# The Oregonian.

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TODAY'S WEATHER — Occasional rain. Brisk southeast winds.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 49 deg.; minimum temperature, 46 deg.; precipitation, 0.19 inch.

PORTLAND, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10.

Ten years from now the present gobbling up of public lands for little or nothing, by fair means or foul, will have a very ugly look, and the chief offenders and their families will have cause to regret their pernicious activity, if they have any regard whatever for public sentiment. The overshadowing fact about the public domain, whether we are talking of timber, coal, railroads, scrip, irrigation, is that the old regime of limitless land and scarce applicants is gone never to return. We are living in a day of pressure of population. Europe presses on our Atlantic seaboard, and our East presses on our West. The Mississippi Valley presses on the Rocky Mountain region. Farmers from Minnesota and the Dakotas are flocking to Oregon and Washington. We do not need to advertise our timber in the East. Lumbermen of Michigan and Wisconsin understand full well that their own timber supply is doomed. They are turning hither of their own accord, and acquiring land as rapidly as the necessary steps can be gone through and money paid over. Justice must be done to all these applicants under all these laws. Capital must be protected. Settlers must be protected. But through all these conflicting interests and complicated questions the one obligation that lies heavily on every patriotic heart is protection of the public domain and obedience to the law. It is not the business of Commissioner Hermann or any other official to screen offenders in office or out, to boom settlement or facilitate investment. It is their business to enforce the law without fear or favor, and to leave their skirts clear of fraud or lenience when future generations hold their memories to strict account for the disappearance of our once vast and always increasingly valuable public domain.

Six short years have passed since the political convulsions of 1896, and in the two great opposing parties we see two different processes in progress. On one hand the Gold Democrats are returning to power, on the other hand the Silver Republicans are falling by the way. Hill was hooted out of the Chicago convention, but in New York State he is supreme. Tammany Hall was disciplined, but today its Gold Democrats have made New York again a Democratic city. George Fred Williams is repudiated in Massachusetts, and Jones in Arkansas, while Gorman is back in control in Maryland and Vilas is restored in Wisconsin. In striking contrast to the rehabilitation of the Democracy through the discredit of Bryanism and the return of reason is the disaster that has overtaken the silver men who bolted the St. Louis convention. Teller sees his state return to Republican rule, and his re-election made doubtful even with his Democratic hold-overs. Dubois confronts a Republican Legislature in Idaho, and a Republican Senator is already in the seat of Cannon of Utah. Pettigrew of South Dakota and Hartman of Montana were also among the St. Louis bolters, and now find themselves in Republican states. The Legislature which made George Turner a Senator from Washington stood 84 Democrats and Populists to 28 Republicans. The one that will choose his successor stands 110 Republicans to 26 Democrats. Nothing could be more fitting than these antagonistic fates of two uprisings. The rebellion that failed was a time-serving sacrifice of truth. The revolution that won was a sacrifice of present gain for permanent triumph.

Secretary Shaw cannot do better than to abandon his device of accepting state and municipal securities, now that its inexpedience has been shown. Nothing else was expected by sound criticism from the first; and it remains only to consider the possibilities of evil that are bound up in the precedent. These stretchings of authority and strainings of law are very agreeable when the officer so indulging himself acts as we approve, but when they are employed unwisely to perverted purposes we cry aloud. A Secretary of the Treasury may arise some day who will carry this precedent into action when the times are too disjointed to bear it. A Secretary may arise who will carry it a little farther and accept municipal and railroad and industrial bonds on the eve of a panic and upset the value of the currency. The Treasury, we are informed, has actually canvassed the question of private corporation securities, and came near offering to accept them. These exigencies are removed for the present, however, and what difficulties they bode can only be disclosed by time. Meanwhile the episode should serve to remind our sticklers for more liberal banking laws that there are some things worse than inelastic currency, and one of them is an unsafe currency. The money of the United States is as good as gold today in all its forms. No proposal to tamper with its absolute safety should receive consideration. The system is imperfect, as all human systems are; but in such cases it is frequently well to bear the ills we have than fly to others that we know not of.

Inasmuch as The Oregonian approved the scheme of a Tariff Commission upon its first broaching by President Roosevelt, it welcomes the undertaking of the Portland Chamber of Commerce to petition Congress to that end. In this tariff problem there are two extremes of equal mischief and peril. One is the high-tariff idiocy that protection can do no wrong. The other is the Democratic itching to pursue every successful American industry with the destructive besom of free trade. Between these two schools of impracticable idealism on one hand and corporate insatiety on the other there is no more hopeful or trustworthy expedient than a nonpartisan or even bipartisan Tariff Commission. No tariff law can be safely passed out of hand, but a Tariff Commission could gather and promulgate the facts concerning industries and schedules, so that intelligent and honest public opinion would have a trustworthy fulcrum on which to rest its resistless lever. If we took off the duty on iron and steel tomorrow, would immediate relief to consumers counterbalance the injury the steel trust might thereby be enabled to inflict on independent producers? There are few men in Congress or outside of it who could answer that question understandingly, or many another question like it. The facts upon which tariff changes must be based should be ascertained and made public. The opposition to a Tariff Commission has proceeded almost wholly from free-traders, who are excusably disgusted with the record made by the commission of 1882-3. It is sufficient answer to remind them that Theodore Roosevelt will not appoint a commission composed of tariff beneficiaries or their stipendiaries.

## AN INADEQUATE DEFENSE.

In the discussion which has taken place regarding the contracts made by the State Land Board with the various irrigation companies for the reclamation of arid land under the Carey act it has been repeatedly stated that the companies do not get title to the land, but merely hold a lien upon the land for the cost of reclamation. This fact has been cited as an answer to the charge that the companies are "land-grabbers" bent upon securing large tracts of land on terms satisfactory to themselves. Attention has been called to the provisions of the law and the contracts, wherein it is provided that not more than 160 acres shall be sold to any one person, and that any bona-fide settler may secure 160 acres of the land by paying the amount of the lien of the irrigation company.

Upon its face the answer seems quite conclusive, and has for that reason gone undisputed. Yet any one who is familiar with the process by which syndicates have acquired title to vast tracts of public land in this state will see, if he reads the law on the subject, that the irrigation companies are in a position which will enable them to secure title to practically all the land upon which they hold liens if they choose. The laws governing the sale of state school land provide that not more than 320 acres of land shall be sold to any one person, yet every one knows that the lands have been "grabbed" by large capitalists. The law is evaded by securing large numbers of individuals to purchase from the state, and then to transfer title to the syndicates, which furnish the money for the original purchase. The men who act as tools for the perpetration of the fraud are paid from $1 50 to $5 for perjuring themselves. The original purchasers swear that they want the land for their own use, and have made no agreement to transfer it, yet the money has been furnished by a third party, to whom a transfer is made on the same day.

What is there, then, to prevent syndicates from securing a number of individuals to make purchases of land reclaimed under the provisions of the Carey act, and then transfer the title to the persons furnishing the money? Since the irrigation companies hold a lien upon the land for the cost of reclamation, amounting as a rule to $10 per acre, they are in the best possible position to work the "grab" act in the disposal of these reclaimed lands. At the average price of $10 per acre, a settler must have $1600 cash in order to purchase the 160 acres to which he is entitled. The irrigation companies can, by procuring the aid of a cheap perjurer, secure the title to the land without putting up more than a nominal sum of money. The irrigation companies will be in a position to know which of the lands are the most desirable and the most valuable, and can procure transfers before bona-fide settlers have an opportunity to look over the land and make selections.

In calling attention to these facts and circumstances one lays himself open to the charge of imputing an evil intent to people who have not yet done anything wrong. It is to be expected that the irrigation concerns which have the state contracts will protest that they are being adjudged guilty of subornation of perjury before they have had even an opportunity to commit the offense. Let all such compose themselves. There is no intention to charge any one with having plans for the "grabbing" of land through false affidavits and fraud of various kinds. The purpose of this comment upon a very live subject is to call attention to the opportunities which are open for some very extensive landgrabbing, and which have thus far escaped attention.

If one had suggested ten years ago that there was a chance for the stealing of our timber lands, he would have been denounced as a false accuser suspecting innocent people of planning evil. But the timber lands are gone, and they are very rapidly making millionaires of the men who got them. Thousands of "homesteads" have been taken, but the number of settlers on them has remained very small. In the next few years thousands of "settlers" will take homes in the reclaimed arid lands. Will the homes be permanent, or will the lands pass into the hands of a few? Any one who wishes to do so is free to draw conclusions based upon the experience of this state in the passing of the timber lands.

There is much that the Legislature might do in order to protect persons who are really looking for homes on the reclaimed desert. A very stringent law should be enacted to guard against fraudulent purchases of land, and the criminal statutes governing offenses of that nature should be made severe enough to reduce the frauds to a minimum. Under their contracts the reclamation companies will be entitled to receive the amount of their lien, but the state has a right to adopt measures which will give all bona-fide settlers an opportunity to purchase land, and to punish those who are parties to fraud in land transactions.

## PHILIPPINE NEEDS.

It is difficult for us in this country to understand the urgent desire of nearly all classes in the Philippines for free access for Chinese and Japanese labor. We are alive here to the dangers of degraded labor. But it appears that over there the conditions are reversed. As compared with the Filipino, the Chinaman is the superior individual. He demands double the wages of the natives, dresses better, lives on more substantial food, occupies a better house, is more solicitous as to the education of his children, and in every way tends to uplift the native. He has taught the native to do nearly all that he now does successfully; how to grow his rice, his tobacco, his sugar cane, his hemp; how to build his houses and make the furniture to fill them, and, above all, the principles of business which have made the Chinese noted among the commercial nations of the earth.

All this and a good deal more has been testified to by so competent a witness as Mr. Edwin Wildman, ex-United States Vice-Consul-General to Hong Kong, and is accepted as the most commonplace form of truth by everybody having any knowledge of the countries of Eastern Asia. It must be admitted that abundant labor is a positive essential to profitable development of the hitherto untouched resources of the Philippines. If the latent resources of our new possession are to be allowed to lie unproductive, they will add nothing either to the wealth of the United States or to that of the world at large. As the ex-United States Consul at Amoy pertinently remarked: "Let those who oppose the introduction of contract labor tell us how we are to develop the resources and industries of the Philippines without skilled labor, and Chinese and Japanese are the only races in the East furnishing such labor."

Opposition to Chinese labor in the Philippines is much more intelligible than the United States Senate's resolute determination to condemn the archipelago to an indefinite continuation of the evils of a fluctuating silver standard. Events since the adjournment of Congress have confirmed all the arguments for the establishment of the gold standard. They have certainly shown that the trading difficulties arising from these fluctuations were not exaggerated, as the advocates of the existing system claimed, and that to merchants in active business they have been something more than a mere bugbear. It is quite true, as was argued before the Philippine committee last February, that a merchant when he settles the prices either for buying or selling merchandise in a silver country at the same time settles with the bank the rate of exchange. But that is by no means the end of the transaction so far as the development of the commerce of the country is concerned, as the New York Journal of Commerce has repeatedly shown in some excellent articles which we have reprinted. If the merchandise which is imported has to be paid for in gold, a higher price must be exacted for it in silver, first from the middleman and finally from the consumer. There is, in short, an instability of price and a difficulty in securing returns from merchandise sold, which demoralizes confidence and materially interferes with any development of trade.

The error made in withholding the gold standard from the Philippines has been minimized by the Taft commission's failure to employ its authority to coin silver for circulation. But the question will recur with increasing imperativeness at the coming session of Congress. No better act could then be done than a prompt supplementary statute for the Philippines covering the matter of the money standard and some sensible adjustment of the labor problem which will forbid Philippine Chinese free access to our domestic ports.

## VOTERS SHOULD NOMINATE.

The bill framed by the Salem committee, for direct nomination of candidates for office by the voters, is a step in the right direction. The weakness of much of the primary agitation has been in persistent clinging to the old convention system as a part of the new nominating scheme. Why should there be an elaborate machine, subject to disorders and requiring more or less expert manipulation, when a simple process will do far better? With delegate conventions to nominate candidates, the voters' control of the government is at least one step more remote than with direct primary nominations, and usually it is several steps more remote because of the inclination to transfer convention work to committees, and also because of the opportunity for "working" conventions by interests that are more concerned with private gain than with the public welfare. Direct primary nomination of candidates is the right principle to work on.

Our modern caucus and convention system is a growth of nearly two centuries. Ernest C. Meyer, in his book on "Nominating Systems," divides this development into four periods. The first closed with the Revolutionary War, and in it the caucus grew from a secret, private, unauthorized gathering to an open and irregular but public meeting. The second period closed with establishment of the present National Government in 1787, and it was marked by local delegate conventions as supplementary to the caucuses. The succeeding thirty-five years, constituting the third period, were characterized by extension of local delegate conventions, and by the rise of the Legislative and Congressional caucuses as the central nominating powers of state or Nation, respectively. At the end of the "era of good feeling" came the beginning of the fourth period, in which the convention system was developed into an intricate machine having continuity of existence and unity of action. Mr. Meyer thinks we are upon the threshold of a fifth era, to be marked by abolition of the corrupted caucus and convention, and substitution therefor of the system of direct nomination by the voters.

Minnesota has made the greatest progress in primary election reform, and experience there is such as to commend the movement in other states. Even South Carolina has taken advanced ground in this matter and is finding the experience beneficial. In both those states the convention as a part of the necessary nominating machinery is done away with. The voters make their nominations directly at the polls. In both those states the new plan is found to increase popular interest, though it was expected by many to have the contrary effect, and such it appeared at first to have had in Minnesota. But strengthening the law gave more confidence, and there is now general admission that it is a good thing for the public weal. Wisconsin is in the throes of reforming its primaries, and if the declarations of the Republican platform can be carried out by the Legislature, the present convention system will be superseded by direct primary nominations. Everywhere the attempt of the people to get political power back into their hands is opposed by the bosses, whose power is not broken without a desperate fight. Oregon has already taken one step in reform of the nominating system. It has taken most advanced ground in recognition of the popular right to rule by adopting the initiative and referendum amendment to the constitution. Perhaps the state is ripe for genuine reform in the matter of nominating candidates for public office. It is to be hoped that it is.

Who presses for irrigation in the arid regions? Not the inhabitants of those regions, surely, for they are few and uninfluential. Moreover, present occupants are inclined to view with disfavor any movement in the direction of settling the country and plowing up the range. Large private interests thrive upon the use of wide areas of public domain. Cultivation of the land means reduction in the open range, which is already overcrowded with livestock. Therefore the strictly local influences are many times opposed rather than favorable to operations having for their object the settlement and cultivation of the soil. They do not cry to Congress for the "relief." The mainspring of reclamation agitation is in the trade centers—in the large cities of the Mississippi Valley and the railroads that connect them with the arid regions. Those interests see what is to be gained by making the "desert" blossom and bear fruit. They see that the ordinary agencies or methods of development will not meet the case. They press for Congressional aid and rouse local interest. And the movement, once started, soon acquires momentum enough to carry it to success. It is at heart a campaign for extension of commerce. Its origin is in the commercial centers. Irrigation congresses are controlled by delegations from cities ambitious for new markets. And while they agitate they organize, and without their work reclamation of arid domain would be slow and expensive business. The struggle for trade is not ignoble, and the world would be more fortunate than it is if all development movements had at their root as worthy a motive as that which actuates the irrigation cause.

The low stage of water in the Willamette for the past three months has been favorable to channel work, and the time has been well employed under the direction of the Government Engineers' Office in this city. Many snags and other obstructions have been removed from the channel during the season, several new dams have been constructed and a number of new buoys have been set in places where rocks render navigation during high water dangerous. Farmers and shippers of the Willamette Valley follow the work upon this portion of the river with great interest and satisfaction. Loyalty to the river is one of their characteristics, and as eternal vigilance is the price of keeping this waterway in navigable condition throughout the year, it is sincerely hoped that the appropriation for that purpose will not again lapse.

Three hundred Confederates in the Lee Camp Soldiers' Home were disfranchised under the clause of the new constitution which declares that no inmate of a Soldiers' Home or other charitable institution is entitled to register and vote anywhere except in the place of his residence prior to becoming an inmate of the institution. This clause was inserted in the constitution in order to disfranchise the 3000 inmates of the Soldiers' Home at Hampton, Va., who would be likely to cast a solid Republican vote. The framers of the new constitution deemed it wise to sacrifice the 300 Democratic votes at Lee Camp in order to get rid of the 3000 Republican voters at Hampton. It is very plain that the framers of the new constitution of Virginia were exceedingly anxious to disfranchise all Republicans, both black and white.

John L. Wilson says that he has been promised and expects the support of Senator Foster and his friends in his coming Senatorial struggle. The reason he gives for such expectations is that two years ago he turned over twenty-eight votes to Foster with the understanding that reciprocity was to be practiced when the opportunity arrived. Unless there has been a radical omission from the various tabulated estimates of the strength of the different Senatorial candidates, the kind of support Senator Foster will be in a position to give will be of the "moral" brand, which is not regarded as good trading stock at Olympia. John L. certainly has another guess coming as to the location of the opening through which he can try to crawl back into the Senatorial fight.

The Multnomah delegation at Salem "favors and will work for" a $500,000 appropriation by the state for the Lewis and Clark Exposition. The delegation does not ask that the appropriation be made for the benefit of Portland, but for the benefit of the state. It does not, as a delegation, go to Salem making the appropriation its especial concern; or, rather, it does not seek to place itself in any different relationship to the enterprise than the Representatives of any other counties may and should place themselves. Observe that the Legislators from this county have as a unit decided that they will support the request of the Lewis and Clark directors for $500,000. So may any other county do the same. The Fair is not a local enterprise. It is a state enterprise.

In these days of vigorous police prohibition of gambling, stories of big play at the Portland Club must make interesting reading in the vicinity of Second and Oak streets.

The Multnomah Legislative delegation has got together; and from the results of its first meeting it may be guessed that it will have no great trouble to keep together.

It may be that when the Iowa Republican Convention meets, Henderson will not be running for Governor so fast as he is now.

## SPIRIT OF THE NORTHWEST PRESS

### Comes With a Rush.

Boise Statesman.

Say, it was glorious! Who could have thought that this state would rush into the arms of the Republican party with so much enthusiasm after its six long years of wandering? But that is generally the way with the prodigal; it will hesitate for a long time, and the surrender comes with a rush that is inspiring.

### And Maybe He'll Get It.

Eugene Register.

As an aftermath of all this flurry over timber land frauds in Oregon, special inspectors are to arrive shortly from Washington to look into the affairs of the Roseburg, Lakeview and The Dalles offices. In our opinion, the whole thing will be largely a flash in the pan. It will probably develop that a fight is on at Washington in the General Land Office, and that somebody is after somebody else's scalp.

### Don't Carry Too Much Money.

Albany Democrat.

A flathead Indian up north was robbed of $22,000 in cash. In the first place, in these days of banks and business by checks and drafts, neither an Indian nor any one else has any business traveling around the country with so much money. It displays poor judgment to carry much money with one with business on its present basis. Nevertheless, all the machinery of the Government should be resorted to to catch the robbers and secure the return of the money to the poor Indian.

### Asking Too Much.

Salem Statesman.

Portland is the metropolitan city of Oregon. The people of the balance of the state are interested in Portland, and proud of its representative institutions. Every man in Oregon should wish the metropolis well. But the few people there who are interested in having a new city charter are asking most too much when they demand the calling of an extra session of the Legislature for the sole purpose of accomplishing this object a few short weeks before the meeting of the regular session. These Portland men are the only ones now asking for an extra session with anything like positiveness. The people generally throughout the state are opposed to an extra session of the Legislature—those of them who are thinking anything at all about the matter.

### One Way Out of It.

Seattle Times.

If it should prove, however, that Mr. Preston has not a sufficient number of votes to control the caucus, it seems to us that it would be wise for him to make a combination with the strongest candidate, and "hold his political horses" for another two years, and watch out for Foster's vacant shoes! Under no circumstances should the followers of Ankeny and Preston permit the few followers of Wilson to control the situation—for such an arrangement would throw the whole business against Seattle's best interests—precisely as it did when Foster was elected. On the other hand, if it became necessary, Mr. Preston couldn't make a better arrangement than to enter into an agreement which would result in the election of Levi Ankeny, as it would place Ankeny under lasting obligations to Seattle, and retain his friendship in the campaign of 1904 for Preston.

### Truth in Unwonted Place.

Tacoma Ledger.

The United States is preparing to increase commerce with the Orient. There is the expectation that much will be gained by this. There is also the expectation that China will benefit materially. The idea is not to impoverish China. Nobody could deal with an impoverished country. When people have something to sell they are glad to find the customer. When they want to buy, and have the price, they are glad to make connections with the man who has the goods. The theory that to buy goods is to be unfortunate reduces the whole system of barter to an immorality, for it becomes a matter of preying upon the weak. There is no logical basis for the course of reasoning that does this. The seller does not thrust his wares down the throats of unwilling patrons. They come to him voluntarily, and are satisfied at being able to come. The merchant will want something they have to sell, too.

### Rural View of Game Protection.

North Yamhill Record.

The farmer is entitled to the best of hunting, and he will succeed in getting it, even to the extent of violating the laws, if need be, which may be lobbied through the Legislature by any combination of wholesale poachers. No one has so clear a title to the birds as those who grow the food for them often at the sacrifice of their garden patches, and many bushels of grain, as the farmer does. If the law is made "open" September 15, it is not at all improbable that the farmer will, a few days before the law is open, seek an opportunity to avail himself of the advantage which it is sought to take from him by law. There is no danger of the China pheasant becoming extinct, as some believe. The pheasants, if protected till October 1, are fully able to take care of themselves, being by that time fully grown. The member of the Fish and Game Association who, possessing a good dog and gun—and it is little use to hunt without them—cannot take enough birds to satisfy him under present conditions, is either a poor shot or else is not willing to be satisfied with what he is entitled to.

### An Appreciative Tribute.

Tillamook Headlight.

A great deal of credit is due the Port of Portland Commission for the ability it has displayed in carrying out the duties imposed upon it. In two years the commission will have expended $500,000 in building a drydock, a dredge and other appliances, and it should be a source of gratification to the taxpayers of Portland to know that the commissioners have been just as economical and careful in spending the money of the port as they are in their own business; and another thing which we are glad to hear is, no one has been allowed to work a public "graft" upon the commission, although we are reliably informed that overtures to that effect were made and indignantly resented. We make this assertion, that if the ability of the present commission is not fully appreciated as it should be after devoting so much study and time to Portland's most important interest, in a few years it will be plainly seen that the commission worked along right lines to make Portland double the shipping port that she is now. Then, and probably not till then, will the labors of the present commission be appreciated.

### Half a Million Too Much.

Woodburn Independent.

While there should be a Legislative appropriation, it should not be $500,000, for several reasons. In the first place, it would establish a bad precedent, and in itself would advertise Oregon to intending settlers as a reckless state, and hundreds, and probably thousands, would accept the act as a warning to keep away from where taxes are rolled up in such a lavish manner. The Buffalo Pan-American Fair received no pecuniary aid from the State of New York. Yes, it was a financial failure, but not particularly so on account of there being no Legislative appropriation. Nebraska gave the great Omaha Exposition only $100,000. Why, then, should Oregon, with population and property valuation far below either of these two states, give $500,000? We are told it is to insure a fair in Portland in 1905. Bosh! The Fair will be held, and Portlanders know it, and they are also aware of another important item, which it that a Legislative appropriation of $500,000 would materially assist the stockholders in meeting a fully expected deficit. Portland enthusiasts do not really figure on the increase of rentals netting them more than the amounts of their compulsory subscriptions for shares in the Fair.

## WOMEN AS WINE AGENTS.

Washington Post.

"I came across something pretty new in the new woman line up in Boston the other day—a woman whisky drummer," said a Washington hotelman. "She was a good looking, neatly dressed woman, well under middle age, and she was selling whisky by the barrel in saloons and restaurants, just exactly in the same fashion that the male whisky drummers sell it. Her name is Mrs. Rueger, and she lives, when she is at home, in New York, and has the New England territory to cover for her firm. She is business-like and direct in her methods, without having anything mannish about her, and she does mighty well at the business. She told me that she had never been insulted, or, in fact, treated with anything but courtesy in the thousands of saloons that she has visited since she took up her odd business for a woman. She doesn't make any attempt to work her edge as a woman in order to sell her goods, but disposes of them squarely on their merits, in competition with the agents who wear trousers on the wing for whisky houses. But she told me tha there was one exceedingly disagreeable feature about the business for her, and, great Scott! I should think it would be! She has, she says, to drink from 15 to 100 glasses of the hard stuff a day, just like the male whisky sellers, but they must be all drinks of a whole lot less than a 'finger' each, for I'll swear that she doesn't look it. She doesn't particularly care what her friends think about her entering upon such an occupation, having, as she says, her own way to make, and feeling disposed to make it in a way that she has discovered to be the most profitable for her. She amusedly remarked, however, that she had a great dread of ever meeting up with Carrie Nation, and not long ago, when the kilted hatchet-wielder from Kansas was in New Haven, the woman whisky drummer, who happened to be there at the same time, says that she skedaddled out of New Haven with such speed that she scarcely took time to dress.

"There are nowadays quite a number of women champagne agents in New York, and there is one of them who operates in Washington, too, during the Winter, but, of course, their methods of selling the product of their employing firms are not so straight-out as those of this woman whisky drummer. Most of them are reduced society women, who, searching about for some method whereby to pad their incomes, have hit upon the champagne rivalry as offering them a profitable field, and they make money. The word 'tout' isn't exactly a pleasant one, but these women wine agents are really champagne touts. They induce their friends and acquaintances to use their firms' brands of champagne on occasions of festivity and not a few of them have been known to go after business in connection with hotels and cafes, but they do this in a roundabout way. The woman champagne agent who covers Washington during the social season is a Baltimore woman with a wide acquaintanceship among highly placed people in Washington, as well as in the Monumental city, and among these people she is as skillful a 'recommender of the brand of fizzy goods she is employed to purvey as any male wine agent I ever met up with. A peculiar fact in connection with her is that she has never tasted a drop of champagne or any other intoxicating liquor in her life, out of principle. But she freely if somewhat naively, admits that she is only going to apply the principle to herself as long as there is a chance for her to make something more than a luxurious livelihood by selling champagne."

### The Washington Ancestry.

London Speaker.

The attempt of the promoters of the St. Louis exhibition to secure Sulgrave Manor, the alleged home of the Washingtons, for their forthcoming world's fair, reminds us that the question of the ancestry of the first President of the United States is still regarded as a vexed one. Although our American cousins covet the old Northamptonshire house, they cannot prove it had a very near connection with George Washington. If the President's ancestors ever held Sulgrave Manor they left it at least six generations before George took up the thread of fate, and the relic-hunters would find something more worthy their attention as being genuinely Washingtonian if they went farther north.

The Washingtons of the 17th century were characteristically loyal. During the civil war they were cavaliers, and it was their connection with an attempt to overthrow Cromwell and restore the old dynasty that caused John and Lawrence Washington to flee from Yorkshire over seas and join other exiles in the old and loyal dominion of Virginia. They bought large estates and settled down on the Potomac. John, who had abandoned his Yorkshire estates, married Miss Ann Pope, and their eldest son, Lawrence, married the daughter of Colonel Augustus Warner, a prominent colonist, and had three children—John, Augustine and Mildred. Augustine married Jane Butler, by whom he had four children, and after her death he fell in love with and married Mary Ball, a young lady of great beauty. Their first son was George Washington, who, as a slab on the site of his birthplace at Pope's Creek testifies, was born on February 11 (old style), 1732. Thus we have Washington's direct descent from a Yorkshire squire, who was associated with the county up to the time of his emigration, fully laid bare.

### Bad Faith in Baseball.

Boston Herald.

The number of baseball players who refuse to keep their word, and even their bond, is increasing. We do not refer to those instances in which a perpetual right to a player is claimed because he has once played with a club; it was no more than just that his subjection, bordering on slavery, should be broken up; but now there is a new kind of cases in which ball players give their word, sign their names to contracts, even take money from those with whom they have contracted, and then, having received the offer of more money in another quarter, sell their services anew there. We assume that there is a legal penalty for this kind of action, but the difficulty in the case is that the men who thus offend are not pecuniarily responsible to meet the fine in which it appears. There should be a public opinion to reach such players, however. If they are not hooted off of a ballfield, they should be made to know that their action is despised and detested by right-thinking men. One of the pitchers of the Boston National nine was in this category last year, and he is said to have begun to pursue the same course for the year ensuing.

### An Eskimelodrama; or, the Eskapade of an Eskamaid.

The Cornell Widow.

'Mid Greeland's polar ice and snow,
Where watermelons seldom grow
(It's far too cold up there, you know),
There dwelt a bold young Eskimo.

Beneath the self-same iceberg's shade,
In fur of seal and bear arrayed
(Not over cleanly, I'm afraid),
There lived a charming Eskamaid.

Thro'out the six months' night they'd spoon
(Ah, ye of sage, think what a boon),
To stoo at 10 is much too soon
Beneath the silvery Eskimoon.

The hated rival now we see!
(You spy the coming tragedy.
But I can't help it; don't blame me.)
An Eskimucher vile was he.

He found the lovers there alone.
He killed them with his ax of bone.
(You see how fierce the tale has grown)—
The fond pair died with an Eskimoan.

Two graves were dug, deep in the ice,
Were lined with furs, moth balls, and spice;
The two were buried in a trice,
Quite safe from all the Eskimice.

Now Fido comes, alas, too late!
(I hope it's not indelicate
These little incidents to state)—
The Eskimurderer he ate.

ENVOI.

Upon an Eskimo to sup
Was too much for an Eskipup—
He died. His Eskimemory
Is thus kept green in verse by me.

## NOTE AND COMMENT.

Dressed to kill—a duck hunter.

Now the women can resume their shopping.

Some people think that streets should be improved before morals.

Good morning; is your sidewalk still moored to the front fence?

When a woman cuts a man on the street, it is a sharp reminder that he is dull to her charms.

The show made by people who are late at the play is, unfortunately, not so good as the one on the boards. Exceptions prove the rule.

An exchange reviewer, in speaking of Jack London's latest novel, says: "Hamlin Garland and Rudyard Kipling have written no better." Is this praise?

It is very hard for a woman to acknowledge that she is wrong, and when circumstances compel the admission the man in the case finds that the good is not always the beautiful.

A young couple, both engaged in educational pursuits previous to their marriage, and both familiar with the inborn illiteracy of children, have been much worried on account of a habit their little 4-year-old girl has fallen into of misplacing pronouns. She invariably says "him" for "he," and "he" for "him," and she has been so often and so persistently corrected that she cannot remember what she has been told in regard to changing her use of the pronouns. It was finally decided to send her to kindergarten, with a special view of getting her put to rights on this point. When she came home the first day she was asked what the children did at kindergarten. "Oh!" said she, "we said a little prayer and sang a little 'he.'" The parents were prostrated.

It might be made a subject of philosophical inquiry whether an actress' dress is a work of dramatic art. Of course it is to a certain extent. The woman who should play a poverty-stricken seamstress in a low-necked gown and silk stockings (and it has been done), displays a false understanding, and is too open to criticism. But, apart from these gross inaccuracies, it is a genuine problem to tell how far a woman is entitled to praise for her stage costume. Just at present there is more weight given in the advance notices of theatrical productions to one pretty gown than to ninety and nine dramatic virtues. The course of reasoning seems to run about as follows: The aim of the stage is to please; a woman is pleased most by a "creation" of a gown; therefore, a fine dress is the mainstay of the stage. Men are very properly left out of the account.

In this time, when the pulpit and the press are decrying the unclean drama, it seems that there is room for leniency in one respect. Generally speaking, the dramatic art is among the highest. It requires devotion, self-sacrifice, and, more than all else, clean, untainted talent. Long ago the musician and the painter were accorded charity for moral failings. It is nothing to an artist's discredit, so some think, that he has transgressed the ordinary rules of society. But to the actor and the actress this license has never been granted—nor claimed. A slight association with the players who amuse the American public will convince the most skeptical that the profession stands for nobility of womanhood and manhood. Many an unclean drama has been made endurable simply by the purity of the actor and the actress who have given the atmosphere of wholesome humanity. Let all the burden fall upon the dramatist and his public. The shame, when shame there is, does not lie with those who are striving to make their art a vehicle for their noblest aspirations.

When the transport Valencia sailed from San Francisco with the first military expedition to Manila, she was commanded by Captain Lane, now commander of the steamer Ohio, plying between Seattle and Nome. The captain is a bluff sailor, who is as determined as most captains to be absolute master of his ship. He was sailing in company with several other transports, and had to keep down to the speed of the slowest, which was about seven knots an hour. This prolonged the voyage of the ship beyond the possible water supply and the capacity of the condensers, if a full allowance of water were given the soldiers of one of the Dakota regiments who were on board. The captain, therefore, cut down the allowance to a pint a day per man. The soldiers growled, and their Colonel went to the captain and made a vigorous protest. The captain explained the necessity, but to no purpose, and the Colonel assumed an air of authority which nettled him.

"Are you running this ship?" finally asked Captain Lane.

"Yes," answered the now angry Colonel, who wished to show his men how much he could and would do for their comfort.

"Then you take her to Manila," said the captain. "Ting-a-ling" rang the bell connecting with the engine-room, and the engines stopped. The captain went to his cabin and left the Colonel on the bridge. For about two hours the ship drifted, and then the Colonel capitulated. The soldiers struggled along on a pint of fresh water a day, and had to wash in salt water, but Captain Lane landed them all safely at Manila.

## PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

Clara—What an easy-going person that Mr. Littlebrayne is. Agnes—Easy-going? I never found him so. It's always the hardest kind of work for me to get him to go before midnight. —Chicago Record-Herald.

First Colombian Native—I believe Mr. Sidearms is to marry one of the society belles of the Colombian territory. Second Colombian Native—Yes; she is a daughter of 15 or 20 of the revolutions.—Judge.

College Professor—Now, Mr. Skimmitt, if an irresistible force should meet an immovable body, what would happen? Mr. Skimmitt—Why—er—probably Bishop Potter and Mark Hanna would volunteer their services in the interests of arbitration!—Puck.

Algie Footknock—How do I know you really do care for me, Miss Joshh? Miss J.—How? Why, haven't I danced with you twice tonight? Algie—And is that a sign? Miss J.—Huh! You'd know if you could see yourself dance, Algie.—Chicago Daily News.

"Don't you wish you had $1,000,000 so that you could put on a Shakespearean play in accordance with your ideals?" "No," answered Mr. Stormington Barnes; "I wish I had $1,000,000 so that I wouldn't have to put on Shakespeare at all."—Washington Star.

Barnes—Tom is becoming quite a linguist, isn't he? Shedd—I don't know. Is he? Barnes—Why, haven't you heard? He took French leave from town last year, and now he has been made to walk Spanish from the place he went to.—Boston Transcript.

City Editor—What instruction did you give that new reporter when you assigned him to that hanging? Assistant—I merely told him not to make his story commonplace. Why? City Editor—Well, he has tried to follow your orders. For instance, he speaks of the body falling "with a sharp, invigorating thud."—Philadelphia Press.