

The Oregonian.

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PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, MAY 23.

CONGRESS WILL BE GUILTY OF GROSS INJUSTICE IF IT ADJOURNS WITHOUT TAKING FINAL ACTION ON THE ALASKA BILL.

For years that territory has been neglected and the residents of the United States men who have lived there a quarter of a century have been unable to acquire title to a foot of land, and stand today in the light of trespassers upon the soil of the United States.

The San Francisco Bulletin says: Under contract with the British ship so much of the American seaman's wages are established by the rates paid on the coastwise trade.

The prohibitionists are going before the country on the issue of the canteen. They ask votes in support of their way on the President because he has acted like a man of sense regarding the sale of liquor to our soldiers.

The devotion of the proceeds of the entertainment tonight at the Armory to the monument fund is a gracious act on the part of our British fellow-citizens.

doubt the Army will be thronged to-night with sons and daughters of Albion and Scotia.

PUBLIC OFFICE NOT PROPERTY IN LAW.

The decision of the United States Supreme Court dismissing the writ of error from the Kentucky Court of Appeals in the case of the Kentucky Governorship turns entirely on the question whether under the fourteenth amendment to the Constitution of the United States a public office is "property."

Justice Harlan, who is universally regarded as a jurist of great ability, dissents entirely from the position of Chief Justice Fuller, and points out that if the Kentucky Legislature had, in contempt of the United States and without appointing a board of contest, simply declared Goebel to be Governor, and such action had been held by the highest court of the state to be conclusive, the United States Supreme Court, under the decision of Justice Fuller, would be without jurisdiction.

The plea of Justice Harlan is that the fourteenth amendment was intended to cover the whole field of violation of the rights of fundamental rights, and from this standpoint he will carry the justice-loving public entirely with him.

WAS IT POLITICAL INFAMY?

This sweeping statement appears in a letter from a recent correspondent: Equal suffrage was never repealed in Washington; it was simply killed by political infamy, of which honorable men today are ashamed.

It is not to be supposed that an accusation so grave and surprising against many thousand voters in that state—a majority—could have been seriously meant. Probably the decision of Judge Turner rendering invalid the territorial act granting female suffrage was alone referred to.

In 1888 the question was once more submitted. A very active organization of women carried on the campaign throughout the state. Little was done on the opposite side, except by a female missionary from a New York society.

The Oregonian has no defense to offer for the shortcomings of the last Legislature. It pointed them out at the time and will, upon occasion, point them out again.

Among the measures of various promise enumerated were these: The Bingham registration law, laws for the election of road supervisors by the people, the school commission, city park commissions, with a referendum provision to their more important acts.

FITLY ANSWERED.

Secretary Hay has informed the Boer commissioners that the Government will not recede from its present attitude of absolute neutrality between Great Britain and the South African Republics.

It is clear that under the principles of the peace conference this country can take no further official action. Of course, the Boers can do as they please, but we would do well to stop her war against them.

HEARD HAS MADE A YELLOW SPECIAL PREDICTION OF BRYAN'S ELECTION.

As usual, it is a scorp. No one else has it.

PRECEDENT FOR MCKINLEY.

A recent Hungarian policy and some precedents very much in point will serve to aid the President in determining the manner of his treatment of the envoy, early 50 years ago a President Grant had a similar problem to solve.

"CARRYING COALS TO NEWCASTLE."

An order has recently been placed with a firm in this country for 60,000 tons of bituminous coal to be shipped immediately to Europe.

larger sense of our responsibilities President McKinley can permit himself to go in any remarks he may feel called on to make to the Boer envoys in respect to the present situation of their republic.

THE AUSTRALIAN CONSTITUTION.

And the Objections Made to It by the British Government.

Following are the clauses of the Australian Commonwealth Bill to which the British Government objects, and the reasons of the objections presented by Mr. Chamberlain in his dispatch to the Australian premier:

Section 71—No exception or regulation prescribed by the Parliament shall prevent the High Court of the Commonwealth from hearing and determining any appeal from the Court of a state in any matter in which, at the establishment of the Commonwealth, an appeal lies from such Supreme Court to the Queen in council.

Section 72—No appeal shall be permitted to the Queen in council in any matter involving the interpretation of this constitution or to the constitution of a state unless the public interest of some part of Her Majesty's dominions, or other than the Commonwealth or a state, are involved.

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THE PENDULUM STATE.

Indiana Always on the Winning Side Presidential Years.

Indiana, like New York, has swung from the pendulum to the other side the regularity of a pendulum. This is the record of the last seven Presidential elections:

Table with 2 columns: Year and Candidate. 1872-Grant, Republican; 1876-Tilden, Democrat; 1880-Hartley, Republican; 1884-Bloomer, Democrat; 1888-Harrison, Republican; 1892-Harrison, Democrat; 1896-McKinley, Republican.

This year, in the regular succession, it is again the turn of the Democrats to govern Indiana, and the regularity of the pendulum.

Cyclone Davis has been repudiated by the Populist organization in Washington. But the great oratorical wind-storm will not worry. There are forty-four other states.

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PLAYING A CUT-THROAT GAME.

The anonymous circular, the last desperate device of despairing political brigandage, has made its appearance. The city and county have been flooded with papers and hand-sheets. They cover a variety of topics bearing on the campaign, and are all designed to further the cause of the Mitchell-McBride machine.

One of these papers is an "Exposure of Republican Methods"—a caption that would fairly indicate that the subscriber, a "Old Republican," being opposed to Republican methods, is not that of a Republican. But he says he is. He expects to vote for a Republican Congressman and the Republican state ticket.

The barren claim of the Mitchell factionists that no Republican candidates are any risk in voting for their candidates is a bold and brazen lie.

It is not true that Multnomah County can afford to elect the "Citizens" ticket without placing the state in great jeopardy. There are 13 members of the Legislature to elect here in a total of 90.

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

Clark oughtn't to cross till he gets out of the coup. Before we have any street fair, we ought to have a few fair streets.

There can be no doubt now that the Lord is with Kruger, for whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth.

All the political parties are fighting the trusts, but they still have some influential friends in the Senate.

The English Judge, Mr. Justice Darling, recently delivered an obiter on the law of "The Merchant of Venice," which he thought distinctly bad.

General Ian Hamilton, who has commanded the newly formed Colonial Division in South Africa, is a Wellington College man, and still well on the fighting side of 50.

Herbert Spencer was 60 years old on the 27th ult. Spencer had his own way to make in the world; he went to no school or college. His father taught him science, and at the age of 17 he became a civil engineer.

When Storey got the other night, he said the feast had been a failure. A fellow how the church is working for the Lord.

When Storey's victory in June turns out a big defeat, he'll be a big loser. An' 'nakes me wonder to find 'em that he is badly late.

A Golden Truth—Grew—I know a kind of money that does not talk. Bred—What kind is it? Green—Hush money. J. B. Tamm—He has always run his business like a clockwork.