

The Oregonian.

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TODAY'S WEATHER.—Generally fair, northwesterly winds. PORTLAND, MONDAY, MAY 21, 1900

Senator Turner forecasts the Democratic campaign as a struggle for Jeffersonian ideas. Jefferson was an advocate of the commercial ratio between gold and silver, and an original expansionist, the Senator's reference is not especially apropos. He must have been thinking of Lincoln. Lincoln is the great Democratic ideal now, just as McKinley will be in 1904.

If the only service we require of a Legislature was the enactment of local laws, it would be a very simple thing to trust to the judgment of the individual candidate as to his views on National questions. But the fact is that the function of choosing a United States Senator is the most salient feature of the Legislature's work. Until that task is performed, nothing else is done, and if agreement cannot be reached, the session is unproductive of material results.

Now it so happens at this time that Oregon is vitally concerned in two things that are at stake in Congress. One is the standard of value, and the other is Pacific development. The Republican party is committed to the gold standard, and to Pacific expansion. Every Republican nominee on the Legislative ticket is pledged to these two things. If any one of them were known to falter on these supreme questions, he should be dropped from the ticket tomorrow. They are all for the gold standard and Pacific expansion, and they will vote for no man for the Senate of the United States, to succeed McCall or to succeed Simon, who is not known to be solid as a rock for the gold standard and for expansion.

On the other hand, what does the opposition propose? Of the eighteen men running for the Legislature in Multnomah County against the Republican ticket, no two, so far as we know, think alike on the important subject of qualifications desirable in a United States Senator. They expressly disavow any such agreement. Each one has his own ideas, as to the United States Senate. If he wants Mitchell, he will vote for Mitchell; if he wants U'Ren, he will vote for U'Ren; if he wants Jonathan Bourne, he will vote for Bourne. If he is a silver man, he will vote for a silver Senator; if he is anti-imperialist, for an anti-imperialist Senator; if an anarchist, for an anarchist Senator. Nobody knows what kind of a Senator any one of these eighteen men will want. To support them is to take desperate chances at a critical period in the state's history. As to the Republican nominees, we know not whom they will vote for. But we do know the man they vote for will be rich. In their main issues to which Oregon stands committed before the country. When Congress is about to take steps of such importance that the future of the Pacific Coast may be made or marred by its acts is not a very opportune time for men to ask election to the Legislature on the promise that in the election of United States Senators from Oregon they will be guided by their own sweet will, to be ascertained at their leisure and exercised without responsibility to any pledges or principles.

When Populism raged over the land, Oregon escaped it. When wild-eyed Prohibition orators had their will in Iowa and Kansas, Oregon remained sober. When the silver mania swept the West and South, Oregon kept to financial honor and sanity. When California and Washington went up and down with the hands against the Chinese labor, Oregon respected law and order. Have we escaped all these pitfalls of crankery to fall at last into the abyssal gulf of Female Suffrage? Some few enthusiasts seem to think so, and even to hope so. But it is inconceivable. Members of the Legislature and politicians generally are inclined to treat the alleged "problem" with the deference chivalry requires of them, but alone in the election booth with their Australian ballot they will act with sanity and prudence. The suffrage amendment may get 15,000 votes in the state. It should not get more.

At the risk of being obnoxious to the Bryanite party in the Pacific Northwest, we may draw attention to the plank of the Chicago platform, the venerable document that has just been reaffirmed in its entirety at Spokane. The Chicago platform says: We declare that the act of 1873, demonstating silver, without the knowledge or approval of the American people, has resulted in the depreciation of gold and a corresponding fall in the prices of commodities produced by the people. Prices, as a matter of fact, have risen greatly since 1873, and the "commodity problem" produced by the people are now about as high as most consumers find it convenient to pay for themselves. The crime of '73 is still unavenged. Is it responsible for the rise in prices, or was the Chicago convention talking through its hat?

There can be no doubt that the true bubonic plague has appeared in San Francisco, and it will require the utmost vigilance to prevent spread of the infection to other Coast cities and to the interior. General recognition of the demands of the occasion, and cheerful compliance with the rules that may be made for controlling intercourse between communities, will make it possible to circumscribe the range of the disorder and to stamp it out in due time. Great difficulties will attend this service. It is hard for people of so healthy a country as the Pacific Coast to realize the gravity of a situation so threatening as the present. But it must be brought to the comprehension of all, and there must be intelligent and unremitting vigilance if the danger is to be removed or the plague limited to the Chinatown of San Francisco. It was an error to conceal the facts so long; now that the approximate truth is known, health authorities everywhere should take cognizance of it.

tant industrial enterprises have been halted, and the proprietors of many others are looking to improved methods for avoiding the necessity of the employment of a large force of labor, chiefly or wholly because they may be wrecked by persistent disturbances. Thus, by pushing its present advantage too far, labor may presently lessen its own employment by leading to studied methods to diminish the necessity of depending upon it. American enterprise has entered the world's markets, seeking the measure of success it has already attained in labor. It is more skillful, more progressive and more energetic than the labor of any other nation. It stands in advance with our National advancement—not in wages alone, but in the higher standards of intelligence, discretion and integrity, and in a dependable quality that will reduce whatever danger there may be of an influx of cheap labor from foreign lands to the minimum. The labor of the land is on trial, and only the most unwise direction can make it lose its case.

A DEMONSTRATION IN CAPACITY.

There is an effort to sneer at the Oriental trade on the part of those who conceive that politics makes it necessary for them to belittle our achievements across the Pacific, and to assert that trade cannot possibly develop to any consequence as simple as those physical waters are so simple as those living in Asia and upon the many islands fringing the Asiatic coast, and whose earning and purchasing power is so small. To assume this attitude makes it necessary to ignore the progress made within the past few years, and to close the eyes to the forces at work there that are making for an enlargement of American goods. According to the "Statistics of Trade" by the Imperial Maritime Customs Service of China, the total foreign trade of the empire last year was, in round figures, \$252,000,000, being an increase in exports of more than \$40,000,000, and in imports of \$65,000,000. The total is more than double that of 1893. Much of this increase was in cotton from America. It is impossible to blink these figures or to say that they signify nothing. If such an increase has been made in Chinese trade alone, with only the surface of the country scratched in the matter of trade development, what may not be expected from the opening up process now going on so rapidly?

It is folly to say that the Asiatic millinery has no value and no purchasing capacity. It is a device called the Franks and the Lombards of Europe before the advance of civilization gave them new wants and the capacity to supply them. Improvement in internal transportation will stimulate trade, leading to increased earning capacity and enlarged consumption, and familiarity with what we sell will create a demand for it. The tendency in speaking of railroad construction and its effects, as follows:

The internal trade of the country was also unusually brisk, and the important changes which will be brought about by the extension of the Pacific coast line have promptly responded to the stimulus of better means of communication, and the trade of those parts of the country which were formerly cut off from a severe outbreak of the plague. It is found that immediately trains began to run, districts through which there was little trade, such as between Seattle and Everett, suddenly commenced to hum with life and activity, and there springs up a flourishing trade, now formerly undreamed of and impossible for the Pacific coast.

The United States needs this trans-Pacific commerce, and it needs the port of Manila and the rich Philippine Islands as a local center of trade. All talk about giving them up or turning the government of them over to a little aristocracy of half-Chinese Tagals, at the head of a mass of ignorant, shiftless and irresponsible Malays, is absolutely preposterous, and would be indulged in only by a few utterly impractical sentimentalists, were it not that politics blinds the judgment of many honest men and makes intricate and hypocritical a great many more who are not honest. In order to oppose the Republican party, it may not be necessary to block the progress of the country, arrest its development and close the doors to its expanding trade, but it is the attitude the anti-expansionists have assumed.

LABOR'S OPPORTUNITY.

The industrial life of the Nation today is confronted by conditions which are practically new, and to which both capital and labor must adjust themselves. Within a few years the entire industrial and commercial policy has changed. It is as if industrial enterprise, that dropped to sleep, so to speak, in 1893, had awakened, a giant in new-found strength, willing, anxious and able to push its endeavor far out into the islands of the sea and into the world's great marts of trade. This is a condition that calls, as never before, for an understanding upon the simple basis of equity and good-will between laborers and their employers. Theoretic as may be, the labor of the country, like the capital and products of the country, is regulated by the inexorable law of supply and demand. Just now the demand in all these lines is great, and if the first two elements adjust themselves wisely to the new needs of this section of the business, and even the most conservative and level-headed business men in many instances yielded to his blandishments and entered into industrial combination of greater or less solidity. For awhile it seemed that no scheme for the combination of capital and consolidation of business interests was so wild in its conception that it failed to enlist the support of ordinary careful and just men. Money that had long been lying idle eagerly sought the channel indicated by the promoter as certain to bring back large returns. New corporations of stupendous capitalization were formed, and the treasury of New Jersey (the compliant laws of that state making the organization of trusts under them an easy matter) was filled to overflowing by the fees received from them.

The promoter was popular in those days, but conditions now are not what they were when this mid-Winter madness was at its height. Men who formerly besieged his office and almost humbly sought his assistance in "getting in on the ground floor" of some heavily watered enterprise do not now take the trouble to recognize him upon the street. His fees and commissions belong to the past, and if driven by stress of circumstance to approach a capitalist with suggestions of a new industrial combination, he is in danger of bodily violence. Men who kept their heads while the trust epidemic swept the country, and proudly declared that the evil would work out its own remedy, and their prediction in process of verification sooner than they perhaps anticipated. It is true that there are many trusts in existence, but the fact that no more are being formed shows that the check which precedes the stamping out of a maldy had been applied. Heralds of disaster and sticklers for calamity still abound, and these, in the face of a general prosperity that mocks at trusts, declare that the organization of "industries" is depressed because it has absorbed everything in sight; that the promoters are so many Alexanders, sighing for more worlds to conquer. But this is plainly an exaggeration, since there are many industrial lines which these manipulators of finance would have tackled, had there been any prospect of success. Disintegration has not been so rapid as consolidation was for a time, but many trusts have fallen to pieces by their own weight, and some of the largest show unmistakable signs of collapse.

The worst that was predicted has not come to pass, though much that is reprehensible under the name of industrial organization resulted from the mid-Winter madness of last year. The signs of the past are hopeful, and the promoter's occupation is gone. Predictions of dire calamity from this source will be kept alive for yet a few months by campaign orators, who propose political panaceas for an evil which they will not acknowledge is abating, but those who declared at the height of the epidemic that the evil would effect its own cure, and already good and sufficient grounds to congratulate themselves upon their sagacity.

FATE OF THE SALMON.

In commenting upon the salmon-packing industry, the Chicago Tribune says: The catch of salmon in Canadian waters last year was valued at \$12,100,000, a decrease of \$2,200,000 when compared with the returns of the previous year. The decrease is so great as to suggest that the supply of salmon in Oregon. The supply in the Pacific Coast region seemed inexhaustible only ten years ago. Then it was not uncommon for the rivers to flow with salmon to the sea. The fish were caught by means of a device called the fish-trawl, which threw the fish into a shoal, and permitted hardly one to escape. A stop was put to this when the supply began to show signs of depletion. The Government began to hatch the salmon, but the hatching stations have not been able to make amends for the waste of a few years.

The Tribune is correct in its diagnosis of the fate of the salmon everywhere except in the Columbia River and Puget Sound. Though its ideas of the methods of salmon-catching on the Columbia are somewhat erroneous, its statement about the great decrease in the number of fish is correct; yet its ideas upon the inefficiency of hatcheries are not sound. It is true that hatcheries on the Columbia have not yet repaired the waste of two decades of excessive fishing, but there are not wanting abundant evidences that the river is now on the up grade. The value of hatcheries has been amply demonstrated. The trouble has been in the past that we have only propagated 10 per cent of the number of fish annually that should be put into the stream. What we have averaged probably 6,000,000 a year up to the largest output of 25,000,000 last year, we should have had an annual total of 50,000,000, a total which will probably be approximated this season. With seven hatcheries at work, there is no doubt of the result, so long as the Columbia remains a stream of pure water. The same conditions prevail on Puget Sound, the state hatcheries there having begun propagation on a large scale before depletion had reached the low point to which it had arrived on the Columbia.

Not alone to excessive fishing may be ascribed the decrease of salmon in rivers. Contamination of the water by manufacturing enterprises along their banks, by surface drainage from cultivated fields and by the sewage of cities, plays an important part. All the hatcheries in the world could not keep a foul river full of salmon. That has been one of the leading causes of the decadence of the salmon-fishing industry on the Sacramento River, in spite of the years of work at the Government hatching station. Fortunately, the Columbia is still, and by reason of the topography of the country, pure water. The stream of pure water which remains after excessive fishing is the chief obstacle to be overcome. This may be done by an annual propagation of from 30,000,000 to 50,000,000 fish, which is easily within the capacity of hatching stations already at work. Practically the same conditions prevail on Puget Sound, since most of the streams entered by fish for spawning purposes will remain constantly pure and free from contamination. The salmon industry will gradually center more and more on the Columbia and Puget Sound, until they will become at last the only scenes of extensive packing for the world's markets.

HIS OCCUPATION GOES.

A little more than a year ago the great business centers of the country were in the throes of a financial madness of a type heretofore practically unknown. The disease reached its most virulent period about February, 1899. The "promoter," so-called, was also doing with reckless hand the work of a gambler, and his mad schemes, and even the most conservative and level-headed business men in many instances yielded to his blandishments and entered into industrial combination of greater or less solidity. For awhile it seemed that no scheme for the combination of capital and consolidation of business interests was so wild in its conception that it failed to enlist the support of ordinary careful and just men. Money that had long been lying idle eagerly sought the channel indicated by the promoter as certain to bring back large returns. New corporations of stupendous capitalization were formed, and the treasury of New Jersey (the compliant laws of that state making the organization of trusts under them an easy matter) was filled to overflowing by the fees received from them.

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THE BRYAN CRAZE.

Antebellum Hallelucinations His Admirers Hold Concerning Him. Washington Star. Mr. Bryan's fanaticism looks like a craze. They appear to be positively daff on the subject of his personality. Not without claims to consideration when they discuss all that is in his mind, when they speak of him they lose all sense of proportion and responsibility and talk like those possessed. Their support of him has become a species of worship. They magnify every boy down to a man. They call upon him for relief as though he sat upon a throne and commanded all things. Take, for example, this extract from the speech of Senator Lodge, made at the nomination at St. Paul: There is but one name in the hearts of the American people and one name on the lips of the people for President of the United States, and in the man whom I mean I am about to mention there is embodied all that is good in the American citizen, all that is pure and noble in his nature, all that is high and noble in his character, all that is noble in his experience, a philosopher and statesman of peer on this or any other continent. Fearless and wedded to the interests of this Nation, he has shown a noble and heroic courage in the face of the United States. Since the election of 1896 but one name has been connected with the candidacy for that office. This man is the embodiment of all that opposes greed. He is in my judgment clearly the greatest American citizen of the age. As an orator, a statesman and scholar he is the peer of his best and of Clay, if he is not their superior. Let us make liberal allowance for the extravagance always exhibited in political conventions when a favorite is presented for consideration, and yet no sane man would be so foolish as to give an arrant nonsense as is left in this! Mr. Bryan, so far from being "a statesman of ripe experience," has had next to no experience at all in statesmanship. He is a member of the House, he connected his name during his two terms with but one piece of legislation, and that was the Gorman-Wilson bill—the most demagogic and unscrupulous bill ever prepared by men holding public commissions. It ruined business for a time, and it was the strongest force that has ever been used to hurl the Democratic party from power. Is Mr. Bryan a philosopher? Of what school? And when were philosophy and successful stump speaking ever so closely connected as in the case of Mr. Bryan as oil and water do. Is Mr. Bryan a scholar? He makes no such claims for himself. He probably chuckles to himself when the press is explicit even to the point of a plain eulogy. Is he the greatest of living orators, and does he top Webster and Clay, who are gone? In the language of the poet, "Mr. Bryan is a smooth talker, and his words are like oil and water." He is not a scholar, and he does not equal in his own party, which is "long" just now on orators of the type of Mr. Bryan's chief Populist lieutenant would count for little if it did not express in a way sentiments entertained for him by many Populists and Democratic alike. Whether his supporters are found they feel for him, and declare, a like reverence. He is accepted as the sum of human wisdom. Finance? Who is it all, and how has it developed? The past three years have shown that in 1896 he was a stranger to the subject. The tariff? He knows it all, and he has helped to secure its repeal. The Gorman-Wilson bill? Expansion? He knows it all, although he has been so busy campaigning since that subject became a time to give to an exclusive study of it. And this is the man whom so many men would call to the Presidency at a time when a statesman of ripe wisdom, real experience and real sobriety of view and statement is absolutely necessary to the needs of the country, and to the formulation and forwarding of sound policies!

GOSSIP OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

WASHINGTON, May 21.—Senator Lodge, when he delivered his speech on the Monroe Doctrine, and Germany's attitude regarding it, wanted the people to talk about it. He wanted to know what a feeling he had that he evidently did not intend. Not only are they talking about him abroad, but a great many people here have considerable to say about him here in this country. One Senator who has a pretty good idea of foreign affairs, remarked in a very sarcastic tone that Senator Lodge was probably trying to hold the German vote for the Administration. But as a matter of fact the speech fell like a thunderbolt on the Administration, as every effort has been made for a long time past to maintain friendly relations with the German Empire. The Samoan question was settled and the treaty was put through with great speed so as to remove all cause of friction with the Germans. It is true that during the time that the Samoans clashed with us in Manila Bay, this country was ready to fight at the drop of the hat. It is also true that the manner in which Germany treated the Samoans and the fruits has caused a great deal of complaint and irritation. But at the same time every effort is being made by the Administration to prevent any relation. The speech of Secretary Root caused a great deal of talk, but he did not go anywhere near as far as Senator Lodge. Secretaries Root and Bryan, gave some information about the meaning of the Monroe Doctrine. Of course this started international writers to discussing what he meant, and they finally decided that he was not at all in sympathy with the German Empire, never mentioned Germany, but Senator Lodge, a member of the Senate committee on foreign relations, did mention that the Administration spoke in round terms about it. This action amazed the Federal Administration because at that particular time that there was well aware that there was a large danger of war with the Germans. It has been stated by those who seem to think they know something about it, that the German colonists in Brazil are likely to cause trouble with the Germans. It is well understood that these Germans in Brazil are not likely to become any more obedient to the Brazilian Government than are the Germans in our own country. They will still be fond of the fatherland and maintain their German ways and characteristics, but they will not try to make Brazil a part of the German Empire any more than they will try to make a portion of the United States, where they are thickly settled, a part of the same empire. There was some reason for believing that Germany would like to secure the Danish Islands, but even that was a little flurry of no consequence, and not worth the attention given to the matter. It was noticed that Senator Spooner, representing a State where there is a very large German population, took occasion to refer to statements of Senator Lodge very promptly and vigorously, and asserted that there was no danger of a war with Germany or of any other European power.

GOVERNMENTS FRIENDLY.

It is rather interesting to note in these complications that just at the present time the people of the United States are comparatively untroubled as to the possibility of war with Germany. It is well understood that the Germans have but very little better feeling against the United States, while the governments of both countries are very friendly to each other. There have been in a great many years there is also a bitter feeling among the people of this country against England, and the Government of the United States is very friendly to the Government of Great Britain as on the very best of terms. It is often observed that governments do not always represent the feelings of the people. The dealings with foreign nations. At the same time governments are a necessity for the purpose of avoiding just such complications as the peace might bring. It is a good thing that the government does not take the same view of every international breeze that some of our statesmen choose to give us. We would be constantly in turmoil, and war would be threatened at all times.

KANSAS CITY'S GRAFT.

The manner in which the Kansas City election is being held up by the Democrats in the matter of rates at the convention is causing a vigorous protest from those who must go to the convention. It appears that five or six to a room, with the convention rate of \$10 a day, and what these Kansas City hotels insist upon charging. This is so much more than has ever been paid before at any convention that it is causing a great deal of protest among the delegates. It is a very bad taste in the mouths of the Democrats who attend the convention. It is in striking contrast with the rates of \$5 to \$6 a day at the recent conventions for 1884, 1888 and 1896. It is in all four of these conventions the rates were as usual, and the rates were not exorbitant. Now, at this campaign after being overcharged by the hotel men will make them decidedly so, and possibly give the town of Kansas City a bad name.

EXTREMITY OF GOLD DEMOCRATS.

Those who are decidedly discontent with the Republican record are reckoning without their host. Among Republicans generally, so far from discontent with the Democratic record, the money-worshipping Democrats are plenty of discontent. But if straw indicate the direction of the wind it will not influence their votes. It is recognized that the Democrats have kept their pledges even better than they had hoped. They have spent their time and ink and eloquence in reviling McKinley, have been ransacking the cosmos to prevent the re-nomination of Bryan, and are now taking the only course open to men of their convictions. They are, in short, pursuing the very tactics they pursued in 1896 and have begun already to point out that Bryan stands for the same old, same old, same old, that, though his power to ruin the country has been curtailed, he can and doubtless will eventually injure it. As a cause of evil they infinitely prefer Bryan, and frankly say so. A few anti-expansionists who prefer anything to expansion, a few gold Bourbonians who expected to lead their party by leaving McKinley to the Democrats, and a few others, are now taking the only course open to men of their convictions. They are, in short, pursuing the very tactics they pursued in 1896 and have begun already to point out that Bryan stands for the same old, same old, same old, that, though his power to ruin the country has been curtailed, he can and doubtless will eventually injure it. As a cause of evil they infinitely prefer Bryan, and frankly say so. A few anti-expansionists who prefer anything to expansion, a few gold Bourbonians who expected to lead their party by leaving McKinley to the Democrats, and a few others, are now taking the only course open to men of their convictions. 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