# The Oregonian.

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TODAY'S WEATHER .- Fair, with norther!

PORTLAND, TUESDAY, APRIL 24.

THOUSANDS OF VOTES IN PERIL Six thousand voters of Multnoma not registered. Registration 16. Every voter who is not regis red must not only swear in his HOLDERS to subscribe to an oath WEAR THAT THEY ARE FREE-OLDERS. A freeholder is defined one who owns an estate in fee e difficulty. THE ONLY SAFE WAY IS TO REGISTER. Register to lay. This applies to every voter in

### SEWALL ON SUBSIDIES

The long silence which Arthur Sewall, be millionaire shipowner, has maintained regarding the Payne-Hanna-Frye-Grosvenor shipping bill has been roken. The public has waited patiently for "expert testimony," such as Mr. wall is in a position to give. That which he now volunteers could more appropriately be termed "awkward tes-." Such, however, might be expected from a man who has already made millions by sailing ships under the American flag, and is today making larger profits out of the business than ever before. The absence of Mr. Sewall from the big lobby at Washinging measure through Congress has here tofore been commented on, and notwithstanding the fact that the bill will idd large sums to his profits, he has hitherto been too honest to come out boldly and declare in the face of exist ing facts that a subsidy was actually needed to enable shipowners to compete with foreigners, Mr. Sewall discusses the subsidy in Harper's Weekly of April 14, and the point at issue is lost sight of in a mass of generalities which are practically meaningless, so far as adding anything to what is already known of the measure is concerned 'After' a great amount of preliminary combast about "the grand vista opene up by this country's expanding importance," etc., Mr. Sewall says:

eigners \$200,000,000 for the cost of freight on our exports and imports. The humiliating sight seen of the farmer growing wheat at a cost of 20 cents a bushel, and paying foreign car-riers 30 cents or thereabouts a bushel to get it 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. Before he built the Arthur Sewall, Erskine M. Phelps, Edward Sewall and some of the other modern ships of his fleet, he carried wheat cargoes from the Pacific Coast to Europe at 17 and 18 cents per bushel These rates were so satisfactory (without the aid of a subsidy) that he coned to add to his fleet. The Arthur Sewall was built at Bath, Me., at a cost of about \$125,000, a figure admitted by British shipbuilders to be from \$10,000 to \$15,000 less than a similar vessel would cost at a British yard at that time. Her crews are shipped at any port in the world, at exactly the same rate as those paid the sailor working under other flags. There was money nough to satisfy Mr. Sewall when freights were 17 and 18 cents per bushel on wheat. Why, then, does he expect Government aid when there has been an increase of over 25 per cent in rates?

Every year the American Nation pays to for

Continuing, Mr. Sewall says: The American capitalist has stood aloof from the shipbuilding industries because the cheape cost of labor and of mon to man the ships has enabled the foreign shipbuilder to do business on a basis that permits of no profits to the Americans with their higher scale of pay.

Mr. Sewall has not stood aloof from the shipbuilding industry. The fleet of ships now flying 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. If Mr. Sewall can explain now he became a millionaire by operating American ships without a subsidy, and at the same time give any clear reason why others cannot do the same thing, he will throw light enough on the subject to eliminate some of the shadows of suspicion which now lurk around it. Mr. Sewall and his fellow patriots not only want the \$200,000,-900 per year which we are now paying foreigners, but they are asking a yearly bonus of a great many million dollars to assist them in taking it away from the men who may be willing to help the American farmer out by carrying his freight without the aid of a Gov-

Melancholy shadows of a vanished race and era, the portraits lately printed of the widow of Colonel Meek and of the last surviving pupil of Dr. Whitman-both Nez Perces Indians-appeal with something of pity to the public mind. Of the tribe of which they were intelligent and even beautiful repre sentatives sixty years ago, but a feeble dissatisfied, practically exiled remnar remains, pitifully bolstered up by civilization, but surely dropping into oblivion. To regret the passing of the Indian as here represented is to regret the march of progress, which is inconsistent with intelligence, but the chapter stead entry can testify), it is impossible

which the faded faces of these two old from lack of means to hire clearing and Indian women illustrate has neverthe less 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; neverthe less, this very able and influential journal is for Bryan, which means that Bryan will obtain the electoral vote of Kentucky this year. There are other signs that many Gold Democrats of the Middle West and South, who bolted Bryan in 1896, will not only support him for the nomination, but will vote for him at the polls. The Gold Democracy of the West was never so earnest in its sound-money convictions as the Gold Democracy of the East, and it is not as keenly alive to the vicious consequences to the business tranquillity and prosperity of the country that would attend Bryan's election as the Gold Democracy of the East.

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. Will Bryan secure the support of the Gold Democracy of the Empire State? It is not at all probable that the Gold Democracy of New York State will vote for Bryan in sufficient numbers to give him the state. There are thousands of Democrats in New York State who have very large business and property inerests, whose welfare would be endangered by any shock to public confidence or public credit. These men are intelligent enough to understand that Bryan's election would be a public calamity, and they will be sure to do nothing that is likely to consign their

gold eggs to a silver basket. The conservatism of great property interests will be fatal to Bryan in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. It may not be denied that Bryan is stronger with the Gold Democracy of the Middle West than he was six months ago. He is stronger because McKinley is weaker. The perception that Bryan has a fighting chance for victory helps to stimulate men who are strong Democratic partisans, save on the money question, to vote for Bryan on the plea that, after he is elected, he can be made as ineffective an executive, so far as the enactment of the Chicago platform is concerned, as was Cleveland, who to no purpose tried to persuade a Democratic Congress to enact tariff for revenue only. If Cleveland's efforts to enact his policy came to naught through the opposition of the Democracy from the protection states why could not Bryan be choked into silence, or, if necessary, turned down by the Democracy from the gold-standard states?

This specious plea will capture a good many Gold Democratic votes for Bryan in the Middle West, but it will not persuade the Gold Democracy of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut to vote for him. The Gold Democracy in these states has no use for Bryan's financial folly and fraud, represented by free silver at 16 to 1, and holds the arrant Populism of the Chicago platform in equal dread and detestation. There is no sign of any disposition to support Bryan in the simon-pure Gold Democratic press of the East, which is represented by the Brooklyn Eagle and the New York Times. There is small probability that Carl Schurz speaks for the majority of the New York "Inde pendents," when he says that he would choose Bryan on the Chicago platform with an anti-expansion plank added rather than vote for McKinley and the Republican policy of expansion or perialism," as he terms it.

Mr. Schurz could easily do this. for from force of habit it has become sec ond nature for him to pass from one political camp to the other. He was Republican in 1868, a Democrat in 1872, a Republican in 1876, a Democrat in 1884, 1888-1892, and a Republican in 1896 Without imputing any insincerity to Mr. Schurz, he is everything by turns and nothing long, because he is noth ing when he is not critical, and such a man, in spite of his ability, never has any appreciable following. cannot speak for all the New York "In dependents" that are voiced by the New York Evening Post, who would hardly carry their hostility to McKinley and "imperialism" so far as to labor and vote for Bryan and the Chicago platform. Bryan, from the present out look, is considerably stronger with the Gold Democracy of the Middle West than he was six months ago, but he is not likely to win over the Gold Democ racy of the East in sufficient numbers to give him New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, Maryland is the Eastern state that Bryan has a chance to recapture for the Democracy, and we think his chance there is slim.

#### JUSTICE TO THE WOMAN HOME STEADER.

The injustice that has been in som cases suffered by women who, having taken lands under the homestead law and 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. This amendment, as cited in our Washington report several days ago, provider that "where a single woman qualified to make homestead entry has 'settled upon, improved, established and main tained a bona fide residence on unsurveyed public land, with the intentior of taking the same under the homestead laws when surveyed, and marries be fore making entry of said land, she shall not, by reason of her marriage, forfeit her right to make entry on sale tract; to perfect said entry, and receive patent for the land, provided she doe not abandon her residence on the land and reside elsewhere."

This gives the energetic youn woman, who is more or less numerously represented in Western land districts, chance to take a "helpmeet," reversing the Scriptural order of that term without placing her homestead tract in jeopardy. As a matter of expediencycool, calculating, cold-blooded expediency-it might be well for a young woman thus situated to postpone her marriage until the patent to her home stead was safely delivered into he hands. This, however, is doubtful since many and vexatious delays attend the surveys of public lands, and the consequent delivery of homestead patents upon them. In the meantime life on the homestead tract is, in the very nature of things, a lonely one, and also in the nature of things (as every man who has made a bona fide home

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. It is proper for the Government to protect itself from homesteading in duplicate, and this 's

the intent of the final clause of the amendment proposed. 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, so prominent in English statutes, may properly and without a shadow of menace to our domestic institutions, be expunsed from our statute-books. This may be said to be 'woman's rights" upon a just and economic basis, and the underlying principle appeals for justice in the lawgiver without complicating fact with fancy in consideration of the probable out-

It may be held to be commendable rather than otherwise, in a young woman, in whom the home and accumulative instinct is 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. Hence it is most impolitic and unjust to punish her, as not a few young women similarly situated and inclined have been punished by confiscating her holdings under the Government land laws for obeying this instinct. There is, of course, another possibility in connection with the case represented by the thriftless young land-hunter, who sees in the energetic young woman awaiting the pleasure of the Government to prove up on her homestead a desirable "catch," and who proceeds to spread the matrimonial net with a view to being "drawn in out of the wet," but against this possible contingency it is hardly the province, as it certainly is foreign to the intent, of the Government to set up a defense.

THE PAY OF JUDGES.

The Massachusetts Legislature is discussing a 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. For the Superior Court they are now \$6000 and \$5500. It is now pro-\$1000. Within three decades there have been three advances in the pay of these branches of the state judiclary, averaging \$1000 each time for each member of the Supreme Court and the Superior Court. The Springfield Republican recites these facts and invites a comparison, if the increase asked for be grant ed, between what will then be the com pensation of the Massachusetts judi clary and certain other judicial salarie

in the United States: Massachusetts Supreme Court Massachusetts Supreme Court.
Inited States Supreme Court.
United States Circuit Court.
United States District Court.
United States District Court of Claims.
New York Court of Appeals.
Connecticut Supreme Court.
New Jorkey Supreme Court.
Pennsylvania Supreme Court.
Pennsylvania Supreme Court.
Pennsylvania Supreme Court.
Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

court of the other states will average about \$3000. The Republican fairly say that the proposed salaries for the Massachusetts Judges are generous, for they hold their positions for life, while the Judges in New York and most of the other states are elected for a fixed term of years. The only legitimate ar gument for the increase in Massachu setts is that the Judges are subjected to large traveling and transient living expenses, but this argument will hardly bear examination, because these expenses are no larger, if as large, as they were twenty or even ten years ago The argument for high judicial salaries that they should be regulated measur ably by what Judges might earn at the bar, or by what the ablest lawyers are able to command in way of incom seems more specious than sound. The great legal incomes are not the reward of the kind of judicial ability, legal learning and personal character, that are wanted by the people on the bench The great legal incomes obtained by corporation lawyers are not earned by men of judicial quality, but men of the quality of the late David Dudley Field and by Wager Swayne; men who are adepts at circumventing or overreaching the law, men whose so-called code of legal ethics stands for absolute ir reverence and contempt for mora equity or legal fair play.

So far from desiring men of this qua ity of legal audacity and craft upon the bench, it would be a public calamity to place the scales of public justice in their hands. The legal ethics of these so-called great corporation lawyers who earn enormous professional incomes, are those preached and practiced by Aaron Burr, Lord Brougham and Rufus Choate, the kind of legal ethics that Napoleon would have acted upon, had he been a corporation lawyer; but they are not the legal ethics of John Marshall, the incarnation of reason, equity and honesty, or of Abraham Lincoln. The lawyers who earn these enormous incomes are disciples of David Dudley Field, who educated by his successful example a school of so-called "great lawyers," who are largely responsible for devising the vast system of legal wreckage of great railroads and other great corporate trusts The famous robbery of the Wabash was accomplished by Wager Swayne and Judge Brewer, the nephew of David Dudley Field, through a scheme which United States Circuit Judge Gresham denounced as "a scheme whose boldness was only equaled by its injustice." This theory of "legal ethics," boiled down, is expressed in the old doggerel;

Cheat your neighbor, if you can;

He'll do the same by you; You'll never get rich, but die in the ditch, Unless you paddle your own cance. The sort of legal craft represented by great "lawyers" with enormous incomes does not stand for the judicial ability and legal integrity that is wanted on the bench, and it is utterly absurd to measure judicial salaries by what cunning, astute, unscrupulous corporation lawyers are able to secure by their abnormally acute genius for trick ery within the law. If the people could

secure such men for the bench, they would be a curse to it, for the public would always hold them in suspicion because of their lack of reputation for legal integrity and their plentiful reputation for the genius of astute indirection, mental and moral crookedness. To pay the Judges of a state court from \$15,000 to \$100,000 a year because a lawyer whose kind and quality of practice proves that he is not fit for an honest Judge obtains that income, would be absurd. The largest fee that Daniel Webster ever obtained was \$10,000, a far less sum than comparatively obscure lawyers obtain for lobby practice as corporation agents in a single session of the Legislatures of Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey. The people do not want such lawyers for Judges, even if they would serve for a moderate salary, and they certainly do not want them at the price of an immoderate compensation. There are today and always will be plenty of lawyers who will be glad and proud to accept a place upon the judiciary for a fair compensation. These men have all the legal learning and ability necessary to execute justice, however much that may fall below the legal learning and ability necessary to circumvent and overreach law, to the end of inflicting injustice. The upright Judge is content with a fair salary because he is proud of the dignity of his office and its unexampled opportunity for public usefulness of the highest and most permanent character. The upright Judge is a man of simple tastes, who is content to live on a moderate income, which is sure to keep him in touch and sympathy with the great mass of his fellow-citizens who are men of upright intentions, just purposes, the plain people, the men of peace and good will. The type of lawyer that makes a desirable Judge is John A. Andrew, of Massachusetts rather than Rufus Choate, with his immoral code of "lawyi ethics" the American Steel & Wire Company is mills of the company had been shut down, throwing 600 or 760 men out of employment, and making a mild "Black Fr.day" in the stock market, is reported to have said: "It is none of the public's business. The American Steel & Wire Company is the stock market, is reported to have said: "It is none of the public's business." keep him in touch and sympathy with immoral code of "legal ethics."

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 he "gets good and ready," and defy our Government to do its worst, we should 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. In this event, Turkey would prove a very hard nut to crack, for her army is no longer the brave but undisciplined force it was in the Crimean War of 1854-56, or even what it was when it so

gallantly and stubbornly stood off the

whole Russian army from Plevna in

1877. Turkey has an excellent standing army of over 200,000 men and 696 cannon. This army is well armed trained and disciplined; its arms are improved posed to increase all these salaries by modern cannon and rifles; its artillery has been trained by educated German officers. The Turk is a robust man and makes a brave, patient, obedient soldier of extraordinary endurance. The Turkish Generals in the war with Greece exhibited excellent scientific navy that could not enter Santiago harbor. Smyrna is so occupied by foreign residents that its bombardment could not be undertaken without serious objection on the part of the powers

> with the United States, we should have at the polls. a very difficult task to reduce Turkey to compliance with our demands. Our Navy could not possibly force the Dardanelles, and a military invasion of Turkey with an American army would be out of the question. Under the present circumstances, we could not enforce our demands against Turkey with our Army and Navy, and, of course, if Germany or Russia should secretly or openly back Turkey, we could not be otherwise than defeated. It is possible that our Government has some assurance from Germany and Russia that our demand will be supported by their influence with the Sultan. Otherwise war with Turkey would not be a very

hopeful undertaking. Probably our Government does no eriously intend, in event of the Sultan's refusal to pay or of further delay, to attempt to collect its claims at the cannon's mouth. Our Government does not probably mean to proceed beyond cutting off all diplomatic relations with the Ottoman Empire, just as Italy is coffee, the conditions of who withdrew her Minister from Washington and suspended all diplomatic rela tions with our country until we settled her claim for damages because of Italian subjects murdered by the memora-

The bench show lately held in this city proved, first, that the dog industry is a thriving one on the Pacific Coast, and, second, that man's appreciation of his most faithful brute-friend is an undiminished quantity in an age the tendency of which is to put everything upon a commercial basis. True "old dog Tray" of our childhood-the dog without a pedigree, but that nevertheless held a place of usefulness and trust in the family-was not in evidence at this show, but his faithful counterpart is still on guard at hundreds of farmhouses, not less cherished by the master and beloved by the children than were his nameless ancestors by the masters and children of a past generation. But of high-bred dogs, man; (and to a novice in dog heraldry, all) kinds and degrees were represented, the admiration of the public not less than the pride of their owners bearing testimony to the esteem in which these intelligent and interesting creatures are held. The utilitarian is, of course, in evidence, commenting sorrowfully or cynically, according to his mood, on the nature that is behind it, upon the wastefulness that invests money in high-bred dogs and squanders it upon their care and keep; but to the genuine lover of animal life, the dog, reaching by cultivation the limit of possibilities in intelligence in the brute creation, is an object worthy of man's admiration and even of his affection, and will ever be the recipient of his ungrudged bounty. This is not a fact to be caviled at, but rather an attribute of humanity to be admired, and within reason-

able limits encouraged. The Money Devil has established headquarters at Kansas City. The Massachusetts delegation must pay

mild hint that if a Vice-Presidential ALASKA MINERS AND THE LAW candidate is wanted, George Fred Williams halls from Massachusetts, and Massachusetts stops at no expense. In estimating the value of Vice-Presidential timber, the bar'l 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. Verily, those who proclaim their own virtues from the housetops shall have their reward.

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.

Croker is well, and winning money on

to gain by circulating a story of a great and good man's death should select a subject less tough and more

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. Chicago Chronicle.

running this business without any need of explanation to the public. We shut down and open our mills when we see fit." If this remark was made, it is the most graceless and impudent expression of opinion on a subject of great general interest since one of the Vanderbilts, when told that the public wanted to know some-thing about his railroad, replied: "The public be d-d."

Vanderbilt owned and operated a railroad under a public charter. His public franchises made his railroad property exceedingly valuable. The public were large owners of the stocks and bonds of his railway company. The public, to the number of many millions annually, were passen-gers on his railroads. His freight and passenger receipts derived from the pub-lic paid the expenses or his company and the dividends on his railroad securities. Yet when told that the public desired some information about the methods and operations of his railroad his answer was: public be d-d."
Facts will tell whether the public has

a right to know about the operations of the American Steel & Wire Company. Before this gigantic trust was formed the price of wire nails was \$1.30 a hundred pounds; the trust price now is \$3.53 a hundred pounds. Plain wire was \$1.20 a pounds; the trust price is \$3 28 a pounds. Barbed wire was \$1 45 a hundred pounds; it is now \$3 98 a hundred pounds. This enormous increase in prices is paid by the public, and the magnate says that the operations of his trust are "none of the public's business."

A large portion of the public were in-vestors in the stocks of the American Steel & Wire Company. They bought the property on the assurance of the comability. On a war footing Turkey can put over a million of men into the field, and of these, 500,000 represent excellent war material. The ports of Turkey are sufficiently well fortified to stand off a navy that could not enter Santian. pany's officers that it was an honest or

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 necessaries of life; in some ous objection on the part of the powers of Europe.

Turkey, in her war with Greece, was permitted to work her will. If the same liberty was accorded in a war public will make the trusts their business. The

## Business in the Dependencies.

New York Journal of Commerce ollections are a pretty good indication business conditions. The fact that the customs collections in Manila were nearly a third greater in 1899 than in 1897 raises a strong presumption that more business is being done in that port under our Gov ernment than under that of Spain. Th customs collections in Havana in the first quarter of 1990 were much larger than in the first quarter of 1899. That period was too soon after the war to be a normal standard of comparison, but there is other evidence that Cuba is rapidly recovering from the war and the revolution and is doing more business than in previous years. Recent visitors say that the ravages of war are only visible on the sugar lantations. Recovery here must be slowe than in the commercial centers, but it is said to be in progress, and the suffering in Porto Rico is probably due more to the convulsions of Nature last Summer than to any change American sovereignty has effected in commercial affairs. the most important export of Porto Rice have not been changed by the war.

New York Commercial Advertiser. There is a touch of appreciation of th character of the new members of our Na-tional household in the studied pomp with which Governor Allen is to be sent to Porto Rico. This shrewd and modest 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. Doubtless we shall hear from other Massachusetis gentlemen, whose customary be-havior is less shrewd and modest than his, a great deal of nonsense about the ridicuous assumption of barbaric dignities by the irrelent Pro-Consul of the American emperor by the grace of Mark Hanna. The criticism is more ridiculous than the thing criticised, because the latter has a rational motive. The Porto Ricans have their own onception of the formalities of official life. and the behavior of public officers. To re-fuse proper respect to these would be as had taste as it would be bad politics.

Semontbette Spelling. New York Evening Post, Sir: There are some, at least, of your reader, who are pained to see you revert to "Porto" Rico. You have expressed great sympathy for the island and its people from a commercial point of view; why not have a like respect for their feelings? This is not a question of pedan-tic pursum. They could not accept with any equanimity an official change of name from that they have had for 400 years, and why should we attempt to force upon them a popu-ar usage which they cannot possibly acquiesce. in? It seems to me simply a question of kindly feeling and good manners, and both these are due them from us in the highest degree of which we are capable. Very truly yours, F. E. CHADWICK, Captain, U. S. N.

We are willing to give the Porto Rican ot only the spelling, but the government they want; but a newspaper can only fol-low official spellings, especially when they are recognized in press dispatches. Trade's Ways.

Chicago Record. Grocer-Broomcorn has gone up. Clerk-What's that for? Grocer-Why, stupid, to keep up with the way we've raised the price of brooms.

Minneapolis Journal. Boston has a horseless fire engine. How \$1100 per day for quarters. Here is a much better to put up fireless buildings.

If the present purpose of Congress is carried out, the vicious and iniquitous provision in the present laws permitting min ing claims in Alaska to be located by proxy will be permitted to stand. The Senate has practically completed consider ation of the elaborate Carter civil code and will doubtless pass the bill this week The vexatious question as to mining rights on the ocean beach has been settled and settled with proper regard for and intelligent conception of the rights and circumstances of the miners. But corporations and individuals may still plaster a mining territory with fictitious blanket locations through agents and attorneys in fact, and hold them against all the world. This is a greedy same of wholesale grab that freezes out the honest pros pector and working miner, for whom the undeveloped mineral wealth of the public domain is intended, and to whom it is too often not given. The much-discusse Hansbrough amendment was designed to the track. Persons who have anything cure this widespread evil. It was, however, coupled up with an attack on the validity of certain Cape Nome locations, and the probabilities are that its merits escaped notice of the Senate in its consideration of the proposed forfeiture of title Clark says he will not give up his to claims made by certain persons not citizens of the United States.

It seems that certain Finns, Norwegians and Laplanders in 1898 took out first citizenship papers before a United States Commissioner at St. Michael, and then located on valuable claims at Cape Nome. The Commissioner had no legal right to issue the papers, and the foreigners who located the claims were undoubtedly still allens at the time. Charles D. Lane, a Californian, and other American citizens they were jumped by some others. It was the purpose of Senator Carter, father of the bill, to validate the Lane title in the following provision, which was attacked by the Hansbrough amendment, but has been allowed to remain:

"The title to any lands heretofore conveyed shall not be questioned, or in any manner affected by reason of the allenage of any person from or through whom title may have been derived." The entire justice of this provision will

not be seriously questioned by any disinterested person, assuming that the state ing, under the head of "Wanted": of facts represented to the Senate in Lane's behalf is correct. But it is surprising that the Senate should have so Alaska as to refuse to accept the fol- are necessary will be employed. Apply at lowing: "No location of a mining claim shall

pereafter be made in the District of Alaska by any person or persons through an agent or attorney in fact, and all locations heretofore made by any person or persons through an agent or attorney or improvements had not been expended or made within 90 days first succeeding the date of such location, are hereby declared to be null and void."

It will be observed that the amendment had no purpose of disturbing existing titles and intended to establish the rule only for future locations, limiting them to explorers, prospectors, miners or other persons actually on the ground. A proper understanding of the wicked abuses and colossal frauds that have been practiced in Alaska under the present spatem would have made adoption of this provision imperative upon a right-thinking lawmaking body. It must be assumed that the existing deplorable situation was not fully presented to the Senate.

The amendment disposing of the trouble some problem as to titles of claims on the beach at Cape Nome and in places similarly situated is in full as follows:

"That, subject only to general limita-tions that may be necessary to exempt navigation from artificial obstructions, all United States shall be subject to exoration for gold and other precious netals by citizens of the United States and persons who have legally declared such reasonable rules and regulation the miners in organized mining districts may have heretofore made or may hereafter make governing the temporary pos-session thereof for exploration and mining purposes, until otherwise provided by

"Provided, further, that the rules and regulations established by the miners shall not be in conflict with the mining laws of the United States; and all permits heretofore granted, authorizing any person or persons, corporation or comp to excavate or mine under any of said waters, are hereby revoked and declared sull and void; and the reservation of a roadway 60 feet wide, under the tenth ection of the act of May 14, 1898, entitled 'An Act extending the homestead laws and providing for the right-of-way of railroads in Alaska, and for other pur poses, shall not apply to mineral lands r townsites."

In other words, the proposed law leave the whole matter to the miners. Undoubtedly, this is the most satisfactory and equitable thing that could be done Any fixed limitation of the rights of the seach miners, at this time, or any arbi trary determination of disputes between claimants, would have worked incalculable mischief. It is a remarkable tribute to the law-abiding character of the miners that, in the entire absence of law, or of precedent of any sort, they were able amicably to apportion claims along Cape Nome beach, and without seriou conflict among themselves extract the gold therefrom. There was some trouble between the soldiers and the beach workers, but it seems to have been precipitated wholly on the initiative of the milltary, whose commanding officers had ac quired in some way the notion that the rights of the United States were being invaded. The habit of self-government is strong in the American people. To all intents and purposes, Alaska has been in a perpetual state of anarchy. But orderly governments, deriving their powers wholly from the consent of the governed, and from their ability to enforce their decrees by force alone, have been established in all parts of the district. Rude equity, a law-abiding spirit, and a general recognition of a discoverer's rights served to establish peace and working government at Cape Nome. The rospector was permitted to keep what he found. That is precisely what the laws of the United States intend that he shall have.

poses forfeiture of the permits granted by the War Department to mine in the waters below low water mark. The Secretary of War doubtless acted within his authority in granting the permits, but that confusion and conflict would hav resulted is certain.

His Choice of a Word.

Philadelphia Record. "You look robust," remarked the lady of the house. "Are you equal to the task of sawing wood?" "Equal isn't the word, Madam," replied the pilgrim, as he resumed his journey, "I'm superior to it." NOTE AND COMMENT

The rain appears to be waiting for moving day.

The Frost King and the iceman put on their turns with very brief intermiss

That French nobleman who has been arrested in Chicago is probably no 'count,

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 lewelry. 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 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 centurles

Now there are no "Silver" Republicana. 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 saving that bought the mines for large sums, and I never would call that Legislature together again under any circumstances." The Legislature referred to is the one which elected Copper Mineowner Clark 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 expul-

> A copy of the Commercial Advertiser of Honolulu has been sent to The Oregonian by Ed Dekum, which contains the follow-

"A competent rateatcher to take charge of rateatching in the City of Honolulu, under the auspices of the Board of Health. ompletely ignored the notorious truth in Liberal salary and as many assistants as once at the office of the Board of Health." The advertisement brought to light one Duval, who has been employed as official rateatcher for the city, and the following notice of the man and his methods appears

> in another Honolulu paper: "Official Ratcatcher 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 balt highly seaconed 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 rate in Paris and various American cities. Further than his own statements, nothing of the man is known. The ealary of \$150 a month is quite a temptation to any real or imaginary rateatcher."

When Duval gets through with his ratcatching 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 jars 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 lands and shoal water below mean high trouble Mr. Jefferson through these many tide on the shores, bays and inlets of Behring Sea within the jurisdiction of the tended one of my performances." Further instance of the mutual admira-

tion of great players is afforded by an 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 this man Irving? he asked. His companion nodded. Jefferson grunted out, 'My man Bob could play Shylock better than that," and stalked from the theater.

"I always think of that incident," Mr. Mansfield is accustomed to add, with fond emphasis, "when I read the nice things lefferson says in print about Irving."

Chapman Wright in Westminster Review.

Mary opened a little shop To help her on in life's way: nest toll found its 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 when the 1st of May came round He doubled Mary's rent. 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, But step by step with increased trade The landlord raised the rent. And thus the merry game went on

Illi Mary's life was spent. As fast as God could prosper her, The landlord raised the rent.

G. D. C. in Good Words. Pair neighbor of the thatched cot With Gloire de Dijon clustered gable, So star-sweet, on from plot to plot.

Thou trippest, like a nymph of fable; So blithe thy smile, so soft thy tone, Thy love so good a life to lead in, I'd fain the hedge were overthrows And our two gardens made one Eden! But "No" cries Wisdom; "spare the fence

The thorn, the tvy blackbirds nest in;

Leave something for the finer sense, Some dream of joy to hope and rest in, "Some glad surprise, some mystery Of inconceivably sweet meaning!" Wisdom is wise. My friend and I

Scarce press the topmost twigs by leaning

You May Hear the Robin 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 song You will find it's no such thing! For he's sure just when the snow files, 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 hear it everywhere Just for a little sunshine And a breath of April air, But you may be sure of one thing, As sure as that rain will fall, It is really, truly Springtim