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TODAY'S WEATHER—Fair and continued cool; northerly winds.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 47; minimum temperature, 38; precipitation, none.

PORTLAND, THURSDAY, NOV. 20.

The finest speech that was made at yesterday's convention was one whose delivery occupied Mr. Arthur P. Davis, the Government expert, about thirty seconds of time. "I am quoted in the evening papers," he said, "as having stated that the Government prefers large irrigation projects to small. I may have said it. I think on reflection I did say it. That statement is wrong. It is not true, and neither myself nor anybody else has the authority to make such a statement. I hope you will accept this brief statement as a correction of the error into which I must have been led by some misunderstanding of the question to which I was endeavoring to reply." Then he sat down and the hall shook with applause. We venture to say that in that manly speech Mr. Davis more commended himself to the promiscuous gathering of merchants and miners, polished lawyers and rough and ready ranchers than by all the demonstration of his learning, which is evidently great, and of his common sense, which is manifestly practical and sound. Under broadcloth or corduroy, under ten-cent flannel or Wamsutta muslin, there beats in every true heart alike a warm spot for the man who, when he discovers himself in an error, promptly says "I made a mistake. I was wrong." The memory of that manly utterance will live for good in the minds of its hearers when the labored addresses of the day are forgotten.

The blanket franchise agreed upon between the city authorities and the Portland Consolidated street-car system is one that will be looked back upon with pride in future years by every participant in its framing. The city officials have served the public well, and the street-car people themselves have set an example which entitles them to the honor of pioneers in an inevitable era of profit-sharing by the city in corporate enterprises. That conservatism which stubbornly resists the plainest of advancing reforms, like contribution of percentages on earnings to the city in return for use of the streets, and such oversight as official inspection of books and ascertainment of what the earnings really are, is unwise as it is vain. Its error lies chiefly in blindness to the fact that these things are coming along as certain as future time itself, and that ready acquiescence now will earn a public sympathy and respect that is well worth paying for in comparison with the antagonisms that arise against corporations which too long and stubbornly oppose the popular will. Many a street-car company has reaped the harvest of such contumacy in strikes when it found the public solidly in sympathy with the employes for some impertinent and illogical reason growing out of discontent with car service, transfers or tax-dodging. Their view is short-sighted who worry about provisions of the new charter conserving municipal control. Long before existing franchises expire a city's right of eminent domain will have been applied in ways that would seem revolutionary today.

Of course the Northern Pacific will build into the Klickitat country. For many a weary year the people of Goldendale have waited for railroad connection with the outside world, but the big transcontinental line seemed unaware of their presence on the earth until Portland capital began building a line to release them from their isolation. This suddenly developed interest of the Northern Pacific in an isolated section was noticeable nearer Portland about a year ago. Some Portland merchants decided that the field for trade with Tillamook and the Nehalem could be largely increased by the construction of a railroad from this city to the timber and coal districts of that rich country. No sooner had their plans become public than the Northern Pacific with frantic haste put large forces of surveyors into the field and gave the information out right from headquarters that it would immediately construct a line from Scappoose to the Nehalem. This announcement apparently had the intended effect, for the Portland road was dropped, and of course nothing further was done with the Scappoose branch of the Northern Pacific. Fortunately for Portland, Goldendale and the interlying country, the road to the Klickitat country has reached a stage where neither bluffing nor building by the Northern Pacific will prevent its completion. Mr. Mellen can, as he states, build another road into that country, but as he promised to build the Nehalem road long before his attention was called to the Portland men's road to Goldendale, it would look better for him to complete it before he goes into the Klickitat. He also might have matters more his own way than he will have them in the territory already occupied by a responsible line.

The platform committee of the irrigationists very wisely piloted the convention between the perilous rocks of the Crook County controversy. It was apprehended that the main question at stake was not whether certain very active individuals are unscrupulous scoundrels to be reprobated or high-toned capitalists to be vindicated. The effort of a few belligerents to project themselves across the convention's orbit as the issue is thus most fittingly annulled, and the association's official utterances leave little if anything to be desired. The educational end of the meeting was happily attained in the admirable and illuminative discussions under the call of counties. It is safe to say that irrigation has at length taken the hold upon the intelligence and affections of the people it deserves, and that if the reclamation of arid Eastern and Southeastern Oregon has any opponents among stockmen they will from this time on become weaker and weaker in public opinion under the growth of information and enthusiasm gained at this meeting. The unprofitable nature of any attempt to oust the private operators in the Deschutes region appeared clearly enough not only from the instructive remarks of Mr. Davis, but from the very creditable presentation made by Governor Geer of the State Land Board's course in the Carey contracts. The state is apparently bound by the contracts it has made, and would be seriously embarrassed by failure of the Interior Department to approve them.

AN EMERGENCY CIRCULATION.

Accession to the support of emergency bank circulation, notable at the New Orleans convention, invites new attention to the plan of Mr. Theodore Gilman, of New York, who has devoted much study to its perfection and much zeal to its advocacy. Mr. Gilman advocates the incorporation of state clearing-houses, each clearing-house to have the power to issue demand notes, and to loan them to any bank within the state, the borrowing bank to deposit current assets as security. The circulating notes issued to a bank shall not exceed 75 per cent of the estimated value of the assets deposited. These notes shall be of any denomination desired, of $1 or $1000, and shall be receivable at par at all the National banks in the country.

We have before indicated the useful service such a scheme would render in identifying banks with credit currency and its maintenance in the popular mind. How admirably Mr. Gilman's plan would lend itself to this end appears from its mechanism. One of his clearing-house associations is authorized in any city of not less than 6000 inhabitants, but the privilege of issuing circulating notes is restricted to clearing-houses which effect clearings of over $200,000,000 annually, or to the chief commercial city in each state; and if there are in any state two or more clearing-houses having the right of issue, then the Controller of the Currency shall divide the state into clearing-house districts, and banks in each state or district shall do business only with the clearing-house of issue in their state or district. The circulating notes shall be redeemed on demand by the clearing-house of issue, and also by the bank through which they were first paid out. The notes are to be furnished by the National Government, and the Controller of the Currency is to exercise supervision over the affairs of all clearing-houses as well as of banks.

It is perfectly evident that the operation of this machinery would draw universal attention to the true relation between banks and the business of issuing credits against assets, a lesson which our bond-secured and subtreasury regime has potently tended to obscure.

Mr. Gilman's plan as a whole has been pronounced by at least one high authority as "in some respects far superior to the plan advocated by the Indianapolis commission, or to the plan reported by the House committee." Both these measures provide for the independent issue of circulating notes by some 4000 isolated banks under conditions which will furnish strong inducements to each bank to keep afloat the largest possible quantity of its notes. They make those notes receivable at par by all banks and by the Government, aiming thus to secure for them the widest possible circulation. Mr. Gilman would secure wide currency for his notes by compelling their acceptance by banks, but he restricts the right of issue to forty or fifty institutions, thus securing the caution we are already familiar with in the case of existing clearing-house associations. The issue of notes would be in the hands of comparatively few men, and it is fair to assume that they would be financiers capable of understanding the far-reaching influences of all their operations. At a time when gold was being withdrawn from the United States Treasury for export it would be reasonable to expect that these men would perceive the necessity for a restriction of bank note issues and would refuse applications of banks for further loans. In this respect, therefore, Mr. Gilman's plan is decidedly better than any plan which leaves the issue of bank notes entirely at the discretion of several thousand men scattered all over the country.

Some intermediate step must be found on the way from Government banking to a scientific banking currency; and it is doubtful whether any better step can be found than the Gilman method of emergency circulation. Under its operation nearly all the distresses of Portland's financial community in 1893 could have been averted. Instead of striving against each other for acquisition of currency, the banks of Oregon could all have been supplied with an emergency circulation issued to them by a state clearing-house association, upon deposit of their best commercial paper indorsed by the bank officials. The new currency would bear the Government imprint and the very spectacle of all the banks standing shoulder to shoulder would have gone far in quieting alarm.

NOT AT ALL LIKELY.

The report that China is likely soon to have another upheaval instigated and prepared by the Empress Dowager is probably without foundation. It is altogether too soon to expect another outbreak. The Empress Dowager is not less than 65 years of age. She is a woman of great native intelligence, and she knows better than to stir up trouble again in China without due preparation.

After the first spoliation of Pekin, in 1860, the Chinese did not venture upon any war with Western civilization until forty years had elapsed. The terrible object-lesson of the second taking of Pekin will not be forgotten so soon as to justify the present apprehension of another outbreak. China is very poor. She needs to increase her revenues by increasing her trade before she can hope to become prepared for a renewal of hostilities against the foreigner.

In our judgment the Chinese government is most unlikely to undertake anything so wild and hopeless as another war with the Western powers would be today. The time may come, and probably will come, when China, instructed by past experience, will gradually arm and discipline the warlike tribes of her vast population and gradually assemble a formidable army. If she succeeds in doing that, she may venture to defy Europe, but no real danger of any formidable outbreak in China exists at present. Boxer risings there will be, but they are sure to be suppressed, and until China replenishes her empty treasury she is not likely to court another foreign war.

It will take China at least twenty years to recover from the shock of the allies' capture of Pekin, and to replenish its exhausted treasury. The present outlook is clearly promising for peace. The Boxer risings are formidable only because the government is still weak, but they do not appear to have any support from Pekin. The great Viceroys favor peace and an increase of trade, and the recent concessions granted for the building of railroads favor this presumption.

LOYAL COMRADES.

The fact that General Chaffee, on meeting his old companion in arms, General Wheaton, at the Chicago banquet, embraced him before the whole company, might provoke amusement under ordinary circumstances, but when we remember that they are both old soldiers who entered the service of the country at the outbreak of the Civil War and have since been associated for more than forty years in warfare against the Indians, in the Spanish-American War and in the war in the Philippines, the demonstrative affection of General Chaffee was a touching incident on the part of so stern and self-contained a soldier. Such scenes are not without parallel in military history. The cold and dignified Washington, when he bade farewell to his leading officers at Newburg, N. Y., at the formal close of the Revolutionary War, embraced them all in turn, and Napoleon, when about to depart for Elba after his abdication, in 1814, warmly embraced several of the officers of his "Old Guard," folding his arms about them. General Custer, in his exultation over final victory at Cedar Creek, impulsively embraced General Sheridan.

The life of a soldier who has seen long and perilous service makes his attachments deep and strong because they have been tested by deeds rather than words. General Chaffee knows by experience whether a brother officer has done his duty in face of death, when the failure to do it would have sacrificed his fellow-soldiers and brought dishonor on the flag. He remembers that nearly forty years ago he was winning his spurs for gallantry at Gettysburg when the same week Wheaton won his first laurels at Vicksburg; he remembers that he and Wheaton were close comrades in Indian warfare; he remembers that Wheaton won a fourth brevet for gallantry in Luzon, and his most pathetic remembrance is that his gallant old comrade was made the subject of a most brutal attack upon the floor of the Senate by Dubois of Idaho, who ignorantly described him as a "Government charity boy." He remembers, too, that more recently General Wheaton, as well as General Hughes and General J. Franklin Bell, have been arraigned in the public prints for violation of the rules of warfare by the anti-imperialist coterie who call Carl Schurz chief.

General Chaffee in his annual report, just published, vigorously defends General Bell and General Jacob H. Smith, and so does Major-General Young, who, in a recent speech at Washington, earnestly upheld the Army, saying:

> To carry on war, disguise it as we may, is to be cruel; it is to kill and burn, burn and kill, and again kill and burn. During the Civil War the fire in the rear from the so-called Copperheads was what the Union soldiers most feared. There may have been some excuse for the existence of Copperheads, in 1861, but what possible excuse could there be for an honest and reasonable man to become a fire-in-the-rear Filipino?

The indignation of General Chaffee at the abuse lavished upon his gallant old comrades within and without Congress is natural and justifiable, and out of this indignation springs his public demonstration of affection and sympathy for General Wheaton in Chicago. These grizzled old veterans of three wars feel that they should "stand like Highlanders, shoulder to shoulder," and they are right, and the best intelligence of the country is behind them. There is some danger, however, that these old soldiers will make too much of the incessant assaults upon the Army, which have no support beyond that of Carl Schurz and his coterie of hypercritical followers. General Chaffee ought to remember that there were Tories in 1776; that there were anti-war whoopers in 1812-14. On the 4th of July, 1814, at a public banquet in Northfield, Mass., among the toasts drank by the anti-war meeting was, "Our Army—may honorable negotiations disband it." At this banquet the orators took no pride in Hull's victory at sea or Perry's triumph in Lake Erie. During our Civil War we not only had Copperheads, but we had General Carl Schurz, who was as hypercritical then as he is today, and wrote letters to Lincoln criticising his administration. Lincoln replied in a letter of stinging rebuke, which will serve to keep Mr. Schurz' name in history longer than anything he ever said or did in war or peace.

Some stress is placed by the anti-imperialist press upon the fact that "Charles Francis Adams and Carl Schurz learned war on the battle-fields of Virginia." Mr. Adams was Colonel of the Fifth Massachusetts colored cavalry, and General Schurz served as division commander in the Eleventh Army Corps at Gettysburg and at Chancellorsville; he was a very gallant soldier, but neither his tastes nor his training had fitted him for a military commander. There are a good many survivors of the Civil War beside Mr. Adams and Carl Schurz who have a correct memory of the methods of war in those days. Major-General Cox, in his history of Sherman's march to the sea, includes in his appendix some Confederate documents which contain ample evidence that the people of Georgia and South Carolina suffered more depredations and pillage from the lawlessness of the Confederate General Wheeler's men than they did from Sherman's troopers under Kilpatrick. The Savannah Republican of October 1, 1864, says: "It is notorious that our own army in falling back from Dalton was even more dreaded by the inhabitants than that of Sherman." The Richmond Whig of that day says that during the evacuation of Columbia, S. C., Wheeler's Cavalry robbed all the stores in town. The Richmond Whig of October 6, 1864, says that Early's Cavalry robbed everybody, right and left, whether friend or foe, robbed widows whose sons were in the Confederate Army. General Cox quotes these facts in reply to the assertion made since the Civil War that devastation was only practiced by the National troops.

The truth is that "marked severities" were conspicuous in our Civil War on both sides; they are conspicuous in all wars of long and obstinate character, but they were far less in evidence in Luzon than in any war ever waged by a civilized people.

The health of the Czarowitz of Russia has again broken down. He has had to give up the course of physical training which it was vainly hoped would make him strong and go again to the Crimea in order that his life may possibly be prolonged. The hopes of his mother, an ambitious Danish Princess, and the Dowager Empress of Russia, are centered in him as the last possibility of her return to power. She is an implacable foe of the young Czarina, and rejoiced in the disappointment that has come to the Czar through the successive birth of four daughters and the discouraging prophecy of three yet to come before an heir to the throne is born. The foreshadowed death of the consumptive Czarowitz is to her more than an ordinary sorrow, though it is of no great concern to the empire, as he is a physical weakling at best, under the absolute dominion of the faction headed by the Dowager Empress. His death followed by the birth of a son to the Czar are two events necessary to restore domestic tranquillity in the imperial family, and both are within the possibilities of the next few months.

The New Jersey & Pennsylvania Traction Company pays the City of Trenton, N. J., $50,000 for the privilege of occupying 6200 feet of street. This traction company is further required by the City of Trenton to limit its charges to 3-cent fares. It gives free transfers within the city limits, and cannot charge over 5 cents to any point within five miles of the limits. It must pave the street for two feet outside the rails, where double track is constructed, and three feet where single track is laid. It is required to pay the city 1 per cent of its gross earnings after ten years, and 3 per cent after twenty years. New York City today is getting only $323,000 a year for the franchise of her surface and elevated railways, when she would be getting from $8,000,000 to $10,000,000 if she had made as favorable terms with these roads in the past as she has just made with the Pennsylvania Railroad in the matter of the franchise for its tunnel beneath North River. Corrupt City Councils in the past have sold these valuable franchises for bribes.

The Bond-Hay treaty deals mainly with the fishing industry off the coast of Newfoundland. It is reported to give the New England fishermen privileges in the matter of bait-buying and the purchase of supplies at the Newfoundland ports, while the American market is opened on more liberal terms to the Newfoundlanders. Secretary Blaine under President Harrison negotiated a similar treaty, which was killed by the British government through the influence and protest of Canada, which objected to reciprocal arrangements with the United States in which the Dominion did not share. The Canadian government today, however, makes no opposition to this treaty, and the probability is that the Senate will accept it.

The old story of carelessness and fatality is repeated in a dispatch from La Grande, which recites that a man was accidentally killed near that place on the 17th inst. while out hunting with a boy. The boy's gun was discharged as he was pushing it, breech first, under a fence which he was going to climb, the charge entering the body of his companion, who was following. Needless and distressing as is an accident of this kind, it will probably be repeated from time to time as long as hunters pursue game in the wilds. The carelessness that makes it possible is inexplicable, and seems to be ineradicable.

The apple crop this year was unusually heavy, East and West. Orchards of Connecticut and of Eastern Washington have the same tale to tell. It is that of thousands of bushels of fruit rotting on the ground in the state first named because it is impossible to procure barrels in which to ship them, in the last because there is no market for the tremendous apple surplus. The latter situation is disgusting to consumers in this city, who have to pay from 75 cents to $2 25 per box for apples, those at the price first mentioned being chiefly wormy windfalls and undersized at that.

The movement to secure the National Livestock Convention for Portland is one to be in every way encouraged. With the new accessions of fine stock by Oregon breeders this is a splendid place to bring the association, and few gatherings, if any, would bring our resources to the attention of a more desirable class of people. Aid should be given the project in all possible ways.

An expert reckons the wear and tear on the tires of a heavy automobile to be equal to 4 or 5 cents a mile, which is more than the cost of fuel. When to this is added fines for exceeding the speed limit and damages for accidents caused by frightened horses, it will be seen, says the Youth's Companion, that the ordinary citizen must still content himself with a special train.

Colonel Bryan rises to observe that the big city dailies no longer discuss politics. Doesn't he read the papers, or does he view them through the same crooked intellectual spectacles that prevent him from seeing any economic or financial fact as it really exists?

The White House is cramped and inconvenient, but we have not observed any resultant fear on the part of the ambitious that they could not occupy it with reasonable comfort and satisfaction.

"He is a powerful, game and persistuous huntah," says Mr. Hoke Collier, in reference to President Roosevelt, and the truth of his sage observation has been demonstrated on many fields.

Foster and Wilson, apparently, are to elect Turner's successor. However, there's the Legislature, which may have some votes.

SPIRIT OF THE NORTHWEST PRESS

All Seasons for Its Own.

Port Townsend Leader.

High noon is the proper hour for a wedding in high life. When it comes to a divorce any old hour is good enough.

The "Most Unkindest" Cut.

Eugene Register.

Geer's Thanksgiving proclamation, to have been brief and to the point, should have read, "there will be no special session of the Legislature."

How It's Done in Oregon.

Eugene Register.

Roosevelt should be warned before coming to Oregon that the rule of hunting is that if neither a bear nor deer is found, one hunter takes a shot at the other, usually with fatal result.

The County Is Broke, Too.

Sheridan Sun.

What's the matter with Portland that she can't keep up the public bridges leading into the city? They should remember there is a Lewis and Clark Fair billed to visit Portland in 1905. They had better ask the county for an appropriation for a bridge fund.

True Philosophy of Reform.

The Dalles Times-Mountaineer.

It is an easy matter to preach against vice, but it is another thing to suppress it. Preaching without practice availeth little. Prohibitive laws don't prohibit. You can't make people good by legislation. The only way to get rid of evil is to reform the human race so that evil will not be practiced.

Says They Won't Feel It.

Toledo Leader.

It will not be at all surprising if the Legislature appropriates about $500,000 for the Lewis and Clark Exposition. Neither will it be surprising if the dear people fail to feel the terrible burden so cruelly heaped upon them, the mere thought of which is sufficient to make about two editors in Oregon groan real loud and sweat blood and stuff.

His Childlike Simplicity.

Freewater Times.

Governor Geer exhibits a childlike simplicity that is apt to be rudely disturbed in assuming to believe that the Legislature will ratify the people's choice in selecting him for United States Senator. It is true it should do so in order to keep faith with its constituency, but the Oregon Legislature has never been remarkable heretofore for obeying the voice of the people, and it is not likely that it will start in at this late day.

Wants Strenuous Recreation.

Albany Herald.

It is no discredit to the President that he chooses to chase bears and kill mountain lions as recreation. The very nature of his strenuous life, the vigor with which he devotes himself to work, would suggest a strenuous form of recreation. Some great men find rest for body and mind in fishing, some in a trip abroad, others in a dolce far niente existence among their friends. President Roosevelt happens to choose hunting big game and it is his privilege to chase bears if he wants to.

Because He Is a Strenuous Man.

Albany Democrat.

The President refused to shoot a bear that was lassoed for him. This was very commendable. In this respect the President is decidedly ahead of the Emperor of Germany, who, when he hunts, has the game driven up in front of him, and with three or four men to load for him slaughters the innocents as they come close to him. In the opinion of the Democrat this is cowardly sportsmanship, with nothing commendable about it. It is worse than pot-hunting. There is nothing decent about it. The respectable hunter will give a bird or beast a show for its life.

Can Appreciate a Good Thing.

Boise Statesman.

Men who were in Salt Lake or Portland at the time of the election report that the people of those cities were almost as much pleased as our own people over the Republican victory in Idaho. In Salt Lake and Ogden there was more rejoicing over the Idaho result than over that of any other state, excepting Utah, and in Portland every Idaho man was overwhelmed with congratulations. The political overturning was the talk of the hour in all resorts and everybody seemed pleased, at least those who were not did not make themselves conspicuous, while those that were took every opportunity to give vent to their feelings.

Another Plea for Voting Machines.

Boise Statesman.

Those who have had an opportunity to observe the character of the work done by the great majority of the election clerks are strongly disposed to favor the installation of voting machines. Some years ago it became necessary to open the boxes in one of the counties and count the votes on one office. It was found the vote had not been correctly counted in a single precinct. This year there have been a great many close results, and it is quite certain another count would reverse some of the majorities. There are precincts in which the tallies were not kept correctly. That was notorious at the time of the count. It was often found that two clerks did not agree. That was because one had tallied a vote or votes in the wrong place; in such cases the error was corrected by marking up another vote. With machines, all that would be avoided; the vote would be counted precisely as it was cast, and the results would be exactly what the voters intended, no matter how close the majority might be.

Politics and the Centennial.

Baker City Democrat.

Governor Geer is under fire by the Portland papers for his refusal to call an extra session of the Legislature so that an appropriation for the Lewis and Clark Fair could be made. Governor Geer thinks, and rightly too, that the interests of the whole state can be best subserved at the regular session. A Fair appropriation is one in which the entire state is interested and if such an important matter is to be engulfed by politics, then the Republicans will be held responsible for it and the blame placed where it rightly belongs. If the Senatorial election defeats the Fair bill it will not be the first time that Republican politicians of Oregon have sacrificed the interests of the people for the sake of personal graft or gain. Governor Geer's refusal to call an extra session will give the people a chance to see how far the majority party will go to carry out its selfish ends. The people of Oregon will do well to keep their eyes on the gun during the next session of the Legislature. There will be something doing.

Distant View of the Millennium.

Spokane Chronicle.

After the spectacle witnessed Thursday night in this city—after the big gambling dens quit business one after another at the simple command of a country justice of the peace living miles away from town—after such an exhibition as this let it never be hinted that wide-open gambling "can't be stopped" in Spokane. Whenever the officials decide that the law shall be enforced, open gambling will cease in Spokane. Write that down as an evident fact. When will they so decide? When those officials believe that the voters of Spokane want the law enforced and that a majority, or, perhaps, even a thousand citizens are ready to back such wishes by their ballots. So long as the gambling element keeps careful watch of the public offices and the anti-gambling element doesn't even take the trouble to take a hand in primaries and conventions of the dominant party, to say nothing of organizing to throw its ballots where they will be felt, so long you can expect to see the tiger prancing merrily on lower Howard street at least 364 days of the year.

A MENACE FROM CANADA.

Letter in New York Tribune.

Very few people either in England or the United States seem to comprehend the "true inwardness" of the so-called "Alaska boundary dispute." That is unfortunate, for it contains the germ of a grave National danger. The dispute over a few acres or square miles of wild land, perhaps frozen, on either side of an imaginary line. But it not a boundary dispute of that sort. The boundary was established years ago by treaties in which both nations took part. What the Canadian schemers are pushing for now is "an outlet to tidewater" by means of a harbor on the Lynn Canal.

What is the Lynn Canal? It is a great estuary, broad and deep, like the lower Hudson or the Delaware. It traverses Southern Alaska, and is the chief artery of commerce. It is the thoroughfare by which all traders, miners and travelers reach the Valley of the Yukon, unless they make a 2000-mile voyage around by the ocean.

What is the harbor that the Canadian schemers covet? It is one of the most important strategic points on our Pacific Coast. It is a deep, wide, semi-circular basin, safe in all weathers, open to navigation all the year round, with easy access to the sea, large enough to float not only trading craft, but the cruisers and battle-ships of the British navy. It is surrounded by mountain heights, which, when fortified, would render it impregnable. In a word, what they want is to establish a naval and commercial port for Great Britain, resembling Gibraltar, or Aden—and to establish it in the heart of an American territory, at the head of its inland navigation! The power owning such a stronghold might well claim to dominate the North Pacific. It would cut Alaska Territory in two parts, with British forts and custom-houses between, controlling their intercourse with each other and with the outside world. Compared with such a stronghold Esquimault or Halifax is of minor consequence. That port is the objective point that Canadian schemers are working for. That is what they hope to extort from us by threats or cajolery. They know what they are about; apparently we do not; at least, they hope so. So they muddle the question with specious pretences of harmless purpose, by which to "outwit the Yankees."

When this monstrous demand, without a shadow of foundation, was first put forward it brought to a sudden check the work of the Joint High Commission to settle questions between Canada and the United States. If persisted in, it will do more than that. It will tend to break up the present era of good feeling between the two branches of the English-speaking race—an era so full of promise for both nations and for the whole civilized world.

The whole "claim" is so preposterous and absurd that it would hardly be credible if we did not know how silly and blind to their own interests great governments may sometimes be. The Canadian "statesmen" who are pressing it are blind leaders of the blind. They are like children playing with fire. They do not realize the far-reaching consequences of the conflagration they are trying to kindle. For it is not to be believed that the American people, when roused to an understanding of the question, are ever going to acquiesce in the construction of a Gibraltar in their own waters by any foreign power. American patience is great, and American good nature is proverbial, but even these have limits.

FREDERICK W. SEWARD.

Meaning of Dalzell's Defeat.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.

Of Dalzell's position there is not the slightest doubt. He is a high protectionist of the extreme type. He is avowedly and belligerently against any plan of revision or any plan looking toward revision. As to Cannon's position there is less certainty. He has said little or nothing, but on the principle that half a loaf is better than no bread, the cause of tariff revision would be more likely to be promoted by a Western Speaker, even though he were not in sympathy with it and were something of an opportunist, than by an Eastern Speaker who is a fanatical supporter of the present schedules. Cannon is not an aggressive or a very independent character, and there are probably several members of Congress who would from every standpoint make better Speakers, but he is the only Western member who seems to have sufficient strength to be considered seriously, and as a choice of evils, so far as tariff revision is concerned, he is certainly the less. He is, furthermore, by temperament, a fairer, a shrewder and a more tactful man than Dalzell and comes much nearer to possessing the qualities requisite for the Speakership.

Triumphant Test of Prosperity.

New York Journal of Commerce.

Another trust which started out on a brilliant career with preferred stock and common stock and bonds, authorized to the extent of $35,000,000, and mostly issued, has concluded that it is much easier to inflate the capitalization than to earn dividends on it after it has been inflated, and is proposing to reduce its capital to something like the amount of the investment. Several other combinations have been through the same process, though the prosperity of the country has not yet been checked. Buying is vast and prices are good, and great amounts of capital are accumulating and pressing for investment in every direction, but somehow or other $5,000,000 worth of business does not always stay worth $10,000,000 or $15,000,000 after it has been duly and legally marked up. But it would seem as if a well-constructed combination with a finely distended capitalization ought to be able to preserve its enlarged dimensions until the day of contraction and depression sets it.

Government of American Cities.

St. Louis Republic.

Many faults have been found, both by practical men and theorists, with the governments of American cities. Fundamental defects have been observed. Their existence has been admitted, but acknowledgment is tempered, in nearly every case, with proper extenuating explanations. The trouble seems to be that American cities have not completely mastered local situations and arranged their systems of management to conform exactly to their characteristics.

When Leopold Comes.

Chicago Record-Herald.

When old King Leopold
Comes o'er the mighty swim,
Oh, what an odor he
Will bring across with him!

The beard is long and white
That o'er his chest droops down;
His record's different—
It's long and very brown.

But old King Leopold,
The royal reprobate,
Will not be made to stand
Around outside and wait.

Society will do
Its best to make him glad,
And fondly kiss his hands,
Forgetting that he's bad.

What of those escapades
Of his in gay Paree,
The roistering at night
Where all is fast and free?

What of her broken heart
Whose love he should have kept?
What of the child he spurned
As at the grave she wept?

Oh, we are equal born,
Our flag flies high and free;
No lord by "right divine"
Rules over you and me.

But what of that? Who cares?
When Leopold appears
We'll hail him with huzzas,
And gladden him with cheers.

What of his nasty past,
His record and such things?
We're free and equal, but
Oh, how we dote on Kings!

NOTE AND COMMENT.

A woman's clothes unmake the man.

Major Sears and Mr. Williamson are doing the Alphonse and Gaston act with great success.

It may be cool and frosty, but the irrigation convention seems to find little trouble in keeping warm.

It is an old saying that a story-teller needs a good listener. Many a man realizes this after he is married.

Those poor Indians who wanted to burn the brakeman of a train that killed a squaw accepted civilization without reservation.

The man who thinks that experience in the gutter gives wisdom finds out later that he can use the knowledge so acquired only—in the gutter.

The Italian who has invented an electric letter-carrier will put out of business the most popular men in America. Your faithful postman is as much a necessity and as much loved as the family doctor.

"The Liberty Belles" struck in Omaha because the manager did not supply chaperons enough to protect them from the stage-door "mashers." A full equipment of shotguns would be more to the purpose.

That Congressman Billie Hearst wants a paper in the National capital is not astonishing. And, of course, he'll get it. And, of course, he'll find plenty of scandal among his colleagues to provide lively reading.

The theorists are trying to discuss the subject of repose as the safeguard of our civilization. So much has been said and taught about the strenuous life that a large part of this philosophizing may be taken as reactionary, and nothing more. There is undoubtedly a truth underneath this blind reaching out for stability. From the moment that the young man steps into active life he finds that 24 hours of the day are nothing. Quick labor under the sun, swift thinking during the night, restless dreams in the intervals of productive activity, quickly pass him into the downward slopes. This world no longer recognizes the power of meditation and serene reflection. "Can he think?" is not the vital question. "What has he done?" is the quick call of the public. Fair enough, too; but physical strength sometimes fails. A man may not discover the vehicle for his thought because he has had to grasp for the money to keep him in a position to do anything. No matter to the world; let him pass. Oblivion is yawning for those who do not bring their sheaves with them. Pity and forget.

Posing is a fine art. Every person who has a particle of pride poses occasionally. Not to do so is to lose independence. The art lies in maintaining the even pose, without inconsistency, impregnable. So few people are able to avoid the breaking of the surface. And the higher the pose the more fatal the fault. There are others, used to the self-protective pose, whose effort to be honest leads them into incongruous poses. The true fiber and element of nature is crossed by a transient pose. The lover would assume the outward semblance of light-heartedness that he may arouse his lady's desire for mastery; in an evil moment nature asserts herself and his voice betrays his secret. He would be earnest before men and angels, challenge love with love, foreswear coquetry and speak manfully. Yet in his intensity will come the shallow mockery of a forgotten pose. And the sincere speech of his inmost self falls at the shadow of deceit. The outer self that shrinks from laying bare a soul is truly the cause to many of seeing through a glass darkly. A woman never may put aside this attitude for long except with her child; the man lays all pose apart from him but once in his life.

Are we descended forever into the pit? Is cleanliness and pure-mindedness and sobriety departed from our midst? If the literature of the time is a criterion, we are become as beasts, knowing nothing but evil. The magazines of this month (not all of them, thank God!) are of a cheapness. Edgar Saltus and Richard le Gallenne and others of puny breath are deluging the market with tales that assume the form of love stories, but are in reality feeble ebullitions of the dregs of life. To read one of these yarns, with its atmosphere of dirty life, its striving to clothe worthless emotion in language, its assumption of deep knowledge and its newly rich philosophizing, cause a right hearty person to spit out of his mouth the tainted morsels of smart-set finery. Good heavens! are there no women happy in homes? No children unwearied of the devil? No husbands of one love? No girls without the taste for flaunting their silly charms naked before the world? In the modern love story as exploited by these literary scavengers the blessed pair of cooing doves do not live happily ever afterward, but just till next time. The calendar says it is near Christmas, but that is an antiquated holiday. Give us the doctored liquor of paltry existence to cheer us withal; fill our stockings with flippant dancing girls; hang over our heads mocking mistletoe, and set our table with false memories and faithless women. A weary world is sick of the antics of puppets, sick of the innuendo on woman's purity, and sick beyond earthly sickness of trousered dandies and their recital of grubby adventure.

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

Sickan—Are the street-cars crowded on your line. Tired—Well, I should say not. They are at least two miles apart.—Chicago Daily News.

Mrs. Dearborn—They tell me your cook is an angel. Mrs. Wabash—I reckon she is. She tried to light the fire with kerosene this morning.—Yonkers Statesman.

In New York.—Angry Passenger—Didn't you hear me tell you to stop the car? Conductor—Yes'm. But one of the officials of the road was looking right at me.—Life.

Bank Director—How did you come to examine his books? His Associate—I heard him address his Sunday-school class on "We are here today and gone tomorrow."—Puck.

"My boy Josh writes me that he is stoppin' at the best hotels," remarked Mrs. Corntossel. "Is he a commercial traveler?" "No. He's drivin' a transfer wagon."—Washington Star.

Witless—I see the Government is establishing free barber-shops out West for the Indians. Wagg—Well, it is due them. They gave the early settlers many a close shave.—Baltimore American.

"What," said the English instructor, making a rough draught of an E, "are Clearness, Ease and Force good for?" "Force," answered the freshman, dubiously, "is good for breakfast."—Harvard Lampoon.

Scientific and Nervous Visitor (at country hotel)—I suppose there's no "ptomaine" in this pie? Waiter (quite equal to the occasion)—No, sir. We never puts that in unless specially ordered!—Punch.

Hubby—Yes, dear, you are the apple of my eye. Wifey—Oh, I am? Well, if you'd give me money enough to buy some new clothes, perhaps I wouldn't look so seedy.—Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.

"Of course," said Nuritch, self-complacently, "it's something to be a self-made man, but then it's got its drawbacks." "That's so," replied Peppery. "You can't blame it on anybody else, for instance."—Philadelphia Press.