

The Oregonian.

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

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER.—Maximum temperature, 69; minimum temperature, 51; precipitation, none.

PORTLAND, THURSDAY, AUGUST 28

THE LIQUOR INDUSTRY.

Here are interesting statistics from a census bulletin. They are presented by The Oregonian as facts, and are to be considered as such, apart from sentimental considerations. The people of the United States consume too great quantities of alcoholic liquors; and those of the Northern States larger proportions than those of the states south. This is a universal law. The consumption of liquors by northern peoples has always been excessive; but there is steady and continuous substitution of lighter liquors for spirits, even in northern countries. This fact is visible in our time. Our census reports show it. In the short period of the decade from 1890 to 1900, while the value of the malt liquor produced increased in the decade from \$182,731,822 to \$237,267,713, or nearly 30 per cent, the value of the distilled liquors showed a corresponding decrease from \$104,197,888, in 1890, to \$56,788,433 for the year 1900. That is, though there was great increase in production there was actual reduction of consumption of distilled liquors.

Some idea of the magnitude of the liquor business in the United States may be obtained from the mere statement of these census figures. For the year ended May 31, 1900, the sum of \$457,674,957 was employed as capital in the production of malt, distilled and vinous liquors in the United States. The number of establishments for the three classes of liquors was 2835, and manufactured 1,325,358,094 gallons of liquors valued at \$384,000,000. The total estimated home consumption, allowing for the excess of exports over imports, was 1,322,166,685 gallons, or over seventeen gallons for every man, woman and child in the country. Observe, however, that the distilled liquor produced and consumed in small quantities with the malt product and the product of the vine. For the census year there were produced of the distillates 103,330,423 gallons only, against 1,196,921,304 gallons of malt liquors and 23,425,667 gallons of wine. Moreover, as shown above, there was actual decrease in the production of spirits—comparing the latest decade with the next preceding one.

The domestic consumption of seven gallons per caput of liquors of all kinds makes it appear that we are a Nation of heavy-headed drinkers; but this is much less than the consumption in England and other European countries, and the poisonous liquors which are said to be supplied the vitality of France have small sale here. Germany maintains, indeed has increased, the enormous consumption which Tacitus noted eighteen centuries ago; but it is consumption of malt liquors chiefly, now as then.

The physical appetite for strong liquors is a result, largely, of life in close quarters and in feld atmosphere, with scanty, poor and unwholesome food. It seems clear that progress of civilization is gradually lifting the human race out of this condition. Substitution of lighter liquors for distillates is one sign of it. But elimination of the appetite for the stimulation of alcoholic drink will be a slow process, and probably never will be completely effected. Greatest of all forces ever employed in this direction are those of modern industrial and commercial life; since sobriety is indispensable in those who seek and expect to hold employment in responsible places. Every position, in the complicated affairs of modern life, moreover, has its responsibilities. Growth of the law that makes employers responsible for the acts of employees does more for temperance and sobriety than all the work of theoretical and sentimental reformers.

An intelligent public will not comment adversely upon an ordinance the purpose of which is to secure scientific sanitary plumbing in the homes and public buildings of the city, unless, indeed, it falls in its object. It is bad enough when a jackleg carpenter, who may or may not be under the protection of his union, puts a rod on the house that leaks, windows in it that rattles and doors that drag and pinch, but it is infinitely worse for a plumber to put in drain pipes that discharge into the cellar and eject the appliances that shut out sewer gas from the kitchen and bathroom. Plumbing is popularly supposed to be the most autocratic of trades. Accepting this view, the people served by it will be more than satisfied if the responsibility waits upon the plumber's labor, and if the work is secured, and only secured by a cast-iron ordinance curtailing the rights of the go-as-you-please plumber, they will not be disposed to cavil at its provisions. Plumbing inspection that inspects will naturally drive incompetent plumbers

out of the business—a consummation devoutly desired by a long-suffering public.

CALIFORNIA ON RECIPROCIITY.

It is not at all surprising that the California Republicans mention reciprocity only to censure. There are excellent reasons why, at a time when our Republican State Conventions are declaring for tariff revision, Cuban relief and reciprocity generally, California sits back on her haunches and declines to pull. Some of these reasons are set forth with California and reflect more credit upon her thrift than her sagacity, but others are for general admonition and reproof. Reciprocity has dealt hardly by California, and her men are not of a sort to lick the hand that smites.

Every reciprocity treaty negotiated by Mr. Kasson has aimed an ingenious thrust at California. A random category of her menaced industries would include fruits, wines, wool, hides, sugar, etc. The benefits of European and South American markets sought to be bestowed upon Eastern and Middle West manufacturers by reciprocity are purchasable with concessions to French wines, Argentine wool and hides, and the sugar and fruits of the tropics. He who should count on devoted enthusiasm for this programme at the Sacramento convention would earn a jolt commensurate with his temerity. When you want a great song for reciprocity, let none look at me. That is the California sentiment.

There is no denying that this California selfishness deserves some degree of reprobation. It exhibits the time-dishonored protective principle of grab in unrelieved outline. One could doubtless show, with sufficient effort, that in resisting tariff reduction the state is really standing in its own light. But the advocates of reciprocity have simply disqualified themselves for criticism of the California position by their own selfish and illogical position. When Boston and Philadelphia suggest free shoes in the same breath with free hides; when clothing mills promise free woolen along with free wool; when the steel trust offers to forego its protection if the former foregoes his, then it will be time enough to complain of the California selfishness.

We hear a great deal of talk about arranging reciprocity by concessions on goods "we do not ourselves produce." Well, who do they supply? What are they? Name a few. What protective duties are we maintaining now on things that nobody can raise or manufacture in this country? Either there are such things, and we can use them to make reciprocity bargains with, or else this whole reciprocity business, from Blaine and McKinley down to Kasson and Shaw, is a pestiferous humbug. All the reciprocity treaties so far proposed do the exact American industries. If the correct thing is such an arrangement that does not injure a single American industry, it is about time a sample should be trotted out.

Nobody need ever expect to win California to a scheme of tariff manipulation that reduces duties on everything California raises and keeps up the duties on everything California must buy. It is possible that the state would not agree to tariff revision that would cut to the bone every unjust and unnecessary duty. But in such case, the ground of objection in fraud and hypocrisy would be done away. Now else is opposed to bogus tariff reform. Maybe she wouldn't oppose true tariff reform. The state went for Cleveland in 1892. At any rate, it is perfectly certain that the Kasson programme will win no votes in protection strongholds or honest tariff reform districts. In a straight course is the only promise of approval anywhere.

THE TRANSIENT IN MODERN LIFE.

A natural reflection provoked by witnessing "Buffalo Bill's" Wild West show is that the last thirty years have seen more rapid changes than any other period of the same length for at least a century. The very animal from which "Buffalo Bill" obtained his popular name has become extinct in the wild state in the United States during the last twenty-five years. The rifle with which "Buffalo Bill" fought his duel to the death with "Yellow Hand," the Cheyenne warrior, is today an obsolete pattern; the cowboy is becoming a receding figure. The Indian warrior as a formidable armed enemy whose "Buffalo Bill" tracked and fought in his youth is as extinct as the pony express and the emigrant train of forty years ago. The Indian either inhabits a reservation as a ward of the Nation or is become an individual landowner. The transient in life is elsewhere in evidence. The horse in great cities is destined to grow as scarce as he is in Paris. The cuirassier, as an ornamental soldier, is sure to become extinct in the modern armies of Europe. The cuirassier can no longer hope to charge and expect protection from his cuirass against bullets, and hand-to-hand combat between cavalry no longer takes place. The cavalryman is today a scout and must be a light horseman.

There is nothing in the Wild West show that did not exist in full life fifty years ago, and yet there is nothing in it today that does not stand either for a past life or for life that is going if not already has taken place. And yet all this rapid change has taken place within thirty years. When we remember that the cannon used by the English Navy at Trafalgar in 1805 did not greatly differ from those used against the Spanish Armada in 1588, we shall see that the last thirty years has counted for more radical changes in practical life than the two centuries which separated that England of Elizabeth from that of George III. This rapid, constant change in the social, practical modern life began with the universal application of steam power and electricity to the business of the world. The rapid transmission of intelligence from one continent to the other; the increased dedication of science to the work of both war and peace, has made modern life move at the charging step. Fifty years ago the tourist in Asia or Africa found such things as a modern hotel. Today there is not a great Oriental city from Cairo to Canton that lacks a modern hotel.

So it is the world over. Steam and electricity are carrying the comforts of our civilization to the fringe of barbarism, and popular enlightenment will follow at no distant day. Today there are a number of persons who can remember all that is shown in the Wild West show as living realities. Any old pioneer of Oregon can remember the horrors of Indian warfare, the emigrant train, the buffalo hunt, the pony express; but twenty-five years from today there will be nobody left who has any personal knowledge of these things, and even that part of the Wild West show which

is today not extinct in modern life will be dead, so rapid are the changes in the superficial face of our times.

New countries become old quickly because of the advance of modern civilization armed with steam and electricity energized by vast combinations of capital. To illustrate, look at Alaska. Today its mines, fisheries and timber mean a yearly yield, when developed, of at least \$100,000,000. Sixty years ago full knowledge of the resources of Alaska would have tempted the most enlightened government of earth to have paid Russia even the small price we paid her for it. Alaska was then regarded as a comparatively inaccessible, bleak country, whose only revenue would be from turbot and seal. Today, since the mineral wealth of Alaska has become known, what a change has been wrought! The development of her mineral resources has called attention to her timber wealth, her fisheries, etc. The result is that, in spite of her climate, in spite of her Arctic night of six months, the wealth of Alaska has been revealed more rapidly in the last five years than it could possibly have been in fifty years had we bought it as early as we did Louisiana of France. San Francisco, Portland and Seattle, which are trading ports today for Alaska products, are all of them young cities. Forty years ago had all been known of Alaska's wealth that we know today, it could not possibly have been as rapidly developed as it has been in our day. There were no transcontinental railroads in those days. There would have been no adequate return in eight forty years ago for such an expenditure of money as has been invested in Alaska in so short a time. In five years transportation lines traverse the great river of Alaska, railway and water transportation reach from Sitka to the Klondike; other railways are being built, and Alaska is recognized as a very rich country in timber and fisheries, even if her mines should become exhausted. All this has been done rapidly in our own day, and it has been done under circumstances that would have repelled investment forty years ago.

If Alaska can be exploited to the advantage of those who make the venture, there is no place on this continent, in Asia or Africa, that draws its wealth so rapidly as Alaska. The British have already built a railway from the coast of East Africa to the Great lakes of Central Africa; the commercialization of Central Africa through the Congo Railway and steamboat navigation is in full progress. A railway is now being pushed across the Sahara Desert to French Sudan. Great Britain practically controls the Nile from its mouth to the great lakes of Central Africa. All these remarkable changes in the face of the world have taken place within less than thirty years. Truly it may be said that in small things as well as great the face of the world has seldom changed so rapidly as it has in the last thirty years.

TARIFF AND LABOR COST.

President Roosevelt's dictum that the cardinal principle of protection is to avoid reducing the tariff so low as to lose the difference between labor cost here and abroad is not at all keeping with the modern expert view that labor cost of manufacture is less here than in Europe, owing to the superior efficiency of American workmen. It is interesting to note, moreover, that this expert opinion is reaffirmed by a commission of the British Iron Trade Association, which has just made a report of its investigations in the United States. This commission regards American labor as "at the same time the dearest and cheapest in the world."

More specifically, the commission finds the American superiority to lie in the workmen themselves. After all the talk of superior American machines and more enterprising American capital, this report assures us that "the industry as in war" it is not the guns which win battles but the men who stand behind them. "What the American admires and honors, in contrast with his British competitors, for example, this report tells us is the ability to do, that capacity in a man, through his own sagacity, nerve, enterprise and skill, to create and employ a fortune. Nobody is above his work. Everybody works, and for the sake of work, and thus has been produced in America within a generation an industrial potentiality more wonderful and more to be feared than all the factories and machinery and "plants" that these workers have created.

All this result is accomplished without as much actual physical effort as the British mechanic has to put forth. "The workmen in American mills," says Mr. Jeann, head of the commission, in his share of the report, "are generally supposed to be working much harder than they do in England, but this is not my own view. After much conversation with many men in various branches who had been employed in similar works in England, and some of them subject to my own control, the conclusion I arrived at is that the American workmen do not work so hard as the men in England. They have to be attentive in guiding operations and quick in manipulating levers and similarly easy work. They are also much more dextrous of getting out large quantities than in England. They are better paid and more regular in their attendance at the works, less of time through drinking habits or otherwise not being tolerated."

If we are going to equalize the "labor cost" between the United States and Europe by means of the tariff, we shall have to enact an import bounty for some of our handicapped rivals across the water.

TRITE BUT TRUE.

Some of the hortatory passages of President Roosevelt's New England speeches are calculated to do considerable good in the public mind. One of the best was given his audience at Providence, in a speech touching industrial problems, including so-called trusts, that underlie our present prosperity. There is abundant proof of the truth of the statement that a period of great material prosperity is as sure as a period of adversity to bring misgivings of discontent. The cause is found in human nature, and that without much study. Not only, said the President, do the wicked flourish when the times are such that most men flourish, but what is worse, the spirit of envy and jealousy and hatred springs up in the breasts of those who, though they may be doing fairly well themselves, yet are envious of the success of others. They are doing far better. And when he adds: "If when people was fat they kick, as they have been prone to do since the days of Jeshurun, they will speedily destroy their own prosperity; if they go

into wild speculation and lose their heads, they will do it, which no explanation can supply, and the business world will suffer in consequence; if in a spirit of sullen envy they insist upon pulling down those who have profited by the years of fate, they will bury themselves in the crash of common disaster," he completed a statement that is supported by the history of National prosperity and adversity as each has followed the other in past eventful years.

The time of prosperity is the time for prudence. The American people are prone to reverse this rule, spending freely of their substance in prosperity and pinching on expenditures with ostentatious parsimony and with much wailing of hard times when adversity follows prodigality. He is a wise counselor in economics who exhorts the people who hang upon his words to exercise in the present period of material prosperity the qualities of prudence, self-knowledge and self-restraint. Conditions have been created that have led to general prosperity. Under these each individual must achieve for himself by his own thrift, intelligence, energy, industry and persistence. There is nothing new in this statement, but presented by the President of the United States, it obtains a wide hearing and a respectful one, and it will carry weight if not general conviction.

The instance cited by a correspondent yesterday of an excitable man in St. Louis who shot his young son as the latter was moving about the house at night, mistaking him for a burglar, is a case in point. It is a tragedy, illustrating the danger of firearms in irresponsible hands. The man who habitually sleeps with a revolver under his pillow or his shotgun within reach is ordinarily more to be dreaded by the members of his household than is the always possible but seldom actual burglar, who, if unmolested, will do nothing worse than load himself with money and valuables carelessly left to his hand and depart, whereas the timorous man with a gun, who draws his weapon when suddenly roused from sleep and shoots at a noise in the darkness may, and in fact, frequently does, become a murderer without the slightest provocation, his victim an unsuspecting member of his own household. Moreover, the pillow-kept pistol is often discharged accidentally in taking the sheet or other bedding from the bed, with most distressing results. Many of our citizens will remember a case of this kind that happened in this city some years ago, a wife and mother being the victim. There is no justification for a habit that may result so disastrously, and it does not mend the mischief in the least for the careless owner of the weapon to be "heart-broken over the affair," as he is invariably reported to be. Good locks and other modern devices, together with the old-fashioned virtue of carefulness, may be safely trusted to guard the sleeping household from predatory night prowlers, but the frequent discharge of the pillow-kept pistol, with safety to the family, without adding greatly to the jeopardy of the burglar.

This gem, from President Baer, of the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad, will bear still another setting. It was part of a letter to a correspondent who had interceded for the coal strikers: "The rights and interests of the laboring man will be protected and cared for, not by the labor agitators, but by the Christian men to whom God in his infinite wisdom has given the right to the management of the country, and upon the successful management of which so much depends. Do not be discouraged, pray earnestly that right may triumph, always remembering that the Lord God omnipotent still reigns and that his reign is one of law and order, and not of violence and crime."

Here is plutocratic Phariseism, run to seed. Another incident is an interview between certain politicians of Pennsylvania and President Baer. They had called on him for the purpose of impressing on his mind the political importance of settling the strike, when this dialogue took place: "Do you mean to say, gentlemen," asked Mr. Baer, "that the Government is at stake in this matter?" "Yes," remarked Senator Quay, "unless the matter is settled, and settled speedily, Pennsylvania will elect a Democratic Governor."

"Well, then, gentlemen," said Mr. Baer, "all that I can say is that I am glad of it. I have been a Jerry Bell Democrat for forty years, and I think I can help the party in its way of thinking."

Precisely so. This question will be just the same whether one political party is in the ascendant or the other. Until men become willing to deal with it without reference to the fortunes of political parties, no advance will be made.

The King of Spain has shocked his subjects who are first of all faithful to the church, by expressing contempt for so sacred a relic as the tonsal of St. Peter, kept in the cathedral at Leon. It is, indeed, gravely intimated that he has, by his irreverent conduct on this matter, endangered his crown. His apologists attribute his conduct to an exuberance of boyish spirits, he being but 16 years old, though his remark discrediting St. Peter's tonsal, accompanied by a contemptuous giggle, is generally taken in Spain to indicate an unbalanced mind, and perhaps incurable insanity, as it seems impossible that Alphonso, with the careful training that he received from his religious mother, has deliberately accepted the teachings of infidelity. Perhaps if his subjects will be patient with the boy he will, in due time, curb his spirits and expiate his offense by making a king's pilgrimage to Leon, to do reverence to the sacred tonsal, as did several of his predecessors.

California's opinions on National questions are unique enough to earn attention, they really call for little figure in the National sentiment. The Spanish War and its various legacies have been the making of the state the past four years, and he who would upset that reign of Federal expenditures is recognized as a public enemy. That is why the state's Republican plurality is 40,000, and why all nine of its members of Congress are Republicans.

Secretary Shaw has forbidden gambling by Treasury clerks. Three clerks guilty of playing poker were recently reduced and transferred to other posts in the department. One of the clerks was reduced in salary from \$1800 to \$1000 a year.

Dangers of Political Propagating.

E. H. Hamilton in San Francisco Examiner, August 25. To be sure, Neff is personally strong and will get some few votes that Gage or Pardee can scarcely command. But if he defeats Metcalf, I should say that the jig was about up for both Gage and Pardee.

GENUINENESS IN PEACE AND WAR

Minneapolis Tribune. After a thousand years of training in what becomes a gentleman, it is not strange that the British should know how to treat their gallant conquerors with courtesy and delicacy in the hour of peace. Besides, it is easier to extend the hand of fraternal welcome to the man who has beaten in any game than it is for him to accept it. That sagacious consideration of the victor is one of the things it is more blessed to give than to receive. Only those of the very finest breeding know how to do it without offense.

Mr. Chamberlain, for example, with the best intentions in the world, never could have managed the reception of the Boer generals in England, had he not been so true to his own nature. One may trace the hand of their exceedingly well-bred King in the frank and simple and altogether charming way in which they have received the Boer commanders in London. It has the same flavor of largeness of mind, perception of the essential equality of strong men able to withstand one another in a friendly rivalry, and of the same qualities that are valued in friends, and the gentle courtesy that becomes the intercourse of noble natures. The Boer generals, brought into the peace negotiations.

After all, it is worth while to tax yourself to support royalty when royalty supports you for such excellent reasons. This is a money value in having a gentleman to intervene at a critical point in war, which every taxpayer can measure. If the management of war and peace had been left in the hands of the Birmingham screw merchant, how many more millions would have been spent and how many more men laid before the sword had been brought to the aid of the Boer? The reconstruction of South Africa had been left to the same base mechanical hand, how much longer would it have taken to heal the wounds of war and to unite two warring races into a self-governing industrial community than now seems probable? Indeed, the King shall live long enough to keep the affair under his fiercest touch.

Something remains to be said, however, for the elevated spirit in which the Boer British advances after the King had been treated as a conqueror, and in the social intercourse that followed. These farmers have had no thousand years' training in the amenities of social intercourse. They have no King of Normandy and Guelph descent to set them an example of noble courtesy. Yet they have matched the best royal British breeding at every point of intercourse between the two peoples. At the outset and all through the war they themselves set the high example, slowly drove the British in the field into shameful imitation of it, and finally routed the British in the field. They have set their own high standards of conduct upon the more vulgar instruments of the war.

The first step toward peace was the courteous treatment of Lord Methuen by his captors. This drove home the truth that the British had been as outmatched in courtesy as in gallantry by the farmers of the veldt, and that the only way to peace was to befriend the Boers. Chamberlain, Lord Milner and General Kitchener knew nothing. The nature of this people is discovered again by the integrity with which they have accepted the results of the war, and by the simple native courtesy with which their fighting men bear themselves in the hearty social intercourse offered them in London.

It is a common boast of republics that the duties and responsibilities of free citizenship breed the same high standards of noble conduct as the royal conditions of royal birth and training. There are examples enough of wretched failure to realize the ideal on both sides; but now and then a conspicuous instance serves to lift the standard of the people. The King is receiving these heroic farmers as equals in the social intercourse of London because they showed themselves in the African campaigns the equals of the noblest and bravest of the British aristocracy in skill and gallantry.

Hill's Doubts About the Canal.

Chicago Record-Herald. James J. Hill's speech before the trans-Mississippi conference at St. Paul contains some remarkable coincidences of opinion and self-interest. Mr. Hill looks dubiously upon the isthmian canal project, which he regards as a disaster to the United States. He is in the way of the canal's construction at an expense of \$50,000,000, he believes that better results would be obtained by the country's spending \$40,000,000 in the deepening of the channel of the Mississippi between New Orleans and St. Louis. At the same time he believes also that money spent for the Upper Mississippi would be wasted.

He would rather have it go for the irrigation of the arid West. He is finally when considering our exports to the Orient in the connection, to be hinted at the possible benefits to the carrying trade.

Turning now to Mr. Hill's interests it appears. That the isthmian canal will certainly promote sea competition with all transcontinental railroads, and that unless our shipping is combined in a trust with that of other nations, it will exert an important influence upon freight rates.

That the part of the Mississippi which he wishes to have improved is outside the territory of his railroads, while the part that he thinks should not be improved is within that territory.

That the reclamation of arid lands would increase the business of those railroads.

Now, while it may be that some of his suggestions are in the line of good public policy, even a casual glance at his interests would seem to indicate that his opinions were rather personal than National. Apparently he made a Hill question out of a public question, or several public questions, and his contributions to the public debate will be appraised accordingly.

Cockran Protests a Good Deal.

New York Commercial Advertiser. Every one who has any bowels of compassion will sympathize with Mr. W. Douglas Cockran in his protest against the connection with Northern Pacific merger proceedings which the enterprising counsel in the case, Mr. George Alfred Lamb, has tried to put upon him. Mr. Cockran has been a victim of the same sort of stunt, and only two months ago he told on the witness-stand how he wrenched away from one of them, the gas combination in this city, the goodly sum of \$25,000 in a fit of virtuous indignation before he allowed the greedy despoilers of the public to go on with their scheme. That a man of so heroic a figure and such altruistic impulses should be made a victim of a self-seeker like Mr. Lamb is beyond belief, and Mr. Cockran might well have passed in silent contempt his charge that the champion of all anti-trust agitation was one of Mr. Peter Power's lackeys. The advisability of such a course on the part of Mr. Cockran is rendered the more apparent by reference to his testimony in the case of the Long Beach Gas Co. Mr. Cockran, according to the report in the Times, expressed himself as follows: "I think it is safe to say that if I had been concerned in this litigation I should not have employed Mr. Lamb as counsel."

NOTES OF WARNING.

Philadelphia Inquirer. The public patience is becoming exhausted, if indeed, the point of exhaustion has not been already reached. Even if the operating companies were obviously in the right, even if there could be no question as to whether they were or were not justified in resisting the demands which had been made upon them, such a conflict as the present one, which involves the supply of a prime necessity of life, cannot be carried beyond a certain point without infringing upon the paramount rights of the community. The coal mining companies owe a duty to the public, a duty which was imposed upon them in consideration of the privileges which they received from the state in the act of their incorporation, a duty whose nonfulfillment can be justified by no kind of excuse.

That duty is to exercise the powers with which they are entrusted for the benefit of the public good, and to discharge the functions for the sake of which they exist, to execute the obligations which they voluntarily assumed. In other words, it is their imperative duty, a duty which cannot without wrong-doing be repudiated or evaded, to keep the public supplied with coal in quantities at all times equal to the demand and at prices which represent no more than a fair return for the service rendered. They are not discharging that duty, and Bishop Potter says in effect that the primary reason why they are not doing so is because they are determined at any cost either to themselves or others to destroy the miners' union. That is a consideration which will not tend to assuage the rising storm of the people's indignation. It will rather augment it. The truth is that the companies are occupying a dangerous position. They are playing with fire, fooling with the buzz-saw, tempting Providence, doing all the things which express the combination of blind folly with rash audacity. The operators declined to arbitrate, not because they were no ardent questioners of issues, as they have frequently asserted and continue to reiterate, but because a submission of the controversy to arbitration would have involved a recognition of the organization through which the miners presented and are now seeking to enforce their claims. What the operators are really trying to do is to disrupt and to destroy the union, and the struggle is being protracted for the accomplishment of this and no other purpose.

President Hill's Guiding Principle.

New York Times. Mr. Hill is in the business of transportation. His transcontinental railroad lines have their terminus upon Puget Sound. It is therefore the great concern of the Pacific line to receive their cargo. Mr. Hill not only has the habit of knowing what he is talking about, but he also has the reputation of being a straightforward man. When a man at the head of the great transportation companies he controls speaks of the Puget Sound route as being the shortest between the cotton fields of the South and the Orient, it is not surprising that already with our meager transportation facilities take \$10,000,000 of our cotton goods yearly, the line of his thought is worth following, not only by Germans, but by Orientals.

Mr. Hill also said that while he would not oppose the construction of an isthmian ship canal, even at the cost of \$200,000,000, he would not support the deepening of the channel of the Mississippi between New Orleans and St. Louis, would give far better results in the end; but he thought that it would be better to spend the public money in irrigating the arid regions of the West than in attempting to improve the upper waters of the Mississippi. Mr. Hill, of course, has spent his money in the way of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy system, now owned by the Northern Securities Company, has St. Louis connections, if the Mississippi were deepened and improved, the business of the great cotton of the South could be sent to St. Louis by that route. Mr. Hill would with the greatest pleasure in the world transfer the business he has in the cotton trade to the Puget Sound, and so on to the Orient. So what is the use of deepening the Upper Mississippi?

No American Tin.

Chicago Tribune. In 1893 the United States Geological Survey gave the pleasing information that there had been produced in this country 152,000 pounds of tin, valued at \$2,400,000. In 1894, however, the same authority, was \$33,000. Since then no tin has been mined in the United States. The report of mineral products for 1901, that was issued in 1902, has been the case here, 1893 "tin, none." This is the sad finale of the glowing predictions made a dozen years ago that the United States would with a little encouragement produce all the tin it needed.

The public was assured in 1890 by several enthusiastic gentlemen that the Black Hills were full of tin. They found in England and in this country men who had faith enough in their assurances to hand over to the promoters of tin mines about \$30,000,000. Of this something like \$10,000,000 was put into machinery, which was set up in mills at Harney. Some of the money was spent for the purchase of stock in the stock to the fingers of the promoters. The machinery is rust and the mining stock is waste paper. There is tin in the Black Hills, but although spread over a wide area, it is so scattered that it is almost impossible to get it out. It is so scattered that it cannot be profitably worked.

So great was the confidence in some quarters that the United States could supply itself with tin that the tariff act of 1890 made provision for imposing a duty on that metal after July of 1893 to encourage and protect the new industry. The duty has since been removed, and probably never will be reimposed. The American tin mines which were described in such bright colors a dozen years ago have quietly given up the ghost.

A Power for Watterson.

Detroit Free Press (Dem.). It is interesting to note that Watterson not to want a public office that is for sale in the political market places. All believe him when he says: "No unclean dollar has ever passed through my hands since I went into politics, and I am too old to turn back." But the conundrum immediately suggested is as to why the Colonel does not break away from the company that he is keeping. How can he lend his brilliant support to men who go after what his conscience will not permit him to seek?

Charcoal Eph's Wisdom.

Baltimore News. "Dey ain't no use talkin' 'bout Charcoal Eph in one of his ruminative moods, 'de man dat speen' all his time findin' out de short-comin' of his neighbors will have 'a' takin' er vacation lath on 'at his cides' 'bout out'n de reform school, like as not, Mistah Jackson, Charley, as well as fasit-fasit, ought t' begin at home."

Under the Linden.

Water Savage Lander. Under the Linden lately sat. A couple, and so on, in chat; I wondered what they would be at. Under the Linden, under the Linden, I saw four eyes and four lips meet. I heard the words, How sweet! how sweet! Had them the Faeries given a treat? Under the Linden? I pondered long and could not tell. What galaxy gleamed them both so well? "Dear! 'twouldst it yeh hydromel? Under the Linden?"

NOTE AND COMMENT.

The full dinner-pail the workmen desire, but not with any Hanna guff in it. After may be right when he intimates that worse things have happened in the Senate than in the Secretary of War's office.

Of course, scavengers are abroad at all hours of the day, but what are we going to do about it? Women just will wear their dresses long.

The Appletons are to bring out a biography of George Francis Train. The man affords a curious study in psychology—and in extra-vagancy.

The Cubans confess that President Palma does not reach their expectations. The only way they can get a President that does is by annexation.

These are the holidays of Carnival Querra, but they are also the glory of all the other Queens, for every American girl is a Queen in her own right.

The Cubans may remove Uncle Sam's coat of arms, but they will find, if they set to monkeying, that he will remove the coat from his back of his own accord.

Dr. Samuel Patterson Stafford, who has been appointed Government physician at the Yakima Indian agency, is a colored gentleman. Let us see if the red man will object to the black man.

Half of the enchantment of the affair between the American girl and the German Crown Prince is because they haven't seen each other. Such a romance is just too lovely for anything, and Papa Wilhelm is perfectly horrid to break it up.

"It was a \$1,000,000 session!" yells and how