

The Oregonian.

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TODAY'S WEATHER—Partly cloudy, with occasional rain; wind becoming southerly. YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 36; minimum temperature, 26; precipitation, 0.0.

PORTLAND, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14.

IN THE PEOPLE'S HANDS.

Proceedings of the past two days in the County Court carry weighty encouragement to every honest supporter of good government. The surrender of the Simon machine in the presence of a determined effort to uphold the law and justice and fair play is a welcome and timely reminder that the boasted power of bosses is, after all, a weak thing which will crumble away as at a breath in the hour of aroused public opinion.

Circumstances have conspired to spread throughout this city and county a revolt against machine methods whose expression in June, 1900, was but a forerunner of the final overthrow of those methods that is to come this year. It is that the Simon machine has been no longer a mere political machine, but a corrupt use of election machinery, perversion of salaries and fees, and in general the conduct of public business for private rather than public ends, have been borne for long, but can be borne no more.

This preliminary victory in the election boards is gratifying, but it is in itself powerless, unless it is followed by more to be done. The most honest and capable election officials in the world cannot count votes in favor of the people unless the people cast them. What is needed now and on to primary day in March is incessant activity on the part of good citizens in registering their names on the poll-books.

It will name the delegates who are to constitute the Republican candidates, and they can be elected if the voters will register and turn out to the polls on primary day. It would be a fine commentary on Portland's public spirit if, having been provided with fair election boards, its citizens abandoned the polls to the cohorts of the machine.

PERSONAL LIBERTY ABUSURDUM.

In Great Britain and the United States, and indeed in English-speaking countries more than elsewhere, the prevalence of smallpox is noted. Not for a long time has the spread of this disease been so marked as it is today. The reason why it is so difficult to deal with it in English-speaking countries, more than others, is the notion of "personal liberty" that so strongly asserts itself against compulsory vaccination.

and the exemption from smallpox which the country had so long enjoyed through the general enforcement of vaccination dulled the perception of the mischief which such a movement as they represented was capable of bringing about. In the name of personal liberty, and the rights of conscience, and what not, they appealed against what they were pleased to call the tyranny of compulsory vaccination, and by dint of persistent clamor, they succeeded in getting what they asked for.

Most of our Eastern cities are afflicted at this time with smallpox, to an unusual extent, and we know that the disease is gaining ground throughout the country. No Western town of any size or note is free from it. Yet the cry of the anti-vaccinator, pleading personal liberty and rights of conscience, is continually lifted up against the one prophylactic whose efficacy is as sure as anything in human experience.

The action and policy of Great Britain in this matter will meet with the approval of every citizen in the free world, save Russia, for no other country save Russia has any interest in the violation of the territorial integrity of Corea or the absorption of Manchuria and ultimately the whole of Northern China.

That vaccination does put a check upon smallpox is as certain as any fact in medical science; and when people are compelled to vaccinate for the public safety—and that is just the motive—there is no more infringement of private liberty than when they are forced to other sanitary measures, as burning or carting off their garbage, or putting suitable plumbing into their houses and connecting them with the sewer.

Suppose that Dewey held out hopes of independence to the Filipino chieftains. Suppose that Anderson did. Suppose that Aguinaldo, instead of being the renegade and fugitive of a abandoned cause at Hong Kong, was in the field at the head of about-to-be-victorious armies in Luzon when Dewey arrived at Manila.

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THE ANGLO-JAPANESE AGREEMENT.

The Daily London News (Liberal) is the only leading English newspaper to express the best of the advantages of the new treaty are almost wholly on the side of Japan and China. This is a very superficial view, for Great Britain, backed by both Japan and China, is easily able to defy any power of Europe that is likely to violate the territorial integrity of Corea or China.

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EULOGY HABIT IN CONGRESS.

The Congressional Record is a periodical of such a unique character that there should be no surprise in the statement that it is at its happiest when most doleful. Members of Congress can become eloquent over a bill for a Federal building at Takahuset, they can rise to heights of imaginative oratory on the Declaration of Independence, but they never really sound the depths of pathos or soar to the summits of sublimity until they set out to eulogize the character of some deceased colleague.

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AMUSEMENTS.

A woman of more radiant personality or more beautiful vocal endowment than Nordica has certainly never visited Portland, and the most brilliant audience that has ever crowded the Marquam was at the Marquam last night to give her welcome. There was a square inch of standing room left it was certainly not because of lack of effort on the part of somebody to obtain it at the box office.

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

Register. Long live the new charter! The smallpox germ never sleeps, even when visiting in Philadelphia. The postman will have only the usual loads today. Poor old St. Valentine! Chicago has just bought a heifer worth \$5,000. Lincoln Commoner, please copy. Dealers in troy weight scales ought to do a good business with the butchers.

Register now. The books close March 22, and there is no telling what may happen to you on the 15th. When our stockyards are completed, there will be no necessity for making pilgrimages to Chicago. A man who absolutely controls 500 votes certainly ought to be allowed to run a dance-hall if he wants to.

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PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS.

Ah, my dear, my dear, we are not completely estranged. Oh, no! I would still rather quarrel with you than with anybody else.—Life. Creative—"Goldilocks is going to put up a cottage for his wife in Southern California. 'What for?' 'Well, she wants another place that she will get tired of living in.'—Puck. Croker's sailed away and left us. And he's made his valise! But the public wink an optic. Simply saying nixy Nixon.

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