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TODAY'S WEATHER—Clearing, with rising temperature.

DEFINITE EXPECTATIONS. The personnel of police and fire commissions is a minor affair, except so far as it bears upon the results that are desired in these as in all other aspects of municipal administration.

Mayor Williams has done the community a great public service in the appointment of Mr. W. L. Ladd to the Police Commission. Mr. Ladd is a man of such honest purposes and loyalty to law as insure his hostility to wrongdoing.

Certain very definite things are expected of the new commission; and the principal one is the cessation of blackmail upon saloons, brothels and gambling devices of every sort.

The Police Commission can enforce the law if it will. The community will respond to the fact of its establishment by the abolition of the present discreditable and immoral regime.

THE SENATORIAL SINLESSNESS. What the Senate should have done with Mr. Bailey, of Texas, was to pass a resolution censuring him for conduct unbecoming a Senator and a gentleman.

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harrangues they had already prepared. The trouble with the Senate is easy of diagnosis. It is too unprepared of courtesy to rebuke unbecomingly conduct. It deeply resents actions discreditable to its decorum, but it is too polite to offend the sensibilities of a ruffian like Tillman or a bully like Bailey.

WHAT IS POPULAR STRENGTH? Some of the leading journals of the North Atlantic States are disposed to laugh gently at the "boyish" enthusiasm and zeal with which President Roosevelt quoted the careers of his political friends, Secretary Root, Governor Wood and Judge Taft, as illustrations of the best public men who had been children of college.

Lines outside the bureau will make their own arrangements for immigrant business. They will solicit in Europe and ticket through to destination over their own roads, and will in all respects command their own traffic.

IMPORTANT AND OPPORTUNE. The discovery of Noah's ark in petrified form upon a mountain of Alaska is vouchered for by no less an authority than the secretary of the Slangway Y. M. C. A. and, however the geographical proposal appears, it must be accepted as a fixed point from which to correct certain popular misconceptions of primeval annals.

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statesman, that the President must look to the people, and not to the professional politicians, for both nomination and election in 1904.

COMPETITION FOR IMMIGRATION. The trouble over the routing of Western immigrant business from New York pertains to the relations of the various railroads with each other rather than to any particular section of the country; that in the Pacific Northwest will probably receive the full share of the immigration, regardless of whether there shall or shall not be a contest over the routing from New York. But if, for example, the Harriman lines should not see fit to operate through or in connection with the Immigrant Bureau, they might be obliged to establish independent agencies in Europe and do a lot of independent advertising.

Under the operation of the bureau the traffic was apportioned among the members by a central agent. No line could command its own business. This frequently led to dissatisfaction. The Southern Pacific was never a member of the bureau, believing that its interests would be better served by independent action. Late reports indicate that this belief is now shared by all the Harriman lines. Thus it may turn out that the Harriman lines, in connection with the first ward agent who has been so carefully nourished in opposition to the bureau, may lead the bureau a very merry chase.

Once the discovery of gold in Montana, less than forty years ago, that state has produced precious metals to the value of over \$1,000,000,000. Copper leads in this valuation, the output in value of this metal since 1882 being \$361,110,718; silver follows with \$359,796,364; gold is third, the output since 1882, \$277,139,739. Lead makes up the balance of the grand total with an output since 1883 aggregating in value \$12,735,356.

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LOCAL WATER INTERESTS. To many citizens of Portland there was matter of surprise in figures printed yesterday showing that the average daily consumption of water in the city almost equals the maximum capacity of the Bull Run conduit, and that at special times it exceeds it. The common notion has been that the ability of the system to bring in water is practically unlimited; and this notion no doubt has had a good deal to do in fostering the wasteful habit under which our per capita consumption has run up to the unreasonable standard of 300 gallons per day.

One of two things is imperative, namely, the consumption of water must be brought within reasonable limits or a new conduit must soon be laid between the source of supply in Bull Run River and the receiving reservoirs in the city. It is certain that the former can be accomplished by means of meters for the water supply should be set apart by the exposition management for a reunion and informal banquet of the entire family. The priority of this claim for recognition in the programme will be recognized, we should say, by even the Native Sons and the Colonial Dames.

There is another abuse in connection with the water system of Portland whose correction rests wholly with public sentiment, due to the fact that the municipal rate does not pay the water bill of some of the large buildings. This plan is generally employed in American cities and while it is not exempt from criticism, it works, on the whole, fairly well.

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WARM INTERVIEW WITH OXNARD. Mr. Oxnard denies that he had a bad quarter of an hour with the President this morning. The story ran that President Roosevelt had gazed at him with much plainness of speech that he intended to negotiate a commercial treaty with Cuba, and that the treaty would certainly be ratified at the next session of Congress, with the aid of Democratic votes, if need be.

Mr. Oxnard's denial as to Tuesday may be accepted. There is a theory that the story now current is a belated account of an interview that did take place while the Spooner bill was on its way to death and defeat at the hands of Oxnard. The powerful beet-sugar lobbyist is said to have been deeply humiliated by the plain language of the President to him in the presence of other persons.

ADmiral Dewey is wrong. Admiral Dewey, by his declaration before the Senate committee on the Philippines his declaration that "the native Filipinos are more capable of self-government than the Cubans" is a means of reaching the general belief in his sanity. Hilbert, while the words were supposed to mean that the Filipinos could rule themselves, and the Cubans could not, the Admiral very hard to do this, and a good many of us giving up the task as impossible, found consolation in the hope that the Admiral had been misquoted.

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NOTE AND COMMENT. Are your skates ready to use? Oh, Winter, wilt thou never go? Play ball, gentlemen, and never get it. There is still time to get your house insured. Does the weather clerk take us for Filipinos? The Minnesota Republicans seem to have ideas of their own about trusts. Speaking of the weather—but let us change it, together with the subject. A Million-Dollar Congress doesn't sound so big in these days of J. P. Morgan. King Edward has always been a good King, and he is getting better very rapidly. Judging by the returns from Washington, the convicts flee only where no man pursues them. Every man who goes fishing this weather is sure to bring back at least a sucker, if he gets back. We shall have an opportunity today of judging the sufficiency of those explanations of Manager Vignone's. A man that will go fishing these days can hope for no salvation. He should go ducking, for there is some chance of his getting it. We are credibly informed that some people went fishing early in the storm. The fool-killer must be very busy with other clients. This kind of weather will dampen-patriotic ardor, but as it will also dampen incipient fires, perhaps it is not such a bad thing, after all. Cannot the fact that Tracy and Merrill washed up at their stopping place be taken as an indication that they may be next looked for in church? Cleanliness is next to godliness. We note that some of the local sportsmen who have been fishing during the week caught but few of the socked beauties. They should have stayed at home and gone fishing in the streets during the heavy showers of the last two days. In the morning, mother dear, Call me early, mother dear, For tomorrow will be the saddest day Of all the glad New Year. You'd better have some arms And morphine in your trunk For tomorrow's the Fourth of July, mother. For tomorrow's the Fourth of July.

From appearances, we should think that there might be some very good angling in the Portland area, as their blocked condition makes them resemble the mountain torrents that the foolish local fishermen go far to seek. Why not patronize home industry? Results will be just as good. Colonel Harry Hall, of New York, has just returned from a Western trip. He says that on a journey across the prairie he stopped with a farmer for the night. He asked if he could have a bath, for he was dusty and travel-stained. "Certain," replied the farmer. Then he shouted to his son: "Jim, get the fixin' for a bath for this yer gent." Jim came back with a towel, a chunk of soap and a pickaxe. "Oh," said Jim, "you'll have to dam up the creek!" Recently the Governor of Idaho visited the office of the Surveyor-General. This letter, which is now in the files of the Civil Service Commission, was sent to the Governor by the staff in the office: "Dear Governor—When your earthly course is done, and you reach the borders of Styx, still bearing aloft the love torch and the friendly and beneficent banner of the ancient ferryman will, we know, receive you with love and reverence and give you a safe stanchion with joy and thanksgiving. Rhamnathanus will hail you with a glad 'Well done,' and escort you to the rose-embowered gateway of the Fields Elysian. On golden wings turning, the pearly gates will swing wide open and blessed spirits will greet you as you pass through. Your countless friends cannot go all the way, dear Governor, with you, as we are not all so worthy as thou, knight of nature's nobility, but we will try to imitate your example, except in what is inimitable, and shall hope to join you when we shall have our fill of earth and its transitory blessings."

On rising to speak, Joseph Chamberlain, the Colonial Secretary, places his neatly-written notes on the brass-bound book before him, and having put the edges straight, fixes away. Mr. Chamberlain speaks slowly, and uses scarcely any gesture. Most dangerous when most polite, his face becomes like a piece of parchment when roused to anger. In the art of quelling an adversary by an inconvenient quotation of his own personal thrust, Mr. Chamberlain is unequalled. It is this gift which makes him as formidable on the platform as he is in the House of Commons. At public meetings he always seems to expect a few of his old Radical friends among the audience. But we be to the interrupter! Led on by the orator with a seductive question, his opponent given just the reply expected. Each lightning comes a crashing retort, and Mr. Chamberlain's face all is smooth sailing. His perorations are invariably written out in full in his study, and frequently committed to memory. His voice is firm and clear, but not very musical; his enunciation perfect.

PLEASANTIES OF PARAGRAPHS. "The new chief of detectives is a funny man. He calls his staff 'Variety.' "That's good, 'cause they're 'em, they're the 'Spies of Life.' "—Philadelphia Record. Qualified—"Are you a union man?" asked the foreman of an applicant for employment. "Yes," replied the other, who could not understand the question. "—Pittsburgh Chronicle. Church—"What do you think of having smoking cars on the elevated road?" Gotham—"All right; what I'm thinking about is those smoking cars."—Toledo Statesman. Long-Winded—"Tess, Mr. Gayley's stories are rather broad, don't you think? Jess—Perhaps, but fortunately they are not as broad as they are long."—Philadelphia Press. Not Needed—"What makes the baby cry?" asked the little visitor. "Oh," explained Ethel, "our baby doesn't have to have anything to make it cry."—Chicago Evening Post. Making Hay—"Fond Mother—Our Daddy seems to be improving her time at the seashore. Father—Is she? Fond Mother—Yes; she's been there only a week and has been engaged twice."—Ohio State Journal. Always a Signal for Trouble—"What started the awful row in that group of politicians?" "I don't know. But I should surmise that one of them had gotten up and suggested a scheme for harmony."—Washington Star. They Ought to Be—"A couple were married in St. Louis the other day who could not understand each other's language," said Mrs. Gilley. "And I suppose that they are unexpectably happy," commented Mr. Gilley. —Detroit Free Press.

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