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TODAY'S WEATHER.—Overcast and rain; brisk to high, mostly southerly winds.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER.—Maximum temperature, 49; minimum temperature, 42; precipitation, .12 inch.

PORTLAND, MONDAY, FEB. 24, 1902.

AN IRREPRESSIBLE CONFLICT.

In a recent address before the National Geographical Society at Washington, Hon. E. J. Hill, a Representative in Congress from Connecticut, said: "My judgment is that the destiny of China is slow but sure absorption by Russia, and the world will be the gainer by the change." There are those, also, who have thought that absorption of Turkey by Russia was certain, and that it would have similar consequences. But neither of these changes can other nations permit or afford. Either of them would violently shift the center of gravity in the political and commercial affairs of the world. Great Britain has taken the lead in prevention of the absorption of Turkey by Russia. She now is taking the lead in prevention of Russian absorption of China. The United States could not interpose or participate in the measures for maintenance of the Ottoman Empire, but must join in the protest against absorption of China by Russia; for such result would be highly injurious to the interests of the United States in Pacific commerce. We want the open door in the Orient, and Russia would close it. She has not yet reached the stage of development necessary for the freedom of a commercial civilization. Government in Russia is omnipotent, and it controls commerce, as it suppresses human liberty, in support of its policy of state. Russia would put the commerce of every other country at a disadvantage in the Orient. She could govern China, indeed, for the Chinese would be submissive under her absolutism; but the other nations of the earth cannot allow the enormous addition to the power of Russia which would come through absorption of China.

Underneath all these rivalries, in which Russia is so prominent, the contest is rapidly assuming, as its leading phase, the form of a struggle which, for generalization, may be called a struggle between Slav and Saxon. The progress of the nations of Europe, with the exception of Russia and Great Britain, is fixed within limits by an inexorable law, which the genius neither of a Napoleon nor a Bismarck could overcome or evade. The military power of Germany is a bar to the complete industrial and commercial development of France. The converse is just as true. No nation on the Continent can disarm while its neighbor remains a great military power. Of Italy it may be said that there is no probability that its vitality will ever extend much beyond the peninsula it occupies. The Austrian dynasty is the oldest in Europe, and the nation, if nation it can be called, betrays as plainly as Spain the weakness of old age. Russia, Great Britain and America remain the only powers which are free to act in the world of outer affairs.

Conditions that have been in course of formation ever since the fall of Napoleon have forced Russia and Great Britain into antagonism toward each other. It is an antagonism that extends all along the line, from Turkey in Europe, through Persia and Afghanistan, along the frontier of India, and on to China and Japan. Our own interest in freedom of commerce in Asia, and our position on the Pacific and in the Pacific, bring us into contact with it. We are happily freed by our unquestionable supremacy in America from those international struggles which distract the other hemisphere. But the Eastern continents possess three times the area and ten times the population of the Western. The struggle for supremacy of the world must be fought there, and the protagonists who will contest it with each other are Great Britain and Russia. This is the meaning of the generalization that the future world is to be Slav or Saxon. That is to say, one of those ethnic forces or the other, with the qualities inhering in it, is to have the ascendant, and the struggle is to come sooner than it would seem, if we compare it with the slow development of nations and races in the past. For the rapidity of such changes today is as much greater than that of like changes in past ages as the transmission of intelligence is incomparably quicker. We now do as much in ten years as the ancient world did in a thousand.

And yet an uprising of the people of Russia, a demand by them (if it shall ever come) for admission to a share in controlling the policy of the empire, with concentration of attention on internal reforms, may change the aspect and direction of affairs and modify or avert this great contest. Were the centralized despotism of Russia overthrown, civil liberty established and industrial methods substituted for the present rigorous military system, the course of affairs in the Eastern world would be wholly changed. But these events, if they are to come at all, are yet far off.

A factor against England is the undoubted feeling against her throughout Europe; and it is not unaccountable. Dr. Max Nordau thus sums up the causes of it: "The result of 500 years of English history is the mastery of the seas, the possession of the greatest colonial empire the world has ever seen, the astonishing expansion of the Anglo-Saxon race, and the resentful hatred of the nations from whom England has once or oftener had to exact respect for the English flag, or whom she has had to drive from the sea or various shores." But England's main contest, during the greater part of a century, has been with Russia. In present circumstances it is not possible to compose it; the rivalry is too tense. There may be a dozen acute situations or partial conflicts, followed by as many temporary reconciliations; but the mighty forces behind all are incongruous, and never reconcilable.

IN CHRISTIAN FORBEARANCE.

In passing judgment upon the part borne by the dignity and courtesy of the Senate in commemoration of Washington's birthday, it is but just to bear in mind that Tillman does not stand for the culture and refinement of South Carolina. The state has other and less plebeian ways of asserting "honah" than the doubled fist of an angered man. It would prefer the loaded cane in the hands of a Preston S. Brooks beating down Charles Sumner, helpless and unarmed, at the desk whence had proceeded the gospel of human freedom. In this high school of honor Tillman has had no lot. He belongs to the lower orders of Southern civilization. He is a ruffian and a blackguard. His political harangues, as the people of Oregon know from an experience they will not soon forget, are ribald and obscene. For this there are mitigating circumstances. Tillman himself is gracious enough to his home people to attribute his lack of decency to his unfortunate environment as Governor of South Carolina. That experience, he brutally pleads in extenuation, unfitted him for correct behavior in the Senate. This, obviously, builds up a strong defense. A statesman must be judged in the light of his disadvantages. If a man has good blood in him, he can by native force and refinement work his way to respectability and intelligence through unfavorable environment. Or if he has the right kind of training, he can be made a man of, even if he is of lowly origin. Heredity may under favorable conditions triumph over environment, or environment over heredity. But when the two join forces against him, the battle is apt to result in—well, Tillman.

Not that the superior culture and refinement of South Carolina will repudiate Tillman. Not for a moment. They—the culture and refinement aforesaid—will sustain him with glad acclaim. Yet they will not be responsible for his offenses. Oh, no. They reserve the right to claim all merits of grace, virtue and wisdom, the while elevating to power the ignoramus, the unprincipled, the boor. They reserve the right to be judged by their professions, and not by their deeds. We maintained slavery, they will tell you, it is true; but we are neither cruel nor callous to unnatural crimes. We burn negroes alive, but we have neither malice nor race hatred. We disfranchise the black man, but this signifies merely that we are his only true friend and protector. We vote for free silver, but we understand perfectly the necessity of the gold standard. We vote for Bryan, yet we want Pacific expansion for our cotton. You will judge us not by what we do, but by what we say. We want a tariff on tea for the benefit of a South Carolina plantation, a tariff on sugar for the benefit of Louisiana cane, a tariff on tobacco for the benefit of Key West factories and Virginia leaf, but you will not understand this as impugning our loyalty to free trade or reflecting upon our conscientious scruples against the robber policy of protection. So whatever ruffians and blackguards we select as Governors, Congressmen, Senators, you will bear in mind, on pain of wounding our honah, sah, that we are all gentlemen, sans peur and sans reproche.

Nor that the Senate will permit the South Carolinian exponents of his dignity and courtesy to suffer serious inconvenience. Consistency forbids. Tillman's assertion that McLaurin was bribed with patronage to vote for the Treaty of Paris is discredited, not only by McLaurin's repeated denials, but by the simple fact that things are not done at the White House in the coarse and vulgar way which seems necessary to Tillman. Yet this assertion, so hotly denied by McLaurin, is just as true as any of the shameless falsehoods concerning American purposes and American soldiers uttered daily and almost hourly upon the Senate floor. The blind partisanship which Tillman contemptibly whines about, albeit himself its most conspicuous embodiment, and from which McLaurin has been brave enough at times to break away from, dominates so thoroughly the minority side of the chamber that no move in its rebuff can be expected thence. To pass the lie is discourteous, but no more discourteous than are Turner's and Teller's aspersions upon the officers of our Government. A blow in a fellow-Senator's face is not more undignified than the insult gratuitously hurled by Dubois at every volunteer and West Point officer in the United States Army.

Through their long intimacy in the violent ward of "anti-imperialism," the venerable Mr. Hoar has made a boon companion of the South Carolina ruffian. He has praised him in magazine articles, and ostentatiously vouched for his high character and attainments. Now Mr. Hoar is much chagrined, and possibly feels aggrieved. But wholly without justification. Saturday's "rough house" in the Senate discovered nothing in Tillman that was not there before. A low, brutal fellow, by his own confession out of place among dignity and courtesy, he stands revealed; but a low, brutal fellow he has always stood revealed to all not blinded by the idolatrous worship of "anti-imperialism."

The task of the Senate, altogether, is a painful one, being the difficult application of the two axioms that a Senator can do no wrong, and that whatever happens in the Senate is the embodiment of decorum and courtesy, as becomes the "most dignified deliberative body in the world." Nor can the episode fail to add to the intellectual discomfort of those wise and good men like the very learned and able Senator from Idaho (Mr. Dubois), who suffer keen humiliation whenever the impeccable acts and words of the superior beings in the Senate chamber are commented upon by mere mortals in the ordinary walks of life. It is to be feared that persons will be found so insensible of the Duboisan code of wisdom and sanctity as to advert to the fracas and to the Senate, and possibly even to Southern chivalry, in terms neither adulatory nor parliamentary. From such unprofitable indulgence The Oregonian will refrain. It will not characterize the said subjects as they deserve, but dismiss them with mild and sympathetic regret, as has been done, and venture the hope that Tillman may long continue to reflect glory upon the state that loves to honor him, and to ornament the Senate, where his qualities have long insured him universal veneration and regard.

OUR GRATIFYING PROGRESS.

Recent developments in industrial affairs show gratifying activity in the field tributary to Portland. Two considerable railroad projects have been organized in the past few weeks—one to build 100 miles of new road up the Deschutes Valley, in Eastern Oregon, and the other to give adequate transportation toward Portland for all the rich valley of the Klickitat—and from the spirit manifested in these enterprises it may be supposed that the rich Nehalem country will not long remain sealed against transportation lines. Two logging railroads are now on their way to scale the divide that separates the Nehalem from the Columbia. Extensive coal development is in progress on the Lower Nehalem. Surveyors are running lines for a trolley road extension into Clackamas County. Important irrigation enterprises in the Deschutes country are about to take definite shape in connection with the railroad to pass through that valley. Beyond the Columbia, in Clark County, railroad and other development works are in progress. These are not mere paper projects. Every one of them has vigorous life and means much for the Columbia Valley, for Oregon, for Portland.

By no means the least of the evidences that have served to bring a better feeling to Portland is the attitude of the great railroad lines that enter the city. They are not only taking an interest in this country, but are willing to let it be known. It has been a race as to which could get most credit for introducing immigration rates into Western Oregon. All are commendably active in the service of getting homeseekers to come this way. In a sense, also, it may be said that the bright outlook for local railways is due to the friendliness of the transcontinental lines. Perhaps more now than ever before do large plans center about the City of Portland. Even the Transcontinental Freight Bureau comes to Portland to adjust so important a matter as the charges on all freight that crosses the continent.

All this is what has long been striven for. The results can hardly fail to be in all ways beneficial. Portland has reason to be pleased with what has been accomplished, but the future must be filled with hard work if all these agencies are to be made to yield their full measure of benefit. There is yet room for expansion, for employment of Portland's energy and substance in such important works as deepening the Columbia's mouth and opening the upper river. Important influences are now working for and with Portland, and they should be encouraged. They will always work with us if accorded fair treatment, and at the same time made to understand that Portland has the spirit and power to go it alone if necessary.

STRONG POSITION OF WHEAT.

The record-breaking wheat crop produced in the United States in 1901, instead of proving a weight on the market, is being quietly and quickly absorbed by foreign buyers at much higher prices than were secured for the crop of the previous year. The statement of the Bureau of Statistics, showing exports for the first seven months of the cereal year, credits the United States with shipments of 109,543,119 bushels of wheat, and 11,209,346 barrels of flour, compared with 66,664,846 bushels of wheat and 10,450,045 barrels of flour for the same period in the preceding season. Reducing these totals to wheat measure, we have total exports of 160,000,000 bushels this season, compared with 114,000,000 bushels for the same period last season. This remarkable increase of 46,000,000 bushels has been taken up so readily by the foreign market that at no time since the season opened has there been any such protracted period of depression and low prices as existed the preceding season.

The American farmers have not only sold the foreigners nearly 50,000,000 bushels more wheat than they sold in the first seven months of last season, but they have secured from 3 to 6 cents per bushel more for that shipped from Atlantic ports, and from 4 to 12 cents per bushel more for that shipped from Pacific ports. These facts constitute about the strongest feature of the wheat situation at the present time. They show in a most effective manner the dependency of Europe upon this country for breadstuff supplies, and if this demand continues in its present ratio until another crop is harvested, the granaries of the United States will be swept as bare as they were when the famous Leiter coup rendered a "clean-up" possible. Shipments of similar proportions to those already sent forward will bring the total exports from this country for the twelve months ending June 30 up to 275,000,000 bushels. At least 40,000,000 bushels will be required for seed and 375,000,000 bushels for home consumption.

From all parts of the Middle West, where the corn crop was ruined, reports have come that wheat was being fed to stock in place of high-priced corn. The extent to which this practice has been followed cannot be easily arrived at in figures, but it has undoubtedly been of sufficient proportions to have considerable effect on available stocks. These amounts, which are believed to be approximately correct, will, with the amount fed to stock, account for nearly all of the crop of 1901, even though it be in excess of 750,000,000 bushels, a figure which is not unanimously credited by the trade. The bullishness of these figures may be offset to a certain extent by conditions arising later in the season. The enormous demands of Europe may be partially met by increased receipts from the Argentine and Australia, both of which will be contributors for the next few months. The competition of these countries, in any event, however, will be of smaller consequence than usual, as the Argentine has a very poor crop, and Australia is not above the average in the best districts, and is poor in others.

The excess of American shipments this season has been just about sufficient to meet the shortage in wheat in Germany alone. The shortage of rye and other coarse grains in that country was greater than the shortage in wheat, and the failure of the crop of coarse grains in the Middle West in this country precluded any assistance from here except in the way of wheat shipments. All things considered, the outlook for good prices for wheat is remarkably bright, and if the Winter wheat crop should emerge from its covering of snow next month in poor condition, dollar wheat is again a possibility.

In 1798 Representative Matthew Lyon, of Vermont, made a personal assault on the floor of the House upon Representative Griswold, of Connecticut. The effort to expel Lyon failed. United States Senator Thomas H. Benton, of Missouri, once drew a pistol upon Senator Henry S. Foote, of Mississippi. Representative Galusha A. Grow was assaulted by Representative Barksdale of Mississippi, and in the struggle that followed Barksdale lost his wig. Representative Preston S. Brooks, of South Carolina, in 1856, made a very brutal assault upon United States Senator Charles Sumner, while Sumner was writing at his desk in the Senate chamber after adjournment. Brooks failed of expulsion by the House, the majority vote against him falling short of the requisite two-thirds. Since the Civil War there have been no personal encounters on the floor of either house of Congress. United States Senator Tillman has reversed the fading tradition of "plantation manners," and ought to be expelled from the Senate, whose dignity he has long outraged by his brutal language and manners in debate. Possibly his constituents might re-elect him or the Governor reappoint him, as the Lieutenant-Governor of Montana appointed Clark to succeed himself when he resigned to escape expulsion. Tillman and McLaurin may both resign, which is really about the best solution of the difficulty. The Senate, of course, should vindicate its own character for decorum by taking prompt action in such a matter. Wheeler of Kentucky has shown by his recent speech in the House that he is a boor without brains or intelligence; but United States Senator Tillman presents a more melancholy spectacle—that of a man of more than ordinary brains and intelligence, who cannot or will not control his very brutal temper. Representative John P. Cilley, of Maine, was killed in a duel by Representative Graves, of Kentucky, February 24, 1838, because of words spoken in debate. Tillman and McLaurin will perhaps fight a duel, but even in South Carolina the duel is comparatively obsolete.

There has been widespread comment upon the order of Commissioner Jones prescribing "close-cropped hair, faces unpainted and the abandonment of the blanket" as the twentieth century styles prescribed for Indians. Casting about for a reason for this order, the Youth's Companion says that it is believed that "paint on the Indians' faces melts and runs into the eyes, producing disease," the inference being that this part of the order is thus based. It is also conceded that the shirt, for hygienic reasons, may be preferable to the blanket, but, it is asked, "Why not leave the way of wearing the hair to individual taste?" The whole reason underlying this order is missed in this estimate. If we are to civilize these reservation Indians (which is conceded to be the Government's plan), they must be induced to discard the insignia of savagery, indolence and filth, get into working clothes and work. The paint on their faces may not affect their eyes, but it is unclean, and stamps them as savages, and it surely needs no argument to convince any practical person that men cannot work to advantage with long hair blowing about their faces and blankets falling loosely about their limbs. The "blanket Indian" will mock the efforts of civilization in his behalf until these insignia of filth and laziness give place to clothes in which he can have the free use of his body and a chance once in a while for a change of clothing.

Miss Stone has at last been delivered up, thus setting at rest such doubts as have arisen as to her historic identity. Perhaps through her strenuous experience she will have stumbled upon the deeply philosophic truth that Turkey and all other such heathen countries are good places to stay out of. Missionary labors, whether by Protestants in Turkey, Mormons in Sweden, or Brahmins in America, are apt to be unproductive of anything but irritation, unless they are carried forward on a powder-cart. Christianity, through all ages, when it has made progress, has made progress by arms, and the same is true of Mohammedanism and of all the religions that have impressed themselves on the world. The early motto of Christianity was "In Hoc Signo Vinces." Although the symbol was the cross, the instrument was the sword. It remains, and ever will remain, that no religion will ever get forward unless it fights. The church triumphant is the church militant. Noncombatants like Miss Stone would better remain at home. There is much work in America for persons who have the spirit to adapt themselves to it.

The Transcontinental Freight Bureau has opportunity to be generous to the growing hop industry of the Pacific Coast. Restoration of the old freight rate to Eastern markets of 1½ cents per pound would be a great stimulus to the culture of hops. It would enable Pacific Coast growers to enter the Eastern and European markets on more equal terms. Producers on this Coast memorialized the Transcontinental Freight Bureau to this effect. They say they can afford a rate of 1½ cents, but that 2 cents is a heavy disadvantage. In view of the great potentialities of hopgrowing in this part of the United States, it is hoped the railroads will see it to their interest to concede in the direction desired.

Were it an English Prince, there would be a terrible uproar about the toadyism of this Government to monarchical institutions. But since it is a German Prince, we shall try to keep our indignation within bounds—though Germany is the completest type of military absolutism, save Russia, in the world.

Now they are moving to abolish the crush at the New York end of the Brooklyn bridge. Some bounds must be set to iconoclasm on Manhattan Island, or soon there will be nothing worth going to New York to see.

Policemen must preserve order at fires, but beating to death those who are trying to save their property is not a necessary part of that duty. A poor man to control others is the man who can't control himself.

REMINDER OF HYPOCRISY.

Chicago Record-Herald.

Senator Henry Cabot Lodge is the helpless victim of one of the most dubious and singular honors ever bestowed upon a scholar in politics. The cigar-box, 15 parts silver and one part gold, which was presented to him by ex-Senator Chandler, may make a pretty ornament for a smoking-room, but it must be very trying to have it about as a constant reminder of the donee's prominence in a bunko game. The Senator was distinguished by the favor of the baleful Chandler because he was the author of the words "which we pledge ourselves to support" as they appear in the Republican platform of 1896 after the assertion: "We are therefore opposed to the free coinage of silver except by international agreement with the leading nations of the world." If this assertion had been intended to represent both a sincere conviction and a sincere purpose it would have stopped with the word silver. For there was no more probability of international bimetallism at that time than there is today. The leading nations of the world were clearly committed to the gold standard, and some of them had taken such a position that negotiations in behalf of silver were foredoomed to failure.

Hence the pledge added by Senator Lodge was buncombe added to buncombe. It was a promise to promote the obviously impossible, and the purely formal effort that was made to carry it out came to nothing as a matter of course. A commission was sent abroad to complete a farce in the name of consistency.

The cause of this remarkable display of statesmanship was the politicians' fear of making an unequivocal statement on the subject of money. More than half the members of the convention had talked silver on the stump, and it was felt that the flat declaration, "the existing gold standard must be preserved," needed qualification. It was a too rude and startling change to introduce suddenly where ambiguity had become a fixed habit. But events demonstrated that the caution of the platform-makers was unnecessary, and Senator Lodge's words were a wasted tribute to demagogism in one of its vanishing phases.

The record is one which he should be glad to forget, and no one could blame him if he were to throw that accusatory bimetallic cigar-box out of the window.

No Ruin in Such Repeals.

Providence Journal.

After all, it is not so important to know to just what extent this unfair discrimination is practised against our tariff-burdened home people as it is to recognize that the tariff gives the opportunity and the means to practise it. The opportunity and the means being supplied, it is silly to suppose that the manufacturers are too considerate to make use thereof.

It is equally silly to think that the trust defenders are honest when they advance the argument that a repeal of duties such as is recommended by Mr. Babcock or Mr. Philips would "ruin" not the big combinations but their small American competitors. Indeed, it can cause hardly any other feeling than amusement when the members of billion-dollar combinations insist that so far as they are concerned there would be no harm in the abandonment of protection, or its very radical modification, but that their hearts bleed when they contemplate the fate that would be brought upon their home rivals. The profession of an altruism of that degree is more than suspicious, and every person of ordinary intelligence and experience with the world must agree with Mr. Philips that the professed sympathy of the trusts for their small competitors is misplaced. If the latter were relieved of the freight discriminations and of the protected monopoly of raw materials they could manufacture as cheaply as the trusts; or if they could not, they should not be protected. If by reason of those vaunted economies in combined production the trusts can sell goods at lower prices than would otherwise be possible, then it is not to the public interest that more expensive methods should be encouraged by a tariff. At all events, the small competitors have nothing to fear or ask under just laws; consequently, Mr. Philips concludes that the trusts are inspired toward them with some other feeling than benevolence. He is right.

History of a Handshake.

Washington Star.

The "high handshake," which prevails in Washington to such a considerable extent and which is particularly noticeable in society and diplomatic circles, is said to have been introduced here by the late President McKinley. The handshake of the late President was one of the most attractive and interesting things about him. When receiving a large number of people and in haste, his right hand was always held out in the customary fashion, but when receiving Cabinet officers, Congressmen and others in his private office, there was an air about his handshake that was irresistible. The elbow of his right arm usually rested close to his body, while his hand was held upward nearly to a level with his chin, thereby requiring the other person to raise his hand to that level. Then Mr. McKinley would grasp the hand in a clasp with the fingers of his hand around the fingers of the other person. The President's hand would move to the right and left three or four times, and the handshake would be concluded. Mr. McKinley rarely departed from that method of handshaking, and in time those who were with him grew accustomed to it and became devotees of the habit themselves. Soon after Mr. McKinley commenced this method of handshaking the diplomatic corps took it up, and now it is generally known as the "diplomatic" handshake. It is still in existence among the foreign representatives, and is extending to other circles. Secretary Cortelyou, whose long association with the late President made him familiar with the ways of the latter, grew accustomed to shaking hands in the same manner as President McKinley. He now has no other way of clasping the extended hand but this one. Public men in Washington often speak of President McKinley's handshake as one of the most interesting they have ever known.

Mr. Schwab's Ambition.

Kansas City Star.

Mr. Schwab found everybody in Europe profoundly impressed with the power and the grandeur of the United States Steel Trust. The people over there had no idea that such a puissant and opulent combination was within the power of human energy. These expressions of surprise and admiration were, as might be supposed, intensely gratifying to Mr. Schwab, and it is natural that he should have become inflamed with the ambition and desire to make the trust still greater—to lengthen its cords and strengthen its stakes.

He and his associate magnates must be grateful, of course, to the Government for the privilege it confers upon the United States Steel Trust to control prices and to amass the millions which make their corporation the object of such sincere homage, and all they crave now, in addition, is the little boon of a ship subsidy to furnish cheaper facilities for distributing the products of the steel trust to the "great common field" on which Mr. Schwab has fixed his keen, metallic eye. The Government ought certainly to be able and willing to give a little lift to a line of transportation in which many of the steel barons are interested, when the institution with which they are connected can send a man abroad who can command even the attention of royalty.

It is not so much that the steel trust asks. The earth will satisfy Schwab and Morgan and the rest, if Congress can do no better.

Another "Great Senator."

Louisville Courier-Journal.

Wellington took up considerable of the time of the Senate yesterday telling anybody who would listen to him how he opposed the Spanish War, what he thinks of Funston, what he thinks of Aguinaldo, etc., etc. But how did Wellington get the impression that it made the least difference, or that anybody had the least interest in, what he did, does, or thinks?

MITCHELL'S ADVANCED VIEWS.

Boston Transcript.

In the Senate the other day Senator Hale, in a spirit of impatience which he sometimes exhibits when personally wearied of a discussion, interrupted Mr. Hanna with the remark that the United States has already all the foreign trade that is worth having. This assertion the Ohio Senator denied on general principles. Now comes Senator Mitchell, of Oregon, with a speech containing an interesting collation of figures, the effect of which is to show that, so far from the United States having attained "commercial supremacy" in the world's markets, it is a very small contributor to the imports of many great countries. Mr. Mitchell's figures are not the latest, being in a majority of cases those for the year 1900, but there has not been change enough either one way or the other in the interval to affect the value of his teaching. Thus at the time referred to Mr. Mitchell found that the imports of all foreign countries footed up the enormous total of $10,398,189,000, of which the United States contributed $1,468,373,450, or about 14 per cent. Of the imports of Great Britain the United States contributed 24 per cent. Its contributions to the imports of other leading nations were were thus stated by Mr. Mitchell: Germany, 14 per cent; France, 9 per cent; Belgium, 11 per cent; Denmark, 14 per cent; Italy, 11 per cent; Netherlands, 10 per cent; Portugal, 9 per cent; Russia, 3 per cent; Japan, 18 per cent; China, 7 per cent, decimal minority fractions being omitted for the sake of convenience. To North American countries we contribute about 32 per cent of their total imports; to all Asia, 5 per cent; to all Africa, 6 per cent; to all South America, 12 per cent. These figures are not discouraging of themselves. In many cases they represent a large trade, as with Great Britain and Germany. They are large as compared with the proportion of the contributions we made to the imports of several of these countries only a few years ago. On the other hand, to some foreign countries our exports are so small as to be near the vanishing point. Thus of the imports of Ceylon but one-half of 1 per cent come from the United States. Of course American goods enter Switzerland indirectly to some extent, and thus escape direct enumeration, but those directly exported to that country constitute but about one-seventh of 1 per cent. Of Austria-Hungary's imports but a fraction more than 2 per cent come from the United States. But after making all allowances these figures are corrective of the glib optimism that so frequently says on the platform, in Congress and in the magazines that we have established our "commercial supremacy," and have now but to sit back comfortably in office chairs and cut off the coupons of the world's industrial bonds to us.

While Mr. Mitchell is an earnest protectionist he is a protectionist of the school of President McKinley, not of that of those House leaders who say the United States must be "protected" against Cuba and against the Philippines, deaf leaders of the blind. It was the belief of President McKinley that we had secured in many foreign countries but a foothold for our goods, and that by judiciously applied reciprocity we could enlarge what we had obtained to the point that should secure for us a steady and increasing demand. To quote his words: "Only a broad and enlightened policy will keep what we have." With this opinion Senator Mitchell is in harmony, his own words being:

> The marvelous development of our resources, the unparalleled increase in our manufacturing, agricultural, horticultural and dairy products, our amazing capacity for still further annual increase in the production of these varied products to amounts in most instances far beyond the demands for home consumption and home markets, should impel us, while carefully guarding our own industries and our own labor, to be on the lookout in every direction for markets for our surplus products. For this purpose we should look not only to our insular possessions, not only to the countries of this hemisphere, but to all foreign countries of this and the other hemisphere as well.

These words voice the sentiment of the Pacific Slope. They are what many Western Republican Congressmen would say if they deemed the time propitious for breaking away from the assumed party position. They are what not a few Western Senators and Congressmen do today say in private conversation. The Buffalo speech sank deeper into the public thought than those Congressmen who would protect us against our own possessions realize. It was the great literary feature of the Iowa campaign which made Cummins Governor by a landslide majority. It is today the leading document of the promotive literature of the St. Louis Exposition. At the Charleston Exposition there is a building devoted to promoting the St. Louis Exposition. To every visitor to this building a copy of the Buffalo speech is given, a neat pamphlet which contains a portrait of the dead President.

President McKinley did not desire to wreck the protective system, but he believed that to prevent congestion in our home market we should secure abundant foreign outlets by reciprocity; and, fully conscious of Western sentiment, which gropes its way to expression in the Babcock bill, he held that if the tariff must be revised it should be revised by its friends.

Position of the United States.

London Statist.

Our indebtedness to other countries, and more particularly to the United States, is growing heavier and heavier every year. Formerly we had immense sums invested in the United States and elsewhere. But of recent years we have been selling our American investments on a scale never hitherto seen, and the purchasers have almost always been Americans. Practically the great bulk of American securities are now held in America. The value of our imports of commodities last year exceeded the value of our exports of commodities by the enormous sum of £153,000,000. In two years, we apparently incurred on account of our imports a gross debt of £306,000,000. Yet it is perfectly true that we experienced no inconvenience at home. On the contrary, indeed, when Paris every now and then called upon us to repay some portion of the debt due from us to her, we were able to get the gold required by Paris from New York.

The explanation of this apparent anomaly is that all the time the United States was buying United States securities held in Europe, and mostly in this country, upon an unexampled scale. And thus the debt we incurred to the United States was offset by the heavier debt the United States incurred to us for the purchase of securities. Whenever the present great prosperity of the United States comes to an end and American investors cease buying securities in Europe, the offset will disappear. We shall go on importing food and raw materials on the old scale, while American purchasers of securities will have been finished, temporarily at all events. Then the United States will be in a position, if it pleases, to take so much gold from the Bank of England as, if really taken, would throw the whole trade of this country into confusion. It may be, of course, that the United States will not need the gold. But if it does need it, it will have the power to take it, and thus every trade in the country will be at the mercy of our American creditors. It is well that the public should recognize the fact in time, and not go on working in a fool's paradise.

Many Letters.

An account has been published in Berlin of the average number of letters daily received by European sovereigns. The pope breaks the record, as his daily average of letters and papers reaches the enormous number of 22,000 to 25,000. Thirty-five secretaries are kept fully employed with his holiness' correspondence. King Edward must find his daily quota of 1000 letters and 2000 newspapers a heavy tax on his attention. The Czar and the German Emperor receive from 600 to 700 a day; the Emperor likes to answer many himself. The King of Italy gets 500 and the young Queen of Holland struggles under the daily burden of between 100 and 150 letters.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Is there any protection from the police?

Prince Henry preferred to come late than never.

No one is likely to enter upon encomiums on South Carolina.

Perhaps Collector Church will be absent from the North End for a time.

The name of Sullivan does not necessarily insure fistic greatness to its proprietor.

For the first time in its history the Congressional Record needs a sporting editor.

There is talk of reviving the Democratic party. And yet it appears to have expired by limitation.

Church is the man the Commissioners have backed every time his removal has been demanded.

The rumor that the Secretary of the Interior will resign certainly looks like inside information.

The remarkable thing is that Church wasn't on "plain-clothes" duty in the North End, as usual.

Senator Frye should take a week or two off and familiarize himself with the Marquis of Queensberry rules.

Business men or hobos, it's all one to the police. But the gamblers are never taken to jail in the patrol wagon.

Policeman Church does not handle the North End grafters with a club. But the grafters do not hit him with an umbrella.

The dignity of the police force was insulted by a blow with an umbrella. What wonder that the police rose in their wrath and half-killed a prominent citizen.

District Attorney Chamberlain has many times clamored for the removal of Officer Church. Mr. Chamberlain seems to know an officer when he doesn't see him.

An officer who is willing to be known as an officer at all times wears his uniform. But perhaps a uniform would interfere with the northern portion of Policeman Church's duties.

At the request of Mr. Ridder, of the New York Staats Zeitung, Archbishop Corrigan has granted a special dispensation to Catholics attending the press dinner in honor of Prince Henry, Wednesday, February 26, which will allow them to eat of meat or fish, but not of both on this occasion. Archbishop Corrigan will himself attend the dinner.

The stupid habit of kissing among children and women, once universal, is gradually coming into disrepute on the sensible ground that diseases like "grip" and other unpleasant ailments are communicated by osculation. An intelligent woman is reported as saying to a visitor: "There is one rigid rule in my house, that nobody must kiss this little girl on her mouth. My reason is a hygienic one."

The current number of the Century Magazine, containing the hitherto unpublished diary of a friend of Kosciusko, the Polish poet Niemceuicz, who visited General Washington at Mount Vernon in June, 1798. The following extract indicates that Washington did not lose any chance for a joke:

"Did you know Mr. Jones," Mr. Law asked him, "who was just killed in duel by Mr. Livingston?"

"I believe I did see him, but I did not know him intimately. They say that the shot he fired at his opponent cut a piece off his nose. . . . How could he miss it? You know Mr. Livingston's nose, and what a capital target it is."

It is time that a protest be lodged against the deliberate effort which has been made to steal the laurels of the Oregon mule and foist upon an unsuspecting public the belief that the Army burro was the inspiration for that humorous description which describes him as an animal "without pride of ancestry or hope of posterity." The flight of time softens the bitterness of sarcasm's sting, and perhaps ex-United States Senator George H. Williams will forgive this reference to the enmity which existed between himself and United States Senator J. W. Nesmith, who jointly represented Oregon in the upper house of Congress during the Civil War. Senator Nesmith was author of the whimsical left-handed compliment to his muleship, and the way it came about was this:

When Senator Williams presented a bill for traveling expenses there was included in the items a bill for $10 for being conveyed about the City of New York in a hansom cab, then a new luxury, and in consequence decidedly more expensive than in later years. Senator Nesmith was essentially unpretentious and ultra-democratic in his personal habits and appearance. He didn't give a rap for style here in his home state, and when he went to Washington he was in no way changed. There was a feud of long standing between the two Senators, and Nesmith never overlooked an opportunity to let loose a torrent of invective and satire at his colleague when chance offered. And it should be stated that at this parry-and-thrust game with words for weapons Nesmith had no equal. He opposed the expense bill submitted by Senator Williams, and he took particular exception to the $10 item for cab hire. "When I knew the distinguished gentleman in Oregon," thundered Nesmith on the floor of the Senate, "he was not riding around in new-fangled conveyances at $10 an hour. Instead, he was riding from country town to country town bestride a long-eared animal which has neither pride of ancestry nor hope of posterity."

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

"They tell me, Boomly, that Raply is a friend in need. You are to be congratulated." "Yes, he's always in need, and he never has any hesitancy in telling me so."—Tit-Bits.

Poorest Record.—Vanblibber—Who got the annual booby prize in the Automobile Club? Vanpelt—Slowgo; he ran over only 14 people during 1901.—Ohio State Journal.

An Infallible Sign.—Alice—I wonder how old Miss Sereleaf is? Anne—Well, she is certainly over 40! Whenever she speaks of herself and friends she always says "We girls."—Judge.

Laura—Yes, you see she told him her father had lost all his wealth, just to test his love for her. Ada—And then? Laura—Well, she will know better next time.—Glasgow Evening Times.

What It Would Be.—"Why, gentlemen," cried the after-dinner speaker at the Candlelight Club, the other night, "what would this Nation be without the ladies?" "Stag-nation, of course," murmured the cheerful idiot.

It.—"At the Dawnce last night," said Cholly, "Miss Green took me up to one of the other girls and said: 'Miss Brown!' Miss Brown said: 'Well, what is it, Mayme?' Then Miss Green introduced me, and everybody lawfed, and I couldn't see anything to lawf at to save my life."

Most Desirable.—"It would be helpful to you," said the prison visitor, "if you could take some motto, and try to live up to it." "That's right," replied the convict. "I'd like to select, for instance, 'We are here today and gone tomorrow.'"—Philadelphia Press.

"It is too bad, Charlie, that I did not find your mamma at home. Will you please call nurse, so that I can leave a message for her?" Charlie—Well, yes—but I'd rather not leave you all alone. "Oh, how kind, but that doesn't matter." Charlie—No, I mean all alone with that cake over there.—Brooklyn Life.