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TODAY'S WEATHER—Occasional rain, with possibly part snow; brisk southerly winds.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 38; minimum temperature, 32; precipitation, none.

PORTLAND, TUESDAY, DEC. 30, 1902

HERMANN AND THE SENATE.

The Oregonian will interpose no objection at this time either to Commissioner Hermann's retirement from the General Land Office or to his Senatorial candidacy. It is apparent that if the Commissioner had the evidence at hand to prove to Secretary Hitchcock that he was in sympathy with the department's solicitude for the public domain and indignation at land conspiracies, he did not think it worth while to produce it. Mr. Hermann has been a candidate for the Senatorship ever since he has been in the Land Office, and never before found it necessary to resign in order to conduct his campaign. He has undoubtedly been forced out by Secretary Hitchcock because of disagreements in policies, and, so far as the land abuses are concerned, the Secretary has given every evidence of determination to pursue an upright and reformatory course.

Mr. Hermann's release and early appearance in Oregon may serve to remind the faithful that he is a man who always requires to be taken care of. If there is nothing left but the Senate, doubtless it is the Senate he will have to have. He is not the highest type of statesman. He is not the sort of man Oregon should be proud to send to the Senate. If he ever had any pronounced views on public questions, like money and tariff, they were wrong. He would not take rank with the Spooners and Culloms of Congress, but would add to the number of sleek and oily politicians there, by whom Oregon, it appears, loves best to be represented. Yet he is a very adroit sort of fellow, in unction unsurpassed and in palaver unapproached.

The qualifications of Mr. Hermann for the United States Senate, therefore, are not to be despised, and must not be overlooked. It is true he has never been known to stand out in the rain all day at Salem with a load of farm products from the Waldo Hills, thereby establishing his bucolic character. His opportunities to knife certain selected nominees by being chairman of the state central committee have not been great. He has never been in a position to act the part of Man Friday to a stronger and patronizing colleague. He has no great accumulation of money to facilitate or impede legislation. His exploits as a corporation attorney are not notable enough to have won the trust and confidence of the toiling masses. His laugh, we should say, is inferior in volume and penetration to one that reverberates continuously along the Lower Columbia.

With these limitations in popular esteem and statesmanlike qualities, Mr. Hermann should make an ideal Senator. Calumny itself would forbear to charge him with any convictions on great National issues which would hamper his activity in the way of appointments and appropriations. The only difficulty in his way seems to be his frank and manly confession of a long-cherished and burning desire to return to Roseburg and practice his profession. To overcome Our Binger's passionate attachment for Roseburg and conquer his conscientious scruples against remaining in Washington, even as a Senator, it will now become the duty of his devoted adherents to address themselves.

"OREGON AT OSAKA."

The dawn of the new year opens auspiciously for the Lewis and Clark Exposition. All friends of the Exposition have reason to be thankful for what has been achieved. Japan's interest in the celebration, as manifested by the visit of its representative, Waichi Araki, will quicken the spirit of the entire Northwest.

The example of Japan will be followed by other Oriental countries, so that there is good prospect of having at Portland an exposition of the Occident and Orient. Much depends now on the character of the exhibit which Portland citizens and the Lewis and Clark Board will make at the National Japanese Exposition at Osaka. This exhibit, if fully representative of the resources and commercial possibilities of Oregon, means a great deal to the Fair.

"Oregon at Osaka" should be taken up by every citizen of Portland. This exhibit is one of the most important public enterprises ever before this city. It is the means of drawing the Orient to Oregon markets and to the Lewis and Clark Fair. The Oregonian commends to the citizens of Portland both this enterprise and the man who has it in charge, Colonel H. E. Dosch. The outlay in money will be small, but the returns will be large.

Merchants who give the use of their goods for display will get them back or will receive their worth in money from sales in Japan. The O. R. & N. will transport the goods to and from Japan free of cost. Mr. Dosch has been allowed $4000 for expenses. No investment ever offered greater promise of return than this.

TARIFFS PROVEN UNNECESSARY.

An illuminative bearing on current tariff discussion is possessed by the news from France about the shoe trade. It appears that the French Association of Boot and Shoe Manufacturers has decided to advance the scale of prices for footwear. In making the announcement, M. Gibaul, vice-president of the association, says it is made necessary by the gradual monopoly of the raw material by Americans. He also asserts that the leather industries of America are absorbing a considerable part of the raw product of France, and are manufacturing and reselling the finished products in the French market. The manufacturers have also decided to seek a readjustment of the tariff rates of France, with the view of improving their position.

Boots and shoes, as well as leather manufacturers generally, are already highly protected by the French tariff. Hides and skins must pay $6 to $25 a pound, boots and shoes from 25 to 50 cents a pair, saddles $3 to $3 50 each, etc. Moreover, the leather and shoe schedules of the French tariff form part of the nineteen articles expressly excluded by the French government from the pending reciprocity treaty. If, therefore, the American manufacturers have been able to prevail over the French on their own ground, it is a fair conclusion that they can stand the French tariffs. It would not be justifiable for us to buy tariff concessions for our leather men and shoe men of France at the price of our agricultural producers who are at work in competition with French imports.

The complaint from France is doubtless well founded. The achievements of our shoe and leather men abroad constitute one of the proudest chapters in our recent industrial history. Ten years ago we exported a mere $12,000,000 annually of all sorts of leather and wares made from it. But the Treasury reports just completed for October show that in the ten months ending with that month we sold abroad $25,000,000 of total leather manufactures, as against $24,000,000 for the corresponding period of last year. How large a proportion of these sales went to France, directly or indirectly, it is impossible to say, though the Custom-House records are able to trace nearly $1,000,000 worth of three items alone—gloves, shoes and uppers.

But there is a still more significant feature of this complaint. We hear considerable tariff talk from leather and shoe men in this country, especially in New England, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Wisconsin. They say nothing, that we have observed, about lower duties on their own highly protected manufactures, but they have much to say about the duty on hides, which they want to see abolished. The Dingley law permits a rebate of the duty on hides, where the leather is exported and can be identified in the finished product, but the manufacturers say that it is next to impossible to identify the leather, so that free hides straight is the only thing that will relieve them.

But the Frenchmen's most bitter complaint is that the Americans buy skins in France, bring them over here, make them up into shoes and send them back to France at prices which beat the Frenchmen on their own ground. It is a fair conclusion that the duty on hides doesn't handicap our shoe men half as badly as they say it does. It is a fair conclusion that if our shoe men can sell abroad in competition with foreign factories, they do not need a tariff to protect them from these same foreign factories importing here. If hides are to be free, then leather, shoes, saddles and harness should be free.

The enterprise, energy, acumen and vigilance shown by American shoe and leather manufacturers is stupendous and startling. But they get no credit for it and they will get none, so long as they persist in exacting unnecessarily high prices from American consumers. The duty on hides seems to benefit the big packing-houses only, by whose influence it is retained. If the leather and shoe men really want it abolished, let them come into court with clean hands by agreeing to free trade in leather and shoes.

AN OVERLOADED DEPARTMENT.

The movement for the creation of a Department of Commerce this Winter promises, it is said, to be barren of results. A forcible and even eloquent plea has been made in favor of the creation of such a department, in behalf of the overloaded Department of the Interior, the duties of which the new department would divide. One needs only to glance through the annual report of the Secretary of the Interior, recently published, to be convinced that the work of the Interior Department covers a very wide and greatly diversified range. It has been suggested that the name of this department might very properly be expanded into "Interior and Miscellaneous," so great is the assortment of Government bureaus treated by Secretary Hitchcock in his report.

Among these topics, public lands, with their diverse problems, are presented. The Indians, their rations, education, finances and general progress; the Pension Bureau and the Patent Office; the new irrigation policy; the geological survey; the permanent census establishment; the Bureau of Education, public documents and railroad affairs are in turn treated. Whether all of these topics and interests can be adequately treated under one head, or whether they are adequately treated at the expense of an overburdened Secretary and department, are matters that have been frequently and freely discussed. A new department means another voice and vote in the President's Cabinet, and some extension of the service in salaries, investigations, reports, etc. But it means also an attention to details, through a segregation of interests that is impossible under present conditions. The Department of Agriculture was an offshoot of an overgrown Interior Department a few years ago. That this latter department is again ready to "swarm" indicates a tremendous activity and growth in the great hive of National industry.

The "Interior," says the Youth's Companion, is more distinctly Western than any other executive department. Many of the questions that it deals with affect Western people almost exclusively. The correspondents of the Western newspapers find it their great storehouse of information, whereas the Eastern journalist is not a frequent caller upon the chiefs of its bureaus. The "Navy" is of correspondingly greater interest to the people of the coasts. This is more distinctly true of the Atlantic than of the Pacific Coast, since Western interests extend from the Mississippi Valley through to the Pacific Ocean. The pressure for a division of its labors must come, as did that from which the Department of Agriculture sprang, from the section of the country the interests of which are more specifically served by it.

TWO DEAD WOMEN.

Pathetic incidents of the Christmas season were the deaths of two gentle old women whose names in their girlhood were associated with names that afterward became of National and even world-wide fame. Mrs. Jessie Fremont, who eloped with and married General John C. Fremont in the shadowy years "before the war," and who was the devoted wife of the "Pathfinder" through many years of sunshine and shadow, was stricken at her home in San Francisco on Christmas morning and died some hours later. Her pictured face, bearing in its patient lines the record of a long life, and surmounted by snowy hair, gives no hint of the social triumphs of Senator Benton's young daughter at the National Capital sixty years and more ago. One can read in it and in the story of her passing the gentle lesson of death as a friend whose suitable mission it is to close and clasp the volume when life's record is ended.

The other woman, above referred to, was Mrs. Martinet McKee, who, as Martinet Hardin, a lass of 16 years, was admired by Abraham Lincoln. She met death on the day before Christmas at her home in Louisville, Ky., at the age of 84 years. Her picture does not accompany the announcement of her death. There is no need that it should, since imagination, directed by reverence, can easily supply it.

Whatever poet, orator or sage
May say of it, old age is still old age.
It is the waning, not the crescent moon,
The flash of lightning, not the blaze of noon.

No trace of the beauty which distinguished Mrs. Fremont in her youth lingered about her face in age. But succeeding this were the lines of an earnest, appreciative apprenticeship to life and its lessons which makes the faces of the aged beautiful to those that love them and gracious to those of reverent mind. Looking at one of these pictures in the columns of the daily newspapers, we could almost wish that it could have been kept from the eyes of the public and remained—as the loved face beneath the coffin lid in a shadowed home—sacred to the memory of those who loved it best, and to the records that told of its fair young beauty in the days of the dreamy long ago.

HIS INDIAN EMPIRE.

The celebration of King Edward's accession as Emperor of India has been a splendid affair, and has obtained the attendance of representatives of all the subject people of India and of those who merely acknowledge Great Britain as suzerain. When Lord Beaconsfield persuaded Queen Victoria to assume the title of Empress of India he was sneered at by his political rivals as doing nothing but a clever bit of stage politics, but he knew what he was about. He knew that the Oriental mind was very susceptible to great titles and royal parades, and the result has proved his sagacity, for the millions of England's Indian subjects of all sorts were never so enthusiastically loyal as they are today. Outside of the border warfare with the hill tribes of Afghanistan, Great Britain has not had to fire a shot in India for the last thirty years. In all the severe fighting with the hill tribes on the border in 1895, fighting that employed an army of 70,000 men, the native troops of the Anglo-Indian army were conspicuous for daring courage and ardent zeal against the enemy.

It is safe to say that if the old prediction that Russia would some day try to force the mountain passes of India should come true, Great Britain's native subjects would fight to a man for her, for these Asiatics, while not entirely content with British rule, are bitterly hostile to Russia. They know that British rule is that of a benevolent despot in some respects, but they know, too, that the rule of Russia is that of a despot, a purely military despot without a color of benevolence in his composition. "Emperor of India" is a title that impresses the Hindoo mind, and the splendid royal pageants excite the admiration of a people that from time immemorial have been accustomed to gorgeous public spectacles. The popular taste has been educated in this direction since the days of Akbar the Great and Aurungzebe.

GRAVE EVIL AND ITS REMEDY.

The City of Astoria, Baker County, Lake County, Klamath County, Linn County and Columbia County and the State of Oregon have in recent years sustained losses on account of defaulting officials. In some cases a portion of the amount of the loss has been recovered from the bondsmen, but in general the loss falls upon the public. Many shortages have been discovered and made good by friends of the delinquent official and the facts kept from public knowledge. These many breaches of public trust, and especially those recently discovered, suggest that there is a need that something be done to protect the funds which pass through the hands of public officials. Measures should be taken to prevent the delinquencies and to make the public more secure in its right of recovery where the shortages do occur.

It is useless to say that the people should be more careful in the selection of their public servants. No one stood higher in public confidence than did George W. Davis, who robbed the school funds of $30,000. County and city officials who have been found short have been above suspicion, and the public is slow to believe that any wrong has really been done. In most cases it develops that there was no intent to steal the public funds, but that the official who handled them merely borrowed the money for private use and intended to make it good from his own funds. Circumstances similar to those which induced the wrongful taking made it impossible to repay, and discovery and disgrace were the result. The people have been careful in the selection of officials, but they have been careless in permitting opportunities for defalcations.

There are several remedies which may be adopted which would greatly reduce if not entirely remove the opportunities for a misuse of public funds. To begin with, a very clear and complete system of keeping public accounts should be adopted and should be uniform throughout the state, so that any person who familiarized himself with the system would have no trouble in examining intelligently the books of any public official. The system should provide for duplicate receipts and other records which would make the books of one officer a check upon the books of another. A complete system of record-keeping being provided, all officials should be required, under penalty, to follow the system and to pay over the funds received by them at stated times. Retaining the funds beyond the time for payment should be made a criminal offense.

The accounts of every public official, no matter how good his social and business standing, should be examined by some state or county official at least once a year, and should be experted at the end of each term. If the Legislature should create the office of State Bank Inspector, that official might also be made the inspector of public accounts. With public records systematically kept, the work of examining them would not be difficult nor require a great amount of time. The period within which an action may be commenced against a public official and his bondsmen should be ten years after the end of the term of office, and if the officer held more than one term, the period should begin at the end of his last term, regardless of the time when the defalcation occurred. The period within which a criminal prosecution may be had for conversion of public funds should be extended to ten years. It is scarcely necessary to say that the amount of an official bond should be greater than any amount of money the officer may have in his hands, but the fact is that some bonds have been for an amount much less than the sum held in trust. With these and perhaps other remedial provisions, there would be small chance of a loss of public funds.

Oregon as a famous producer of fine apples will be interested to learn that New York is the leading apple-producing state of the Union, with Ohio second and Pennsylvania third. Other states have more trees, but New York leads all the rest in product. New York produces 52,415,700 bushels; Ohio, 36,816,900, and Pennsylvania about 1,000,000 bushels less than Ohio. Missouri has 5,000,000 more trees than New York, but is only sixth in the matter of production. Every tree in New York State gives an average crop of 3½ bushels. New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania, with far less acreage set to apples than Missouri, beat her in production three or four times over. One-fourth of New York's splendid apple crop is raised in the counties of Orleans, Erie, Wayne, Monroe and Niagara. Niagara is the garden county of New York. These interesting facts show that it is not the number of trees planted that insures a fine crop of apples; it is the care given to the orchard. Oregon can raise plenty of fine apples, but apple orchards do not imply fine fruit or plenty of it unless they get excellent care.

The schoolship "Young America," in course of construction and equipment at Perth Amboy, N. J., will offer the ideal educational life and opportunity to a number of adventurous young Americans, to whose needs and dispositions such a school training will fitly apply. There is education in travel, in training and in discipline, that are adjuncts of this undertaking, the value of which is priceless to young men, whether they engage in the ordinary vocations of business or desire to secure places in the lower grades of the commissioned service of the Navy. An undisciplined youth gives small promise of becoming a responsible, successful man of business. The course in this nautical school will cover four years, and, according to the advices published, it will turn out young men fully able to cope with the world, whether they labor on sea or land.

There is no better authority in the press of this country regarding the doings of foreign court circles than "the Marquise de Fontenoy," who has for several years been a writer in the Philadelphia Press and many other American papers of the first rank. The Oregonian has never "assailed" Lady Henry Somerset; it has simply said that in the matters that related to her legal separation from her husband Queen Victoria inquired into the merits of the case and did not consider Lord Somerset had been justly accused. If she had believed him guilty, she would have excluded him from her court circle as promptly as she did the Duke of Sutherland when he mistreated his wife.

The contest over the Stratton millions has begun at Colorado Springs. "Sagacious of their quarry from afar," lawyers from several states have gathered there, anxious to secure any crumbs that may fall from the rich man's table. There will be, first and last, rich pickings in this case, and the chances are that the "Myron B. Stratton Home," for which the millionaire thought he made such ample provision, will never materialize outside of the testator's intention. It certainly will not, if the only son of the erratic millionaire and his estranged wife can defeat his father's purpose in the matter.

John Fiske, in a posthumous essay on "Evolution and the Present Age" in the December issue of Harper's Magazine, says that from Joseph Black, with his discovery of latent heat, and James Watt, with his invention of the steam engine, down to the latest discoveries in electricity, "there has been the unbroken sequence of achievement" which has transformed the whole face of the world and introduced a new and distinct era. "A man can now travel the whole length of the earth's circumference in less time than it would have taken Herodotus to go the length of the Mediterranean."

"I honestly and sincerely believe," is the protestation of Senator Elkins, who honestly and sincerely believes in nothing at all. He is for policy, every time. He is like the shyster lawyer who is always saying, "In all sincerity," or "In all candor," when everybody knows he is lying. The man that tells the truth doesn't have to call heaven and earth to witness that he is honest.

Vice-Admiral Lord Beresford recently said: "As a British subject I do not want to see an acre more added to the British Empire, as our imperial responsibilities are enormously in excess of our organization for defense."

"Oregon at Osaka" means Japan at the Lewis and Clark Fair. Catch the hint?

SPIRIT OF THE NORTHWEST PRESS

Ratio of Twelve to One.

Eugene Register.

No doubt President Roosevelt would rather write a dozen messages than to arbitrate one Venezuelan difficulty.

Missed the Open Switch.

Baker City Republican.

Mr. Fulton's place is in the United States Senate, and his great services to his state justly entitle him to the position which he will some day fill. He does not purpose to be sidetracked by the gubernatorial switch.

One Arbitration Task Enough.

Pendleton Tribune.

The President's success in bringing about arbitration between the operators and miners has brought him other trouble, and he hesitates to arbitrate the Venezuelan affair. And he would not be shirking a public duty to deny the request of the powers.

Rubbing Off the Rough Edges.

Lebanon Criterion.

From all over the Northwest comes the news of a struggle to make a closed town out of a wide-open one. Gradually, as the country becomes older and more settled in its ways, an effort is being put forth to change the customs of the country. There was a time when open gambling-houses and other resorts of vice were not only tolerated, but welcomed by the majority of the people, but those times are changing, have changed, and if the signs of the times count for aught, before many years they will have become a thing of the past.

But He Hasn't, Nevertheless.

McMinnville Telephone Register.

The President of the United States is the proper person to act as arbitrator between Venezuela and the big nations that are attempting to coerce her. The President is a disinterested party, and his country can only be interested in seeing that no improper encroachment by the trans-Atlantic nations is allowed. It will take a considerable portion of the President's time to reach a conclusion in this matter should he consent to act, but in the interest of justice and American principle, he ought to accept the duty.

All Easy to the Wise Gazabo.

Eugene Register.

The representative Republican press of the state is for Hon. C. W. Fulton for United States Senator. The vast majority of the Legislators are of the same opinion, and the voters indorse the position of the press and Legislators. It ought not, under these circumstances, to take but one ballot to get the Senatorial question out of the way and proceed at once to the disposition of important legislation. The House will be quickly organized with Hon. L. T. Harris as Speaker, and the work of that branch of the Legislature will be handled with expedition and dispatch.

Chance for "Log-Rolling."

Hillsboro Argus.

One hears very little about the repeal of the coyote tax these days. This is a mighty fine thing for Western Oregon politicians to trade. Up there the measure is so popular that to oppose it would mean political oblivion. The coyotes are rapidly disappearing, and they argue that in a few more years there will be none to scalp. On the other hand, the rabbits are increasing very rapidly, and by the time they kill off the coyotes it will be up to the Legislature to favor a rabbit bounty tax to settle for some political deal made by Western Oregon.

A Rather Difficult "Suppose."

Hillsboro Independent.

Suppose C. E. S. Wood had been the only name on the official ballot last June, would the 32,627 votes cast for him bind the Republican Legislators whose duty it is to elect a United States Senator to vote for him? As a matter of fact, the Republican State Convention made no nomination. Now, since the party did not see fit to bind its Representatives, can it be reasonably expected that those Representatives will allow themselves to be instructed by private individuals? Suppose Wood had received more votes than Geer, would Republicans be expected to vote for him? Will the Democrats in the Legislature leave Wood and vote for Geer?

The Klamath Among Indians.

Grant's Pass Courier.

Oregon has five Indian reservations, and for the most part our Indians have shown a capacity for civilization that is beyond the average. The Indians of Eastern Oregon are inferior in intelligence to none in the United States, and some of them have made remarkably good advancement in civilization. On the Klamath reservation, for instance, many of the Indians are well to do, with good farms, good stock and farming machinery of all kinds. Many of their men are very intelligent and capable. A foolish Indian is a being rarely or never seen. All are the possessors of a fair portion of good solid common sense. On visiting the reservation, one is struck by the prevalent air of intelligence and enlightenment, far beyond what is naturally expected, exhibited by the Indians. The Indian police are a fine-appearing lot of men, with a personality that commands instant respect.

Dens of Mixed Vice.

Spokane Chronicle.

The saloon box and the side door foster and encourage drunkenness—drunkenness in men, and, worse still, drunkenness in women and girls. The saloon box and the side door furnish haunts for the libertine and the street-walker—haunts where the lowest vice may be practiced, where the grossest lewdness goes unrebuked. The saloon box affords a safe place of business for the card sharp and tin-horn gambler—an office where he can comfortably fleece all the lambs he can capture without danger of being asked to pay fines to either the city or the county treasury. The saloon box is ready to harbor the bunco steerer and the confidence man—to receive them and their victims rent free, police interference barred and no questions asked. The saloon box is patronized by the lowest of female creatures—women for whom no act is too shameless, no means too contemptible—ready ever to exchange the last semblance of decency for a chance to pick the pockets of their dupes.

Pacific Coast in the Cabinet.

Spokane Spokesman-Review.

But if Illinois, which but recently has had Cabinet honors through Mr. Gage, thinks that something is coming to her, what has the great West to think about the evenness of distribution? Of the states of the Pacific Coast, the Rocky Mountains and the plains, only California, Oregon, Colorado and Nebraska have been honored with Cabinet portfolios. Judge Williams, of Portland, was Attorney-General during Grant's second term, Senator Teller, of Colorado was head of the Interior Department under Arthur, Judge McKenna, of California, was Attorney-General for a few months under McKinley, and J. Sterling Morton, of Nebraska, was Secretary of Agriculture under Cleveland. With the exception of these men, there has been no disposal of Cabinet honors in the West, and among the Presidents' advisers there has never been representation from Washington, Montana, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas and Nevada. Even Texas, which has enjoyed statehood for more than half a century, has been neglected during the days of a Democratic Administration. If there is any section that is "certainly entitled to" the new Cabinet position, it is the Pacific Coast. In the last 113 years representatives from the Coast have seen less than five years' Cabinet service. Because of its growing importance and the fact that no member of the present Cabinet has been taken from a state farther West than Iowa, it would be only fair geographical recognition to look this way when the time comes to select a head of the department of commerce.

USES OF THE SCHOLAR.

Philadelphia Ledger.

One of Edmund Burke's finest sayings, or, as Bacon would say, one of his "high speeches," is not in his collected works, but is a part of a wonderful conversation recorded by the industrious Boswell at a dinner in London, April 3, 1778, at which Johnson, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Gibbon, Sheridan, Burke and Boswell were present. "I believe in any body of men in England," said Burke, "I should have been in the minority; I have always been in the minority." The "saving remnant" of which Matthew Arnold spoke and wrote is made up of the people who are in the minority, and who have the courage to remain in the minority. But, suggests the practical man, if these people always remain in the minority, what impress will they make on the world? What good can they do? Burke explained the uses of this class in a parliamentary body thus:

"Though not one vote is gained, a good speech has its effect. Though an act which has been ably opposed passes into law, yet in its progress it is modeled, it is softened in such a manner that we see plainly the Minister has been told, that the members attached to him are so sensible of its injustice or absurdity, from what they have heard, that it must be altered."

What is true of the House of Commons, or of Congress, is also true of the world, and the questions which confront us continually; and the need of the courageous minority, is especially great in a republic where so great and pervasive is public opinion on every conceivable subject that our modes of life, our very morals and our civilization are in the last analysis determined, formed and guided by it. The popular and uninformed judgment is very often wrong on great questions; and the errors which are propagated sometimes persist and gain headway that seems irresistible. It is the true function of the scholar to withstand popular delusions through good and evil repute, and to hold fast to the good and the true at all hazard. When the word scholar is used it is not meant to denote the pedant who is "devoured by crotchets" and devoted to trifles, nor the prig who is described as an "animal overfed for his size" with intellectual provender, but the serious, independent and brave student who has gone to the heart of things and has formed an intellectual conscience which, as Lowell says, is the true mark of the real scholar.

In a prosperous republic the people are inclined to question the value of the "nonproducer," and occasionally there is actually a debate as to the uses of universities and scholarship. Some gross and ignorant, or, mayhap, some conscienceless rich gambler fresh from corrupting Legislatures or bribing municipal councils or watering stock, has a wonderful stroke of fortune, and immediately the worshipers of that kind of success hang on his lips. He becomes a sage, a critic of civilization, and his opinion is sought on education and colleges and universities, and whether they perform any useful function, and whether, in fact, they do really "pay."

President Hadley, of Yale, gave a side glance at this curious debate in his admirable address before the State Board of Agriculture December 11, 1900, on the "Relation Between Higher Education and the Public Welfare," but quickly dismissed the monetary aspects of the problem, wisely concluding that "those very parts of our collegiate education which are less immediately practical are the ones which have their highest usefulness in the preparation for the citizenship of the commonwealth." And, according to this wise teacher, the scholar must learn not merely to make the most of himself, but "to do the most for others"; he must be inspired by a lofty ideal and help the whole American people to realize that ideal; man is "something more than a mere producer"; and "the chance of gain to the individual is not the only thing to be considered."

Sweet Strikers Surrender to Sweets.

Baltimore Sun.

The young ladies employed in the Washington (Ind.) telephone exchange rebelled against the tyranny and oppression of their male employers last week and struck for higher wages and improved conditions of employment. Advocates of woman's rights will be disappointed to learn that these revolutionary maidens did not fight to the last extremity, but fell easy victims to the snares of an artful lord of creation. This guileful man did not storm and make a scene when the rebellious "hello girls" handed him an ultimatum. In his sweetest manner he asked for a conference with the strikers. His request was granted. When the indignant maidens assembled in the council chamber, this man of serpent-like wisdom greeted them with his most fetching smile and presented each revolutionist with a box of chocolate bon-bons. The anger of the telephone girls was appeased by these brilliant tactics. They listened to the voice of reason and agreed to return to work pending consideration of their demands in the future. A soft answer turneth away wrath. A box of French candy will apparently work wonders in changing the point of view of a feminine striker with a weakness for bon-bons. The Indiana man who adopted this method of settling a strike is a born diplomatist.

A Spanking Needed.

Detroit Free Press.

It is high time to place equitable restraints upon the little republics of Central and South America. Their power for making trouble is altogether disproportionate to their importance in the world. Twice Venezuela has disturbed our amicable foreign relations until war would have been the result but for mutual interests that pleaded the cause of peace. Now Colombia presumes to block a mighty project in the interest of the world's commerce and to attack a sister republic as part of the scheme for magnificent robbery. As the stronger power, the United States has been lenient and patronizing. This attitude has become untenable. In private life persons that won't keep the peace are compelled to keep the peace, and this doctrine can be profitably extended to nations.

Pugsley's Bill Preferred.

Minneapolis Tribune.

The committee's bill is a pure inflation bill. The object of Representative Pugsley's bill is not inflation, but elasticity. It allows more latitude in withdrawing bond secured notes when the interest rate is low; but it does not encourage withdrawal of bond secured notes to be replaced by these new notes. It makes the credit notes a supplement of the present National bank currency, not a substitute. It makes them, in fact, an emergency circulation, to disappear automatically when the emergency is passed. The House ought to substitute Pugsley's bill for that of the committee.

The Diplomatic Trust in Venezuela.

New York Sun.

The Minister of Britain
He spake to Bowen thus:
"I'm leaving in a hurry,
I wish to have no fuss,
So kindly run my office
While I keep out of sight—
Now, do—I say—aw, really'—
And Bowen said, "All right!"

Then came the noble German
And called on Bowen too;
He said: "I haf a somdings
To speak about mit you!
I'm leaving in gonfusion,
Dere's going to be a fight—
Just tend the counteg for me"—
And Bowen said, "All right!"

The gentleman from Holland
He also spoke as such;
He's having his vacation
While Bowen runs the Dutch;
And lo! the proud Italian
Has now remarked, "To fight!
You sella de bananas!"
And Bowen says, "All right!"

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Good morning! Nearly ready for another dinner?

The shortest day in the year—the day before payday.

The Emperor of India evidently has several elephants on his hands.

The wives are now engrossing resolutions for their husbands' benefit.

Many a man grows thin in trying to earn a fat salary with slender abilities.

A young lady's chafing dish is her mother's frying pan in a state of sanctification.

The man who falls into trouble frequently tries to get out by standing on his high reputation.

There are 10 distinct ways of calling a man a liar, but in some cases the most effective is to agree with him.

When women give their hands in marriage do they give their rights? We trow not. The man that thinks so gets left.

Marconi's wireless telegraphy is a success, yet we recollect dimly of the Silvertown's having just laid 2500 miles of cable. What's wrong?

It looks now as if Mascagni was the victim of an overzealous press agent. It's carrying advertising too far and in this case has put the advertisee out of business completely.

The fellow with a bank account needn't think he's entirely the whole of the universe altogether. Even money doesn't always talk cents.

Seventh street is rapidly being paved in a fashion to satisfy the most carping of municipal critics. Its smooth expanse affords a vista most grateful to the eye and the residents along this thoroughfare are to be heartily congratulated on the speedy completion of the contract.

Senator Elkins, of West Virginia, in his young days was a railroad station agent out West, his office being a box car on a siding. He tells the story on himself that one day in checking up a carload of immigrants' effects he could not find a bureau called for by the waybill. He was in possession, however, of a vigorous young jackass that was not down in the bill. So he wired to the shipping agent:

"I am short one bureau and long one jackass."

The answer came back:

"You are O. K. That bureau was a burro."

For the benefit of the Eastern tenderfoot it may be explained that the burro is a small pack animal of the jackass species.

Mrs. Astor has declared with the suave assurance peculiar to her family that no man is a gentleman unless a college graduate. The young man of the present day has had a hard time to live up to the various ideals put forth as those required of a gentleman. He has tried to be a teller of the truth, he has forborne to make way with his neighbor's property (without due process of law), he has striven to be gentle, to be courteous, to be without fear and above reproach. Now his trouble is all gone for naught. Perhaps he is not a college man. And if he is, why all this effort? But we suppose that even Mrs. Astor puts some restriction on the colleges entitled to give a young man the diploma of a gentleman. And there's the rub. But we extend our heartiest congratulations to Willie. We all owe a lot to our mothers, don't we, Willie?

Next to Colonel "Bill" Sterritt of Texas, the Texans in Congress have more stories to tell of Colonel Bule than of any other resident of the Lone Star State, says the Baltimore News.

Bule was a man of little education, but he had been admitted to the bar and had a wide reputation as an orator. Once when he was making a speech in San Antonio he had occasion to refer to the assassination of Julius Caesar. This is the way Colonel Tol described that historic tragedy to his audience:

"Caesar was walking down the streets of Spain one day when Brutus, with stealthy tread, snuck up behind him and plugged his knife between Caesar's ribs. Then Caesar, completely taken by surprise, turned on Brutus, and in tones of thunder said: 'Is that you, Brutus? You dirty dog!'"

The news that the Pennsylvania Railroad has entered upon a huge project to embellish its lines through three states is a straw that shows which way the wind blows. This corporation has always maintained a praiseworthy attitude towards efforts on the part of employes to make their stations attractive, and many who have viewed with admiration the famous Horshoe Curve have failed to realize that its beauty was almost wholly due to the workmen who took pride in making it renowned. Those who work for this railroad are, to a man, loyal and proud of their connection. The pension system is carried out in detail and there are many rewards for the man, no matter what his capacity, who aids the company in keeping the right of way ornamental as well as useful. This is a form of public spirit somewhat novel to America. But as time goes on it will reach into other branches of corporate activity. Then this land of ours will bloom like a garden and fair surroundings and clean vistas will help the weary and the downhearted to a better attitude toward the world. In many ways a rosebush is more to be desired than many cabbage patches.

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

"Well, Johnnie, what are you going to give your little brother for Christmas?" "I dunno. I give him the measles last year."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Mrs. Kelly—Does your husband get good pay, Mrs. Rooney? Mrs. Rooney—Well, he would, Mrs. Kelly, ef ut wasn't fer athrikin so often fer better pay.—Puck.

"Where there is so much smoke," coughed Mr. Highmore, father of six girls, as he entered the house, the other evening, "there must be some pyrography."—Chicago Tribune.

Oculist—There is a foreign substance in your eye. Crawfoot—No, sir; there is nothing foreign about it. Just a piece of cigar that was made right here in Illinoy.—Chicago Daily News.

Lawyer—I have arranged to secure your release in time for the Christmas holidays. Convict—Oh, say, couldn't you make it New Year instead? That'll let me out of all this Christmas shopping.—Philadelphia Press.

Church—I hear a neighbor of mine has just invented a new machine. Gotham—What sort of a machine? "Oh, it's one where you put a nickel in the slot and get a piece of coal."—Yonkers Statesman.

Author—Isn't it about time you publish that Christmas story of mine that you bought three years ago? Publisher—You have no kick coming. Haven't you always said that you write for posterity?—Judge.

The Pugilistic Art.—Buffer—I suppose you heard that Whacker Bill has gone into trainin' for a fight with the Tough Rooster? Duffer—So? Hittin' the bag? Buffer—Hittin' nothin'! He's taking lessons at a school of elocution.—Boston Transcript.

"Do you mean to tell me that you were paid for voting as you did?" "Well," answered Senator Sorghum, "I had to have some motive, didn't I? A man who would vote that way without any excuse at all would be an example of total depravity."—Washington Star.