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TODAY'S WEATHER—Increasing cloudiness with showers; partially wind.

PORTLAND, MONDAY, DEC. 30, 1901.

THE PANAMA PROJECT AGAIN.

Evidently the gentlemen of the Panama Canal Company are sorry they didn't manage their affairs better. They now virtually make an offer to take \$40,000,000 for what they asked no less than \$105,141,500 to part with only three months ago.

In the report of the commission the whole cost of a canal at Panama was estimated at \$252,000,000, including the \$109,000,000 asked by the existing company.

Whether the negotiation with the Panama canal company be reopened, on this offer for \$40,000,000, cannot now be told, for the matter is in the hands of Congress.

FACTS ABOUT BEET SUGAR.

When Messrs. Oxnard and Cutting are discussing tariff reform, they do not contend that the beet-sugar industry can stand without protection.

It would be of no avail to turn the Republicans out and put the Democratic party of Jefferson and Jackson (Lincoln, too) in power.

A REMARKABLE EXHIBIT.

At the Southern Exposition at Charleston there is an exhibit designed to show the progress which the negro race is making in the great Southland.

me a profit of \$1,050,000 as the income to be accorded under absolute free trade. It is not often that the special pleading for any industry is so bold as such broad grounds as Messrs. Oxnard and Cutting occupy when they offer the generalization that "the sugar industry is, after all, merely an agricultural one."

THE TRUST IN GOVERNMENT. The waste of disastrous competition is a familiar feature in industrial life. The trust on the other hand and the labor union on the other have become the universally accepted harbor of refuge.

WHOM RECIPROCAL BENEFITS. A very common misconception is this one of the Rochester Union and Advertiser, taking The Oregonian to task because it advocates tariff reform in one breath and in the next denounces it to accept the Kassar reciprocity treaties.

Another thing, it is always objected that you can't take up these things because of the long agitation that will ensue. You can't put our manufacturers in peril of long suspense and uncertainty. It is a vain and insincere objection.

MUNICIPAL EXPENSES. The rapid increase in municipal expenses is a matter of just concern to the principal taxpayers all over the land. Within reasonable limits, this increase is natural and inevitable. It is a fact generally accepted that household and living expenses generally have greatly increased within recent years.

It is hoped that the Montgomery Advertiser will not again make an error like the one it makes in saying that The Oregonian "has apparently just gotten its eye on the wrong party."

Although it would seem, from the Schley controversy, that talking and fighting are much akin, Roosevelt has made a distinction. Members of the Army and Navy may fight for the country, but not talk for it.

It is said that many dentists now practicing could not pass the examination made up by the Dental Board. This, however, is not the point. Maybe the point is what have dentists done.

Depew has married a woman young enough to be his granddaughter. Whether it's a case of old fool or young fool is a conundrum.

The British have had another disaster in South Africa. As usual, it was on a kopje.

comprehensive sewer systems, costly machines for fighting fire, etc., many of which were unknown a few years ago. The people want all of these things, and in many instances clamorously demand them. It is only when pay-day comes, as come it will, and must, that they make outcry, and even then they are not willing to retrench in the only way possible, by moderating their desires and doing without.

These are facts to be recognized, and since they must inevitably lay heavy tribute upon the revenues of the city, the need for careful scrutiny of accounts is urgent. Increased expenses are justified by increased efficiency—not otherwise.

IT COMES WITH POOR GRACE. Spokane Spokesman-Review. As an exhibition of rank insincerity the professions of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer for an open river to the sea are entitled to first award.

AMUSEMENTS. The first genuine comedy seen at Corcoran's this season was "The Wrong Man" which was played there last night by Harry Beresford and a good company.

RECORD DAY AT THE BAKER. "The Irish Pawnbrokers" Plays to Two Packed Houses. "The Irish Pawnbrokers" opened a week's engagement at the Baker yesterday, playing to the biggest matinee and evening audience the house has ever held.

THE MARYLAND BOY AND GEN. MILLS. Philadelphia Record. The Maryland boy administered to General Mills by the Secretary of War for his alleged comments on the Schley inquiry verdict was the subject of some discussion yesterday.

Admiral Sampson. Detroit News. No doubt the disappointment of Sampson was bitter. He could not be blamed for expressing disappointment under such circumstances.

Odd Habits of Gamblers. Philadelphia Record. Habitual gamblers are perhaps the most superstitious little in the world. They invariably carry little portable mascots in their pockets.

A Noministic Curiosity. London News. A coin of considerable interest to numismatists has been found in Germany. It is one of the few coins in the history of the world which can be accused of having a humorous side to it.

The Old Burial Lot. The marble slabs are slanted down. Or lying in the rank tall grass. The moss creeps over them thick and brown.

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NOTE AND COMMENT. If you must swear at all, swear off. Santa Claus will now take a much-needed rest.

General Otis has made an annual report. The situation in and about Chicago seems to be well in hand.

Get your resolutions ready; but don't think they will keep any better by being procured in alcohol.

NOTE AND COMMENT. The days are getting longer. It is now possible to read the paper by sunlight as early as 10:30 A. M.

The writer who is most widely read just now is he who is composing the clearance sale advertisements.

In Paris a 10-year-old girl is writing historical plays. The tender matrons of this country write historical works.

The Kaiser has now blossomed out as an art critic. This will assure favorable notices of the canvases from the royal brush.

It is hardly likely that the possession of two cabinet officers will prevent Iowa from filing her quadrannual claim on the Presidency.

It appears from the testimony of a survivor of the Kane expedition that even the weather inside the Arctic circle didn't give Schley cold feet.

The Panama Canal people offer to sell their property for \$40,000,000. If they will move it up to Nicaragua their offer may possibly be considered.

President Eliot, of Harvard University, is booked to deliver the charter-day address of the University of California, March 22. President and Mrs. Eliot are to start from Boston March 1, and the Harvard men of Chicago, St. Louis, Seattle, San Francisco and other cities, propose to capture them.

J. Pierpont Morgan gladdened the hearts of 10 clerks in his office Christmas day. Each received from the banker a Christmas present of a \$500 gold certificate. These bills are received at the Sub-Treasury fresh from the Bureau of Engraving at this time of year, to be exchanged with those who desire them for Christmas presents. They are seldom used in business transactions. A sum approximately \$1,000,000 was distributed by members of the Stock Exchange as Christmas gifts for the 250 employees. The Consolidated Exchange raised \$2400 for its employees, the 60 employees of the Cotton Exchange got \$2000 and the 50 of the Coffee Exchange \$1000.

Senator Hanna personally sees from 50 to 300 people a day when he is in his office in Cleveland, and he is said to have the faculty of seeming interested in the little affairs of the caller even when his great political and business interests are demanding his attention. He almost always has a cigar between his teeth, and one who knows him well says: "If the Senator lets his cigar go out while you are presenting your case you can make up your mind that he is interested. If he quits away at it in short, quick puffs, you are waiting for a decision, and if he turns his head to look at it or light another, you may conclude the interview is terminated."

Bandmaster Sousa, it is said, paid a dear price for the use of the Herald Square Theater Christmas eve. His agent tried in vain to get the Metropolitan Opera House, and to turn to the Herald Square. Richard Mansfield, who has absolute control of the house during his run, was shocked at the idea of a brass band playing in his theater. In despair Mr. Sousa's agent gently intimated that Mr. Mansfield would allow Sousa to play at the Herald Square Mr. Sousa would be only too highly honored to play one of Mr. Mansfield's waiters. Mr. Mansfield instantly began to view the proceedings in a more favorable light. Not only did Mr. Mansfield give the desired permission, but he immediately ordered a special telephone wire run from the theater to his residence so that he and his guests might hear the inspiring strains of Mr. Mansfield's "Hail to the Flag," while they were at dinner. The concert came off, and "Hail to the Flag" was rendered accordingly to contract. Of its success there can be no question, for immediately after the concert Mr. Sousa in the course of a heart-to-heart talk, is said to have remarked to a friend: "Well, we played it. We had to, because we wanted the theater. But before I would put my artists through such an ordeal again I'll give my next New York concert in a tent."

A Tale of Twin Cities. Albany Democrat. A deer trotted through Corvallis this week. It was a fine specimen of the law to kill it. It is against the law to kill it. It is against the law to kill it. It is against the law to kill it.

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS. He—She always calls things by their right names. She—What horrible name did she call you?—Yonkers Statesman.

Even Sir—Little Elmer Pops, what is it that makes a statesman great? Professor Brand—Death, my son.—Harper's Bazar.

The Genuine Article.—He—Darling, I love you! She—And have you never told other girls the same? He—Well—yes; but not so near Christmas.—Puck.

Christmas Visitor.—Visitor—Well, you are glad to see that you are not at all shy. Joy—Oh, no; I am not shy; sure; wait for me. It was very when I was born.—Punch.

Reason Enough.—"Why do you talk so much?" ma cried. "Because I'm a little bit of a talker." "I've got so much to say."

Running No Risk.—Visitor—Do you want to go shopping with me? Husband—No, thanks. Wife—You don't love me. Husband—Yes, I do. I love you so much that I don't want to run the risk of a permanent separation.—Judge.

Death came a-knockin' at do door. When I saw my Nelly in do morning, Sem'd like do light ob day do dawnin', Tell 'fore do sun begin to rise.

Close by do margin ob do water, And treats best do human groves, Dar ob do Virginny ob do day, Dar she in do death may find repose.