

The Oregonian.

Entered at the Postoffice at Portland, Oregon, as second-class matter. POSTAGE PAID. TELEPHONE. Editorial Rooms... 101 Business Office... 987

REVIEWED SUBSCRIPTION RATES. By Mail (postage prepaid). Advance... \$5.00 Daily, with Sunday, per month... \$1.50

United States, Canada and Mexico: 10 to 15-page paper... 10 to 15-page paper... Foreign rates double.

FOR SALE IN OMAHA BY F. C. SHEAR, 106 N. SIXTH STREET, AND BARBARA BROS., 1612 PEARSON STREET.

TODAY'S WEATHER—Cloudy and unsettled, with probably no rain of consequence; variable winds, mostly westerly.

PORTLAND, SATURDAY, DEC. 8.

Washington opinion that the Democrats are badly demoralized by the election seems to find confirmation in their proposals for amendments to pending measures. The President recommended a revenue reduction of \$50,000,000; yet the Democrats offer an amendment to increase it to \$60,000,000.

We are beginning to hear from the bosses on the subject of primary reform. So long as the project was confined to academic discussion our various political machines had little or no interest in the matter.

THE INCREASE OF INSANITY. The publication of the biennial statistics of the Oregon Insane Asylum for the term ended November 30 shows for the whole of this end not regarded with fond expectation by those whose idea of harmony consists of their own triumph and the enemy's annihilation.

One of the Register's misgivings is founded on misapprehension of the facts. It does not understand the method proposed. It fears that each precinct might bring in a different candidate for Sheriff, for example, and that in this way a minority candidate with possibly 150 votes might be elected.

The Register is disposed to limit the desirability of the direct primary to cities. There is some sense in this suggestion.

gestion, and it embodies, we believe, the only sound objection to the primary law, which is, that it will work a hardship on sparsely settled communities.

THE EVISCERATED ARMY BILL. The Army bill as it passed the House was completely eviscerated of the reform features it contained as originally prepared by Secretary Root.

Now is the time for the people of Oregon to take an interest in the matter of text-books for the public schools. A commission of five members is to be appointed by Governor Geer next month to select in July the books to be used in the schools for a term of six years.

According to the best information at hand, the Lower Nehalem country held promise to supply Portland with an element of commercial success that has been lacking here—cheap fuel.

THE ARMY CANTEN. The vote of the House prohibiting the sale of beer or wine in the Army post exchange, known as the canteen, is in direct contempt of the recommendations of the vast majority of the leading officers of the Army.

THE HAY-PAUNCEPOTE TREATY. The attitude of our Government regarding the Nicaragua Canal is that canal legislation should be properly and legally enacted until the Clayton-Bulwer treaty has been abrogated or the Hay-Pauncefote convention ratified by the Senate.

THE FAMOUS PHILADELPHIA SCRAPPLE. To make Philadelphia scrapple, put one slice of pork and one pound of beef in a kettle and cover with water.

A close estimate shows that 100,000 married women are employed in the factories of the United States. This statement ought to offset some of the sympathy that men seem so generally to feel for "poor Mr. Lease," one of

the 100,000 husbands of the country whose wives are compelled to rustle out and make or help make the living.

PARCELS POST SYSTEM. Other Countries Seem to Be Ahead of Us in This Respect. Kansas City Star. As soon as rural delivery becomes better established an attempt will probably be made to amplify the parcels post system.

THE ASTORIAN SAYS: With Portland accepted the decision of the Isthmian Canal Commission that the shipping of 10 years hence will require a channel 20 feet deep, or will enter the harbor of Oregon.

EXPORTING RAW COTTON THROUGH PORTLAND. The cotton already tried on the new move of the O. R. & N. Co. to ship large quantities of cotton through this port to the Orient is no experiment.

ANTI-NEGRO LEGISLATION IN VIRGINIA. Virginia is soon to hold a constitutional convention for the purpose of determining how best to restrict the colored factor in politics.

THE POPULAR VOTE. The Philadelphia Press publishes a table, official except as to three states, which gives the following totals of the popular vote cast last month, with the contrasting figures for 1896.

SWEET IGNORANCE IN BANKERS. Two days before the collapse of that Newport bank its directors signed a private statement to the newspapers in which they strenuously denied the report that they had received from the Board of Bookkeepers' Reports.

NOTE AND COMMENT. It is time to begin to practice writing it "BIG." Hanna very properly would rather be the big man of the Nation than President.

committee on foreign relations, under which the United States could "take any measures which it found necessary for securing, by its own forces, the defense of the United States," would not satisfy Great Britain, for under this vague provision the United States could interfere with the free use of the canal by neutrals, and could erect fortifications which would dominate the canal.

As Admiral Dewey says, the real fortifications of the canal are our warships. If they are stronger than the enemy, the canal needs no fortifications. If they are weaker, the canal would be blocked in spite of them.

Foreign nations have long set the United States an example in the cheap handling of packages. In the British Isles the postage rate is cents for the first pound, with 2 cents more for each additional pound.

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THE CHILEAN CABINET HAS RESIGNED. Now let monarchs tremble on their thrones. It looks as if poor old Kruger had been swindled by the first installment of Webster Davis' name.

United States Investor. We have been asked what should be done in order that investors might see their way to put their money into the securities of the industrial trusts.

AS SOON AS RURAL DELIVERY becomes better established an attempt will probably be made to amplify the parcels post system. This already exists in a restricted sense.

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