

The Oregonian.

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TODAY'S WEATHER—Partly cloudy and occasional threatening showers. Variable winds.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 41; minimum temperature, 26; precipitation, 0.61 inch.

PORTLAND, MONDAY, JAN. 20, 1902.

NOW IN FAVOR OF PANAMA.

It will be conceded that the supplemental report of the Isthmian Canal Commission, in favor of Panama, is entitled to consideration. Reduction of the price from \$100,000,000 to \$40,000,000 is the cause of this new action.

There are reasons why our Pacific States should prefer Nicaragua. Between our Pacific and Atlantic ports, and between our Pacific ports and Europe, the route via Nicaragua will be much shorter.

There are certain physical advantages, such as a shorter line, a more complete knowledge of the country through which it passes and lower cost of maintenance and operation in favor of the Panama route.

Among the demonstrations now in progress in the realm of utility, that of substituting oil for coal for heating purposes, both on land and sea, is being attentively watched.

as fuel. The claim has been burning oil for two years, and the experiment has proved satisfactory. The company to which this vessel belongs is a Russian corporation, and it has numerous stations in various parts of the world where oil is stored, and it has for some years been employing oil-burning vessels in its trade.

So far it does not appear that oil as fuel is absolutely cheaper than coal. Much depends upon circumstances. In or near coal-producing districts coal is, and bids fair to continue to be, preferred to oil as a steam-producer, but where fuel has to be transported for great distances the cost is in favor of oil.

The greatest economy is held to be in that of the burning of oil. It is shipped for much less room being required, not only for the coal burner, but for the oil tanks than for coal burners. This difference on a large liner represents a freight-saving capacity of \$1500 for a single trip across the ocean.

Several railroads in this country and other countries have experimented with oil as fuel for their locomotives, but the results have not justified a recommendation to displace coal on the basis of economy or safety.

Much is said these days, up and down the country, on the problems presented by the proposed Columbia River canal and its tributaries, from the sea to the heads of possible navigation.

It is not probable that the rivers and harbors committee will be able to do anything of any importance in the Northwest without being prompted to do so by certain representatives in the Northwest.

The question is, What part of the work is most urgently needed, and what part of it, therefore, should be done first? The members of the river and harbors committee have seen the Columbia River, have examined it up and down, and seem disposed to the natural conclusion that steamboat navigation of the upper river can be serviceable to the country only as the river itself may be accessible to vessels from the sea.

According to Washington notices, the river and harbors committee is anxious that the Columbia bar shall be deepened before any attempt is made to open the river to navigation. This is welcome news.

We trust the Lewiston Tribune will take notice what its fellow-critic of Portland at the opposite end of the line has to say. The Oregonian has merely to ask the Astoria Journal, as it has already asked the Lewiston Journal, to drop Portland out of its account on this question; for Portland wants all the improvements made, and as to her own position, she will find means to take care of it.

against to secure its just dues. The Pacific Export Lumber Company, of this city, has dispatched more steamships direct to Manila than have been sent out by any other firm on the Pacific Coast, and has handled freight impartially from both Portland and Puget Sound.

It is known that Major Handbury put some island jetties where it was a matter of the middle channel to the north side of the Columbia, and ultimately shifted the bar channel to the north side, shoaling it to such a depth that jetties that could get to Portland could cross in easily.

Reason would be wasted on folly like this. Portland wants the deepest possible channel at the mouth, and realizes that this is the best method of all improvements. A 40-foot channel to Portland will quickly follow a 40-foot channel on the bar—indeed, will probably be had first, since it is by no means so difficult a problem.

The Oregonian says nothing about kindergartens. No doubt the kindergarten will be adopted, and will become an additional, integral and constantly growing part of the great educational machine.

The New York Herald attacks the Panama Canal editorially and advocates the Nicaragua plan as the only genuine American article in the way of isthmian canals.

It is now apparent that Portland is to receive another reminder that she will not be permitted to handle any of the Government transport business that can possibly be shifted to another port.

The "sanctified fools at the wheel" of the "muddled," as oftentimes quoted here in the press of this country. But what is muddled? A long search through the polyglot dictionaries is rewarded by the discovery that the verb "muddle" is provincial English, and means "to stoop in walking."

Dr. Hines was a man of great usefulness and consecration. For nearly half a century he has labored zealously for the uplifting of this region in moral and education lines. Of him it may truly be said, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

King Alexander of Serbia is endeavoring to obtain a divorce from Queen Draga. Since the Queen is just what she was when, against the open protest of his Ministers and court, Alexander married her, and, moreover, since no doubt she is quite as good as he is, there would seem to be no just grounds for the release of the King from his disgraceful bargain.

MEMORABLE WORK OF LITERATURE

George Hieronymus Knaggs (what a mouthful for the trumpet of Fame), one of the best-known pioneer residents of this state, is writing a book.

Mr. Knaggs's book is to be a concise and veracious history of his life, travels and adventures in this region in early days. From a hasty glance through the completed portions of this work, and the scheme blocked out for the remainder, it is evident that the book will become a classic, and will take a place near the heads in lists of "the best one hundred books" to be prepared in the future.

The tenor of the quartet, Domenico Russo, made a good impression. At first, his voice was somewhat hoarse, but improved as he went on, and his voice rang full and true, in the forte passages. It is of pleasing quality.

Miss Hale proved herself to be an actor of really great ability from the moment of her first appearance. Although her greatest opportunity does not come until the fourth act, she has written nearly a dozen plays for the health of the children she has deserted, returns to become their nurse, her earlier scenes are all entered into with skill, and a most clearly hearted happiness in the first act, she saves the play.

Obrien's Levison is just the gay, thoughtless, cheerful fellow that the world evidently intended he should be. He is none of your low-browed, scowling wretches; he smiles and smiles and is a villain, and a villain who will win your sympathy.

Six years ago the debt of Chicago was \$17,700,000; now it is \$28,700,000. Six years ago the debt of Boston was \$15,000,000; now it is \$25,000,000. The debt of Cleveland was then \$4,000,000; now it is \$9,000,000.

By the grace of God, we will soon have to be written at the head of all laws of Congress affecting the tariff. It is confessedly the "best-sugar" maddener who put his name to a confidential circular declaring that he could make money even if sugar were admitted free.

The Oregonian's voyage. The selection of Captain Clark, the famous commander of the Oregon, as a representative of the United States at the coronation of England's King will command universal respect at home and abroad.

AMUSEMENTS

The Collapsing-Repetto Operatic Concert Company began a week's engagement last night at Corday's Theatre, and were very well received by a crowded house.

When Collapsing came on the stage last night he was greeted with whirlwind applause. Her first selection was an air from Thomas "Mignon," and for an encore she sang, in English, "Promise Me" from "Robin Hood."

Ferrari was also successful with a programme from Leonora's "Pagliaccio," and in a duetto, with Repetto, from Donizetti's "Don Pasquale." Repetto sang a high dramatic instinct, and her voice, a lyric soprano, is one of great beauty.

Popular Emotional Drama Plays to Two Packed Houses. That most popular of all emotional dramas, "East Lynne," played at the Baker Theatre yesterday afternoon and evening to the two largest audiences the theatre has ever held.

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NOTE AND COMMENT

Now Croker is making a series of positive last appearances. "This thing of walking in the footsteps of Caligula will soon become unpopular."

It is suggested that the provisions of the Geary act might be so extended as to include the trusts. If Schwab stays at Monte Carlo he will soon be applying for \$3,000,000 on a year's advance of salary.

New York is to have a French theater. Let us hope that French farces will be confined within its walls. J. P. Morgan is one man who doesn't have to make his family purchases during the clearance sale.

Chicago wind is to be converted into electricity. But the wind is not the only thing about Chicago which can be made shocking. Senator Chandler says the Presidents are overworked. They certainly are, by men who have appointments they want made.

Dr. Temple, archbishop of Canterbury, once had a candidate for ordination read a chapter of the Bible before him to test his ecclesiastical powers. In the midst of it the archbishop stopped him with the abrupt comment, "You are inaudible." "But, my lord," said the incontinent youth, "I've read the lessons in a big church and have told that every word could be heard."

On the Sunday following Queen Victoria's death, Canon Gore, bishop's designate of Worcester, was so confused by the phraseology of the church service that he spoke of the heir apparent as "George, Duke of Cornwall and York," instead of Cornwall and York, in Westminster Abbey itself, though the Queen's death was the one thought in every mind, the minor canon who read the service said: "Oh Lord, save the Queen!"

Lord Roslyn's recent attempt at breaking the bank at Monte Carlo was not brilliantly successful, in spite of the "system" that appeared so convincing to himself and his friends. But a temporary success would be welcomed; it is said, by the Monte Carlo management, which depends on the general belief in the possibility of "breaking the bank." It is not likely, however, that the Prince of Monaco will be beggared. For more than a quarter of a century the tables have paid all the rates and taxes, the lighting and water of Monte Carlo. Even the bishop draws his salary from the profits of the tables.

A Gifted Girl.—"May" is a gifted girl, isn't she? "Very," says Mr. X. Christmas presents are being sent her from Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.

Patience—Do you see that lady over there? Well, she's a lady if there ever was a lady in the world. Buck—And what has she done to secure that? Patience—She stepped on her own coming down stairs. It was trailing behind her in that irritating way that women have, of course, I did the prettiest and most apologetic way I could. Buck—And she? Patience—She said to me, "Young man, you know you are lying. It was no fault of mine. It was mine entirely, and if you had pulled my gown out at the garter it would have served me right."—Duo-ton Transcriber.