

The Oregonian.

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

REVISED SUBSCRIPTION RATES. Daily, with Sunday, per month, \$5.00. Daily, with Sunday, per year, \$50.00.

POSTAGE RATES. United States, Canada and Mexico: 10 to 14-page paper, \$3.00 per year.

News or discussion intended for publication in The Oregonian should be addressed invariably to "Editor The Oregonian," not to the name of any individual.

The Oregonian does not buy poems or stories from individuals, and cannot undertake to return any manuscript sent to it without solicitation.

Eastern Business Office, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49 Tribune building, New York City; 409 "The Bookery," Chicago; the S. C. Deckwith special agency, Eastern representative.

For sale in Los Angeles by B. F. Caldwell, 200 So. Spring street, and Oliver & Holmes, 100 So. Spring street.

For sale in Chicago by the P. O. News Co., 215 Dearborn street.

For sale in St. Louis by the St. Louis News Co., 717 South Second street.

For sale in Denver, Colo., by Hamilton & Keadwell, 906-912 Seventeenth street.

TODAY'S WEATHER—Cloudy, with showers; easterly wind.

PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 25. INDICED A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Nothing could signalize the change in this Oregon region in a century more than this bounteous Christmas.

But the occasion, poor and gloomy then, has gained in splendor since, and in the firmament of the receding past will be a star of gleaming magnitude.

It was awake at daylight by a discharge of firearms, which were to be the return of Christmas, which we have always been accustomed to observe as a day of rejoicing.

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bia River—and by this term we mean the Lower Columbia River and the mouth of the Columbia River—from being a seaport in rivalry with Puget Sound.

NAVY CHICKENS HOME TO ROOST. Maclay is pretty small potatoes—entirely too small to be made a martyr of in a great cause.

THE VITALITY OF ITS SPIRIT. It is but historical truth to say that what we call Christianity, whether in the Protestant or Catholic church, has periodically cast its superficial skin.

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doors are thrown open, revealing the lighted tree. St. Nicholas is no longer an awe-inspiring myth, in whom children implicitly believe.

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the organizer of Sorosis over thirty years ago, of which Alice Cary was first president, and at the time of her death was president of the New York Woman's Press Club.

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THE SUBSIDY INQUIRY.

The memorial from the tariff reform committee of the Reform Club of New York presented to President Roosevelt on Wednesday last shows how fortunate it was that the ship subsidy bill was defeated in the last Congress.

The President and Congress should not be misled by these few shipowners when the matter comes up for action again this winter. It should be necessary in the consideration of this matter to send for Mr. Gracoin for the directors of the International Navigation Company, the Pennsylvania, and the Standard Oil Company, or any other of the would-be beneficiaries.

The subsidy bill introduced last year contemplated a colossal steal from beginning to end. It was conceived in iniquity, it was promoted by the men who were to be the chief beneficiaries.

Full subsidy on United States vessels now running: Name, Per cent. International Navigation Company, 49.8.

When men have the audacity to introduce a bill conferring such extraordinary benefits on themselves and large its passage by every means they can employ.

Revealed Our National Resources. The statement of the Internal Revenue Bureau showing the total receipts from the war revenue act has a much wider and deeper interest than attaches to ordinary fiscal statistics.

The enormous sum realized under the special war revenue act, in addition to the special war revenue act, in addition to the special war revenue act.

The Irish Pawbrokers. "The Irish Pawbrokers," a roasting farce comedy, featuring Mollie Trumbull, will appear at the Baker next week.

Testing the Goebel Reward Act. FRANKFORT, Ky., Dec. 21.—Suits were filed in the Circuit Court this afternoon to test the constitutionality of the Goebel Reward Commission act of 1900.

The Christmas Rose. Hugh Macmillan, in Macmillan's Magazine. Unto the cradle of the Wondrous Child Heaven brought its star, and man his gold and silver.

The Penny Postage. The substantial reforms introduced in the Postoffice Department by Postmaster-General Charles Emory Smith should have their logical result in making his name as famous in connection with the mail service as that of William Pitt.

It is needless to say that this would be a continuing problem and one constantly recurring in connection with the fact that Mr. Smith had called a halt on the gross abuses perpetrated against the system by persons who took advantage of the lax regulations which have prevailed for years in its direction and management.

With the restoration of the postoffice to its legitimate functions, genuine reform and substantial progress for the public good, are not far off in what the hat already accomplished Postmaster-General Smith has cleared the way for other things, among which it is not too much to expect that the penny postage for letters may be included.

AMUSEMENTS.

Although crowds and crowds of people were buying Christmas presents last night, another crowd took the evening off and spent it in enjoying Primrose and Dockett's Minstrel, which opened a new engagement at the Metropolitan.

The first part has been newly mounted, the setting being particularly laborious, and something of a departure from the old style line-up. The coal black faces of everyone on the stage, the somber full dress and the gaudy backing made a very impressive picture.

The hoop-ringing, toasting and juggling of the Young Brothers called the attention of the audience to the fact that they were wondering, and before they concluded were assured that they were not to be wondrous, but wonders of the seven-day variety.

Christmas Attractions at All the Theaters. Primrose and Dockett's Minstrel will play at the Metropolitan both this afternoon and evening, and the advance sale indicates packed houses at both performances.

COMING ATTRACTIONS. "Fog's Ferry." The sale of seats for "Fog's Ferry" will open this morning at 10 o'clock. Next Friday and Saturday nights this beautiful play will be presented at the Marquand Grand Theatre.

"A Royal Rogue," which will be presented at the Marquand Grand Theatre and night by Jefferson De Angelo and company, is a real operatic comedy. It is entirely unlike the ordinary musical comedy which is generally a farce interspersed with popular songs and melodies.

"The Wrong Mr. Wright." Harry Beresford will appear at Cordway next week with his new comedy, "The Wrong Mr. Wright," which made the fame of Roland Reed.

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

Ring out, you chiming, pealing bells, proclaim the love, and joy, and happiness, of glorious Christmas tide.

Oh, you who bore a load of care through all the weary year, And you who found the wailing way was bleak, and sad, and drear.

Remember those whose fortune is less happy than your own. A simple word, a simple gift, among your fellow-men.

Merry Christmas! And one every year for a long, long time, This is children's day, Doctor's day in the 25th.

Oh, thoughtfastest psychologist, To all us to be merry, By that most transcendental drink That's known as Tom and Jerry!

Save about half of them; they will be just what you need to give your friends next year. Though Christmas brings much happiness, And also brings much sorrow.

It will be at least 4 o'clock before the babies will get all the paint gnawed off the new jumping-jacks. He wants to see the editor, And see his right again.

A current magazine has a full page of pictures of the football squads of Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Columbia, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and West Point. In all, about 150 figures are shown.

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