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TODAY'S WEATHER—Showers; brisk and probably high, equally southerly winds.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 52; minimum temperature, 49; precipitation, .29 inch.

PORTLAND, MONDAY, APRIL 7, 1902.

AGAIN OREGON LEADS.

The feature of the Republican platform of Oregon that obtains special attention in the Eastern States is the declaration in regard to the Philippine Islands. That the question of retention or abandonment of these islands is to be the main issue between the two great parties in the next contest for the Presidency is as certain as apparent. The Oregon resolution therefore was timely; and throughout the country it is instantly recognized as a keynote. We reproduce it:

The events of the late war with Spain carried us into the Philippine Islands. We hold it to be consistent with the principles of liberty and of our National life that the sovereignty of the United States should be maintained in the islands, with such local self-government as the people may be, or may become, fitted to participate in. We therefore declare against all proposals looking to the retirement of the United States from the Philippine Islands.

It is said, indeed, that the Filipinos are "fighting for their homes and for their liberty." But they are fighting for neither. The United States will not deprive them of their homes, but will protect them in their homes. The United States will not deprive them of their liberty, but will assure them a large and perfect liberty, upon a broader basis than they could ever establish and maintain without the aid and support of the United States; and the United States, moreover, will guarantee them the possession and enjoyment of their homes and their liberty, against the intrusion of foreign powers as well as against domestic enemies. The Filipinos no more have been fighting for their homes and their liberty than the Confederates were in the great Civil War; and the Filipinos will be as secure in possession and enjoyment of their homes and their liberty as the people of our Southern States are. Between the conditions of a true and rational liberty and the notes of a windy rhetoric on the spurious article it is not difficult to discriminate, as the American people will show these declaimers.

But, "the dangers of imperialism." Another figment of a loose imagination. We are to lose our own liberties in these enterprises, so the alarmists tell us. Territorial expansion will undermine republican institutions, destroy the simplicity of American society (by the way, already one of the most complex in the world), and conduct us on the downward road to that world of shadows where flit the historic ghosts of Carthage and the Roman Empire. Is the liberty of which we boast, then, so puny a child? This has been the cry against our territorial expansion at every step. Yet it has been found that the way to extend freedom is to extend the territory of freedom; and England, the greatest colonizer and expansionist of the present world, has been extending her possessions for three centuries in all quarters of the globe, while continually enlarging the basis of popular rights and public liberty at home, as well as wherever her flag floats, over the round world.

It is true that the American people are energetic and adventurous; and this spirit is the surest guarantee that they will continue to be devoted to freedom. This immense energy cannot be pent up, even within the limits of this continent. It must discharge itself in adventure, in discovery, in enterprise without, as well as in effort within. It needs all this, moreover, as a school; and through such course it can do more for the advancement of the human race than imagination can now conceive. It requires opportunity, effort, danger and sacrifice. If it must fight now and again, all the better. So, only, can a great people be made; so, only, maintained. It is not yet three hundred years since our first colonists came to America, to contend for their lives with the dangers of a new settlement among savage foes. It is not much more than one hundred years since their successors pushed on into the Mississippi Valley, to hold their ground against an exterminating warfare. It is less than fifty years since our later pioneers were pushing across the pathless deserts of the further West, to Oregon and California, in caravans that left a trail of bleaching bones to mark the way for those who were to follow them with railway surveys. Can it be supposed that the descendants of such a people have lost the instinct of enterprise that calls for resourcefulness in difficulties, or the courage that courts hazardous undertaking and feels a joy in it? Here in America is the greatest reservoir of human energy now under the sun; and it cannot be denied an outlet. For if it can find an outlet in no other way, it may be expected to discharge itself in anarchistic, socialistic and other destructive modes—in Roman civil wars and French revolutions. These—not such enterprises as those in the Philippines, against which our wiseacres warn us—are the conditions under which liberty perishes.

Again, we have needed the consequences of the Spanish War to carry us out of our narrowness of view, out of our exclusiveness and self-sufficiency; we have needed them to show us our place in the outer and larger world. The new position is destined to teach us the advantage—and, indeed, the necessity—of the freest commercial opportunities possible. We want foreign trade, and we can get it in ample measure only by freeing ourselves from restrictions so long maintained under the name of protection, which the new policy, under the very necessities of the case, will render obsolete. Even McKinley saw there were to be no more McKinley tariffs. The public service, moreover, in these new places, will require administrative methods which will tend to produce, by example and by reflex action, great changes in administrative methods and in our civil service at home. Still further, outlying possessions will compel us, as nothing hitherto has done, to respect the opinions, the manners and the interests of other nations. We shall take lessons in international civility; for we need them.

The subject has vast range, and there are objects of highest interest at the end of and throughout every vista. He who cannot see that we are entering upon a new and momentous stage of our National evolution, that we cannot decline it, that we must accept it and guide it, lacks the breadth of view necessary to the problems that are pressing upon us. The need is not of declamatory speeches about endangered liberty, which are but empty and idle breath; for under American sovereignty liberty will need no champions. But there is demand for constructive statesmanship, with breadth of view, able to comprehend and to deal with the problems of the present and coming time.

PRESENT STATUS OF IRRIGATION.

There are two fundamental facts which must be recognized and reconciled in settlement of the irrigation problem. One is that capital will not enter upon the great undertakings which are essential to the reclamation of our arid lands unless it has a pretty clear prospect of making money out of them. The other is that the interests of the people in the public domain must be conserved. No bill is satisfactory that does not fit in with these two opposing principles. A bill that offers no encouragement to capital is equal to no bill at all. One that does not protect the public lands from misappropriation is worse than none.

We are apt to impute immoral purposes to the custodians of land-seeking capital. So dearly do the people prize the public domain, partly because of its fortuitous and accidental connection with our school system, that we account the moneyed land-seeker as little better than a common thief. It is endurable that a man should desire the gold in the mines, or the timber in the forests, or even the fish in the streams, but if his prosperous and thrifty eye rests upon the expanse of fertile but uncultivated land, he is fit only for anathema. Doubtless the cattle kings and the arid-land speculators are as moral on the average as the rest of us, but this popular aversion has driven them into devious and unsavory ways. They must try to get by stealth that which Congress dare not give them openly. The lease law and the Senate irrigation bill are cases in point.

The Oregon Republican state platform commends President Roosevelt's attitude toward irrigation, and approves Federal control of proposed operations in aid of the arid lands. It is well enough to understand what this position means, and what the President really stands for. This is fully explained in Mr. Whelpley's letter printed on another page this morning. The President is determined to protect the lands from "grabbers." Therefore he wants the Senate bill amended so that lands likely to be irrigated can be withdrawn from purchase and reserved for settlers, and also amended so that settlers only, and not nominally different landowners only, can buy them. Anybody can see that if the lands are not reserved until the work is started they will already have been gobbled up by the syndicates. Everybody knows that a mere formal requirement that one landowner should get only 160 acres of land would be evaded into nullity as syndicates now circumvent the timber-land laws.

It is not a pleasant thought that these restrictive amendments might, if adopted, operate to retard many great irrigation schemes now under full headway. The Oregonian would not seem to be, for it is far from being, insensible to the great need of this far Western country for developing capital on its vast areas of land now waste and dry. Yet if it comes to an issue between water and honesty, we should unhesitatingly choose the latter. It is important to have this land redeemed; but it is more important that the people's landed heritage should be protected. We have had enough of railroad-grant steals and timber-land steals and school-land scandals and lieu-land frauds. Such land as remains, let it be honestly and prudently cared for. The day will come when this land, now so cheap, will be held in estimation by the voters as a priceless heritage that was ruthlessly squandered by prodigal hands. Generations to come will remember Theodore Roosevelt for nothing with greater gratitude than for his activity on behalf of irrigation and his firmness in protecting the public domain from spoliation.

EARTH ROADS.

This is the title of a bulletin just issued by the Department of Agriculture at Washington. It opens with the statement that drainage is the key to success in making earth roads—a statement that every one's observation justifies; and that constant watchfulness is the sure means of keeping them up after they are once well made. Water is destructive to any road, especially to a dirt road; therefore drainage that will at once carry away rainfall is absolutely necessary. Again, little breaks in the road may be made by rain or by a heavy load at any time, and if not repaired immediately will grow into mud holes, especially in the Winter, and these mud holes easily and rapidly develop into an almost impassable mire. But frequent inspection and a little work will keep the road in good condition, and with less cost than under ordinary methods. With good drainage established in building the road, and frequent inspection to keep the drainage efficient, and to mend promptly small injuries to the surface, the earth roads of the United States could be maintained in a much higher state of usefulness than at present, and at considerably lower cost.

To any observation or thought all this is at once apparent. Again, in the location of roads the leading object should be the avoidance of steep grades. Gentle declivity will suffice for drainage, and heavy grades should be avoided for prevention of wash, since earth is more easily dissolved and moved by action of water than any other road material. But, of course, the proper grade on any particular road must be determined by the conditions and requirements existing on that road. But flat roads and steep roads are alike to be avoided, wherever possible.

It has been shown by accurate tests that a horse which can draw 1000 pounds on a rise of one foot in 100 feet can draw on a rise of one foot in ten feet only 250 pounds, and where the grade is one foot in twenty-four he can draw only one-half as much as he can draw on a level road.

The losses of energy and of effectiveness on earth roads are enormous, but they can be much reduced by intelligent care. Where it is possible to avoid heavy grades roads should be relocated; but in general the problem of earth roads is thorough drainage, as thorough as possible. This is especially true in climate and soil like those west of the Cascade Mountains.

THE LONELY LIFE.

The most interesting and illuminative thing that has been written about the late John P. Altgeld is a short sketch from William F. Hinrichsen, who was Secretary of State of Illinois when Mr. Altgeld was Governor. In it he throws a strange and almost uncanny light upon the great Democrat. Altgeld belongs, it appears, in the unenviable company of friendless men who lead comparatively lonely lives. He had great force of character, he had exceptional intellectual power. But with all the gifts Nature had bestowed, she withheld one—the talent of gaining sympathy and love. Men admired him, they traded and contracted with him in opinion, in business, in politics. But they didn't warm to him. This is how Mr. Henrichsen tells it:

"Why," he said, "I never had a real friend in my life. All my so-called friends have been purchased. I have thought that there must be something about me that repels others." Then he continued, sadly and bitterly: "It was so from my childhood. In school the boys all picked on me. No one of them ever thought of protecting me from abuse. It was the crowd on one side and John Peter Altgeld on the other, and it has always been the same. I see other men win apparently devoted friends through pure esteem, but my friends always fail when it comes to the test."

It is an impressive story, and not an uncommon one. There are many Altgelds all around us—men who live what we might almost call hermit lives. Everybody pronounces them cold, unsympathetic, proud, self-contained. We are apt to imagine that their isolation is theirs from choice. In this we are apt to be mistaken. They who met Mr. Altgeld day by day and were repelled by something Nature had written on his face or put into his voice, or fastened inseparably upon his manner, doubtless thought the repulsion was of his purpose and to his liking. But one man who got beneath the surface, and to whom in an hour of confidence the Governor opened his heart, found that it was not so. He grieved bitterly over his loneliness as an infirmity. He would rather have had confidences and affection. If we could get beneath the surface of the lonely and repellent lives about us, this would doubtless be their general history. Their isolation may be splendid, but it is pitiful. Nobody knows how much they long for sympathy, how they would gladly exchange their learning or their wealth or their brilliancy for that sincere affection which hurries to its object for confidence and sympathy in every fresh experience of grief or joy.

There is a refuge for the isolated life. Though removed from the busy offices of affection, it need not be lonely. Governor Altgeld found it. When he needed comfort and sympathy he went to his books. He was a great reader, a great student, an acute and tireless thinker. No one need be lonely in a library. There, for his every variant mood, awaits him communion with "the mighty minds of old." There he can find companionship for his gayer moods and solace in the hour of gloom. The treachery of man, the cruelty of fickle Nature, are absent there. The message of cheer and inspiration that comes from the world's best literature is always there. It is undimmed by time, unaffected by poverty, steadfast even in disgrace and shame. The only man who is utterly and irremediably lonely is he who can find no joy in the lives and thoughts of the great and good.

NEW FIELD FOR OREGON FRUIT.

It is not likely that the masses of Orientals will soon take to buying Oregon fruit, but there can be no doubt that the larger cities of China and Japan promise to absorb quantities of fruit with other products of this country. This was pointed out by Consul H. B. Miller several months ago, and the experiment of Industrial Agent Judson with a test shipment of Hood River apples tends to prove that a demand exists beyond the Pacific that it would be well for Oregon orchardists to meet. The cost of ocean transport is small—something like 30 cents a box—so that need not keep the Oregon producers from the Oriental market.

The great trade field of the Orient is to be developed in ways like this. Mere recognition of the fact that the teeming millions of Asiatics have needs that may be supplied from this country will not establish channels of trade and open markets to our wares. The field is there, but the mechanism of trade we must provide. We must go forth and test the taste and capacity of the people to buy and consume before those markets will become definite commercial factors. We have found that they will take large quantities of wheat flour, and it is said that corn meal is received with such favor in the north of China that our corn belt may find there relief for any amount of "overproduction." They now appear willing to take our fruit, and they should be encouraged to do so. Intelligent tests will show that the Oriental markets will absorb many other of our productions.

But the Orient will not be a dumping-ground for inferior wares. Excellence is demanded of whatever we introduce into those markets. We are not reaching the swarms that can hardly exercise choice as to what they will buy, but the commercial classes, who are in such circumstances that they can demand high quality and pay reasonably for it. Thus the articles that will find ready sale in Oriental markets are such as will command respect anywhere. The market beyond the Pacific is not to be valued because it will take what other markets would reject, but because it is a new field, affording room for expansion; and it is the good fortune of Oregon to be so situated that it can to a great extent command that field. The virtues that will place Oregon fruits in the lead there will gain for them recognition elsewhere, but the circumstances of trade give us an advantage in the Orient and relieve us measurably of the sharpness of competition experienced in other markets. By all means let us push Oregon fruit in the markets of the Orient.

The London Statist, in an article on the sugar conference at Brussels, comments upon the fact that the consumption of sugar is so light in the bounty-paying countries. For example, Germany is the cheapest producer of all, and France and Austria are also cheap, yet the per capita consumption in France was but 12.67 kilos in 1900, 15.23 kilos in Germany, and in Austria only 8 kilos, as against 41.57 kilos in Great Britain. The reason is that sugar is high in the bounty-paying countries, and the Statist thinks the Brussels agreement, if ratified, will bring the price down everywhere. It is estimated the Continent will produce for the year ending August 31 next 6,825,000 tons, an increase of 756,000 tons over that of last year. The Statist estimates the Cuban output at 800,000 tons, perhaps 900,000, as compared with 512,000 tons last year, while Porto Rico, Hawaii and the United States will also enlarge their output. The cane crop will probably be 3,600,000 tons, and with 900,000 tons carried over from last year will give a total supply of 11,325,000 tons for consumption in the current sugar year. The consumption last year was 8,735,000 tons, and as the average increase is but 300,000 tons per annum, the consumption this year should be 9,035,000 tons, leaving a surplus of 2,290,000 tons, enough for a three months' world supply. The acreage will be largely increased next year in order to get the advantage of bounties and kartels which are to end in September, 1903. If the Brussels convention is ratified, the sugar year of 1904 will start with enormous accumulations. Hence there is nothing left to do but reduce prices and increase consumption. If the Statist is correct, there is little rational support for the beet-sugar contention that Cuba will be relieved naturally in a year or two by advances in sugar prices.

Since the Tillman-McLaurin fracas many suggestions in regard to changing the Senate rules in order to prevent such unseemly outbreaks in the future have been brought forward, and the committee having the matter in charge is reported to have decided to recommend the following regulations:

No Senator in debate shall directly or indirectly, by any form of words, impute to another Senator any conduct or motive unworthy or unbecoming a Senator.

No Senator in debate shall utter any reproach upon the character or history of any state of the Union.

The Philadelphia Bulletin pointedly suggests that it might be a gain if the tone of lofty politeness which these amendments suggest could be maintained in political debate, but nobody who knows anything about the history of the Senate will believe that they could be consistently enforced. In the heat of discussion Senators are just as likely as other people to say sharp things about each other, and, although charges of fraudulent practice or corrupt motives, unless clear proof of their truthfulness is presented, are rightfully under the ban of parliamentary law, it is unreasonable to suppose that debate over vexed issues can be always conducted with punctilious and ceremonious courtesy. The Bulletin seems about right also when it observes that there are a good many evils in current political life much worse than plain talk in Congress. If the Senate sticks to the rules it now has, and enforces them with a rational degree of strictness, it will do all that is necessary in this respect.

According to the latest statement issued by the Treasury Bureau of Statistics, the manufacturers of this country are now importing more than $1,000,000 worth of materials for their shops every day in the year, and are exporting more than $1,000,000 worth of their finished products each day. The imports of manufacturers' materials in the eight months ended with February, 1902, were valued at $270,202,774, and the exports of finished manufactures in the same period were $257,907,430. This is at the rate of over $380,000,000 a year. It will be seen from the following table covering the eight months ended with February each year that both our imports of manufacturers' materials and our exports of manufactures have more than doubled in less than a decade:

Eight months ended with February.	Imports of manufacturers' materials.	Exports of manufactures.
1894	$130,171,766	$123,288,257
1895	169,868,576	116,828,996
1896	221,875,756	144,062,141
1897	159,532,502	174,180,920
1898	178,611,860	180,003,072
1899	170,959,002	206,822,384
1900	253,231,318	268,537,972
1901	213,077,923	269,886,656
1902	270,202,714	257,907,430

The moral of these figures is the burden which tariffs on raw or partly manufactured materials imposes upon our industry.

The trust-promoters think they are entitled to bouquets for having earned dividends in the present active state of the steel and allied industries. This is on the basis of full orders and high prices. How will it be when the conditions change and purchases stop? Then we may be sure of one thing, and that is the tremendous strain to which their enormous capitalization will be subject. If it survives, it will be a miracle.

It is rather reassuring than otherwise to learn that a "nigger in the woodpile" is strongly suspected in connection with the proposed Philippine silver bill. To believe otherwise would be to asperse the cunning of our silvern statesmen, who have never lost a chance to work the Government for some underhand advantage.

Now Nicaragua is inclined to get gay about canal concessions. It looks as if we shall have as much trouble with these Latin republics as we have had with the railroad attorneys sitting in Congress. Perhaps the lobby and the boodle have been transferred thither.

The House Republicans will try to escape the odium of the subsidy bill by postponing it till after election. This is presuming upon a low standard of popular acumen. They would far better call it up and vote it down.

THE WHITE MAN'S BURDEN.

When Henry Watterson went to Washington to the Virginia Society dinner, he left behind this article for the Courier-Journal, which will show how much of an anti-imperialist the great Kentuckian is. The piece is a fine exhibit of the vision and spirit that are today bringing the waste places of the world under efficient rule. The Courier-Journal says:

"The Government of India, writes Mr. Meredith Townsend in his latest work, 'Asia and Europe,' is 'a structure built on nothing, without foundation. Banish those 1500 men in black, defeat the slender garrison in red, and the empire is ended.'

"But is it?

"He proceeds to say that after the English have been evicted 'India will be reduced to the condition in which we found her—life will again be made interesting as of old by incessant wars, invasions and struggles for personal ascendency. The railways . . . will be torn up, the universities will be scouted by military rulers, the population will begin to decrease, and, in short, one word expresses it all, India will once more be Asiatic.'

"But will it?

"For years the author of those lines has lived in India and, naturally and properly, his words have weight in England. This prophecy, however, is being met with skepticism. He cites the distances from the mother country. His critics point to the Suez Canal. He mentions the Mutiny of 1857. They recall that it failed. And they follow with other important arguments:

"Now there are 24,444 miles of railway running through India.

"There are telegraph lines to every corner of the peninsula.

"Steamers have so increased in speed and numbers that the government could more easily place 200,000 white troops in India in 1902 than it could 30,000 in 1857.

"The organization of the empire is vastly improved.

"The English troops would be equipped with modern artillery, while the natives would not have even the obsolete guns of the former uprising.

"To these, a writer in the Monthly Review adds this forceful paragraph:

Now, even supposing the mother country had become so effete as to allow such a catastrophe, and that the great young nations of Australia and Canada would look with indifference on so deplorable an ending to all the efforts which we who spend our lives in trying to rule India justly have made, is it likely that Russia and Germany, and France and America would stand by and see that great market go to ruin from which they require so much of the necessaries of civilization? The world in general has need of what India can produce . . . and will insist that great rich spaces of the earth's surface like India . . . shall be kept under those conditions which most conduce to efficient production.

"Thus just, as the saying has it, that all roads lead to Rome, the modern political argument leads to Markets. In India's case, it is her markets that will keep her under the beneficent rule of civilization—there are those who will say, rather, helpless subjection. But indolence and ignorance controlled by an enlightened people must needs be nurtured into thrift and knowledge and so add to the world's blessings. Until England entered this rich field, it might be said that India, to paraphrase Goldsmith's line, was a land

Where men accumulated and wealth decay'd.

"Now, while men may be still accumulating, her wealth is traversing all the seas, and there is no danger of her lapsing ever into anarchy. Let England loose her grasp—which she will hardly do—and there will be a scramble for India's markets. She lies in the very road of commercial progress, which is traveling fast in Asia. Every day sees European and American influence and trade spread further over that continent. Today, out of a total population of 844,000,000, no less than 344,000,000 are under European control, 250,000,000 having been absorbed during the last century. And with the expansion of this trade will go the benefits of education, justice, hygiene and morality. For God stored the earth with his riches and made the soil yield his fruit for the use of the human race, and the traffic in these gifts is the surest bearer of civilization, despite the imputations that it is sordid and base in motive. It is this traffic—this search for markets—that, through the British, will upbuild South Africa; that, through the United States, will regenerate Hawaii and the Philippines; that, through these and other nations, will scatter the darkness in China. It is this that but recently has brought Japan into the foreground as one of the world's progressive powers. Its effect is apparent in China, for only a few days ago the dispatches told that the Pekin Court intended sending individual Ministers and Ambassadors to countries heretofore slighted. China wants to join the fellowship of the nations.

"While markets sometimes may follow only the cannon-ball, civilization accompanies the markets. So it may be reasoned that India, notwithstanding pessimistic prophets, is apt to grow in civilization day by day for a long while."

A POINTED STATEMENT.

How Long Must One Vote the Republican Ticket Before He Becomes a Republican?

PORTLAND, April 5.—(To the Editor.)—I desire to know for what length of time a man has to vote the Republican ticket before he becomes a Republican. It is the custom of the Methodists to receive members upon probation, and at the end of six months, if they prove worthy, they are taken into full membership, but it seems that this does not apply to the G. O. P.

I was led to make this inquiry by hearing a gentleman, who was a Republican because his father was one, say that he would not vote for Mr. Furnish for Governor because he was a Democrat—that he preferred to vote for a Democrat who was running upon a Democratic ticket.

The writer is in the same position, politically, as Mr. Furnish. In 1896, with Mr. Furnish, I abandoned the Democratic party on account of Bryan and Bryanism, and ever since then have voted the Republican ticket and worked for the success of the Republican party.

How much longer will it take me to be a full-fledged Republican than it will those who left the Republican party in 1896 and voted for Bryan, and are now trying to sneak back into the party?

And, again, is it not true that those Democrats who first voted the Republican ticket in 1896, and have been voting the same ever since, did greater service to the party then, and are still doing better work for the party than many of those who have been voting the ticket from the time of Lincoln, and who now refuse to support Mr. Furnish by reason of his recent attachment to the party? C. A. C.

Death the Leveler.

James Shirley.

The glories of blood and state
  Are shadows, not substantial things;
There is no armor against fate;
  Death lays his icy hand on kings;
    Scepter and crown
    Must tumble down,
And in the dust be equal made
With the poor crooked scythe and spade.

Some men with swords may reap the field,
  And plant fresh laurels where they kill;
But their strong nerves at last must yield;
  They tame but one another still:
    Early or late
    They stoop to fate,
And must give up their murmuring breath
When they, pale captives, creep to death.

The garlands wither on your brow;
  Then boast no more your mighty deeds;
Upon Death's purple altar now
  See where the victor-victim bleeds:
    Your heads must come
    To the cold tomb;
Only the actions of the just
Smell sweet, and blossom in their dust.

VOTING MACHINES IN DEMAND.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.

The County Commissioners seem to be taking hold of the proposition to introduce voting machines in a business-like way. Though the practicability of these labor-saving, time-saving and accurate devices has long been a matter of general knowledge, and though their installation has been urged in the press of the two cities for several years, this is, be believe, the first time any steps have been taken in this state to take advantage of the law authorizing their use. They have been subjected to thorough tests, and there is no room for doubt either as to the simplicity of their operation, their accuracy or their great economy. For four years machines have been used in Rochester, a city of the same size as St. Paul, and for three years in Buffalo, a city just twice the size of St. Paul. During 1901 in New York State alone machines were in use in 74 towns and cities, and from not one of them were there any complaints. Massachusetts and Connecticut towns and cities have also tried voting devices with results just as satisfactory, and throughout the Northern States cities are equipping themselves. St. Paul will be put in the old foggy class if it does not join the procession within a year or two.

The virtues of machine-voting we have often catalogued. Absolute and unimpeachable accuracy in the count, obviating all necessity of contests; promptness in making known the results, with a consequent saving in labor, and the prevention of a voter's spoiling his ballot are some of the immediate advantages of automatic ballot machines. The accuracy of the count of course depends on the mechanism, but that is so easily determinable beforehand by any one skilled in practical mechanics and has been tested so many hundreds of times that it may be taken for granted. As to promptness, the contrast between the old and new systems was illustrated in the last Fall election, when 103 of the 105 precincts in Buffalo had reported their complete returns at the City Hall within 35 minutes of the closing of the polls. The result was known in St. Paul within an hour after the last ballot was cast.

But the important point next to the accuracy of the count is the economy of the system. Buffalo with 350,000 people and an area of 40 square miles found only 105 machines sufficient, making it probable that St. Paul, with 170,000 people and an area of 55 square miles, could get along with 80 machines and perhaps less. Machines, however, would do away with the need of three clerks at general elections and two clerks at city elections at $12 per clerk. They would also lessen the work of judges sufficiently to justify the reduction of their compensation. Machines, moreover, would do away with the cost of printing ballots. In other words, for a single final election, even if as many as 80 machines were found necessary, the saving this Fall would be $9250, and in a Spring election would be almost $8000—making about $17,000 saved in one election year, not counting what could be saved on primary elections or the printing of ballots and other expenses not covered in the above calculations. As 80 machines of the type most generally used in New York would cost $500 apiece, the machines would almost pay for themselves in two election years. As the company controlling these machines offers to take payments in installments equal to the amounts saved annually by their use, it will practically cost nothing to install them.

Furthermore, it is not to be lost sight of that the city and county will be put to great expense in the near future, owing to the fact that the ballot boxes are falling to pieces with age, and must be replaced. A voting machine, owing to a 90-day notice clause in the law, cannot be officially tested in St. Paul this Spring, but one or more ought to be in place by the middle of September, to be tested at the Fall primaries. This, however, presupposes such prompt action by the new Council that it is probable that a test cannot be made until next November. So far as experience goes it would be safe enough for the city to equip itself with a score of machines of certain types, provided they are adapted to the primary election. It would not do to forego the advantages of direct primaries. But the Pioneer Press is informed that most of the machines can be arranged to meet the slightly different requirements of the primary. The point is raised merely as one that the County Commissioners and the Council should bear in mind in its investigations.

SAVINGS BANK'S GROWTH.

There Are Now 6,400,000 Depositors In These Institutions.

New York Sun.

In the aggregate wealth and the individual resources of the people of the United States, in enlarged foreign markets for American goods and cereals, in building operations, in the extension of railroad mileage, in bank clearances and all items of commerce, there has been an enormous increase in the United States in the past six years, but in no other respect perhaps has the country's growth in wealth been so conspicuously shown as the increase in the number of savings bank depositors and of their aggregate deposits.

Five years ago there were 5,200,000 savings-bank depositors in the United States; now there are 6,400,000, an increase of 1,200,000, or at the rate of nearly a quarter of a million a year.

Five years ago the amount on deposit in the savings banks of the United States was $1,940,000,000; it is now $2,640,000,000, an increase of $700,000,000 in five years, or at the rate of $140,000,000 a year.

The State of New York has, of course, the largest number of savings-bank depositors, but in comparison with the total population Massachusetts is ahead of it. New York has 2,100,000 depositors; Massachusetts has 1,500,000.

Connecticut, a very small state, has 400,000 savings-bank depositors, 50,000 more than Pennsylvania, one of the largest and most prosperous of the states, but one in which, for some reason, not much favor is given to this form of investment.

Illinois has 260,000 savings-bank depositors and Iowa 205,000, but Indiana has only 2000 and Wisconsin only 2500.

Among Southern states, South Carolina stands first in the number of its savings-bank depositors, the increase having been very marked since South Carolina embarked in the line of manufacture. There are relatively very few savings-bank depositors in Texas, and an unusually large number in Maryland for so small a state. Maine has a very large, and West Virginia a very small number, and New Jersey, with a population of 1,183,000, has more than 200,000 savings-banks depositors.

Talked to Death.

New York Tribune.

The Constitutional Convention in Virginia has lasted so long and listened to so much oratory that expert diagnosticians now predict that every practical suggestion is menaced with the danger of being talked to death. Rhetoric of the Bryan vintage—floods of words without the Attic salt of common sense—have spoiled counsel often, and overwhelmed the well considered preferences of the judicious and the prudent.

The Secret.

George Edward Woodberry.

Nightingales warble about it,
  All night under blossom and star;
The wild swan is dying without it,
  And the eagle cryeth afar;
The sun he doth mount but to find it,
  Searching the green earth o'er;
But more doth a man's heart mind it,
  Oh, more, more, more!

Over the gray leagues of ocean
  The infinite yearneth alone;
The forests with wandering emotion
  The thing they know not intone;
Creation arose but to see it,
  A million lamps in the blue;
But a lover he shall be it
  If one sweet maid is true.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

France is having an election. Kentucky would better brush up her laurels.

This much I know of weather lore,
  It is always very plain,
That the gentle rule of the Queen of the May
  Is better than April's reign.

It looks as if we should have to provide board and lodging for royalty until the panel of princes is exhausted.

The tumult and the shouting dies,
  But those who more excitement seek
We most respectfully advise
  The Democrats convene this week.

Captain Coghlan has been restored to his lost rank, but he is not celebrating it by singing "Hoch der Kaiser."

How little doth propriety
  The brewer base imbue
Who handeth us the brown bock beer
  Two weeks before it's due.

Miss Stone is going on the lecture platform. Poetic justice would suggest that the brigands be forced to attend her entire series.

The rain is not so surely brought
  By prayer of any saint
As by the man who foolishly
  Essays his house to paint.

After all that was said of Rhodes he only left a paltry $25,000,000. J. P. Morgan has to have that much as first payment on a retainer.

Now doth the smiling candidate
  Dispense the best of cheer,
And otherwise cause us to wish
  That he was always here.

The bunco steerers seem intent on remaining until election day. They evidently do not want to waste the efforts they spent in getting registered.

If it were not for Alfred Austin King Edward would be looking forward to the coronation with unmixed pleasure. Still, Austin is not so bad. He might be writing historical novels.

A London paper the other day received from a would-be correspondent on the Continent the following specimen of his work, entitled "Walker Upon Water": "Captain Otto Grossmann, the eminent inventor of the shoes to walk upon the water, descendet the Danube from Klosterneuberg till Vienna. He was welcomed by a shouting crowd. He proceeded with great calm and extreme surety and was drawing after him a little boat with inside his wife."

An estimable woman of Milwaukee is an earnest member of a local German class, but her method of pronouncing some of the words, at least in one specific instance, aroused the mirth of her companions. At a recent meeting of the class, one of the questions in the day's exercise was: "Are you not glad that you are able to learn German?" This query was in the foreign language, and the answer was: "Ja; gewiss," meaning, "Yes, certainly." It so happened that this particular woman was called up to read the question, and answer. She got through the question all right, but convulsed the class by reading the answer this way: "Ya; ge whiz!"

One day soon after Aguinaldo's capture and arrival at Manila General MacArthur decided to go to see him and find if he was being rightly treated. At the close of the visit the General asked Aguinaldo if there was anything he would like to have, whether papers, magazines, clothes, cigars or other articles. But the prisoner shook his head. He said that there was nothing at all that he wanted.

Just as the General was about to close the door Aguinaldo's face suddenly brightened, and the look in his eyes showed that he was trying to remember some name.

"What is it?" said General MacArthur.

"There is just one thing in the world I want," said Aguinaldo, "if you can only get it for me. I have had it but once in my life, and that was at Hong Kong. They said it was an American thing, and that all Americans had it. It is—ice cream!" he said with great enthusiasm.

Sold For Three Dollars.

Galveston News.

A story is told of George, a sable waiter who used to wait on Governor Hogg in Beaumont, when he went to a certain restaurant. Each day at dinner George would receive from the Governor his tip, $1. George reveled in wealth. He was the envied of all the other waiters. He was the happy possessor of a "good thing." One day when the Governor entered the dining-room a strange darky stood behind his chair. "Where's George?" asked the Governor, brusquely. The new waiter bowed low. "Ise youah waitah now, sah," he said softly. "But where's George?" again asked the Governor. Again his new retainer assured him: "Ise youah waitah now." The Governor looked up from his paper sharply. He was somewhat mystified, and with increasing emphasis demanded to know where George was, anyhow. "Well, you see, sah," began the newcomer with some hesitation, "Gawge and I was out las' night playing craps. Gawge went broke; I won his pile. Then"—here his voice dropped lower and his manner confidential—"he put you up agin $3 and I won. So Ise youah waitah."

Some Things Worse Than War.

Boston Herald.

That there are some things worse than war is further demonstrated by Mr. Moody's remark that we have saved in a single year in Cuba more lives from death by pestilence than were lost on both sides in the conflict with Spain. A rather striking fact, that.

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

Uncle William—Yes, Willie; I have had my nose to the grindstone all my life. Willie—Is that what made it so red, uncle?—Philadelphia Record.

Fond Mother (to teacher)—Don't you think my boy is bound to make his mark? Teacher—I am afraid so. It seems impossible for him to learn to write.—Tit-Bits.

At the Historical-Novel Play.—He—I suppose, before seeing one of these plays, one should read the book. She—Yes. Then, in some cases, one might avoid the play.—Puck.

Near When Needed.—"That was an ideal course the Automobile Club selected for its race." "Think so?" "Yes; there was a blacksmith shop and a pharmacy every half mile."—Chicago Daily News.

Too Democratic.—"They've given up the Authors' Club." "Why?" "Everybody who had written a historical novel was eligible, and they found it wasn't going to be exclusive enough."—Detroit Free Press.

Instructor—In what respect did the fourteenth and nineteenth centuries resemble each other? De Gress—The nineteenth century resembled the fourteenth in that both were 100 years long.—Harvard Lampoon.

No Real Danger.—Clara—Bob Preston has proposed to me, and I really don't know how to refuse him. I hate to break the poor boy's heart. Amy—Oh, don't worry about that. I refused him twice last week, and he seems to be getting along.—Chicago Record-Herald.

Smithson (the celebrated poet, novelist, playwright, etc.)—But, my dear young lady, I really don't understand you. I haven't been winning any ping-pong tournament. I don't play. Miss Brown—Oh, but surely I heard our hostess say you were the Mr. Smithson.—Punch.

Impossible.—"Of all the clumsy brutes," cried Mrs. Pettish, at the crowded reception, "that man's the worst." "'Sh!" said her husband, "that's a detective." "I don't care. He stepped on my trail and—" "Nonsense! He never got on anybody's trail in his life."—Philadelphia Press.