

The Oregonian.

Entered at the Postoffice at Portland, Oregon, as second-class matter.

REVIEWED SUBSCRIPTION RATES. Daily, Sunday excepted, per year, \$1.50. Daily, Sunday included, per year, \$2.00. The Weekly, per year, \$1.00. The Weekly, per month, \$0.30. To City Subscribers—Published daily, Sundays excepted, \$1.50 per year, delivered, Sundays included, \$2.00.

POSTAGE RATES. United States, Canada and Mexico: 10 to 14-page paper, 4c. 15 to 24-page paper, 5c. Foreign rates double.

News or discussion intended for publication in The Oregonian should be addressed invariably to "Editor The Oregonian," not to the name of any individual. Letters relating to advertising, subscriptions or to any business matter should be addressed simply "The Oregonian."

The Oregonian does not buy copies or stories from individuals, and cannot undertake to return any manuscripts sent to it without solicitation. No stamps should be included for its circulation.

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All objections to this measure were met by the statement that in the first place the world of the empire was considered most unwise to antagonize either China or Japan at present.

The Australian Government had refused to consider this fact, the assent of the crown would probably have been withheld from the exclusion statute.

But on the exclusion statute, rather than embarrass the Imperial Government, the majority in the Australian Parliament accepted the measure as proposed.

The government professes to be confident that this statute will answer every practical purpose of exclusion; that the demand of a written application in one or other of five European languages will prove an effectual barrier to the Mongolian immigrant.

A COMPLETE ANSWER.

Mr. Tongue's letter to the Baker City Chamber of Commerce, printed on another page, is a complete answer to those at Baker City and elsewhere who have questioned the justice of massing, practically, the allowance for Columbia river improvement.

Mr. Tongue puts the matter plainly. The willingness of Congress to take up projects for improvement of the upper river is based upon the relationship of the upper waters to the lower channels which lead to the sea.

The unvarying policy of Congress in these matters is to work from the mouths of rivers up stream; and Mr. Tongue adds impressively that to convince Congress of the uselessness of work at the mouth of the Columbia river "would end forever and ever any improvement of the upper portion of the river."

Mr. Tongue's plea for unity on the part of the Northwest in the matter of river and harbor demands is well timed. It will increase our standing and influence with the committee which has these matters in hand, and by it we shall in the long run get vastly more than by appeals from divided vessels in conflict with each other.

Further, the more we will do better from the standpoint of our own interest to work in harmony with the Congressional idea—to improve the mouth of the river first and work up stream—than to avoid the bounty of the Government, even if that were possible, as to accomplish no particular work.

Mr. Tongue argues clearly that improvement of the Columbia river bar is a benefit to every part of the Northwest, which finds its way to general markets through the Columbia river gateway.

Better conditions at the bar, reflected in cheaper and more expeditious navigation, have a definite relation to the price of every commodity which we sell to the world; and Mr. Tongue points out that the interests of the farmers of Eastern Oregon in this connection is precisely the same as that of the Western Oregon farmers, who always support in every possible way the project for improvement at the bar.

In one form or another all this has been said before, but it comes with special meaning and force from one who, as a member of the Congressional committee in charge of river and harbor affairs, has all the elements of the situation before him.

Mr. Tongue is especially qualified for impartial judgment in this matter, for he has studied it from every point of view, and with advantages growing out of his connection with Washington not available to any other Oregonian.

TRUSTS NOT BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS.

President Harriman is quoted as expressing the belief that if President Hill or any other man owned all the railroads of the United States much better rates would result.

"We often have conditions where we could induce the shipment of certain commodities when we have got a prevailing movement of empty cars one way or the other," said Mr. Harriman, "and with a freer hand I believe the railroads could increase the movement of commodities from one part of the country to another and from one country to another."

And if all the transportation lines were owned by one man or one corporation, the carrying service of the world might be much better and cheaper than it is.

It is not doubted that in this time of prosperity transportation charges might, without threatening the recovery of the various companies, be reduced materially and the various properties consolidated in the interest of the public.

They are not forced into mergers and community deals in order to confer greater benefit on the public. They could do more for the public, but they don't. Consolidation enables them to do more, to save expenses and reduce the cost of service.

But does anybody suppose they will do this merely because they can? The great objection is not that combination disqualifies these great forces for better service, but that the power to do better by combining cannot be doubted. But the hard fact remains that such power is not exercised solely for the public good.

So long as human nature is what it is, so long as man strives for private gain, they will use the power, which gigantic combinations of capital give them, for the advancement of personal and private ends at the expense of the public.

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A REMARKABLE MAN.

Ex-Governor O. H. Altgeld, of Illinois, who died in his 56th year yesterday, was a man of superior intellect, power, an able lawyer, a unique convert to socialism, a nominal education was what he received at the public schools of Ohio and what he obtained by the study of law books and the practice of his profession.

He rose to distinction as a lawyer; was a Judge in Chicago from 1886 to 1891; was defeated for Congress in 1896; was Governor of Illinois from 1893 to 1897; was beaten for Mayor in 1898. He incurred great odium as Governor for his failure promptly to call out the militia for the suppression of the terrible railway riot of 1894, which was only quelled finally by the interference of Federal troops by order of President Cleveland.

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in carefully graded on the basis of experience, and the grades of certificates held, ranging from \$2 a day for teachers who hold certificates for one year, without experience, to \$25 a day for those who have had five years' experience and over and hold five years' certificates.

This arrangement seems to be equitable, and if the bill becomes a law it will save school authorities much annoyance through opportunity, while it will encourage teachers to persist in and strive to excel in their work.

VOTING ON PRIMARY DAY.

No primary election ever held in Portland has attracted so much attention as the one to be held on Saturday next. The reason is that there is now a primary election law, under which it will be possible, for the first time, to get an approximate expression of the will of the people as to the selection of candidates for office.

By far the greater number of our electors are workmen, employed about the factories, mills, shops and commercial houses of the city. There is no body of men who take more constant and intelligent interest in public affairs. But their time is not their own. During working hours it belongs to their employers.

It would be a graceful and proper thing on the part of employers to give their men time to go and vote on primary day. Any part of the day will do; but since it will be Saturday, the suggestion is offered that time be given, by general consent of employers, in the afternoon.

The great moral force of the country is its industrial class. Its interest is wholly on the side of good government. It ought to have the fullest opportunity to use its power for moral and decent ends, in our public affairs; for it is certain that the bulk of the votes of the irresponsible and least worthy will always be found in the ballot-box.

Bear in mind that it is not a party primary election, but a primary election for all parties. It is the election, whose result will completely control the course of events in the city and county, and to a large degree in the state. Hence the necessity of getting out our best vote. It may be hoped employers will bear this in mind.

The plan to erect a monument, suitably inscribed, in the soldiers' plot in Riverside cemetery has been vigorously indorsed by the late comrades-in-arms of the dead of the Second Oregon who sleep their last sleep in this beautiful spot.

What is known as the "soldiers' monument" will be erected on a site yet to be chosen in this city, the rendezvous of the Second Oregon Volunteers, and from whence they departed for duty in the Philippines.

The purpose of this monument is not to mark the place of interment of those who can no longer be seen, but to mark, passing multitudes of the entire regiment, and to preserve in granite the events of its history. Not the least fitting and important will be the monument that will mark the resting-place in Riverside cemetery of the early dead of the regiment, fifteen of whom already lie in silent comradeship upon a slightly eminence near the southern entrance to the cemetery grounds.

The sum of \$3000, which it is hoped will be promptly raised for this purpose, should, under careful direction, furnish an enduring and suitable monument to mark the place that, as time goes on, will be a historic spot.

The Mayor of Oregon City, admitting that gambling is practiced in his town, still declares that he cannot prevent it. He says he must have proof sufficient to convict before he can stop gambling. Six years ago Oregon City had a Mayor who did not lack for that.

When he was elected the town was afflicted with various metropolitan sins. That Mayor didn't ask the assistance of the preachers, nor did he embark on any spectacular crusade against vice. He conceived it his duty to enforce the laws, and the vices that had flourished, gambling among them, ceased at once.

The citizens were so well pleased with the proceeding that they re-elected this Mayor who positively declined to serve longer. Mayor Canfield did it with the same police force the town now has. For the Mayor of a town like Oregon City to say he cannot close gambling that he knows to exist is to speak nonsense.

It is doubtless, a very important matter whether an Assessor a few years ago committed an alleged error in the assessment of somebody's lot; and a very important thing whether a man once on the police force was somebody's second cousin; and a very important thing whether the wife of a Judge on the bench is a niece of somebody's step-mother.

A great deal of "political literature" is now being circulated, dealing with these and similarly interesting inquiries and important subjects. But the bearing of it all on the question of Mr. Joseph Simon's fitness for the United States Senate, and whether he is a man whom Oregon should re-elect, is really not apparent.

A "machine" man remonstrates. He wants to know why The Oregonian says that a change of local administration is necessary, in the interest of economical government. Taxpayers who have been visiting the Courthouse during several weeks can tell him. They can tell him that they are paying in now just about one-third more taxes on the same property than they ever have paid heretofore.

The taxpayer finds the boasted reduction of the levy a delusion, when in fact his total sum is 30 to 40 per cent more. Here is a demonstration that no fine words can upset.

Among Republicans in Congress there is a serious dissonance over Cuba. We are pledged to favor Cuba with reciprocity, so far as a nation can be committed to anything by a moral obligation; and yet the extreme protection element in Congress thus far bars the door. From the Independent (New York) we reprint today a clear and strong argument on our obligations to Cuba, by General Leonard Wood, Military Governor of the island.

There is no little indignation throughout the city at the attempts made to deceive the people by spurious "independent" tickets. These so-called independent tickets put forth by the Simon machine, have placed a number of good men, unsuspecting, in a false position. The bogus tickets make them appear merely as decoys—a character wholly foreign to them.

The issue is "Simon" and "Anti-Simon." It is not on "a new ticket" but on the "old ticket." All others save this one, are up on false pretenses.

THE NEED OF RECIPROCITY WITH CUBA.

BY LEONARD WOOD, MILITARY GOVERNOR OF CUBA.

The relations of the United States with Cuba are not today alone; they are for the near future, and for the distant future as well. They are the relations between two people, near to each other in location, but only recently brought close to each other in thought and in interests.

The sentimental as well as the material relations which these two people bear to each other now, and will bear in time to come, should be taken earnestly into account, and should be considered with not only a wise, but with a kindly solicitude, if we would arrive at conclusions, and if we would form decisions which shall have consequences worthy of our time and of being of genuine advantage to the people of the continent on the one hand and of the island on the other.

I lay stress upon the considerations of sentiment as well as upon the material aspects of the question of reciprocity with Cuba, because at this juncture there comes the fortunate possibility of removing much that has been misapprehension, and the more that has been intentional misrepresentation.

In Cuba the social relations between Cubans, as Cubans, and Americans, as Americans, have never been better than they are today. The references which have been frequently made to the existence of ill feeling have no foundation whatever in fact. Reference may be made merely in order to adhere to the strict letter of the truth—to the existence in Cuba of a radical element, very weak numerically, whose members are approached by some politicians as a means for votes on the score of declarations of opinion that is intensely anti-American.

The declarations of these politicians are not Cuban in origin, and are not worth considering here. They are the work of a man who understands thoroughly that they are designed for campaign purposes merely, and no one on the island pays any attention to them. It is the election, whose result will completely control the course of events in the city and county, and to a large degree in the state. Hence the necessity of getting out our best vote. It may be hoped employers will bear this in mind.

The tranquility and good order that have existed during the term of Cuba's occupation has been remarkable when it is remembered that the occupation brought into contact two peoples distinctly different—in religion, in traditions and in ways of thinking. For the first two years, each of the two parties to the occupation—Cubans and Americans—understood the other thoroughly. But courtesy, kindness and fact invariably bring about a better response to any reasonable demands or requests.

Colored Reports.

There has been too much coloring of the reports of Cuban sentiment through the instrumentality of men whose knowledge of the Cuban people has been obtained through the medium of disgruntled adventurers in Havana and other seacoast cities. In Havana, especially, we find great numbers of disappointed American, Cuban and other people of the adventurer type who are bitter enemies of the Cuban people and the military government. It is the way of human nature very often. Instances cannot fail to happen where men are checked in their greed for some commodity which is in demand, and they resort to fraudulent, disappointed, chagrined, and, perhaps, in some small degree hopeful of retrieving lost enterprises, they make it their special purpose in life to denounce as tyrannical and oppressive the authorities of the island—Cuban and American. The same special reason for existence seems also to actuate every man who has been disappointed in his ambition to employ because of incompetency or dishonesty. The views of men like these are no criterion.

The actual feeling of the Cuban people can be ascertained only by meeting them in all parts of the island. I have yet to meet the government officer or the reputable citizen who has any complaint to make on the ground of discourtesy or unjust treatment.

One aspect of the government, bearing directly upon the attitude of the Cuban people toward the United States and upon commercial and other relations between the two countries in the future, is the complexity of the government itself as it stands at present. Probably not more than 15 or 20 per cent of the employed population of the island are Cuban and Americans. The Government of Cuba has been established and developed that it can be turned over to the Cuban people with hardly a perceptible change in the management of the island.

The feeling of the Cuban people toward the United States is evidenced in no more unmistakable way than in the constant and ever-present expressions of sympathy for the Cuban people and Americans representatives of the military government which are met with throughout the island.

There are those who argue in the United States who will dispute the premise that a stable government must be maintained.

A Tax on Knowledge.

New York News.

There is not the entire tariff schedule at its present rate, and a hurtful tax used in its manufacture.

The tax is not needed for revenue, for the House has passed a bill to cut off \$7,000,000 of surplus.

It is not needed for "protection," for our papermakers last year exported \$7,300,000 worth of paper and our pulp mills sold for \$4,888,985 pounds of the raw material.

In so far as it prevents the importation of wood-pulp from Canada and North America it puts a premium on the destruction of our forests of spruce and other pulp woods, which is a serious national injury.

The American Newspaper Association at its recent meeting in this city adopted a resolution asking Congress "to abolish the duty on wood-pulp, mechanical ground wood and lumber used in the manufacture of paper, and to reduce the duty on news-print paper by one-half."

Against the untold demand of the press, regardless of party, upon so obvious a basis of reason and of justice, this "tariff for monopoly only"—a tax upon knowledge for the benefit of the Paper Trust—ought not to stand for another month.

The "Machine" in Multnomah.

Corvallis Gazette.

The quantity of lumber sent from the Cape was extremely small, only three-quarters of a ton, while last year no ivory came to us through that port.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Last call to register.

If you don't want to vote, don't register today.

There is still room for your name on the registration books.

We now turn our humble and reverent eyes toward Sir Thomas Lipton.

Every honest citizen who registers cancels the registration of some booby.

The President has sent in his first veto. He undoubtedly has others in stock.

Has the Kaiser any more brothers whom he would like to have see a little high life?

Aguinado asked if his capture was a Yankee joke. It certainly was the theme for a good many of them.

Now comes the news that the Motor was not built to race. Then why did the Kaiser have her built in America?

Another bunch of Southern Democrats has arisen to make interesting the pages of the once prosy Congressional Record.

Kruger is still confident of ultimate Boer success, and it looks as if the feeling was beginning to be shared by the Hon. John Bull.

There is a nice substantial jail in Multnomah county with ample accommodations for all the repeaters who engage in business Saturday.

Unless J. P. Morgan gets the atmosphere in the meantime, Marconi ought to be able to run his lines with little trouble about right-of-way privileges.

The Countess Waldsee will not allow her husband to come to America. Perhaps she thinks his capacity is not as great as Prince Henry's.

Rumors of a flood in the Columbia are again afloat, but residents of Portland Heights have not yet seen fit to hoist up to their front porches.

General Funston says the Philippines are as placid as the State of Kentucky. And when he first went over they were as turbulent as the State of Kentucky.

Not very long ago the general agent of the Saturday and Sunday Hospital Association in New York, Frederick Cook, wrote to one of the wealthy parishioners of All Angels' Episcopal Church, on Eighty-first street and West End avenue, suggesting that the parish make a contribution for the association. The parishioner replied that he would look after the matter as soon as he had time, meanwhile enclosing a check for \$20, and asking that it be credited to "All Angels." Mr. Cook, acknowledging the receipt of the check, thanked the donor and added: "I prefer, however, to credit it to one angel."

The Impresario.

The general of the impresario was a remarkable story of an error made by Governor Palatka in filling out a warrant for the execution of J. B. Brown, a negro murderer. By some unexplained blunder the Governor omitted the name of Brown from the document and inserted in its place that of Noah J. Tighman, a white man and one of the most respected citizens of the town. The Sheriff was directed in the warrant to hang the negro. Of course, he did not do so, but the minister is very much annoyed over the incident and feels that an apology is due him—a view which, strangely enough, the Governor refuses to take.

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