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TODAY'S WEATHER—Fair and continued warm. Northerly winds.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 83 degrees; minimum temperature, 57 degrees; clear.

PORTLAND, TUESDAY, AUGUST 5.

TRADES-UNIONISM.

Trades-unionism, as represented by Mr. Gompers and other labor leaders of his type, is related to the trades-unionism of an earlier time in the sense that it is directly descended from it. But it is very far from being the same thing. What in its earlier form was a mere blind and oftentimes incendiary force operating by instinct rather than judgment against conditions passionately hated but not at all understood, has by process of time and the changed conditions of the country grown into a regulated agency seeking to gain and hold for the man who tolls a fair share in the rewards of industry and fair treatment in its operations. In his public utterances Mr. Gompers makes the aims and purpose of organized labor in its modern and modified form very plain, and so completely justifies them in theory as to disarm all but the most besotted prejudice and the grossest selfishness.

Trades-unionism is the natural and legitimate corollary of the union of capital in the partnership and the corporation; and under the modern system of industrial organization it has become a positive necessity. The jest that the corporation has no soul is based on a profound truth, the same truth which lies back of and enforces organization of labor. When employer and employed worked in small ways together, the facts of personal acquaintance and friendly sympathy smoothed all or most differences between them. But when in the evolution of industry the employer became an impersonal creature, subject to no motives but those of gain, a mere insensible, insatiate, mechanical force, it became necessary to match its strength with another and corresponding force for the safeguard of labor; and it is in response to this necessity, in very large measure, that trades-unionism exists today in its present form. Its function in its larger and higher aim is essentially beneficent; and if it is not at all times guided by discretion; if it is not always true to its better purposes, there should be little surprise in an age when selfishness and passion manifest themselves in all human affairs and in a world where few things are perfect. At least it must be said for the trades-union that it is a means—and the only means—by which humane and tolerable conditions are maintained in many departments of modern industry. And it is further to be said that today, under the imperfect character of our legal devices, the trades-union affords to society its best and surest protection against the movement which is fast bringing the world of industry under the dominion of a selfish, forceful and rapacious few.

Trades-unionism has made prodigious strides toward wiser aims and steadier policies since its earlier days in the United States, but it has still further progress to make before it can command the absolute confidence which is the hope of its best leaders. It must somehow create for itself a corporate and financial responsibility, such responsibility as will give its pledges dependability and assurance, and as will enable it to command, as organized capital now does under the laws, a standing in the courts. There is a problem here, but it is not greater or more difficult than problems already resolved, and the conscience and discretion which have carried organization of labor thus far will not fail to meet this new requirement.

Trades-unionism has many grave responsibilities, among them the duty of preserving the general economic efficiency of labor. This principle is lost when a man with the capacity to lay 2000 bricks in a day is limited by the rules of his craft to a lesser performance. It is lost when the capability of the least efficient or of the less efficient is made the standard to which the pace of the exceptionally able workman must curb itself. And in the sacrifice of this principle two great opportunities of labor are lost; one, that which depends upon the general industrial welfare; the other, when the chance is denied to the individual workingman of exceptional ability to step from the rank of labor into the rank of industrial leadership. Some way must be found by which the man of moderate capacity shall not be slighted of justice and which at the same time will not hold the man of special or exceptional hardihood and energy to the lowest or the average level.

At many points of its operation, even under dispassionate and discreet leadership, the present trades-union system is too rigid for the welfare of industry in general and for the welfare of the individual laborer of exceptional quality. It exhibits under some conditions a tendency to destroy confidence, to check prosperity, to limit the general productive powers, to discourage special talent and capacity, to mold labor into a fixed and hidebound caste. These tendencies are no part of the purposes of trades-unionism as defined by Mr. Gompers and his class of labor leaders; and they are intrinsically mischievous. They call imperatively for counsels at once cautious and liberal, and for the wisest leadership.

MR. HILL REDUCES GRAIN RATES.

Just what The Oregonian predicted with respect to the railroad conference at Davenport has come to pass. There is to be a general reduction in the grain rate from all east-of-the-mountains points and by the construction of a new cross-line local convenience in the Big Bend country will be served. The amount of the reduction is not determined, but if the general expectation is correct, it will be sufficient to add appreciably to the price which the eastern country will get for its wheat product.

There is evident in the position of Mr. Hill a disposition to placate the farmers of Eastern Washington, and at the same time to play a strong card for favor at Seattle, which is to receive large consignments of grain hitherto sent via Tacoma. Several motives enter into this policy, no doubt, and among them unquestionably an immediate one of politics. Mr. Hill wants to nullify the effect of Governor McBride's anti-railroad fight by a shrewd advance stroke, and at the same time he wishes to bind Seattle to his interests; and both these purposes will measurably be accomplished by the concessions announced yesterday. The eastern farmers will for a time be in a better frame of mind toward the railroads than for several years past, and if Seattle was a Jim Hill town yesterday, it will be doubly so today. The vote of King County neither in the coming state convention nor in the Legislature will be so bestowed as to injure railroad sensibilities.

This reduction will mollify the people of the Columbia River grain belt unquestionably, but if the revised rates shall be high enough to yield a profit in transportation over the difficult and unnatural route over the Cascade Mountains, they will still be too high. The natural and just rate between the eastern grain fields and the seaboard is one based upon the downhill haul through the Columbia River pass. Any rate that will support traffic over the mountains will be an unnatural one and in the very nature of things excessive. Here is a fact which no sophistry or pretense can overcome; and it is a fact which every producer of the Columbia River Basin ought to paste in his hat for future reference and cogitation.

KING EDWARD'S CONDITION.

King Edward is better. He is able to walk the deck of his yacht, and once or twice within the past week he has sat with the family group at dinner. He is anxious that the ceremony of coronation shall take place in one form or another, and to meet his wishes a day has been fixed. But in spite of this rally it is plain that the King is a very sick man, and his chances for recovery and for extended life are slender. His age, though he is long past youth, is not serious, but he has been a high liver and the best of his vitality was spent half a score of years ago. He has not the recuperative power which regular and abstemious habits of life would have given him, and any day is likely to witness the breakdown of some one of the vital organs. This, at least, is the judgment of the medical world; and the prediction is freely made that, even should he recover something like apparent health, he is not likely to see the year through.

In this situation interest naturally centers upon his son and successor, Prince George of Wales, who, though a man of exemplary personal character, has never in the smallest sense won the English heart. He has, perhaps, quite as much moral fiber as his father, but he has not his tact, his humanity of sentiment or the easy though dignified manners which early made Prince Edward a universal favorite. His marriage with his dead brother's fiancee, arranged very largely with a view to pleasing the public and establishing his popularity, failed wholly of its purpose. On the other hand, it had precisely the opposite effect, for it created a prejudice which has descended to the children of the marriage who hold even a less degree of popular favor than the little Princelings of the universally criticised Battenberg marriage.

Curiously enough, nobody knows anything about the political opinions of the coming King, nor seems to care. Like all Kings, he will be a Conservative, and, like all British Kings, a Tory, but further than this there is no public knowledge and no means of judgment. The fact in itself illustrates how far from anything approaching actual political power the British throne has drifted. So completely subordinated has it become to the popular system which rules England and her empire in its name that nobody gives a thought to the private political ideas of the ruler, which have scarcely more weight in relation to the practical politics of the realm than those of any private gentleman.

The lecture which Archbishop Ireland read to the Catholics of the country in his Sunday night's discourse may very wisely be taken in wider relations. Catholics are not alone in the disposition to declare judgment relative to matters which affect their religous or other prejudices upon a small basis of information. Those Catholics who have hastened to denounce the position of the Government in its determination to get rid of the friars in the Philippines are no whit less reasonable than those of another faith or no faith who have criticised the slowness of the Government and its disposition to pay for lands which it might seize. At best the problem is a difficult one, how difficult only those who hold responsibility in connection with it really know; and those who have not even the elements of the case in hand betray a most presumptuous spirit in undertaking offhand to render judgment and rebuke authority.

The popular impression in America that mob law does not prevail in England is not well founded. The company which owns the quarries on Leckhampton Hill, overlooking Cheltenham, recently fenced in certain positions and built a house thereon for its foreman, thus interfering with the right of the people to roam at will over every part of the hill. A committee of the workingmen were tried in the Police Court for damaging the fence, assaulting a Constable and rescuing a prisoner, and were finally discharged. The same night a mob of 2000 men, women and children, headed by a banner and a band, marched to the hill, demolished the fence, destroyed the greenhouse, and then burned the house down with all its furniture. This spectacle was witnessed by 8000 people. The wreckers then proceeded to the grounds of the principal shareholder in the quarry company and burned a rustic arbor to the ground. The total damage caused was about $5000. Nine policemen and an inspector were present, but they dared not interfere. This took place in one of the richest and most populous counties of civilized England. It was altogether a worse outrage than anything that has thus far marked the coal strike in Pennsylvania, for it was a wanton outrage of the grossest description. If the quarry company had infringed upon the rights of the people the courts were open for decision, but this English mob resorted to incendiarism without waiting to ascertain their legal rights.

BRYAN CANNOT BE ELIMINATED.

Conservative Democrats at the East, since the meeting at Nantasket Beach, despair of the success of the proposed reorganization of the party by the elimination of Mr. Bryan and his issues from consideration in the future. Suppose Bryan is shelved and any other Democrat suggested for National leadership, unless that Democrat commands the cordial support of Bryan and his faction, harmony will be impossible. The cry of "tariff reform" will not unite the party, for Bryan's personal influence is too strong to be drowned out by a party cry. Furthermore, conservative Democrats think it ominous that at the Nantasket Beach meeting the cry of "tariff reform" excited small acclaim and approval compared with the enthusiastic greeting given Bryan by his audience. If tariff reform means only amendment in view of changed business conditions, readjustments and alterations of schedules, it will not be difficult of accomplishment under the Republican party; but the wageworkers in both parties are not likely to grow enthusiastic over a violent National campaign over the tariff as a difference of fundamental principle.

It is worth noting that Mr. Bryan said at Nantasket Beach that the trust question is in no way solvable by tariff agitation. The Republican party is ready to revise and reform its tariff; it is ready to make war upon "the trusts" that abuse their opportunities, but tariff reform as a quarrel concerning fundamentals such as raged in 1892 is not likely to become a burning issue between the parties. The leading Democrats confess that "imperialism" is a burnt-out issue between the parties.

The present outlook is that if Mr. Bryan or some man approved by Mr. Bryan cannot be elected in 1904, no other Democrat will stand any chance of election. In other words, the Democratic party is ruled today by "Bryanism." The silver question has passed away, probably never to return until the advent of some terrible pinch of hard times, when it may reappear in the form of greenbackism, cheap paper, instead of cheap silver. But "Bryanism" stood for something beside "free silver"; it stood for populism, and this populism as expounded by Bryan is still a vital faith among the Democracy of the West and South. Mr. Bryan, or the forces of popular discontent represented by Mr. Bryan, cannot be eliminated; they are more likely completely to sway the Democracy than they are to be at present eliminated. "Bryanism" stood for a political revolution among the Democrats of the South and West, and this revolution has not yet begun to go backwards. Bryan is not a back number yet; it is the Eastern Democrats, like Gorman, Cleveland, Shepherd & Co., who will become back numbers before Bryan does, for, melancholy as may be the fact, nevertheless it is true that the only vitality of the Democratic party today is in "Bryanism."

This is the conclusion reached by leading Democrats at the East, who not only are not followers of "Bryanism," but who are resolutely against it and hate it. The views of these Eastern Democrats, who are experienced political observers, are at least plausible, for the reception obtained by Bryan in his recent New England tour was more enthusiastic than he obtained in 1896 and 1900. He made a very long speech at Nantasket, and yet he was the only man who did not exhaust the welcome of his audience. He is a very energetic man, a most able, artful popular demagogue, and he cannot be eliminated without his consent.

A GUARANTEE OF TITLE REQUIRED

The great legal minds of two nations are at work in Paris, trying to clear the Panama Canal title. Special Assistant Attorney-General Charles W. Russell is there making exhaustive research into the legal standing of the scheme the name of which stands for peculation and dishonor, and Attorney-General Knox and Senator Spooner are on the way over to assist in making the title clear, preparatory to the transfer of the property to the new owner. Perplexities in regard to the matter have multiplied as the search has proceeded. This is especially true in regard to reaching an understanding with the State of Colombia, where there are large expectations, but practically no government with which a responsible power can safely treat.

Soon after the Spooner bill was passed the various emissaries of the French company who came over to unload their undesirable property on the United States sailed for Paris, well content with their work. A hint was soon given out at the State Department that it might be necessary to have the French Government in some way guarantee the title. This suggestion is rapidly growing into conviction. In the opinion of American lawyers who are familiar wth international law, several of whom have looked into the matter with care, the United States Government should proceed cautiously and with approved judgment at every step before committing itself to the expenditure of $40,000,000 in this project. The Panama Canal as it now stands is at best but a scandal-ridden property that has ruined some thousands of people already and besmirched the name of the greatest of French engineers. Its title is liable to attack from many subtle points, and in many different ways. In this the Government can take no chances, and the opinion is growing that before the deal can be concluded the French Government will have to guarantee the title by legislation that will shut out future litigation.

The safest and best means to this end are now under discussion. It is understood that the French Government is anxious for the United States to take hold of the canal and build it. If this is true, it may not be difficult to secure legislative action that will confirm absolutely to the new Panama Canal Company the title, rights, privileges and franchises of the property on the Isthmus of Panama, which is now the subject of negotiations, and it is added that nothing less will satisfy the Administration. This is well. The United States wants an isthman canal, not a gigantic lawsuit, the plaintiffs in which may be a multitude of deceived, discredited dupes of the old Panama Canal Company. It wants conditions of peace and international harmony in which to prosecute the colossal undertaking of canal-building across the Isthmus of Panama, not the harassing delays of French courts and the possibility of war with France looming up in the background. If a mortgage is to be acquired, let its cancellation be absolutely provided for when the sum agreed upon is paid. A majority of the American people are loth to have anything to do with a property that has cost the French people so dearly, and the Administration will represent them faithfully in requiring a guarantee of title to this property by the French Government itself. More than this is not necessary; less will not be satisfactory.

The attitude of General Smith, author of the "kill and burn" order which has cost him his place on the active list of the Army, since his arrival at San Francisco three days ago exhibits him in a very good light. He has kept a close mouth, has refrained from any act or word implying anger or resentment, and, while plainly suffering from disappointment and humiliation, has carried himself with dignity. There is nothing to indicate that he is a vicious or a bad man, nothing but his own wild words in the order to "kill and burn" to indicate that he lacks humanity or good feeling. Probably the aid who told a San Francisco reporter the other day that in this order General Smith said more than he meant sized up the matter about right. The man probably, like many other man of really good purposes, has an excitable temperament, goes off at half-cock, so to speak, and lacks calmness and self-control in emergencies. Of course a man thus infirm, no matter how humane and kindly in his calmer moods, is not qualified for military command or, for authority in any form. The President was absolutely right to dismiss him from active service, from every standpoint.

Oregon is classed by President Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, with Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi and the Carolinas, as a state that has neglected to legislate upon child labor. The classification is no doubt correct statistically, but labor conditions in Oregon differ so vitally from those in the other states named that this state may well be dropped from the list, so far as any necessity for such legislation exists at present. In the states of the cotton belt children of tender years have been impressed into factories by the score and hundred, their idle, thriftless parents living upon their earnings, well content. More reliable than negro labor, deft and painstaking, these thin, sallow, underfed children of the poor whites of the South present a pitiable spectacle as they file in and out of the cotton mills. Nothing like this, or in any degree approaching it in similarity, exists in Oregon. The time may come, and doubtless will come, when such legislation is needed here, but no such need exists at this time. When it comes, an enlightened public sentiment will see that such legislation is forthcoming.

Dr. Eugene Grissom, once a well-known alienist and neurologist, committed suicide in his home in Washington, D. C., a few days ago. He is the second specialist of his class to become mentally unbalanced within a few weeks past, and his mental derangement and death represent a sad and pitiful ending of a career of humanity and honor in his profession. Dr. Grissom was for twenty years superintendent of the North Carolina Asylum for the Insane, and among lectures that gave him wide reputation as an alienist was one entitled "The Border Land of Insanity." Sad to say, he passed into and even beyond this "border land," ignoring the signals by which he had warned other men away, and perished a victim to narcotics.

A pathetic scene, indeed, was that presented by the venerable poet, Richard Henry Stoddard, blind and crippled with rheumatism so that he had to be supported by friends, as he stood at the grave of his wife in Sag Harbor cemetery Sunday and pronounced a eulogy upon her life. Who so well qualified as he to speak in life and in death of the gentle, womanly woman, herself also a poet, as the man who had walked close beside her during long, tuneful years? The theme was one that he had long carried in his heart, and he voiced it in trembling tones, his blind eyes streaming with tears. At once fitting, true and tender, his words were woven into threnody of unexcelled pathos and power.

Germs continue to make miserable the lives of enlightened human beings who are fain to make the most of conveniences of the age in which they live. Now we are told that the street-cars are active and pernicious carriers of germs, and now are warned of the possibilities of infection that lurk in the berths of palace cars, and again it has been discovered that the speaking tube of the telephone is the habitat of invisible foes to health and life. Truly, it has come about that only they who pass serenely on their way, believing that no one dies until his time comes, are about all who stand any chance of living out their days unvexed by lurking possibilities of death at every turn.

The death by drownng of the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Shaw, of this city, in Hood River Saturday evening, is one of the distressing incidents of the Summer outing. An accident against which, as far as can be judged from the report of the occurrence, prudence could not prevail, the distressed parents have the sympathy of the large number with whom the Summer camping fever has become epidemic. It was one of those painful domestic tragedies for which no one was to blame.

"Fast Color."

The negro sprinter had just won the race.

"That," said the facetious spectator, "is what I call fast color."

UNIONISM AND THE EMPLOYER.

San Francisco Bulletin.

While much discussion of trades unionism has been had in print and on the platform one striking and valid argument, appealing directly to the self-interest of employers, has been slurred. Charles A. Murdock, of San Francisco, a well-known employing printer, if he is not the inventor of the argument, at least gave it clear and effectual expression in the Western Printer last October.

Deploring the sharpness of competition in the printing business—a competition which, he wrote, had greatly diminished profits and damaged the trade—Mr. Murdock remarked that "the measure of stability we enjoy we must place to the credit of our employes, and cannot in any manner claim it as the result of our own effort. I wish to express my conviction that we owe the Typographical Union more than we are accustomed to acknowledge." Mr. Murdock said that competition had forced many printing houses to hire girls and boys to do cheaply work which in other houses was done by men at fair wages. By this means prices had been brought so low that many firms, though busy all the time, were making little or no profit. They had to take work at cost or below cost in order to prevent their trade from being stolen away by cheap-John rivals. Printers in giving estimates used to be perplexed because they had either to pare prices to the quick or see jobs go to other offices. The Typographical Union had checked the downward progress of prices, and by establishing a uniform rate of pay for labor had preserved the equality of opportunity and checked the demoralization that follows the forcing of labor to its lowest price—had dulled the too-sharp edge of competition. Mr. Murdock wrote:

"I believe the advantages of an equal standard of pay are so great that we can afford to be patient, even when they (the union) are unreasonable and arbitrary. And in the matter of apprentices some strong control is necessary, or a fair office is at a tremendous disadvantage. I believe that it is our best policy to be friendly to our employes and to their organization whenever we can; to do all in our power to influence them to wise and judicious action, and to resist them only when they are clearly wrong and impose upon us restrictions they have no right to make, and to which we cannot in honor submit."

Competition, when normal and healthy, is the life of trade, but when it becomes too active and feverish it produces death. To combat the evil of excessive competition, an evil felt alike by master and man, the employers formed trusts and the employes unions so that the two movements, so hostile to each other, are twin children of one mother and have the same end in view. It has been said in argument that trades unions were nothing less than labor trusts. The retort is obvious that trusts are employers' unions and that if it is right and fair for employers to organize it is right and fair for workmen to organize.

Murdock applied his argument to the printing trade only, but no doubt it applies with equal force to all trades, and it seems strange that the spokesmen for trades unionism have not made much use of it. Resistance to trades unionism is founded mostly on selfishness, and if employers can be convinced that unionism will help their business they soon will yield.

STATE AND CHURCH IN FRANCE.

Chicago Evening Post.

Serious and dangerous agitation seems to have followed the administrative order of the new French Premier, Combes, against the schools of the "unauthorized congregations." The dispatches state that the order affects 2500 Roman Catholic schools, throwing out 6000 masters and depriving 150,000 children of the sort of education desired by their families. This would certainly appear to the impartial observer as a radical and inexpedient course. So far the police has been able to cope with the rioters who are opposing the rigorous application of the law directed against the anti-republican religious orders, but the trouble may easily assume an acute form and became a positive menace to the present Government.

Premier Combes naturally pleads that he is bound to enforce the law. The orders had ample warning and plenty of time in which to apply for authorization. They were evidently misled by bad advice and incompetent guidance. Their Nationalist friends in the Chamber of Deputies and outside must have assured them that the so-called associations law would never be rigorously enforced, and that a Combes, obscure and weak, would not venture to do what the strong Waldeck-Rousseau had shown no intention of doing. This, indeed, has been the superficial opinion, but the deeper students of the French situation are not surprised at the present turn of affairs.

If the law is ambiguous, it is not only expedient, but right and necessary to give the orders and the schools the benefit of the doubt, for this policy is manifestly dictated by the principle of liberty and religious toleration. Combes, his associates and the new Parliamentary majority evidently hold that no such uncertainty as the clericals allege exists in the law, and that the Government is constrained to enforce it in spirit and to the letter.

Premier Combes is in truth between the devil and the deep sea. His majority is composed of Radicals, extreme Republicans, Socialists and ardent anti-Clericals. These groups insist upon remorseless execution of the law, and applaud the Premier. Should he waver, the majority would go to pieces, especially as there is dissatisfaction with the conservative policy of his Finance Minister. His followers "love him for the enemies he has made." On the other hand, he must reckon with the beliefs and sentiments of the people in the clerical strongholds. The expulsion of the masters and nuns, the closing of the Catholic schools by brute force, may provoke grave disturbances. President Loubet has promised peace and reconciliation. Is Premier Combes living up to that promise?

A Persian Dinner.

Chicago News.

A traveler in Persia thus describes a dinner served in the household of a wealthy Persian: "The chief dish consists of a fowl boiled to rags, surrounded by a toothsome mass of rice, hard-boiled eggs, fried onions, almonds and raisins. There is a Shiraz wine, clear, golden-red liquid that has traveled over the mountain passes on muleback in a huge glass carboy. Among the dessert manna has a conspicuous place. This delicacy is somewhat akin to nougat; it is studded with walnuts and almonds, and is jaw-sticking to the last degree. Like the mango, it is best eaten in private, for it renders the masticator speechless. It is made of gum that exudes from a tree, and is said to be engendered by a worm."

Leonard Tarries Long.

Sir Walter Scott.

The sun upon the lake is low,
The wild birds hush their song,
The hills have evening's deepest glow,
Yet Leonard tarries long.
Now all whom varied toil and care
From home and love divide,
In the calm sunset may repair
Each to the loved one's side.

The noble dame, on turret high,
Who waits her gallant knight,
Looks to the western beam to spy
The flash of armor bright.
The village maid, with hand to brow,
The level ray to shade,
Upon the footpath watches now
For Colin's darkening plaid.

Now to their mates the wild swans row,
By day they swam apart,
And to the thicket wanders slow
The hind beside the hart.
The woodlark at his partner's side
Twitters his closing song—
All meet whom day and car divide,
But Leonard tarries long!

FRANCHISES IN PHILIPPINES.

New York Journal of Commerce.

Action was taken by Congress in the Philippine civil government bill, in regard to the granting of corporation franchises in the Philippines, which may attract more attention in the future than it has yet received in the United States. The provision to which we refer is as follows:

That all franchises, privileges, or concessions granted under this act * * * in the case of public service corporations shall provide for the effective regulation of the charges thereof for the official inspection and regulation of the books and accounts of such corporations, and for the payment of a reasonable percentage of gross earnings into the treasury of the Philippine Islands, or of the province or municipality within which such franchises are granted and exercised.

This provision authorizes as complete and sweeping a regulation of trusts, so far as they affect transportation, heating and lighting companies, as Representative Littlefield or the most ardent advocate of publicity could desire. The provision that the Government of the Philippine Islands may levy a tax upon gross earnings, coupled with the authority to provide for the regulation of books and accounts, authorizes the government to prescribe the exact method of keeping accounts in order to determine what are the gross earnings of a corporation, and what relation they should bear to the amount paid into the public treasury.

This provision, if carried out by the Government of the Philippine Islands, will afford the opportunity for an interesting experiment in the regulation of corporations. The government of the islands start, in the matter of franchises, with a slate substantially clean. They will be able to prescribe in advance the conditions which shall govern new corporations, and their action will not be hampered, as it would be in any state of the old Union, by the conflict of vested interests and established customs. There will be an opportunity upon the arena of our new possessions to test in an effective manner the benefits of publicity and the results of requiring public service corporations to divide with the state a part of the profits resulting from the privileges which have been conferred by the state. It might have been better in some respects to have followed the original provision of the House bill, giving discretion to the Philippine Government to exact "a reasonable percentage of gross earnings or of net profits." With full authority to prescribe the methods of bookkeeping, a levy upon net profits might have been made more equitable than the proposed levy upon gross earnings, but nothing in the act requires the assessment upon gross profits to be uniform in different communities or under different conditions, or prevents the Philippine Government from reserving the right to modify the percentage in case profits prove to be larger or smaller than may be anticipated when the privilege is granted. This authority to exact a proportion of the earnings has been applied upon a considerable scale by the Governments of France, Belgium and Germany in the recent extensions of the charters of the banks of issue in those countries. It is not, therefore, a revolutionary form of legislation, but it affords a better solution than many others which have been suggested of the equitable partition between corporations and the public of the benefits of valuable franchises.

The Republican majority in the two houses of Congress is entitled in some degree to the credit of having afforded the opportunity to test in our new possessions this principle of retaining for the State a part of the benefits of public franchises. The provision was originally drawn at the War Department with the sanction of Secretary Root, but was somewhat modified in passing through the two houses. The original measure of the War Department conformed in regard to the division of earnings to the House bill that the division might be applied to net profits as well as to gross earnings. In either form it represents a courageous measure of public policy presented voluntarily by one of the most clear-headed and far-sighted members of the official family of President Roosevelt; sanctioned, without any serious pressure from without, by the committees of the two houses charged with Philippine affairs, including many of the leaders of the dominant party in each house; and adopted finally, without serious dissent, by the party in control of the Government. It is possible that the Republicans will find in this experimental measure in the Philippines a valuable means of demonstrating to the people their sincerity in desiring to restrict corporate greed, so far as it can be done, without injury to reasonable economic freedom and to the prosperity of the country.

IRELAND'S CONTRIBUTION TO US

St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

There is a tragic significance in those final figures which have just been sent to Parliament, giving the population movement of Ireland for the past half century. According to those figures more than 3,000,000 people have emigrated from Ireland from 1851 to 1901, and 80 per cent of these have come to the United States. Everybody on both sides of the Atlantic knew that the movement from Ireland to this country in the past few decades had been large, but probably not many, unless they made a study of immigration figures, would have guessed that it was so great as this.

But these figures do not represent the full extent of the movement since it began to take on large proportions. The emigration, in the volume in which it has attracted the world's attention, began with the potato famine of 1846. More persons emigrated from Ireland in the years between 1847 and 1851 than in the same length of time after that date, and, as ever afterward, most of them came to the United States. At the present time the contributions to America's population which Ireland makes is comparatively small, being only 29,000 in the fiscal year ended three weeks ago, as against 50,000 last year and 76,000 in 1882, when the aggregate immigration from Europe was at its highest, but not when Ireland's own contribution to it was at its largest figure. The immigration figures for Germany, however, have been reduced in a far greater degree in the 20 years named, for, while Germany's immigrants numbered 250,000 in 1882, they were down to 28,000 in the year just ended.

The exodus from Ireland has been far greater in proportion to population than has taken place from any other country of any consequence in modern times. Along till 1841 every decennial census showed an increase in Ireland's population, which was about 8,200,000 in that year, but the total was down to 6,575,000 in 1851. The reduction occurred in the last four years of that decade. Probably at the end of 1846 Ireland's population was close to 8,400,000. Starvation, deaths from other causes, aggravated by hunger, together with the exodus which took place, cut the population down 1,825,000 in four years. The decline has been continuous to this day, the population in 1901 being 4,456,546. Ireland's total is now below that of Scotland, and is not much over half of what it was in 1846. No other country of the world of the past few centuries has such a tragic story to tell as this.

Constancy.

Sir Charles Sedley.

Not, Celia, that I juster am
Or better than the rest;
For I would chance each hour, like them,
Were not my heart at rest.

But I am tied to very thee
By every thought I have;
Thy face I only care to see,
Thy heart I only crave.

All that in woman is adored
In thy dear self I find—
For the whole sex can but afford
The handsome and the kind.

Why, then, should I seek further store,
And still make love anew?
When change itself can give no more,
'Tis easy to be true.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Portland can play ball with the tail-enders, anyhow.

There are plenty of queens who won't reign over the Carnival.

A cocktail has been named after Tracy. The reason is it needs a chaser.

A man may kill time, but he kills no more than fate allows him.

Dewey says he is an amateur in politics, but he wasn't always even that.

Lewis and Clark could have chosen a site without half so much trouble.

Will somebody please tell the Lewis and Clark board just what it does want?

Talking about "harmony," where can the discord be when Bryan is making all the music?

Tracy is remarkable in more ways than one. He passed by Seattle and didn't get skinned.

It is rather unfortunate if the fireboat and fair site are each waiting for the other to move first.

Even if Chicago gravediggers are on a strike, it is a comfort to know that St. Peter is always on duty.

If the unruly factions of the Democratic party would only consent to be governed they might be benevolently assimilated.

It is said that King Edward desires to hurry up the coronation in order not to give Poet Laureate Austin another chance.

General "Hell Roaring Jake" Smith has opened his lips and spoken gently. Chastisement evidently has had quick effect on him.

Bryan was in the enemy's country a short time ago, but forgot the heaven-born ratio. Evidently he is learning to respect his enemies.

Emperor William has bestowed on J. Pierpont Morgan the insignia of the order of the Red Egle. The eagle is a bird both of freedom and of prey.

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt is clawing and scratching. She says nearly all men are criminals. The lady is president of the National Woman Suffrage Association. It is perhaps due to her to say that the name came from her husband, but for all that she seems to have found just the right man.

Odessa, Wash., Society note: Mr. H. Tracy, formerly a distinguished resident of Oregon's capital, is sojourning here, after a flying trip across the mountains. The only ailment he complains of is a bad attack of gout. Until he has recovered he will gladly give all information of his whereabouts, in order that he may not meet the posse.

"Holy smoke!" exclaimed Mr. Hard Fist. "You back again?"

The genteel Lewis and Clark man put on his best face. "May we not look to you to help out the fair?"

"No; it's a fake!"

"What, the fair a fake?"

"Yes, sir, a fake."

"Do you mean to say that 15 leading men of the City of Portland are fakers—men who are widely known for their integrity, their honesty, their devotion to this object?"

Well, no; he didn't mean that. But after a deal of hemming and hawing he admitted that he meant he was too stingy to bear his share of the common burden which all public-spirited citizens have assumed. This species of man is limited in number in Portland, but it subsists. Some of its representatives own old shacks right in the heart of the city and refuse to replace them with good buildings. Is a man who declines to join with his fellow-citizens in a great public purpose, who feeds upon the substance that social life makes possible—is such a man a parasite on the community? In primitive society the individual that outcasts himself succumbs by divine or natural rule. Let us hope the Lord's hand has not waxed short in modern communal life.

Summer visitors at Clatsop have complained of the unusual number of fleas abounding there. Whether or not the vermin prevail there more than any other place would be a good question for some bugologist to determine. If it is true, as we used to hear in our childhood, that fleas have been known to live 99 years, it is easy enough to account for the insects that disturb the serenity of Summer life at Clatsop. When Lewis and Clark visited Clatsop Beach, 97 years ago next Winter, the place was highly infested with fleas. Captain Clark spent the night of December 9, 1805, in an Indian village at the mouth of the Necanicum River. "I was attacked most violently by the fleas," he records seriously in his journal, "and they kept up a close siege during the night." Lewis and Clark encountered more fleas in this Northwest country than in all the region they explored. The insects were known to drive Indians out of villages. The natives moved periodically from one location to another in order to leave the fleas behind to starve out. Sometimes they would soak the materials of their houses in ponds or lakes until they came back. At the portages of the Columbia the pest was especially troublesome. "The fleas, with which we had contracted an intimacy at the Falls, are so unwilling to leave us that the men are obliged to throw off all their clothes, in order to release themselves of the persecution," runs the journal in one place, and in another: "During the portage the men were obliged to strip to the skin in order to brush them from their bodies. They were not, however, so easily dislodged from our clothes, and accompanied us in great numbers to our camp."

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

"I don't know whether she sings or not." "You would if you heard her."—Puck.

"What are you doing there, may I awsk?" "I'm pruning." "But, my good man, isn't it rawther early for prunes?"—Life.

Our leading novelist was run over by a railroad train Thursday morning. He hopes to get enough out of the road in damages to enable him to publish his new book.—Atlanta Constitution.

Father (impressively)—Suppose I should be taken away suddenly, what would become of you, my boy? Irreverent Son—I'd stay here. The question is, what would become of you?—Tit-Bits.

Phenomenon.—Popleigh—I'm awfully proud of that boy of mine. Simpkins—Unusually intelligent, eh? Popleigh—Yes; he is 8 years old and hasn't made a single bright remark.—Chicago Daily News.

Practical.—"The Kaiser is going to decorate 200 Americans who aided in entertaining his wandering brother." "How useless! Why doesn't he do something of a practical character, and give each of them a ton of hard coal?"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Working Him.—Borroughs—Say, old man, can you break a 20, so I can get a $5 bill out of it? Markley—Sure; here you are. Where's your 20? Borroughs—Oh, you misunderstood me. I thought you had a 20. Thanks! One five will do."—Philadelphia Press.