# The Oregonian.

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TODAY'S WEATHER—Fair and warmer; northerly winds.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 74; minimum temperature, 54; precipitation, none.

PORTLAND, THURSDAY, JULY 17.

## GREATER THAN PALMERSTON.

Mr. Smalley justly ranks Lord Salisbury as the greatest Prime Minister since Palmerston, and he might have gone much farther. Salisbury is a far-greater man than Lord Palmerston, for while Lord Palmerston grossly blundered in his treatment of the United States Government during our Civil War, Lord Salisbury on two most memorable occasions acted with extraordinary wisdom, sagacity and self-restraint in his treatment of our country. He may be said by his genius to have fixed the probable relations between England and America for at least a century to come.

Among the great Prime Ministers of England have been counted the elder and younger Pitt, George Canning, Sir Robert Peel, Beaconsfield, Gladstone and not far from the top of this list belongs the name of Salisbury. The elder Pitt was, like Beaconsfield, a man of executive vigor, and poetic imagination. Such a man was needed to follow Sir Robert Walpole, who believed in peace, plows and schools, who hated war, who was fitted to make England an energetic and prudent merchant state. Walpole made England rich, but the elder Pitt began that globe encircling policy which has made England a great and influential empire. But for the elder Pitt, the French might still control both the mouth of the St. Lawrence and the Mississippi; but for the elder Pitt the French might possess today more than half of what is British India. The elder Pitt was the great executive and administrator of England's policy of expansion, which has whitened the waters of all the great commercial seas with the sails of her ships and darkened the air of every clime with the smoke of her steamers. The policy of expansion begun by Pitt enabled England to recoup herself for the loss of her American colonies. Perhaps the elder Pitt was the greatest Prime Minister that ever ruled England, because his policy survived his political fall, survived the fearful blunders of his successors.

The younger Pitt began the policy of British resistance to the domination of Napoleon, and lived long enough to see it become the unflinching faith even of those great Englishmen, like Fox, who had originally opposed it. It was the policy of the dead William Pitt, voiced early and late after his death by his pupil, George Canning, that finally upset Napoleon. If it is true that the victory of Austerlitz killed Pitt, it is equally true that it was because of Pitt that Napoleon was beaten at Leipsic and ruined beyond redemption at Waterloo. It is safe to say that the younger Pitt was the second greatest name of England's roll of famous Prime Ministers. George Canning, who completed Pitt's work, and who was most influential in persuading President Monroe and John Quincy Adams to join hands with Great Britain in resistance to the threatened designs of the Holy Alliance of the Continental powers of Europe against the South American Republics, is also a great name. But for the influence of Canning it is not likely that President Monroe would in 1823 have uttered the so-called Monroe Doctrine. Sir Robert Peel was justly regarded by Gladstone as a very great Prime Minister, because at a critical moment for England's prosperity and the happiness and comfort of her working classes he had the moral courage to abandon his lifelong support of protection and inaugurate the beginning of free trade through the repeal of the corn laws in 1846.

Lord Palmerston during our Civil War did his best to further the efforts of the Confederate Government to organize a naval force abroad. Richard Cobden confessed that nineteen-twentieths of English society, including Mr. Gladstone, were against our cause. Earl Russell thought the defeat of the South by the North would be a calamity to the United States, and for this state of English opinion Lord Palmerston was responsible. A genial, brilliant man of popular manners; he helped to create a state of public opinion in England against the United States and in favor of the South that would have cultivated a crop of thistles for Great Britain, if President Grant and Prime Minister Gladstone had not successfully exerted themselves for the negotiation of the "treaty of Washington," under which Great Britain consented to the adjudication of the Alabama claims. Nevertheless, there was a strong feeling of dislike for the ruling classes in England felt in America as late as the day when the English Foreign Secretary informed Secretary Fish, in 1873, after the massacre of the crew of the Virginius, that Great Britain would not consent to the interference of our Government on behalf of the Cuban insurrectionists.

Since 1873, however, there has been a great change on England's part toward this country, and this change is due chiefly to the conduct of Lord Salisbury in promptly yielding to President Cleveland's Venezuela proclamation. There was a challenging crack of a whip in the closing passage of the message that doubtless touched the national pride of Salisbury, but he saw that England could lose nothing by consenting to arbitration either now or hereafter; that America might lose something by this concession now and hereafter. A great war, the alienation for years of people who have no just grounds of quarrel, was avoided by Salisbury's foresight and self-restraint. No American of sense believed that Salisbury yielded except from the highest motives of statesmanship, and when our Spanish War broke out Salisbury quickly reversed the obsolete English policy regarding Cuban intervention and permitted us to organize victory. These were the two greatest acts of Salisbury's great career, and in our judgment, in their probable influence for the future upon the international policy and conduct of the British and American people they are of such supreme importance as entitle Lord Salisbury to rank above either Gladstone or Beaconsfield, and as high as George Canning on the roll of England's great Prime Ministers.

## MODEL FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE.

A controversy approaching the aspects of the terrific has sprung up over a recent alleged pronunciamento of Secretary Shaw. He was quoted as believing that the usefulness of men holding staff appointments, or serving as assistant secretaries and division and bureau chiefs, is impaired by long service. Therefore he would limit the tenure of office in the Treasury Department to five years. Secretary Shaw's statement, as quoted in the press, includes the assistant secretaries, for whose resignations Mr. Shaw is said to have asked; the bureau chiefs, who conduct the real business of the departments; and the subordinate officials, who are protected by the civil service law.

There was a great outcry upon the announcement of this programme, as was to be expected of the civil service reformers, and censorious journals were quick to predict and to denounce a pending rehabilitation of the spoils system. And while the original story has received a qualified denial, as too sweeping entirely, it evidently represented in exaggerated form a distinct impression made upon Secretary Shaw's mind as he contemplated the barnacles of his department—men who had fallen behind the procession of efficiency, if they ever were competent in the first place, and are maintained in their places either by "pull" or by their appeals to sympathy.

Two antagonistic conceptions of the public service are thus discovered in interesting opposition. Ope says, Keep the veteran, he has experience; the other says, Get rid of him, he is a back number. It is a mistake to charge the civil service law with the retention of the barnacles, for true reform is as anxious to get incompetence out as to keep competence in; and there has been almost as much complaint from the commission about the retention of useless persons through the persistence of members of Congress as there has been of disregard of the law in dismissals. The opposing tendencies must be considered apart from the civil service agitation entirely.

Truth is mixed with error in each of these contending theories, and the key to their harmonization is in the variation of individual character. Some men are endowed with an openness of mind and a mobility of intellectual equipment which keep them forever young in labors, however advanced their years. Nobody ever accuses Commissioner Harris, head of the Bureau of Education, of being a back number. Though he is 67, he keeps abreast of the rapid stream of pedagogical theory and practice. Nobody in his senses would think of Portland's new Mayor, Judge Williams, as being "behind the times." He was 79 in March, but there is not a more up-to-date man in town.

On the other hand, there are men who are old at 35. They get into a rut and they can't get out. As their custom is to have done, so they must always do. In every skirmish of life their battle is lost just as soon as their enemy departs from the programme they have figured out for him. Wooden men, like this, we may be sure, encumber every department at Washington. They absorb the money that ought to go to others, but, what is worse, they stand in the way so that those who would do the work can't get in. A wide discretion in heads of departments is the only remedy for these abuses as well as for the outrages of the spoilsmen. Only a little less essential than to get good men in is to get poor men out. The nearer the Government can get to the ideal practice of commercial life, the better will be the results. Between the spoils doctrine and permanent tenure there is the sane middle ground of business.

## THE EXAMPLE OF PORTO RICO.

The official reports covering Porto Rican trade and revenue for the year just ended are of a highly satisfactory sort. Foreign exports increased 54 per cent over the previous year, the increase to the United States being 48 per cent. The principal commodities figuring in this increase were sugar, tobacco and hats. The receipts for customs were approximately $800,000, to which must be added $240,000 in the form of insular revenues. These figures are not vastly imposing, but it must be remembered that Porto Rico is a little country. They indicate a generally active and prosperous state of business in the island; and further, that its people are making much of their relations with the United States.

All this has been accomplished by a strict business policy on the part of the Porto Ricans. Instead of making the worst, they have wisely made the most of their situation and connections. If they had wasted their strength in clamoring for "independence" and in fighting against the guardianship of the United States; if they had wasted their money in "educating thought" among the American people; if they had given their time to politics and not to business and industry; the results would hardly have been so favorable. Their blessing has come by the only means by which great and lasting blessings ever come to communities, namely, devoted industry which wastes nothing in useless agitations, making the best of advantages, and grasps and assimilates progressive ideas as opportunity offers. Wherever this spirit and this policy prevail there is likely to be both prosperity and progress.

Possibly Cuba can learn something to her advantage by studying the recent course of events beyond the channel which separates her from little Porto Rico. Upon close view we think she will see as much liberty, as much dignity, as much of world-wide respect and consideration, and certainly as much material advantage, as she has at home under a government which, while making frantic appeals to the United States for help, vaingloriously asserts its independence.

## THE IMMIGRATION MOVEMENT.

Foreign immigration into the United States is again at high tide. During the year ended with the last day of June 493,489 immigrants landed at New York, a greater number than for any former year. A considerable number also landed at other ports, and many crossed the boundary from Canada, so that the whole number is reckoned by the immigration officials at fully 550,000 for the year. Both the monthly and daily records were broken. May 3 6213 foreigners stepped foot on American soil for the first time. In April 73,667 steerage passengers arrived. The arrivals for the month of May were 84,600, and for June about 81,000. If the arrivals in the other months of the year had been as numerous, a full 1,000,000 would have been added to the population. The arrivals in the last few years were as follows:

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|---|---|---|---|
| 1897 | 142,400 | 1900 | 367,440 |
| 1898 | 200,902 | 1901 | 408,225 |
| 1899 | 278,846 | 1902 | 493,489 |

The census was taken June 1, 1900, and therefore the population has increased nearly 1,000,000 by immigration since that date.

The character of European immigration has radically changed as compared with a few years ago. In former times the movement was chiefly from the north of Europe, being made up of Irish, Germans and Swedes, while now it is almost wholly from the southern countries. By far the largest number come from Italy. That country is now prosperous enough, but the duty of military service presses heavily upon the peasantry, and they are glad to find relief from it in immigration. The next largest number are Poles and Slavs, who, in the opinion of Mr. William E. Curtis, from whose letter in the Chicago Record-Herald we gain this general information, are not very well adapted to American citizenship. Large numbers come from Syria and other provinces of Turkey to escape the persecution and taxation of the Turkish Government.

On the whole, we are not doing so well of late years in the personal quality of our immigration as we did at an earlier time. The north-of-Europe man—the Swede, the German, the Irishman, the Englishman, the Finn—are in many ways nearer kin to the American than the Italian and the Syrian, and it takes much less time to transform them into good citizens. It is to be said for these southern people, however, that they are frugal and industrious, and that they have for their children an ambition for knowledge which soon produces wholesome effects. One notable thing in connection with this southern immigration is its tendency to follow the southern as distinct from the northern line in its movement from New York to the westward. In the Southern cities there are now considerable colonies of Italians and Syrians, and it looks as if the negro for the first time was going to find a competitor in his own field.

Public baths are already firmly established in our large cities. In New York the work began tentatively under Mayor Strong, with an act of the Legislature which commanded the expenditure of a certain sum in that direction in the old City of New York. The Strong administration completed one bath on the East Side, but Tammany promptly stopped the work. The new administration has taken it up, and Brooklyn will get two this year, to five or six to be built in Manhattan. This municipal work for cleanliness has been slightly supplemented by charitable societies, which have conducted one or two baths terribly overcrowded. Now Mrs. Anderson, a woman who has heretofore given to Barnard College and other good works, will build a large bath, at a cost of $100,000, in East Thirty-eighth street, between First and Second avenues. When completed it will be turned over to one of the charitable organizations. The Board of Education has in charge the Summer swimming baths, which have been moored for many years at various New York docks, and this season has already begun swimming schools in these tanks, for all children under 16. Fifty-two teachers have been appointed and they will give lessons on five days in the week, not only in swimming, but in saving persons from drowning. Any boy or girl under 16 who cannot swim may enter one of these schools. So far, provision has been made only for the 13 public baths in Manhattan, and the demand is loud that the teaching should be extended to the few river-front baths in Brooklyn. Maintenance of these baths and the instruction are now recognized as legitimate city work, for the prevention of disease and the burdens which ultimately fall upon the city in some form, to say nothing of the more obvious effect of saving lives.

It is a significant fact that approximately all the steel rails brought and en route to Oregon the current year are imported from the United Kingdom. This local evidence of the way demand is outrunning supply is in line with the activity of the iron trade generally. Never before were so much iron and steel produced in this country, and yet imports are necessary to supply the demand. The Pennland has just reached Philadelphia with 1407 tons of Bessemer steel, 738 iron joists, 209 steel blooms and 3742 sheet bars. Nearly every steamer of the regular lines from a European port brings iron and steel, and the steamer Matilda is now on her way from West Hartlepool for Philadelphia with 5000 tons of pig iron. Cervera's fleet is now being broken up along the south shore of Cuba to be shipped to Philadelphia as scrap, and the West Indies are being searched for scrap iron to be shipped to this country. Fifteen hundred ton of scrap iron is now being loaded upon a steamer in Port of Spain, Trinidad, for Philadelphia, several vessels are under charter to bring scrap from Cuban ports, and scrap iron is being accumulated at Vera Cruz for shipment. And yet the shipyards in Philadelphia, Baltimore and Newport News are behind on their contracts owing to the delays in getting steel. The Pennsylvania Railroad's order for rails this year is given earlier than usual, and is 27,000 tons above that of last year, which was the largest that had ever been given. The steel works are running night and day, but cannot keep up with their orders. There is no more trustworthy barometer of business than iron, and measured by iron the country's prosperity is unprecedented.

Organization of an agricultural society at Klamath Falls, with the announcement that a fair is to be held there this Fall, are among many incidents which mark the growing importance of a section of Oregon which lies far aside from the ordinary lines of travel and of common social interest. In spite of its isolation, the lake country, appears to be making substantial headway—gaining in population, increasing its wealth, steadily upbuilding along many lines. Of course, there must soon come a time when its isolation will be broken, for great and productive regions are not in these modern times long left without the advantages which come with transportation and a general connection with the world. The lake region lies within the boundaries of Oregon, but close to the California line, and there are many reasons to believe that California will contest with us for its business. As the roads now go, the lake people are practically nearer San Francisco than Portland—a fact which works radically to our disadvantage. Whether in the larger development of the country this condition is or is not to be confirmed rests to a very great extent with us. The people of the lake district would naturally prefer to maintain business relations with their own state, but business does not and cannot be made to run uphill. If it is easier and therefore more profitable to trade with California, the political connection will count for little. Our part, clearly, is to make it easier and more profitable to trade with us.

Many unpleasant stories about the young King of Spain are being circulated in a half-private way. Since his coronation, it is said, he will submit to no control of any kind, despising alike the demands of his Cabinet and the appeals of his mother. He has developed a fondness for low company and spends much of his time under various disguises in the grossest associations. It is told that upon his return from a debauch in the early morning hours very recently and being reproached by his mother, he cursed her in the most vulgar fashion, telling her to mind her own business, and that she, like the rest of the people of Spain, must learn that he was master and that he would have no interference with his conduct. Proceeding further as he grew more angry, he threatened to call his guard and have her forcibly ejected into the street. Scenes like this have been frequent, and his mother now refuses to see him, excepting in public. The conduct of the young King is marked by many other extraordinary and unreasonable acts, and the opinion is expressed that his mind, always weakly and much abused by efforts which have been made to enforce its development, is not sound. This would not be surprising. His father was a man of many weaknesses, and had broken his constitution by excesses long before this child was born. His grandmother, as all the world knows, was of unsound mind and a woman utterly depraved.

Big as the trusts are and plentiful as immense corporations are becoming, it is wise to bear in mind that small plants are also increasing their numbers. In the first place, there are hundreds of profitable technical industries that the trusts have not captured, and, in the nature of things, could not consolidate and control. The profit to be made from them in any given locality is too small to engage the cupidity of a trust, and yet is sufficient to amply repay the enterprise and industry of a small operator. New inventions are creating new industries almost daily, and in the exploiting of these the man with technical education and small capital finds plentiful opportunities for steady occupation and satisfactory returns. The census bears out this theory; for in the City of Chicago, where there were but 9977 manufacturing establishments in 1890, there were in 1900 no fewer than 19,203, or an increase of nearly 100 per cent. But the average amount of capital to the establishment was 20 per cent less in 1900 than in 1890, which shows that plenty of men found chances to invest their brains, skill and small capital in good enterprises. The trusts do not own all those nearly two thousand factories in Chicago, nor the majority in San Francisco or Portland. The purchasing power of individual grit, keenness and courage may be somewhat curtailed by the trusts—doubtless is; but it is not destroyed.

The new president of Willamette University, Dr. Coleman, appears to have a very clear conception of the duties of a modern college president. Though his chair is not yet fairly warm, he is in the East seeking money with which to pay off the university debt, and yesterday's report indicates that his labors are bearing fruit. It is to be hoped that he will be fully successful. In these days, when the competition of state and of richly endowed schools without number must be encountered, it is absolutely impossible for a school encumbered by debt to make its way. Once relieved from the obligations which have long weighted it down, there is no reason why Willamette should not have a later career as fortunate and useful as that of its earlier years. Its situation is admirable; its tradition is good; it has the active support of a great religious denomination. These things can hardly fail to count in the long run; but the first necessity is to get the debt paid off, and this Dr. Coleman seems in the way of doing.

### The Spacious Firmament on High.

Joseph Addison.

The spacious firmament on high,
With all the blue ethereal sky,
And spangled heavens, a shining frame,
Their great Original proclaim;
The unwearied sun, from day to day,
Does his Creator's power display,
And publishes, to every land,
The work of an almighty hand.

Soon as the evening shades prevail,
The moon takes up the wondrous tale,
And nightly to the listening earth
Repeats the story of her birth;
While all the stars that round her burn,
And all the planets in their turn
Confirm the tidings as they roll,
And spread the truth from pole to pole.

What though, in solemn silence, all
Move round the dark terrestrial ball?
What though no real voice or sound
Amid their radiant orbs be found?
In Reason's ear they all rejoice
And utter forth a glorious voice,
Forever singing, as they shine,
"The Hand that made us is divine!"

## OUR OREGON CELEBRITY.

Brooklyn Eagle.

A real dime-novel hero has broken loose in the West and is covering himself with mud and glory in the swamps and bush of Washington. He has misbehaved himself so often that he was invited into jail, but though he accepted sullenly, he found the surroundings uncongenial and went away. Great was the sorrow at his going. The Sheriff repented that he had permitted it, and with a company of citizens is making motions about the country as if to capture him. But Tracy, the robber hero, is not to be caught. He sprinkles cayenne pepper on his trail, and the dogs that should chase him to his lair sit down on the road and nearly sneeze their heads off. Then he captures an astonished citizen, forces him at the gun muzzle to row him across a piece of water to a more promising piece of woods, obliges him to cook and carry, invades homes and compels families to serve food and sit with him at the table and always seems to have weapons radiating from his person like cannon from an old-fashioned round fort. He never sleeps. He has no time, and he has a contempt for weakness. Whenever his pursuers sight him he fires three or four shots from an inexhaustible repeater, and the pursuers retire behind stumps for a consultation. He has finally dismissed his servitor after gagging and binding him and tying him to a tree, a plight from which a reporter has released him, in order to get an early statement of his sufferings. Incidentally he has killed five and badly wounded nine men among the forces that have tried to catch him.

Several times Mr. Tracy has been found in houses, conversing with the occupants and ordering dinner, yet always by the time the posse has wrought up its nerve to the point of surrounding or entering the premises Mr. Tracy is not there. Tracy is a more various and resourceful person than almost any of the celebrities who have preceded him. One does not take much stock in Jack Sheppard and Claude Duval and Dick Turpin after reading of these doings in the State of Washington. One can't but admire him, yet one also hopes that the Sheriff will succeed in rounding him up, because there is the making of a valuable public servant in Mr. Tracy. A man who can keep away from Sheriffs so easily will be the best kind of a hunter of thieves himself. Distance, natural obstacles, hunger, drowsiness—these are nothing to him. He knows not fear, and meets none who gives any occasion to know it. He is too generally respected in Washington for that. It would not be in the least surprising to hear that he was running for something instead of the woods by and by.

### Evil Cloaked in Romance.

New York Times.

The exploits of the runagate Oregon convict remind one again how little human sympathy and admiration have to do with even the soberest question of morals. So far as mere conscience is concerned, the capture and execution of Tracy could only be the occasion of rejoicing. But the motions of the human heart are so untamed that as the record of each succeeding exploit is flashed across the continent the pulse thrills and the mind kindles. What in reality is no doubt unutterably evil takes on something of the color of romance. A man is fast imprisoned behind the iron and rough masonry of just punishment, but with rare daring and unquestionable love of liberty he repeatedly risks his life in the effort to escape, and at last succeeds. A large reward is put upon his head; the whole neighborhood flocks to arms to run him to death. Again and again he outwits his pursuers, or, when his wits fail, faces them bravely, one man to a Sheriff's posse, and fights his way through. All alone he forces the natives to feed him and to carry him when he chooses through the wilderness, marking his path with the bodies of those who dared to oppose him. Now he has his face toward the vast untraveled wilderness of the Northwest, which to him is freedom. Such an exploit, conceived and carried through in the service of his country, would enroll his name high in the list of National heroes. But there seems to be little or nothing of moral heroism in Tracy. In spite of his resources of natural ability, he was living, when first captured, by robbery. In his flight, it would appear, he has killed men needlessly. To give the devil his due, he is reported to have expressed regret for an act of carelessness that "made it necessary to kill two officers," and he also represented himself as sparing the lives of an entire family because he liked the face of their "pretty little girl." Out of such traits the heart would be glad to construct a favorable conception of the brilliant desperado; but the facts outweigh them a thousand-fold. The case is a sad one, but it seems necessary to conclude that such prowess is quite as distinct from moral right as is our instinctive admiration for it. How many heroes of history have owed their fame to an accident that enlisted them in a reputable cause?

### Undoubted Danger in the Craze.

San Francisco Bulletin.

There is a very serious side to this Tracy incident. The daring convict is occupying the startled but admiring attention of a whole Nation. It is not to be doubted that throughout the country thousands of cigarette and dime-novel fiends are watching his course with breathless interest and hoping that he may escape into the mountains and be free. Should such a thing happen, it is as certain as anything can be that his brilliant course and public services would find humble imitators from Portland, Me., to Portland, Or., and from Winnipeg to Yuma. The worship of Claude Duval and Dick Turpin has not disappeared from the world by any manner of means. In short, the success of Tracy in getting away from his pursuers, even temporarily, probably would encourage the criminally inclined to commit overt acts of a sensational nature, and result in adding materially to the penitentiary population throughout the country.

Successful wickedness is a very bad thing for the community. It is infectious and liable to start an epidemic of crime. Wherefore it is to be hoped that the bloodthirsty and pyrotechnic Mr. Tracy quickly may be taken in and done for without further delay. His scalp is badly needed in our business of teaching American youth that sin is a wretchedly bad investment.

### Mussolino Badly Faded.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.

A comparison is made between Tracy, the Western desperado, and Mussolino, the famous brigand in one of Alexander Dumas' novels, who evaded capture for many years, leaving a trail of blood as he went. But Dumas' hero did not have to contend with the telegraph, the telephone or even the locomotive or the steamboat—all of which agencies are called into service in running down the modern desperado, as well as the bloodhound of Dumas' day. The criminal who plays a lone hand against the lightning, the iron horse, the bloodhound, the long-range repeating rifle and the police organization of several states banded for his destruction, must show more mettle than Dumas ever dreamed of to prolong his days of liberty as did Mussolino.

### The Elks' Charm.

New York Press.

One of the first steps of an Elk is to provide himself with a charm made of two tushes of the splendid wapiti, which he wears on his watch chain or fob or on his key ring. It is the badge of the order. With the increase in the membership of this lively organization an astonishing decrease in the number of wapiti is noted. In Wyoming alone 50,000 have been killed in the last four years for their tushes, which are worth $5 a pair, or to an Indian, two quarts of "firewater." I have not the slightest idea that any member of the Elks is aware of this slaughter, and believe that when the matter is brought to the attention of the order, measures will be taken to end it. In this event a substitute must be found for the tushes.

## PANAMA HAT ILLUSIONS.

San Francisco Bulletin.

More Panama hats are now worn in San Francisco than in any other city in the United States.

Broad-brimmed, white and airy, they loom before the eye at every turn. Tidal waves of them roll up and down Market street, Kearny street and all the other business streets.

Nothing quite like the Panama hat craze was ever before known in America. Sober business men become the easiest victims of the fad. They desert their offices in order to flaunt their "crushable lids" before the eyes of their less fortunate neighbors.

Listen to any conversation between brokers, merchants or clerks down in the wholesale district, and for blocks and blocks you can hear, repeated endlessly, remarks like these:

"Real Panama? Of course it's real Panama, made on the Isthmus of Panama, and woven under water, and cost me $45."

"But Panama hats are mostly made in Hawaii, aren't they, or Peru? Mine, here, was woven by candlelight of the finest round stems of the palma de pina, of Peru. Took an Indian seven months to weave it, and cost me $175. See how white it is? It was woven after midnight, under warm, fresh milk, the importer says."

You will hear stories of fabulous prices paid for these hats—$100 to $250 each, but few that reach this city cost over $40, and many which seem to be equally as fine have been bought in the rough from Kanaka weavers for $1 50. However, your Panama hat connoisseur is proud, not so much of the hat itself, as the price he pays for it.

It is not generally known, but none of the real "Panama" hats are made in Panama. Most of them are made in Ecuador. The very best of them are not called Panama hats at all, but "Jipijapa" and "Manabi" hats, Jipijapa being an interior town, and Manabi a province of Ecuador.

It will also surprise confiding buyers to learn that none of these dearly prized hats were woven under water, nor are they woven by candlelight. Owing to the fact that the heat of the sun causes the straw to become brittle and unfit for manipulation, the best hats are woven in the early morning hours, when the atmosphere is damp.

At night the hat is hung out in the open air, where it absorbs the dew, putting it in condition to be worked the next day. This is as near as they come to being "braided under water."

Contrary to the general impression, also, the hats are not woven from the stems or stalks of the palm, but from the flat leaf, which the natives split into narrow strips, using their thumb-nails for the purpose. These flat strips are bleached in the sun, and then rolled into cylindrical straws by the deft-fingered natives, who roll the two edges toward the middle, thus leaving no raw edges.

This "paja toquilla" is the straw obtained from the young, four-foot plants of the Carludovica palmata, which, strictly speaking, is not a palm.

Many of the poorer Indians, not being wealthy enough to own wooden blocks on which to weave the hats, use instead their bare knees around which to weave the crowns. The simple expedient of bending the calf back or forward serves to make the crown larger or smaller, as may be needed.

The weaving is a very delicate process, a single broken straw or rough edge greatly reducing the value of the hat. Owing to the fact that only a few hours of the early morning can be devoted to weaving, the best hats require three and a half to four months for their completion.

Excepting for the hats that come direct from Colombia and Peru, most of these hats are shipped from Guayaquil across the isthmus and through the United States to Havana, which is the great distributing point, and thence back to New York.

The best of these hats will hold water. They are almost indestructible and are supposed to do service for 10 or 15 years.

Owing to the fact that the styles in width of brim and blocking change radically every year, the query suggests itself, What will John Henry do next year and the year after with this season's Panama or Jipijapa hat? Must he sacrifice his investment of a month's salary, when the hat goes out of style, or take the chances of being able to reblock it to harmonize with succeeding fashions? Or will he file it away four or five years, half-full of camphor balls, and wait for the ever-recurring style to come back and make its shape fashionable again?

### British Use of Subsidies.

New York Journal of Commerce.

Lord Selborne, First Lord of the Admiralty, inadvertently assured Parliament that "Great Britain had fallen behind in regard to vessels of high speed, because she had not given heavy subsidies, like other nations." It would be gratifying if his lordship would particularize the nations. France pays high subsidies, but France has not been surpassing England in the matter of speed. Lord Selborne's reference can only be to German steamers, and the English and German Governments have pursued the same policy, but the actual payments of the former far exceed those of the latter. Both governments subsidize lines to the far East, and the subsidy of the Peninsular & Oriental is greater than that of the North German Lloyd's Asiatic service. To New York—and the fast steamers are on this route—both governments simply pay on postal contracts. England pays 75 cents a pound for first-class mail, or last year about $575,000. Germany pays the International Postal Union rate of about 44 cents a pound on first-class matter, and in the last year paid the two companies less than $174,000. Lord Selborne's explanation is quite inadequate, and much more real information was afforded by Mr. Pirrie's recent statement that "the best way for the government to help British shipping was to deepen the approaches to and otherwise improve the chief ports." He did not think subsidies would prevent such transfers as that of the White Star Line to Americans, and he said "British participation in the future in the world's carrying trade would depend less on subsidies than on improved business methods."

## PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

At the Zoo.—Little Girl (after seeing many queer beasts)—But there aren't really such animals, nurse, are there?—Punch.

Husband (reading the paper)—What fools some men will make of themselves. Wife—Now, Henry, dear, what have you done this time?—Detroit Free Press.

Her Reason.—Edith—Why did you refuse him? Ethel—He has a past. Edith—But he can blot it out. Ethel—Perhaps; but he can't use me for a blotter.—Puck.

Mother—Your schoolmaster can't be such a mean man as you make out. I noticed his son has all the toys he can possibly want. "Why, those are what his father takes away from the other boys."—Tit-Bits.

Harmony.—"Have you done anything to establish harmony in our party?" "Not yet," answered Senator Sorghum. "Why not?" "Because I'm not yet quite prepared for a general fight."—Washington Star.

Logical.—Pat—Pfwhat's th' raison Clancy do be afther havin' a tin weddin', Ol wonder? Mike—Faith, an' it's because he's been married to his ould woman tin years, Ol'm thinkin'.—Chicago Daily News.

The Poor Rich Uncle.—"Poor old Uncle Roxley is so poorly I suppose most any day now we'll be called to attend his funeral," she said. "Oh, stop," her brother remonstrated. "You're forever thinking of your own pleasure."—Philadelphia Press.

Still Missing.—"Well," asked the caller, "have you cleaned everything up since the Fourth?" "Almost," said the mother of the large family of boys, putting her apron to her eye. "There's one of Dickey's fingers we haven't found yet."—Chicago Tribune.

Hangin' On.—Lariat Luke—What became of that hanger-on from th' East? Horrible Hank—He's still hangin' on. Lariat Luke—Down at the Red Eye saloon? Horrible Hank—Naw; hangin' on tew a cottonwood tree at th' edge of town.—Ohio State Journal.

## NOTE AND COMMENT.

Merrill's relatives were in at the death with their habitual ubiquity.

There seems to be nothing left for Aguinaldo but to live in Kansas and repent.

Will some witty person please suggest that Tracy had a close shave Sunday?

General Smith and General Miles can now hold a mutual humiliation meeting.

The chances are that Tracy will not go into Seattle until he goes in to vote for Cudihee.

Tracy is now attracting almost as much attention in the Eastern press as Senator Bailey.

Chicago's big strike is over, and the news from that city once more consists of undiluted weather reports.

And possibly if Dewey's real opinion of Aggie could have been printed, it would prove still more interesting.

The Commoner asserts that the Kansas City platform is not a thing to run from. No, nor to run on, apparently.

The envoys who went to see the coronation are still singing: "We're waiting, Edward—waiting just for you."

Emperor William and J. P. Morgan have lunched together, but William evidently held his navy at too high a figure.

As soon as Alfred Austin finds a good and sufficient rhyme with pehityphilitis we shall read some poetry that is poetry.

Lord Wolseley says the American Army is the best Army in the world, and he has had nearly as much experience with armies as Rudyard Kipling.

President Harper, of Chicago University, forbids his professors to talk unless they have something worth saying. That finishes the university as a news field.

Lighthouse-keepers on Percy Island, off the coast of Queensland, in 1900 were "forgotten" for months by the government authorities. The food supply of Percy Island is supposed to be delivered once a quarter, but no food arrived at the island after the first week in June until a British sloop chanced to pass in October. The islanders, 20 in number, were delirious from lack of food, managed to hail the vessel, which left behind an ample supply of provisions, and reminded the Queensland Government of the lighthouse men whose existence it had forgotten.

One day in the Summer of 1857 Abraham Lincoln was sitting in his office, when he was visited by one of his neighbors, an excellent farmer, but one inclined to increase the size of his crops even after harvesting. He had given on this particular morning a skillfully padded account of the hay he had put in. "I've been cutting hay, too," remarked Mr. Lincoln. "Why, Abe, are you farming?" "Yes." "What you raise?" "Just hay." "Good crop this year?" "Excellent." "How many tons?" "Well, I don't know just how many tons, Simpson, but my men stacked all they could outdoors, and then stored the rest in the barn."

United States Consul Furniss, of Sergipe, Brazil, says of the shiftless native Brazilian: "He need not own land, as he can put up his mud hut anywhere; he has an abundance of fruit, such as the banana, jaca, caju; the tidal rivers are full of fish, shrimp, crabs and oysters, and the woods abound with game. He can raise his small path of manioc, and as it is never cold enough for a fire, he works only when there is need of money to purchase articles which he does not produce. I have been shown fields of cotton and other products which were going to waste because of the proprietors' inability to induce the laborers to harvest them. One would think that laborers living on a farm would be compelled to work for the proprietor, but that does not seem to be the case here, as, in spite of the fact that in most cases they pay no rent, they will either refuse to work at all or will work only a few days at a time; yet they are allowed to remain upon the land pre-empted."

## PERSONS WORTH KNOWING ABOUT.

In a small "greaser" hamlet near Phoenix, Ariz., is a saloon with this sign: "All Nations Welcome—Even Carrie."

Emerson is reported often to have spent from six months to a year in the composition of one or two short essays. His object was the condensation of the greatest possible thought into the fewest number of words.

Jacob Worth, at one time the Republican boss of Brooklyn, has had every one of his teeth extracted in the hope of getting relief from neuralgia. Mr. Worth stood the ordeal though he is nearly 70 years old.

Like other chief executives, Governor Crane, of Massachusetts, writes messages annually to the State Legislature, but his appear to be full of good ideas, for every suggestion he has made in the past three years has been enacted into law.

In his recent oration at the centenary of West Point Academy, General Horace Porter uttered this epigrammatic advice, good for soldier and civilian alike: "Never underrate yourself in a battle, and never overrate yourself in a dispatch."

Lord Acton, who died recently, was little known to Americans, yet he was one of the greatest scholars of England, a gifted talker, a prodigious worker, a storehouse of erudition. His library of 60,000 volumes was the finest private library in England, and no man ever knew his own library more intimately than Lord Acton knew his.

Carl Pritschau, an officer of the German Army reserves, and, it is said, taller than any soldier who has been in service in Germany in the last 50 years, has arrived in New York from Bremen. He is seven feet tall in bare feet, and weighs 285 pounds stripped. He is accompanied by Peter Eyermann, an engineer. They will make a tour of the country.

Joe Howard, the veteran newspaper writer, was among those who listened to one of Bourke Cockran's recent speeches. Later he uttered this characteristic criticism: "Bourke Cockran not only has a great gift of gab, but puts ideas into phrase more felicitously than any speaker I ever heard except Beecher, and I have heard them all from Webster to McKinley.

The Cincinnatus of Denmark is the Minister of Agriculture, familiarly known as "Old Hansen." He is a small tenant farmer, who, upon taking up his ministerial appointment, made the smallest possible change in his manner of living. When the duties of his high office permit he returns to his plow and the foddering of his beasts and the other cares of his small farm. His son remains on the farm and works for the same salary, in spite of the rich post to which his father has been called.

S. Kaiser, an employe of a rolling mill in Canton, O., is playing a game of chess with H. Bloch, a w