The Oregonian.

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TODAY'S WEATHER.—Occasional rain; brisk to high gusty winds, shifting to southwesterly.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER.—Maximum temperature, 60; minimum temperature, 49; precipitation, 0.01 inch.

PORTLAND, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15.

NO TARIFF CHANGES.

It is certain that the present Congress will not take up the subject of tariff revision. Nor will it entertain any suggestion of change in the tariff schedules. The reason given for this last determination is that if any proposition of the sort were entertained it would open a door to consideration of the whole subject. This is an argument that would make the present schedules forever unchangeable. But if it is to be the fixed and settled purpose of the Republican majority in Congress to permit no changes, a majority of another description will come into Congress some day—perhaps not at a late day, either; for there are great trusts and monopolistic combinations which the people will not permit to keep to themselves, forever, the benefits of protective tariff. From several quarters the suggestion comes that Congress shall create a tariff commission, with power to go over the whole subject and make recommendations to be acted on by Congress at a future day. It is useless; it would be wholly futile. Just so soon as the report of such commission was made, tariff beneficiaries would flock to Washington to defeat it. The great protected trusts, in particular, finding that such revision would cut their profits, would use all means in their power to oppose it. Congress would turn it down.

This has happened heretofore, even when the great protected interests were not so strongly intrenched as they are now. In 1882 Congress tried to dodge this great question by creation of a tariff commission. It was composed of members of each of the great parties; but all of them were protectionists, as members of such commission would be now, because no others would be appointed. However, this commission proposed considerable reductions. It presented a great mass of valuable testimony, on which its report was founded, and submitted with the whole a bill carefully drawn for carrying out its suggestions. But there was a rush to Washington of the army of beneficiaries, each of whom was unwilling to have his particular rate of protection reduced, and Congress tossed the commission's report, and the bill that accompanied it, into the waste basket. It was the interest of certain persons to have it so, and they had influence enough with Congress to control its action.

It isn't worth while, therefore, to talk about a tariff commission, nor to show further concern in the tariff question at present. Nothing will be done now. But the question will come to the front again, in vast proportions and with tremendous force, when the time shall be ripe for it.

FOR EFFECTIVE ARMY REFORM.

The bill of Secretary Root for the reorganization of the Army staff consolidates the Quartermaster's, Subsistence and Paymaster's Departments in a division of supplies under an officer ranking as Major-General, with Brigadier-Generals in charge of the branches of supplies, commissary, finance and transportation, and creates a general staff corps to decide upon a military policy of National defense and plan of mobilization of the military forces in time of war. This general staff corps prepares plans of campaign and determines the armament and equipment of our forces. This general staff corps includes a Lieutenant-General, with one Major-General, one Brigadier-General and four Colonels, besides numerous officers of lower rank. The business of this general staff corps will be to devise means for the harmonious co-operation of the military and naval forces of the United States against time of possible war, to prepare material for the making of history of the United States, and provide professional information for the service of the War Department. This general staff will be detailed by the President from officers of the Army. The chief of the general staff, who is to have the rank of Lieutenant-General, will be taken from officers not below the rank of Brigadier-General, and with him will be associated a Major-General, one Brigadier-General, four Colonels, six Lieutenant-Colonels, twelve Majors and twelve Captains. General Miles will be chief of this general staff so long as he remains in active service; that is, to August 8, 1903, the date of his retirement. Provision is made for the gradual absorption of the Inspector-General's Department by the general staff and its ultimate discontinuance. Provision is made for the promotion of non-commissioned officers to the rank of Second Lieutenant by a system of examinations. The number of military cadets to be appointed by the President is not to exceed 10 each year.

This bill is an admirable measure of Army reform, but it will be found difficult to enact, as it will be resisted by the political influence of the officers composing the present branches of the Army staff. The consolidation of these various branches and the extinction of the Inspector-General's Department is clearly in the interest of public economy, convenience and Army efficiency. The proposed general staff is formed on the model of the general staff of the German army. There is no reason why this admirable measure should not become a law, save the fact that it is sure to encounter the opposition of the present Army staff departments and their political friends within and without Congress. Mr. Root is the ablest Secretary of War that the country has had, save Stanton. Stanton could not halt in his stress of work to reform the Army system, or else he probably would have anticipated the work of Mr. Root.

DISCORDANT "PRINCIPLES."

The Tilden gathering of the Democrats was certainly inspiring for the unanimity of its sentiment. Let us honor the life and doctrines of our Democratic saints, they said; let us be true to Democratic principles, and all will be well with us, and with the land in which we live.

The only jarring note in the Democratic symphony arose when certain ill-advised soloists, engaging in obligato passages, undertook to specify what they conceived those Democratic principles might be. Upon this head, as might have been expected, there is most painful discrepancy in key and tempo. There were impassioned appeals to Tilden, who was a sound money man, and a letter from Mr. Cleveland, who is a sound money man, and a letter from Mr. Olney, who is also a sound money man, and a speech from Mr. Cockran, who is also a sound money man, or was at last accounts; but there was a letter also from Colonel Bryan, who is the most unsound money man in this or any other country. Inasmuch as Mr. Olney avers that Tilden's knowledge of political science was profound, and as Mr. Cleveland pointedly reminds us that Tilden resisted "every strange temptation and all false lights," it would be manifestly invidious, if not odious, to institute a comparison between Tilden and 1900 Democracy on the money question.

At the present hour the able papers of the Democratic party like the Louisville Courier-Journal, Chicago Chronicle, and many throughout the South, are also calling upon the Democratic party to arise in its strength, gird its loins with Democratic principles and march forward to victory, which they distinctly scent upon the air. Now these papers, and in addition the Brooklyn Eagle, New York Times, Boston Herald and other old-time Democratic journals, South and North, are for sustaining the flag and enforcing American sovereignty in the Philippines. It would not do, therefore, to press Mr. Cockran's "anti" sentiments as the true and tried test of principles on which all Democrats can unite, for to do that would be to discredit not only Jeffersonian expansion, but Mr. Olney, who wants Cuba, and Mr. Cockran himself, who wants Canada.

All the Democrats are for union on true Democratic principles, but in effecting a choice on any question now at issue they would fall upon most painful embarrassment. Perhaps Mr. Cockran hits the happiest suggestion in his dissection of Tilden. What was Tilden's great point? Why, he got there! He was elected. In 1874 he reversed the big Republican majority of 1872, he was elected President in 1876 (though he wasn't seated—a negligible formality), and two successive Congresses were overwhelmingly Democratic. This Mr. Tilden did, and, therefore, well may his memory be reverred. The man who can lead the Democrats to the offices is the man for them, and his principles are O. K.

What, then, are the true principles of the Democracy on which all men can unite? We fear that they must be characterized in no more definite terms than that they are the principles of the Democratic party. When you can find out the one, you will know the other. Meanwhile, depend upon it that whatever is going on ought not to be going on. Whatever is, is wrong. This constitutes "the beneficence and sufficiency of pure Democracy, which," in Mr. Cleveland's ponderous phrase, will "commend themselves so plainly to our countrymen who are honest-minded." Upon this platform, gold and silver, anti and expansionist, can march shoulder to shoulder in unbroken step.

NEW ARGUMENT NEEDED.

Some of the overworked arguments which were used on the Pacific Coast last year in favoring the shipping subsidy bill must now be submitted to radical revision. About a year ago an enthusiastic Seattle organ of the subsidy grafters wailed long and loud over the fact that ocean freights on wheat from Pacific Coast ports were in excess of 40 shillings. It was pointed out to the toiling wheatgrower that this excessive freight rate was due solely to the fact that there were not ships enough in the world to handle the world's business, and that it would be impossible to secure enough unless the American producers were taxed $9,000,000 per year to help out a few millionaire shipbuilders. The amount of tonnage that has been added to the world's supply within the past 12 months has been but little in excess of that added in the preceding 12 months, but at no time in the past 10 years has there been such a heavy decline in freights as has taken place within the past six months.

The Pacific Coast wheatgrower is getting his wheat to market at a cost of 10 to 12 cents per bushel less than he was paying a year ago, and yet the subsidy bill has not passed, and American shipping is still floating on its own bottom in competition with the unsubsidized fleets of Germany, England, Norway and other big maritime nations. There is little or no profit in carrying wheat from the Pacific Coast to Europe at 25 shillings per ton, and this rate will gradually drive into retirement a considerable amount of tonnage for which there is at present no remunerative employment. Some owners will draw on the big surplus of profits which they accumulated in the four fat years which have just closed, and will keep their ships moving in the hope of a favorable turn of the tide. This depression has long been on the way, however, and, unless some unexpected and remarkable change in conditions arises, it will linger with us for many months. Gradually there will be an adjustment of matters governing rates, and an upward movement will again set in, and rates will climb back to remunerative figures.

The actual happenings of the past year in shipping offer the strongest possible proof that subsidies are powerless to increase the maritime prestige of a country, unless there is a traffic to aid the subsidy in keeping the ships employed. When unexampled prosperity of world-wide scope demands tonnage in excess of supply, rates will advance to high figures. These figures will cause an increase in the tonnage supply, and in due season the limit is reached and passed, and there is more tonnage than business, and rates drop back. These periods of high and low freights have followed each other with more or less regularity since the first freighters sailed the seas, and they will continue in the same manner until the end of time. The subsidy shouters a year ago insisted that the passage of their bill would result in much lower freight rates for the Pacific Coast producer. If that argument was good at that time, why would it not be good now? And yet rates are right down on the dividing line between profit and loss, and further declines would force many owners into bankruptcy. Why pay a subsidy to secure low freight rates when we have them offered us without a subsidy?

An idle American ship in this port, even though she was drawing a subsidy, would not accept a lower rate than was demanded by an unsubsidized British or German ship, and the rates out of the port would be governed, not by the subsidy, but by the law of supply and demand. The present situation, however, is not without hope for the subsidy grafters. The "scarcity of tonnage" slogan can no longer be sounded, but, like blind beggars holding a tin cup, they can ask for alms because freights are so low that they are unable to sail their ships at a profit. Meanwhile the producers are getting their crops to market at about the lowest possible cost, and will not view with approval any scheme for taxing themselves for the benefit of a few American shipowners.

SPOILSMEN HAVE THEIR WAY.

It was fitting that the House, as a representative and business body, should initiate the bill for a permanent census bureau, designed to give us a methodical and satisfactory arrangement, instead of the present instrument for the reward of otherwise unprovided-for politicians. But the influence of Senatorial dignity and courtesy has so far extended there that an efficient census bureau becomes of little or no concern to the House, as to the Senate, unless the now preferred favorites are provided for against disturbance. To expect the Senate to do otherwise than reject so mildly reformatory an amendment as Senator Lodge offered on Saturday would be to expect dignity and courtesy to be repudiated at the very fount of their origin. If the Senate does not still further deliver over the census bureau to be the prey of the spoilsman, it will be because Senatorial courtesy has already been carried to its full length in the House.

The original bill making the census bureau permanent was objected to by the House because it did not provide for the permanent retention in the public service of some 2700 census clerks who had been appointed through the patronage of Congress. When the bill providing for taking of the census of 1900 was passed, the efforts of the civil service reformers to have the census clerks appointed in accordance with the established merit system was defeated. Hundreds of clerks were placed in office after a mere perfunctory examination by the Director of the Census, who was at all times as plastic as wax under the pressure of politicians. The recent debate so vigorously excoriated by Mr. Bonaparte arose over the effort to transfer these clerks, some 2700 in number, in a body without examination to the classified service of the Government. The bill establishing a permanent census bureau was recommended by a three-fourths majority, with instructions to the committee to report a provision allowing the census clerks to enter the classified list as permanent Government employes. In a hearing before the census committee of the House, Commissioner Procter, of the Civil Service Commission, showed that under the civil service rules of the census bureau, employes should be placed in the classified service according to the approved scheme. Every census clerk who has been employed and dropped within the past year will be entitled to reinstatement in the classified service, thus providing, not only for the present census clerks, but for all the second and third-rate employes who have already been discharged.

Doubtless the spoil-grabbers of Congress knew this when they recommitted the bill for amendment. Civil Service Commissioner Foulke recalled the fact that a large proportion of the census clerks have been employed solely in punching cards, and pointed out that, under the proposed bill, "a man who had been occupied in punching cards in the census bureau could be transferred to one of the departments as a translator of Spanish." Mr. Foulke had no objection to the transfer to the classified service of permanent census clerks who had been specialists in their work, but he strongly protested against the wholesale transfer of transient clerks as a gross injustice to persons throughout the country who had taken the regular civil service examination and been placed upon the list of eligibles, for, by the proposed bill, these eligibles would be set aside for a crowd of Congressmen's pets. These are the startling facts which have called for the prompt protest of Mr. Bonaparte and which formed the basis of the Lodge amendment so cavalierly rejected by the Senate Saturday. All these census clerks can take the regular civil service examinations, and if they are able to pass them can thus enter the classified service. But neither the clerks nor their Congressional patrons are willing to "come into competition with the graduate of the high schools of the villages of the United States."

If this amended census bill should be enacted by Congress, President Roosevelt would have a good opportunity to veto it, and send in a veto message that would be quite stimulating reading for the spoilsmen in Congress. The President will not hesitate to defeat this Congressional raid on the classified civil service to the extent of his official protest and veto. The only danger is that the spoilsmen in Congress will be strong enough to pass the bill over his veto.

The largest sugar plantation in Cuba, and perhaps in the world, is that of the Chappara Sugar Company, in the eastern part of that island. The company owns 66,000 acres of land, and has constructed for its use a thirty-mile railroad, the rails, cars and engines for which were bought in this country. The plantation is thoroughly equipped with modern American sugar machinery. Practically all the sugar plantations of the island were dismantled during the war, and all of the machinery then destroyed has been replaced from American shops. The United States is thus getting back in trade some of the money expended in bringing the conditions of hopeless warfare long prevailing in Cuba to a close. Furthermore, this country, in compelling Spain to relinquish her hold upon that island, has removed a stubborn obstacle to its material growth, which may well be accounted a practical and profitable achievement.

The Army and Navy Register says that Secretary Root selected Major-General S. B. M. Young, U. S. A., as the first president of the War College because he wanted "a fighting man" at the head of that institution. General Young was distinguished for gallantry in the Civil War, winning the rank of Brevet Brigadier-General; he was distinguished for gallant service in the Indian wars; he was made a Brigadier-General for his valor before Santiago, and he was made Major-General for his services in Luzon. General J. Franklin Bell is likely to have charge of the Cavalry School at Fort Leavenworth, General W. F. Randolph of the Artillery School, and General Gillespie of the Engineer School.

Philadelphia is ninety miles southwest from New York City, and might be expected to have a milder winter than Portland, Or., which is in about the same latitude as Montreal. The mean temperature of Philadelphia for December was 36 degrees, 65 degrees being the highest marked and 15 degrees above zero the lowest touch of the mercury. The highest mark for January was 47 degrees, and the lowest 15 degrees above zero. The highest mark in February was 38 degrees, and the lowest mark 12 degrees above zero. The lowest point the mercury has touched in New York City this Winter is 11 degrees above zero. The lowest point the mercury has touched in Portland this Winter is 18 degrees above zero.

Lieutenant-Governor Martin F. Allen, of Vermont, is soon to be tried in the United States District Court at Rutland for complicity in wrecking the Vergennes National Bank. Cashier Lewis has already been sent to the penitentiary, but the friends of Lieutenant-Governor Allen strenuously deny that he had any knowledge that Lewis was "crooked." It is proper to say of the little State of Vermont that while her Lieutenant-Governor possibly may be a bank-wrecker, nevertheless he has always given steadfast political support to the prohibitory liquor law, a fact which implies, as in the case of Colonel Yell, defaulter, of Yellville, Ark., that "his heart still beats warmly for his native land."

London will reap a harvest in June from hosts eager to see what not one in 10,000 can by any stretch of the purse, neck or imagination possibly see—the coronation of Edward VII and Queen Alexandra. Wise and prudent people, of whom there are still some numbers, will stay at home and take in the great festival through illustrated periodicals and the graphic descriptions given by correspondents, whose facilities for seeing and training in descriptive writing will furnish a far better idea of the pageant than can possibly be obtained by myriads of those who join the jostling, perspiring throng on the great day for which, according to the present reckoning of Londoners, all other days were made.

Increase of the culture of alfalfa is one of the most notable things observed in Eastern Oregon, Eastern Washington and Idaho. It is a word of Arabic origin—"alfacfacah"—meaning "the best kind of fodder." It was brought into Spain by the Arabs. In Spanish it is "alfalfez." The French call it "lucerne." Says the Drovers' Journal: "It matters not by what name it is known, the Arabs hit it about right when they called it the best kind of fodder." It is the greatest of grass crops on sage brush lands, where water can be had for irrigation.

The "deceased wife's sister" bill is up again in the House of Commons, and doubtless will be passed again. The Commons have been passing it regularly during a century or two; but the Lords always turn it down. One wonder is, since there is so much persistence in the effort to marry his deceased wife's sister, why the man didn't marry the sister in the first place.

Certain Senators talk as if they supposed somebody would believe them, or as if they believed themselves, when they exclaim that our possession of the Philippine Islands means tyranny and oppression, destruction of freedom in the islands and loss of liberty to ourselves. The Senate chamber ought not to be dedicated, without reclamation, to wind and silliness.

"A Reader of The Oregonian" writes: "You say you do not intend to charge Senator Simon with perfidy to Mr. Corbett. But do you not know that this is the very general opinion?" The Oregonian is aware that such opinion is very widely held; but such opinion doesn't seem pertinent to anything requiring present consideration.

There is a good deal of timber land in Oregon, but the corporations have swallowed up so much of it through lieu land arrangements that there remains little for those who may find it necessary to take to the woods.

And now Chicago is said to be wondering why Prince Henry is going to be made to waste three or four days in St. Louis while there are so many points of interest he might visit in that time.

All regiments in the Philippines, except the Ninth Infantry, have received recruits enough to fill their ranks, and General Chaffee advises that no more recruits be sent at present.

A car stove started the fire that devastated Paterson, N. J.

ART AND $3 PANTS.

Chicago Inter Ocean.

Five hundred of the professional musicians of Chicago who love their art for its own sake are said to be on the point of withdrawing from all affiliation with the 1500 musicians here who are supposed to love their art only for the money there is in it.

The 500 charge that the 1500 are swayed by sordid influences, that they will take the first job that pays the union price, utterly unmindful of the dignity of their exalted calling.

Thus certain members of the Musicians' Federation will play Sousa and Strauss in $3-pants wagons through the streets of a morning; Wagner, Rossini, Verdi, Mendelssohn, Weber and Mozart at an afternoon reception; Hogan, Evans, Dresser and Solomon at an evening church-parlor concert, and Beethoven, Ludovic, Witmark, Chopin, O'Conner, Gounod, Sullivan and De Koven at an all-night stag.

The 500, while willing to admit that this is business, are not prepared to acknowledge that it is art.

On the other hand, the 1500 ask the 500: "What would you have us do? If we play good music in $3-pants wagons through the crowded streets of this metropolis, thereby directing the mind of sordid man even momentarily to higher thoughts, are we not uplifting him? True, we are advertising $3 pants, but is there anything essentially inartistic in this? If the street crowds will not come up to our ideals, why is it not right and proper and ethical and professional that we should get down to theirs, at the union price per hour?"

"Then," they add, "what if we do mingle the classic and the ragtime at afternoon receptions, evening concerts and all-night stags? Are we not thereby popularizing the classic and at the same time demonstrating by contrast the inferiority of popular compositions?"

This argument may appeal to the ordinary mind with some force, but it is lost upon the 500. "Art should not be degraded upon any pretense or under any circumstances," they retort. "Music has a higher and holier mission to perform than that of creating an artificial demand for $3 pants. If popular airs are demanded at afternoon receptions, let popular airs only be played. If ragtime and coon melodies are demanded at church-parlor concerts and all-night stags, let such music only be played."

"Let us not," the 500 plead, "desecrate our art. Let us not drag Mendelssohn, Rossini, Chopin, Gounod, Verdi, Suppe, Wagner and Schumann down to the ragtime and coon level. Give the uncultivated Rosenfeld, Dresser, Howard, Sully, Sloane, Johnson, Cole, Solomon and the like, if needs be, but save the old masters from pollution. We would rather that our lutes should lie idle than that we should sacrifice art to lucre."

"All right," say the 1500, "you cling to your art, and we'll take the jobs."

In a case of this kind it would be hazardous for a Philistine to intrude opinion or advice. All that we would venture to suggest is that the 500 and 1500 agree upon a joint harmonizing committee. Discord is entirely out of place in a musical federation. Each side should make concessions.

If the 500 will agree to play some music that the common people can understand, the 1500 might agree not to play henceforth in wagons advertising pants at less than $5.

An Historical Fossil.

Philadelphia Record.

Among the fossil relics deposited in the Academy of Natural Sciences is one that bears the name, "Megaloynx Jeffersonii." When Thomas Jefferson was preparing for his journey to Washington to take the oath of his first term as President of the United States, there were brought to his home at Monticello the bones of a strange animal found at Greenbriar, Va. Jefferson was an enthusiast on old bones. When he reached the capital he sent for Dr. Caspar Wistar, the naturalist, an uncle of General Isaac J. Wistar, of this city. Dr. Wistar journeyed from Philadelphia to see the bones, which were spread on the White House floor. Jefferson had described them as the remains of a carnivorous clawed animal, "entirely unknown to science." At a glance Dr. Wistar pronounced them the bones of the common sloth. Jefferson was greatly chagrined, but the naturalist, in a vein of humor, gave them the sounding title of the "Megaloynx Jeffersonii," a name by which they have ever since been known in the pages of natural history. The framer of the Declaration of Independence never lost his passion for fossil studies. In 1806, when the embargo on British commerce was rapidly plunging the infant Republic into the stage of another war, Jefferson had the floor of his White House study littered with old bones. This inspired the following lines from the pen of William Cullen Bryant, who at that period was beginning to write verses for the newspapers:

Go, wretch, resign the President's chair,
Disclose thy secret measures, foul or fair;
Go! Search with curious eyes for horned frogs,
Or where the Ohio rolls its turbid stream,
Dig for big bones, thy glory and thy theme.

Change of Opinion.

Boston Herald.

That a great change has come over the minds of a large body of the people of New York, who have heretofore maintained and supported what is called the Puritan idea of Sunday, is well known. Some of the most influential of the clergy, men like Bishop Potter, the Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott and the Rev. Dr. Isaac K. Funk, are in favor of the right of the people of New York City to say for themselves, without regard to the rest of the state, whether or not they will have saloons open on Sunday. The adhesion of Dr. Funk to this policy is most notable. He is a Methodist minister, and formerly one of the publishers of that extreme, we had almost said virulent, prohibition organ, the New Voice. He said last Friday night: "If I was King of New York, or boss, which is the same thing, I would not make New York a prohibition city, even if I could do it by mandate. I don't believe that the attempt to enforce such a law should be made, until the majority of the people are in favor of it."

A Clean City.

New York Tribune.

Havana is much better off than New York and many other American cities, and better than London and a large number of foreign capitals, with respect to smallpox. Cuba's foremost community has not had a single case of this disease for many weeks, and it is also free from yellow fever. This metropolis has had as many as 50 smallpox patients in a single month, and London has been compelled to care for much larger companies of the afflicted. It is a notable triumph that American officials have succeeded in the suppression of those dreadful plagues, smallpox and yellow fever, in Havana, for centuries a hotbed of disease.

'Tis True, They're Weary.

Providence Journal.

Speaking of the Philippines, the New York Evening Post observes that the people "have unmistakably grown weary of the old ranting on the subject." They have indeed; and it is gratifying to note that even an "anti-imperialist" should admit it frankly.

Cardinal Manning.

The late Aubrey De Vere.

I learn'd his greatness first at Lavington;
The moon had early sought her bed of brine,
But we discours'd till now each starry sign
Had sunk; our theme was one and one alone;
"Two minds supreme," he said, "our earth has known;
One sang in science; one served God in song;
Aquinas—Dante." Slowly in me grew strong
A thought: "These two great minds in him are one;
Lord, what shall this man do?" Later at Rome
Beside the dust of Peter and of Paul
Eight hundred mitred sires of Christendom
In council sat. I mark'd him 'mid them all;
I thought of that long night in years gone by
And cried, "At last my question meets reply!"

AMUSEMENTS.

"Human Hearts," the melodrama which is so full of heart interest that the woman who sees it without a handkerchief will get into trouble before the first act, came again to Cordray's last night, and again packed the house to the doors. There is something about this most stirring of Hal Reid's plays that seems irresistible. The hard luck of the honest blacksmith which makes a matrimonial mistake of large magnitude is so persistent and steadfast that it awakes sympathy which apparently must be manifested season after season to get full swing. The record of the season was nearly broken at the performance, and the applause was as thunderous, the hisses as malevolent, and the cheers as excited as the most exacting player could ask. The adventuress, who works the blacksmith for all he is worth and spends her extra time in plotting various sorts of villainy, is the same old adventuress. The little, praying child puts up the same fervent petition, and dissuades the same tramp from his fell intention, the evil-doing of the villain is just as black, and the other characters are the same old thing. The play, while fairly bristling with thrilling situations and hairbreadth escapes, also has a vein of very necessary comedy, so that laughter mingled with tears, and every one appeared to be suited.

The company is all that is necessary. Lincoln J. Plummer is a good blacksmith; William A. Brummel, as Frederick Armadale, is an efficient villain; Pearl Ford is an admirable adventuress, and the remainder of the company is up to standard. The play is well mounted.

FINE VAUDEVILLE PROGRAMME.

Wonderful Child the Top-Liner at the Baker.

A splendid programme of vaudeville was presented at the Baker yesterday afternoon and evening to two big crowds, and the bright particular star of the aggregation was a little child, a girl of 7 years, who not only dares sing classic music, but does it most creditably. She is Alice Barnum, a San Francisco product, and she has been blessed with gifts that make her a prodigy among entertainers of her kind. Difficult music has no terrors for her, and she sang two songs yesterday with a finished technique that was astonishing. It is claimed for the little girl that her range encompasses two and a half octaves, and there is not a harsh note between the extremes. Altogether, she is by far the most wonderful of the many clever children who have been seen in Portland. The house fairly went wild over the tot, applauding her till they were actually exhausted.

Miss Ruby Dawson, in imitations of various people well known to most playgoers, was another favorite, being encored again and again. Miss Dawson possesses a pretty face and a pleasing manner, and had little difficulty in accomplishing that feat known as taking the house by storm.

The Nine Lindauers, in poses and athletic feats, did some remarkably clever work, and were roundly applauded. Their work is novel as well as clever, and is one of the features of the programme. The Paloma Ladies' Quartet was held over to fill in a number that turned up missing, and, judging by their reception, Mr. Baker made no mistake in doing so.

The Three Reximos, comedy acrobats, amused the audience while doing some apparently impossible things. J. H. Hearde, comedian, earned a number of encores. George Jones sang a song well, and Lewis and Lake gave a tolerable comedy sketch. The male member of this trio has done considerable borrowing from Billy Van, but as Van borrows liberally himself on occasion, this can hardly be made a subject of criticism.

The same programme will run all the week, with a matinee Wednesday.

MIGHTY LONDON.

The Population Increases 50,000 Every Year.

London Express.

The immensity of London can only be understood when we come to deal with the many sides of the people's lives. Every year about 130,000 babies are born in London, some 5000 of whom are not wanted, and are not welcomed. There are always more boys than girls.

More than 400 out of every 1000 never live to be 2 years old; over 30,000 little coffins being used every year to bury their remains. More than 20,000 people die every year in London workhouses and infirmaries; but, in spite of the fact that about 82,000 Londoners go to their last account, there are 50,000 more persons alive in London each New Year's day than there were on the previous occasion.

There are more than 40,000 weddings each twelvemonth, 30,000 of which are celebrated in the churches of the Establishment. Strange as it may seem, seeing that we have had compulsory education now for over 20 years, there are every year more than 2000 persons married in London who can neither read nor write.

It is a common mistake to suppose that everybody who can comes to London, and that its population is increased almost entirely by this process. As a matter of fact, close upon 40,000 Londoners leave the metropolis every year for the country or for places abroad.

Tillman and the "Inferior Races."

Philadelphia Press.

Those innocent-minded Filipinos, who are pondering over Senator Tillman's sympathy for them, might profit by reading his anti-negro addresses. In the case of the colored brother his heart beats so sympathetically as to defend lynching in all it barbarities and to advocate the general submission of all negroes to the white man's social and political dictatorship. A warm heart has Tillman of its kind, but it is one the Filipinos had better not depend upon.

PARAGRAPHIC DETAIL.

The State Engineer of New York has prepared plans for a system of highways to cover the entire state and to cost $20,000,000. The state is to be asked to advance the whole amount, one-half of which is to be reimbursed, the counties paying $7,000,000 and the towns $3,000,000.

Chicago has three office buildings that are 17 or more stories in height. Of 16-story office buildings there are in that city seven; of 15-story, three; of 14-story, six, and of 13-story, seven. A renewed effort is being made to prohibit the exceeding of the present limit of height in the future building operations.

Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Le Guay Geary is the new Governor of Bermuda. His name is familiar to students of the Crimean period, especially in relation to Sebastopol, where his brilliant work won him special mention in dispatches. Afterward he went through many adventures in the Indian mutiny campaign, and in the Abyssinian War, under Napier, he again came into prominence.

Dr. W. H. Milburn, the blind chaplain of the Senate, thinks he may fairly lay claim to the title of "Grandfather of the House." He entered the service of that body 10 years before John Sherman, of Ohio, and Justin S. Morrill, of Vermont, who were termed "Fathers of the House." Mr. Milburn was first elected chaplain of Congress in 1845, hailing from the Congressional district represented by Lincoln.

Hungary has 11 towns of 50,000 inhabitants or more, according to the recent census. Budapest has 732,000, Szegedin 100,000, Maria Theresiopel 82,000, Debreczin 75,000, Presburg 69,000, Hodmerovasarhely 61,000, Kecskemet 57,000, Arad 56,000, Groswardein and Klausenburg 50,000 each. Agram, in Croatia, has 61,000 inhabitants. In South Carolina nearly every town of 3000 or more inhabitants calls itself a city, and is incorporated as such.

"If Los Angeles keeps up its present lick, in less than two decades it will have gone ahead of San Francisco in population," says a resident of that city. "The building permits now aggregate a weekly construction of $500,000, and there isn't enough building material or men to carry on the work. The completion of an interoceanic canal will make our town the metropolis of the Coast. We will then be able to get our fruits through to New York in 14 days, instead of 28, as at present."

NOTE AND COMMENT.

It isn't too late to register today.

Santos-Dumont is not so very far ahead of Darius Green, after all.

Have the kindergartens established departments of cartooning?

The weather is running its usual bunco game on confiding vegetation.

Some politicians lay the ghosts of past records; others merely lay carpets.

Prince Henry will have a pleasant voyage till the Kentucklans find the range.

The weather is all right, but we would just as well have our July in the Summer time.

The saloon men are also in doubt as to the legality of the Council meeting that raised their licenses.

Cyrus Noble died the other day. Three crowns of glory are undoubtedly awaiting him in a better land.

Oh! welcome breath of gentle Spring,
Thou makest us to sigh,
For well we know that thou wilt bring
A blizzard by and by.

Many people are going down to New York harbor in ships merely to see Fighting Bob Evans lead the German.

It is a poor coolie who wouldn't own an interest in a mercantile establishment if by so doing he could get into this country.

The public-spirited Mr. Routh gave a grand opening Saturday. He must have got a good many votes to make that possible.

General Booth is going to publish a drunkard's directory. Here is a chance for the notoriety-hunters to get their names in print.

There is a blind spot in every one's eyes. The hurdy-gurdy houses in the North End seem always to get opposite those in the eyes of the policemen.

We held the press till 4 o'clock this morning in the hope of getting a contribution from the poet of the Santiam. What's the matter, Tilly?

The New York Tribune's correspondent at St. Thomas writes that in society there is no race issue at all. "Many of the most prominent white men of the island have married colored women, their sons are well educated, and their daughters are charming, cultivated and refined."

Leslie M. Shaw, the new Secretary of the Treasury, is an early riser. He appeared at the department at 8:30 the morning after his appointment, and had some difficulty in getting into the building, as the doorkeeper did not know him. One of the department chiefs says: "In a week or two the new Secretary will stroll down to the offices about 9:30 or 10 o'clock, just like all his predecessors, and instead of remaining at his desk until dark and falling over the scrubwoman on his way out of the building, he will leave when all the others do, about 4 o'clock."

Dr. Immanuel Pfeiffer, the leader of the fight in Boston against vaccination, who recently visited the pesthouse to expose what he termed the fallacy of the theory of contagion in smallpox, is now suffering from the disease in its worst stages. Dr. Pfeiffer got the privilege of visiting the pesthouse because he was a physician. On his return, two weeks ago, he announced that he had exposed himself as much as possible to the disease, and although he had not been vaccinated for 65 years, he announced that he had no fears of being stricken. Nevertheless he has the smallpox.

They had been talking of nicknames, and a New York teacher, whose school is on the East Side, said: "A boy of 7 came into my room. 'What is your name?' I asked him. 'Stub Williams.' After long questioning, I discovered that his name was Arthur. 'What is your father's name?' I asked. 'Beefy Williams,' was his response. There his knowledge halted. He could not tell me more, because he did not know. 'Beefy' was the only one he had ever heard. I told him to get the name for me. The next day he brought a note, scrawled on the margin of a newspaper. 'My name is James W. Williams,' it said, 'but what in h—l is the matter with Beefy?'"

Gracie Merriam, a 12-year-old girl from Cincinnati, was visiting friends in Washington recently. She was anxious to see the White House, including the rooms where the President lives. None of her friends could get her the desired permission, so she wrote this letter:

"Dear Mr. Roosevelt: I am a little girl from Cincinnati, and I want to go through the White House so much. I don't know anybody to take me there, and I thought I would write you and ask you if you would let me see it. Your true friend,

"GRACIE MERRIAM."

A day or two later Gracie received a letter from the President, saying he would be glad to see her, and that she could go through the White House from top to bottom if she would come and bring his note with her. She came, and was given a special escort, and went through the historic old mansion from top to bottom.

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

Progress.—His Friend—Are you writing an historical novel? The Literary Cuss—Don't say a word. I'm writing a prehistorical novel! —Puck.

The Size of It.—"The principal ingredient in all these patent medicines is the same." "It must be a powerful drug. What is it?" "Printer's ink."—Town and Country.

Willing to Oblige.—Minister—Little boy, do you use tobacco? Small Boy—Sure thing, mister, but I'm sorry I can't give you a chew, I'm all out.—Chelsea Gazette.

Restitution.—"You horrid child, you have been taking some of this curry of your uncle's." "Only a mouthful, auntie, and I put it all back in the jar again."—Brooklyn Life.

Red, White and Blue.—"Thar must be a woodpile up to college, Maria." "Why, Hiram?" "Because Crawfoot's son writes that he sees our Silas picking up chips every night."—Chicago Daily News.

Bad News.—Superintendent (of Metropolitan Street Railway)—Here is an article saying the average American is gaining in weight. President—That's too bad. We won't be able to pack so many of them in a car. As it is, we are only making about 900 per cent on each passenger.—Life.

An Honest Judge.—"I charge that there is collusion among the witnesses!" cried the attorney for the defendant, springing to his feet. "In that case," said Judge Wayback, "I order th' Sheriff tew search 'em, an' if he finds any collusion, or anything else intoxicatin', he will turn it over tew me!"—Ohio State Journal.

When His Courage Left Him.—"They say," remarked the sweet young thing, "that you were never really frightened." "Nonsense!" returned the man who was honest, as well as more than ordinarily brave. "They forget that I was once one of the principals in a—" "Duel?" "No—in a swell church wedding."—Chicago Evening Post.

Taking Its Measurement.—"Willie, dear, do you know where