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TODAY'S WEATHER—Probably fair; northerly winds.

PORTLAND, MONDAY, MAY 13.

CAPITAL TRUST AND LABOR TRUST.

In his testimony before the Federal Industrial Commission, President Schwab, of the steel trust, shows that he approves of the trust principle for capital, but disapproves of the trust principle for labor. The advantages of combination he almost takes for granted, and this is well enough, as his views have had recent airing in his article in the North American Review. He says, however, that the steel trust, for example, is "a clearing-house to which its constituent companies go for information." In other ways he indicates their harmony and the benefits of combination, as where he speaks of the various managers getting together as regards sales, and in the utilization of every portion of their product. But as regards combination of labor, he says:

> If I were a laboring man, as I once was, I should not want to belong to a labor organization if employed by a properly managed corporation like the steel company, for I would not want to be put on a level with the poorer workmen in the establishment. The tendency is to give the highest possible price for proper services, and no member of a labor organization is in a position to avail himself of such disposition.

Now, it is a fact that the labor trust and the capital trust occupy positions of great similarity. The members of a craft have pooled their issues. Strong factors have taken in weak factors, it is true, precisely as strong plants go into a trust with weak plants, and the idea of the strong in each case is that by sinking the superiority they might assert they nevertheless gain compensatory advantages in the unification of the whole and the strength that comes through organization. The steel trust will fix a minimum price per ton, and the labor trust will fix a minimum price per thousand ems or ton of coal or day's work, but the swift workman will get paid for his 50,000 ems, while the slow workman will get pay for only his 32,000 ems, just as the busier steel plant will get more for its large output than the slower steel plant will get for its smaller output. When it comes to marketing its product, the steel trust will act in unison, and when the labor trust comes to market its product, it also will act in unison. In each case competition, with its rewards for the strong and penalties for the weak, has given place to combination, with concessions from the strong and protection for the weak.

But the parallelism goes much deeper into the subject than this. The fundamental principle, pernicious as it is, is the same in each of these two forms of trust. That principle is the elimination of individualism and the enthronement of communism. It is an imperfect application of communism, to be sure, but it is communistic in inspiration. It is the antithesis of the competitive principle, which has built up not only vegetable and animal life, but skilled labor even, and potent capital. It was through struggle with his rivals that Mr. Schwab, when he was a workman, grew strong and efficient. It was through struggles with rivals that Mr. Carnegie became a great captain of industry and made fortunes to give away.

The workingman who belongs to a labor trust, therefore, can take Mr. Schwab's arraignment of unionism and turn it into an answer to him, thus:

> If I were a steel plant, I should not want to belong to a trust, if I were managed by an efficient owner, for I should not want to be put upon a level with the poorly managed and worn-out plants in the trust. The tendency is to gain for the well-managed steel plant the highest possible profits for its product, and no member of a steel trust is in a position to avail itself of such disposition.

It is a serious proposal for the industry of the country to set aside the method of Nature and the system under which we have grown strong enough to defy the world. Competition has made our great captains of industry today. The trust is able now to select from a bountiful supply of keen and forceful managers, but they are not the product of peaceful skies and calm waters of non-competitive combination. What kind of men the trust era turns out we shall know better in another generation. The labor and capital, the sagacious methods and wonder-working machinery put into the glad hands of the trust today have come up through the toil and struggle of the competitive system. They are a gift to the trust, and it is hard to see how it can keep them from deteriorating in its hands.

The Independent has been entertaining criticisms on methods of church service. The worship of the Catholic Church first received attention from Protestant contributors, and kindly suggestions were made for improvement. A reciprocal criticism by a Catholic writer on the Protestant service has now appeared. His suggestions show clearly his predilection for Catholic methods. He does not go into the question of creed or tradition, and treats only present-day conventions. He takes Protestant churches to task in four particulars—music, style and matter of preaching, conduct of worshipers and interior decorations of churches. He says fully 30 per cent of the hymns are worthless, spiritually and poetically. Further, music can do better than to take on the airs of the opera. Preachers should teach the gospel as true apostles of their belief instead of engaging in political, social or literary subjects. Sensationalism in sermons needs to be replaced by the fervor of the gospel. The writer rebukes worshipers for their talking, laughing and ogling. Reverential silence and pious eyes are due the solemnity of the occasion. Finally, the article advises that the interior decorations of churches contain the symbols of religion, to invoke religious feelings and to lend a spiritual atmosphere. Memorials of Jesus and his mission should keep before congregations the purpose of their meeting. The criticism concludes by saying that Protestants would have less difficulty in leading Christian lives if the suggested changes were made.

THE MISCHIEVOUS MARGIN.

The business of buying and selling stocks on a margin will lose some of its attraction through the recent turnover in Wall street, and the drastic methods adopted by the professionals in the big game may eliminate to a certain extent a following which is far from beneficial. The operations of the "margin" men, when finances are easy and prices are holding their own with but narrow fluctuations, have no serious effect upon business, but during violent upheavals like that through which Wall street is now passing they become a serious factor in the general disturbance. The man who has bought and paid for a block of good railroad stock or any other investment security obtainable at a figure which admits of a fair percentage of profit can watch the wild fluctuations of a market like that which was in evidence last week with a fair degree of equanimity. He can rest secure in the same judgment which prompted him to make the investment, knowing full well that when returning reason supplants the temporary insanity which accompanies and perhaps creates these panics his investment will still be reasonably safe.

With the operator whose investments are confined to margins the situation is different. If there is a profit in his transaction, it is so much greater in proportion to the amount invested than that secured by the actual owner of the stock that he is always much more reckless in his buying and selling. This recklessness frequently—and, it might be said, generally—leads the margin man to assume greater risks than he is able to carry. The result is that the first sign of an approaching storm throws him into a fever of excitement, and he becomes an element of violent disturbance. A loss which would not ripple the serenity of the actual owner of a stock may mean the wiping out of the entire capital of a heavy margin operator, and to guard against a total loss of his money he dumps his holdings on the market with a recklessness which frequently upsets all calculations of the men who are trying to steady the market by legitimate means.

The general public is prone to lay the blame for the ruin which follows in the wake of a panic like that of last week at the door of the big professional operators. This class of speculators is perhaps responsible for creating these periodical booms, but in recent years the outsiders have got beyond control of the professionals so quickly after a boom was started that the latter could never stop them until it was too late. The general demoralization which attends the process of "shaking out" this undesirable following unsettles values in all directions, and it is the erratic and excitable actions of the margin men themselves which carries the demoralization to its greatest limits. It does not necessarily follow, of course, that all persons who operate on margins lose their heads, and incidentally their money, in time of crisis. By confining their operations to an amount which they could afford to lose without ruining themselves, they do not become unduly excited during panics, and will not aid in the disturbance by throwing over their holdings at a time when their retention would have a beneficial effect on the market.

The losses suffered by margin men of this class will never aid in the production of a panic, and are not apt to influence the general temper of the community. The elimination of the margin from financial transactions may not easily be accomplished, but the disastrous work of the speculators who attempt to swing an immense business on a very small investment is becoming so far-reaching in its effect that it may require limitation. A liberal increase in the amount of margin demanded from speculators might help matters. This increase should be great enough to bar out the small fry, who, as recent experiences have shown, not only lose their own money, but assist in depreciating the value of legitimate holdings of people who buy stocks outright as an investment.

STREET ASSESSMENTS.

In another column The Oregonian prints a very full extract from the recent decision of the United States Supreme Court, upholding the courts of last resort of the various states in deciding that the Legislature has power to impose the cost of improving streets upon the abutting property, and that said assessments are conclusive upon the courts and property-owners, unless invalidated by fraud or mistake. This sentence contains the pith of the decision:

> But the Legislature has the power to determine, by the statute imposing the tax, what lands, which might be benefited by the improvement, are, in fact, benefited; and if it does so, its determination is conclusive upon the owners and the courts, and the owners have no right to be heard upon the question whether their lands are benefited or not; but only upon the validity of the assessment, and its apportionment among the different parcels of the class which the Legislature has conclusively determined to be benefited.

This decision would seem to establish the validity of the Portland charter upon street assessments in the United States Courts. In the Portland charter the Legislature has determined that abutting property shall pay the cost of street improvements, and this has been held valid by the Oregon State Courts. Thus Portland has "an orderly procedure under a scheme of local improvements prescribed by the Legislature and approved by the courts of the state as consistent with constitutional principles," and this is what is held valid.

This city is entering upon an era of development and growth, and it is of the utmost importance that our streets be improved. There is no way for our streets to be improved unless the charter method provided by the Legislature, and which is the method that has been used in Portland ever since Portland was a town, is upheld and enforced by all the courts. The state courts have heretofore upheld and enforced these assessments, and it now appears that the Federal Courts will do likewise.

PRUDENCE IN PROSPERITY.

President McKinley has, since his tour began, said many pleasant and complimentary things and some things that bear the stamp of wisdom. Among the latter is the following expression from one of his speeches to an enthusiastic and well-to-do crowd of people that gathered at one of his scheduled stopping places in the South to honor and welcome him. After reference to the evidences of thrift and prosperity on every hand, he said: "What we want to do now is to be prudent in our prosperity—save while we can and be strong if the storms should come, as they do now and then. Whatever comes let us be fortified by the practice of economy while we are so well employed."

This is sound and salutary advice. We need only to review commercial history to find that revivals of industrial and trade activity are usually followed by business excesses that have in recent years taken the name of "booms." The constituent elements of the boom are inflation, speculation, public and private extravagance and commercial and industrial recklessness. The first of these elements has been surnamed "the trust," and it has been literally holding carnival over the country for some months. That the second is now running wild is shown in the stock quotations in Wall street from day to day, in which speculative frenzy seems to have utterly dethroned common business prudence. The third is rife both in public and private life to an extent which proves that the lesson of prudence in prosperity has yet to be learned. No croaker is he, but a sound philosopher, who, seeing these things, reasons from cause to effect and sounds a warning of probable disaster as the result of recklessness in prosperity.

Experience has shown in its stern, unrelenting fashion that the way to prolong a period of prosperity is to correct, in its earlier stages, the tendency to extravagance and reckless financial ventures. The confirmed optimist can scarcely assert with seriousness that the present financial situation is free from boom features. That it is heavily laden with them—permeated by them—is plainly apparent. Public extravagance plays no unimportant part in the general trend toward recklessness. It may, in fact, be said to "set the pace" for private expenditures. Hence the words of the President above quoted are wise and timely. No one questions, or can question, the truth of the declaration that a wise economy of resources is the most assured means of providing strength for the future. This utterance at this time indicates that the President, though on a pleasure tour and primed for saying things that will please, also takes thought of weightier matters, as becomes the Chief Magistrate of the Nation. Perhaps, also, it permits the hope that his power within constitutional limits will be exerted to secure material reductions in the great volume of Federal appropriations in which the extravagance of prosperity sets the pace for private expenditures. However this may be, his caution is a timely one, and its suggestion of possible collapse as the result of the absence of prudence from prosperity should enable the careful man to "foresee the evil and hide himself."

POPULATION MOVING WEST.

A bulletin prepared under the direction of Henry Gannett, chief geographer of the Geological Survey, gives the location of the center of population of the United States, excluding Alaska and the recent accessions of territory, on June 1, 1900, according to the records of the Census Bureau, with a discussion of the movements of the center, decade by decade, during the past century. The center of population, as defined by Mr. Gannett, is the center of gravity of the population of the country, each individual being assumed to have the same weight.

In 1790 the center of population was about 23 miles east of Baltimore, and in 1800 about 18 miles west of that city. From 1800 to 1810 it moved to a point about 40 miles northwest by west of Washington. The southward movement during this decade appears to have been due to the annexation of Louisiana, which contained extensive settlements. From 1860 to 1870 the center moved westward and sharply northward, reaching a point about 48 miles east by north of Cincinnati, O. This northward movement was due in part to waste and destruction in the South consequent upon the Civil War, and in part probably to the fact that the census of 1870 was defective in its enumeration of the Southern people, especially of the newly enfranchised negro population. During the decade from 1870 to 1880 the Southern States made a large positive increase, both from natural growth and migration southward, and the center of population returned southward. In 1890 the center moved northward on account of the great development in the cities of the Northwest and in the State of Washington, and also to the increase of population in New England. During the decade 1890-1900 the center moved westward a little over 14 miles, and southward a little less than 3 miles. This is the smallest movement that has ever been noted. The slight southward movement was largely due to the great increase in population in Indian Territory, Oklahoma and Texas, while the great decrease in the westward movement was due to the large increase of population in the North Atlantic States. It also showed that the population of the Western States did not increase so rapidly as in former decades.

The center of population in its rapid westward movement has clung closely to the 39th parallel of latitude. The extreme variation in latitude has been less than 19 minutes, while the 110 years of record have accomplished a movement in longitude of a little over 9½ degrees. The total westward movement between 1790 and 1900 was 519 miles. The sudden acceleration of movement between 1850 and 1860—81 miles—was due to the transfer of a considerable body of population from the Atlantic to the Pacific Coast, 12 individuals in San Francisco exerting as much pressure at the then pivotal point—the crossing of the 83d meridian and the 39th parallel—as 40 individuals in Boston.

The center of area of the United States, excluding Alaska and Hawaii and other recent accessions, is in Northern Kansas, in latitude 39 degrees 55 minutes, and longitude 98 degrees 50 minutes. The center of population is therefore about three-fourths of a degree south and more than 13 degrees east of the center of area.

The median point is the point of intersection of the line dividing the population equally north and south with the line dividing it equally east and west. It is the central point of the population, and differs from the center of population in the fact that distance from the center is not considered. Its movements from census to census bear no relation to the movements of population, since only movements by which bodies of population are transferred across its parallel or its meridian have any influence upon its position. From 1890 to 1900 the median point moved west 10.8 miles and north 2.4 miles, while the center of population moved west 14 miles and south 2½ miles.

One of the echoes of the recent religious controversy in Portland is the assertion that there are no degrees of truth. Such a declaration would be natural for a purblind dogmatist to make, but not for one who has synthesized the facts of religious and social phenomena. If the person who made the assertion meant absolute truth, he was right. But absolute truth is infinite and impossible of comprehension by a finite being. Truth, therefore, as we conceive it in our limited way and for a particular ambition, can be nothing else than a matter of degree. Expressions of truth clothed in the verbiage of creed and dogma are finite, and not absolute, and as all moral and pious precepts vary in intensity or extension, so they are degrees of truth. This has been the rule of every creed and convention man has set up; it is the rule yet, and will be the rule until that millennium when this finite being of ours shall become merged with the infinite truth. Is any creed fixed forever? In our own day one is revised. It is then, indeed, only one degree of truth, for absolute truth is eternal. Is any dogma immortal in an established expression? We change unconsciously even when we try to keep our conscious belief rigid. Truth is identical with well-being. Religious or social well-being today will be different tomorrow. Everything changes, even since the time when the Greek philosopher could not put his foot twice into the same stream. Everything changes, as it is bound to do in a state of imperfection. This was known long ago to a sage who said: "They must often change who would be constant in happiness or wisdom." What shall it profit a man to declare a tenet of today truth absolute, in the face of transitory experience? What shall it profit a man to declare his sect has discovered the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, when he knows human limitations? The only truth he verifies in so doing is that man is always blind until he truly sees the infinite, not in his own way, but in the way of the world's experience, and not only that, but until he truly sees the finiteness of himself.

The Republic of Hayti is moving steadily toward a gold basis in finance, and is gradually reducing its national debt. This debt, foreign and domestic, amounts to $27,000,000 in gold. For the first time in many years, as shown by official statement, the government has not had to resort to a loan to meet its current expenses, but has managed to bring them within its resources. The reduction of the debt last year amounted to $901,673. Accustomed to the enormous proportions of our own National debt, these figures are insignificant, but when it is taken into consideration that for years there has not only been no reduction of the island republic's debt, but an increase instead, the showing is important. This improvement in finances has been brought about largely by the government in changing the floating debt, which was largely of Haytian currency, to a gold basis, and issuing a new series of bonds to cover this debt, in which both principal and interest are payable in gold. The policy of the government is to reduce its paper currency by withdrawing it gradually and not placing new notes in circulation, thus eventually bringing the circulating medium to a gold standard.

When a man of Mr. Burrell's character and standing avers that employes in his department are hired, not for fitness, but through political favoritism, it devolves upon somebody to show the statement false or else confess malfeasance in office. It is a poor solution of a clash of this kind for the man who is standing up for civic honesty to resign and leave the street-cleaning department to the spoilsmen. He ought to stay in and let the other fellows do the walking. As for complete reform of the city's working force, that is not, of course, to be expected. Theoretically, the city contemplates a body of employes drawn from the most powerful and energetic athletes in the city, shoveling up in an incredibly short space of time almost limitless piles of dead leaves and horse-droppings, but in practice such a thing is not nor yet to be realized. Yet it is sad, in a clean-cut issue, to see the victory go with the plunderers.

According to the British Consul-General at Seoul, Corea, who writes an informing letter on Manchuria to the London Times, Japan has a special, even unique material interest in Manchuria, because "she is dependent on that country for beancake with which to manure her farms." What is a beancake? It is "a large cheese-shaped compressed cake of beans after the oil has been expressed," says the Century dictionary, "used largely in Northern China as food for cattle, and in the sugar plantations of Southern China as manure." This recalls Dr. Johnson's famous definition of oats as "a grain eaten in England by horses, but in Scotland by men," and the Scot's ready answer, "Ay, mon, but where will you find such horses—or such men?"

Mr. J. J. Hill went into the cage and stirred up the animals. It is natural, perhaps, but not altogether fitting, that he should weep for his own and others' resultant wounds.

SECRET OF AMERICAN INDUSTRY

Kansas City Star.

The London Times has been printing a series of articles on the progress of American engineering which have caused comment in England because of the warning that the British manufacturers were being outdone by those of the United States. In the latest article the writer explains the cause of American superiority as lying in what he calls "the human factor." In Great Britain, he says, the young man is repressed; in the United States he is encouraged. The result is that the American employer has the advantage of energy and new ideas to a much greater extent than his British competitor. Furthermore, he believes the American is much more apt than the Englishman to associate his heads of departments with him in the business. This gives them a greater interest in their work than they would have as mere employes.

It is the practice in England, he says, to pay young graduates of technical schools wages far below the actual value of their services. One instance which he cites is that of an accomplished technical graduate who entered the drafting office of a large English firm at a salary of $2 50 a week. The concern wanted to bid on work involving a new branch of engineering and the graduate was the only man in the office competent to prepare plans and estimates. The contract, a large one, was secured and several months later the draughtsman's wages were raised a few shillings only. It would have cost the firm several hundred dollars, the writer says, to have had the estimates made outside its office. Such a policy as this, in his opinion, has discouraged young Englishmen from securing technical training and has sent many English technical school graduates to the United States.

The case of Mr. Carnegie, who took his heads of departments into the business, has evidently impressed the London Times writer. He believes British manufacturers have failed to make the most of their employes. "If American steel works are better equipped than our own," he says, "If American machine tools are more ingenious; if American electrical plant is commanding even our own market; to whatever we turn we find it is the human factor—character—that commands the situation." Englishmen, he continues, have thought themselves secure and have relaxed their vigilance. They have kept back young men until their best energies are gone and they have tried to keep all labor at an average of the lowest level. In America, young men are encouraged and are given whatever place their ability entitles them to. This neglect of the human factor, the Times writer finds, has led to the invasion of the British market by American engineering products.

The April Fire Loss.

New York Journal of Commerce.

The fire loss of the United States and Canada for the month of April, as compiled from our daily record, shows a total of $11,352,800. The figures for April, 1900, were $25,727,000, and included $12,000,000 for the Ottawa-Hull conflagration. The following comparative table will show the losses by months for the first four months of 1899, 1900 and 1901:

	1899.	1900.	1901.
January	$10,718,000	$11,755,300	$16,574,950
February	18,403,000	15,427,000	13,902,000
March	11,433,000	13,347,200	15,030,250
April	9,213,000	25,727,000	11,352,800
Totals	$49,807,000	$66,253,500	$56,956,000

The Jacksonville disaster will just about equalize the difference in favor of 1901, so far, as will be seen when our tabulation for May is published.

During April there were 221 fires of a greater destructiveness than $10,000 each. A detailed list of these fires will be found on the insurance page, this issue, but the principal losses were these:

St. Louis Mo., grain elevator	$650,000
Baltimore, Md., wholesale drug house and other	200,000
Richmond, Va., department store	225,000
Chicago, Ill., grain elevator	200,000
Pittsburg, Pa., department store and other	225,000

The 221 fires may be classified as below:

$10,000 to $20,000	72
20,000 to 30,000	38
30,000 to 50,000	33
50,000 to 75,000	42
75,000 to 100,000	11
100,000 to 200,000	18
200,000 to 650,000	5
Total	221

The fire underwriters are clearly losing heavily and more retirements must occur within the next few months. There appears to be little hope at present of such a readjustment of rates as will put the non-paying classes on a profitable basis.

Paymaster Pruden.

Army and Navy Register.

The impression is again abroad that Mr. O. L. Pruden, assistant secretary of the President, has been appointed a paymaster in the regular Army. Such, of course, is not the case, although he will eventually find himself in possession of a commission as Captain and paymaster in the regular establishment. At present, however, and until June 30, he will be a Major and additional paymaster. There are no vacancies, of course, in the grade of Major in the regular corps and all the places of Captain in the corps have been filled by designation. The death of Major William Monaghan, additional paymaster at Manila, recently, after that officer had been designated for appointment as Captain in the regular corps, will make the vacancy in that grade to which Pruden will be appointed. It does not seem to have been necessary for the President to appoint Pruden to volunteers as a step to his appointment in the regular corps, as some people imagine. There is nothing in the law to prevent the appointment of a civilian directly to the pay department. Of course, as matters stand, Major Pruden gets the advantage of a couple of months' pay as a volunteer major before he receives his commission as Captain and paymaster.

Extraordinary Fecundity.

Medical Age.

One of the Italian journals has recently recorded an extraordinary case of fecundity of which it guarantees the authenticity. Flavia Granata, who, it appears, is well known at Rome, has recently given birth to her sixty-second child. This woman is now 59 years old. She was married at 28 years of age, and has successively given birth to a daughter, then six sons, then five sons, then four daughters, and then a long series of twins annually, and ended recently by having four sons. It is much to be regretted that this interesting woman did not marry earlier, as she thus lost ten precious years of her life, and so missed the distinction she might have enjoyed of being the mother of a hundred children.

First Love.

New York Press.

A woman is never so foolish as when she is in love for the first time, nor a man either.—Mr. Joseph Jefferson at Yale.

First love, of course, inspired the reflection "Where ignorance is bliss." And folly is, after all, a very relative quantity. The pair immersed in each other are convinced at least of the folly of striving to please other people, which conviction is at the bottom of much real personal satisfaction. Mr. Jefferson might have added that some people's first love affair is the only really sensible one they ever have.

Memories.

Thomas Moore.

Let fate do her worst, there are relics of joy,
Bright dreams of the past, which she cannot destroy.
They come in the night time of sorrow and care,
And bring back the features that joy used to wear.
Long, long be my heart with such memories filled,
Like the vase in which roses have once been distilled;
You may break, you may shatter the vase if you will,
But the scent of the roses will cling 'round it still.

AMUSEMENTS

"Roanoke," a play founded on love, innocence, avarice, rascality, idiocy and a few other things, worked up a large house to a considerable pitch of excitement last night. The quality known as heart interest is so abundant that the people can hardly get away from it long enough to go out and get a breath of fresh and calm air between acts. A blind girl, whose father has been killed by a miser who is not altogether an upright man, lives in the home of her cousin and aunt, together with her half-witted brother. Her hand is sought in marriage at one and the same time by the miser and a Captain in the Army. Feeling that it might be an act of questionable taste to marry a man who has killed her father, the maiden passes the miser up, but does not accept the Captain right away, for the reason that in doing so she would remove the necessity for further continuing the play. Later in the story she starts to cross a bridge, a plank of which the miser has removed with the laudable intention of tumbling her a thousand feet into an abyss, but hears a bird sing and goes back. Still later she and her brother are sitting in a garret telling each other hard-luck stories, when the miser looks in through a window and takes a pot-shot at the brother. The bullet restores the lad's reason, and he at once sets about encompassing the miser's finish, which occurs in the last act. Meanwhile the girl's sight is restored, she marries the Army officer, gives the laugh to her erstwhile proud aunt and cousin, and the curtain goes down to a wedding march.

In the company are Miss Iva Donette, who does a song very cleverly; Louise Carter, who makes a prayerful blind girl; Oswald Roberts, who, as the miser, talks in pairs and looks like an exhumed mummy, and several others.

"Roanoke" will be the bill for three more nights, and if it is as pleasing to all who see it as it was to the house last night it is likely to prove a decided hit.

SETON-THOMPSON TODAY.

Famous Author, Artist and Naturalist at the Marquam.

Juvenile Portland is on the qui vive of expectation today, for at 3 o'clock this afternoon Ernest Seton-Thompson, "the friend of wild animals," whose delightful stories every boy and girl has read, will speak at the Marquam Grand Theater on "Personality of Wild Animals." In order that every boy and girl may have an opportunity to hear this remarkable man, the public schools will be closed both today and tomorrow in ample time for all to get to the theater before the lectures begin.

Seton-Thompson's engagement in Portland is under the auspices of the Woman's Club, which fact alone is a sufficient guarantee that the lectures will be worth any one's time and money. In all, four lectures will be given. The subject this evening will be the same as the title of one of Seton-Thompson's famous books, "Wild Animals I Have Known." Tomorrow afternoon the subject will be "Wild Animals at Home," and tomorrow evening the closing lecture will be given on "Mind in Animal Heroes." The afternoon lectures will begin at 3 o'clock, and those of the evenings at 8:15.

Gymnastic Exhibition.

One of the leading new features of the Y. M. C. A. gymnastic carnival and exhibition to be given at the Marquam Grand Theater next Friday evening, for the benefit of the Y. M. C. A. building fund, is the Greek mirth drill, by 11 young women, who have been and still are being trained by Professor Ringler. This drill is something new in Portland, and it is promised that all who witness it will unite in declaring that it is pretty and entertaining, as well as novel. The participants already have mastered their task nearly to perfection, and by Friday evening will be ready to give a highly finished exhibition. All the features of the last gymnastic carnival, which proved so popular, have been retained and strengthened, and an evening of unalloyed pleasure is in store for all who attend next Friday evening. The sale of seats will open Wednesday.

Notes of the Stage.

Richard Carle is to replace Dan Daly in "The Whirl of the Town," when the latter production is given in London.

A hit equal to that made by Edna May abroad is predicted for a new favorite, Ella Snyder, who is said to be a singularly beautiful brunette.

May Holahan, a daughter of the well-known Tammany politician, has gone upon the stage. Her sisters have already appeared in the profession.

Ethel Wintrop has joined Amelia Bingham's company to replace Annie Irish, who is playing Nerissa in Nat Goodwin's revival of "The Merchant of Venice."

Very high praise is given Nat Goodwin's first essay in the character of Shylock at Syracuse, Monday evening, May 5. Maxine Elliott is also credited with a hit as Portia.

Rostand, the author of "L'Aiglon," is working on his play, "Le Theater," for Sarah Bernhardt, a part being especially written for Coquelin. The play is based on modern stage life, and is written in verse.

The Earl of Yarmouth, professionally known on the stage as Eric Hope, is suing a newspaper in New York for libel in asserting practically that he was hunting for an heiress. He claims damages to the extent of $25,000.

The Old Man Benevolent.

New York Mail and Express.

Mr. Russell Sage benevolently explains that the "calls" that he has lately been selling, and which have been quite cheerfully returning to him, were for the purpose of inducing activity in the market and "enabling worthy young men to make money and help support their families." Mr. Sage is a truly benevolent man, and aims to help the "lamb" to drive the wolf from the door.

Practical Reform.

Washington Star.

Mayor Harrison, of Chicago, has been trying to clean up the streets and encourage the police in suppressing crime. Mr. Harrison's reform movement has an advantage in the fact that it does not have to lose time hearing the minutes read every time it holds a meeting.

When Father Goes to Church.

H. P. Rodney.

Pa's playing in the hardest luck,
And now is most a wreck;
They josh him when he carves a duck
And when he writes a check,
Or sings a lullaby, and how
He swings a hefty birch.
But no one goes him one round now,
When father goes to church.

The old man's sleep is very bad,
He lies awake and thinks,
And in the night he's often had
Just forty-seven winks;
But when old Sleep has winged his flight
And left him in the lurch,
He gets his cat-naps in all right
When father goes to church.

There tenors sing exquisitely,
And prima donnas fling
Their cavatinas up to G,
And slang sky-pilots sling
Anathemas aloft galore—
Of heaven he is not in search,
But keeps the tenor of his snore,
When father goes to church.

He'll take a short cut, if he can,
To heaven, like as not,
Upon the European plan,
Or nickel in the slot;
But when the preacher fires a prayer,
Pa settles in his perch
And lifts his chin to Morpheus there,
When father goes to church.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Has any one heard of Oom Paul lately?

Let us hope that President McKinley will not write a book of travel when he gets back home.

Here's hoping that the author of "Shore Acres" may ring up the curtain for another long act before its final fall.

An ex-President of Peru has died a natural death. As a rule they never get a chance to become ex-Presidents down there.

Nothing has been heard of Funston for some time, and it is believed that he has set out on an expedition to kidnap Hon. Mark Twain.

If the Ohio Congressmen were desirous of shining they should not have allowed themselves to become the tail of the Presidential comet.

What will Mascagni do in the way of dago profanity the first time he gets a request to play the intermezzo from "Cavaleria Rusticana" in ragtime?

President Schwab says the steel trust is a good thing. From the point of view of a man who gets a million dollars a year out of it, he is making a very reasonable statement.

A New York banker says ministers take too many vacations. He should remember that it is necessary for them to get out of town once in a while in order to dodge donation parties.

The American soldiers in China were too vulgar to suit the European troops. The aristocratic Thomas Atkins is made quite ill by the spectacle of a soldier eating pie for breakfast.

Recent experiments by railway officials in Berne with an automatic ticket machine, invented by a Swiss, have given entire satisfaction, says a Berne correspondent. The machine is similar to the ordinary automatic machines, but the glass cases contain the tickets on which are printed the names of the stations and the price of the ticket. By dropping in the right amount and pulling a handle the ticket is set free. The machinery is so constructed that an insufficient sum or any base coins will not work the spring, and there is no danger of the purchaser losing the whole amount.

"The destruction of the City of Jacksonville is most lamentable, but it will undoubtedly prove in one way an advantage," observed a Florida man, now on a Northern trip, a day or two ago. "It will, or at least ought to, insure the construction of modern buildings there. I was in Jacksonville just one week ago. The best hotel there was of wood, and built many years ago to accommodate tourists who came South in the Winter. It was not a hotel worthy in these modern times of a city of that size. From the standpoint of the material growth of Jacksonville the sweeping away of so many wooden structures will mark an era for a more beautiful city."

A copy of the "Boston Almanac for 1839" contains some amusing information, some of which, selected at random, is as follows:

"Miss Mary Clark, of Medway, on passing through a pasture, was attacked by a young heifer, with tremendous fury. She barely escaped with life, having had her clothes literally torn off. It was supposed that the red dress she had on was the sole cause of exciting the rage of the animal.

"London is said to contain 30,000 thieves, 20,000 beggars and 10,000 professional gamblers.

"As two black men were cradling wheat near Medford, Del., lightning struck the scythe of the foremost, glanced off and instantly killed the other.

"Two young men went into the river at Castle Green, N. Y., to swim, and at the very moment they leaped into the water a salute was fired from some heavy pieces of cannon, which were contiguous. They remained under the water for some seconds, and on rising to the surface were observed to act in so fantastic a manner that it was evident something of unusual nature had happened to them. A boat was, therefore, immediately procured, and on their being taken out of the water and brought to the shore it was found that both of them had lost their senses; and so totally and entirely as to be unable to give any explanation of how they had been affected or what sensations they felt at the moment."

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

Charlie Loveday—Um, ah. Er, er—er! Er—; ha! he—! Jeweler (to his assistant)—Bring that tray of engagement rings here, Henry.—Tit-Bits.

His Limitations.—Joxer—It is unfortunate that Captain Lozzet never smiles from ear to ear. Gibley—One of his ears is in the Philippines.—Harper's Bazar.

Elderly Lady—Was that your sister I saw you with yesterday Johnny? Johnny (aged 8)—Do I look like a fellow who'd waste his time on sisters?—Boston Transcript.

Strong-Willed.—Kind lady—It must be hard to get along without working? Tramp—Indeed it is ma'am; yer have no idea how strong de tem'tation ter go to work is, sometimes.—Brooklyn Life.

A Life-Long Treasure.—"Clara, that is a hideous vase." "Yes, it is; it was one of our bridal presents—but we never have any luck getting ugly things broken when we move."—Chicago Record Herald.

A Tender Point.—"I am surprised that a man like Baseo should have married a girl who had no music in her at all." "Nothing surprising about it. She was willing to listen to his singing."—Town and Country.

Base-Hit Percentage.—Miss Muzyck—Do you thing Wagner leads Liszt? Mr. Pittsburg—I'm positive. I was reading recently the National League batting averages, and Wagner leads the list.—Judge.

Exception.—Teacher—As I have been telling you, there are two general classes of workers. Tommy, does your father make his living by using his brains or by using his muscles? Tommy—Neither one, ma'am. He's a policeman at the big railroad depot.—Chicago Tribune.

A Philosopher.—Wife—There's a burglar down cellar, Henry. Husband—Well, my dear, we ought to be thankful that we are upstairs. Wife—But he'll come up here. Husband—Then we'll go down cellar, my dear. Surely, a 10-room house ought to be big enough to hold three people without crowding.—Detroit Free Press.

The Weary River.

Lewis Morris.

There is a ceaseless river,
Which flows down evermore
Into a wailing ocean,
A sea without a shore.

Broken by laughing ripple,
Foaming with angry swell,
Sweet music as of heaven,
Deep thunder as of hell.

Gay fleets flow down upon it,
And sad wrecks, full of pain;
But all alike it hurries
To that unchanging main.

Sometimes 'tis foul and troubled,
And sometimes clear and pure;
But still the river flows, and still
The dull sea doth endure.

And thus 'twill flow forever,
Till time shall cease to be,
O weary, weary river,
O bitter, barren sea.