

The Oregonian

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TODAY'S WEATHER: Occasional rain and cooler, with southerly winds.

PORTLAND, THURSDAY, NOV. 15.

What is the heart of the "common-point" problem, and what are only its limbs and outward flourishes, seems as impossible of decision as harmony among antagonistic railroads is of attainment.

It is the railroad man's business to persuade a community that its interests are being jealously guarded by him and that his road deserves the people's support.

Mr. Hammond has done a great deal for this section. He has invested millions here, added greatly to the tax-paying wealth of the state, created employment for hundreds of persons, first and last, and has acquired large tracts of the timber which he may reasonably be expected to begin sawing up when the finds conditions favorable.

What Portland wants may or may not be what any one of these disagreeing railroads wants. The two things certain are that we want the river kept open and the country developed.

One of the disheartening aspects of Portland's present situation is the demoralized state of the business elements in their attitude toward the railroads. The Northern Pacific is exerting itself strenuously to get what to Tacoma. It has built immense warehouses there, which it rents to Portland exporters at nominal figures, and it is going to build more. It has withdrawn the Wallula arrangement on wheat, and is threatening to withdraw it on merchandise.

DEGENERATE POLITICS. Vermont has been a Prohibition state for nearly fifty years, and yet her present politics are described to us as a drunken and corrupt beyond those of any New England state.

It is clear that Croker will have the fight of his life on his hands next November, for failure to elect his candidate for Mayor would mean his extinction as a significant political figure.

The Kaiser is using pauper corpses on which to test Mausers. Here is a chance for sentimentalism to run rampant. Also for Democrats to talk imperialism and militarism.

Among the minor consequences of the election, not one, perhaps, will give such general, heartfelt and abiding satisfaction as the assurance, made absolute by the later returns from South Dakota, that the Senate of the United States is on March 3 next to be relieved of the presence of Richard E. Pettigrew.

that is the moral and political paralysis inflicted upon the state by the debasing influence exercised for many years by the Central Vermont Railroad ring, which made their tools Governors Spooner of the House and Judges of the Supreme Court.

THE CLAMOR FOR CROKER'S HEAD. The New York Sun announces that the campaign has already begun to free the great city of New York from the brutal, filthy, indecent and dishonest domination of Richard Croker, and as standard-bearer of this great revolt the Sun nominates Seth Low for the next Mayor of Greater New York.

Mr. Adlai Stevenson's return to publicity is in the nature of a flying visit. It gave opportunity for the indulgence of garrulity, for which all his life he has been noted, and which, as is usual in men thus inclined, increases with age.

The old cannon that were some time ago supplied by modern guns on the Boston Harbor defenses were made up lately by the Government into two job lots and sold for scrap iron.

Those sundry Bryanite journals which never seemed to hear of the encouragement lent Aguinaldo by Bryan are no longer deaf. They now demand that McKinley receive the alliance by immediately conquering the Philippines.

Statistics of marriage and divorce collected throughout the Union by the Federal Commissioner of Labor, 1897, revealed that 338,718 divorces were granted in twenty years, 216,178 were granted to wives and 122,540, or only about half that number, to husbands.

provide, and 29,502 for adultery. These statistics show that the principal cause of divorce was some form of ill treatment of the wife, other than by adultery, and that the increase in the number of divorces in the last thirty years has been due to the fact that it was the interest of the wife especially which was considered.

Somehow we had all lost track of Charley Towne. It will be a relief to our Democratic friends to know that he has survived the wreck, and that his vocal chords are unimpaired.

A Disagreeable Necessity. Civilization must protect itself against fanatical barbarism, even though the task involves some unpleasant proceedings.

The Candidates and Their Neighbors. It is significant to note the estimation in which the two Presidential candidates were held by the voters who knew them best.

Need of Machine Balloting. Today's experience again demonstrates that we have outgrown the present method of voting. Long lines of shivering men waiting for a chance to enter the booth, discussed the present system and made no thinking about it probably than in the four years past together since the last Presidential election.

The Fraternity of Prophets. The fraternity of prophets have many among them who are without honor in their own country, and without honor in every other country.

countrymen, who have expressed their resentment of his malignant influence by nothing more severe than an occasional half-jesting denunciation, it will be allowed to serve out his term in the Senate of the United States.

Lee and the Century Controversy. Yesterday's letter from Rome, announcing that as the midnight separating December 31 from January 1 approaches, the pope will celebrate the last mass of the century, is a reminder of a controversy which, though of comparatively recent date and by no means unnoticed, yet came to an almost un-noticed end, and is now quite forgotten.

The movement is interdenominational in character rather than non-denominational, and its aim is to promote the interests of young women about four different lines—physical, intellectual, social, and religious.

The stand in urgent need of all the brightness and comfort, and inspiring intellectual comradeship that their brothers have been led as a matter of course to expect from the Y. M. C. A.

"Fighting Bob's" Estimate. "Fighting Bob" Evans, the story goes, went last night to the Y. M. C. A. on Broadway one Sunday morning, to find himself opposite Grace Church.

Same as if Nothing Had Happened. I was scared when I heard all the bluster and noise. The speeches of men and the shouting of boys. I believed that my country was right on the brink of disaster.

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Y. W. C. A. FOR YOUNG WOMEN. Portland people who are interested in the welfare of the young women of the city will welcome the movement that was so successfully inaugurated yesterday afternoon in the parlors of the Hotel Portland.

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NOTE AND COMMENT. It is now time to turn some attention to Mr. Newly. Today has still time to make Croker sorry he did it.

The brilliant literary career of Colin Harvey was ended November 6. McKinley prospectively will help the New York saloon-keeper pay Croker's election bets.

The African Methodist church of Syracuse has a pastor, Rev. A. D. Blos, who has had a remarkable career for a negro. Born in the West Indies, he has traveled much, and in Manchester, England, met and married a white woman.

The "preponderance of lawyers among the Generals of the Confederate Army is very noticeable to the careful reader of history," remarked a prominent Southerner the other day.

Talking to a newspaper man at the Madison Square garden, New York, the other evening, an enthusiast of automobile driving remarked that he had seen one of his writers do it. You can run one of these machines for a few cents a day, while it costs dollars every day you drive a horse.

PLEASANTIES OF PARAGRAPHERS. In Brooklyn—"Do you boil your water before drinking it?" "Well, I guess not. I'd rather get a manager than a customer any day."—Life.

"Jumping on a Fellow." St. Louis Republic (Dem.) Great Caesar's ghost! Say, confidentially, between you and me and the galewind. Did I tell you there were that many Republicans in our midst? Or that they were going to do us up the way they did?