

The Oregonian.

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is so old that it is new. It merely reveals inquiry, and this inquiry is soon answered by the production of data which prove the antiquity of the trust...

Mr. Winston draws from the history of these old-time monopolies the assumption that all such combinations are destined to collapse. It is plain that they cannot retain their exclusive control of the markets unless they can have some extraneous force more powerful than any yet devised for choking off competition...

The inference from the historical research of this writer is that the trust movement in due time will fall of its own weight. The remedial operation has already been applied to the smaller combinations and unless commercial and industrial history falsifies its record, which may reasonably be held to be most unlikely, the whole vast machine will in due time adjust itself to the requirements of open, active competition in business.

RIVER NAVIGATION IMPORTANT.

No city can hope to be truly great without communication by sea to supplement its railroad service. Chicago, which is blessed with overland transportation, is sending vessels by the long route down the lakes and the St. Lawrence, and wants her canal from Lake Ontario to the Mississippi widened and deepened for large vessels...

While it is true that there can be no great values in land where the population is sparse, and that no great industry or trade can exist where there are but few people to deal with, it still is true that the individual factor is the chief agency in the creation of wealth. The most valuable land is the land upon which or near which the greatest improvements have been made.

It doubtless is supposed by many that denial of private persons of property in the increased value that comes to land in the transformation of the country from its primitive barrenness to the complex fertility and lucrative use it attains under the greater civilization, would leave for division among the landless the chief part of the goods and enjoyments now possessed by the landowners. But that which is proposed to take from its possessors never would have existed but for the stimulus which the principle of private property gives to human effort.

A notable feature of the present stage of the year's industries in this section is the scarcity, for practical purposes, of competent mill labor. Whether a man has irragating ditches to dig, fish to handle, wood to haul, grain to cut, cows to milk, winter's fuel to store away, or what not, men who are willing and ready to do the work cannot be had in full supply.

The improved condition of Nantes resulting from so small a work as a maritime canal has awakened deeper and more extended interest in the further opening of the Loire. This interest has become steadily increased each year. In 1900, 212 vessels passed through, an increase of forty over 1899, and of 105 over 1898. The port tonnage increased from 543,221 tons in 1890 to 1,000,000 tons in 1900. Last year the tonnage of Nantes and its suburbs amounted to 2,243,049 tons.

Reference has been very generally made to Mr. P. A. Winston's article in the July Atlantic as containing something new in the statement that monopolies and trade combinations, commonly called "trusts," were known in the sixteenth century.

Money makes the warhorse go. John C. Schwab, professor of political economy in Yale University, has just published a financial and industrial history of the South during the Civil War. The wealth of the South consisted chiefly of lands and slaves. Its industries were almost exclusively agricultural. Mines and manufactures scarcely existed.

In the development of railways the South was far behind the North, and the railroads of the North were better built and equipped, and more efficiently operated. There were no trunk lines at the South. To the 31,256 total railroad mileage of the United States in 1861 the states of the Confederacy contributed but 9238, or less than 30 per cent. This figure was not reduced by the inroads of the Union Armies to about 6000, or one-fifth of the country's aggregate railroad mileage.

Professor Schwab points out that the blockade was the most serious military weapon of the North, and it forced upon the South an economic isolation which compelled her to revert to earlier industrial forms. The blockade, acting in conjunction with the inflated currency, deranged prices and led to violent speculation, which contributed to the social and political disintegration of the South during the period of secession. Coercive measures of the North, such as the blockade, the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus, and the confiscation of property, were necessary to maintain the Union.

The fact that this city does not own an ambulance more suitable or a vehicle for conveying to the hospital an ill or injured person, than the police patrol wagon, is a matter that should no longer be permitted to discredit our citizens. The people pay taxes enough to meet all the necessary requirements of a municipal government if the money were judiciously applied.

It will be well for Mr. Morgan and President Schwab to end the steel strike soon in the best way they can. Otherwise the boast as to how the superior acumen of the trust was to end all labor difficulties will look funny. The joke is already assuming the proportions of one perpetrated on "community of interest" by the corner in Northern Pacific.

The great strike in the steel works is not yet settled. But it seems to be in a fair way of settlement. What union labor is contending for is the right to organize in South Africa is a far more respectable figure than Kruger spending the Transvaal money in Holland. The instinctive obedience which the Boers give to their despotic patriarchs is something like the devotion of a dog to a man.

The socialists are treating Debs as a celebrated convention of Pennsylvania Democrats treated Bryan—pronounce him a peerless leader and then give him "principles" the go-by. Croker is coming home for the Fall campaign. He must have seen the Newyump editorials calling for his abdication.

Lessons of the Proclamation. The Porto Rican intrigue of 1890 also served to uncover the essentially selfish and inhuman principle which lies coiled in the doctrine of protection. The revelation was, no doubt, a surprise to President McKinley himself. It is a kindly man, and to his overflowing benevolence it appeared the most natural thing in the world, as well as a "plain duty," to grant the Porto Ricans a free market for their produce.

Admiral Sampson had the misfortune to be hated and pursued by enemies as malevolent as the enemies of Schley. He could easily have made out of the sinking of the Merrimac a case of insupportable wrong. He could have made a case of insupportable wrong against the man who had ordered the Merrimac to be sunk. He could have made a case of insupportable wrong against the man who had ordered the Merrimac to be sunk.

Turning the Tables. Fred the Waiter's Effective Retort to a Jocos Customer. "Fred," the German waiter, was serving beer to half a dozen customers at a round table, when he stepped on the fall of the cafe cut, and nearly dropped a tray of foaming steins.

Chicago Inter Ocean, Rep. The President's proclamation of free trade with Porto Rico, in view of the history behind it, might well have read as follows: Whereas, I declared in my message of December 4, 1898, that "our plain duty is to abolish all customs tariffs between the United States and Porto Rico, and to give our products free access to our markets"; and Whereas, Congress was diverted from this purpose by the German-Mexican war...

Offends His Prosaic Soul. PORTLAND, July 30.—(To the Editor.)—In last Sunday's Oregonian you printed on the editorial page a column headed "Characteristics of the Editor." The first two lines of the second stanza of the first poem entitled "The Trinity" are as follows: Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea.

Pass Around Those Islands. Providence (R. I.) Journal. The suggestion that Hawaii be annexed to California has brought out the Rhode Islander. Why not? We should still be the smallest member of the Union, and nobody could perpetrate actions of such a nature as to stain the name of the state before breakfast or halting across from Massachusetts to Connecticut. The Government might hand over an island or a group of islands to Rhode Island, and let the people of the administrative status of our new possessions.

With Marg. Frank L. Stanton in Atlanta Constitution. Life had been good; the loneliness was— But the world seem'd so dreary, And the meadows was smilin' as if with the May.

Complimented by Such Abuse. Washington Post. Admiral Schley's most complimentary notice in the Boston Herald is an attack of the bureau of fabrication.

Democrats and Filipinos. In Event of Democratic Success the Philippines Would Not Be Abandoned. Some Chicago Chronicle, Dem. The Philippines explains the source of the continued encouragement which the remaining insurgent leaders receive. The Filipino "Junta" at Hong Kong sent dispatches to a local guerrilla chief advising him to hang on, as eventual independence was sure.

NOTE AND COMMENT. There's plenty of good fish in the Columbia River. If there is no wind, the Constitution is a very fast boat. With a pay roll of \$100,000 a day, Astoria has forgotten all about the common point. The English have adopted the shirt waist. It's so blooming American, y' know. Macley probably now wishes he had devoted his attention solely to Richmond Pearson Hobson.

Hobson's Fortunate Failure. New York Times. If Admiral Sampson had had the misfortune to be hated and pursued by enemies as malevolent as the enemies of Schley they could easily have made out of the sinking of the Merrimac a case of insupportable wrong.

Good Faith at Last. Chicago Inter Ocean, Rep. The President's proclamation of free trade with Porto Rico, in view of the history behind it, might well have read as follows: Whereas, I declared in my message of December 4, 1898, that "our plain duty is to abolish all customs tariffs between the United States and Porto Rico, and to give our products free access to our markets"; and Whereas, Congress was diverted from this purpose by the German-Mexican war...

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The throat of a coal strike came at a time of year when its only effect was to draw forth smiles of derision. If there are any Admirals in the United States Navy who have not yet been retired, let them step to the front.

The providential discovery of liquid air is the only thing that enables General Felix Angus to keep cool during this trying crisis in the Nation's affairs. President Shaffer has the satisfaction of knowing that by securing an interview with J. P. Morgan he was up about \$3,000,000 worth of that gentleman's time.

Historian Macley is a victim of over-production. Had he not written one too many volumes of his history he might still be in a fair way to a peaceful career. One thousand school teachers are going to the Philippines to instruct the untaught savage in the multiplication table and teach them to recite "The Boy Stood on the Burning Deck."

California has not made good its claims to the title of the Greece of America. The peach, which is largely exported by California, is not exactly the style of Grecian beauty with which statuary has made us familiar.

The emperor of Japan has an allowance of something like \$200,000 a year to keep up the imperial establishment. He has also a large private fortune, having invested in stocks and a great deal of wealth in land. At the close of the Chinese-Japanese war Parliament voted his majesty 20,000,000 yen, an amount equal to 10,000,000 gold dollars, out of the indemnity paid by the Chinese, as a mark of gratitude for his directing the naval and military operations.

A London diamond merchant, while going to his office recently, in a fit of keeping the imperial establishment, pulled an old envelope out of his pocket and commenced to tear it up. When he reached the last section the terrible fact dawned on him that it was the envelope in which were some 1800 small diamonds valued at \$50, and that he had been sowing these broadcast over a public thoroughfare. Some of them have been recovered, but others have never been heard from.

The people of Hartford, inspired thereto by the Times, have contributed \$5000 in token of their appreciation of the simple heroism of Miss Ida L. Hathaway. She was a nurse in the Hartford hospital, where, in the line of duty, she contracted ophthalmia from a young child committed to her care, of so serious a character that it led to blindness. Knowledge of the irremediable fate which had overtaken her only served to reveal the strength of this young girl's character, for she accepted it as ordered of God and without repining. Now a sympathetic community has insured Miss Hathaway's future support.

A little Philadelphia boy carried a basket into a hospital dispensary the other day. Taking a pet rabbit from the basket, he begged some of the doctors to do what they could to relieve his bunnie from suffering. An examination showed that the rabbit had an abscess in its right ear. One surgeon held the little animal while another lanced the swelling. After the treatment the rabbit showed every sign of being grateful, while the owner wanted to know if a \$5 bill was sufficient to pay for the operation. On being told that there was no charge the grateful little fellow thanked the physicians warmly, and, putting the rabbit back into the basket, hurried home.

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