

The Oregonian.

Entered at the Postoffice at Portland, Oregon, as second-class matter.

Editorial Rooms: 1001 Business Office, 1007.

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By Mail (postage prepaid), in Advance—
Daily, with Sunday, per month..... \$5
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speed been reached under present methods of construction and rigging that it may be necessary to trust the race to one or the other boat without any absolute knowledge as to which is the more worthy.

Though British yachtsmen are, as usual, cocksure of a victory, it is a tolerably safe guess that the cup will not be poorly defended either by the new boat or the old. Races of former years have demonstrated pretty clearly that the Americans are the better sailors, and the difference between Shamrock I and II is not so great as that between Shamrock I and Columbia, as shown by the races of two years ago. And so, while the kind of a breeze which shall blow when the cup races are sailed may cause the Americans to sail, whatever be their choice of a defender, that they had selected the right boat, the winner has little fear that it will be necessary another year to send a challenger to England to bring back the cup.

AN OBSTACLE TO GROWTH.

Commissioner Herman is quoted as saying that the General Government has no complaint against Jesse Carr for fencing in 80,000 acres of Oregon and California land. The only grievance, he says, is from the adjoining settlers, including stockmen. Without exploiting the humorous possibilities of this naive utterance, it will be sufficient to point out that the Commissioner's assertion affords strong evidence of the pressure of population upon the immense private reserves of this state. A similar order of affairs exists in Texas, as is detailed in a descriptive letter from there, printed in the Los Angeles Times.

The territory of Oklahoma, through the operation of the homestead law and the limitation of individual land holdings to comparatively small areas, has in about ten years acquired as large a population, per square mile, as Texas has acquired in considerably more than half a century under the handicap of large holdings. The letter in the Times describes a single large ranch covering nearly 1,500,000 acres and owned by the estate of the late Richard King, a former steamboat captain and general speculator. The land lies in the extreme southern part of Texas, between Corpus Christi and Brownsville, and includes a large portion of the three counties of Nueces, Cameron and Hidalgo. It is all enclosed by a wire fence. One can travel ninety miles in the straight line without crossing the boundary. The ranch is about as large as the State of Delaware and nearly twice as large as Rhode Island. Within its boundaries, which include a number of villages, Mrs. King reigns as an absolute monarch, state or local laws having little influence, apparently, in influencing conduct or settling disputes. By her control over her territory, she is in a position to control the district, of three counties and of several municipalities, including the cities of Corpus Christi and Brownsville.

It is easy to see what possibilities an estate of this sort possesses in the way of obstructing development, and it appears that the Kings have utilized them to the utmost. It was Captain King's policy, as it remains that of his widow, to possess and establish, if possible, as large a tract as it could be divided, "the biggest ranch in America," and the present owner is said to be confident that she has so arranged matters that it cannot be broken up for two generations at least. The land is almost wholly devoted to cattle-raising, the entire energies of the estate being placed in opposition to the incoming of "railroads, farmers or any other forces of a disintegrating character." But for this it could be made one of the most magnificent garden spots in the world. For, although the rainfall is slight and unreliable, and the soil looks sandy, it is sub-irrigated throughout by a sheet of fresh water, causing a luxuriant growth of vegetation. It would be an ideal place for a large estate, with far less labor than is required on most Oregon lands, a population of 50,000 souls. But under the restrictions imposed by its presence, the total population of the three counties across which it stretches—occupying about one-fourth of their area—not counting the two cities named, has been held down to 2,101; the increase of twenty years having been insignificant.

There is little need to point out the application of this Texas story to Oregon. We have Captain Kings among us in menacing number. The growth of population presses not only upon Jesse Carr's fence; but in every part of the state upon range preserves and needlessly large farms. One cattle ranch alone occupies 145,000 acres of land for grazing in California and Oregon, mostly in Oregon. In Malheur and Harney Counties three or four firms control nearly all the eligible land. In the Willamette Valley there are many farms of 1400 and 1500 acres each which would be far more productive and support much greater populations if broken up into many a "little farm" as it is called in the John Day Valley where the men who are resisting the country's development are those who hold vast tracts for ranges and don't want it broken up for small settlers. Here is one reason why Oregon does not grow as rapidly as some other states, not only in agriculture, but in manufacture and trade and in everything that goes along with increasing population.

INIMICAL TO HISTORY.

The reprint administered to Rear-Admiral Evans for his criticisms upon Secretary Chandler is almost universally condemned by naval officers as a blow at free speech and the truth of history. When a man quits office he becomes a historical character and he is entitled to no more immunity from criticism in general literature than other members of that class.

The new rule established by the Evans decision will prevent any even-tempered man from writing the history of his time from writing with absolute frankness about the great events of his career, and this means of course the loss of a great deal of most valuable historical material. An officer who desires to speak plainly concerning a former Secretary cannot attack his victim before death or after death, for to attack the living man or even his memory falls within the scope of official rebuke to Rear-Admiral Evans. The only thing an officer can do is to put his facts and his comments into the form of a memoir to be published after his own death.

It is fortunate that this new rule was not promulgated at the close of the Civil War, when the great naval hero, Admiral D. D. Porter, would have been compelled to speak with absolute amiability of the administration of Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles, whom

Porter hated most cordially because Welles tried to prevent his succession to the head of the Navy, after the death of Admiral Farragut, by sending President Grant a private letter written to Welles in opposition of Grant. Secretary Welles was a good hater and a keen fighter, and able to take care of himself in a controversy with Porter, but the Evans rule would have sealed Porter's lips.

THEN AND NOW.

Admiral George Dewey is not the first and he will certainly not be the last man to discover that, while popularity may be easily won, it is, like money, easily obtained, soon parted with. When Admiral Dewey destroyed the Spanish fleet he coasted have been a formidable candidate for the Presidency had he at once authorized his friends and admirers to announce his candidacy, but he put his foot down firmly upon this suggestion, and lost his political opportunity. When he came home from Manila he was still the popular hero of his country. Both parties vied with each other in paying him extravagant honors, and he kept his head moored to saving common sense he would today be a popular hero, and would have been as reverently regarded as Farragut was all his days. But he was weak enough to do and say some things that disenchanted the American people, and then he committed the blunder of trying to control the press in the Presidential campaign when it was clear to everybody but Admiral Dewey that he had lost his opportunity if he ever had one. The moment the people began to suspect that Admiral Dewey was, like the great Admiral Nelson, a good deal of a fool anywhere but on the quarter-deck, they had no further use for him, and have been chubbing his efficiency in the sea since he was promoted to the rank of admiral. His early sentences were punctuated with cries of "Sit down!" "Put him out!" "Don't listen to him!" The chairman hoped he would be heard, but a voice called out, "We don't want to hear him." The chairman insisted that Mr. Stevens be heard, and he read for some time, when a stockholder got up and moved, saying, "I have listened to you long enough. The vote was not far from a tie, and the chairman gave Mr. Stevens the floor until he made a statement that offended the chairman, who said: 'Mr. Stevens has made a statement that is not true, and that is not relevant to the resolution. I therefore ask him to sit down.' Mr. Stevens attempted to go on, but now he had the chairman against him, and he was asked to give up. One of the stockholders got the floor and said: 'I think you will all agree with me that we have suffered enough from that man,' pointing to Mr. Stevens, 'and that we heartily rejoice that we have got rid of him.' His further expressions of opinion of Mr. Stevens were interrupted by the chairman, who rose and said: 'The manager was not the one to be listened to longer. The vote was not far from a tie, and the chairman gave Mr. Stevens the floor until he made a statement that offended the chairman, who said: 'Mr. Stevens has made a statement that is not true, and that is not relevant to the resolution. 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