

The Oregonian

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TODAY'S WEATHER - Cloudy, with showers. Tomorrow in early morning, warmer by afternoon or night. Westerly winds, shifting to easterly.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER - Maximum temperature, 42; minimum temperature, 31; fair.

PORTLAND, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11.

THE CRUELTY OF WAR.

The passage in Chamberlain's Edinburgh speech which is so hotly resented in Germany was this (he was speaking of the war in South Africa): "I think the time has come, or is coming, when measures of greater severity may be necessary. If that time comes, we can find precedents for anything we do in the actions of those nations who now criticize our 'barbarity' and 'cruelty'..."

"All war is cruel," said General Sherman, in his answer to General Hood, who had protested against the "cruelty" of Sherman's order for removal of the inhabitants of Atlanta, after the capture of the city in 1864. Hood protested, "in the name of God and humanity," against this "unprecedented measure," as he called it, which, he asserted further, "transcends in studied and ingenious cruelty all acts ever brought to my attention in the dark history of war..."

No civilized nation ever practices needless cruelty. It was not done in our Civil War; it was not done in the Franco-German War; it is not done in the South African War; we have not done it, are not doing it, in the Philippines. But cruelty is inseparable from war, and nations at war must and will employ the means necessary to win and to keep their peace.

San Francisco's Message. We are beginning to get some adequate explanation of the late upheaval in San Francisco politics. At first the city seemed to be struck all of a heap, and treated the election of Schmitt to the mayoralty as very much of a mystery and something of a joke. Now it is dawning on the local mind that the result was nothing more or less than a rebuke to machine methods in municipal affairs. We greeted the other day some representative press comment from the San Francisco papers, and their more recent utterances bring the facts out in yet clearer light.

was expected to be a Republican walk-over has turned out to be a veritable retreat from Meeker to the other candidates have fallen with him. Virtually the machine has been broken to pieces, and the aspirants for office who were left behind have been scattered like the passengers of a wrecked automobile. Every step taken by the machine to carry them through to destruction. When Portland was not one like many others who had delib-

Each in his own way. Another thing the Lewis and Clark Centennial is going to do for Portland is to uncover to the gaze of some excellent but unhappy persons the real merit of many a man whom they have been disposed to misjudge. There will be names and accounts on the subscription roll that will surprise some of our discontented ones to joy and repentance.

As a feature of this development, however, the Government must provide for a more general distribution of the moisture of the country. Encouragement is now given for the construction of irrigation works, but it is found that in many localities the encouragement is not sufficient to induce the investment of private capital in the necessary enterprises because the water sources are already largely monopolized by private holders, by virtue of which they control vast areas of soil to which they have no title.

The other day a murderer confined in the jail at Goldendale killed himself with materials that had been left in his cell inadvertently by his keepers. It was a deplorable act, and the true heinousness of it in all its relations is disclosed by the appended letter we have received from Goldendale over a fictitious signature.

A Wonderful Waterway. The account of a trip from Portland to Astoria on a twenty-two-foot ship is printed in another column this morning. "Deeper-draft vessels have been taken up and down the river and the water dropped and the "sero marks" and there is nothing unusual in the trip mentioned except that it comes at a time when the obstructions between Portland and the sea can be viewed to the best advantage.

Lacking in Veldt-Craft. A late dispatch says: "It is understood that it is the intention of the British War Office to send 5000 mounted men to South Africa within the next six weeks." It is an accepted fact that if the Boers are to be conquered the British must match them in their own methods of warfare as effective as their own - that is to say, as suitable as their own to the conditions that are to be met in campaigning on the veldt. "A knowledge of veldt-craft," says the World's Work, "or perhaps it is an instinct, is given to the Boer at his birth, and because of this instinct he understands under all circumstances how to take care of his horse, when to feed and water him, when to 'fix saddle' and let the sweat dry on his back, how to take care of the hoofs at night," in short, how to keep this indispensable auxiliary to successful scouting in condition to sustain the hard service imposed upon him.

surrounding conditions is unknown to British military tactics. Iron-clad regulations rule in camp, on march and in battle. Hence war with the Boer drags along with varying successes, and its cost in men and money conditions that into the very vitals of the British nation.

Adding to our Resources. In studying the conditions of plant life in the far West, the Department of Agriculture is performing a service of the greatest importance to the country. Hand in hand with this investigation go experiments with methods calculated to protect valuable native plants from extermination and the introduction of exotics that seem to be adapted to the hard conditions found in some sections of the arid or semi-arid West. The work also includes experiments with foreign plants whose seeds of native origin or that have been long adopted still do passably well. If there are better varieties we want them, and every quarter of the globe has been raked for specimens to be tested here.

An Albany correspondent asks upon what authority The Oregonian referred in a recent editorial to Josephine, the wife of Napoleon Bonaparte, as "the mistress of Barras." That Josephine was the mistress of Barras and the mistress of the famous General Hoche is beyond reasonable historical doubt. Barras, in his published "Memoirs," confesses to his illicit relations with Josephine. Before her marriage to Bonaparte Josephine was the bosom friend of the notoriously dissolute Madame Tallien, to whose ball dress a wax attached a slip of paper upon which was written, "Respect the property of the French Nation."

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The loyal soldiers of the British Empire struggling for dominion in South Africa are each to be remembered by Queen Alexandra on Christmas by a gift of a briarwood pipe, mounted in silver and bearing the monogram of Her Majesty. The Queen shows tact in the selection of her Christmas favors for Tommy Atkins, knowing full well that, next to his sweetheart in far-away England, his pipe comes closest to the homesick soldier's heart, and affords the most reliable consolation. The wife of a smoker, the mother of smokers, the associate all her life of smokers of high degree, Alexandra would have been dull of apprehension indeed had she not discovered that nothing is so pleasing to the smoker as a Christmas present as a good pipe with a woman's monogram upon it indorsing its use.

The death of Adolph Kraus, the famous sculptor, in an insane asylum in Massachusetts closes a record of genius and ambition, of success and disappointment, under which a brilliant mind gave way. The record of such a life is that of "hopes abortive, victories half blown, and citadels begun, reduced to dust." The work accomplished by Kraus brought him distinction that would have satisfied a less ambitious man, and his end at 31 years is inexpressibly sad.

Among the changes incident to the death of Victoria and the succession of Edward VII is that of the shifting of the royal birthday and its loyal celebration from May 24 to November 9. The latter date passed with quiet mention and with scant attempt at celebration yesterday; the former, with festal observances that made a holiday throughout the British Empire in the Mays of more than three-fourths of a century, has passed into history.

Oregon seems likely to regain its place on the land of big apples apples without blemish and innocent of harboring worms. The wise horticulturalists see possibilities in apple-growing that will result in a large increase of apple orchard area in the state within the next five years, and a corresponding profit to themselves in the years following.

Johnny on the Dachshund. If I had to be a dog, I would much rather be a large Newfoundland. Still, we must not regret our lot. Whatever Providence ordains is best for us. Our hired girl says her cousin once had a dachshund that got in his way when he was chopping wood, and he accidentally cut the dog's tail off. At 9 o'clock on the next day the dachshund emitted a frightful scream. He had just found it out. A dachshund is the only thing you cannot buy at a department store.

FRANCHISE AS BASIS OF TAXATION

Chicago Railway Age. The Supreme Court of Illinois has announced a decision to the effect that every corporation in the State of Illinois must pay taxes not only on its tangible property, like individuals, but also on its capital stock, in addition to taxes assessed on the intangible and indefinite asset known as "franchises."

The decision is the result of a suit brought a year ago at the instance of an organization of public school teachers of Chicago for the purpose of increasing the amount of taxes available for the payment of teachers' salaries in that city. A state law existing for many years requires corporations to assess the same amount of taxes as assessed on the franchises of corporations at a "fair cash value."

When rebuked by The Oregonian for vilification of the Columbia River, a Seattle paper recently explained its course by stating that the interests of the State of Washington demanded that the mouth of the Columbia River alone be improved, and that no attention be given to the stream above Astoria. But the fact is that Portland, Oregon, Washington and Idaho all need help at the mouth of the river now, and there ought to be enough influence in the three states to put the channel from Astoria to the sea in as good shape as the channel from Portland to Astoria.

By this line of argument, therefore, it appears that the company alone had escaped the assessment on nearly \$2,000,000 worth of intangible property; in other words, on its privilege of existing in Chicago, although it had a large amount of tangible property, and the holders of its bonds to the amount of \$34,000,000 had prepaid said personal property taxes on that.

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AMUSEMENTS.

The Frawley Company, with but few changes since their appearance last week, opened a week's engagement at Carbury's last night in "Lord and Lady Algy," and the many of the audience who were brought that filled the theater was convincing proof that they are still the real favorites of the frequenters of the theater as well indeed, as with a very large number of the "big boys" of the city. The changes that have been made in the company are not material; the only noticeable difference last night was the addition of Blanche Douer, a very charming soprano, who had an excellent opportunity to make a good impression, and improved it. All the better known members of the company, Mr. Frawley, Miss Van Buren, Mr. Keyes, Mr. Amory and Missnette Barrett, the Portland girl who took up the stage a few years ago, remain, and all do their usual finished work. Mr. Frawley's good nature and his own into the mounting of "Lord and Lady Algy" which are decidedly telling.

The effect of the setting of the first and last act being particularly pleasing. The company were together admirably, and show the effect of careful and painstaking training. An instance of their perfect discipline was given in the last act, when the audience, thinking the curtain was about to fall, started to move, and instantly the play was stopped by Mr. Frawley, not to be resumed until the impatient ones had again settled in their places.

"Lord and Lady Algy" is a polite comedy, rather overfull of words, but at the same time affording plenty of chance for good situations and young nobles. The theme is the differing reputations of two brothers, one of whom, Lord Alkerton Chetland, plays the races and is known as the "king of the turf," while the other, Quarmy, is a shining light of society and a model in general. Algy has been separated from his wife, owing to their different tastes in horses, cigarettes and other matters, but they meet through the great deal of one another, and Lady Algy has considerable to do with unraveling the complications that ensue. These complications are caused by the entrance of Quarmy to elope with the wife of a wealthy soap manufacturer, their meetings being held in Algy's rooms. Of course it is a dramatic necessity that the soap-maker should suspect Algy, but the affections of his wife, and that the suspicion should be prolonged to almost the conclusion of the last act, when the wife's good nature and the timely appearance of Lady Algy, everything is straightened out, a little judicious prevarication saving the necessity of a world of embarrassing explanations. The playing of Lord and Lady Algy ends the play.

As Lord Algy Mr. Frawley does an unusually excellent bit of acting. He is not without being indifferent as a rule, as light work of his rather prolix speeches as possible, although it is impossible to keep from falling now and then into the drag that pervades the whole piece. The appearance in the second act was particularly artistic, being entirely free from offensiveness, and only adding to the sympathy which the audience is made to feel for the good nature and nobility of Miss Van Buren in her usual charming self as Lady Algy, and gives much zest to the many bright lines which have been entrusted to that character. Harrington Boyce has not a great deal to do in Quarmy, but does what he has in his usual finished style. Wallace Shaw is an excellent soap-maker, and Miss Blanche Douer does a very good bit of acting as Mrs. Soapmaker, a character which is near the verge of ruin by over-acting as she is by the machinations of Quarmy. Mr. J. R. Amory is an admirable actor, and Missnette Barrett is all that can be got out of a very small part, and the remainder of the company is well cast. The costumes of the women are very artistic, and the scenery is a splendid opportunity for a gala stage picture.

"Lord and Lady Algy" will be repeated tonight. "KING OF THE OPIUM RING." Popular Drama Draws Crowds to the Metropolitan. That the public opinion for the drama entitled "King of the Opium Ring" was not shaken by nine performances last year was thoroughly demonstrated at the Metropolitan yesterday afternoon and evening. At the matinee performance, 1500 persons were turned away, and last evening a swarm of people filled Third street for nearly half a block, crowded toward the box office and clamored for seats. The house was packed as full as it would hold, and it was not till long after the rise of the curtain that those outside could be convinced that even standing-room was no longer an unknown quantity. The play, which appeals strongly to the average playgoer, is acted by a far better company than this year has seen in any of our theaters, and is a most interesting and a well-told story. The story is one which seems to fascinate those who hear it told, for nothing could have created more excitement than the trip through a Chinese opium joint which the audience were taken last night, and the series of narrow escapes the principal characters indulged in. The strain is greatly relieved by a vein of comedy, and the play is a most interesting and a well-told story.

There is a tract of land in Tazewell County, Illinois, lying along the Mackinaw River, which consists of a continuous series of abrupt and deep ravines. Not a foot of the tract could be cultivated. The ridges are full of fox dens, wolves are occasionally found, and turkey buzzards hover over it in large flocks. Even people familiar with the territory have been lost in the dense forest. Except for a few giant oaks, the wood has no commercial value. The tract is known as the "Lost Forty," because no one knows how it was acquired. It has been used for trading purposes, and many unwise persons have gone to a distance have advanced money upon it and taken mortgages in various sums, only to receive a questionable title to a worthless piece of land. On the Tazewell County tax books the "Forty" appears with "Owner unknown."

The land is watered by innumerable springs, and the Mackinaw River, which winds its way through. The New York Legal Aid Society, of which Arthur von Briesen, a wealthy lawyer with a lucrative practice, is president, is wholly supported from contributions from the purses of wealthy men interested in the work, and it has accomplished a marvelous amount of good. "A poor man or woman," said Mr. von Briesen recently, "may have hundreds earned by hard labor the venerable rabbi. Payment is refused. A lawyer is consulted, and if the sum is not promptly obtained the cost of redress in most cases exceeds the sum due. Thousands of such cases occur in New York yearly. Right then and there an anesthetic at heart is made. We take such cases up, accept a retainer of 10 cents to help our client's self-respect and collect the money. That represents the total charge, and even that is not always exacted. To date we have collected over \$85,000 for 115,000 individuals, who otherwise would have been unjustly deprived of that vast amount of money."

Finished His Talmudic Dictionary. Philadelphia Times. After more than a quarter of a century of arduous labor the venerable rabbi, Rev. Dr. Marcus Jastrow, of Germantown, has completed in manuscript the "Dictionary of the Talmud," which has been awaited with interest by Biblical students and Oriental scholars all over the world. Begun in 1877, the actual compiling and writing of this important work have taken twenty-four of the ripest years of Dr. Jastrow's life.

NOTE AND COMMENT

Get out your skates. The Sultan believes that it is never too late to take water. Have our English citizens been reporting some of that Lannon fare? The court of inquiry managed to struggle along without Admiral Sampson at all. The Chicago servant girl's union has disbanded. Case of too many cooks, probably. Of course Bourke Cockran will be engaged to deliver the Tammany funeral oration. Why make a hero of Schley? He never distinguished himself in any way but fighting. Now feeling is fame. Newspapers are now issued without more than five or six mentions of Sir Thomas Lipton. It is surprising that President Roosevelt doesn't run out to Kansas to get a little convict-shooting while the open season lasts. Pedestrians are looking eagerly forward to the construction of city bicycle paths. They will then have a place to walk without mortal peril. Now that there is another Prince of Wales, the man who broke the bank at Monte Carlo will have to look out for his laurels. Hot spots are these Princes of Wales.

By communicating with real estate dealers Andrew Carnegie may learn that there are yet a few acres of ground in the United States, which he hasn't purchased for library sites. Nothing has been heard of Charles M. Schwab since he said he was looking for \$5,000,000 a year employes. He probably found it necessary to go to the tall timber for a temporary sojourn. The following curious marriage notice appeared the other day in the London Times: "On Tuesday, the 13th inst., at Botolph Claydon, Lincolnshire, John Kirk, an occasional preacher in the Methodist connection, to Susanna Seaton, of Burringham, mantua-maker. The patient bride had kept company near two years with a blacksmith of the same place, and was actually published with him in the church the very Sunday preceding her marriage, but for the reasons best known to herself eloped next day with the preacher; so true is it that we know not what a day may bring forth."

"Unless one has specially schooled himself, memory is bound to be treacherous sometimes. I don't trust mine any more," said a prominent Eastern business man recently. "It has gone back on me too often. Being a postal card only costs a cent, and I always carry a lot of them around with me. My end of the business calls me away from the store a great deal, and no matter where I may be riding on a street-car, walking, or in one of the numerous places of business which I frequent when an idea occurs to me that requires my attention I jot a memorandum of it down on a postal card, address it to myself and drop it in the nearest letter box. Some days I will send a dozen postal cards to myself, and the next morning they are on my desk awaiting me. I have been doing this for two or three years, and I think it's a pretty good system."

In the churchyard at Bewcastle, Cumberland, England, an isolated spot about 12 miles from any railway station, is a monument built 1200 years ago, bearing the inscription: "The first year of Egfrith, King of this realm," i. e., A. D. 670. Another inscription (Runic) on the west side says that it was set up as a "Standard of victory in memory of Alechfrith, lately King" (of Northumbria), who played so important a part in the history of the time. An interesting account of the cross is given in Bishop Browne's work, "The Conversion of the Heptarchy." He says that the inscription is in an earliest example known to be in existence of English literature, and "looking to the importance of the history of the world of that period in England, there is no historical monument in these lands to compare with the Bewcastle Cross. The shaft, as it stands, is a square pillar, composed of a single block of gray freestone 1 1/2 feet high. The cross head is gone, but when entire the monument must have been about 2 1/2 feet high.

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