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

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 82; minimum temperature, 60; precipitation, none.

PORTLAND, THURSDAY, JULY 24.

HELLENIZATION OF AMERICAN LIFE.

Whether the world is growing better or not depends on the point of view. If you are discussing martyrdom or asceticism there is, of course, no comparison—the moderns are out of consideration. If the criterion is toleration, we are ahead. Many are tolerant, let us admit at once, because they do not care. Things of belief and practice that once seemed worth martyrdom, if you were of the minority, or persecution to the death, if haply you survived till your side was in, are now mere conventions of society. There is no particular difference whether one is a Presbyterian, or a Catholic, or a Jew, or a Mohammedan, or an atheist, for that matter. And as to conduct—well, we all have different standards, and it's a free country.

In a hundred ways it is clear that an old serious sense of moral accountability is lost to our people. The disposition of parents to shoulder responsibility off upon society is a common phenomenon. Liberty extends itself over the public schools so that nine men's desire to have their children taught religious or moral truth must be foregone on behalf of the sacred rights of the one man who wants neither. The preacher and the church, once accounted pillars of society and entitled to some veneration for their cause if not for themselves, are rather tolerated than otherwise, rather on the defensive, for the most part, and fair game for any censorious or ribald attention. College freshmen know nothing of the Bible, as their examination papers show. Salacious novels and French plays have great vogue. Drinking, smoking and swearing are gaining ground among the women of high society. The young of both sexes are wise in once forbidden spheres of knowledge.

All this goes along with increased cultivation. On many counts the world is growing better. It is more humane, more kindly, more courteous, more cultivated. The workingman knows more, reads more, dresses his children better, has and takes more time for rest and improvement. Wealth endows schools, libraries and galleries with lavish hand. Europe is flooded with American sightseers every year. Consideration and urbanity mark the diplomacy of all Christendom. Washington, Rome, Paris, Berlin and St. Petersburg exchange official visits and felicitations. The Continent no longer resounds to the tread of vast armies, the fleets are drawn up for sham fights only, religious denominations fraternize, the face of the earth is covered with newspapers and magazines, art and music are popularized as never before.

Let us identify this movement with the transformation of the ancient world from Judaism to Hellenism and note one or two interesting coincidences. It was the achievement of Athens to enthrone the intellect and dethrone the Hebraic morality. One emphasized conduct, the other emphasized thought. The personal life was everything to the ancient, and to the Greek, first and unapproached of moderns, everything was truth. The old idea was the realization of religious ideals in character, the Hellenic idea was the apprehension of correct theories in thought. Keep thy heart with all diligence, was the watchword of one era, Know thyself of the other.

Modern Hellenism shows itself in two interesting aspects—its mental attitude and its physical expression. The old authority of the Bible and the church, which gave seriousness to life, has been set aside by scientific study of the manuscripts, of contemporary inscriptions, and of languages, and also by scientific discovery of creation's methods. There is a perfect parallel here for the ancient overthrow of mythology by Greek philosophers, and the ensuing enthronement of thought over character. Evolution was really held in some vague form, but tenaciously, in Greek philosophy. Its expressions even go so far as to occur in antagonism to the superstitious beliefs of the masses. Observe, also, the cosmopolitanism that threatens patriotism in every great capital and metropolis. Observe the spread of the secular university, Hellenic, and the hard struggles of the denominational college, Judaic.

Then there is the outward sign of Hellenism—that joyous naturalness which is the perpetual charm of Greek life. Its explanation is nigh thee—we have escaped the old thralldom of the church as the Greek escaped the thralldom of the Homeric gods. It is to play, to hie to green fields, to cast out at once the creed and the preacher. We have revived the Olympic games. The world runs to athletics—polo, golf, yachting, football, baseball, handball, basket-ball, tennis, ping pong. Mystic cults spring up on every hand in the fresh warm sun of religious freedom—Christian science, mental science, menticulture. There is a church universal for everybody and his hired man. Dress brings its testimony also, for old conventions of Puritanic stiffness are giving way to Greek waists for the women, soft shirts for the men and comfortable shoes for all.

History repeats itself, but rarely repeats in precisely the same way. It has been accepted that when a race lays by its catechism for artistic enjoyment and sensual pleasure its sun is sinking to the west. No one who knows the surpassing importance of religious conviction and moral fiber will be disposed to make an exception in any case. But prophecies of National life are certain of nothing quite so much as of going astray. It is hard to believe that the correction of old errors of science and of creeds can necessarily be the cause of racial decay. What did Athens live for, anyway, but to show us the error of intellectual pride, divorced from moral principle? And are we too wise or not wise enough to profit by her monumental warning?

TRADE-BALANCE OPTIMISM.

Gold exportation may be either a currency or a commodity phenomenon—that is, it may be promoted by unwise domestic procedure, setting Gresham's law in operation, or by trade activity and consequent foreign demand on one hand, or on the other hand it may simply afford normal evidence of accumulating debts to Europe here which the gold moves to liquidate. Fortunately, there is little occasion to fear that the gold now engaged to go forward betrays any weakness here or superior activity abroad. It is true that bank currency has shown a disposition to shrink during recent months, and a continuation of this tendency might discover a redundancy in the circulation whose ultimate outlet would be expulsion of gold. So long as business is active, however, and confidence unshaken, this aspect of the matter is negligible. The gold exports cause no alarm.

The engagement of gold for abroad and the talk of more have adequate explanation in our declining balance of trade. The country's imports are growing and its exports are decreasing. The June statement, covering also the fiscal year, makes a remarkable showing. Not since April, 1899, has any month shown so small a volume of goods sold abroad, and not since July, 1899, has the monthly total fallen below $100,000,000. In June only $89,254,000 of goods were exported. This small total makes the total exports for the fiscal year only $1,382,033,407 against $1,487,700,000 in the fiscal year 1901, $1,394,500,000 in the fiscal year 1900, and $1,227,000,000 in the fiscal year 1899. Meanwhile the volume of imports was record-breaking, reaching the unprecedented total of $902,000,000. The nearest approach to this in any fiscal year was in 1893, when imports reached $866,000,000. This leaves us with a balance of trade of $479,000,000, compared with $664,000,000 the previous year—a loss of $185,000,000.

It is doubtful, of course, to what extent this narrowing balance affects the gold movement, inasmuch as the problem is at all times obscure, owing to the indefinite features of interest and freights, reciprocal investment and the expenditures of American tourists abroad; yet in view of the comparative stability of these elements of the problem within recent years, it is probably safe to conclude that our gold exports would have been considerably larger had it not been for the tremendous credits sent over here by European investors. Immense sums of foreign capital have been placed in the United States, chiefly, of course, in the purchase of securities, but eventually finding their way into the interior for development and productive enterprises. Experts say that recent foreign loans in American financial centers eclipse all previous records. This money has been getting out into the country. Probably Oregon has received at a low estimate $10,000,000 either of this foreign money or else of domestic money released by the purchase of other securities by foreign buyers. It is going into railroads, street-car lines, timber lands, mines and urban real estate. The result cannot be otherwise than beneficial. While all such investments involve the payment of interest and eventually of principal, in gold or its equivalent, the development work performed is never lost. Panic may wipe out much of the capital invested, but the railroads will be run on the reorganized basis and the other productive enterprises will be carried on in some shape, even if under the management of purchasers at bankrupt sales.

It looks like blind optimism to rejoice at favorable balances of trade and then to rejoice again at declining balances. The country was but now felicitating itself upon its acquisition of wealth in selling so much to Europe and buying so little thence. Now there is equal joy because of our proved ability to buy and pay for increasing volumes of luxuries and because the enlarged domestic demand leaves less surplus for export. There is an explanation of this curious phenomenon, and one which takes away much of its apparent illogical character. We have been passing through an epoch when heavy sales and light purchases were desirable, because we were in the position of an embarrassed debtor trying to get out of the hole. Now that our paying capacity has been demonstrated, we are in shape again to take life easier and invite loans on which to extend our business. The cosmic law of rhythm is at work in the commercial realm.

Another thing the growing imports and lessening exports should teach us is the old truth that no one can expect forever to sell and never to buy. For the commodities with which we vaingloriously deluge Europe, we can only expect to be paid back in commodities again. No country can endure a continued drain or a continued receipt of gold. It is fitting that we should part with some of our Alaskan bullion for the use of Europe, and this apparently is just what we are doing.

Spokane is excited over the death there recently of three children from diphtheria. The mother, it appears, belongs to a religious sect that does not allow medical attendance or medical treatment for disease, and the children perished miserably. An investigation of the matter has been ordered, and the public may expect the usual outflow of visionary nonsense that follows the bringing of such cases to the attention of the authorities. As long as such people do not juggle with contagious diseases to the jeopardy of their neighbors it is just as well to ignore them and their works. It is easy for persons thus accused to take refuge behind their religion, where, according to the letter and spirit of our institutions, they are safe from penalty. Experience in such matters teaches that the best thing to do with religious fanatics is to let them alone. The step from fanaticism to martyrdom is a short one, and the martyr is for many and obvious reasons superior to the law, and readily disarms public opinion by his or her saintly attitude. When persons are "joined to their idols," it is a waste of effort to try to deal with them as with rational beings.

PRACTICAL IMMIGRATION EFFORT.

At length there is a man in the field whose purpose it is to advertise the resources of Oregon, their present status and possible development, her industries and the extent to which they may be legitimately and profitably increased. This man is Mr. G. M. McKinney, immigration agent of the Harriman system, and he has set about his task in the methodical, business-like manner that proclaims him a man to whom the work is not new, or the results of it doubtful.

We have been told again and again that, owing to the lack of systematic and sufficient advertisement, Oregon is practically unknown in sections of the country where a knowledge of its resources and opportunities would induce people of the substantial, energetic type to come hither. The story of the intelligent farmer of Illinois who thought Oregon a northern county of California has often been told, and it has been as often matched by the inquiry as to whether the Indians about Portland were dangerous. Some years ago a minister arrived with his family in Oregon City from a New England State, bringing among other articles of household furniture a small cabinet organ, a sewing machine much the worse for use, and a three-ply woolen carpet that had been at least twice turned, explaining that they thought these things could not be procured in Oregon. His astonishment was, of course, great when it was found that the freight paid upon the old stuff would have gone far toward buying new articles of the same class, of which there were full stocks from which to choose.

These statements and many others of similar nature are familiar to Oregonians—so familiar, indeed, that they have ceased to arouse indignation or create amusement. This is well, since neither indignation nor amusement is a corrective force. Some effort, it is true, much effort in fact, of a desultory nature has been made from time to time to send out immigration literature of the plain, practical kind. Once each year The Oregonian compiles, publishes and sends out at great expense a bulk of statistics covering the various industries of the state and setting out its vast, varied and valuable natural resources. But while excellent results have followed this effort, it is manifest that so bulky a publication must be the basis merely of an effort to advertise the resources of Oregon among the masses where dissemination of such information will do the most good.

The details must be worked out in lighter, more readily handled and consequently more available form. This is what Agent McKinney intends to do and have done. Booklets and pamphlets descriptive of Oregon resources and industries will be provided in numbers adequate to the purpose. Citizens of this city, at the call of the Board of Trade, are being asked to contribute $2500 for getting out an edition of this matter, to be freely distributed on the Harriman lines. Our people will, it is believed, be quick to respond to this call. The sum mentioned will secure an edition of 250,000 copies of the immigration pamphlet, and these will be put, literally speaking, where they will do the most good.

There is nothing haphazard in the method proposed. It has had the approval of experience in other states. Engineered by a careful man, supported by the indorsement and pledge of a great railway system, it may safely be depended upon to disseminate information of a strictly reliable character, that in a relatively brief space of time will cause substantial additions to be made to the population and industries of the state.

PROBLEM OF THE TRUANT.

The Department of Education of the State of Montana has recently issued a pamphlet containing an article on "The Truant Problem," by R. G. Young, Superintendent of the Butte city schools. Professor Young asserts that the compulsory school law does not meet the truancy problem, and recommends as a scheme that would be grandly effective the establishment of "parental or truant schools" in the large cities of Montana. A parental or truant school is, in brief, "a school established with full equipment for doing all school work, including industrial training, but in addition to this, with the necessary conveniences and facilities for boarding such pupils as are committed to it. Those of school age who refuse to attend, who are habitual truants or who are guilty of persistent violation of school regulations, may, by due process, be committed to the parental school till such time as they shall consent to attend regularly a public or private school. If they make their escape from the school they are to be apprehended by police or truant officer and returned to the school for discipline and continuation of school work, but under more rigid restrictions. Boys and girls who are guilty of crime are not eligible to admission, nor is there anything about the school that smacks of prison bars, surroundings or discipline, hence there is no shame or disgrace attaching to those who may attend it. It is simply a public school under the direction of the Board of Trustees, having facilities for enforcing attendance and discipline of those who refuse to attend the regular graded or private schools."

The verbose definition of a parental school is given for the reason that many are probably not familiar with this new scheme for relieving parents of their burdens, duties and obligations. Professor Young does not claim to be the originator of the plan, but describes the schools of this nature which have been established in such towns as Boston, New York, Rochester, Brooklyn and Chicago. He says that the establishment of such a school in Butte "would save the city thousands upon thousands of dollars that it otherwise will have to pay in prosecuting these boys after a few years of street education has transformed them from innocent children into hardened criminals."

It is not The Oregonian's purpose to enter upon a discussion of the merits of the parental school at this time, but since the public school teachers of this state are about to assemble in their annual teachers' institutes, it may not be amiss to submit the subject for their consideration. Some of the questions that present themselves in the discussion of such a subject are: Will the parental school encourage more parents to shirk their responsibilities in the maintenance of their children? Is there any other practicable means of compelling the atendance at school of boys and girls whose parents refuse to cooperate with school officials in this respect? If the state should provide a public boarding-school for all boys and girls who will not attend any other kind of school, how many years should the child be kept in such a school, and at what age should he begin school under such circumstances? Would such boys and girls be as well off in the State Reform School as in a parental school?

In this same connection The Oregonian wants to have a heart-to-heart talk with some of the teachers. You all know that for many years there has been a law upon our statute-books requiring teachers to attend the annual teachers' institutes, and you have been liable to punishment by having your certificate revoked for failure to obey the law. Nevertheless, large numbers of you have refused to attend the institutes. Even when you did attend, it has been necessary for the County Superintendent to call the roll twice a day in order to compel you to put in the required amount of time at the institute. But even that precaution failed, and the last Legislature passed an act framed by our leading school men fining a school district $5 for employing a teacher who failed to attend the annual institute. Now the questions that arise are:

Is the truant spirit in the child the same as that in the teacher? If you refuse to attend a school of teachers because "it isn't interesting," or "the instructors are old fogies," is not a child justified in refusing to attend a public school for the same reason? Does the child catch the truancy disease from his teacher? In all seriousness, the whole subject of truancy is laid before the public school teachers of this state. The Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of Montana indorsed Professor Young's treatise and commended it to the careful consideration of the general public. Is the truancy problem an important one, and what is its solution?

The bounty law of 1899 cost the state about $120,000. The total for four years will be about $257,197. Friends of the scalp bounty law will ask the next Legislature to appropriate $67,000 to pay the deficiency in the scalp bounty account. The Oregon Legislature will act wisely by repealing the bounty law at the coming session.

So says the Malheur Gazette, published at Vale, in one of the counties where a large part of the coyote scalps are taken. The ravages of the rabbits and gophers have increased since the bounty law went into effect, and the farmers are beginning to think that a coyote does more good in killing these pests than he does harm in killing sheep. Since 140,000 coyotes have been killed off, and the rabbits and gophers have multiplied, perhaps the remaining coyotes can now find food in plenty without attacking sheep.

The brute in man comes to the surface very readily upon occasion. Men from all parts of the United States are flocking to San Francisco to witness the Jeffries-Fitzsimmons fight. Proof of the interest awakened by the conflict is furnished in the statement that tickets representing $13,000 had been sold with two days yet to hear from. The human bulldogs are devoting themselves to their muscle, and each is boastful of his belief that he will be victorious over his opponent. The world would be the gainer if each were to disable the other permanently. Beyond this, public decency has little to desire in the outcome of this or any prizefight.

Office-holding, though it may cover a long period of years and furnish exceptional remuneration in salaries, fees and perquisites, is not profitable from a financial point of view. The demands upon the office-holder who is regularly every two years an office-seeker absorb the profits. A striking example of this is seen in the inventory of the estate of the late George C. Sears, who held lucrative offices in Multnomah County for many consecutive years. There is a lesson in this that young men who have contracted the itch for office will do well to ponder. If there is a remedy for this infectious disease, it possibly may be found here.

There is one criticism against the late encampment of the state militia that holds. The men were in camp long enough to get extremely tired and not long enough to limber up to their work and get rested.

The Colombian insurrection is of about the same age as the Boer War. Maybe benevolent assimilation is needed there worse than in Nicaragua, after all.

The Wisconsin Republican convention contained 1065 delegates. It was representative. Oregon should use a similarly liberal basis of representation.

If we are really to do anything to the trusts, let not Russia lead the way. Her peace conference set everybody to fighting.

"Audacity, Accuracy, Ammunition."

Harper' Weekly, July 19.

Harry Tracy, the fugitive Oregon convict, who has been giving us such an interesting exposition of what misdirected energy may accomplish, is still at large at this writing, though upward of 1000 armed men are reported to be in quest of him with bloodhounds and all the known aids to capture. His pursuers include the Sheriffs of five counties in the State of Washington, state officers of Washington and Oregon, and three revenue cutters, and various other forces of the United States. It is unquestionably time that the man was caught. The record of his deleterious activities as set forth in the newspapers begins with the killing of a deputy Sheriff in Colorado in 1897. When arrested for burglary in Portland in February, 1899, he wounded a detective and attempted to seize a railroad train, but was shot down and captured. Since his escape on June 9 from the Oregon Penitentiary at Salem, he has killed seven men, wounded five or six others, and robbed houses, stolen horses, and "held up" small parties of his pursuers and others, according as his necessities required. The man's audacity is consummate; he shoots very accurately with a rifle, and is reported to have plenty of ammunition. Audacity, accuracy and ammunition, taken in combination with modern weapons, can do surprising things. There was Oxnard. Think what he accomplished! And here now is this Tracy with a thousand men out after him, and his death already a month overdue!

AGREEMENTS MUST BE KEPT.

Chicago Tribune.

President Mitchell said in his address to the miners' convention:

I have during all my life in the labor movement declared that contracts mutually made should during their life be kept inviolate, and while at times it may appear to the superficial observer or to those immediately concerned that advantage could be gained by setting agreements aside, such advantage, if gained, would, in the very nature of things, be temporary, and would ultimately result in disaster, because a disregard of contracts strikes at the vitals of organized labor. The effect of such action would be to destroy confidence, to array in open hostility to our cause all forces of society, and to crystallize public sentiment in opposition to our movement.

One of the delegates from the anthracite district said to the delegates from soft coal districts where the miners are working under agreements:

We did not come here to ask you to dishonor yourselves. "Consistency, thou art a jewel." Stand firm; keep your faith, and let the whole world know that when the United Mineworkers make an agreement they will keep it, no matter what the cost.

The case cannot be more tersely and strongly put than it is by the president and delegate. A breach of contract is dishonorable and unprofitable. It degrades and weakens labor organizations as it degrades and weakens other organizations. No labor organization can hope to have its claim admitted to stand on an equal footing with individual employers or employers' organizations until it has shown that its word is as good as its bond—better, indeed, for a bond it cannot give. It is impossible to enforce the specific performance of a contract with labor. It is impossible to recover damages from the labor organization which refuses to carry out its agreement. Therefore, when a labor organization does make a contract it is in honor bound to keep it. A failure is dishonorable, for the other party has no redress.

A union may make an agreement which later on seems unwise—which does not provide for wages so large as changed conditions cause the members of the union to believe they are entitled to or which hampers their freedom of action in some outside labor dispute. Nevertheless, the union is bound by honor and by expediency to stick to its agreement while it lasts. If the union orders the breaking of an agreement it is the duty of individual members to disobey the order, not because it is impolitic, but because it is dishonorable. That is what the men in the South Chicago steel mills did a year ago. They showed themselves men of their word. They have the respect of their employers and of the public.

The expressed reluctance of some employers to recognize unions is based largely on their belief that the labor organizations they are asked to treat with cannot be trusted to stick to a bargain from the beginning to the end of a year. The moment employers are convinced an organization can be trusted they will recognize it and make agreements with it. They will be ready to make concessions when they know the arrangement entered into will stand for a year, whatever may happen, and they can regulate their business accordingly, which they will not make otherwise.

There are men in and out of the ranks of organized labor who are not touched by the argument that it is dishonorable to break faith. The argument that it does not pay to break faith should have weight with them. It does not pay an individual or an organization to be false to his or its pledges. As President Mitchell says, "A breach of contract strikes at the very vitals of organized labor."

Not Zealous Against Trusts.

Kansas City Star (Ind.)

As for the Democrats, they are not so well equipped for an anti-trust canvess as they might have been if they had made a good record in Congress. Nothing was done at the last session of Congress to show the country that the Democrats were zealous in the caue of trust regulation and tariff reform. There was not a single ringing, keynote speech in the entire session. The campaign material of the party must be prepared especially. It is not a part of the records. In the last Congress, when it was proposed to adopt a Constitutional amendment giving Congress greater powers in dealing with the trusts, there was an almost solid Democratic vote against the bill. It is true that the proposed amendment was dangerously sweeping, and there was a suspicion that at least some of the Republicans who supported the measure sustained it because they knew it could not pass. But it was an opportunity for the Democrats to get on the right side of the question, and they failed. Even from the standpoint of politics they did not see the expediency of giving the proposed amendment enough support to make the Republicans show their hand.

The Fall of Manila.

Washington Star.

One may sympathize with General Anderson on the subject of the capture of Manila without questioning the accuracy of Admiral Dewey's statement. The General held a command in the attacking party, and the defense seemed serious enough to him, who had no advices about saving the Spanish Commander's face. The fighting was so real in front of his line that his loss in killed and wounded amounted to over 100. All who died, however, died as heroes. All who survived had earned the praise they received. It was a real battle to them, whatever Spanish discipline had induced the Spanish commander to do "on the side" toward saving not only his face, but his head.

But, by the way, what effect will Admiral Dewey's disclosures be likely to have on that Spanish commander's fortunes at home? Did his superiors at Madrid understand that he was putting up a mere bluff? Is it sufficient under the Spanish code for a commander in certain circumstances to stand only to be pushed over?

Popular Bible Study.

Indianapolis Journal.

There is reason to believe that President Butler, when he urges the reading of the Bible in the schools as a "pressing problem," expresses a growing conviction. None of the reasons which have been given for the abolition of the reading of the Bible is worthy of intelligent consideration. Any version which is a fair translation of the important facts of the Bible should be acceptable, and would be if the prejudices of sectarians were not allowed a weight which they should not have. In most other matters the bitterness of sectarians has died out. Protestant and Catholic in intelligent communities are no longer foes. The congresses of religions seem to get along very well together; why cannot the religious agree upon portions of the Bible that shall be read in the public schools? We talk of the civilization of the Christian era, and hail it as the boon of humanity, yet we have forbidden that the book which contains the ethics of that civilization shall be read in the public schools.

A Suggestive Fact.

Washington Post.

It is an unpleasantly suggestive fact that the best-governed city in the United States is the only one in which there are no elective officers. While the government of the National capital is a model as to results, it is not a model in any other sense, for there is no other city in which our plan could be adopted, because Congress is not authorized to exercise exclusive legislation for any other city. The one great governmental failure of the American people is in municipal government. It was bad long ago, and it appears to have increased in badness in proportion as our cities have increased in population. If the National and state governments were as inefficient and corrupt as the governments of many of our cities, the combined results would be a crushing condemnation of suffrage as it exists in this country.

LEGISLATING ON THE TRUSTS.

New York Journal of Commerce.

It is not surprising that both of the great political parties are unwilling to legislate in restraint of the trusts. It is a very delicate matter to frame legislation that would obviate the generally acknowledged evils of the trusts and not discourage the investment of money and the co-operation of capital in large quantities in accomplishing industrial results. Well-informed persons, of sound judgment, not carried away by fears of aggregated capital, are rarely willing to advise more than measures to restrict overcapitalization, the making of reasonably full annual reports, and the application of common law methods for the evil of artificially advanced prices, and, in some instances, rather more subjection of corporations to the authority of state governments.

But if reluctance to legislate on this vast and complicated problem is not discreditable to the two parties, it is discreditable for them to taunt each other with timidity about legislating, or to promise legislation in order to make a favorable impression upon the voters, with no probability of being able to legislate and probably very little desire to legislate. The Democratic Congressional committee has selected the failure of the Republican party to legislate on trusts as one of the three issues to be exploited during the campaign. Thereupon the Republicans retort that the President made a speech about legislating on the trusts and circulate a report, which our Washington dispatches show to have little foundation, that at the request of the President Mr. Littlefield, of Maine, is preparing an anti-trust bill. Nothing could be more feeble than this reply to the Democratic programme. It would be much more respectable for the Administration party to point to its inaction on trusts as a reason why the conservative and commercial interests of the country should put their confidence in it. The President talked about trusts in his annual message, but a Congress of his own party paid no attention to it. Senator Dubois has just pointed out the fact that he offered the substance of the President's recommendations as an amendment to the bill to create a permanent census bureau and it was rejected by a solid Republican vote. Besides, the House passed an anti-trust bill two or three years ago, and it was lost in the Senate. The fact is that the Republican party is not likely to attack corporate capital, and it ought not to pretend that it is strongly populistic when it is nothing of the sort. It would be almost impossible to get an anti-trust bill through the short session.

On the other hand, the Democratic party has had opportunities of legislating on the trusts and has permitted them to escape it. The subserviency of Democratic Senators to the sugar trust when the Wilson tariff was pending is not yet entirely forgotten. It is idle for the party to pretend that it is especially hostile to that combination.

Furthermore, an anti-trust bill has just been defeated by a decisive majority in the Louisiana House, though the Speaker took the floor in its behalf. The New Orleans Times-Democrat says the state administration had ample opportunity early in the session to put the bill through. "But when a bill was introduced by Mr. Vincent the second day of the session they kept it in committee and waited until the opportunity came on the matter of the price of ice in New Orleans, and then they threw in this bill which today met such inglorious defeat." In other words, the bill was not offered in good faith, but as a bait to catch momentary popularity. It is highly creditable that such an effort failed. The Times-Democrat says the bill was "nothing more nor less than a piece of political hypocrisy intended for its effect in the country parishes, and which was never intended to get on the books."

There is some need of legislation concerning the great industrial combinations, but it must be undertaken in a serious spirit, with an intelligent consciousness of what can be and ought to be done, and not as a tub to be thrown to the whale of the agricultural vote on the eve of election.

Be Careful!

Brooklyn Eagle.

Those reconstructing the state Democracy should bear in mind that Grover Cleveland, at the Tilden Club, was careful to leave "anti-imperialism" out of the issues. He knows when a subject is played out.

Roosevelt's Administration bids fair to make expansion as universally an accepted fact as McKinley's made the gold standard, Grant's the result of the war and Lincoln's the Union and Emancipation. The Democracy erred and were woefully beaten in opposing these principles—and in persisting in opposition to them.

Mr. Beecher's dog "Noble," that "spent nights and days barking into an empty hole," was a poor model for a political party. "Anti-imperialism" is an empty hole. Those who would, by barking into it, make it the note of their ambition—or their candidacy—would fly in the face of the courage and of the patriotism of the country. They would not—could not—be winning nominees, for the American people are not a congregation of cowards or a quota of quitters.

PERSONS WORTH KNOWING ABOUT.

Captain Freeman, who saved the steamer Roddam from destruction during the recent volcanic eruption at St. Pierre, was recently presented with a silver medal by the Liverpool Shipwreck and Humane Society.

Judge Sidener, of St. Louis, who recently ruled that a wife has the right of taking money from her husband's pockets under provoking circumstances, now holds that a dog has the right to bite a person who ties a tin can or other impediment to its tail.

Henry Walters, of Baltimore, recently purchased in Rome the celebrated Masserenti collection of paintings, one of the most noted in Europe. When the art works arrived in New York, Mr. Walter was compelled to pay a tariff tax of $90,000 on the collection.

Hetty Green and her daughter Sylvia have been enjoying a week's vacation at Oyster Bay, L. I., but the place was so taken up with the Roosevelt party that the two ladies escaped recognition, and therefore had a most enjoyable time. Even the secret-service men who swarm in the neighborhood paid no attention to them.

John Budna, a citizen of Polish birth, living at Marlborough, Ulster County, N. Y., has just become the happy father of his 21st child, a bouncing boy weighing 16 pounds. All of the children are living. In honor of his latest olive branch, the father, who is a prosperous farmer, had a celebration, including a handsome display of fireworks.

Joseph Hodges Choate has never held a public office save that of Ambassador to the court of St. James, unless exception be made of the time he served as president of the New York constitutional convention in 1894. He is now in the 71st year of his life, and has just completed the 50th year of his career in the legal world. He is a native of Massachusetts, and he has lived in New York City since he began the practice of law just half a century ago.

Mrs. Jefferson Davis, not long ago, wrote to C. F. Adams, under the impression that the Boston publicist's remarks on "Lee at Appomattox" contained some unfair reflections upon her late husband. Mr. Adams, in reply, squarely put the question whether, at the time of Davis's capture, he was not on his way to lead some new fight against the Union. Mrs. Davis admitted frankly that the information in her possession led her to believe that Mr. Adams's shrewd suspicion was correct.

During the Omaha Exposition, Senator Chauncey M. Depew and S. R. Callaway, president of the American Locomotive Company, were strolling about the Midway, taking in the sights, when they were invited into a large hall to see the "greatest performance on earth." The hall filled up rapidly, and after a wait of 10 or 15 minutes, the Senator said to Mr. Callaway: "This must be a good show—so many people are crowding in to see it." After some further waiting, during which the hall was jammed full, the late Sterling Morton walked down the aisle, and, stopping to shake hands with the Senator and Mr. Callaway, said: "What in thunder are you fellows doing here? There is an old faker outside calling out, 'Come in and see the great and only Chauncey M. Depew! Only 10 cents to see the great and only Chauncey.'"

NOTE AND COMMENT.

The only girl that has an ideal is she who has never found one.

When a 30-cent man wears a $30 Panama, which of the two is out of place?

What's the matter with the Portland Hunt Club in this chase after Tracy?

It's to the credit of Aguinaldo that he didn't name himself George Washington.

It's due to the horses to say that Panamas look better on them than on some people.

Jeff and Fitz have left off heavy exercise until the fight. This does not apply to vocal exercise.

When we were boys, we used to bathe in the river without let or hindrance. Who blames the boys?

The Pullman Company has refused to pay its porters higher wages. The company has more nerve than the public.

If Minister Wu's book does not turn out to be a historical romance it will be the initial wonder of the 20th century.

Schwab says that the properties of the steel trust are worth $1,400,000,000. But just wait until the "infant industry" grows up.

This was a broad land when Lewis and Clark explored it. In less than 100 years has it grown too narrow even to afford a site for a fair?

It's positively inhuman for Tracy to run off and not tell the posse where he has gone. Suppose the posse should happen to run across him?

The Czar proposes to vanquish trusts by international agreement. By such sovereign will he dominates them in his own empire. But it is different outside of his realm. We fear the Czar is not a good student of so-called "political science."

Payment of reward to Mrs. Waggoner is urged because it would be future incentive to pursuit of criminals. But would it? Mrs. Waggoner didn't pursue the criminals. She found Merrill's body by accident. And how about the persons who actually pursued Tracy and failed to get him?

Roosevelt has retired General J. H. Smith for "loose and violent talk." General Smith is the man who reduced the Island of Samar. Roosevelt has evidently forgotten the time when he himself used to speak his mind, and the time also when he headed a round-robin. But it takes circumstances to alter cases.

Is it true that increased cost of living is due to the trusts? If the employes of the butcher, the baker, the tailor and the shoemaker must have more wages, consumers must pay the extra cost. And since no man makes everything he uses, the added cost is up to everybody. There is an equilibrium of wages, that persists even though we disturb it. When it is disturbed, a race ensues between wages and prices.

Bryan's friends announce he will not be the regular candidate, but that if he is ignored he will pull out and form a new party. And yet secession is what he blames Cleveland for. Where, then, is the sincerity of his loyalty and the legitimacy of his title to the scepter of Democracy? Was his rebellion to the Populists in 1892 treason against the party? Yet, perhaps we are not fair to him, for this was before he had designs on the Presidency.

"Wouldn't it jar you?" exclaimed the shade of William Clark to Meriwether Lewis.

"What's the matter, Clark?"

"Matter enough! They haven't chosen the site of the 1905 fair yet."

"Well, what of it?"

"What of it? I discovered the location of Portland just 96 years ago. It was full of sites. Sorry I didn't choose a site myself."

And Clark turned about to talk it over with his Indian friends, Chief Comowool and Chief Twisted Hair.

General Bragg, American Consul at Havana, wrote secretly to his wife, "When Uncle Sam gets through trying to make a whistle out of pig's tail he might make an Anglo-American out of a Cuban."

Now General Bragg is in hot water with Uncle Sam. Of course it wasn't Mrs. Bragg who gave away the secret, but the one who betrayed her confidence. The next letter General Bragg wrote to his wife was probably in plainer words than the other, but there is no record of its contents having escaped.

Arthur S. Green, a young artist residing in Connecticut has taken upon himself the rather arduous task of redeeming the Holy Land from the Mahometans and restoring it to the care of the Christians. Mr. Green purposes buying it from the Sultan. Mr. Green says: "My idea is, first, to raise enough money by international subscription, founding an organization for the purpose. After the necessary amount is raised, we would, through the organization, petition a suitable Christian power, or powers, to guarantee the independence, neutrality and integrity of the Holy Land, creating a republic by and for Christians, in honor of Christ."

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

"Do you know what happens to little boys who smoke?" "Yep. Dey gits bothered by fool cranks."—Life.

Not for the Poor.—"Is he rich?" "Well, rich enough to call his rheumatism the gout."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Teacher—Tell me, Bobby, what are the two things necessary for a baptism? Bobby—Water and a baby, ma'am.—Tit-Bits.

The pitcher that goes often to the well is likely to be broken, especially if the hired girl carries it.—Chicago Record-Herald.

You can't have your cake and eat it, but you can eat your own cake and swipe the other fellow's.—Ohio State Journal.

Between Themselves.—He—You know you married me for my money. She—Well, I'm glad you give me credit for not being an utter fool.—Life.

"It is, perhaps, natural, after all, that women should always be late in keeping their appointments. Eve didn't arrive until Adam had been in the garden quite a while."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Lady Visitor (at Workgirls' Club, giving some advice on manners)—And you know, ladies never speak to gentlemen without an introduction. 'Liza—We knows yer don't, miss, an' we offen pities yer!—Punch.

Obligations.—"Do you think that dog is worth the money you are paying for a tag?" "No, suh," answered Mr. Erastus Pinkley. "But you's got to go to some expense fob de sake o' social standin', is n' you?"—Washington Star.

Mrs. Rubba—I suppose that when you get out you will be a better man? Second-Story Steve—Oh, yes, mum. I'm rapidly masterin' de finer p'ints, an' expect ter go in fer bank robbin' w'en I gits out!—Chicago Daily News.

Rights—"Don't you think that anybody has rights except yourself?" "Certainly," answered the trust magnate. "There are numerous rights which we do not possess. But we are gathering them in as rapidly as possible."—Washington Star.