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TODAY'S WEATHER. - Showers; variable PORTLAND, THURSDAY, APRIL 12

#### TODAY'S CONVENTIONS.

The state conventions of three political parties will assemble in this city today, to nominate candidates for pub lic station and make proclamation of principles

Portland gives a cordial welcome to the delegates to the three conventions. The Oregonian, speaking in some degree on behalf of the people of the city, hopes the delegates may not forget duty fully to debate measures now before the country, and that they may not hesitate fearlessly to declare their purposes. Honesty is the best policy in politics as in business. May we get from each of our conventions a full and frank statement of its beliefs

Differences of opinion and conviction are founded in both the interests and intellects of men. Growth and progress are the outcome not alone of clashing purposes, but of education and environment. Free interchange of ideas tends to mental vigor and spread of knowledge. As war is the sharp spur to National spirit, so the contests of politics add to the vitality and usefulness of parties. Ours is a government of discussion, and out of the flerce strife of partisan campaigns grows the wisdom that finally separates the true from the false, and crystallizes right

in the country's laws.

The gathering of three bodies in Portland at this time serves to emphasize the fact that this city is the center of Oregon. Though in the northwestern corner of the state, this city, by reason of transportation lines, is the most convenient and accessible point for the people of Oregon to meet, and its business connections bring it into close relation with all the rest of the state. It recognizes what it owes to the state at large, and hopes the visitors in the city today will learn that Portland understands fully its duty as the metropolis. Here we have the balls adequate for such gatherings as those which assemble today, and the inclination to provide them every convenience for the prompt performance of the work of conventions. Here we have also the hotels to lodge and feed the throngs of delegates and visitors. Let us all take increased knowledge of the fact that the city and country are interdependent, and may we all keep in

mind our reciprocal obligations. The Oregonian will fulfill its function as the newspaper of the Pacific Northwest, and report fairly the proceedings of all the conventions. Later, in its editorial columns, it will discuss their work and principles, and endeavor to make intelligent discrimination between the declarations of the different bodies. For the present, it greets the three political bodies, and hopes they may hold earnest and fruitful sessions.

### TONNAGE RATES EQUALIZED.

About a year ago, some careless and perhaps biased students of the economic conditions which underlie the ocean carrying trade of the world in general, and the Pacific Coast in particular, had a great deal to say regarding the alleged disadvantages of Portland in securing cheap freights. A few misguided and misinformed Astorians went so far in their crusade against Portland as to issue a pamphlet containing a lot of doctored figures, which, by careful arrangement, conveyed the impression to the casual reader that we were paying about 10 shillings per ton more than San Francisco, and 4 to 5 shillings more per ton than was paid by Puget Sound ports.

The Oregonian at the time called at tention to the fact that whenever Portand and San Francisco were compelled to draw tonnage from the same ports there would be no difference in charter rates, as the port expenses were practically the same in both places. San Francisco is a large importer of merchandise from Europe and of coal from Australia, and the big fleet of ships coming to that port with cargo under ordinary circumstances give the Bay City a supply of tonnage which they can secure for cheaper rates than are demanded by shipowners when they are forced to send their ships to Portland and Puget Sound in ballast, Even Puget Sound had a slight advantage over Portland when freights were dull all over the world, and ships were sent to the Pacific Coast "seeking." The big sawmills on the Sound were almost certain to supply a cargo of lumber, in case grain was not obtainable, and for this reason there was always more spot connage lying idle at the Sound ports than there was at Astoria, and it frequently happened that a ship could be picked up at a shilling less for Sound oading than she would ask for coming round to Portland.

Since the present world-wide advance in freights commenced, this difference rates between Pacific Coast ports has vanished, and today it is possible to charter a distant ship to load at Portland, Puget Sound or San Francisco at exactly the same rate. This condition of affairs will prevail until California works off the enormous surplus of wheat now held in the state, or antil San Francisco inward cargo trade increases so that she will have a sufficient amount of tonnage without going out and bidding against Portland and Puget Sound exporters for ballast tonnage in the Orient, or at Honolulu. The ighest rate, size considered, that has en paid for a grain ship on the Pacific Coast this year was paid in San Francisco, and there will be little or no ference in the rates anywhere on the

Coast for many weeks. The actual experience of the past

few months will necessitate the revis-Why ion of a number of essays on Portland Can Never Be a Great Seaport," and the ocean freight situation as it exists today and has existed for the past few months should have the effect of quieting all quibbling which might arise in the future about the comparative merit of the different Coast ports in the eyes of shipowners.

#### MORE MONEY.

The currency supply of the country at the present time carries refutation of contentions made by two sets of extremists-the silver maniacs and the asset-currency cranks. The circulation s expanding, but the additions are maintainable as good as gold, instead of being debased through free coinage of silver or flat inflation. On the other hand, the expansion itself refutes the contention of certain idealist currency reformers that unless we have a bank ing currency based on commercial assets there can be no elasticity to the currency.

If a currency is being securely main tained at the gold standard, it will expand automatically in response to increasing needs of business, through ad-ditions of gold money. Need of curency sends gold to the mints just as surely as an influx of inhabitants sends wheat to the flour mill. Since the election of McKinley on a gold platform, in 1896, the supply of gold and gold certificates in the country has increased by nearly \$300,000,000; that is, from \$489,-000,000 April 1, 1896, to \$786,000,000 April 1, 1906,

It is a fact, moreover, that other kinds of currency have also increased. For the twelve months just past, every kind of currency, other than "Sherman" notes and currency certificates, has increased in volume. National bank notes have increased by \$26,896. 194; gold and gold certificates by \$58. 096,958; United States notes by \$12,283,-527; silver dollars by \$4,500,000; silver certificates by \$4,000,000; subsidiary silver by \$5,000,000; increase of all kinds, 193,427,564. In the month of March alone bank notes increased by \$21,000. 000 and gold by \$8,000,000.

Silver has shared in this expansion The amount of silver and paper notes ased on silver is \$621,000,000 now, as against \$558,000,000 in 1896. If we take the whole stock of silver and silver currency in the circulation today and compare it with 1879, for example, we have

this showing: Jan. 1, March 1, 1879.
Standard silver dollars. \$ (8), 139, 904 \$ 6, 790, 721
Silver certificates 400, 103, 487 413, 360
Subsidiary silver . 74, 792, 310 67, 982, 601
Treasury notes of 1890. 85, 945, 227 277, 685, 511

Total ......\$029,981,018 \$351,285,193 This addition of \$280,000,000 to the silver currency of the country has been made under the gold standard and with the notorious crime of '73 still unavenged. Through limitation of silver coinage, through issuing no more of it than we can maintain at par, every dollar of this increased silver currency has been kept as good as gold; so that the wages of the toiling masses of this country, gentlemen, or Senator Teller's man with the blistered hand, have retained their full purchasing power, instead of being reduced to half their value.

It remains merely to notice the aggre gate increase in circulation and in the "per capita." The past four years present this record of expanding currency

Total capita. \$21.53 23.61 23.69 25.45 26.12 circulation. .\$1,528,629,463 .1,669,000,604 .1,756,658,645 .1,927,846,942 .2,621,274,566

Observe, also, that this is a sound increase, because of the \$500,000,000 that has been added to the circulation. \$300,000,000, being in gold, will safely sustain the other \$200,000,000

Yet the quantity of money is a minor matter, after all, compared with its quality. Unlimited additions to the circulation, whether through free silver coinage or busy Government printing presses, soon result in deteriorating the value of the currency, and introduce disorder, uncertainty and panic. The supreme interest of the individual is that the coin or the paper representing coin, or the bank check, received in return for his possessions or his services, has a safe and constant value. If these are made worthless by the very plentifulness with which they are scattered about, it makes little difference to him how many of them he gets. If a man gets \$1000 a year and is \$1000 in debt, it s far more important to him that the \$10,000 he receives in 10 years is of full purchasing power, than that he can pay his debt for \$500, and his income for the five years is reduced to \$5000.

## A SOUND PROPOSITION.

The claim made before the Society of Ethical Culture at its New York meeting last Sunday, by noted speakers mong whom were two graduates of the Tuskegee Institute, that the uplifting of the negro can come only through the law of labor intelligently applied, is ound. And when it is added, "the eligious and moral welfare of the black and white alike in the South can only be secured by industrial education," the

case may be held to be amply stated. The "knowing how" was never before o essential to industrial success and community prosperity as now. A laoring man untutored in the ways of ome branch of industrial life is as helpless as a mariner at sea without a compass. This is perhaps especially true of the negro laborer in the South whose stock in trade through the generations has been his brute strength supervised and directed by others-himself the mere machine. It is this igno rance of handleraft that has made free dom a delusion to him for more than a generation. Schools like the Tuske gee and Hampton Institutes do more to olve the problem of the future of the negro race than all the laws enacted for its benefit and protection have ever done, from the Fifteenth Amendmen o the Federal Constitution down

through the list. This is not the dream of the philan thropist, but the testimony of competent witnesses, to whom this practica side of the negro problem has presented itself through careful experiment and observation. If this seed, instead of that of political equality, had been planted at the close of the war, and received patient and adequate cultivation through the years, the solution of the negro question would not now have been greatly vexing political econo mists. It would, on the contrary, be satisfactorily working itself out, with the political equality of the colored man already in sight.

The platform of the county Demo crats of Multnomah County contains this statement:

We denounce the official organ of the Rep lican party for its opensition to any reform

the tax laws, and we are opposed to any stem of taxation which allows such organ enormous sum of \$64,000 for advertising lists, without any appreciable benefit or turn to the county.

First place, there is no official orga of the Republican party. Second place the journal they mean has not oppos reform in the tax laws. Third place, no such sum as \$64,600 has been paid for advertising tax lists—unless all pay ments for such objects made within the memory of man be included. Fourth place, vast benefits have accrued to the county from advertising the tax lists, since hundreds of thousands of dollars, delinquent during many years, have thereby been collected. Fifth place, the cost of advertisement does no come out of the county, but out of the delinquent taxpayer, as a just part of his penalty. Sixth place, they who don't like to pay this and other costs of delinquency can save themselves the trouble and expense by paying their taxes when they ought to pay Seventh place, the charges made by The Oregonian for publishing the delinquent lists have been moderate, and much below that of a great deal of other advertising that runs through its columns from year to year. Eighth place, publication of the delinquent tax lists is no new thing in Oregon, but an ancient usage, under general law of the state; and if it be discontinued, the main spur to tardy or delinquent taxpayers will be lost. Ninth place, the Democratic Convention was talking through its hat.

#### AN UNJUST ASSAULT.

The resolution passed by the State Prohibition Convention denouncing President McKinley for the continued life of the Army canteen is unfust while the resolution charging the President with responsibility for the alleged fact that "intoxicating drinks have followed the flag to the ruin of the na-tives" is utterly absurd and without oundation of fact. The facts regarding the canteen are stated in the annual report of the Secretary of War, who, while not a Prohibitionist, is nevertheless a very able lawyer, and while not a Prohibitionist is nevertheless a man of absolute veracity and unblemished moral character. Secretary Root, in his report, recites the fact that Attorney-General Griggs, on the 12th of April, 1899, rendered an opinion the effect that the act of March 2, "does not prohibit the continuance of the sale of intoxicating drinks through the canteen sections of the post exchanges, as heretofore organized and carried on, except that, of course, no officer or soldier can be put on duty in the canteen section to do the selling, either directly or indirectly." The Secretary of War, who stands at the head of his profession, says that he agrees with the view of the Attorney-General that this is the more reason able construction of the statute, but

It is, however, questioned by many citizens, and it is very desirable that if Congress does in fact intend to absolutely prohibit the sale of beers and light wines in post exchanges to the soldiers of our army in states where such sale is permitted by law to all other persons, this intention should be expressed in terms which are free from doubt. are free from doubt

A bill is now before Congress whose passage will certainly settle beyond all doubt the intention of Congress. These are the facts, and no fair-minded man will blame President McKinley for refusing to override the legal construc-tion placed upon the act of March 2, 1899, by both the Attorney-General and Secretary Root. The charge that the President has neglected to "protect the helpless and defenseless natives of Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines from the merciless greed of the liquor dealer; that intoxicating drinks have

The appendix to the report of the Secretary of War contains ample evidence that the people of these islands on the arrival of our troops "followed the flag" around, offering for sale alcoholic intoxicants of native manufacture far stronger and more deadly in their character than any produced in the United States. The correspondence of the Army officers with the War Department proves that, so far from alcoholic intoxicants of American manufac ture ruining the natives, the native alcoholic intoxicants were omnipresent. and were so powerful and so cheap that the establishment of the canteen for the sale of beer was an efficient measure of sanitary reform. The natives of Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines have always manufactured strong alcoholic intexicants, which they sell to visiting soldiers and sailors, but the nafives of Spanish-American countries. like the lower classes of old Spain, are not given to the use of ardent spirits. Wine is temperately consumed, and light alcoholic stimulants, but intemperance is not among the vices of the ower classes of Spain or any of her colonies in America or Asia. In the City of Mexico or Havana intemperance in the use of ardent spirits on the part of a native is rare. The cheap ardent spirits manufactured are made for "foreign consumption," and drunk by visiting sailors and soldiers, but not to any extent by the natives, who do not care for ardent spirits. They have other vices, but while they have for centuries made and sold exceedingly strong alcoholic intoxicants of native manufac ture, the Filipino is no more a consumer of ardent spirits than is the Hindoo. The betel nut, opium, hashish, are among the stimulants of the Malay, the Hindoo and the Chinaman, but intemperance in the use of ardent spirits is not likely to "ruin the natives" of the Philippines, who have always made and sold ardent spirits of the vilest sort, but they do not drink them to any extent, according to the testimony of the Army officers. Lieutenant Mullay, of the Fourteenth United States In-

fantry, writes:

The good results obtained from the establishment of a canteen in Cuartel de Malate, Manila, have made its value very apparent to me. The soldiers, not being able to obtain easily other drink, bought a vile stuff called "anisado" or "vino" from the natives at dos centavos a drink. The effect of a few drinks was to make the man almost crary and very unvuly. Everything was done to stop its sale. Officers and patrols seized and destroyed it wherever found, and a reward of \$10 was given for the arrest and conviction of anyone selling it. But it was impossible to stop its sale altogether. The men would get it, no matter what their punishment.

The establishment of a canteen for

The establishment of a canteen for the sale of beer restored order and health to the consumers. It is clear that the natives, who have made this "anisado," or "vino," for a great many years, have cheaper and more powerful alcoholic intoxicants of their own than any we can import "for their An Army of over 60,000 Americans will have in Luzon such malt and spirituous liquors as they have been ac customed to use at home, and it is far petter that they should have the American saloon than the native gin shack.

as the Army Chaplains confess. President McKinley has done no wrong it the matter of the canteen. He has taken the law as the Attorney-General and Scretary of War have construed it. He has no responsibility for the "ruin of the natives," who are in no danger of being ruined by the American saloon, which is a temperance booth compared with the native gin shacks that filled Manila before the American saloon had arrived.

Sickness among the Boer prisoners rouble than did the taking of them. Healthful and full of vigor on their na ive veldt, literally living in the open air, eating and digesting their food on the run, the Boers cannot bear the confinement of transports or shore prisons but sicken by hundreds in the close and fetid air. For this reason the remain der of the prisoners held on board transports off Simontown, some 2000 in number, have been sent to the mainland, a proceeding which, in the name of common humanity, the British authorities could not refuse. War is war now as it has ever been, and untold sufferings follow in its train. But civ ilized warfare differs from savage in this, that unnecessary cruelties are not inflicted upon those whom the fortune of the battle-field have disarmed, and while the victors may not find it possible to keep prisoners of war in comfortable quarters, they must answer to the demand of humanity as well as they are able by rendering the condition of these captives tolerable. In this view, while no doubt the situation of Boer prisoners on British transports has been wretched enough, it has probably been as tolerable as the British facilities for keeping them would permit while all accounts agree that British prisoners at Pretoria are well fed and humanely treated.

The Puerto Rico tariff bill has not passed both houses of Congress. It is such a tariff bill as no Congress ever passed before-the object being to "pro tect" one part of the United States against another part. It is useless to enter into subtle disquisitions on the Constitutional phases of this question, The point is that the measure is unjust. Any people under the flag of the United States should have and must have the right to a market for their products in the United States. It is true that 15 per cent of the present tariff isn't much. But the principle asserted in it is unjust. It cannot stand. It is negation of expansion. Unjust taxes are none the less unjust because they are light. So thought our fathers when they rebelled against unjust taxation and declared their independence. In vain did Charles Townshend, George Grenville, Samuel Johnson and others set forth that the tax was small, and therefore that it was not worth while to resist it. The answer was, Why, then, insist upon it? It was the injustice that kindled the colonial wrath If we pursue this course we shall surely have a state of chronic rebellion in our new possessions. But we shall not pursue it far. Congress will be forced to reverse its action.

The Bryan Democrats have endeav ored to fasten upon such men as Hill, Whitney, Watterson, Lamont and Gorman the responsibility for Admiral Dewey's appearance in the Presidential field: but all who have been taxed with it file disclaimers. On all sides people are saying that Dewey is as innocent of intrigue as an infant, and that his wife alone is responsible for his candidacy. It is said, too, that both of them are so ignorant of political methods and of our system of government that until after he had "come out" for the Presidency they supposed the people could walk up to the polls and vote directly for George Dewey for President A correspondent of the Chicago Record

writes, from Washington: It is related that Mrs. Dewey, in plan It is related that Mrs. Dewey, in planning this great political maneuver, visited a lady relative of Theodore Roosevelt now in this city and requested her to arrange with him to take the second place on the ticket. Mrs. Dewey was laboring under a delusion that they needed only to distribute tickets with the name of Dewey and Roosevelt for President and Vice-President refinited upon them, and the previse esident printed upon them, and the peo-ould do the rest. Neither she nor the J miral has ever considered conventions, cam-paign committees, electoral colleges or any-thing else of that kind, and they were a good election was explained to them

The local Democrats deal a terrible whack at Jacksonian principles when they denounce the Republican party for trying "to enrich its employes and parasites at public expense." This is a far cry from Old Hickory's spolls doctrine. However, Jackson is no longer a Democratic ideal, any more than Jefferson, the expansionist. Lincoln has been dead so long that they adopt him now as the only true source of Democratic principles. Wonder how long it will be before they cite McKinley as the great fountain-head of Democratic doc-

As far as the public is able to judge from conflicting statements made from day to day, Admiral Dewey is still a candidate and both he and his wife greatly desire that he should be made a nominee of some National convention, presumably the Democratic. A sailor on a strange sea. Dewey is trying to read an unintelligible chart and set a course that will be the least dangerous hoping by some chance to strike the right one. The spectacle is not an edifying one to the patriotic American people.

In 1890 the number of persons of school age in Multnomah County was 15,464, and the total population was 74.-\$84. The school population now is 24,-885. The proportion of 1890 would make the population of the county now about 121,00 . Outside of Portland, Multnomah County has not now over 20,000 in

habitants Anti-Bryan Democrats got the cold shake yesterday in the Democratic County and City Convention. They are told they will have to sit in sackcloth and ashes awhile.

Plenty of Silver.

Baltimore Sun.

Warm friends of silver sometimes com-plain that the gold standard, by increasing plain that the gold standard, by increasing the volume of gold in use in this country, is making the beloved white metal hard to get. Yet the statement of the Treasury Department for March 1, 1900, shows that on that date there were in the country 477,045,562 silver dollars, besides \$90.345,414 in halves, quarters and dimes. But 69,in halves, quarters and dimes. But e9,-139,994 silver dollars, it is true, were in circulation, but the holders of the \$400,-105,657 of outstanding silver certificates could get them redeemed in silver dollars on demand. There is no lack of silver. There are trainloads of it in the Treasury at Washington, and the Company and the at Washington, and the Government we be giad to issue it in exchange for the

tificates. Under the new currency act some \$25,000,000 more in haives, quarters and dimes is to be coined, and when this is done we shall hav \$382,000,000 of silver available. The amount is even larger, as there are \$37,550,000 of Treasury notes of 1800, which represent silver builtion. Of these \$36,000,000 were in circulation on March 1, making the total available silver for our silverite friends \$550,000,000-enough, in all conscience, in view of the fact that these silver dollars are worth intrinsically but 46.5 cents. The present abundance of these dollars may be appreciated by reflecting that in 1859 the entire amount of silver in circulation was but \$65,000,000.

## WHAT IS A PUERTO RICANT

musing Pate of a New York Paper Advertising Scheme.

New York Times. One of our esteemed contemporaries haudertaken, by an ingenious device, tecure an adjudication of a doubtful ques ion. The question is, What is the status of a Puerto Rican in the United States The device was to import a Puerto Rican under contract to perform labor in the United States, and make a test case of If the Puerto Rican is a foreign such an importation is illegal. It subjects the importer to pecuniary pains and pen-alties, and the person imported to imme-diate deportation. The Herald maturally diate deportation. The Herald naturally did not conceal its purpose. On the con-trary, it flaunted its importation in the aces of the Custom-House officers, of the the Treasury himself, and had him de

on his side. When the matter was brought to his attention he directed that the im-portation should be released, "in bond," so to speak, and left go at large and presumably to fulfill his contract, "withou prejudice." Thereby Mr. Gage largely but fied any attempt at advertising itself which may have been mingled with purer and more patriotic motives on the part of our esteemed contemporary. But als he postponed the decision of the interest ing question. It is true that he himsel ing question. It is true that he nimeelt suggests a way in which it may still be brought up, and that is by a suit against the Herald for making a contract in violation of the law. We gather that this would not suit the Herald so well as the procedure laid out, and to which the Secretary declined to accede. It would, how ever, have the effect of fixing the statu of the importation, unless, as the Secretary suggests, Congress shall in the mean time change it, and the issue be raised

time change it, and the issue be raised on the Constitutionality of its action.

Meanwhile the question remains, What, internationally and nationally, is a Puerto Rican? Senator Ppraker's bill, unless it has been amended, declares that he is a "citizen of Puerto Rico," which is non-sense on the face of it, since Puerto Rico ship. It seems to be equally absurd to contend that he is a foreigner in this ng a citizen than of any other. If he not a foreigner, he is not subject to the operation of the contract labor law, and cannot lawfully be deported for having been brought in under it. We entirely sympathize with the solicitude of the Herald to get a speedy judicial decision upon this point.

### SILVER IS UPPERMOST.

Bryan Stands by the White Metal, "Hugging the Delusive Phantom

Chicago Record. Washington.—Colonel Bryan declines to accept the advice recently tendered him by Oswald Ottendorfer, the eminent edi-tor of the New York Staats Zeitung, and a representative goldbug Democrat. Not long ago that gentleman addressed Colo-nel Bryan a letter, suggesting that he might command the almost unanimous German vote throughout the United States at the next Congressional election if, he would only drop the silver issue and con-fine himself to anti-expansion and the trusts; but Mr. Ottendorfer warned him that the readoption of the Chicago plat-form would deprive him of the support

of that class. Mr. Bryan has written a friend in Wash lington to explain that, while he has the highest respect for Mr. Ottendorfer, in order to follow the advice of that gentleman it would be necessary to repudiate his most assessed abilities. would rather suffer defeat than betray them in that very particular. Colonel Bryan argues that the enactment of the gold-standard currency law last month does not alter the eternal principles the Democratic party nor permit it to de-part from its plain duty. The people demand cheap, sliver money, and he will continue to proclaim their demands from s housetop, no matter what legislation the Republican party may enact in oppo-sition to their wishes. It may be true, as asserted, that the political composition of the United States Senate will prevent any legislation in the direction coinage for six years, but, if the cratic party does its duty on the stum and at the polls, this Republican majority will be reduced year by year and finally the legislation referred to may be repealed. "It is not pessible for the Dem-ocrats to promote the free coinnge of silver by the abandonment of the Chicago platform," Mr. Bryan says, and therefore he will continue to stand by it.

## The Net Result of a Sensation.

Baltimore Sun.

After all the hue and cry raised in New York in regard to Olga Nethersole's production of "Sapho," the actress has been acquitted of the charge of assisting in an immoral and indecent performance, and "Sapho" has been virtually declared by the same verdict not to be an imprope play. Thus both the play and the actress have received not only an advertisement that is worth many thousands of dollars to them, but the judicial indorser espectability-a legal whitewashing which while not detracting from its dramatic piquancy, will make it more dangerous than it could ever have been otherwise by giving it a positive certificate of character. The net result of the indiscreet zeal which has been displayed in this case has been to stimulate sales of the book on which the drama is based, to increase in-terest in the play and the actress, and generally pander to morbid tastes and unhealthy curiosity.

## Where to Meet Them.

Philadelphia North American. "I understand the Irish people are much tiefied at the Queen's visit to Ire "Why so?" "If she really wishes to make up to the Irish the feeling is general that she should visit the United States."

Promotion. Chicago Tribune.
"So that's General Fullgore, is it? If I remember rightly, everybody used to call him Colonel. "Yes, but that was before he gave the town a big barbecue at his own expense. He's General Fullgore now."

Appreciation Philadelphia Press. He-What a splendid girl you are. Do you really think there is another person in this world as joily as you are?
She-Oh! I don't know. I may be a jolly individual, but I think you're a joilier.

#### Depressing. Chicago Record.

Citizen—So your star wouldn't play be-cause she was ill? Manager—That's it, and I guess if you had seen the box-office receipts have been indisposed, too.

Perilous Path to Fame.

Detroit Free Press. don't you do someth she way wealth and glory?
He-I would, but I'm afraid if I go to Cape Nome I'll freeze to death, and if I go to the Philippines I'll get shot.

### VERNONIAN ASSIMILATION-

Newspaper readers who keep tab on the poetry niche in the dailies have been asking a good deal about a bard signing himself Lue Vernon in several newspapers and periodicals throughout the country. Mr. Vernon halls from British Columbia. It is upon the extreme western shore, where the quick, fresh ocean breezes and sait air are supposed to develop the highest kind of poetic inspiration, that Mr. Vernon holds star-chamber tion, that Mr. Vernon holds star-chamb-sessions with the muse. She seemed to a ll right until lately, when she becam

afflicted with "unconscious arsimilation."
As a poet the British Columbia scrib seems to be making a strong bld for the laureateship. Through his effusions there have appeared at times some scintillating lines that suggested gentus.

At least, there were a few editors who thought so. The editor of Lesile's Weekly was one of them. He accepted a poem entitled "The Peacamaker." It was printed this week, credited to Mr. Vernon.

But, notwithstanding 'The Peacemaker'-reproduced in The Oregonan yesterdayis good, it has been discovered the piece is not original. The theme is literally cribbed from a much older poem, which is found in McGuffey's Fourth Reader, revised edition, copyrighted in 1879. The poem was then titled "The Dying Soldier." Faith in Mr. Lue Vernon's original in-spiration is badly shaken after a compari-

son with the following verses. First is Mr. Vernon's version: The dying lips the pardon breaths, The dying hands entwine; The last ray dies, and over all The stars from heaven shine. The little girl with golden hair, And one with dark eyes bright, On Hampshire's fields and sandy plain Were fatheriess that night. The last stanza of "The Dying Soldier

The dying lips the pardon breathe,

The dying hands entwine; The last ray dies, and over all The stars from heaven shine; And the little girl with golden hair, And one with dark eyes bright, On Hampshire's hills, and Georgia's plain, Were fatherless that night! For some time past Lue Vernon has seen detected in the act of pirating the work of others and passing it off as own. It was comparatively safe so long as he confined his robbing to fugitive poems and the many inglorious Miltons w wrote years ago. But growing bolder

began to improve and add to the thoughts of the immortals themselves, by changing the text here and there and supplying A San Francisco dramatic paper a fev weeks ago convicted Vernon of palming off as original a piece which, upon inves-tigation, was found in Longfellow's tigation. poems. The editor, fearing a refreshed version of "Gray's Elegy" might come next, called the literary carpenter and pur loiner to order in no complimentary man ner. The exposure did not deter Vernor from accrediting "The Pencemaker" to himself, and also "The Old Band," which was recently published in Eastern papers. Here is the complete poem from Mc-Guffey's Reader which bears so striking a resemblance to the plagiarist's "The

### The Dying Soldier,

(From McGuffy's Fourth Reader, A waste of land, a sodden plain, A lurid sunset sky. With clouds that fied and faded fast In ghostly phantasy:
A field upturned by trampling feet,
A field upplied with slain.
With horse and rider blent in death

The dying and the dead He low; For them, no more shall rise The evening moon, nor midnight stars, Nor daylight's soft surprise: They will not wake to tenderest call, Nor see again each home. Nor see again each home. Where waiting hearts shall throb and break, When this day's tidings come. Two soldiers, lying as they fell

Upon the reddened clay-in daytime, foes; at night, in peace Breathing their lives away Brave hearts had stirred each manly breast; Fate only made them foes; And lying, dying, side by side, "Our time is short," one faint voice said; "Today we've done our best

On different sides: what matters now? Tomorrow we shall rest! Life lies behind. I mig For only my own sake; But far away are other hearts, That this day's work will break. "Among New Hampshire's snowy hills,

With hair like golden light And at the thought, broke forth, at last, The cry of anguish wild, That would not longer be repr "O God, my wife, my child!" "And," said the other dying man, "Across the Georgia plain, There watch and wait for me loved ones

I ne'er shall see again: tle girl, with dark, bright eyes, Each day waits at the door Her father's step, her father's kiss, Will never greet her more. "Today we sought each other's lives:

Forgive each other while we may: Life's but a weary game, And right or wrong, the morning sun Will find us, dead, the same."

The dying lips the pardon breaths, The dying hands entwine; The last ray fades, and over all The stars from heaven shine; And the little girl with golden hair, And one with dark eyes bright, On Hampshire's hills, and Georgia's plain, Were fatherless that night! And here is Vernon's: The Peacemaker.

Lue Vernon in Lestie's Weekly. Two soldiers, lying as they fell Upon the reddened day— In daytime foes; at night in pen Breathing their lives away, Brave hearts had stirred each manly breast, And lying, dying, side by side, A softened feeling rose. "Our time is short," one faint voice said;

'Today we've done our best On different sides. What matters now? Tomorrow we're at rest. Life lies behind; I might not care For only my own sake, But far away are other hearts

"Among old Hampshire's pleasant fields pray for me tonight With hair like golden light". And at that thought broke forth at last The cry of anguish wild That would no longer be repressed, "Oh, God, my wife and child

"And," said the other dying man, "Across the sandy plain There watch and wait for me loved ones Each day waits at the door The father's step, the father's kiss, Will never meet her more.

Today we sought each other's lives; Together we shall bow. Porgive each other while we may: Life's but a weary game,
And, right or wrong, the morning sun
Will find us dead, the same."

The dying lips the pardon breathe The dying hands entwine; The last ray dies, and over all The stars from heaven shine; The little girl with golden hair, And one with dark eyes bright On Hampshire's fields and sandy plain, Were fatherless that night.

The discovery of Mr. Vernon's latest exploit was made here yesterday by Mr. John F. Logan, the lawyer, who bered the poem as one he used to recite olboy, years ago. He found the old McGuffey Reader, after so a search, in a second-hand book store

#### NOTE AND COMMENT.

There is no doubt that the Democrats need a doctor.

Some people swallow a ticket and others bolt it. It usually agrees better with the

former. Aguinaldo may not be very wise, but he hasn't express d any willingness to cun for President.

Is "Bobe" going to remain in South Africa till he witnesses the ob-equies of his own reputation?

As the British will learn one of these days, it is a safe rule never to crew till you're out of the woods.

Joubert and Cronje were great Generals no doubt, but the Boers seem to be doing pretty well without them.

> Each noted here of the war Now hurries home apace. That he may be here to get in

Quay may be thankful that the ice man manages to be popular, although he is obliged to stay on the co'd outside.

General Dewet fought a fight, And General Dewet won it. And after this it's only right To call him General Done It

If the Democrats continue their present tactics and postpone nominations, the candidates when chosen will find the election is all over.

Statistics embracing production, demand, price and profit show that the Southern iron and steel industry has never been so prosperous as it is today. The mills in their orders, are from six to twelve months ahead of their output. and in conjunction with this condition it is impossible to meet the foreign demands for coal. Skilled labor is at a premium. and those mills which have enough are running night and day.

A writer in one of the monthly magnizines asserts that the wickedness of the Paris boulevards is foreign, and not native. This statement does the French capital an injustice. Doubtless a good deal of imported wickedness displays itself on the Paris bonlevards, but it is absurd to pretend that the Parisians themselves are not very generous contributors. to the display. The magazine writer in question may not be aware of the fact, but a good deal of the old Adam survives in the heart of the average Frenchman.

New York is getting such large sums from inheritance taxes that the general tax rate for state purposes has been materially reduced. This has proved to be a productive source of revenue in most of the states which have adopted it, but the tax on inheritances is much smaller in this country than it is in Europe, as is illustrated by the case of George Smith, the man who accumulated a fortune in the banking business in Chicago, which he greatly increased in New York, and, later, moved to London. The State of New York collected \$1,934,753 from his estate, and the government of England collected from it

In purchasing the Holland boat, the Navy Department has acquired what is generally regarded as the nearest approach to a solution of the problem of submarine navigation. This vessel has been subjected to the most rigorous tests by naval experts, and, while the results have not been uniformly satisfactory, it is agreed that the invention embodies principles which, with further development, may lead to the construction of submarine torpedo-boats of extraordinary efficiency in naval operations. Perhaps the most striking testimony to its value is that of Admiral Dewey, who declares that, if the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay had included two or three vessels like the Holland, it might have prevented his

Tuberculesis, it is said, has increased nore than 80 per cent in certain districts of Norway within the last 30 years, and this despite the invigorating cold of the Norwegian clime and the hardy physiques of the Norwegian people. Statistics also show a steady gain in the number of deaths from consumption in Sweden, Russia and Northern countries generally, while in more Southern territories consumption is seldom seen. This condition of affairs eventually may mean that the Northern peoples will be compelled to migrate south in order to preserve their very existence, and that the tropical regions, now held as mere unprofitable colonies, will become scenes of life, commerce and civilization, and all through the havoe made by tuberculosis in the temperate and frigid zones.

## A Tax on Borrowers.

Springfield Republican. The mortgage tax bill has been killed in the New York Legislature Along with it also goes the whole scheme of abolishing the state tax and raising all state revenues from sources independent of the local property tax lists. Opposition to a state tax on mortgages came chiefly from vested interests but the consideration as well be faced that the tax in the end would find its way to the pocket of borrower, rather than to that of the

#### Barnacies. Sidney Lanter.

My soul is sailing through the sea, But the past is heavy, and hindreth me. The path hath crusted, cumbrous shells That hold the flesh of cold sea-mells About my roul. The huge waves wash, the high waves roll, Each barnacle clingeth and worketh dole And hindreth me from sailing!

Old Past, let go, and drop I' the sea, Till fathomiess waters cover thee! For I am living, but thou art dead; Thou drawest back, I strive ahead The day to find, Thy shells unbind! Night comes behind, I needs must burry with the wind And trim my best for sailing

## The Old Quarrel.

S. E. Kiser in Chicago Times-Herald. We leitered where strains of giad music Met the breath of the rose in the air; The years had been kind since we parted; Still, still she was girlish and fair; We had gone from each other in anger That night in the long, long ago-I was wrong and was ready to own it-The lights glimmered softly and low,

I caught her gloved hand and I held it: "Forgive me," I cried, "you were right, And I was coward for saying The things I said to you that night! She thought for a moment and asked ma. Half under her breath, half aloud: "What was it you said? I've forgotten"-And then we strolled back to the crowd.

Delicatessen. Is heard within the land. He is the same old reprobate, You no'er can understand. But on the street doth stand

But no kick bath the candidate, For, with a look as bland, Some hopeful politician's fate He, too, full oft hath plann

He, too, hath lied at the same rate, He, too, vain hopes fath farmed, And written with touch delicate