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TODAY'S WEATHER—Generally fair and slightly warmer; southwest to northwest winds.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 67; minimum temperature, 56; precipitation, none.

PORTLAND, FRIDAY, AUG. 22, 1902.

PRESIDENT AND TARIFF.

Walter Wellman telegraphs the Chicago Record-Herald that President Roosevelt and his Cabinet are opposed to tariff revision at this time, because they fear that tariff agitation might involve commercial disaster and menace Republican success in 1904. The President, he says, "is very eager to win the Presidency by means of a regular nomination and election. He does not wish to go down in history as a mere accidental President. As tariff revision would, in his opinion, involve risks which it is unwise for the country to take, he feels that he is not wholly selfish in the attitude he now assumes."

All of which may be true or not, and may be partly true and partly false. The St. Paul Pioneer Press, for one, "feels warranted in taking the full responsibility for the counter statement that the President has authorized no announcement of the sort," and undertakes farther to say that the President's tariff views have undergone no modification since he indicated them to Congress as against wholesale tariff revision, but in favor of prompt modification wherever necessary for the general good.

It is important to eliminate all ground of error here through confusion of terms. It is idle to rail against "tariff revision" and demand "tariff modification." It is folly to speak of "general revision" in the sense of implying a change in the whole tariff or even a new tariff bill. It is specious to attempt to answer demands for tariff revision with the assertion that only minor amendments are needed, for that is all that tariff revisionists contend for. Whoever should declare militantly that President Roosevelt and his Cabinet are opposed to the outcry for a wholesale recast of the Dingley schedules would be merely knocking down a man of straw of his own make, for tariff revisionists propose no such thing. If this is borne in mind, it is easy to reduce Mr. Wellman's sensation to the dimensions of a hot-weather spasm in the direction of making news where none exists.

The demand for tariff revision is not for a new law or a revolution in the Dingley schedules; but it is for the correction of inequalities and the remedy of abuses. To this demand there is no adequate answer in principle or policy. The McKinley law lived four years until the Wilson law came in, and the Wilson law lived only three years till the Dingley law came in. Throughout this period of seven years the conditions of our trade and manufacture were measurably stationary. But the Dingley law will be six years in operation before this Congress adjourns, and within its life our domestic manufactures and foreign trade have undergone changes of such moment as to transform them utterly in their domestic bearing and their world significance.

That is to say, the rise of our manufactures and the development of our industrial trusts and the acquisition of our tropic possessions have conspired to make of the Dingley law an anachronism. The duties for 1897 are not the duties for 1902. Everybody knows this, and nobody knows it better than the protected trusts and their political employes who are now seeking in every possible means to stem the rising tide of tariff reform sentiment in the Republican party. The schedules that need reforming are few, but they are of the last importance. They concern chiefly iron and steel, sugar, starch, paper, salt, tinplate, rubber and machinery. Some of these duties should be lowered and some of them should be abolished. It is no answer to the urgency of their reformation to say that certain other schedules should not be disturbed. It is not a pertinent answer, a convincing or an honest. It impeaches the intelligence and the sincerity of whoever makes it.

We are disposed to take it for granted that President Roosevelt and his Cabinet know these things, but so far as the irresistibility of the tariff reform demand is concerned, it makes little difference whether they do or not. The people will not consent to farther benefaction, at public expense, of protected trusts that wring from domestic consumers the wherewithal to invade Europe with starvation prices. The people will no longer bow the knee at the bidding of fat high priests of protection around the tariff Baal. The Republicans of the country are speaking through their state conventions and their nominations for Congress. There is no committee chairman or president who can thwart their will.

President Roosevelt will receive a larger popular vote in 1904 and carry more states if this Congress reforms the Dingley schedules than if it adjourns next Spring without doing so. Justice and expediency are on the same side. It is a case where honesty is the best policy.

ALGER AND THE SENATE.

It will hardly be claimed, even by the personal adherents of General Alger, that his election to the United States Senate would contribute to the efficiency of that body. He has none of the personal qualifications which make a man useful in the Senate; he is neither a practical legislator, a man of enlightening knowledge, nor a man of forcible public address. He has neither the activities of youth nor the wisdom which gives weight and value to age. He is, at his best, nothing better than a politician whose successes have been won wholly by his wealth and whose failures have in several notable instances involved the country in humiliating scandals.

General Alger seeks election to the Senate, not upon any theory of public serviceability, but as a man with a smirched record anxious for such "vindication" as an election would give him and eager for opportunity to "get back" at those whom he regards as his enemies. His election, instead of giving to the Senate a working and useful member and his state an effective representative, would be in effect to revive an outworn and wearisome contention over matters better forgotten than remembered, to intrude an aggressive and unpleasant personal motive into the business of legislation wherever it might touch even remotely upon the Alger grievance, to promote inharmony, to balk rather than aid the work of the Senate.

There is no figure in the larger politics of the country so persistently irritating and mischievous as the seeker after "vindication." Personal vanity is the real basis of every such appeal, for the "vindication" demanded is invariably of a kind calculated to yield the pleasure which comes to small minds through the engrossment of "honors" and the humiliation of rivals. At best it is the intrusion of a personal interest into relations where the public interest only should be considered. It matters not to the seeker for "vindication" that his case has little or no bearing upon the legitimate purposes and ends of politics, that it will tend to reopen old sores and stir up sleeping or forgotten animosities, that it may work to the confusion and passion of politics and of the large public interests which rest upon politics. These things are nothing to him, for in his conceit he imagines his personal interest—which oftener than otherwise is merely another name for his vanity and malice—more important than any other motive in public affairs.

It is bad enough when a state permits its home politics to be debauched by the private motives of its politicians. But in cases of this kind it is commonly urged that the penalty is suffered by those who are at fault, and that it does not concern the country at large; and while this is only half true, it serves measurably to disarm criticism. It is, however, quite another matter when a state comes to make up its representation in the National counsels, for here it lies under obligations to its sister states. No state has the moral right in its selection of a Senator to "vindicate" a politician at the cost of the country at large, to deliberately inflict upon the Senate a member whose presence will be a challenge to contention and an inevitable source of reactionary discussion and personal discord. It is due from Michigan that in filling the seat of the late Senator McMillan she send a man whose character and record shall not of themselves raise a personal issue and tend to the embarrassment rather than to the promotion of legislation.

CREDULITY OF ABLE MEN.

A week ago Luther R. Marsh, a famous lawyer and a partner of Daniel Webster, died at Middletown, N. Y., in the 90th year of his age. Up to about 1880, when he became infatuated with modern spiritism, Mr. Marsh was regarded as among the exceptionally able men of the New York bar. He had acquired a very large fortune in the practice of his profession; he wrote editorials for the New York Times, and contributed to many periodicals. But after he became interested in spiritism he was the credulous dupe of vulgar mountebanks, one of whom, Ann Diss Debar, an adventuress who pretended to be the daughter of the King of Bavaria by Lola Montez, for a time completely controlled him. Mr. Marsh presented to her his home on Madison avenue, with a request that she make it a temple of spiritualism. She produced a large number of spook pictures for him. His great fortune began to melt away, but his partner instituted proceedings against the woman, who was convicted of conspiracy and sent to the Tombs for six months. She was compelled to deed back to Mr. Marsh his home. The woman is now in prison in London.

Mr. Marsh then moved to Middletown, N. Y., where he lived with Mrs. Huyler, a medium. He took all his spook pictures and spirit communications with him. Mrs. Huyler and her husband nominally received Mr. Marsh as a free guest, but he rebuilt their house and paid for the family meals, so that his "free lunch" was more in pretense than in fact. Throughout this period Mrs. Huyler continued to communicate with the spirit world. She obtained for him among other matter a new epistle from St. Paul. There Mr. Marsh remained for many years. Mrs. Huyler died several years ago, and Mr. Marsh had sometimes expressed himself as troubled that she had sent him no message from the spirit world. He continued to live with Mr. Huyler, lavished money upon him, and Huyler was always reluctant to let anybody outside of Middletown talk with his venerable charge.

These facts are interesting because they illustrate how able men are sometimes duped by their own credulity. Mr. Marsh had been engaged all his life in the practice of a profession which makes its devotees familiar with the existence of persons who practice duplicity and fraud as a fine art to feather their own nests. He belonged to a profession whose experience is believed to develop the judicial faculty, to increase the capacity for discriminating truth from falsehood, and yet this able lawyer, when he was but 65 years of age and still in high legal repute and practice, fell a victim to his own credulity. He was not only an able and learned lawyer, but he was an exceedingly intelligent and well-read man in general literature.

At the time of his infatuation with Ann Diss Debar, the ablest members of the New York bar testified that, outside of his strange and ridiculous infatuation for this spirit adventuress, the intellect and memory of Mr. Marsh appeared to be well preserved. He was a psychological curiosity, even as was Judge Edmonds, another very able lawyer of New York City, who became infatuated with spirit mediums; his brain was evidently not diseased, for he survived the Diss Debar episode more than fifteen years. He simply had a "bee in his bonnet," as some men of unquestionable genius, like Swedenborg and William Blake, the artist-poet, had all their days. He was always a man of pure life, a philanthropist, and philanthropists are notoriously men of extreme credulity.

The great naval hero, Nelson, was the tool and fool of a low adventuress, who had been a corrupt woman all her days. It would not be difficult to multiply many other brilliant illustrations of the fact that "confidence" men and women not seldom make fools of superior men by playing on their credulity. Millerism, Mormonism, modern spiritism and Christian Science are illustrations of successful appeals to human credulity, and they have all doubtless included among their votaries some persons of superior ability and character.

A MINORITY PLEADS FOR JUSTICE.

Professor Andrew Sledd, of Emory College, Ga., has tendered his resignation because of the popular condemnation of an article he wrote and printed in the Atlantic Monthly concerning the condition of the colored people in the South. Professor Sledd is a Southerner by birth and training. In this article he severely blames the white people of the South because the negro is universally treated with contempt and disrespect, whether he is ignorant and worthless or is an educated and worthy representative of the colored race. Professor Sledd also denounces lynching, and argues that disfranchisement for illiteracy should be applied impartially to both races. Professor Sledd has resigned in order that the college might not be injured by his further connection with it, and the Richmond Times says that "he has no business to be instructing Southern youth." Among the statements made by Professor Sledd in his article was the declaration that fully 50 per cent of the men lynched at the South today are entirely innocent of crime.

Two negroes were recently lynched for murder in West Virginia. It now turns out the unfortunate victims of the mob's rage were innocent. Recently a man and a woman near Wetumpka, Ala., were tried for instigating the lynching of a negro because he had some damaging knowledge about them. The Sheriff who arrested these Wetumpka lynchers said: "We have got to stop this thing in the interest of the white race. It has got so bad we can tolerate it no longer." Recently a mob took from the jail at Leesburg, Va., and hanged a negro murderer who was awaiting trial and was sure to be convicted and executed. The mob was composed largely of men of standing and education, who refused to hear the earnest appeals of preachers and laymen to let the law take its course. Judge Tebbs has charged the grand jury to investigate what he pronounced "a crime of unexampled magnitude in the community, and of far-reaching consequence, a reproach to our people and a foul blot on the hitherto unstained escutcheon of Loudoun County." The Richmond Times applauds the action of Judge Tebbs, and concludes: "It all comes back to this—either the law must be supreme or the mob will rule. At Leesburg, when the mob lynched Charles Craven, the flag of old Virginia went down in the dust and the black flag of the mob was held high." Not long since, in Eastern Mississippi, a white man was hanged for the murder of a negro, and in the same state a white man is now under sentence for the killing of a negro. A negro was recently exonerated by a Justice of the Peace in Mississippi of a serious charge made against him, and was defended by Mr. Montgomery, a prominent white Democrat, now candidate for Governor. Governor Longino, the present executive of Mississippi, is described by intelligent negroes of that state as an honest and just man, and perfectly fair in his dealings with blacks as well as whites.

These facts, collected from various sources, show that Professor Sledd's statements concerning the evil of the lynching habit were not extravagant, and they show also that this lawlessness is beginning to array against itself the public opinion of the highest class of men at the South—the lawyers, editors, teachers, Governors of states and preachers. Professor Sledd is a martyr to his freedom of speech. The storm that followed the publication of his article was the voice of wounded pride. The galled jade winced. This was to be expected of the majority of the South, but there is clearly an intelligent white minority that are not afraid to say with Professor Sledd that because the negro belongs to an inferior race is no reason why he should lose life, liberty or property except by due process of law. With the negro absolutely disfranchised, he ought in decent human justice to get as fair a trial for his life as a Chinaman or an Indian on the Pacific Slope.

ABANDONMENT OF THE MISSOURI RIVER.

There is serious talk on the part of the United States Engineers of abandoning the Missouri River as a commercial highway. The vagaries of this great stream, always difficult to deal with, have increased of late years until at last a point has been reached where in the opinion of the engineers the cost of maintaining navigable channels is not compensated by the commercial uses to which the river is put. The traffic of the Missouri River Basin, it is argued, does not now go by water as in earlier days. The railroads do the business, and will continue to do it, so practically it makes little difference whether the river channels are maintained or not.

From the standpoint of the engineers this argument is good, but it will hardly be thought so by the shippers of the Missouri River Basin. The business of the engineers is simply to deal with physical conditions, and from this view it is precisely as they say—the river serves almost no practical purpose, since very little use is made of it. But the shipper knows that the existence of the river is the basis of his strength with the railroads, whose rates are made with reference to it. He knows that the very month the river is abandoned the railroad people will get their heads together to see what advantage can be made of the elimination of the water competition; and he knows from the experience of other districts that the screws will be turned on hard just as soon as navigation shall become an impossibility. The country is full of instances of the influence exerted by water competition upon rail rates, and this being so, the people will never consent that the Missouri or any other navigable stream shall be abandoned.

The whole political power of the country through which the Missouri runs will, of course, be exerted in opposition to the recommendation of the engineers, and there can be no doubt as to the result. The river will not be abandoned, not if the cost of its maintenance were double what it is, and if never a craft furrowed its water. Its value lies in the effect which it exerts upon the railroads which operate in the field in proximity to it. This fact may not belong to engineering calculations, but it is firmly fixed in the general public mind, and it will make, as it ought to, the policy of the Government.

So much has been accomplished already with electrical transit, and the whole thing is so new, that no one will scout the prediction of Mr. Edison that within thirty years nearly all railways will discard steam locomotives and adopt electric motors, and that the electric automobile will displace the horse almost entirely. The electricity has to be generated somewhere, but it can be generated wherever there is a water power, and it can be generated by steam in large central stations where it can be generated more economically than on a small scale and where the smoke will be no particular inconvenience to any one. When domestic heating as well as lighting can be done by electricity, as it already is here and there, the longest step toward domestic ease and comfort will be taken since stoves and furnaces displaced open fires. The highest speed that has ever been obtained in traction has been obtained on an electric road near Berlin, on which experiments have been conducted by the government to ascertain what speeds are possible and what are advantageous. The very highest speeds proved extremely wearing to the vehicles and the track.

One of the points made by Vice-President Daughtrey, of the Union Stockyards Company, in a recent letter, will bear repeating, namely, that if more Portland people would eat home-packed hams and bacon in preference to the meat shipped in from Eastern houses, they would greatly encourage the growth of the local packing industry. This has additional force because the wheat pork of the Northwest is beyond comparison, in flavor and quality, with the corn-fed products of the Mississippi Valley. Even the Eastern packers admit the virtue of wheat pork. This is an additional reason, however, why the Columbia Basin should be made the seat of a great pork industry. Let home people demand the products of home industry; and then let home industry reach out and occupy the home field and compass the earth and the fullness thereof. Let US grow, and not be satisfied with continually contributing to the growth of others.

The Northern Pacific is choosing an inferior route in its announced plan of entering Portland, even from the point of its own advantage. Just as easily and with less expense it can pass through or under the ridge at Highland, then on to Sullivan's gulch and down by the steel bridge, than to come through the other way, for the longer bridge necessary at Swan Island would be avoided. This bridge should, moreover, be erected so high that all shipping would pass under it, and this would carry it well up to the level of the ridge at University Park. The people of Portland will never consent to a bridge at Swan Island unless it is built clear above the tallest masts. Such a bridge would be an undertaking of such expense that the route by the steel bridge is cheap in comparison.

F. B. Thurber's appearance in the Trans-Mississippi Congress as a champion of the meat trust cannot, unfortunately, lower much the picturesque and unenviable standing of that body in public estimation, but it will increase general appreciation of himself as a gentleman of irreproachable effrontery. The ordinary promoter, lobbyist and professional witness would have sought retirement until the recent Cuban episode of which he was the hero had lapsed from the popular memory. No good end could be served, however, by the erasure of his remarks from the meeting's records. The Congress need not take itself so seriously. If it were to expunge its journal of errors, the annals of the Bryan years would almost disappear.

Mr. J. J. Hill's ideas on Oriental trade would be of more concern if more stable. What has become of his quondam fulminations against excessive import duties, wherewith he was wont to instruct, edify, admonish and reprove? You can't get a word out of him on that subject for love or money. Into such oblivion and disgrace some day perchance shall fall these burning utterances of today on the Lower Mississippi, irrigation and Chinese acumen. This is not an unmitigated evil or offense. Whoever is busy learning new things is certain to forget some old ones. The territory ahead of Mr. Hill is manifestly almost boundless.

Young Power's testimony confirms the unfavorable opinion that recent developments have given to this whole transaction of the New York merger suit. Not the least of the suspicious circumstances is the discovery of Bourke Cockran's connection with the proceeding. Mr. Lamb is most likely a wolf.

It is gratifying to learn that the President disapproves of factions in the party. Factions are generally odious, and naturally so, inasmuch as the other crowd always is the faction.

Sir Liang's American Days Recalled.

New York Times.

The President's dinner to Prince Chen of China, in New York, was a rather informal affair, and took on quite an American aspect, as in the party were a number of Chinamen who were educated here and have imbibed much of the spirit of the West.

For instance, it was recalled by Mr. Reynolds, Mayor Low's secretary, that he and Sir Liang, the new Chinese Minister to the United States, were "hail, school fellow," at Andover not so very long ago. Sir Liang, it was recalled, was one of the star members of an Andover baseball team. During one of the yearly matches of the team with their deadly rival, the team of Exeter, the score at the end of the eighth inning stood 3 to 3.

"Do you remember when you came to the bat and knocked a home run, which won the game for old Andover?" inquired Mr. Reynolds, in a dress suit of the West, to Mr. Liang, in gorgeous silks of the East.

"Ah, indeed I do," replied the other, and his eyes brightened with the memory of the game.

INDUSTRIES AND AGRICULTURE.

New York Journal of Commerce.

The value of industrial property is increasing faster than that of agricultural property, but it is yet far from overtaking the latter. The growth of agriculture remains subject to the fertility of the soil and the recurrence of the seasons, while little of the work can be done in the Winter and none of it at night, except what Nature does alone. Even by intensified cultivation it is impossible for agricultural productivity to be increased in any such ratio as industrial productivity is. Therefore the ratio of capital investment increases faster in manufactures than in agriculture. But capital is increasing in manufactures faster than the number of establishments or the number of persons employed. If the increase in manufacturing establishments, or in persons employed, be compared with the increase in the number of farms, there is less disparity between the two fields of investment and occupation.

The following table shows for the last four census years the amount of manufacturing capital and the value of all farm property, with the percentage of increase in each in the previous decade:

	Manufacturing capital.	P. C. inc.	Value of of farm property.	P. C. inc.
1900	$9,874,664,687	51.3	$20,514,001,838	28.4
1890	6,525,156,486	133.9	15,982,267,689	32.4
1880	2,790,272,606	31.7	12,101,001,538	8.8
1870	2,118,268,769	109.8	11,124,968,747	40.0

It will be observed that the decades of most rapid growth of manufactures were also the best decades in agriculture, that the capital engaged in manufactures is not yet equal to one-half the value of farm property, but 30 years ago it was less than 20 per cent of it, showing plainly enough the more rapid growth of manufactures.

The following table shows the per cent of increase in the number of farms in the number of manufacturing establishments and the number of wage-earners in the last two decades:

	No of farms.	Manufacturing establishments.	Wage-earners.
1890-1900	25.7	44.3	25.2
1880-1890	13.8	40.0	99.5

In the last 10 years the increase in the number of farms and the increase in the industrial wage-earners were almost identical. In no other period have we heard so much about farm distress. It is true that under the influence of high prices farmers had bought a great deal of land on mortgage; low prices followed and the farmers had a hard time. But during these 10 years, when the Populists and the cheap-money people would have thrown the country into general bankruptcy in order to administer an absurd patent medicine to relieve the farmers, the value of all farm property increased $4,631,734,149, and the capital engaged in manufactures increased $3,349,508,201. The census does not indicate how much of the former is the increase in the value of the land. But the value of farm real estate, both the land under cultivation in 1890 and that added during the decade, together with improvements and buildings, increased in value almost exactly $3,400,000,000. There was an increase of $267,000,000 in farm implements and machinery, and of $570,000,000 in livestock.

The average area of farms, which for many years decreased, has for 20 years been increasing. Between 1880 and 1890 the increase was only three acres, but in the last decade it was 19 acres. The percentage of improved land in farms, which was less than one-half in 1850, 1860 and 1870, and rose to 57.4 in 1890, presumably because there was less addition to holdings and more cultivation of what the farmer already had, has now fallen just under 50 per cent, as the result, probably, of increasing the holdings by the inclusion of wild lands. The average value per farm of land and improvements, but without buildings, is $3255, of the buildings, $520, of implements $133, and livestock $556, making an average value per farm of $3574, and the gross income, or value of products other than those fed to stock, was $656, or 18.3 per cent on the value of the investment. Out of this profit must come the wages of the farmer and perhaps members of his family, and in the harvest season of hired labor. But the small income of the farmer is not due to a low rate of profits, but to small investment.

In 20 years the number of farms has increased 43.2 per cent, the number operated by owners 24.4 per cent, by cash tenants 133.6 per cent, and by tenants on shares 81.3 per cent. The percentage of farms operated by tenants has increased from 25.5 in 1880 to 28.4 in 1890, and 35.3 in 1900. The cause of tenancy is the increasing value of farm lands, which makes it more difficult for a young man to buy, and enables farmers who acquired their property 20 years ago to get an income from their farms without working them.

Prune Trust's Fatal Weakness.

New York Journal of Commerce.

Two facts account for the dissolution of the prune trust; one is the delusion of the managers that they could distribute their product directly to the consumer, whereas the jobbers and retailers of groceries are essential, and if they are not interested in distributing prunes, if it is not a matter of any pecuniary interest to them, they will distribute something else. The managers of the prune association could get along without the retail trade only by establishing prune shops everywhere, which, of course, would be out of the question, and, even if practicable would probably be ineffective, for people go to groceries for many things and would be more likely to get what dried fruit was offered to them there than to go to another place to buy prunes. Very much the same conditions would lead the retailers to get just what the jobbers had for sale rather than to have special transactions with the prune agents. If anything, a more serious mistake of the managers was to imagine that a very heavy crop would be marketed without much lowering the price. The managers tried to hold prices up when the conditions were against them. Naturally there were dissensions among the members, which paralyzed the action of the association for some time before it dissolved.

The Iowa Tariff Idea.

Chicago Evening Post.

No dominant political party tries to satisfy the opposition. It must, however, study and meet the needs of the people. It is true that no tariff has ever pleased everybody, and that "no modification can be made that will not leave many items in dispute." But what of all this? It will be just as true in 1904, 1908 and in 1912 as it is today. It would be absurd to agitate for tariff revision if the present act contained only slight "inacuracies, inequalities in imperfections." The Iowa idea is that the act is defective in a more serious sense, and that it is not only wise, but necessary to attempt a general revision. So conservative a statesman as Senator Cullom indorses this "idea" and believes it to represent the wishes and sentiments of the Middle West. Evidently Secretary Shaw is not a convert to the Iowa idea, though his mind is open and he is seeking evidence and light.

The Dying Christian to His Soul.

Alexander Pope.

Vital spark of heavenly flame!
Quit, oh quit this mortal frame!
Trembling, hoping, lingering, flying,
Oh the pain, the bliss of dying!
Cease, fond nature, cease thy strife,
And let me languish into life!

Hark! they whisper; angels say,
Sister spirit, come away!
What is this absorbs me quite?
Steals my senses, shuts my sight,
Drowns my spirits, draws my breath?
Tell me, my soul, can this be death?

The world recedes; it disappears!
Heaven opens on my eyes! my ears
With sounds seraphic ring:
Lend, lend your wings! I mount! I fly!
O Grave! where is thy victory?
O Death! where is thy sting?

RIVER OF MAGNIFICENT DISTANCES

St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The possible abandonment of the Missouri River in the near future, so far as regards appropriations for its improvement by Congress, is a humiliation for that stream which nobody could have dreamed of in the earlier days. This is one of the world's greatest waterways, physically, scenically and historically. Measured from its source in the Rocky Mountains down to the mouth of the Lower Mississippi—and this is called by some geographers the main stream, with the Upper Mississippi as the affluent—the distance is about 4200 miles. The Missouri itself, reckoning from its rise at the continental divide to its entrance into the Mississippi, has a length of about 3300 miles. It is about 300 miles longer than the Mississippi, of which it is the largest affluent. Of the 1,200,000 square miles in the watershed of the Mississippi and its attributaries, the Missouri, its principal branch, contributes 528,000. In the high-water stage of the Spring and early Summer the Missouri is navigable for light-draught steamboats up to Fort Benton, in Montana, a distance of 2700 miles.

When Joliet and Marquette, on their journey from Canada by way of the Great Lakes, and the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers, went down the Mississippi in 1763 to the mouth of the Arkansas, they were surprised and alarmed when passing the Missouri. A torrent of yellow mud which they saw at a certain point on the west side of the main stream surging across the smooth blue surface of the Mississippi, carried with it, in the few minutes which they viewed it, enough trees to stock a small forest. When its current made their canoes dance and whirl like dry twigs in a mountain brook, Marquette said: "I never saw anything more terrific." The old missionary remarked that he would return there some day and go by way of that river to Asia. The Missouri may be said to have a continuous history from that day, two and a third centuries ago, to this. Moreover, there is a chance that its annals began earlier than that time. Coronado, the Spanish conquistadore from Mexico, chasing Quivira's golden myth, was in Kansas more than a century before Marquette and Joliet went down the Mississippi, and some of the antiquarians have figured that he either reached the Missouri or came very close to it.

Thus, when Lewis and Clark, about 100 years ago, were working their rowboats up against the Missouri's turbulent and tortuous current, that river had much more than a century of a background of history behind it. In the days of the French domination prospecting and exploring parties were up that river as far as the mouth of the Kansas as early as 1705. The Verendryes were on its upper waters, in the present State of Montana, in 1743. The Otoes, Sioux, Omahas, Mandans and Aricaras, whom Jefferson's first explorers saw when on their way across the continent, were not altogether unacquainted with white men at that time. From 1807, when Manuel Lisa, of the Missouri Fur Company, went up the big river to the mouth of the Yellowstone, and then ascended that stream to the confluence of the Bighorn, where he erected the first trading post on the upper waters and the first house in the present Montana, onward until long after the end of the fur trade's great days, the Missouri was the scene of much activity. In 1819 the first steamboats to enter that river, the Independence and the Western Engineer, went up several hundred miles. The American Fur Company's Yellowstone steamed as far as the company's post at Fort Pierre, in the present South Dakota, in 1829. Afterward, in the days of the early settlers in Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and the Dakotas, and from that time until long after the completion of Oakes Ames' and Huntington's Pacific railroads the Missouri swarmed with steamboats. But the glory of the great river has departed. The railroads have taken away its business, and its picturesqueness and romance have passed into history. How the steamboat men of 30, 40 or 50 years ago, the residents along its banks, the travelers upon its waters and the rest of the persons who knew it in its wild and strenuous days would have marveled if anybody had told them then that the mighty Missouri would one day socially and commercially shrink to its present little measure.

Secretary Shaw Is Overzealous.

New York Mail and Express.

Mr. Shaw's restless loyalty to his party, to his chief in the Administration and to the economic system which has given us our prosperity leads him to do a good deal of stump work, which is perhaps superfluous. In a spirit of admiring friendliness, we hope he will permit us to admonish him that too much activity in a season of general and extreme humidity may be pernicious. Mr. Shaw should abate some of his strenuousness. Good men are scarce.

Poking Fun at Decorations.

Philadelphia Ledger.

Tariff debates are not as a rule amusing, but the Socialists of Germany managed to extract some fun out of a recent meeting of the customs tariff commission by proposing an amendment to the clause relating to children's toys so as to include orders and decorations conferred by sovereigns. The decorated members of the committee rejected the amendment with great warmth of feeling.

Cause of the Awakening.

Kansas City Star.

Republican leaders are more concerned over National affairs now than they had been in some years. So long as the Democrats manifested indifference to the tariff there was no danger, but now that tariff reform and the regulation of trusts are being forced to the front the Democratic party looks formidable once more.

PERSONS WORTH KNOWING ABOUT.

Captain R. W. Fuller, of Boston, has sailed more than 650,000 miles, and has passed around Cape Horn 22 times.

Captain Planta, a Swiss, has, after a long litigation, succeeded in establishing his right to the credit of having first invented the automobile.

Charles D. Bourcart, Swiss Minister to Great Britain, declines to accept a transfer to the United States. He has been thrice offered the change.

Blair Irwin, one of the few survivors of the "Charge of the Light Brigade," made memorable by Tennyson, now lives on a small farm near Sharon, Mass.

A letter addressed to "King Dick, care Edward VII," was received at the London postoffice, and was promptly turned over to Premier Seddon, of New Zealand.

The Paris mansion of Millet, the creator of "The Angelus," is being torn down to make room for modern flats. It was one of the landmarks of the French capital.

The wife of Suffern Tailer, the well-known New York society leader, has obtained a divorce from him at Sioux Falls, S. D. She is a daughter of the late Pierre Lorillard.

Peter Perren, the Alpine guide who took up the first party of tourists to the summit of the Matterhorn, is still alive and in active service. He has made the ascent of the Matterhorn 41 times.

The estate of the late Pierre Lorillard, like that of most other reported multimillionaires, does not inventory as well as expected. The final report of his executors places its value at $1,797,925.

It was the boast of the late Royal E. Robbins, of the American Waltham Watch Company, that for many years he employed thousands of workmen, but was never threatened with a strike.

Sir Frederick Treves, the chief surgeon who attended King Edward during his recent critical illness, gained his vast experience in surgery by doctoring injured men in the North Sea fishing fleets.

King Alphonso of Spain regards classical dances as the highest of all the theatrical arts, and has requested M. Gailhard, director of the Paris Opera, to bring to Madrid the best corps de ballet in Paris.

Thomas Lewis, 25 years old, who claims to be the son of a native chief in Liberia, is studying medicine and surgery in a Detroit hospital. It is his intention to return to his native land after he has completed his education.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Bridges of sighs—Portland has them, lots of them.

When a loan is made to Cuba, it will be on the security of annexation.

The coronation of the Carnival Queen will be one of the crowning events of her life.

Now ain't you sorry you didn't rebuild your wooden sidewalk when it was worn out?

Portland is slow only to the man who is waiting for the other fellow to go ahead.

Why does the central girl hear the swear words so much better than the number?

Many men think all the world is against them, when the world does not even know they exist.

Although a man may feel that he has not earned his vacation, it always stirs him up to tell him he hasn't.

A mimic naval war is in progress off New England. It will share honors with the battles in Central America.

The King comes by a willful son fairly. He himself was the most obstinate man in the empire when he married.

It does seem anomalous that the school land money should be idle when there are so many of us ready to keep it busy.

The crimps only lean back and say, "What are you going to do about it?" Maybe Uncle Sam can answer the question.

This new sidewalk ordinance for Sixth street is mighty hard on the citizen to whom the very name of improvements is odious.

May Yohe and "Putty" Strong have gone to South America. If they get into a revolution down there we shall hear more about them than ever.

The price of hops and the price of corn soar skyward. But the dipsodist will have no anxiety about any scarcity of beer and whisky or increase of the retail price.

Many farmers hope Attorney-General Knox will not investigate the harvester trust. They do not see how they can afford it, in the light of what he accomplished for the prices of the beef trust.

The new Army uniforms worn by the strutting Generals make them look like figurative peacocks. If a woman were as vain, she would be called silly. After all, fine feathers make fine birds; they do, for a fact.

The Cubans will start a newspaper in the United States to promote reciprocity. If they can "promote" better than can 90 per cent of the newspapers of this country, they are more live than the Americans, that's all.

From the strength of the stream in April, 1805, when they saw it, Lewis and Clark judged that the sources of the Multnomah River were "far away toward the Gulf of California." And so they marked their map.

Many a man who goes away from Oregon to see the grand things of the world sees nothing grander than Mount Hood. It's like the man who went abroad to find him a wife and then married the woman who had lived next door to him all her life.

It has been proposed to send Bryan on a polar expedition at the expense of the Democratic party and let him get back as best he might, without the aid of relief expedition. But what if he should have the luck of Baldwin and be "baffled but not beaten," as usual?

Don't tell the boy burglar he is a second Tracy, lest it lodge in his head. It's the ado over him that turns his bravado into mock bravery. If the Reform School authorities will only spank him, they will take the fun and the bravado out of him both at once.

Any man can point to another nuisance than his own that the Civic Improvement Association ought to abolish. But his nuisance is likely to be an abomination above all else in the eyes of his neighbor. After all, there are so many nuisances that there is no place to begin.

One of the trust magnates says that "this country will be controlled by those to whom God in his wisdom has given the wealth of the country." But did God give it to them? That, as Hamlet says, "would be scanned." If, however, he did give these greedy plutocrats the wealth of which they boast, it would seem to show how little he thinks of riches.

What F. A. Seufert says of salmon hatcheries suggests the probability of great development of the salmon industry on the Columbia River. Is there any reason, if artificial propagation has saved and restored the industry, why it cannot bring back the industry to the conditions of the palmy days? The greater economy of the artificial over the natural process stimulates the imagination back to early scenes, when salmon were so plentiful that men crossed streams dry shod on the backs of the fish.

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

Satisfactory Proof.—She (after accepting him)—Have you ever loved any other girl? He—Sure! I can bring you half-a-dozen written testimonials if necessary.—Chicago Daily News.

Mrs. Dimpleton—Why don't you get your life insured? Dimpleton—What's the use? I'm well enough, and I'll probably outlive you. "Well, you always did look on the dark side."—Life.

At Coney Island.—The Bather—I suppose you have saved a good many lives? The Life-Saver—Well, I should remark! Why, I was clerking in a drug-store at Asbury Park, all last Summer!—Puck.

"Whenebber a man gibs me a whole lot o' advice," said Uncle Eben, "I can't help s'picionin' dat if his opinions was so valuable he'd be busy somewha' else countin' money."—Washington Star.

He was practical, and had been making love on that basis. She was a little that way herself. "Can you cook?" he inquired. "Can you supply everything to be cooked?" she replied. It was a match.—Tit-Bits.

Mrs. Greene—You didn't say a word to your husband, after all. You said you'd speak to him when you saw him at breakfast. Mrs. Brown—But I didn't see him at breakfast. He was hidden behind his morning paper, as usual.—Boston Transcript.

A Protest.—"Mary!" Mrs. Newcomer called down to the servant, "Mrs. Reuben Eck is crossing the road, and I believe she's coming here. Run out and turn that door-mat upside down." "Which one, ma'am" "The one at the front door that has 'Welcome' on it."—Philadelphia Press.

Really a Convenience.—"Skribbles is writing a new novel, in which the hero and heroine are deaf and dumb," explains the mutual friend. "How queer!" comments the other mutual friend. "Oh, I don't know. He says it's a great convenience. When he gets tired of inventing conversation for them he just has them hold hands for the rest of the chap