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TODAY'S WEATHER.—Fair, with westerly winds.

PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11.

WHERE MUNICIPAL REFORM BEGINS.

What is to become of the modern city if we cannot more effectively control the public service corporation? This is the question which Mr. Edwin Burnett Smith suggests in his April Atlantic article, but does not answer. His diagnosis is very clever, however, and his proposals are promising. He shows us the municipal corporation as the protected trust. Special privilege is the inequity in each case, but in the city the abuse takes the form of the public service corporation, providing such necessary utilities as transportation, gas, electricity and the telephone.

The Southern Confederacy really fell this day, for the rest of the campaign was the mere hunt of the gallant quarry that, crippled and bleeding at every point, resolutely withered its pursuers like a wounded buffalo bravely standing at bay before a pack of wolves in pursuit.

Of the eminent actors of this last great campaign on either side, all are dead save the Union Generals Getty, Merritt and Miles, and the Confederate Generals Longstreet and John B. Gordon.

THE RESULT OF THIS LAST CAMPAIGN was doubtless no surprise to either Grant or Lee. It was a fight on Lee's part against his judgment, but unless hampered by Davis' orders, Lee erred in judgment in staying too long in his lines before Richmond and Petersburg.

EXERCISE OF PARDONING POWER. In a recently published letter Governor Gear seeks to justify his pardon of Edwin L. Mims upon the ground that the jury rendered a verdict of guilty of manslaughter upon an agreement to recommend to the court for a minimum sentence, which was one year; that the Judge ignored their recommendation and gave Mims five years; that the jurors said that if they had supposed the Judge would ignore the request they would have never agreed to a verdict of guilty.

THE CREDITABLE PERFORMANCE of the torpedo-boat destroyer Goldsborough on Puget Sound Monday, while it afforded unbounded satisfaction to her builders, was not a surprise. On her earliest trial the boat gave evidence of her qualities, and but for one of those unforeseen accidents which continually attend the trials of high-speed craft, she would have covered the measured knot at a speed in her, and that under proper conditions.

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more of unsuccessful attempts to make the required speed before she was successful; the Rowan, built on Puget Sound, never did prove entirely satisfactory, and now the Perry, another Union Iron Works boat, is to be accepted at least to contract price owing to her failure to make the specified time. There is no reason to doubt that the Goldsborough, having broken the record in her class over a measured knot, will be successful in her second trial, and become as much of a credit to her enterprising builders, the Wolf & Zwickler Iron Works of Portland, as were her two splendid little predecessors, the Davis and the Fox, which so far exceeded contract speed as to call the attention of naval constructors all over the world to the firm which built them.

APPOMATTOX.

Thirty-six years ago yesterday the bloody remnant of Lee's heroic Army of Northern Virginia surrendered to Grant at Appomattox. When the last great campaign began, March 29, 1865, Sherman was at Goldsboro, N. C., with over 90,000 veterans, facing Joe Johnston's army of some 35,000 men.

THE PLEA THAT MIMS' continued incarceration was a source of private sorrow to worthy people who were connected with him by marriage is worthless, because, as Governor Gear confesses, on that plea 50 per cent of the prisoners could be liberated tomorrow.

THE TRIUMPH of the Union Army at Appomattox was not a mere military victory, but a moral triumph. It was the triumph of the Union over the Confederacy, of the Republic over the Empire.

THE HEROIC IMPULSE. Our Government has officially paid much honor to the memory of Lieutenant-Commander Roper, United States Navy, who lost his life at the naval station at Cavite, near Manila, on the 31st ult., while trying to rescue some of his men from a burning compartment of his vessel, the gunboat Petrel.

THE RIGHT OF SCHOOL authorities to compel pupils to be vaccinated or to exclude them from attendance at school has recently been affirmed in two states. The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania upholds the Court of Common Pleas in declaring that the principal of the Keystone public school, Philadelphia, had the right to refuse to admit an unvaccinated child.

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guilty man is acquitted. So in this Mims case it was not the jury's business to fix the sentence on the court. Their responsibility ended with conviction and recommendation to mercy. They knew that Lee would win while the Judge may approve the jury's recommendation to mercy, he is not under the slightest legal or moral obligation to do so. In this particular case the Judge did consider favorably the jury's recommendation to mercy, for he gave the convict only five years when he otherwise would have given him fifteen, and this jury has the effrontery to pretend that they would have either acquitted the prisoner or disagreed hopelessly if they had not supposed that the Judge would have given the convict the minimum punishment of one year. What right had the jury to suppose that their recommendation to mercy would fix the term of sentence? Surely not from the Judge or the Prosecuting Attorney. For these reasons we deem the plea of the jury for a pardon to Mims absolutely weak and worthless; an ex-post facto excuse for stultifying the verdict by indorsing an application for pardon.

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mand when it was prostrated with the cholera on the Nicaragua route because he was a coward, and he dodged field all through the Civil War because of conviction and recommendation to mercy. They knew that Lee would win while the Judge may approve the jury's recommendation to mercy, he is not under the slightest legal or moral obligation to do so. In this particular case the Judge did consider favorably the jury's recommendation to mercy, for he gave the convict only five years when he otherwise would have given him fifteen, and this jury has the effrontery to pretend that they would have either acquitted the prisoner or disagreed hopelessly if they had not supposed that the Judge would have given the convict the minimum punishment of one year. What right had the jury to suppose that their recommendation to mercy would fix the term of sentence? Surely not from the Judge or the Prosecuting Attorney. For these reasons we deem the plea of the jury for a pardon to Mims absolutely weak and worthless; an ex-post facto excuse for stultifying the verdict by indorsing an application for pardon.

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ANNIVERSARY OF APPOMATTOX.

CHICAGO, April 9.—The anniversary of the surrender of Gen. Lee at Appomattox was celebrated by the Hamilton Club this evening at an elaborate banquet, to which 500 invitations were issued, and of which two-thirds were accepted. The dinner, which was held at the Auditorium Hotel, was one of the most pretentious affairs ever given by the Hamilton Club.

THE FREQUENCY OF such acts of heroism as that of Commander Roper among all walks of life, is sufficient answer to the pretense that heroism is a pagan creed outworn in our day or is only obeyed by a morbid person; that when anybody takes a chance to lose his life in the hope to save a life he is a crank or a "morbid" person; that is, that sanity is always selfish. A fine-spirited New York physician of Southern antecedents left his practice and went to New Orleans to help care for the sick at the late great outbreak of the yellow fever in that city. He caught the fever and died of it, but he was ready for this self-sacrifice, for when his family wrote him strongly of his danger he replied in substance that the best place for him was the post of the highest duty, and then quoted these lines from Shakespeare:

"I speak of the eyes of heaven which are to a wise man ports and happy havens."

SHIPS NOW loading in Portland harbor will carry Oregon products to the United Kingdom, Mediterranean ports, Siberia, Japan, China, South Africa and South America, while down at the mouth of the Columbia a vessel is loading lumber for Australia. The fleet in port loading in the foreign trade includes five big steamships and twelve sailing vessels, with a combined capacity of over 60,000 tons. Half a dozen smaller steamships are also in port this month, and others besides the fleet now in the river will follow. Portland has worked up this big business so gradually and with so little noise that its importance is not fully appreciated. Much of the work has been done in the face of obstacles which in the future may be removed. Seattle and Tacoma are both growing rapidly, but the man who asserts that their growth is to any appreciable extent at the expense of Portland is in error. This city has made the most rapid gains in all lines within the past five years, and the conditions for a continuation of this gain were never more favorable than they are at the present time.

A most sympathetic and worthy charity is that which supports the Old Ladies' Home in this city. There are many who believe that charity could not go far amiss if it confined its substantial ministrations to two classes of dependent persons and children of the homeless class. Self-helpful aid is due to a multitude of others, and may be properly and generously bestowed, but from these two classes, especially the former, no return is possible. Children, of course, are expected to become self-sustaining ultimately, and wise plans for their care look definitely to this end; but aged persons become each year more dependent and their care must be assumed with that understanding. The most grateful and the most patient of all charities is that which reaches out and gathers in the homeless of this class with the purpose to make comfortable the last stage of their life's journey. It is gratifying to note that this community is not behind in this good work, but is sympathetically mindful of the needs of homeless old people in its midst.

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ATTORNEY-GENERAL SWORN IN.

WASHINGTON, April 9.—Phillander C. Knox, of Pittsburg, who succeeds Attorney-General Griggs at the head of the Department of Justice, was sworn in at 10:30 this morning in the Cabinet-room of the White House. There were present President McKinley and Mr. Knox's youngest son, Phillander C. Knox, Jr., and Justice Shiras, of the Supreme Court, who administered the oath. Justice Shiras, an old friend of the new Attorney-General, Mr. Knox was accompanied to the White House by C. O. L. Cooper, who was Attorney-General Griggs' private secretary, and who may continue with Mr. Knox. After taking the oath Mr. Knox remained with the President until the Cabinet meeting.

THE CABINET meeting lasted about an hour, and Mr. Knox was presented to his colleagues. No official confirmation has been received of the reported death of the Platt amendment by the Cuban Constitutional Convention. The matter was discussed, and it was considered strange that General Wood had not indicated that important fact, if it were true. The Cabinet gave some attention to the subject of indemnity to be required of China, it being brought forward by Secretary Hay in connection with Mr. Rockhill's dispatches received since the last meeting. Great surprise was expressed at the enormous total of the claims, which, if not paid at once, would amount to approximately the vast sum of \$500,000,000. Moreover, at least one of the powers insists on keeping the account open until it elects to withdraw entirely from Peking at a remote date to be fixed at its will, thereby leaving the total of its claim to be increased greatly hereafter. The opinion of the other Cabinet officers completely accorded with that of Secretary Hay as to the desirability of securing a reduction of the claims.

G. W. COLVIG Appointed Consul. On recommendation of Senator Mitchell, of Oregon, the President has directed the honor of Hon. George W. Colvig, of Grant's Pass, Or., as United States Consul at Barranquilla, Colombia. Mr. Colvig is a lawyer, and was a member of the Oregon Legislature. For nearly twenty years he was a member of the State Railroad Commission in Oregon.

Senator Mitchell Improved. Senator Mitchell's condition is much improved this afternoon, and with returning appetite he expects to be gaining strength. He is still confined to his bed, however, and is not allowed to receive any callers. His daughter, Mrs. Heimboldt, who has been with him during his illness, is sufficient to attend to his needs. Commissioner Hermann is also suffering from this popular malady, but is able to appear at his desk every day.

PRIZE MONEY for Sampson. The United States office of Claims has rendered a decision in favor of Admiral Sampson for \$330 as a bounty growing out of the engagements at Manzanillo and Nipa Bay, in Cuba, during the Spanish war. The court also rendered a judgment in favor of Fleet Captain Chadwick, who participated in these engagements.

Short-Term Bonds Offered. Secretary of the Treasury Gage today received an offer of \$1,000,000 of short-term bonds from New York. The price was higher than he was willing to pay, and he therefore rejected the offer.

THE GOLDSBOROUGH'S Run. So far as the standardizing trial goes, the torpedo-boat Goldsborough is believed to have broken all American records. A dispatch received at the Navy Department from Lieutenant-Commander Peters, of the naval trial board, dated Seattle yesterday, reads: "Goldsborough standardizing trials completed today over measured mile; average speed 30.84 knots. Official trial probably Thursday."

Governor Allen Entertained. The President and Mrs. McKinley entertained at dinner tonight Governor Allen, of Oregon, and other important citizens. Invited guests to meet them included Secretary and Mrs. Wilson, Major-General Corbin and Young, and the latter's aids, Captains Howard and Smedburg, and Misses Hitchcock, Phelps and Hanna.

An Act of Courtesy. Philadelphia Bulletin. The Administration has performed a graceful act in ordering Admiral Remy, of the Asiatic station, to send a first-class warship to Melbourne to represent American good will at the opening of the Parliament of the new federated Australian commonwealth next month. The presence of the cruiser New York will be a significant token of the interest which the United States has in the birth of what is virtually a separate nationality at the antipodes. The Australians start out under favorable auspices, for they already have a high per capita income, and a population of at least 3,000,000, while there is ample opportunity for growth and development on their great island, which is almost entitled to be called a continent. It would not be surprising if historians 50 years hence should place in May as an event of distinct importance in the annals of civilized mankind.

Relief From Aguinaldo. Letter in New York Sun. Take a piece of paper and write upon it the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100. Now multiply by two, add 300, divide by two, then subtract the number representing your age, and you will have something before your eyes that you will never see again.

FORCED BY OUR HEROES. New Haven Register. We cannot condemn General Funston and immortalize Nathan Hale.

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS. "Then what is your reason for marrying her?" "I have no reason. I'm in love." Philadelphia Times. Accounted For.—"The Ibbersons keep a butler now." "Is that so? I've been wondering why the old man hated to go home to me lately." Chicago Record. Love in a Cottage.—Young Husband—Um! What are these, my dear? Wife—Those are apple dumplings. Husband—Er—my love, didn't you—didn't you name a little too often?—New York Weekly. Magazine Editor—But, my dear madame, I have merely attempted to give you, in the kindest spirit, a few hints on meter and construction. I wouldn't have such a mean disposition as you have for a thousand dollars!—Life. Lady Passenger—Do you know, Captain, I had to pray for you when you were out of my way across the ocean. Captain—Why, by the compass. The needle always points to the north. Lady Passenger—Yes, I know. But supposing you were to go south? Glasgow Evening Times. Mrs. Mulachy—Mike Muddoon come home drunk again last night. O worra, but it must be the very medicine for his salvation. Divil a bit. The Muddoons belong to the smart set, and the drummer Mike gets the prodder they are of drinkers!—Boston Transcript.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

April's smile has developed into a broad grin. When a Russian is in doubt he takes a shot at the czar. The rumor of Aguinaldo's death is now circulating in the camps of the Filipinos. Kitchener has taken the Boer Capital, but Dewet continues to draw the interest. Emperor William might not have made that last speech if he had known it was loaded. Spring fiction is now flourishing. The trout fishermen are whipping their favorite streams. The patentee of the cyclone collar ought to be able to do a good business with European rulers. What time Kruger gets off from his occupation of dying he devotes to renewing promises to visit the United States. I'd like to be Fred Funston. And in Manila stand. Well, here the girls say on the street. And, isn't he just grand? If Mr. Carnegie has any of it left after establishing a national theater he might try his luck with a national racing stable.

What time the sun the morning sky dyes red, The tender infant gets into his bed. The notion that it's up to him to get The family aroused and out of bed. It is a little quieter in Kentucky than usual, but there have been no reports of failures of dealers in arms and ammunition up to date. Aguinaldo says he does not want public office in America. He is probably afraid some one will get hold of him and make him Vice-President. Now doth the happy archer And the bright most joyous cup, As from the yard he watches up.

There is trouble and care in the dull today, For there never is time to sligh. For we all must journey away, away To the Country of Bye and Bye, And the toll and care will cease, And the Prizes to Win will be fairly won, And the nights bring Content and ease.

Oh! the way in long and the hills are steep, Through the Country of Dull Today, But there never is time to sligh, For we all must journey away, away To the Country of Bye and Bye, And out of the Country of Bye, Though the thunder rolls and the tempests blow From the rugged mountain's brow, Away over river and hill and plain, Though a route attend the way, 'Till there be no shiner from wind and rain, In the Country of Bye and Bye, When the sun shall sink in the painted west, And his glory fill the sky, In the Country of Bye and Bye, In the Country of Bye and Bye.

If the present sunshiny weather shall continue many days longer there is grave danger that the channel of Washington street between Sixteenth and Twenty-third will become so shallow that many wicked reefs will be exposed. As it is not in the nature of things for the rain to continue forever, even in Oregon, the Chamber of Commerce, the City Council or some other body should take action looking to buoying these reefs and establishing light stations along the shore near the most dangerous ones. The Oregonian has called attention to this serious state of affairs more than once, and it again utters the voice of warning. Thus far the water has fallen rapidly, and navigation has closed so early that there have been no accidents, but in the case of a gradual subsidence trouble is sure to ensue.

If any citizen thinks there is nothing in a name he can derive valuable information from a brief consultation with Hon. Jacob Kamm, of the Lewis River Transportation Company. Mr. Kamm attaches the optimistic appellation of Mascot to one of his Lewis River steamers, and from the time she left the cradle some unerring instinct has led her through the densest fogs to the calamitous neighborhood of other boats, or piled her up on bars whose existence has been hitherto unknown. Monday she left the ways where the result of one of her previous exploits was being mitigated, and in the night she sank, presumably with the weight of her unfortunate name. Mr. Kamm is going to build some more steamers this Summer, but he will not call any of them Mascot.

The fire demon attempted to get in his deadly work on an Eastern Oregon town the other day, but the fire ladders were too much for him, and his final finish occurred when the esteemed contemporary of that place paid its respects to him as follows: Last Saturday afternoon at about 5 o'clock the wild ringing of the bells was heard, and a fire of excitement. The residence of F. M. Dial, through some defect in the fuse, had caught fire between the ceiling and the roof, and was already enveloped in flames. The fire company, summoned by the bell, were rushing towards the scene of the fire many seconds had elapsed, and they soon saw the two large boxes playing a steady stream upon the house. The fire had made considerable headway when discovered, but, in spite of the smoke and heat, which was necessary as the house was soon covered with men, desperately fighting the fire, which soon gave way under the perfect deluge of water from hose and buckets. It was a gallant fight made by the fire company, and they deserve unstinted praise for the veteran-like manner in which they combated the "fire demon."

The spirited efforts of "our citizens," even though prompted by a frenzy of excitement, are usually the result of a general, and the graphic description of the editor. Judging by the wild ringing of the fire bell as it peals from the burning page of the writer, and the desperate fight of the men who covered the house, it would appear that the chronicler was steeped in something of a frenzy himself.

A Comparison of Conditions. Washington Star. I used to get disgruntled-like toward Pollock on the Crick. I thought that luck had served me an uncommon low-down trick; I'd heard about how splendid European money arches are. I long to be a monarch, an' especially a King. But now I'm gettin' wiser, an' I say it loud an' plain, That I like this 'ol spring wagon better than an armored train. An' this here talkin' 'at of mine, whose him is breakin' down, Gives me a heap more comfort than a fourteen-carbon crown. I'd hate to wear a suit of mail; they've gone clean out of style. It's tough to do your dressin' with a monkey-wrench an' file. An' when our new alarm clock hasn't been adjusted right, An' we're off unexpected, why I'd nup't die o' fright. An' them courtly ceremonies which a sovereign enjoys, They're have no time at all for swappin' houses with the boys. I bet their here upon the fence an' whittlin' at the V. C. with their knives, an' they deserve to see the czar 'ud like to live at Pollock on the Crick.