

The Oregonian

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TODAY'S WEATHER—Fair, with northerly winds.

PORTLAND, TUESDAY, APRIL 24.

THOUSANDS OF VOTES IN PERIL.

Three thousand voters of Multnomah are not registered. Registration closes three weeks from today—May 15. Every voter who is not registered must not only swear in his own name but also procure for him a voter card.

SEWALL ON SUBSIDIES.

The long silence which Arthur Sewall, the millionaire shipowner, has maintained regarding the Payne-Hannaford Revenue Bill has been broken. The public has waited patiently for "expert testimony," such as Mr. Sewall is in a position to give. That which he now volunteers could more appropriately be termed "awkward testimony."

Every year the American Nation pays to foreign countries the sum of \$100,000,000 for the privilege of shipping her goods to this country. The humiliating fact is seen of the farmer growing wheat at a cost of 20 cents a bushel, and paying foreign carriers 10 cents a bushel to transport it to the Pacific slope to the consumer abroad.

Mr. Sewall is quite familiar with the Pacific Coast wheat trade. He has carried many cargoes from San Francisco, Portland and Puget Sound. A ship bearing his name has just arrived out at Queenstown with a cargo of wheat for which Mr. Sewall collects 23 cents per bushel freight.

The American capitalist has stood aloof from the shipping industry. The fleet of ships now lying the Sewall house flag, in number and size, compares favorably with that of any foreign owner. As a matter of fact, there are not a dozen individual shipowners in the world who control a greater amount of sail tonnage than is operated by the Bath Statesman.

which the faded faces of these two old Indian women illustrate has nevertheless a pathetic shading to "men grown old, or who are growing old."

STILL "THE ENEMY'S COUNTRY."

The Louisville Courier-Journal, which bolted Bryan four years ago, is a warm advocate of expansion; it is against free silver, and has no faith in Bryan's proprietary medicine for trusts; nevertheless, this very able and influential journal is for Bryan, which means that Bryan will obtain the electoral vote of Kentucky this year.

The fate of the National election will largely turn on the action of the Gold Democracy of New York State. If Bryan obtains the support of the united Democracy of New York at the polls, he is dangerously likely to carry the state, and if he carries New York he is likely to carry Indiana.

It may be held to be commendable rather than otherwise, in a young woman, in whom the law is so much a part of her life, to be sufficiently strong to drive her into compliance with the homestead laws, in order to gratify it to desire to contract marriage as not only auxiliary to her efforts in an industrial line, but from a social and domestic standpoint.

THE PAY OF JUDGES.

The Massachusetts Legislature is discussing the proposition to increase the salaries of her Judges. The salary of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is now \$7500, and \$7000 for the Associate Justices.

JUSTICE TO THE WOMAN HOME-STEADER.

The injustice that has been in some cases suffered by women, who, having secured a homestead, are prevented from marrying before perfecting the title thereto, have been thereby dispossessed of their holdings, is likely to be abrogated in the future by suitable amendment of the statutes.

from lack of means to hire clearing and other improvements upon the lands. Hence, to put the marriage of the plucky female homesteader upon a purely utilitarian basis, valuable time in improving the land would be lost while she was waiting, in impatience and loneliness, the slow processes of the Government, by which she might without jeopardy to her homestead, right and title take a partner in her venture whose interests in it would be equal to her own, and who would bring into the compact the brawn required to make the stubborn wilderness blossom into productiveness.

In the opinion of the Commissioner of the General Land Office, the provisions of the bill are just, and in this opinion he will be joined by fair-minded people generally. It is no part of the policy of any enlightened government to make the marriage of its industrious, energetic citizens a disability, and all laws having this tendency through the old idea of woman's inferiority in the marital relation, may properly and justly be repealed.

TURKEY A HARD NUT TO CRACK.

It is perhaps a fair assumption that our State Department knows its business in its peremptory demand upon the Sultan of Turkey to settle our past due claims for damages because of Americans murdered and American property destroyed by the Kurds, but if the Sultan should, without qualification, refuse to pay a penny until our "gets good and ready," our Government to do his work, he would be obliged to "take water" and bide a more favorable time to enforce the collection of our claims, or attempt to secure it by military and naval force.

BUSINESS IN THE DEPENDENCIES.

Other things being the same, revenue collections are a pretty good indication of the business condition of a country. The fact that the customs collections in Manila were nearly a third greater in 1899 than in 1897 is a strong presumption that more business is being done in the Philippines.

METHOD IN OUR POMP.

There is a touch of appreciation of the character of the new members of our National household in the studied pomp with which Governor Allen is to be sent to Porto Rico. The show of the New England business man will feel a bit queer on the luxurious Mayflower and in the midst of the semi-Latin ceremonial which is said to be prepared for him.

SYNTHETIC SPELLING.

There are some, at least, of your readers who are pained to see you revert to "Porto Rico" in your monthly paper. The island and its people from a commercial point of view; why not have a like respect for their feelings?

His Choice of a Word.

"You look robust," remarked the lady of the house. "Are you equal to the task of sailing west?" "Equal isn't the word, Madam," replied the pilgrim, as he resumed his journey. "I'm superior to it."

mid hint that if a Vice-Presidential candidate is wanted, George Fred Williams hails from Massachusetts, and Massachusetts stops at no expense. In estimating the value of Vice-Presidential timber, the bar should always fit the man.

A Kansas reader of dime novels burned down a house in order to pose as a hero in saving the inmates. His reward was eighteen years in the penitentiary. This is just a little like advertising the iniquities of a city in order to achieve the credit of saving the inhabitants thereof.

"NONE OF THE PUBLIC'S BUSINESS."

Clark says he will not give up his seat. Money talks—through its hat, sometimes. "NONE OF THE PUBLIC'S BUSINESS." But the Public Will Make It Its Business Before All Is Done.

It is no wonder that the public are in revolt against the whole system of trusts and the legislation of the party in Congress which protects and fosters trust organizations. The trusts have advanced the price of all the necessities of life, in some cases to an extraordinary extent.

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ALASKA MINERS AND THE LAW.

If the present purpose of Congress is carried out, the vicious and iniquitous provision in the present laws permitting mining claims in Alaska to be located by proxy will be permitted to stand. The Senate has practically completed consideration of the elaborate Carter civil code, and will doubtless pass the bill this week.

The Republicans of Ohio purpose to send Hanna to the Philadelphia convention "in the interest of harmony." Harmony is what Hanna wants. The other name for Mr. Hanna's peculiar style of harmony is McKinley.

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

The rain appears to be waiting for moving day.

The Frost King and the Ice-man put on their trousers with very brief intermissions.

That French nobleman who has been arrested in Chicago is probably no "count, anyway."

People who are married by telegraph, being wired together, ought to be hard to separate.

Dewey can say that the World is his, but that doesn't help him with the other papers of the country.

Governor Roosevelt, it is said, detests jewelry. That probably explains why he has so little to do with rings.

It took a regicide's bullet to show Albert Edward what a success he is as a Prince. He has worked long enough at the job.

If Herod had a few scorchers in his employ he could have dispatched the business of killing off infants with considerable more promptness.

Judging by the length of the magazine articles the Spanish-American War called forth, this affair over in South Africa will keep copy coming in for the next 10 centuries.

Now there are no "Silver" Republicans. But there never were any. "Lincoln" Republicans are fit bedmates for the new style of Lincoln Democracy. Mr. Bryan has discovered. The country is reasonably familiar with the old style.

Governor Smith, of Montana, says: "You are at liberty to quote me as saying that I never would call that Legislature together again under any circumstances." The Legislature referred to is the one which elected "Popper" Mendenhall to the United States Senate, in connection with whose election such charges of bribery have been brought that the Senate's committee investigating the case has agreed on a unanimous verdict of expulsion.

A copy of the Commercial Advertiser of Honolulu has been sent to The Oregonian by Ed Dekum, which contains the following, under the heading "Wanted": "Official Ratcheter Duval will, like the Japanese, use traps in his campaign against the rodents. The trap is unusual in that it will hold a large number of the objectionable little four-footers. A bait highly seasoned will be used. Duval came here about five months ago, and was employed by Dr. Pratt as an inspector in Chinatown. He claims to have caught rats in Paris and various American cities. Further than his own statements, nothing of the man is known. The salary of \$10 a month is quite a temptation to any real or imaginary ratcheter." When Duval gets through with his ratcheting in Honolulu, perhaps Astoria may be able to secure his services.

Joseph Jefferson and Richard Mansfield are exchanging compliments. Says Mr. Jefferson: "I think that Mr. Mansfield's intensity of temperament leads him to overact. The fault jams my nerves, but I have faith he will outgrow it in time."

Says Mr. Mansfield: "I am sorry to learn that my acting has continued to trouble Mr. Jefferson through these many years. I believe it is five years since he attended one of my performances." Further instance of the mutual admiration of great players is afforded by an anecdote with which Mr. Mansfield often has credited Mr. Jefferson: "You know how actors love one another," is the cynical way in which Mr. Mansfield usually begins it. "Well, during one of Sir Henry Irving's earlier tours Jefferson, who never had seen the English actor, stepped one night into a theater where Irving was playing 'The Merchant of Venice.' Jefferson watched and listened for a few minutes. Then he turned to a friend, 'Is that fellow on the stage the man Irving?' he asked. His companion nodded. Jefferson grunted out, 'My man Bob could play Shylock better than that,' and stalked from the theater."

Mary and Her Landlord.

W. Chapman Wright in Westminster Review. Mary opened a little shop. To help her on in life's way: And her landlord told her how to reward. And it began to pay. "How's biz?" the landlord often asked. And Mary was imprudent. Of course she never guessed he was An economic student. But Mary's landlord's eagle eye Was watching how things went. And how she took it all as came round He doubled Mary's rent. The imposition staggered her. But what could Mary do? Subsistence bare is the tenant's share. All above is the landlord's due. So Mary kept on as before. Improving as time went. Her landlord took it all as came round The landlord raised the rent. And thus the merry game went on. Till Mary's life was spent. As fast as God could prosper her. The landlord raised the rent.

The Hedge.

G. D. C. in Good Words. Fair neighbor of the thatched cot, With Giotto de Dion clustered eaves, So star-sweet, on soft pillow, When you trip you lose the robyn of fable; So blithe thy smile, so soft thy tone, Thy love took a life to lose, I'd fain the hedge were overthrown. And our two gardens made one Eden! But "No!" cries Wisdom, "spare the fence! The thorn, the ivy blackbirds nest in; Leave something for the robyn's nest in. Some down of love to feed and rest in." "Some glad surprise, some mystery Of incomprehensibly sweet meaning! Wisdom is wise. My friend and I Scarce press the toposm twice by leaning."

You May Hear the Robins Call.

Agnes Lewis Mitchell in St. Nicholas. You may read it "May" on the calendar, You may fix your heart on Spring, But until you hear the robin's call You will find it is no such thing! For he's sure just when the snow flies, And he knows Spring's secrets all, You may be quite sure 'tis May-time When you hear the robin call. They'll tell you the Winter's ended— You will see it on the snow there. Just for a little sunshine And a breath of April air, But you may be sure of one thing, As sure as the stars in the sky, It is really, truly Springtime When you hear the robin call.