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TODAY'S WEATHER.—Threatening, with probably occasional light showers; northerly winds.

PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25

A SITUATION AND A KEY TO IT.

Mr. Charles Francis Adams, of Boston, yesterday had a conference with the Trustees of the Portland Chamber of Commerce, on river improvement as a means of controlling the transport of the products of the Northwest and of making conditions that would have weight in the direction of the transcontinental traffic and of Pacific Ocean commerce. The statement made by Mr. Adams was very lucid and very strong.

The traffic of the great basin of the Columbia, he said, naturally should follow the water flow. It was the line of least resistance—practically of no resistance. One thing was necessary, namely, the removal of the remaining obstacles to the navigation of the Columbia River and its great southern tributary. This could be done by a canal and locks at The Dalles and Celilo Falls, with some additional work on Snake River. The result would control the railway rates of nearly the whole interior country. The river would be little used, but it would make the railway rates. If Oregon and Idaho would stand together upon this undertaking, with the aid of the larger part of Washington that is equally concerned in it, they could undoubtedly within a few years bring it about. Reduction of the rates would send the greater part of the railroad traffic this way, and the result would be equally advantageous to Portland and to the producers in the upper valley of the Columbia.

The suggestion of Mr. Adams was that the plan for a canal should begin with a portage railway, which would be a necessary part of the canal scheme. Built as an adjunct of the canal, and as introductory to it, the objection that the Government must not be committed to the railroad business would be wholly avoided. The portage road would be of necessary use in the construction of the canal, and yet might be used meantime as an auxiliary in the passing of freight. Under new methods of work, directed by modern skill, the canal should easily be completed within five years, at a cost not much more than one-half that estimated in former times. Completion of this canal would control the transportation of the greater part of the great basin of the Columbia; for though, as experience in similar cases has shown, the river would do little business, it would make the railroad rate, which would settle down to a basis just below the point where profit could be made on river transport.

It was set forth, further, by Mr. Adams that this consummation would result in rapid development of railway lines in the interior, tending toward the water line of the Columbia, since this would be the line of least resistance and therefore of cheapest movement toward the sea. It would hasten also the opening of a line of transcontinental traffic along the path of least resistance; for a railroad that follows the course of Snake River from the heart of the continent need not have one foot of up-grade. From the basin of Great Salt Lake to the mouth of the Columbia there is a line or route for transcontinental traffic which may be operated with least possible charge. It may make lowest rates, and yet make money when no other can. Proper attention to means and opportunities will set all this in operation. Lewiston, at the gateway of the great interior region, will become a point of the first importance; and the traffic of this great interior region, as well as that of all central routes across the continent, will take the same course. The underlying factor of this development is the opening of the Columbia River at The Dalles, by a ship canal, as it has been opened at the Cascades. This first, and the rest will follow, through the natural logic of the conditions.

Hence our effort should be concentrated on this undertaking. Approach of the Presidential election makes it impossible to get the necessary attention now; but we can do it at the next session of Congress, and we should prepare for it. The canal scheme at The Dalles, beginning with the portage railway as auxiliary to it, is an object upon which all possible effort should be concentrated. It should be urged by our commercial organizations, and by the whole weight of public sentiment, upon the delegations of these states in Congress; for, as Mr. Adams well says, if five Senators stand together on any important question or matter, they will surely effect it. The Oregonian fully concurs with Mr. Adams in the opinion that this work at The Dalles is the key to the future of the Columbia region, East and West. It will become also a controlling factor in the direction of traffic; it will bring other railroads along the same water line to Portland; it will provide cheap transportation for the interior; it will lead to immense development of mineral as well as of agricultural resources, and it will people the country and establish its industry by saving to the workers large part of the sums absorbed, under still primitive conditions, by transportation. And yet the railroads, through increase of traffic, will make profits far larger than now.

Knowledge on the subject of currency and banking does not come from grocery store discussions, nor from listening to cyclonic harangues against the money power, but from study. Of course, the grocery graduate in finance talks louder, and the professional haranguer saws the air more with his arms, but neither imparts the information contained in carefully prepared essays by students of finance. Charles A. Conant has written much and instructively on this subject, his latest contributions to the discussion being a pamphlet entitled "The Benefits of Bank-Note Currency," originally published in the Bankers' Magazine, and "The Beginnings of Banking," issued as a number of Sound Currency. Both are well worth reading.

SENATORS BY THE POPULAR VOTE.

The United States Senate has declared that Senator Quay is not entitled to his seat, because he was appointed by the Governor of Pennsylvania in violation of the State Constitution and in violation of the precedent established by the United States Senate more than a century ago, and never since broken in its practice. The United States is certain to adopt the unanimous report of the committee on privileges and elections that Senator Clark, of Montana, is not entitled to his seat, because the Legislature which elected him was packed by bribery in the original choice of its members. The history of the deadlock forced in the Pennsylvania Legislature, which prevented the choice of a Senator and the revelation of the gross corruption of the Montana Legislature, which elected Clark, have doubtless contributed to the recent approval by the House of Representatives by an overwhelming vote of the proposed Constitutional amendment altering the method of electing United States Senators. This amendment proposes as follows:

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each state, who shall be elected by a direct vote of the people thereof for a term of six years, and each Senator shall have one vote. A plurality of the votes cast for candidates for Senator shall be sufficient to elect. The electors in each state shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the State Legislatures, respectively.

When a vacancy happens, by death, resignation or otherwise, in the representation of any state in the Senate, the same shall be filled for the unexpired term thereof in the same manner as is provided for the election of Senators; Provided, That the executive thereof may make temporary appointment until the next general or special election in accordance with the statutes or Constitution of such state.

The vote on the approval of this Constitutional amendment was 240 ayes to only 15 noes. Two-fifths of the opposition came from the New England states of Maine and Connecticut. The opposition in Connecticut was due to the fact that, while the Democrats have had a plurality of the popular vote in that state in a good share of the elections during the last thirty years, they have carried the Legislature only three or four times, and in consequence the Republicans have occupied both seats in the Senate for long periods, when they would have been held by Democrats if the question had been decided by a plurality vote at the polls, and more than once when the requirement of a majority vote would not have prevented the success of the Democratic candidate for Senator.

The Indianapolis Press (Ind.) thinks that electing United States Senators by the popular vote is a remedy which would not reach the disease, and says: "There is only one thorough cure for the whole dangerous and disgusting evil—the education and elevation of public opinion on this grave question of corruption in high places." There is some force in this view, for Clark could not have packed the Legislature by bribery and thus secured his election had not the ruling public opinion of the state either been morally rotten, ready and willing to sell out to the highest bidder, or so morally indifferent to the importance of the aggressive performance of its political duty that it did not care enough about the quality of its Senatorial representation to organize and labor for the election of incorruptible men to the Legislature. Unless this kind of public opinion can be changed in Montana, election of Senators by the popular vote would not change the result. Instead of buying a few influential men for large price, Senator Clark, through his agents, would be obliged to buy more little men, who would sell out for a small individual price. In the aggregate, Senator Clark's election would not cost him any more money, but his corruption fund would dribble through his fingers into the upturned itching palms of more men. Of course, such purchase of his seat by packing the Legislature with his cattle, all stamped with the branding iron of his bribery, could not possibly take place unless the people were morally corrupt, willing and anxious to sell the Senatorship to the highest bidder, or, what is practically the same thing, morally indifferent as to whether Clark was honestly elected or bought his honors. A decent public opinion, alive and aggressive in its determination to have a Legislature that will not be for sale, before its election or after its organization, is the only remedy for the Montana disease, whether it is due to popular corruption or popular indifference. Without this aroused, purified, aggressive public opinion, no change in the method of the election of United States Senators would prevent Clark, or some more astute political corruptionist, from buying his way into the Senate.

"INCREASED EXPENSES."

Algerism, it appears, still casts its dark shadow over the War Department; and Adjutant-General Corbin continues to manipulate the slides and shift the screens, dextrously for the most part, but occasionally turning on a side light that reveals more to the public gaze than he had intended. The double salaries paid to Army officers in Cuba is the latest presentment of personal favoritism of the Alger type upon which light resulting in inquiry has inadvertently been thrown, and the grand mogul of the Army comes forward with the statement that he advised Alger that this payment was unjust, and warned Root to discontinue it.

Either Secretary Root is not the master of his department which he is popularly supposed to be, or Corbin thinks it is time his name, as suggestive of power, was again brought before the public. In the meantime, if through any device of favoritism certain Army officers serving in Cuba have been enjoying the benefit of double salaries, the reason therefor should be specifically given. Thrifty, straightforward people, who refuse to pay their personal obligations without an itemized statement of accounts, naturally look with suspicion upon the excuse that the salaries of these Army officers have been doubled to meet their "expenses." The term "expenses" is altogether too loose, and the possibilities of extravagance that it suggests are too vast, to make the term satisfactory to the public without further explanation. While reasonable people will not cavil on the basis of expense at the display of pomp necessary properly to impress the people of Cuba and Porto Rico with the military power and civic importance of their new rulers, they will strongly object to auditing a loose "expense account" in connection therewith. It is no doubt true that the late subjects of Spain, having been accustomed to the glitter and pomp attendant upon Spanish military rule, regard with contempt Government officials whose uniforms are not ablaze with gold braid and gorgeous with the insignia of royalty. This feeling cannot be overcome by a sudden onset of republican simplicity. Hence it may be necessary to cater in a degree to the pride which finds expression in outward trappings in establishing authority over these people.

In this view it was certainly as unnecessary as it was impolitic to increase the salaries of the Army officers who represent the United States Government in Cuba, and when brought to book for it by Congress, to generalize on the matter under the expansive and indefinite head of "increased expenses." The unwisdom of attempting to do such a thing in a corner is shown by the sensation that the expose has caused in Congress, and the consequent awkward plight in which the friends of the Administration in that body find themselves. The open, manly way is always the best way in dealing with the American people, as politicians are very apt to discover, sooner or later.

REMOVE THE RESTRICTIONS.

Whenever a returning visitor from the Orient has spoken enthusiastically of the commercial future of Asia and the fertile islands that margin its eastern shore, and predicts the springing up of an enormous trans-Pacific commerce, and the creation of markets for hundreds of millions of dollars annually for the products and manufactures of the United States, there has been a general tendency to smile on the part of the American people, and to say that the enthusiastic prophet has been rainbow-chasing. When Senator Beveridge, fresh from his tour of observation, declared in Congress that "Manila as a port of call and exchange will, in the time of men now living, surpass Liverpool," he was supposed to have been following a rainbow of unusual brilliance. With our long-settled ideas of the maritime magnitude of Liverpool, it certainly seems visionary to consider as a possible rival that little port in the distant Malay Islands, where Caucasian rule for three centuries has led to such comparatively trifling development of commerce. Yet we are not without a practical illustration of the rapid growth of commercial ports in that region under proper conditions and Anglo-Saxon control and enterprise.

Fifty years ago half of Great Britain scoffed at the idea of establishing a colony on the barren island of Hong Kong. For generations Spain had controlled the port of Manila, backed by fertile and productive islands under her own sovereignty, and Portugal had held the port of Macao, while at neither point had an enormous commerce developed. How, then, was it to be expected that England could build up a great port at Hong Kong, with nothing but a few square miles of barren rock for territory? It was argued, as it is today, that the climate was unhealthful and Caucasians could not live there; that the millions of Asiatics could not be induced to buy foreign products, and that, even if they desired to do so, they were too poor. Today the port of Victoria, on the island of Hong Kong rivals New York in the extent of its commerce. Its harbor is crowded with shipping, no less than 8,000,000 tons entering the port last year, the trade of the island reaching the sum of $100,000,000. The population of Victoria now aggregates 250,000, and assessable property is valued at $20,000,000. All this has been brought about by making that port the headquarters of British commerce in the Orient.

In view of the history of Hong Kong, is it not safe to predict a similar but more rapid commercial growth for Manila, now that it has been taken from the control of the inert Spaniard by the active and restless American? Without this foothold of our own, the Oriental trade of the United States has increased wonderfully the past thirty years. In 1873 our Chinese trade was insignificant. In 1893 only India, Japan and England led us. Since then the growth has been still greater, but it is since our occupation of Manila that the increase has been the most marked. Of cotton cloth, we sold in China $5,193,427 in 1898, $9,844,556 in 1899, and the estimated sales for the current year are $12,000,000. Our exports of flour to China, in which trade Portland is vitally interested, had reached $3,835,000 in 1898, although for years it had been asserted that no considerable market for flour would ever be found in that country. In 1899 it advanced to $4,104,000, and this year it is expected to be at least a million more. These are but two items of exports to only one country of the many with which our trade relations are becoming important. It is the conditions at the port of Manila, which is to become the headquarters of American trade in the Orient, that are now of the most importance. Manila stands facing a coast that has a foreign trade of $1,000,000,000 annually, likely to be doubled in a quarter of a century. Here may well spring up the greatest seaport in Asiatic waters.

Aside from the general Oriental trade now so rapidly developing, the resources of the region locally tributary to Manila are so abundant and so capable of almost unlimited growth that the rapid advance of its commerce may safely be predicted from that cause alone. Manila is already a large city, and the inter-island trade centering there, added to the foreign commerce, keeps the harbor constantly full of vessels, both steam and sail. The population of the islands approximates 8,000,000, of whom at least one-half are even now possible consumers of American products, and their ability to buy them, if not placed beyond their reach by revenue restrictions and exactions, will be ample when better conditions prevail there through the pacification of the country. Here is the root of the present difficulty, the great obstacle to the creation of a market there for American goods. Tariff restrictions are needlessly onerous, and the rates of duty so high as to be practically prohibitive. The people cannot afford to buy goods that are made by excessive duties to cost from two to four times as much as they do in the United States.

It is the poorest of reasons to give for maintaining a tariff wall that excludes our own products, and paralyzes trade generally, that the military government needs the money. The United States is paying out millions of dollars for the support of the Army there, and the small amount additional that might be rendered necessary by a reduction of the Philippine tariff would make no perceptible difference. The commercial aspect of the Philippine question is entitled to consideration. It is time the Army of the United States ceased to impose prohibitive tariffs upon the products of the country. If we are ever to get any benefit from the money we are spending in the Philippines, we must foster our commerce, and that can now best be done by removing the senseless restrictions imposed by the military government.

Hearken to the mournful tale of a Seattle preacher who a-reforming would go. He wended his slumming way into the bar-room of a hotel, where a nickel-in-the-slot machine obtruded itself on his virtuous vision. Just to show that it was a machination of the devil, the good minister drew a nickel from his pocket and pressed down the bar. Apparently he knew how to play by intuition, thus proving that all flesh is grass. Forthwith the reverend gambler retired and swore out a warrant for the arrest of the hotel proprietor on the charge of maintaining a public game. On the trial the hotel man proved that the machine was there for exhibition purposes only, and the only nickel found therein, among a mass of lead slugs, was the preacher's. He turned the other cheek by refraining from prosecuting his prosecutor for gambling. Haec fabula docet: The wise man always knows better than to go up against the other fellow at his own game. It should be added that this story has no special application to Portland.

The Japanese Government, without waiting for the protest that is sure to come from the American Government in regard to the wholesale immigration of Japanese to the United States, will impose such restrictions upon the movement as will put it under proper control. This it will do in the interests of its own people, who, it is claimed, are being deluded by rival immigration companies into coming to this country by shiploads on the promises of abundant work and large wages. Of course, nothing but disappointment and suffering can result to the Japanese people who are reported to be coming here in such numbers as laborers, and it is to save them from such results that the home government will interfere. This is one of the strongest evidences yet given of the substantial progress Japan is making toward Western civilization. Contrasted with the indifference of China as to the fate of her migrating thousands a few years ago, the action is notable.

Charles H. Cole, the dishonest former president of the Globe Bank, of Boston, has pleaded guilty to the more important of the indictments against him. The minimum sentence for the offense to which he has confessed is five years' imprisonment, and the maximum is thirty years. His bonds have been increased from $50,000 to $75,000, and it remains for the court to pass sentence upon him. It is hoped, but hardly expected, that the court will give a sentence in some degree adequate to the offense, but even if the court should do its duty, the next President would probably "do his duty" according to the imperfect light with which he is endowed to see the right and pardon him. These detestable bank-robbers and mail-robbers are generally convicted by the United States court, are given a comparatively mild sentence, and are sooner or later presented with a pardon issued by the President of the United States.

A cheap lot of unprincipled politicians in the Senate, who voted against the seating of Corbett, have voted for the seating of Quay. But it did not avail. We publish the two lists this morning, so that the comparison may be made. Let the action of the Senate now stand as final, in cases of this class. Had the Senators from Pennsylvania voted to seat Corbett, Quay, in all probability, would have won yesterday. Simon could not vote for Quay, in the circumstances; and McBride, who undoubtedly would have been glad to vote for Quay, was precluded by his vote against Corbett, whom he opposed for personal and cheap political reasons. Beyond doubt the bitterest pill that McBride has yet swallowed was this compulsory vote against Quay—a man with whose methods and with whose power over party action politicians of the McBride stripe are in close sympathy and imitative affiliation.

An article by Rossiter Johnson in Appleton's Annual Cyclopedia shows remarkable increase of donations for educational and charitable purposes, in the year 1899, over any prevous year. The contributions for seven years are stated as follows:

1893	$ 29,000,000	1898	$ 38,000,000
1894	32,000,000	1899	62,750,000
1895	32,800,000		
1896	27,000,000	Total	$206,550,000
1897	45,000,000		

The list for 1899 is made up of gifts of individuals only, and over $5000 in amount. It does not include the work of regularly organized religious and educational societies, nor the smaller donations that are made everywhere and every day. It certainly is a remarkable showing.

And still Captain Oberlin M. Carter, military grand larcenist, lingers at Governor's Island. According to the decree of the court-martial, he was due at Fort Leavenworth months ago to enter upon a term of five years' imprisonment for his flagrant crime. His last hope—that of interference with the sentence by the United States Supreme Court—is gone, and honest people, who believe that thieves, whether of high or low degree, should be punished according to law, wait curiously to see what the next move will be for checkmating justice.

"The stone which the builders refused is to become the head of the corner," quotes ex-Senator Hill, in his Syracuse speech. He professed to mean the plank for election of Senators by the people, rejected by the Democrats in 1896. More probably he meant to call attention to the superior attractions of Elmira as a quarry for statesmen.

Two Indiana statesmen have gone to Texas to consult with Bryan and induce him to modify the Chicago platform. "Mr. President," said Artemus Ward to Lincoln in 1862, "I want a pass to Richmond. I desire to see Jeff. Davis, convince him of the error of his ways, and persuade him to line the Young Men's Christian Association." Mr. Ward's philanthropic purposes were foiled by his inability to get to Richmond. There is no pass from Indiana or elsewhere to and through Bryan's fatuous attachment to the '96 platform.

Democracy is Bryan. On that point all agree. It follows that if Bryan were to die, there would be no Democracy. The thought must give that great friend of the people and himself many a sleepless night.

If you don't want to stand in line the last week, waiting for your turn to register, you would better go up and register now.

Quay loses. But his loss is not without its compensations. The whole American people win.

And Quay went also.

NEGLECT YOUR DUTY NO LONGER.

Voters are not observing their plain duty to register. It appears not to be generally understood that they must register by May 15, else they may lose their opportunity to vote, not only in the JUNE ELECTION, but in the PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION of this year. Provision is made in the law that the books shall close May 15, and they cannot be opened thereafter during that year. A way is barely open to the unregistered elector to vote, and it is one of great difficulty. He must swear in his vote, and he must procure SIX FREEHOLDERS to subscribe to an oath in support of his claims. A freeholder is one who owns real estate in fee simple. It will require much time and labor to observe the forms. The way to AVOID TROUBLE IS TO REGISTER NOW. At least 6000 in this county alone are delinquent in this highly important matter.

JUST A BARE CHANCE.

But the Senate Is Not Likely to Assist in Its Own Reform.

Chicago Tribune.

The House of Representatives has rejected, almost by common consent, a joint resolution for a Constitutional amendment to leave it optional with State Legislatures to elect Senators or have them elected by the people, and adopted, by a vote of 240 to 15, one providing that Senators shall be elected by a direct vote of the people. It is easy to read the opinion of Representatives concerning the present method of election. The unsavory Montana case has removed any doubts they may have had as to the unwisdom of leaving the election of Senators to the Legislatures. If the people had done the electing directly in 1898 there would have been no Montana scandal. It would not be necessary for Senators to disregard precedents and repudiate their own past votes in order to seat Mr. Quay.

But there will be no such unanimity of opinion in the Senate regarding this question as in the House. There are members of the former body who have on different occasions declared themselves in favor of the election of Senators by the popular vote, and Constitutional amentments to that effect have been introduced and debated learnedly, but then have been shelved. That fate, no doubt, awaits the joint resolution which the House has just sent to the Senate.

It is probable that if such a Constitutional amendment as the one mentioned were submitted to the states, three-fourths of them would ratify it. While the Legislatures in many instances would be reluctant to deprive themselves of the power they enjoy now, a power which numbers of them have not misused, the pressure of public opinion would force them to ratify the amendment. Where voters have given the subject any thought, especially in states where Legislatures have misbehaved, they generally prefer the direct election method.

There are many Senators, however, who prefer the present method. They understand it. It has put them where they are. With it they believe they can stay where they are. They have doubts as to their ability to be re-elected if they had to appeal directly to the people for votes. Their control of the "machine" would insure them convention nominations, but nothing more. Hence the improbability of the necessary two-thirds vote being cast for the House joint resolution, if a vote on it is ever reached.

Anti-Railway Legislation.

The Railway Review is of opinion that the tendency of the public mind is toward further restriction of railroads by Federal and state legislation, and accordingly favors the acceptance of the Cullom bill by the railroads lest a worse thing befall them. In the South, East and part of the West the evil of discriminating through cut rates has been largely removed by concentrated ownership, "but west of Chicago and St. Louis and east of the Missouri River and St. Paul," says our contemporary, "a state of anarchy continues which requires interference." "Whether rightly or wrongly," it continues, "the idea is universal that some railroad legislation is necessary, and so far as the public is concerned, the unanimous opinion appears to pervail that the way to mitigate the evils believed to exist is to strengthen the hands of the Interstate Commerce Commission. Few connected with the management of railroads believe that there was any necessity for the passage of the Interstate Commerce law; but others did, and the bill was passed. Many believe that at that time no just complaint could be laid against the roads, except some flagrant though isolated and infrequent cases of discrimination in rates. So far as the situation has changed in the years since the passage of the law, the general opinion is that it has changed for the worse and that the rate discriminations now are greater as well as more numerous than before."

Those who oppose the proposal of the Cullom bill to give the Interstate Commerce Commission more power—including authority to fix rates—take the ground that the failure of the Interstate Commerce Commission to improve the railroad situation in matters fully within its province is not a good reason for giving it autocratic power. Mr. M. H. Smith, president of the Louisville & Nashville, among others, upholds the view that the hair of the dog is not a sure cure for its bite, and urges his fellow railroad men to cease tempting fate by asking Congress for "affirmative legislation such as the anti-scalping bill." He thinks the legislation asked for by Mr. Cullom for the Interstate Commerce Commission is "inimical," and that it can be more easily defeated if the railroads are not at the same time asking for affirmative legislation on the anti-scalping bill or the legislation on pooling.

Senator Hoar's Speech.

Providence Journal.

It is a medley of official reports, pretty flashes of sentiment, judicial opinions, glittering generalities, happily-turned phrases, poetical gems and miscellaneous oratorical nuggets, all to emphasize Mr. Hoar's sincere belief that he is almost alone in the stand for the preservation of the lofty ideals of our forefathers, while all the rest of the people are rushing pell-mell down to the Avernus of empire and greed and decay. It is not a happy frame of mind to be in, but Mr. Hoar, because of his experience and education and ready flow of language, triumphs as much as anybody could over his pessimistic suspicions and forebodings.

The Secret Revealed.

Harlem Life.

"What is a professional humorist, anyway?"

"One who professes to be humorous."

GOSSIP OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

WASHINGTON, April 20.—Representative Tongue has been receiving many letters of late asking how permits may be secured for mining the sands off the shore at Cape Nome, Alaska, especially since the recent controversy which arose because of the action of the War Department. He therefore took the matter up with the War Department, and has had a letter from the Secretary which explains the situation quite fully. The Secretary says:

"While this department has no authority to grant mining rights, it has recently received numerous applications for authority to excavate at points along the Behring Sea under section 10 of the act of March 3, 1899, which provides:

It shall not be lawful to excavate or fill, or in any manner to alter or modify the course, location, condition or capacity of any port, roadstead, haven, harbor, canal, lake, harbor of refuge or inclosure within the limits of any breakwater, or of the channel of any navigable water of the United States, unless the work has been recommended by the Chief of Engineers, and authorized by the Secretary of War, prior to beginning the same.

"The disposition of the department has been, as a matter of general policy, to give to all citizens making application permits, which will relieve them from the penalties which would otherwise be incurred by a violation of this statute, so long as the work which they propose does not in fact interfere with navigation. A few permits have been issued in accordance with that policy, but in view of the amendment to be made by the Senate to the bill, making further provision for a civil government for Alaska, etc., the Secretary of War has decided to grant no further permits to excavate at points along the Behring Sea, pending final action by Congress upon said bill."

The amendment referred to is as follows:

"Provided, further, that subject only to such general limitations as may be necessary to exempt navigation from artificial obstructions and shoal water below mean high tide on the shores, bays and inlets of Behring Sea, within the jurisdiction of the United States, shall be subject to exploration for gold and other precious metals by citizens of the United States, or persons who have legally declared their intentions to become such, under such reasonable rules and regulations as the miners in organized mining districts may have heretofore made or may hereafter make governing the temporary possession thereof for exploration and mining purposes until otherwise provided by law; provided, further, that the rules and regulations established by the miners shall not allow the location of mining claims larger in area than placer claims under the laws of the United States; and all permits heretofore granted authorizing any person or persons, corporation or company to excavate or mine any of said waters are hereby revoked and declared null and void."

In the face of the foregoing facts, the Secretary says all applications will be reserved for future consideration, and all will receive the same treatment. Any permits issued will not in any event confer any rights upon the holder, but will simply relieve him from prosecution for violation of the statute first mentioned in the Secretary's letter.

This information is general in character and will serve to answer many questions that might otherwise be propounded to the members of Congress from the Coast or to the department direct.

Dewey did one thing which the papers ought to be grateful for. He furnished a topic to write about for more than two weeks. The greatest wonders, according to the old idea, lasted nine days. Dewey will beat that record all to pieces, and bids fair to continue up to the time of the National convention. Some of the papers are making fun of Dewey, and others take his candidacy seriously. It is an unfortunate feature of the affair that his domestic relations have been drawn into the canvass to a great extent, and the tongues that have been wagging in Washington usually couple Mrs. Dewey's actions with those of the man who was a short time ago a popular idol. Some say that all Dewey's worries began from the time of his recent marriage, that his marriage to a rich woman and then deeding the house started the tide the other way, and it has not yet receded.

The Admiral is in constant receipt of communications from people all over the country congratulating him upon entering the Presidential contest. Some of these are said to be very amusing, some coming from Republicans, who express the hope that he will be nominated by that party, in order to give them an opportunity to vote for somebody else than McKinley. Others come from Democrats, who say that they hope he will be nominated at Kansas City and save the hundreds of men from the necessity of swallowing Bryan. Of course, since his declaration that he is a Democrat, the Republican correspondence has ceased to a considerable extent, but the Democrats are still writing him and the cranks are flooding him with letters.

To show how hysterical people sometimes become, it is only necessary to note the fact that they are talking about running Web Davis, the Boer agitator, for Congress, in Kansas City. The Kansas City district is now represented by a very able Democrat, W. S. Cowherd, and it would be interesting to see if the sympathy of the people with the Boers is sufficient to overturn what is a solid Democratic district and has nearly always been represented by a Democrat. Representative Cowherd is not alarmed at Davis' candidacy, as he says the people of that section know Davis for what he is more than those who are now listening to his lecture for the South African Republics.

The situation in the little State of Delaware becomes interesting every two years because of the constant war between the Republican factions which usually give the Democrats the victory. Had it not been for the Addicks and anti-Addicks Republicans of Delaware, there is no doubt but that that state would now be solidly Republican and represented in the Senate by two Republicans, instead of one Democrat. It is feared that Addicks will bob up in the campaign again and demand the Senatorship which he thinks he paid for several years ago, but which the decent people of Delaware will not allow him to take.

Georgia's Convicts.

The first year of Georgia's new convict lease system came to a close April 1, and the exhibit is highly satisfactory to the state authorities. The report of the year shows that the new system has brought into the treasury $200,389 13, not including a clear profit of $5000 on the prison farm at Milledgeville. Of this amount $120,000 was appropriated to meet the expenses of the department, although not all of this appropriation is needed, leaving at the lowest figure a profit to the state of $85,000 in a year as a result of its experiment. Under the old lease system, by which the state practically sold the convicts, labor and all, to the lessees, the annual profit amounted to $10,000 and seldom exceeded $12,000. The system which went on trial last April took the actual control of the convicts out of the hands of the lessees, the state retaining this control by the employment of guards not under the direction of the lessees only in a business way. The men are clothed and fed by the state, and all the lessees have to do is to point out the work for the convicts to engage in.

Spring Symptoms.

Boston Courier.

I know that Spring is in the air
By hints that meet me everywhere,
From sheltered fenceways breaking through
The vernal grass plays peek-a-boo.

A courier zephyr now and then
Brings distant bird note to my ken;
A sunbeam looks at me askance
To warm me with assuring glance.

And yesterday my good wife said—
With quite imperious toss of head
And accent rather far from meek—
"That carpet must come up next week."

NOTE AND COMMENT

Of course, Otis has earned a rest. Hasn't he been giving a good long one to Aguinaldo?

It is strange that all these uncivilized provinces should be clamoring for civil government.

It looks as if the next theological work written on the Presbyterian Church will be a book of exodus.

A Pennsylvania musical critic has been killed by a singer. Some singers are bad enough to do anything.

Senator Clark ought to be able to build an elegant mansion out of the gold bricks he has purchased lately.

Montojo was licked sufficiently for all practical purposes, but supposing Mrs. Dewey had been on board the Olympia!

Admiral Dewey has been invited to Kentucky. If he takes two or three warships along he might be able to do a good deal for the state.

If the Republicans will consent to put up a consumptive at the head of the ticket, perhaps they can persuade Roosevelt to run for Vice-President.

"If too many cooks spoil the broth," remarked Jones to his landlady, "you must have had a whole cooking school at work on the article before me." And he wondered why the coffee ran out before he got his second cup.

"My arms," said Aguinaldo, "are in Bayombang; my trunk is in Pandango. I cannot show my hand, and I fear I have lost my head." Whereupon the intelligent correspondent cabled his paper that the Filipino leader was in four places at once.

"Wilhelm," said the Empress of all the Germanys to her husband, as he rose from the banquet table, "you are a king full this evening."

"The deuce," exclaimed the Kaiser as a royal flush mantled his cheeks. "Is that straight?"

"Nein," replied his spouse; "I oughtn't to have chipped in," and what came within an ace of being a fatal quarrel was averted.

For the sake of convenience, Portland should move the City Hall to the other side of the river after June 4. Of the six city officers (all but the Councilmen) nominated by the Republican party, five are residents of the East Side, the only exception being J. E. Werlein, nominee for City Treasurer. The East Siders are: Henry S. Rowe, candidate for Mayor; T. C. Devlin, candidate for City Auditor; J. M. Long, candidate for City Attorney; William B. Chase, candidate for City Engineer, and George J. Cameron, candidate for Municipal Judge. In county officers the East Side is not quite as well treated, having but seven nominations to 19 from the West Side. Not included among the county officers are the Justices of the Peace and the Constables, who must live in the district they serve.

I stand for all in politics
That's absolute perfection;
I stand forninst the ringster's tricks,
And also for election.

I've made a dicker with Ballou
To represent the churches;
They didn't want me, it is true,
But they came off their perches.

I'm dead against an open town,
With all its fell temptations,
For since the party turned me down
I've made some observations;

My feelings have been wounded deep
To see the sale of liquor;
They've told me, and it's made me weep;
Saloons are getting thicker.

I think that smoking cigarettes
Should be at once abated;
The man who plays the race and bets
Should be exterminated.

I know my enemies will say
That little deal with Martin
Assisted things to come my way,
But that I took no part in.

When first I was elected Mayor
I was not out for glory,
But if again I'm landed there,
It'll be another Storey.

Some one having started a series of articles on the impressions produced on authors themselves by their own writings, Punch entered the field, with characteristic enterprise, and secured, among others, the following contributions:

The principal impression produced upon me by the perusal of my own works is a splitting headache, especially acute in the case of my poems. I have a strong suspicion, amounting at times to a conviction, that I generally have meaning if only it can be found. In my more recent works, however, this feeling is less marked.

A subsidiary impression is amazement at the number of people who read my works and profess to understand them.

G-RGE M-R-D-TH.

A glow of satisfaction thrills me as I gaze upon the bookshelves which contain my works. There is really some very good stuff amongst them. I don't profess to know what I meant when I wrote some of them, e. g., the "Jungle Book"; but plain tales of Ortheris, Mulvaney & Co. were played out, and one had to strike out a different line somehow. I confess, when I read "The Day's Work" I have an uncomfortable misgiving that I am running to seed, which, however, is instantly dispelled when I hear the barrel-organ outside my door discoursing the classic music and familiar strains of that undoubted work of genius, "The Absent-Minded Beggar."

R-DY-RD K-PL-NG.

When I read some of the awful rot that I have undoubtedly written, I find myself wondering if I am quite responsible for my literary actions. Can it be that I am as mad as my last creation, "The Worshiper of the Image?"

R-CH-RD G-LL-NNE.

For the second time Dr. Conan Doyle sauntered down the firing line, and, lighting his 50-cent cigar on the remarks General Roberts was making about Buller, observed:

"I infer, my Lord, that you are displeased about something."

"The h—l you do," snapped "Bobs." "Well, in the future you just keep your inferences locked in your inscrutiable bosom. You were up here the other day, explaining how you had deducted from the smoke on the Boer front that their fire must be heavy, and I sacrificed two regiments in a reconnoissance that developed the fact that a parcel of Hottentots were smudging out mosquitoes. You inferred for my benefit that a red-hot camp of the enemy was a burying ground, and I sent a brigade into it, and when it never came out again you said that it was a laager, and therefore must be a bier. Those spies you tracked down with your microscope and which I hanged because you deduced from the fact that they were hams that they must be Boers, I afterward found out were a couple of honest actors, who were among the best soldiers in Her Majesty's service. You go away from here. You are worse than Kipling; you are as bad as Methuen; you are nearly as bad as a war expert."

"Some people never appreciate a trained intellect," reflected the author of "Sherlock Holmes," as he walked slowly to the rear; but something inside of him prompted him not to say anything aloud.