

The Oregonian

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TODAY'S WEATHER—Generally fair, with southwest breeze. Tomorrow's weather—Maximum temperature, 61; minimum temperature, 32; precipitation, none.

INQUISITIVE DUTIES.

It is to be regretted that the reciprocity treaties now pending do not involve concessions to foreign manufacturers of wares made in other than this country.

Now, there is a protective tariff on steel billets of \$7 a ton. What necessity exists for this? None absolutely.

Thus, in 1886 the price of billets was about \$20.25, and throughout 1887 and 1888, in spite of improving business, they sold at from \$14.25 to \$16.50.

Yet while the iron and steel and allied interests are thus the main beneficiaries of the treaty, there is no reduction proposed on the duties on mined steel.

The face of J. Pierpont Morgan as a delegate to an ecclesiastical body has quite a different expression from that of the same man in his Wall-street office as he is negotiating a loan for a million dollars or knitting his brows over the formation of the great steel trust.

Stand! the ground's your own, my braves; Will ye give it up to slaves? With an ancestral bequest of patriotism, freedom, commercial spirit, energy and good health, a man ought to make himself into a citizen of large usefulness, and far-reaching power in the world.

for this he deserves the credit due to the builder who is too sagacious to throw away or bungle good material.

OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE.

New York City has never had a campaign of greater National interest and importance than the one now inaugurated by the two nominations of Seth Low, Republican, and Edward M. Shepard, Democrat.

At the last election, three-cornered through bad management of reformers and stubbornness or worse of Platt, Mr. Low polled 151,000 votes, against 102,000 for Tracy, regular Republican, and 233,000 for Van Wyck, Tammany Democrat.

There is still evident, however, the firm conviction that the financial interests of the city are best divorced from the Mayor. The new charter emphasizes the tendency revealed in the device of an elective councilorship.

Both changes have this effect in common, that they serve to make it more difficult for any Mayor to find it men to take office under him.

On the whole, therefore, the new charter increases the Mayor's power, except over apportionment of funds to departments and their application to public works; and, as the New York Times pointedly says, "the changes have made it more difficult for the Mayor to be before to sustain the cause of good government in the coming election."

POLITICAL WISDOM OF FRANCE.

Much is made by European political observers of the triple alliance between Germany, Austria and Italy in its present form.

The effort to secure the removal of H. Clay Evans, the just and honest Commissioner of Pensions, was renewed with the advent of the new Administration.

There was a grand change of 20,000 cavalry, at Compiègne, France, for the entertainment of the Czar of Russia. As a spectacle, it was splendid, but 5000 marksmen armed with Mausers could have utterly broken that magnificent body of cavalry at the distance of half a mile in open plain.

and rapidly of fire, the fortified frontier of France could not possibly be forced by Germany.

France is, of course, equally unable to undertake the vast project of an attack upon Commissioner Evans. Fifty thousand pension attorneys are supported today out of needless commissions from their old comrades.

This difference cannot be explained except upon the ground that in the District of Columbia, in Vermont, Ohio, Wisconsin and Indiana, political pugilism has had much to do with the manufacture of pensions through the enactment of special bills.

A LATTER-DAY FRANKLIN.

Horace Greeley was sometimes termed by his admirers "Our Latter-Day Franklin." Greeley, however, bore small resemblance to Franklin, save in the superficial and inconsequential circumstances of the printer's case and self-made, that is, self-educated man.

There died in Hartford, Conn., recently in his 74th year, a man of Franklin quality in the person of James Goodwin Batterson.

Dr. Monfett, in a paper read recently before the Medical and Surgical Society in Paris, made the startling statement that mortality in France from tuberculosis is 300 per cent higher than in England.

One could almost wish that Sir Thomas Lipton had carried off the prize. He is a fair-minded, chivalrous, lucky sportsman. He has made his contest like a man.

THE PRESIDENT AND PENSIONS.

The effort to secure the removal of H. Clay Evans, the just and honest Commissioner of Pensions, was renewed with the advent of the new Administration.

It is safe to say that no body of insurgent Filipinos will ever again get between a company of American troops and their quarters and arms, while the troops are at breakfast—or at any other time.

promptly and fully considered and as quickly paid, when allowed, without the employment of a claim agent to advance it.

Some witty and domestically unhappy judge decided that the place where a man goes when he has nowhere else to go. A good many men seem to accept this definition.

Home is not merely a furnished house occupied by relatives. Home is an idea, a tradition, a miniature Utopia. Every family does not succeed in making a home.

WHAT CONSTITUTES A HOME.

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AN ANTHRACITE INVASION.

The chartering of the British steamship Ormsby to take a cargo of anthracite coal from Philadelphia to Stettin, thence to be shipped to Berlin, where the 300 tons are to be burned in American stoves, marks a new and distinctive departure in the coal trade.

A Disturber of the Labor Market.

The cotton manufacturers of Fall River, than whom there is no more solidly established combination of wage-payers in the country, are raging against Matthew Borden for blocking their scheme to force the Boston mills to accept his plan.

Emotional Impracticables.

Senator Dolliver has made a fitting answer to the man who schemes now promulgated by orators and writers, who forget that measures of "irresponsible despotism" are out of place in a modern republic.

Time Is Ripe.

The time is ripe for the duty incumbent. Every newspaper in Oregon should lend its influence and energy in to assist in making the 1906 exposition at Portland a success.

AMUSEMENTS.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Better luck next time, Sir Thomas. The cup is a good deal of a home body. That time allowance was a friend in need.

Thomas W. Lawson was not asked for any comments. The Court of Inquiry is beginning to wax interesting.

Friday was an unlucky day, even for a meacot like a shamcock. There was plenty of wind for the races, and W. J. Bryan 200 miles away.

Another nail has been driven into the pedestal of the ancient piece of silverware. Lord Kitchener regrets with regret that he is yet uncertain where he will eat his Christmas dinner.

What does the Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy need of the title of brevet Brigadier-General. The celebration that was to have taken place in London when the Shamrock lifted the cup has been indefinitely postponed.

Columbia, the gem of the ocean. The yacht that is to go to the Antilles, Thru' 'em entitled to parrot's devotion. They've won lots of money on them.

King Edward announces his intention to travel when the South African War is over. It is understood that he has not yet bought his tickets.

The question has arisen as to whether or not an oath taken over the telephone is legal. It certainly ought to be if there is anything in common usage.

The two Kansas boys who have raised 25 bushels of potatoes are disappointed in not having an opportunity to build a yacht to win back the cup from Lipton.

It is a trifle more than half a century since the first woman was admitted in the medical profession of this country. Forty years later there were 300 in regular practice, besides an army of trained nurses.

A year ago the husband of Mrs. Mary Hirsch, a New York woman, met with an injury that prevented him from attending to his work and also made him subject to epileptic fits.

A DARWINIAN THEORY.

Why the Drowning Man Always Throws Up His Hands. Cincinnati Inquirer. The usual idea that a drowning man is stretching out his hands for aid, or "catching at straws," is no altogether satisfactory.

Christened by the fair hands of two beautiful Ohio girls, the Holland and Porpoise, were launched this afternoon at the Crescent shipyard.

The Presidential Belt.

Springfield, Mass., Republicans. With the exception of Andrew Johnson, every President since 1856 has come from the short group of states which follow the southern shore of the Great Lakes from New York to Illinois, inclusive.

AMUSEMENTS.

Of course it is something of a shock—not say a jolt—to see Thomas G. Seabrook in a comedy. It is a comedy, but one song, and that introduced rather unceremoniously, but a man who can become the life and soul of a comedy like Seabrook is a comedy in himself.

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