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YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 83; minimum, 54; fair.

TODAY'S WEATHER—Fair and moderately warm; northerly winds.

PORTLAND, MONDAY, AUGUST 12.

APPEARANCES AND BETTERMENTS.

Something has been done, much is now doing, to improve the appearance of the City of Portland. But not enough. The Summer is wearing away, and within ninety days the rainy season will begin. During that season little work can be done that will prove durable and satisfactory. Street improvement during the Winter is practically impossible; or, if possible, the work is slow and wasteful. It may be feared that the Summer and Fall will pass away, leaving much necessary work, even on prominent streets, unfinished, or even untouched.

The one thing most wanted for improvement of the general appearance of the city is the awakening of a sense of pride among the citizens. Whether a street or locality have a shabby or neat appearance depends chiefly on the spirit and taste of the owners or occupants of the property. It is easy to fall into the habit of tolerating shabby appearances, and a hard and slow process to mend it—like the facility of the descent to Avernus, and the operoseness of the effort required for escape from that classic yet unattractive place of residence.

There is too much of a habit of putting off every kind of improvement till it is forced by law or other necessity. And the movements of law and of necessity that knows no law alike are tediously slow. Hence so many old, decayed and unsightly shacks, relics of primitive times; hence so many broken sidewalks, unpainted and weather-beaten houses, rotting and rickety steps, plats unshorn and unkept, remains of old picket fences, trees untrimmed, telephone, telegraph and electric light poles rough and unpainted. In many cases the owners are simply indolent. They are able enough to make the necessary little improvements, but prefer to take their rents and do nothing.

There is nothing more necessary for Portland than the cultivation of a sentiment in favor of effort in this direction to make the city attractive. From all points about the city from which Portland shows to advantage the general appearance would be improved by attention to these little things. We have handsome residences and stately buildings; but these are not all that make a city. The less pretentious districts may be made attractive, and owners and householders ought to take a pride in it. In the eyes of visitors, of persons who come to find homes among us, Portland could be vastly improved by proper and general attention to these little details. Don't wait for your neighbor. Smarten up your own place, put in the little betterments, and your neighbor will not for long be insensible to the example.

IT IS MADNESS.

It is simply the purpose of the steel trust to drive union labor out of its mills. Notice is posted already at some of the closed mills that they will not be reopened with union labor. It is possible the trust may have financial resources great enough to enable it to win. Even in that case the struggle of associated labor against combined capital will not be ended.

Had not the steel trust been formed, had not the United States Steel Corporation been organized into a combination to control steel production, prices and wages, it is not at all probable there would have been a strike of labor, at this time. But capital is claiming a right of combination which it is arrogantly denying to labor, and its attitude provokes antagonism, vigorous and resolute. Organization of labor, with determination of the men to stand by each other, is the natural response to the organization of capital into the all-controlling trust, that formulates its dictatorial policy.

Some of the mills of the trust, those received from Carnegie, have been operated with nonunion labor since the bloody affair at Homestead in 1892. The plan of the trust now is to break the power of the labor associations utterly, and to have all the mills operated as those received from Carnegie have been. The magnates of the trust disclaim any present intention to reduce wages, but if the time shall come when they wish to cut down the wages of the men employed in any department of their vast works, they say they must be free to enter into negotiation with the men individually, without having to consult with their representatives of the order. What this advantage would mean it is easy to see. The men so dealt with, one by one, would fall into the condition of serfs of the trust; and each man could take what was offered him, or starve.

Gunton's Magazine is a protectionist organ, and as such organ it naturally favors the capitalistic class. But it says this strike is due "to the coercive policy long practiced by the capitalists. Nothing," it continues, "has been clearer to the student of economic and industrial tendencies of the last twenty years than that capital should openly and cordially recognize the principle and right of labor organization. By this method they could have exercised a rational and somewhat guiding influence over the union movement. But instead of doing that they have antagonized it, often waging war upon it, and always treating it with distrust and disrespect. The result of this actual and quasi-persecution of the trade unions by the employing class is that they have grown up with antagonism to rather than respect for and co-operation with employing corporations." Further:

> The right to organize has not only been denied the men, but the refusal has been brutally enforced by the summary discharge of every man suspected of trying to organize them. We are told that in some of the mills the men have signed contracts not to join a union. Does any one in his senses imagine that workmen ever voluntarily sign a contract not to belong to a union? No man ever voluntarily signs away his right to do anything. Whenever we find laborers under a contract not to join a union, we may be absolutely certain that such contract was forced upon them. This sort of thing only contributes to the confusion of the public mind and bitterness of the laborers, without bringing a single atom of enlightenment, sense and sound judgment to the consideration of the subject.

These comments are so incisive, and so pertinent to the present case and time, that we make another extract, viz.:

> There are features of the present situation which it is of the utmost importance to the public and to both parties to this controversy carefully to consider. In the first place, it should be remembered that this is a struggle for the right of organization. This principle is at stake. It is useless for any one to deny this and pretend that the right to organize is everywhere conceded. There has not been a year within the last quarter of a century in which the right of laborers to organize has not been challenged by employers—sometimes by recourse to the blacklist, sometimes by one method and sometimes by another. The Homestead strike was deliberately inaugurated to break up labor unions and destroy the right of laborers to organize. The right for laborers freely to organize is not an accomplished fact. It is a disputed privilege which has constantly to be contended for, and wherever the union sentiment is a little weakened the opposition assumes an aggressive form.

The right of capital to organize has not hitherto been disputed. But performances like this of the steel trust will inevitably cause it to be disputed, through restrictive legislation, or through movement toward state socialism. For capital cannot itself combine and then deny the right of combination to labor. This country is governed by those who hold the elective franchise, and it is madness, the madness of selfishness and greed, to antagonize the masses in this way.

WE DON'T WANT MUCH.

We know no good reason why we, as protectionists, should object to Germany's new tariff bill, which in many of its features has been drawn up with a special view of keeping our products out of the German Empire. We ought not to hold that the protective policy is to be left, or ought to be left, to the exclusive enjoyment of Americans.

The proposed tariff law of Germany is a very sweeping one. "Think," says the New York Evening Post, "of a customs law filling a pamphlet of 167 pages, and containing no less than 918 special tariff groupings! Why, this is German metaphysics gone mad. The absurd measure also contains retaliatory clauses, and goes to work to hamper trade and increase the cost of living with a deliberate brutality known before only to the tariff laws of—the United States! That is the sting of the new tariff law which appears to be aimed peculiarly at American products; it is copied almost ostentatiously after our legislation."

"If," says another journal, "if imitation be the sincerest flattery, we American protectionists ought to applaud the German tariff instead of condemning it. We ought to welcome all nations into the protection fold. But somehow we don't. We wax wroth at the course of another nation when it adopts a tariff policy similar to ours. They ought not to demand for their goose what we claim for our gander."

From this view, then, what we want of other nations is that they let us into their home market and keep out of ours. We do not want much. Our demand is but a modest one. Our Minister to Germany ought to be able to fix things. "The Dutch," certainly will not persist in an unreasonable course.

INDIAN SERVICE FARMERS.

Of the questions asked the applicants for the position of farmer in the Indian service in the recent examination, 70 per cent of the credits were for practical questions on the preparation of the soil, planting and harvesting; 20 per cent for practical experience, and 10 per cent for general intelligence. There were twenty-two vacancies to be filled, two of which were in Oregon, viz., at Yainax and Klamath. It may be remarked in passing that "Poor Lo," or the remnant of his race under Government tutelage, is to be congratulated in that at last instruction in agriculture is to be given him by farmers who know how to farm and have at least 10 per cent of average intelligence. For many years any old political hack would do for a "farmer" in the Indian service. As a result, Indians confined to reservations became idle vagabonds, alternately feasting on Government rations and starving on the meager proceeds of their lands, while Government plows and harrows rusted in the fields. Government threshers were abandoned to the spiders, the bats and the weather, and the requisition of seed for planting was a regular thing year after year.

The late Captain M. C. Wilkinson, first superintendent of the Indian Industrial School, then located at Forest Grove—now at Chemawa—visited the Warm Springs reservation some years ago in quest of pupils for his school. Returning, he spoke in scathing terms of the utter shiftlessness visible in the management of the affairs of that agency. Garden tools and agricultural implements generally that had cost the Government thousands of dollars were lying around without care or shelter; barns were without doors, gates off their hinges, fences down or dilapidated, houses, loosely built in the first place, wretchedly out of repair (even the superintendent's doorsteps being half rotted away), and the Indians were on short commons because of the reckless waste of their last allowance and the fact that the next was not yet due. And yet at that time there was a "farmer" and a "carpenter" each, so-called, on the reservation, whose duty as represented by a Federal commission and substantial salaries was to see that the Indians were taught to raise grain, vegetables and fruit; to use and take care of their agricultural implements, and to build and keep in repair their houses and fences.

An energetic man himself, and scrupulous in the matter of details, though visionary upon some points of Indian character and discipline, Captain Wilkinson was scandalized by the thriftless, down-at-the-heel methods and management of the Indians as illustrated at this agency, and was unsparing in his denunciation of the system that assumed to transform political hacks into farmers, carpenters, blacksmiths and teachers by Presidential appointment and set them over Indians as instructors in industrial lines. Opportunity to see and report upon such matters was soon denied him, and the work of the Indian Bureau drifted along these lines for some years thereafter. It is gratifying to note that farmers in the Indian service are now required to know something about agriculture—enough, as it appears from the above statement, to make their political qualifications for the position subordinate to their practical knowledge of soils and how and when to prepare and plant and harvest their crops.

INCREASE OF TEMPERANCE.

The Oregonian in a recent editorial commented on the fact that prudence in drinking of all kinds of alcoholic liquors has increased, and that total abstinence from them is relatively much more frequent than formerly. The Oregonian attributed this reform chiefly to the fact that drinking habits are fatal to the prospects of any man desirous of obtaining and retaining decent employment. Jules Cambon, the French Ambassador to the United States, in a recent interview at Paris, said, in speaking of this country, that "the vast majority abstain from strong drink," meaning by that distilled liquors.

The New York Sun notes the interesting fact that while organized temperance agitation has diminished greatly in activity, the better understanding of the evil effects of intemperate alcoholic indulgence has greatly extended the practice of individual temperance. There is very much less drinking of ardent spirits at clubs than formerly, and well-defined intoxication is now a cause of severe reproach, while formerly it was indulgently treated as an amiable weakness. Chronic hard drinkers are avoided and distrusted. At dinner abstemiousness is the rule, and any excess leads to social ostracism.

The Tammany general committee is now full of total abstainers. None of the great political leaders are intemperate. Many of them are total abstainers. The same is true of the great leaders in finance, trade and the professions, in which the strain put upon all men is so severe that it can only be borne by strictly sober heads. Hard drinkers have become a class by themselves, and are treated as untrustworthy or irresponsible members of society. The social ostracism and business ill-repute that is the penalty of confirmed intemperance has accomplished results that were never reached under the passionate methods of the old-time temperance revivalists. The liquor question has ceased to be a vexing question in politics, because the evils of alcoholic abuse are recognized by all parties. In other words, intemperance is yielding to pressure of what might be called the moral sense that is inseparable from the enlightened perception of physical well-being and social welfare.

TRADE CONDITIONS HEALTHY.

Money for handling the immense crop of wheat now being harvested in Oregon, Washington and Idaho is moving to the interior again, and the weekly bank clearings reflect the movement. Last week the clearings of the Portland banks were $452,381 greater than on the best previous week for a corresponding date, while Seattle, which has but little wheat trade, showed a loss of $2,008,122 as compared with the same week on her best previous year. There are other factors in Portland's industrial activity which are also quite prominent in keeping general trade up to record-breaking proportions for the dull midsummer season. The salmon run is holding up to wonderful proportions, and is in a fair way to end the season with canneries and cold-storage houses crowded to their limit. Greater packs were made on the Columbia River several years ago, but owing to the high prices paid for the raw material it is doubtful whether the industry ever before put so much money into circulation in so short a space of time.

In the lumber trade there is a lull, so far as local business is concerned, but the foreign demand is excellent, and the Pacific Export Lumber Company is sending out so many record-breaking cargoes that it will soon place Portland in the front rank of lumber-exporting ports. While the wheat harvest is employing an army of men, the demands of the fruitgrowers are also taking up large numbers of laborers, and growers are profiting somewhat at the expense of the California fruitmen, as the strike has held back receipts of fruit from the south and afforded a better market for the Oregon fruit. Peaches of the later varieties are coming in more freely from Southern Oregon, and the big melon patches of The Dalles are sending in nutmeg melons.

The wool market continues strong, with an upward tendency, and there is a brisk demand for all that is still unsold. The strike in California has shut off the supply of potatoes from that direction, and Oregon farmers are profiting accordingly through having a better field for disposing of their product. After one of the longest seasons for good pasturage on record, vegetation is at last drying up, and the output of the creameries is curtailed somewhat. There was no change in the price of butter last week, but an advance is not improbable within a short time. Eastern dealers are again cutting in on the Coast trade with eggs, and in the absence of an outside demand Portland dealers are unable to clean up stocks except at reduced prices. Poultry ruled firm throughout the week, and there was an excellent demand for all of the pork and veal that was received.

There was quite an improvement in the price of cereals in the East, and some of it extended to the Pacific Coast, in spite of the obstructing factors of a big strike and high freights. Oats and barley on the Pacific Coast are feeling the influence of the enormous crop, and it will require the worst damage that has yet been reported to the corn crop to bring good prices for all that will be on sale on the Pacific Coast. Grocery trade last week was of big proportions, the demand for seasonable staples being exceptionally heavy.

The memory of far-away events, dates, names and even of locations, may be and is very likely to be at fault. It is thus that folk-lore can never attain to the status of history. The pioneers and the early missionaries of the Pacific Northwest, deeming, perhaps, events of their daily lives in the wilderness as commonplace, kept relatively scant record of them. What they "remember" at this late day may or may not be accurate in detail, though the general facts given, when uncolored by opinion, are unquestioned. Francis Fuller Victor has perhaps recited as many interesting incidents of these early times as any other writer or story-teller. Of what she has published it may be said in general terms that it is "good reading." The great bulk of it is, moreover, valuable as history. This is as true of her latest article, published in The Sunday Oregonian a week ago, as of her book, "All Over Oregon and Washington," brought out many years ago. The inaccuracies in the book she herself acknowledges, and she would, if time and opportunity served, gladly revise the work and correct it. The inaccuracies in her latest article friendly critics have already pointed out. It may be said here that while these are trivial as compared with the many facts stated, it is well enough to correct them, since from detached articles the history of the early settlement of the vast Pacific Northwest will be in due time compiled.

It is hard to see how Kitchener's latest order respecting the Boers can help the British cause in South Africa. The Boers are not fighting merely for diversion at this stage of the war, and threats of punishment that would really be milder than their present daily hardships will not scare them to peace. It is pretty clear that they do not want peace under British dominion. The Afrikander who left home, family, property, to fight the hated British—what does it matter to him to be told that his estate will be held for the support of his family in British hands? What does he care that the British may declare formal banishment against him? He voluntarily took up a heavier burden, submitted to greater loss and discomfort long ago. Moreover, he will see that it would be impossible for the British to enforce the punishment they threaten, even if there were any virtue in it. It is safe to say that the grim determination of the diminishing race of Boers will not be affected by Kitchener's offers of amnesty or threats of punishment. The British will be obliged to wear the enemy out man by man. It is an expensive and wearisome task, but it will be done, and when done 'twill be well done.

Among the 311 descendants of King Charles II of England and Nell Gwynne are the Duke of St. Albans, the Countess of Warwick, Lord Rossyln and the Duchess of Sutherland. The Duke of Richmond is descended from Charles Lennox, the first Duke of Richmond, who was the illegitimate son of Charles II and Louise de Querouaille, a French woman, sent over to England by Louis XIV of France, and created Duchess of Portsmouth by her royal lover. The Duke of Grafton is descended from the first Duke of Grafton, who was the illegitimate son of Charles II and Barbara Villiers, Duchess of Cleveland. The Earl of Munster bears the royal arms with the bar sinister to indicate his irregular descent from King William IV and Mrs. Jordan, the actress, all of whose nine illegitimate sons and daughters were well provided for, while their unfortunate mother was brutally discarded and allowed to die in great poverty and distress.

Farmers can hardly give too much attention to the cleansing of their fields from noxious growths. The laws require this to be done, but the laws on this subject are generally ignored. Every man who has an acre of ground and tills the soil has a personal interest in keeping the land clean. One of the greatest pests that can get into the farmers' fields is the Canada thistle. It is a most persistent grower, spreading chiefly under ground and defying all ordinary methods of destruction. Few things can pull down the value of good land more than this weed. A short time ago The Oregonian printed a photographic reproduction of the plant that would enable any one to recognize it. This morning another view is given, showing the plan of its root growth, and much information concerning its extermination is also given. Farmers should paste this where it will be available in time of need.

Wheat of the Columbia Basin is turning out in the measure better than it promised standing in the fields. The salmon run, which was a failure in the first half of the season, is so great that the salmon trust, before its organization is fairly completed, is counting on distributing $1,000,000 in dividends. Railroads can't get cars enough to carry their traffic, nor laborers enough to build extensions into new fields. There is great demand for fishermen and harvest hands. No man able and willing to work is idle. And yet we are told this is the dull season.

The fishermen are to be congratulated on the remarkable run of salmon this year. So are all persons who have business that bears relations to the fishing industry. So, especially, is the City of Astoria. The experience of this year shows that with even moderate expenditure on artificial propagation the high-water mark of production in former times, when dependence was on natural propagation, may easily be excelled and always continued.

There are now just about 9,000,000 blacks in the United States, in a total population of 75,000,000. They are nearly one-eighth of the whole. The striking fact is that they increased in about the same ratio with the whites during the two decades, 1880-1890 and 1890-1900. The blacks are not dying out. They are here to stay, and from all appearance they will continue to increase as fast as the whites, though not reinforced as the whites are by immigration.

It is clear that the United States is now a sea power. Formerly the scandals and jealousies and petty quarrels were in the Army, but the Navy has swept nobly to the front, and is now about our most lively institution. It ought to have a censor and a fumigating plant to complete its equipment.

THE ALARM ABOUT CORN.

Scary reports about corn in Nebraska and Kansas are so often disproved when the ears are picked that one is fain to discount them, like the annual announcement of the failure of the New Jersey and Delaware peach crop. The New York Journal of Commerce has been looking up the record of last year when the crop was reported ruined but eventually turned out heavy. It says:

> The prices of stocks have been depressed for several days because Kansas corn was suffering from drouth. The price of corn dropped 2½ cents on Saturday, not because of rain, but because it was becoming to be realized that the scare was very much overdone.
>
> The Mississippi Valley is subject every Summer to great waves of heat. These reach as far east as Springfield, Ill., but not to Chicago, because that is in the lake basin, and extremes of heat and cold are modified by large bodies of water. But to the West these heat waves extend through and beyond the Missouri Valley. They extend as far north as the northern boundary of Iowa, and occasionally go beyond it. It is a very rare Summer when the thermometer does not go above 100 in the river towns of Iowa and westward through Kansas. Much of the last-named state is in what used to be called the Great American Desert. In the western end of the state, beyond 100 degrees of longitude, agriculture is precarious, and in the central part of the state rain is apt to be scanty. The present hot wave in Kansas seems to have gone somewhat higher than usual and has lasted longer, but the phenomenon it presents recurs every year. The dry winds, the absence of rain, are normal at this season, and there are always apprehensions they may last long enough to greatly injure the crop, and there are always estimates of the amount of loss that will result if rain does not come very soon. There are not uncommonly announcements that irreparable injury has already occurred.
>
> It seems worth while to reproduce the warnings of a total corn failure in Kansas a year ago.
>
> September corn closed June 20 last year at 46⅝; it rose pretty constantly on dry weather reports till it closed at 49½ July 14, and on July 20 it closed at 44⅝. The following are excerpts from the news of the first three weeks of last July:
>
> 5th. Weather Bureau report: In portions of Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas corn is suffering from drouth.
>
> Weather reported very hot in Kansas and Oklahoma.
>
> 6th. Corn needs rain in Kansas and Oklahoma.
>
> 7th. Snow, Chicago, wires: "In Northern Kansas all corn on upland and sandy spots already seriously damaged and going back every day. Some fields now beyond anything except fodder."
>
> 9th. "108 in the shade and wind 20 miles an hour" is the substance of a dispatch from somewhere in Kansas this A. M. by Snow.
>
> Talk of hot, dry winds in Kansas and prices scored a net advance of about 1½c.
>
> 10th. Snow wires from Topeka: "From Manhattan, Kan., north and west, to the state line, the situation is desperate. This section has one-third of the acreage of the state. Early corn is in tassel under four feet high, and can make no crop. Late corn is stunted and firing, going back fast. Conditions this morning favor hot winds. Another week like last will cut the Kansas corn crop in half. I hear that conditions in southwest counties are getting very bad."
>
> Damage to corn in Nebraska was reported this A. M., and firmed the early market. No rains in Kansas over Sunday or today were reported. The West was buying corn this A. M. on dry weather.
>
> 11th. Snow wires from Topeka: "Yesterday a hard one for corn in west half of state, but this was where rains were reported this A. M."
>
> 12th. Weather conditions through Kansas threaten serious damage to corn; hot winds probable.
>
> About this time Snow telegraphed from Concordia: "Corn is beyond help on more than half the acreage of the best counties in North and Central Kansas. The balance cannot make more than half a crop at the best. The drouth area is rapidly extending east."
>
> 13th. A dispatch from Kansas City says: "Corn getting worse and worse; suffering badly and dry area getting larger."
>
> Reports from Kansas dry corn belt are discouraging. The local showers were of temporary benefit only and in many fields the corn leaves roll up under the scorching rays of the sun . . . Reports received here today state that the earth is dry for six inches. . . . . All corn adjacent to wheat fields is suffering from chinch bugs.
>
> 14th. Snow wires from Salina: "Good rains needed at once to make two-thirds of a crop. . . . Uplands gone and valleys fast failing. It was 100 in the shade here yesterday. Half the state borders on a calamity."
>
> 16th. No rains reported in the corn belt and market up again; temperature, 94 yesterday in parts of Kansas and Nebraska. Jewell City, Kan., wires: "Situation worse every day; cannot possibly make half a corn crop."
>
> 17th. The drouth has been most effectively broken in Kansas and Nebraska by heavy and general rains last night and today. Estimates of damage done to corn in Northern Kansas and Southern Nebraska are 25 per cent by the hot, dry weather. The damage has been checked.
>
> 18th. Weather Bureau report: Condition of corn in Kansas and Nebraska is less favorable than in the previous week, and crop is suffering for rain in portions of Missouri, Southern Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina.
>
> 19th. Nebraska state crop bulletin: "Early planted corn in most of the southern counties has been permanently injured to a considerable extent."
>
> Kansas crop bulletin: "Corn is seriously damaged in western counties and dead in some of northern counties."
>
> In spite of the drouth of the early part of July, Kansas produced 82.7 per cent as much corn as in the average of the five preceding years, and Nebraska produced 210,000,000 bushels, against 224,000,000 in 1899 and 158,000,000 in 1898.

Continued Alliance Impossible.

Springfield Republican.

Thus far the Republican party has successfully maintained a political alliance between the manufacturing East and the agricultural Northwest by convincing the majority of the farmers that the party was really democratic rather than plutocratic in its sympathies and policies. Now this alliance cannot be maintained in the future unless the party's policy removes the apprehensions of those who like not the looks of tariff-protected trusts, whose goods "yield no revenue, need no protection and . . . are articles of export" through the world. It would be foolish to decry Babcocklism, since in reality it represents a powerful force. This force, while distinguished for conservatism, is at heart as much opposed to an oligarchy of wealth in this country as in the radical Democracy, or even the Populists.

The Protected Trusts.

Chicago Chronicle.

The whole evil system of strikes comes from the national evil of subsidies and tariff protection for the great manufacturing trusts. The measures for "protection" are carried through Congress by the argument that the higher prices of the "protected" manufacturers will cause an increase in the wages of labor. If the manufacturers are enabled to extort higher prices from the people, increasing their profits, a part of their prosperity will overflow and benefit the men in their employ.

It does not work that way except as to a few individuals in the manufactories who constitute a sort of aristocracy of labor. The great number of employes never get "a smell" of the prosperity which their votes bring to their "protected" employers.

PRIVATEERING AND PIRACY.

New York Journal of Commerce.

One does not expect telegraphic dispatches to be revised by professors of international law, but one would hardly expect a French newspaper, the "Petit Bleu," or the Brussels correspondent who forwarded its remarks to this country, to be entirely oblivious to what constitutes piracy. The remark was that President, or ex-President, Kruger was being urged to issue letters of marque, or at least to threaten to unless Continental nations would intervene: "In the event of Mr. Kruger's continued refusal the promoters propose to act without authorization."

But a private armed ship without a government commission is simply a pirate; everyone knows that except some in the office of the "Petit Bleu," and the correspondent who thought it was worth while to telegraph what it said. Every body who is in a position to send a ship to sea knows it, and if any promoters are threatening to employ armed vessels to prey on British commerce they are mere promoters of talk and sensational yarns; they have no ships and no money to get ships with, and they couldn't raise a hundred francs toward the purchase and equipment of an armed vessel to operate under the Transvaal flag, but without a Transvaal commission, against the shipping of the greatest naval power in the world.

If Mr. Kruger were more compliant he would not be wise. The suggestion of privateers was made to him early in the war with England, and he had sense enough to reject it. It is very doubtful if the project could have been carried out even when the Transvaal was performing the functions of a sovereign nation. Nearly all the civilized nations agreed in 1856 to abolish privateering. The United States and Spain were not parties to that agreement, but the United States only withheld its consent because Europe would not go so far as this country desired to go in the protection of private property at sea. It is understood that this country and Spain mutually agreed three years ago not to employ privateers. If there was no question of the authority of the Transvaal to issue letters of marque it is not at all clear what would be the status of a privateer authorized by the Transvaal, when it was undoubtedly a nation, in view of this attitude of the whole civilized world toward privateers.

As the Transvaal has no sea coast it is difficult to see how it could have either a regular navy or privateers. There would be no such thing as a home port for a ship carrying the Transvaal flag. Where could she take her prizes, in what courts could she get them condemned, and in what ports could she refit and procure her supplies? If letters of marque from the Transvaal Government were recognized it would remain true that the ordinary neutrality laws, common to all nations, would render a Transvaal privateer impossible. The British authorities ordered Dewey out of Hong Kong when we made war on Spain; what would become of a public or private war vessel that did not have a home port in the world?

If letters of marque from the Transvaal Government would have been of no use two years ago, what value would attach to them now? The capital is in the possession of the British, who claim to have annexed the whole country; the President is a fugitive in Europe, and if there is any civil government at all it must be moving about constantly with what remains of the Boer armies. The Transvaal never could have commissioned privateers; it could do so now less than ever; the civilization of the world has outgrown the privateer. This is the important thing, and one of the most distinct marks of human progress. The threat to issue letters of marque if Continental nations would not intervene is laughable. If the Transvaal could employ privateers, and if they ravaged the British mercantile marine, the only result would be an increase of business for German, French and other Continental shipping.

THOMAS B. REED.

His Name Once More Suggested for the Presidency.

Boston Advertiser.

Mr. Reed was perfectly frank, in the Winter of 1895-96, and in the Spring of the latter year, in letting it be known that he had an ambition to be President. If he has ever renounced that ambition, he has not, to our knowledge, declared the fact. Certainly, his retirement from Congress did not in any manner amount to a vow of future abstinence from politics.

Suppose Mr. Reed were to become the anti-Tammany candidate for Mayor of New York next Fall, were to be supported heartily by Republicans of all factions and of no faction, by the Democrats who are sick of Croker (a mighty host), and by independents—in a word, by the intelligence and decency of the metropolis. He would be elected. The Mayoralty of New York is, at this time, the one office in the United States where a great, legitimate, Nation-wide, dazzling reputation can be made by a clean and strong man, if elected and supported by the best citizens. Mr. Reed has in extraordinary degree many of the prime qualities for just that work.

In the case supposed, what power on earth, or under the earth, could hinder "Tom" Reed's nomination for President by the Republican convention in 1904?

Mr. Reed could not be nominated; or, if nominated, could scarcely be elected. He is a man of vigorous opinions, of powerful personality, of great independence of character. Such men are set aside for the facile and complaisant politician, for the opportunist, who places himself "in the hands of his friends," and may be expected to do what they require. The chances that any first-rate man will be elected at any time to the Presidency of the United States, or to other high office, are steadily diminishing. Everybody knows it, and everybody knows why.

More Than He Can Understand.

The Tillamodok Herald of August 8 observes editorially:

> The Oregonian again showed its friendship for the people of Tillamook, Tuesday, by publishing a four-column article on the "alleged timber land frauds in Tillamook County," composed principally of the most damnable pack of lies that could be devised by a few hirelings of the railroad company, which is trying to swindle the people out of their right to buy timber lands on the same terms that other people have purchased them for years. What The Oregonian expects to make by lending its columns to such disreputable characters, men who to do others dirt will admit their own perjury, is more than we can understand.

What is meant by "right to buy timber-lands on the same terms that other people have purchased them for years"? Does this mean that other people have been getting timber-land unlawfully for years, or that the entries in question are strictly according to law?

At the head of the Herald is this legend: "R. M. Watson, editor and proprietor." In that list of 73 Tillamook claims contested for fraudulent entry we find the following:

Robert M. Watson, S. ½ of S. ½, section 2, T. 2 N., R. 7 W.

Long-Suffering Billy.

New York Press.

Ex-Secretary Chandler has taken his time over the prosecution of the critics of his Administration of the Navy Department. It is 20 years since it began, and nearly as long since it was closed, and Rear-Admiral Evans' averment that it made a "job lot of the service" is about the mildest comment on it which we can recall. However, the spectacle of the development of the quality of sensitiveness in a statesman is always pleasing. In Tallapoosa times not even the germ of this laudable growth was discernible in this particular statesman's character.

Old but Agile.

Grand Rapids (Mich.) Herald.

Hetty Green may not be as young as she was once, but she is still agile enough to climb a high board fence to escape the kodak fiend. She would climb still higher to escape the Assessor.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Let's not spoil this fine weather by talking about it.

After all, Columbia is just as fast a boat as she was before.

Waldersee goes home for his glory after the fashion of Roberts.

King Edward is like the rest of us—he objects to a canonical oath.

Don't wait until all the boys are drowned before giving to the bath fund.

The difference between King Corn and Corn King is that one is Phillips.

Bryan is more capable of learning than you think. He's in the newspaper business.

One of these days it will go off when Venezuela and Colombia don't know it's loaded.

Doctors say that money spreads disease. They might add that disease spreads money.

If the Lord knows as much about some people as we do, heaven will not be overcrowded.

Hero-worship would be a more common religion if so many heroes were not its high priests.

The figures of the South American rubber output are large, but not thought to be stretched.

Kansas and Nebraska are having storms of rain and hail. The farmers must have prayed too long.

A man named Hen, back East, has changed his name. But he is just as dead set since as before.

That French air navigator in Paris has got up higher in his profession than any of his predecessors.

The length of the Juneau-Skagway cable shows that words between those cities will be long drawn out.

The Boxers are restive but will not make another disturbance until the powers have defined the meaning of "loot."

> I can't get it through my head,
> Although I'm in wits invested,
> The proper course of the law
> When a forest fire's arrested.

Grains and grasses will be a feature of the Portland carnival. Hayseeds will arrive after the carnival is under way.

> To carry war against the fleet mosquito,
> My plan, if I can give it metric feet,
> Is something which I know you'll all agree to,
> Let's use against them the mosquito fleet.

Kitchener will end the Boer war Sunday, September 15. Why not put it off to December and have a Christmas dinner?

> Whenever a man which one of the horns
> Of dilemma don't know to take,
> Most often you'll find his choice is the one
> His thirst is most likely to slake.

We trust that the dispute in Eastern Oregon over ranges will not result in the stockmen's getting into the sheepmen's wool.

It is rumored that Kitchener is wounded, but as the Boers are not believed to have any long-range artillery, the report is discredited.

Governor Pennoyer promises to be present at Salem without subjecting the state to the expense of serving the papers. He could be more public-spirited only by paying his share of Davis' bond.

Sarah Bernhardt is quoted in the Paris Figaro as saying: "The English public is more serious than the American public. The American goes to the theater solely to amuse himself, while the Englishman reflects, compares, educates and informs himself at the same time. Besides, the Americans have the oddity to consider the French—how shall I put it?—a degenerate people. The English have more respect for us. I ask myself why is this?"

A man whose stomach and not his throat has been for several years the habitation of a frog is one of the curiosities of a hamlet nestled among the Watchung Mountains, about five miles from Bound Brook, N. J. Edward Blasire, a farmer, has been ailing for some time. His symptoms have baffled physicians of the vicinity, and one by one they have given up the case as incurable. Notwithstanding the fact that he was unable to work and was slowly wasting away, Blasire was particularly fond of meat. When Dr. Fred A. Wild, of Bound Rock, questioned him he said he suffered from pains in the region of his stomach and occasionally experienced a sensation as if something animated was moving about. Dr. Wild urged an operation, which was performed. The doctors removed from the patient's stomach a full-grown frog more than five inches long. It was similar to ordinary frogs, except that an examination showed that it had never had the use of its eyes, owing to its strange dwelling place. Blasire is now on the road to recovery.

Here's His Chance.

Boston Herald.

Since young Mr. Vanderbilt shows a desire to become a railroad inventor, why doesn't he try his hand at making a car window that can be raised during the Summer season?

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

Summer Ethnology.—"Pa, what is a preglacial man?" "Why, man before he had to pay ice bills, of course."—Detroit Free Press.

"Some of these missionaries out here," said the heathen, "are regular birds." "Yes; birds of pray," remarked the other, significantly.—Philadelphia Record.

Explained.—Mrs. Goodsale—To what do you attribute your appetite for strong drink? Is it hereditary? Wragson Tatters—No, lady; it's thirst.—Philadelphia Press.

Progressing.—Mrs. Black—Am Lucy Jackson's husband able to go to wuck yit? Mrs. Johnson—De docktah say he am, but he say he am only jes' well enough to inj'y loafin'.—Brooklyn Life.

Before the Bout.—"Is Mickey in condition?" "He's as fine as silk. Ah, Mickey's a great boy. He's got something up his sleeve that'll astonish all thim other duffers." "What is it, Mister Doolan?" "It's his ar-r-m."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"He speaks of making headway in the 'teeth of the gale,'" remarked the editor. "False!" said the yachting correspondent, who knew there had not been even a ripple. "Ah, then, I will put it the 'false teeth of the gale.'"—Philadelphia Record.

"I'm ready," shouted the speaker, "to meet calmly any emergency that may arise." At this moment the platform collapsed, and the speaker exhibited great perturbation. "How about that one?" they asked him later. "That one did not arise," he replied, mournfully.—Tit-Bits.

A Hopeless Reformer.—"It is sad to see this mercenary spirit so flagrantly manifested in politics," said the earnest citizen. "Yes," answered Senator Sorghum. "I have fought against it all I could, but it's no use. I can't get people to vote my way without payin' 'em."—Washington Star.