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TODAY'S WEATHER.—Partly cloudy, with occasional rain; probably followed by fair during afternoon; westerly winds.

PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, NOV. 5

The Fifty-sixth Congress does not commend itself to the sober judgment of the country in its frantic efforts to put the subsidy bill in advance of needed legislation. This action is a blot on an otherwise commendable programme of expedition. Committee members prior to opening of the session have put a number of meritorious measures in an advanced stage toward enactment, so that the outlook promises unusually well for a short session.

THE MAKERS OF OREGON. The story told in yesterday's issue of the growth of The Oregonian from its birth in 1850 until its present stalwart maturity was an interesting one because it included a vivid picture of Oregon and Portland of that day, painted by men who helped make the history whose record they have written. The story reads like a romance when we remember that it includes but fifty years of life of a community that in 1850 had but 600 inhabitants and today has 100,000, and further remember that Portland has had transcontinental communication with the Atlantic seaboard and Middle West for thirty years and was not in telegraphic communication with San Francisco and the East until 1864. Oregon may be said to have been an isolated civilization until 1870, and the history of The Oregonian's struggle and success is the history of the struggle and success of Portland.

indirectly made by the transcontinental railroads. This leaves a few who must be regarded as pioneers in their newly developed opposition to this dream of 40 years. The idea is now put forth in the Northern Pacific City of Tacoma, and sanctioned by the Chamber of Commerce there, that the Nicaragua Canal must be fought because it would injure the Pacific Coast more than it would help. The fear is expressed that our manufactures would suffer, inasmuch as the canal will put the Atlantic Coast in a position to supply the Orient with products we should otherwise make here and ship directly across the ocean.

These things, moreover, are really aside from the question. Every railway has been built over the protest of some farmer whose land it crosses and the Nicaragua Canal is no exception. It is not going to be stopped by some disgruntled private interest. The world of commerce has looked forward to this great enterprise with settled determination ever since the early navigators proved the isthmus to be continuous. Its justification is greater and its need more imperative than that of the Suez Canal, and as it will tribute upon the commerce of all mankind, so all mankind is interested in its construction.

UPON A SETTLED BASIS. Mining excitement is dying away, leaving the gold mines of Alaska to stand upon their own merits. All estimates agree that, upon this basis, they will make an excellent showing in the course of a few years. The whoop and hurrah have died away. Men who trod each other's heels in the frantic endeavor to be first at Klondike or Atlin, Cook Inlet or Nome, have dropped out of the ranks of goldseekers discomfited, or have rushed off in another direction in the pursuit of a vain hope—the hope to find a place where riches can be had for the taking.

HIDDEN FOES TO HUMAN LIFE. Professor Koch, the great bacteriologist, in pursuit of his science, is constantly adding to the already long list of classified germs that menace, undermine and prey upon human life. It seems, indeed, that he and his fellow scientists are on the verge of the discovery of a conspiracy that pervades all nature, the fell purpose of which is to wipe man off the face of the earth.

Numbers of people have worked and prayed for the Nicaragua Canal so long that they are tired and are vain to seek rest and recreation by coming out against it. Other numbers in the Pacific States are coming out against it as the result of exertions directly or

other created things, one might be justified in deciding that the game is not worth the candle. Contemporaneous with the recent appearance of ex-Senator John L. Wilson at Washington City while the bill was "mentioned" for a Cabinet position as a reward for his potent fidelity to the Republican cause, leading to the overwhelming McKinley victory in Washington. Mr. Wilson in the Cabinet would be a spectacle calculated to delight his large and admiring constituency in his own state.

THE PHILADELPHIA ADDRESS. The address has that seriousness, breadth, personal regard and cordial acknowledgment and declaration which command not only assent but approval, not only respect but confidence. Mr. McKinley has greatly enlarged his character and wisdom, and the admiration of him by thoughtful men has been enlarged, as the reception of this speech proves.

MODERN FATALITY OF WAR. Science has lessened its Dangers, Not Increased Them. Surgeon-General Sternberg has issued a report containing some interesting facts on the comparative fatality of gunshot wounds in the Civil War and in the recent fighting in Cuba and the Philippines.

Hoke Smith's Ambition. Philadelphia Inquirer. It is pleasant to read that the Hon. Hoke Smith has again come to life and be found in business as old Al stands. It is also pleasant to be told that the Hon. Hoke is thoroughly in favor of reorganizing the Democratic party upon the "old lines."

Brooklyn's Water Supply. Philadelphia Ledger. The question involved in the dispute over the water supply of Brooklyn is one which has disturbed our communities, especially in districts dependent upon rigation, and is one that must be settled by supreme authority, before very long, because it is growing more urgent every year in the Brooklyn case.

was thought, that no nation would dare subject its armies to certain annihilation. At present there is nothing to justify a belief that human ingenuity has proved as effective for defense as for attack. The long-range magazine rifles and the machine guns prove no more deadly than the old musket-loaders and clumsy cannon of the Napoleonic wars.

It will be observed that, of the 15 states, only four—Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland and West Virginia—give an increased vote for Bryan, and that these four are the independent states which broke away from the Democratic column four years ago. In spite of the gains for Bryan, however, Delaware, Maryland and West Virginia show Republican pluriities again.

THE PORTLAND GATEWAY IS OPEN AND always will be open for those who want to pay the difference between rail and water charges. Nobody yet has heard that the gateway is closed except a Yakima correspondent in yesterday's paper.

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cision has been rendered by the State Court of Appeals, that the city must stop using these wells; but this would deprive the community of a large part of its water supply, and what shall be done, not only to prevent the suffering of the people from a water famine, but also to prevent the outbreak of an epidemic, which is always to be anticipated from the conditions thus induced? The question of the greatest good to the greatest number is involved, and needs to be settled quickly and finally.

It is reported that Russell Sage was cheated out of \$50 the other day by a plumber. The report, however, is not verified. It is possible that the enthusiastic reception of Kruger by the French did not tend to encourage Emperor William to receive him. Mary Ellen Lease wants a divorce from her husband. That is the reward a man gets for staying at home and looking after the children.

Under the headline, "Bounce the Blabbers," a Cedar Rapids raptist makes vigorous protest against the chatterers who disturb theater and lecture audiences. It offers a reward of \$5 to the first user who will "go after such idiots in the proper manner," and refers to one of them as having a mouth that "would be a profitable enterprise if turned into a windmill."

The Boston Medical and Surgical Journal says that a Boston physician was recently called to a family which he found in such destitute circumstances that he gave, in addition to his prescription, a bill. Happening in the next day he discovered that his gift had been thus spent: Three dollars to the priest, which, of course, was all right, and \$2 to get another doctor.

Emperor William's kindness of heart is well known and recently at the parade at Stettin he gave proof of it to a former sergeant of his, under whom he had served when he was Crown Prince. He recognized the veteran standing among the crowd of spectators and summoned him. For some minutes he chatted pleasantly with the man, and then dispatched an orderly to bring a horse for his former sergeant that the latter might be able to ride about and see the review at his ease.

NOTE AND COMMENT. Have you kept your resolution to read the President's message? Fortunately, Bryan was defeated after the Christmas magazines went to press. Lord Roberts is calling for more men. He can have Aguinaldo if he wants him. Croker certainly has done a good deal toward purifying New York. He has left the place.

THE WISDOM OF ATHLETICS. Useful in Their Place, They Are a Bad Lot When Overdone. Chicago Journal. With the end of the football season, which comes with Thanksgiving day, will disappear the spirit of criticism that has lately arisen upon the practices of athletics in American colleges.

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