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TODAY'S WEATHER—Showers, with south to west winds.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 41; minimum temperature, 35; precipitation, 0.65 inch.

PORTLAND, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

Of course Mr. James J. Hill, president of the Great Northern Railway Company, of Minnesota, and president of the Northern Securities Company, of New Jersey, does not know anything about the politics of the State of Washington. He came out to the Coast last week to see if it was raining. When his eye rested upon that billion-dollar passenger station he built in Seattle three years ago to spite the Northern Pacific, he was reminded of his duty to call upon his Pacific Coast Company man, Mr. Farrell, who never has anything to do with politics. Soon thereafter he took occasion to say that the State of Washington would better look out. He was perfectly willing to be friendly and to go deep in his pocket and sit up nights devising ways and means of making Washington great and glorious if it would let him have his way, but if the Legislature should insist on doing something toward protection of the public interests, he wanted it distinctly understood that he would not be responsible for the gloom that might follow. Do any thing to prevent unfavorable action of the Legislature? Of course not. Why should Mr. Hill, who knows nothing of politics in Washington or elsewhere, trouble himself about the matter? The evil of that body be upon its own head. In kindness to the state, however—in kindness and grief—he wanted to give warning of the calamity that would follow Legislative action out of accord with the desires of the mighty railroad trust he has the honor to promote and direct. Never would he fight the great State of Washington; but he might become so discouraged that he would withdraw the arm he now has around it and let it sink or swim. This fatherly advice was free. He asks nothing from the Legislature but to be let alone. The Legislature need not worry about him at all. All this comes from the depths of his great heart, and because he doesn't understand politics.

The biennial report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction contains a number of suggestions which are worthy the favorable consideration of the members of the Legislature. One of these is that the State Land Board shall have the preference in the purchase of school district bonds. Very frequently school districts issue bonds to secure money with which to erect school buildings, and in such cases the bonds are purchased by private investors. While school districts are paying out money for interest on the sums borrowed, the state has a half million dollars of common school funds lying idle in the treasury for want of an opportunity to loan it. The school funds are ordinarily loaned upon real estate security, but for the greater part of the time for the last four years the State Land Board has been unable to loan all the money. The rate of interest upon real estate loans is 6 per cent. If the half million of idle money had been loaned at even 4 per cent, it would have brought to the school funds $20,000 a year, or $80,000 in four years. Counties and municipal corporations also borrow money or pay interest upon outstanding warrants at the rate of 6 per cent. More than this, the state itself, in the past year, has paid 6 per cent interest upon warrants, at the same time that it had a barrel of money lying in the vaults at the capital or deposited in banks in different parts of the state. This is very poor business policy. If it be necessary to pay interest upon money due from the state, the money should be borrowed from the school fund and the interest paid to that account. When counties run short of funds they should be required to borrow from the state school fund and pay interest at the same rate they would pay on their warrants. Loans of this kind made from the irreducible school fund would be perfectly safe, for counties could be compelled to levy taxes to repay the amount borrowed. No hardship would be imposed upon them, for the reason that they would pay the state no greater rate of interest than they would pay individuals. The last Legislature passed an act which was intended to authorize the State Land Board to loan on bonds, but the act proved ineffective. Another attempt might prove fruitful of better results.

The splendidly equipped school-ship Herzogin Cecelia, now in Portland harbor, manned by as fine a body of men as ever sailed the seas, explains to a degree why Germany is making such rapid strides in maritime greatness. Every man on board the ship has been selected on account of special fitness for the calling in which he is engaged, and at the expiration of his three years' course of study and work on this ship is transferred to the steamships of the North German Lloyd and given a finishing course of one year. As the crew is three times as large as is required to work an ordinary ship of the size of the Herzogin Cecelia, they can easily handle the ship and have plenty of time for study, and trained instructors with years of experience are on hand to assist them. For years, in fact for centuries, the fleets of the world have been commanded as a rule by men who worked up from before the deck with no further instruction or advantages than fall to the lot of the average sailor before the mast today. The apprentice system, of course, supplied some officers for the vessels, but never until the Germans started their school-ships round the world had the work been carried on except on a small scale. The men who came to the surface by hard knocks, as many of the shipmasters have, are entitled to all praise for their success, but they are at a disadvantage compared with the men who will graduate from the school-ships. The latter have had every opportunity that the others have had for securing a thorough technical knowledge of navigation and the art of handling ships, and they have in addition the benefits of instruction in science, mathematics and other educational lines, from which except in rare cases, the average shipmaster of the old school was barred. These advantages make of the school-ship graduate not only a skillful sailor and navigator, but a well-educated gentleman who is a credit to the flag under which he sails. Everything else being equal, the well-educated man makes more of a success in life than his brother who lacks education, and this rule will hold good in the case of sailors. They are a dignified lot down there on the Herzogin Cecelia, and when they graduate they will add dignity and credit to any branch of the German marine to which they may be assigned.

ARBITRATION BY THE UNITED STATES.

The allies and Venezuela are both anxious that the United States, through President Roosevelt, should arbitrate the claims in dispute between them, Venezuela prefers this course of action to The Hague tribunal because six of the powers signatory to that treaty—Great Britain, Germany, France, Italy, Spain and Austria—all have claims against Venezuela and no judgment satisfactory to that country could be expected. It would be like a jury of a bankrupt's principal creditors deciding how much he should pay on the dollar of their claims against him. The allies, of course, see that The Hague tribunal as it is composed could not render a fair judgment, and they also feel justly desirous that the United States should act as arbitrator because the decision of the United States will not be fairly impeached by Venezuela nor the rest of the civilized world. Venezuela knows that the United States is not unfriendly, for, under the Monroe Doctrine, we risked a great war with England under Cleveland's Administration to preserve Venezuela from territorial invasion. Germany and Great Britain are anxious to satisfy the United States of the merits of their claims and of their entire good faith by accepting our arbitration. In short, the United States is the only great power in whom both parties to the controversy feel entire confidence. Furthermore, the United States is interested commercially and politically in keeping Venezuela and Colombia at peace with the naval powers of Europe, for it is very easy for an adventurer of the Castro quality deliberately to create a situation which would embarrass the United States in its relations to the great powers of Europe. It is probable that on this ground the United States will consent to act as arbitrator as the shortest road to an acceptable settlement of this Venezuela difficulty. The allies can come into court with perfectly clean hands so far as we are concerned. As early as last Winter the German Ambassador addressed a note to Secretary Hay in which the purpose of his government to force Venezuela to pay the German claims was announced. In this note the Ambassador wrote that Germany considered it of importance to let first of all the Government of the United States know about its purposes, and among other things said: "We declare especially that under no circumstances do we consider in our proceedings the acquisition or the permanent occupation of Venezuelan territory." Secretary Hay in his reply expressed his gratification for this assurance, and said he was content to call attention to the President's definition of the Monroe Doctrine in his annual message, especially to the passage: "We do not guarantee any state against punishment if it misconducts itself, provided that punishment does not take the form of acquisition of territory by any non-American power." Germany's subsequent arrangement for joint action with Great Britain in coercing Venezuela further illustrated her anxiety to avoid arousing hostile feeling in America, for England is committed by her action in the past, by her official declarations in Parliament, and especially by her interests, to full assent to the Monroe Doctrine. Great Britain did not hesitate to join with Germany in this arrangement for coercing Venezuela, because in March, 1895, when the British Government presented to Nicaragua an ultimatum demanding satisfaction for its claims, at the same time it informed the United States of its purpose to collect its claims to the amount of about $80,000 by naval force, if necessary. Mr. Bayard, President Cleveland's diplomatic representative in London, was satisfied that there was no intention of acquiring territory, and so our Government acquiesced. Nicaragua ignorantly assumed to the last moment that our Government would interfere, and treated the British ultimatum with contempt and neglect. A British squadron thereupon landed a force of 400 marines at Corinto, took possession of the Custom-House, hoisted the British flag over it, and established a British Governor of the port. This was only done after an unqualified refusal on part of the Nicaragua Government to comply with the terms of the ultimatum.

Nicaragua's President blustered and talked about fighting to the death just as Castro did, but, finding out that the United States did not consider the action of Great Britain in violation of the Monroe Doctrine and would not assume or guarantee the payment of the cash in Nicaragua's behalf, he promised to pay in fifteen days if the ships were withdrawn. The British Admiral at once withdrew his ships from Corinto and the money was paid in London according to agreement. The course of our Government in 1895 in refusing to interfere between England and Nicaragua was right, and England's prompt withdrawal of her flag and ships as soon as Nicaragua agreed to settle the debt vindicated her good faith and singleness of purpose. The attitude of the British government and our own today are regulated by the same considerations of national policy and duty. Mr. Balfour, in his official explanation to Parliament, declared that Great Britain indorsed heartily the Monroe Doctrine, and the whole House cheered this announcement most vigorously. Germany's note to our Government a year ago disavowed any ambition for territorial seizure in Venezuela, and Italy has made a similar announcement. The Monroe Doctrine is no mystery to any man who has ever read its original utterance, or who is familiar with the history of its vindication and interpretation by our Government from 1866, when we forced France out of Mexico, to the present hour. The Monroe Doctrine simply told the powers of Europe in 1823 that the further extension of territorial dominion by Europe in America would be regarded as an unfriendly action. The Monroe Doctrine does not prohibit the use of coercion by Europe to collect just debts or redress real wrongs, nor does it make the United States the dictator of the internal administration of Venezuela, responsible for her turbulence and guarantor of her financial good faith.

DAIRYING AND ITS HANDICAP.

The records of the Albany creameries during the year 1902 show a substantial increase in the output over that of the previous year. The demand for the product has, however, outrun the supply, and this leads to the statement that neither creamery was able to procure more than half the amount of milk that it could utilize. Butter, as consumers know, commanded a good price throughout the year, and a fancy price for some months. Hence the dairy problem, as presented by the figures shown, seems to be up to the farmers for solution. It has been demonstrated far enough to show that it pays to keep cows of good breeds, and that the number may be very profitably increased—doubled, in fact, in the farming region from which the Albany creameries draw their supply.

Farmers, in rising to meet the opportunity afforded by modern dairying, however, are confronted by the difficulty of securing steady, reliable men to do their milking. Men of the class who are constantly shifting about, most of the time "looking for work," cannot be depended upon as milkers for a creamery. Not that there is a "milkers' union" standing behind them with a wage scale that farmers cannot meet and have anything left for themselves, but because it requires steady, amiable and practiced men to handle milch cows profitably and satisfactorily; men, withal, who are non-smokers (at least during milking time), and who are cleanly in their personal habits. It should not be impossible to find plenty of such men to meet the demand, but manifestly it is impossible, as otherwise the dairy herds would be increased to meet the capacity of these creameries.

This fact, taken in connection with the large number of men who from time to time during even the most prosperous years hang around the street corners with the injured air of those waiting to be hired, is suggestive of the most discouraging phase of the modern labor problem. The kind of work for which there is a steady demand; work which requires simple skill, easily acquired, and receives recompense in fair wages in addition to wholesome food and comfortable lodgings, it is not easy to get. This is a phase of men's labor that corresponds with that of domestic service for women. Those who could meet this demand in either case; who, if they are not fitted for the work required, could easily fit themselves for it and be certain of employment year in and year out, scorn the vocation as beneath their capacity. Such persons form a large contingent of the host of malcontents who hang upon the skirts of honest labor, posing for sympathy and feeling aggrieved that practical people withhold it. The statement that the greatest obstacle that confronts dairymen is the scarcity of milkers sounds absurd. But that dairying in the Willamette Valley is seriously handicapped and its development retarded by this fact as stated does not admit of doubt.

The next Legislature will be asked to pass a law creating a system of forest fire protection, under which system each county will have a fire warden and as many rangers as may be deemed necessary. If Assessors will place a proper valuation upon timber lands, this can be accomplished without any additional burden to the great majority of the property-owners of the state. Timber lands have increased in value many fold in the last few years, but the assessed valuations have been advanced in only a few counties, and then not in proportion to the increase in actual value. In a large number of instances the timber lands are owned by non-residents who have no intention of developing their properties, but it is their desire to hold their timber and profit by the advance in value. Assessors might be excused for favoring the man who is bringing money into the state by manufacturing lumber and selling it in outside markets, but there is no reason why the speculative syndicates who hold large blocks of timber land should not be taxed according to the value of their property. In the next five years the value of their property will probably double, and they can well afford to pay a good tax on it. It is up to the Assessors.

The new cruiser Baltimore, which has been rebuilt during the past three years at the Brooklyn Navy-Yard, will be equipped with steel furniture. The staterooms and crew's quarters will be furnished with a new kind of metal furniture of a type that will be used in the Navy for furnishing and refurnishing the vessels in the future. This is regarded as one of the most important steps in advancement toward a perfectly equipped fighting craft that has been made in several years. It is only one, however, of the many triumphs of King Steel in his invasion of the domain of industry and utility.

The danger and folly of keeping large sums of money about the house, especially if the location is an isolated one and the family small or composed of people who are practically unable to defend themselves, has been often illustrated in recent years by shocking and murderous assaults committed by brutal men in search of pelf. The deed by which Judge Lewis and his wife, an aged couple living on a lonely ranch about six miles from Almira, Wash., a few days ago lost their lives illustrates again the old story of murder and robbery made possible by such folly. The details of crimes of this character, as published from time to time, are sufficiently horrible, it would seem, to deter any one from taking the risk involved in conditions in which helplessness and a hidden hoard contribute to invite murderous cupidity. Courage is no protection against an outrage made possible by recklessness, as evidences of the desperate struggle that Judge Lewis and his wife made for their lives clearly proves. The atrocious crime revealed by their mutilated bodies furnishes another warning against taking a risk which is at once needless and foolhardy.

Four cases of smallpox were found recently in one family in Chicago. The Chief Medical Inspector of the city explains how the cases occurred as follows:

An unvaccinated girl, 14 years old, working in Hammond, Ind., and living in South Chicago, came home with the disease and communicated it to three other unvaccinated members of her family. One of these was a boy, 10 years old, attending a public school, to which he had been admitted without the certificate of vaccination required by law.

This illustrates how smallpox spreads and reveals a danger to which every city is liable. Ignorant opposition to vaccination, the admission of a nonvaccinated child to school, is the fertile cause of the spread of smallpox. The only effective way cities can guard against smallpox from small communities is by rigid quarantine or by state regulations as strict and severe as the cities themselves enforce, and these it is difficult to enact, so full are State Legislatures of the disciples of medical visionaries, quacks and cranks of all sorts. The number of smallpox cases reported from the whole country is 14,824, against 16,221 cases for the same period of six months from June to December last year. The deaths are 50 per cent more than they were last year, showing that the disease has prevailed in a more virulent form in many places.

The painting of "Love and Life" by the greatest imaginative painter of England, George Frederick Watts, represents Love assisting Life up the steep of existence—a rugged way. Life is a delicate, white, nude figure, Love a strong, condescending and earnest brown figure, lifting his companion over the rocks. The Springfield Republican thus describes this famous picture, and says that these two nude figures are as pure as crystal snow. A correspondent of the New York Sun describes the picture as follows:

Nowhere else may ideal purity be found more completely than in a nude picture, and such a picture is Mr. Watts's "Love and Life." It makes no appeal to carnality, awakens no evil suggestion in any pure mind, nor stimulates the impure in minds of impurity. Neither in the mind of the artist nor in his expression of his ideal is there revealed any feeling or purpose not purely artistic and wholly moral.

The New York Evening Post describes the picture as one of Mr. Watts' finest conceptions, and finds in it no offense to purity and morality.

The death of Mrs. Mary Matthews Adams, widow of Charles Kendall Adams, at one time president of Cornell University and later of the State University of Wisconsin, took place at Redlands, Cal., a short time ago. Dr. Adams preceded his wife to the grave but a few months, both having sought relief from pulmonary troubles in California. Mrs. Adams, formerly wife of the late A. S. Barnes, the well-known publisher, passed many years in educational work and was a woman of large intelligence and broad culture. She will long be remembered in educational circles in Brooklyn, Ithaca and in Madison, Wis., her husband being president of the State University at that place when failing health compelled them both to forego further labor. Of her it is written: "The influence of her life was a help and a grace to many other lives." No woman could ask a higher eulogy than this, as the reward of a life of earnest, womanly endeavor.

Under the new English liquor bill a proprietor charged with permitting drunkenness on his premises must prove that he and his employes did their best to prevent it or be convicted. Saloonkeepers are punished who knowingly supply liquor to any one who has been convicted of being a habitual drunkard. This law also gives the wife of a habitual drunkard protection against her husband, and grants the husband of a habitual drunkard protection against his wife.

President Corbett, of the Lewis and Clark Centennial, estimates wisely the power of clubwomen of the Northwest in making the great Fair a success. His appeal to them to aid in this work will no doubt be promptly and intelligently met. "Useless each without the other" is the way Longfellow estimates the endeavor of men and women in the affairs of life. Practical men show wisdom in following this idealistic statement with generous indorsement.

Four hundred husbands deserted their homes last year in Chicago because their wives were poor cooks. This number of desertions for that cause came to the notice of the Bureau of Charities, so the figures may be taken as accurate. Young women must learn that the way to a man's heart is through his stomach.

Hop dealers are expending their energy in trying to draw up what they call a two-sided hop contract. That would not be a very hard task but for the necessity of making the grower's side as small as possible and still large enough so that the courts can find it with a magnifying glass.

A Salem banker has expended $500 in paying to the school children of the city the amount they lost by reason of the failure of a rival banking institution. The letter written by the proprietor of the defunct bank, thanking the donor for his generosity, has not yet been published.

Bereft.

Boston Transcript.

I passed the window where she used to sit
With quickened step; I knew she was not there;
This was the time her lamp was always lit,
And she sat busy with her needle's care
For those she loved; and oft, by happy chance,
She would look down and give me cheery glance.

Such busy hands! Such tender, loving heart
That made of service crown and happiness
Her sunny glance helped me to do my part,
With more desire to lighten and to bless
Those the dear Father gives into my care,
With whom the joys and griefs of life I share.

All undisturbed by anxious fear or care
Her faithful love gives holy service yet;
The heaven that holds her we shall long to share;
In its clear light, O heavenly Father, let
Our love for her in its deep truth appear,
Unstained by all its selfish blemish here.

But oh! "the vanished hand," the sweet "stilled voice"!
For us the bitter loss, for her the gain!
In all her peace and rest I would rejoice;
But as I homeward pass, her window's pane
Will have no light for me, no happy smile;
Ah! I must pass some other way awhile!

SPIRIT OF THE NORTHWEST PRESS

Rather the People Than the Tariff.

Boise News.

Matt Quay says: "We won't touch the tariff." No, it is the people he prefers to touch.

Oregon Shivers at the East.

Woodburn Independent.

It makes a Western Oregon man shiver just to think of the present plight of the Easterners.

Not If Uncle Sam Knows Himself.

Eugene Register.

Neither England nor Germany can expect to get Venezuela in its stocking as a Christmas gift.

Might Give Us His Name.

Baker City Democrat.

Eastern Oregon should demand a United States Senatorship. The playing into the hand of Portland at all times is becoming monotonous.

A Sign of Anarchy.

Castle Rock Advocate.

The parent who fails to control his boy at home and makes a fuss when the teacher administers a dose of discipline to young hopeful is sowing the seeds of anarchy.

As a Pessimist Sees It.

Albany Democrat.

The spirit of the day seems to be for the strong to oppress the weak. The trusts are red hot after the small concerns and the big nations are trying to absorb the small nations of the world.

Advice That Will Be Followed.

Union Republican.

The committee of publicity of the Lewis and Clark Exposition should begin at once and keep everlastingly at the exploitation of the benefits to be derived from the big Fair. There should be no rest.

It Works Both Ways.

Forest Grove Times.

The Oregonian says we are "still harping on the trolley line." Yes, and Portland and The Oregonian are still harping on the new charter and a big appropriation for the Fair. We may be the little chap in this scrimmage, but we can bark your shins while you black our eyes.

Is Our Legislature a Farce?

Gervais Star.

The Legislature will convene in January. We can look for little or no remedial legislation until the appropriation for the Lewis and Clark Exposition is made and the Senator is elected. Even then it is a question if retaliation may not criss-cross. Great, loud and long does the candidate protest before election, yet greater is his ifs after the election—about this time of day. Verily, the average Legislator is much bloated since he is a one-man power! After all, is not our Legislature much of a farce? Was not Barnum right?

Would Knock the Knockers.

Pendleton Tribune.

The knockers should be knocked. Not many such people are at work, but a few are quietly working upon the prejudices of the people. They tell one story on one street and another story on another street. They are the sort that knock everything that they do not originate, and none of them have original minds. Very few of them pay taxes on any amount of property, and none of them will ever be known to lead an enterprise for the public weal. You will see them with their "little hammers" today, and you will know the class they belong to.

Just a Trifle Unkind.

Hillsboro Argus.

It is now said that Hon. C. W. Fulton is very anxious to have a caucus of the Republican members of the Legislature when that body shall meet. He thinks that he would receive a majority of the votes and be the choice for Senator. This is very nice of Charlie, and he can ask for a caucus with such splendid grace. It will be remembered that he has always been against the caucus whenever the bosses who managed him would be hurt by such a move. If Charlie can get a caucus, we shall think him filled with the graces that go to make up a preacher of the apostolic time.

What Interurban Lines Do.

Newberg Graphic.

The Portland City Council continues to throw cold water on the proposed electric line out into Washington County. In Indiana and in other states East the interurban lines are increasing very rapidly, and the cities are offering all kinds of inducements to get the lines to come their way, while here we have the spectacle of the only great city in Oregon not only refusing to encourage the introduction of interurban lines, but actually trying to freeze out an offer for the investment of capital in this direction. It may be a case of blind leadership on the part of the City Council, but it looks a good deal like the St. Louis methods were being introduced in this case.

Lets Toot Our Own Horn.

Adams Advance.

The transport service that is to be divided between San Francisco and Seattle smacks of collusion of some kind that does not reflect with credit on Secretary Root. The country tributary to Portland will be called upon to furnish most of the produce required. California depends very largely upon Oregon for her supplies, and Seattle will have to depend upon Oregon for those articles of food with which her transports will be laden. Oregon's Congressional delegation should bestir itself and impress upon the Secretary of War's mind that there is such a place as Portland and that it has a better claim to a share of the transport business than either San Francisco or Seattle. No matter what Portland's natural attractions may be, it must be expected that she will be overlooked if her wide-awake business men do not pull together for a share of this business. Seattle is quite alive to her own interests, and what she lacks in natural resources she makes up by everlastingly impressing upon the outside world her importance as a great city. This faculty of tooting her own horn has won the admiration of even her business rivals and has done more than any one thing to advertise her the world over.

Touch Up the Careless Camper.

Ellensburg Localizer.

During the past few months many strong arguments have appeared in newspapers from all sections of the country in regard to our Legislature taking steps to decrease the number of extensive forest fires that have so destructively visited some of our finest timber regions and laid bare and waste, sometimes in a day, vast portions of what we were proud to boast of as the most beautiful and richest feature of the West. It would seem that through a rigid enforcement of laws against the leaving of campfires by hunters, sportsmen and other campers, who are usually the perpetrators of this seemingly insignificant crime, that it would be lessened greatly, and when it became thoroughly known to them that such laws were being enforced, the importance of exercising a little more caution would become more vivid to them and they might then be brought to consider the vast amount of damage resulting from their neglect in not thoroughly extinguishing their fires before leaving them, especially during the dry seasons. This is a question of most vital importance to the interests of all timber countries and should constantly be kept before our legislators by press and public everywhere until it, as well as many matters of much less importance, has gained recognition from our lawmakers, and there has been enacted a "live" law forbidding the destruction of our country's riches and a standing reward offered for the conviction of such as will not adhere to that law.

M'KINLEY AND REED COMPARED

(William Allen White in the Emporia (Kan.) Gazette.)

The death of Tom Reed closes the chapter of one of the strangest rivalries that ever occurred in American politics—the rivalry between McKinley and Reed. The contest was not bitter; it rarely came above the surface of things, yet it was an inevitable conflict, and was made so by the characters of the two men and their propinquity in political life. The men were as antithetic to one another as a dog and a cat. In no trait of their character were they similar, and each irritated the other. McKinley was solemn, rather pompous, devoid of humor, given to Prince Alberts and white string ties, never revealing himself except to his intimates, canny, tactful, urbane, adroit, smooth, oleaginous and placid. Reed was brusque; a jolly man who liked to reveal his real self and hated shams and pretenses; a scholar, who despised the patter of politics that passes for learning in Congress; a wearer of sack coats and clothes with lots of pockets in them—wrinkled clothes and a soft hat; tactless, and proud of it; not afraid of making a good enemy where it would do the most good; bristling with retort and invectives.

In Congress, McKinley and Reed were members of one party and protectionists in theory; but there stopped the parallel. Reed became floor leader and afterward Speaker of the House; McKinley was defeated as Speaker of the House, and went into committee work. Reed rose to his glory; the qualities which McKinley would have put into the speakership would have made him a failure. Reed was the man needed, and his work there has changed the current of usage in American Congress as greatly as an amendment to the Constitution. McKinley rose afterward to his glory and forced Reed out of political life. McKinley's tactics there were distinctly his own; he used no outward show of force. He did not appear to be moving at all. Yet he ground Reed as with a glacier; there is no doubt that if Reed had been President he would have forced McKinley out of action. There was bad blood between them, but Reed would have done it before all the people, and, perhaps, would have disrupted the party. He would have gloried in it. Reed disliked McKinley, and was frank to his acquaintances in discussing it; in 1897 McKinley shut the door of patronage on Reed, except in his Congressional district. Reed was as mad as a bull and bellowed out a good many kinds of damns about McKinley to his friends.

The day McKinley died, Reed and a mutual friend and the editor of the Gazette happened to meet at luncheon in the Century Club in New York City. Reed was big with the philosophy of the hour. His rival was dead; the race had been run. Reed was out of it; the book was closed on his ambition. He knew it. After a simple meal had been put away, Reed pushed back his chair and began to talk. For three long hours he discoursed most beautifully upon life, its uncertainty, its real rewards, and its checks and balances; upon fame and its accidents and its emptiness; upon death and immortality, and God, and all his ways and works. It was a kind of funeral oration the like of which few men are privileged to hear. At the end of it all the big man threw back his head and look up at the great oak rafters of the room for a long while, and then let his hands fall heavily on the short arms of the chair as he sighed, "Hi, ho! What does it all mean? Where is it going? Who are we? What is this unfathomed mystery we call life—God knows! I don't."

Reed was McKinley's intellectual superior, and he couldn't help but know it. Reed was a scholar of wide and judicious reading. He knew things at the base; and understood the ultimate philosophy of them. So he wrote well. He got a chapter in a sentence. He was always sure. His style was epigrammatic. McKinley had the wordy style of a man who is not quite certain of his position, and is trying to convince himself. No two men ever revealed themselves so nakedly in their styles as McKinley and Reed. In McKinley's written and spoken language, a kind-hearted man shows himself. In Reed's, a big-brained man. McKinley's strength was not in his head, but his heart. He grew to real greatness because he was kind. He would not offend anyone and he loved to please. The greatest calamity that could have befallen America was to have had Tom Reed elected President when McKinley was elected. He would not have allowed America to go to war with Spain. He would have been impeached by Congress and war declared in spite of him. From an intellectual standpoint Reed would have been right; but there is a force in this world stronger than brains; there is a destiny of nations as well as men, and when we would put our own little wills in its way, something outside ourselves—call it destiny or race tendency or God—intervenes and brushes the chessmen aside and plays its own game.

The Bear Hunt in the Message.

Washington letter.

Two Army officers, known to fame and also renowned for their fondness for an honest wager, put up a modest sum a few days ago on the novel proposition that the President would mention the Mississippi bear hunt in his annual message. The man who believed the President would mention the hunt in some way naturally asked and got good odds. Today he stood around waiting anxiously for the coming of the fateful message. In the first copy he could lay hands on he buried himself deeply, and when he put down the paper his face wore a smile of triumph. "The dinner's mine!" said he, gleefully. Inquiry reveals the following sentence as the basis of the officer's claim:

"The senseless slaughter of game, which can by judicious protection be permanently preserved on our National reserves for the people as a whole, should be stopped at once."

"That means that the President go mad and swore off when he came home, said the officer, with a note of finality in his voice. Nothing short of a court-martial will shake his belief in his prediction.

A Strictly Accurate Witness.

Toronto Globe.

Douglas Grand, who was the principal witness for the crown at the remount trial at Ennis, Ireland, which resulted in the committal for trial of Major Studdert and others, tells the following story regarding the examination of one of the witnesses:

"Did you sell Major Studdert a horse?" asked counsel.

"No, sorr," replied witness.

"Did your father sell Major Studert a horse?"

"No, sorr,"

"Well, then, did your grandfathr sell him a horse?"

"No, sorr."

"Did any member of your farily sell Major Studdert anything?"

"Yes, sorr."

"Who did, then?"

"I did," replied the witness.

"And what did you sell Major Studdert?"

"I sold him a mare," replied th witness, to the chagrin of counsel and te delight of the court.

Jersey Farming Profitble.

New York Times.

In the report of Franklin Dy, secretary of the State Board of Agriculitre, just issued, it is stated that New Jesey farms received for their crops this yer $43,528,871, which shows that this has ben the most prosperous year in the histor of farming in the state. The hay crop yilded upward of $5,000,000, as did also the corn crop. The potato crop was $4,000,000 in wite potatoes and $2,000,000 in sweet potates, while the wheat, oats aid rye crops averaged about $1,000,000 each.

The report calls attentio to the fact that the buckwheat crop fell off very much. About $10,000,000 was realized from small fruits and vegetables $8,000,000 was received for milk, and $9,000,000 from poultry and eggs.

The farms of New Jerse, according to the statistics given, represent an industry whose capital is $195,359,100 It is declared that farming in the stai is now very profitable.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Good morning! Money enough still?

Santa Claus may be a myth, but he's the liveliest superstition that has ever struck Portland.

It is to be hoped that Mr. Marconi doesn't go so far as to eat a puddingless Christmas dinner.

The divorce courts show no falling off in business at this season. Evidently parting is still such sweet sorrow.

Strange how the world moves. Wealthy men used to break fine horses for a pastime. Now they break automobiles.

Spokane is getting into line with a crusade against vice. No Coast town can hold up its head without having a splurge of some sort.

There are two ages much to be pitied: The baby whose pucker of a mouth is too tender for the succulent plum pudding and the old man whose eyes are too dim to see the happy faces about him.

If these people who growl over their dinners about Christmas being a relic of the Dark Ages would only realize that a good many of Portland's citizens have to work even on Christmas day, and are not discouraged a bit, but expect to have a good time, perhaps—and again perhaps—they might think that a holiday that can make life pleasant under any conditions is worth celebrating for its own sake.

This fine specimen of Cabinet repartee is being exhibited to favored persons: When Secretary Root discharged the clerk, Rebecca Taylor, and she brought an action against him, they were talking about the case at a Cabinet meeting. "Well," said Attorney-General Knox to Secretary Root, "I won't help to get you out of jail." "No," retorted Secretary Root; "I'll hire a lawyer."

It really would seem that persistent efforts are being made to curtail the privileges of the leisure class in this country. We have been shocked by stories of chauffeurs being indicted for killing people with automobiles, we have listened to brazen-faced attempts to bring capital to terms, and now a jury in New Jersey has rendered a verdict of $8000 against a golf-player for putting out a caddie's eye. The avariciousness of the working classes is getting beyond belief and past endurance.

Poor Mascagni's tour of America has finally ended under doleful circumstances. Probably the question whether he has been treated unjustly or not will cause horrible divisions in the ranks of the musicians. This is one bad feature of his ill-success, but the worst is the stain on the name of the United States. We are henceforth in the eyes of artists a money-grabbing race, who will see genius in jail before we will generously contribute out of our cash. And there are some people who wouldn't go to hear their much-talked-of Wagner unless "everybody" went.

Last night a man was driven out of a wretched hiding place by a sudden gust of rain. As he emerged into the deserted street he cannoned into a reporter, who was on business bent. The latter stood aside to let this miserable morsel of humanity go on his way. Dazed with weariness, and evidently haunted by some foul memory, the tramp, for such he was, muttered, blindly, "God, O God! Let me sleep!" It was the old cry so familiar to those who must traverse our lower streets by night. This wanderer's face was distorted with disease, wracked by the waking tortures of the drug-eater, and his feet knew no direction. One would have fancied that he should have prayed for death. Why did he beseech of the God he had dishonored sleep? Was it a faint, dimmed recollection of the hours of childhood, when the petty troubles of a boy's day had found soothing remedy in sleep? Was it a call for the dreams long wooed, deeply desired, that had left his breast forever? Death could have no terrors for such as him; sleep at best could only prolong his misery. But he was seeking a dream. For a dream's sake he had polluted his body with opiates. He was afraid of death, for in death one may not dream—so sweetly. Call him bestial, scorn him, curse him, yet even the man who despises may some time reach the period in life when his sole desire will be to dream again. By our dreams we are known.

If one were only endowed with a vision that could read the thoughts of those who crowd the Postoffice during the holidays, his pleasant life would take on even sunnier hues. Civilization is becoming more and more complex, say the philosophers, but for some reason it is hard to believe that the motives for human action are different in any way from the motives of a thousand years ago. It is highly probable that men loved women in the Dark Ages with the same fervor as now, mothers drew their sons' hearts after them even to the grave, and little children who knew nothing of wireless telegraphy sent wordless messages to their fathers. Yet in one aspect modern ways are shorter. Lover does not have to wait months to receive from some friendly hand his sweetheart's letter; nay, it is written in books that they love by post who never saw each other face to face. But civilization can never remove the desire of seeing the eyes of the beloved, and postage cannot be prepaid even now in the sweet nothings that poets sing. The throng who surge through the Postoffice are seekers for what they shall not find, men and women trying to make mechanical device convey deeper things than ever the Government authorizes under any class for transmission. We should be thankful for new manners, however slender the satisfaction; but in all probability those who scramble into line before the stamp-window would in one presence drop all thought of hurry and jostling and restlessness to drift away into a land where dreams and hopes are real.

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

"There's a boy for you!" exclaimed the Billville citizen. "Been to town six times, an' never blowed out the gas but once!"—Atlanta Constitution.

"Ah, I knew 'high-balls' would be my finish," sighed the wild goose as a rifle bullet struck him in midair and brought him to the real estate.—Judge.

Both Green.—Mrs. Howso—Did the butcher send the lobsters? Bridget—He did, mum, but I sent thim back. They wuzn't ripe.—Town and Country.

Church—What is your opinion of "the Autocrat of the Breakfast Table"? Gotham—Never tried it, but I guess I've sampled every other kind of breakfast food.—Editor's Sheet.

Doctor—Did you give your husband that medicine for his insomnia every two hours, as I directed? Wife—Yis, doctor; but I had such throuble to wake him up, every time.—Harper's Bazar.

After the Elopement.—He—I was afraid that after all you wouldn't be able to manage that rope ladder from your window. She—I wouldn't have been able to, if it hadn't been for papa.—Brooklyn Life.