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TODAY'S WEATHER—Occasional rain; brisk southerly winds.

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 47 deg.; minimum temperature, 40 deg.; precipitation, 0.7 inch.

PORTLAND, TUESDAY, JANUARY 20.

A CALL TO SELF-DEFENSE.

The transportation committee of the Portland Chamber of Commerce has hit a nail squarely on its head in the report made last week treating, among other things, of the railroad situation in Central and Southeastern Oregon. Assuming that the Harriman people are preventing the extension of the Columbia Southern Railroad into the Deschutes and Klamath districts because they wish ultimately to divert the traffic of these districts in foreign directions, the report declares that "there is but one thing for Portland to do," and that "one thing" is defined in the following terms:

"It is for the moneyed men of Portland to raise the necessary funds and build the road themselves into this territory, which is in crying need of a railroad and which would increase the business of Portland in a very large degree. It seems almost criminal that a road is not pushed forward."

This is very much to the point; and it goes none too far. There is in Central and Southeastern Oregon a rich, rapidly growing country which by rights belongs to Portland's business field. It is connected with Portland by traditional, political, social and other ties; it lies within the great interior basin whose natural outlet is here; it is in a physical sense related to Portland because here is the line of shortest distance and of easiest grades. But there are unmistakable indications that the Harriman people have for this region other purposes in view. They have it in their power either to promote the extension of the Columbia Southern road, which would connect Central and Southeastern Oregon with Portland, or to prevent this extension. And—nothing is done. At the same time surveys are being made looking to a route that would approach the country in question from the southeast and carry its business to a connection with the Harriman rails in Southern Idaho and by these rails to Ogden or Salt Lake. Apparently the Harriman people are preparing to "hook up" Central and Southeastern Oregon with their Eastern and Southern interests in preference to a connection with their interests associated with Portland. The interests of Oregon are not to be considered in the matter—only the interests of the railroad companies under Mr. Harriman's control.

Portland, through its Chamber of Commerce or some other agency, ought to have a conference with Mr. Harriman, to the end of learning authoritatively what his purposes are; and if they are what they appear to be, then Portland should take steps for her own protection. The means are at her command, for she has but to put her hands into her pockets precisely as she has done in the case of the railroad now building into Goldendale to command the situation in Central and Southeastern Oregon. If the Columbia Southern cannot be acquired, then take possession of the line of the Deschutes River to Bend; thence branch in two directions—one into the Malheur country and the other into the Klamath country. There are no problems in the way. It is a matter of money, and no very great matter at that. A million-dollar subscription at Portland—practically a duplicate of the Goldendale subscription—would make a basis of credit for the enterprise that would open the doors of the Eastern money markets and provide any amount that it might call for. Once at the Columbia River—at The Dalles, within the basin of the Lower Columbia and Willamette Rivers—an independent road would be in a position to dictate the terms of its entrance into Portland. The project is a big one—a very big project, to be sure—but it is not beyond the ability of Portland and ought not to be beyond its courage.

Such a railroad, owned and operated in the interest of Portland, would very quickly alter the attitude of the great railroad interest which dominates the transportation of Oregon. For, in addition to giving us a vast and immediate extension of our business field, it would calm the arrogance which assumes to arrange the conditions of our interior commerce at its own pleasure and in its own interest. The transportation committee of the Chamber of Commerce clearly sees the point; and now, with the opportunity and duty of the city thus clearly in mind, will it enforce the action which the emergency demands?

Representative Jones, of Washington, makes several points against the bill to permit exchange of land in railroad and wagon road grants so as to consolidate private holdings. The central purpose of that scheme is said to be to get the land together in large tracts, in order that it may be utilized, the contention being that small tracts are practically useless in the arid regions. Yet the holders and the Government propose to make this better use of the consolidated areas by putting settlers on the land. But the settlers will have only small tracts, those taking Government land being restricted to 160 acres each. If 160 acres are enough for an individual, no corporation grant-holder can make valid complaint because it has only 640 acres in a body. This whole exchange scheme is devised to fatten the land grant-holders, and it is inconceivable that official denseness can go to the extent of permitting it to become law.

A WORD IN TIME.

The new municipal administration will be judged very largely by the record of its police department. Nothing affords so vital a test of the purposes and efficiency of an administration. Nothing so closely affects the community's peace and comfort. Nothing comes nearer home to the consciences of good citizens. No appointment of Mayor Williams is of greater importance to himself and to the city than the selection, an open secret, of Charles H. Hunt, to be Chief of Police.

The police department is the supreme power in the control of saloons, gamblers and brothels. There is power with the District Attorney, with the Municipal Judge, with the Sheriff, with the City Attorney, and even with the Justices and Constables. But the best that these can do, and the worst that they can do, is not equal to the power of the police department under the new charter, operating from the Mayor through the police committee of the advisory board and through the Chief of Police. And as long as the Chief is in office he is practically in control of the situation. He can carry out the purposes of his superiors, and he can, if he is so minded and is shrewd, fool his superiors into thinking he is carrying out their purposes when he is not.

Mr. Hunt made and will make an admirable Chief of Police in many ways. So far as the exterior and superficial aspects of his administration are concerned, he is a model official. His discipline is perfect. He will be the real as well as the nominal head of his force. His men will obey him. They will be well drilled, correctly dressed, in conduct on their beats irreproachable. They will not be seen drinking at bars or smoking on the street. They will be a credit to the city in appearance and they will maintain order. The police department will be a terror to the criminal classes, and it will probably not interfere with the present satisfactory conduct of Police Court proceedings by Judge Hogue and City Attorney McNary.

The danger to the administration from Chief Hunt's service will lie in the direction of gambling and prostitution. It is sufficiently well known that under his former incumbency there was no noteworthy interruption of the "go-between" regime which has obtained so much in Portland as elsewhere. Gambling went on so openly as to justify the application of that old axiom that wherever games are running with assurance of freedom from molestation somebody is being paid for "protection." It is unnecessary to charge Mr. Hunt with the receipt of blackmail in his own hands. It is sufficient to say that the games were running and that somebody, therefore, got the blood money.

"But gambling will go on." Yes, so it will. But there is one point beyond which a police administration must not go. It must never make a bargain with the gamblers. They must never have the right to say to a Chief, "You have my money in your pocket, you can't say anything." It must never so treat with gamblers that they feel they have vested rights which the police department is bound to respect. The Chief must keep himself free from suspicion of entanglements with the gamblers and whenever he has reason to believe his subordinates are so entangled, he must be free to suspend the suspected officer and make a bona fide raid on the gambling-house.

We think that probably Mayor Williams has selected in Mr. Hunt the best man he could get for Chief of Police. The new Chief has experience, shrewdness and force of character. He can give Portland an administration to which subsequent time will look back with pride. And he will do this if he gets the right kind of instructions from his superiors and is held to them. It may be possible to deceive the Mayor, but it will not be possible to deceive others. What goes on in the police department will be known; and this public is in no humor to be trifled with on the regulation of vice. It will be suicidal for the new administration to revert to certain abuses of power that were wont to prevail here. Temptations that will come to Chief Hunt belong among the things that Portland voted on in June, 1900, and June, 1902. They are not forgotten. They will not be forgotten by the county election of 1904 and the city election of 1905.

IN THE NAME OF HUMANITY.

Restrictions upon the care, custody and treatment of the insane that are detrimental to the comfort and the possible restoration to mental health of this large class of unfortunates are the last considerations that should appeal in the name of economy to the legislative mind. If this is true of these things, how much more important the fact that nothing that appeals to decency for the care and custody of the insane should be weighed in the balance of economy and decided upon the basis of the possible saving of a few hundred dollars per annum!

The bill now pending before the Legislature which provides for the competent and suitable escort of patients to the insane asylum has heretofore met, and, it is said, is likely again to meet, opposition from an interested constabulary on the specious plea of economy. Investigation has proved that this plea, shamelessly urged in the face of decency and humanity, is not supported by the facts; that it has really cost more to convey insane patients from their homes in distant counties (or, for that matter, from even near-by stations), as criminals are conveyed by Sheriffs and their deputies, than it would cost to send trained assistants kept for that purpose under stated salaries at the asylum as escorts for such patients. So even this plea fails of its own weight and decency and humanity is left to confront simple official greed in advocacy of this measure.

A decent sense of propriety revolts at the conveyance over distances that occupy two or three days in transit to the asylum of insane women by Sheriffs and their deputies, even when these custodians are high-minded, compassionate men, since, for obvious reasons, women bereft of reason, even if mildly insane, need the attendance at times of members of their own sex. How revolting, then, the fact that women violently insane have been all too frequently, for many hours in the custody of men who have neither high moral purpose nor experience in dealing with the insane as an equipment for the trust, but simply come to the task as political or personal favorites of the county authorities for the pay that there is in it!

It was bad enough when this practice prevailed unchallenged by decency and unrebuked by humanity. There were then, relatively speaking, a very few who were accessories to the outrage. If the practice is permitted to continue, however, in the face of the fact that public attention has been called to its cruelty and indecency, that which heretofore has been a private scandal kept strictly within certain official lines will have become a public disgrace. We cannot believe that the opposition that is being marshaled in the name of economy, but really in the interest of a political and official "graft," will again be able to defeat the measure now before the Legislature, the object of which is to provide for the conveyance of the insane from their homes to the asylum by custodians who, being trained in the work, can restrain them without brutality and minister to their needs in all cases without violating the rules of common decency.

TAX REFORM.

The general interest in assessment and taxation reform is highly reassuring. Many bills have been introduced at Salem, and the co-operation of Secretary of State Dunbar and the Taxpayers' League of Multnomah County promises well for results. The situation is one where fear of going too far is in conflict with the fear of not going far enough. The modern systems of New York, New Jersey, Iowa and other states are very attractive, and perhaps most would incline at first thought to favor a revolution at once which would transfer to corporations the bulk of the burden now carried by tangible property, especially real estate.

On the whole, however, it is likely to prove the wisest course to proceed slowly. Perhaps it is best to adopt a measure which will make a material beginning in the new direction, and yet will fall short of measures so drastic as to arouse the corporations to resistance in the courts. Reforms of this or of almost any sort have to proceed slowly. The affected interests need time to adjust themselves to the new regime, and the people need time to grasp and accept the new ideas. Too drastic and revolutionary legislation might not only invite its own destruction in the courts, but also build up a strong prejudice among fair-minded persons against the whole scheme of indirect taxation on corporate earnings.

For these reasons we incline to favor the bill of Representative Eddy, printed yesterday. It proposes an organization tax of one-tenth of 1 per cent upon the first $100,000 of capital stock, and a graded less per cent upon larger capitalization; also a license tax of from $10 to $50 per year; foreign corporations to pay a license tax of $50. This is a considerable beginning in reaching the earning capacity of corporations, yet so small as hardly to invite opposition. No corporation is going to spend much money to defeat a bill or beat a law that costs them only $100 or so a year. An excellent beginning is also made in the direction of publicity. The fact that this bill has the approval both of Secretary Dunbar and the Multnomah Taxpayers' League should and we believe will carry no little weight with the Legislature. Mr. Dunbar has given this subject more study than any other man in the state, and the Taxpayers' League has been very active in the public interest without developing so far any private ambition.

The corporation graded tax and license need not, we should say, interfere with the passage of two other excellent measures—Representative Nottingham's bill for a state tax commission and Senator Mulkey's bill for a state board of appraisers. A tax commission will give us a digested measure adapted to our peculiar local conditions. We should, in fact, have had one long ago. It should be wisely selected and should include at least one man not a politician, perhaps Professor Young, of the State University, who has also made a study of the taxation problem. Another judicious selection might well be made from the Taxpayers' League, perhaps Mr. A. L. Mills or Mr. J. N. Teal, whose investigation of these and kindred topics has been energetic and thoughtful. The commission should be instructed to bring in a bill for the action of the next Legislature. Definite proposals will inspire confidence and gather approval for them far more effectively than vague generalizations, however sound.

Senator Mulkey's board of appraisers, which is to "ascertain the value of the property of express, telephone, telegraph and oil companies in this state," need not be interfered with by Representative Eddy's bill for a graded tax on incorporations and licenses for corporations. The corporations may as well make up their minds now as at any future time that their contribution to the burden of state and local government will soon be proportioned to their earning capacity rather than to their visible assets. It is entirely consonant with a nominal corporation tax that the state authorities should calculate the true value of corporations' property for the purposes of direct taxation.

No nominal percentage or license tax will relieve our corporations from direct taxation as now enforced. If the street-car companies of Portland imagine that their recent undertaking for remuneration on their franchises will estop the city from collecting direct taxes equitably based upon the value of their properties, they are grievously mistaken. Great changes are ahead of us in these matters. The Legislature will do something no doubt at this session; but it will be only a beginning.

Various suggestions have been made for legislation governing the investment of the state school funds. The condition confronting the Legislature is simply this—that after lending all the money for which there is a demand the treasury contains $725,000 of idle school funds. One member of the Legislature proposes that the rate of interest be reduced from 6 to 4 per cent. Another has introduced a bill authorizing the State Land Board to invest the funds in school district bonds at 5 per cent. Another wants the board to have the power to invest at this rate, and requiring School District Boards to give the state a preference in the sale of bonds. There are serious objections to all of these plans. In the first place, 6 per cent is a proper rate to receive for money lent on real estate security, and a less rate should not be given except on security which commands a better rate in the money market. Again, the state should not and cannot expect to buy school district bonds at 5 per cent unless it is made compulsory upon the School District Boards to sell to the state at that price. Giving the state a preference at that price might be construed to mean that if some private investor offered to take the bonds at a less rate the state would lose its preference. The last session of the Legislature attempted to remedy the present condition, but the act was construed out of operation by the Attorney-General. If this Legislature passes any act on the subject, the terms of the act should be so clear and the requirements so practicable that no opinion of the Attorney-General will prevent the state from getting a return from the vast sum of money now lying idle in the treasury. There are hundreds of school districts in the state paying 6 per cent interest on outstanding warrants, large amounts of which will not be called in for years to come. It is not unreasonable to make it compulsory for the districts to pay this interest to the state school fund instead of to individuals.

If Mr. Gates is sincere in desiring a hearing before the Interstate Commerce Commission to refute certain statements of Mr. Morgan and his partner, Mr. Perkins, as to the Louisville & Nashville deal, we may expect some revelations that will be useful to the commission and the public. There is no doubt that Mr. Gates is in position to shed light on the great Southeastern railroad combine, and if he is in a mood to do so, and this mood lasts until his story is told on the witness-stand, the commission may at least know where to apply for additional details. So far in all the merger inquiries the authorities have been probing with a toothpick in a pool that is abysmal. They haven't touched anything that gives the least assurance of dissolving the powerful combinations, though the general trend of testimony is confirmatory of conditions that are unofficially well known to exist. The difficulty seems to be to get this information legally of record. Now if the speculators and schemers who have brought about this condition of affairs are willing to tell what they know, the way of the investigator will be made much easier. By all means let Mr. Gates begin it.

There is pretty good authority for the statement that the Nevada, California & Oregon Railroad, owned by the banking-house of Moran Bros., in New York, is as much dissatisfied with its Harriman connection as the Columbia Southern Railroad is. But as conditions are now, neither can get away from the Harriman lines. They need independent strength. It has been suggested that the two roads build to a meeting point and then come under one management. This would be favorable to Oregon, for the Columbia Southern can get to free water on the Columbia at comparatively light expense, which would release the line from the Harriman system. The Moran road could never get such release, for its junction with the Central Pacific is 244 miles from San Francisco and on the east side of the Sierras. This would develop closer relations with Portland rather than with San Francisco. Central Oregon will not lie quiet under railroad repression. Some outlet will be obtained, no matter what the cost. Portland should keep this fact in mind and be ready to lend a helping hand and take the business that must go somewhere.

The death of Abram S. Hewitt records the passing of a man who in ways of thrift, benevolence and statesmanship served well his day and generation. Progress of his condition gave little hope from the time he was stricken, ten days ago, of a favorable result. Fourscore years leave but a small margin for hope of recovery from a serious attack of illness, and physicians and friends saw the end in the beginning when the aged man was stricken. The name of Abram Hewitt is closely interwoven with the political, financial and philanthropic history of his time and place. It represented a keen and active intelligence in all of these lines in a great commercial and political center for more than half a century. He passed on and out as did Peter Cooper and George Peabody each at his appointed time, honored of all men as having exemplified in his life the virtues of a large and practical philanthropy as compatible with great financial success.

Mr. F. C. Savage, who figures in the Foster case under the charge of attempting for dishonest advantage to gain the favor of a respected but mentally broken-down man, will not improve his standing by sneers of "blackmail" against those who have caused inquiry to be made into his conduct. Mr. Cook and Mr. Sanborn have lived in Portland a long time; no men in the community are better known; it is possible, of course, that they may be mistaken in their apprehensions in the Foster case. The Oregonian does not presume to judge of the facts. But this it does know, namely, that Messrs. Cook and Sanborn are not blackmailers. And he who presumes before the people of Portland to so nominate them simply digs a pit of public discredit for himself.

After all the agitation over the question of good roads, neither the message of Governor Geer nor the address of Governor Chamberlain contained any mention of that subject, except in connection with the matter of convict labor. It is understood that Representative Carnahan, of Clatsop County, has drawn a very comprehensive road law, which will provide in a measure for the employment of convict labor, but also providing for extensive permanent road improvements by counties.

A striking chapter in the history of man's inhumanity to man is furnished by the inquiry of the Chicago grand jury into the cause of the coal famine that has pinched that city through a bitter season of below-zero weather. This chapter contains many names that the public did not expect to find there representing factors in the cause, the effect of which has been illustrated in shivering women, wailing children, perishing old people and the suffering and dying poor of the tenement districts.

They're playing the Senatorial game rather strong down in Colorado. If the Republican House should unseat all the Democratic members and the Democratic Senate unseat all its Republican members, the Legislature could at least lay claim to novel methods. For a man who was just pining to escape from Senatorial restraints and burdens four years ago (having failed of re-election), Mr. Wolcott is a very strenuous candidate, very strenuous indeed.

TRUSTS BEFORE THE LAW.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.

Attorney-General Knox, Senator Hoar and others who are inclined to the belief that Congress can exercise control over monopolies through its power over interstate commerce are not all emphatic in their contention that the specific methods they propose will run the gauntlet of the courts. In the Distilling and Cattle Feeding Trust case the Supreme Court held:

> Congress certainly has not the power or authority under the commerce clause or any other provision of the Constitution to limit and restrict the right of corporations created by the states or the citizens of the states in the acquisition, control or disposition of property. Neither can Congress regulate or prescribe the price or prices at which such property or the products thereof shall be sold by the owner or owners, whether corporations or individuals. It is equally clear that Congress has no jurisdiction over, and cannot make criminal the aims, purposes and intentions of persons in the acquisition and control of property which the states of their residence sanction and permit. It is not material that such property or the products thereof may become the subject of trade and commerce among the several states or with foreign nations.

If this were all that the Supreme Court had to say on trust regulation Senator Hoar's proposal to impose certain terms on all corporations as a condition of engaging in interstate commerce and of penalizing the sale and transportation of goods at less than established rates or below the ordinary market price would appear impracticable. In like manner Attorney-General Knox's suggestion that the transportation of goods produced by those who make discriminations in prices as against competitors in particular localities for the purpose of destroying competition would run counter to the declaration of the courts. The same doubt would also arise in the case of the bills introduced by Senator Quarles and Senator Cullom.

But it is a point not to be lost sight of that in the whisky trust case, as in the sugar trust case, the property involved was not actually the subject of interstate commerce, but only such as might become so. In the sugar trust case the court expressly held that "commerce succeeds to manufacture and is not a part of it," and "that which belongs to commerce is within the jurisdiction of the United States, but that which does not belong to commerce is within the jurisdiction of the police power of the state." In the Trans-Missouri Freight Association case the court furthermore pointed out that the Sherman law "applied to monopolies in restraint of interstate or international trade or commerce and not to monopolies in the manufacture of even a necessary of life," which is a matter for the states to deal with.

But the ruling of the court that whatever "belongs to commerce is within the jurisdiction of the United States" seems to imply that as soon as goods destined to cross a state line are started on their way and until they again become mingled with the general mass of goods they are subject to Federal regulation and control. But it is an established principle that the power to regulate carries with it the power to control the instrumentalities by which the activities subject to regulation are carried on. The various bills before Congress, or at least those that are most likely to receive consideration, are framed on the apparent assumption that a corporation may be regarded not only as a producer subject only to state control, but as a shipper subject to Federal control, so far as it ships articles beyond the state of its residence. Under Senator Hoar's bill a corporation cannot become a shipper until it has complied with the Federal regulations laid down in the bill, and under Attorney-General Knox's plan a corporation that gives or receives discriminating rates or gives or accepts discriminating prices cannot send goods out of its own state.

As the court has never been called on to pass on the validity of such an exercise of power there is no positive evidence beyond the very broad language used in the whisky trust case to raise any doubt as to its ruling on such methods as those proposed by Senator Hoar and Mr. Knox. It has made it fairly plain that the defect of the Sherman law was not in what it sought to do, but in its method of accomplishing it. It has always upheld the law as a proper exercise of the power of Congress within its own domain. It has in the joint traffic and trans-Missouri freight cases showed positively that it was applicable to interstate commerce. It has further declared that Congress has the power to determine what public policy is irrespective of the wisdom or soundness of its judgment, and it has even gone to the length of expressing in the most emphatic terms in the trans-Missouri case its abhorrence of monopolies or combinations intended to control the production of any article. There is not much question that so far as its inclination is concerned the Supreme Court would give whatever law may be framed to prevent interstate commerce in trust-made goods the benefit of every doubt. This is the more likely in that a denial of the power to Congress would mean that there is no such power anywhere. But the power must rest somewhere, and as the courts have denied it to the states it must have been among the powers delegated to Congress. Under the circumstances the contention of President Roosevelt, Mr. Knox and Senator Hoar that the courts will probably uphold any reasonable exercise of control over interstate commerce in trust-made goods seems much more likely to be correct than the contention that the trusts can only be reached by the long and tedious and possibly dangerous process of amending the Constitution. At any rate it seems more likely every day that the attempt to regulate the trusts through the interstate commerce powers of Congress will be made.

A Plucky Teacher Rescued a Pupil.

Philadelphia Bulletin.

A plunge into the icy waters of Darby Creek to save the life of her pupil, Edna Deal, nearly cost Miss May Zeigler her life recently. Miss Zeigler, who is a schoolteacher in Lansdowne, went to the creek with a party of pupils expecting to find the ice strong enough for skating. While testing the ice Miss Deal fell in.

Miss Zeigler at once jumped into the water and helped Miss Deal to the bank. Then she was too much exhausted to lift herself out of the water, and seemed on the point of drowning, when the screams of her companions on the shore brought Frank Longstreth and Frank Bacon, of Lansdowne, to her assistance. The young men succeeded in extricating teacher and pupil from the ice.

How to Win Respect for Law.

Pittsburg Dispatch.

The great need of this country is the stern and universal lesson that the law is supreme over all. The only way to teach it is to make it curb the rich and powerful as well as the obscure and ignorant. When it is shown that the offenses of the great will be overtaken by swift and sure punishment it will be much easier to make the masses respect the law.

The Dark Horse.

Professionals now saw the air
And politicians quarrel
About the proper man to wear
The Senatorial laurel.
As revelers in rhapsody
They're all right on the stump,
But what a joy 'twould be to see
The dark horse on the jump!

With many euphonious words on tap,
And many a phrase perfected,
They paw the air for public pap,
And hope to be elected;
Each one expects that it to be—
Oh, how his heart will thump
To see that unexpected he,
The dark horse on the jump!

Unshattered slates nor bosses known,
Nor henchmen true and loyal,
Withstand the swift and great unknown
When comes the battle royal.
That record-breaking nag is fleet,
No candidates can pump
Up oratory when they meet
The dark horse on the jump.

Portland, Jan. 19. H. F. RODNEY.

MEN AND WOMEN OVER SEVENTY

Each passing year makes inroads on the roll of notable old people of the world. Last January such a list would have contained, among others, the names of Prof. Virchow, Dr. Temple, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the Rev. Newman Hall, Dr. Thomas Dunn English, Lord Armstrong, General Siegel, Justice Gray and Premier Sagasta. These have been stricken out one by one. Of those who are left—men and women of 70 or over—it may reasonably be maintained that three are worthy to be ranked together—Pope Leo XIII, Herbert Spencer and Prof. Theodor Mommsen. All of these are over 80.

The pope, who will celebrate the 25th anniversary of his election next month, will be 93 years old in March. Yet his natural force seems in no way abated. His extraordinary alertness to modern conditions has appeared in the last year of his appointment of a commission of scholars to examine into questions of Biblical criticism and in his willingness to treat with the United States on the subject of the friars in the Philippines. The mere routine work of the headship of the church might well swamp a younger man of ordinary ability. That the venerable Leo is able to manage it, and at the same time to keep in touch with the world, is testimony to the rare quality of his genius. Prof. Mommsen, seven years his junior, is the world's greatest living historian—with all deference to the enterprising publishers of a certain "History of the United States," who claim that distinction for Princeton's new president. It is hardly too much to say that Mommsen is the foundation of the modern world's knowledge of ancient Rome.

Herbert Spencer, the youngest of the trio, is 82 years old. The late John Fiske, who devoted two huge volumes to expounding the Spencerian philosophy, regarded Spencer as the greatest Englishman of the century; as a man to rank above Newton. But while this judgment must be considered extreme, Spencer remains one of the notable men of the last 50 years. His great work has been to generalize certain scientific hypotheses—to show, for instance, how the doctrine of conservation and correlation of energy is to be applied universally—to develop ethics and sociology from the standpoint of evolution and to put in popular form the results of his investigations. Spencer has probably done more than any other one man to make people understand evolution and its consequences for society and the universe as a whole. Lord Kelvin, who is 78 years old, might almost be included with the other three. His work, both in pure and applied physics, has been of the greatest importance.

Three writers of the first rank would be included in any roll of notable old people. Tolstoi, Ibsen and George Meredith are all 74. With them may be mentioned Dr. Samuel Smiles of the famous "Self Help" series, who is 90; Donald G. Mitchell, the famous "bachelor," 80; Thomas Wentworth Higginson and Goldwin Smith, both 79; George MacDonald, 78; Jules Verne, 74; Justin McCarthy, 72, and Frederic Harrison, Sir Edwin Arnold, Henry Labouchere and Victorien Sardou, 71. The aged public men are King Christian of Denmark, 85; ex-Vice President Levi P. Morton and Senator John T. Morgan, 78; Sir William Harcourt and General Lew Wallace, 75; Carl Schurz, Senator Allison and King Oscar, 73; President Diaz, Emperor Francis Joseph and Lord Salisbury, 72; Senator Frye, Senator Proctor and Ambassador Choate, 71; Lord Roberts, ex-Ambassador White, General Gordon and Senator Quay, 70. Russell Sage is 87 years old.

Among the clergymen of advanced years are Bishop Huntington, 83; Edward Everett Hale, Henry M. Field and Theodore L. Cuyler, 81; Archdeacon Farrar, 71, and Cardinal Vaughan, 70. Here may properly be classed General Booth, the Salvation Army leader, who is 73 years old. Three eminent artists in the roll are Watts, who is 85; Menzel, two years his senior, and Boughton, who is 70. There are six well-known actors and actresses in the list. Ristori and Mrs. Gilbert are 81, J. H. Stoddart is 75, Joseph Jefferson is 73, and Salvini and Janauschek are 72. Joachim, the violinist, is 71. Besides Spencer and Kelvin the aged scientists are Lord Lister, the father of antiseptic and aseptic surgery, who is 75; Prof. Wallace, Darwin's successor, who is 80, and Prof. William Crooke, the chemist, ten years younger.

The roll includes several noted women besides the actresses. The Baroness Burdett-Coutts, the English philanthropist, is 88; Julia Ward Howe is 83, Florence Nightingale and Susan B. Anthony are 82, the ex-Empress Eugenie is 76 and Clara Barton is 74.

Senators With Bad Memories.

Chicago Tribune.

It was well understood when the Dingley law was enacted that some of its duties were made unreasonably high, so far as protection was concerned, that they might be used for trading purposes. Senators who assert now with much vehemence that such was not the case have short memories. Senator Dolliver, who was a member of the committee on ways and means when Mr. Dingley was its chairman in 1897, has a better memory. He remembers that duties were raised with the expectation that they would subsequently be lowered by reciprocity treaties. That expectation has been defeated by what Senator Dolliver called the "stolid, quiet, uncommunicative failure of the Senate" to take action upon the reciprocity treaties submitted to it. The determination of certain industries that the duties advanced for trading purposes shall not be lowered is the medicine that has deprived some Senators of all recollection of facts with which they were familiar less than six years ago. Of course, the Senators must be assumed to be sincere in their assurances that duties were not raised that they might be lowered. They must be assumed to be in earnest in their horrified indignation that such an act should be imputed to Mr. Dingley. Nevertheless, the public was convinced even before Senator Dolliver made his conclusive statement that Mr. Dingley did precisely the thing which Senator Aldrich says he would not have done because he never would consent to "a surrender of the principle of protection." Where is the surrender in consenting to the slight reduction of an excessively high duty, leaving it, however, high enough to give ample protection?

Either Guilty or Incompetent.

Philadelphia North American.

Either the operators of coal mines, both independents and trustees of Providence, are deliberately abusing their privilege of exclusive access to the fuel stored by nature for the use of mankind or they are incompetent to manage the business intrusted to them by society. They have prated enough about "vested rights" and their private business. Utilization of natural stores of mineral wealth indispensable to all the people is not their private business and society is showing a disposition to deny that there is any such thing as a "vested right" to lock up nature's storehouses.

Trusts Have the Last Say.

Philadelphia Record.

The impudent beet sugar lobby at Washington, it is said, has consented to allow the ratification of the Cuban reciprocity treaty, but with the stipulation that there shall be no further reduction in sugar duties for the next five years! The people elect representatives to make laws for them and lay taxes and the government sends diplomatic agents to negotiate treaties with other nations, but final decision rests with the trusts. When they say "yea" or "nay" argument is ended.

Race Problem in the South.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

It is reported that the Administration at Washington holds that there is "no Southern race problem facing it." Very good; the Administration is to be congratulated on its happy exemption from this torment. But there is a race problem confronting the Southern people and Theodore Roosevelt should not forget it for a moment. The Southern people are dealing with a difficult condition which no man can solve with an abstract theory of justice.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

We doubt if even Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan could organize the Colorado Legislature.

California is getting a whole lot of free advertising in denying that it has the bubonic plague.

The news-reading public is beginning to miss that chap who sends poisoned candy through the mails.

Just why the emblem of the St. Louis Exposition is not "Show Me!" is what the average Missourian now rises to inquire.

This effort of charitable people to buy up all the coal in the market for the benefit of the poor is likely to work a hardship on the rich.

It is the old sectional spirit, we think, which leads the New Orleans Times-Democrat to say that the best way to catch a coon is to use a postoffice for bait.

In Toledo coal may be secured only on a doctor's order. The doctor will get as popular there as he used to be in Kansas during the days that an attempt was made to enforce the prohibition law.

The Iowa scheme to license liquor-drinkers instead of the saloons may be good enough, but we suspect that in the matter of identification the Iowa bartender of the future will have to be an expert.

If we are to believe all that the New York newspapers say about the startling revelations resulting from District Attorney Jerome's recent raid on the gambling-houses we advise Oregonians who have to visit New York to confine their play to ping pong.

We suspect that Charles Emory Smith has not been editing copy very carefully on the Philadelphia Press for the past day or two. Witness this:

> An heiress who lived in Dubuque
> Was courted and wed by a duque,
> But this nobleman gay
> Made her wealth fade away,
> So she had to go out as a cuque.

The Chicago Daily News Almanac for 1903 is, like its predecessors, a most valuable and useful compendium of statistical and general information. With each annual issue new features are added, but the number now in hand is so comprehensive that there seems to be no room for improvement. It is a marvel of excellence and cheapness.

Captain Chapman is noted for two things—his whiskers and the fact that he raided the famous Seeley dinner at Sherry's and arrested Little Egypt, the Oriental dancer.—New York American.

He is noted, also, because the New York newspapers have, without any demand from the public, made him so. We are a long ways off, but we confess to a feeling of gratitude that Captain Chapman has quit.

The insane creature who tried to bang the tail of George Washington's horse in Union Square used to work for a millionaire on Long Island, one of the hunting crowd who was prosecuted several years ago for banging the tails of his horses. All that he had was a pocket-knife which, of course, made but little impression on the seasoned bronze which constitutes the first statue erected in modern New York.

The Emperor Francis Joseph, whose praises distinguished Englishmen have been singing, has an exploit to his credit, which, although it did not enter into the calculations of his eulogists, won him great favor among his own subjects. He thrashed soundly with a cane his two disgraceful nephews, the Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his brother Otto, although they were grown men and officers. The escapade which won Ferdinand his beating was one that scandalized Vienna. He halted a peasant funeral procession, which he met while riding, and compelled the mourners to hold the bier while he leaped his horse backward and forward over the coffin. His brother Otto's caning was brought about by an act involving the grossest insult to his own wife. In explanation, but not in defense, of the vicious worthlessness of these two young men, it is worth remembering that they inherited not only the worst qualities of the degenerate Hapsburg blood, but are grandsons of the criminal lunatic whom Englishmen have not forgotten—the Neapolitan "Bomba."

The happiest man in the world, says an exchange, is the common every-day chap, who makes his own living, pays his own board and has the respect of his neighbors. He saves a little money as he goes along, but he doesn't try to get a corner on the market, as he is a slave to neither ambition nor society. He never expects to wear out the seat of his pants in the Senate, and when he slides into his clothes in the morning he never wastes any time trying to pick out the right tint of socks, suspenders and neckties that will blend with the general effect. He wears a "biled" shirt when he feels like it, and when his pet corn begins to jump he whips out his jack-knife and cuts a four-inch gash in the side of his boot, and nothing is said about it in the papers. He has an appetite like a cyclone, and never has to sit up nights and poultice his conscience. He believes in the doctrine of live and let live. When he encounters one of the needy he doesn't stutter with his pocket-book. The plain plug of a man is happy because he is satisfied and doesn't spend the better part of life in yearning for something about four sizes too big for him.

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

Miss Giddy—I suppose you medical students have some gay times. Young Medicus—Yes, we do cut up quite a good deal.—Chicago Daily News.

Chivalrous.—Teacher—Johnny, you've been fighting. Johnny—Yes'm; Jimmie Brown said his teacher was prettier than you, an' I licked him till he took it back."—Pick-Me-Up.

Positively Provoking.—"Her marriage was a great disappointment to her friends." "Indeed?" "Oh, yes. They all predicted it would turn out unhappily, and it didn't."—Judge.

Stranger—You have a fine links here. Do you play much? The Other One—Me play? Well, I guess not. There's nothing daffy about me. I'm the caddy, I am.—Boston Transcript.

Towne—There seems to be nothing he enjoys so much as the sound of his own voice. Browne—That's so, and there's nothing annoys him so much as the thought that he can't hear himself when he talks in his sleep.—Philadelphia Press.

"Herbert calls on me every evening," said the confiding girl. "Don't you think that is a sign he really cares for me?" "I can't be sure," answered Miss Cayenne, "whether it indicates that he is in love, or that coal is scarce at his house."—Washington Star.

Mrs. Newlyriche—John, we must really make some move to get into high society! Now, how are we going to do it? Mr. Newlyriche—Hanged if I know, Jane—but I'm going to put that question to the butler just as soon as I can catch him with a confidential jag on!—Puck.

From the Law Courts.—Counsel (cross-examining witness)—Is it not the fact that the doctor, in order to increase the amount of his bill, made several visits after the patient was quite out of danger? Witness (innocently)—I don't think so. I considered the patient was in danger as long as the doctor continued his visits.—Judy.