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TODAY'S WEATHER.—Fair and warmer; northwesterly winds.

PORTLAND, THURSDAY, MAY 20.

TANGLED LEGISLATION. The two laws relating to primary elections, enacted by the Legislature at its recent session, are irreconcilable.

A law for regulation and control of primary elections seems to the Oregonian very desirable, and even necessary.

The other act is simple enough, though its defects are great. It will not deliver conventions from control of party or factional machines.

Handwriting "as she is taught." The attempt to introduce vertical handwriting into the public schools in many sections of the country, including those of this city, several years ago, does not seem to have met with success.

That there are advantages in the bold outlines of vertical writing is generally conceded, but no one asserts that beauty is one of them.

Another thiefing officer has been sent to prison for irregularities at Manila. The contrast with the Spanish regime will not occur to the anti, but it should not be lost upon the Filipino.

graceful. It may be said, however, that this fault in some degree is or may be found with all rigid systems of instruction in penmanship.

Expert teachers of penmanship nearly all declare that the pupil receives only the elementary forms of writing in the schools, no matter what system is used.

Memorial day, as it falls into natural neglect year by year, measured by the decreasing number of participants and the fading ardency of interest shown.

Chief Justice Fuller undertakes to say that the majority opinion in the Downes case is wrong, because of Chief Justice Marshall's opinion in Loughborough vs. Blake, to-wit:

The power to lay and collect duties, imposts and excises may be exercised and must be exercised, throughout the United States.

As to this decision, there are two alternative interpretations. If it means to enunciate a principle of universal application to all future acquisitions of territory under whatever circumstances and under whatever specific treaty forms, then Chief Justice Fuller is right.

The question at issue in Loughborough vs. Blake was whether Congress had the right to impose a direct tax on the District of Columbia.

Moreover, in the case of Cherokee Nation vs. Georgia, Marshall makes plain what was in his mind concerning the territories.

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But it was not yet part of this Union— an assertion that not only establishes the majority decision in the Downes case, but goes far toward supporting the contention of the majority in the Delima case.

It appears to us that the Supreme Court has too little regarded in this matter the contention offered in the brief of Mr. Charles A. Gardner, of New York, who has very ably maintained that the disposition and administration of new territory are political rather than judicial questions.

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ful beauty and vigor and valor, doubtless fought and fell full of cheer, for they were of the sanguine type—

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"COMMUNITY OF INTEREST." Mr. Schiff's testimony before the industrial commission yesterday gave a clear and conservative presentation of the "community-of-interest" theory.

The rapid advancement of applied electricity is noted in the statement of a man whose business it was to investigate all of the electrical street railways when first established.

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"A REDUCTIO AD ABSURDUM." Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan has just done a considerable public service. The tariff on precious metals has long been a grievance to all American lovers of civilization.

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NOTE AND COMMENT. If the Shamrock had carried an Oregon pine stick it wouldn't have happened. As long as the fish continue to bite there is little hope for suppressing the whiskey traffic.

The United States Supreme court appears to be looming up as a goal for war correspondents.

Morgan is still in Europe. It probably requires time to load the continent for shipment to America.

Mr. Bryan says he is for McLaurin. Every man's career is Bryan's opportunity to get into print.

The machinists' strike will have no effect on politics. The political machines are all running smoothly.

King Edward will make his next cruise with a life preserver tied around him, and possibly one inside.

Business is so lively on the stock market that a man can make a very good profit on an investment of only a few hundred million dollars.

The attention of the Cubans who are opposed to the rule of the United States is respectfully called to the recent achievements of one Weyler.

And the most remarkable thing about Colonel Mills is that he has never written magazine articles nor been mentioned as a vice-presidential possibility.

The British army has over 370 commissioned officers (exclusive of quartermasters and riding masters) who joined as privates. No other European army contains anything like so many.

Doctors still disagree, judging by this extract from an address recently delivered by Dr. C. E. Walton of New York: "We occasionally hear it asked: 'Would it be wise to establish a chair of homoeopathy in an allopathic college?' Let us answer this by asking: 'Would it be wise to establish a Protestant chair in a Catholic institution?' Would it be wise to drill Democrats in a Republican camp? It is just as difficult to gather facts from this now as it was nineteen centuries ago.