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TODAY'S WEATHER.—Showers, with north-wind.

PORTLAND, SATURDAY, APRIL 14.

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS.

From one declaration contained in the state Republican platform The Oregonian dissents. That is the declaration which assumes to pledge the party to support of the Constitutional amendment for an increase of the number of Justices of the Supreme Court from three to five.

The Oregonian feels it to be its duty to warn our farmers, laborers, business men and owners of property against this amendment, which doubtless will have the support of a class of politicians and small lawyers who will be relieved of the tax on their property.

Already the laws of the state give too much encouragement to litigation. They invite contentious persons to go to law on small causes, and even trifling pretexts, throwing upon the public the expense of the suit.

Five amendments of the Constitution, proposed by the Legislature, are now pending, and are to be voted on in June. The Oregonian hopes all of them will be rejected.

Beyond any doubt there was an overwhelming sentiment of opposition in the State Republican Convention to the Puerto Rico tariff bill.

We agree with the statement made by the President in his message last December that the markets of the United States should be opened up to the products of Puerto Rico.

The reassuring thing most noticeable at present in connection with the trusts is the fact that many of their abuses are pretty generally being corrected by natural law.

Yet with due allowance for all these correctives of natural laws, the duty of lawmakers and courts is imperative and plain. The rights of the public consumers before the law are established in precedent and tradition so that they can never be abrogated.

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the profit on the various consolidations, as measured by their prices, is moderate. In most cases the common stock has to be added to the preferred to make the latter worth par.

Such consideration of any public question as proceeds upon an unreasonable and indiscriminate wholesale denunciation adds nothing to the sum of human knowledge or to clearer apprehension of political ways and means.

Little if anything good can be said for the trusts, but they must be understood if they are to be intelligently resisted. The error of Bryan is quite equalled by the error of some trust defenders in their endeavor to differentiate good trusts from bad trusts.

It is when the trusts are permitted to exercise undue powers and practice abuses that they become dangerous. When their acquisitions of competing plants are merged into a monopoly, the situation becomes one of grave antagonism to public policy.

With these considerations in mind we can see how senseless and puerile is bombastic denunciation of a trust simply because it is a trust, without examination into the precise nature of its abuses or accurate adaptation of particular means to special ends.

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court decisions. Meanwhile, the one absolutely increasing abolition of Government is perpetuation of laws directly calculated to foster monopolistic and predatory combinations.

Without historical precedent. The simplicity of Admiral Dewey in offering himself to the country as a candidate for President, without party and without principles beyond the vague assurance that his platform is the American flag, is utterly without historical precedent in American politics.

General Hancock was in no sense a self-nominated candidate for office. He stood for a genuine political force, and was a very formidable candidate, who was only beaten through the loss of New York, where he obtained but lukewarm support from John Kelly, the leader of the Tammany Hall Democracy.

Next Tuesday Louisiana will hold its first election for Governor under the new Constitution. The suffrage clause of that Constitution requires that, in order to vote, a man must be able to read and write, or pay taxes on \$200 worth of property.

Webster Davis, the pro-Boer enthusiast who has recently resigned from the Interior Department, is described as an orator of the roof-raising sort. The Springfield Republican says that his resignation from the Interior Department is understood to be welcome both to Secretary Hitchcock and to Pension Commissioner Evans.

The Boers have sent out an urgent call for assistance. Will our Judge O'Day and Mr. D'Arcy kindly enlist at once?

The censor held up to scorn. Away back in December last, the Times had occasion to send to the editor of the South Africa a letter of a few lines in regard to his work.

President McKinley is a very dull scholar, but he will learn after a while what the representatives of party power in Oregon are.

The case. An Atchison woman who does all the housework for a family, and who has been broken down in health, and the church people say that she will never get well until she retires from society.

Finis. Poor Poet—If ever I get famous I wonder what will be the first thing to happen. Poor Poet's wife—I know; all the magazine editors that have abused me before you.

In the middle of the road. Holman F. Day in Lewiston (Me.) Journal. O, the sleight of the getting' naged and it's dodgy and skivy.

"Sappho" on the Stage Again. New York Tribune, April 8. After the late unpleasantness, Miss Olga Nethersole and her company resumed their performances of "Sappho" at Wallack's Theater last night.

Youthful Classification. New York Commercial Advertiser. In the morning, the boys never lost their zest for the game.

in the coast towns of Burma. There are thousands of Chinese in Calcutta, who are doing the shoemaking and carpenter trades are monopolized by them.

Best service is had from our members of Congress by keeping them in the position till they have had opportunity to get acquainted with their duties and to learn the methods of their work.

It was not the purpose of the State Republican Convention to declare for construction of an inter-oceanic canal through the Isthmus of Panama.

Greenwich street followed the old road that led from Greenwich village to the city, and hence its name.

Exchange place took its name from the Merchants' Exchange, the present name of the city.

When war broke out between England and Holland in 1653, Governor Peter Stuyvesant built a fence along the present line of Wall street to form a barrier.

Platt street was called after Jacob S. Platt, who owned a great tract of land and opened the street for his accommodation in 1834.

Park row was for many years called Chatham street in honor of William Pitt, Earl of Chatham.

Many other streets in what were formerly New Amsterdam and Greenwich Village have titles of significance, but the names of their christenings have been hidden by the years.

Indianapolis Press. Heldbound—What! Do you mean to tell me you are going to be branded as a traitor to your party?

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and several times a week from the head of the table paterfamilias pour out judiciously measured quantities of it on the plates of his children.

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GOSSIP OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

WASHINGTON, April 13.—As the election of delegates to the Philadelphia convention progresses it is observed that the Administration men who will be conducting that gathering will face quite a serious problem in the settlement of contests from the South.

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

The Democratic Senators in Kentucky will not wear any Taylor-made togas. We will not be able to call it a free-for-all Presidential race till Penney gets into it.

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