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TODAY'S WEATHER.—Occasional rain, with brisk to high southerly winds.

PORTLAND, THURSDAY, DEC. 13.

The fact that the management of three transcontinental railroads have had under consideration the importance of developing near-by coal for the Columbia River should serve to arouse more local interest than has yet been manifested over this most essential element in Portland's supremacy. The open river is the making of the port, but cheap coal will also be the making of the port. While it is not absolutely essential that this cheap coal be mined in the neighborhood of Portland, it would be far better so than otherwise. New York, for example, has cheap coal, brought in from a distance as an adjunct of its imperial commerce; and in time coal could be brought here from Puget Sound, from Coos Bay, from Alaska or the Aleutian Islands, in vessels that could lay it down here cheaply if they were sure of profitable return cargoes. We might get coal cheaply from Nehalem Bay by water, but it would be far better to have it come from the mine directly to Portland by a railroad built for the purpose. If this Lower Nehalem coal is the kind we need, a railroad should by all means be built to it from Portland; and if no railroad company now in existence will undertake it, then Portland must form a company for that specific purpose and build the road itself.

Everything so far points to Portland's supremacy in the Pacific Northwest except this problem of cheap coal. Dear coal handicaps our railroads, holds back manufactures and exerts no inconsiderable influence in sending both commercial steamships and Government transports to Puget Sound. A railroad to the Nehalem fields has important strategic significance for Portland, also, because it would intensify Portland's favorable situation. We are situated a good deal like New York. For the Hudson River read the Columbia; for Jersey and Pennsylvania read the Willamette Valley; for Long Island read the peninsula abreast of Portland; for Connecticut and Rhode Island read the Northern Pacific's territory in Southwestern Washington. Portland is the center of converging lines similar to New York's converging lines. To accentuate this strategic advantage, build railroads to the Nehalem and bring Clark, Skamania, Klickitat and Yakima Counties into closer connection through railroad extension and a bridge across the Columbia at Vancouver. Once the Northern Pacific comes into Portland over a bridge at Vancouver, via either Yakima or Kalama, and the coal and timber of Columbia, Clatsop and Tillamook Counties have direct railroad connection with Portland, trade routes will be established which nothing can divert. The Oregonian is going to investigate this coal problem, and hopes to collect data on the subject which will be of concern and value to our citizens. Then it will expect co-operation from the business interests. The same spirit that gives us the Oriental Fair can give us cheap coal over our own railroads into Portland.

Unless we had other evidence to go by, Senator Clay, of Georgia, would be accounted, from his speech in opposition to the ship subsidy bill, a statesman. His argument betrays a masterly skill at dissection of the bill's weak points, and breathes a spirit of high civic ideals. He shows that this iniquitous measure proposes to take $9,000,000 from the Treasury and give it to men already making fortunes in shipbuilding and shipowning. The subsidy goes to the fast liners, not to the slow craft that carry the products of our farms and fields. The hypocrisy of the pretense that its object is to build up the shipbuilding industry, Senator Clay shows up with telling effect; and his examination of the amendments lately made stamps the whole scheme as essentially and solely one to confer superfluous largesse on shrewd but undeserving claimants. All this would stamp Senator Clay as a man of discernment and public spirit, if it were not for one thing. He advocates free coinage of silver for the destruction of all business and the robbery of all creditors, he opposes repression of riots by force, and he proposes to maintain our rights in the international struggle for trade by "a high and honorable example." Senator Clay, therefore, despite his assumption of sense and sincerity, is either a fool or a knave.

One of the blots on the Republican record this session is the tender solicitude for the brewers, and the evident desire to accede to their prayers for surcease of taxpaying. The tax has been cut down from $2 a barrel to $1 60. It is difficult to see what justifies this reduction, unless it is the desire to please the liquor vote. This donation to them will amount to $10,000,000. Most of them, it is said 80 per cent, are Englishmen, and most of them are in a trust. The reduction will not relieve the people of any burden, for this is one of the taxes it has been found impossible to shift to the consumer. It is evident that in reducing the tax on beer the Republicans have laid themselves open to effective assault by the Democrats, who might be expected to attack them on their weak point. Well, how have they embraced this opportunity—these noble followers of Jefferson and Lincoln, these shrewd and far-seeing politicians who are always right though the people stubbornly persist in being wrong? Well, they formed their lines for assault in the House ways and means committee, and Richardson, Democratic leader, Kansas City chairman and sole proprietor of "Messages of the Presidents" (printed at public expense), rounded up the Democrats for a first and staggering test vote on the amendment which he offered reducing the tax on beer from $2 to $1 a barrel! What use is it for the Republicans to make a mistake if the Democrats only propose to carry it farther?

CANAL AND TREATY.

The shrewd and sleepless opponents of the Nicaragua Canal flit quickly from one device to another. Their latest ruse is to defeat it by insisting on fortifying it. The cloven hoof appears in the Teller resolution and the announcement by Penrose that he will not support the Hay-Pauncefote treaty unless the Teller amendment is agreed to. There is doubt as to whether the so-called Davis amendment would insure the rejection of the treaty by Great Britain; but as to that certain outcome of the Teller amendment there is no doubt whatever. Therefore the opponents of the canal, most of whom pose as its friends, are attracted to the Teller amendment. The foreign relations committee of the Senate, which brought in the so-called Davis amendment, is certain that that amendment does not authorize fortifications, and that it would be acceptable to Great Britain. So long as the railroads thought the Davis amendment would insure fortifications and defeat the canal, they favored it. Now they think perhaps the committee is right, and they fear that nothing less than the Teller amendment will suffice. The Davis amendment, it seemed to The Oregonian at the time of its introduction and still seems, is an endeavor to rectify the Hay-Pauncefote treaty by including a portion of the Suez Canal agreement (which served as the pattern for this treaty) left out by Hay and Pauncefote. Here are the Nicaragua copy and the Suez original:

DAVIS AMENDMENT.	ARTICLE 10, SUEZ TREATY.
Insert at the end of section 5, article II, the following: "It is agreed, however, that none of the immediately foregoing conditions and stipulations in sections numbered 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of this article shall apply to measures which the United States may find it necessary to take for securing, by its own forces, the defense of the United States and the maintenance of public order.	Likewise, the provisions of articles, 4, 5, 7 and 8 shall not forbid the measures that his majesty, the Sultan, and his highness, the Khedive, in the name of his imperial majesty and within the limitations of the firmans granted, shall be under the necessity of taking to assure, by their own forces, the defense of Egypt and the maintenance in tenance of public order.

Does this, as it stands, mean fortifications? Senator Teller, evidently, does not think so, for he is going to press his resolution striking out the prohibition against fortifications, contained elsewhere in the treaty. The deplorable thing about the whole affair is the determination of certain Senators to force the canal proposition through in such shape as to make its success impossible because in contravention of Great Britain's treaty rights. The Clayton-Bulwer treaty has never been formally abrogated, and Great Britain's rights in the matter have been perpetuated in the Hay-Pauncefote treaty. They are not to be cavalierly set aside without grave discourtesy to a friendly power. Besides, the contention for fortifications is inadvisable both from a diplomatic and a practical point of view. The only object in insisting upon them is to serve the railroads or earn a little cheap notoriety for Anglophobia.

WEARING OUT ITS WELCOME.

The defeat of the Socialist party in the Mayoralty election in Haverhill, Mass., on the 4th inst. by the Republican nominee, is a significant sign that socialism is wearing out its welcome in New England. At the December municipal elections of 1898 and 1899 John G. Chase was chosen Mayor by what is known as "the Social Democratic party," but on the 4th inst. Mayor Chase, running for the third time, was beaten, getting 2874 votes to 3951 for the successful Republican candidate. This is the most recent object-lesson of municipal ownership and "co-operative socialism" in city government in New England. Further proof that there is a decline of socialistic ideas is found in the disappearance of the "Jones" vote in Ohio. In 1899 Mayor Jones, of Toledo, polled 106,721 votes as a Socialist candidate for Governor. The Democrats hoped to absorb this vote and carry Ohio for Bryan, but the "Jones" vote failed to materialize for Bryan at the Presidential election; the Republican vote increased, while the Democratic vote fell off.

Modern socialism is born out of discontent urged in a spirit of selfish class hate, envy, malignity and rascality. There is no touch of justice, philanthropy or equity in the letter or spirit of their schemes. There is no sanity, saving common sense in them, and there is not the faintest reflection of the golden rule. Modern socialism is a theory without brains, sanity, practicality or Christian equity. Its philosophy is as false and as vicious in its effects as it was in the days of the decline of the Roman Empire, when the metropolitan population had learned to expect to feed like oxen at the public crib. Gibbon recounts how the lazy plebeians were given a daily allowance of bread, either as a gift or at a very low price. Ovens were constructed and maintained at the public expense, at both Constantinople and at Rome. In both capitals of the Empire the frequent and regular distribution of wine and oil, of corn and bread, of money and provisions, had almost exempted the poorer citizens from the necessity of labor.

Every really strong brain of this century, whether of the blood and iron quality, which distinguishes the class to which Napoleon and Bismarck belonged, or of the Cavour or Kossuth quality, has despised all this state socialism as nothing but the stale, threshed-out straw of old and inferior civilization. Nobody could suspect Kossuth of the slightest sympathy with despotism, and yet he repudiated not only nihilism and anarchy, saying "We might as well try to remedy a toothache with a dose of dynamite," but he had no faith in socialism. He declared that when it was practically tested "the real tendencies of the system will then reveal themselves in a manner not apt to be forgotten by the next few generations of Utopia-hunters." Victor Hugo, like Kossuth, all his life a radical republican, and a sympathizer with the people, denounced the national workshops established by the provisional government of the French Republic of 1848 as a fatal experiment. "The wealthy idler we already know," said Victor Hugo in the National Assembly; "you have created a person a hundred times more dangerous both to himself and others—the pauper idler."

HAZING AT WEST POINT.

The House on Tuesday passed a resolution providing for an investigation by a committee of five members into the truth of the newspaper charge that Oscar L. Booz, of Bristol, Pa., formerly a West Point cadet, died at his home from injuries, the result of hazing, inflicted upon him by certain cadets of the Military Academy. The only justification for the passage of this resolution is that nothing short of it would vindicate the Military Academy and its cadets from the gross injustice of the original charge that was lugged into the House by Congressmen Driggs and Wanger. Colonel Mills, the Superintendent at West Point, has always been merciless in his opposition to hazing of new recruits to the corps, holding that such practices are demoralizing and unnecessary for the education of good soldiers. Dismissal is the only penalty for offenders, and several examples have been made under Colonel Mills. Colonel Mills, in this particular case, denies that the late Cadet Booz was hazed at the academy. There was no medical evidence of mistreatment; he resigned because of weak eyes and a poor record in his studies. He left the academy in 1898 and died of tuberculosis, a disease that is constitutional and hereditary, and is not artificially produced by slugging or the involuntary administration of tobasco sauce.

It is easy to understand in this particular case that the deceased cadet dropped out of West Point because he was not mentally or physically equal to the exactions of the course. His weak sight and poor standing in his class explain his resignation. This feeble youth going into a decline and dying two years after his departure from West Point of tuberculosis, the old women of both sexes immediately begin to wonder whether his life was not shortened by the slugging and tobasco sauce he pretended to have received at West Point. Then the enterprising editor of the village weekly newspaper prints this dreadful rumor; the daily papers copy it, and then a pair of cheap Congressmen see a chance to become conspicuous, and finally an absurd resolution for an investigation is ordered, despite the fact that Colonel Mills' report of denial was already before the House and a military commission, including Major-General Brooke, had already been ordered to make further investigation and fully report concerning the matter of hazing at West Point.

In this particular instance we have no doubt that West Point suffers unjust odium, but there has been so much racket made over the matter that it is perhaps just as well that the whole subject of hazing at West Point should be probed to the bottom by the Army board appointed by the Secretary of War and by the special committee of Congress. The New York Evening Post and the New York Sun both seem to be of the opinion that brutal and often inhuman practices have been resorted to at West Point in past years in the hazing of "plebes." Of course, this may be true in isolated cases, but we do not believe that brutality or cowardly oppression of a cadet has been the rule at West Point, because there is a public opinion among the cadets that would prevent it, according to the testimony of Congressman Clayton, who graduated from West Point in 1886. The worst cases of hazing that have ever been reported were perpetrated not at West Point, but at non-military schools, like Princeton University, and there is a reason for this, viz., at a military school there is a high standard of what should constitute an officer and a gentleman, and under this standard it is difficult to believe that the public opinion of West Point today favors acts of brutality or cowardice.

Twenty years ago in many of our non-military colleges, acts of great and shameful brutality were committed, whose practice created a tyrannical public opinion in favor of such lawlessness, so that frequently boys, individually of generous and manly natures, caught the contagion, just as good soldiers take panic by touch of the elbow, and became involved in transactions that in their better maturity they deeply regretted. A single man was often overpowered by sheer force of numbers and compelled to submit to whatever disgusting ordeal his tormenters chose to dictate. The moral effect of such "hazing," whether you were the lamb or the butcher, was very mean in its influence, and there was always a loss of real manhood involved in aiding such abuses. This kind of "hazing" has been stamped out in nearly all our non-military colleges, and we believe it has been substantially suppressed at West Point.

The line is drawn between fair play and brutal persecution in the schools of England, but not in those of France, as we learn from the description in "Trilby" of the rescue of "Little Billee" from the cowardly mob of French art students. Fair play is generally respected in American schools. Of course a military school is no place for a boy who will not fight with fists and heels for his own hand, even when his antagonist has the better of him in age, strength and skill. Boys ought not to become educated bulldogs, but every boy has to learn to take his own part with courage and vigor when subjected to insult. Byron and Keats were both ready to fight for their rights at school, and even the shy Hawthorne in middle life answered a stevedore's insult with a knock-down blow.

Agents of the National Department of Agriculture have within the past two or three years searched the world over for grasses and forage plants that will thrive in the semi-arid districts of our great Inland Empire. Specimens have been brought from far lands, some of which have proved valuable for the purpose sought, but after all the grass best adapted to the conditions that prevail for many months of the year upon these dry and sandy ranges has been found at our own doors. This is the "seaside blue grass," a native of the sands of Clatsop Beach, and familiar to thousands who have in recent years visited that locality in the Summer time. Experiments have proved the value, both in hardiness and nutritive qualities, of this grass in the semi-arid districts, where nature is necessarily depended upon over wide areas to cure the grasses that she pushes into luxuriant growth in the early Springtime. It is gratifying to learn that "seaside blue grass" meets the requirements sought, adapting itself readily to the soil and climate of Eastern Oregon and Washington, and when the long, hot, dry season succeeds the short, moist Spring, "cures itself," so to speak, retaining in the process "a considerable portion of its nutritious qualities."

Publication by the Massachusetts Board of Health of its records for fifteen years past of the status regarding vaccination on the part of those attacked with smallpox is of timely application. Of the number of vaccinated persons in the state who contracted the disease, 7.6 per cent died, while of the unvaccinated 26 per cent died, or more than three times as many. Considering the question of vaccination in connection with age periods, these interesting facts are brought out: Only one vaccinated infant under one year was attacked with smallpox, and it survived. Twenty-three unvaccinated infants under one year were attacked and 11 of them died, or 47.8 per cent. Among vaccinated persons under 15 years of age there were 35 attacks and no deaths. Among unvaccinated persons under 15 years of age there were 96 attacks and 18 deaths, or 18.7 per cent. Among vaccinated adults over 15 years there were 171 attacks and 16 deaths, or 9.4 per cent. Among unvaccinated adults over 15 years there were 98 attacks and 27 deaths, or 27.5 per cent. There were 51 children of school age—5 to 15—attacked, and 26 of them were unvaccinated. All of the 51 recovered, this being the age period when the specific intensity of life, or power to resist disease, is greatest. Of the 209 who were recorded as having been vaccinated, 115, or 55 per cent, were vaccinated in infancy only. Basing the figures on the experience of other countries, it is said to be safe to presume that the 16 deaths of vaccinated adults occurred among this class exclusively.

The negligence of the Government in failing to replace the Columbia River lightship with some kind of a craft to warn ships against getting in too close in thick weather is almost criminal, and that loss of life has not already resulted through the absence of this sentinel of the deep is due more to good luck than to any foresight of the Government. Since the lightship was swept from its moorings, over a year ago, half a million tons of shipping have entered the river, and marine property valued at millions has been imperiled by the lightship's absence. Within the past thirty days at least three vessels coming up from distant parts of the world have approached too close in thick weather in search of the lightship, and narrowly escaped destruction, and it is perhaps too much to expect that all of the big fleet now due or due later will escape so fortunately. It is a wise move to lock the stable door before the horse is stolen.

Dr. Leyds, it is said, indulges the hope that Queen Wilhelmina will, after her marriage, intervene in behalf of Kruger and his scheme to re-establish the South African Republic on something of its old basis. The distinguished gentleman is either sparring for wind or seeking some means whereby Oom Paul may be let down easy and given a chance to go into long-overdue retirement. The young Queen's marriage has about as much bearing upon the question of the intervention of the powers in behalf of Kruger as has the possible discovery of the north pole. Doubtless she desires nothing so much at present as to have the pugnacious old Boer withdraw from her little realm and leave her to inspect her trousseau in peace.

Anxiety is relieved. It was feared that public jobs were unprofitable. But information has come in just the nick of time to save us from pessimism. Contrary to all the rules of logic, the office of Judge of Douglas County yields fair compensation, and there is no end of elbow competition for the place. Our anxiety about the perpetuity of beneficent American institutions was logical but not reasonable.

Let those bolomen who took the oath of allegiance to the United States become Democrats, and their petition for citizenship will not merely make them worthy citizens, but will have Democratic advocates. Omniscience is not required to foresee Democrats in a new role. Changes fill the cup of alteration with diverse liquors.

It comes to pass that Manchester is not a member of the Lords because he is a bankrupt. Wonder if that will spoil him in Papa Zimmerman's eyes. Papa would not have a spendthrift clerk, but he's got to have a spendthrift son-in-law.

The fact that the Filipinos will not accept our sacred, inviolate dollars shows that those people yet are in need of a great deal of benevolent assimilation.

It appears from the wholesale headchopping the Empress is indulging in that every Chinaman has as many heads as Hydra.

Towne ought to be the greatest Senator that ever lived. He will not have to divide his time with the Legislature at home.

Sacrificing the Army.

New York Evening Post.

After still further mangling the Army bill so that it bears but little resemblance to the poorly drawn measure so hastily introduced on Monday last, the House yesterday passed it by a vote of 166 to 133, a number of Democrats voting in the affirmative. It is not often that the Congressional spoilsmen have such a glorious opportunity, and they made the most of it by giving the Army merit system worse blows than those dealt to the civil service by President McKinley. As it now stands, volunteers and civilians can find more than one loophole to get into the service for which they may or may not be fitted, without examination, and, as a parting indignity, the age limit for Lieutenants was removed. Any incapable volunteer officer of 50 years or so with the requisite pull can now be sure of getting a place next to or ahead of the latest batch of West Pointers fresh from four years of careful training, and, after a few years' service can go upon the retired list with a comfortable pension for life. If the House deserves praise for refusing to appoint General Shafter a Major-General on the retired list, and for declining to retire Generals James H. Wilson and Fitzhugh Lee, little else can be said to its credit. The infliction of another highly officered staff corps—of horse doctors—and of a department of dental surgeons upon the abused Army establishment would alone condemn the bill. Such disorganization as this is the sole reward meted out to the faithful, gallant and capable little regular Army which fought and won the battle of Santiago, which bears the brunt of the Philippine struggle, and whose merits were but yesterday trumpeted so loudly. Fortunately, the Senate may yet insist upon some measure of decency before the bill becomes a law.

CANTEEN HYPOCRISY.

Cheap Action of the House in Jollying the Women.

Chicago Inter Ocean.

In voting to abolish the Army canteen the House of Representatives gave an exhibition of social and political hypocrisy that would be laughable did its results not threaten to injure the cause of real temperance. The Washington correspondents agree that nine-tenths of those voting for Mr. Littlefield's amendment to the Army bill believe that the canteen promotes temperance and should be retained.

The members of the House simply displayed that curious cowardice which overcomes the average man when a number of respectable women make a concerted assault upon his intelligence. He may be absolutely convinced that the women are wrong, but he is willing to do almost anything for peace. The well-meaning ladies of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union assembled in Washington and besieged Congress. To placate them and be rid of their clamors the members of the House resorted to one of those amiable hypocrisies which nearly all men practice upon women when the latter force them into a dilemma between abstract morality and the teachings of common sense. In this case it was easier to dodge because the House's decision is not final and responsibility could be shifted upon the Senate.

Most of those who voted to abolish the canteen undoubtedly did so in the belief that the Senate would strike out the prohibitory clause. Then the House, really in the interest of true temperance but nominally on account of the Senate's obstinacy, will recede from its position. For of the utility of the canteen as a promoter of temperance there is absolutely no question. The great majority of the soldiers desire it and nine-tenths of the officers indorse it. Even those who, like General Corbin, opposed its establishment have been convinced of its value by the logic of facts. Every sensible man who has studied the medical and legal records of the Army or has observed life in a military post believes in the canteen. All rational total abstainers concede that so long as soldiers will drink they had better have wholesome beer in a clean and orderly clubhouse under military control than bad whisky in dens of vice outside. Only fanatical prohibitionists and saloon-keepers whose business it hurts oppose the canteen.

ALABAMA NEGRO SUFFRAGE.

Constitutional Convention to Limit It Receiving Republican Support.

The proposition to eliminate the ignorant negro vote in Alabama, by means of a constitutional convention, is viewed with great satisfaction by many Republicans in Alabama, and especially by that class which is anxious to see a formidable white Republican party grow up in this state, says a Birmingham letter. They claim that, owing to the fact that Alabama is peculiarly an industrial state, the protection sentiment is very strong, and that when the negro ceases to be an issue, the great industrial centers will soon become solidly Republican. The Ninth Congressional District, in which Birmingham is located, and in which many millions are invested in various industries, they claim will certainly be Republican.

That there is something in the claims of the Republicans referred to is not disputed by well-posted Democrats, some of whom openly predict that the retirement of the negro from politics means tremendous Republican gains. This very fact has led many Democrats, especially among the office-holders to oppose any revision of the constitution in the past, and it is only due to an overwhelming public sentiment that a constitutional convention is assured. The growth of Republican sentiment in this (Jefferson) County was strikingly illustrated in the last general election, when McKinley carried 17 out of the 45 precincts, and tied in three other.

The present constitutional convention bill provides for a convention to be held, beginning on May 21, 1901. There will be 160 delegates from the 66 counties, and 50 from the Congressional and Senatorial districts, all to be selected by direct popular vote.

Dividing the Swag.

New York Journal of Commerce.

Our Washington correspondent reports that Senators Frye and Hanna "are endeavoring to get that (subsidy) measure into a shape satisfactory to the various interests involved." There never was a bill in Congress of which this was so true. The measure is being constantly amended to take care of one interest or another. One speed classification was omitted because the International Navigation Company had no ships of that class; the lowest classification for speed bounty was lowered to take in Mr. J. J. Hill's steamers. One of the bills was amended to exclude the Standard Oil fleet because of the anti-trust cry; the tankers are in the other bill, however. An amendment in regard to cargo was inserted to prevent passenger steamers from getting too much of the subsidy. This amendment, however, contained a piece of thimble-rigging by specifying tons of capacity in one case and tons of weight in another. This amendment has been re-amended, apparently because the freight ship-owners recognized the peculiar phraseology of the original amendment, and saw that they would still have little chance in competition with the passenger steamers. The provision limiting Atlantic shipping to 70 per cent of the subsidy was designed to secure the support of Pacific Coast interests. The Atlantic shipping will be entitled to only $6,300,000, and the shipping now in existence or under contract would claim about $5,600,000. There is not much room for expansion except by reducing the rate, and Senator Frye's latest amendment limiting the subsidy to foreign-built vessels contracted for before February 1, 1899, seems to be designed to head off new applicants whose admission to the subsidy might compel a reduction of the rate.

This Is Fine Satire.

Chicago Tribune.

Opportunity came along one day, intending to knock at the door of one Jones, but was confronted by this sign:

> CANVASSERS NOT ALLOWED
> IN THIS BUILDING.
>
> PARCELS MUST BE
> DELIVERED
> IN THE REAR.

Hereupon Opportunity went across the way and knocked at the humble dwelling of one Smith, who came to the door himself and let the visitor in.

Smith is now janitor of the apartment-house, while Jones is still merely one of the tenants.

You never know what it really costs you to reside in a flat.

THE MISTAKES OF POTTER.

New York Sun.

Bishop Potter, addressing the Church Club, of New Haven, on Thursday evening, on "Wealth and the Commonwealth," expressed the opinion that "the one eager, dominant hunger which salutes us from one end of our broad land to another is the passion, the hunger, the greed of gain."

Now, why did he make the accusation against "our broad land" specifically, as if such greed was peculiar to this Republic? In what other country of civilization is that craving and that pursuit less eager? England is rushing after wealth with a haste not exceeded here; nowhere in the world is the worship of the "almighty dollar" more passionate. Even aristocracy is bartering its titles in the market for money. The whole face of German society has been transformed by the eager and successful pursuit of gain in recent years; all is hustle and bustle, towns are rebuilt, magnificence has succeeded moderation, and Europe swarms with prosperous German travelers. The Paris exposition has just shown to great multitudes that the French greed for money is not without passion.

Human nature universally and not a condition peculiar to America was assailed by Bishop Potter. The passion against which he inveighed, too, is no stronger now than it has been in all past ages. The love of money was described as the root of all evil 2000 years ago. The difference at this time is not in any increase in the passion, but in the opportunities to gratify the greed for gain. The rich consequently are multiplying in number. Never before was the recruiting of their ranks from poverty so great as now. The pursuit is more successful and the prizes won are richer; but the absorption in the chase is no more complete than when our ancestors struggled for subsistence merely; nay, it is less, for the fight to keep the wolf from the door leaves no energy unemployed. It is a fight against starvation, while the other is for superfluity or for power.

Now, let us look at certain specific allegations made by Bishop Potter.

He says that while in England men of science who make discoveries valuable to the race are "lifted presently to be peers of the realm," in our own country, "we distinguish them too often only by disputing their achievements or appropriating the products of their genius without rewarding them." Of course, we cannot "lift" them up to peerages, for we have no peerages here, they are forbidden by our Constitution, under which we are all "lifted" up to be peers. Moreover, the richest reward which comes to the true man of science is the joy of finding out the undiscovered and giving it to mankind. Nor is there any dispute unless the demonstration is unsatisfactory. The honors of the world of science go surely to the genuine discoverer, and they are better than the gewgaw of a ribbon or a coronet, which is unobtainable in this Republic, where all such relics of feudalism have been consigned to the political and social junk shop. If the discoverer is not bound by the ethics of pure science and patents his discovery, where else in the world has he had a more substantial reward than here?

Bishop Potter speaks of "the gradual widening of the breaches that separate classes from classes" because of the "huge aggregations of capital which have practically taken from the hands of the individual the independent disposition of his labor and have introduced into his existence paralyzing uncertainty as to both his comforts and his future." Of course, actually there are no "classes" in this country. Nor has there been any widening of the breach between rich and poor, or conditions which he miscalls "classes."

The bishop has spoken before of a "strange awe in the heart as we turn back and read of what kind of stuff the first comers to these shores mainly were." Well, what did they bring here? Mr. Edward Eggleston, in his book on early American history, just published, tells us that "subordination to social superiors was accounted the only basis of order." "Harvard students took their place in the catalogue according to the social position of their parents." People sat in churches according to their rank. "For humble people to dress 'above their degree' was clearly sinful, because 'they that wear soft clothing are in Kings' houses,' according to Scripture." Then there were veritable "classes," and the breaches between them were wide. The condition of the poor and their separation from the rich as respects the comforts of life were far broader then, and up to the present generation, than they are now. Luxuries then obtainable by the rich are the property of the poor now. Go out in the streets of the tenement-house districts and look into the markets and groceries catering to the poorer "classes" and see.

So far from the "huge aggregations of capital" having introduced "paralyzing uncertainty as to both his (the worker's) comforts and his future," it has tended to remove such uncertainty. Both the work and the pay are surer than when they were subject to the uncertainties of temper and security of multitudes of employers of relatively feeble financial foundation.

Finally Bishop Potter proposes that "a company of men and women of recognized social leadership should bind themselves together to illustrate in their habit of life simplicity in attire, inexpensiveness in the appointments and chasteness in the aspect, proportions, furniture and decorations of their dwellings."

This would be well, so far as concerns mere good taste, undoubtedly, but what practically would be the consequences of such simplicity and abstemiousness? What would become of the workmen engaged in manufacturing the articles of luxury rejected by those able to buy them?

Next he would have this company "bind themselves to discourage the habit of excessive accumulation; to employ for art, science, philanthropy and religion all beyond a certain portion of their income."

What is excessive accumulation and who is to fix the limit? What is the amount of the "certain portion of their income" beyond which they shall not go, and how are they to employ the rest in the ways Bishop Potter proposes? Science? What science is suffering for money? Philanthropy? Is that charity?

No, Bishop Potter must think on this matter longer and more deeply if he expects to command the respect of the wise. It is a very big subject.

Hints Made in Germany.

Chicago Journal.

The German newspapers are asking some very pertinent questions about the ship subsidy bill that Congress is expected to pass. Among other things, they want to know why a nation as rich and enterprising as we are, and having, as they say, the cheapest coal, steel and machinery in the world, should have to pay our own citizens to build ships and make money out of sailing them. That is what a good many Americans would like to know, too.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Pettigrew has bought a newspaper. Now let W. R. Hearst tremble in his sanctum!

Agoncillo might with propriety notify Aguinaldo that it is a long time between deaths.

If any one doubts the return of prosperity, let him note the revival of the footpad industry.

Hobson and the Czar are both ill, and J. Ham Lewis is not feeling very well, thank yo', sah.

As Kruger was booked at Berlin, he certainly ought to be able to sue the Kaiser, or somebody, for breach of contract.

The friends of Hon. Charles A. Towne should take a long look at him during the next month. This is positively his last appearance.

Count Boni de Castellane threatens to move to England. But England has weathered William Waldorf Astor, so she is not alarmed.

Count von Waldersee had better not get into any argument with General Chaffee. The English language, as spoken by the United States Army officer, is richer in invective to the square inch than German is to the square mile.

Having disposed of the canteen, the Prohibition party and the House of Representatives might further elevate the morals of the Army by abolishing the pay of the privates. Having no money, the soldiers could not get drunk.

A 4-year-old citizen of Portland received a letter the other day that was signed "Santa Claus," and said that, inasmuch as she had been good girl, he would bring her something nice for Christmas. Her joy at receiving the news was not so unrestrained as had been expected. The reason for this appeared the next day, when she went to visit her aunt. "Auntie," said she, "I don't think Santa Claus can see everything little girls do all the time."

"Why, dear, what makes you think that?"

"Well, Santa Claus wrote me a letter that said I was a good girl, and I wasn't. I guess he doesn't know much about girls."

The ladies and lady managers of the San Francisco Nursery for Homeless Children are unanimous in their declaration that Gadski is "the dearest thing that ever was." These charitable women give a doll show and fete the other Saturday afternoon and evening. It was a swell affair, with regular opera attendants, reading palms, telling fortunes, raffling dolls, running miniature racecourses, and singing and selling and doing all manner of things to fatten the lean purse of charity against the exactions of the holiday season. One of the lady managers suggested that it would add to the attractiveness of the occasion, and perhaps lure some of the men, if some of the operatic queens should be asked to grace the affair with their presence. The idea was taken up as a happy one, and an invitation was sent to Gadski, telling of the worthiness of the cause and asking her to aid it by her presence. There was no notion of asking for a song, for the operatic queens have golden throats. The idea was that if Gadski would just come and stand around and look pleasant, her presence would be a drawing card and possibly spur others to greater feats of generosity. The singer sent for one of the lady managers, inquired further about the charity, expressed delight at the invitation, attended, paid $10 for a wee bit of a doll, bought three chances in the lottery for the tailor-made gown, and with her own fair hands drew out the ticket which was to decide who was the winner of that robe. She was all smiles and graciousness. The lady managers were charmed. Gadski was quite the hit of the occasion, and made friends of a host of people.

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

A Domestic Difference.—"I can put up with it no longer, madam; I leave the house forever; you will not see me again until the last day." "And let it be well along in the afternoon, dear."—Life.

Not the Same.—Caller—Your big sister Emma and that Mr. Sophte seem to be pretty thick, don't they? Ethel—Oh, my, no! Sister Emma is, but Mr. Sophte's just as thin as he can be.—Philadelphia Press.

All the Fixings.—Guest—Bah! Is this filtered water? Chicago Waiter—Yes, sir. Guest—Phew! Give me some unfiltered, then. Waiter (loudly to cook)—Glass of unfiltered water an' a spoon.—New York Weekly.

Reliably Steady.—Mrs. Mildly—Mrs. McFadden, your neighbor, Patrick O'Donnell, has applied to our society for work. Is he a steady man? Mrs. McFadden—Steady! Whist, ma'am! If he was any steadier, he'd be dead.—Harper's Bazar.

Hard Lines.—"Well," said he, anxious to patch up their quarrel of yesterday, "aren't you curious to know what's in the package?" "Not very," his wife, still unrelenting, replied indifferently. "It's something for the one I love best in all the world." "Ah! I suppose it's those suspenders you said you needed."—Philadelphia Press.

The Front.—The Farmer—Wal, what's new in town, anyway? The Postmaster—Oh! ain't much doin' in town. Hear 'bout Lem Bides gittin' a telegram last week? The Farmer—Not Lem? The Postmaster—Yes, Lem! The Farmer—I want to know. Beats all how the young fellers is forgin' to the front, I declare!—Puck.

Boyhood's Haunts.

James Whitcomb Riley.

Ho! I'm going back to where
We were youngsters. Meet me there,
Dear old barefoot chum, and we
Will be as we used to be—
Lawless rangers up and down
The old creek beyond the town—
Little sunburnt gods at play,
Just as in that far-away.
Water nymphs, all unafraid,
Shall smile at us from the brink
Of the old millrace and wade
Tow'rd us as we kneeling drink
At the spring our boyhood knew,
Pure and clear as morning dew,
And, as we are rising there,
Doubly dow'rd to hear and see,
We shall thus be made aware
Of an eerie piping, heard
High above the happy bird
In the hazel. And then we,
Just across the creek, shall see
(Hah! the goaty rascal!) Pan
Hoof it o'er the sloping green,
Mad with his own melody.
Aye, and (bless the beasty man!)
Stamping from the grassy soil
Bruised scents of fleur-de-lis,
Boneset, mint and pennyroyal.

Scythe Song.

Andrew Lang.

Mowers, weary and brown, and blithe,
What is the word, methinks ye know,
Endless over-word that the Scythe
Sings to the blades of the grass below?
Scythes that swing in the grass and clover,
Something, still, they say as they pass;
What is the word that, over and over,
Sings the Scythe to the flowers and grass?

Hush, ah hush! the Scythes are saying,
Hush, and heed not, and fall asleep;
Hush, they say to the grasses swaying;
Hush, they sing to the clover deep!
Hush—'tis the lullaby Time is singing—
Hush, and heed not, for all things pass;
Hush, ah hush! and the Scythes are swinging
Over the clover, over the grass!