

The Oregonian.

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TODAY'S WEATHER—Partly cloudy, with moderate temperatures. Southwest to northwest winds.

PORTLAND, THURSDAY, AUGUST 14.

WAS IT NOT A MISTAKE?

The rebellion and civil war in Colombia may have the result of forcing our efforts for an isthmian canal back upon Nicaragua.

During a long period, indeed the greater part of a century, the people and Government of the United States have had under consideration the construction of a canal at Nicaragua.

From New York to the eastern entrance of the Nicaragua Canal the distance is 321 miles from the western entrance of the canal to San Francisco the distance is 2776 miles, and to Portland 3219 miles.

The Oregonian believes that it was unwise act on the part of our Congress to give the preference to Panama over Nicaragua.

PROSPEROUS LAND OF WILLAMETTE.

The reports of diminished grain yield in the Willamette Valley, particularly of wheat, are cause for rejoicing rather than for repining.

plus of wheat when it can apply its energies to much better advantage in other directions? And the day may come when it will do better to import its bread than grow it.

There is richness in the soil of this season. Probably the Willamette Valley could market its product for \$3,000,000 or more.

SENATOR SPOONER'S UNIQUE POSITION.

No other man of this generation has occupied the place in government of the United States that Senator John C. Spooner holds today, and it may be doubted that any other man ever held his unique position.

In a notable article on this remarkable man, contributed by Walter Wellington to the August number of the Review of Reviews, the secret of Senator Spooner's great success is partially revealed in this statement:

In Congress, as everywhere, the tendency toward specialization. Senators take up one or another, become as proficient as possible in that one subject.

All this is characteristic of Senator Spooner at every stage of his career. He has never engendered suspicion. He was attorney for a rich railroad in Wisconsin before his election to the United States Senate in 1855.

Part of Spooner's greatness is that he does not pose. He probably knows his strength, but he makes no spectacle of it. What other statesman have we had since the day of Lincoln who was so absolutely content with well-doing?

French Republic. Out of Brittany came several of the famous leaders of the royalist conspiracies against Napoleon.

THE RECEPTION OF THE BOERS.

On Saturday next the Boer Generals Botha, Dewet and De la Rive will arrive at Southampton and will be officially welcomed by the Colonial Office.

The Boer Generals are honorable men, quiet, sober, intelligent and self-restrained. They have not consented to make peace without due reflection, and they do not need to have bouquets thrown to them to persuade them to keep the peace they have made.

John Bull has his faults; but on the whole he likes a brave, able and honorable foe. The British soldiers and sailors treated Bonaparte with most profound respect and admiration during the voyage to St. Helena.

Last week the Catholic Total Abstinence Union held its thirty-first annual convention at Dubuque, Ia., having been organized at Baltimore in 1872.

The protest of a correspondent against having carpets and rugs cleaned upon a public street corner is well based. There is an ordinance that forbids this practice, if we mistake not.

West Teaching Wall Street. New York letter in Philadelphia Press. No one here pretends to say that the Western continent has exceeded its rights so far, or that it has done anything which has the appearance of illegality.

FRANCE AND CHURCH SCHOOLS.

It is not surprising that there is some resistance in Brittany against the closing of the schools under the provisions of the religious associations law of the French Republic.

Intelligent Roman Catholics say that the harshest enforcement of French law is better than the condition of Catholicism in this country.

The French Republic does not authorize all the congregations, but those authorized are not treated in an arbitrary manner. For thirty years the Baden Catholics have been demanding the return of the male religious orders, but in vain.

The present House has a membership of 351, with a Republican majority of 175. It will consist of 386 members under the new apportionment.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat. The inglorious ending of the career of the convict and outlaw Tracy by suicide effectively deprived him of a place in the pantheon of crime.

An Estimate of Tracy. St. Louis Globe-Democrat. The inglorious ending of the career of the convict and outlaw Tracy by suicide effectively deprived him of a place in the pantheon of crime.

A Peer's Serenity. London News. Mr. W. L. Jackson, M. P., who now becomes a peer, is remarkable for a slow, measured utterance and an imperturbable composure.

The Fleece Fleeced. Life. "You have been victimized," we say to the honest rustic who is proudly displaying the gold brick he has brought home from the city.

Decay of British Society. London Rambler. Fifty years ago London society was select. Conversation was an art cultivated most carefully.

On Woman. When lovely woman stoops to folly—And finds too late that men betray—What charm can soothe her melancholy? What art can wash her guilt away?

What Did He Expect? "This suit didn't fit me at all," complained the customer, dropping in at the shop the next day.

THE DIRECT PRIMARY.

The Springfield Republican prints the following letter from a correspondent in Minneapolis:

"Some time since I sought to restrain my friends from an undue interest in connection with the new primary election and nominating invention which this town had the distinction of originating and giving its first trial.

"When the results of the primaries were made known, we were all well re-nominated for one county office a salaried office against whom a suit was pending for appropriating some \$10,000 of fees illegally.

Puritanism in Literature. Macmillan Magazine. What has been the influence of the Puritan on American literature as a whole? If yet but half developed, this literature certainly exists, and the first and most powerful influence which has molded it.

A Lincoln Story. Chicago News. One day in the Summer of 1857 Abraham Lincoln was sitting in his office when he was visited by one of his neighbors, an excellent farmer, but one inclined to increase the size of his crops even after harvesting.

PEASONS WORTH KNOWING ABOUT. Adeline Pratt is among those who engaged seats for the Wagner performances at Bayreuth this month.

Two Late. "Doubtless, Douglas, he died and true." Dinah Maria Mulock Craik. In the old times that I knew, a young man called Douglas.

Never a scornful word should give you; I'd smile on you sweet as the angels do; Sweet as your smile on me should ever be. Douglas, Douglas, tender and true.

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THE CABLE AGREEMENT.

Chicago Post. Congress made no mistake when it rejected the bill for an American Government cable to Hawaii, China and the Philippines.

The proposition of the Pacific Cable Company, as modified by the Attorney-General and the President, insures indefinitely better terms and conditions than a Government cable could possibly have involved.

On the other hand, the company binds itself to complete the system by January 1, 1903, in the cable, and to give priority only to Government business.

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

It never rains in Oregon in dry weather. No hat is too disreputable-looking to be a Panama.

Tracy has been identified; but have any of his pictures? The Boers are to be lionized—with the British lion outside.

Kitchener is now a hero. That's nothing. Just remember Lord Roberts. Wonder if the Lewis and Clark board is looking for a site up Salt Creek?

Another of Abraham Lincoln's close friends has died, but that does not diminish the number.

Of course, the Haytian cable hasn't been cut. How could there be a revolution in Hayti without it?

"Baffled, but not beaten," may take a man no nearer the north pole than the Presidency. Ask Bryan.

We trust that the Fair site, the freeboat and the Alaska steamship line are not among the junk items.

If to be a private citizen is the highest honor of an American, just think to what degradation Bryan has stooped.

The mail is fast, the telephone is faster, but swearing is instantaneous, and even then you have to wait for central for an answer.

The only way to reduce armaments is by means of more armaments. It is a simple question of survival of the strongest armaments.

Union coat strikers were reported as having resolved to cut off the ears of "scabs." But would they make their victims deaf to reason?

Perhaps the farther off we go for a Fair site the better. But it was the knocker who said that distance would lend enchantment.

We find that neither the farmers nor the railroads are to blame, so, of course, it must be the exporters. Yes, let's give it to the exporters.

Some I-told-you-so hopgrowers would not have been so wise had prices gone down instead of up—or perhaps they would have been wiser.

It is said that Fumston did not swim the river. Now we understand how he was a hero and let others talk about it. The mystery is cleared up.

Although Citizen Bryan is not a candidate, he would have the party know that it shall have no other candidate before him. Everybody who wanted to keep off his sphere of influence.

The Boston Transcript declares that there have been "too many expositions, and that the country has had a surfeit of them." Perhaps we shall be saying the same thing after our Lewis and Clark affair is over.

Four American teachers in Cuba have been killed by the natives. Evidently the natives have the making of good citizens. Of course, they went beyond the limit of the American youth, but they will learn better by benevolent assimilation.

If Governor Geer could think of a way to bolt down those votes that were marked (mechanically) for him on the Australian ballot into votes for Geer on the roll-call in the joint session of the Legislature, he doubtless would be getting the pot ready for the fire. But those votes are too substantial for inspiration.

The Standard Oil Company threatens to move its big tanks from Portland if the city crowds it outside the city. Of course, such a threat is a stunning one. If the City of Portland should burn up altogether, it wouldn't matter, for we should still have the Standard Oil Company with us. By all means don't let the company move out, even if it threatens to do so.

Cuba submitted to the Platt amendment limiting its independence on condition that the United States give trade concessions. The United States has broken the agreement, but persists in keeping Cuba under the thumb of the United States in a nutshell. Cuba, of course, owes everything to Uncle Sam, but that does not excuse Uncle Sam's failure to live up to his contract.

Treachery and murder of our soldiers in the Island of Mindanao, with every circumstance of atrocity and horror, are again retailed as if such acts, an outrage goes up over our pseudo-philanthropic ants. Cruelties doubtless have been committed by our soldiers, in retaliation for acts a hundred times more numerous and atrocious which they and friendly natives have suffered, but in almost every state of this enlightened and compassionate country lynchings have been reported within recent years more horrible than anything charged against our soldiers in the Philippines. The forbearance and humanity of our soldiers, under trying circumstances, have been great, indeed.

PLEASANTNESS OF PARAGRAPHS

His Object.—(Climax)—I see you raise your own vegetables. Suburbane! No! I simply plant a small garden so as to keep the chickens at home.