

The Oregonian.

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TODAY'S WEATHER.—Fair, with frost in the early morning; northerly winds.

TEMPERATURE.—Maximum temperature, 42; minimum temperature, 24; precipitation, none.

PORTLAND, FRIDAY, JANUARY 10.

"STRANGE EFFECTS, AFTER THE MOON."

The new "Bacon cipher," alleged to have been discovered in Shakespeare, has no relation to the subject-matter of the dramas, but is based on the manner in which they are printed. It is not a word cipher, but a cipher made up by typographical devices—that is to say, by use of different fonts of type.

You find letters here and there, in founts different from the fount of the general text, and putting them together you get words and sentences; and these words and sentences contain strange revelations. They show that Bacon claims the authorship of the Shakespeare dramas; that Bacon was the son of Queen Elizabeth and the Earl of Leicester, and that he left the record of his knowledge of the fact in this cipher, with many other wonderful things.

This new "discovery," therefore, seems the clearest product of literary lunacy yet developed among the devotees of the so-called Baconian theory. The craze seems finally to have run to seed. You take your theory, you assume as facts certain things you want to prove; and then you proceed to pick letters up here and there from the pages of the author—selecting letters or words printed in type that show peculiarities and differences—to prove them. You can make up in this way any story you require; and it will be especially easy to make it up if you take books that were printed three hundred years ago.

THE STRANGE CASE OF GERMANY.

Germany emerges from its holiday diversions with a heavy heart. Von Bulow to the Diet and Thielmann to the Reichstag unfolded tales of woe that vied with each other in present lack and gloomy forebodings.

There are three things, not to exhaust the subject in one sitting, that are the matter with Germany, and they are worth considering. Not that any profit could be derived from them; in this country—we know too much; but it may stir a patriotic pride to reflect upon the dumbness of the German mind as contrasted with American acumen.

the whole results of the financial year were disappointing. The outlook for the coming year is worse yet. They have to build houses for government employees to live in, and large sums must be borrowed, for of the state treasury, a very dangerous destructive man. But, fortunately, while he was frequently wrong-headed, his heart was manly and true.

Another eccentric idea they have in Germany—that the way to get rich is to tax yourself. High tariffs, the gigantic brain of Bismarck apprehended and passed on to posterity, will be the making of everybody. Tax bread, that will make the farmer contented. Tax manufacturers, that will please the manufacturer. If this isn't enough, tax everybody and pay bounties. Thus you will build up some such prodigious degree of prosperity as today draws Germany the attention of all eyes. If they complain, have recourse to the same treatment. Double the dose and shorten the time.

They know all about these things in Germany, for creating contentment by compulsion and supporting government by unprofitable railroads and telegraphs and getting richer by increasing taxation has brought to it a ripe experience which is necessarily denied to younger nations with fresher natural resources and auspicious accidents of soil and climate. A fool for luck.

THE LEAST IT CAN DO.

One of the interesting phenomena of modern social evolution is the increasing development of local governments and the comparative subordination of National government. The drift to cities has revolutionized our National life, and left the inhabitants of crowded municipalities almost helpless in the face of strange and overwhelming problems.

Now, it is one of the unfortunate incidents of this development that while the city has done nearly everything for the individual that government can properly do, the Nation retains control of the easy and scientific modes of raising revenue, leaving to the city nothing but the oppressive though honest device of direct taxation. While state and city governments everywhere are crippled for lack of funds and taxpayers groan under their burdens, the Federal Treasury has money to burn, and Congress is at its wit's end to reduce the surplus. Here in Portland we need money the worst way to substitute earth fills for elevated roadways, improve the streets, hire more policemen, buy a fireboat and a water tower, fit up the parks and build schoolhouses.

Inasmuch as we can't change the apportionment of taxation devices adopted at Philadelphia in 1787 (the Constitution doubtless has nearly as much to say as on other heads), the Federal Government ought to assist in whatever way it can to equalize this unequal burden. It can do this in three ways. One is by the care and the honesty to avoid extravagant and useless expenditures. Another is by doing what it can in the way of legitimate internal improvements for buildings, waterways and arid lands. A third is by the use of National undertakings. But with ex-haustive sources of revenue and over-running Treasury, in application to the country's legitimate needs retrenchment ceases to be a virtue and becomes a crime.

But a man can pay pretty heavy direct taxes to his state and city if he is prosperous. He can pay \$100 a year when he has \$10,000, much more easily than he can pay \$10 when he has \$1,000, and can't earn it. The least of Government, through Congress, can do is to take all the burdens it can off from business. All business is hampered, directly or indirectly, by unnecessarily high tariffs. Commerce suffers from the exactions of duties, manufacturers suffer for lack of raw materials, labor suffers for lack of employment. We can't export unless we import, we can't manufacture unless we can buy raw materials as cheaply as our competitors and find foreign markets, we can't get jobs or professional fees unless somebody is making money at trade or manufacture so as to hire us. We can worry along with our increased municipal expenditures, if the Government will help in doing well, relief of some of the extra cost now put upon business by unnecessary tariffs. Municipal reform is partly waiting on tariff revision.

A POLITICAL CAZAR.

Mr. Bryan's picture of Andrew Jackson as an illustration of Democratic principles in his adherence to Democratic principles is proof that Mr. Bryan is not familiar with the history of the "Hero of New Orleans," who was always true to one party, viz: to Andrew Jackson. Jackson was an imperious man, law unto himself. While he was elected "to renew the policy of Jefferson in the Government," he never hesitated to trample the most venerated traditions of the Democratic party under his feet. He personally disliked Jefferson, who dreaded and detested him as a "man of violent temper and imperious will." This was a view Jefferson formed of Jackson when he was serving as United States Senator from Tennessee. The moment Jackson was elected he showed his contempt for "the policy of Jefferson" by his appointment as Cabinet Minister. He personally disliked Jefferson, who dreaded and detested him as a "man of violent temper and imperious will." This was a view Jefferson formed of Jackson when he was serving as United States Senator from Tennessee.

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They have an odd idea over in Germany that contentment makes people so loyal and contented as an immense standing army and the incessant display of authority. If people offend you, call them down hard. If Admirals or Generals talk on the side of the Navy Department, well and good. If on the other side, reprimand them. Thus they will grow in love and pride for their calling. If the public rebels, command it to stop. Any unpopular act of administration—call it a closed incident. Close it and sit on the safety valve. This is peace and contentment—in Germany.

like Tyler, over to the Whigs, and from first to last his administration was a purely personal administration. Had he not been a patriotic man, a truthful man and a man whose honest instincts kept him within bounds, he would have been a very dangerous destructive man. But, fortunately, while he was frequently wrong-headed, his heart was manly and true.

But Jackson was sui generis. He recognized no party but "Jackson"; he was as completely the party when he was President as Louis XIV was the state. There never was a man in American public life who so entirely independent of party distinctions as Jackson. His only test was the personal one, "Are you a Jackson man?"—and so long as you were a Jackson man you were welcome, but if you had ever criticized Jackson in the past or disapproved of any of his actions, there was no place for you in Jackson's esteem. Nothing is more absurd than to talk about "Jacksonian principles," for Jackson never had any "principles" beyond a determination to impose his desires will on everybody he met. It is absurd to talk about "Jacksonian Democrats," for Democracy only meant to Jackson absolutely unwavering personal and political loyalty to Andrew Jackson. Jackson had the imperious temper of a Napoleon, and no man under our free institutions played the part of a political Caesar so long and as successfully as Andrew Jackson.

"Not only boys, but many girls," says Mrs. L. H. Addison, of the W. C. T. U., who understands the cigarette habit. This statement, from a careful, conscientious woman, who has had abundant opportunity to know whereof she speaks, is more than startling—it is shocking. A habit at once so pernicious and so disgusting as that of the inhalation and exhalation of cigarette smoke is sufficiently reprehensible and alarming when confined to those who spend much of their time in the open air, and whose moral sense may be blunted somewhat without utter demoralization or total obscuration. But that young girls, even in relatively limited numbers, with their finer sensibilities and more susceptible nervous and physical systems, are falling into so debasing a habit constitutes a menace to the race that cannot be ignored. In this view a vigorous crusade against cigarettes, vigorously conducted by the W. C. T. U., is the earnest encouragement of all good citizens. It may be well also for parents, and perhaps especially mothers, to organize themselves into private vigilance committees for the purpose of defending their households from this subtle menace as well as for eradicating the evil if, unfortunately, it has obtained a foothold therein. Criminologists, humanists and moralists who have made special studies of the matter are practically unanimous in the belief that cigarette smoking is the basis of much of the youthful degeneracy that is represented in prisons filled with young men, and of the irresponsibility and untrustworthiness that keeps hundreds of others on the dangerous verge of crime or social vice. This estimate is worthy of the consideration of all who have charge of the moral and physical training of this age of juvenile precocity, enlarged opportunity and increasing freedom from parental restraint.

SAFETY IN DELAY.

An impressive exhibit in the carelessness with which an Isthmian canal has been considered in this country could be made up from recent utterances of some of the most illustrious figures of the Walker Commission says it is of no consequence that Panama is in the belt of calms, because steam is so rapidly displacing sail—a thing fit only to tell to the marines. The New York Evening Post, despite all the activity of the Huntington and allied interests for the Panama Canal, undertakes to scout railroad sympathy for Panama, because that is the shortest and most easily constructed route of the matter.

Remarkable exploits in logic are performed by the canal's apparent friends, Hepburn, for example, would claim the Panama people peremptorily to their drop from \$100,000,000 to \$40,000,000 looks suspicious. Of course, the French company puts its price low in hope of cleaning up something out of the hundreds of millions already spent. The offer is about the first square thing it has done since Hepburn's breaks is to promise that American ships can go free through the canal while the British must pay toll, and still another is his curious logic that the Panama Company's hard luck shows the project can safely be entrusted only to Government hands.

One of the brightest things in all the canal galaxy of wit and wisdom is the Panama plea in the name of economy. The Walker Commission estimates Nicaragua at \$189,844,862, and Panama at \$184,232,353. Now, if we are to have Frenchmen \$40,000,000, the Panama affair will cost us \$184,232,353, or \$45,000,000 less than the one at Nicaragua. Hence the Panama advocates lift their hands in horror at the thought of spending an extra \$5,000,000, to say nothing of the odd \$30,704. If there are any sane men in Congress, do they not know that these estimates are the guesswork, most of them what the Frenchmen call "intuitive estimates"? Nobody knows how long it will take to lay the foundations of either the Conchuda or Bohlo dams. Nobody knows what we shall have to pay Nicaragua, or Costa Rica on the one hand or Colombia on the other. Nobody knows how much dredging will be needed at Greytown or replacement of laborers killed off by tropical fever at Panama. To set down in dollars and cents the cost of either canal and base conclusions thereon upon them is an absurdity transparent to none more than to the commissioners who have been over the ground and at every step in their report point out the uncertainties of time and expense.

The time has probably gone by when one should give way to indignation at those who, like Cannon, recast and impleadable fact but pretended supporters of the canal, rise in the Congress of the United States to say without a blush that there is no hurry in this matter, that nothing will be gained by expedition or lost by delay. Indignation at the duplicity of such creatures is hardly opportune. It is about fifty years behind the times. They deserve at the hands of a united and prosperous country nothing less than pity and contempt. There has been no hurry about the canal, since the day that Columbus planned it, then, as now, the United States Presidents and Secretaries committed to it. No, Mr. Cannon, let there be no unseemly haste. Do not disturb yourself. The canal will do quite as well if built a thousand years or so from now, when oblivion will have kindly rescued from well-earned ignominy the Benedict Arnolds of American commerce.

The celebration of "Jackson day" recalls the fact that the terrible defeat suffered by the British troops was due to the rashness and impatience of Sir Edward Pakenham, their commander. Pakenham, who was the brother-in-law of Wellington, commanded the English division that broke the French center at Salamanca, where the Iron Duke terribly defeated Marshal Massena. Pakenham's ambition led him to force Napoleon's abdication in 1814. General Pakenham was sent with an army of Wellington's veterans to capture New Orleans. Professor Sumner, in his "Life of Jackson," describes Jackson's position as utterly indefensible against attack on the west bank of the river, where the flank of Jackson's army was without protection. The moment Pakenham's batteries had been established on the west bank they would have commanded Jackson's camp and works on the east bank. Pakenham saw his advantage, but in his rashness and self-confidence threw it away. He ordered his troops to attack Jackson on both sides of the river at daylight, but growing impatient at the slowness with which Colonel Nicholls, who commanded the assault on the west bank, acted, he gave the signal for the frontal assault on Jackson's works before Nicholls was in position to attack. The result was that 8000 British charged in close columns right up to a breastwork defended by 5000 riflemen and were quickly repulsed with a loss of over 2000 men. After Pakenham's premature assault in front had wrecked his army Colonel Nicholls attacked and easily gained all that he was expected to win on the west bank. But it was too late. The Howards had their heads about their necks, including himself and his two leading subordinates. If Pakenham had been opposed to European troops, he

never would have charged Jackson's intrenchments in front, but the military ignorance shown by Jackson in placing his army in a position where its flank was in the air and could be turned led him to underestimate the quality of Jackson's troops who were all as deadly marksmen as the Boers. It was the same recklessness that cost the British so dear at Bunker Hill. If the British at Bunker Hill had attacked the position on the flank, they could have turned it as easily in the first assault as they did in the third. Contempt for his foe led Howe to attack in front, and the same contempt for his foe led Pakenham, who knew the story of Bunker Hill, to repeat at New Orleans Howe's bloody blunder. Jackson's false position would have ruined him if Pakenham had possessed ordinary military prudence.

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The School Board is proceeding in a very plain and equitable manner with the business of the district. This business is distinctly the taxpayer's business, and a plain understanding of it in detail is desirable. Indeed, it is necessary, if taxpayers are to vote intelligently upon matters which concern the property and educational interests of the district at the annual meeting. There is abundant precedent to prove that those who by the payment of taxes maintain the public schools are willing to vote a sufficient sum for their support on the basis of true economy, which will not in any manner interfere with the efficiency of the schools. The large sums invested in public school buildings and the employment of a competent corps of teachers at a cost in aggregate of many thousands of dollars, is conclusive evidence of the truth of this statement. Given the estimates, properly itemized, and there is little reason to fear that the funds necessary to meet them, if reasonable and just, will not be forthcoming through a sufficient levy upon the property of the district. Let those interested carefully consider the estimates which the School Board proposes to furnish in ample time for this purpose, appear at the annual meeting and speak and vote upon their findings, or hold their peace for the ensuing year, remembering that to grow in the face of a tax levy once ordered is both futile and foolish.

There is an element of pity in Wade's plea for executive clemency. "He is so pitiable for the sentence of the sentence of death is carried out by his first birthday three days. It is indeed pitiful that a man should have so abused his privileges and opportunities as to come to the gallows upon attaining his majority. A feature in this case not the less pitiful is that another man but little past his majority was forced to die, innocent of any crime, and with a life of usefulness and promise before him, by the sentence of the gallows. The sentence of death is carried out by his first birthday three days. It is indeed pitiful that a man should have so abused his privileges and opportunities as to come to the gallows upon attaining his majority. A feature in this case not the less pitiful is that another man but little past his majority was forced to die, innocent of any crime, and with a life of usefulness and promise before him, by the sentence of the gallows. 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