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TODAY'S WEATHER—Partly cloudy, with cold local rains; southerly winds.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 43; minimum temperature, 34; precipitation, 0.23 inch.

PORTLAND, FRIDAY, MARCH 14.

A STORY OF TWO YEARS AGO.

It is now said, we are told, that "the Republican ticket in Multnomah two years ago was under the dictation of The Oregonian and was therefore beaten."

At risk of repetition The Oregonian will restate a few facts. It had nothing whatever to do with naming the ticket of the year 1900. On the contrary, the ticket was named in opposition—violent opposition—to its judgment. Let us present a short review.

At the beginning of the campaign—and before its beginning—The Oregonian urged the Republican managers—the men at the head of the regular organization—to enlarge and extend the circle, so as to take in Republicans who hitherto had been excluded. It urged this as a necessity of party action and organization, on a basis that would be broad enough to make success possible. The suggestion was violently resented. The Oregonian desired the election of Hon. H. W. Corbett to the Senate of the United States, believing that his well-known business ability would be of high service to the state. But The Oregonian knew that if Mr. Corbett was to be elected the canvass must be an open one, in his interest; must be led by those who were distinctively his friends, and must be disencumbered of all dead weight. In Multnomah the county organization was in the hands of those who gave Senator Simon's interests first place; and while they were not unfriendly to Mr. Corbett, and were even disposed to support him, yet in their judgment and purpose Mr. Simon's interests must be kept always in view, and be particularly cared for. It was explained to Mr. Corbett that this would concentrate against him all the opposition to Mr. Simon, which was very powerful; but Mr. Corbett, desiring peace, did not see his way to taking the direction of the campaign and the nomination of the ticket out of the hands of those whose highest devotion was to Mr. Simon.

The ticket, then, two years ago was made for Mr. Simon's interests first. Those of Mr. Corbett were made secondary. The sticking point was on the hold-over Senators. Mr. Simon was determined to have these. Yet it was certain to every unbiased judgment that if the ticket were led by men nominated for the purpose of voting for Mr. Simon two years hence, it would be beaten. Nevertheless, because The Oregonian earnestly desired the election of Mr. Corbett, for whose election it saw sound public reasons, it supported the ticket to the utmost of its power. But from the beginning, as The Oregonian had foreseen, the ticket had no chance of success, because the Senators to hold over (five of them in Multnomah and several others elsewhere) were to vote for Mr. Simon in 1903. All were defeated, and the Representative ticket was carried down with them. Mr. Corbett would easily have been elected but for the weight he was forced to carry. There was no opposition to him. He was simply overloaded and borne down by the determination of the voters not to permit Mr. Simon to get support, even through him.

These are the facts. The ticket of two years ago was not nominated "at the dictation of The Oregonian," but on the contrary was nominated in spite of its protest; and after the foreseen defeat had ensued The Oregonian commented with severity on the narrow ring methods that had caused the defeat.

So the story that "the Republican ticket of two years ago was under the dictation of The Oregonian and therefore was beaten" is a story of liars with short memories. Honest people have longer ones.

A "JOB" FOILED.

The Oregonian predicted that the President would set the seal of his disapproval in some way upon the bill creating a permanent Census Bureau, and he has done so by accompanying his signature of the bill with a note to the Secretary of the Interior containing instructions which will defeat the purpose of the spoilsmen.

The intent of the members of Congress who framed the bill was to place under the classified service without examination all clerks now employed in the Census Office. The President did not sign the bill until he had satisfied himself that under a strict construction of the law it would not be necessary to include in the classified civil service all the clerks now employed in the Census Bureau who were soon to be discharged. The spoilsmen in Congress intended to bring all the clerical employes of the Census Office at the time of the passage of the bill within the classified civil service, so that if there should be no work for them in the permanent Census Bureau they could be transferred without examination to other branches of the classified civil service.

But the bill as finally passed read "may be" so appointed, so the President issued an order to the Secretary of the Interior, and through him to the Director of the Census, that until July 1 the Census Office shall be administered as at present; that then such members of the present force as are needed for the permanent census force shall be appointed, and no more than are needed, and that thereafter all appointments to the bureau shall be made under the classified service regulations.

IT'S "UP TO THE SENATE."

The action of the Senate committee on isthmian canals in recommending the Hepburn bill is practically the answer of the American people to the Panama proposals. There was universal satisfaction when the Hepburn bill passed the House two months ago. There was universal chagrin a little later when the victory which seemed more than half won was "held up" by the intrusion of the Panama offer. It was felt very generally if not universally that the Panama proposal was not in good faith; that it was in fact only another move in the game of obstruction and delay which has thus far been played successfully by the enemies of any and all canal projects. In the discussion which has grown out of the offer of the Panama people, the irritation of the general public in connection with this diversion and its overwhelming conviction in support of the Nicaragua project have been plainly manifest. This has not been lost; it has unquestionably had its effect upon those who form the Senate canal committee, and it is directly reflected in the determination which, so far as committee action goes, has thrown over the Panama proposal and which urges the Nicaragua project anew upon the Senate.

The mind of the American people is definitely made up on this canal question, and it is made up in favor of the Nicaraguan route. The universal instinct has seized upon the Nicaraguan project as one essentially American in character. It is nearer in miles to our Southern frontier than the Panama Canal; it involves a shorter line of navigation between the two sides of the continent; it is in a better climate than the Panama route; it is relatively removed from the "revolution belt," and from the sphere of foreign as distinct from American influence; it has—and this in its way is important—the political merit of being in its inception and in its historical connections an American enterprise. The engineers of the Isthmian Commission have reported that the Nicaragua Canal will cost a few million dollars more than the Panama Canal, but in the public judgment this is a matter of small consequence. Our people would rather pay a little more and get what they want than to pay less and have what they don't want; and they would rather pay more and have the Nicaragua Canal in five years than to pay less and have the Panama Canal in six.

The Hepburn bill, which now goes to the Senate favorably recommended by the Senate canal committee, is the bill which passed the House January 9 last by the overwhelming vote of 308 ayes to 2 noes. It authorizes the President to secure from the States of Costa Rica and Nicaragua a strip of territory from ocean to ocean sufficient for all purposes connected with the projected canal, and appropriates such funds as may be necessary for such acquisition. It authorizes the President, through the Secretary of War, to construct the canal from ocean to ocean, to construct proper harbors at the termini, and to make necessary provision for the defense of the canal and harbors. It authorizes the President to guarantee to the States of Costa Rica and Nicaragua use of the canal for vessels owned by their citizens in his discretion. The final section makes a present appropriation of $10,000,000 to carry on this work, and authorizes the Secretary of War to enter into proper contracts for material and work as may be deemed necessary therefor, such work and material to be paid for as appropriations may be made from time to time. The final section also fixes the aggregate cost at $180,000,000, to be drawn from the Treasury upon warrants from the President.

This measure is a very simple one. There is no legal filagree work about it. It goes directly to the point for which the great mass of our people have contended—an American canal, created as a National work, owned wholly by the Government, protected by American guns and on soil subject absolutely and solely to United States jurisdiction. The voice of the House of Representatives was all but unanimous for this measure. Now we shall see where the Senate stands.

PRESIDENT ENFORCES LAWS.

It is not probable that the President is actuated by a spirit of hostility to railroads in his move against the Northern Securities Company. But he is evidently bent on testing the virtue of present laws before asking Congress to make new ones dealing with the problem of industrial combinations and trusts. He has stirred the Interstate Commerce Commission to act upon the revelations of railroad men at the investigation in Chicago, St. Louis and Kansas City some weeks ago, and has directed the Department of Justice to lend its assistance in prosecuting violators of the laws. The railroads smell trouble, and a number of their voluntary associations, whose operations have tended in the direction of pools, are going to pieces. It is evident that there is more respect for the laws we have when it is found they will be vigorously enforced, and it is possible the cry for more laws will not be so great when public officials apply themselves more assiduously to their duties.

It may be doubted if prosecution of the Northern Securities Company for violation of the anti-trust law will come to anything. The Northern Securities does not hold a majority of the stock of the two Northern transcontinental railways, and it may never control those railways through stock ownership. It does own practically all the stock of the Northern Pacific, but Great Northern people have been too shrewd to part with their stock in that deal yet. Thus it comes to pass that the Northern Securities does not own a controlling interest in those two parallel railroad lines, and it is not, therefore, a merger of the properties.

It is a fact, however, that Mr. James J. Hill, who owns a controlling interest in the Great Northern Railway and is its president, is also president of the Northern Securities, which owns and controls the Northern Pacific. Mr. Hill, not the Northern Securities Company, is the medium or instrumentality by which the obnoxious combination is effected. It is he, if anybody, who has violated the anti-trust law; but can he be suppressed? This may be determined before the President shall get done testing the laws on the subject.

The object of the Northern Securities Company is plain, though the corporation may not have fully attained that object. True, as its promoters declare, it was organized to hold stocks of other corporations; but this holding corporation, as the Government's petition alleges, has not only the power but the duty to pursue a policy that will promote the interests, not of one system at the expense of the other, but of both systems at the expense of the public. Therein lies its harmfulness. "The Northern Securities Company," continues that petition, "was not organized in good faith to purchase and pay for the stocks of the Great Northern and Northern Pacific companies. It does not have and never had capital sufficient to warrant any such stupendous operation. It was organized solely to effect the pooling of the stocks of the said companies, and to carry into effect an unlawful combination or conspiracy."

Thus the line is drawn in the courts. If the Government's petition shall hold good, there will be no necessity for additional legislation to repress dangerous combinations of capital. Then we may expect an immediate movement against the United States Steel Corporation and other similar agglomerations. If proceedings against Northern Securities shall fail through insufficiency of the law, we may look for Presidential action that will place clearly before Congress the duty of providing a check to this threatening tendency of the times. But it is evident that trust promoters are to be victims of misplaced confidence if they continue to bank on dead-letter laws. President Roosevelt will not sleep on the laws.

THE FIGHTING ENGINEER OF THE "OREGON."

When President Roosevelt was Assistant Secretary of the Navy he devised, in November, 1897, a bill whose great feature was the plan to make all the officers of the Navy engineers and gunners at the same time. The words of Mr. Roosevelt were: "On the modern war vessel every officer has to be an engineer, whether he wants to or not." Congressman Foss, of the House Naval committee, through whose efforts this bill finally became a law in March, 1899, said: "The Naval officer of the future must be a fighting engineer." A writer in the North American Review who signs himself "A Friend of the Navy" points out that the recent Schley court of inquiry overlooked the most important lesson of the Santiago campaign, and this was that our victory over Cervera's squadron was primarily due to the ability and forethought of the fighting Chief Engineer of the "Oregon." The "Oregon" made a voyage of 14,500 miles from California in about 50 days, and her performance at Santiago on July 3, 1898, excelled that of any of her consorts in the fleet. She completely outdistanced her sister ships, the "Indiana" and the "Massachusetts," and her speed even rivaled that of the "Brooklyn," which was reckoned as being at least five knots faster. The "Cristobal Colon" did not give up until the "Oregon" had thrown a thirteen-inch shell beyond her. This astonishing performance of the "Oregon" was due to the skill and care of her Chief Engineer, Robert W. Milligan. He kept his best coal in the "fighting" bunkers, and never unlocked the doors until the day of battle.

When the "Oregon" arrived before Santiago it was proposed for reasons of economy that some of the four boilers should be shut off and the ship kept under reduced power, as had been done on all the other vessels in the fleet except the "Texas." Chief Engineer Milligan protested, pointing out that if the Spanish ships came out they would come out when they were not expected and with their own ships ready for the highest speed. So that the blockading vessels should also be prepared for the highest possible speed, the Chief Engineer was allowed to have his way; steam was maintained in all the boilers all the time. If this course had not been followed it would have taken an hour to raise steam in the boilers of the "Oregon." As it was, the "Oregon" was going at a speed of 17 knots within twenty minutes after the Spanish fleet had been sighted. The "Brooklyn," nominally of over 21 knots speed, was able to use only half her power, because her forward engines were uncoupled and time could not be spared to connect them; half of her boilers were out of use, some of them not only having neither water in them nor fires under them ready to kindle, but actually having manhole plates off. A similar state of affairs existed on all the other vessels except the "Texas." The Spanish ships were all new, of excellent design and construction. All of them had made 19 knots or more on their trial trips, and, had their engineering departments been efficient, they could have run away from our vessels.

This naval critic of the sea fight before Santiago fairly says that during the Schley court of inquiry, while it incidentally appeared in evidence that most of the vessels on the day of battle were not capable of working at more than half power, the question was never asked, Who was responsible for this condition of affairs? If half the guns had been disabled, knowledge of that fact would have caused a great outcry, but the permitting of the motive power of the battle-ships to be reduced one-half extorted no direct criticism. Great attention was paid by the Schley court to the question of coal, but the far more important matter of keeping the machinery in readiness to use the coal to the fullest extent was utterly ignored. Because of this neglect Cervera's squadron would surely have escaped that day had it not been for the utter inefficiency of the Spaniards, both as engineers and as gunners. The Spanish ships were finely constructed and equipped, but the Spanish gunners could not shoot and the Spanish engineers were incompetent.

There is no sort of doubt that the victory of our land forces was won in spite of General Shafter, not because of him; a well-fed, well-led Spanish Army in Santiago would have driven us headlong to the shelter of our war vessels the day after San Juan Hill, and had Cervera's squadron been manned by English or German gunners and engineers, it would have escaped at Santiago. For the fact that Cervera's squadron caught our fleet, with the exception of the "Oregon" and the "Texas," in a state of unpreparedness for action, Admiral Sampson must be fairly held responsible. It was his business to see to it that nothing was overlooked which would maintain his ships in the highest state of efficiency. He evidently left it to the discretion of his individual Captains to decide a point that he should have decided himself.

Admiral Sampson should have had a general order issued directing every ship to be kept day and night in a state of fullest preparation, regardless of questions of economy. That Admiral Sampson did not oblige every Captain to do what the Captain of the "Oregon" did shows that he was not equal to the occasion, and that his fleet won a splendid victory chiefly because the Spanish gunners and engineers were utterly unequal to the efficient fighting of the splendid vessels they sacrificed to their professional stupidity. President Roosevelt called the battle on our side a "Captains' fight." It was hardly that; it was an engineers' fight; it was the fighting engineer who was absolutely fit and ready for action that won the day.

IS HE REPRESENTATIVE?

It is a legitimate inquiry whether a man who asks support for a public position is a suitable man for it. Men will assert the right of inquiry whether a candidate for the Senate of the United States is a proper man for the place. Mr. Simon has been in the Senate three years. Is he a representative man?

A representative man, in the position he holds, would be returned to it, in the regular course of things, without opposition. But opposition to him is general, well-nigh universal, throughout the state; which shows that the people of Oregon do not deem him an efficient representative of their interests at Washington.

Yet never in her history was Oregon in so much need of efficient representation at Washington as now. Senator Simon is a solitary and unsocial man at Washington. It is foreign to his nature and temperament to participate in the social or political life of the capital. There as here he is an uncompanionable man, avoiding the human intercourse through which men become interested with each other and engaged with each other in ways that give them common interest in each other's undertakings. In all things except political work such as he is now engaged in at home, Mr. Simon is shy and reserved. He acts constantly at Washington as if he felt himself out of place there. He seeks no admission into the circles through which things are accomplished. On the contrary, he avoids them.

In a man in private station these qualities and habits are not proper subjects of criticism. But in a public man they do impair his usefulness. Every citizen of Oregon who has visited Washington during some years past has observed the facts as to Senator Simon which The Oregonian has herein plainly stated. In the Legislature of Oregon Mr. Simon has been a considerable man. But the methods made effective by him in the Legislature of Oregon are not suited to the Senate of the United States. Something very different is wanted, and Mr. Simon does not supply it.

Nothing could be more suggestive of the growth of the country than the demands everywhere being made for increased transportation facilities. There is pressure of traffic in a dozen districts with urgent appeals for the relief which can come only through railroad enterprise. The plain implication is that the country is outgrowing or has outgrown the facilities which until now have been sufficient for its needs. And since there is money in plenty in the great centers, there seems every reason to hope for important developments in the line of railroad construction during the next few years. The Nehalem project has found backers, and there is no reason why several other and similar projects should not have equal good fortune. Nobody who will look carefully into conditions as they exist in a dozen districts now appealing for transportation facilities can doubt that there is opportunity here to invest large sums profitably in local railroad lines.

General A. P. Martin, ex-Mayor of Boston, who died yesterday, was a distinguished artillery officer in the Civil War. At Gettysburg he commanded the artillery brigade of the Fifth Army Corps, consisting of five batteries. He entered the service as Captain of Battery C, Third Massachusetts Artillery. He served with great distinction in the Fifth Corps, under Fitz John Porter, in the "Peninsular campaign" of 1862, at Malvern Hill; it was Martin's Battery that, under orders from General Pleasonton, checked Jackson's victorious advance at Chancellorsville. General Martin was present with his battery at Antietam and Fredericksburg, and was the most distinguished volunteer artillerist in the Army of the Potomac. He was a born soldier, for he was a graduate of no military school and entered the Army without any previous military training or experience.

Judge Bellinger's late decision in regard to the enforcement of usurious contracts, drawn up in seeming fairness but outrageous when judged by ordinary business rules, is clearly in the interest of justice. A lender of money is entitled to the return of the amount loaned, with interest. When the borrower has paid this in full, nothing more can, in equity, be required of him. The justice of this ruling is apparent, and the decision should be satisfactory to all except the most unconscionable of money-lenders. When a thing asked by the terms of a contract is equal to a penalty upon the borrower, equity, says Judge Bellinger, will not enforce the claim, and will not permit its enforcement in any case coming within its jurisdiction. This is plain and to the point.

A special Canadian commission which has had the Chinese question under consideration, it is reported, has recommended that Canada adopt an exclusion law similar to that of the United States. If Canada does this, it would make our exclusion laws much more effective, but it is not likely that Canada will be permitted by the home government to pass any more stringent legislation than that enacted by Australia, which requires all immigrants to present a written application for admission in English or in one of several other European languages. The Chinese seeking admission into Canada on this Coast would find small difficulty in providing themselves with the needed written application.

Should the Simon ticket be successful, the charter work of a year past will be vain. Mr. Simon will not have the new charter. It would take away his power over the city government.

ORATORICAL CONTEST TODAY.

Representatives of Eight Oregon Colleges to Speak at Salem.

SALEM, March 13.—The State Intercollegiate Oratorical Association contest to be held in this city tomorrow evening promises to be largely attended. Several hundred students have notified the local association that they will be in attendance, and adequate arrangements have been completed for the entertainment of the visitors.

The State Agricultural College at Corvallis has chartered a river steamer, and will bring 150 excursionists. The Newburg and McMinnville collegians have likewise engaged a boat and will bring about 150 persons. Forest Grove will have about 30 representatives, Eugene 20, and Albany 40. Monmouth will be well represented, also.

The business meeting of the association will be held in the Methodist Church at 3 o'clock tomorrow afternoon. The association membership is made up of eight colleges, as follows: State Agricultural College, University of Oregon, Monmouth State Normal School, Pacific College, McMinnville College, Pacific University, Albany College and Willamette University. Each college will have eight representatives, which will give the body a membership of 64. The present officers are: President, H. W. Swafford, Willamette University; secretary, J. D. Zurcher, Oregon Agricultural College; treasurer, E. A. Newby, Pacific College.

Among the business awaiting the action of the association is the application of Southern Oregon Normal School, at Drain, Mount Angel College and The Dalles Academy for membership in the association. The Monmouth School, which was recently suspended for an infraction of the association rules in the holding of its local contest, will ask for readmission. A place for meeting next year will be determined upon, officers elected, and other business transacted.

The oratorical contest will be held in the First Methodist Church, beginning at 8 o'clock. The judges have been selected, but will not be announced until the programme is opened Friday evening.

The programme is as follows:

"I Softly Dream".....Mohring
Cecelian Quartet.
Oration—"Our Mission to the Negro".....
Herman Tartar (O. A. C.).
Oration—"Literature and the Law".....
H. H. Belt (O. S. N. S.).
Oration—"The Martyrdom of Man".....
Charles Sternberg (A. C.).
Contralto solo—"The Swallows".....Cowen
Mrs. Etta Squier Seeley.
Oration—"The History of the American Negro"
E. A. Smith (M. C.).
Oration—"The Spirit of Progress".....
R. B. Wilkins (W. U.)
Oration—"Public Opinion".....
Arthur Gambler (U. of O.).
Vocal solo—"Toreador's Song".....Bizet
William Prentiss Drew.
Oration—"The Spirit of Commercialism"...
Nervia Wright (P. C.).
Oration—"John Brown of Ossawatomie"....
William G. Hale (P. U.)
Piano duet—Symphony No. 8.....Haydn
Adagio; menuetto; finale.
Iliff Garrison and H. B. Thielsen.

The local association will banquet the visiting collegians immediately following the oratorical contest. Elaborate arrangements have been made for this feature of the visitors' entertainment, over 200 plates having been provided.

University of Oregon Delegates.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, March 13.—The following students left this afternoon for Salem, as delegates to the Intercollegiate Oratorical Association: Liston L. Lewis and Oscar Garrell, seniors; Harvey B. Densmore and Miss Sibyl Kuykendall, juniors; Ray Goodrich and Miss Virginia Cleaver, sophomores; Vern W. Tomlinson and Miss Mary Gray, freshmen. Charles A. Redwood, '02, accompanied the delegation as a member of the executive committee of the association. J. Arthur Gamber, '02, will represent the university in the oratorical contest tomorrow night. At a meeting of the Oregon delegation this morning Leston L. Lewis, '02, was selected as chairman of the delegation. The University of Oregon delegates will probably vote favorably for the restoration of Monmouth in the contest.

EXCISE QUESTION AT NEW YORK.

District Attorney Jerome's Arguments for an Enforceable Law.

NEW YORK, March 13.—District Attorney Jerome today sent to the Legislature a brief on the excise question. He gives 14 reasons why the excise bill sent to the Legislature should become a law. Some of these reasons are:

"Under democratic forms of government, a law is not permanently enforceable by elected authorities where a large number of persons in the locality do not consider the act forbidden as immoral in itself and are unwilling to yield obedience to the law. In Greater New York there are a large number of people who do not consider it immoral to enter a saloon and take a drink on Sunday. New York is a cosmopolitan city, and its inhabitants, being citizens and voters, have a right to have their wishes respected and their tastes and habits considered, whether they be foreign-born or native-born. The effect of the present law is to do irreparable damage to the community by tending to degrade those in the liquor business and cause them to lose their self-respect and their respect for all law. The effect of the change will be in the opposite direction. An unenforceable law as herein above defined always develops blackmail.

"The effect on the community through the debauching of the police through the present law favoring blackmail is very serious."

After each of his reasons Mr. Jerome gives an argument in support of it.

Mrs. Huntington's Gift.

BOSTON, March 13.—A gift of $350,000 from Mrs. Collis P. Huntington, announced today, more than completes the sum of $765,000 required to secure an equal sum from John D. Rockefeller, of New York for the endowment and enlargement of the Harvard Medical School. Mrs. Huntington's subscription is specifically given for the purpose of erecting a building in memory of her late husband, to be called the Collis P. Huntington laboratory of bacteriology and pathology.

Among the other amounts given were: James Stillman $100,000; Francis L. Higginson $60,000; Frederick C. Shattuc $50,000; Robert Bacon, George F. Fabyan, E. C. Lee, W. L. Richardson, David Sears, and Nathaniel Taylor $25,000; Augustus Heminway $15,000; H. H. Hunnewell $12,500. There were besides many smaller figures.

Guden's Successor Cited to Appear.

NEW YORK, March 13.—Five Deputy Sheriffs and clerks who formerly served under Sheriff Guden, in Kings County, and who accepted office under Norman S. Dike, whom Governor Odell appointed to the office last week, left Dike's service today and returned to Guden. This defection left three of Guden's deputies in office under Dike. Jere Wernberger, attorney for Guden, served an order on Dike today signed by Supreme Court Justice Gaynor, requiring Dike to appear in court tomorrow to show cause why an order should not issue commanding him to surrender the authority he has assumed as Sheriff by appointment, as well as the books and papers now in his possession officially.

Thirty-third Degree in New Mexico.

SANTA FE, N. M., March 13.—By direction of Sovereign Grand Commander Richardson, Colonel Thomas W. Harrison, of Topeka, Kan., inspector-general of the 33d degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Free Masonry for Kansas, today in Santa Fe conferred the 33d degree upon Colonel Max Frost. This is the first time that the degree has been conferred upon a New Mexico resident.

Strike Disorders in Italy.

VENICE, March 13.—Detachments of cavalry left Padua today for the various districts disturbed by the strikes of agricultural laborers. Troops have also left Ferrar to enforce order in the Copparo districts.

CHARGES AGAINST CLAYTON.

Ambassador to Mexico Said to Be Interested in Mining Companies.

WASHINGTON, March 13.—Mr. Theall, local counsel for Mr. Mealy, the American citizen who is held under an order of court in Mexico for contempt, has submitted to the State Department, through United States Senator Nelson, a long statement of the case from Mealy's side, which reflects upon United States Ambassador Powell Clayton. It is alleged that the Ambassador has misrepresented the facts in the case to the Department, and that he is interested in a rival mining company which has affected his attitude toward Mealy and his legal fight with the development company, which forms the basis of the present action against him.

In sending the papers to the State Department, Senator Nelson wrote quite a long letter and referred to the accompanying papers, among which is an affidavit in Spanish by Juan Barrera with an English translation, showing the alleged connection of Ambassador Clayton with certain mining companies in Mexico, in which the Mexican Government officials also are interested. Senator Nelson refers to what he calls the serious import of the charges and suggests the impropriety of a Minister from this country being a member of a large mining company which is looking for favors from the Mexican Government. He says such a Minister will not be in a condition to protect an American citizen against the encroachments of a company in which many of the leading officials of the Mexican Government are interested. He says there is a rule as to Consuls which does not allow them to engage in trade in countries to which they are sent and says that the necessity for such a rule should be much stronger in preventing a diplomatic officer from engaging in speculative mining enterprises. The Senator suggests that the questions involved in the Mealy case are important, especially as they affect the status of the Minister to Mexico.

WANTS HITCHCOCK'S PLACE.

W. S. McCornick, of Salt Lake, Will Accept, If It Is Offered to Him.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., March 13.—William S. McCornick, of Salt Lake, has telegraphed Senator Thomas Kearns, of Utah, at Washington, that he will accept the position of Secretary of the Interior in President Roosevelt's Cabinet, should a vacancy occur through the resignation of Secretary Hitchcock.

McCornick was asked before he left Salt Lake, March 1, if he would take the Cabinet portfolio were it offered to him, but would not then make a positive reply. At that time he telegraphed to Washington that his answer would be sent from California, where he was then bound. So, on reaching Los Angeles, Mr McCornick received another request for an expression of his sentiment toward acceptance of the high Government honor. After further deliberation he has replied that he would accept.

"All that has been done," said McCornick, "is that Senators Kearns and Millard have asked me whether I would accept the place and I answered that if the President offered it, I would accept."

Explanation by Millard.

WASHINGTON, March 13.—Senator Millard confirmed the report that he had asked W. S. McCornick if he would accept an appointment as Secretary of the Interior, but said in doing so he had acted entirely upon his own responsibility, and that he had not assumed to represent the President or any one else. He added that he had heard many rumors that there was to be a vacancy at the head of the Interior Department, and Mr. McCornick being in his judgment especially suited for the place, he asked him if he would accept if the place were offered him.

May Cease Purchase of Bonds.

WASHINGTON, March 13.—Secretary Shaw has under consideration the question of discontinuing the purchase of Government bonds for the sinking fund. The Secretary has not definitely decided what he will do, nor is he willing to discuss the matter for publication, but it is known that he is doing nothing to encourage holders of bonds to dispose of them to the Government, and, in fact, rather discourages sales. The present high price of bonds is an inducement for banks to sell those they have on deposit with the Government, and reduce their circulation. This, the Secretary thinks, is to be regretted, and a few days ago announced that such banks as reduced their circulation would not be appointed public depositories. The fact that the Government is in the market stimulates the price of bonds so that the effect is just contrary to what is desired. It is quite probable that the Secretary will soon decide whether he will continue purchases or not.

President of War College.

WASHINGTON, March 13.—By direction of the President, Major-General S. M. B. Young has been relieved from the command of the Department of California and ordered to this city to accept the presidency of the Army War College, which is to be established at Washington Barracks, providing that the necessary funds are provided by Congress. General Young is regarded as one of the ablest and most progressive general officers in the Army, and was especially selected by the Secretary of War to organize and direct the proposed college. Brigadier-General Robert P. Hughes, now on duty in this city as president of the military board of uniforms, has been selected as the successor of General Young in the command of the Department of California.

Americans' Rights in Ecuador.

WASHINGTON, March 13.—The Ecuadorean Minister, Senor Maracabo, called at the State Department today and had a long conversation with Dr. Hill, the acting Secretary of State, respecting the railroad questions that have arisen of late connected with the development of American affairs in Ecuador. It is understood that these are matters of small consequence, and are likely to be of easy adjustment, though some time may be occupied in so doing. The United States Government has been assured that there will be no denial of justice to Americans in Ecuador.

Canal Protocols Agreed Upon.

WASHINGTON, March 13.—The amendments to the original protocols between the United States on the one side and Nicaragua and Costa Rica on the other, outlining treaties to govern the construction of a Nicaragua Canal, have been substantially agreed upon.

Milburn at the White House.

WASHINGTON, March 13.—John G. Milburn, of Buffalo, director of the Pan-American Exposition, at whose home President McKinley died, took lunch with Mr. Roosevelt today.

Professor Stephens Goes to Berkeley

ITHACA, N. Y., March 13.—Professor Henry Morse Stephens, who holds the chair of modern European history at Cornell, today sent in his resignation to take effect at the end of the present college year. He has accepted the professorship of English history at the University of California. Professor Stephens is an Englishman, and graduate of Oxford. He came to Cornell in 1884 on recommendation of Professor Goldwin Smith. During the past eight years he has been one of the prominent members of the faculty. He is the author of a well-known work on the French Revolution, and other historical books and essays.

Schley Invited to New York Banquet

NEW YORK, March 13.—Rear-Admiral W. S. Schley will be the guest of honor at the fourth annual banquet of the Maryland Society of New York, at Sherry's, on Wednesday, April 9.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Having registered, vote.

Did some one say something about politics?

The Spanish Cabinet seems to be nearly as unstable as our own.

The trains out of Portland have not been overloaded with bunco men lately.

The Boers have released Methuen. They have got better Generals of their own.

It will be less trouble to vote than to register, for you can do it in your own precinct.

If the Senate continues calm, the newspapers will begin to withdraw their war correspondents.

A new cigar has been named after Miss Stone. It is hardly fair thus to make light of the lady.

The Spanish Premier has resigned, and the Queen Regent is probably yearning to follow his example.

In spite of all the talk about the Nicaragua Canal, Congress has not yet dug into it very deeply.

Perhaps Prince Henry will be glad to get back home and see a few things that do not belong to J. P. Morgan.

Those who need copies of poems on beautiful snow (warranted unpublished) to build the morning fire with, please address us at once.

Prince Henry cannot find words to tell how grateful he is for his reception. But a man isn't usually looking for words very hard after a reception like that.

A Utah man has accepted Secretary Hitchcock's position, before it has been offered him. Another Utah man accepted a seat in the National House of Representatives, under much the same circumstances.

Some time ago it was noticed by an admirer of Rudyard Kipling that his famous poem, "On the Road to Mandalay," went very well to the tune of "The Wearing of the Green." On pointing this out to the author, Mr. Kipling replied: "Oh, yes; I frequently take a well-known song, hum it over for a few minutes and then write words to fit the tune."

Souvenir vandals have played such havoc with the yacht Hohenzollern that it has been decided to limit special permits to visitors. Visitors have ruined the costly tapestries by cutting out bits, and have spoiled curtains and hangings by stealing a gold tassel or piece of silken fringe. These have been snatched through the windows that open on the main deck. Some of the ship's crockery, stamped with the imperial crest, is also missing.

"Regarding the claim that other ships or stations could steal the messages," said Marconi the other day, "I wish to state that had another ship been alongside the Philadelphia she could not have intercepted my message and signals. We have a certain number of tunes—250 in all. We use one tune at a time. There being no proof of the tune we are using, our rivals would have to guess at our tunes. There would be thus 249 chances to one that they would not get it. It would be too elaborate an explanation and take up too much time for me to tell you at the present stage just what a 'tune' is."

New York is pretty well supplied with newspapers. But so far as mere numbers are concerned, its papers are only a tithe of what are found in Paris. There are about 2600 organs of the press in the French capital, 163 of which are political journals. Of political dailies in Paris there are 79, of tri-weeklies 1, of weeklies 73, of bi-monthlies 6, of monthlies 2 and of annuals 1. Of the whole number 122 are Republican, 31 are Conservative and 10 cannot be classified. The reviews number 10 weekly, 31 bi-monthly, 60 monthly, 26 quarterly, 28 are issued six times a year and 11 appear at irregular intervals. Napoleon suppressed several hundred newspapers, leaving 13 in existence during his reign. There are 500 papers in London.

Why Jim Younger Cannot Marry.

ST. PAUL, March 13.—Jim Younger wishes to marry. He cannot, because legally he is dead, hence he is unable to enter into any contract. Younger submitted the question of whether or not he could wed to Governor Van Sant, who has looked into the matter with surprising results. In Minnesota a man who is a life prisoner is civilly dead. The only way he can make any binding contract in the eyes of the law is through the board which parotes him, in this case the Board of Control, which is empowered to enter into a contract for him. It is not probable, however, that three members of the Board of Control, separately or as a whole, will agree to enter into a marriage contract with any woman for the benefit of the paroled life convict. The only way for Jim Younger to become a married man in Minnesota is to get a pardon which will restore him to the rights of a living citizen. Another phase of the law is that neither Jim Younger nor his brother, Cole, if they establish any business of their own, as has been contemplated, can be held for any debts which they may incur. In his application to the Governor requesting information as to his rights to marry, Younger said nothing regarding his proposed bride.

Irish Envoys at Chicago.

NEW YORK, March 13.—William K. Redmond and Joseph Devlin, the Irish envoys, were given a reception at Newark, N. J., last night. Mr. Redmond and Mr. Devlin both spoke at the Auditorium, describing the conditions in Ireland and the work and purpose of the league.

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

Some men get up with the lark, while others want a swallow the first thing in the morning.—Philadelphia Record.

Mamma—What are you tearing your doll to pieces for, Hattie? Hattie—I'm looking for the crumb of comfort papa said was to be found in everything."—Chicago News.

"Do you think that beautiful women are apt to be spoiled?" she murmured, with upturned eyes. "Your beauty will never spoil you, darling," he answered, softly.—Tit-Bits.

Bright Girl.—"Oh, mamma, have you heard of my luck? I copied off this little story I saw in a scrapbook 10 times, and sent it to 10 magazines. And four of them have accepted it!"—Life.

"One trouble 'bout dis life," said Uncle Eben, "is dat when you tries to mind de golden rule some people takes it foh granted dat you is skyaht of 'em an' stahts in to do you up."—Washington Star.

A Laugh All 'Round.—"I suppose it would be laughable if we could 'see ourselves as others see us.'" "Yes, and it would be still more laughable to the others if they could see us as we see ourselves."—Philadelphia Press.

In Society.—"Pa, who does a woman have Wednesday or Thursday or some other day in the week printed on her cards?" "Well, my boy, that's so her women friends can call some other day."—Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.

Superlative.—"She is the very pink of propriety, isn't she?" enthused the mutual friend. "Pink?" said the close friend. "Why, man, she is the vivid crimson of propriety. That's what she is."—Baltimore American.