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TODAY'S WEATHER—Partly cloudy, with occasional light showers; warmer; westerly winds.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 58; minimum temperature, 47; precipitation, 0.12 inch.

PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, MAY 21.

TOO BUSY TO TALK POLITICS.

Oregon may go Democratic in June, and if it does the blame will rest upon the business men and workingmen who are too much engrossed with their daily activities to take the neecssary trouble. Whatever injury Democratic success throughout the country should subsequently carry to labor and business will have been deliberately invited by those interests through inaction.

A dull campaign and a light vote. That is the apparent situation. The ranks of industry, both employer and employed, are apathetic, though they are the most concerned. Business is booming, and its demands upon everybody are severe. There is no time to think about the issues of the campaign. **THERE WAS TIME ENOUGH FOR EVERYBODY TO TALK POLITICS IN 1894 AND 1896. THERE WILL BE TIME ENOUGH AGAIN IF THE DEMOCRATS ARE RESTORED TO POWER.**

Is anybody so unthinking as to suppose that the present conditions of prosperity will maintain themselves, if the political support that has made them possible be withdrawn? Can any be so credulous as to believe that a verdict here in Oregon for scuttle, retraction and hostile tariffs will produce the same results as a verdict for expanded territory and commerce, sound money and conservation of trade and manufactures? If you want to let well enough alone, is it wise through neglect to declare for a change?

If it is acceptable to be too busy to talk politics, is it not worth while to make some little exertion to perpetuate that condition?

GOOD NEWS.

Mr. Harriman's promise of the Clearwater extension of the O. R. & N. is not the less welcome to Portland because long delayed. From time immemorial the region between Riparia and Lewiston has desired railroad connection with Portland and Portland has chafed under the feeling that the rich Clearwater country, its natural tributary, was first buried in inaccessibility and then turned over to rival hands. A long-desired opportunity has come along at last, and that it will be taken advantage of goes without saying.

It is inconceivable that the Harriman system should have agreed to build this road merely for the purpose of affording the Northern Pacific an exit from Lewiston on easy grades. Much more reasonable an explanation is the hypothesis that this Clearwater agreement is the precursor of far more extensive jointures between the Harriman and Hill combinations in Pacific Northwest territory. The Northern Pacific, for example, may yet run its trains down the O. R. & N. tracks into Portland, and the O. R. & N. be given desired facilities into the Big Bend and Puget Sound.

The conservative habit of Mr. J. P. Morgan and the devotion of Mr. Harriman to the principle of railway combination, taken in connection with the rapprochement clearly visible in a measure of joint representation on directorates and friendly conferences like the present one between Presidents Harriman and Mellen, render the prospect of railroad wars hereabouts extremely remote. If we accept it as a fact that amity is to prevail, how will Portland be affected? In general, it is obvious, favorably. The principal sufferer, from construction wars and secret rebates and bullheaded breaking down of natural conditions by artificial devices, has been Portland. If it becomes as cheap to the Northern Pacific to haul freight down the O. R. & N. tracks to Portland as across the Cascades to Puget Sound; if it becomes as cheap for an exporter to route his wheat to Portland as to Puget Sound, wherever his ship may be—is not so open and free a situation certain to operate in favor of Portland?

At first thought there is a natural feeling of regret that the Lewiston line is not the O. R. & N.'s own, instead of some joint affair whose traffic details are yet shrouded in mystery. Yet if this town gets an even show, it will never complain for want of a handicap in its favor. It has learned by experience that it has to do for itself. There was a happy prophecy in the motto adopted for Oregon by her founders, "She flies with her own wings," for there has never been a town that has had to rustle for itself as Portland has. She built the O. R. & N., she is building now into Klickitat, and she may yet have to build into the Big Bend. Railroads may furnish tracks and trains, but the city itself must get the business.

PORTLAND'S STRIKE.

The heaviest losers in every strike are the strikers. The mills or mines may lose a little interest on invested capital, but in the end they may be able to recoup themselves for some of this loss from the public, and in any event their families will suffer little or no inconvenience, their leg of mutton will make its customary appearance with mint sauce and brown gravy, their cigars will suffer no impairment of quality. Labor, if anybody, will suffer. To its cost it knows the loss of wages, the temptations of the idle hour, the bitterness of defeat, the scars even inseparable from complete victory after a long lockout.

This is all known by organized labor in Portland, and it has counted the cost. There is a vast difference between the uprisings of ignorant and passionate men, many of them newly arrived here and unfamiliar with our ways, and such a strike as organized labor in Portland sets on foot. Those old affairs of Eastern mining districts were often ordered by brainless and unscrupulous blatherskites, but the workingmen of Portland are their own masters, all more or less educated, and some of them comfortably off in a financial way. It is to be presumed they know what they are about, and that they have sober reason to believe the principles they are contending for are worth what it will cost to maintain them.

Questions of hours and wages are matters for evidence and investigation and proper subjects for arbitration, which should always be invoked if possible; but the question of unionism can only be settled, it appears, by resort to force. The workingmen are doubtless no more disposed to submit their right of organization to capital than capital would be to submit its right of organization to labor. The tendency to combination is so strong that the principle of unionism will probably prove invincible in the end. Defeats will doubtless occur from time to time, but victory is likely to come at last. Whether the present strike for a nine-hour day in Portland belongs to the rule or the exceptions cannot be foretold, but we seem in a fair way to find out.

FACTS ON THE COAL STRIKE.

A book recently published, "The Anthracite Coal Industry," by Peter Roberts, to which Professor Sumner, of Yale College, has written an introduction, describes its economic history with a thoroughness that obtains universal commendation from the leading journals of the East. The author of this book says that the great trouble lies in the fact that there exists no uniform method of wage adjustment. There is an unjust variation in the compensation of labor that can and ought to be corrected. Different prices are paid for the same work, not only in adjoining collieries, but in the same mines. Through the favoritism and injustice of the foremen, weighing and dockage have come to stand for unfair discrimination. The miners secured a general increase of 10 per cent in wages in the strike of 1900, but the wrong of unequal pay for equal work was not adjusted, and forms today a principal cause of the present strike.

Dr. Roberts places the average cost of mining coal and loading upon cars at $1.25 a ton. Of this cost, only 50 cents is for mining, and labor altogether absorbs probably not over 90 cents, so that the 10 per cent advance in wages conceded in 1900 means an additional cost of less than 10 cents a ton. But the coal syndicate at once advanced the price of coal at tidewater over 50 cents a ton. The cost of mining and putting coal on cars, including taxes, insurance, office expenses, etc., is, according to Dr. Roberts, but $1.56 per ton; and yet the cost of coal at tidewater, hardly 150 miles away, is at present $4 and more a ton. The explanation of the situation is found in the fact that the anthracite coal fields are now almost entirely in the hands of three or four transportation companies, who control the coal output, as follows:

	Per cent.
Reading Company	42.25
Central of New Jersey	17.30
Lehigh Valley	16.87
Lackawanna	6.50
Pennsylvania	6.24
Erie (about)	4.00

The Springfield Republican says that through ownership of stock the Reading now controls the Central of New Jersey, and that representatives of the Erie, the Lackawanna, Central of New Jersey and Reading were a year ago placed in the Lehigh Valley Railroad's directory, so that five railroads are operated practically as one and control 86 per cent of the total coal production. The syndicate railroads impose excessive charges for carriage against their own coal and that of the independent operators. These charges are about 1 cent a ton per mile, while the rate for other freight of like class over the same roads would be only about one-fifth of the rate charged on hard coal. The Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad charges only about 2 mills per ton-mile, and the average charge on railway freight of all classes in the section to which the hard coal railroads belong is only about 6 mills per ton-mile, as against 10 mills for coal, the cheapest of all freight to carry. A reasonable charge for carriage of coal by the syndicate railroads would reduce the price of coal at tidewater $1 a ton. The Springfield Republican, referring to the fact that the United States Government is now prosecuting an alleged combination of meat packers, fairly says that if an unincorporated meat combination is contrary to law, this coal combination must also be contrary to law. The coal syndicate is an unprincipled and greedy combination which has used the 10 per cent advance of wages conceded in 1900 as an excuse for advancing the price of coal to the consumer to a greater extent than was called for.

Against such a soulless combination's effort to exact an extortionate price for one of the primitive necessaries of life public opinion will ultimately prevail. The miners today insist upon dealing with the operators through the United Mineworkers' Union, which embraces nearly all the labor employed in the hard coal region, but the operators insist on dealing each with his own employes. Dr. Roberts warns the operators that the United Mineworkers' Union is a fact they have to account with in adjusting wages, and that there will never be an amicable adjustment of wages except through collective bargaining between the operators and employes. The syndicate of operating corporations, however, refuses to recognize the union and deal with its officials as representing the whole body of miners. Public sympathy will be with the miners, because the public will say a corporation greedy enough to exact an extortionate price for coal is certainly soulless enough to pinch and skin its labor.

FREE BUT NOT INDEPENDENT.

"Cuba Libre," the dream of centuries, is at last a fact. The United States occupied Cuba in trust after thirty years of intermittent insurrection. The war which had raged between Cuba and Spain for three years previous to the dispossession of Spain by the United States had destroyed its sugar plantations so completely that the sugar product had fallen from 1,000,000 to 70,000 tons. Yellow fever was perennial. The horrors of war had swept off a sixth of the population herded in military camps in 1897 and 1898, whose mortality destroyed nearly all the young children. The island was without agriculture or industry or trade. The cities were divided into hostile Cuban and Spanish factions. The planters were without credit. The country swarmed with bandits. The sanitary condition of the cities made them pesthouses.

In four years the insurgent army has been disbanded without discord or friction. The insurgent government is dissolved. There is better order than Cuba has ever known. Yellow fever has been excluded for the first time for 400 years. The death rate shows that Cuba is one of the most healthy of tropical islands. Schools have been opened and teachers trained. Education has been freed from sectarian burdens and is free to all. Credit has been restored. Sugar plantations have been re-equipped, and produce this year 635,000 tons, two-thirds of a full crop. All agriculture has revived. Peace prevails. Labor is employed. The hospitals, charities and jails have been reorganized, rebuilt and re-equipped. The lighthouses have been rebuilt. The ports and harbors have been completely renovated and equipped. The courts have been re-established and reorganized, and complete quarantine and immigration service has been established. In return for all this expenditure of blood and treasure the Cubans in the constitution adopted by them for their local government agree:

That Cuba shall never enter into any treaty or compact with any foreign power which will impair or tend to impair her independence, nor in any manner authorize or permit any foreign power to obtain by colonization, or for military purposes, or otherwise, lodgment in or control over any portion of the island.

That Cuba shall not assume or contract any public debt to pay interest upon which and to make reasonable provision for the ultimate discharge of which the ordinary revenues, after defraying the current expenses of government, shall be inadequate.

That the United States may intervene for the preservation of Cuban independence, the maintenance of a government adequate to the protection of life, property, and individual liberty, and for discharging the obligations imposed by the treaty of Paris on the United States.

Cuba here pledges herself not in any manner to alienate her territory nor to mortgage her revenues to any foreign power. She concedes the right of the United States to insist that Cuba's internal government shall be adequate to the protection of life, liberty and property, and under this constitution Cuba's right to make treaties and incur debts is strictly limited. Cuba therefore is not an independent nation, but dependent upon the United States. The protectorate assumed by the United States over Cuba is much more complete than Great Britain ever claimed in the Transvaal. It is about as complete as it could be made short of annexation and without sacrificing the American principle of local self-government.

It is clear from these facts that to speak of Cuba as "independent" is not strictly correct; she is dependent upon the good will of the United States. Her so-called independence is limited by the approval and sanction of her conduct for the future by the United States. She is practically nothing but an experimental state on her good behavior. If she ever becomes a derelict government, the United States can and doubtless will interfere.

RAIL VERSUS RIVER.

Perhaps it may be only a matter of sentiment instead of business that causes the Portland business men to pay no heed to Mr. Mellen's recommendation that they abandon the river route to the sea. If it is sentiment, it emanates from a source where it might be least expected. The business men who are using this river highway in floating products to the high seas may feel a sentimental pride in this beautiful city that has sprung from a wilderness and waxed great at a point where steam and sail meet. This sentiment could be gratified to the limit were the operations of these men confined to the small local field for trade. Unfortunately for sentiment, however, the enterprising Portlanders are out for the money. They are floating cargoes of wheat, flour, lumber and other products which must face the competition of the world. Portland flour, wheat or lumber is afloat today for Siberia, China, Japan, India, Australia, New Zealand, Africa and Europe, and representatives of Portland exporters can be found today in pretty nearly every big country on the face of the earth.

To hold her own in this great race for trade Portland must "cut corners" and save expenses wherever it is possible to do so, and whenever there is the smallest fraction of a cent to be saved on a bushel of wheat or a thousand feet of lumber by using rail instead of river between Portland and the sea, sentiment will vanish and business will take a hand in the question. The time will never come when ships cannot get up and down the river between Portland and Astoria if they can enter the river at all. Portland has anticipated the increasing size of vessels plying in this trade, and they are handled today with better dispatch between this city and Astoria than between Astoria and the sea.

There is another point to be considered when the increasing size of ships is a factor in the question. As the size of ships increase their operations are limited to a comparatively small number of ports, and there will always be plenty of business for the moderate-sized carriers. In the marine column this morning is an item from a Tacoma paper stating that the steamship Yangtse was unable to enter the port of Fairhaven, where 500 tons of salmon awaited her for shipment to Europe. This was through freight, and the owners of the Yangtse will lose over $5000 through being obliged to leave it. The mammoth freighters which the Great Northern is building for the Oriental trade cannot enter the Columbia River and cannot come to Portland fully loaded. Their field for operation is similarly restricted in the Orient, as there are but three or four ports at which they can do business, while there are hundreds of ports at which the moderate-sized freighter can do direct business at a profit, where trans-shipment from big steamers would show a loss.

A 4500-ton wheat ship has been lying idle at Astoria for two months, and during that time half a dozen other vessels of about half the size have been taken at much higher rates than the owners of the big ship would accept, the size of the ship making it difficult for exporters either to buy or to sell her cargo to advantage. Portland can handle 8000 and 10,000-ton modern-built freighters without difficulty, and there will always be plenty of business for them, no matter how large the ships may be with which they come in competition. If the cargo of one of these Portland freighters can be transferred to Astoria by rail for less money than it costs to take it down in the hold of the ship, it will go by rail. Otherwise it will continue to follow the route which Portland exporters find the most economical.

A correspondent inquires "Why have British prisoners been reported as 'released' by the Boers instead of 'paroled,' as is the custom in war when the prisoners are considered too great a burden to the capturing foe?" Whether the word used is "paroled" or "released," it implies a pledge on the prisoner's part not to fight against his captors in the present war except at his own risk. The British commander has thus far treated his officers and men captured and then released by the Boers as honorably bound by military usage to keep the pledge exacted of them. Thousands of men, who had been paroled by Grant at Vicksburg, were "released" from the obligations of their parole on some pretext set up by Jeff Davis and fought the United States again before they were regularly exchanged, but there has been no disposition on the part of Lord Kitchener to refuse to respect whatever pledge was exacted of his men when released. Of course, it is within the power of any military commander to release a captive without any conditions whatever, but it is a fair presumption that the usual pledges were exacted of the British prisoners by their captors on their release. The Boers have no permanent military base; no food, no transportation to form a depot for prisoners such as they had at Pretoria, and, after disarming them, were of course forced to release men they could not feed, guard or imprison.

We would sympathetically and respectfully suggest to Weather Forecaster Beals that in order to save wear and tear of nerves for himself and disappointment for the public he return for a time to the methods pursued in forecasting the weather by almanac-makers of a former era. Beginning at the top of the record of the month of May, the announcement "Look for showers about this time" was carried to the bottom, and it was seldom, indeed, that the prophecy was not made good somewhere along the line. The other months were dealt with in like manner, with due deference to the season of the year. Thus we were bidden to look for growing weather in June, hot weather in July, a long dry spell in August, frost or rain according to location in September, Indian Summer in October, high winds in November, snow in December, and so on, guided simply by the experience of ages of changing seasons, throughout the year. The most gratifying feature of this method was that its probability was unquestioned, and, except in a most phenomenal season, the prognostication was sure to be fulfilled.

The loss of a good man and a competent, conscientious educator is recorded in the tragical death of Eugene L. Schaefer, head master of the Bishop Scott Academy. The man who has given the best thought and the unflagging energy of his mind for many years to the details of educational work in accordance with the policy of a school or college is of necessity limited to work of this character. Hence it is not difficult to understand what unexpected discharge from a long accustomed place means to such a man, more especially when his power to battle for recognition elsewhere has been weakened by illness. In this view the man who took his own life at Bishop Scott Academy Tuesday morning is entitled to sympathy rather than censure. The transaction over which he brooded with fatal results was strictly in the line of business necessity and entirely devoid of unkind feeling, hence the unhappy circumstance can only be deplored as one of the dark vicissitudes of life that culminates in sudden and shocking death.

Lord Pauncefote is said by political wiseacres in and about Washington to be dying of a broken heart, induced by criticisms concerning his connection with the American-Spanish War. It was asserted that the United States sheltered an enemy in the person of some foreign diplomat. Criticisms pointed sharply to Pauncefote, causing, it is alleged, worry and humiliation that weakened his power of resistance to the disease from which he had long suffered. Despondency is well known to be a potent auxiliary of disease, especially of the circulatory system, yet Lord Pauncefote does not look like a man whom it would be possible to worry to death. A "broken heart" is a malady that sturdy British statesmen can certainly be depended upon to resist successfully. With gout and asthma, the real enemies that confront Lord Pauncefote, it is different. To these he will probably have to capitulate eventually, but it may be hoped that the day of his surrender is yet far away.

That most devout and worthy body of ecclesiastics known as Seventh-Day Adventists show zeal if not discretion in the announcement that their annual campmeeting will be begun tomorrow in this city. Living in tents has its charms, but these are not discernible when, in order to be comfortable in the house, the fire in heating stove or furnace must be kept going all day long, and for outdoor comfort Winter wraps are essential. But tenting in the rain—Ugh! Visions of state fairs of years that are gone are called up by the suggestion, with such force of reality as to cause a shudder of chill discomfort to come zigzagging down the years and end in an emotion of pity for those who seek reinforcement of religious beliefs by worshiping in dripping, wind-torn tents.

The voters of Rhode Island next November are to be allowed to pass upon a constitutional amendment which provides that 5000 voters may propose specific amendments to the constitution, and when so proposed such amendments shall be submitted to the people, and if approved by a majority of the electors voting at their town meetings, the same will become a part of the fundamental law of the state.

A TYPICAL CALUMNY.

New York Times.

The syndicate of vituperation which Senator Dolliver challenged the other day "to name the case of one woman or of one child that had suffered by an order of General Smith in Samar" is fertile in falsehoods and active in their dissemination. Senator Turner, of Washington, read one of these slanderous inventions in the Senate the other day, and it appears in the Record as a part of his speech. This particular lie attained publicity in the form of a special dispatch to the Washington Post from Lynn, Mass., dated May 5. We quote three paragraphs from this dispatch:

"One thousand Filipino prisoners shot in platoons over the graves themselves had been forced to dig; a priest, who acted in the dual capacity of father confessor and General, hanged before the slaughter of the prisoners and within their sight."

Such are some of the charges made by J. Pennett Walker, a private in Company I, Sixteenth Infantry, now at Sorsogon, in the Philippines, in letters to his father, the Rev. W. H. Walker, D. D., of this city. He is a special instructor at the Gordon Missionary Training School, Boston. Private Walker enlisted at the outbreak of the Spanish war, and was commended for bravery at San Juan.

The Rev. Dr. Walker has more than a dozen letters. He refuses to make them public, however, as he says: "The story is too fearful. My boy has written to me as son to father, and in the face of the inquiry now going on I fear it might bring him into trouble with his superiors."

Senator Turner had the decency to say that there was grave question about the accuracy of these statements. That he believed them, however, or was eager to believe them and willing to do the Army all the harm that could come from repeating them is proved by the fact that he incorporated the stuff in his speech.

Senator Turner spoke on May 6. On May 8 Senator Lodge presented proof that this story of the shooting of 1000 Filipino prisoners was a baseless fabrication. He produced a dispatch in which the Rev. W. H. Walker, of Lynn, stated that letters received from his son contained nothing but a review of the soldier's life in the Philippines. "In none of the letters was any reference made to cruelty, nor did my son criticise the American troops in any way."

"I let that go with the rest," said Senator Lodge in dismissing the matter. There is a horde of these inventions, a product of the diseased fancy or the malicious and revengeful minds of unscrupulous men, some of whom have been or are soldiers in the Philippines. The anti-imperialists seize upon them and exploit them to the utmost with a delight they make no attempt to conceal. Most readers of the anti-imperialist press and anti-imperialist speeches have undoubtedly received the impression that boys above the age of 10 were actually killed in Samar under General Smith's order.

No Room for Protest.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.

An appeal to clergymen of all denominations to protest against "conditions in the Philippines" has been signed by several New York clergymen. The circular has not reached us, but it is safe to say that it does not enumerate among those conditions the disemboweling, roasting and mutilating of our soldiers, the murder and torture by guerrilla bands of natives suspected of being friendly to the United States. Nor is it likely to set forth the causes of the war which the United States has been waging or the conditions that exist in the pacified provinces in contrast with the conditions that existed under Spain. Acts of cruelty in violation of the laws of war should be ferreted out and severely punished, and steps have already been taken to this end by the Administration. A protest may relieve surcharged minds, but it can hardly have any practical effect in putting a stop to practices that already have been stopped. One would imagine that the entire Army and Civil Government at this present moment, instead of being busy in setting up orderly governments, building schools and administering real justice for the first time since the discovery of the islands, were busy stuffing water down the throats of the natives. The appeal is more likely to call forth from most of the clergymen addressed not a protest against conditions in the Philippines, but a protest against conditions in those circles of Boston and New York which have had nothing but villification for the purposes and policies of the American people and its army and for its splendid deeds of humanity.

The Protector of America.

Minneapolis Tribune.

The United States is near to Martinique and France is remote. The United States is a rich Nation and France is poor. It is natural that this Nation should be first on the ground with relief measures and that its generosity should be more ample. Human sympathy is not limited by national frontiers or border lines of race or speech. But it is not only in the matter of relief of suffering that France has failed to meet the crisis of this awful disaster with promptness and energy. The island has not been policed effectively since a convulsion of nature threw its social system into chaos. Fragments of news, almost overlooked in the greater interest in the tale of human woe, indicate how completely the forces of order have broken down on the island. There are hints of anarchy and unrestrained looting, which the civil government and garrison seem powerless to prevent, while they are unwilling to accept assistance. There was a story of pirates captured by American sailors and turned over to the French cruiser. There is a later story of an offer to land American marines, which the French authorities refused to permit. The truth seems to be that the local government has broken down under the blow. This is interesting as an indication of how far all European colonial government on this continent but the English has decayed, and how unfit it would be to bear any sudden and severe political or social strain. In whatever convulsion of nature or society, the real protector of all American lands must be in the United States.

Malcolm Ford's Misfortune.

A former intimate friend of Malcolm Ford, in a letter to the New York Sun, gives a new view of his perverted character, and a hint at some of its causes.

He was thwarted, in the first instance, in following his intellectual bent toward mechanics, which was so strong that, while an office boy for Judge Hilton, he would, after a long day's work, spend half the night at a lathe in a workshop on John street, and when I first knew him the idea of competing in athletic games had never entered his mind, and he had scarcely an idea of his wonderful physical powers. His workmanship in metal and wood carving, whether with a lathe or a penknife, was marvelously fine, and I am convinced that if he had been encouraged in this direction, athletics would have had but an incidental interest to him; or if, in spite of these obstacles in his way, he had not suddenly been distracted from such pursuits by the discovery of his extraordinary physical powers and his immediate transformation as a mere boy into a popular idol and public character, that he would have worked his way into a high place in some branch of the engineering profession.

Why Nixon Failed.

New York Times.

Mr. Nixon never has been the Tammany leader. There was a fatal fault in the manner of his accession. Croker made himself boss by fighting his way to the top. He imposed himself upon the organization, punishing enemies till they subsided, rewarding friends until they were made loyal. He held the post by virtue of his own power. Nixon assumed to hold it by virtue of Croker's designation. There is no such thing as a boss-ship by appointment. Natural selection does the thing—no other process confers a valid title. In a gang of street ragamuffins the strongest and savagest fighter becomes the leader, and so it is in the Tammany organization.

RIGHTS OF THE INTERIOR.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.

A correspondent seems to hold that all people of all races, in any and every stage of civilization and barbarism, are capable of exercising the rights and duties of self-government, and that the United States is guilty of a grave crime against liberty and the rights of man in not permitting the savage Indian tribes within its borders to have their own independent government, to choose their own rulers, and to renounce all obedience to the authority of the United States Government; that neither they nor the savages of Timbuctoo or Patagonia need any training or preparation for the duties and responsibilities of self-government, but by virtue of the simple fact that they are human beings, created by the same God who rules the destinies of all mankind, are fully capable of exercising these duties, and are as much entitled to do so as the citizens of Minnesota or Massachusetts. A doctrine of this kind needs no other comment than a mere statement of it.

The Pioneer Press is quite unable to explain why God made some races inferior in intellectual or moral or physical endowments to others. It cannot explain why he has ordained that all races began their history as savages but little above the beasts they slew for food in intellectual and moral development, and why it required many thousands of years for them to form even the rudiments of a social state or any conception of government other than the subjection of the weakest to the strongest. It does not know why the whole history of mankind is one of evolution from the chaos and anarchy of barbarism, where might was the only right and force the only law, to the orderly arrangements of an organized civil society in which the power of kings and barons was limited by the admission of a portion of the people to some share in the government; nor why it was that, in his good providence, every people now in full possession of the rights and powers of self-government have only attained that stage of political freedom through centuries of struggle and training.

But without undertaking to explain the mysterious purposes of the Divine Ruler, what we know is that there has never existed and does not now exist on the face of the earth any people in the stage of civilization yet reached by the Filipinos which has ever exercised or shown itself capable of exercising the powers and duties of self-government except in a limited degree under the tutelage and restraining authority of a superior race or of an educated governing class of their own race. If we should dare to interpret the will of God from the order of providence it would not be presumptuous to say that he has not granted self-government to any people as a natural right inherent in them as human beings, but as a prize to be won by struggle and effort, and reserved only for the peoples that have proved themselves worthy of it. And the United States Government is following the laws of the historic development of political liberty throughout all ages and all countries, in endeavoring to prepare the Filipinos as rapidly as possible for the exercise of the duties and responsibilities of self-government—that is to say, it is following the laws of God so far as they are interpreted by the course of human history.

Southern View of the Civil War.

Mobile Register.

General Grosvenor criticises Secretary Hay's recent characterization of the war of 1861-65 as "the war between the states." He says it is not true historically, and that it was a war of rebellion.

Now, we take it that a rebellion is a resistance to a constituted authority. It is synonymous with revolution. The Southern States seceded from the Union, which they had voluntarily joined, resumed their original status of independence, and formed a new union. This was not a rebellion nor a revolution. There was no authority to which they owed allegiance; no law compelling them to remain in the Union. The war could be called a war of secession, since it was brought on in defense of the right to secede; but it is a misnomer to call it a rebellion.

Neither was it strictly speaking a war between the states. Several states on one side were united against several states on the other, and it was a war between two unions of stats. Accurately named, therefore, the war would be called the war between unions. As this name, as well as the one used by Secretary Hay, is unwieldy, and as the two other names used, the "Civil" War and the "Rebellion," are incorrect; and, especially, as the conflict was between brothers in lineage and language, it would be correct and sensible to refer to the war by date, as we do the war of 1812-14. The war would then be called the war of 1861-65. The last war would be known as the war of 1898.

Warnings in History.

The Tories opposed the Revolutionary War—1776 to 1783—and the Tory party was dead at the close of the struggle.

The Federalists opposed the second war with Great Britain—1812 to 1815—and the Federal party died in 1816.

The Whigs opposed the war with Mexico—1845 to 1847—and the Whig party died in 1852.

The Democrats opposed the war for the preservation of the Union—1861 to 1865—and the Democratic party has been successful in but two Presidential elections since, and the man who led them on those occasions is now repudiated by the great majority of the Democratic party.

Democrats are at present opposing the war for the preservation of our National authority in the Philippines. Do they expect that their disloyalty to their country will have any more advantageous result than has followed all similar action since the foundation of our Government?

"Though thou shouldst bray a fool in a mortar among wheat with a pestle, yet will not his foolishness depart from him."

Always Something to Learn.

Boston Journal.

President Eliot was arguing in favor of education by "showing how" before the kindergartens Wednesday night. He said that he was learning something every day by being "shown how."

He illustrated his point by describing the training of medical students, and concluded by telling of an old friend of his who had suddenly become deaf in one ear.

"How did this happen?" I asked him.

"Well, I was blowing my nose the other day, when I felt something snap in my ear, followed by an aching and dullness.

"When the doctor came he said the drum had split and asked how I did it.

"'I only blew my nose,' I told the doctor.

"'Well, had you opened your mouth when you blew your nose you would not now have a damaged ear drum,' was the medico's reply.

"You see, my friend has lived 70 years and had never been shown how to blow his nose," concluded President Eliot. The application was appreciated and greeted with a great burst of laughter.

On the Late Massacre in Piedmont.

John Milton.

Avenge, O Lord! Thy slaughter'd saints, whose bones
Lie scatter'd on the Alpine mountains cold;
Even them who kept thy truth so pure of old
When all our fathers worshipt stocks and stones,

Forget not: In thy book record their groans
Who were thy sheep, and in their ancient fold
Slain by the bloody Piedmontese, that roll'd
Mother with infant down the rocks. Their moans

The vales redoubled to the hills, and they
To heaven. Their martyr'd blood and ashes sow
O'er all the Italian fields, where still doth sway

The triple Tyrant; that from these may grow
A hundred-fold, who, having learnt thy way,
Early may fly the Babylonian woe.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

The rain is like the poor.

Today's weather—Springless Spring.

How about that Fourth of July celebration?

Daily suggestion for a fair site—Goose Hollow.

Mount Pelee seems to think it must keep right on living up to its reputation.

The Texas cyclone came too late to be incorporated in the Fall historical novels.

Judging by the experience of the fair committee, there is no scarcity of sites to see in Portland.

If Aguinaldo expects to lecture in this country he would better take immediate steps to be kidnaped.

Alfred Austin has not yet covered the Martinique disaster, but it takes time to write his kind of poetry.

John L. Sullivan manages to keep himself before the public. True greatness does not require a championship belt.

President Roosevelt has reappointed the negro Collector of Customs at Savannah, Ga., despite the protest of the Cotton Exchange and the Board of Trade.

Weather like that of the past day or two enables one to realize the truthfulness of the well-known line of an old hymn, which says, "December's as pleasant as May."

The price of the last seat sold on the New York Stock Exchange is reported as $75,000—$2000 more than the last preceding sale. The same sum was bid for another seat, but that was held at $77,000.

The first general assembly of the Presbyterian church in the United States of America was organized shortly after the Revolution, and at its first meeting, in 1788, the Westminster Confession of Faith was adopted by it.

Senator McMillan, of Michigan, in a recent speech, said: "The fact is, they (the railroads) are all getting together now, and I suppose the time will come when the Government will have to own all these railroads, and then we can handle them just as we please."

There was a man in our town,
And he was wise, indeed.
His Congressman, at his request,
Sent him some garden seed;
And when the seeds refused to grow,
He straightaway began
To lay his plans full cunningly,
To beat that Congressman.

Colonel H. J. Hester, Secretary of the New Orleans Cotton Exchange, paid a visit to Omaha the other day. Of New Orleans he said: "We are going to make New Orleans the deep-water port of the West. We are going to carry the products of the West from tidewater, and we are going to bring to the states in the Louisiana Purchase all of the foreign goods that they need."

The enterprising manager of a Chautauqua bureau recently offered Senator Hanna $10,000 for a series of 18 lectures in the South and Middle West. He was sorely disappointed when the Ohio boss refused to consider his offer. "Why," said the manager, plaintively, "it's as much money as he gets for serving two years in the Senate, and he could easily make the circuit in a month."

An attendant in a London business house was recently approached by a furtive-looking stranger. The suspicious person, dressed in somber black, came quite close to the attendant, and then, raising his eyes from the ground, whispered tragically, "Are you prepared to die?" The attendant wasn't, and he caught the suspicious one by the throat and half throttled him. When the invalid was recovering, it "transpired" that he was an amateur missionary inquiring after everybody's spiritual needs.

Professor Kaiser, a South German mechanical genius, has published a pamphlet on "How to Steer an Airship With Eagles." Professor Kaiser says an eagle has sufficient strength to draw a balloon, and, by means of numerous diagrams and elaborate calculations, he shows how eagles can be harnessed and the weights they can pull through the air. In spite of the ridicule with which the pamphlet has been received among mechanical aeronauts, Professor Kaiser is training a team of eagles for a balloon which he has in readiness.

The latest Canadian order-in-councils is to forbid Japanese and Chainese cutting shingle bolts or logs from the crown lands. This means that hundreds of Japanese will be driven into the United States, as they were almost exclusively employed. The laws are also being passed against Chinese, and, although they are arriving by hundreds on every ship, and the Canadian Government gets $100 a head, the Chinamen find that nearly all avenues are blocked in the way of making a living in Canada, so they walk into the United States, Canada getting the tax and Washington State getting the Chinamen. The inadequate United States immigration staff cannot prevent the Chinamen crossing the line, while white men who smuggle them over are getting rich at $100 a head.

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

She—When I married you, I had no idea you would stay away from home so much. He—Well, neither had I.—Life.

Another Mystery.—"And she married Jaggers, did she? Well, well! How on earth did that come about?" She—So far as I can learn, it is owing to a mutual misunderstanding.—Harlem Life.

Sister—Why, Lester, you shouldn't ask for such things in your prayers. You don't know whether they would be best for all or not. Lester—Say, will you stop interfering with me and the Lord?—Chicago Daily News.

Tommy (tearfully)—If yer don't gimme back them marbles yer nabbed I'll tell my big brother. Patsy—Tell him! He dasn't do nothin'. Tommy—He dasn't? Why? Patsy—He walks out with my sister, see?—Tit-Bits.

Smith—I don't like to make any complaint to a neighbor, Mr. Jones, but your dog kept up a terrible barking all night. Jones—Oh, that's all right; he's used to it—won't hurt him. Kind of you to mention it, however.—Tit-Bits.

Sure Test.—"How can you tell real cutglass from the imitation?" asked Mrs. Gaswell. "You can't always," said Mr. Gaswell, "but when anybody offers you a piece of real cutglass for 15 cents, don't buy it."—Chicago Tribune.

Leading Up to It.—Bobbie—You know them preserves out in the pantry wot you told me not to eat? Mother—Yes. Bobbie—You know you said they'd make me sick if I et 'em, didn't you? Mother—Yes. Bobbie—Well, they didn't.—Ohio State Journal.

Amusement.—"You say you are making garden simply for amusement?" "Yes," answered the patient man. "But there isn't any amusement in spading and stooping for hours." "Yes, there is. It amuses my wife and children immensely."—Washington Star.

Coronation Celebrations in the Provinces.—Squire—Seems to me that for the riverside, it would be capital to get a good supply of flambeaux. Farmer Nobs—As a loyal subject, Squire, I object. I don't see the necessity of havin' foreign birds. If we want 'em at all, let 'em be British, says I!—Punch.