

The Oregonian

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Portland, Wednesday, May 2

AXIOMS OF TRADE.

The basis of active and prosperous trade is advantage to buyer and seller alike on each transaction and on each end of the transaction. If we trade our goods to China for silk, it is not enough that we want to sell our goods and China wants to buy our goods.

Of these two principles of trade there are two present applications. One fits South America and the other fits Asia. In the one case the conditions are largely unfavorable, in the other they are largely favorable.

One of the chief sources of anxiety to the National Association of Manufacturers, at their session just adjourned in Boston, is the South American trade. Mr. Search, the president, painfully expounds the antagonistic interests, hopes to promote the trade through the subsidy bill.

complain if they are marketed in Europe and paid for with European wares or American wares sold in Europe.

It is the solid ground of hope for trans-Pacific trade that these untoward South American conditions are reversed in the case of Asia. The great Asiatic staples, silk, tea, hemp, jute, matting, dyes, spices, gums, we do not produce at all.

Trade will take care of itself if government will give it a chance. There is only one thing worth while for American manufacturers and producers generally to be awake nights or call conventions about, and that is the necessity for removal of restrictions on trade between the United States and Asia.

AN HONEST LABEL.

The chief chemist of the Internal Revenue, Dr. Charles A. Compton, in an article in the Independent on food adulteration, expresses the opinion that the solution of the evil of adulteration of foods and the fraudulent substitution of inferior or imitation products is found in the three words, "an honest label."

It does not follow necessarily that adulteration in any of the senses used above is unhealthful, though in most cases fraudulent. In some instances the effect is a decided improvement. Many cheap substitutes sold under the names of more expensive articles are wholesome, and if their fraudulent nature were eliminated it would be an interference with the natural rights of both producer and consumer to prohibit their sale or to lay any special burdens upon them in the matter of taxation.

When Basaine first shut himself up in Metz Napoleon was not yet a prisoner of war, while supreme power was vested in the hands of Empress Eugenie's cabinet. It may be remembered that during the course of the mysterious Regener, furnished with a passport signed by Bismarck himself, and escorted by a regiment of Prussian troops, the young Prince Imperial was waylaid and captured by the German headquarters before Metz.

THE LAW OF THE ROAD.

The first of May has come, and once more the people who travel on foot—on an unassuming but still goodly multitude—may begin to feel that they are safe from sudden assault upon the sidewalks of the city. The old-fashioned few who still trundle baby carriages about may hope to engineer these obsolete vehicles with their precarious freight safely along the sidewalks in the residence portion of the city, and old people can venture to walk around the home block without danger of being run down by the silent wheel, urged at top speed by the reckless scurrier.

Sperrintendent Frye, of the Cuban school, proposes to bring a lot of Cuban teachers over here on an excursion and let them see the city. He would be called up forthwith, and called down. Our only hope of pleading the Cubans is to conceal our tyranny and despotism under the professions of liberty and justice.

Reports of serious differences between President McKinley and Senator Hanna are probably manufactured to meet an ever-present demand for sensation. That is, the story is probably too good to be true. The President has shown evidence of growth in statesmanship within the period of his term of office.

A very entertaining little volume, "Tales of the Sierras," has been written and published by J. W. Hayes, and illustrated by John L. Cassidy. Mr. Hayes is well known in telegraphic circles on the Pacific Coast.

The story of Germany's deal with Denmark for certain West India islands is interesting. It may serve to remind us that a dog-in-the-manger policy has embarrassing features, however necessary may be its practical application.

Gold-standard money is being provided Porto Rico in exchange for her variable silver currency, and the same programme is to be carried out for Hawaii. This does our imperialistic designs no good, and is a harmful way, and we all know what an awful thing it is to have a gold standard in Hawaii.

Senator Carter is wise to withdraw the amendments that cumber the Alaska bill. Longer delay in this matter would be monstrous injustice. Alaska is being treated worse than Porto Rico, and it has been longer waiting.

BRITISH MILITARY BLUNDERHEADS

In the current number of Scribner's Magazine, H. G. Whigham, a well-known Army correspondent, now with the British Army in South Africa, has an interesting review of the Boer war up to the arrival of Lord Roberts and his assumption of command in the field, in February.

How that smart imported Dutchman has run things. Poutney Bigelow in the Independent. Dr. Leyds could not find enough educated Boers to conduct the business of the government.

Need for Small Postal Checks. The need of a convenient form of currency, by which small sums may be transmitted through the mails, without danger of loss, has been long a recognized money order and the registered letter are notable advances over former methods.

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS. Check—Parent—if you don't stop crying at once, I shall give you a severe thrashing. Sun and Hel—And I shall tell the conductor I am an eye.

Nothing Will Die. Alfred Tenneyson. When will the stream be a-weary of flowing Under my eye? When will the wind be a-weary of blowing Over the sky?

Nothing Will Die. Alfred Tenneyson. When will the clouds be a-weary of floating? When will the clouds be a-weary of beating? And nature die? Never, oh never; nothing will die; Mist-shadows, The wind blows, The cloud fleets, The heart beats, Nothing will die.

Fifty-Two Years Without Water. Some animals can live many years without water. A porcupine lived 32 years in the London Zoo without taking a drop of water. A number of reptiles live and prosper in places where there is no water.

NOTE AND COMMENT

Perhaps Butler's grandson may eat a Christmas dinner in Pretoria yet. The United States is willing to become a Turkey gobler if it is forced to it. Captain Cochran is not the only naval officer who sometimes does his talking first and his thinking afterward.

Kentucky contends that if some of her shot-gun methods were introduced into Pennsylvania politics, it might be better for that state. If the Sultan confesses to solvency by paying that \$100,000, he will have the objections of the other powers at his front door for the next 19 years.

There is some question about the trouble Admiral Schley made for the Spaniards, but there is none about the trouble he has made for the Navy Department. If we got into a war with Turkey we could send an ample force against her and clear the political atmosphere at home by forming a few corps of Vice-Presidential possibilities.

Mr. Dewey says the Senate is a poor place to secure stories. Judging by some of his later efforts, it would seem that he found the Roman Senate journals a very fertile source of supply. Bishop John H. Vincent, of the Methodist Church, recently expressed himself in favor of a full revision of both creeds and the Bible. The next revision of the Bible, he asserted, must in the light of present and coming research, be a most important one.

One of the jokes that is being told about the result on the Quay case is accredited to Senator Dewey. The Senator, it will be remembered, was paired with Hanna. Dewey being in favor of Quay and Hanna against Quay. "How is it," Dewey was asked, "that Hanna is against Quay?" "Well, I only heard," responded Senator Dewey, "that it was because Mr. Hanna was opposed to the election methods of Mr. Quay."

The familiar lament that foreign seamen compose so large a proportion of the men in the navy is heard in England relative to British shipping interests of all classes, merchant marine as well as naval. Earl Grey, in a recent address gave some surprising facts. The number of British seamen had decreased from 196,000 in 1835, to 174,800 in 1888, while the number of foreign seamen in British vessels in the same period had increased from 25,640 to 35,000. More alarming still, in the Earl's opinion, was the fact that the number of British apprentices had diminished more than one-half since 1886, and about two-thirds since 1870.

When the flowers of the Maytime Breathe their perfume on the air, When the fields are bright with blossoms, And the birds are sweet with song, When the song birds sweetly carol Lays of happiness and love, And the butterflies are sailing Through the sunny air above, When the forest trees are leaving, And the skies are soft and blue, And the leaves are soft and green, Then-pound change and weigh but two, That's the time the festive scorcher Finds the copper on the heat, Cramming on his trail, to make him Do his scorching on the street. Through the dreary months of winter He has had his own sweet will, And the voices of the phantom choir Are forever hushed and still.