

The Oregonian

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TODAY'S WEATHER.—Showers, with westerly winds.

PORTLAND, TUESDAY, MAY 8.

MINDING OUR OWN BUSINESS.

Introduction in the Senate of resolutions of "sympathy" for the South African Republics is simply political play for partisan purposes at home.

The enterprise in which Great Britain is engaged in South Africa is merely one of her efforts of territorial expansion, such as all great nations have been engaged in at various periods of their history.

The fact is, we ought to be ashamed of this game of unbecoming, for such it is. We have, it is true, at different times "expressed sympathy" for "countries struggling for freedom."

The fact is that in order to make Manila another Hong Kong it has got to be a free port. The fact is that if we are to do the foreign business of the Philippine Islands, their goods must come in here about as easily as they enter the port of Liverpool.

OUR DUTY IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Vice-Consul Edward Wildman, who writes of the reign of terror in the Philippines, is a brave man. The awful picture of shipping swarming between Asia and our Pacific ports, involved in Mr. Foraker's dread alternative, is well calculated to strike dismay to the heart of the true isolationist.

They know nothing will be done to them if they fail to assist the Americans or are even known to aid the insurgents. It was different under Spanish rule. With but a third of the army we have in the field, Spain suppressed the insurrection of 1896-7, but she did it by treating all insurgents as outlaws and punishing all who aided them in any way.

THE OPEN DOOR.

The open door is not correctly described as equivalent to free trade, and in the extracts quoted in another column, if unqualified in their context, Senator Foraker's presentation is disingenuous. The truth is, of course, that parties to a treaty have forbidden any honest examination of the tariff problem in the dependencies, on the part of either Republicans or Democrats.

Politicians are continually making the mistake of supposing that on such questions as this the people are to be befuddled. In this case, as in others, the popular heart will decline to be fired on the lines laid out for it.

The open door Europe expects in the Philippines is not absolute free trade, but is a substantial equality for the trade of all comers, European or American. Perhaps it would be fair to expect that something short of absolute equality, some slight preference to our own shipping and shippers, might be tolerated without protest.

The Republicans have defeated the Democratic plot, but they have chosen a method of doing it that will rise up to plague the party had denied the Democratic contention.

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LORD ROBERTS' ADVANCE.

Lord Roberts' main army, which has been halted at Bloemfontein since its occupation on March 15, resumed its advance through the Orange Free State the middle of last week, and thus far has met with satisfactory progress.

The late William C. Endicott, who was Secretary of War during President Cleveland's first term, was the most unpopular man in the United States in the latter years. He was an able lawyer, but he possessed the obstinacy and intolerance of opinion that characterized his famous ancestor, the Puritan Governor of Massachusetts Bay Colony, General Schofield, who is a lifelong Democrat, evidently alludes to Secretary Endicott when he says in his hearing soon after his accession to power, in response to a suggestion that war service was entitled to weight in appointments and promotions, that, in his judgment, "that book was closed."

Webster Davis describes the Boers as defenders of two young republics entitled to the sympathy and support of the United States, but Rabbi Hertz, expelled from the Transvaal for trying to remove the religious disabilities under which Catholics and Jews suffer, says that the Boers are not a republic, but rather an oligarchy, governed on strictly medieval principles.

The twenty-third quadrennial conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, North, now in session at Chicago, contains delegates from the United States, Mexico, South America, Japan, Africa, Italy and Germany, and the list of names is filled with the world has ever seen.

The government of the City of Washington is conducted wholly on "un-American" principles. The inhabitants of the city have no voice whatever in its government, and it is the best-governed city in America. It is ruled by the Congress, and members appointed by the President, and it continues to exist under this "un-American system."

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The celebration attending the coming of age of the German Crown Prince was instinct with the very life of the empire. Monarchy, while it exists, and certainly upon its existence today depends the stability and power of most European governments, must necessarily be fed with pomp and garnished with the insignia of power. It is not in human nature, either on the throne or supporting it, to be satisfied with less than the grandeur of Kings.

COLD COMFORT FOR ARTS.

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