

The Oregonian.

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TODAY'S WEATHER—Fairly cloudy, with occasional showers; south to west winds.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 56; minimum temperature, 38; precipitation, trace.

PORTLAND, FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 1902

THE ONE LEADING QUESTION.

Can our Pacific States afford the policy of "scuttle," as to the Philippine Islands? Can Oregon afford to give her voice for that policy? This is the main issue now before the people of Oregon.

Our election, to be held a few weeks hence, will be taken by the country as the declaration of Oregon on this subject. In the platforms of the two parties this issue is distinctly joined.

The Republican platform declares, without equivocation, "against all proposals looking to retirement of the United States from the Philippine Islands."

Equally without equivocation the Democratic platform declares that the United States should "grant them their independence." Here is a National issue, in the Oregon election, of first magnitude and highest importance.

Democratic success in Oregon would announce to the people of the United States that Oregon had deliberately voted for withdrawal from the Philippine Islands; that her Senators and Representatives in Congress were expected to support the policy of withdrawal; that Oregon desires the position gained in the Orient through the Spanish War to be abandoned, regardless of the general advantages which the position gives us.

It is for a Pacific State to take the lead in this policy of "scuttle"? Is it for Oregon to take the lead in it? Care we nothing for the vast opportunities which possession of the Philippines opens to us? Is Oregon to declare, and be first to declare, for surrender of that incomparable station of commerce in the Orient?

The assertion or assumption that our sovereignty over the islands is incompatible with the principles of human freedom is a libel upon our own devotion to those principles, of which Americans should be ashamed. Already we are introducing self-government there; and the only fear is that we shall go faster with it than the people are prepared for it. We shall establish and maintain in the islands our familiar system of territorial government, which we have followed in our home territories for a century—a system in every way conformable to the principles of freedom.

Whether we shall retain the Philippines, accepting our opportunities and duties and making the most of both, or scuttle the islands, is the National question now before the people of Oregon.

NOT THE OREGONIAN'S COMPARISON

The Salem Journal says: "The Oregonian of last Thursday had an entire column devoted to contrasting Mr. Chamberlain and Mr. Furnish personally, the general tenor of which is that since Mr. Chamberlain is about 50 years old and still a poor man, he is unfit to be Governor, while Mr. Furnish is an ideal man for the qualification because he has made money." That was not the tenor of the article at all. There could be no more complete misrepresentation of its tenor than this statement presents.

The tenor of that article was a protest against the assumption of the Democratic press that William J. Furnish was unfit to be Governor because he had been untiring in business and fairly successful in it, while George E. Chamberlain was very fit for the office because he had not been active or successful in business, and was still, as his admirers said, "a poor man." The Oregonian said this was "an extraordinary comparison," which it regretted that it did not think that Mr. Chamberlain's lack of success in whatever private business he may have undertaken is proof of any special qualification in him for the office of Governor of Oregon.

It was the Democratic press that started this comparison, against which the Oregonian made the protest that the Salem paper now misrepresents. It cannot be conceded that Mr. Furnish is a worse man for having attended carefully to business and made some success in it, or that Mr. Chamberlain is a better one for the opposite reason. The object of the Oregonian's article was to correct or rebuke the assumptions of the Democratic press on this subject, and such was its "general tenor."

brate the 82d anniversary of its founding. Its history has often been written, but the recital never grows old. With friendship, love and truth as its motto and the three links symbolical of these interlaced, the order appeals with peculiar tenderness to its members and the most stirring chapters of its record belong to unwritten history. Its work, as exemplified in the building and maintenance of the Orphan Home to be dedicated tomorrow at Woodstock, commends itself to the benevolent people of the state as an earnest of the purpose of Odd Fellowship to take care of its own, of one family.

NO PATRIOTISM THERE.

Day after day we read columns of speeches in the Senate and in the "Anti-Imperialistic" press about the cruelties said to have been practiced by American soldiers upon the poor Filipinos. Enough has been written about the "water cure" episode to make the still twenty-eight volumes of the Encyclopaedia Britannica including the American additions. It is presented in all possible aspects, repeated with every enhancement of descriptive and illuminative embellishment and made the theme of innumerable morals, invectives, execrations, lamentations and general pessimism.

All this is well enough, if the object is to make the most of everything discreditable to the American name and suppress everything on the other side; but if one were to proceed upon the lines of common justice he would perhaps expect something calculated to explain or account for these outbreaks, supposing them to have occurred as depicted. But we see nothing in these speeches and editorial appeals about the torture of American soldiers by Filipino natives, about the massacre of defenseless women and children by Tagal chiefs for their loyalty to American rule; nothing about murders of our men, perpetrated under flags of truce and professions of friendship; nothing about burials of the living, mutilation of the wounded, desecration of the dead.

Pleanty about American cruelty to the Filipinos, nothing about Filipino cruelty to Americans. "Water cure" administered to Tagal murderers; nothing about water cure administered to American boys far from home and pecking only to obey a soldier's orders. Pleanty about killing of Filipinos by Americans, nothing about midnight assassinations, tortures, burnings, dismemberment, starvation of American soldiers by Filipinos. Sympathy for the moral mothers of peaceful women and children, punished for their crime of sympathy for our sons and brothers who are following the flag against bloodthirsty savages on a foreign shore. Extermination and praise for the assassins of our soldiers; persecution and abuse for our boys in blue and the flag they bear.

The man who persistently maligns the American soldier in spite of what all the world knows of his bravery, fidelity and humanitarianism who persistently exploits every isolated error of judgment or lapse of self-control; who magnifies the soldier's faults and ignores extenuating circumstances; who incessantly excuses the wrongs under which that soldier suffers and even praises the merciless savages who seek through treachery and with torture that would bestialize the man who does all this and then professes to see it from a soldier's desire to see the soldier honored and the flag kept spotless is a liar of the first magnitude. His patriotism, if he had any, has been destroyed by the passions of partisanship he has allowed to run riot in his heart. He is not fit to live in a country he has so outrageously dishonored and disgraced.

These anti-imperialist exploitations of isolated offenses and studious ignorance of the provocation under which our soldiers suffer, rejoicings at American disasters and condemnation of Tagal atrocities, are most unworthy exhibits in American statecraft and journalism. They are infinitely lower in the moral scale than the lapses of enraged and half-starved soldiers. It is well they are not representative of the popular feeling. Ill shall fare the land when those who bear its flag abroad are persecuted by such craven hearts. Ironical indeed is fate, that for the benefit of these bitter malignants at home, as for the benefit of us all, the enlisted man leaves his home to brave the swamps and seas of tropic climes and bares his breast to the rude weapons of wild beasts in human form!

DIFFERENT METHODS, SAME RESULT.

The complete impossibility of the Cuban relief bill as passed by the House was pointed out plainly in these columns at the time of its passage. To the considerations then adduced there are now to be added the technical criticisms of Senator Spooner. Upon examination he finds that under the House bill nothing can be done further than to negotiate a treaty, which must be ratified by two-thirds vote of the Senate before it can be effective. The House bill, he says, "authorizes" the President to enter into "negotiations" with the Cuban Government. The word "authorizes" could only mean "requests" for the President always has the power. The bill several times refers to "agreement," he says, which, in the nature of things, is a treaty, as that is the only method of procedure.

It is to say that the House bill if passed by the Senate would not be worth the paper that it is written on. There is nothing strange about this. It has yet to appear that anybody in the House was thinking about the adaptability of the measure to its putative ends. Nobody cared anything about Cuba. Everybody was seeking the accomplishment of some personal or partisan ends. Some were figuring on sugar stocks, some on rendering service to Havemeyer, some on rendering service to Oxnard, some on holding certain votes in Michigan, some on holding certain votes in Louisiana, some on putting the opposite party in a hole. All were pretending to be acting from motives of philanthropy toward Cuba, or fidelity to justice, but all were using Cuba's extremity and the ideas of mercy and beneficence as mere counters in a desperate and discreditable game of personal and partisan politics.

They order these things differently in the Senate. Its superior poise and presence will insure for its Cuban relief bill, when one is passed, all outward semblance of statesmanship and respectability. Its tone will be dignified, its phrases polished with grammatical perfection. The steel which will drive home to the vitals of Cuban hope will be sheathed in a scabbard of irreproachable seeming, and its careful conservation of Havemeyer and Oxnard will be

UP-RIVER OBSERVATIONS AND REFLECTIONS.

(BY A STAFF WRITER.)

I have to record the general observations of a journey which, beginning at Portland four days ago, has carried me up the Columbia River to Biggs Station, 24 miles east of The Dalles; south over the line of the Columbia Southern Railroad through Sherman County to Shaniko in Wasco; and on south by stage through Antelope, past Trout Creek and Hay Creek State of Oregon. It is a journey out of the beaten path—very much so—and it has served at many points to open my eyes wide. I thought I knew Oregon as well as any man living, but let me confess with some humility that here is an empire, here are a set of large interests, to which I am—or was up to four days ago—practically a stranger. And let me further confess that an empire is a condition of life development and of established social life where I expected nothing better than a wilderness of Juniper and sage ranged over by countless multitudes of half-domesticated cattle, sheep and horses. Truly, one-half of Oregon knows not the other half; and the unknown half is that vast inland country, truly an empire, which lies east of the Cascade Mountains and south from the line of the Oregon and Nevada Railway Company. Those of us who live in Western Oregon think we have seen Eastern Oregon when we have stopped off at The Dalles, at Pendleton and at Baker City. And, in truth, there is much to see and to learn in these splendid communities; but they are merely the outposts—the frontier stations, so to speak—of a country which extends for 300 miles one way and 300 miles the other, and which is a vast and fertile land of prospect of interest, some distinction of development, some certain promise of a great future.

I have sometimes thought the splendid scenery of the Columbia River a practical injury rather than a benefit to Oregon. It is striking, so amazingly fine, it so absorbs the attention and so fills the imagination as to shut out from notice figures of really more practical account. There is, for example, a wonderfully fine district, agriculturally considered, directly east of Portland and lying between the Willamette River and the Cascade Mountains, but the attention of no visitor is ever called to it. We are always so eager to exploit the purely show features of the country that we are more likely to apologize for the existence of commonplace but really valuable districts like that of the Sandy than to make much of them. Perhaps not one person in 50 right in Portland knows anything more of the Sandy district than that we get our strawberry supply from thereabout and that "Billy" Cotton and "Cap" Brown are making fortunes there in the dairy and potato business.

But there is more to the Sandy country than the annual strawberry boom and—be it said with all respect—neither Cotton nor "Cap," nor both of them together monopolize the enterprise of the district, or, if all the truth is told, make much of a figure in it. It is a district very rich in the matter of soil, for it is a combination of sand from the Upper Columbia and of silt from the Willamette. It lies in the rain belt, and is therefore boundedly watered; it is lighty rolling and is therefore well drained; it lies pleasantly to the sun; there is timber enough. And withal, it is within hauling distance to the Portland market, and it has what may be found nowhere else in the whole expanse of Oregon, fine roads at all seasons. If the traveler by rail will for once get his mind off the Columbia River gorge, which he has just left behind him, and if he will take a careful eye out of the car window as he rides swiftly through the 25 miles of country immediately east from Portland he will see much to interest him. Here is a country more varied, more beautiful to look upon, more prolific, better fitted for climate than the famous Mohawk Valley or the equally famous Valley of Virginia. It is right under the wings of the City of Portland; and is therefore boundedly watered; it is lighty rolling and is therefore well drained; it lies pleasantly to the sun; there is timber enough. And withal, it is within hauling distance to the Portland market, and it has what may be found nowhere else in the whole expanse of Oregon, fine roads at all seasons. 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