The surrender of Appomattox stands really in history for the collapse of the Southern Confederacy, for the surrender of Joe Johnston's army two weeks later was forced by the disaster to Lee's army, even as the surrender of Fort Hudson was the corollary of the capture of Vicksburg.

short arc of the circle; the North not only needed to beat the South in battle, but to wear it down to a state of military exhaustion. The Virginia troops were all in Lee's army; the South was cursed by no political Major-Generals, like Fremont, Dix, Banks and Butler.

Monday was the thirty-fifth anniversary of the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox. Men who are 60 years of age today can remember how long and patiently the friends of the Union waited for the final collapse of the Confederacy through the exhaustion of its military resources.

Had the war been prolonged another year, probably a temporary peace would have been made between the sections, for we were suffering severely from the pinch of the financial shoestring when the last great campaign of April, 1865, began.

There is nothing unexpected in the efforts of the Boers to capture detachments of British troops by a quick dash along the line of the army's communications. That is sure to occur in all wars. It was part of the tactics of the Confederates the last two years of our Civil War, and they were even more continuously successful in their attacks upon our communications than the Boers have been upon those of Lord Roberts.

There is altogether too much of the idea prevalent that schools are kept up for the purpose of giving a certain number of worthy young women employment in a ladylike vocation, and that the school management in detail should conform more or less exclusively to the convenience of teachers.

General Otis, at his own suggestion (after the proper and gracious manner of the Government in such cases), is coming home. His service in the Philippines, if not always dominated by wisdom from the standpoint of critical and independent observation, has been marked by living in a certain part of the territory from which they were driven by the advance on Bloemfontein.

It has been observed that he is expected to observe in such cases first of all the practical rules of common sense. Whether this criticism of his management in the Philippines is unjust or not, it is manifestly to the advantage of all concerned for General Otis to another. It is not a question as to whether he has or has not done as well as he could, it is the general, and indeed the official, belief that a man differently constituted could do better.

Under the Horton law, recently repealed by the New York Legislature, that state became the scene of pugilistic contests, and which drew the most vicious elements of society together from all over the country. The repeal of this law is a moral victory, not only for New York, but for the country generally.

Professor Frye, who has been for some time engaged in reorganizing the public schools of Cuba, returned to New York on the transport Sedgwick a few days ago to arrange for a trip for 1000 Cuban teachers to the country in the coming summer.

The case, too, is not without a very large national significance. The newly discovered commercial world of the Pacific Ocean fronts upon the Pacific seaboard. It is a world in which we have every advantage of opportunity. The main hope of American domination in

China and Washington, and thence go back to Cuba, where they will enter again upon their work. The plan is a good one, thoroughly approved by the Administration, and its effect cannot fail to be of value in Americanizing the schools of Cuba.

Tardiness in pupils of the public schools is the one thing for which no excuse is taken and no explanation is allowed. Reprimand and the disgrace due to an idler, a careless or irresponsible person, is visited upon the pupil who comes panting in too late for ranks, or, breathless with exertion, drops into his seat half a minute late.

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Care in the selections of candidates for the judiciary is a matter of highest importance. Here is a function which should not be subjected to the ordinary combinations of political traffic. Two Judges are to be chosen for the circuit bench in Multnomah County. Judge Pease and Judge George have performed the duties of the positions well. They should be renominated; and, renominated, they will be re-elected. No personal, special or private interest should be permitted to have weight in this important business.

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

Dewey is evidently stopping for breakfast. It doesn't look as if Buller would even be able to celebrate the Fourth of July in Pretoria. Perhaps the reason the Democrats selected Kansas City is because she had convention halls to burn.

Now that "Sapho" has been exonerated, it might as well be taken off the boards in every city but Philadelphia. A great and growing conviction comes over us more and more that Dewey's a whale on the ocean, and a sucker when he's on shore. And so the Millionaires' Club has black-balled Clark, in spite of his magnificent qualifications for membership.

That dukedom Roberts was going to get tied up, pending the cessation of reports with regret from the Transvaal. Now both the many-millioned Clark Wax most exceeding sick. To think that all that money went to buy a plain gold brick. The vote in the Senate against Clark augurs so badly for Quay that the Pennsylvania boss must consider it a great bore.

If they had broken open Webster Davis' throat instead of his mail, the country might have been spared considerable affliction. Cleveland kept good-natured under two campaigns of abuse, but when they accused him of voting to vote for Bryan he got good and mad. Admiral Dewey's attention is called to the wisdom of a very ancient poem, which runs as follows:

"Needs hee plies, Needs hee plies, When a man's married His trouble begins." The chaplain question in the Army and Navy receives wholesome ventilation by Rev. Dr. J. M. Buckley, in the New York Christian Advocate. President McKinley has told the doctor that he was much distressed over the kind of ministers that are so often recommended for chaplains by the Methodists and other Protestant bodies.

Great carelessness is shown in this matter. The interesting fact is stated by Dr. Buckley that the one church which invariably exercises care to put forward strong men for this priestly office is the Roman Catholic. The recent visit of Bryan to Portland reminded one of his friends of a remark the boy orator made in Washington one time when the Portland man met him there: "The people of Oregon," said Bryan, "are the best listeners I ever spoke to, but the trouble with them is that they do not vote the same way they listen." A story of the same kind is contained in Carl Schurz' life of Henry Clay, page 270. Alexander H. Stephens wrote to his brother of a meeting of the Colonization Society, which was held in the hall of the House of Representatives, January, 1845, describing "how the house and galleries were crammed and jammed before 5 o'clock; how he had to scheme and struggle to get a seat; how the speaker could not get up until 7 o'clock and could hardly force his way in; how the vast meeting would cheer him again and again at the top of their voices; how they would not let anybody speak but Bryan; how whole acres of people had to go away without getting in at all, and how Sheperd of North Carolina, being more Whiggish than Clay, remarked rather snappishly that if any man could get more men to run after him and hear him speak and fewer men to vote for him than any man in America."

Unscrupulous Papers Taken in. Boston Transcript. The editor of the Progresso, an Italian-American paper in New York, played a merry jest on his esteemed contemporaries last Sunday by printing what purported to be a dispatch from Rome announcing that the Republic had been established in Italy, and that King Humbert had fled. On Monday two metropolitan journals printed "specials" from Rome to the same effect, such brilliant variations as an encyclopaedia generator of Italian affairs suggested. The editor of the Progresso now chortles in his joy, calls "April fool" at his esteemed contemporaries and says things even more amusing about "faked" news. The story about King Humbert running away at the first outbreak ought to have been sufficient to stamp the dispatch as spurious. He is not one of the kind that runs away so easily, indeed, whatever else may be his faults, cowardice is not one of them. A brave and experienced soldier, King Humbert is the only monarch in Europe who has been severely wounded in the heat of the battle in which he and his brother, the late Amadeus, bore themselves out bravely. King Humbert and the King of Saxony are the only crowned heads in Europe that have proved themselves more than parade-ground soldiers.

Biograph Potter's Two Views. If you ask me what the question as to today is an honorable whether we shall keep the old Dominion? It is not purely an academic, as I believe, has some one. Practically, it is a question of the future of the country in an ever-memorable I shall keep the old Dominion, consummated and now to get rid of it. To submit to them, Discussion, then, in the Senate without objection are expected to hear that there is little or no doubt of his re-election. Mr. McBride's place in his party's councils is best shown by the fact that he is a member of the Republican "committee on order of business." This is known as the "steering committee," and its function is to arrange the party policy for the day of the Senate in such a way as to be done without calling a caucus to dispose of disputed questions. The members of this committee are: Senators Allison, Spooner, Culberson, William Brewster, Spooner, McBride and Hanna. It is not only an honor to be on this committee, service upon it gives power and prestige not only to the member but to the state which he represents. There is an executive committee of the Republican Congressional Committee, the duties of this executive committee being to take charge of the campaign for election of Republican candidates for Congress. It is a joint committee of Senators and Representatives, composed of leading members of the two Houses, and Mr. McBride is the only member from the far West. Mr. McBride's standing as a Senator is perhaps best shown by his committee assignments. No man can be of great service to his state in either House of Congress without good committee connections, for these not only make him rank among his colleagues but give him the influence which enables him to secure practical results. Though a comparatively young Senator, Mr. McBride is chairman of the committee on coast defense and a member of the following committees: Public lands; microfilm, canals, commerce, forest preserve and Indian depredations. All these are committees of peculiar importance to the section of country which Mr. McBride represents. When the new committee on the Philippines was made up there was great competition among Senators for places upon it, as it was generally recognized as one of the greatest committees of the Senate, scarcely second in importance to the foreign relations committee. With two exceptions all the Republican members of this committee are veterans, such as Allison, Hale, Lodge, Proctor and Davis. The two younger Senators are Beveridge of Indiana and McBride of Oregon, the former owing his selection to the special personal study he had made of the Philippine Islands. Senator McBride rarely makes a speech. He long ago learned the lesson which was recently followed by his rejection by the Senate itself. This admirable stand for honest government will

Yankees and Golf. It is not that much study to see that the case in its essential character is an assault upon the jobbing trade and the manufacturing interests of the Pacific Coast cities on the part of the cities of the Middle Western States. It has, in fact, but one purpose, and that is to divert the jobbing trade from Portland, San Francisco, Seattle and other Coast points to St. Louis, Chicago, St. Paul, and to check the growth of manufacturing industry here. The contention is a very one, and it was, it is supposed, fought to a finish, very shortly after the enactment of the Interstate Commerce law, some fifteen or more years ago. It was Judge Deady, of the United States District Court for Oregon. If we remember correctly, whose decision established the principle that differences in the conditions of shipment due to water competition modified essentially the general principle declared by the Interstate Commerce act. The rates of the transcontinental roads are based upon recognition of the fact of water competition between the Atlantic and Pacific seaboard. The Business Men's League of St. Louis and the whole jobbing trade of the Pacific West, which stands back of that association, seeks to disregard the fact of water competition and to establish a fixed system of graded rates on all westward-bound freights, regardless of competitive conditions.

Appomattox. The surrender of Appomattox stands really in history for the collapse of the Southern Confederacy, for the surrender of Joe Johnston's army two weeks later was forced by the disaster to Lee's army, even as the surrender of Fort Hudson was the corollary of the capture of Vicksburg. One reason why the South up to Gettysburg beat the North is that they were better soldiers in many respects. They were not braver men than those of the North, but they had the natural military pride and taste for war, more creature pugnacity. They fought on their own soil, save at Antietam and Gettysburg. The South was 99 per cent native-born. It had the best soldiers of our old Army, and, having no regular army, it dispersed its educated military talent throughout its new levies, and as a result made respectable soldiers of its raw recruits more rapidly than the North. 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