

The Oregonian.

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TODAY'S WEATHER.—Showers; variable winds.

PORTLAND, THURSDAY, APRIL 12.

TODAY'S CONVENTIONS.

The state conventions of three political parties will assemble in this city today, to nominate candidates for public election 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 their 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.

The gathering of three bodies in Portland at this time serves to emphasize the fact that this city is the center of Oregon. Through in the northwest 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 of the state.

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

Table with 2 columns: Year and Circulation. Data for 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900.

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 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 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 attention to the fact that whenever Portland and San Francisco were compared 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 importing and exporting port from Europe and of coal from Australia, and the big fleet of ships coming to that port with cargo under ordinary circumstances gives the Bay City a supply of tonnage which can be secured for cheaper rates than are demanded by shippers 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 sent 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 tonnage 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 loading than she would ask for coming round to Portland.

Since the present world-wide advance in freights commenced, this difference in 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 until 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 Honolulu tonnage in the Orient, or at Hanoi. The highest rate, size considered, that has been paid for a grain ship on the Pacific Coast this year was paid in San Francisco, and there was but a little or no difference in the rates anywhere on the Coast for many weeks.

The actual experience of the past few months will necessitate the revision of a number of essays on "Why 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 is expanding, but the additions are maintainable as good as gold, instead of being debased through free coinage of silver or fiat inflation. On the other hand, the expansion itself refutes the contention of certain idealist currency reformers that unless we have a banking currency based on commercial assets there can be no elasticity to the currency.

If a currency is being securely maintained at the gold standard, it will expand automatically in response to increasing needs of business, through additions of gold money. Need of currency 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. This is, from \$483,000,000 April 1, 1896, to \$783,000,000 April 1, 1899.

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 \$28,896,134; gold and gold certificates by \$33,000,000; United States notes by \$12,283,327; silver certificates by \$1,500,000,000; subsidiary silver by \$5,000,000; increase of all kinds, \$93,427,564. In the month of March alone bank notes increased by \$31,000,000 and gold by \$8,000,000.

Silver has shared in this expansion. The amount of silver and paper notes based 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 country, with increase by nearly \$300,000,000, this is, from \$483,000,000 April 1, 1896, to \$783,000,000 April 1, 1899.

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

First place, there is no official organ of the Republican party. Second place, the Journal they mean has not opposed reform in the tax laws. Third place, no such sum as \$64,000 has been paid for advertising tax lists—unless all payments for such objects made within the memory of man be included. Fourth place, vast benefits have accrued to the country 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 not 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 of paying their taxes when they ought to pay them. 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 and honorable 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 unjust, while the resolution charging the President with responsibility for the alleged fact that "intoxicating drinks have followed the flag to the ruin of the natives" is utterly absurd and without foundation 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 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 to the effect that the act of March 2, 1899, "does not prohibit the continuation of the sale of intoxicating drinks through the canteen sections of the post exchanges, as heretofore authorized 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 reasonable construction of the statute, but adds:

It is, however, questioned by many citizens, and it is very desirable that the fact intended to absolutely prohibit the sale of beer and light wines in post exchanges to the soldiers of our army in states where such sale is permitted by law. It is the intention should be expressed in terms which 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 construction 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 followed the flag to the ruin of the natives" is utterly absurd and without foundation of fact.

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 manufacture 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 intoxicants, which they sell to visiting soldiers and sailors, but the natives of Spanish-American territories, 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 lower 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 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 manufacture, 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 Infantry, 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 from the canteen "anisado" or "vino" from the natives at two centavos a drink. The effect of a few drinks was to make the man almost crazy and very unruly. Everything was done to stop it. 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 it, save altogether. The men would get it, no matter what their punishment.

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 ruin." An Army of over 60,000 Americans will have in Luzon such malt and spirituous liquors as they have been accustomed to use at home, and it is far better that they should have the American saloon than the native gin shack.

Under the new currency act some \$25,000,000 more in halves, quarters and dimes is to be coined, and when this is done we shall have \$25,000,000 of silver available. The amount is even larger, as there are \$7,575,000 of Treasury notes of 1890, which represent silver bullion. Of these \$6,000,000 were in circulation on March 1, making a total of available silver of \$32,575,000. In view of the fact that these silver dollars are worth intrinsically but 46 1/2 cents. The present abundance of these dollars may be appreciated by reflecting that in 1873 the entire amount of silver in circulation was but \$38,000,000.

WHAT IS A PUERTO RICAN? Amusing Fate of a New York Paper's Advertising Scheme. One of our esteemed contemporaries has undertaken, by an ingenious device, to secure an answer to a very interesting question. The question is, What is the status of a Puerto Rican in the United States? The device was to import a Puerto Rican contract to perform a test case in the United States, and to have a test case of him. If the Puerto Rican is a foreigner, such an importation is illegal. It subjects the importer to pecuniary pains and penalties, and the person imported to immediate deportation. The Herald naturally did not conceal its purpose. On the contrary, it flaunted its importation in the face of the Customs officer, the learned Powderly, and of the Secretary of the Treasury himself, and had him detained.

But Mr. Gage is not without ingenuity on his side. When the matter was brought to his attention he directed that the importation should be released, "in bond," so to speak, and left to go at large and presumably to fulfill his contract, "without prejudice." Thereby Mr. Gage largely defied any attempt at advertising itself which may have been mingled with pure and more patriotic motives on the part of our esteemed contemporary. But since he postponed the decision of the interesting question it is true that he himself 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 was not the intention of the Herald, and to which the Secretary declines to assent. It would, however, have the effect of fixing the status of the importation, unless, as the Secretary suggests, Congress shall in the meantime change its mind. The Secretary of the Constitutionality of its action.

Meanwhile the question remains, What, internationally and nationally, is a Puerto Rican? Senator Frazier's bill, unless it is amended, declares that he is a "citizen of Puerto Rico," which is nonsense on the face of it, since Puerto Rico is not a nation which can confer citizenship. It seems to be equally absurd to contend that he is a foreigner in this country, of which he comes nearer to being a citizen than of any other. If he be not a foreigner, he is not subject to the laws of the United States, 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 of Hope." Washington.—Colonel Bryan declines to accept the advice recently tendered him by Oswald Ottendorfer, the eminent editor of the New York Staats Zeitung, and representative of the Democratic Party, not long ago that gentleman addressed Colonel 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 confine himself to anti-expansion and the trusts; but Mr. Ottendorfer warned him that the reputation of the Chicago platform would be thereby lost, and that the form would deprive him of the support of that class.

Mr. Bryan has written a friend in Washington 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 sacred obligation to the people, and to be reduced by year and finally 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 of the Democratic party, and that he will depart from its plain duty. The people demand cheap, silver money, and he will continue to proclaim their demands from his position, no matter what the Chicago platform may require. He says that the Republican party may enact in opposition to their wishes, it may be true, as asserted, that the political composition of the United States Senate will prevent the enactment of the free coinage of free coinage for six years, but, if the Democratic party does its duty on the stump and at the polls, this Republican majority will be reduced by year and finally the legislation referred to may be repealed. "It is not possible for the Democrats to promote the free coinage 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 Senation. Baltimore Sur. After all the hue and cry raised in New York in regard to Olga Croyher'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 a play of proper 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 indorsement of respectability of the city-washing which, while not detracting from its dramatic pliancy, 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 interest in the play and the actress, and generally pander to morbid taste and unhealthy curiosity.

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

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

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

Pleanty of Silver. Baltimore Sun. Warm friends of silver sometimes complain that the gold standard, by increasing the volume of gold in use in this country, is making the beloved white metal hard to come by. Yet the statement of the Treasury Department for March 1, 1900, shows that on that date there were in the country 67,069,262 silver dollars, besides \$20,246,414 in halves, quarters and dimes. But \$9,138,594 silver dollars were in circulation, but the holders of the \$60,108,67 of outstanding silver certificates could get them redeemed in silver dollars at will. The gold standard is true, were in circulation, but the holders of the \$60,108,67 of outstanding silver certificates could get them redeemed in silver dollars at will. There are trainloads of it in the Treasury at Washington, and the Government would be glad to issue it in exchange for the cer-

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WHAT IS A PUERTO RICAN? Amusing Fate of a New York Paper's Advertising Scheme. One of our esteemed contemporaries has undertaken, by an ingenious device, to secure an answer to a very interesting question. The question is, What is the status of a Puerto Rican in the United States? The device was to import a Puerto Rican contract to perform a test case in the United States, and to have a test case of him. If the Puerto Rican is a foreigner, such an importation is illegal. It subjects the importer to pecuniary pains and penalties, and the person imported to immediate deportation. The Herald naturally did not conceal its purpose. On the contrary, it flaunted its importation in the face of the Customs officer, the learned Powderly, and of the Secretary of the Treasury himself, and had him detained.

But Mr. Gage is not without ingenuity on his side. When the matter was brought to his attention he directed that the importation should be released, "in bond," so to speak, and left to go at large and presumably to fulfill his contract, "without prejudice." Thereby Mr. Gage largely defied any attempt at advertising itself which may have been mingled with pure and more patriotic motives on the part of our esteemed contemporary. But since he postponed the decision of the interesting question it is true that he himself 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 was not the intention of the Herald, and to which the Secretary declines to assent. It would, however, have the effect of fixing the status of the importation, unless, as the Secretary suggests, Congress shall in the meantime change its mind. The Secretary of the Constitutionality of its action.

Meanwhile the question remains, What, internationally and nationally, is a Puerto Rican? Senator Frazier's bill, unless it is amended, declares that he is a "citizen of Puerto Rico," which is nonsense on the face of it, since Puerto Rico is not a nation which can confer citizenship. It seems to be equally absurd to contend that he is a foreigner in this country, of which he comes nearer to being a citizen than of any other. If he be not a foreigner, he is not subject to the laws of the United States, 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 of Hope." Washington.—Colonel Bryan declines to accept the advice recently tendered him by Oswald Ottendorfer, the eminent editor of the New York Staats Zeitung, and representative of the Democratic Party, not long ago that gentleman addressed Colonel 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 confine himself to anti-expansion and the trusts; but Mr. Ottendorfer warned him that the reputation of the Chicago platform would be thereby lost, and that the form would deprive him of the support of that class.

Mr. Bryan has written a friend in Washington 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 sacred obligation to the people, and to be reduced by year and finally 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 of the Democratic party, and that he will depart from its plain duty. The people demand cheap, silver money, and he will continue to proclaim their demands from his position, no matter what the Chicago platform may require. He says that the Republican party may enact in opposition to their wishes, it may be true, as asserted, that the political composition of the United States Senate will prevent the enactment of the free coinage of free coinage for six years, but, if the Democratic party does its duty on the stump and at the polls, this Republican majority will be reduced by year and finally the legislation referred to may be repealed. "It is not possible for the Democrats to promote the free coinage 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 Senation. Baltimore Sur. After all the hue and cry raised in New York in regard to Olga Croyher'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 a play of proper 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 indorsement of respectability of the city-washing which, while not detracting from its dramatic pliancy, 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 interest in the play and the actress, and generally pander to morbid taste and unhealthy curiosity.

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

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

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

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