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TODAY'S WEATHER.—Showers; westerly winds.

PORTLAND, THURSDAY, JUNE 21.

The Republican platform is a hum-drum and commonplace production. There is too much of the rumble or grind of the machine in it.

The Republican campaign will not start off with any enthusiasm. It has been "set up" by the active politicians for McKinley, and nothing has been left to awaken interest or expectation.

The Philadelphia platform thunders in the index, and winds up with a disappointing Philippine plank. There is a spiritless assertion of American sovereignty, an acceptance of our international responsibilities, and a promise to the inhabitants of liberty, civilization, and the largest possible measure of self-government.

Mr. Bryan has his two-thirds of the Kansas City convention already pledged to him. There will be 930 delegates, and it takes 620 to nominate.

Senator Butler and Senator Pettibone would have gone in person to warn Mr. Bryan that he must not yield an inch, and that the platform of 1900 must be as strong as that of 1896, or the fusion bargain will be broken.

When these excellent persons become interested in politics they generally become reformers of visionary and impracticable character. If they are "temperance reformers," they are always prohibitionists. They are easily captured by specious political or economic facts. They are so optimistic in their progressive philosophy that they not seldom have an open or sneaking sympathy with "Christian Science" as the ultimate healer of all diseases.

Upon the fusion and silver issues in 1896, Mr. Bryan made some gains over 1892. They were the States of Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming, with a total of forty-five electoral votes.

Democratic. It is clear that the ultimate Democratic adherence to silver has not been benefited results in the Middle West and Pacific Coast, nor does anybody pretend that it will be helpful in the East.

MOSQUITOES AND MALARIA. In our Pacific States we are very little troubled with mosquitoes. These insects are generated in stagnant water, in malarious districts, and our mountains and sea-coast country is almost free from them.

The two English physicians are to make the experiment on themselves. They are going to the Roman Campagna, the most fatal of malarial districts, where, to be out after sunset, is to contract the deadly Roman fever.

The British Medical Journal supplies the description and particulars of their undertaking, and the British Colonial Office is taking special interest in the experiment, with the intention, if it seems to be successful, to order such hats to be made in Africa and India.

A ONE-EYED PHILOSOPHER. The Rev. George S. Merriam, a leading "Independent" friend of the gold standard, writes a long letter to the Springfield Republican, in which he confesses that the perusal of Bryan's article in the June North American Review had inspired in him a new respect for free silver as a mark of seriousness and breadth of thought.

Are there many educated men of ability, like the Rev. George S. Merriam, who would be willing to vote for Bryan, standing for Populism, state socialism, flat silver and flat paper money, on the plea that his opposition to "imperialism" conduced with them his allegiance to the theory of folly and fraud in finance and the latest substitution of the rights of property? Probably there are not a great many such men.

When the House of Representatives last week passed the bill for the election of 1900, it was a record of achievement in the wrong direction!

aldermen to clergymen, and by clergymen to old women." Scratch a clergyman in any way and you are sure to find a one-eyed crank or a dogmatic doctrinaire.

WILL BECOME CROWN COLONIES. The Orange Free State and the Transvaal Republic are sure to become crown colonies, since the official voice of the British Government has already announced that the same reasons which made war necessary require that the two republics shall be disabled from renewing it.

The Liverpool wheat market with apparent great reluctance has joined the Chicago market in a long leap toward a higher level of prices, and there is much evidence of considerable underlying strength in the situation.

The Springfield Republican considers the Oregon election a fact of great importance to the silver theorists that it grows that the cheap-money agitation is losing strength even among those who began it and forced it into National politics.

Bryan must have 224 votes to be elected. The solid South, outside of Kentucky, will give him 112 votes, which, with the votes of Montana, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada and Utah, 24 in all, will bring his total up to 146.

THE SANTIAGO PRIZE MONEY. The Court of Claims has finished the allotment of the prize money due to those who took part in the navy battle off Santiago, on account of the destruction of the Spanish fleet.

The possible nomination of Tim Woodruff as Vice-President can be fairly met by the Democrats only with Jim Ham Lewis. The one is the glass of fashion, the other the moult of foam.

As for the Vice-Presidency, Mr. Hanna seems to be taking an unconventionally long time to make up the convention's mind.

outcriting its motives, and consider the Sampson-Schley controversy a closed incident.

O. P. Austin, chief of the United States Treasury Bureau of Statistics, has contributed to Money a valuable article on the increase of gold production. Its purpose is to show that there is gold enough for the world's commercial needs, and for that reason allow a free export of gold.

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The thousands who, impatient of delay, started north in May for the purpose of picking gold from the grass roots and washing it from the abounding sands of the beach, will soon begin to realize their dreams or suddenly to awake from them.

Without Roosevelt, what would the convention do? It would be a cold and unenthused affair. He is the sole inspiring and commanding figure. He is no dummy.

Platt has gone home; but Hanna is still there, and the country is safe.

the purchasable element—to support him if the possibility of his filling the highest office were kept in view.

A NOTE FROM DR. BLACKBURN.

He Thinks Injustice Was Done Him by The Oregonian. PORTLAND, June 21 (The Editor:—I was certainly surprised at the editorial this morning. If there is any one characteristic that has come to attach itself to the Oregonian, it is its optimism.

Dr. Blackburn says that his object was by no means to belittle Oregon, but to call attention to its wants. The Oregonian has not the copies of the papers containing the articles, as they were not its own property, and has sent them back to the original contributors.

These are employment for strong men about the country, and they are not too little for the class of people who form the operative class in mills and factories. Young women and boys find little to do, so much of the population is unemployed.

Why Donors Are Unkind. They Are Anxious to Avoid Receipt of Begging Letters. A curious feature of the long record of charitable and educational donations in the United States is the growing frequency of cases in which the donors withhold their names.

Over-Zeal of Missionaries. We Ting Fong, the Chinese Minister at Washington, makes these statements, among others, on the present troubles in China: Ignorance and superstition are at the bottom of the present outbreak, rather than malice or hatred.

Gold Democrats Still for Gold. Some of the New York Democrats of the East may be so tired of their principles that they are ready to embrace Bryanism, but they get no comfort from men like Governor Buckner, their candidate for Vice-President four years ago.

More Expansion. Troy (N. Y.) Times. More expansion. Many of the schools in this country, which have never taught the Spanish language are adding it to their lists of elective studies.

GOSSIP OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

WASHINGTON, June 16.—A considerable effort is being made to show that the intervention of the United States in Cuba has not been successful. Some well-known men pronounce it an absolute failure. Probably these pessimistic views are largely the theory of the "insular" party.

Hill and Vice-Presidency. New York seems to be a fertile field for putting forth Democratic Vice-Presidential possibilities, especially those of the frank class, foremost among whom is the Hon. William Sulzer, Belmont and Charles Fairbanks.

Going on the Stage. Baltimore American. "Professor" Patsy Pounfem has been knocked completely out by another "flat professor" on a pugilistic bout.

Offered to Furnish a Subject. The Shah of Persia, making a tour of Europe, will pay his respects to Queen Victoria early in July. This is the monarch who, on a former visit to England, expressed a desire to witness an execution at Newgate Prison.

Nothing in a Name. Minneapolis Tribune. The Government will send a mining and Government Mount, of Indiana, hard to ride.

Great Political Cipher. Denver Republican. Ignatius Donnelly's happiness can only be accounted for on the ground that in the world he will never be proved that he is one of the greatest political ciphers.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Today's weather—Any old thing. And the Vice-Presidency still pursues aim.

How would you like to be the weather prophet? The Cubans are at present occupied in mauling down their real estate.

It doesn't take Mrs. Taylors to make a man in Philadelphia, but in Kentucky it's different. The powers seem to think that the best way to get at the partition of China is by way of the ground floor.

Has any enterprising European Commander announced that he is going to eat his Christmas dinner in Pekin? The political situation in New York City is a little strained, but it is believed that the ice will soon be broken.

The class graduating at Yale this year has spent about \$1,500,000 at Yale during its four years' course, and the class numbers 429, out of a total enrollment of 531. Only \$20,000 of that sum was expended in tuition charges, the bulk of it going into board, rent, books and incidentals.

Well he knows that when low-pressure areas get cast off. Then the chances are the rain clouds soon will either fall or lift. Well he knows that when he sees the shifting of the weather, that the rain will soon be shining; that is, it doesn't rain.

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHS. A Satisfier is a man who discovers things about himself, and then says them about some one else—Lilo.

A Question of Funds.—"My doctor ordered a trip to Europe for me," said the doctor to a patient. "No," he presented his bill, and then took the trip to Europe himself." Washington Star.

Teacher.—John, what are your boots made of? Boy.—Of leather. "Where does the leather come from?" "From the hide of a cow." "What animal, therefore, supplies you with boots and gives you meat to eat?" "My father."—Tit-Bits.

There are others—many others—Who will offend by a few relations. For they've reached the shrine of Theopis By the whip and pistol roar. They've devoured and fought and quarreled Till they ask for patronage.