

The Oregonian.

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TODAY'S WEATHER—Partly cloudy, with occasional showers; south to west winds.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 47; minimum temperature, 29; precipitation, 0.17 inch.

PORTLAND, SATURDAY, DEC. 13.

You can get the views of all the public men in Washington on any important subject at a moment's notice by establishing connection with a newspaper correspondent who is abreast of the time. He will instantly repair to the apartment by courtesy called an office, knock the door, and bring to a modestly elegantly furnished room, and with the aid of Government writing materials will grind you out as fast as mere mechanical limitations permit the exact impression created by a given piece of news upon "each and every" segment of official Washington.

IT IS REAL WAR. The operations of the fleet of Germany and Great Britain are directed toward enforcing a "peaceful" blockade of the ports of Venezuela and the seizure and temporary holding of the custom-houses of that country. To accomplish this purpose, it was, of course, necessary to capture Venezuela's ships-of-war, and to capture the custom-houses. In this blockade and occupation of custom-houses, after they were captured they were practically prizes, which could be held during a settlement or could be destroyed if their captors could not spare the men necessary to send them into some British port.

Some of the greatest wars in the history of the world have been begun without a shot being fired. The war between the states and the Union was begun in this manner. A natural demand for increase will then be created, and means will somehow appear to meet it.

two years we find this same Virginia statesman, as chairman of the Democratic National Convention, joining forces with Bryanism in an assault not only on Cleveland's views, but upon Cleveland's acts. Gray stood by Cleveland in 1894, and again in 1896. He was charged by Mr. Washburne, the American Minister to France, during the Franco-German War of 1870-71. When that war broke out there were 50,000 German citizens in Paris, whose interests were cared for as far as possible by Mr. Washburne.

Councilman Albee falls into one very dangerous error in his championship of the abolishment of private boxes connected with saloons. This is his estimate of these contrivances as the fountain-head of youthful vice and crime. He should go back beyond the saloons to the imperfect character given the youth by the inheritance and training received in the home. We need more the black offenses of the street, the boys are made wrecks and girls are made prostitutes by the bad company and bad habits they take up with in these secret rooms, where every precaution is taken to screen them from observation and facilitate their passage to eating-tables and lodging-houses. No restaurant-keeper who prizes his business standing or covets any sort of social recognition for his family will condone the black offenses of the street.

MITCHELL IS TOO SANGUINE. The present suffering on the Atlantic seaboard and as far west as Chicago from the scarcity of coal ought to convince the parties to the anthracite controversy that the public welfare will be paramount in the matter of the prompt settlement of the great coal strikes. In the current number of McClure's Magazine Mr. Mitchell discusses the coal strike with intelligence, ability and good temper, but he is likely to be disappointed in his expectation that voluntary arbitration will be sufficient for the future settlement of quarrels between capital and labor; that there is no combination of labor or capital powerful enough to oppose successfully the adverse public sentiment which would be directed against the party refusing to accept to voluntary arbitration or to submit the award of such a board.

THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS, by its favorable recommendation of the bill for the retirement of General H. C. Merriam as a Major-General instead of a Brigadier-General, has done only an act of justice. General Merriam was brevetted for gallantry at Antietam; he wears a medal of honor for his conspicuous gallantry exhibited in leading his regiment in the assault upon Fort Blakeley in April, 1865; he was a full Brigadier-General in 1898 when the war with Spain broke out. Through no fault of his own General Merriam was given no opportunity of command in Cuba or the Philippines, and despite the fact that he had been overlooked repeatedly in the matter of promotion to vacant Major-Generalships, he was retired for age in November, 1901, without the additional grade that was in equity his due.

CHILD INSURANCE. Grave abuses through life insurance for young children have again been disclosed in Pennsylvania. The practice, as shown by the revelations, is very extensive, and its drift is toward the striking of parental responsibility in the most shocking manner. The Insurance Commissioner, in calling attention to the scandals that have grown out of it, asserts as a basis of reform therein, that "any contract of life insurance should be incorporated," thus incuring fuller legal responsibility for its acts. This statement is in itself startling, since it discloses the fact that "contracts" are engaged in a business in Pennsylvania without the authority which insures legal responsibility in a class of very important transactions, one party to which is utterly helpless.

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procedure against Venezuela are entirely defensible, because their so-called purpose of "peaceful" blockade is really nothing but war. The action of our Minister at Caracas is nothing more than the discharge of the same duties that were willingly assumed and discharged by Mr. Washburne, the American Minister to France, during the Franco-German War of 1870-71.

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the end that the most utterly helpless of its inhabitants may be protected from inhumanity, of which the most revolting phase is parental irresponsibility, that may develop into the cruel neglect of young children, looking to the price that has been set upon their lives.

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SYMPATHY FOR THE UNDER DOG.

The greatest outrage and most cowardly act of modern times is Germany and England jumping upon Venezuela in a private contractor's claims. For shame!

LOOKS FAVORABLE FOR THE FAIR. Portland has subscribed \$60,000 for the Fair. The railroad companies \$50,000. The state seems inclined to increase the sum of the two by \$200,000, which means \$1,000,000 in Oregon.

THE GREEKS BEARING GIFTS. The Democratic press of the state is endeavoring to persuade the Legislature not to fail to reward Governor Geer, for past services, by electing him to the United States Senate.

STILL HARPING ON THE TROLLEY LINE. The Times was right about the way to treat Portland, said a prominent citizen the other day. "If they hold up our electric road, they ought to hold up the Legislature should hold up the bills they are most interested in."

OLYMPIA'S GOLDEN DREAM. The Olympia papers are in ecstasies over the proposal of the Northern Pacific Railway Company to purchase the tidelands in front of that city.

HOW THE TRUST DOES IT. A Spokane jobber can testify that at least one trust, the salt trust, has sharp teeth beneath the carpet.

LET HIM BE HIMSELF. Press and Congressional comment on the President's message leans strongly to the view that it does not interfere with the do-nothing programme which the party leaders have concocted out for the winter.

A WINKLE ROMANCE. Little Lucy Likens loved Dumphy Danny Deaver. His heart hurried humphingly, his eyes twinkled, and his nose twitched.

CHANGE OF CHURCH NAMES.

Church names in America are historically cumbersome and complicated, except in a few cases where the American church is an integral part of a universal church.

A HOPEFUL VIEW OF THE CASE. Several Southern States have framed new constitutions for the sole purpose of disfranchising the colored race.

INCREASING WAGES ON THE RAILROADS. The railway employees of the United States were paid \$50,000,000 during the year ending June 30, 1901.

PLEASANTONES OF PARAGRAPHERS. Migsby Jones-I prayed for a sled and a pair of skates for Christmas, and all I got was a Bible and a prayer-book.

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NOTE AND COMMENT.

The postman is now the slave of Santa Claus. When it comes to a pinch, the crab is all right. The man who is continually setting them up is usually fond of putting them down.

THE STREET-CLEANER DEPARTMENT should be equipped with skimmers, instead of brooms. Christmas trees should be planted soon in order that they may come to maturity by the 25th.

THE GANG THAT IS CONTINUALLY MAKING tracks on Morrison street never seems to get anywhere. The gang that is continually making tracks on Morrison street never seems to get anywhere.

THE WEATHER MAN IS WORKING OFF HIS stock preparatory to giving Portland lively sizes and fair winds for the holidays. Boston is having coal riots, but doubtless the school teachers of that city will hold a meeting and utter enough war words about the situation to raise their temperature.

HEAVEN BE PRAISED! Laziness is a disease, and there's no known cure for it and those of us who're lazy are to be pitied, and nobody can blame us, and we should be helped out as much as possible. Aren't you glad?

A JUDGE IN MAINE has rendered a decision that a wife cannot legally be considered a thief when she steals from her husband, as man and wife are one. Under this interpretation it may be supposed that when a man beats his spouse he is hurting himself. It reminds one of the old story told by mothers when the maternal slipper had been put into operation as a punitive instrument.

THOSE WHO TRAVEL ON STREET-CARS toward dinner time will appreciate this story from the New York Mail and Express: There is a little girl up at Washington Heights who has correctly apprehended the situation on Manhattan island at a very tender age. She is only 4 or 5 years old, and has just been taught to repeat the Lord's Prayer before going to bed at night. And this is the way she renders the passage about forgiving those who trespass against us: "And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

THE OLD LADY who admired her pastor because he said "Mesopotamia" so beautifully has been outdone by a Broadway office boy. He was not pleased with the surname of Mulligan, to which he was condemned and so when he applied for a new position in another office he decided to give himself a new name, and for this purpose borrowed what he thought was a name from the financial statements which he had sort and filed in the office in which he was last employed. "What is your name?" inquired the clerk to whom he made application for work. "William Recapitulation," replied the boy. "That's a funny name," said the clerk after he had the boy repeat it several times. "Don't you know General Recapitulation?" asked the boy in surprise. "Never heard of him."