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TODAY'S WEATHER—Showers, with southerly winds.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 65; minimum temperature, 45; precipitation, 0.06 inch.

PORTLAND, FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 1902.

IT IS "SCUTTLE."

Perhaps no one ought to take Br'er Hofer, of the Salem Capital Journal, seriously. He is loose in his statements; he is very erratic; he doesn't draw on authentic sources of information, but consults the vagaries of his own dreamy consciousness, as when he says that "The Oregonian fought the ship subsidy for years, but now praises Mitchell for voting for it"; and much more stuff equally unfounded and absurd.

But here is another story. Br'er Hofer says "The Oregonian misrepresents the Democrats of Oregon when it says that their platform on the Philippines represents a policy of 'scuttle.'" It is evident Br'er Hofer doesn't know what "scuttle," in the political language of the day, means. It simply means that we are to tell the Filipinos they are to be independent, that we are to abandon our claim to the sovereignty of the islands, put our people on shipboard and sail away. Now what does the platform of the Democrats of Oregon propose and demand? Scuttle.

"We believe that the true policy is to prepare the people of those islands for self-government as speedily as possible, and when so prepared, to grant them independence." Aguinaldo and our antis say they are prepared for self-government now. But time is a matter of little consequence, since, in the language of the platform, we are "to grant them independence."

There is, however, an attempt to relieve this by the statement that we are to "retain such coaling stations and ports as may be necessary to protect those islands from foreign interference, and to maintain our trade relations in the Orient." This is contradictory. There is one important port in the Philippines—Manila. Are we to keep that? Nothing less would meet the wants of our commerce in the Orient. But if we keep Manila we virtually keep everything. Again, if we are to protect the islands from foreign interference, it would be necessary to control them so they would not get us into broils with foreign powers. A protectorate would be incompatible with their independence. Yet if we are to have responsibility we must have power.

This last part of the resolution is the silly clause. It is impossible. But the demand that we "grant them their independence" is possible—though we shall not do it. It would be scuttle. The United States will not abandon the Philippine Islands. Nor will the people of the United States trust these important affairs to a party that proposes such a policy, or the embarrassing, tortuous and impossible alternative offered in the latter clause of the scuttle resolution.

THE DEMO-SIMON MACHINE.

The Simon junta, consisting of five or six persons, will now very shortly hand out the list of candidates that falls to the lot of these evangels and devotees of "good government." The Democratic party is expected to take up these remnants of the defunct Simon ring, to make them its own, to attach itself as a body to this head; in a word, to re-establish the Democratic party through the Simon faction, with the Simon inner clique as its guide. That may "work"; and again it may not.

With what natural persistence this little close corporation, known as the Simon machine, sticks to its habitual methods! Its "caucus," its inner ring, consisting of not more than five or six persons, is now to hand out one-half the nominations to the Democrats, just as in former years it handed all of them out to the Republicans. It was this method of handing out the nominations to the Republicans that culminated finally in the disastrous defeat of two years ago.

No sooner was the Simon ring beaten in the Republican primaries than the inner circle of the machine managers resolved itself into a body for assistance and direction of the Democratic party. Accustomed to dictate to the Republican party, this junta, no sooner than dethroned by the Republican primary, transferred itself bodily to a Democratic alliance, and through the mere audacity of habit assumed leadership therein. Since this inner ring had long been accustomed to dictate to the Republican party, why shouldn't it now dictate to the Democratic?

It published a manifesto in which it exclaimed against the caucus and machine methods of the Republican convention. A caucus consisting of a large majority of that entire convention, was, as it seems, a ring and a machine; but a caucus consisting of Cohen, Pipes, Bernstein, Ross and Mackay, all self-appointed, a caucus which hands out nominations to a Democratic convention, to serve as a contingent force on a so-called citizens' ticket, is not a ring or a machine, but a disinterested and highly patriotic agency of "good government."

One more thing—having disposed of Mr. Simon—the people of Portland are determined to do; and that is to shake this junta out of control of their local government. Wait and watch, to see this prediction fulfilled.

SLANDERING A NATION.

Strange indeed must be the mental constitution of those who rush eagerly to take for granted that every aspersion upon the American name in the Philippines is true. The assertions of Secretary Root, Governor Taft, General Funston, General Chaffee and General Bell are whistled down the wind as unworthy of attention, while unsupported accusations of men like Gardener, admittedly prejudiced and visionary, are accepted as gospel truth before a scintilla of testimony has been offered one way or the other from which judgment may be formed.

The trouble here is not so much feebleness of intellect as it is shallowness of soul. With these touch-and-go maligners of the American character, the wish is father to the thought. The spirit behind the disposition is one of disloyalty. It instinctively rejoices at American defeat and glories in Filipino victories. Stories of Filipino barbarities are ignored, stories of American barbarities are welcomed and exploited before opportunity has been had to test their truth. Nothing could give these un-American Americans greater joy than to be able to establish damaging things concerning the conduct of our troops in Luzon. Nothing could so dispirit and dismay them as evidence that our men had acted with credit to the American name.

It needs no prophet to foresee that their hopes are doomed to fail. The American soldier is not a strange and unknown thing to the people of the United States. They know him to be a man of like nature as the rest of us, no more base or cruel, and formed withal by training and high tradition to uphold the honor of the United States with dignity and self-control. Private soldiers may give way to fits of passion and revenge, goaded to them by the unspeakable atrocities to which they and their fellows have been subjected. But it is inconceivable to any one knowing the men that an American officer of rank and responsibility, should give orders for wholesale murder, arson, torture or pillage. It is indefensible slander to assert the contrary.

The American character is not to be befouled either by the isolated acts of a few half-crazed soldiers in the deadly swamps and among the murderous savages of Luzon nor by the malevolent aspersions of copperhead snakes at home. Crime will be punished, in Luzon or in Massachusetts. Offenders whose acts are proved will be brought to book. The efforts of the antis, if they could succeed, would only serve to prove that inhumanity and injustice are the dominant traits in the American character. It is an ambition as vain as it is damnable. Criticism that prides itself on fairness and independence never lent itself to baser purposes.

HIS JUST DESERTS.

The details of the story how General Miles in 1880, through his powerful friends—John Sherman, then Secretary of the Treasury, and Don Cameron, then Senator from Pennsylvania—obtained his promotion, are exceedingly discreditable to that officer. Miles and Don Cameron had married sisters, nieces of John Sherman. Miles first asked to be appointed Chief Signal Officer, but that had been promised to General Hazen, an Ohio veteran of great political influence. Then Miles suggested that under the law the President could retire Brigadier-General Ord, that officer having reached the age of 62 years. General Ord was a graduate of West Point in 1839; had served with very great distinction in the Mexican War, and so distinguished himself under Grant in the Iuka and Corinth campaign, in which he was wounded, and at Vicksburg, that when Grant wanted a man to replace General W. F. Smith in the Army of the James in July, 1864, he selected General Ord; and when Butler was relieved from command of the Army of the James, Ord was made its commander and commanded it in the pursuit after Lee.

Ord was always a fighting man. He was severely wounded in August, 1864, leading his command into action. The correspondence of Grant and Sherman shows that they both deemed Ord an exceptionally able and gallant soldier. The high esteem in which Ord was held is shown by the fact that he was among the first officers to be made a Brigadier-General in the regular Army after the close of the war. The first vacancy went to General Terry for his capture of Fort Fisher, and the next to General Ord. General Ord was still an able and energetic officer, with nearly two years to serve before he reached the age limit, when President Hayes was reluctantly persuaded to place him on the retired list to make room for General Miles. The Washington correspondent of the New York Sun recites the following facts which make General Miles' action seem notably repulsive:

General Ord begged his old friend, General Sherman, to have the retirement order held up so that he might become a Major-General on the retirement of General McDowell, and then retire with that rank. McDowell was just three days older than Ord, and if matters had been permitted to take the ordinary course, each officer retiring at 64 years, and the senior Brigadier being promoted according to the principle which General Miles advocates in his opposition to the general staff bill, Ord would have succeeded McDowell.

But General Miles was in such a hurry for his promotion that he refused any consideration for a splendid old veteran who had fought in three wars and was a Brigadier-General of Volunteers before Miles had joined the Union Army. General Sherman was obliged to telegraph General Ord that nothing could be done, as Miles' name had been sent to the Senate and could not be withdrawn. The shame of this matter belongs largely to President Hayes, who knew perfectly well that this power of the President arbitrarily to retire an officer at 62 was only intended to be exercised for the public welfare when the veteran by his habits or his premature senility had become a burden upon the active Army list, and was never intended to be invoked to create a vacancy prematurely for officers backed by political pull. President Hayes acted badly in this matter, as did President Harrison in the premature retirement of a very gallant and able officer, General Carr.

Nevertheless, the chief shame in this matter attaches itself to General Miles for using his political pull to retire prematurely General Ord and rob a splendid old veteran of his gallantly earned Major-Generalship. If General Miles is prematurely retired he can only blame himself, for he has forced it by his obstructiveness. When General Ord was retired in December, 1880, nearly two years before the age limit, he was in active command of the Department of Texas, and was a remarkably sturdy, well-preserved soldier. After his retirement, when constructing engineer of a Mexican railroad, he visited Havana with his daughter on a pleasure trip, and died there in 1883 of yellow fever. He was a man of Southern birth and blood, who stood by the flag against the strong appeal of section.

WHY THEY HESITATE.

The course of the Democratic party in this county and city in organizing itself year after year into an instrument of factional Republicans is not only destructive of all vitality and self-respect in the party itself, but is contrary to public policy and to the best interests of the community. A political organization aiming at the establishment of certain principles before the people is legitimate and creditable. But for a party ostensibly concerned for certain political results to devote its energies to the attainment of revenge on the part of first one and then another element of the Republicans is of all things the most demoralizing and disintegrating. Democratic victories could be won here as they are in California if the party would maintain some dignified and consistent position. But the present policy is rapidly reducing the party here to the hopeless position it occupies in Pennsylvania, where the Democratic leaders have suffered themselves to be maintained as a Republican sideshow, taking orders from Republican machines.

As we have said, the party not only injures itself, but injures the community. It becomes recreant to a certain obligation it is under, to maintain a consistent opposition to Republican men and measures, so that the choice is always open to the independent voter of indorsing or disapproving Republican policies. This high ground, upon which parties can only be justified, is abandoned in favor of a miserable time-serving policy that sets petty politics up above high politics. It is desirable and almost necessary that opposing parties exist for the assertion of certain policies or principles of government, so that administration of the government, national and local, may proceed upon the lines approved by the popular verdict. It is bad for the general welfare that our local Democrats insistently ignore this course of action, and direct their efforts to please factional Republicans who are seeking office and whose dependence is on Democratic votes.

The Democratic party in this city and county has been terrorized for a number of years by a gang of freebooters who have lined rank and file up every election in aid of one or another element in the Republican party. The result is that many self-respecting Democrats have left the party for good and all, while others who still remain are humiliated. It is not strange that men of character and intelligence hesitate about accepting places on a ticket whose part in this election is that of tail to the Simon kite.

THE LABOR VOTE.

There are many signs throughout the country that the labor vote, through its increased intelligence, its higher independence and its better organization, is a rapidly growing power in politics. The new Mayor of San Francisco is a labor leader. In 1901 Bridgeport, Conn., a city of over 70,000 inhabitants, elected a labor Mayor, and Ansonia, Conn., a city of over 12,000, elected a labor mayor, and last week Hartford, Conn., a city of 80,000 people, elected a labor Mayor. The Mayor of Bridgeport owed his election to the public confidence felt in his honesty and his good sense. The Mayor of Ansonia owed his election to popular sympathy aroused in his behalf by his unjust treatment at the hands of the authorities during the strike. Mayor Sullivan's election in Hartford was due to the fact that as president of the State Federation of Labor he conducted to a successful end the strike for an eight-hour day in Hartford last May. The orderly conduct of the workingmen during this strike was due to the advice and influence of Mr. Sullivan. His moderation of spirit and opposition to extreme measures have been rewarded by his election to the Mayoralty of a large, wealthy and highly intelligent city. The Mayor of Bridgeport is a stoker; the Mayor of Ansonia is a carpenter; the Mayor of Hartford is a clothing clerk, who believes in the principle of municipal ownership of public utilities. These recent successes of laboring men in Connecticut politics have started a movement for the formation of a new political party to be composed of all kinds of workingmen. It is to be known as the Economic League of Connecticut. It is not proposed to make it a union labor party, although it expects the hearty co-operation of the labor unions throughout the state, but seeks to include in its ranks every citizen of Connecticut who works for a living. The projectors of this Economic League believe that the workingmen of Connecticut can be united into a political party strong enough to control state politics.

There are other signs of deeper significance which show that the voice of labor is neither still nor small in the land. The growing disposition of the courts to favor labor so long as it does not by violence put itself outside of the law recalls Mr. Dooley's incisive sarcasm that he had always observed that "the decisions of the Supreme Court closely followed the election returns." Judge Gaynor, in Brooklyn, N. Y., the other day refused an application for an injunction restraining the striking employes of a firm of bookbinders from interfering with the nonunion men who had replaced union men, on the ground that no actual violence had been committed; that the employers had brought on needless trouble because of their needlessly posting a notice that they would not recognize the bookbinders' union; that no violence had been done to person or property; that for the courts to interfere except in a case of obvious necessity was an abuse of power. Judge Sherwood, of the Supreme Court of Missouri, last month refused an application for injunction prohibiting the officers of the local Knights of Labor from enforcing a boycott against a clothing company. The Knights of Labor committee issued a circular calling upon the people not to purchase goods from the clothing company. Judge Sherwood, in denying an appeal for injunction, said that the defendants cannot be enjoined by a court of equity from enforcing those rights of free speech and free publication guaranteed them by the constitution of Missouri. The Oregonian recently cited the important decision of the New York Court of Appeals that workmen may threaten to do that which is legal to do, and have the right to say they will not work with certain men.

All these facts show that the labor vote as a power in politics is slowly but steadily growing in influence. Men of educated brains, intelligence and humanity long ago ceased to treat the labor movement with contempt, for they saw that while it was a purblind giant at birth, its sight would become clearer with every year of its life and experience, that when it reached full sight the giant would know what he wanted and get it. In every country in the civilized world there is an irresistible economic trend of the laboring classes toward better social conditions. It is possible under a government like that of Belgium for an oligarchy to repress it, but it is not possible under our form of government, because equal suffrage prevails. The Belgian workingman cannot enforce his rights, so he demands universal suffrage, but our workingmen have the ballot and with it can resent their wrongs and enforce their rights.

A determined effort is being made to rehabilitate the old "post exchange," which was succeeded by the army canteen a few years ago. The post exchange is the old canteen, with the sale of beer eliminated. In support of this scheme the Quartermaster-General of the Army has asked for an appropriation of $1,000,000, which amount will be required for the construction and maintenance of suitable buildings at military posts to be occupied and conducted as exchange stores, schools, libraries, reading, lunch and amusement-rooms, gymnasiums, etc., the money to be expended under direction of the Secretary of War. The Commissary-General asks for $675,000 additional for the same general purpose. The plan is strongly indorsed by Army officers of experience, among whom are General O. O. Howard and General Joseph Wheeler. Upon one point all agree. The soldiers stationed at military posts must have some means of amusement and recreation during their idle hours. If such means are not provided within the post, they will seek them outside, to the scandal and detriment of the service. It is just as well to admit this, and proceed on the basis of the fact to provide, whether through the canteen or the post exchange, a place of resort within the limits of the Army post that will cater to the social instinct which belongs to soldiers in common with other men.

Sheep shearing is in progress in the great range states, the wool clip being heavy and the aggregate bulk enormous. Fleeces are taken from sheep by machines, an average operator shearing from 80 to 125 sheep a day. The great proficiency attained by some men in this business is attested in contests in which as many as 367 sheep have been sheared by one man in sixteen hours and forty minutes. We were wont to cite as evidence of progress in labor-saving appliances the contrast between cutting grain with a sickle, binding it by hand with a wisp of straw, and threshing it with a flail, and the combined reaper, binder and thresher that performs its prodigies of labor in the modern wheat field. This contrast, however, is scarcely more striking than that between the old-fashioned snip-snip of the hand shears by which sheep were slowly and laboriously denuded of their wool, and the modern method which, literally speaking, "makes the wool fly." The new process is as interesting as the old was tedious, and its introduction shows progress in sheep husbandry, even as the great "combined" attests a triumph in methods of agriculture.

Helen Keller, the most wonderful product of education that the world has ever produced, invaded the strenuous life of the President at the White House recently, and he put aside the cares of state for an hour to converse with her. This girl—blind, deaf and dumb from early infancy—represents the acme of patience, skill and human ingenuity in making the blind see, the deaf hear and the dumb talk. She reads spoken words by placing her fingers against the lips of the speaker, and replies in audible tones and intelligent language to what is said. She has been taught to see through the eyes of others, and appreciates the beauty of flowers, trees, sky and landscape to a greater degree than do many who can see. Her life is an inspiration to courage and a reproach to discontent.

It is impossible to do business in the House with the latitude permitted in the Senate. Under the Senate rules the House could do absolutely nothing. Cushman doubtless knows this, yet he prefers to affect obliviousness of it, and launches at the rules that have been found necessary by the majority just such a diatribe as he directed in the last Congress at the rivers and harbors of the country. Cushman aspires to be the Abraham Lincoln of this generation, and to an extent he succeeds. He has all Lincoln's foibles with none of his virtues.

Registration of voters will close May 15. In every county large numbers of voters are still unregistered. There remains little time enough for attention to this duty. In Multnomah County there are 5000 to 8000 legal voters who have not attended to it. In other counties one-third to one-half still remain unregistered. Remember that unless registered you cannot vote, without the trouble of obtaining six freeholders to vouch for you on election day. Go and register now.

If a man is a Republican he will desire to see the policy and purposes of the Republican party upheld. Mr. Chamberlain therefore mistakes when he imagines that Republicans will vote for him; for Mr. Chamberlain is a Democrat, and election of Mr. Chamberlain would be announcement to the country that Oregon had rejected the Republican party and the policy and purposes for which it stands.

The Boers are said to be "sparring for time." This is the first intimation that the world has received that these stubborn, wiry, pugnacious fighters have become winded from their extraordinary exertions. If the estimate is true, England will do well to cut negotiations short. "Second wind" is a quality that is not lightly to be reckoned with.

AN ADMIRABLE SUGGESTION.

Minneapolis Tribune.

Every new disclosure in relation to affairs in the Philippines emphasizes the unfortunate friction between the military and civil authorities there and the growing need for a united or single government. If the civil government can organize native police and dispense with the troops, these should be withdrawn in part and the rest concentrated in garrisons, so as not to come in contact with the natives or civil rulers. If the stern control of the military power is still needful, it should not be hampered by premature introduction of civil government. The military has been obliged to use very severe measures with the natives in putting down insurrection. This adds to their natural disqualification as soldiers for gaining the confidence of the people and building up civil government. But they cannot be spared so long as there is danger of uprising and massacre, and so long as this danger remains they must be given power enough to take effective measures against it.

The War Department and Congress together will be in position to decide, after hearing all the testimony now being given, if the time has come for withdrawing the troops from all the pacified provinces and giving supreme control to the civil government. If that time has not come, and if the two cannot be consolidated under one head, the conclusion cannot be avoided that civil government has been introduced too soon. This is a matter for careful consideration of Congress before going on with the Philippine bill.

Probably the blame for the friction is fairly divided between the two sides. The publication of Colonel Gardener's report had hardly turned public opinion against the Army, when the report of the arrest for sedition of an American editor in Manila revealed the civil government in a light hardly more attractive. The paper in question, called Freedom, was established under General Otis' administration and apparently reflects the Army side of local public opinion. It denounced the native employes of the civil government in high position as incapable and corrupt, whereupon the editor was arrested under the sedition laws lately adopted by the Philippine Commission. These laws were not well thought of in the United States, when it was supposed that they were to be used for suppression of personal liberty and freedom of speech among the natives. Their employment against an American citizen will make a still greater sensation in the United States. It will be recalled that no such thing happened under military rule; but there was no reason why it should happen, as no Americans ventured to dispute the authority of the Army.

Nearly all Americans are too ignorant of the entire situation in the Philippines to form any opinion or offer more than the most general suggestion. But nearly all Americans are impatient of existing conditions, especially of the friction between the two governments, and expect Congress, in its greater wisdom, to make some improvement. President Roosevelt is very impatient of any kind of friction in government. His practice is, when men cannot get along together, to remove both of them and appoint somebody else. If it is really going to be impossible to dispense with the Army in the Philippines for some years to come, the best ruler for the islands would be an Army officer of high and approved administrative capacity, like General Wood.

Cuba Will Come In.

Chicago Tribune.

What Mr. Payne said is significant. His words were: "Cuba is not now a part of the United States. I do not want her to be, but I believe she will be." Omitting the expression of his wishes on the subject, that is the common belief of the people of the United States. They look upon the annexation of Cuba as "manifest destiny," and do not agree with some members of the House of Representatives that a reduction of the duty on sugar, or a refusal to reduce it, will materially help or retard annexation.

It is a curious fact that people argue both ways. Some say that if the reduction is not made it will force Cuba into the United States. Others say if made it will tend to bring the island under the jurisdiction of the United States. The truth is that, whether made or not, Cuba will become a part of the United States, as it cannot continue as a dependency. It cannot remain half independent, as it will be under the Platt amendment. It must be altogether free and independent, or altogether a part of the United States.

That is what its manifest destiny is, and what the people of the United States wish it to be. As an original proposition the opposition to annexation might have been serious, but when the relations between Cuba and the United States are incumbered by the obligation to protect the island, there can be no serious objection to annexation. As the United States is burdened with the duty of taking care of the island, it may as well make a complete job of it and take the island under its wing.

Probably if the question were to be submitted to a vote of the people of the United States, annexation would be favored by 90 per cent of the population. There would be no North and South in this question, as the South would be almost unanimously for it, and the number of people at the North opposed to it would be small.

As there is not likely to be any serious or persistent opposition on the part of the Cubans, it seems to be a question of only a few years when the island will come under the eagle's wing.

Price of Cuban Sugar.

Boston Herald.

"While the grasse groweth the horse starveth," and while Congress discusses reciprocity with Cuba the Cuban planters are constantly getting into a more serious condition. The price of sugar has fallen so that on April 10 the price, duty paid, on 96-degree centrifugals was in New York 3⅝ cents per pound. How much does this mean to the Cuban planter? Take the New York price, 3.375 cents per pound, subtract 1.685 cents as the duty paid. This leaves 1.69 cents per pound as the price in bond at New York. Allow .09 cent per pound for freight and insurance from Cuba to New York, and this leaves 1.6 cents per pound as the value free on board at Cuba. That must pay the planter for growing the cane, extracting the sugar and transporting it alongside ship. And it costs about 2 cents per pound to do this, according to the best authorities. Suppose the 20 per cent cut proposed by the House is made. That would mean a rebate of .337 cent per pound, and, if the Cubans got the whole of this, on the basis of present prices, they would receive only 1.9337 cents per pound for their sugar—less than the cost of production. In this light, the prospect for the Cuban planters is certainly not over bright.

Annie Laurie.

Douglas of Fingland.

Maxwelton braes are bonnie,
Where early fa's the dew,
And 'tis there that Annie Laurie
Gie'd me her promise true—
Gie'd me her promise true,
Which ne'er forgot will be;
And for bonnie Annie Laurie
I'd lay me doune and dee.

Her brow is like the snaw-drift;
Her throat is like the swan;
Her face it is the fairest
That e'er the sun shone on,—
That e'er the sun shone on;
And dark blue is her ee;
And for bonnie Annie Laurie
I'd lay me doune and dee.

Like dew on the gowan lying
Is the fa' o' her fairy feet;
Like the winds in summer sighing,
Her voice is low and sweet;—
Her voice is low and sweet;
And she's a' the world to me;
And for bonnie Annie Laurie
I'd lay me doune and dee.

DIRECT NOMINATIONS.

Boston Herald.

While it is possible that a delegated convention is theoretically the best means of selecting a candidate to an important public office, when the constituency is a broadly separated one, the merits of this method have of recent years been seriously impaired by infelicitous practices. In theory those who are called together in convention for the purpose of nominating their party candidate to the State Senate or their party candidate to the National House of Representatives are assumed to be in a position to act with exceptional good judgment. They represent the various sections and interests of the district; the prejudices for or against one candidate in one section are opposed to those entertained for other candidates in other sections. The interests of the party as a whole can unquestionably be better balanced and determined in a convention of 100 or 150 men than they can be at a large number of different caucuses, all of which are held at the same time, and at none of which can effective argument be made.

But in practice it is found that these nominating conventions do not exercise the wise functions which they are theoretically supposed to possess. The members go to them pledged beyond the possibilities of recall—except in the way of trade and dicker—to some particular candidate. These delegates are not in the least amenable to broad, public-spirited arguments, though, as was shown by some experiences last Fall, the promise of a good dinner will lead some of them to vote one way rather than another. The candidates are practically announced in advance, the convention simply registers the action of the caucuses, and where changes are made from caucus action these are ordinarily brought about by the persuasive work of adroit wirepullers. In this way, a method which has much in theory to commend it is made much less meritorious than a method which is admitted to be wanting in theoretical excellence.

The system of direct nominations presupposes that candidates will bring their political ambitions to the immediate attention of the people. If a man wishes to be nominated as State Senator or Congressman, he must announce himself as a candidate, and must also make his canvass in order to bring himself to the attention of members of his party prior to the holding of the nominating primaries. Under conditions that have hitherto been used, nominations have rested largely in the control of the machine politicians. It will be interesting to discover to what extent the power of the machine men will be lessened by this change of method. The complaint used to be raised that the citizens did not attend the primaries, but of late years they have turned out to these gatherings almost as numerously as at elections, and, if they have the opportunity to nominate good men and refuse to avail themselves of it, all that can be said will be that experience has proved that the people of this state are not as well fitted to govern themselves as had been supposed, hence the defect is one which no amount of political machinery can remedy.

Soldiers' Clothing in Alaska.

Youth's Companion.

The American soldier in Alaska would hardly be recognized by his comrades of the Army who are stationed in less rigorous climes. The military occupation of Alaska presented a new problem as to the best style of clothing to protect the men in garrison or on the trail from the extreme cold.

The fur and other heavy clothing furnished to troops at the most northern posts of the states was inadequate for the purpose, and a supply list of extra heavy clothing was made up for Alaskan service. The cost of this extra supply was about $30 for each man.

Based upon experience, the dress of the Alaskan soldier this year consists of a double-breasted canvas, blanket-lined peajacket, blue in color, with trousers of the same canvas, also with a blanket lining. A muskrat cap of improved pattern finishes the costume, the earflaps in front being extended to cover the cheek bones, and a small detachable fur strap serving to defend the bridge and end of the nose from frost. The lower corners of the flap lap over and fasten by means of a snap so as to cover the chin.

For field or trail purposes, a garment called a "parka," made of blue cloth, having a hood trimmed with wolfskin and a lining at the cuff of the same fur, has been specially manufactured for those our northernmost soldiers. Hereafter the muskrat mittens furnished will have the lining sewed in only at the cuffs. The object of this precaution is, as the Washington Star explains, to enable the wearer to turn out the lining and dry it when it becomes damp through perspiration, which frequently happens.

The regulation heavy woolen underwear worn by other troops having been found by experience too light for proper protection in Alaska, heavy fleece-lined garments have been issued.

As it is often difficult to communicate with the posts in Alaska, it has been deemed advisable to keep at least one year's clothing supplies ahead of requirements. In addition to this, a reserve depot has been established at Fort St. Michaels, and is kept well stocked.

A Buried Issue.

Minneapolis Tribune.

The silver question has been dead for several years. Now we think it may be considered to be buried. The first of the series of Republican state conventions of this year, in which representatives to Congress are to be elected, has been held in Oregon. That state has been the first skirmish ground of biennial battles over silver in more campaigns than a public weary of the whole subject cares to remember. Now, for the first time since the "crime of 1873" was dragged to light by men who wanted to pay their debts in cheaper money, the Republicans of Oregon have made a platform that does not mention silver or money or greenbacks or the sorrows of the debtor class, or the grasping greed of Wall street, or any of the tiresome category. This example is likely to be followed in other and greater states. The Democratic platforms, when they come to be made up, may be more reminiscent; but it takes two parties to make an issue, as it takes two to make a quarrel.

The actual disappearance of the silver question from American politics should have momentous results. These results were due after the election of 1896, but the persistence and hypnotic power of Bryan held them off for four years. Really they ought to come now. The cheap money party will remain, as it always has existed in the United States, but the specific expansion of it under the magic name of silver is done with. That will cause the party to shrink to the dimensions represented by the Louisville convention, and leave the serious political parties free to rearrange themselves on actual public issues.

Rest.

Mary Woolsey Howland.

I lay me down to sleep,
With little thought or care
Whether my waking find
Me here, or there.

A bowing, burdened head
That only asks to rest,
Unquestioning, upon
A loving breast.

My good right hand forgets
Its cunning now;
To march the weary march
I know not how.

I am not eager, bold,
Nor strong,—all that is past;
I am ready not to do
At last, at last.

My half-day's work is done,
And this is all my part,—
I give a patient God,
My patient heart;

And grasp His banner still,
Though all its blue be dim;
These stripes, no less than stars,
Lead after Him.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Where is General Killfeather?

The dog show is a howling success.

Unfortunately, every dog does not have his prize.

There is nothing so democratic as a Democrat.

The grand old man of the Democracy got just two votes.

If this be fusion, let the Democrats make the most of it.

The "bunks" are not poor, yet we have them always with us.

This assorted weather gives us all a chance to pick the kind we like.

A combined straw hat and umbrella would prove very useful just now.

Anyway, it is not necessary to learn a foreign language in order to play ping-pong.

If half that is told of Captain Glenn is true, he has mistaken his flag. He ought to be fighting for Spain.

No one has yet been thoughtful enough to organize a society for the prevention of cruelty to shipowners.

Gambling has become so scarce in New York that the restaurants have been compelled to raise the price of steaks.

If any of the country gentlemen have not yet been robbed, there is still plenty of opportunity for them in Portland.

After all, Mr. Hanna's services as a campaign manager are so valuable that he can hardly be spared to the White House.

Fitzsimmons wants to fight in South Carolina. He evidently hopes to draw inspiration from the soil that nourished a brace of Tillmans.

Colonel Lynch is to be prosecuted if he tries to take his seat in Parliament. The Colonel's Kentucky namesake, the Judge, unusually does the prosecuting himself.

Lord Cilce, the founder of the British Indian Empire, by his will provided for the widows and orphans of the officers of the Indian armies, incidentally enabling the children to obtain a good education.

What a shame to treat Thomas O'Day
That way,
Who has always been first in the fray;
When he asked for a place he was told to go chase
Himself very promptly away.
But they'll find that they've been much too gay,
Some day—
Too foolishly gay with O'Day.

The New York State Engineer will soon advertise for bids for the construction of 186 miles of improved roads under the Higbie-Armstrong good roads law of 1898, for which the recent Legislature made possible the expenditure of $1,000,000, half of which is to be borne by the state and half by the localities.

The Federal Census Bureau figures out for the American domain, including our insular possessions, a total area of 3,690,823 square miles, of which 2,970,230 belong to the continental United States, 590,884 to Alaska, and 119,542 to the Philippine Islands. This makes the United States stand fifth among the nations in point of territorial size, Great Britain leading with 11,288,277 square miles of territory, Russia coming next with 8,644,100 miles, China third with 4,234,910, and France fourth with 3,944,092.

Ex-Governor James P. Clarke, who defeated Senator James K. Jones in the fight for the Arkansas Senatorial nomination, occupied the Gubernatorial chair of Arkansas from 1895 to 1897. His political career began in 1886, when he was elected to the State Legislature. He was elected Attorney-General on the Democratic ticket in 1892. He was born in Yazoo City, Miss., in 1854.

Professor Barrett Wendell, of Harvard College, recently told his class in American literature that there are very few of the public prints of today fit for family inspection. Then he enumerated three that especially displeased him, and said all concerned in getting them out were candidates for the fiery lake that burned forever. There was no doubt in his mind on that score as to the Boston journals he named. He was certain about the just deserts of the editor of a certain New York newspaper. He said he knew he ought to go to hell.

Captain Percival, of the Navy, whose portrait has just been presented to the Navy Department, died in 1862. He was known as "Mad Jack" Percival, because of eccentricities which on many occasions brought him in conflict with the naval authorities. The portrait was sent by Mrs. William Nicholson, but who she is the department is unable to discover. Captain Percival was sent to Morocco with his frigate to bring back a cargo of jackasses for the Government, and in order to show his contempt for the employment of a war vessel for such a mission, on entering New York Harbor he ran in all his guns and placed the head of a jackass through each port as the ship sailed in. The sight of a double row of jackasses' heads protruding from the places where guns were looked for created a sensation at the time, and "Mad Jack" narrowly escaped a reprimand.

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

Where Egotists Are Made.—"He is conceited, you say?" "He couldn't be more so if he were the only man at a seashore hotel."—Chicago Evening Post.

The Finish.—"I see you've got an automobile. Were you ever in a race?" "Yes." "How did you come out?" "On crutches, a month later."—Philadelphia Press.

Higgins—I say, these trousers begin to look rusty already, and I haven't had them but about six months. Tailor—That's all right. You know, I told you they'd wear like iron.—Boston Transcript.

Then He Went.—Borem (11:45 P. M.)—It is the staying qualities of a horse that count in a race. Miss Slashes—Are you in training for a race of any kind, Mr. Borem?—Chicago Daily News.

Covered the Ground.—"De Sheriff only had me one time in my life," said the colored witness. "And what did he do with you then?" "He didn't do nuthin' wid me, sub; I outrun him."—Atlanta Constitution.

Displeased.—"No," said Colonel Stillwell; "I don't read poetry." "Why not?" "I got tired of waiting for them to quit harping on violets and crocuses and johnny-jump-ups and sing a word or two about mint."—Washington Star.

Coming Out of a Women's Club.—"The difference between my husband's club and mine," said the pretty woman in the turquoise-colored toque, looking at her watch, "is that mine lasts from 2 until 6, and his lasts from 6 until 2."—Life.

A Sad Mistake.—Visitor—Pardon my curiosity, my good man, but what are you in prison for? Prisoner—I am serving time for stealing $50,000 from the bank I worked for. Visitor—That was a sad mistake. Prisoner—I know it. Curse the day I didn't steal $100,000.—Chicago State Journal.

Feared the Worst.—Her Mother (wisely)—There! Don't take it to heart because George isn't always giving you jewelry, like Mr. Skeesicks does his wife. Perhaps Mr. Skeesicks is prompted by a guilty conscience. Mrs. Youngthing (miserably)—I know that. B—But I'm afraid George hasn't any conscience!—Puck.