# The Oregonian.

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TODAY'S WEATHER—Cloudy, with occasional rain; southerly winds.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 43; minimum temperature, 35; precipitation, 0.06 inch.

PORTLAND, SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

## "VICIOUS BOSSISM."

Under the headline, "Vicious Bossism," the Salem Statesman prints the following "vicious" editorial paragraph:

The Oregonian, while condemning political bosses and political jobbery, is lending its aid to one of the most flagrant acts of bossism yet attempted in Portland by advocating the appointment of a list of judges of election dictated by interested politicians. This is bossism in the extreme. If these are not selected a great howl is to go up from Portland's big daily, and "jobbery and corruption" is to be the battle-cry that is to urge the purified Mitchell Republicans to the contest. The County Court of Multnomah is composed of three honorable men, and it is to be presumed that they will discharge their duty faithfully in the appointment of men to act as judges. If they are men with any sense of dignity they will surely resent the dictates of the bosses and select men of their own choice. Under the circumstances, there is no other course left the court to pursue than to turn down the judges named by the ward politicians and choose judges themselves. So the howl may be looked for at an early date.

Nothing could be more untrue, or bear more clearly the marks of ring dictation and machine politics, than this paragraph. Of course it was inspired from Portland. No one could entertain a doubt, or make any mistake, about that.

A list of persons, qualified voters and well-known citizens, extending to many hundreds of names, was presented a few days ago to the County Court, with a request that, in making up the list of judges and clerks for the primary and general elections in Multnomah, some of the selections might be made from this list. With the preparation of this list The Oregonian had nothing whatever to do, did not know it was in preparation, never heard of it till it was completed and the statement came that it was to be presented. Mr. W. B. Ayer, one of the best-known of the business men of Portland, a man who has never participated, even in the smallest degree, in the details and management of politics, offered it. The Oregonian printed the fact, with the list, as news matter, without comment. Not one word has it ever said in advocacy of the appointment of men named in this list, or any of them. But it is a newspaper, and it printed the list, with a statement that it had been presented by Mr. Ayer. It has also printed the list presented by the Democrats of the county, from which they suggest that representatives of their party on the boards may be selected. Moreover, The Oregonian would have been glad to print, and would be glad to print today, tomorrow or at any time, the list prepared by Senator Simon before he departed for Washington and left behind him for appointment. But for this list we probably shall not have to wait much longer.

One additional remark. The intimation that the Commissioners may or will appoint "men of their own choice" is sufficiently humorous.

## LARGER SALARIES.

When Governor Shaw was appointed Secretary of the Treasury it was said that unless he was a rich man he could not afford to accept, because the salary of a Cabinet Minister would not enable a poor man to maintain the dignity of the office. The salary of a Cabinet officer is $8000. Secretary Boutwell, who was at the head of the Treasury under President Grant, said in 1873 that he and his daughter, by careful management, made this salary support the office, but that it left absolutely no margin, even when administered with economy. In the debate on the salary-grab bill in 1873 it was stated that a Cabinet Minister had to devote at least one-half his salary to bare rent, if he would have a house in which he could entertain decently any considerable number of persons.

But if Secretary Boutwell could maintain his position as a Cabinet Minister respectably on $8000 a year in 1873, surely a Cabinet Minister can do it today, when $8000 a year will go much farther than it would in 1873, a time of inflated currency, high prices and general extravagance. Rents are high in Washington, but if a Representative can live there on $5000 a year, a Cabinet Minister ought to be able to live decently on $8000. If the salary for Cabinet Ministers needs to be raised, the salary of Congressmen will naturally be lifted, too. Attorney-General Knox, in his annual report, recommends an increase in the salaries of Federal Judges.

This demand for increasing salaries all along the line is sure to be made sooner or later, and it will be pressed upon the ground that without higher salaries no poor man can afford to accept a high official station at Washington, since the standard of entertainment and style of living has become so high that a poor man cannot afford to accept the place, with its implied social responsibilities and expenses. The rich families that sojourn in Washington during the Winter set the pace; the rich members of Congress and rich members of the executive departments take it up, and the result is a social situation that would be repulsive to a man too poor to accept it. It is a subject for National regret that the social demands at Washington make rich men naturally available for appointment to high official stations. Nevertheless, the remedy does not lie in increase of salaries. The remedy lies in the high officials refusing to accept the pace set by rich Winter residents.

Nobody whose good opinion was worth having thought any less of Secretary Boutwell because he lived on his salary in 1873. Nobody whose esteem is worth considering would think any less of Secretary Shaw if he made his salary support him. Governor Shaw is not a poor man at all, but there ought to be no necessity at Washington of a Cabinet Minister's being forced to maintain a higher standard of social entertainment than his salary will justify. It will not be safe for Congress to raise the salaries all along the line upon the plea of increased social expenditures, for the answer will come back swiftly that Congressmen and Cabinet Ministers must not expect the people to pay for "increased social expenditures." Let officialdom set a decent pace of its own and keep it, without regard to rich Winter residents. Samuel J. Randall always lived on his salary; he didn't shine socially, but he rose to great public distinction. The Federal Judges are paid enough now, when we remember that their tenure of office is for life and that they may retire at 70 years of age.

## A CLEAR SITUATION.

The statement of Chairman Burton, of the rivers and harbors appropriation committee, printed in yesterday's Oregonian, clearly defines the situation at Washington with reference to Columbia River improvement. The rivers and harbors bill must call for no greater sum than did the bill of last session, which means that we may, by exerting the full measure of our influence in Congress, get for the Columbia River what was in the bill that was talked to death last session—$600,000—but nothing more; and it goes without saying that under Mr. Burton's limitation no appropriation will be made for any project not already under way. Here and elsewhere those who are urging new schemes of river and harbor development may as well postpone their efforts to another season, for practically there is no way of overriding the determination of the committee for which its chairman no doubt speaks authoritatively.

There is no justification for this hard-and-fast fashion of dealing with the river and harbor work of the country, which the General Government has taken upon itself. It substitutes an arbitrary expediency, largely political in its motives, for a proper study of commercial necessities, and of the interests connected with and dependent upon them. It proceeds from a false basis and upon a wrong theory, for it is not the record of any particular work which should determine the allowance to be made for it, but its relations to the public interest and welfare. It is ridiculous to fix the sum of this year's allowance for a particular work by the allowance of last year, to deny a legitimate appeal because it has been denied before. The method is wholly irrational and unbusinesslike; it works denial of justice in some cases and gross waste of money in others; it removes a great and serious public interest from its normal connection with business purpose and method, and degrades it to a pawn in the political game. And in the very nature of things it tends to establish the whole scheme of river and harbor development, a matter vitally related to the commercial and productive life of the country, in public discredit and contempt.

The Oregonian regrets the action taken by the rivers and harbors committee on many accounts, but chiefly because it throws over another year at least the Upper Columbia River projects essential to free navigation and upon which very earnest hopes have been placed. But let the interior country bear in mind that it will in full measure share in the advantage to come from betterment of conditions at the Columbia Bar, for which it is expected an amount equal to last session's allowance will be made. Here in truth is the main thing—the paramount interest—in connection with the development of our river system, for an open upper river would imply small profit to anybody if there were no access to the river's mouth from the sea. Here, we repeat, is the main point, not to be regarded as a rival of the upper river project, but as a thing logically connected with it, a thing essential to its value, and calculated in an orderly progress of events to bring it about. It would be an advantage, of course, if the two works—that at the river's mouth and that in its upper reaches—could be carried on concurrently. The two things go together; both are demanded by a thousand motives; but as between the two that of first and immediate importance is the one essential to maintenance of the Columbia River as a commercial port.

We urge this point with emphasis because certain newspapers of the State of Washington, just now, in their anxiety to defeat the appropriation for the jetty at the bar, are declaring that "the bar is deep enough for all practical purposes," and that "the largest grain ships ascend to Portland." All this they have denied heretofore, in strongest terms. Their present object is to urge appropriations for the upper river alone—not because they want the upper river improved, but to prevent the appropriations necessary for the ship channel at the mouth. Now, while The Oregonian insists, and will ever insist, as strongly as any others, in Oregon, Washington or Idaho, that the obstacles to navigation in the upper river should be and must be removed, it knows, and it must continue to assert, that a deeper channel at the mouth is the first and most urgent necessity. Ships of draft sufficient for our commerce are constantly detained there, and instead of a 19-foot channel at low water we want and must have a channel of 25 feet at low water. Unless ships of heavy draft can pass the bar, there will be little use in removal of obstructions in the upper river.

In spite of the limitation upon this year's bill, as announced by Chairman Burton, there is a possible way of making a beginning of the Celilo Canal which Captain Harts has recommended and which has been approved by other engineers of high rank and authority. There remains unexpended in the Treasury a balance—$214,579 20—of an appropriation made for the old boat railway project. The rivers and harbors committee, if it shall so determine, may adopt Captain Harts' canal project and employ this unexpended balance toward carrying it into effect. This, at least, is the theory upon which Congressman Moody is going, and he proposes to make a strong appeal before the committee. It would mightily strengthen his hands if the Washington newspapers above referred to would join The Oregonian in support of this appeal. Will they do it, and with such spirit as will array the members of the Washington delegation at Mr. Moody's back in the appeal he is about to make? As this question shall be answered we may judge of the sincerity of their newly-declared enthusiasm for the improvement of the upper river.

## SUMNER AND THE CHINESE.

The fact that Senator Hoar, of Massachusetts, is opposed to the re-enactment of the Chinese exclusion law ought not to surprise anybody who has read his speeches in opposition to our Philippine policy. Senator Hoar insists that our Declaration of Independence forbids us to govern the Filipinos because we did not obtain the consent of the governed. The logic of Senator Hoar is identical with that employed by United States Senator Sumner in 1870, during the debate over the bill to establish a uniform system of naturalization. Mr. Sumner tried to amend the bill by striking out the word "white," so that in naturalization there shall be no distinction of race or color. Senator Williams, of Oregon, moved to amend the amendment of the Senator from Massachusetts as follows:

But this act shall not be construed to authorize the naturalization of persons born in the Chinese Empire.

Senator Stewart, of Nevada, and Senator Morton, of Indiana, both supported the views of Senator Williams, of Oregon. Senator Sumner defended his amendment, saying: "It simply opens the question of the Declaration of Independence and whether we will be true to it. All men are created equal, without distinction of color. I propose to bring our system in harmony with the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. The word 'white' cannot be found in either of these two great title deeds of this Republic. How can you place it in your statutes?" Mr. Sumner's amendment was defeated, and among those who voted with Senator Williams, of Oregon, to defeat it, were Senators Corbett, Edmunds, Morton, Stewart, Harlan, Conkling, Chandler, Hamlin, Nye, Wilson, Bayard and Thurman.

Senator Trumbull, of Illinois, admitted that if the Chinese were correctly described by Senator Williams they ought to be excluded from the country. Senator Williams closed his reply to Senator Sumner by saying: "I deny that the Declaration of Independence or the Constitution of the United States requires us to admit to naturalization Chinese, or cannibals, or Indians, or anybody, except as in our judgment their admission to political rights may comport with the best interests of the Nation." Mr. Schurz, who is today a fellow anti-imperialist of Senator Hoar, supported Senator Sumner's view that we were bound under the Declaration of Independence not to exclude Chinese from naturalization. Senator Sumner insisted to the last that "under the Constitution, interpreted by the Declaration of Independence, we can make no distinction of race or color." Senator Morton, of Indiana, forcibly replied to Senator Sumner that the question as to whether we will naturalize the Chinaman is a question of policy and expediency, and not a question of natural right, and therefore not to be discussed upon the Declaration of Independence.

Senator Hoar was brought up at the feet of Charles Sumner, and he discusses the Philippine question from the same standpoint of political idealism set up by Senator Sumner in the matter of Chinese naturalization; the standpoint of the Declaration of Independence; and Senator Hoar opposes Chinese exclusion legislation today for the same reason that Senator Sumner opposed it. The same reasoning that made Schurz and Boutwell support Sumner's plea for the naturalization of Chinese in 1870 persuades them both to join Senator Hoar in his opposition to our occupation of the Philippines. The ghost of Sumner is visible in all these absurd anti-imperialist proceedings within and without Congress. It is all a modern renewal of the political vagaries of Charles Sumner, as enunciated in the United States Senate in 1870. The debate of that day over the naturalization of the Chinese recalls the debate over the Philippines, for Sumner's thunder about the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution was renewed in the Philippine debate by Senator Hoar within Congress, and by Sumner's old compatriot, ex-Senator Schurz, without Congress.

It was perfectly plain then that Senator Sumner was an impracticable political doctrinaire, who could not see that the Declaration of Independence has nothing to do with citizenship; that Congress has plenary power over naturalization, so that if in its judgment the exclusion of the Chinese or any other people from citizenship will conduce to the safety and happiness of this Nation it is the right of the Government so to decide under the Declaration. Hoar and Schurz accepted Sumner's logic in 1870 regarding Chinese naturalization; they accept it today in its application to Chinese exclusion, and by the same kind of "Declaration of Independence" dogmatism they are, of course, both pronounced anti-imperialists, who will govern nobody without the consent of the governed.

There is a sentiment among the members of the House that the bill pensioning Mrs. McKinley should not be passed. It is fairly said that its passage would be an undesirable precedent. Mrs. McKinley does not need the money; she has no children to educate; she has already all the property necessary to support her, not only in comfort, but in luxury. If Congress appropriates the balance of the salary which Mr. McKinley would have received had he lived until March 4, 1902, for Mrs. McKinley's benefit, a sum amounting to nearly $30,000, it will have expressed its sympathy in a sufficiently substantial manner. Today Mrs. U. S. Grant and Mrs. Garfield receive pensions of $5000 a year. Mrs. Grant and Mrs. Garfield are both rich women outside of this pension. The widow of General Sheridan, who is not a rich woman, has a pension of $2500. The widows of eight Union Generals, including Mrs. Fremont, Mrs. Logan, Mrs. McClellan, receive $2000 a year and forty-five receive $1200 a year. Among these are the widows of Generals Banks, Gresham, Custer, Doubleday, Crook, Ricketts, Hartranft, Anderson, Casey, Gibbon, Kilpatrick, Mower, Paul, Warren and Rousseau. General John M. Thayer, of Nebraska; General Franz Sigel and General John C. Black, of Chicago, each receive $1200 a year. There is a natural reluctance on the part of Congress to erect a precedent for voting a large pension to the widow of every ex-President, without regard to her pecuniary condition. In justice the people ought not to be taxed to pay large pensions to the widow of any public servant who is in the enjoyment of ample means for comfortable support. A gallant soldier like General Lawton, who left a widow and several children with small property for their support, deserves a pension, but the widows of needy general officers are given comparatively small pensions, while the largest pensions are lavished upon two rich women, Mrs. U. S. Grant and Mrs. Garfield.

Ex-President Cleveland is fortunate in that when he is sick he is so situated that he can take absolute rest and not hurry the process of convalescence. He has been for some weeks confined to his home with illness, and no duty pressed so urgently that his wife was unable to dismiss its messenger at the door with the simple statement that her husband was not strong enough to consider it. He is now able to drive out without danger of relapse. The possibility of securing needed rest is of inestimable value to a man past middle life who has carried large responsibilities in his more effective years. Nothing is more pitiful than to see a man struggling against the encroachments of age and physical weakness to carry the burdens which sat heavily enough upon him in his prime. A conspicuous example of this was seen in the case of Allen G. Thurman, who, as candidate for Vice-President in Mr. Cleveland's second campaign, made a feeble old man's effort to revive the fire of his youth, and survived the worry and the disappointment incident to defeat but a short time. Mr. Cleveland's determination, upon retiring from the Presidency, to keep out of politics and address himself to congenial pursuits that permitted him to be master of his own time, was a wise one; if he attains great age, it will be largely due to his ability to adhere to a course of life which allows him to rest when he is weary, take to his bed when he is sick, keep his room as long as he feels unable to stir abroad, interest himself in his family, and shut out all public cares.

The people of the United States are about to be given opportunity to entertain a live Prince of the blood—a nephew of the King of England and brother of the Emperor of Germany, a distinguished guest truly, and one who, as Admiral in the Germany Navy, is further entitled to the respect and honor which are due to worth and service rather than to the accident of birth. A genial man, who fully understands the requirements of his position and claims the honors that belong to it with a dignity that would well become a Schley or a Sampson, Prince Henry of Prussia is entitled to the consideration that will be shown him in American waters and at a republican court. He is the Kaiser's only living brother, and is seventh in order of succession to the German throne, being preceded in direct line of descent by the Emperor's six sons. He was his "mother's boy," having been, it is said, the favorite child of the late Empress Frederick, while his brother is first of all the grandson of William I. The brothers have not always been warm friends, and for this reason the sailor Prince was kept many years in foreign waters and was not even permitted to visit his mother on her deathbed. However, there is a truce between them now, and Prince Henry, with an honorable record in birth and service behind him, and resplendent in the insignia of his rank and position, will represent his imperial brother imperially. The Administration will not scant its courtesy nor the American people their welcome to the Prince of Prussia.

The Governor of every state in the Union has been addressed by Governor Nash, of Ohio, chairman of the Ohio Auxiliary of the McKinley National Memorial Association, asking each to issue an appeal to the citizens of his state to set aside January 29, McKinley's birthday, as "McKinley day." If the object is to create a National holiday in perpetuity, the request should be ignored; if to honor on his first birthday following his assassination a man whom the Nation made its President, and whose tragic death it deeply mourned, the observance of the day in an appropriate manner would not be amiss. Of National holidays we have already quite enough, and to attempt by this means to place McKinley on a par with Washington would be unwise, since the pen of history will not sustain the assumption. There is no reason to suppose that time will sanction such a purpose or that the holiday thus created would be generally and loyally observed as the years go on.

The Baltimore County Taxpayers' Convention placed a ban upon any textbook of history that does not, in dealing with the Spanish War, give Schley credit for the victory of Santiago. Text-books of history in use in the public schools should, of all things, be nonpartisan. Opinion is not wanted in such publications. Facts plainly stated should offend no one, and these are what is required of the historian who sets himself to the task of instructing the young. There will always be books setting forth the opinions of one writer or another, but these opinions are not history, and should be sedulously excluded from school books. Let the facts of the battle of Santiago be given in school histories. Trust the boys and girls to determine from them to whom the credit of the victory belongs.

We have heard a good deal in recent years about the "yellow peril." This menace is at present represented by the wrinkled, yellow-wrapped figure of the Dowager Empress, the animated mummy who craftily directs the policy of the Chinese Empire, while the puppet ruler, Kwang Hsu, sits on the great dragon throne of the Manchu Kings, powerless to thwart her purposes.

The Democratic Senators elect to urge that the only true and proper tariff treatment for the Philippines is the eventual application of full Dingley rates. Assiduous and enthusiastic escape from wisdom could no farther go.

Governor Geer will show true mercy in the case of Wade and Dalton by permitting the law to take its course. Neither justice nor mercy would be served by extending the date of the execution.

The correspondent who says that success in poultry-raising depends upon intelligent feeding and care of the fowls strikes the keynote.

## RUSSIA IN THE CIVIL WAR.

Chicago Tribune.

Last month the New York Sun said editorially while discussing the attempted European coalition against the United States just prior to the war with Spain that "Russia attested her friendship for the United States by an act identical with that performed by Alexander II at a critical conjuncture during our civil war." Thereupon A. Maurice Low, the English journalist, wrote to the Sun, saying that, of course, it referred to the "story that Russia sent a squadron to the United States to be used by its government in certain contingencies, and asking that paper if it had any 'irrefragable proof to sustain this historical myth.' Mr. Low said he had been unable with all his researches to obtain a single scrap of evidence, except from Russian sources long after the event—evidence that no jury would accept without corroboration."

The Sun accepts the challenge and furnishes Mr. Low the testimony he asks for. Some of it is old, but some of it is new, interesting and convincing. It gives first the familiar statement in the "Life of Thurlow Weed" to the following effect:

It will be remembered that early in the Rebellion a Russian fleet lay for several months in our harbor (New York), and that other Russian men-of-war were stationed at San Francisco. Admiral Farragut lived at the Astor House, where he was frequently visited by the Russian Admiral, between whom, when they were young officers serving in the Mediterranean, a warm friendship had grown up. Sitting in my room one day after dinner, Admiral Farragut said to his Russian friend: "Why are you spending the Winter here in idleness?" "I am here," replied the Russian Admiral, "under sealed orders, to be broken only in a contingency that has not yet occurred." He added that other Russian war vessels were lying off San Francisco with similar orders. During this conversation the Russian Admiral admitted that he had received orders to break the seals if during the Rebellion we became involved in a war with foreign nations. Strict confidence was then enjoined.

When in Washington a few days later, Secretary Seward informed me (Weed) that he had asked the Russian Minister why his government kept their ships of war so long in our harbors, who, while in answering he disclaimed any knowledge of the nature of their visit, felt at liberty to say that it had no unfriendly purpose.

The editor of Mr. Weed's memoirs says that a well-known gentleman, who was in St. Petersburg when the rebellion began, was shown during an unofficial call upon Prince Gortchakoff, the Russian Chancellor, an order written in the own hand of the Czar, directing his Admiral to report to President Lincoln for orders if England or France should side with the Confederates. This gentleman, says the Sun, was undoubtedly Bayard Taylor, who was then secretary of legation at St. Petersburg and was on intimate terms with Prince Gortchakoff.

The new testimony the Sun furnishes includes an unofficial letter written by Secretary Seward in June, 1862, to John Bigelow, then Consul at Paris. The Secretary says:

I do not write or even talk just now about Mexican affairs. I think it prudent to watch and wait. Between you and myself alone, I have a belief that the European state, whichever one it may be, that commits itself to intervention anywhere in North America will sooner or later fetch up in the arms of a native of an Oriental country not especially distinguished for amiability of manners or temper.

Propositions and debates about mediation and recognition do not tend to make our people amiable. If the debates are kept up abroad, we shall have a navy that will be worthy of a great maritime power. It might, perhaps, be well if it were known in Europe that we are no longer alarmed by demonstrations of interference.

Mr. Bigelow was asked by the Sun if he could throw any light upon what Mr. Low calls a "historic myth." In a letter to that paper he says:

I think I can, though I do not know how conclusive it may appear to those who are predisposed to doubt it.

In the Summer of 1862, and before I had heard of the arrival of the Russian squadron in New York, I received a letter from Mr. Seward, of which I inclose a copy. It was a reply to rumors of coalitions and combinations against the United States put in circulation by Confederate agencies in London and Paris, which I communicated to the department. I have marked the paragraph which I believed then to be, and still believe to have been, a sufficient warrant for the inference that the Secretary of State had an understanding with the Russian Government. What he wrote certainly warrants more even than would be implied by a simple display of the flag of the Czar in the harbor of New York.

Shortly after my return from France in 1867, I spent a few days in Washington, during which time I had frequent interviews with Mr. Seward, and occasionally met at his house M. Bodisco, the Russian Minister at Washington. The purchase of Alaska from Russia had just been consummated. Of course, neither Mr. Seward nor M. Bodisco said distinctly to me that that purchase was made purely and simply as a gracious recognition on the part of the Washington Government of the attitude of the Czar toward the United States in '62, but I doubt if there was any member of either House of Congress who supposed the Government then had any other motive in the purchase of Alaska than to recognize its obligations to the Czar.

The fact stated by one of your correspondents that "there is no record of such an understanding in the Government departments" is not surprising. Flirtations between nationalities, as between the sexes, are not apt to be proclaimed from the housetops, nor even made matters of record. JOHN BIGELOW.

The passage in Secretary Seward's letter to Mr. Bigelow beginning "Between you and myself," etc., certainly indicates that the writer had been given to understand by the Russian Government that if England or France came to the aid of the Confederacy Russia would come to the aid of the United States. The "Oriental country" mentioned could have been none other than Russia.

This new testimony so strengthens and confirms that with which the public has long been familiar that no unprejudiced person will contend that the intention of Russia to come to the aid of the United States during the Civil War in the event of European intervention for the benefit of the Confederates is a "historical myth."

### Perfidious to Party as Well as Nation

Chicago Inter Ocean.

It is surprising that prominent Republican Senators should be still tinkering with Panama schemes. The explanation given is that these Senators are not in favor of any canal. That such men as these should take that position is almost incredible. That they should imagine for a moment that the Republican party can escape responsibility for failure of canal legislation because Senator Morgan, a Democrat, happens to be head of the canal committee is quite incredible. Yet these things are openly asserted in Washington. The Nicaragua Canal has ceased to be a party question. That route has been repeatedly indorsed by experts as the best and cheapest. It has been approved by both great parties. The people are weary of frivolous excuses and foolish delays. They want the canal built on the Nicaragua route, and they want it begun now. And all Senators might as well understand that no more excuses will be tolerated by the people.

### Reform Put to Test.

Philadelphia Ledger.

It will be worth while for other cities to watch New York closely during Mayor Low's administration in the matter of the enforement of the Sunday laws. These laws are a bone of contention in every city, but New York is the first in which the contention has reached the point of an open struggle between those who would retain and enforce them and those who would abolish them. It seems as if the struggle must come to a decision during this administration, and it will be of importance to other cities, both in its character, whatever it may be, and the manner in which it is brought about.

### Share the Responsibility.

Philadelphia Ledger.

A St. Louis clergyman thinks marriage would not be so much of a failure if women did the proposing. But they do the accepting, don't they?

## AMUSEMENTS.

"In Town," which was given by the Pollard Juvenile Opera Company at the Marquam last night, should be seen by every theater-goer in Portland, if for nothing else than the wonderful acting and dancing of 7-year-old Daphne Pollard, who in the part of Shrimp, the call-boy, set a small house fairly wild with enthusiasm. A mere midget, scarcely two feet high, this gifted child got more out of that small part than could be done by any comedian on the stage today, bar none, large or small. It is impossible to describe the gusto she gives to her lines, the spirit and appreciation with which she enters into every scene, the abnormal and almost uncanny intelligence she displays in song, gesture and facial expression and the grace of her twinkling little legs. Those who saw her last night will find they are building themselves reputations as prevaricators if they try to tell of half she did. The only way to believe in her performances is to see her, and those who do not see her this afternoon and evening will regret it at some later time, when the genius she unquestionably possesses becomes generally recognized. The dances she does are of her own composing, and most of the "business" with which she accompanies her acting is said to be her own. Certainly no training could make such a wonderful child as this. She was born for the stage.

Aside from the work of this tiny bundle of cleverness, the performance was well worth while. The various members of the company were all well cast, the comedy affords a good opportunity for every one, and there are plenty of songs and dances, which are put on with the energy and dash which characterizes all the work of the children in the company. The costumes are elaborate, and the scenery, particularly that of the first act, is on an unexpectedly lavish scale. The house was one of that old, familiar kind that makes up in enthusiasm what it lacks in numbers, and both songs and dances were liberally applauded. "In Town" will be repeated at the matinee this afternoon, and will close the engagement tonight.

### MATINEES TODAY.

**Children at the Marquam—"Village Parson" at Cordray's.**

At the Marquam this afternoon the clever children of the Pollard Juvenile Opera Company, who have been pleasing large crowds all the week, will be seen in "In Town," one of the best operas of their repertoire. This being Saturday, the house will undoubtedly be packed with the little people of Portland, who have become such admirers of the juvenile Thespians. The engagement will close with a performance of "In Town" tonight.

At Cordray's this afternoon "The Village Parson," a play full of heart interest, will be the bill. The drama is well staged, and the company is fully equal to its demands. There has been a large advance sale.

### COMING ATTRACTIONS.

**"East Lynne" at Matinee at the Baker Tomorrow.**

Beginning with a matinee tomorrow afternoon, that best known of emotional plays, "East Lynne," will play a week's engagement at the Baker Theater, and, judging from the advance sale, the business will be unusually heavy. The company is headed by Miss Elizabeth Hale, who is said to possess, in addition to the youth and good looks which bring sympathy to the part of Lady Isabel, emotional talent of a high order. The supporting company has been especially engaged for the play, which will be mounted with an entirely new scenic equipment.

**"Barbara Frietchie's" Author.**

Clyde Fitch, the author of "Barbara Frietchie," which is to be presented in this city next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, by James Neill and the Neill Company, has taken occasion to deny that he writes a new play every other day, and points out that several of the many plays now before the public, and apparently new, were written by him a number of years ago, and are now brought forth because of the vogue of the playwright. It is said that Fitch has other plays in reserve, but that he is unwilling to dispose of them because they were written at the time that he collaborated with others.

The sale of seats opened yesterday morning and was very large.

**The Collamarini-Repetto Company at Cordray's.**

The Collamarini-Repetto Grand Opera and Concert Company will open their engagement at Cordray's next week, commencing Sunday. The vocalists came to this country from Milan, Italy. Collamarini, Repetto, Russo and Ferrari are names which are familiar with every lover of music. Benoist is a young Parisian, who is making his first American tour. The gems of many of the great operas will be heard in one evening.

Every opera has one or two numbers which are the very life of them; for instance, the "La Donna E. Mobile," the tenor solo, and the quartet from "Rigoletto," the prologue from "I Pagliacci," etc. The evening's programme will be composed of just such numbers. The first part of the programme will be rendered in evening dress, and the second part will be given over to an act in costume. A souvenir matinee will be given on Saturday afternoon, and photographs of Collamarini will be given to the ladies and children.

**Army Transport Service.**

Philadelphia Ledger.

There is no relaxation on the part of private ship-owners to induce the Government to abandon its excellent Army transport system and turn it over to them. Secretary Root some time ago expressed himself in favor of the project, and, with his aid, the lobbyists in Washington hope to carry it through successfully. The alluring claim that has been made is that the private companies can carry the Army and its supplies cheaper than the Government. Probably they can, but this is not the vital point that should be considered. It is rather whether the system of transportation by contract will be as satisfactory as it now is under Government direction. According to General Ludington, who made a careful investigation some months ago, it would not be.

The transports now in use were purchased at a high price, and fitted regardless of expense with every known approved appliance for the comfort of the men. The vessels are the admiration of the authorities of European countries, and are likely to serve as models elsewhere. Sick and wounded soldiers are continually being conveyed from the Philippines, and receive the best and tenderest care on the transports. There is strong reason to believe that they would not receive the same consideration nor the healthy soldiers be given the same comforts by private companies. It is only necessary to note the manner in which the average steerage system is conducted to feel convinced of this.

The result of the abandonment of the Atlantic transport service should cause the Government to pause before following a similar policy in the Pacific. There the vessels were also purchased and fitted up at great cost, and when one of these was offered for sale the highest amount bid would scarcely have covered the cost of the materials used in its construction. An approximately similar outcome may be looked for if the vessels now in use on the Pacific are offered for sale, even though they may be given the advantage of an American registry by Congress. Thus the country may be treated to the spectacle of well-equipped, expensive ships disposed of for a mere song, and an admirable service abandoned, because the private steamship companies offer to transport the Army at a smaller cost, a difference which they are likely to make up by herding the men like cattle in the holds.

## NOTE AND COMMENT.

If this be January, make the worst of it.

The Panama Canal seems to be a polite name for gold brick.

A lodge goat is a very valuable animal, but—well, there are too many buts about it.

It is hoped that at the coronation King Edward will open something besides Parliament.

Alfred Austin says the Americans are all right. So is he, so far as that assertion goes.

The British and the Boers are again talking about peace. They are also fighting about it.

All that now remains needful is an affidavit from Dalton that he is the man that shot Morrow.

If Wu Ting Fang doesn't go home pretty soon he will come under the provisions of the new exclusion act.

The beauty of Senator Depew's wedding tour is that the Government is paying for it at the rate of $5000 a year.

Congress is preparing to adopt a new system of weights. If the retail grocers are consulted, it will be short work.

The St. Louis Fair is to be postponed till 1904. Why not set it back still another year and move it to Portland?

If a Sampson-Schley controversy arises in the Venezuelan Navy it will probably be settled between decks on the only vessel of the fleet.

Schley has been commended by the Kentucky Legislature. This will destroy his chances for the prohibition vote if he ever runs for the Presidency.

A Pittsburg murderer admits that he killed his victim with a hammer. This should serve as an awful example to the numerous company of knockers.

Archbishop Bruchesi, of Montreal, has issued a pastoral letter in which he deplores the feverish desire for enjoyment and worldly pleasures which he claims is growing in Catholic families. Conjugal confidence, he says, is disappearing, and the yoke of filial obedience is weighing heavily. The archbishop sharply denounces theaters and private parties as the evils most to be avoided. He censures balls held in private houses, where, he says, "dances that shame decency, dresses that outrage good taste as well as modesty, and discourses and songs that would not be permitted otherwise prevail." The archbishop warns the faithful against these practices, and calls upon the French newspapers to suppress advertisements and notices of theaters.

The Southern Tobacconist, of Richmond, Va., thinks that the admission of Cuban tobacco free of duty would help rather than harm the American tobaccogrower, "because the more Havana at cheaper prices the more blending with our domestic tobacco ,and the better and cheaper cigars would find greater demand and insure better business." In the meantime the Manila American sounds a note of warning to the American grower: "The possibilities of the tobacco business in the Philippines are very great. Probably not one-fourth of the land that is adapted to the profitable growing of tobacco is now under cultivation. Free trade between these islands and the United States would eventually put millions of dollars into the hands of present and prospective growers. Nowhere in the world can tobacco be grown under more favorable conditions than in parts of the Philippines."

The following account of a newly married society young woman placing her first order with a grocer has been sent to The Oregonian. The incident is said to have happened in Portland, but this may be an error, as it is hardly possible that a Portland young woman could have made such mistakes. However, the story will interest many young women, wherever it happened.

The young wife has greeted by the obsequious grocer with a request to know what he could have the pleasure of serving her with, and she proceeded to place her first order as follows:

"Please send me up five pounds of paralyzed sugar for frosting."

"Yes'm. Anything else?"

"Yes; send me three cans of condemned milk."

"Yes'm. What else?"

"I want some salt, if you have any that is fresh. You must be sure that it is nice and fresh."

"Yes'm; I have some perfectly fresh—just came in this morning. Do you want anything else' mum? I have some very fine horseradish."

"No, I thank you. I do not care for any. We do not keep a horse."

### The All-Important Question.

Sing ho! for a harbor that's chuck full of sand,
Sing ho! for a river that's mostly dry land.
A thirty-foot channel may very well wait,
While the new dredge is getting its spud-gear on straight.

What matter if vessels pile up on the shoals
Where the mud-bearing tide of the Oregon rolls?
What matter if keels on the rock bottom grate,
While the new dredge is getting its spud-gear on straight?

Just what in creation a spud-gear may be
Is not very clear to a man up a tree,
But upon it, we know, hangs a great river's fate,
And so it's important to get it on straight.

Let the ships pass the harbor and steer for the Sound,
Or fit them with wheels to sail over plowed ground,
While the dredge gets its carrot knife whetted and keen,
And fits with new cutters its pumpkin machine.

Let its horse-radish mill be all ready to grind,
And its hay-baler be in condition to bind,
Let its sauer-kraut slicer be working first-rate,
But above all be sure that its spud-gear's on straight.

## PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

His View.—She—The last person in the world I wanted to meet! He—Well, there's nothing for it now but to act as if she were the first! —Puck.

Fair Warning.—He (nervously)—Who is that tramping around overhead? She—That's papa. He always gets restless towards morning.—Town and Country.

A Recognized Trait.—"Her little boy has such a manly way about him." "Yes, I noticed when I was there the other day that he found fault with what they had to eat."—Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.

Sheer Nonsense.—"He never washes his hands." "Nonsense!" "No; it's a fact." "Then he's a crank, eh?" "Not at all. He says it would take too long. He employs 200 in his mill."—Philadelphia Press.

Convincing.—Miss Upton—Did you tell him that I was not at home? New Servant—Yes, mum; but he didn't seem to believe me, bein' as I'm a stranger. Mebby you'd better go down and tell him yourself, mum."—New York Weekly.

The Kind He Likes.—"Of course, we have the Gibson girl and the Stanlaws girl, and the Nankivel girl, and the O'Neill Lathem girl, and it's rather confusing. But, as a matter of fact, which do you prefer?" "Well,"