

The Oregonian.

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TODAY'S WEATHER—Occasional rain and cooler, with southerly winds. YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 72; minimum temperature, 48; precipitation, none.

PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 24.

TARIFF COMMISSION FEASIBLE.

President Roosevelt's proposal of a tariff commission will be greeted with derision by Democratic partisans, but not, we are proud to say, by any body of opinion that is at once fair-minded and well-informed. It is true that we once had a tariff commission, and that it failed miserably of any serious or creditable achievement. But in that record is found no light upon the problem except such as is misleading.

The tariff commission appointed by President Arthur just twenty years ago did more harm than good—and why? Because it was selected to violate the reformative purpose for which it had been created, and because the circumstances of its report and the subsequent action of Congress were calculated, as they operated, to bring the whole cause of honest and scientific tariff schedules into contempt. It is a vicious legacy of that unhappy time which offers today to unscrupulous protected interests and visionary free traders alike a convenient instrument of obstruction and delay which they may be depended on to utilize with all possible celerity and spirit.

It is suggestive that the tariff commission of 1882 grew out of a situation approximately identical with the one existing today. An overflowing treasury, partly growing out of superabundant customs duties and partly out of the rapidly increasing volume of business dating from 1879, pointed unmistakably to tariff reductions. It was felt that enormous surpluses exercised a potent influence in the direction of extravagant appropriations. Revenue, therefore, gained wide adherence, not only as a remedial agency aimed at tax burdens, but also as an obviously long overdue simplification of complex and antiquated provisions.

The protected interests, then as now, rallied for reductions of internal revenue, and after tariff reform bill after bill had been defeated, the commission plan was turned to as the only available measure of acceptable compromise. There was a general demand for lower duties, especially in the Western States. Blaine's doctrine and Garfield's advanced utterances had taken a firm hold on the younger members of the Republican party, and the commission measure was adopted because it was believed to offer the best and speediest path to the desired results. This might have proved true, but for the fact that the President, to whom the appointment of the commission had been entrusted, nullified by his own action all the good that might have resulted from their labors by selecting men who were directly interested in the maintenance of high protection.

The sequel is well known. The lobby influence, which it had been fondly hoped would not invade the dignity of the commission, was suffered to pursue its campaign unrestricted, and was believed to enjoy even greater facilities for achieving its desires than had been accorded in Congress. The commission traveled over a part of the country taking testimony, and its report to Congress was subsequently shown to have been largely prepared, especially as to the schedules recommended, by men who were themselves manufacturers and interested in keeping protection intact. Some duties were doubled and others tripled; and the details of the report were exactly what might have been expected to ensue from its underlying purpose.

Olney among the Democrats, Thomas B. Reed and Speaker Henderson among the Republicans, and such experts as Edward Atkinson, John De Witt Warner, John A. Kasson, Robert F. Porter and William E. Curtis, who would be glad to lend their names and knowledge to perfect a tariff act that for once in our history should aim at the welfare of the people instead of at the desires of rapacious suppliants at the fiscal of taxation.

AN INDUSTRIAL AWAKENING.

It has taken Western Oregon nearly sixty years to learn the simple fact that the country is better adapted for the production and maintenance of live stock than for either fruitgrowing or general farming, and that its "best hold" and its best future lie in the development of its herds and in promotion of the industries which rest upon stockbreeding and stock-keeping. There have been reasons why this fact has not been so plain as it has been slow in impressing itself upon the general mind.

The pioneer period, which lasted practically until 1858, when the first railroad found its way to the Willamett Valley, taught us little in an industrial sense excepting that the climate was mild and the soil marvelously fertile, and that anything planted in the ground would grow if it had half a chance. The second period, which lasted from 1858 until the early '80s, taught us nothing, since there was no commercial market for anything but wheat, and therefore no motive for experimenting in other lines of production, save that of determining relative commercial values.

It was not until the completion of the Northern Pacific Railroad, by which we were brought into touch with the commercial world, that there was any motive for branching out into a varied industry excepting upon such narrow scale as was necessary to supply the local demands. When the era of wider markets opened, the effort to meet the new conditions was boldly made, but without any approaching a true knowledge of the limitations of our position. We were deceived by the demonstrated fertility of the soil, by the mildness of the climate, and by the results of seasons of special advantage. Into the theory that Oregon could beat the world in almost everything, we went into fruitgrowing, and, excepting in apples, in especially fortunate localities, we did not beat the world; and it was the same with a good many other lines of production. We found that while in the early seasons our prunes, cherries and peaches were supremely fine, there could be no dependence upon the product year in and year out. Oftentimes the rains persist so late in the Spring as to wash the blossoms from the trees; oftentimes they come so early in the Fall as to cause the fruit to rot at the pit before it is ripe for picking.

We found that while our tender fruits from the tree are more luscious than the fruits of California, they have not the toughness of skin and the strength of fiber which are the hallmarks of the California fruit. In other words, that while immediately and intrinsically better than the California fruits they have not the keeping quality which at this long distance from market is essential to commercial value. And in relation to general farm production it dawned upon us at last that the Middle West we are handicapped by the relative shortness of our working season. The rains, which in the Fall Spring and come too soon in the Fall to give time enough for the farmer to do his work or the land to develop its crops; and due to this fact there are many things in which the Oregon farmer must work at a disadvantage whenever he has to meet the competition of other countries where the working and the crop season is longer. For years the fact was cited that Minnesota and Illinois hams and Iowa poultry were sold in our markets at prices our own producers could not meet, and the fact was charged against the Willamett Valley farmers to their discredit; and it was long before we realized that it was not lack of industry or thrift on the part of our farmers, but the shortness of our working season, which made competition difficult or impossible during part of each year.

But the conditions which shorten our working season and so put us at a disadvantage in our markets, also contribute to our advantage in others. Much rain makes much grass. And much grass is a certain foundation for the stock business. And for livestock and its products the demand is insatiate. Domestic animals thrive in all the weather known to this country, and its long season of rain puts no limitation upon the labor of the stock business. The stock industry is one in which our working season never or may be made to cover every day in the year, and in which our moist climate is not a drawback, but the other hand an amazing aid. And under these conditions it is not surprising that energy and capital are seeking the business.

Within the past five years the number of cows in the Valley has been more than doubled. Land long cropped to wheat with poor returns have been given to pasture and have advanced in value. Forage crops, of which until lately even our most progressive agriculturists knew nothing, are being widely cultivated; and as the capabilities of the country for feed production develop there is a natural disposition to multiply the numbers and the variety of herds. It is found that there is more profit in feeding the grain product of a Willamett Valley farm than in selling it in the market; and from this condition it is but a step to the importation of stock from the regions east of the mountains.

in which its working season is not curtailed by the earliness, the lateness nor the persistence of the Oregon mists.

THE WORD FOR CUBA.

The speeches of the President at Detroit will command public favor; not because there is anything new in them, but because they are instinct with right and justice. The President's plea for reciprocity with Cuba is strong because it appeals to the moral sense of the clean men in all parties. We cannot afford to turn Cuba loose from our protection and guiding hand with the mere gift of technical independence. We are morally responsible for her situation.

The same logic of self-interest which persuaded us to interfere in the affairs of Cuba and conquer her independence from Spain is behind the plea for Cuba's present welfare. We cannot afford to allow Cuba to sink into a state of anarchy; we have given her people independence and it is part of our duty to see that this gift is not made a barren prize. The logic in its lowest terms concerning Cuba and the Philippines is the same. We promised at the outbreak of the Spanish War to give Cuba its independence, and this we have done; but there is a string to the execution of this promise which Cuba accepted when she accepted the Platt amendment. We cannot afford to make Cuba part of our international system and then suffer her to starve by refusing her duty to the support of our economic system.

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A JUST REMONSTRANCE.

The note of Secretary Hay regarding the persecution of the Jews by Roumanians in this country, is not likely to cause any change of action on the part of Roumania, which fears nothing by the argument of armed force. Austria-Hungary has already remonstrated with Roumania to no purpose. Ten years ago President Harrison called the attention of the Russian Government to the effect on our immigration of the persecution of the Jews in the Russian pale. At that time caused great indignation in Great Britain, but the British Government made no official protest or remonstrance. What Secretary Blaine said to Russia Secretary Hay has said to more length and in stronger terms than all the powers signatory to the treaty of Berlin.

This treaty by its 43d article recognized the independence of Roumania on subject to the condition that all differences of religious creeds and confessions shall not be alleged against any person; with reference to civil and political rights, a clause directed against proscription of Jews under the Roumanian constitution. This treated Jews as aliens, though born and resident in Roumania for many generations. Roumanians paid no attention to this until the powers threatened to employ coercion, and then, in November, 1879, the chambers repealed article 7 of the constitution, which excluded non-Christians from naturalization. The powers assumed that free naturalization would be granted, but Roumania continued its old policy of refusing naturalization. In 1879 800 Jewish soldiers were naturalized by a single act, but this was all that was done to relieve the Jews. In twenty years there have not been 100 naturalizations and out of 3000 petitions for this privilege from 1882 to 1892, only ten were granted. In 1899 England, Germany and France united in an identical note of protest, which Roumania insultingly answered by enacting a new and more burdensome naturalization law.

There are 400,000 Jews in Roumania, and they are aliens in the land of their birth. They must serve as soldiers, but they cannot become officers. They are excluded from the ownership of land, professions and the ownership of loans, denied civil rights, and schools are closed to them. Out of 20,000 Jewish children eligible to admission, only 3000

are admitted by paying fees from which Roumanians are exempt. No technical schools are open to them. These disabilities have forced the Jews to abandon Roumania. In the first six months of 1900 more than 16,000 crossed the Austrian frontier. Our census of 1900 showed 19,043 Roumanians in this country, while no previous census mentioned any.

The protest of Secretary Hay is warmly supported by Great Britain, but nothing will move the Roumanian Government save a threat on part of the powers of Europe to apply force. Roumania feels sure that the powers will not proceed to this extremity, so that the persecution and the exodus of Roumanian Jews to this country is likely to continue. The New York Evening Post points out that the Roumanian Government can easily be persuaded to give reciprocity of the Jew because of his religion is not as bad as our persecution of the negro because of his race and color; that the Jew can change his religion, while the negro cannot change his color. The negro is disfranchised because of race and color, which he cannot change, while the Jew can obtain naturalization by simply becoming a Christian. The negro, not only is disfranchised at the South, but at the North, where he is not disfranchised, he is excluded from a large number of employments on account of his complexion.

Judge Pennypacker, of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, last year refused to charter a Christian Science Church because he found from the evidence that it was an institution for the practice of medicine or the art of healing without the practitioners having the necessary license or qualifications required by the state, and now Judge Arnold has refused a fresh application for a charter on the ground that "the Church of Christ, Scientist," is an organization for the relief of the poor, and cannot be chartered by a court under Pennsylvania law. Judge Arnold finds from the evidence before him that Mrs. Eddy is the chief consideration with Mrs. Eddy, and those immediately associated with her in the control of "the Church of Christ, Scientist." The declared object of the church is for the preaching of the gospel according to the doctrine found in the Christian Science text-book, "Science and Health," with key to the Scriptures, by Mary Baker Eddy. Mrs. Eddy has announced to the public that she is the chief organ of the body that "it shall be the duty of all Christian Scientists to circulate and to sell as many of these books as they can. If a member of the First Church of Christ, Scientist, shall fail to obey this injunction, it will render him liable to lose his membership in the church." This book costs 50 cents and is sold for \$3 a volume, a profit of 500 per cent. Judge Arnold, on the evidence before him, holds that this is business, not religion; and therefore the First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Philadelphia is refused a charter.

Among the measures classed as important that may be passed during the short session of Congress is the pending law for the issue of postal currency. The object of this is to make more convenient and safe the remittance of small sums of money by mail. The plan proposed is the sale of notes of small denomination that will pass current, but which may be made payable to one particular firm or person at will by suitable indorsement—that is, by writing the name and address of such firm or person upon the note. An attempt was made a number of years ago to supply the money order system by postal notes for the transmission through the mails of a dollar and fractional parts thereof, but for some reason the experiment was not popular and was discontinued. The proposed postal currency will, if created, be entirely convenient, but whether it will be used to an extent that will justify the issue remains to be seen. Almost every one has learned that a collection postage stamp will carry an ordinary sheet of note paper and an inclosure of 50 cents in silver. This coin and those of smaller denominations are sent in large quantities through the mails by means of a pasteboard socket devised to keep them from slipping out of the envelope, and, though this form of remittance is not considered safe, the risk is not great. Still, it is a clumsy method, and one that a wide-awake postal system cannot sanction. Hence the probability that the postal currency law will be enacted.

"Mount Pelee is again in eruption, Carie Nation is still crusading, Tom Jones is conjuncturing in Ohio, and the coal strike is still in force." To add to the confusion, the Indianapolis News comes forward and wants to know "Who are the Democrats?" This combination of troubles moves the senate Philadelphia Press to ask, plaintively, "if we are to have no rest this side of the grave." Pious Charles Wesley long ago answered this question by interference in the negative, and disclaimed resignedly all desire to be carried to the skies on flowing beds of ease. It is the part of wisdom to cultivate this spirit of resignation while facing troubles of the type above enumerated, since in one way and another they are likely to be always with us.

A thrilling description of the work of devastation accomplished by Mount Pelee in its more recent eruption has been sent home by Professor Heiprin, the National Geographic Society's representative in Martinique. The area covered by the ejecta of the volcano is much larger than that overwhelmed on the 8th of May, though for obvious reasons the loss of life was not nearly so great. The entire northern part of the island is regarded as unsafe for human habitation, though Fort de France, in the southern part, is considered safe, at least for the time being.

The man who habitually carries a pistol is more than likely to become careless in disposing of the weapon when he is at home. The stupid habit of putting a revolver under the pillow has resulted in many a distressing domestic tragedy. That of hanging up the coat or trousers in the closet with the weapon in a pocket of the clothing is perhaps less common, but it is even more reprehensible. A fatal accident occurred near Everett, Wash., Sunday from the latter cause.

There is a movement on foot to restore bullfighting in Havana. During American military occupation this sport was prohibited. Strangely enough, the argument in favor of its restoration is that it attracts strangers, "especially Americans," who spend much money in the city. Of course, the argument in Cuba does not want bullfighting revived. The very idea is preposterous.

SPIRIT OF THE COUNTRY PRESS.

Sympathy Exhausted.

Lakeview Examiner. Let Helen Stone go back to the Turks or to the devil, if she wants to. Uncle Sam owes her goose omelet, and that is quite sufficient.

Give a Dog a Bad Name.

Seattle Times. It seems to be the fashion now when a man is arrested for an unusual crime that of the Mississippi River to accuse him of having spent a season in Seattle.

When He Left.

Lakeview Examiner. Paul Kruger left his country and his people when the bullets fell the thickest in the veldt and the advice of brave leadership and good counsel were needed most. There was really nothing heroic in Oom Paul's life compared with the Generals of the Boer Army.

Oh How Keen—and Generous!

Skamokawa Eagle. The Oregonian has discovered that Washington is now numerically equal or superior in Congress to 13 states: Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming. This knowledge may account for that paper's captious criticisms of the work of the late Republican state convention.

Boon to Idaho Lead Properties.

Republican Independent American. The railroads and smelter trust have finally made a concession to the Coeur d'Alene miners that amounts to a total of about 10 per cent. The effect on the lead-mining districts of Idaho will be almost magical. Corresponding concessions by the railroads leading into Republic and smelting operations by them would soon bring prosperity to this entire section.

Thunder Mountain Pans Out.

Boise Statesman. Notwithstanding all that has been predicted to the contrary, the new country opened up in Central Idaho designated as Thunder Mountain will prove one of the richest mining sections of the world. The problem of supplying operations in the claims first located are being mastered and many good mines are being opened in that part of the district, while enormous ledges of great value have been found throughout many of the surrounding sections.

A Convert to the Truth.

Senator Culom's speech at Carthage. While I believe in a protective tariff, I do not believe in holding onto a high protective tariff longer than is necessary in the interest of the business and labor of our country. In my judgment, the time has come when reductions ought to be made in many instances.

Sanan Rebuking Sin.

Seattle Post-Intelligencer. Tacoma is a good town. It is growing and prospering, and Seattle is delighted to see it do so. It has many charming people living there; has beautiful homes, a good harbor, a fine manufacturing and commercial business. On its merits, and on the facts as they actually exist, Tacoma is entitled to receive a fair share of the immigration which is pouring into the Pacific Northwest.

Turner's Departure a Loss.

Boston Herald. The Pacific Ocean state, Washington, has held its Democratic state convention and has elected to the United States Senate a man who has been in the city platform. This would seem to have given the state over to the Republicans unless Washington is so far out of the general trend of opinion as to make her case exceptional. The state has excellent elements in its population. There is a larger proportion of people of American birth in it than in any of the newer commonwealths of the Union, and some of the best men in the southern part of the country are there. The state was until recently strongly Republican, and it has probably gone back permanently to the Republican party now. In the change of the government, the state has excellent elements in its population.

You Can't Hold the Growlers Down.

Astoria News. The visit of the special board of engineers to the mouth of the Columbia was a very busy one. The manner in which they were taken into the narrow quarters of the Columbia, instead of being driven to the Occident Hotel, where they could get first-class accommodations, excited a good deal of comment. Why this singular effort to keep them from leaving and meeting Astoria people and looking at our splendid site for a seaport city? Captain Langhitt had charge of the party. He had a lot of things to say to express to Chief Engineer Gillespie an opinion adverse to the utility of a sea dredge for the port. The people of Astoria would do well to keep an eye on these singular movements. Two powerful interests are arrayed hostile to an immediate development of Columbia River commerce. Those interests seem to have delayed the coming of this special board for several months. They seem to have a finger in the pie yet. The spectacle of T. B. Wilcox, of the elevator trust, sitting as chief fugueman at the banquet in Portland to the board of engineers is no indication that the enemies of immediate development of Columbia commerce are all dead or devoid of hopeful schemes.

Oregon's Awakening.

Minneapolis Journal. The general awakening of the entire Northwest to the fact that, though the frontier is gone, its development has only begun, is nowhere better instanced than in the case of Oregon. The settlement of Oregon by Americans antedates the annexation of California. It has a community as old as any in Minnesota, and it has long been known to have vast undeveloped agricultural, mineral and timber resources. Yet the population of the state is still under 500,000 and it has not gone ahead so rapidly as it neighbor, Washington. But now Oregon's turn for development has come. The state is being studied by the restless hundreds of thousands of Americans who are looking for and finding new homes. Now that the people of Oregon are advertising their resources and advantages, and are to have a Lewis and Clark Exposition, the attention of the migrating public will be turned toward that state, and its claims will be studied by many before they decide upon a location for their future homes.

HENDERSON AND TOM REED.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Ethics of the Green Table.

Can they pitch a man for dealing on the green table? Can the lookout be molested in his chair? Can they interrupt the deal and stop the roulette wheel? I ask you, on the level, is it fair?

Now, the law is always sacred in my eyes, And the code of honor's what I dearly prize; But to make a raiding trip without sending first a tip— Is it constitutional, or just, or wise?

When a quiet social game is under way, And the door is locked, just as the orders call, Can they touch the box or wheel in the middle of the deal, With all the bets a-going as they lay?

Don't the law protect the dealer in his chair? And the bank-roll if the box is on the square? It's reason is one the Mayor will protect on honest player, For to keep that thousand dollars isn't fair.

Morgan rules the waves. Here's champagne to our dear friends and real pain to our sham friends. The Seattle idea quills when it comes to claiming the origin of every notorious criminal.

It takes all kinds of people to make a world. Mr. Wagoner is looking for Mrs. Wagoner. If the Columbia River doesn't quill lingering at the bar so much, its channel will begin to get full.

It is reassuring to learn from the Puget Sound press that Portland is on its decline again. Let the good work go on; this same old decline we've had for 19 growing, bounding years.

The banging and ringing of gongs for restaurants on the line of the 12th has been forbidden. As a substitute, one man is sent through arriving trains, busily engaged in munching a savory sandwich.

The result was that Portland became prosperous, and at one time it was reported to be the richest city of its size in the United States, except one, Hartford, Conn.—Seattle Washington, Ore. It had been in the same charming action, but might have added that the other town was also New Haven, and occasionally Helena.

Dr. Eastman, a full-blooded Sioux Indian, and at present a Government physician in Dakota, has written a book called "Indian Boyhood," in which he tells in simple fashion of the woodcraft and animal love which he learned in his youth. After graduating from the Boston Medical College, Dr. Eastman married Elaine Goodale, the poet, and settled down in Dakota. He was a crack football-player and champion athlete in his Dartmouth College days.

Foxley Parish, near East Dereham, has perhaps the most wonderful record in England. It has only changed its record once in 110 years. In 1792 Rev. J. Sloughon took the living and held it until 1840, when Canon Goadale, Dr. Eastman's married Elaine Goodale, the poet, and settled down in Dakota. He was a crack football-player and champion athlete in his Dartmouth College days.

It is not a question of interest (though National interest would certainly be promoted thereby), but a matter of plain duty that the general Chamber of Commerce of that city try to disengage intelligent men, who inform themselves as to the facts from Government statistics and personal investigation, not from newspaper advertisements. Why does it seek to convey the really false impression that the Tacoma Chamber of Commerce relies upon its imagination instead of the alleged facts which they put forward in inducement with which to attract immigration?

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REFORM SENTIMENT IN THE EAST.

Chicago Post-Rep.

Another courageous and progressive Republican has repudiated the fallacy that the country's prosperity is a practical argument against tariff readjustment. The reference is Eugene N. Foss, candidate for Congress from the new Eleventh district of Massachusetts. His platform and outspoken speeches have attracted National attention of a favorable and flattering character.

The planks in Mr. Foss' platform which bear upon the overshadowing question of present-day politics are these: Immediate tariff revision along such lines as will long endow the nation with every man a fair chance to earn a living. Reciprocity with Canada, our best foreign customer, on a basis of mutual advantage, such reciprocal treaties with other countries as will build up our home industries and increase our commerce.

Reciprocity with Cuba rests upon a peculiar and distinct set of considerations. It is not a question of interest (though National interest would certainly be promoted thereby), but a matter of plain duty that the general Chamber of Commerce of that city try to disengage intelligent men, who inform themselves as to the facts from Government statistics and personal investigation, not from newspaper advertisements. Why does it seek to convey the really false impression that the Tacoma Chamber of Commerce relies upon its imagination instead of the alleged facts which they put forward in inducement with which to attract immigration?

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