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TODAY'S WEATHER-Increasing clouding

PORTLAND, MONDAY, APRIL 16

THE INDEBTEDNESS AMENDMENT The first of the five amendments to the Constitution of Oregon, now pend-

ing and to be voted on in June, is designated in the submission act as the "municipal indebtedness amendment." It is proposed by this amendment to abrogate Section 10, Article XI, of the Constitution of the state; and the following is offered in lieu of it: Article 11, section 10. No county, city, tow

school district or other municipal corporation shall be allowed to become indebted in any manner or for any purpose to an amount ex-ceeding in the aggregate 5 per centum of the value of taxable property therein, to be ascertained by the last assessment for state and county taxes previous to the incurring of such

The section of the present Constitution which it is proposed to supersede by the above is the following:

No county shall create any debts or liexceed the sum of \$5000, except to suppressinsurrection or repel invasion; but the debt of any county at the time this Constitution takes effect shall be disregarded in estimatin

In very many counties this limitation upon indebtedness has been violated. Upon most, if not all, municipal corporations, limitations are placed on indebtedness by law; but the law is frequently disregarded. The restriction is, perhaps, more common and notorious in the breach than in the observance As to counties, the Supreme Court has made a rule which to an extent sets aside the constitutional limitation upon indebtedness; for it draws a distinction between indebtedness that is incurred by a county in meeting different kinds of obligations-those which are optional with the county authorities and those which are incurred in meeting any re quirement of law

So easy is it to set aside constitutions and statutes in these matters, that it seems to us that the present restrictions are as effective as any we are likely to get-not very effective, that is to say: for officials usually like to have money to spend, on pretexts of public good, and whole communities often go wild in the same way. Moreover, we have all known taxable property to be assessed far in excess of its actual value, and that craze doubtless will occur again. Then five per centum of indebt dness upon this crazy valuation will

be a grave burden. On the whole it seems to The Ore gonian that we would do well to adhere to and obey the Constitution and laws as they are today. The proposed five per centum limit would in fact be an invitation and warrant, to many minds. for increase of public indebtedness to that maximum, where it has not already been reached; and besides it would invite higher valuations in order to get more money to spend on objects plausibly devised "to promote the publie welfare."

WHENCE COMES STRENGTH.

In the British army a man can rise from the ranks to very high official position; but the trend of London criticism on the conduct of the war in South Africa bears eloquent testimony to the extreme rarity of such advancement. The man may rise, but he does so in spite of the British military system, not through any assistance from it. What the British army needs, the critics say, is to "attract to its ranks that hardies element of the race—the young man who relies upon brains alone to make his way in the world." The trouble is that the army now is "officered by men whose claims to commissions rest almost solely on birth and money."

How true in detail this arraignment is, as specifically applied, is a question of the evidence immediately pertinent; but the theory of the right and the wrong place to find serviceable material for efficient work in war or peace, is true and unassallable. In the professions or in business, in labor, physical or mental, the youth with birth and money is almost hopelessly at a disadvantage with the youth who knows at the outset that he has his own row to hee, that success, if it comes to him at all, can only come by virtue of his own strength and skill, foresight and per-

The reason is that in struggle, and in struggle alone, lies the source of strength. Only through overcoming obstacles has Nature advanced, in all her manifold forms. The individual strives only as it is forced to strive in order to survive. It is in resisting opposition that the muscles harden, the vision grows keen, the nerves steady, the will firm. The man whose every desire for possessions, for social station, for knowledge, is gratified from the accumulated labors of his ancestry, is pretty sure to sit still and grow weak, just as the plow rusts in the furrow or the orse softens in inaction. The hardiest of the British race are needed for its army; and the hardlest of every race are needed for every army of endeavor.

It is from the army of toil and poverty that the ranks of eminence are constantly recruited. History is so full of testimony to this truth, and evidence is spread so thickly on every hand, that the only wonder is it should be set aside or trifled with. The South African war may not be big enough to overturn the practice of the British army in this respect, but it has at least served to set the British people think-

ing. A system that prefers the weak to the capable for responsible service, cannot outlast the supreme struggle that awaits the Empire, no one knows how soon.

REDUCTION OF WAR TAXES.

It is difficult to get excited over either alternative of the war taxes contro versy. On the one hand it is argued that abolition of all that cambe spared would be a fine stroke of politics for the Republicans, and on the other it is urged that we should be far more sensible to take the surplus now accumulating and reduce the public debt.

Unfortunately, neither of these pros ects can get serious regard from the experienced. The creation of campaign material is not the noblest object of Congressional achievement, and on the other hand, if the taxes are retained, whatever else we do with them, we shall not materially reduce the public debt. There is a myriad of demands on the Treasury, more clamorous by far than the bondholders, who like nothing quite so well as a safe and reasonably ermanent investment. Yet there is accumulating a surplus

of some \$75,000,000 for the fiscal year. The theoretical objections to such a ondition are unanswerable. It is indefensibly unjust for Government to take from the people more than it requires for its necessary machinery. A surplus, also, withdraws currency from the circulation, and tempts to extravagance. But the difficulties in the way are stubborn, because practical. In the first place, as we have often been re-minded of late, to apprehend what is right to do and to get it through Congress are two entirely different things. A proposal in Congress to reduce taxation would bring the Democrats to the front with countless schemes for lowering customs duties, and with concomitant resistance to abolition of internal revenue taxes. This is not to be delored because of Republican confusion or Democratic gratification, but because the whole agitation and unsettlement of interested industries would esult, it is reasonable to expect, in opeless entanglement and no beneficial outcome. The harm done would ex-

eed the good. In the second place, if we indulge the violent assumption of imagining Congress setting about the readjustment of he revenues with a sincere purpose of doing the thing best and right, the problem is difficult. We are raising large sums easily from internal revenue taxes both scientific and not burdensome, while the taxes about which complaint is made produce little rev-The stamp taxes on bonds deeds, bank checks, etc., for example, which business bears easily, have raised in nine months \$27,000,000; while the stamp taxes on proprietary articles, against which the drug manufacturers are making so strenuous a campaign, produced only \$3,400,000. Legacies and excise and mixed flour, all popular taxes on indirect inheritance, the Standard Oil and Sugar trusts, food adulteration, and sleeping-car tickets yield altogether about \$2,500,000. We can cut off this class of stamp taxes to please the druggists and corporations, but the effect on the surplus would be ilmost imperceptible.

The right thing to do, of course, is to reduce the customs duties in such places as they can be spared, with abandonment of some of the most onerous and least productive stamp axes; and for the rest of the surplus present and prospective, to pay debts with it. But in aid of ends so remote n probability, there is no use to grow hysterical, or to attempt manufacture of party capital.

GROWTH OF THE SILK INDUSTRY.

The annual report of the Silk Association of America shows a growth in the silk industry of the country during 1899 which would be truly surprising but for the fact that the year was on of unparalleled growth along all industrial lines. In the State of Pennsylvania alone, for example, silk mills vere established in thirteen additional towns in 1899, making a total of sixty towns or hamlets in that state in which the silk industry is planted. This industry does not have to take large transportation facilities and freight rates into consideration, as do the cotton and wool manufacturing interests silk and its products being relatively light and of less bulk. Pennsylvania's advantages in silk manufacture are further explained in the fact that there are numerous towns throughout th state where the cost of coal approximates \$1 a ton, where the local authorities are glad to remit taxes for many years on mill properties for the benefit that will accrue to labor and community prosperity through the establishment of this industry, and where there is an abundant supply of female

This last consideration is an important one, since from the eggs of the slikworm to the finished product of the loom the work of women and girls is especially adapted to slik culture and manufacture. Thrift as exemplified in the well-kepf homes and well-dressed children of the laboring people is the rule in these slik hamlets. Simply stated, there is work to do, the people are industrious and frugal, and glad that in the great world beyond their quiet homes and humble vocation there is a constantly increasing multitude that wears silk clothing and keeps up

the demand for their labor. If there is any reason why the silk industry should not be profitably developed in Oregon, it probably lies in the fact that labor of this class is not plentiful here. Thrift of the type tha prefers steady work at small daily re muneration to intermittent "jobs" with a heavy wage attachment has not yet, practically speaking, crossed the Rocky Mountains to the westward. The ques tion, "How much can I make?" has not to any general extent been associated with that of "What can I save of my earnings?" In the very nature of the wide-mouthed boss are instructed to things, the latter question can only be scold people about it. But when a litanswered with steady employment as its basis of solution. In the belief that the introduction of slik culture might be beneficial in this direction, and dis tinctly profitable on wider lines, some experiment was made in that direction some years ago, but we believe it did not progress beyond a demonstration of the fact that the mulberry tree makes rapid growth and produces an abundant foliage in the Oregon climate, and that silk worms thrive and spin here satisfactorily. This much being proven, the development of silk culture and later of silk manufacture in Oregon depends upon individual enterprise and the possibility of securing a thrifty, contented class of laborers of

growth of the silk industry will for ome years belong to localities where seeks permanent investment inder the assurance that labor is there ready to welcome it as an element of simple community prosperity of the kind that is built upon every-day employment.

A CRISIS FOR THE COAST.

The Oregonian's effort to obtain some ort of satisfactory indication from Washington as to the tariff status of trade between here and Manila between now and another session of Con-gress yields the coldest kind of comfort. Senator Spooner says that his bill putting the entire administration of Philippine affairs in the hands of the President can "in no way change the tariff rates on goods coming from the Philippines to the United States; that uch power cannot be delegated to the President by Congress." In the case of Puerto Rico, it appears, while the Presdent did waive duties on goods from the United States going into Puerto Rico, he did not waive duties on goods coming from Puerto Rico into the United States. Full Dingley rates were charged and will be charged up to the time the new Puerto Rican bill goes into effect. Senator Spooner says that the President has no power to change existing custom duties on goods coming this way.

Equally unsatisfactory is the result of inquiry made as to possible conces-sions for goods going from our ports into the Philippine markets. We know that duties were waived in the case of Puerto Rico, but we can get no assurance that similar concessions will be made as to the Philippines. The desire of certain powerful exporting interests, coupled with the distress of the Islanders, wrung from the Administration concessions for shipments to Puerto Rico; but whether the same influences will operate for this trans-Pacific trade is open to grave doubt. So far as Portland is concerned, the bulk of its heavy shipments to Asia is made up of our own products, agricultural, lumber and manufactures, and their "pull" at Washington is slight. The heavy Eastern exporters of machinery, etc., are undoubtedly in position to get recognition, but there is no evidence that they have thought the matter worth taking up. The outlook, then, is discouraging. Few things are of more vital or pressing importance to the Pacific Coast than some favorable action on this subject either by Congress or by the Executive. The problem of in-bound goods is as important as that of out-bound goods; for imports are as necessary to a profitable trade as exports. It appears that the Spooner bill admits of executive concessions on shipments to the Philippines; but it seems to leave imports from Manila at the mercy of the Dingley rates as now. Has the present prohibitory regime got to continue until Congress meets in December and plays with public business for five months up to inauguration day and then adjourns? In other words, is our trans-Pacific trade to be throttled at the outset by Congressional inaction until European firms establish themselves in the trade Spain has lost, and more firmly secure their commercial foothold upon the Asiatic mainland? Is there no way in which the Pacific Coast can make its voice heard on this most vital of present needs, and effectively?

Mr. McBride, Mr. Tongue and Mr. Moody think the Republicans of Oregon will favor the Puerto Rico tariff bill "when they come to understand it." They understand it fully now; and not one in twenty of the Republicans of Oregon, or of the United States at large, sees any reason why we should deal with Puerto Rico other than as deal with Hawaii. with other territory that has been acquired by the United States; and especially, the people of Oregon do not wish the Puerto Rican tariff to stand as a precedent against free commercial intercourse between the United States and the Philippine Islands, which it is expressly intended to be. It was devised for that purpose and was put through for that purpose; but it will not be permitted to stand for that purpose. No man can be elected to either branch of Congress from any Pacific state who would use tariffs for obstruction of commercial intercourse with the Philippine Islands. That narrow and selfish policy is wholly incompatible with National expansion,

Few persons are aware, perhaps, of the extent to which the United States has taken the lead in the production of the world's supply of copper. In 1899, according to the Engineering and Mining Journal, the world's production was 473,818 tons, the part contributed by the United States being 265,156 tons. or more than half. The other large producers are Australasia, Canada, Cape of Good Hope, Chile, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Spain and Portugal. The electrical uses of copper increase the demand, and the supply increases yearly. The increase over 1898 was about nine per cent. Here is another infant industry that has about outgrown the need of protection. Raw copper is free, but on rolled plates sheets, rods, pipes, etc., the duty is two and one-half cents a pound. Cheap raw material at home furnishes the factories with the means of international competition, as the iron and stee

industry so effectually demonstrates. "John L." is boss of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, but not boss of the Republican party of the State of Wash ington, by a long chalk. The Republican party of that state has given him and his organ "the cold shake." in a way that one even of his indurated sensibility couldn't fall to understand "John L." is very much enraged since he was treated with extreme and really unexampled but well-deserved indignity by the Republican party of Washington, and the hired writers of the little fellow who makes politics and office-seeking a trade, and sets himself up also for a newspaper magnate, gets such a set-back, you may expect many a cacophonous roar. At present there is more than one John L. out of the ring.

Sugar is to come in free from Puerte Rico in two years at most, or earlier as soon as the revenue derived from the present duty can be raised through direct taxation. But neither this fact nor the prospect of like concessions to Cuba and the Philippines deter the beet-sugar interests from widening their scope. Michigan beet-sugar mills for example, made, in January, 30,106,the home-building type to carry it out. | 113 pounds of sugar, one company mak-This may, and doubtless will, come in ing as much as 1,509,072 pounds. Calitime, but in the nature of things the fornia made 52,500 tons of beet sugar

in 1899. The industry is extending. There are beet-sugar men in Oregon today looking for desirable locations The beet interests will survive free sugar from Cuba and the Philippines, just as they waxed fat on the substitution of the Wilson for the McKinley tariff.

It is the opinion of The Oregonian that the Common Council ought to au thorize a railway track along Front street. Such track would be a great ad ditional facility to industry and trade Operated only in the night time, it ould not be injurious to any property interest, but would be favorable to many. Possibly it might disturb some body's slumbers—though that may be questioned. But if it did, it would help to wake somebody else up, and that is one of the things needed.

One of the first of the war taxes to go should be that on tea. Discrimination against it in favor of coffee was an iniquity of the war revenue law, plausibly attributed to the Sugar trust. It is significant, also, that in his recent reply to Congressional inquiry, Secre-tary Gage saw fit to omit any statement of the receipts from the tea tax Is this penalty on trans-Pacific trade so precious that it cannot even be enumtrated in a Treasury statement?

A peculiarity of the Oregon registry law is that no opportunity is afforded for registration for the November election after the books have been closed for the June election. Every one, thereore, who wishes to vote for President this Fall must register before May 15. The only provision under which voters not registered can vote in November is the section authorizing "swearing in" of votes, which is uncertain and at best troublesome.

The registration in Multnomah Couny now exceeds 12,000, with 5000 to 6000 yet to come. So far the registration in the country precincts is less than 500, while in Portland it exceeds 11,500. The country precincts should register about 2500 votes; so there yet remain bout 2000 to be registered in the country and perhaps 3000 to 4000 in the city. There is yet time to register, but voters would do well not to put it off till the last week. The books will be closed May 15.

Senator Morgan's victory in Alabama s gratifying for two reasons. It is a scourager of "anti-imperialism" and set-back for the railroad combination that has fought him because of his advocacy of the Nicaragua canal. The moral effect of his re-election may be omething as regards the anti cause, but, as regards the anti-Nicaragua aggregation, nil. This association of pariots is superior to all moral considerations.

The charitably disposed should not verlook the simple entertainment elsewhere announced in aid of the fund for an "Old Ladies' Home." Generous benefactors, living and dead, have provided the site for a "home" and the nucleus of its endowment fund. Among the great charitable institutions that are to mark Portland's future, none is more gracious or worthy than this

A remarkable character, the typical soldier of fortune, is Dugald Dalgetty, in "A Legend of Montrose." Nobody supposed that any man really possesses of that name ever would turn up. Yet now the reports of military operations n South Africa tell of the exploits of Colonel Dalgetty. Perhaps the novelists and romance writers are the truest historians.

The Democrats will decline Dewey's offer as a candidate but welcome him gladly as a private in the ranks. Just now the Admiral will take this we shall find out, perhaps, in due time. It is up to Mrs. Dewey again.

This remark is attributed to The toosevelt, and it isn't half bad, even if apocryphal, though probably it is "McKinley has as much backbone as a chocolate eclaire in a andy shop window."

THE PEOPLE UNDERSTAND. and Because They Understand They

Chicago Times-Herald, Rep. If there is a pro-Puerto Rico-tariff Republican in Washington who has not accused the country at large of gross ig-norance of the Puerto Rico tariff bill the Times-Herald would like to have him stand up and be counted. From Speaker Henderson down to Congressman Boutell the cry all along the line is that the bill is "misunderstood" and that "full knowledge of its purpose will remove any impression that it discriminates against Puerto Bico" Puerto Rico,"

And now comes the Secretary of the Navy to taunt us with our failure to grasp the "full knowledge" of the benefience of this remarkable second though of plain duty. Last Saturday, while in Denver, Secretary Long explained that: The bill relieves the island from all direct taxes, and all internal revenue taxes. It reduces the customs tariff from 100 to 15 per ent. Further, it returns to Puerto Rico all the income from the meager taxation, instead of landing it in the United States Treasury. If this is discrimination, it is discrimination against the United States and in favor of Puerto Rico. Thus the island fares better than ever did any of our terrifories, all of which had to pay their own way, internal taxes and all, every dollar of which went into Unclo

Sam's Treasury. If Secretary Long thinks that there is a single ray of fresh light thrown upon the true meaning of the Puerto Rico tariff bill by this statement, his opinion of the common intelligence of his fellow citizens is singularly low and unworthy. Times-Herald undertakes to say that Secretary Long has stated the financial and benevolent effect of the Puerto Rico tariff bill precisely as it is understo 00 per cent of its readers. They know that the bill relieves the Puerto Ricans of all direct taxes and internal revenue taxes. They know that it reduces the customs tariff to 15 per cent of the Dingley rates. They know that all reve nues from this source are to be returned to Puerto Rico. They know that the isl and fares better than ever did any of our other territories. They are fully informed upon every point to which Secretary

Long draws attention. And yet and by reason of as full knowledge as Secretary Long seems to possess they will not accept the Puerto Rico tariff bill as the fulfillment of American pledges, duty and justice to Puerto Rico.

The American people are opposed to the Puerto Rico tariff bill because it is a departure from the invariable practice of the Republic in dealing with and organis-ing our other territories. If Secretary Long will mark the significance of that word "other" as used by the Times-Her-ald and omitted by him he will appreciate how closely the American people are fol-lowing the true issue in this Puerto Rican

They see no reason why the island should fare any better or any worse than

save and do other territories of the United

States.

They see that in treating Puerio Rico differently from Hawaii the Republican majority in Washington is attempting to substitute a colonial system for the terminating the substitute a colonial system for the terminating the substitute a colonial system for the terminating the substitute is a superset. orial system, and to this it is apparent

Is it not about time the apologists of the indiscreet, pernicious and coddling colonial bill for Puerto Rico ceased to prattle about its provisions being misunderstood? The simple phrase, "our plain duty," uttered by the President last December, has more weight with the American people than all the tons of explanations and excuses that have been issued by the Republican majority in Congress since it substituted a 15 per cent customs since it substituted a 15 per cent custor duty for a plain duty.

Why Dewey Faile.

New York Evening Post.

Dewey as a likely means of beating either Bryan or McKinley, or both, has been eagerly caught up by some excellent, but, as we think, shortsighted people. To beat Bryan or McKinley, or both, cannot be the chief end of an independent political process. be the chief end of an independent political movement. We must know whom we are getting in their stead, and what poli-cies we are getting in the room of theira. cies we are getting in the room of theira. We cannot afford to defeat coloriess and servile men by means of one even more negative and subservient than they. Jowett once said: "It is easy to get things done if you do not mind who does them." But we must mind who does them. For the end we have in view the instrument is all-important—the fit instrument, we may say, is the end. And it is because the main object just now is the restorathe main object just now is the restora-tion of the Presidency to its ancient and intended vigor and dignity; because what we want in the White House is a leader f men, not a tool of tools; because we desire not merely to beat Bryan and Mo Kinley, but to surpass their type alto-gether, that we cannot but regard as gratifying the coolness and regret which Admiral Dewey's aspirations have met from the country. A man is wanted more than ever—no crouching figure, stooping low to go under the bars which the politicians raise in front of men of large moral stature—but we sorrowfully perceive that the Admiral is not the man for the hour. His failure to come up to the re-quirements but heightens the popular eag-erness to find the one who will.

Decency Pays Best.

Chicago Tribune.

It will surprise many people and should blease all to read that the decadent drama please all to read that the decadent drama is a failure from the box-office stand-point. During the season now closing all of the great successes have been plays free from the taint of nastiness, while a large amount of money has been lost by managers who have attempted to force into popularity indecent farces, decadent

society comedies and sensational "emo-tional" dramas.

The significance and importance of this state of affairs lie in the fact that the box-office argument is one from which there is no appeal. Preachers may thuntion and critics may point out its fenses against good taste and even de cency, but so long as the box-office recelpts are good, there is little chance tha my reform will be effected. When, however, the public stops buying tickets of admission to a play the manager is forced at once to realize that something is the with the production. When the records of an entire season show that none of the dramas which verge on the indecent has made money to a large extent, while all the great successes been pure in tone, it would seem that the wise manager must eee the apparently intimate and direct connection between the cause and the effect. And if the theatrical managers of the country are once convinced that the decadent drama is not profitable, it is certain that theater-goers will be no longer shocked by indecency on the stage. The theater is primarily a bus-iness institution, organized for profit. Its relations with art are chiefly those of a dealer. If it does not pay to handle the decadent drama it will lay in a new and cleaner stock of goods.

A Story From Gibraltar. London Saturday Review.

During the war etories in plenty have been current of the stratagems and treachery which have imposed upon Briters charged with very serious re-Changi have the following story from Gibraltar: Some time ago a consumptive German gen-tleman arrived there with introductions from influential people in England. The Governor and other officials received him Governor and other officials received him hospitably, and every consideration possible was shown him on account of his health, but, of course, he could not be granted permission, as he requested, to go to the top of the rock for the sake of the purer air, as there is a regulation that "foreigners are on no account to be permitted to walk about the top of the rock." Further acquaintance, however, with the German gentleman, through ever, with the German gentleman, through the medium of dinners and other social functions, resulted in a relaxation of the strict rule, and he was granted a pass The result of the visit is now to be seen at the German War Office, which is in possession of the most perfect plans from photos of all the works and defenses of Giberline.

A Waste of Time.

Elgin (Wallowa) Recorder Senator McBride is attempting to se culating copies of a speech made in the House recently in support of the Puerto Rican tariff measure. This action is en-Rican tariff measure. This action is entirely superfluous, as there is only one way that Mr. McBride can justify his vote on that measure, and that is through party expediency. It was an Administration measure, and, as Mr. McBride had received many favors from the President and his official advisors, it is not to be wondered at that be supported the measure. But when it comes to endeavoring to justify his action by producing argument in favor of the bill, he is wasting his time. his time.

It is an old saying that it is a poor man

that won't stand by his friends, and as the Administration has favored Senator McBride in many ways, it is not to be wondered at that he voted for the Puerto Rico bill, especially when it was an Administration measure.

North Pacific Farmer and Stockman. The North Pacific Farmer and Stockman be issued weekly instead of monthly will be devoted to agriculture in all its branches. Special attention will be paid to the speed and the road horse, and to the resources of the Pacific Coast, including Alaska and British Columbia. Mr. W. Baker, an excellent authority on the resources of the pacific country on the pacific country of the pacific country. all matters pertaining to agriculture, is editor of the publication. The first issue of the new paper is full. the new paper is full of most interesting and valuable matter, not only for the farmer and stockman, but for the general reader. Some exhaustive commercial and preserved by all for future reference. The new dairying movement throughout the Pacific Northwest will find in the Farmer and Stockman an indispensable aid and To it Mr. Baker has contributed more than any other man in study, experiment and enthusiastic support.

Philadelphia Press.
"How is it you're such a great worker? asked the grasshopper.
"Because I leve work," replied the busy
bee. "I couldn't be happy without it. In
fact, you may have noticed, when my
busiest season is on, I'm in clover."

The Price of Ten Cents' Worth. Boston Christian Register. Customer-Give me 10 cents' worth of aregoric, please. Druggist—Yes, sir.

Customer (absent-mindedly)-How muc

GOSSIP OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

WASHINGTON, April 12-Repr tive Tongue, to reassure himself as to the real status of the Hawaiian Islands in customs maters, directed a letter of in-quiry to the Secretary of the Treasury, to which he received the following re-

cerned, the status of the Hawaiian Islands has undergone no change since the enact-ment of the joint resolution of Congress,

ment of the joint resolution of Congress, approved July 7. 1898.

"Articles imported into Hawaii from the United States are subject to the provisions of the Hawaiian customs laws existing prior to the annexation of those islands, and articles imported into the United States from Hawaii are subject to the provisions of the tariff act of July the provisions of the tariff act of July 24, 1897, except as to those articles comprised in the Hawaiian Reciprocity Treaty of January 30, 1875.

"As to the disposition of the customs duties collected in Hawaii, I have to in-

wite your attention to the proviso in the second clause of the aforesaid joint reso-lution, 'that all revenue from or proceeds of the same, except as regards such part thereof as may be used or occupied for the civil, military or naval purposes of the United States, or may be assigned for the use of the local governments, shall be used for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Hawaiian Islands for educational

other public purposes." Differences Over Reserves. On the matter of forest reservations the Secretary of the Interior and the members of Congress from Western States are in most instances sadly at odds, and when the one takes up the subject, the other is sure to differ. The House committee on public lands has set aside the 18th of April as the day when all bills providing for extending degreesing or in the state of the state o providing for extending, decreasing, or in any way changing the forest reserves of the United States shall be considered, along with bills intended to create new reserves. It may be safely stated that the prevailing sentiment, both in the com-mittee and in the House, is against further forest reservations of any description, and in most instances a general re-duction of the reserves would be wel-comed. On the contrary, the Secretary of the Interior is firmly of the belief that we have not reserves enough, and seems to fear that the forests of the West will soon be destroyed, and artificial means will have to be resorted to to furnish

an adequate supply of timber.

One of the great objections that has been raised to the forest reservations as they stand is that they all embrace more or less land that does not properly belong in such a reserve, land that is eminently fitted for pasturage purposes, but which now bears no timber, and from its very character would never be wooded. The General Land Office realizes the strength of this contention, and has been ready to make recommendations that such tracts be eliminated from the reserver and thrown open to sheep and cattle-men for grazing lands. But the recommenda-

never gets beyond the Secretary. It may be that the House comm will have to devote several days to the discussion of this momentous question of the forest reservations, but it is expected that these conferences will result in the formulation of some general legislation that will be in the interest of the reserves, and at the same time be in the interest of the settlers in and about the reserves. The committee this year seems to have an eye primarily to the interests of the people, and has all along striven to secure legislation that is for the com-mon good. The Western members, espe-cially those from states with large forest reserves, are looking forward anxiously to the formulation of some plan which will do away with many of the outcries that are being raised against the conduct of the reserves as they are controlled at present. Of course, whatever action is taken looking to cutting down any of the reserves will be opposed by the Secre-tary of the Interior, but in view of the provailing sentiment in Congress, his recommendation will undoubtedly be over-

Emergency. New York Weekly. Jack—I'm thirsty. Come in here and I'll order a bottle of champagne. George—I'd rather have beer. Jack-So would I, but I haven't a cent, It's easier to get trusted for champagne

Measure of Success Washington Star. "What is your idea of successaid the inquisitive man. "Oh, I dunno," answered Senator Sorctively. "I should say anything

over \$500,000." The Coming Tumult. Indianapolie Journal.

He—You Daughters of the American Revolution ought to be ashamed to wrangle the way you do.

She—Never mind; just wait until your Hall of Fame committee gets in session.

Not His Fault.

Boston Transcript. Sterene—What a chap you are, Bound-or! You never agree with anybody. Bounder—Well, what of that? Am I to blame if everybody else is wrong?

Pay, Pay, Pay. Baltimore American. Collector-This is three times I hav

sked you to pay.

Betem—You're another of those "Absent-Betem-You're another of those "Absen Minded Beggar" elocutionists, are you?

Detroit Free Press. Jaxon-Everybody seems to have the rrip these days. Paxon (dejectedly)-I

The Street-Car Girl. Baltimore American. She's always just across from me Dressed in the latest style: With a bewitching smile. Sometimes she winks right squeily Again, 'tis plain to see That she's demure—this pretty gi.!

Across the car from m When I am hanging to a strap And twinging aches endure. She sympathetically says: She's always giving me advice-This dimpled, smiling girl— Just yesterday, she said: "Blank's Oil Will keep your hair in curl."

Each morning when I ride downtown My face she €hyly notes, And whispers: "Finest breakfast dish, Is Goodem's Busted Oats." I had to blush though yesterday
I did not understand—
Said she: "Wear Squeezem's Corset—It Gives you a figure grand."

One day she tossed her head at me And said in manner sly: "If you would know real happiness Drink Boozem's rock and rye." And many times she's told me, when My eye she fairly caught, "Get married—but before you do, Buy this nice house and lot."

She gives me good asvice, and she Is watchful of my ills. Quite frequently she warns me to "Take Curem's Liver Pills." And once she faced me boldly with,

She always has a smile for me, But I sit like a chump, And try to look polits, when she, Begs me to "See that hump!" Sometimes she cooks—you'd never think The work for her was hard.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

The lay of the hen mingled with the

After me, the deluge, said the ho when the servant girl turned the bose on

We shall be spared the agony of watching for precipitation for the next seven Sundays.

Dewey might have stood some show if Mason had not rushed to his

It is nearly time for Schley and Sampson to begin to quarrel about which one ought to run for the Presidency.

Three Chicago tramps broke into a bathlouse the other day, and the Police Judge didn't turn them over to an insanity com-

Butcher, of Baker County, will not be a delegate to the Democratic National Convention this year. He now owns gas works of his own.

Kansne City will probably finish her Fourth of July celebration by burning lown her new convention hall, just to show that little things like that do not vorry her.

If Dewey hadn't changed his mind about the Presidency, the country would have more confidence in Roosevelt's statement that he would not accept the nomination for Vice-President.

Lawyer William Foley is now known in Democratic circles as "the fair speaker," Lawyer Foley achieved prominence in the recent Democratic county and state conventions by offering universal suffrage resolutions and by motions to return thanks to "the fair speaker" who addressed the delegates in favor of the woman suffrage amendment to the Constitution. Judge Thomas O'Day and other Democratic notables have turned the tables on Lawyer Foley.

Oh, dainty, dainty violet, Oh, rose, so fresh and fair, Oh, lilacs, whose expanding bloom Breathes perfume on the air, I thought I saw you all today

Beneath the glad warm sun, But found your blossoms And bogus, every one. You nedded to me on the street, From many bright bouquets; . And, seeing you, I planned to write,

A sonnet in your praise.

I looked once more, and saw that you Were not fit themes for sonnets, You all were made of colored cloth, And bloomed on Easter bonnets.

The following rare bit of Amsterdam darney was unintentionally omitted from he report of Thursday's proceedings of the Democratic State Convention. The speaker was a Douglas County delegate. and he was thanking the convention for e-electing R. S. Sheridan as chairman

of the state committee: Unt behav uv der delegashun from Doglas Coundy I vishes to dank you fur der oner you haf confaired copon us by elecding Me Sheredum as chairmans av der democ staats cendral comity. Yintlemens, I dank

Dewey, Miles, and maybe Roosevelt Will be out for President, And some other heroes, likely Will reluctantly consent To be mentioned for the office By their swarming hosts of friends; And will all be making speeches . Ere the stumping season ends. But there's one great navel hero, Who is long enough on fame, Who's contented for the present To remain outside the game.

When the suffrage cause, howeve Has awakened into life, And a man's good vote is canceled. By the ballot of his wife, When the winsome Summer mulden Sets her dainty hat on straight, Runs for office, is elected, And proceeds to legislate, When the female vote shall triumph O'er the poor snowed-under men, You can bet your final farthing, You can't head off Hobson then.

A down-town saloon keeper, who is evidently something of a political genius, has covered a large portion of the outside of his place with a sort of huge fac-simile of the Republican and Democratic tickets, over which is painted, "Political scorecard." There are places for the names of all the candidates on the tickets mentioned and room left for others. The object is supposed to be to give every candidate for office a chance to have his name painted on the "scorecard"-for a consideration-as an advertisement and incidentally to enable the proprietor to secure a percentage of the fund to be ex-

pended by these candidates. It might naturally be suposed that from among the number of political conventions of various kinds held in this city last week every person who had any polities would have been able to select one which would suit him. One reputable and intelligent citizen has, however, been found who could not affiliate with any convention. He had received a number of proxies from members of his party, whatever that may be, and was about to con stitute himself a convention and call himself to order and proceed to nominate a ticket, when he learned that the persons who had sent him their proxies changed their minds and attended to their

buliness themselves.

Dan W. Gallagher in Boston Globe. The world seems given to busy men, who labor with hand and brain— Some of them striving for honor and fame, others for treasure and gain. ers for treasure and gain. But the one that I have in mind just now, is

up with the aun's first peep.

And the only rest that his little limbs get is when he is fast asleep. And I sometimes imagine the little shoes that

cover his tiny toes
Half echo a sigh of pure relief, with the daylight nearing a closeEach hour that passes is brimming with joymore pleasure it could not holdmore pleasure it could not hold— For the busiest man in the whole wide world— one little boy four years old.

When a little boy gets to be four years old, a terrible bother is he. And he asks furny questions 'bout all kinds of things from a whale to a bumble bee. You must tell him the number of stars exact and where they get their light— And the reason they do not shine all day the

same as they do at night—
And what bolds the sun up in the sky, and

how the trees were made... And why in the dark when he's left alone, he always feels so afraid— Then he begs for the tale about Bo-peep, and when the story's told, Another question or two has he-this little boy

When a little boy gets to be four years old, a wonderful joy is he-For when his arms about you twine, your heart from care seems free And all the trials of life pass on, and the things that are hard to bear— And the soul seems wrapped in a tender love for the little tot standing there—

While often a mist obscures the sight, and the eyes grow strangely dim, And then I wonder what price you'd ask before you would part with him-and I know the. In this great wide world there isn't enough pure gold, To tempt a mother to yield him up-one little