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TODAY'S WEATHER

Occasional rain, with fresh to brisk southerly winds.

PORTLAND, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

What business is it of Government whether rivers are improved or not, arid lands made fruitful, or agriculture enlightened?

All this has passed away. Under a constitution and representatives chosen by the people, the division of labor between government and private enterprise becomes one of pure expediency.

A SAD TRAGEDY RECALLED. The announcement of the death of Mrs. Abby Sage Richardson in Rome recalls a sad tragedy.

HIDDEN LANDSCAPE OF THE SEA. The American trans-Pacific cable will, in the very necessities of the case, be an accomplishment of the near future.

Necanicum and Ohana Rivers is another reminder that fish and game legislation must be expected at the coming session.

Perkins Librarian Leach is within the bounds of strict accuracy when he calls the Kelly book of 1830 the first book about Oregon.

Representative McCall, who wanted free trade with Porto Rico for Massachusetts traders, doesn't want the Philippines under any programme.

Why Mr. Towne accepts the appointment for a few days' term in the Senate is not disclosed and probably is futile to speculate.

Suspicion that the canal procedure in Congress is partly dictated by railroad opposition is justified by experience.

Irrigation in the West. No view of irrigation can be appreciated which is not an adjunct to agriculture.

to be 583 fathoms, or within 66 feet of six miles. This, the lowest depression of the ocean bed yet discovered.

The Vermont Legislature on the 22d inst. rejected the local option referendum bill that had been under consideration in both houses.

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Will Buddhism Come to the Front? Professor F. W. Rhys Davids, in North American Review.

The tramp is the father of the hold-up. The genus is readily recognized by trained peace officers, and obeys orders to move on when he knows they are positive and final.

It is noteworthy that the Treasury reports show the voluntary retirement of over 1200 banks from the National system within the year.

We invite attention to the careful discussion of Oregon's unoccupied lands, printed yesterday.

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SENATOR FRYE ON SUBSIDIES.

It is quite natural that the shipping subsidy bill should be given preference over every other measure before Congress.

In continuing his speech on Wednesday, however, Mr. Frye flashed some light on a new phase of the situation.

The inference drawn from this statement is that the payment of a subsidy would enable America to do this work as cheaply as it was done by the foreigners.

No matter how great a subsidy might be paid to shippers, freight rates would still be unaffected, for the simple reason that owners would base their rates on what the traffic would bear.

Benefit of Intellectual Contact. "Did you have an interesting literary club meeting last night?"

Americans Honor Pines of the British. London Graphic. From America, as usual, comes the newest invention, a steam motor-traveling car.

Review of Reviews. Jamaica has no desire for annexation to the United States.

The Dead Highlanders. From "Ian Hamilton's March," by Winston Spencer Churchill.

America Capital in Jamaica. Review of Reviews. Jamaica has no desire for annexation to the United States.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Even the footpads seem to be enjoying a share in the general prosperity.

A little more of this weather and the Council will be compelled to pass an ordinance making it the duty of veterans to shovel the fog off their sidewalks every morning.

The Navy arch in New York City is not yet to depart into the rubbish heap.

Another poker debt case has passed through the Appellate Courts of New York.

Bishop Thompson of Mississippi, said the other day: "I suppose there is a larger percentage of old men in Mississippi than in any other state—at least, it seems so to me."

Well, said the Bishop, "there is no chance to become rich in Mississippi. Everybody knows it and does not worry himself into an 'early grave' trying to."

The melancholy days have come, the saddest of the year, and any one who desires to get much work done must hustle.

William Cullen Bryant. That's cold in the twilight of the sunny day! Gladly focus thy freshness round my brow!

Now I alone a thousand beams round. And I lie in the fullness of delight! And languid forms rise up, and pulses bound.