

The Oregonian

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FOR SALE

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TODAY'S WEATHER

Increasing clouds; winds shifting to southerly.

PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6.

Defeat of the river and harbor bill is unfortunate for the country, for many worthy and proper improvements will be checked for lack of funds, valuable working plants will go to ruin, damage will result from neglect and from the necessity for doing over again work once partially completed, but dropped for want of money to continue.

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considerable additional cost. Subsequently the government took the land and made it a part of the Presidio, the famous military reservation near San Francisco, and demolished the house. The claim of Mrs. Fremont for reimbursement is disallowed—at least it has not been paid—on account, it is said, of some defect in her title. The story is a long and devious one, but Senator Bard, of California, has looked into it and is convinced that Mrs. Fremont paid her money in good faith and occupied the property until the Government took it. She is now an old woman and has an elderly daughter who never married, and who, with her mother, is dependent upon the latter's pension, which will cease at Mrs. Fremont's death. In addition to the alleged justice of the claim, it is urged that this daughter of a gallant soldier and intrepid explorer will, upon the death of her mother, be destitute unless this claim is allowed. This latter consideration is a purely personal one, and in that respect does not differ from the mass of claims that are urged upon the attention of Congress to the exclusion of matters of public importance. If the claim of Mrs. Fremont is just, it should be allowed, regardless of her financial status otherwise, or of the domestic and financial condition of her heirs. The justice of a claim is not strengthened by the plea of destitution. A plea for sympathy or charity is a different matter, and Congress is not the proper place to urge it.

FORTUNATE IN HIS DEATH.

Last Sunday evening the Clan-na-Gael of Paterson, N. J., honored the birthday of Robert Emmet with appropriate services. Robert Emmet was an Irish patriot and martyr whose immortality is due wholly to the remarkable eloquence of his speech of defense before Judge Norbury, who condemned him to death. The singular eloquence of young Emmet's speech has made him the popular Irish martyr. Every schoolboy has declared that speech, every Irishman knows it by heart. As a matter of historical fact, Emmet has more admirers among his countrymen today than he had when he died. The rebellion of 1798 was opposed by all the constitutional agitators for home rule; by Grattan, by Flood, by that eloquent apostle of Irish liberty, the great orator Curran. Daniel O'Connell, the great successor of Grattan as a constitutional agitator, had no sympathy with the United Irishmen of 1798, and together with Curran, bitterly denounced Emmet's rising in 1803, which was an utterly reckless and insane effort, for the struggle of 1798 had left the Irish patriots utterly crushed beyond hope of military resurrection. Emmet was hanged and his head cut off after death at Dublin, September 29, 1802. He was the last person executed for treason in Ireland. Emmet's rising was disfigured by the murder of Judge Kilwarden, who was dragged from his coach by the mob and killed before his daughter's eyes.

Emmet was an enthusiast, a man of poetic temperament, an orator, against the earnest protest of the wisest patriots in Ireland, Emmet made his attempt, failed miserably, lost his life, and, as his friends predicted, increased the sufferings of Ireland by giving the government excuse for increased cruelty and barbarous coercion. Curran refused to refer to Emmet, but as far as eloquence was concerned, he was amply able to defend himself. He is a pathetic figure; his youth, his genius, his eloquence, his loss of his chance of escape through his decision to see his sweetheart, Curran's daughter, once more before he left Ireland, all help to surround him with deep sentimental interest. One of Tom Moore's most beautiful melodies, "She is Far From the Land Where Her Young Hero Sings," refers to Miss Curran's grief for her gifted lover. And yet it must be granted in severe historical justice that this brilliant young Irish martyr was nothing but an orator intoxicated by his own eloquence and vain, extravagant expectations. He could make a noble, pathetic speech, but he could not measure public sentiment; could not organize it. But the government that executed Emmet might have spared him without injury to public safety.

Tone and Fitzgerald were dangerous men; Tone had the brain and address of a shrewd and daring conspirator, and Lord Fitzgerald was a trained soldier of proved ability and courage, but Emmet was without formidable influence or practical talent. And yet his single speech has given him great popular fame. Although it is not a great speech outside of its pathetic quality and its inventive passages. Greater Irishmen have made far abler speeches, but they did not come from standing in the shadow of the scaffold with the hangman almost in sight. Emmet was, like Kosciuszko, Mazzini, Vergnaud, an orator, not an organizer; an eloquent visionary, not a grim revolutionist with the gift of leadership, and yet it is this unfortunate, impracticable, incapable Emmet whose memory is enthusiastically celebrated rather than the memory of Grattan, Burke, Curran, O'Connell and Parnell, whose brains have won the respect of the religious and political liberty of Ireland since 1780. If it was fate that Emmet sought, he could not have been more successful; if he had lived to be three-score and ten; there are a great many greater poets than Gray, but everybody reads his famous "Elegy"; there have been many greater Irishmen than Robert Emmet, but everybody has read his "Dying Speech." The steps of his scaffold led to the temple of fame.

"A PIOUS POTLATCH"

Rev. C. E. Cline finds in the failure of the Methodist Conference, at its last annual session at Ashland, to receive an invitation from any place in the state to partake of its hospitality next year, the long-deferred effect of a very distinct cause. Simply stated, the people of the place where this ecclesiastical body, and many others of like nature, meet are expected to provide entertainment, i. e., food and lodging for all who attend in the capacity of members or delegates and their wives. To say that this custom imposes a serious inconvenience and in many instances actual hardship upon the entertainers is only to state a well-known fact. Hospitality should not be taxed in this way, and when it is thus taxed it is little wonder that it loses the spontaneity that is its essence.

"A PIOUS POTLATCH"

This correspondent has attended the meeting of one's house and later to strangers, bidden to bed and board by the "committee on entertainment" of some convention, the members of which have perhaps for

weeks looked forward to the event as promising freedom from care, work and expense. The truth is, as every thoughtful person must admit, that there is a certain amount of work to be done to keep up the maximum of thrift and comfort in the home life of the community. If one factor shirks his or her share, it imposes additional expense and burden on some other. This is just what happens when a number, more or less, but always formidable, of broxy, zealous people, with appetites whetted by change of air and scene, swoop down upon a community in pursuance of some special line of work, and quarter themselves in its homes for three to five days. The expense of providing company meals three times each day, and the labor in preparing them that falls to the lot of the hostesses, amounting to absolute imposition. The unseemly crowding of children upon such occasions into inadequate sleeping space is by no means the least of the evils brought by the necessity of accommodating conference "guests."

This burden has been borne, not altogether uncomplainingly, but in the main cheerfully, by overtaxed householders and housekeepers for years. It is a sort of "Christian's pack," which should be dropped without compunction, since to carry it farther is a penance not required either by true hospitality or common justice. To entertain friends under such circumstances is one thing; to keep open house for strangers at the request of a perplexed and distracted committee is quite another. Such service is a "potlatch" pure and simple, and not always by any means a "pious" one.

THE PRESIDENT AND CUBA.

The President in his inaugural address outlined his relations with Cuba as most important question, and expresses satisfaction in the recent act of Congress which requires that the Cuban constitution should provide for the established and historical policy of the United States in its relations with Cuba. The President may be correct in his assumption that Cuba is asked to concede nothing that we have not a right to ask. The Cuban amendment of Senator Platt is a creature that has been nothing but rights, powers and necessities already existing. The alienation of the territory of Cuba was prohibited to Spain before she lost the island, and logically we could not permit "free Cuba" to do what we would not allow Spain to do. Our Federal Government has always insisted that with the fate of Cuba the United States was especially concerned. We interfered because the island was so near us that disturbance there destroyed our peace and security. Another evidence that the Kentucky leopard is changing his spots is found in the fact that a crowd of spectators athirst for blood were shocked and nauseated by the brutality of a prizefight in Louisville Monday night, and turned from the scene. There is some promise in this latter statement, since when prizefighters can no longer command the attendance of spectators, prizefighting will cease.

THE PEOPLE OF MONTANA ARE BEHIND SENATOR CARTER IN HIS DESIRE TO DEFEND THE RIGHT OF CLOSING THE GREAT RIVERS AND HARBORS TO FOREIGN SHIPS.

It is not surprising that Mr. McKim should be afraid to act upon the Cuban question alone; he knows that it is full of political dynamite—Baker City Democrat. And there never yet has been a knotty problem in his administration that would not solve itself if left alone. Such policy engenders no hard feelings because the Almighty cannot be held accountable. Already politicians are hot after that \$25,000 voted by the Legislature for the Pan-American Exposition, and it is not surprising that they are so in grafts, with little left for the exposition itself—Albany Democrat. Well, Mr. Democrat, Oregon will at least have an exposition of its best product, a non-profit crop business solidification. We doubt that any other state can make such a showing with \$25,000.

THE PORTLAND BARBERS SUCCEEDED IN GETTING A LAW ENFORCED BY THE CLAY COURT ON SUNDAY, AND IT WILL BE IN ORDER THAT THE NEXT LEGISLATURE PASS ANOTHER LAW IN THEIR INTEREST TO KEEP THEM FROM HUNTING AND FISHING ON SUNDAY.

Hardly, friend. That would defeat the purpose of the Sunday closing law. And besides, every man has a right to do what he pleases on the day of rest. Bryan is not an ex-President, but he is just as good as one when it comes to having opinions—Oregonian. Our list of contemporary, of all others, should be the last to censor anybody for "having" or expressing an opinion—Olympia Standard. Not at all, kind neighbor. The average person has all sorts of opinions and may properly be censured for them. If these opinions were convictions it would be an entirely different matter and they would be criticized but not censured. It certainly cannot be Bryan's conviction that the great enactment could include one double the value of silver. However, this may be his opinion, and if so he may be censured for it.

THE ELECTION OF JOHN H. MITCHELL AS A SENATOR FROM OREGON IS SATISFACTORY TO EASTERN OREGON.

We remember him as a worker; we remember his long experience as a National legislator; we remember his loyalty to Oregon interests; we remember his influence with his colleagues and the Administration.—Carson Times. Much of this prestige of Senator Mitchell at Washington may be the fancied product of a hazy past. Yet if he has the power to draw the attention of the country to himself and his state, it is to represent Oregon in such an eminent way as will meet the expectations of the above paper. Oregon shall be thrice blessed. Certainly it is that no man who has ever represented Oregon at Washington has had a grander opportunity. The Cubans have got the idea into their heads that they have a right to own affairs without any assistance from Uncle Sam, and it may yet be necessary forcibly to disabuse their minds.—Newport News. Certainly we shall have to disabuse their minds. The time will come after riot and anarchy shall have ruled the island, and citizens and rights of the United States shall have been violated. We are not to be deceived by the United States shall have smashed an alliance between Cuba and a powerful European nation. The Latin races do not remember national obligation, and therefore Cuba will continue to be a pest to the United States. This country is entirely in the way, except when the island wants something such as freedom.

AN OAKVILLE CORRESPONDENT SAYS:

We feel surprised at the action of the Legislature in regard to the game law. The China pheasants are a nuisance to the farmers, for they are destroying the crops from planting time till harvest, and then the farmer has only a single chance with the sportsman of the city. Why surprised? Are the city dudes to have no pleasures? Farmers should not forget that depletion of "sportsmen" is an infant industry which needs help as much as Hanna's subsidy bill. If a farmer's crops come by the way of a leg to a city chap, that is not the point. If the sportsman trample his wheat into the earth, that is not the point. If they spray his wheat with arsenic, that is not the point. If he has any rights to his own property, that is not the point. And if the pheasants devour his wheat just as fast as planted, that is not the point. The real point is that the infant industry of destructive recreation which produces that which is not bread and drains the resources of the farmer, that is a matter that should be taken care of. It is very strange that farmers who see the error of Mark Hanna's bill cannot see the wisdom of game protection.

"THE PREVAILING RATE OF WAGES."

Every honest citizen will rejoice that the Court of Appeals has found unconstitutional "the prevailing rate of wages law." The term that statist never heard a leg to stand on. It was, in its enactment, a piece of cheap demagoguery, intended to make votes for the legislators who supported it. In practice, the claims that have arisen under it for extra compensation beyond what laborers had agreed to receive would have inured to the benefit of the laborers themselves. We will not say they would have inured to the benefit of a gang of shysters, because that term has been applied to be libelous. We will say that they would have inured to the benefit of a group of sharp and enterprising agents and attorneys. Judge Landon's points, as they have been reported, are a spectacle clear and neat. It seems difficult to escape from one or to break their force. It may be assumed that this decision is an end of the whole litigation which at one time seemed so threatening. That is a matter for public congratulation. But it by no means a matter for public congratulation that the legal representative of the city, instead of showing a disposition to resist this imposition, and to test the law which authorized it, should have shown a disposition to give up millions of the city's money "on demand," without testing the lawfulness of the demand.

THE LAMP IN THE WEST.

Yonah has lit her living lamp
Low in the purple west
Breathing a soft and mellow light
Upon the sea's full breast;
It is the bonfire made and wood
In the steel-pierces are dressed.
Far out, far out, the restless bar,
Starts from a troubled sleep.
We pile our straits upon the straits
The meeting waters leap;
But still that shining pathway leads
Across the lonely deep.
We have I know not how many straits
Where unknown dangers bide,
And cross the troubled, moaning bar,
To the mysterious sea—
Dear God, will they not set a lamp
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rich. The most fashionable saloons in the great cities depend upon the patronage of the business classes during the day and the patronage of the votaries of theater and opera at night. Until human nature changes, becomes less gregarious and mercurial, there will always be the saloon, the public house, or the beer hall. It is absurd to pretend that the saloon is only the concomitant of poverty; it is the feature of opulent circumstances as well as of economical life. Indeed, statistics show that the drink bill of England rises and falls with the price of bread. In good times men drink freely; in hard times they spend less for drink.

A new geyser is reported in the Yellowstone National Park about forty miles south of the Mammoth Hot Springs. According to an account published in the Helena Record, it burst forth on the morning of February 18 with a terrific explosion, followed by a jet of water which excited and awe-stricken beholders declared arose 500 feet in the air, through an opening about five feet in diameter. The new wonder of this veritable wonderland is located about 200 feet south of the famous Fountain Geyser. The immense column of boiling water played for about an hour and a half, after which it subsided, but has since been playing at regular intervals of about two hours. A report of this kind would be wholly unbelievable were it not that phenomena equally inexplicable have excited the wonder, awe and admiration of visitors in this tremendous theater of nature for years. Where all is wonder nothing is specifically wonderful, and where all is inexplicable human intelligence, baffled, must accept the facts presented and make of them what physical conditions. Human conception of nature's mighty mysteries had already reached its limit in witnessing the great play of subterranean forces in Yellowstone Park. Another geyser, with its awful roar and sulphurous fumes, spouting hot water heavenward, can make little difference in a scene the majesty and mystery of which have long baffled human inquiry and taxed imagination to its farthest limit.

KENTUCKY IS ABANDONING HER TRADITIONS.

Down in Clay Court the other day a Judge was so erratic as to require the disarming of every person who should come into his courtroom. He even called to the attention of the grand jury and condemned the practice of carrying Winchester and other heavy arms, and went so far as to order that all men who would not leave their weapons at home should be put under bonds to keep the peace. This order was made by a new Judge, it is needless to say, and has not yet been executed. Another evidence that the Kentucky leopard is changing his spots is found in the fact that a crowd of spectators athirst for blood were shocked and nauseated by the brutality of a prizefight in Louisville Monday night, and turned from the scene. There is some promise in this latter statement, since when prizefighters can no longer command the attendance of spectators, prizefighting will cease.

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WHERE POLLS THE OREGON.

If any "citizen" wanted an office last week, it was because the charter had not been vetoed.

Governor Geer is something of a magician. He changed all the "plums" for which the "Citizens" were waiting into sour grapes.

There is said to be friction between Hinger Hermann and the Secretary of the Interior. Maybe McBride needs to be taken care of.

A Eugene girl, a sweet sixteen, has written a college treatise in which she concludes that the only way to grow old gracefully is never to get any older.

A Huntington philosopher says: "If you let a family secret jump your yard fence, your neighbor is bound to catch it for your great advantage." But never keeps it for himself. Perhaps this is the only thing on earth that a man finds and freely gives up.

We wonder how the Legislature could possibly resist the temptation to furnish the people of Sodaville with free soda pop—Wallawa News.

This is the way Eastern Oregon looks at it and also the way every locality except Sodaville. The fact is there were not enough grafts at the Legislative session for every locality to get its share.

Well, hasn't Russia just as much right to place a prohibitory duty on foreign manufactures, and call it "protection," as we have?—Baker City Democrat.